

Chosen 231

231 Chapter Two Hundred Thirty One

Katie stood at the top of the hotel roof, feeling all the carnage that took place in the forest. She couldn't do much at the spot she'd assigned herself. And every part of her wanted to leap down and bring hell raining down on all the rogues that dared to attack her pack. However, her senses told her it would be the last thing she wanted to do for a number of reasons that remained hidden even from her. 'This is when I wish I paid more attention to my adoptive parents on how to decipher these annoying senses. If they were in my place, they would have come up with about three reasons why they could advance from this position.'

"You must be the hunter that was brought along with students. Care to enlighten me on the situation," a voice said behind her. She had noticed the man when she'd found Alice but hadn't cared to introduce herself before. Staying in her position, her arrow nocked and ready for action, she spoke up.

"My name is Katie Sirius... If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to know who I'm talking to before continuing," the girl replied.

"You can call me, Gallant. I work here with the other three hunters. I have only started working with this group and I can't help but feel the uneasiness in the air. That along with the fact that you fired three arrows straight at nothing," the man said to her, trying to get around to meet her gaze. His mouth dropped agape when he saw that the girl he was speaking to was in fact closing her eyes.

"I wasn't shooting at nothing and if you must know, the forest is full of rogues right now... You should have noticed the trouble the moment you realized there was no sort of communication," she said to him.

The man took out his phone and tapped a few buttons to confirm what she was saying, "This might be a problem. Without communications, we cannot call for reinforcements... We are cornered."

"Well, I understand all that, but that's not going to solve our problem now, will it?" Katie responded. With a quick explanation of the situation, the man was caught up and in a far more accommodating mood. It was worse than he'd expected.

"We must find a way to get communications back up. There is a cell tower not so far from here. Hunters with the agility Prometheus gift would have no problem getting to it," Gallant spoke up.

"Well, that would be the best thing right now. Although I don't think it will be that easy," Katie said thoughtfully before a screech reached her ear. The girl turned her ear to the sky and listened.

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"It seems there is one more talent amongst you. There are two girls in the field of blue. One of them radiates an aura, unlike anything I've ever known. However, she seems to have the ability to see through nature. It's nothing like what you're doing and she also seems to have the ability to control plants as well. I was graced with witnessing the field of blue open up when it did," the Eagle spoke to her. Its majestic tone reminded her of the might of the creature she spoke to. Matching its superiority when talking was starting to feel more like a chore when it soared up so high.

"I'll have to talk to her. Keep watching the battlefield for me from the sky," the girl replied to the eagle. With a screech, the bird flew higher, gaining a better viewpoint of everything that was happening.

"So I wasn't imagining things, was I?" Gallant spoke up when she was done talking to the Eagle.

"No, they weren't. Might I make a request of you? Get me more arrows... All the arrows that you can find," Katie said to the man with a smirk on her face.

Sensing the urgency in her voice, the man was gone from the roof in search of the best arrows they had in storage. The top floor of the hotel had a section dedicated to the hunters. Searching through Alice's best stash of weapons, he was able to get his hands on three more quivers of perfectly sharpened grey arrows. They would have to do whatever task it was that the girl was going to accomplish at the moment.

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When Honour was just about to give up on the dormant hunter on the roof, an idea began to form in her mind. She couldn't believe what she was thinking about. It didn't make sense when she thought about it, but looking at the girl's position at the top of the hotel, she couldn't help but think this girl was standing there for a reason.

"Well, can she help?" Lina asked her.

"I'm not sure... Hold on a second, Lina," Honour focused her power on a few trees that obscured a straight line from the hunter to a rogue that threatened to attack a pair of students. The task was difficult and somewhat hard to do, but she eventually accomplished it by creating a small clearing through the canopy straight to the forest floor.

When she felt she couldn't hold the opening any longer, she let go of it... A whistling sound filled the night, startling the girl and her friend. "What was that?" Lina asked her, looking about for any sign of the source of the sound.

Honour took one more look at the rogue she'd been trying to expose and just as she'd suspected, the rogue had been impaled by an arrow snuffing out its life with deadly accuracy. Looking back at the hunter, she saw Katie draw another arrow and pull her bowstring back... 'Honour, with your help... this can end much faster...' the hunter's voice reached her mind.

The glowing girl forced her eyes open and snapped out of the oversight she'd been using, panting from the exertion... 'How did she know I was the one that did that? Did she know I could do it all along? Does she know where I am? Did she stay behind because she knew I would be here and help her in this exact way...?' Questions swarmed her mind in an attempt to make sense of what had just happened, but no answers were echoed back. Instead, hope lit up within her. If what had just happened could do so again and again, they could be able to bring this entire disaster to an end.

"So it was Katie..." Lina chuckled.

"Yeah, it was... I don't know what to think of her yet, but for now... I'll work with her to bring this to an end. Stay by me, Lina," Honour asked her friend.

“Well, it’s not like there is anywhere else I can go. Besides, I don’t think I would be much help out there,” Lina replied.

“And that’s the way you should be Lina,” Honour said to her. The girl didn’t understand what her friend meant by that, but when her eyes began to close, she chose against asking her what she was trying to say.

Honour’s mind exploded with the entire scene of battle before her, “I see someone’s finally ready.” Katie’s voice came into her mind. It was more than the girl’s voice. It was as though her entire presence had made itself available to her. Honour could feel the tension in the girl’s muscles... Her eagerness to put down the rogues that plagued the forest, “Don’t mind how many of them you expose to me or if you mistakenly expose one of our own to my line of fire... I will only shoot down the enemy.”

“I know what I’m supposed to do, Katie. Just mind about playing your part,” the girl responded.

It was as though the air in the forest went totally still once Honour focused... all the wolves in the forest felt it... Something was coming... Sandra stopped running and looked in the direction of the rogues that were now visible to them. It was like they’d completely gone slow in her vision. She wasn’t quite sure yet what was happening to her, but she was glad it was happening. However, this was something else.

Even with the boost in speed that she’d received, something worse was about to happen. One that she would not be able to follow... Just then, the girl noticed the trees lurch violently letting in numerous paths of moonlight... Streams of light filled the forest floor turning it polka-dotted... That’s when the air was filled with the sound of numerous whistling arrows. She’d heard the same sound at the beach earlier.

The other wolves in the pack came to a stop as they watched arrows break through the forest roof and strike the incoming rogues. They rained down in torrents, taking down rogues at a rate none of them could believe. Not a single arrow missed... and they all struck to kill... Red arrows at first and soon the colour was different... Grey... They all watched as the rogues that had previously struck them with fear were brought down with barely any effort.

The shifting of the trees was a cause for panic, but with how fast the arrows hit, the wolves began to feel as though the arrows were causing the violent plant movement as well.

“Everyone is to return to the hotel at this moment,” Katie’s voice filtered into the mind link.

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Honour sat up breathing hard as exhaustion racked her body. She’d used a lot of her concentration and power to pull off Katie’s requests. Once the will of the hunter had got a hold of her, she’d had no choice in how she controlled the trees. It was as though Katie was controlling her power through her just from her intentions alone, “Your sister... She’s scary.”

“What? Katie can be kind and warm when she wants to be...” Lina replied.

“I won’t be fooled by that kindness ever again. She ended the entire battle just that easily and might have even taken control of me in the process. Just how much blood lust does one need?” Honour wondered to herself, shuddering at the emotional state of the hunter that had controlled her powers

just moments ago. The forest was free of the attacking rogues... There wasn't a single one left to terrorise her pack.

A few cries of pain still lingered about the mind link and they drew the girl in. "Lina, let's go tend to those that have been injured," Honour announced, the trees in the clearing making way for them to leave. The girl shifted into her white wolf and began the run back to the hotel with her friend on her back. As they ran, Honour felt for their pack and subconsciously guided them to a path that she created with the trees, parting them to create one straight route back to the hotel.

Before they knew it, the pack was running together with one common destination. Those that had been too injured to run rested on the backs of others. At Katie's speed, they had caught up to the rest of the pack without anyone ever noticing they had been behind. A black wolf came up next to her, "Where have the two of you been?" Cole's voice sounded in their mind.

"We were in a field on moon lotuses... Honour had me take her there," Lina replied indifferently.

"Well, I'm glad you're safe. I'm sure Drake would have had my head if one of you got injured," the royal replied, "In any case, I hope that's the last we see of them. Katie did what she said she would do... She got rid of all of them."

"Did she tell you that herself?" Lina asked him.

"No, she didn't. Is that supposed to mean something?"

"I think you already know what that's supposed to mean. Considering she was able to tell that there were rogues around far before anyone saw any sign of them, I don't think we're out of the woods yet..."

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Back on the balcony, the female hunter let her bow clatter to the ground, gritting her teeth at the pain that stung her fingers. Blood dripped from them from the number of times she'd drawn back her bowstring and released it. If it hadn't been for the fast healing of her body, she wouldn't have been able to shoot a quarter as many arrows as she'd achieved that night...

"You should have worn some protecting gloves before doing something like that..."

"I'm fine, Gallant. It's only a scratch. It should heal up in no time," Katie cut the man off before he could continue stating the obvious.

"Is it over?" the man asked her.

"No, it's not... There is still one more rogue. He's different from the rest and he's not attacking. It's as though he wants us to go to him," she said, pointing in the enemy's direction.

"Well, that could be the case considering you're pointing in the direction of the cell tower. If we go there, we will be facing against a foe that's been trusted to keep this place isolated," Gallant spoke up, "I don't understand their motives though. I never thought the rogues to be this organized in their methods of attack. Staying put for an entire day waiting for the right time to strike doesn't seem like the rogue kind of strategy to me."

“Well, to be perfectly honest, there has always been a strategy. Making them attack mindlessly is just a way to make us lower our guard and think they don’t have a strategy behind all their actions. After everything I’ve seen, I know the rogue king always has some sort of wicked plan in play. If he had his way, he would have killed Cole and me a very long time ago,” the girl said.

“How are you a hunter?”

“A question that I am getting tired of answering...” Katie replied before giving the man a short rundown of how she got to become a hunter, “Now would you be so kind as to relay the same story to the rest of the hunters here. I really don’t want to have to go through it all over again.”

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Just then, the thrumming sound of running wolves reached the girl’s ears. She stayed at the top of the hotel and watched all of them burst through the tree line... Many of them were carried atop their friends as they were too injured to run. Others were tired and collapsed almost immediately. Katie’s eyes scanned through the crowd, making a roll call of her own.

“I see the mutts have returned,” a voice sounded behind her before a gasp came along with it, “Your shoulder...”

“I know about my shoulder. Can you get your junior hunters down there as soon as possible and get to treating the injured already?” she asked Trevor.

“Well yeah... I can do that. However...” a blanket of warmth wrapped around the girl, startling her from her thoughts. Atop her shoulders sat a woollen jacket obscuring the sight the junior hunter was trying to hide. Either that or he was merely being a gentleman and covering up the girl. None of it mattered as Katie didn’t get the chance to thank him. He was gone before she could offer him her gratitude.

Sighing, the girl leapt from the roof and gracefully landed on her feet with barely a sound before the group before her. Honour and a group of females who knew a lot about first aid had the rest of those that could move running about looking for medical supplies. Looking through the wolves lying on the ground, Katie took in the sight. Some had a few scratches and bite marks while others were in worse situations with fractured bones and wounds that were too deep for comfort.

Priorities had been set to those that had been injured most severely first in an attempt to avoid the loss of any life. Guilt ripped through the girl’s heart as she questioned her method of taking action that night, “I guess you took my advice after all.” An alluring voice broke her out of her thoughts.

Katie turned to face the royal... He held a first aid box in one hand and had his focus on a group behind her. The hunter let the man past her so he could get the equipment to a junior hunter that had only just arrived and was tending to those that he could. “What was the purpose of you staying behind?” another voice came to her.

Katie turned around coming face to face with Alice and Sandra. Sandra was dressed in the jacket Katie had asked Alice to deliver to her. The worst part was the fact that the girl couldn’t come up with a reason why she stayed back. She’d followed her guts like she always had. At first, she’d suspected she was meant to be protecting the sleeping humans, but they had never got into any trouble, how then was she supposed to explain what had happened.

“Katie, your fingers...” Sandra gasped. The hunter brought them up to see that her wounds hadn’t healed yet, “Why didn’t you use gloves?”

“I don’t think that would have helped unless they were special gloves,” Katie replied, “I’m glad you’re fine though. I wasn’t sure what would happen without me around.”

“Oh, she was more than alright. You should have seen her. She was a monster out there. I was honestly more scared of her than I was of the rogues,” Alice praised the girl, wrapping an arm around her, “I’m just glad that whole thing is all over. I’m exhausted. They were so many of them.”

Katie’s eyes widened in fear at the last statement before she masked the emotion, “I’m sorry to say this, but it’s not over just yet.”

Alice stared back at her, losing her smile, “What’s that supposed to mean?”

“Well, I don’t know what the rogues were planning, but until communications are back up so that we can call for backup, this is not over yet. I’m going to the cell tower. I know there is a rogue there guarding it. I’m hoping it’s not one of the rogue king’s beta alphas. If it is, then life’s going to get a whole lot more complicated. I don’t know if staying behind while you guys go out there was the best choice and I won’t know that until this is all over. I just hope it is. I wouldn’t want to hold any regrets...”

“I’m going with you to the cell tower,” Cole’s voice came from behind the girl. She barely flinched, although she noticed the animosity in his voice.

“Have I done something to offend...?” turning around she paused when she noticed the object of Cole’s confusion. “I could burn it if you’d like. He only lent it to me after I’d taken off my hunter jacket.”

“I’d like to see it burnt then...” Cole replied.

“Oh, you’ve got to be kidding me,” the girl chuckled before taking the jacket off her and tossing it away from her body. The alpha’s eyes followed the jacket with his eyes until it hit the ground. Seeing as that wasn’t convincing enough, Katie approached him and hugged him, “You mustn’t have suspicions like that when I just exposed my shoulders in front of the entire pack.”

Cole gasped, looking around to see the look on everyone’s faces. It was as though the world had stopped and most of them were looking at one odd sight, “Oh carry on with your tasks. It’s not like you’ve never seen a mark before.” He snapped at them.

Sandra, however, came close to them while Katie was not looking and ran her fingers over the bite mark on the girl’s shoulder. The hunter flinched at the touch and turned within her mate’s embrace to look her friend in the eye, “How do I look?”

“Well, it’s definitely a good look on you,” the girl responded before running her finger on the miraculous part of the mark. At the centre of the two rows of a wolf’s teeth marks was the mark of a wolf howling at the moon, “It’s more beautiful up close. How does that even work?”

“When the moon goddess accepts the mark that’s been made by the pair that’s gone through the marking process, that appears after the mark has healed,” Cole explained.

“I don’t get it... What happens if the mark is not accepted?” Sandra asked.

“Well, it proves the couple is not actually meant to be by the goddess’ creed. And a bond like that is shunned among the werewolves,” he replied.

“I don’t understand... Isn’t this what the whole world has been waiting for? The marking of the Moon goddess’ chosen and don’t marks have to go both ways?” Alice asked.

“Well, yeah, that’s basically true. We masked our connection to the two pack links when we marked each other to hold back the panic... As well as privacy,” Cole responded before pulling back his shirt’s collar to reveal the mark that appeared on his shoulder as well.

Sandra bit back a laugh upon seeing the mark, “Talk about having your teeth in your man.”

“Oh shut up, Sandra,” Katie barked at the girl before getting interrupted by a serious Alice.

“We need to get this information to the hunters so that they purge the rogues in Lycaon. If they know the rogue’s bite doesn’t have any effect on them, they can cut through them unrestricted.”

“Then it’s settled... we’ll be going to the cell tower. Is there anyone here that knows how to get the message out the moment we get there?” Katie asked her.

“You’re looking at her. However, I’m low on energy, so I would appreciate it if I don’t get to fight whatever monster we might face. If it’s anything like the one we met at the beach, I’m afraid I don’t want to get involved in a fight like that,” Alice requested.

“Very well...”

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A few nights ago...

Katie stood on the balcony after two days of watching over her healing mate. Cole had been ill for those two days and Katie had been taking care of him, however, according to what the royal had said to her, he was supposed to be getting better that very night. She didn’t know when that was going to be, but the tension of having to wait for his fever to break had kept her awake. As a result, she’d stepped out of bed to bask in the cold wind.

Her mind kept her constantly aware of the hunter watching her every move. Looking in the distance, she could see a hint of a metallic bow in the cover of the trees. For someone who was supposed to be hiding, he wasn’t doing a good job. After calming down, she tried to think through the message he’d sent her. Going through all that trouble to rile her up seemed pointless to her. If he was really jealous of the wolf, he would have found some way to put him down and not Katie herself.

Her mind had been working on solving whatever it was that Jeremiah was thinking and she’d come to a conclusion. A sweet scent wafted into her nostrils, calming all her nerves. The metallic glint within the trees vanished... the wind itself seemed to still, announcing the arrival of the only being in the world capable of weakening Katie Sirius, “Someone can walk again...”

She said as his strong arms wrapped around her waist, “Well, it’s all thanks to special treatment from a special someone,” Cole replied, placing a kiss in the crook of her neck. The girl found herself leaning into the man holding her, feeling safe instantly. When no malice was detected from the watching hunter, she was now sure of her decision.

“You know I can wait till your ready,” Cole whispered into her ear.

“Well... Just accepting your offer that day made me realise I want you to do it. I don’t understand much about werewolves yet, but I do want to be yours...” her words came out before she could stop herself. The hunter bit her lip to stop any more from coming from her.

Cole took the chance and spoke up, “I would like nothing more, Katie. From the moment I saw those dark blue eyes, I was sure there was something I wanted from the person that owned them. At the time, I didn’t know what it was, but now I’m sure of what I saw that day. My mark will be proof of my dedication to you and that you belong to none other than me.”

“Does it hurt?” Katie asked when she’d found her voice. After what she’d been through, she found the question absurd. She’d gone through a lot of pain and yet here she was asking if a bite was going to hurt.

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Cole kissed the crook of her neck, “You won’t notice the pain.”

Before Katie could ask what that was supposed to mean, her wolf pushed forward in response to his. Cole’s breathing changed, growing deeper... “Just get on with it, Cole.”

The male royal sank his fangs into the shoulder of his mate, as close to her neck as he could. A myriad of feelings went through the girl... She felt the minds of all the wolves in her pack and almost as though a part of her mind was opening, she felt the minds of those in Cole’s pack as well. She felt the promise that was made by the moon goddess. The power of the royal’s bite sapped out of all werewolves that existed.

She was fully aware of everything that was going to happen to the werewolves. Werewolves were not to give birth unless they had slept with their mates and only their mates. Katie felt her connection to Cole grow stronger. She caught glimpses of his memories and felt him catch glimpses of hers as well. Her pain became his and so was their happiness... Amidst the numerous sensations that went through the girl, the pain of the bite was only a passing thought.

As Cole retracted his fangs, a pleasurable sensation went through Katie drawing every last bit of strength she had left from her. Cole carried his mate in his arms back into the bedroom and lay her on the bed. She was still stuck in her half shift for reasons she had no clue about, “Why am I still in this state?” she whispered.

“Because this goes both ways...” Cole replied. Katie’s eyes snapped open when he said it. She barely needed to check with Ashley as the wolf had already focused her mind on completing the ritual the two of them had started. Marking Cole brought with it even more intense sensations than the first. Their bond getting even stronger than she would have thought possible. However, when all was done, the two were so weak they could only sleep that night with barely another word spoken between them.

Masking their minds from the two great packs kept the realization from reaching the wolves. The moon goddess’ chosen had just marked each other and not even the royals knew it had happened. None of them knew about the loss of their power.

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Present time...

“Lina, can I get more gauze over here. I’m running out. Bandages as well and hurry,” Honour spoke up while she worked on stopping the bleeding of one of the severely injured wolves. She’d so far managed to do what she could do for a number of them, but her heart never once calmed and her pace didn’t waver.

Lina could barely keep up with the girl’s diligence as they worked hard on keeping everyone alive and well. The junior hunters did the best they could and helped out. They got every single medical supply they could find in the hotel. The ones they could get from the vehicles had been the first to run out causing them far more trouble than they could have thought.

Spotting Trevor rushing out of the hotel gates with another kit, Lina rushed up to him, “Hey, can I have that?”

“Sure, however, I don’t think you’ll be getting more where that came from. Try to use the supplies sparingly,” the junior hunter tried.

“I’m not sure if that’s something I can guarantee with the pace at which she’s going,” Lina replied, forgetting there were others helping as well.

“Well, considering the others can’t handle as much of the severe cases as she can, I can imagine how much she must need,” Trevor said, following the girl through the fray. Seated next to another wolf, Honour got to bandaging the boy’s torso. She’d finished cleaning up his wounds and his healing had started kicking in.

“How many of the severe ones are left?” Ryan asked as he beckoned for two junior hunters to get the boy away. Once the students had been helped, they would then be taken to their rooms where they were lain to rest.

“I don’t know... I haven’t had the time to count,” the girl replied, taking the kit from Lina and moving on to her next patient. “If it wasn’t for the healing aspect of werewolves, we wouldn’t be able to get through this unscathed as we are going to.”

“Well, that sounds like good news. What’s with that look of concern on your face?” Trevor asked.

“The bite marks... Some of them look like they might have come from alphas,” she announced... “Please try to lie still. It’s going to sting a little.” She said to the wolf she worked on as he flinched at the sting of the medicine.

“That’s bad indeed... If any of them takes on the will of the alphas that bit them, they would start to wreak havoc,” Trevor said, just before silence took over the wolves. The junior hunter paid attention to the source of attraction and found that they were staring straight at Katie Sirius. She had taken off his coat and thrown it away. It was only then that he realized what a mistake it had been to give her that when Cole could get his scent off it.

The male royal was just beginning to relax, ‘Revealing myself to them would definitely pose a problem...’ his thoughts were cut short when he watched the male reveal the mark beneath his shirt as well. The two of them marked... and Trevor knew the implications of that. “Honour, do you remember any of the wolves you’ve worked on seemed to have been bitten by alphas.”

“Yes, I remember a few of them. After all, I worked on them for the longest time. They were injured quite badly compared to the others,” she replied as she finished dressing the boy’s wounds and moved on to someone else, “I’m glad those that were in dire situations are done now... Although, one of them was human...”

Trevor stopped watching the royal couple to look at Honour. The girl had a different air about her. She was a free spirit earlier, but this was different. She was now in charge of whatever she was doing. Lina followed her every single order and stayed at her side every step of the way in case she was needed. Something else he couldn’t quite put his finger on resonated within his very being. He shook his mind free of his thoughts and went back to what had caught his attention earlier... “Did you say... human?”

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Honour gave orders to the rest of the junior hunters and wolves that were giving first aid to the injured. The rest that was left was nothing they couldn’t handle. However, what ushered her away from the treating grounds was none other than Trevor Waters. The boy wanted her to lead him to the human she’d mentioned with severe injuries. An entire first aid kit was saved for the human as well as he was bound to be unable to heal. The terrifying detail he’d heard, however, was the fact that the boy had been bitten by an alpha of all wolves.

“What makes you think this boy was bitten by an alpha, to begin with, and what was a human doing with the werewolves out in the woods at twilight?” the junior hunter bellowed as they rushed through the halls of the hotel, led by the junior hunters that had taken the boy to his room. Tense was the air about them, except for Honour whose only job had been to patch the boy up to the best of her abilities.

“I know this because I took some time working with the pack doctor back at home. Healing is one of the things a werewolf as weak as I am ought to learn if they are ever going to be of any help in the end. The bite marks of an alpha aren’t the same as those of an average werewolf. I’ll show you once we get there even though I’d hate to force a patient to go through something like that,” she said to him.

Finally rounding one more corner, the junior hunters came to the door that belonged to the boy and knocked at door. After waiting a few painstakingly long seconds, the sound of the key turning the lock came through from the other side of the door. The door creaked open and to their surprise, a feminine face popped up from the other side of the door. “What is a girl... You know what... I don’t even want to know anymore. I’ve had to deal with a lot more than this today. Where is the boy?”

The girl, who was dressed in a robe led them to the boy who lay in a bed with numerous bandages on his body. Trevor froze at the sight before him. This was perhaps the one person who’d been injured the most among all that had been involved in the battle, “I tried to tell him to stay behind, but he wouldn’t listen to me,” the girl began.

“Try to refrain from lying,” Lina snapped at the girl, shutting up her sobs, “You went with him. There is no doubt about that and you can’t say you were going to keep him safe and make sure he didn’t do anything stupid when the stupidest thing he could have done was stepping out of the hotel at night.”

“Lina...”

“Someone is not the same person I had come to know. Anyway, Honour, if you don’t mind, I would like you to explain how it is you came to the conclusion that this boy was bitten by an alpha,” Trevor asked.

“Well, if I’m to show that to you, I’d have to take off the boy’s bandages and trust me... that is going to hurt him,” Honour replied. However, she brought out the first aid box and opened it to retrieve a pair of scissors.

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“No, wait... What if I could prove he’d been bitten by an alpha without you having to open his bandages. He’s been through a lot of pain already,” the girl yelled at them when Honour was just about to get to opening the boy’s wounds, “I might not have kept him from going and even gone with him myself, but... I do care for him. Don’t cause him any more pain than he’s already been through.”

Honour looked between the girl and the head junior hunter, “Well, what is your final verdict?”

The boy sighed before answering, “What do you have in mind, girl... and make it quick.”

The girl sat down crosslegged and took in a deep breath before letting her robe drop to the ground revealing her naked upper body with only a bra to cover her body. “Oh my... cover up... Are you going to strip...?”

“Oh shut up, pervert. Would you take a look at her back before you say something you’ll regret saying?” Honour smacked the boy’s head, “And you... Why didn’t you ask to be treated? That will get infected if you don’t pay attention?”

Honour grabbed the first aid box and rushed to the girl to begin cleaning the large bite mark on her back. The room fell into silence for a moment while the girl got to work on the injured human girl. “I figured he was in a much worse condition than I was. He had to get treated before I did and I had to make sure he was put in bed to rest.”

“Well, after taking care of him, why didn’t you come for treatment yourself?” Honour replied... the girl barely replied when she spoke up, “You were bitten by the same wolf, weren’t you?”

“Yes, I was... I don’t think the girl that saved us even realized what kind of wolf it was. I’d just been bitten when he threw himself in the way to save me. We got separated from our friends when the chaos began. Not having a mind link makes it impossible for your werewolf friend to find you in chaos when the mind link is all that werewolves depend on. By the time they found us, Peter... he’d gotten himself beaten up pretty badly trying to protect me.”

“So you figured you could help him out by making sure he got treated... After all, you were going to heal up eventually after being bitten by an alpha,” the girl gasped at the accusation and her back stiffened, “don’t move so suddenly, you’ll start bleeding again.”

“Oh, right...” she complied, relaxing under Honour’s care, “Well, yeah, that is what I thought would happen, but...”

“Nothing is happening to either of you,” Trevor replied calmly, “What if you shifted then? Your plan... What if it worked and you inherited the will of the alpha that bit you? What were you going to do then? Attack all the humans in the hotel and bring forth an even bigger tragedy than what we are facing at the current moment.” He was yelling by the time he was done.

“That’s not it...” was all the girl could reply in an effort to keep from exploding, “You don’t know what it’s like Trevor. To be bitten by a werewolf... to be cornered by a werewolf and think your time has finally come. To watch your boyfriend get bitten just because he’s trying to protect you. A human against an alpha...”

“That’s not his job, damn it. That’s my job. As a hunter, I’m the one meant to carry the burden of protecting you from werewolves. Your job is to stay put where I say is safe and make sure you stay that way... Make sure you stay alive. How could you have been so stupid?” it was as though everything the distressed girl said made the head hunter only angrier.

“But you weren’t there. We all make mistakes, Trevor and now that we’ve made ours, you can’t possibly relate to what it must feel like. To get bitten by an alpha and survive it... It’s like being cursed. None of us will ever be the same again. When we do shift, will you put us down the very same way you’ve been trained to put them down?”

Trevor went dead silent and looked back at the girl seated being treated. He’d never been asked this question before and facing the reality that not all rogues were forced into being rogues was only harder. After all the training he’d been taken through, he’d never questioned what he was taught until this moment, “No one will ever be turned by a bite ever again, so don’t worry about it, okay.”

“What is that supposed to mean, Trevor?” Honour and Lina asked him at the same time.

“The moon goddess’ chosen were both marked. The power of the royals must be restricted now. The power to turn a human into their werewolf has been lost,” Trevor replied.

“You can’t possibly believe such a thing?” the girl’s voice came cold.

“I don’t understand. Isn’t that good news for you?” Trevor asked her, the happiness that had previously welled up inside him diminishing completely. ‘Had she planned to shift and take everyone here down with her. Has the will of the alpha that bit her already gone so deep?’

“No, Peter won’t be able to heal. I have tried my cell phone. There is no service here. That treatment won’t be able to heal him. He can barely move as it is. His last hope was that the transformation would heal all his wounds,” the girl replied.

“You would have him turn into a bloodthirsty beast and kill hundreds more than doing everything you can to get him to a hospital,” Trevor asked her.

“Were you asleep during the ride here? We are very far from the capital or any form of civilization. There is no way we could make it to a medical centre in his condition,” the girl argued. ‘Try not to move so suddenly...’

“Do you know why it would be so hard for me to answer your question, Lyla? If the two of you were to become werewolves, you would have no control over your wolf sides. Without the time to mature them and learn control, they would overwhelm you and you would start to attack the very creatures the hunters are sworn to protect. So yeah... I would put you and your boyfriend down if you shifted,” the silence fell over the entire room, “the only hope the two of you have is to make it to a medical centre and you will make it there.”

Trevor's intentions were well-received by all that were in the room and the argument ended there. The girl didn't bother him with any more of her delusions of healing her boyfriend through the power of healing that the werewolves possessed. Lina had never thought about the job of the hunters getting as complicated as it had been that night. Although, thinking about it gave her an understanding of how common it must have been.

After all, the rogue king was only capable of creating alphas through his bite. With how many he'd bitten over the ages, it only made sense that there would be enough alpha rogues to cause a lot of trouble for the hunters. The rogues were always increasing. Looking at the two humans in the room, Lina realized they were the first to get bitten and have hope of staying human. 'Seeing them remain human will mark a miracle...' she thought to herself, thinking back to the many times she had to be careful with her fangs as they were potentially the most lethal kind in the world, along with the rest of her family.

"Hey, Trevor. Come and take a look at this," Honour broke the silence when she was just about to start applying the bandages over the girl's bite mark.

"Huh, no, I don't need to see it anymore. I have all the proof that I..."

"Just get over here. I don't think you'll ever get another opportunity to see what the bite of an alpha looks like and know what the difference is," she said to him.

Sighing, the head hunter came closer and squatted next to her to make out what it was she was showing him, "Well, it looks like all the others to me."

"I see you don't pay attention to detail," Honour groaned before pointing out the one thing that should have made a difference, "Look at the upper row, there are two deep wounds where there should be one for the canines."

The junior hunter squinted for a bit before his eyes widened with recognition. His eyes darted about the bite mark and he found that there was proof of six canines in total instead of the usual four, "What is the meaning of this?"

"I'm surprised you've never realized it. Alphas have one more pair of canines in their upper jaw. Depending on the anger of the royal, they can grow up to twelve canines. Well, they usually grow twelve when they've gone feral and just want to kill everything in sight. Luckily, I've never experienced that and hope I never do," Honour explained before wrapping up the girl, sealing her wounds.

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Trevor turned to the two junior hunters that had escorted them there and asked that they stay watching the room for a few more hours to make sure the two victims of the attack remained, 'human.' The junior hunters reluctantly agreed... The fact that the head hunter was being cautious only shattered their confidence. "What do we do when they do shift?" one of them asked.

"Well, you keep the door closed and call for help," Trevor tapped their shoulders, "Or you could put your training to the test. After all, they won't turn into alphas or anything like that so I suspect they'll be the weakest kind of werewolves you will ever get to face in your lives."

With that said, he walked out. Honour helped Lyla up and made sure she got in bed safely, "Is there anything that I can get you before you fall asleep. A cup of water perhaps."

“No, I’m fine, Honour,” Lyla replied, turning to face her boyfriend’s bed, “If only you could miraculously heal him. That would be more than I could ever ask for. If it was even possible.” The girl chuckled before falling asleep.

Honour remained quiet for a bit watching the girl sleep, “It’s rare to find humans that are this selfless. I wish these two never change.”

Lina didn’t know why or what it was that made her even question it, but she felt the air shift in the room. Maybe it was just her imagination speaking, however, it didn’t stop her from speaking her mind, “Your wish might just come true. Who knows?”

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The two females left the room and returned to the hotel gates to see if there was any more healing that was required of them or if more healing was required of Honour. As it had turned out, most of the injured had been treated and moved already. They were barely needed to handle the rest. All those that had been severely injured had been handled well. Thankfully, they were werewolves which allowed them to relax a bit knowing they would heal given time.

Lina looked about frantically in search of someone else. She grabbed the first junior hunter that was passing by her by the sleeve, “Hey, have you seen Katie?”

“N-no... I haven’t. Have I done something wrong?” the boy stammered.

“No, move on... Where is she?” she said more to herself, letting go of the boy and searching for her next victim. She’d disturbed two more by the time a voice stopped her rampage.

“Are you going to do that to the entire community? At this rate, you’ll even wake the sleeping humans and ask them the same questions,” Sandra said to her.

Lina let go of the one she was holding and approached the junior hunter, “Where is she?”

“It’s good to see you too, Lina,” Sandra replied. Jason chuckled beside her, watching the spectacle and choosing to stay out of it.

“Sandra...”

“I know I know. You should be worried. If it’s any consolation, she asked me to give you a message. Her message was that you were to stay put at the hotel and do nothing to follow her. You are not to enter the woods again until the sun rises as well. I thought she was going to keep giving you orders until they could fill up a scroll, but the last part of the message was that she was glad you were safe. She didn’t know what she could have done if you were hurt in this whole mess. And she would like you to stay that way... ‘safe,’” Sandra explained.

“Oh, is that it? Where has she gone?”

“I will only tell you that if you promise to stay put when you hear it,” Sandra replied.

Lina thought through her options before asking, “If I try to go after her, will you stop me?”

“Of course, I...” Sandra had started to answer when she got an idea that forced Jason to finally speak up.

“No, none of you are going after her. That is final. If you won’t stop her, I will,” he spoke up pulling the girl into a side hug to emphasize his point.

“Well, yeah... I’d have to stop you from following her. I’m tempted to go after them if I’m being honest with you, but I know better than to go against a Chase hunter. The last time that happened, the rogues completely overwhelmed us,” the hunter replied, tears welling up in her eyes.

“Okay then... Tell me what happened,” Lina asked, giving up all her hopes of running after her sister. The silence that came from the girl was the only indication that more was happening than any of them was letting on, “This is not over, is it?”

“Let’s go in... You might want to take a seat...” Jason asked them, ushering them towards the hotel gates.

.....Before Katie’s departure...

“Do you have any energy left? We might be going into something more dangerous than anything you’ve been through tonight,” Katie told the female hunter before her.

“The rest of you know nothing about the cell tower. I am hoping the damage is not serious so that I can fix it. I’m no expert, but if there is any hope that we could get a message outside the reserve, then I would like to take it,” Alice responded.

“Katie, you forgot this up there,” a male voice interrupted them. Katie turned to see Gallant running towards her with her bow and a spare quiver half-filled with grey metallic arrows.

“Oh, hey Gallant. Thank you for this,” she replied, taking the bow and quiver from him. Using her Strength gift, she began to fold the bow into its diminished form against all the tension that kept it unfurled. The spectacle kept the rest of them silent until the girl had the bow completely down in size. She attacked it to the back of the quiver and slung the pack over her shoulder before looking up at the watching faces.

“What...”

“What gift do you have?” Alice asked her.

“I would have thought that was obvious at this point. You raced with me on the first day we were here. That already tells you what gift I have,” she said.

“Strength or Agility... which is it, girl? No, I am certain you’ve got the one of agility down, but...”

“Why is that question always so hard? Are they really that few hunters that possess both gifts?” Cole pondered more to himself.

“To be precise, I only know of one other hunter with both gifts,” Katie replied.

“You’re scary, Katie Sirius,” Cole replied.

“I know, honey. I get that a lot,” she replied, leaning into him for a moment, “The wolf at the cell tower. He’s like nothing we’ve faced. Every one of us going is to stay vigilant.”

“That’s great. What are we waiting for? Let’s get going,” Sandra said, determination laced in her voice.

“You’re not going, Sandra,” Katie raised her voice, sending chills down her friend’s spine.

“What!” was all Sandra could say upon hearing Katie’s words, for this had never happened for as long as she’d known the hunter.

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Sandra was at a loss for words at first, until she realized she wasn’t going anywhere if she didn’t fight for her chance to go with them, “Katie, you’re kidding, right? Tell me you’re joking. I’m coming with you.”

“No, Sandra. This one is not something you can handle in your current condition. You’re not going anywhere this time. You’ll stay behind and you’ll protect the humans here,” Katie replied sternly.

“No, Katie. I need to come with you. You need my help. You’re always doing everything on your own. You might have made us think we were doing something out there tonight, but you planned to eliminate all the rogues at once with your bow. Admit it, Katie. You want to do it all on your own again even after promising never to do that again,” the girl argued.

“No, that’s not it and you know it. Sandra, you’re not ready for something like this. I’m not putting you in danger. I might not be able to protect you this time,” Katie responded.

“I don’t need your protection, Katie... Ugh, Alice tries to talk some sense into her,” Sandra snapped at her.

“You’re right, Sandra. You don’t need her protection...”-“See, Katie, I’m more than...”-“But I agree with Katie on this one. You should stay behind.” The girl was astounded.

Before she could argue anymore, Alice held her by the shoulder and pulled her away from the group to have a private conversation, “Hey, stop arguing with a Chase hunter. From what I’ve seen, this girl trusts her instincts more than I’ve ever seen anyone do so in my life. You should stay put.”

“No, I’m not staying behind. You don’t even have a valid reason to keep me behind. We asked her a question earlier and she couldn’t answer it. What reason do you have for siding with her after all this?” she asked.

“That group of rogues that attacked us when we were heading to the hotel. I believe they were meant to attack the humans in the hotel, but we happened to be in their way. The rogues didn’t know about the vines back at the beach. They wouldn’t have known where we would be. Katie stayed behind to protect the hotel from that group of rogues. She couldn’t explain it because she hadn’t reasoned any of her instincts out. On another note, I’m surprised she was able to figure out you’re useless in any other battle we are to have,” the woman answered.

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The girl calmed down long enough to listen, “What are you trying to say?”

“I’m saying she doesn’t know about your awakened abilities. You’ve been exerting yourself far more than you should have today. The gift takes time to set in and yet you have been drawing on it this whole time. You need to rest. If we take you with us, you’ll collapse before you know what’s going on with your body. Your body is on fire, Sandra, but you don’t see it yet. Take a break and relax, you’ll thank me later,” Alice tried explaining.

Looking back at the time Katie had got her gifts, Sandra could remember the girl getting weaker during that week that followed, but she'd never associated it with the changes that were happening within her body. Just then, the realization hit her that she was speaking of something she didn't believe she even heard, "Wait, gift... what gift? I'm normal."

Alice sighed, "You're such a confused child. Do you really think you were moving that fast back there because of all the training you've had over the years? You might have been fast, Sandra, but the speed you've been using tonight is beyond anything a human could ever hope to achieve. Rest, Sandra. You'll get the time to show off to your mentor when you're all better. On the other hand, she's not going to be alone out there. I'll make sure of it."

Sandra sighed seeing the sense behind the hunter's words, "Fine then... I'll stay behind. However, it will be the first time and hopefully the last. Take care of her for me."

"And here I thought it was you that needed to be taken care of," Alice replied.

"Oh, you haven't met Katie. She would never have agreed to stay behind even if the world depended on it," Sandra chuckled. The two of them finally made their way back to the group.

"I've decided I'll be staying behind," Sandra replied, "but it's not because I..." the girl was stopped when her friend enveloped her in a hug.

"I'm glad, Sandra. Please stay safe... Also," the girl began to whisper into her ear. A message that was meant for someone else she'd grown to care for dearly, Lina Sirius. Sandra promised to deliver her message to the girl, hugging her friend back.

"Alpha Cole," Jason spoke up, getting his alpha's attention. He'd used his title, so there must have been something serious he wanted to ask for, "If you don't mind, can I stay behind as well?"

Silence took over the group. The hunters felt it was the wolf who was being obnoxious for opting out of what should have been a mission for the strong. Before any of them could raise any complaints, "Yes, you can."

"Hey, Jason. Make sure Lina doesn't follow after us. She might think she's stronger now since she can fight and stand up for herself. She doesn't realise it yet, but she was never meant for the battlefield," Caden said to her.

"If there is nothing else that needs to be said, might I ask that we all go?" Katie spoke up, "We don't have as much time as we might think we do."

"You have one annoying mojo, Katie Chase," Cole groaned upon hearing her warning. Katie chuckled in response, the two of them shifting into their black and white forms. The only difference this time was the wolf marks on their shoulders. A white howling wolf in the black fur of Cole's black wolf and a black howling wolf in the white fur that was Katie's.

"The two of you could not look more like a match," Sandra groaned, "Be careful out there, Katie."

The white wolf nodded... The group was gone only moments after. Caden, Cole, Alice, Gallant and Katie were gone in the direction of the cell tower. If all went well, they would be restoring communications and getting the students out of the reserve before anything bad happened.

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The group of five rushed through the woods. The smell of blood was thick in the night from the number of rogues that had been killed that night. "I can't believe we don't have a single death on our side tonight. What kind of luck is this?" Katie's thoughts leaked to the other two alphas.

"I guess the moon goddess is watching over us tonight," Caden replied with a chuckle. More seriously, "I can't believe it either. It was worse when you made us realize the rogues were within us. I can't even tell when it was that it happened. If I'd been more vigilant about that."

"You couldn't have known, Caden. I also detected them only when they mixed within you. You handled the situation well. I'm glad you were able to neutralize them. I don't think I would have done that on my own," Katie chuckled.

"I couldn't have said it better myself. I wasn't on my own back there. If it hadn't been for the alphas, Crysta, Cole and the animals that, for some reason, kept attacking the rogues, we would have lost a number of them," Caden replied.

"Yeah, we definitely had our share of help today. Let's try to make sure we get them all to safety," Cole said to them. Katie looked to the hunters that ran beside them and noticed Alice's breath getting ragged.

The white wolf rushed forward and beckoned for the woman to stop running before offering to give her a ride, "Get on... You've been pushing yourself a lot tonight. You need to rest for what we are going to face ahead."

Alice paused for a moment before climbing up onto the white wolf, "You really are a werewolf and hunter at the same time with both Prometheus gifts."

"Are you still finding it hard to believe?" the white wolf asked with a chuckle catching up to the others easily.

"Yes, it's hard to believe. Not to mention the fact that you were raised by her of all people," the woman groaned at the end, "To think she vanished for eighteen years to raise the scariest creature to ever walk the planet."

"Okay, now you're making me sound like a creature of an apocalypse," Katie replied with a chuckle, "I would hardly call myself scary when my mate was able to put a Mighty Warrior in a hospital bed."

"Oh, so that wasn't some rumour milling through the hunters," Alice laughed out loud.

"I was hoping that could remain a secret for a long time," Cole tried.

"Cupid Shooter is not one to stay quiet. The man lives for the drama and gossip of this world. It's so bad that none of the hunters believes him when he speaks unless he makes it clear that he's being serious," Gallant pitched, laughing as well.

Just then four arrows whizzed past them, forcing the wolves to skid to a stop. Katie, on the other hand, slowed down to a stop as though she'd expected the arrows to miss them. The white wolf got down allowing Alice to climb down while the others immediately went on the defensive looking about for the source of the arrows whilst hiding behind trees in the direction they thought the arrows had come from.

“Katie, can you find some cover already?” Cole tried... “It’s him, isn’t it?”

The girl shifted back into her human form and looked back where they came, “You definitely took your time showing yourself,” she yelled into the night.

After a moment of silence, a masculine voice yelled again, “Why would I show myself to the hunter that took down forty rogues in less than three minutes. Seriously, Katie, what kind of training have you been taking with that monster of a Mighty warrior?” the familiarity that spoke back was like a bullet to Cole’s mind. ‘Huh...’ his mind went.

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“The training was gruesome, Jeremiah. If you had been given the chance, your hands would fall off,” Katie replied with a groan, her mind flashing memories of the week she’d had with the man.

“Hey, I’m not as weak as you might think I am. I could have gone through the training just fine,” Jeremiah tried, puffing out his chest.

“Oh, you have no idea, Jeremiah. He’d definitely put you down before you thought of getting through the very first thing he considered a trial. It was like he was trying to kill me. Considering you don’t have an agility gift, he would have killed you,” she replied with a chuckle.

“Why do I get the feeling he was training you to combat my arr...”

“Would someone first explain to me what’s going on before I decide whether or not the person before me should live or die?” Cole’s voice dangerously cut through the air. Katie turned to see her mate feigning a smile on his face. A terrible attempt...

“Well, to put it simply, this boy here is a spy for the hunters. This information mustn’t get out, but I am telling you so that you don’t kill him,” Katie responded.

“Then can he explain why he shot you with four arrows?” Cole asked, “He nearly killed you, you know.”

“Let me explain that...” Jeremiah asked, stopping Katie’s intervention, “First of all, I apologize for any trouble I have caused you. I had to keep my cover. As some of you might know, I was granted my powers when I saved a certain werewolf from rogues a few years ago. The werewolf I was saving was the king’s brother, Sean.

I hadn’t realized I was saving someone who could handle himself at the moment and he watched as I risked my life to save him from the rogues. I killed the ones I could and could never figure out why the last one simply ran away.

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Precisely three years ago...

Moving close to the capital had been the best decision for Jeremiah’s family. What they hadn’t known when they were shifting was that their son was planning to join another branch of the hunters. Jeremiah didn’t tell his ordinary parents everything that happened to him. After all, how could they understand

anything he was going through. They were civilians who knew nothing about the hunters and what they went through to attain their gifts from the Man god.

Every time they asked if he was fine or asked that he would take a rest from the tedious training, it only got on his nerves. He'd witnessed the training of many of the hunters and come to know what it was to be a human and work up to the level of a werewolf. The creatures were strong without even training their bodies.

The hunters were even responsible for keeping the civilian werewolves safe as well. Jeremiah knew them well... the civilians were as weak as a human either. It angered him, but he trained diligently... Or at least he'd thought he did... until he met a girl he came to know as Katie Chase. The girl was much younger than he was, but she was said to be at the same level as he was in her training. At the time he met her, she was a small frail creature, however, the skill with which she took down his peers during their training only made her scary.

When the time came that the two of them would do battle, he'd fought her, but she'd been too weak that day. She'd not fought him the same way he'd seen her fighting the rest of his peers, but once he found out the reason for that, his ideals had shattered. His friends, the other junior hunters... They were all doing their best. The hunters that supervised them told them they were doing well and gave extra drills to those that weren't doing well.

This girl though... She didn't care about what the adults thought about what she was doing. She trained herself to the ground. She trained until she couldn't move and even then she tried to get some training in. He'd never said it to her, but her presence suffocated him. She learnt fast and surpassed him with ease even when he tried to keep up with her. When he tried training with her, he'd got so tired that he hated everything about becoming a hunter... but she kept going.

Her ideals... the reasons that drove her to keep this up ate him up even more... 'What about us, Katie? Aren't we all trying to achieve the same thing? What makes you feel like you're different from the rest of us? No, it's clear to see that you are different from the rest of us, but I don't see anything special about you. You're human just like the rest of us. Why then are you able to train so hard?' the questions slowed him down.

His parents worried about his health and thought that he would get depressed. He withdrew from the hunter program and asked his parents if they would move out of Brigadia. Moving out of Brigadia had allowed him some fresh air... 'I'll become a hunter in no time... and return to Brigadia and show you, Katie. Just you wait... It's no doubt you'll be a hunter by then though.'

It hadn't been long after they'd settled in a town outside the capital that the boy had joined the hunter's agency nearest to his home and continued with his training. However, this time he chose to train as hard as his body could take. Everything was going in his routine plan until he heard it... the sound of a growl deep within the woods.

Jeremiah didn't know what took over him that evening. A normal human would have run in the opposite direction, but he had done the opposite and run straight into the rogues. As he'd suspected, three rogues had an old man cornered and he ran in front of him, getting defensive immediately. The rogues snapped at the human with the intention of killing him and his training kicked in. They weren't alphas and he had a hunting knife with him that evening.

At the cost of his life, the boy had battled the rogues and brought two of them down, stabbing inaccurately in all the weak spots that he could remember while staying out of their clutches. When he was done with two of them, dark spots filled his eyes and exhaustion filled his body... 'No, there was another one left...'

"You're one brave kid," the voice of an old man reached his ears right before he passed out.

Jeremiah woke up the next morning in a hospital bed. Seated on a sofa beside him was a man reading newspapers along with his parents who'd fallen asleep on the sofa. The man folded the newspaper and the centre to look beyond at the boy lying in the bed, "You're awake... That's good."

It was only then that the boy noticed the colour of the man's eyes, "Your highness... Are you okay?"

"What gives you the idea that I wouldn't be?" the man replied, before folding the newspapers and placing them on a table.

"You're one brave boy. Are you a junior hunter? I just have to ask?" he asked the boy.

"Yes, I am. I was training in the woods nearby when I heard the rogues growling," Jeremiah replied. His mind started working for the first time since he'd heard the growls and kicked into his instincts. The rogues had killed had a snowball's chance in hell of defeating the royal, "What were those rogues doing there though?"

There seemed to be a spark in the royal's eyes, "Looks like you're not as dumb as I'd taken you to be. I would like to ask you something, Jeremiah."

Jeremiah, at that moment, knew that he wouldn't be liking whatever would come from the royal's mouth and the man sensed his reluctance, "I honestly don't like what's happening at the moment, but you happened to save the wrong person. As you already know, I was more than capable of handling myself back there. You saved someone that wasn't in need of being saved... But that act of bravery has also given you a way to redeem yourself both as a hunter and someone that wants to protect humans in need."

"What are you saying?" Jeremiah asked.

"Don't you feel it yet?" the man asked, "the power that is coursing through you at the moment. Don't you feel like you could snap anything with your bare fists if you tried?"

Before the man had said it, Jeremiah hadn't noticed. Despite his weakened state, he did in fact feel stronger than he'd normally felt. As though it would be something normal to him if he just started bending steel bars, "What is that supposed to mean?"

"Oh don't play dumb with me..." the man snapped at him before taking a deep breath, "Honestly, I just need your help. It's nothing that goes against your beliefs. In fact, you'll be able to get the hunters even closer to accomplishing their goal. The downfall of the rogue king."

"You say that like it's very easy to do," Jeremiah asked him with an incredulous look on his face.

"Well, it gets easier if you choose to be a spy for the hunters," the man said to him. A look of fear spread across the boy's face when he heard the man's words. He'd never thought of something of the sort. The

man before him was asking him to join him in espionage against the most dangerous creature in the history of their world.

“You asking me to walk amongst them without killing them. How am I supposed to do that?” he asked.

“We all have a role to play, Jeremiah. We are not all meant to kill them, you know. What do you say?” he asked him. Sean Sirius, the brother to the king was playing the part of spy and no one knew about it. And here he was asking Jeremiah to take a path into the world of suspicion and potentially gruesome death in case he was discovered.

“How can I trust someone I just met?” he asked him.

“You can trust your guts. In my world, trust is not something you can rely on. You can’t tell anyone about anything unless you trust them completely. To be honest with you, finding someone you can trust with anything when you’re a spy is almost impossible. When you do find someone you can trust without a second thought, which I advise is a bad idea, you report to them. That way, your efforts will not be for nothing when you die,” the man said to him.

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“You speak to me like I’m going to join you without a second question. You live a shady life. I can’t even tell which side you’re on. I could just take this information to the king, you know. Who knows? You could be the rogue king himself,” Jeremiah narrowed his eyes at the man.

“So many questions you must have. I agree, they are all valid suspicions. However, if I was the rogue king, I would bite you right here and now and order you to do everything I want. Besides, that man, after meeting him, is beyond anyone’s comprehension. I can’t say for sure if there is a hunter alive that can take him down. Maybe the Perfect Warrior, however, it is hard to say,” the man replied.

“Why are you telling me all this? Stop assuming I’ll join you,” Jeremiah tried fighting it. Deep inside, he cursed himself for falling for the man’s words. His offer was tempting. He wanted to help the hunters bring down the rogue king and he was offering a method that wasn’t so easy to come by. He would be able to tell the hunters everything he knew about the rogues from the inside.

Even as he tried putting up a front, his mind worked faster than he wanted it to. He already knew the only person in the world that he could trust with all the information he ever found out about the rogues. The only person that was bound to listen to him without asking any questions and act on her instincts. She wanted the rogue king put down so much that there was no way she would have refused something of this kind, Katie Chase.

“I can see it in your eyes. I saw it even when you fought to defend me. You’ll do anything to bring the rogues down. How many kids your age have trained themselves well enough to bring down two rogues by this time? You’re different. I can tell within you that a Prometheus gift is awakening. Listen to me, boy. You have talent and there is a way you can put it to good use in a way no one else can. This opportunity doesn’t come to anyone. It’s rarer than the gifts you chase for your entire lives and you happened to stumble upon it at the same time as your gift. Take my offer, kid. We could make a difference,” the man’s words only sealed his decision.

After staying silent for a while, Jeremiah spoke up, "You knew I was going to accept before you even said a word, didn't you?"

"I hoped you would. Besides, I've been looking for someone I could work with far longer than you can imagine," the man confessed, "you might just be the person I've been looking for."

"I don't need to be buttered up with more sweet words. I'll take you up on your offer, Mr..."

"My name is Sean Sirius. You will find working with me to have its perks," the man replied. This was how the two men met. And it was this partnership that led to a series of events. Following the events of Jeremiah's bravery, his family was granted a rank of nobility and a good share of the prince's fortune as gratitude for saving the man from the rogues in the woods. The appearance of his Prometheus gift was only proof that he had indeed put his life on the line to protect the man in the woods.

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He was declared a hunter not long after... The prince then introduced him to the world of the shadows. After proving his worth to the rogue king, he was sent by the rogue king as a spy against the royals. He was the one asset of the rogue king that could be allowed to sneak through the hunters. The rogue King, being a busy man, rarely had jobs for the boy and he spent a while simply training and getting more and more lethal at his craft with a bow.

Seeing his worth, the rogue king started to send him on more missions where he was to make sure to keep the hunters in line. He performed his jobs well and helped the rogues escape where necessary, however, what he learnt about them only proved more troubling than anything else he ever thought he'd witness. He learnt of the hunter's patrol routes beforehand and gave the information to the rogues. To keep his hands clean, he also caused coincidences such as fire alarms to get the humans moving so much that none of them would be in danger from the rogues.

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Jeremiah told them the biggest part of his story to keep the male royal from ripping him to shreds, "Katie, I have a lot I would like to tell you about them, but I haven't had the chance to do so yet. Believe me when I tell you that you know nothing about them at all."

"That's good to hear. Well, before you interrupted us, we were heading to the cell tower to get communica..."

"I know where you're going. I'm just wondering if you have some kind of death wish going that direction," Jeremiah said to her with a deadly serious tone. The tone with which he spoke brought chills down their spines.

"Two royals, a beta alpha and two hunters, what do you take us for, boy?" Gallant argued, oddly disturbed by the boy's claims.

"I don't think that will be enough to bring down the creature you're going to find there. And to make matters worse, you can't kill him without creating another like him somewhere else in this world," Jeremiah sighed, leaning against a tree, "You can't just rush into this without a plan."

“Looks like there is a hunter out there with a head on their shoulders,” Cole chuckled, “How many rogues are guarding the cell tower?”

“Huh, wasn’t I clear when I said ‘creature?’” Jeremiah exclaimed, raising two fingers to make air quotes, “It’s only one rogue there. He’s getting oddly bored waiting for you and he’s very sure you’ll go to him.”

“He’s just one rogue and you think we won’t be enough for him. Your confidence in the rogues makes me think you’re on their side,” Caden complained, having a mental debate on whether the man was really that powerful or whether the spy before him was exaggerating.

“Well, I had the chance to live among them for a while. I have seen them in their training. Heed my warning, Katie. You’re impressive in so many ways, but you’re a few years or months behind the skill you need to go against them on your own,” Jeremiah repeated his warning.

“It’s like the one at the beach. He was far too skilled for a rogue and had no problem facing up against Jason and me. He held his ground and even managed to push us back... Well, that was until three arrows went through his chest,” Cole spoke. The admittance of his potential defeat felt like rubbing salt in a wound.

Katie finally had a handle on how much they were trying to warn her of the danger before them, “Well then, in that case, we deserve to come up with a plan to defeat him or at least subdue him.” Katie said to them. Her mind was set on seeing this through. Even after all they had told her about the man before them, she wasn’t fazed by the warnings.

It was a look of determination that Jeremiah had come to love about the girl. He knew what it looked like. It was the same as it was back then. The little girl that didn’t know the meaning of the words ‘give up,’ “That same look of determination is the reason I shot you with four arrows back then.”

Without saying much about why he’d done it, Cole could already understand what he meant by the words, “So she was really up against the rogue king and his two beta alphas and still planning to fight him with a boy on her back?”

“Yes, I could tell her muscles were screaming for relief and yet her eyes and growl only screamed ‘I’m coming through...’ The rogue king was going to kill her for sure had she taken a step closer to him. So I shot her with four arrows to get her away from the rogue king’s reach and also to get Kyle off her back. That is what they had come for that night. They would have killed her that night if it hadn’t been for the hunter that made it only seconds later and Lina who wasn’t far behind.

“You used arrows bathed in wolfsbane. How do you explain that?” Caden asked.

“I didn’t have any other arrows to use. If I’d chosen to clean them, she would have been killed while I was cleaning them. I took a risk that night... I’m glad she’s standing before me right now because of it,” Jeremiah explained.

More questions swarmed the girl’s mind, but she kept them to herself. After all, at the moment, they were all scolding her for her reckless tendencies, “This time will be different.”

“It’s like talking to a brick wall,” Jeremiah lamented, falling to his knees.

Thorrin rushed through the forest beyond the capital of Lycaon, keeping track of all the major rogue general signatures in his mind. As it seemed, the rogue king had split his forces into platoons and spread them around the capital to spread the attention of the hunters. Taking calculated routes with the Thunderclap on his tail, the two men rushed through the scores of rogues bringing down as many as they could that stood in their way.

The forest echoed with the sound of thunder from the two beings that tore through it, bringing an end to scores of rogues. However, the numbers were far too many for any of them to count they kept going forward with only one being in mind. Finally feeling his presence come closer, Thorrin came to a stop right before they reached a clearing. Jim stopped right next to him. The rogues were completely gone from this part of the forest. There wasn't a single general near them from what Thorrin could tell. "What is it, Thorrin?" Jim asked, wiping his blade of the blood that covered it.

"He's toying with us. The rogue king ordered all his generals to leave him alone," he replied.

"What? Why would he do such a thing? Are you telling me the bastard is out there on his own right now?" Jim panicked.

"No, he's not alone. There is one other that's comparable to him in power. His beta alpha, no doubt about it," Thorrin spoke up. We'll have to be very careful here. We can't just charge in without a plan.

"A plan... that's a new one coming from you," Jim chuckled.

"Yeah, well, it's not much of a plan than an insurance strategy," the man said before pulling two katanas from his coat, "I won't be using my bare hands this time."

"Are you sure you know how to use those things?" Jim asked him with a raised brow.

"WHAT??? Of course, I know how to use them. I am called the Perfect Warrior for a reason. There isn't a weapon in existence that I can't use," the man argued, feeling highly insulted.

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"Whatever you say, man, just be careful where you wave that thing," Jim flipped him off.

"I don't think that will be a problem. We are going to separate the two of them. You'll take the beta alpha and I'll take the rogue king," Thorrin suggested.

Jim turned to his friend and yelled at the top of his voice, "That's your big plan?"

Thorrin backed up, "Yeah, what's wrong with it?"

"It's bonkers, you idiot. It would never work for..."

"Would you two just come out here already? You know we can hear everything you're saying. Oh for crying out loud, they are like a couple," a deep voice resonated from the clearing. The power from the being that spoke out loud was undeniable and it sent shivers through the two Mighty Warriors.

They both came out of the woods to meet a large man standing next to one that wasn't so bulky. The less bulky man, despite the appearance, bore blue eyes and radiated a more dangerous aura compared

to that of his beta alpha beside him, "So, that's him, huh. He really isn't one of the members of the royal family after all." Jim observed.

The Perfect Warrior turned to look at his fellow hunter with a raised brow, "What gave it away?"

"Well, there has been all this talk about his plan to kill the king of Lycaon so that he would gain some sort of power, but I never thought it would be true. Come on, you can't tell me you weren't the least bit curious?" Jim asked him.

"It's that kind of doubt that I wanted to sow out of the hunters so that we could all work as a single unit," Thorrin said to him.

"And yet here you are, facing the Rogue King on your own. Do you really think the two of you could face me and live to tell the tale?" the man's deep voice came again.

"Oh, we are more than capable of putting you in your place?" Thorrin replied.

"Well, I don't think that to be accurate one bit. I do admire your confidence before me, however. The way you bicker like a couple before me is simply astounding. I haven't seen something of the sort in so many decades. Armies have come after me and they have never succeeded even with the power of Prometheus at their fingertips and they have failed. I don't see how the two of you can..." just as the man was still talking, the loudest thunderclap burst through the forest.

Thorrin was right above the man within the blink of an eye. It was as though he'd just appeared from thin air. His katana was already taking its path through the air aimed at the man's neck. Everything seemed too slow for the two of them... 'The entire world has wanted to know of the day that you come down. Might as well be in the middle of an obnoxious speech just as the one you are making right now.'

An unknown force yanked at Thorrin's coat right when he thought he'd make the cut, yanking him backwards with more force than he'd ever had the chance to experience from another being. The Perfect Warrior flipped through the air, obeying the pull that had just been exerted on him and steadied himself as he flew back in the direction he'd just come. His hands shivered with the katanas in his grip... He'd just been tossed back even at the breakneck speed he'd been using and the beta alpha that had done it had made it look like a walk in the park.

"The hunters these days don't even have the manners to listen to a man while he's talking," the rogue king spoke, running his hand across his neck. A drop of blood seemed to trickle from a cut made by the katana before healing right before their eyes, "You got quite close... although, I don't think that could have helped you if I'd decided to move."

"Thorrin, what did I just see?" Jim asked him, gripping his own blade until his knuckles turned white.

"You better believe your eyes, Jim. These two are on a level all on their own..." to the rogues, he yelled, "How... How is it that you can manage to attain so much power without a blessing from a god?"

"Oh, so you haven't noticed have you? The colour of our eyes only tells us how much power the goddess we are able to access through the gift she gave us. Your own Man god values the ingenuity of the humans far more than the power they seek, so it is quite clear that he gave you part of what our goddess gave us to even the playing field. Your powers are no more than a cheap mockery of what the werewolves were blessed with. After all, we are the apex predators and the hunters of the wild. It's

ironic honestly... to think humans could ever dream of standing a chance against us," the man went on, narrating stories as though he really enjoyed the sound of his voice.

"It doesn't matter how many stories you have to tell. Today will be the day that you meet your end or at least today will be that day that you see your shady empire tumble to the ground," Thorrin argued, gripping his blades with firmer. This time when he got reached the man, the beta alpha had completely blocked his way. The speed at which the creature moved astounded him. Switching his blade strokes, he made a lateral slash aiming for the beta alpha.

With a swifter movement than Thorrin had anticipated, the man got down to the ground just in time to dodge the blades. Instincts kicked as the Perfect Warrior let go of the blades and leapt back, reaching for a throwing knife within his coat. The beta alpha was right on top of him before he could throw them. His face was locked in an expressionless face... 'No, it was a face that someone only wore when they were confident of their abilities.

Thorrin dug deeper into his abilities in an attempt to move faster than he already was. Retrieving items from his coat seemed to be a waste of time as it offered an opening every time he did it. The two men soon got involved in a fist fight, the two of them locked in a blurry draw. Shivers went through Jim's spine as he watched movements that even his experienced eyes couldn't quite follow.

"If you can't even deal a decisive blow to my beta alpha, I don't see what makes you think you can fight me," the rogue king spoke up in a bored tone. A grunt of pain reached Jim's ears and he looked back to see Thorrin's body stuck in the bark of trees several metres from the beta alpha. The Perfect Warrior pulled himself from the Thorrin-shaped groove and dropped to the ground on all fours coughing and trying to regain his bearings, "How is he, Thane?"

"Well, he's definitely more powerful than any of the ones I've met. The generals weren't lying when they said there was one of them that was worth fighting," Thane responded.

Jim was beside the Perfect Warrior in a flash, helping him up, "Hey, that looked like it hurt. Are you okay?"

"It's surprising how you can worry about me when the enemy is right in front of us," Thorrin replied amidst his coughing fit. He turned to the side a spit a considerable amount of blood, "Damn it... we can't heal as they do. We are at the disadvantage here."

"I can only tend to you because these two are acting like we are mere flies to them. They wouldn't even think of a sneak attack as we would," Jim said.

"Why would we do such a thing? It's useless," Thane spoke up, his deep voice punctuating his confidence in the power he bore.

"The higher-ups made an impossible request of me, Jim," Thorrin said to his friend.

"What do you mean by that?" Jim asked.

"We were asked to capture the rogue king alive. I never thought the man himself would be as powerful as what we face today. I don't think I'll be able to fulfil that request," Thorrin announced, opening the top buttons of his coat.

“I’m glad you’re finally seeing to reason. You would never be able to defeat...”

“I’ll be killing him here and now,” the Perfect warrior’s voice cut through the clearing stopping the man in his speech. A pungent smell made its way to the rogue king’s nose. Thorrin held a small knife in his hand and had shed his coat. However, the knife was laced with far too much wolfsbane.

“I see the gloves have come off...” the rogue king said in a more serious tone. He could tell the man had changed his entire opinion of the situation they were in, “Maybe now you’ll fight like half the descent warrior worthy of fighting me.”

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Evelyn watched the battlefield before her, the sound of thunderclaps filling the forest time after time, sending fear through the rogues that heard them. The hunters were holding their own at the moment, however, her senses began to tell her something else. The rogues had begun to spread out. She took note of the powerful signatures within each group. It was soon clear that they were forming a strategy and had leaders within them.

“She got her transmitter and hit a button on it,” The rogues are spreading out. They seek to find new entrances into the capital. She said into the mouthpiece and waited for a response.

“With all due respect, Mrs Chase, we’ve got our forces spread quite thin keeping them at bay as it is already. The battle is not looking good. Many of the hunters on the battlefield are starting to get tired already,” the hunter on the other side of the phone call spoke up.

Without putting up a fight, the woman retrieved her phone from her pocket and made a phone call, “Where are you right now?”

“Oh, come on, Ms Evelyn. You can’t be that cold to me. You didn’t even greet me,” the male voice on the other side of the phone call spoke up.

“I don’t have time for your antics, Anthony. I asked for your help because you of all people understand the dangers of fighting an army this overwhelming without a plan,” she said to him.

“Yes, I do... and I know the consequences of sending your strongest men ahead instead of using them to protect the many,” he said in a more serious tone.

“That wasn’t an option in this case. The rogues just keep coming... Thorrin thought it would be better if he cut the snake at its head. You know how headstrong he can be,” the woman replied.

“Yes, I do... In any case, you’re in luck...” the man said to her. The sound of a plane reached her ears the moment he said this... In the distance, a large plane was flying heading for the castle.

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“I knew I could count on you, Anthony. Keep away from the main battle. That’s the least of your worries. The rogues are trying to surround the castle. It’s like the first group was used as a decoy to get the hunters busy. Our defences have been severely weakened,” she said to him.

“Understood, Evelyn. We’ll do what we can to reinforce the palace’s defences. It would help if you could get some archers to shift their attention from the main battle. After all, they can’t do much there anymore anyway,” Anthony spoke up.

“Okay then...” she replied, turning off the phone she was using to relay the message through the transmitter in her other hand. Watching their reinforcements leap out of the plane and take their positions around the palace, parachuting expertly to their perfect positions, she felt as though she was a tad bit safer. What caused her more worry though... was the powerful rogues that ran with these groups.

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Anthony landed on the opposite side of the palace, far from the actual fighting and began to detach the parachute from his body. Just as he was taking his chute off, he heard the sound of a growl ahead... He’d been sure there was nothing on this side of the capital. The Great Sirius river, the part of it that crossed the Lycaon capital, cut through the entire city. Anthony decided to land on the bridge and hold his ground, keeping the rogues from getting through to the castle without risking arrows to their sorry hides. “Looks like they figured it out before we could do any real damage. I really don’t get how they are always so fast to detect our plans.”

The hunter froze at the voice that reached his ears. It sounded like that of a child, “Oh, quiet Benji. Does the word stealth just pass through one ear to the other? Honestly, it’s like your brain is a hollow tube that contains nothing but games at the back of it.”

“You’re no fun, Samson. I wonder why the master chose to put me with you and not Amanda. She would have humoured me a lot more than you do. It’s just not fair,” the childish voice came again. This time, a man and a child came out from the back of a building bickering like children. Before the hunter could tell them off, rogues began to file out of the buildings surrounding the two of them. It was only then that the man noticed the colour of their eyes.

The man and the boy both possessed red eyes, ‘Just great... I had to choose the one place they would all want to go. Away from the action. Looking to the right, he saw that he’d landed with only two other hunters. Against the large mass of rogues before them, they had one hell of a chore to go through. “Looks like I’ve got my work cut out for me,” Anthony chuckled.

“Not really...” the child’s voice came again, but much closer than he’d remember it. Opening his eyes, he was just in time to see the boy soaring through the air with both legs outstretched and aiming at his head. The hunter raised his hands just in time to protect himself. Expecting the weight of a child, he braced himself. However, when the child’s feet landed on his arms, the force wouldn’t stop increasing.

The two of them went crushing across the bridge with the boy on top of the hunter, using him like a human skateboard, “Oh my, had he really underestimated me that much?” the boy exclaimed, leaping away from the man on the ground. Anthony got up from his position on the ground and withdrew a knife from his jacket, getting ready to fight the little pest before him.

“Oh, you should have done that before I’d hit you the first time. Take a look,” the boy said to the man, pointing to something on the man’s body. Anthony brought down his hands and only then noticed a deep bite mark on his forearm bleeding profusely. The boy was next to him while the man was

distracted, delivering a surprisingly powerful punch to his gut. Black spots began to fill the man's vision as he crumpled to the ground.

"I really messed up this time, didn't I?" the hunter chuckled, "I can't believe I was beaten by a child."

"Oh, that's not just any child. His methods might be childish, but you didn't stand a chance against him. Another void spoke up from farther away, "If I were you, I would take a nice long nap."

With a kick and a powerful hit to the back of the head, Anthony was knocked out. The other hunters that had landed next to him seemed to be in a much similar condition, no doubt by the other alpha that they had met. The rogues rushed past the bridge passing the two alphas as they walked past it. "I can't even keep count of the number of hunters we've bitten into now. Their blood tastes so much like the power of the goddess. Our master's plan was pure genius. Our army will not only crush the other, but it will grow more powerful and larger.

"You can't begin to doubt the king's judgement. Of course, he knew what he was talking about when he gave us those orders," Samson shrugged.

"Oh come on... You know the plan was perfect just as much as I do," the child said, leaping up to match the height of his peer.

"Yes, I know of the rogue king's brilliance. It's like no other... As long as we follow him, we shall bring about the end of the human race just like it should have been centuries ago," Samson confirmed.

"That's more like it, Samson-y," the boy cheered, "Although, I was hoping the hunters would be a little bit more powerful than what we've so far faced. It's not fair that the powerful ones rushed on to face the king."

"Those were just mere idiots trying their best to meet their graves at such young ages. We have nothing to worry about," Samson replied, "And do not call me, Samson-y." Just as he said it, the two of them went silent as the air was filled with the sound of whizzing arrows. The rogues that had gone ahead of them began to drop dead faster than they thought they would last. "They call for reinforcements quite fast. Let's try to keep our numbers a little bit respectable so that we have enough pawns by the time we get to the king, shall we?"

"I agree with you..." the boy replied as the two of them launched forward to get the archers under control. The archers tried to shoot them, but all their attempts were thwarted as the two abominations snapped their arrows without wasting much time.

The rogue alphas would then bite into each archer they found before knocking them out. They moved far too fast for the archers to react in time. Being archers, close combat was not among their talents and they were taken out by the quick and nimble alphas. Both their strength and agility were impossible for them to match in their situations. It only took a matter of moments for the archers to be taken out.

"To the castle?" Samson asked, wiping the blood from his lips.

"After you, Sir Samson the strong," the boy said bowing to let the man past. Samson looked at the palace from atop the roof they stood on.

“It’s far too easy. Well, that’s what they get for being too weak. You know they might have stood a chance if they had kept the other werewolves in the capital. The ones they call civilians... yeah, those ones... Would have made for a bigger army for the king?” the man said, sliding down the slanting roof and leaping to the ground, landing elegantly and continuing their march to the palace.

“I know, right. We would have far more wolves to fight that way,” the child responded, “Shall I inform the king of our progress?”

“No, not just yet. Let’s get to the palace entrance first. It’s not that far anyway,” Samson replied.