

# THE LAST KEEPER

## Chapter 61: Chapter 61: STOP

Sagiri did not have to move fast before the scene in front of him came into sight. It was a helpless scene with Kaka frantically throwing his daggers at the beast to try and distract it from Kiuga, while he still dodged too fast even for Sagiri to keep up. Kiuga was hanging on a branch, unconscious. It was remarkable that he was still hanging on by his hooked robe, even in his unconscious state. The snake was ignoring Kaka as if he did not exist, and it was only focused on devouring Kiuga.

Its mouth was wide open, its fangs inching dangerously close to Kiuga. N'varu immediately joined in the action, releasing his dagger to the creature's back. The snake did not pay any attention to him at all, either, and the situation was starting to look desperate. Sagiri, without thinking, moved in the direction where Kiuga was hanging helplessly.

"What are you doing?!" both Kaka and N'varu yelled in unison. Kaka more from irritation and N'varu from worry. Sagiri did not move too close, but he could feel the snake's intention. Its feelings were not malicious but more those of protectiveness, just like a mother hen protecting her chicks. Worst of all, it could smell blood coming from Kiuga, and that is why it was hellbent on devouring him. Blood called onto the snake.

danger was on the horizon.

"Fire the red flare!" N'varu yelled, and Sagiri immediately reached for the flare in his side pocket. It was the purple one he fumbled to put it back and retrieved another one. It was the red one. He sighed in relief, lifting it to the sky, his thumb tightly on the trigger. Just as he was about to shoot it, his legs lost footing on the branch, and both he and the flare went tumbling to the ground. He jumped after it and caught it before he hooked his rope to a branch to avoid hitting the ground. He used the momentum to swing himself

upward to a higher branch, where he perched upside down with the back of his knees.

Even suspended upside-down, Sagiri could clearly see that the situation between the two boys had grown even more desperate, and the snake was now inches from devouring him. Sagiri, in that moment, could taste the fear coming from Kaka. The guys were like a bad mixture, but they always stuck together. The fear was so distinct even as he moved with all his strength, throwing his daggers at it from all angles. It was the fear of losing someone close to you, and Sagiri could almost taste it as if it were his own. The snake's skin is made of scales and as hard as a rock, and they all bounced off of it. Sagiri pulled himself up quickly and propelled himself closer to Kiuga so fast he even surprised himself. It was as if he were being propelled by Kaka's fear.

*Stop!!*

"Stop!" His voice bellowed. The command came from within him. The power inside of him must have registered the fear as his own and stirred to life in that moment. The snake's deep rasps and low vibrations that it had been vibrating through the ground died immediately. Even its muted clicks it had been making deep in its throat to show its irritation died immediately. The forest went dead silent, everything coming to a standstill.

Sagiri could not understand how he had stopped the beast, but he could feel it fighting against the invisible force even as it remained perfectly still with its fangs wide open. N'varu and Kaka stood still for a moment and turned their gaze to look at the staring match between Sagiri and the beast. The snake's will was strong, and Sagiri could feel the invisible bindings starting to break.

"Get Kiuga!" he yelled, and Kaka, who was already moving, did not hesitate. He moved so fast, as always, going for his still unconscious friend. He retrieved another dagger, quickly cutting Kiuga loose from the branches. He threw him on his shoulders as if he weighed nothing before he started moving in the other direction.

N'varu was still frozen, watching Sagiri with admiration as if he was watching what he had wanted to see for a very long time.

"N'varu move! I won't be able to hold him for long," Sagiri announced, feeling the mountain of the snake breaking through invisible restrictions. He had a feeling that whatever he had done had nothing to do with his voice but more with his eyes. He also had a feeling that if he looked away, the snake could come for him next.

"Use the flare!" N'varu yelled, moving fast to come to Sagiri's position. It must have been Sagiri's wishful thinking to even think that the guy could go before him. Sagiri was still holding onto the red flare in his hand. Upon N'varu's instruction, he lifted his hand with his thumb tightly to the trigger. He, however, did not aim at the sky but at the mouth of the huge snake in front of him. He did not hesitate when he pulled the trigger, letting the snake burst of light move into the snake's mouth.

"Let's go!" N'varu yelled. Sagiri, however, did not have to wait because he was already moving. They moved quickly, following Kaka, who was even carrying kiuga, and with only one hand to hook himself and move in the air was still fast as if Kiuga's weight did not bother him.

They did not go far before a faint light lit the woods behind them, and a roar of both irritation and pain followed, tearing through the woods. Sagiri was sure everyone in the woods or outside heard it. It seemed the snake was hard on the outside but tender on the inside. They did not stop to check. The beast might have been fighting to protect its young ones from intruders, but they had injured it, and it was going to come at them harder than last time to seek blood.

The rain downpour had increased, adding insult to injury, the goggles got blurry now and then, forcing them to slow down. Just then, they made contact

with others who seemed like they were just coming back to aid them. They were surprised to see the other guys arrive.

"We found a cave and realized you guys were not behind us, so we came back," Ulekai yelled, trying to get the other four to hear him. He was in the company of Zoliath, Zazarie, and Bukata. "Banga is making a fire, and Maita is protecting him," he continued, but Kaka did not care to hear whatever he wanted to say.

"Lead the way!" He seethed, and Ulekai could tell that the guy was in an even more sour mood than usual, so he just nodded, leading the way. They did not move far before the low-lying cave came into sight. The opening was hidden behind a shrub, and Sagiri wondered how they had found it. The only explanation was the adrenaline. A small fire was already running, powered by some small branches. Maita and Banga were moving around the cave collecting branches. The cave seemed to have another opening to the back, but the cadets seemed to have ignored it.

Zazarie and Bukata stood guard at the entrance while Zoliath and Ulekai joined Maita in collecting firewood. Kaka picked a spot near the fire and laid Kiuga down gently.

"Support his neck," Sagiri said when he went to retrieve his hand. "His back might be hurt, and it might get damaged if his neck isn't supported properly."

"What? You are a doctor now?" Kaka asked, shooting Sagiri a glare, and for the first time, he felt like he deserved it.

"My stepmother is a healer," Sagiri answered, getting on his knees beside Kiuga and holding onto his head. Kaka did not say anything more. A stepmother could mean that maybe his father had two wives.

"Is your mother also as weak as you, or did you get it from your stepmother?" Kaka asked with venom, looking at Kiuga with worry. Sagiri could not feel any malice coming from him. Only worry was oozing off of the guy in waves, and he was just taking his frustrations out on him.

"I don't have a mother," Sagiri answered, and everyone turned to look at him. "I have a stepmother and father," he finished, sensing the confusion from the others. He proceeded to check the heartbeat of Kiuga while Kaka watched him carefully.

"His heartbeat is normal, and his breathing is getting regular," he said, and Kiuga finally stirred.

"Why are you guys so noisy?" he said, stretching as if he had just woken up from a peaceful slumber.

"King Bami, I know you are stupid, but I did not take you to be mean too. Why are you asking Sagiri such questions?" he said, his eyes still cold.

"Well, how was I supposed to know he doesn't have parents?" Kaka said in a low tone, but his tense expression steadily went down. His eyes, which were knotted tightly, were now becoming full of life as he watched his friend finally stir awake.

"You behave like a beast," Kiuga said, still lying in Sagiri's hands.

"I will kill you!" Kaka bellowed, going to slap Kiuga, but retracted his hand at the last second as if remembering Kiuga was injured. "Don't go parading yourself in front of a beast if you are too slow," Kaka seethed, going to sit on the other side of the fire.

"Well, make sure to carry me properly next time you almost burst my stomach open," kiuga said, finally fluttering his eyes open and moving closer to the fire instinctively.

"You were awake?" Kaka's voice rose an octave.

"Only half the journey," Kiuga said unbothered.

"I will kill you right after a healer confirms you are fine," Kaka said, but his earlier anxiety had receded as he stared at the fire with a deadly expression.

"Can you hear me?" Sagiri asked, ignoring their usual back and forth.

"Of course I can hear you, Sagiri the blind, I'm not as dead as you," kiuga said.

"hypocrite. you say I am a beast, yet you lack manners and call someone by their disability," Kaka said, warming his hands by the fire.

"How many fingers I'm I holding up?" Sagiri ignored the two yet again. He needed to understand how badly kiuga was hurt. He seemed like the guy to joke while he dies. he lifted three fingers in front of Kiuga's face.

"Mmh, four," kiuga answered sincerely.

"I think he might have a brain injury. We need to shoot a yellow flare and call for a healer," Sagiri said quickly. Rasha had always told him that brain injuries

were the worst, and he needed to see a healer. If his brain was swollen, then he needed even faster urgent care. Kaka shot to his feet again, a worried expression edging to his eyebrows.

"I'm kidding, Sagiri the blind, I know you are holding up the three fingers," he laughed softly, but Sagiri could tell he was in pain.

"Don't play about something like that. grow up." Kaka chastised, rubbing his brows in frustration. If Kiuga wasn't already in pain Kaka could have beaten him to a pulp.

"Spoken by the guy who stopped growing at two," kiuga shot back, groaning slightly.

"From a scale of one to ten, how much pain are you in?" Sagiri asked again.

"I think six, my back hurts like crazy. I tried to break the fall, but who knew the grave scale had it out for me and was not charmed by my looks at all," kiuga said, and Kaka could tell that if he was admitting it to be a six, then it was at least an eight.

"I should have let it eat you since it's your noise that woke it up," Kaka said, trying to hide his worry.

"It is your fault for chasing me," kiuga returned.

It's only almost midnight, I will go get some herbs to make him medicine, pain medicine, and some cold-preventing herbs for everyone," Sagiri announced, laying kiuga gently back down. "Don't move until I'm back," he instructed, heading for the door.

"I'll go with you," N'varu said without hesitation."

"I'm coming too. I can't look at his face any longer," Kaka announced too.

"Me too," Ulekai said, standing from his position by the fire.

"No, you protect Kiuga and make sure he is warm until we are back," N'varu said. "You are in charge until Kiuga is back in shape," he added before the three disappeared into the rain. Sagiri knew it was urgent to collect the herbs, and he did not care about being caught by other teams. Because of the heavy rains, however, he knew there were fewer chances to be hunted.

"I saw some herbs in the direction of the grave scale. We need to go back there," Sagiri announced, and the other two looked at him as if he had grown another head. "The grave scale is sensitive to noise, which is why we stirred it. We are not going all the way to his nest, however, the herbs are just not far from his turf," he continued.

"This easterner will kill me." Kaka cursed, but he was already unraveling his hooked ropes. Sagiri could almost feel the determination to save his friend.

## **THE LAST KEEPER #Chapter 62: THE TURN OF EVENTS - Read THE LAST KEEPER Chapter 62: THE TURN OF EVENTS Online - All Page - Novel Bin**

### **Chapter 62: Chapter 62: THE TURN OF EVENTS**

"What was that?" Kaka spoke right after they were far from the cave.

"What was what?" N'varu asked, but Kaka was already approaching sagiri. "A snake listened to you. A snake you haven't trained. Not even the Tsanka tribe can talk to snakes they haven't trained," Kaka asked, standing in front of sagiri. The Tsanka tribe of the west were known for their prowess in taming snakes and using them as weapons

too. Their tribe sometimes is referred to as the snake whisperers. The fiercest tribe of the west.

"It didn't have anything to do with him." They all stopped. The rain had slowed down but it was still heavy. If not for the fact that they were standing under a tree canopy they would have been able to hear each other.

"I know what I saw. What tribe are you?" Kaka asked his tone just as always but Sagiri could only sense weariness and curiosity.

"It's fine N'varu." Sagiri laid a hand on N'varu's back to hold him back from standing in front of him. Kaka was not stupid and if they insisted on acting oblivious it had many chances of going sour.

"I don't know how I did it. I just wanted to save Kiuga." Sagiri answered honestly and his words broke through to Kaka. Even he could see that Sagiri had done what he did to save his friend. "I also don't know my birth clan or tribe. I was adopted as an infant," Sagiri continued.

"Are you a descendant of a lost tribe?" Kaka asked, his brows knitted tightly.

"Perhaps." Sagiri answered. He had always thought he was from one of the lost tribes who had grown extinct due to war or pandemics.

"You can't tell anyone." N'varu chimed in his eyes flickering uneasily.

"I will keep it. Only just because you saved Kiuga. I don't know why the gravescale obeyed you. Maybe your lost clan kept them, but if you put any member of the team in danger again I will kill you." He said and Sagiri had a feeling he meant this time. He did not mean the team in general but Kiuga. If he put Kiuga in danger again Kaka was going to admit it. The guy cared for his friend more than he let on and Sagiri was not willing to taste the limit. He also had no desire to watch a teammate get eaten by a wild snake. That is fate he could only wish on the Tameku twins who harmed him. No one else.

"Let's move." Kaka added leading the team of three much slower and silently this time. They had only been airborne for a few minutes, swinging silently from tree to tree when the smell of blood filled the air. Sagiri did not need his sharp senses to catch the scent and neither did the other two. They all paused silently hiding between branches and leaves as they scanned the surroundings.

"Do you hear anything?" N'varu directed the question to Sagiri silently.

"It is just us and the smell of fresh death." Sagiri answered but they all remained still for a few moments.

"Let's check it out." Kaka said impulsively, jumping into action and the other two only hesitated a moment before they followed him. The smell of fresh death and blood was so thick in the air sagiri could almost taste it on his tongue. The closer they got to the scene the more nauseated he felt. They were getting dangerously close to the scene where they had engaged the Vorrash in battle and with each distance covered sagiri could feel the hairs at the back of his neck stand. Something was not right, his gut could feel it yet he could not turn around without seeing what had happened. Besides if the gravescale had killed another beast it could be sleeping to digest and not attack them.

"What is that?!" Kaka exclaimed lowly his hooked ropes stuck to the branch he was crouching on as he stared at the scene below. Two orange flares shot up at that same moment as the sagiri and N'varu came to a stop behind kaka. They burst in the sky, shading light on the gore scene in front of them. Both boys came to a stop franking kaka and silence prevailed as they watched the scene in front of them.

The grave scale was lying on the ground in a fatal position. Its insides were torn from its body and spattered around the scene as if something had torn it into pieces. Its eyes were white with no sign of life yet its body still radiated warmth as if it had not been dead for long. All the three boys had witnessed how hard the gravescale's skin had been. Yet it now lay before their eyes guts out and cut almost straight through on different parts of its body. Its skull was the hardest yet it now lay burst open. It looked like a team had gone to work on it. sagiri could not imagine anyone so vicious and strong enough to kill the beast in such a short amount of time and in the most gory way.

"It could have been the flare. Could it?" Sagiri wondered if the flare he shot down its gut was powerful enough to kill the beast.

"Its insides might be soft but the flare could only deter it for a moment and irritate it." N'varu answered

"Could it be that captain..." sagiri began to speak again but Kaka cut him off immediately.

"No. We of the bami clan don't kill our enemies for sport. Even a beast deserves an honorable death. This is the work of a person who kills for sport. the killer perfectly knew where to hit to kill the beast yet he toyed with it before bursting its skull open and tearing its insides after it was already dying." Kaka explained as if he was an expert and being raised in the north the boy was raised to be an expert in the art of war since he was old enough to walk. A purple flare lit the sky again followed but another orange one in close durations aiding sagiri in seeing the scene in front of him so clearly. It truly looked like the killer of the grave scale enjoyed killing it.

The three stared at the scene below for a moment before kaka finally spoke again.

"whoever killed it might not be far, he might have been watching us fight or came right after but something is odd." Kaka said in irritation watching the scene below in disgust.

not at the guts spattered everywhere but at how the killer had executed the kill. "How shameful." He snickered.

"I didn't feel anyone then. I don't feel anyone's presence now either." Sagiri said but he was beginning to think he missed something. Was there someone out there perhaps a student so good at keeping their presence hidden and strong enough to kill such a beast?

"Maybe it was a team." N'varu said not believing one person was able to take such a beast down.

"No. It was one person," Kaka answered immediately. It seemed he was the best among the three in breaking down a crime scene. or perhaps it wasn't his first.

"Is there a Konate student strong enough to kill it?" sagiri wondered and he could almost feel Kaka's rage rise. He hated to know someone his age was stronger than him was out there. not just him but the sagiri and kiuga did not like the idea of a student that strong being out there.

"Whoever he was, he had no honour and he did not use a dagger. It must not be a student." kaka seethed and the sagiri nodded. students were only equipped with daggers but it seemed whoever did it used something longer. like a sword. not just any sword but a sword sharp enough to cut through scale like it was wet sand.

"whoever it was might still be out there and if it was not captain salka then he might be an enemy. Let's get the herbs and leave." N'varu said, scanning their surroundings repeatedly. Since the grave scale was dead, they did not have to be scared anymore or be silent but now they were all filled with even more doubt about who was in the woods who was not captain salka or fuwuka and was strong enough to tear the beast to pieces.

"N'varu get the bamboo canes we need cups." Sagiri said. "I will get the herbs." he started lowering himself into the shrubs below. Kaka breathed sharply at the idea of being helpful but he retained his position above ground to watch sagiri and Nvaru's back. It did not take them long to get what they wanted and after a few minutes the boys headed back to the cave.

sagiri immediately got to work crushing the herbs on a rock with care and all the while kaka watched as if he feared sagiri could poison the herbs. N'varu remained outside to collect the rain water with the help of Ulekai and sagiri was stuck pounding the medicine. He collected the soup into a coned cup before moving on to the next mixture. He had never been interested in learning about healing but he had been stuck pounding herbs for Rasha many times than he could count and he had naturally learned how to do it.

"Why did you not join the Cilsu Healing Academy, you could have done well there." Kaka said, still watching sagiri pound the herbs.

"I am not as good as my stepmother when it comes to healing." he said in admiration. He had always wondered why Rusha lived in a small village when she could have made more money healing in cities. She was the best of the best yet she just preferred staying away from city life.

"You are not good at the Art of War either." Kaka continued. If sagiri could not perceive feelings he could have thought kaka hated him but the guy never oozed of hate. pride maybe but he was just wondering why sagiri could choose galka when he was not cut out to be there.

"Yes." sagiri answered. He did not want to go into details on how it was not his choice to come to Galka. Besides, the answer could have angered the guy even more. "I will try my best." he continued, finally finishing up. N'varu brought in the rain water just then and he squeezed the soup into it.

"Are you sure it is not poisonous?" Kaka asked, looking at the cup skeptically. sagiri just answered by taking a small sip and swallowing the bitter mixture before he headed to where kiuga was lying.

"Lift him up slowly" he instructed and Kaka got to work without question. kiuga had been staring at the fire saying nothing and sagiri had never seen the gut stay that silent. He must have been in a whole lot of pain. He groaned deeply when Kaka lifted him slightly.

"Hang in there, you will feel better soon." Rusha had always repeated to sagiri to always be kind to the sick and he had learned the bedside manners to a tee.

"sagiri the blind, is there something you are not good at?" Kiuga groaned, opening his mouth slightly. He gulped down the bitter substance without question before lying back down.

"He cant fight," Kaka answered and kiuga punched him slightly.

"Can you be kind to my healer," he chastised. Before Kaka could answer back, however, Kiuga's eyes started rolling back to the back of his head and Kaka's eyes widened in horror.

"what did you do?!" his voice accused looking between sagiri and kiuga, who had passed out like a light with no warning. " He was fine just now. kiuga! kiuga!" he bellowed and even sagiri could feel the fear and murder intent directed at him. If he wasn't busy calling his friend's name, Sagiri could have been dead. All the guys suddenly came alert jumping in to see what had happened.

"Did you kill him?" Kaka was too frantic to even check Kiuga's pulse. The cafe fell into chaos and commotion faster than sagiri could even speak but he had to before things got out of hand.

"The herbs kill pain but they have side effects." he started and Kaka paused and glared at him. "He will be asleep for four hours at least." he finished and breaths were finally drawn.

"Why didn't you just say that sooner." Maita pinched his brows.

"I did not think it was necessary." sagiri answered, looking at Kiuga, who was passed out peacefully. Everyone fell silent at once and now that they were silent they could hear kiuga snoring.

### **Chapter 63: Chapter 63: FAMILIAR ACQUAINTANCE**

"I will also take the first watch." Sagiri said, starting to head to the entrance.

"No you won't." Kaka intervened. "You sleep now so that you are awake when kiuga wakes up."

It was past midnight and the rain had finally eased to a drizzle. They boys had just taken the cold medicine sagiri made and they were all warming against the fire after sagiri told them there was no one deeper in the cave or outside the cave. now that sagiri had stopped to listen. His body was actually more worn out and since he had merged with his power earlier on to save kiuga. He was worn out and cold. Perhaps Kaka has seen that and he just did not want the only guy who knew about healing to die before morning. sagiri however had other plans in mind. He was not planning to sleep at all. He wanted to go back to see if he was able to go through the snake's last memories. His body however was starting to feel warm on the outside and cold on the inside, as if something was happening inside of him.

He did not want to argue with kaka so he just nodded and sat much closer to the the fire. he chose to fall into conscious slumber. It was the most effective sleep. He sat in a meditative position and closed his eyes. Everyone was familiar with meditating since they did it every morning so to everyone apart from N'varu it could just seem like he was meditating.

He let himself shut out everything around him to the corner of his mind and instead decided to push his senses far beyond the cave. As he fell deeper he tried to push his senses as far as possible. Far into the woods. It was easy at first and he was starting to sink deeper into the song of the forest, but suddenly as if something slapped him he jolted awake with a gasp. to him it might have been a few minutes but an hour had passed and kiuga Maita banga, Ulekai and Zoliath were lying peacefully around the fire. he gasped loudly making the four guarding the cave mouth to turn to him.

"I told you something is wrong with your body." N'varus' voice was the first to reach his ears. He was also the closest to him as he stood watch. It was as if he had been protecting him from internal threats of protecting everyone from any external threat.

"I think so too now. It is as if my body has a broken part and until I figure it out I won't be able to." Sagiri said feeling the cold inside his body grow even more. The fire was still going and everyone by the fire was dry now but he had not felt any warmer on the inside and his outside body was burning even more.

"Just rest. I know what you think of doing and I won't allow it." N'varu said, staring Sagiri in the eyes, scanning sagiri as if he could read thoughts. The two had been sticking together for long anyway and they were starting to understand each other without saying anything. Sagiri was trying to send his senses so far out and taste if he could touch the memory of the snake without touching it. After Kaka said the bami clan did not kill without honour he had not been able to stop thinking about who could have been strong enough to deliver such damage in such a long time. of course he hadn't been able to and he had fared even badly because his body was breaking down or in. he had wanted to go after N'varu slept but that was an impossibility now. he could tell that N'varu was not going to sleep till morning. he was going to watch him even more fiercely now.

*'I will find another way'*

Sagiri thought again, cursing his body for choosing this moment to fail him. He lay close to the fire and before he could think further he was out like a light. He did not even wake up for the second watch. When he finally jolted awake everyone was already awake.

"You are finally awake." kiuga was sitting beside him looking much better. It seemed the pain medicine had worked wonders. rasha usually gave it to patients with broken bones and it had some healing aspects to it. The dose he made might have been a bit too strong but he could not know how deep the guy was injured. Even his pale eyes were now sparkling. "What did you give me, Sagiri the blind? I have never slept so well in my entire life. you have to make it for me sometime." kiuga continued his enthusiasm back, stronger than ever. All the other guys were scattered around the cave sharpening their daggers and talking about whatever. Kaka and N'varu were the only ones still standing guard and sagiri could tell the guy had not slept a moment. It was the early hours of the morning but it was still dark outside. The heavy darkness before daylight.

"It is meant for sick people." Sagiri answered remembering how many times rush had refused to give him sleep inducing pills. She had insisted that they were for sick people and his nightmares and weird dreams were not an illness. He had stolen a few when he was younger but then when her mother had bought it a patient who was in so much pain and she could not find the pills to put him to sleep he had regretted it. Rasha did not scold him as always. She never did but he had scolded himself and left the medicine for those who needed them the most.

"I am still in pain." kiuga faked a wail holding on to his foot.

"One more doze then." sagiri said thinking even if the guy was faking his wails he needed one more Dosage. Two Dosages were what rasha gave the least injured.

"If you give him another doze now and he falls asleep. I will throw you both in a gravescale nest," Kaka said, turning around swiftly. He of course knew the gravescale was dead but Kiuga didn't. Him, N'varu and Sagiri did not tell the others what had happened and it was a mutual silence agreement which they did not even have to discuss. If the other guys knew that someone had killed the gravescale in such a short amount of time and it was most gory possible then the team could have fallen into disarray and with Kiuga injured it could have been fatal. Even so the three planned to tell Captain Salka or Fuwuka once their exercise was complete.

"You are such a mean king of Bami, I almost died you know. Have some pity." Kiuga faked a pitiful face but to Sagiri it was not fake. He could actually feel fear rolling off of Kiuga in waves. It was valid since the guy had almost died and since the guy was the glue of the team Sagiri felt alarmed. He might have been acting enthusiastic but he was shaken. Who couldn't anyway? It was a wonder the guy was not curled into a ball in a corner shivering.

"When I was nine I went hunting for squirrels myself and almost got eaten by a pack of wolves." The words tumbled out of Sagiri's mouth. "I still have the bite mark of their alpha on my inner thigh. If my step father hadn't come looking for me in time I could have surely died. I still remember the pain." He finished and Kiuga turned to him. Understanding flashed on his face before he plastered the smile back.

"You see only Sagiri, the blind understand me." Kiuga said, pulling Sagiri into his armpit and ruffling his hair. Even so, Sagiri could feel the fear in him going down. Of course his words could not just heal him but relating pain to someone can make it easier to carry. Sagiri was sure the guy was going to have nightmares for a while but for now he just needed him calm enough to use his head to come up with another strategy. When he was done mishandling him he finally let him go and Sagiri pulled his hoodie down covering his hair again.

"I would not have let it eat you," Sagiri said again more to himself and he meant it. Kiuga stopped laughing and stared at him for longer this time. When he finally spoke his voice was steady.

"We should get moving, we have been dormant long enough." He started standing on his feet.

"We have been dormant because we were babysitting you," Kaka shot back but Kiuga ignored him.

"We covered an almost two hours distance from the gate. We need to get back as soon as possible. But we must be aware that now is the time most teams are going to strike, because I know I could do so, we avoid many teams as much as possible with the help of Sagiri which will be almost impossible since we are all headed in the same direction. So we move with Sagiri at the front this time in an arrow formation." He said and the sounds of daggers being sheathed echoed in the cave. "Everyone looked tired but

energetic now that Kiuga was back in charge. He proceeded to give everyone instruction before they all lined up behind Sagiri.

"Move out!" He said and sagiri unraveled his hooked ropes. He stood at the entrance for a long moment stretching his senses to perceive any movement before he took off into the darkness. kiuga putting him in the lead when he was the slowest was another strategy in itself. After an hour of all being airborne and swinging from tree to tree sagiri finally perceived something. It seems he was the only one who had led his team into enemy territory and no one had been bold enough to go there. He stopped immediately and the queue behind him came to a stop too.

"Four on our way." he announced. "They are not moving," he continued. He could perceive the presence of four people two hundred feet away but they were not moving.

"keep moving. four is not a match for us. even so attack only if necessary." Kiuga instructed and sagiri kept moving in the direction of the four. They kept getting closer and closer yet the four did not move and he finally understood why when they broke into the clearing ahead. Dawn had finally started breaking through the horizon and they did not need goggles to see the four. only that they were six now. He only perceived the other two right when they were about to break into the clearing. The four were three boys with a girl all from Konate and they were standing staring at the point where sagiri had just broken through. He almost faltered but he lowered himself to the ground peacefully. the other two who he didn't perceive further off were sitting at the rear back of the four. It was a girl sitting in a log and a boy standing beside him.

It might have been blurry but he remembered the scene perfectly. He had seen it before. Back when he was in his village. The girl perched on the tree seemed to not have grown a day. Her weapon that was coiled around her arms was engraved with a totem of a desert falcon known to the Nfari tribe. Standing behind her as if to guard her was the wide eyed boy looking to have just turned sixteen but with a body of an eleven year old. Just like four years ago when they had come for him in the Wuzi village. His tattoo was marked by a jawbone pattern around the mouth that gave it all away. He was from the leading clan Haku of the Shoku tribe of the north. He had grown a few inches taller but the duo was still as weird to him as ever. The only thing that had changed was that they were now wearing Konate uniforms and the four Konate students were standing guard in front of them willingly.

Sagiri's team came to a stop behind him, flanking him on all sides staring at the scene in front of them.

"I thought you said four." Kaka said, staring down the six with hostility. Their flasks remained unpopped and they were dry even after the heavy downfall.

"You again." sagiri seethed, his mouth pulled in a snarl. The echo inside him had branded them his enemies and right now it had done the same.

"You know them." N'varu asked, staring at the six.

"Not the four. the two behind them." he said menacingly. He barely recognized his voice.

"the freaks?" kiuga asked, staring at the wide eyed weird looking kids who had not blinked once ever since they broke into the clearing.

## **Chapter 64: Chapter 64: HYPNOSIS**

The stare down went on for a long moment with the weird pair not taking their eyes off sagiri for a long moment.

"I should kill them." Kaka said moving forward but a hand on his shoulders stopped him.

"Remember they have been here longer and they don't look phased by our arrival. There might be traps." Kiuga said and Kaka returned to his position.

"How do you know the freaks?" Kiuga asked, perfectly composed. He always had a cool head in assessing situations.

"They came to the village with scouts to seek me when I was twelve." he answered without breaking eye contact with them.

"They don't look friendly at all," Maita said with his nose in the air. Just like Kaka, he was spoiling for a fight.

"They are not my friends." Sagiri said sinking low and the weird kids finally moved. The girl blinked and started running to the direction of the inner nonagon without a warning. The boy from the Haku clan ran after her. They were fast and they disappeared into the woods. The four who were standing like a barricade in front of the weirdos remained standing even long after the two behind them left.

"Being brave is good but those four look stupid still holding a standoff against us. They are clearly out numbered." Kiuga yawned as if he hadn't just slept for four hours.

"That is not the case." N'varu said. "They are not even looking at us." he said and everyone looked closer. The four seemed like they were staring into nothingness.

"What is wrong with them?" Zoliath asked, stepping out of the formation.

"Hypnosis." zazarie spoke and everyone turned to him.

"Those two must have hypnotized them." Bukata added and everyone gasped.

"No wonder she wasn't blinking. She must be of the Nfari tribe." Kiuga finally nodded all the pieces, finally fitting into his head. "I thought that is their secret art and they use it only when against a lethal opponent. Why are they scared of you Sagiri the blind?" Everyone turned curiously to look at Sagiri but just like them he did not have an answer.

"Maybe they think I'm someone I'm not." he said, losing the defensive position and straightened on his feet.

"How shameful of the Haku tribe to protect a Nfari." Kaka snickered. He was not even bothered by the hypnosis.

"You have been dying to pop flasks, why don't you go ahead and pop the four." Kiuga said to Kaka and it hit a nerve just like he wanted. He was always getting under Kaka's skin.

"I have honour, popping balloons of a helpless opponent is not honorable." Kaka snarled about going to chase Kiuga but he faked being in pain and Kaka stopped. He was stretching his self pity so far.

"Let's wake them." Sagiri said, already heading towards them. Before he reached them however the four gasped coming back to their senses at the same time. They wheeled around as if looking for the two but when they did not find them their eyes rested on the team of ten a few feet from them. Sagiri could perceive their heavy feelings of confusion then followed by hopelessness, especially from the girl who seemed more scared of the three. They checked their flasks and when they found them unpoped their helplessness grew. They had somehow managed to keep their flasks intact till morning and looked at the group of them with two huge Bami clan descendants. They knew they did not have a chance.

"You are finally awake." Kiuga said, yawning again. It seemed the herbs side effects had not completely worn off yet. The Konate students did not even answer. They just stared at them wearily. Waiting for them to execute their attack.

"Let's go." Sagiri said changing trajectory. The four were not his target. He wanted to catch up to the two and make them explain why they were after him. He was the lead of the formation anyway and the others followed him. Just like Kaka had said where was the honour of popping their flasks when they were still confused. It was completely dishonorable to fight an opponent who is already down.

Dawn had now completely broken and the team put their goggles away. The team did not encounter other teams on the way. They did not get to fight any team the whole night yet they had encountered two bizarre things and they were more than done with the exercise. Team 25 was the last to break through the woods and all others were already gathered. Those with popped and those with unpoped balloons all stood in neat lines. The sun was already breaking through the horizon when they broke through the tree line. After they witnessed the hypnosis they moved even more slowly. Even the four

must have passed them at some point because they were standing on the front line with their flasks intact.

"It seems the cat is out of the basket now." Kiuga said, his eyes stopping at the tamelku twins who were eyeing them with a barren expression. "You better stick to the king of bami in the next round if you don't want to die." he added and kaka snickered.

"Cadets in line!" Miss Lakiya announced scaling down the gate. She had been perched atop the gate watching the cadets arrive.

"We only had two hundred flasks popped, much to my disappointment." She started taping her head. "Now then, I shall announce the results. It was almost a tie between konate wild and galka war academy. 176 from the Galka War Academy retained their balloons and 134 from konate retained their flask." she announced with little joy. It was as if she wanted only two out three cadets to retain their flasks.

"No one died so I will take it that the half exercise was a success. Now then, those with burst flasks walk on your hands to the dining wing." she announced. "Those without burst flasks. join them you only gained an extra life for the next match. move!" she laughed watching the others walk away. Team 25 did not move however and after they saluted miss lakiya they made a beeline towards captain salka.

"I thought the principal asked you to protect the recruit till the exercise is over. Don't tell me you are tired already." Captain Salka said, leaning further on the wall. A bow was rightly held in his left hand and a quiver full of arrows was resting by his left boot. It seemed he had been in the woods too to hunt or do whatever he enjoyed doing. Seeing his choice of weapon sagiri was even more sure he was not the one who had finished off the gravescale

"That is not the case, captain." Kiuga spoke first.

"We were attacked by a gravescale deep in the eastern woods." N'varu chimed in.

"You were asked not to go too far. Since none of you is dead then there is no cause for alarm. The outer nonagon district has all wild animals you can think of for your own training. As you know the woods have always been here and the founders just established a wall around and the inner nonagon deep in the woods.

"We understand Captain." Kiuga answered, ready to leave with the rest. Apart from the three no one else knew the gravescale had died.

"The Vorrash is dead." Kaka said and everyone who had not witnessed it wheeled around.

"If you killed it as a team then it is not something to be worried about. I'd say you make a good team if you managed to bring the beast down with only daggers." Captain Salka said, his chest was visibly swelling with pride.

"It wasn't us. Someone killed it in the most dishonorable way." Kaka said and Salka's eye brows rose.

"What?" he asked, pushing his back off the wall.

"I went back near the nest to pick herbs for Kiuga with N'varu and Kaka, it hadn't been long since it injured Kiuga yet it was dead when we got back. The killer did not use a dagger either." Sagiri explained as fast as he could. He had a bad feeling since they found the gravescale dead and he had not been able to get rid of it. It was as if someone had killed it for show.

"Where did you say that was?" Salka asked, his attention piqued.

"Deep in the eastern woods." N'varu answered by pointing with his hand.

"Don't speak of this. Now leave before I punish you for failing to use the red flare." He seethed already moving. He put an object to his mouth and blew air into it. The death call whistle. He did not even wait for anyone before he disappeared through the gate into the woods.

"It is dead?" kiuga asked at a loss for words. "You went back there to get me herbs near its nest?" He asked both questions simultaneously but no one answered. It seemed all the boys were tongue tied. Even as they got on their hands and walked to the dining room with the exception of sagiri who was still not able to hold a handstand for long, no one spoke.

The ten were the last to arrive at the dining wing. Everyone was wolfing down their food to even pay them any attention. They ended up pooling at one table. No one spoke even then as if they had made a silent pact not to talk about the incident.

"Hey?" a soft voice broke the silence and everyone turned around. sagiri was sitting closest to the edge and when he looked up the girl among the four from earlier was standing beside him and looking directly at him.

"You must be the sagiri, the aged student and suffocation chamber protegee." she now appeared less timid. she must have been scared because of the confusion of coming out of the hypnosis. "I am Marana Beshaku of the Bashu tribe." She introduced. Her right hand went to her left wrist pushing the hem of the combat suit back. She wrapped her hand around it before pushing her left wrist tightly to her breast. The tattoo of a Spiral tail wrapping around the wrist was a known marking of her clan and her showing it 'unintentionally' in greeting was a sign that she was honoring him and something more.

"Sagiri the blind, it seems she considers you a worthy partner to marry." Kiuga cheered and the whole table came alive.

"Your praises I don't deserve." Sagiri said and he meant it. It was his benefactor's idea to put him in the suffocation chamber and he survived by mere luck. He did not deserve her praises. Her deep brown eyes narrowed and a small smile reached her face.

"Do the two wide eyed kids who hypnotized you usually backstab their comrades?" Maita asked.

"What two?" the girl asked as if she did not know who hypnotized them. Of course that was the use of hypnosis. You take control of your enemies mind for a while and you can choose to modify what they remember. That must have been the case.

"Thank you for letting us keep our flasks." She did the same gesture but without showing her tattoo. Her eyes still remained on Sagiri. "Since you helped me this time I will be sure to return the favour in the next match if it calls for it. pressed her hand to her breast again before leaving.

"Sagiri you have to teach me your charm, she totally wants to marry you." Ulekai groaned in jealousy. "I have never had a girl show me her clan tattoo, I'm so jealousy." he laid his head on the table.

"She only wanted to show gratitude to all of us," Sagiri said wondering why everyone suddenly thought the girl wanted him as a life partner.

"Oh Sagiri the blind, you are more blind than I thought. She showed you her tattoo," Kiuga said. In some customs and tribes a girl only showed her tribal tattoo to the man she wished to marry. Most of those tattoos were in hidden parts of the body like the lower back, in the thighs and even waist. Her wrist was not so hidden and to Sagiri it was just unintentional.

"He is right, the girl just wanted to show gratitude." Kaka was also at a loss for words too not understanding Kiuga's logic, and everyone at the table stared between the two.

"King of Bami, not you too." Kiuga slapped a hand to his face.

"I have failed," Kiuga shook his head as if he was in physical pain.

## **Chapter 65: Chapter 65: HIS REFLECTION**

"I assure you the subject is of perfect shape but we shall not put all our eggs in one basket my lord." Sir Black said his head bowed in his position on his knees almost touching the earth. "I only suggest we go this far just to see if the rumors are true. Besides, we already know with that psychopath at the top they will never see the day of light when they get discovered."

"If you already thought it through, why do you have to ask me." The voice behind the veil answered in boredom. He hated when people wasted his time the most. "I did not give you this job so you can inform me on any unnecessary detail." The man did not care about processes. He just cared about results

"I apologize for my incompetence but only disturb you with these unimportant things because the help I hired this time needs something only you can give." Sir Black said his voice sweet as honey. His tongue was even more slippery than usual dripping with honey.

"And what might be this thing that only I can give be?" The voice asked in a flat tone.

"Only your most treasured Sukova my lord." He answered carefully knowing he was now threading on thin ice. He only asked this because unfortunately the help he had hired did not have any interest in money. His demand was the one thing. One thing that was worthy more than money.

"You dare ask for my most treasured collection?" The voice was filled with even much boredom now with a little disappointment. He needed to thread softly. The man behind the veil was unpredictable and Sir Black treasure his life above everyone else's.

"I dare not, commander. I only ask for your second most treasured collection. No one knows you have it and we can always retrieve it when he dies anyway." Sir Black words dripped of honey. The weapon was the only missing puzzle in his plan.

"I take it then that you have thought of a plan and my most treasured weapon will not be lost in vain." The voice asked, unwilling to part even with one of his toys.

"The plan is impeccable and we will not suffer losses no matter who doesn't make it out alive." Sir Black said with a little excitement. He hated loose ends and the plan he had set in motion was airtight.

"What other good news do you have for me, I don't want to hear any more requests from you?" the voice behind the veil said in boredom. The voice never changed to happiness or anger. Just dissatisfaction and boredom most of the time.

"I have made progress with the other subject. however the facility is running low on workers." he said in a saddened tone.

"That won't be the case if you just stopped killing them." The voice behind the veil said in boredom again.

"Workers will be provided but I doubt that is the only reason you are here Taola." The commander knew Sir Black well. There were a few things one could get away with or hide from the man. It was only wise to never hide things from the man.

"You know me well sir, I plan to make a short trip to get more ingredients for my new subject. It might take me no less than two months."

"You can do whatever you want as long as you don't fail. I doubt that you came here to ask for permission." The voice snickered. It is not like he cared what Taola did half the time. He only expected and waited for results.

"I fear I may need a new identity. I'm going out of Tagayia." sir black said.

"It is not that you haven't been out of Tagayia before, you already know only the rule. If you get caught you know I will kill you myself before I get branded a traitor to tagayia." The voice answered with little emotion. sir black knew he meant every word and threat.

"For this mission I need to be caught and imprisoned in the state of Lanka. However, I need you to break me out with someone when the time is right." Sir black said and there was silence finally.

"So you want me to help you go in and out of a prison in the state of Lanka?" there was movement before something crushed. "Are you getting greedy? Or do you perhaps think that my influence is infinite?" The voice hissed with slight mockery.

"I dare not get greedy my lord but under the prison of Lanka imprisoned for a lifetime is one doctor who once had interests like mine. only he was not lucky to meet someone like you who saw a talent in me. I need to get him out to finish the present subject. It's all for you sir and once we finish this we might not have an upper hand." sir black could feel the disappointment from his benefactor and he knew he was dangerously close to losing a limb or worse his neck. However, he could have asked if it wasn't completely necessary.

"You have grown, I see Taola, you are no longer the small boy who refused to eat when your subjects die." The voice started after another long moment of silence. "Fine. I will grant you this wish but if you get caught in Lanka I will kill you both and proceed with the present subject." he said in a bored tone again and sir black breathed a sigh of relief.

"I'm forever grateful to you sir." Sir black lowered his head touching his nose to the earth in respect.

"Leave now." the voice said after yet another moment of prolonged silence and sir black did not have to be asked twice. The man might have taken him under his wing when he was just a boy but the man was also unpredictable and paranoid. The worst thing he could do was think that he was irreplaceable. He needed to make himself so useful that he was irreplaceable.

"Yes sir."

"And Taola, try to keep longer the assistants I sent you this time." The voice added when sir black turned to leave.

"I will try." he smiled widely. This was the only hobby of his the commander indulged and he knew the man did not care how many sir black eliminated.

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Taola might have considered himself crazy but anytime he stood in front of the deranged guy in front of him he always felt a bit normal. They both had deadly hobbies, only that the one in front of him had no self control and actually chased his desires openly instead of privately. It was both enviable and scary to watch how far a man could go when he completely submitted to his desires with no restraint. perhaps he was the one who was hypocritical for thinking they were different

The best part about dealing with the guy was that he only needed a weapon and no rules. Just the assurance that he could go crazy and do whatever he wanted was all he needed. His weapon never stopped until no more hearts still beat. He was on the top of the list for wanted yet he always managed to evade his captors by ending them of course. if Taola did not need him for most tasks that he did not want to dirty himself he could have actually used the guy as a subject or beat against his subjects to see who was more animal.

"So there are no rules you say?" he asked, circling Taola several times. He was the definition of a man who had given into his darker self so much he had become less than a wild animal.

"You know there are no rules for you Rat." Taola said, trying to match the guy's craziness. He always doubted that something happened to the guy when he was just a child. something so bad that he never recovered. He was not one to speak however because his father killed his mother and asked him to sew her together again and again until she came back alive. His mother of course never came back to life and that had only made him receive more beatings. so he could only sow his mother together again and again. Even when his rotting skin started falling off her bones he still sewed her together.

When her skin started falling off the bones is when his father finally stopped and moved to something worse. He started to bring home dead carcasses of animals so he could sow them together with her mothers corpse. He wanted him to make a humanoid. Of course both endeavors were futile but his father had tied him in the house in chains and he was not going to allow him to leave until he had made a living person or creature out of the dead mass. After a while he stopped even smelling the rotting flesh and just sowed over and over.

The most ironic part was that his father was their village healer and he was loved by everyone. He brought babies into the world. To everyone he was such a perfect person

who could not even harm a fly. He was the perfect example of evil yet to the people outside he was the best. Evil in its perfect form was sometimes wrapped in the most purest veil. That is why he loved to deal with Rat because he was the same in and out. Yet sometimes he found it a little sad.

When the rot smelled so unbearable that even the closest neighbour who lived a few Vaara away came to investigate. All he found was a boy tied to chains sowing dead flesh together. His father had been out of town for weeks then and he had not had anything to eat. He had been even tempted to eat the rotting flesh but settled on eating his waste. It was truly a picture of horror. Even when his father turned all the blame on him, everyone believed him and he was sent to the junior prison academy where he could come to know the definition of cruelty.

"You will get me my treat then?" he stopped circling and stopped in front of Taola. His eyes were even more dead than Taola's and the only favour that Taola could do him was send him to his last mission so he could get away from this world. Guys like him and Rat were a disease who needed to be put down like animals. He knew that more than anything yet he hated people who created monsters like him.

"I always get you your treats." He smiled and the other guy smiled even wider. and for a moment it was like staring into a mirror. The reflection was the reason he had to help his commander create a better world. A world where no one had the power to create more monsters like himself. That was the only reason he still lived. He wanted to see the new world his commander could create and he was going to help him achieve it. Nothing and no one was going to stand in his way. A world perhaps where he could see his mother grow old. She had been stupid enough to be deceived with a man like his father. Sometimes he blamed her stupidity for living in the same house with the definition of evil yet she never realized. She on the other hand was just innocent both on the inside and outside and that was even more repulsive to him. To even imagine that such innocence, such oblivious innocence existed in the midst of so much evil repulsed him.

"Guess then it's almost time to have fun and make it rain." The other man laughed so loud and chilling but Taola never felt fear of chills anymore, just the urge to survive long enough to create a world where children would never know what it is like to take apart and sow together your dead mother over and over again.

## **Chapter 66: Chapter 66: HIS NEW FACE**

After the breakfast session was over the next exercises were based on weapon dances both schools competed against each other. To sagiris luck only the best fifty participated on different weapons. Of course kaka asakana was good in sword art, spear art, daggers, hand combat and when it came down to the show down between the schools top one students of course kaka asakana also represented the school. When the showdowns came to an end the instructors left the cadets of both schools to get to know each other. Sagiri could have wanted to know about the freaky duo in a not so friendly

way but he had not seen them again after the encounter in the woods. As if they had disappeared into thin air.

Everyone had already marked a worthy opponent after the weaponry dances and hand combat dance and of course those without pride issues like kaka went as far as asking to be taught by whomever they thought superior. No one dared approach Kaka to teach him except of course for Marana who Kaka turned down saying a woman was too fragile for him to teach. Kiuga almost died of a heart attack at how blunt his friend was but he already knew it was futile to explain to most of the northern clans that women were not just fragile. Kiuga had not participated in the showdowns because of his injury and a warning from his healer 'sagiri' who insisted he not push himself because it could risk more injuries.

Marana of course came to ask sagiri to teach him and sagiri had to turn her down explaining he was still not good at many things. It didn't stop there however because many cadets from Konate wanted to fight against the suffocation chamber protegee and with everyone he turned down he could tell they were starting to take it as if he was prideful and not just an armature. He had his mysterious benefactor to thank for that. That was not the only reason however. Even if he could he wouldn't because his body was starting to feel even more cold and warm. He was freezing on the inside and melting on the outside. His birthday was coming up first at midnight and he wondered if he was just nervous and scared of turning

Warmth sat on his skin, a dull heat that made his clothes cling, yet inside him something was cold. It was deep, slow, spreading through his chest and gut like winter water seeping into stone. It wasn't painful. It was worse, it felt like a separation was starting inside of him. As if his body and whatever lived beneath it were no longer moving together.

His breath fogged faintly when he exhaled.

His muscles felt tight, then loose, then tight again, unable to settle. When he flexed his fingers, the movement lagged a heartbeat behind his will. His heart beat steady, but wrong, each thud too deliberate, too aware.

Then he noticed the smell. Just like N'varu had said earlier on in the day. The scent oozing off of him was different. Something he had never smelled before. It was not the smell of sweat or natural human smell. It was as if something sharp and unfamiliar clung to his skin, metallic and bitter, like crushed leaves mixed with iron. Even he didn't recognize it. It made his stomach turn, made him feel exposed, like prey shedding one scent and taking on another.

The cadets were set to sleep after lunch and he barely ate before he was the first to leave to the dormitory wing. Food tasted like sand in his mouth. His tongue felt rough as if it was made of a rough material. N'varu could see his suffering but it did not seem like a medical condition. He was not sweating much on the contrary as if the core inside of

him was swallowing all the sweat his body was generating. It was as if his own body was fighting against itself. The power inside of him was silent, almost too silent. It had never been that silent inside of him. Even when he was too injured he could still feel the power inside of him roam in his veins. Now however only the markings on his skin stirred without a glow. He had only ever experienced something remotely close when he turned six. It was when the power inside of him first stirred violently but then his mother was there to give him sleeping pills and after a whole night of sleep he was back to normal.

Now however he felt worse. Nothing had happened to him before could come close to the feeling of his body tearing itself apart. He even more now felt sensitive to any noise and being stuck together with half a thousand cadets chatting away and excited after sparring against each other. All he wanted was to bury his head in the water where he could hear nothing. He now more than ever wanted to go back in the freezing pool willingly. His senses of perception had become even sharper and not even the oru-shells could save him from that.

even in his dorm room he did not find peace either. He could not sleep because his skin was too sensitive now. Even the touch of the sheets and his clothes were enough to make him want to cry. he tried to take a shower to rid himself of the pain and the water felt like a burning liquid had touched his skin. he groaned in pain and decided against using the water. he wanted to go to the central pentagon but he was even more scared to leave his room in case something happened to him while he was outside.

an hour after he was back in his room things got worse than he had imagined. His joints ached as if being pulled apart and reassembled. Heat rolled across his shoulders while his spine felt hollow and cold. His thoughts fractured, clear one moment, distant the next. He pressed a hand to his chest, half-expecting to feel something tearing loose. the dorm wing had gone completely silent and he could tell everyone was asleep before without even concentrating to take in his surrounding. He tried to fall into meditative slumber to escape the pain but he was jolted to reality just like at the cave when he tried to get into meditative slumber. He could not even begin to fall into conscious meditative slumber. He might have pushed himself to get into one when he was in the freezing pool but now whenever he tried it was as if it amplified his pain.

there was nothing left for sagiri to do to escape the pain other than lay there and feel it. he could not cry so he just whimpered and took the pain. For the entire five hours after they were allowed to sleep, he did not get a drop of sleep or rest. He peeled his body out from his mattress and stood in front of his door.

Sagiri's patience had thinned. He could feel himself standing at the edge of something and he almost did not want anyone to stand beside him. Meditation was not relaxing to him like it usually did and just sitting still for a few minutes nearly drove him mad. He would have liked to say that after suffering pain and torment for a few hours he had gotten used to it but he hadn't and it was still unbearable. The pain gnawing at his body made what the tamelku twins did to him sound like a paper slap. At least then he had

pain medication to put him out of his misery. Now however he could not even ask for those from the healing wing because he could not get any.

As the meditation period ended everyone started moving, sounds grated against him footsteps too loud, voices too slow, the scrape of cloth against stone. Things that never bothered him before now felt intrusive, almost hostile. He sat opposite N'varu who was wise enough not to utter a word. He stared at his food in distaste and could not get himself to take a bite no matter how long time passed. It smelled odd and looked plain.

"you barely ate during lunch hour. if you don't eat now you will be too weak for the next exercise." Nvaru finally spoke when sagiri showed no sign of eating his food. It was the first time he had spoken after a long time and he could not even recognize his voice.

He answered when spoken to, but his words came shorter, flatter. It took effort not to snap. He failed obviously as the cold settled behind his eyes. N'varu might have asked the question because he cared but it was all he needed to snap.

"If you are so hungry why don't you eat it yourself." he snapped and pushed his plate towards N'varu some of it spilling along the edges. He did not stop there however. he pushed out of his chair with so much force it slid a few feet before he stood to his feet. He gave nvaru another cold glare before he wheeled around on his feet to leave without watching where he was going. He ran into a body and that put him even more on edge than usual. He stepped back making an irritated sound at the back of his tongue before he looked up to see the tall figure he had run into.

It was the king of Bami and he did not seem startled just looking at him with an empty expression waiting for him to get out of his way. Before he went to bed he could have apologized and stepped out of the way but even looking at the towering guy pushed him to the edge.

"Watch where you are going." he snarled, voice cold, and kiuga who was not expecting the exchange, whistled. He had never seen sagiri on edge before and he was beside himself. Kaka narrowed his eyes but did not make a move. He exchanged looks between nvaru and the short boy who was glaring at him. him and kiuga had seen the small exchange between the two. Yet he still hated how the boy had taken it out on him. He was not a patient person either and if the boy was spoiling for a fight he was going to give him one.

"Don't mind him. It is entirely my fault." N'varu said, jumping to his feet quickly and rounding the table. The statement made sagiri even more angry and he turned around and looked at sagiri with so much venom.

"Stay out of my business," he gritted before he rounded kaka and headed for the door.

"Did you two fight, I have never seen blind boy that mad?" sagiri barely heard kiuga speak as he stepped out into the hallway. The tamelku twins were standing directly

opposite the door and he could have sworn even nature itself was trying to torment him. He could have felt uncomfortable or concentrated on the hate that always rolled off of them but this time he was like a raging bull. He didn't even pause in his steps as he walked and stopped directly in front of them.

Their confident facade did not falter once even as he came to stop in front of them. He stared at them feeling even more disgusted than usual standing in their presence. They were vermin who thought it was their right to harm anyone to feel superior.

"The smell of hate surrounding you doesn't fade even when you shower, does it?" he said in a low voice that was full of disgust. For a moment they were pretty taken aback. They had not expected him to come out and say that to them.

"What did you just say, new boy?" nakea said his voice was still void of any emotion but sagiri could feel the controlled rage he was hiding.

"Does ganging up on a 'new boy' in the dark like the vermin you are make you feel any superior." Sagiri said and other cadets who stood around the tamelku twins gasped. sagiri was raging for a fight and the pain in his bones was driving him mad. He did not know whether he craved for relief or more pain that could surpass the pain inside of him.

"Are you accusing us, new boy?" Makea spoke this time cracking his knuckles.

"I never said anything Makea, why do you sound so guilty?" Sagiri said in a foreign singsong voice. "Are you the vermin that can only attack others in the dark because you can't take it that a new boy beat you in your tribe's secret art?" he almost whispered with how much venom he was spitting into his voice. A small group had now gathered from both schools.

"I don't know what you are talking about." Nakea spoke finally, some of the controlled anger breaking to his voice.

"What are you gonna do nakea and makea. break my ribs again?" sagiri seethed again. He could feel how much the two boys wanted to tear him into shreds but instead of getting scared he was getting more excited.

"Come on boys. Show everyone how strong you were in that dark corner." His lip rose in a humorless smile. "are you scared I'm going to tell senraki on you and you will perhaps lose a finger? a leg? a toe?" a laugh escaped his throat so malicious that those gathered around got chills.

"Shut up with the nonsense, new boy." Makea said, trying to hide his panic.

"You wanna kill me, don't you, So I won't tell on you?" sagiri pushed. it was as if he wanted something to break and until it did he was not going to stop. he was not himself

and he knew it but he loved whatever was wrong with him. It was like a fire was lighting up inside of him and he wanted to burn someone.

## **Chapter 67: Chapter 67: OUT OF CONTROL**

*"You wanna kill me, don't you, So I won't tell on you?"* sagiri pushed. it was as if he wanted something to break and until it did he was not going to stop. he was not himself and he knew it but he loved whatever was wrong with him. It was like a fire was lighting up inside of him and he wanted to burn someone.

*'Is that the suffocation chamber protegee?'*

*'he seems crazy'*

*'he must have been crazy to try the suffocation chamber'*

"Are you trying to start a fight?" Makea asked, getting more confrontational. They had not expected him to come out and say what they had been wishing to do since he beat them in the broken pillar and shadow arena.

"What if I am, are you scared of beating me. you have done it before Makea, Nakea. or is it that you can't fight out in the light?" He moved even closer, almost touching chests with Makea. "Remember how you drowned me in that pool in the obstacle chamber. It must have felt nice. Didn't it? His smile grew even wider. It was as if being cruel and vindictive all of a sudden was giving some part of the pain in his body some relief and all he wanted was to keep going.

"What are you planning, new boy, did team 25 put you to this?" Nakea seethed looking around as if to check if it was another plot to distract them.

"Why would I need 25 to beat some vermin who only know how to play dirty?" Sagiri's snarl got even wider.

"Why don't we go then to the combat chamber? I think I need to teach privileged intruders like you that you don't belong here. You think you can come in and just fit in?" makea snapped both of them moving in unison chest pressed together. He could feel their controlled anger snapping and he got excited. He only needed one push and he knew just what to say to get what he wanted.

"There it is Tamelku abomination. It seems you know a lot about not fitting in." sagiri said the words with intention and the reaction was immediate. He could completely feel the last seal of the controlled anger come undone. Rage like he had never encountered rolled off of the two. It seems he was right about the magic word. In the Tamelku clan, boys born as twins, especially as firstborns, was a taboo. It was a misfortune and such kids were always given away or shunned because they were a sign of bad omen. It was even a wonder that the twins had grown old enough to join the number one school in

Tagayia. They must have crawled out of hell itself to be able to reach such height. all that did not matter however because they had made a move against sagiri and right in this moment he was spoiling for a fight and only them hated him enough to grant him the wish. they had not only crawled out of hell but they carried a little hell whenever they went. It was not his fault that they had been born twins and just beating him half to death because they couldn't take a loss was not a behavior worthy of a good warrior.

"Nakea moved fast and shoved both his palms to Sagiri's chest, sending flying back into the dining hall where he skidded and finally fell flat on his stomach with a thud. The guys were as strong as they were hateful and that meant a lot. Almost half the cadets were still around the dining wing and they gathered at the commotion. When sagiri was sent flying gasps were heard. It was a pretty rough impact and no one expected sagiri to stand up again. What he did next however heard everyone in shock. sagiri stood up shakily to his hands and knees. He spat a mouthful of blood before he cackled a cackle so chilling he couldn't even recognize it himself. It was as if he was making contact with feelings inside of him which he didn't know he was capable of before.

"I know you can go harder than that." He said, wiping the blood from his lips with the back of his hand. His voice was dripping with mockery as if the open palms had not almost broken his ribs again.

"Stop!" N'varu appeared out of nowhere and stood in front of the twins who were approaching fast. They did not care to hide their intention anymore and they wanted to finish sagiri.

"Get out of the way N'varu, it was just starting to get fun." Sagiri said, standing on his shaky feet. The pain from the open palm maneuver from the twins made him feel alive and he wanted more. He probably looked like a ghost considering he hadn't slept. His eyes must have been showing the bugs and tiredness.

"Hey Nakea, Makea, Sagiri has a body condition that puts his body in pain for long hours. He hasn't slept in two days and he is not himself." N'varu explained ignoring sagiri. He had only not slept for a day but it seemed N'varu wanted to make the condition as believable as possible.

"Well he started it and he has already gone too far." Both twins talked in unison, their eyes concentrated on the boy behind N'varu.

"I think you should listen to N'varu." Kiuga suddenly chimed in with the widest smile. It seemed he had been watching the whole scene unfold and did not intervene waiting to see how far things could go. "My friend here doesn't have much patience." he said referring to Kaka who was standing beside him. They had all been tasked to protect Kaka and sagiri was sure if kiuga had not told the guy to back down before then the confrontation could have ended before it began. It's not that Kaka cared what happened to him but in this case sagiri's safety had been assigned to him and he took his missions and honour of accomplishing them seriously.

"I also think I went too far. Allow the abominations to get their revenge." Sagiri laughed, taking a step forward and the whispers filled the room. The twins who were about to stand down seeing Kaka's face did not care anymore. Their eyes flashed red and if it was possible the hate they always carried with them grew even bigger. Sagiri was even more sensitive to perception and could feel all of them as if they were his own. Or as if their hate for him had merged with his hate for them. He could not yet understand because he never experienced his feelings since he was a child. He understood feelings but he had never heard them in depth to what normal people experienced.

Two things happened at the same time simultaneously. The twins moved to attack Sagiri. Kaka Kiuga and Nvaru moved all of them with different intentions. None however made impact, however.

"That is enough!"

"This is enough, Keeper!"

Two voices tore through the tension. One was from Lotaga. Before the twins could move they were held mid air by Lotaga as if they were not two whole men. Lotaga was not as huge as Captain Salka but he was not tiny. Yet holding the twins airborne at the same time showed just how strong he was. Sagiri however was thrown to the floor by N'varu who was pinning him by the throat to the ground. His pupils had disappeared and Sagiri could only see his white. "I know you must be suffering but at this rate you will be joining the twins in losing a limb." he said the last part more silently for only Sagiri to hear. Sagiri panted for a moment. He was finally able to think past the pain in his bones for a moment. He forced himself to look past his pain and finally look at the crowd around him. He had really gone and done it.

"Sagiri, I did not take you for one to provoke others." Lotaga made a sound at the back of his throat still holding onto the twins. "You two, I need you to stay from our recruit." he continued his tone, still cheerly as if he wasn't suspending two full grown boys in the air. Well, he was a senior instructor and a core member in Captain Salka's team so he had to be good. Yet seeing his display of power without much effort was still quite a scene.

He finally put the twins down and they gave Sagiri a uniform look of hate as if they shared heart and mind before they turned to leave. Their hate for him had yet again managed to grow even bigger. If they made contact with him he was sure that they would try to kill him this time and make sure he was dead.

"Get off me," he might have gained a little clarity but he was still irritable and with the room full of cadets from both Galka War Academy and Konate staring at him with all their feelings pressing into him he was even more irritable.

"All cadets move to the central pentagon assembly ground. We are using the third year gate today. Move!" Lotaga announced and after a moment of hesitation only the echo of

boots could be heard as the cadets pulled out. All except for kaka kiuga nvaru and sagiri who lotaga was eyeing with a funny expression.

"I might not have eavesdropped on what Principal Senraki and Salka were saying to you but I remember hearing Salka and the principal telling you to protect the recruit. That also meant protecting him from himself, you know." Lotaga started making a clicking sound at the back of his neck.

"you were eavesdropping on your senior." Captain Salka's voice cut in from behind lotaga making him freeze like a deer caught in the headlight. "I thought I put you on pet-tending duty?" Captain Salka continued in a defeated voice and lotaga physically shuddered.

"Well captain, as you can see I came here just in time to save the day for you." Lotaga wore his most convincing face before he turned around to face Captain Salka. Captain Salka was still wearing his combat from the morning and he looked as if he had been in the woods all day. His quiver arrows had reduced in number by half and he was still clutching his bow.

"Why is the recruit bleeding from his mouth? " he ignored Lotaga. Perhaps he was too tired to indulge his man child squadmate.

"I fell," Sagiri lied but immediately remembered the price of lying to the captain. "I was sparring against a partner way stronger than me." He changed his statement.

"you boys should join the others at the central pentagon. and recruit you better have a better explanation after the exercise or we are going to have a problem. Again. Your teammates, involved."

"Yes captain!" All the boys answered in unison including lotaga. He was trying to get away from captain salka too. He was always getting on captain salka's nerves and this was no different.

"Lotaga, if you leave through that door you will not only be tending the pets but you will sleep in the kennel too." Salka groaned, not even turning around.

"If you pull a stunt like that again and get me punished I will kill you before the twin face gets to you." Kaka said and sagiri could not help but think kiuga was rubbing off of him.

"Just how many conditions do you have, Sagiri the blind. Do you also have the two face condition?" Kiuga asked as the four ran through the now empty hallways.

"It seems so." Sagiri answered, the pain in his body not seizing a moment. It was as if he was a moving mass of agony.

"Is that why your parents gave you away?" Kaka asked.

"I don't know." sagiri answered honestly. He had not cared enough to know about parents who did not raise him and since rasha and bakuru always showered him with love he did not have any business thinking about strangers who brought him into this world. Now however he was beginning to wonder.

"Kaka dummy, I already told you not to ask insensitive questions." kiuga groaned as they made another turn.

"Well I have to know how unstable the boy is when I'm on a mission to protect him." Kaka argued. he might have lacked a sensitive touch but he never carried feelings of malice with him.

"Do you have any plans for this mission?" nvaru asked as they picked up speed on the last hallway leading to the gate to the central pentagon.

"Well I had one before blind boy here went and threw rocks in a beehive now we will just have to avoid the twins as much as possible in the next match or if push comes to shove we have to wound one of them so much so the other goes on the defense. If they bring their whole temporary team then all i can say is we stay away from them as much as we can and only engage in battle when there is no way out. or just shoot a red flare and forfeit." Kiuga said his strategy. Though still not polished, it made a lot of sense. He had recovered completely from the gravescales attack and that pretty much reduced team twenty five's fighting force to eight.

The odds were not looking good at all.

'I really went and did it this time,' is all sagiri could think of. Whatever exercise was next his team had a long night ahead. And he had a feeling it was going to make the gravescake attack feel like a paper slap.

## **Chapter 68: Chapter 68: THE WARNING**

The third year outer nonagon gate opened with a groaned open. All cadets stood in neat lines staring into the darkness. If anything the tension had grown a notch. The third year outer pentagon gate did not open to the same terrain as the fourth year pentagon. all the pentagons opened to different terrains and different training grounds.

"The night is calling yet again, cadets. Tonight as you can see we are changing the terrain but the game still remains the same." miss lakiya took to the centre. She was as cheerly as always when announcing games. sagiri found her irritating just like everything else. Something inside him was convinced that the game-like exercises were her ideas. What she said next however had him excited more than he should have been.

"There is only a small adjustment to the rules. Firstly, those who survived yesterday will receive special flasks. The set of flasks can only burst when a specific spot is pierced.

That is where a second upgrade comes in. because it will be a bit tricky to burst the flasks, cadets will have to use more than just the element of surprise. Cadets will be allowed to use hand combat without limit. any cadet who gets injured or can't continue can forfeit the match at any point. Daggers can only be used to pierce the flasks, not each other." she finished. sagiri could not help but get excited at the mention of unrestricted combat. He had not been able to stop thinking about getting into a fight. The pain tearing him on the inside had stopped momentarily when he was confronting the twins as if the separation inside of him agreed on one thing and granted him relief for a moment.

"Now pick your flares, a pair of each this time except for the purple and orange. Afterall you are just one of you and you can't be eliminated twice." The cadets followed her instructions in uniform. After everyone picked flares next it was the flasks and a clear had managed to be drawn between the superior flasks and inferior flasks. It was only expected that the levels of hostility could rise. It was even more clear that teams had formed. Even team 25 had an additional member. Marana had asked to join before the assembly started and kiuga had been happy to oblige much to Kaka's dismay.

The terrain beyond the gate this time was more and more desert-like with additional artificial desert modifications to aid with training. It spread far beyond where the eye could. Even the trees were way shorter. It did not provide for much cover except for the big rocks and jagged rocks terrains. Those from Konate academy were more excited for this exercise because konate academy was surrounded by a similar rocky and desert terrain.

"Just like yesterday, cadets are not advised to go too far into the terrain." Captain fuwuka was in charge this time.

"Watchers in position!" he announced and the instructors in charge of watching from the wall scaled the walls quickly with their hooked ropes. There seemed to be more of them than the previous day. Perhaps they expect more eliminations tonight, Sagiri thought.

"Ground supervisors take position!" Unlike yesterday where they only carried daggers and hooking ropes, today all ground supervisors carried spears. The sharp blades on the ends glimmered even in the dim light of the moon and stars. They scattered in different directions out of the gate till they blended into the night. The moon was full illuminating the endless terrain yet the jagged rocks cast even longer shadows now. It was a perfect environment for hide and seek indeed. The ground supervising instructor's job was to remain invisible and only intervene when it was necessary or when a yellow or red flare was fired.

Kiuga had already come up with a strategy and it was for the team to move out among the first this time and to run through the centre. Considering how treacherous the terrain was. if they waited and be last to leave like the previous night they would be setting themselves up for later. The terrain provided shadows and good hiding places. It also did not have many high positions and teams that took the scarce high grounds stood

more chances. For this exercise mistakes could be fatal and delay even more detrimental. Everyone had to bring their best out. With the addition of uncontrolled combat nothing could guarantee that it could not turn deadly.

"Sagiri the blind, I need you to bring your best sensory skills into this. you don't look normal today but we need your head in this game." Kiuga said. he was standing closest to sagiri who was standing between him and nvaru.

"I'm good," he said in a scornful tone. He in fact had never been better and he almost could not wait for the game to begin.

"You smell even more different now. Try not to go overboard again." nvaru whispered loud enough for only sagiri to hear. sagiri was tired of two guys pestering him and he just wanted to put back his oru-shells not to hear whatever they were yapping about. He wanted to just dive in alone and let loose.

"Move out!" fuwuka gave the command finally after a long moment of silence. cadets moved out in shared interest teams. it could be foolish to go in alone unless you were kaka asakana but even he could be outnumbered so a team was the best option and many cadets understood that. There was commotion for a few moments as the cadets ran deeper into the terrain but it soon quieted down.

Night pressed low over the rocks, turning the terrain into sharp silhouettes and moving shadows. sagiri and his group approached depending on the light from the moon. The ground was broken stone and shallow ravines, ridges cutting the earth like old scars. Boots touched down only where weight would not slide. Breath was controlled.

Sagiri walked in the center. Marana had asked to be in the lead because he was conversant with such terrain. She walked the front with Maita while Kaka franked with Ulekai, banga and zoliath. It was a perfect triangle formation. Marana in the lead with Maita directly behind her. kiuga and nvaru behind them. Zazarie sagiri and bukata followed and kaka and the three at the far back. They had not stopped running since Fuwuka gave command. It was only natural for most teams to avoid the centre and Kiuga suggesting they stuck to the centre was a big gamble. Kaka being on their team was a plus too. Most teams could avoid direct confrontation with him. Even so, it was a gamble.

Sagiri was more sensitive and Presence reached him like pressure through water. Each body registered as a distortion of heat, intent, breath, tension. Five hundred feet out, the awareness softened but did not fade. He could tell who shifted weight. Who hesitated. Who was thinking too loudly. His jaw tightened. He had not slept for more than a day and he did not know how long his body was going to keep it up for. As night kept dragging on, so did his discomfort. Every nerve in him leaned forward, hungry. The rocks felt too fragile beneath his feet, the silence too thin. His hands flexed, aching for impact.

The formation changed when they reached a more rocky terrain. mountains of rocks scattered for a long length. It had been an hour and a half since they started to move and they hadn't stopped a moment. After what had conspired yesterday he did not want to slack perceiving their surroundings at all times. Sagiri took the lead this time. They narrowed through a stone corridor in a slow walk finally. Sagiri slowed half a step after a few steps and the others matched him instantly. He could have sworn he sensed a hidden presence but it was gone just as first. When the path widened again, the line bloomed outward, fluid, practiced. He felt their trust settle on his shoulders like weight.

"We should rest for a while. Sagiri needs to rest." N'varu said, watching the shin of sweat that had broken out of sagiri's forehead. The heat under his skin had started to feel like fire while his insides felt like they were dipped in ice."

"I am fine, let's get to a high position first." Even his voice was not recognizable to his own ears.

"I think we should rest for a bit too. My back is aching." Kiuga said, yawning dramatically. The team was now standing under a rock and they were hidden in the shadows. "This seems like a good spot to..."

"Quiet." sagiri spoke his own voice, tearing to his ears. everyone quieted down immediately sinking into defensive positions in formations of two. He had only then captured the presence of two pairs of feet. He could have missed it again if it was the day before but he was more sensitive even to his own voice now and he could feel them ever so slightly.

"What is it?" N'varu whispered. It was only natural that none of the boys could feel nothing or hear nothing. The two were as sneaky as ever.

"Come out." Sagiri snarled. The two must have been the presence he perceived but then it disappeared as first when he had perceived it. They had already been here and they were watching them.

"N'varu, throw a dagger in front of us slightly to the left as if you were aiming for that rock. Aim it low." Sagiri instructed loud enough for everyone to hear and before everyone could question his agenda the sound of two daggers being unsheathed reached his ears. It was sharper than usual now and he fought the urge to flinch.

N'varu released one then another in the direction then another followed. The first hit a rock harshly but the second met metal in a loud collision before it bounced back from the force and hit the ground in front of them. Everyone else retrieved their daggers in unison ready to attack.

"How many?" Kaka's voice bellowed.

"Only two." Sagiri answered with ridicule piling to his voice. He could not even stop his voice from changing patterns anymore. either he was full of mockery, ridicule, irritation or something colder.

"The two wide eyed duo stepped out looking as disconnected as always.

"Don't look the girl in the eyes." N'varu warned and everyone evaded their eyes away strategically.

"So you have been following us all along. What do you want?" Sagiri asked, not evading his eyes. N'varu did not either but his pupils disappeared and he looked at them with his all whites taking advantage of the others evading their gazes.

"Not all of you. We have only been following you child of memory." The girl opened her mouth to speak. Her voice was soft as if made of breeze. It was the first time he had heard her talking.

"Her voice is too dangerous too, cover your ears." Sagiri said feeling himself almost get pulled under. He probably could have already been under her hypnosis if not for the fact that his body was tearing itself apart from the inside and the outside, but he could feel her attempts pushing on his mind so strongly.

"Marana, why are these two from your school so annoying?" Kiuga said, uncovering his ears when the girl finished talking.

"They are not from Galka Academy?" She returned the question and everyone physically froze. "I have never seen those two." She continued, and Sagiri could feel alarm rolling off of everyone. If they did not belong in either school then that could mean one thing.

They were intruders.

"What do you mean you have never seen those two? They are wearing Konate combat suits?"

"Have you forgotten that first wrongblood? you almost buried us alive back then." The girl spoke again and her voice pushed against Sagiri's mind.

"I guess I should have finished the job back then, you two disgust me." Sagiri reiterated his voice full of disgust. His words are the opposite of what he wanted to do back then. After he calmed down and looked at what he had almost done he felt guilty. His parents had raised him to be kind yet he had almost ended six lives on the spot. He felt like a monster back then yet now his mouth was spewing things he never thought he could say

"What are you all talking about?" Ulekai asked and Sagiri could feel the curiosity rolling off of everyone.

"Sagiri the blind, what are the weirdos yapping about?" Kiuga asked and Sagiri's lip lifted in a menacing smile.

"Maybe I should show you while I bury them." He said sinking low touching his right hand to the earth. The boy immediately moved in front of the girl, retrieving a thin weapon that looked like a spear but it was short with jagged blades on both sides.

"We only want you to come with us, and none of your friends will be hurt," the boy finally spoke and his voice was thick like a grown man's. So he was a man in a child's body.

"Well, I think we should see who is faster. the sand or your weapon." Sagiri snarled and the ground beneath his hand stirred slightly.

"You have until midnight to decide. Pretending to be just a student doesn't suit you." The man said before sticking the weapon to his back. He carried the girl who was the same size as him as if she was the same size as him and scaled the rocks. Everyone watched as the duo disappeared before they finally turned to Sagiri.

"Now would be the best time for you to explain what the freaks meant." Maita said, turning hostility oozing off of him.

"Yes, Sagiri, what did they mean by you almost burying them alive?" Bukata asked.

"You can't even protect yourself. That's ridiculous." Kaka snickered, shaking his head.

"One thing is for sure. Those two are way out of our league, we need to fire the yellow flare." kiuga said, analyzing the situation. He was right but sagiri did not care. He was done running and with his body torturing him. He needed answers from them. "Our Sagiri has not been himself for a while. I will ignore him for now. Someone, fire a yellow flare now."

"You do that. I will chase after them. I need to know why they keep coming after me." he stood to his feet and went after them disappearing into the darkness before anyone could stop him.

"Darm it!" N'varu cursed not hesitating before giving chase.