

CH 19

Raygan POV

She was sitting in her father's chair with a smirk on her face, she'd really enjoyed putting that Alpha in his place, cutting him off at every turn. Didn't know him at all, but knew right this very minute he was in that Alpha's office, inside that pack of his, fumingly mad.

Could well be throwing a roaring fit over there, tossing furniture around that room at the disrespect she'd dished out. Chuckled at the thought that he likely had never been so disrespected in his life. Now had been and didn't know how to handle it.

Her father stared at her from his position next to the desk, "Happy with yourself, are we?"

Raygan looked right at him "Ah, you know me." She shrugged "And I don't have to show any respect to the enemy. It's not like they have something I want. It would have been very different if it was us calling them."

"Ha! You wouldn't call Raygan, just stalk in there and start a bloody war if they took something of ours."

"I would not...Well, depending on what they took I guess...but Father, I would have made sure they had taken it first, would have found the evidence and proof of it, demanded it back and sent the proof I had of them having it over, so they knew I knew it was them, before starting a war."

"That is true." He nodded "Out of my chair girl. Go do whatever it is you were doing before that Alpha called."

"I was running the agility with my elite." She got up, "You know father, I've been back now for like 4 days, I've not seen Zac or his Mate out there on the training grounds. Why not? Does he think he doesn't have to train anymore?"

"He's simply enjoying his new Mate Bond."

"I don't care about that, father. If he is going to be the next in line, that boy needs to pick his game up and start acting like an Alpha. And that means training every day at 5am with his warriors, then his unit and then the elite. He should be out there like I am every day, 3 to 4 hours of training with the pack. Builds a good strong bond, shows them that he can lead."

"I know. I'll speak to him."

"I'll organise a skirmish battle with our warriors and see if he's capable of running it, shall I?"

"Your team verses his Raygan. That's a bit of an unfair advantage, don't you think?"

"It wouldn't be if the..." she halted her own words and changed them "If he'd gone off and served, actually trained all the time, he'd understand how to hold a battle together, know where his warriors are and how to pull his members from one part of a battle to another to surround and take down."

"That takes years of experience, Raygan."

"Yes, it does." She stated flatly, "And he doesn't have it, needs that to lead." She looked right at her father. "He's lazy at the best of times." She saw him frown now "Sorry father but what kind of Alpha, even a second

Heir is as lazy as he is. They all train to be elite warriors in other packs, at his age, 26. He should be ranked up there in the Elite and he's not. Is as far as I'm concerned, a grunt of a warrior."

"Ease up, Raygan."

"Why? You're going to hand the pack over to someone who can't even take down an elite warrior! He'll never survive a real battle at that rate."

"Raygan, I'll up his training now that he's found his Mate."

"I'll train him, start with a small skirmish battle and see just what he's made of, yes?"

"Fine, sort it out." Her father nodded.

"One more thing father, I didn't see him out there you know, during that battle. Where was he?"

"I'm certain he was out there fighting, most of us were. You came in from the back and we were all defending the pack border." He sighed.

She narrowed her eyes on him for a long moment. "I didn't see him walking back, I didn't see him helping the injured to the pack doctor. I did, however, see him all cosied up with his so-called Mate in the packhouse though. Are you sure he was fighting or was he here hiding out too damned scared to go out there and fight?"

"He's not scared, Raygan. He does his fair share of border patrols and defends the pack against incoming rogues as well. You know this."

She nodded and walked off; she did know that. But she also knew he never took the southern or eastern borders where the enemy would come from. And with the portal to the kingdom in the west, there were many rogues that came from there. Some could even be war deserters. Therefore, aggressively trained, and taking one of them down was not easy. He was never on that border, didn't risk himself to that she thought. The boy did as little as possible but made himself look like he was doing the hard yards.

She returned to the training grounds and mind-linked right to Zac, 'You and I are going to do battle this evening, round up 40 warriors of your choosing, and meet me at the western training ground for a skirmish and capture the flag.'

'What, why would I do that?'

'To show me you can run a battle Zac. If you're to take over, you have to be able to lead and defeat the incoming. I am going to be your incoming.'

'I'm not interested in doing that with you, Raygan.'

'You don't have a choice, father agreed to it. Tell you what, I'll give you an advantage. How about you, your unit plus 40 verses me and 10 of my elite. Even up the odds a little in your favour. Four to one.'

'Fine if father agrees to it.'

She laughed 'He already has. Go and ask him. Tell him you don't want to train to be a better, stronger Alpha to lead this pack. See what happens.' She severed the link.

If that little brother of hers declined to take up training, he would find himself on the angry side of their

father. An Alpha had to know how to handle a pack battle, how to keep the knowledge of where everyone was during battle, dish out orders even while fighting themselves.

Raygan was damned certain that Zac couldn't do that, had never had to, and from what he'd just stated, didn't want to learn either. If he declined the training she offered, it was likely that even their father would have doubts about making Zac the next heir.

He was going to have to show that he was pulling his weight, willing to train in all areas. Show that he had the demeanour to lead. Could be a good strong Alpha that the pack could rely on to protect them. She needed to get him into a real battle scenario to see if he could handle it or not.

He'd never been one to want to go off to serve in the King's royal army, not even one term of four years. She knew that many packs out there did actually require their heirs to serve at least a term of four years. It was done to give them battle experience and learn to strategize. Not all had the requirement, mostly those close to the kingdom portals. Because they were the packs in charge of protecting the portal itself or defending against an invading force coming out of the portal.

The portal to the west was expected to be defended by her pack and the Cold Moon Pack. They were expected, even as enemies, to get passed their disagreement if the portal needed defending, do their allocated job by the King himself.

Raygan stood with 10 of her elite warriors waiting on Zac and his unit to arrive. It was already five minutes passed the agreed meet up time. She looked at his 40 warriors even they seemed annoyed by the lack of him being here. So, she laid out the rules for them.

If Zac couldn't be bothered to be here on time to hear them, that was his problem, "Tonight, warriors, you will be under the leadership of Zac, you will be placed out there in certain locations by him and he is to lead each and every one of you into this battle. What I want is for him to show he can bring the 40 of you in to hunt us out, take us down and know where each of you are."

She heard three of four of them snort 'as if.'

Ignored it "Tonight if he does not give you direct instructions, you do not make a move. If he leaves you out of the battle, then stay out of it. You are not to use your pack tether to anyone that is not on your side of this skirmish. If you were my ranked I'd expect you to stay put, until I ordered you to move and position yourself to my advantage. Do you all understand the rules?"

"Yes Alpha." They chorused all together.

She turned to her elite, "Let's go ladies and gentlemen."

She had already discussed her battle plan and strategized with her elite warriors. Was already fully connected with each of them, via a mind-link, as she would be in a real battle. They all knew there was no talking unless it was necessary to co-ordinate with her.

It took another 15 minutes before she felt Zac connect to her to tell her his men were in position and ready. 'About time. Go.' She shot at him, and severed the link to him.

She and her elite were on the move just seconds later, hunting Zac's team of warriors. She was laying under the edge of a fallen tree hidden by the long grass around her and covered in mud twenty minutes

later, waiting on the two she'd scented out in the area, had her cuffs at the ready, smiling to herself as one tried to sneak by her. He was good and stealthy, and she knew he could smell her but couldn't locate her.

She'd touched damned near everything around her so it would confuse them as they came into her trap. Snapped that cuff out and around his ankle as he hopped over the tree trunk she was under and heard him curse. Saw him turn and look right at her as she slipped out and smiled at him.

"Back to base you go dead man." She smirked at him, they were the rules once that silver cuff was on you, you were out of the battle considered taken out and dead to the battle. Sent down the mind-link that she'd snagged another one, '31 still out here.' Everyone who cuffed their enemy in this skirmish, deducted it from the last count, 11 up against 44, and now it was 11 up against 31.

Zac, if he was doing this correctly, would feel every one of his warriors getting severed from him one by one, even know where they had been at the time, should be able to send others in to try and contain and capture the one taking out his men. Yet she'd seen nothing of that happening.

The skirmish waged on until it was down to just 11. She nor any of her team had seen Zac or his unit at all at this point, but she found four of his men just leaning up against a tree, could feel Lenny on the other side of them mind-linked to him to sneak on in and so would she, between the two of them they took those four down in short order. 11 to 7.

'I got him, sitting next to the flag with his unit,' Ollie stated.

'On your left, or right?' Raygan asked with a smile. She could feel where Ollie was, everyone was now sussing out Ollie from their position.

'To my left.' Was the answer.

'Converge and circle.' She told them and felt all of her elite head right for Ollie's position. 10 minutes later, that little encampment was completely surrounded by her and her entire unit. She stepped out and announced herself. Saw Zac smirk right at her as he got up. Only to have it wiped off his face a moment later when all her elite stepped out.

"Cuff them." she stated, and the battle was on right there, 4 against 11. They had no hope, didn't train like her and her men, were brought down two to one until it was just Zac left. She smiled right at him and then just shot forward to get him, while her elite stood by and watched on. He put up a bit of a fight, but he knew the battle was over. Lenny was waving their flag around.

Zac snarled at her to get that cuff off of him, the moment it was on him. She laughed "Dead man walking." She gave him a shove "Back to base with you."

"Get this off me. I'm the Alpha, Raygan."

"Not yet you're not. This be the rules of the skirmish. Only one has the keys back at base."

He glared right at her and then stalked off, looked a might mad she thought, as she and her elite strolled on back. There at base was their father with the key. She smiled right at him.

Saw Zac look around at the warriors sitting waiting. Looked shocked. "What? Didn't you stay in contact with your entire team all the time? That was the point of this exercise, Zac. You could have taken us down

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+5 Points

one at a time if you'd known where your men were at all times, felt them sever and sent 10 into that area to contain and confine the one who took out your men."

"Get this cuff off me." He snarled at her once more.

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