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Phoenix: 1

When we left the training ground, my warriors were still chuckling about Tina's screams. I wish they had seen Tamia's condition when her magic failed.

I walked towards the warrior café with William and Gavin.

"She ran like the wind," Gavin whispered to William, grinning, "If only she showed half that speed in monthly drills."

"Oh, come on," William snorted, "You're talking about drills? Didn't you hear her? That scream was enough to wake the dead."

Gavin and I covered our mouths, trying not to laugh out loud, "And that pout?" Gavin whispered again, "How can she be our queen with that lemon in her mouth?" 1

I flashed them a sly grin, "Now you two. Enough of the discussion about her. Are you two submitting the written report to me tomorrow morning?"

For a moment, they got serious, "Yeah, head warrior. First thing in the morning," William



saluted me. But then he started shaking his head, "Poor tree. It took the hit for her. Tsk. I wish I could apologize to it."

That set them both laughing again.

As we entered the warrior's café, the smell of warm food drifted out, making my stomach growl.

"Good news," Gavin leaned closer to me, "I've heard they are serving fried bread tonight."

"Whoa! Really?" I perked up instantly. I couldn't wait to attack that fried bread. Watching Tina and Tamia sulk today had increased my appetite.

My plan for tonight? To eat until I couldn't move.

Most of us were all done with an early dinner in the café, and this evening I could feel how happy I was. I sat cross-legged on the bench, leaning on my elbow, grinning as the warriors tossed remarks back and forth.

Our plates were half finished, and the air smelled like roasted coffee beans and fried bread. The café cook was preparing coffee for us, and we were busy in our banter game.



One of the warriors leaned forward, smirking, "Alright, guess this one, Phoenix. He trains with swords like a beast but loves running slower than a grandma with a cane. Who is he?"

I tapped my chin, pretending to think hard, then pointed to a warrior, "That's Kellen!" The whole table burst out laughing.

Kellen groaned, throwing his hands up while the rest of us kept teasing him.

Another warrior jumped in quickly, "Okay, okay, here is another one," We all got quiet once again, "He eats enough for three men but still complains he's starving."

"Ah. That's easy," I leaned back a little, "Benedict. Who else steals food from other people's plates?"

The table howled again, and a few of them even banged the plates on the table.

"Sneaky Fox!" One of them said with a teasing smile, and I quickly guessed it.

"It's Gavin," I shouted, slamming my palm on the bench, "It's definitely Gavin."

We all laughed. The game had been going in like that. Every one of them was dropping a sly hint, and I was snapping their names.



The game started when they wanted to see how much I knew about them in a short span of time.

Whatever I did with Tamia this noon, it wasn't even a fraction of what I was planning to do with her. 1

We were still laughing when suddenly the air shifted. The door swung open, and Sebastian walked in, with Beta Hunter following him.

Instantly, the chairs scraped, and warriors' knees hit the floor. Including mine.

"Up," he commanded, "Please leave."

All the warriors started walking out of the café. I was also planning to follow them when Hunter said, "Phoenix. Stay."

I nodded and waited for all the warriors to leave.

"So," Sebastian took the seat right across me, "Sit down, Phoenix."

I wondered if he was here to talk about his dear Granma.

"What game were you playing?" he asked me casually, and I explained to him with a forced smile, "We give a clue about one person, and the other needs to guess the name of that person."

"Hmm," he seemed to be deep in his thoughts, "Interesting! Can I play it with you?"



Not understanding what he was up to, I agreed with a nod, "Sure," and took the seat opposite him. Beta Hunter preferred to stand behind him.

For a moment, I felt uncomfortable. Was he here to talk about Luna Tamia?

If that was the case, as a king, he should bring it up like a mature man.

He leaned an elbow on the table, his eyes were fixed on my face like he had all the time in the world.

"Alright. Let's see," he said smoothly, "Every time I give you a clue, you need to be very quick!"

"Sure," I shrugged with a confident smile, and that was where I made the biggest blunder of my life.

He narrowed his eyes, "This one is always late for training."

"Peter," I said without wasting a second, and then chuckled.

"This one loves eating burgers but without cheese," he said, and I was impressed. As a king, he did know his warriors.

"Becker," I grinned, "That's too easy."

He thought for a moment and then said, "This one is always busy tending gardens and getting



matching curtains..."

I laughed hard at that and pointed towards Beta Hunter, "Beta Hunter!"

The Royal Beta rolled his eyes.

Sebastian chuckled and then kept tossing clues, and I kept firing back the right answers.

Yeah. I could tell he was impressed that I knew all the warriors so well.

The game felt harmless, but I felt like he was just testing me. Though I didn't know the reason.

He then spoke suddenly, "Aurora Stone!"

"That's me!" I slapped my hand on the table in excitement and laughed. 2

The words had already slipped out of my mouth before I realized what I'd said.

My smile froze, and my laughter died in my throat. In panic, I got up and stepped back.

Shit, shit, shit. NO! This can't be happening!

Sebastian was still looking at me, but now the easy-going smile on his face was no longer there. In its place was something unexpected.

Hurt.

Pain.

Betrayal. 1



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"Fu*ck!" I muttered.

"Oh, fu*ck!" Hunter's voice reached my ears.

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JessicaKaye011

Creator's Thoughts

