

Claimed And Marked By Her Stepbrother Mates

Chapter 381-One Gone, 5 More To Go

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Helanie:

"He will be in jail, and Jenny will face no consequences. That video she recorded helps her case. Not only was it self-defense, but Rayden was a scumbag too," Norman said as we stood on the road next to the woods and mountains.

We had been silent throughout the car ride. It was like we were taking time to process everything before talking about it.

"Emmet said Mores said to check your background—" Norman said as he looked at his phone.

I couldn't believe that guy was still on my back, even when his son was proven guilty.

But the background check thing was scary. I had seen how much his father defended him—imagine what the others' parents would do when they found out about me.

"Emmet did his search and found out—you weren't part of the pack for long. There's no record because you left on your own," Norman shocked me. I frowned in confusion because I was sure that if they had searched properly, they would have found a whole lot of data on me.

How the hell did my name and records get wiped clean?

"You should have dropped me at the academy," I muttered softly, avoiding eye contact with Norman and Kaye.

Emmet had left with Lamar to take care of the formalities and drop him home, while Maximus had stayed in Jenny's pack to handle the paperwork against Mores.

"I shouldn't have," Norman replied gently, while Kaye was busy on his phone. I had noticed how emotional the others were, but Kaye—he reacted how someone would for a victim, but other than that, he seemed unfazed that it had happened to me.

"Kesha, sorry, babe, I had some work today—" Kaye excused himself to his brother and stepped aside to take a call, not sparing me a glance.

I knew it was wrong of me to expect him to look at me, but sometimes, I still wondered—what if I had agreed to stay as his side chick while he waited for me and dated Kesha?

It didn't seem like he was only dating her for a while or for whatever reasons he had told me before. He seemed very much involved with her. If I had agreed back then, he would have dumped me along the way, and that pain would have been so much worse.

Besides, I would have never been okay with Kaye playing Kesha.

"Helanie." Norman pulled me out of my thoughts, his voice full of compassion.

"You don't need to say anything. It happened in the past, and I've healed since then," I said.

I had healed in a way, but the pain was still there. However, I didn't like people bringing it up.

"I'm glad you did, but—why didn't you tell us? If you had—I would have—" Norman clenched his jaw but quickly turned away, hiding his raw emotions from me.

"Tell me something, when was it?" He then turned to face me again, his eyes full of rage and unspoken emotions.

"Why do you—" I tried to stop him, but he kept insisting.

"Tell me, when was it?" he demanded, and I replied.

"Back when I had come to the mansion. It was the day before—" I shut up because he threw a punch in the air and briskly walked away from me.

This is why I didn't want to talk about it. It would remind me of how everyone had treated me during that time.

"I will go back to the academy. I cannot stay in the mansion," I finally decided as I watched Norman lose his mind. He turned to me and shook his head, but when I showed him my palm, he realized I didn't want to go back there.

"And I would appreciate it if this whole mess isn't discussed in the mansion. Just keep my name out of it, please," I requested. Honestly, I didn't want my mother or anyone else to find out about it.

My name getting dragged into this would open up all sorts of problems.

"Then I will drop you off myself," Norman said, looking exhausted, his hands hanging by his sides. He kept stealing glances at me, and there were moments when I wondered if he was tearing up.

That couldn't be. My misery wouldn't affect him this much... would it?

"Don't worry, no one will attack me. I can fight now," I tried to lighten the situation and walk away, but he held my hand and said,

"You're right. No one would dare lay a finger on you ever again."

The intensity and determination in his voice stunned me.

I gulped, giving him a nod of understanding before noticing him holding the car door open for me.

"What about Maximus?" I asked, looking toward the woods.

"He's transitioning to get the heat off his mind. He'll be fine," Norman didn't seem too worried about Maximus. I wondered if the Lycan transformation was only a full moon thing, and the rest of the time, he was just a normal wolf.

"Okay," I nodded and got in the backseat of the car. That's when Kaye finished his call and returned.

"I'm dropping her at the academy," Norman informed his brother, who nodded casually.

"Don't you think you should comfort her too? You're her mate. She'll feel much better if it's her mate saying words of comfort," Norman suggested to Kaye.

I didn't want comfort from my mate, but Norman was pushing for it.

"Brother, I'll be honest with you. Yes, I'm angry with Rayden—but not because Helanie was on the receiving end of it. I'm angry because what happened was wrong. No woman should be treated that way. The rest...I don't know if I can ever forgive her. But rest assured, I've moved on, and I will pray she finds comfort."

Those words from Kaye—as if I was the one who had hurt him—really knocked me down.

He had completely moved on, and it showed in his behavior. The only issue was that he was spinning it on me.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 382-Hello Criminal

Chapter 382: 382-Hello Criminal

Helanie:

"This is to freedom and justice," Penn raised his glass of juice, making us all laugh at him. It had been a week, and things had gotten better.

Jenny didn't face any punishment because it was self-defense. The details of the case were kept under the rug at our request, from me and Jenny. But Evaline's name was mentioned because Lamar wanted it there and for his sister to get justice.

We met up at the café today to enjoy our freedom. I mean, they didn't know yet that my journey had only just begun.

"Lamar!" Benita arrived with a hand on her chest. "I'm so happy your sister got justice. Not everyone has a brother like you who never lets it go and somehow puts the culprit in his place."

She had such a fake vibe to her. Or maybe it was because I didn't like her. So everything she did seemed fake to me.

"Thank you," Lamar replied to her with a mild smile. He knew about this woman and how she always preached about being the purest and pointing out flaws in others.

"And Jenny!" Then she pouted, looking so fake. I remember when she told us Gavin had come here with his other girlfriend. I swear she purposely didn't say Jenny's name. She knew her name but acted like she didn't.

"How are you feeling now? It's not easy to have your mate attack you to hide his truth," she made Jenny feel so uncomfortable.

We wanted everyone to stop coming up to us and reminding us of every single detail they heard in the news.

"At least she gave him karma," I stood up for Jenny, who hadn't been able to say a word. Her brother smiled at me while Gavin and Lamar kept glaring at Benita.

"True," Benita's smile faded before she said, "Jenny, you must know the other two victims whose identities were kept safe?"

I stared at her in disbelief. Was she really here to get inside information?

"Their identities are protected for a reason. Some thoughtless people will come asking them about their experience despite the fact that it would make them uncomfortable," If she was a smart woman as she claimed to be, she would have known Penn was teasing her.

But she didn't.

She sighed and nodded, "Some people just love gossip. But tell the girls, if they want someone to love them like a mother, come to me."

I rolled my eyes and looked away while Gavin and Lamar elbowed each other.

"A mommy love?" Lamar commented, and the look on Benita's face was hilarious. She was offended, but Lamar was also too much.

"I was just saying," he shrugged, while Benita left the table.

"Hey, not even a woman with a child?" Jenny complained to Lamar, whose mood changed into something entirely different when watching Jenny.

Now that he knew Jenny wasn't playing us and she did help us behind our backs, Lamar was kind of waiting for the moment to make a move again.

This was our first meetup after the case, so it would take time for the two to move forward with their relationship. But I was happy for them.

"What happened to your other friend?" Penn asked, rubbing his hands at the sight of the croissant.

"Lucy is now Sydney 2.0," Lamar groaned while Gavin took a deep breath. Even when we criticized Lucy, Gavin would hardly say anything or share his opinions.

I could tell he was blaming himself for her change in behavior.

"She'll come around. Soon, Sydney will be done with her and then Lucy will have a great awakening," I commented with a clenched jaw. But how would I ever forget what she said about me?

I kept wondering, is that what she thinks of me?

"Jenny, how are your parents?" Gavin quickly changed the subject.

"Dad wants to spend some time with me to redeem himself, but I just can't—it's not just about me. He needs to open his mind and think about others too. And until then—I don't think I can look at my father differently than before," she sighed, her words coming out

with deep breaths. Penn quickly wrapped his arm around his sister's shoulder and gave her a warm hug before they started eating again.

Now that silence had settled in, I couldn't help but feel that today was different from the last seven days.

The academy classes were continuing without any interruptions, except we were just getting ready for a big upcoming test.

All the teams would compete against each other and I wanted my team to win at any cost. But then I was afraid—what if any of my friends' teams lose?

That was the biggest problem.

"So, Helanie—" Penn cleared his throat as the others got up to go to the restroom. Jenny felt much safer when Gavin and Lamar were on her side, so Penn could stay behind me.

"How is your training with Rudy going?" Penn asked, looking down at his food.

"We're having fun. You should see Lamar and Gavin get under Rudy's skin," I laughed but also made sure to let him know it wasn't just me and Rudy spending time alone. Even though I didn't have to explain to him who I was spending time with, I just didn't want any unnecessary rumors.

"Hmmm, that's good," his response was cold, "When you win, he'll want a treat."

He joked, even though I could tell he was in a bad mood about the whole training thing.

"Yeah, Lamar and Gavin will have to take him to a club," I added, feeling like I was doing something wrong. Giving too many explanations might give Penn the wrong idea too.

I swear, I was being so careful.

"Okay, are you two done too?" Lamar arrived with Gavin and Jenny and asked us. We got up to leave while Penn stayed behind to pay.

He had asked us all out for dinner as a treat for his sister's freedom.

"You two are weird," Jenny commented at Lamar and Gavin, who had their arms around each other's shoulders like childhood friends.

We were leaving the café, laughing and giggling when someone almost bumped into us while coming inside.

"Oh, I'm so sorry—" The guy lifted his head to apologize with a smile when my blood ran cold.

I could recognize his face very clearly. The way he had come on top of me that night—he was one of them.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

- Chapter 383-My Past Kept Showing Up

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Helanie:

"Helanie! Let's go, what are you waiting for?" I couldn't believe I had stayed behind while the others had moved ahead.

Even the guy had left. It was Lamar's voice that caught my attention. I ignored him and rushed back inside the café to confirm I hadn't just had a nightmare.

"Hey, how are you?" Penn was standing at the counter talking with this guy. Yep! It was him. There was no doubt about it. The way his eyes had been red that night and the anxious cries he let out when he couldn't get it done the first time.

The details of that night were startling, but right now, he was standing with Penn, talking about stuff, with the blue jacket tucked under his arm.

"Your mom has been so worried about you, Kaiden," Penn said his name, giving identity to yet another one of those alphas.

"Helanie, what's going on?" Lamar came from behind me, but my eyes stayed glued to Kaiden.

"Mom is always worried. Things are just off now. The demise of Rayden—" he sighed, making my head hurt.

"Huh! You shouldn't be saying his name," Penn hushed him, causing my nerves to hit another level of anxiety.

"Is it?" Lamar must have noticed. He gently held my hand and squeezed it while I nodded.

"Penn—I forgot to tell you, my boy is here," Benita walked out from the backroom, pointing at Kaiden.

He was the alpha who was getting bullied?

Oh no!

He was Benita's son. The fact that this woman was always on everyone's back, calling them whores and sluts, but had a son who was a rapist didn't surprise me.

"I came to meet Rayden's parents but found out—" that guy was so weird, he was still talking about Rayden when his mother glared him down.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I'm not saying he wasn't a bad person—" he must have noticed the look on Penn's face. He was talking about someone who Penn's sister had killed.

Hearing his voice was so odd for me. My body kept getting filled with goosebumps, and my eyes were welling up.

"He got what he deserved, but his mother was an innocent one who had no clue what her husband and son were doing. She had since cut ties with her husband and asked the council to reject all his pleas to ever be released," Kaiden explained, rubbing his hands together to warm them up.

But every action from him caused my body to shudder.

"I'm glad at least someone is taking the right stand," I couldn't tell if it was directed at Kaiden or not, but he made the mother and son share a glance.

"Anyway, I came here with my—" Penn continued, turning to the door when he found us there, "friends."

As soon as he mentioned us, Kaiden turned to give us a quick glance before looking away. However, something struck him, and he did a double take. His eyes met mine directly, and the look of horror on his face even gave me goosebumps.

Unlike Rayden, he seemed shocked.

"Ummm—" Kaiden turned away, his hands on the counter, "I just remembered—I have a call to make—" The anxiety and fear in his voice made Lamar wrap his arm around my waist to comfort me.

He didn't even wait and rushed behind the counter to push his mother out of the way and into the backroom.

"He must have forgotten to tell his trainers he was coming here. What am I ever going to do with my naive son? He is still so innocent and pure," Benita's words hit me hard.

I turned around and walked out of the café to get some fresh air.

"Guys, come on, it's going to rain soon," Gavin yelled from inside Penn's car while Jenny followed his stare.

Her eyes started to catch onto my anxiety, so she jumped out of the car to follow us.

"Oh no, no, you too," Gavin complained, annoyed by us delaying.

"What's going on?" Jenny stood in my way, blocking Gavin from looking directly at me.

"Kaiden," I whispered under my breath, pressing my hand to my chest.

"Is he one of them?" Jenny asked, and I nodded my head, trying to calm my rapid breathing.

"Hey, everyone, let's go," Penn came out and snapped his fingers at us, having no idea what just happened.

"I know some stuff about him. I'll tell you later, for now, let's go," Jenny whispered in my ear before taking my hand and making me walk back to the car.

I was anxious all the way. It wasn't over for me. I realized I would be traumatized whenever I caught a glance of each of them. I had only taken care of one of them—there were 5 more to go.

Freaking 5 more!

"You guys go and change. I'll be in Helanie's room for a while," Once we reached the academy, Jenny yelled at her brother and Gavin and didn't even wait for their response, rushing into the elevator with me.

I couldn't take all those stairs tonight. Even Lamar was inside the elevator with us. We silently reached our room and found Lucy absent. She must be in Sydney's room.

We went to the balcony and sat down to talk.

"I can't believe Kaiden was one of them. He's a coward—a very scared one. In fact, whenever Rayden would have a party with them, he would scoff and roll his eyes at Kaiden. He didn't want him in the group because he said Kaiden was a little bitch. So it

wasn't just the others bullying Kaiden—he gets bullied within the group too," she explained, making me take deep and heavy breaths.

"Can you tell us who else you know from his group of friends?" Lamar asked, what I was too afraid to ask. I was scared some big names would be thrown my way.

"The issue is that he hasn't shared his friends with me anymore. The only ones I knew were the common friends between him and Penn. Besides, Rayden befriends every powerful guy," she apologized and pouted, and I believed her.

"Hmm, but—there's one issue. The way he looked seemed like Rayden hadn't told him about Helanie—so does that mean Rayden hadn't told any of his friends about Helanie and her revenge? Also, would Kaiden do the same or is he going to tell his friends?" Jenny uttered the most scary and valid point in a gentle and mild tone.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 384-Deserving Punishment

Chapter 384: 384-Deserving Punishment

Kaiden:

My eyes met hers, and it felt like the sky had collapsed on my head. My eyes couldn't believe what I was seeing. My body shuddered, everything falling apart.

She was not some angel or my imagination.

She was standing there, glaring at me, her eyes showing she had been through a lot and that she recognized me.

I had run into the kitchen where I couldn't find peace. The chefs were looking at me, and I had to constantly wipe my face to get rid of the sweat.

"Kaiden, why did you come inside like that? You need to create a good alliance with Penn," Mom walked in, slapping my back, and I visibly jumped.

"Are you okay?" Mom noticed the panic in my body, so she asked.

"I'm fine, Mom. Why are you always on my back?" I knew I was taking my frustration out on the wrong person. She kept staring at my face in shock because this wasn't how I had ever talked to her.

"Listen, you might be becoming an alpha in the future, but don't pull that alpha attitude on me," my mom squared up, but she had no clue I wasn't ever going to become an alpha. Not after what I saw tonight.

"I'm sorry," I muttered miserably, scared and shaken up.

"Sit down, I'll get you something to eat," she said. However, I gave her a headshake.

"I need to go for a run," I lied. I was losing my mind, scared and terrified.

"Oh, my alpha son." Her proud smile made me feel so bad for her. She had no clue who she was standing in front of.

"So I'll go freshen up," I whispered, forcing a smile before going out the back door. I didn't even turn around to look at my mother because I was afraid she would notice that my body language was too shaky. Our house was right behind the café, so I was already in my living room, pacing and reaching for my bedroom.

Once inside, I rushed into the bathroom and started throwing up.

I had my hands on the edge of the sink and raised my head to stare at my image, and all I could see was a terrible and ugly man.

"Why—," I gasped, "why did it happen? How could I become such a monster in someone's life?" I let out a cry, watching my hideous face.

I was disgusted with myself, angry, and losing my mind. It was reality and not some nightmare or dream.

That's when I started to get a call from DID.

My hands were shaking as I held the phone and pressed it hard against my ear. "Where are you?" He asked, almost like he was in my head and knew the turmoil inside me.

"Home," I cleared my throat, "why?"

"Hmm, you visited Rayden's mother. What else did she tell you?" At that moment, I knew what he was talking about.

"You said it was an effect of the drug," I closed my eyes as I began to confront him. He went silent for a moment before he sighed.

"Are you on drugs again?" I hated how every time I said something, they would just tell me it was drugs messing with my mind.

"No! And I know it wasn't a nightmare. That girl was real—I didn't dream about her or see her because of the drugs. She wasn't a figment of my imagination—I fucking raped her!" I yelled and screamed, tears streaming down my face as I recalled that night. It was the worst night of my life.

How I wish I hadn't gone out with them and done drugs. But I didn't know it would end up like that.

"You've gone crazy. Rayden got arrested for someone else. That victim's name was Evaline. Her body was found. She didn't have platinum blonde hair, but red hair. You're mixing it up. We've never seen a platinum blonde, and we're not like Rayden either," the fact that his voice remained so calm even when lying was scary.

I was shaking and constantly running my hand through my hair.

"Alright, get your shit together. And don't go around saying weird stuff. You'll have the same ending as Rayden when you haven't even done anything. That girl didn't exist, she was in your head." He hung up after reminding me of my fate if I kept saying her name.

That was the problem. I didn't know back then that they played me.

"I'm a fucking rapist," I couldn't believe it.

The pain in that girl's eyes was so horrifying. If she was real, it meant everything that happened that night was real too.

Hence—the pain and agony she went through because of us must be real as well.

"I don't deserve to be an alpha," I realized.

"It had been so long that I had wondered about that night," I hissed under my breath.

That night, they made me take drugs, and then I woke up in a hotel room. However, I started to get flashes of doing something horrible to a girl. They all laughed at me and told me nothing happened and that the minute I took the drugs, I passed out, so they all returned to the hotel room.

They convinced me no such girl existed and that I had a wild dream. Until tonight, my world had been shaken up once I realized she was real.

"We need to face her and surrender to her. We cannot be like those bastards," my wolf howled in pain.

It was now coming clear to me that my friends were rapists, and not only on one occasion. They were serial rapists. It didn't matter if I didn't remember the night well or that I was drugged up; I made the choice of taking drugs, and I fucking ruined an innocent girl's life.

"I will go to the council with her and tell them who was involved in her rape and attempted murder," I decided, finally deciding not to be a coward and do something good for once.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 385-My Comforting Mate

Chapter 385: 385-My Comforting Mate

Helanie:

That night, I couldn't sleep properly. I kept waking up from the recurring nightmare of that night. I wondered if every time I faced one of them, I would feel the same way.

I hated the idea of it. The next morning, we rushed to the training ground to start training.

"Helanie! Watch this," Jenny yelled for my attention, showing me how many push-ups she could do now. We were getting really good. Usually, the teams would huddle together and discuss their tricks and techniques.

Our team was having a problem because of Hans. Since he was an alpha, he wanted everyone to listen to him. And sadly, he was the only alpha in our team.

"Jenny, stop playing around and focus on training," he had the nerve to bring her down by shouting at her.

"She IS training," I yelled back at him, frowning.

"You stay out of it, wolfless creature," Hans pointed his finger at me, warning me not to raise my voice at him.

"I am the monitor. I will say whatever I want and to whoever I want. And I'm telling you, fix your attitude or else—" I watched him look down and laugh at my threat before rushing over to face me. I guess he wanted me to back down and be afraid of him, but I didn't flinch and kept standing my ground.

That seemed to upset him a little. So he placed his hands on his waist to look even more intimidating.

"Don't test me. I am not Arlo or Rayden that you can get punished. I am Alpha Hans. I am nothing like that pervert Rayden, who you got kicked out. Losers like him are scared of women like you—the ones who are perfect—" he pointed at his chest, making me cock my head before letting out a scoff.

"Go do push-ups. Your speeches are boring," I hissed, turning around to my team when I felt something at my feet.

I swear he did something, probably put his foot in front of mine, but the next thing I knew, I landed face-down.

"Oops, you can't even take a few steps without hurting yourself," he commented, while I got to my feet to face him again. But I could tell I had scratched my chin a little.

"Hans! Do you want me to remind you how to speak to your monitor?" Emmet's arrival was at the right time. Hans instantly stepped back and tied his hands behind his back, standing obediently in front of Emmet.

That's where their confidence would shatter.

"I was just reminding her that they shouldn't be playing around and wasting time," Hans replied.

"I am here for that. Go take a lap," Emmet yelled, looking very angry with him. "And you, Helanie, come to my office."

He made Hans nod and leave so he wouldn't have to make eye contact with anyone or feel the embarrassment of not being able to talk back to Emmet—especially after claiming to be different from Rayden and Arlo.

"Jenny, please help others with the training," Emmet ordered, making Jenny smile for having a responsibility on her for once.

I followed Emmet to the academy and to his office in silence. Once I entered his office, he locked the door. However, I never felt unsafe with any of his actions.

Even when he was drunk, I just knew he wouldn't hurt me.

"Sit here," he pointed at the chair, and I sat down, watching him grab a first-aid box and then drag his chair closer to mine.

He sat down in front of me, crouching to my level, and then pulled my seat closer, my legs now between his widely spread legs.

"What am I ever gonna do with you?" he commented while cleaning the wound on my chin. Seeing his face up close made my heart skip a beat.

"He was purposely arguing with me," I complained and noticed Emmet smile the way someone does when watching a puppy do a trick.

"You didn't remind him your stepbrother will punish him for messing with you?" The playfulness in his voice wasn't helping. He didn't realize it, but I was feeling extremely shy around him.

Now that my wolf was waking up, I was feeling the mate bond much more intensely.

"Here," he put a band-aid on my chin but then rested his hands on the armrests of my chair.

"You wiped my data clean, didn't you?" It struck me just then—it had to be him who helped erase my data.

"Hmm, I wouldn't let you get caught, would I?" He smiled, making my heart sink in my chest.

"Did you know—" I started, feeling shy seeing him so close while talking about that night.

"Hmm," he nodded.

"How much of it?" I was really forcing myself to keep going and ask him more questions.

"What are you so afraid of?" he asked.

"Nothing anymore. Rayden is dead, so my revenge is done." I didn't know why I couldn't share more with him, but it came from experience. I had trusted Kaye and Maximus once too.

"Hmm, right!" However, he seemed to be holding back information himself.

"Anyway, now go out there and train. And if anyone argues with you or tries to bully you—tell them," he gently pinched my cheeks, "that my stepbrother would get very angry if he found out."

I didn't know why he was being so nice to me, but his actions were making my heart skip beat after beat.

"I will," I replied, and the minute he strolled away and I tried to reach the door, I felt him grab my hand and pull me back. I landed straight on his chest, his arms wrapped tightly around me.

"I am here with you. I will fucking kill anyone who hurts you," the pain in his voice scared me. It was then that I realized my confession that day had really made him feel bad for me. I didn't break the hug because it was the comfort I needed the most.

"I just wish I was there that night," he muttered, his body tensing up.

"I wish too," I finished.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 386-The Mist In Her Eyes

Chapter 386: 386-The Mist In Her Eyes

Helanie:

After Emmet hugged me for at least five minutes, my mood got better. The way these brothers behaved after finding out about my past—even just a glimpse of it—and the way they showed care made me feel blessed and much more confident about coming forward with my story when needed.

"It was a hectic day," Lamar rolled his eyes, making me smile at him.

"Everyone is doing well except Trainer Kaye," Lamar whispered in my ear because he knew Kaye was once involved with me, so he would always hold back his genuine frustration out of respect for me.

"I know. He's been acting weird," I replied, holding my hand out for Jenny. She rushed over and held my hand happily, and we walked like children, all holding hands. Gavin arrived, holding hands with Lamar, and Penn with his sister.

It looked cute.

But we didn't realize there was someone who probably didn't like seeing us happy.

"So, you're hanging around with a bastard's mate now?" Sydney yelled, causing all of us to stop and stare at her. Every time she made such comments, Salem would physically distance herself from her sister. Lucy stood with her arms folded, her foot tapping impatiently.

I had been trying to avoid Lucy and Sydney for a while—Sydney because every time I saw her now, I was reminded of Altan.

He went ahead and chased someone like Sydney, who would instantly cheat on him and do cruel things to others. That just proved I survived him. He attracted toxicity, and I could never become Sydney.

"Mind your fucking language," Lamar yelled, making Sydney turn and glance at Lucy, probably to show her how we were defending Jenny.

"See how they're defending someone who was the reason you jumped?" Sydney said to Lucy, who seemed genuinely angry—as if she really did jump.

Why did it seem like she was changing her story now?

"Let's go," I tightened my fingers around Jenny's hand to make her keep walking.

"What is wrong with you?" That's when Lucy stepped forward, blocking Jenny and confronting her.

"Nothing is wrong with me. You just had it out for me," Jenny muttered, her hands starting to sweat in mine. I could tell she wasn't the type who liked confrontation or drama.

She was scared of reactions and people judging her. Maybe that's why she didn't say anything about her one-night stand with Gavin—because she wanted Gavin to do it.

"Really? And was I wrong?" The moment Lucy put her hands on Jenny to push her, Penn stepped forward and pushed her back.

The look of shock on Lucy's face saddened me.

And I couldn't agree with Penn more. He had every right to defend and protect his sister. Jenny had a phobia of being touched aggressively, and I could tell exactly where that fear came from.

It was the same for me, but in the beginning, I had to ignore it and keep living because no one around me was gentle.

But for Jenny, we were trying our best to help her heal from the trauma. Then Lamar stepped forward and squared up to Lucy, giving her a look that said, stay away from Jenny.

The more everyone stood up for Jenny, the angrier Lucy became.

"Wow, so she stole all my friends?" Lucy had genuine hurt in her eyes, but that's when I had to step up.

"You lost all your friends because of your association with people who visibly hate us," I hissed, watching her place a hand on her heart before quickly composing herself and gritting her teeth.

"Well then, if you think I'll be afraid to fight for myself, you're wrong," she snapped.

I noticed her glance behind Jenny, and in a swift move, Sydney grabbed Jenny by the hair and yanked her away from us.

"Let her fucking go!" I screamed, rushing forward along with Penn and the others to defend Jenny.

But Sydney had already started forming a group around Jenny—a group of our classmates who were just as toxic as her.

"Let go!" I yelled, pushing past some of the girls, while Penn was able to knock down a few guys. Gavin and Lamar were doing the same, fighting through the crowd. Finally, we found Jenny sitting in the middle of the group with her hands covering her face. Sydney had already slipped away through the other side.

"Hey," I knelt beside Jenny and hugged her before checking on her.

"What did they do?" I asked, and she sniffled.

"They put something in my eye," she complained, rubbing them over and over.

"Everyone back the fuck off!" Penn yelled, glaring at them and scaring them off.

I raised my head and gave Lucy a look. She had tears in her eyes as she watched me take care of Jenny. Jenny's brother had knelt beside her, hugging her, while Lamar was gently cleaning Jenny's eyes.

The bullies had started running away, and Lucy slowly walked off, giving me a look filled with sadness and disbelief.

"Are you okay? Can you see properly?" I asked Jenny, worried about what they might have put in her eyes.

"Yeah, I feel fine. But... they wouldn't put anything too dangerous in my eyes, right?" Jenny asked hesitantly, clearly shaken but trying not to cry.

"I will gouge their eyes out if they try to hurt my sister," Penn growled. He knew they did something but still tried to give them the benefit of the doubt.

"Let's take her to the dorm room so she can rest," Lamar said, holding her hand and helping her up. But then, instead of letting her walk, he picked her up.

Penn let him, and I could tell it was because he didn't mind their relationship.

"I'll make Lucy regret this," Penn muttered.

While Gavin and Lamar left with Jenny, I noticed Penn change direction. Realizing what he was about to do, I decided to go with him and stop him from making a reckless mistake.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 387-The Pigeon Eyes

Chapter 387: 387-The Pigeon Eyes

Helanie:

"Penn, you are going to get yourself in trouble," I quickly followed him, shaking my head at him in disapproval.

"What about it? I don't even know what they put in my sister's eyes. It can't be nothing, so I am going to find Sydney and Lucy and do the worst imaginable things to them." He pointed his finger in the air, not even knowing where they could be right now.

"And get expelled from the academy?" I yelled, and he stopped, turning around and biting the inside of his cheek.

"It will be justified," he hissed.

"And what if that is what they wanted? They might have put something harmless in her eyes just to throw us off. What then?" I raised a question that he probably hadn't thought of.

He turned again but then quickly spun back to face me.

"What if it is something dangerous?" he asked, worry visible in his eyes. "Helanie, it was after so long that I saw my sister genuinely happy and out of restraints. They are so wrong for this." He was right.

Jenny didn't deserve that.

"Then we will go to Professor Emmet in the morning and tell him everything. He will take care of the matter." The minute I mentioned the trainer, Penn seemed to relax a bit.

Everyone was kind of relying on Emmet too much now. I knew it would be a lot of pressure on him, but I could also tell that Emmet wouldn't mind taking care of everyone. He was genuinely a good man.

And every time he tied his hair in a loose bun, he looked so handsome and attractive.

"Oh shit," I bit my tongue at my inappropriate thoughts and caught Penn's attention.

"What happened?" he quickly made his way toward me and stood face-to-face with me.

"Umm, nothing," I shook my head, my cheeks probably turning red.

"Are you blushing? What did you—did you think about something?" His mood had changed suddenly after confirming that Emmet would help.

However, I had a feeling he took my reaction the wrong way.

"Everything is fine. Let's go check on Jenny. She must be so worried about you." Not wanting to get into anything romantic, I turned around and made him follow me back to the academy.

But somehow, I caught the attention of someone else as well. Rudy was outside with Sumit and Arlo, but the minute we came into his sight, he frowned and narrowed his eyes at us, as if he was surprised we were coming back together from somewhere.

Before I could greet Rudy or be greeted by them, Penn held my hand tightly and practically pulled me forward, making me keep walking.

"What happened to checking on Jenny? She is waiting for us," Penn muttered urgently, taking me along with him and leaving Rudy staring at us.

We went upstairs and found Jenny in her room. Lamar and Gavin were trying to figure out what could have been thrown into her eyes.

"How are you feeling?" I asked Jenny, and she shrugged.

"I feel fine." That was the scary part—that she felt fine. If there were any symptoms, we could have figured out what was thrown into her eyes and why.

"Umm, was it white powder?" Gavin asked Jenny, sitting on the bed with her, holding his phone and reading from online threads.

Jenny gave it a brief thought and then shook her head.

"Okay." Gavin scratched his head, reading more.

Lamar suddenly rushed to the bed, jumping onto it with force and pulling his phone up to his face. "It has to be the pink powder. Was it pink?"

He asked with so much excitement that we all narrowed our eyes at Jenny, waiting for a response. Since Lamar seemed so hooked on the pink one, I wondered if it was a good thing or a bad thing.

"No!" Jenny confidently shook her head, and Lamar calmed down, his excitement fading.

"What is the pink powder?" I asked him, giving Jenny a look of understanding.

"Oh, nothing. It's just for people who are beautiful. There's a pack that throws pink powder on people they consider attractive," he replied, making us all roll our eyes at him for being so cringy.

"So what could it be?" Now that we had calmed down and Jenny told us the powder didn't even have a color, we were getting worried.

"It was Pigeon eyes." Suddenly, Salem appeared out of nowhere, telling us what it was.

We all looked at her and then at each other before I walked over to confront her.

"What is that?" I asked, and she lowered her head, biting her tongue.

"There isn't much information on it anywhere. I just know the name because I heard Sydney speaking with someone on a call. It has to be a warrior from our pack." Salem seemed timid whenever she was in front of us. But that wasn't her true personality. She was very bold and arrogant—how most people would describe her.

But she always tried her best to act decently around us.

"Then fucking find out for me," Penn yelled, getting in her face. I had to physically push him back and give him an angry look.

I noticed Gavin getting up from the bed too, probably to defend Salem.

"I will. I'll try to find as much as I can," she replied softly.

"Okay, you can go. But make sure you tell your sister—if anything happens to mine, she's done for," Penn hissed, pointing at Salem, who nodded in understanding. But just as she was about to leave, Gavin got up and stood next to the door with her.

"Thank you." The moment he said that, her faded smile returned.

"I'll find out what that herb is for," she reassured him, then left the room.

"Can we trust her?" It was Lamar who pulled us out of our thoughts, making us stare at the empty path she had left behind.

Can we really, though?

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 388-I Can Kill For Her

Chapter 388: 388-I Can Kill For Her

Emmet:

I had been restless. Even when I looked calm on the outside, there was a storm brewing inside me. I wanted to bring Rayden back to life just so I could be the one to kill him with my own hands.

I was annoyed to the point where I felt like losing my mind and unleashing what I had been keeping inside. But I had to stay calm, or I would freak Helanie out.

Flashback:

"So, what can you tell me about Helanie?" I asked Vani, who sat with a book in her hand, her eyes on the kitchen to make sure her brother and mother didn't come out and hear her talking to me about Helanie.

"She went through a lot," Vani started. "She's always been through a lot. Everyone knew her and hated her because of how my mother used to make her look like a disgusting person because of her pheromones."

She confused me, a frown forming on my forehead.

"You need to find out about them yourself. Anyway, it was her eighteenth birthday, and she had left the house to go meet her boyfriend at the time—the secret one, though. But sadly, her pheromones attracted some bad people. I just remember her returning home the next morning. She was badly abused and—"

It was definitely a lot for a child to recall such a disturbing event. But she was all I had for information.

And the only one who showed empathy for Helanie.

"There were a total of six alphas." The minute she said that, I frowned and shook my head.

"Six alphas? What do you mean?" I guess I just didn't want to outright admit what she meant because that would break my sanity.

And then she told me what I was dreading.

"Six alphas gang-raped her and tried to kill her. They thought she had died—"

Her words faded as my head started to spin.

Helanie's innocent eyes flashed before me. Her little hands begged for help and support from her mother too.

"And then my dad started beating her up, saying she—did it to herself. I mean, that she brought it upon herself by messing around. She tried to explain that she was there with her boyfriend, but he ditched her and left her there with those bastard alphas."

Vani's eyes started filling with tears as she brought me back to reality with more information.

I was having a hard time absorbing it all, but for the sake of the child's safety, I acted like I was fine and just focused on the information.

If her mother came out, she would be upset with Vani. And if she dared say anything bad about Helanie, I would lose my mind.

"Dad went to her boyfriend's father, but they outright lied and said Helanie was a liar who trapped men. Then my father was paid a heavy amount to kill Helanie before she could go to the hospital and get a rape kit done. I had to help her run before she was caught and killed."

Vani stopped and turned her face away to wipe her tears.

"Are you a good guy, Emmet?" She turned back to me, batting her eyelashes sweetly.

She was such a nice kid. And the fact that she was dear to Helanie and cared for her made me almost instantly see her as a child I wanted to protect.

"I try to be," I replied, holding in my rage. But tears kept forming in my eyes. That little Helanie had gone through so much, but kudos to her spirit and strength—she kept fighting.

If only I had been there. If only I had been in place of her boyfriend that night—I would have torn those alphas apart and kept her safe.

Who in his right mind would have Helanie as his girlfriend and not fight for her? Who in his right mind wouldn't fight for their girlfriend, or any girl, woman, or person in trouble?

"Good. She really deserves good people in her life. Please take care of her and never let those people find her—they will kill her," Vani showed me the fear in her eyes, and I quickly nodded my head.

"Kiddo, she's a fighter. Not only will I keep her safe, but she has stepbrothers who would die for her. But—she's not that timid, scared girl anymore. When you finally meet her, you'll see what a courageous woman she has become."

My words brought a smile to Vani's face.

End of Flashback:

"So none of his friends came to the funeral?" my wolf muttered. "The five alphas have to be Rayden's friends. Crimes like this are usually committed when—"

My wolf was finally speaking in a normal tone when he suddenly lost it again.

"Are you okay?" I asked in concern.

"I'm afraid I'm losing my mind," he admitted.

"Then let's find the culprits before we completely lose it," I said, sitting on my bed with a whole list of alphas in front of me.

"If we could speak with Helanie, it would help," my wolf suggested, and he was probably right—but I didn't want that.

Knowing she had shared her secrets with me in such depth, only to see me act as if I didn't care, would hurt her. So I wanted to be discreet and help her behind the scenes.

"There was one alpha who visited Rayden's parents. The others might have distanced themselves from him for obvious reasons."

I rubbed my chin as I stared at the name in front of me.

"And that woman was calling Helanie names," my wolf scoffed, reminding me of Benita's audacity.

"I hope she doesn't fall victim to my darkness. You know I can get very messy," I muttered.

I tried to keep such thoughts to myself, but there were times when the evil in me broke free, and I would think of sadistic ways to torture someone.

And that's when my phone beeped.

I rolled my eyes hard.

'Twins calling!'

That's how their names were saved in my phone.

"Hmm?" I answered the call, not paying much attention because I didn't want to attach myself to more people.

"Please come take us away."

It was my little sister, crying for help.

And my body instantly heated u

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 389-Everyone Is Moving On

Chapter 389: 389-Everyone Is Moving On

Helanie:

"After three days, we will have our biggest combat test." I was sitting on the balcony with Lamar, whispering while Lucy wasn't even in the dorm room. After what happened at the training ground today, I didn't even want to see her face again for a while.

But there wasn't much we could do because we were in the same room together.

"I hope the team that wins is ours," Lamar pouted, since there would be three winners, and one team would lose.

"It's Norman's team. He trains them like beasts," I reminded him of the methods Norman used to train them.

"But he trained you too," Lamar added.

"True, but that doesn't mean my team will win. We don't even know what kind of test it will be." I sighed. "And it's so hard to work with Hans. He has his own training going on," I hissed at the memory of that asshole. I hated that guy so much.

"May I ask you a question?" I should have guessed it. Lamar had been shifting around and sneaking glances at me for a while ever since we sat on the balcony. I had a feeling he wanted to talk about something, but he was holding it in.

"Sure, go ahead," I said, and he cleared his throat.

"Tell me something. Do you remember that humming you did when you overpowered Rayden?" I had almost forgotten about it. But of course, he didn't.

"I do now," I replied.

"What was that?" he asked, and I cocked my head to stare at his face.

"Can you tell me what you heard? Because I don't remember hearing any noise or sound. I just knew I was humming." That was the truth. I couldn't remember what song I was humming.

"It was something like I've never heard before. The voice—the—I don't know how to explain it. But I can tell you that, despite you having a beautiful voice, you made my head hurt and my nose bleed," he complained, though he had a smile on his face.

"That is so weird. I have no memory of it." I watched Lamar zone out before his eyes widened in astonishment.

"Maybe it was your wolf? What if she was waking up and showing her presence?" He snapped his fingers excitedly as if he had cracked a code, but he was still forgetting something.

"Then why did your nose bleed?" I questioned, and his excitement died down.

"Do you think we should speak with the trainers? Maybe they know what's up with you?" Lamar suggested, but he noticed me shaking my head aggressively to dismiss the idea.

"Kaye hates me right now. I'd say let's keep my stuff a secret and not—" I shut up as I narrowed my eyes to look down. Far away, near the entrance, I could see a couple taking a stroll.

"Who is that?" I pointed at them because I wanted to make sure I wasn't seeing things. Lamar got up and rushed to the edge, staring in the same direction. Then he started scoffing and grunting.

"Why the fuck is Gavin out with Lucy?" Lamar hissed, attempting to turn and leave to catch the two when I had to physically hold his arm to stop him.

"Maybe they're finally having 'the' talk?" I guessed. "Maybe things will go back to normal after this?"

I turned to check on Lamar, and seeing him standing with his hands on his waist told me he was really not happy to see them together.

"They're going to fight, and then it'll be the same mess all over again," Lamar rolled his eyes, making sure I knew I shouldn't put too much faith in those two.

"Well, we'll see. Let's think positive for now," I told him, giving him a pat on the shoulder to go inside and rest.

At least they were talking, so I was pretty hopeful they would end things nicely this time, have the closure they both needed, and finally move on with their lives.

Lamar and I fell asleep, and Lucy probably arrived after her talk with Gavin. We woke up to get ready for training, as the test was right around the corner. We didn't want to lose this one.

When we arrived at the training ground, Kaye was already instructing his team, so Lamar sped up to join him. He only raised his head once to glare at me before looking away again.

As I was walking past Mianxu's team, he saw me and raised his hand, snapping his fingers to get my attention. I walked over to him, confused. I didn't want him to bully me today. I was tired of the taunts and mocking they always threw my way.

"How are you feeling now?" he asked, without any funny expressions.

"I'm doing well, thanks for asking," I replied, shifting slightly in my spot.

"Hmm, I'm sorry for whatever you've been through. If I had known, I would've let you heal before I made a move. But nonetheless, I'm glad you're here, and I hope you get over the trauma soon. The reason I called you over is that I wanted to tell you—I've decided to move on from you."

His voice was calm, but his words made me shudder secretly.

"I don't want to keep hurting you, and I don't want to keep hurting myself. You've made your decision, and too much has gone wrong between us. I don't think we should continue anything—but I wanted to end this on good terms. No taunts, no bullying—nothing harmful. And you can always come to me whenever you need help."

He forced a smile onto his lips, but his eyes told me he was hiding something. Maybe pain?

Although there wasn't much that could be done, I was still upset that he went over to Charlotte. He deserved better, in my opinion.

But what could I say? It was his choice.

"Thank you." I didn't argue or continue the topic. I just nodded my head and walked away.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 390-When One Takes A Stand

Chapter 390: 390-When One Takes A Stand

Helanie:

"Good job," Emmet clapped for Jenny, who had just tossed a warrior to the ground during training. We had been working extremely hard because we wanted Emmet's team to win.

He looked so muscular in his t-shirt, his bulging biceps and tattoos making him look even hotter than usual.

I had to look away multiple times to stop myself from staring at him. I guess the mate bond was making me go crazy. And sadly, sometimes my body would even heat up at the sight of Kaye and Maximus as well—both of whom had already made it clear they had moved on from me.

That's why rejection was important for me. They were powerful, so I didn't know if that helped their wolves stay in control of their body heat.

"Everyone, come here!" Norman yelled, and all the teams started gathering on the main ground for the announcement.

"You were amazing today," Jenny patted my back, recalling how I had gone all out on the ground. I used all the moves Norman had taught me, along with the tricks and techniques Rudy had been helping me with.

I was surprised when I knocked down a big warrior. I could have never done that if I hadn't enrolled in this academy.

We all stood together, teams lined up in front of their trainers. My ears were ringing, and my body was still heating up from the intense workout. I looked around and noticed the others looking red and flustered too.

So it was fine. Everyone else was exhausted too.

I probably wasn't the only one checking on others, comparing my strength with theirs.

"So, training has been going well. I'm sure everyone is prepared for the test and will do their best to make their trainers proud. Now, moving on to the test details and date," Norman said, rubbing his hands together and speaking in his husky voice. He then ran his hands over his beard and mustache, his eyes shining under the sunlight.

"The test will be conducted this Friday."

I bet it wasn't just my heart that skipped a beat.

We all took deep breaths, holding hands to give each other confidence.

"The test is called the battle of the set of beasts. You will pick one of the members from your team as a treasure. Your main goal will be to find a magical object and hand it over to the treasure. Now you all will surround your treasure and make sure they arrive at the finish point before the other teams. Any kind of strength used to stop the team member will be allowed. But any foreign object used will disqualify the team and the rest of the three teams will be declared as winners. Remember, all the team members must reach the finishing point."

After Norman gave us the details, we were even more anxious. It was a team challenge, and unfortunately, Hans didn't understand what that meant.

He stood tall with his shoulders broad and his hands on his waist, looking so arrogantly stupid.

"Hans, can we please have a word?" one of the girls from our team reached out to him, and he responded as if he were the trainer.

I had noticed him sometimes copying Norman. He would literally watch Norman's habits, and later that day, Hans would be seen doing the exact same thing—with exaggerated confidence and overly dramatic movements.

"Sure, go ahead. Tell me what's going on?" he turned to her, rubbing his hand over his little beard.

"We want to discuss the test so that we know what role everyone will be playing," the girl continued hesitantly. It was the same for everyone—they were so cautious about what to say to him because he would lose his temper quickly.

"Sure!" Hans clapped his hands and turned to us.

"Listen up! I will only repeat it once," he stood like he was our leader.

"Actually—," one of the quieter ones spoke up, looking around for confirmation from the others.

"Yes?" Hans asked, raising an eyebrow.

"We want Helanie to be the team leader. She understands us and really pays attention to our strengths."

That was where the poor girl messed up. Hans's eyes shifted to me, and a frown appeared on his forehead—the kind that was threatening enough for me to step up in front of her.

"I don't pay attention? Is that what you're trying to say?" he yelled. Thankfully, she was behind me.

"Hey! Back off!"

As Hans got in my face, Penn somehow saw it from afar. He had been busy guiding his team until his eyes landed on us.

"You stay out of it, dawg. This is my team. I'll deal with them my way," Hans yelled back, making me roll my eyes and let out a deep sigh. He was so difficult to deal with.

"Really? How about we settle this right now?" Penn briskly made his way toward our team, catching the attention of others around us.

The trainers had already left since it was late evening, and everyone was exhausted—at least the students were.

"All that for a girl?" Hans scoffed, making some students from other teams laugh at Penn. But Penn kept walking toward him. However, the moment Penn got close, Hans took the first swing—but Penn sidestepped and caught him in a guillotine chokehold.

Everyone booed Hans as he struggled but couldn't break free from Penn's grip.

"Penn, let him go," I whispered, hurrying over and gently tapping his arm.

He pushed Hans away, making him stumble to the ground. The crowd erupted into laughter and cheers as Hans glared at them.

"This isn't over. I'll hurt you where it'll hurt the most," Hans muttered, his eyes dark with anger.

Sydney and Lucy shared a glance as if they were getting ideas. The fact that I could barely recognize Lucy anymore broke my heart.

Hans got up, brushed the dust off his clothes, and stormed away.

"If he ever raises his voice at you again—I'll cut his tongue out," Penn turned to me, openly admitting why he had lost his temper.

Everyone went silent. Then, someone spoke up.

"Trying so hard to impress her?"

It was none other than Rudy.

I hadn't even noticed that the top seniors had arrived at the ground just to check on the juniors' training.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 391-Like A True Leader

Chapter 391: 391-Like A True Leader

Helanie:

Penn looked at me and then at Rudy, who had his hands in his red jacket, looking fresher than the rest of us. It was their day off, so he had been out and about until now.

"Back off, Rudy!" Penn hissed at him.

I felt uncomfortable being the center of attention. Whenever eyes were on me, I was reminded of the day I had to walk home after that torturous night. They had examined me the same way back then, and I could never forget those eyes.

"Helanie, he didn't really do it for you, get that," Rudy stated, with Sage and Summit behind him while Arlo scanned the crowd.

I watched as his eyes landed on Lucy, then shifted to our group, as if noticing how we had fallen apart.

"Rudy! Penn is my friend, let's not poke at him," I stepped forward to defend Penn, who tilted his head at Rudy, probably smirking because I was standing up for him.

"You're so innocent, Helanie. He did it to cause a rift between your team. Every move counts, and he has already started a war within your group," Rudy's words caught me off guard.

Even Penn tried stepping forward to face him, but Lamar and Gavin rushed to hold him back.

"Whoa! Easy there, Alpha boy. You might be training today, but we've been doing this for years," Sage warned Penn.

I hated this war between us. It was unnecessary and uncalled for.

"He didn't. Okay? I know Penn, and I know he would never sabotage my test or anyone else's," I argued, refusing to let them attack Penn, who had genuinely stepped in to defend me but was now being painted as a team breaker.

"Yet he played Riri so well. He's capable of playing games—it's just that you're too good of a friend to hold any of yours accountable. They've been sabotaging your reputation since day one, Helanie. Every time you won a test or were praised, they would mess up your happiness, and instead of celebrating, your group would be caught up in drama," Rudy continued, making my anger flare.

"Oi! That's enough," Lamar finally spoke up, stepping in front of me.

"Why? Are we lying, though? One of you has probably realized how toxic the group is. And trust me, she's doing much better now," Arlo added, turning his gaze to Lucy, who was rocking her body sideways just like Sydney.

"Thanks for your guidance, but I don't need it. This is what friends do. And you lost your argument the moment you brought up Riri and tried to make Lucy look like a lesser mess," I shot back.

The second I said that, I saw Rudy's confidence waver, and Lucy's body language changed.

Her hands dropped from her waist in shock, disbelief written all over her face. Then there was Rudy, swallowing hard.

"And next time, don't come between me and my friends," I warned him, feeling bad that he had chosen this route.

"I didn't mean to hurt you. I was just worried they'd ruin your progress," Rudy muttered, reaching for my hand, but I stepped back.

"Let her be. Look at how she made me look bad—that's what she does. She's not the naive one; in fact, she's the messiest in the group. She loves playing the victim and is the biggest 'pick-me' ever."

My heart crumbled at Lucy's words, but I had expected them. She had been holding them in for a long time.

"Nobody is talking to you," Sage turned to glare at her, but Sydney had her back.

"Why? She can't have a say in a royal conversation?" Sydney hissed at Sage.

"My friends were there for me when I was lonely. There were times when I couldn't believe anyone could cheer me up or support me, but they did. They all played their parts—except for Lucy! Who thinks I'm just an attention seeker," I said loudly, watching Lamar and Gavin step forward in shock.

"At least Sydney gave her some confidence to say it to my face and not just whisper it when I'm alone," I added, recalling all the times I had been in pain while Lucy only reminded me how imperfect my life was.

"I didn't mean to—" Rudy's expression shifted as he realized how much he had hurt me. He had been competing with Penn, but in the process, he had genuinely wounded me.

But I was done with the conversation.

"Come on, let's go, guys," I told my friends, who looked upset at the way Rudy and the others had tried to paint them.

They had no idea how much my friends had helped me. All of them had been there for me. Back when I didn't have clothes, Gavin had offered me Lucy's tracksuit. And though I had been grateful to Lucy for that, I couldn't say it anymore—not after how she had let me down.

Every day, she stood with Sydney and made snide remarks about me whenever I passed by.

Just yesterday, as I walked past her, she had said, "I bet some girls are going to sell their million-dollar virginity."

The fact that mine had been taken from me by force made her comment strike deep into my heart.

Our group walked away as the other students continued their open arguments.

"Thank you," Penn's voice broke through my thoughts as we reached the academy.

"Thank you for standing up for me."

There was a proud shine in his eyes as he looked at me.

"No! Thank you for standing up for me back there. I didn't know how to face Hans—he seemed intimidating," I admitted, genuinely grateful.

And despite Rudy's claim that Penn had only caused trouble by breaking our team apart, I knew that Hans would never have worked as a team player anyway.

"So what are you going to do about Hans?" Lamar asked, draping one arm over my shoulder and the other over Gavin's, peeking at me from between them.

"I'm afraid I'll have to give him power. People like him only function when they're given responsibility," I said.

I had no intention of becoming a leader—I just wanted to win the test. And for that, I was willing to take whatever necessary steps.

"Indeed, someone who knows everyone's strengths and how to use them," Jenny recalled my words, and everyone smiled proudly.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 392-Wanting Maximus

Chapter 392: 392-Wanting Maximus

Charlotte:

"What are you doing?" My mother slapped my arm a little too hard this time to get my attention.

"Ouch?" I winced, throwing a puzzled look at her. I wanted to look my best tonight.

"Why are you wasting your time here? Maximus will be arriving any minute now. Go stand at the door and greet him with the freshly baked lasagna," my mother motioned for me to get up as she held the baked lasagna in her hands, still wearing oven mitts.

"Umm, I need to look perfect too. Just one last touch-up." I put on some lip gloss and a little glitter on my neck and chest before getting up.

"I hope he doesn't ask for the recipe," I sighed. My mom would bake stuff, and I would take credit for it.

It was all to impress Maximus. I had been putting in so much effort since I was just a teen. We lived in the same mansion, but he hardly noticed me. I wanted him to be my high school boyfriend too, but that didn't work out either.

He never even looked at me, even though he would check out anything with boobs. It hurt whenever I watched him go out on dates and have fun with other girls.

But I stayed patient because I had manifested 'us,' and it finally came true. I was so glad I had asked for his phone that night. I remember vividly how tired he was when he got home, and I asked to use his phone. I had been in his room the entire time he was gone. That's when I saw Helanie's message pop up in the notifications.

I quickly asked for his phone, and he gave it to me without checking. I bet he didn't think I would be crazy enough to go through his messages. I deleted her text, making it look like she played him at the last minute.

He went on with his life, thinking she was going to make their relationship public.

I didn't like seeing him in pain either because I cared about him a lot, but it had to be done. Otherwise, he would never hate Helanie.

And then I played the master game.

Flashback:

"What are you doing in my home? Don't you know anyone related to that Ursula isn't welcome here?" Lady Darcy had such a dark look on her face that I considered turning around and running back home.

Even when I didn't want to, sometimes humiliation was worth it—especially when it was about Maximus. I could get insulted all day, every day, for him.

"I am not related to that woman. I know I can't say it out loud because my mother and I have nowhere else to go. But—I promise you, I don't like homewreckers either." My confidence and words made her raise an eyebrow. That's when I knew I had her attention.

"What have you come here for? Definitely not to tell me you hate the hand that's feeding you. So tell me, what do you want from me?" She sat down, crossed one leg over the

other, and gestured for the man beside her to pour her a glass of wine. She didn't even ask me to sit.

"I've come to talk to you about your son." It was so hard to say it without triggering her. She was way too protective and controlling of her sons. Living in the mansion, I had figured that out a long time ago.

"You better have a very good reason for saying my son's name," she scoffed, already threatening me with her harsh glare.

"I know Maximus' secret."

The moment I said that, she slammed the glass she had just been handed onto the side table, unfolded her legs, straightened her posture, and shot daggers at me with her eyes.

"I am not threatening or blackmailing you. I just want to tell you another secret of ours too." I was shaking; having her eyes on me wasn't easy to handle.

"You better start talking then," she warned, and I nodded my head anxiously.

"I am his fated mate."

I watched her face twist in shock before her mouth opened.

"One night—I was in the woods when he came out in his form—" I purposely didn't say the word 'lycan.' I didn't want the walls to hear. If anyone found out, he could be in danger.

"What are you saying?" Her expression said it all. I knew Maximus must have confided in her, just like he did with his older brother.

Being around him like a buzzing bee worked for me when I eavesdropped on him and Norman's conversation. One day, Maximus was telling Norman that he thought he had felt a mate bond with someone in the woods. But of course, being a lycan, he couldn't remember exactly what happened. It seemed like Norman wanted to find out who was in the woods that night.

But since Maximus didn't remember, I was sure nobody found out. I couldn't care less. Whoever it was, Maximus might have even killed her and forgotten about it since no one comes across a lycan and survives.

"I am not lying. My mother knows about it, and she has been pushing me to talk to Lord McQuoid. However, I didn't want to. I told her that if anyone deserves to make a decision for her son, it is Lady Darcy."

I knew she would never want me to be her daughter-in-law. She had her own ways. She wanted her son's wife to be from a powerful pack and have a high rank.

"I will take care of him and always obey you." The moment I noticed the delay in her response, I started to panic.

"You are not the one I want for my son," she leaned back and hissed, scoffing at me.

I felt a surge of anger at her words.

There would only be one and only one for Maximus, and that was me.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 393-I Will Be The New Helanie

Chapter 393: 393-I Will Be The New Helanie

Charlotte:

Flashback:

"But I am his mate, I am chosen by the Moon Goddess," I kept my frustration inside and continued to speak softly, giving the hint of being gentle and timid.

Darcy sized me up and then scoffed, turning her head to the man on her side before the two started laughing at me.

"You really wish to become a lycan's mate?" she hissed. The smile on her face was fake, and I could tell why. She didn't like the fact that I knew Maximus' truth. That also made me vulnerable to her anger.

If she suddenly realized I could be a threat, she might want to get rid of me. The only thing that would hold her back is that she had no idea who else I had told. So if she gets rid of me, and my mother knew about Maximus, she would come forward and tell everyone.

Well, my mother did know everything. I never hide anything from her.

"I am," I replied.

"Hm, do you know the risks of being his mate?" she folded her arms and started to stare at her nails.

"I believe so, but I am not afraid of him. I am ready to do anything for him," I noticed her raising her eyes from her nails and watching me.

"Okay, since you put it that way," she nodded her head, causing my heart to fill with hope. She got up and walked over to me, fixing my hair and then giving me a good look, even walking around me and examining me.

"Okay then, I will put my faith in you. But you will have to please my son in any way you are asked to," she stopped before me and agreed, causing a huge smile to form on my lips.

I quickly began to nod my head.

I would do anything for him. Literally, anything.

End Of Flashback:

The others had gone to his room, and Maximus arrived late. He looked so tired. I was right at the entrance with the lasagna plate.

"Maximus," I uttered to get his attention since I was afraid he was so lost in his thoughts that he might have walked through me at this point.

He stopped and looked at the lasagna plate. "I am not hungry."

The minute he began to walk past me, I felt my heart stop. I turned and gulped, watching him go.

It was at this moment that I realized I wasn't special. There was nothing interesting about me for him to pay attention to.

I hated that feeling.

If only I were special, he would be spending time with me, focusing on me, and even trying to solve my mystery.

Enraged, I went back to my room and threw the plate on the table. My mother rushed out from the bathroom to check on me and realized Maximus had ignored me yet again.

"It is okay, he will come around," my mother's reassurance didn't help. She had been saying this for a while, and nothing had been fixed.

"He must still miss Helanie. And why not? He gets to see her every day, train, and become a better version of herself. And look at me, I'm still the same annoying little she-wolf who can't even cook," I hissed, stamping my feet while tears started to form in my eyes.

"Is that all? Do you think if you became something, he would notice you?" The slight excitement in my mother's voice made me turn my head to her and watch her without blinking.

"Do you have something in mind?" I inquired.

"I believe so," she pouted. "Why don't you ask them to hire you as a receptionist at the academy or Maximus' secretary?"

I was excited for it until I realized there was nothing interesting about it.

"That would do," I lied, pretending excitement for my mother, but deep down, I knew this wasn't what I wanted to do to get his attention.

"Then don't worry and go to bed. I will speak with McQuoid in the morning," she smiled, giving me a kiss on the forehead before leaving for her room. However, I stayed awake. After I had taken a shower and was in my nightgown, I called Darcy.

"Do you know what time it is?" she hissed from the other side, sounding sleepy and groggy.

"Your son is ignoring me," I said, lying in my bed and staring at the ceiling.

"And? You want me to beg him to notice you? You're not very attractive, what can I do with that?" Her words stung. But I had to swallow her insults. Once I get Maximus on my side and make him fall hard in love with me, I'll show her what insults really are.

"He is in love with Helanie," that was all I needed to say to wake her up.

I swear I could hear her breath catch, and then I added more salt to the wound, "if you see his face, you will know. He is dying to be with her, all he thinks about is her. And I bet if given a choice, he would choose her over everything and everyone."

I stopped to take a deep breath after making her lose hers.

"What are you willing to do in order to be special to him?" That's what I wanted to hear. She had briefly mentioned it before, asking what I could do for her son.

My answer remained the same.

"Anything," I closed my eyes as the tears threatened to fall.

"Good. Then I will send you the instructions. You better not let him go to that bitch's daughter," her disdain for Helanie and her mother was going to work in my favor.

"Okay, see you then," I hung up on her since she was already gone. I bet she had thrown her phone away and was busy breaking stuff.

"I will show you, Helanie, that I am more special than you. I will take back everything. The brothers will take care of me, and Maximus will love me. I will be the new Helanie, the better version," I determinedly promised myself that I would win this war.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 394-My Stepbrother Wants Me To Take Care Of His Kids?

Chapter 394: 394-My Stepbrother Wants Me To Take Care Of His Kids?

Helanie:

"Is she okay?" I asked, watching Emmet shine light into Jenny's eyes.

"Is she going to lose the memory of us?" I continued, rubbing my palms anxiously. If I could, I would trade eyes with her.

Lamar and Gavin stood beside Emmet in his office, while Penn was pacing around, hands on his head, looking anxious.

"Is she going to be possessed by the demon of the powder?" The minute those words left my lips, Emmet raised his head and stared at me in silence.

"What? Is she going to?" My breath hitched. Even Jenny started smiling. What was so funny about it?

Emmet then turned to one side, staring at Gavin, who instantly swallowed his laugh and tried to keep his posture straight, then looked to the other side where Lamar was standing. Lamar had the same reaction, but he hid his laugh by biting the inside of his cheek.

"Alright, tell me, which one of you told her that?" Emmet sighed, rolling in his chair. They both pointed at each other.

"Lamar did," I frowned.

"There is no such thing as that," Emmet turned to me and shook his head. He looked so serious most of the time, but the minute he looked at me, his eyes would shine so brightly that my heart would start beating loudly.

"Is she okay?" Penn definitely wasn't part of any jokes. While I gave deadly glares to Lamar, Penn intervened to ask Emmet.

"I know what was put in her eyes," Emmet said, "but I won't tell any of you. Let the test pass, and then we'll see." We stared at each other in shock. "Trust me, it will be worth the wait."

Of course, I would trust Emmet in a heartbeat, but Penn couldn't agree with him, and I understood why. He was concerned about his sister's health.

"What if it gives her any side effects?" Penn anxiously rubbed his palms, hunching over the table to question Emmet.

"It won't. However, it will make her act up. So I'll suggest you guys keep an eye on her during the test," Emmet claimed, obviously upsetting Penn.

"I can't let her go out for the test when I know something's been put in her eyes," the moment he slammed his fist on the table, we all stepped away because Emmet steadily stretched his neck and then gave him dead-eye contact.

"There's nothing you can do about this powder. It fades away in a few days. So, either you make a fuss now and delay the test, or let her go out for the test and pass the test," Emmet's words were convincing. Even Jenny gently held her brother's arm to stop him from resisting anymore.

"So the decision is yours," Emmet said.

"I will go for the test," Jenny explained, getting up from her seat and making a decision for herself. I could tell Penn wasn't too satisfied, but as Emmet said, there was nothing we could do, so he had to bow down to the decision.

"Now go ahead and keep training," Emmet dismissed us, and everyone started leaving. But just as I was about to leave, he said my name softly, "Helanie."

I stopped and turned around to see him leaned back in his chair, rolling it slightly, watching me with such dreamy eyes that my heart skipped a beat.

"Come have a seat," he uttered, looking so relaxed. With a gulp, I closed the door again and sat across from him.

While I sat there, I watched him just move his chair and keep staring at me. I suddenly felt so shy under his gaze.

"How good are you with children?"

His question was vague, and I couldn't understand the reason behind it.

"I used to take care of my—" I instantly shut up when I recalled what I had told them about myself. But it was true that when Vani was little, I used to take care of her. Even when I was only four years older than her, I took care of her like a mother would. Of course, I couldn't tell him all that since I had told him I left my pack when I was just a kid myself.

"I used to take care of kids of the rogues in the woods," I made up a lie, and I noticed him closing his eyes and laughing a little.

"Why are you asking?" I asked, feeling curious.

"Just wanted to know. Say, if you have to take care of kids, can you?" My heart was beating so loudly now.

I knew these were normal questions, but somehow, my brain was processing them wrong.

"Will you have my children?"

That's what I was hearing, even though he wasn't saying it. I could blame it on my body's heat, which was rising in the moment.

"Yes," I replied shortly, taking deep breaths to calm myself down. I guess I needed a shower to get the heat off my mind. I wasn't even sure how I would react to someone getting intimate with me at this point. My body might even reject the touch, just like it did with the first kiss after that incident.

"Okay, you may leave now," he softly blinked his eyes and gestured at the door.

"Thank you, sir," I quickly got up without wasting any time and rushed toward the door when I heard him say something one more time, but this time, his statement was very informative.

"It is pigeon eyes."

I turned to him and raised my eyebrow.

"They put pigeon eyes in her eyes. You can research it yourself," he replied, smiling at me, "but I would suggest you don't tell anyone yet. Let the test pass, play mind games

with your enemies, Helanie. Besides, there are only three teams that can win. If one gets disqualified, the others automatically win. Now I hope you'll use this information wisely," Emmet said in the most understanding voice.

I swear I could hear him talk for hours and never get bored.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 395-And It Is Game Time

Chapter 395: 395-And It Is Game Time

Helanie:

It was finally Friday. The seniors had been given a day off to rest and prepare for their own test, but ours was first. We all woke up to set alarms, warmed up, got ready, and some even had breakfast. I couldn't eat anything.

This was the thing about me: I can eat a lot when I'm upset or angry, but when I'm anxious, I lose my appetite.

"I will never be rude to anyone ever again," Jenny was praying when I found her on the ground, making me laugh.

"You're never rude to anyone anyway," I said. When it comes to being rude, Jenny could never do that.

"Well, I am messy. I do make a lot of mistakes," she pouted before quickly looking up at the sky again. "I will never hurt anyone."

She quickly changed her prayer. Then, she opened her eyes and watched Hans come over. "And I promise I will never cuss at Hans in my heart either."

Hans scoffed, stopping dead in his tracks with his hands on his waist. They had been butting heads a lot throughout the training. It was all Hans's fault, obviously. He would always try to piss Jenny off. I didn't get why, but I noticed it.

"Okay, team, listen," Hans gathered our team to the side to have one last word with us. We had let him take over the leader duties. Honestly speaking, despite being a pain in the ass, once he was given responsibility, he did an amazing job. There were some of

the academy students who weren't eating much and losing weight. He even took care of them and made a diet chart to help them with their nutrients.

He took his team leader duties very seriously.

"Remember the roles," he said. "Jenny is a treasure." The way he said that and smirked, I found it odd. "Helanie and I will go with her to find the magical item and hand it over to her. After that, we'll gather around her in a certain radius. Make sure we have covered a lot of ground around her and don't let anybody come near her, got it?" he voiced, and everyone nodded their heads.

My heart was jumping up and down the whole time. I wanted to win this match, but I also wanted my friends to win it too.

"Now, let's go and stand with the others. Don't let any comments affect your strength or mental ability to deal with hurdles," he kept going, boosting everyone up. Once we stood with the others, I felt a little nudge to the back of my hand from Gavin.

"Best of luck," he whispered, making me smile. Lucy was standing in front of him, so when she heard a little whispering from us, she turned around and gazed at us directly before looking ahead again.

I couldn't believe it had been days since we'd last talked. We just avoided each other most of the time, or she would throw a comment here and there whenever she was around Sydney.

The trainers finally arrived and stood before us, all wearing black. Emmet had on a black suit, Kaye wore a black high turtleneck sweater and black pants, Maximus was in a long black coat, and Norman wore a black shirt without a coat.

"I wish you all the best of luck and remember, this isn't the end of the world. But give your best," Norman clapped his hands for the teams before he blew the whistle.

My heart skipped a beat at the loud noise of the whistle. We all began to sprint with the papers given to us.

Our teammates were following Hans' instructions and staying close on all sides.

"It states that 'It spins with purpose, sharp and true, leading the lost ones when skies are blue'" Hans said as he opened the paper once we were near the trail.

"What could that be?" Jenny rubbed her temples, and I kept an eye on her behavior. I remembered she was still under the effect of the powder, so I was worried for her.

"It could be—" I paused as I closed my eyes to focus on the item.

Suddenly, ticking sounds started to echo in my head. My mind raced, and I saw a flash of something round with needles. "It's a compass."

I opened my eyes and stared at them as they got it.

"Yes, she's right," Hans pointed at me excitedly, "but where could it be?"

We were back to square one. I could see other teammates pass us, laughing like they had figured out theirs.

"Hmm—where can a compass be—" I then reread the written riddle again and it hit me, "Maybe a closed space?"

'What is this guide, where waters creep, in hidden halls, where silence sleeps?'

"Or a cave maybe?" Jenny smirked, making us stare at her with amusement.

"Exactly, but how many caves are there?" I jumped happily until I remembered we didn't know how many caves there were.

"See—it says the cave is near the water, so there's one cave I know that's right beside the waterfall," Hans made it so easy for us. I mean, there could be other ones, but none of our teammates had heard about them, so we decided to visit this one first.

We began to sprint again, and just like Hans had told us, we acted like we were cluelessly running around and arguing. That was Hans' plan to keep us from being anyone's target.

But right when we were headed to the other mountain where the fountain was, I felt someone coming after me.

I turned my head and saw Sydney coming at me. She elbowed me right in the eye while jumping as high as she could, knocking me to the ground.

I didn't expect her to do that, so I was defenseless.

"You fucking bitch!" Hans grabbed her by the hair before she could get away and gave her a good spin, tossing her around like a monster tossing his prey. She yelped and hit the tree, falling down and bleeding from her mouth.

"You idiot, how dare you hit me?" she yelled. "This fucking loser hit a woman!"

She kept yelling, and where I expected Hans to take her words and be afraid of them, he avoided her and quickly approached me to check up on me.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 396-The Barbarians

Chapter 396: 396-The Barbarians

Helanie:

"Take this," Hans quickly opened the bag he carried with some food and water in it and placed an ice pack over my eye.

"You can still run?" he asked me. Sydney had run away to join her team.

"What the fuck happened?" While Lamar's team was passing us, he slowed down to check on me.

"Dude, go!" I yelled at him, eyeing him with my one eye so he wouldn't lose the test because of me. He reluctantly ran away. Many people passed us. We even got to find out that Penn's team got the riddle wrong on the first attempt.

"I can, let's go." Without wasting another minute, I was up on my feet again. Now we knew they could attack us from all directions, so we were cautious.

We began to sprint as fast as we could, and I realized I still needed more strength from my wolf. While running, I got so anxious and hyper that I started calling for my wolf.

'Listen, I know you don't want to be my wolf—hence you don't want to come out. But please, give me a chance. I won't put all the work on you.' I just had a feeling that maybe my wolf found out that she belonged to a loser like me and decided to fucking dip.

'Please—help me—' I begged as I felt my legs giving up.

However, I felt a tingling sensation in my legs as if they were giving me a hint. I followed them and turned toward the water passing by.

"What are you doing?" Hans yelled after me when I jumped into the water. I had never even seen or taken a single lesson on swimming. So the minute I was in the water, I started to fucking drown.

"Oh no," I heard Hans yell and jump after me. In the next few minutes, he had dragged me out and was glaring me down.

"I will not ask you to explain yourself. But maybe your body caught the heat from your wolf trying to put pressure to help," he just made up an excuse and then gestured for us to keep running.

I didn't understand. If I was devastated before, this act of deception from my wolf—or whatever caused me to jump in the water—really kicked me down. I could not even ask my wolf to come out for help anymore. She almost drowned me.

So I kept going and reached the other mountain. We took a little break to drink some water and hand food over to the other teammates.

"All the teams have gone barbarian. They are attacking us and hitting us. Why aren't we doing anything?" One of the guys from our team raised a concern, and Hans looked over at me.

"I have told you guys, we cannot divert our attention away from the main goal. Our goal is to find the item and reach the finish line," I reminded them again, but I could tell they were not satisfied.

"But there is also a part where the trainers said we could delay others," one of the girls spoke up this time.

"I guess you can, but have you not seen the other teams yet? They are so busy attacking each other's teammates that they keep getting their riddles wrong. Remember what Trainer Norman said? This is not the end of the world. We must not fight—we are defenders." I watched Hans nod his head and then turn to the team.

"You heard her. We are saving our energy for the main goal. And also, lay low. Don't become someone's target by attacking them." Thankfully, he was really good at this stuff. I had expected him to mess up, but I guess it was because of the messy cage fight with the Frogster. I could now tell that it was Sydney and Salem who made him lose that fight.

"Okay now, let's go," I said as I gestured at everyone. We spread out again, and this time, we reached the main area of the waterfall.

"Careful, everyone. I heard there are many traps here," Hans said as he raised his hands to stop everyone.

"There is a mine!" a girl yelled, pointing at something hiding in the dirt.

"These are wolfsbane mines. You should not step on them!" Hans yelled for everyone, and they listened to him. But I could see the fear in everyone's eyes now. The wind was so strong here that every whooshing sound scared us.

"Yikes!" We heard a loud scream from one of the members of Penn's team as they pushed one of the girls onto the mine and ran away.

The mine exploded, and it hit our member. She screamed in pain and then writhed.

We all ran to her and saw the burn rashes all over her skin.

"It fucking hurts!" She was crying so much that I began to panic.

"Should we take her back?" I asked Hans, worried for her.

"It wouldn't do anything. One of you stay with her and calm her down. We will go find the item and then meet you here. We will then proceed to head back, but I will need one of you to carry her," Hans said, his eyes searching through the crowd and landing on a guy who was a fast runner.

"You! You will carry her," he decided, and the guy nodded his head.

"Helanie and I will start moving forward—" Hans suddenly stopped and then turned to me. "Actually, Helanie will go and take the first steps to clear out the mines. She doesn't have an active wolf, so she won't be affected by the wolfsbane like we would."

He made a good observation, and I was all set for it. Except— I did have a little wolf power, and I was using it to run beside them.

But I had a desire to sound and look powerful, so I didn't deny it and took the lead. I would let my foot hover over the grass and mud and then clear them gently before I took a step forward. It took most of our time, but we were finally here—at the cave near the waterfall.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 397-Our Treasure Has Gone Crazy

Chapter 397: 397-Our Treasure Has Gone Crazy

Helanie:

I entered the cave, and right off the bat, I knew we were at the right location. There was something shining in the middle of the cave. I reached it slowly and noticed the beautiful compass sitting there, its shine coming from the glass.

"I found the compass," I announced, looking around the cave at my team members. There were only a handful of us inside, but the others had to stay outside to keep an eye on our teammates and make sure no one else came for us.

"Give it to Jenny," Hans ran toward me, staring at the item with wide eyes full of amusement.

"It's pretty," I muttered, and he steadily nodded in agreement, completely zoned out as he admired the antique Whisper Compass.

The arrows on the compass started spinning wildly, and for a brief moment, I was scared I had messed it up.

"Let's go," Hans elbowed me, snapping me back to reality. When I came to my senses and looked around, I frowned in confusion.

"Where is Jenny?" I asked, bewildered.

Hans followed my gaze and then looked around too, realizing she was gone.

He turned back to me before rushing outside. I followed him, only to find the area completely silent.

That's when my anklet started to beep.

"I can't hold it for too long. It has to be Jenny," I muttered in frustration. "Jenny!" I yelled.

I knew that the moment I put it down, someone from the other teams would pop up and steal it. If they hid it somewhere else, it would take us hours to find it again.

"No! We won't let that happen. You stay here with the compass, I'll go find Jenny," Hans said before dashing off to look for her.

I sat down on the ground, staring up at the walls of the cave when I suddenly felt the compass heating up in my palm.

"Shit, this has to be part of the test," I realized. I wasn't supposed to hold onto it for too long. In the test, the treasure is supposed to carry the gift.

I set it down in front of me and looked away, worrying where Jenny might have gone. However, something pulled my attention back to the compass—I felt like it was moving.

And it was.

The needle spun around wildly before slowly coming to a stop. Both points were aimed directly at me. I frowned, resisting the urge to pick it up as curiosity started to build inside me.

"Don't worry, your treasure will be here soon," I said to the compass, laughing at myself like an idiot. I was extremely happy that we had done it. But I wasn't sure how far the other teams had come by now.

For all I knew, they already had their items and were heading back to the finish line.

"Helanie, you need to come outside for this," one of the girls yelled as she entered the cave. I didn't like the sound of her shaky voice—it meant something had gone wrong.

I got up, held the compass, and followed her outside, only to find Jenny sitting in the middle of the crowd with her eyes closed and her hands covering her face.

"I don't want to look at the scary world," she was chanting nonstop, making Hans anxious as he paced around her.

"Jenny, look at me," he knelt down, trying to calm her.

"No, no, no!" she screamed, kicking him and thrashing around.

"Pigeon eyes," I suddenly remembered, and my heart skipped a beat.

"Hans!" I ran up to him, wanting to tell him quietly so the others wouldn't freak out—they already looked terrified.

"What?" he turned to me, his face pale with worry as he tried to understand me.

"She has pigeon eyes," I whispered. I didn't expect him to know what that meant, but the way his eyes widened told me he did.

"Okay, no need to panic," he said, clearly panicking. "We'll have to drag her with us—" He stopped mid-sentence when Jenny suddenly got up and bolted.

"Jenny!" I ran after her, grabbing her just as she was about to step on a mine.

"Let me go! You're a monster—you all are!" she screamed in terror, struggling like a frightened bird. She elbowed me, landing hard hits on my jaw and chest.

"Jenny!" Hans arrived just in time to grab her, but she was uncontrollable.

And then the worst happened.

The moment Hans pulled her away from the mines, someone jumped out from the bushes and attacked him.

Hans hit the ground, and so did Jenny. He quickly got back up, stopping Sydney's teammate from attacking Jenny, but they had already landed some hard punches on her.

I jumped in, kicking the attacker from behind before pinning them down and hitting them until I was sure they couldn't fight back.

"Okay, here's the thing—" Hans said, rubbing his wounds to stop the bleeding.

"One of us has to carry her, and that has to be you. I'll be right beside you, stopping attackers. She'll only keep running away from the finish line, making it harder for us to get there in time. So, you have to make sure you take her to the finish line—" He paused briefly, his face tightening with concern. "But how do we make her carry the compass?"

That was our biggest problem. She kept throwing anything that touched her hands. I was growing worried for her. Once she gains her senses, she will be devastated if we didn't finish the line before others.

"Can we tape it to her hands?" one of the girls suggested. Hans quickly grabbed duct tape from his bag and tried taping it to Jenny's hand.

But the moment the tape touched her skin, she screamed like she was on fire.

Her agonizing cries made it impossible for me to even think about carrying her. She would cry and fight the whole way to the finish line. Her panic would kill me.

There was only one option left.

"We'll have to knock her out," I said reluctantly.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 398-The Victory Is Right There

Chapter 398: 398-The Victory Is Right There

Helanie:

"Okay, you hit her," Hans said, rubbing his palms anxiously. I frowned at him and growled.

"What made you think I could knock her out?" I asked, shaking my head.

"Hans should do it. He is already very ruthless," a timid girl from our team suggested, and Hans' eyes narrowed at all of us.

"You all should be thankful I am in your team, and when it comes to being ruthless—do you find Professor Norman ruthless? No! He does whatever he can to help us grow and be better versions of ourselves," he stated with so much pride that even Jenny started laughing.

We all turned to her, and she quickly hugged herself, closing her eyes and probably thinking she was hiding perfectly.

"Your obsession with Professor Norman is scary—," I rolled my eyes, "you have to do it. We are getting late. Just do it very gently," I told him again, as her condition was worsening, and she needed to be knocked out so she wouldn't run away and get herself hurt by something deadlier.

"I—I can knock out anyone else—but not her," Hans looked away, shocking me with his shaky tone.

"Well, right now, we need your help for her, so—," I placed my hands on my waist, staring at him and speaking very confidently. It had to be him.

However, we were so engrossed in the debate that someone from another team had jumped out to attack us.

At this point, our team was the only one that wasn't attacking anyone. I was sure Lamar's and Gavin's teammates were just attacking randomly and had made mini groups within the big group. Since they let the treasure and the one finding the gift do their thing, their teammates were just messing around to delay the others.

As this person threw a punch at Hans, he dodged, and—well—the punch landed on Jenny's face. And the next thing I knew, she was knocked out cold.

Hans and I shared a glance as our work had been made easier, but that didn't mean I wouldn't take revenge on the person who hurt her. Before Hans could do anything, I grabbed the person by the hair and pulled him away.

"Uh! I can fight this one easily," the guy got up and stretched his neck, shaking his hands urgently, ready to get them on me.

"Try it," I said and ran toward him, hitting his stomach with my shoulder. He tried to grab my head and put me in a chokehold, but he missed as if he had hurt himself.

"What the fuck—why the fuck is your skin so hot—," he hissed, making weird, painful noises while I had landed on top of him.

I was now sitting on him and punching him. Hans had to come and grab me from the back, pulling me away from the guy, who sped into the deep bushes.

"No wonder you jumped in the water, your body is heating up. Relax! We will win. Fever is going to slow you down," Hans stood face to face with me and grunted, correcting my priorities.

"Now, let's tape the compass to her hands after you carry her," Hans advised, carrying Jenny very gently and putting her on my back. He then brought her arms forward and pressed her palms together, placing the compass between them and taping them together in front of my body.

She was out cold, but at least she wasn't crying and throwing her arms around. I had seen her scratch her own body for the last few minutes, and it hurt my soul so bad.

Then I had to carry her all the way to the finish line. It wouldn't have been much harder if I had my wolf, but still—we were all injured and bleeding, so our performance was getting affected. There were times when I almost tripped and rolled down the mountain, and Hans had to come to my rescue.

Our team was doing incredibly well. We avoided the clear roads and trails, making sure we stayed in stealth mode as we reached the mountain where our academy stood.

"It is right there," Hans said as he mentioned it would take another hour to reach the finish line if I sprinted.

But I couldn't sprint anymore. I was breathing with so much difficulty. My legs had gone numb, and my throat was dry.

"Wait a minute," Hans noticed my steps were wobbly, so he rushed toward me and stopped me. "I'm sure we can spare a few minutes."

He suggested it while the others looked unhappy with the idea.

"Drink some of this," Hans made me sit down while Jenny was still on my back. He first took her arms from around me and laid her down, then held a water bottle to my mouth. I drank some water and then ate a protein bar that he force-fed me. I guess doing this task without any food in my stomach made things worse. I should have listened to my friends and eaten something full of energy.

"Can we continue? We're going to lose if we keep taking breaks," one of the girls, who had no idea how much I was suffering, complained, looking unhappy with our performance.

"Are you going to carry Jenny next?" Hans asked her as he turned to her. The way that girl quickly stepped back and lowered her head was answer enough.

"Then shut the fuck up," Hans yelled at her.

Throughout the time I had carried Jenny, the other teams had tested us. They had attacked us nonstop. Hans was bleeding from his head, and even his clothes were wet from the bloodstains.

So he had to protect and defend me while I carried Jenny. After another ten seconds, I got up and gestured for him to put her on my back.

He did, and we continued our journey.

"I saw all the other team members heading toward the finish line," I heard one of the girls say to another, and it wore down my confidence.

What if everyone else had already made it to the finish line and we were the last ones?

"Keep going and hope for the best," Hans noticed the tears in my eyes and gave me a reassuring nod.

And finally, we arrived at the finish line, but we realized the other team members weren't here to cross it—they were here to stop whoever came first.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 399-What An Actress

Chapter 399: 399-What An Actress

Helanie:

"Okay, everyone, it's time!" Hans yelled, making everyone rush ahead of me and start attacking whoever was trying to stop them.

I was so focused that everything around me was a blur.

I couldn't see the reaction of the trainers or anyone at that moment. Many attempted to come at me, but my teammates pushed them out of my way. At the same time, they had to make sure they weren't left too far behind either. Finally, as I reached the finish line and someone jumped in my way, I instinctively lifted my hand and punched them, knocking them out of my path as I crossed the finish line.

The feeling of crossing that line hit differently. Suddenly, everything went silent—until Emmet's loud clap broke me out of my daze.

I lifted my head and saw Hans making sure everyone was crossing the border without getting held back by the other teammates.

Once everyone had crossed, Hans also came to our side and rushed my way.

"We did it!" he screamed with his hands up, coming in for a hug. The moment he hugged me and we both started jumping up and down, I think we woke Jenny up on my back.

"Ow! Why is my bed moving so much?" she complained, making us stop and then share a glance before laughing out loud.

"Come here, princess," Hans said, helping her down, but her hands were still tightly taped in front of her body with the compass between them. I finally raised my head and saw the trainers watching me while talking to each other.

And then, Emmet smiled proudly, raising his hand to give me a thumbs-up.

He began walking our way with Norman and the others to get the item from us.

"That was a brilliant idea," Emmet commented as he pointed at the taped hands.

"Why are her hands taped?" Maximus asked, confused.

"If Sydney hadn't acted up, Jenny would have enjoyed this test so much," I muttered under my breath to Hans, who grunted while peeling the tape off Jenny's hands and handing the compass to the brothers.

"That's right. We have our first winner," Norman declared after examining the item, making our eyes go wide. We were the first ones to cross.

I was the happiest. Jenny was still pretty out of it, so she sat on the ground while we waited for the other teams to arrive.

The second team to show up was Penn and Lamar. They were rushing toward the finish line, and I could tell they had been through a rough time too. They were badly injured, blood dripping down their faces.

The minute they crossed the finish line, their entire team collapsed on the ground. But Kaye approached them and grabbed the item out of their hands to inspect it.

"My team is second," he announced, quickly kneeling down to help Lamar with water from his own bottle. He then did the same and took care of his other teammates.

"Gosh! Of course, you were first," Lamar laughed as he came toward me. One of his legs was badly wounded, so he was hopping half the way until Penn gave him support.

"Is she okay?" Lamar let go of Penn's support to sit down with Jenny. And I could tell she immediately started telling her brother and Lamar what had happened earlier.

Sydney was in huge trouble after this. Lamar and Penn would make her life a living hell, and I think she deserved it. We had enough of her.

"Which team is leading next?" Lamar asked, his face flushing red with anger.

"You will not attack or say anything to Sydney right now. You just made it to the finish line—let's not ruin your victory," I had to remind the two that they would get in trouble if they attacked Sydney in front of the trainers.

We were now anticipating Gavin's team to arrive next, and just as we expected, they did. Gavin was running happily, smiling from ear to ear with Lucy by his side. She was the treasure in his team.

Seeing them run together reminded me of old times when they were dating and always did everything together. Those were the days.

Just when they were a few feet away from the finish line, Sydney's team appeared. Now the tension grew as they all sprinted toward the finish line.

However, I noticed a slight delay in Lucy's movements. She seemed fine and was doing well until suddenly, she began to slow down and then dropped in the most exaggerated way—almost like she did it on purpose.

"Don't you think she's doing it on purpose?" Lamar hissed, getting up from the ground as Jenny did too. We were anxiously watching the two teams compete.

Lucy had thrown the item into the bush—pretty obvious she did it on purpose.

"Lucy! Where did it go?" Gavin yelled, and she shrugged, acting all confused.

"She saw the item go behind that bush," I said to Lamar, who nodded.

"It's behind that bush!" I jumped up and down to get Gavin's attention, and once he heard me, he sprinted toward the bush and retrieved the item. By now, Sydney's team was right next to them.

"Take this," Gavin had to give it to Lucy and hold her arm to make her stand up. I could only imagine how frustrated he must have been with the way she was delaying.

She dragged her body up and began to slowly make her way toward the finish line. The two teams were right beside each other, with Lucy and Gavin at the end of their teams. However, sadly, Sydney's team started reaching the finish line first. And even though Gavin's team had finished the line before Sydney's, it didn't make them the winners since Lucy was still yet to cross.

"Please, Lucy—," I uttered under my breath, hoping she would just cross the line before Sydney's last teammate.

But that didn't happen.

Right when Lucy was about to step in, she stopped and acted like she had a leg cramp. The other girl crossed before her, and once Lucy made sure the other team had won, she straightened her back and crossed the line.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 400-Professor Norman Is Impressed

Chapter 400: 400-Professor Norman Is Impressed

Helanie:

I could tell Gavin wasn't very happy, and I couldn't blame him. They had arrived a few seconds late to Kaye's team. Sydney was all smiles, happily hugging her sister, who barely showed any excitement.

Lucy looked like she couldn't be bothered to be here, but since she had to, she stopped rolling her eyes.

Now that the teams had all made it to the finish line, my friends started to gather together. We had already celebrated our victory, but now we were upset for Gavin—he was bummed out.

"What happened, dude? You guys were doing so well," Lamar whispered to him as we stood in a circle.

"I don't know. Lucy started complaining about leg pain at the end. We all offered to carry her, but she was being so—" Gavin looked down and bit his tongue to stop himself from saying more.

"Do you think she did it on purpose so Sydney would win?" I suggested, and they all turned to look at Lucy, who seemed way too happy for Sydney instead of being upset for herself.

I was surprised that she had gotten so close to Sydney.

"Whatever it was, I lost," Gavin sighed, shaking his head.

"Take this," I quickly untied the scarf from around my hair and wrapped it around his bloody palm. We were all injured, and while others would heal quickly, I would have to rely on my own strength.

"Helanie—come here, please." However, we were interrupted by Norman calling out for me and snapping his fingers to get my attention.

I looked around at my friends, who seemed concerned too, and then walked out of the crowd to go stand with the brothers.

"Sydney—you too." Norman then raised his hand and snapped his fingers again, this time calling for Sydney.

I felt so awkward standing among Kaye, Maximus, Emmet, and Norman.

I got there first and noticed how they stood around me in a circle. There were times when I wanted to tell these brothers that standing around their students like that was intimidating. But they always did their meetings that way.

"You said something out there," Emmet recalled, referring to the earlier event.

"About what?" I asked, slightly confused about which moment he was talking about.

"Wait, why did you carry Jenny on your back?" Maximus interrupted, making Emmet sigh at being cut off.

"She was injured." I didn't see why it was a problem since others were carrying their injured teammates as well.

"Others did it too," I quickly added when I felt like maybe I had broken a rule.

"But you had way more injuries, and it seems like Jenny was the one who gave them to you. You two even had a sort of battle," Emmet reminded me, and that's when I realized what comments he was talking about.

"Oh, I said—had it not been for Sydney, Jenny wouldn't have missed the opportunity to completely enjoy the task," I said and noticed the brothers sharing a glance.

"What did Sydney do?" Norman asked, hands on his waist.

"I don't think it's a matter of concern. Everyone was trying to delay their revival team's arrival. That was basically what the task was about," Sydney had arrived and instantly jumped in to defend herself.

"But you did it before the task. I'm not talking about the rules," I corrected her and noticed her frowning in displeasure.

If she really thought she could lie to the trainers and I would let her, she was wrong about me.

"Wait—Helanie, you will talk now, and Sydney, you will not interrupt her. Now tell us, Helanie, what happened to Jenny," Emmet pointed his finger at Sydney to silence her, and at that moment, she knew that if she didn't keep quiet, she would be in trouble.

"It happened a few days before the test when Sydney and her friends attacked Jenny. They put some powder in her eyes—the pigeon eyes—and it made Jenny act up on the ground today," I explained, watching as the brothers suddenly looked so serious.

"Hell nah! And how do you know she didn't just freak out or something on the ground today?" I knew Sydney would never admit it, but I could handle this matter.

"She showed signs of pigeon eyes." I had barely said it when Sydney folded her arms over her chest and asked me,

"And what signs are those?"

I bet she didn't expect me to have my research done so well.

"She was hiding in plain sight, thinking she was safe. A scared person would actually hide and let others help them, not attack everyone helping them. Jenny kept covering her face and eyes, thinking that would protect her. Her body also gave off weird energy—" I stopped talking because Norman narrowed his eyes at Emmet as if the two were speaking silently and had caught onto something I said.

"That—" Sydney had to shut up when Kaye spoke up.

"Okay, both of you go back to your places and stand beside your team," Norman stepped away to break the circle and let us go.

Sydney scoffed at me and turned around, flipping her hair. I followed after her, and right before she could join her team and we parted ways, she muttered, "Go cry about it."

I was so annoyed with her. She was so calculated. She tried to sabotage my team by poisoning Jenny and then influencing Lucy into delaying so her own team could win.

"What a coward," I hissed, standing with Jenny and Hans.

"Okay, everyone," Emmet said, gesturing for everyone to make space between themselves and the other teams.

"So, everyone did an amazing job today. I expected just this much enthusiasm and hard work from everyone," Norman stated, his hands on his waist, standing broad and tall before us.

"But of course, there will only be three winners today," he said loudly. "The first team that won the test was pretty obvious to me. It isn't possible that Helanie is in a team and it doesn't come first."

It was a shock to hear that from him.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.