



Chapter 7: Lily

I called my father last night, letting him know we were staying overnight in Alpha Leonardo's pack and explained why. He was concerned about the possibility of wolves and vampires working together against the Guardians and said he would look into it as well.

Leana and I are up early, knowing we have a long run today. As we're leaving, we can still hear the grumbling of several warriors. This pack was reminded last night that Guardians are blessed by the Moon Goddess. Even Alpha Leonardo went down. To both of us. But he and his Beta were better sports about it than some of his pack members. Apparently, in this pack, it's optional for the females to become warriors. Personally, I think that puts the pack at a disadvantage. Why wouldn't a werewolf be a good fighter, simply because she's a woman? I get taking time off when you're pregnant or nursing, but to entirely ignore half of your pack's population simply because they are women? As a woman and a Guardian, it's insulting.


In truth, it was the women that gave us the biggest challenge. There were only a few, but the men rely on their brute strength and Leana and I have had plenty of opportunity to deal with male werewolves that underestimate us. The she-wolves, however, are used to having to use their heads and strategize how to outsmart the males that are biologically stronger than they are. So, overall, they are the better fighters. They use their heads in battle. Maybe Alpha Leonardo will see that and change how he runs his pack. 2

We did make it worth their while, assisting the warriors with ideas and strategies on how to defeat us or someone else if they are ever in that situation again and, in the end, most of them came around. Only a handful were still butt hurt that they got their ass kicked 'by a girl'. Chauvinist pigs. 1



We reached the pack's border, just as the sun began to rise. Alpha Leonardo and his Beta, Jasper, shifted to address us before we left.

"Thank you again Guardians for your assistance and your lesson in the value of never underestimating an opponent. It's a lesson we won't soon forget." Alpha Leonardo says, inclining his head to both our wolves.

Hera and Kella both bark in acknowledgement before we turn and begin running toward the council. While Leana and I don't share a pack link, we've been together our entire lives. We've grown up together, hunted together, learned to fight together and shared all our secrets with each other. So, we don't need the pack link in order to communicate. We understand each other in ways that only mated pairs tend to understand each other. 

Our mothers all call each other their Guardian sisters, even though they aren't biologically related in any way. But it's the same with me and Leana. We're not biological sisters, but we are sisters in every way that matters. We're family and we're best friends.

So, we run, using our connection to guide us together through the unfamiliar territory and to the city where the council is held. It's early afternoon when we reach the city. We stop outside the city limits to shift and pull on our clothes. Neither of us brought clothes dressy enough to go in front of the council. I have one dress meant for Araphyra, but it's in the style of the fae, which is more flowy than what is expected in front of the council.

"Maybe we should get a hotel room, get an outfit appropriate for the council and then go to ask for an audience?" Leana says to me.

I sigh, it's another day that will keep me away from Araphyra and Aolis, but it is important. This could impact all three of our packs. We need to know what's going on and if the council has any ideas about it, so I agree.



We find a decent hotel and I use the pack credit card my father gave me to reserve the room. We shower quickly, getting the bits of twigs and grass out of our hair and off our bodies before heading to the nearest clothing store. We don't waste time but get ourselves skirt suits and heels.

When we're done, we head back to the council chambers and request an audience with the council members.

"Guardians, I'm afraid only Alpha Wyatt is in attendance today. There were no scheduled council meetings today." The receptionist says.

"Very well. We'd still like to see Alpha Wyatt, if possible."

We're asked to wait and it's over an hour before we're escorted to the council chambers and given an audience with Alpha Wyatt.

"To what do I owe the pleasure of not one, but two Guardians today." He says, but there's something about how he says it that's off.

"Alpha Wyatt. We have just come from Alpha Leonardo's pack. He was recently attacked by rogues, similar to those that attacked Shadow Falls pack. However, in questioning this rogue, it seems that some werewolves and vampires are getting together to attack the werewolf packs. We were wondering if you or anyone else on the council has heard of this?" Leana begins.

Alpha Wyatt looks thoughtful for a moment. "I can't speak for the other Elders on the council, however, I have not heard of vampires and werewolves working together. What would be the point in that?" He asks us.

"We're not sure, but he clearly stated that he'd hoped that we," I motion between Leana and myself, "had died in the attack on Shadow Falls." I reply to him.



"So, you think this is an attack against the Guardians?" He asks, sitting forward. There's a glint in his eye that I don't like.

"Yes." Leana's tone has changed. She's noticed the change in Alpha Wyatt as well. "Do you know anything about that?" She asks him a direct question, making sure she'll know if he's lying.

He sits back before answering. "No, I've not heard anything about werewolves and vampires working together. But, rest assured, I will be discussing this with the other council members as soon as they return."

I give Leana a side eye. "True." She whispers under her breath so he can't hear her. So, he doesn't know about the werewolves and vampires working together.

We say our goodbyes and head back to our hotel room.

"What do you think?" I ask her when we're in our room.

"Did he look excited to you?" She asks me.

"Yes, eager almost."

We look at each other a long moment. "We need to call our parents." We say in unison.

After filling in my father about Alpha Wyatt and him not knowing anything about vampires and werewolves working together, I tell him about our plan to cross King Urien's lands before hanging up. After staring at my phone for a moment, I dial Aolis. I want him to know I'm coming, but I've been delayed.

The phone rings and rings, but no one answers. When it goes to voicemail, I hang up.