

Chapter 20 : Run Away.

"But mom, we should ask Anaya first. What if she is not willing to go with me? I don't want to be a burden." Charlotte said.

Anaya shivered on the spot when she looked at Charlotte's hesitant yet smiling face. The twelve year old girl didn't seem as innocent anymore. Anaya wondered how many layers she had hidden under all that pretense.

"What is there to ask. If I tell her to do something, will she refuse?" Ginny snorted, "Anaya?"

Anaya closed her eyes and responded, "Yes mother."

"Charlotte has to go somewhere for a while. It was arranged by the Alpha so we cannot refuse. But I don't want to send her alone so you will have to go with her. Pack the things you have by tomorrow."

Ginny's words sliced through Anaya's skin and left her shivering. Ginny didn't say where they were sending her, or for how long, in what conditions. The only relief was that Charlotte will be there as well and Ginny won't send Charlotte anywhere dangerous.

But it wasn't enough to calm her down. Anaya's fingers felt cold.

"Mother, may I ask where -?"

Ginny's sharp eyes made her stop. The timid voice was lost even before she could complete her sentence. Anaya shut her mouth and nodded, "I will do as you say."

Charlotte laughed, "That's great! I didn't want to go there alone, considering what a reputation they have. I am afraid I'll make a mistake and be punished. But now Anaya will be there with me so I am not worried anymore!"

Anaya's trembling lips wanted to curse at her own sister. What kind of reputation does that place have? Anaya's clueless brain was slowly shutting down with the lack of information. She excused herself and went to the attic.

Her money was still in the drawer, Anaya sighed in relief. She was determined to change her life. There was no way she was going to give up on the dream of living freely. Anaya bunched up the money and put it inside her trouser pocket. Even if she had to flee at the last moment, she won't hesitate.

Ginny wanted Anaya to pack her things, and that's exactly what Anaya did. She didn't have a lot of things to pack and all of it amounted to a duffle bag.

The torn pictures in the drawer were also kept in

the bag. Anaya placed the duffle bag in a corner and sat next to the small window for a few minutes before going back downstairs to make lunch.

Ginny and Charlotte were discussing about what to pack and Ginny was also giving her instructions on how to behave.

"From what Alpha Clark told me, he is very strict. His aura alone can make others kneel. So don't try to act smart in front of him, show your innocence, Alpha's like girls who are quiet and cute. Show some of your charm and make him like you. Once he starts favouring you, your life in that hellish place will become very smooth, understood? Try to get close to him as much as possible."

Charlotte nodded, "Yes mom, I understand. But mom, why do I have to charm him? David proposed to me, if I try to act like that in front of someone else then people will point out at me for behaving inappropriately. Besides, he must have a mate right? How can I possibly...."

Anaya wondered who they were talking about. It must be someone important in that place, so it was important to curry favour from them. Anaya tried to listen more out of interest.

Ginny smiled at her daughter and explained patiently, "You are still young so you don't understand. David is not as good as that man. He

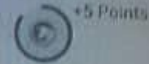
is an Alpha with a lot of strength and reputation. He doesn't have a mate, in fact, rumours say that he is mateless in this life. You have a chance to woo him, even if he is older, it doesn't matter. Age is just a number. Also, I've heard that he is nurturing a group of kids for himself, who know what he's doing with them? You can fit in and take the place next to him. Isn't it better to be the Luna of a bigger pack than of blue stone?"

Charlotte was hesitant. She kind of liked David a little. However, her mother was right as well. If she can get a better Alpha, then why settle for someone like David? Charlotte came to a conclusion that power was better than liking. She would try her best to make Alpha Roman like her and get a permanent place next to him in the southern warrior pack.

"Okay mom! I will do my best." Charlotte said, "I have confidence in myself. Once I have achieved his favour, I'll bring you and dad there too and give you a comfortable life. Dad won't have to work anymore and you can make rich friends in that pack!"

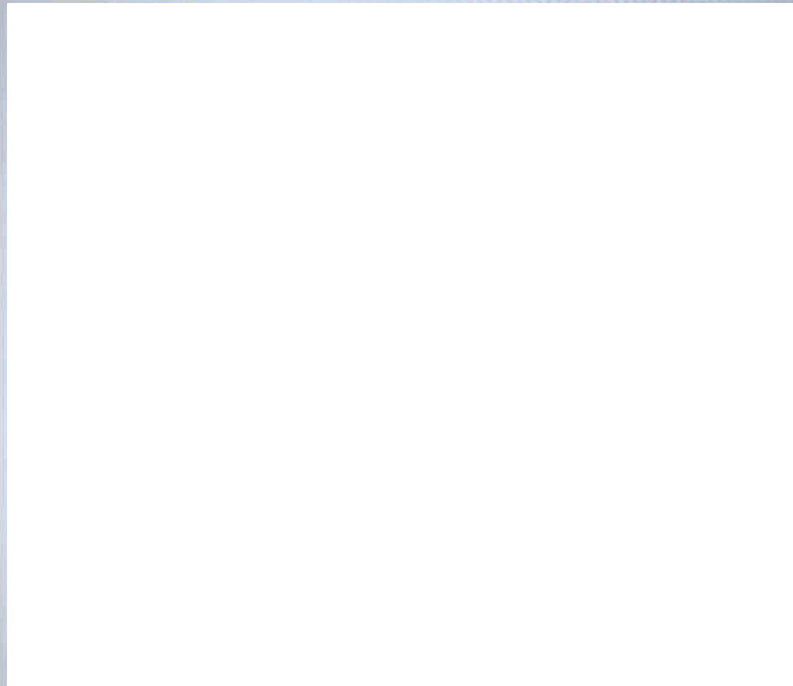
Ginny kissed Charlotte's forehead and smiled, "That's my daughter. Now let's go and see what you have to pack. After lunch I'll take you shopping for new clothes and accessories. Maybe even stop at the parlour and get a few things done."

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Anaya was cutting up the meat as she heard it all. She almost laughed out loud after listening to their conversation. Charlotte was only twelve years old, what kind of deranged Alpha would take her as a Luna? Especially the one with a reputation?

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Anaya didn't know many Alpha's, but she was positive it wasn't common to have a minor as their Luna. Only Blue stone was bold enough to do something like this.

At least it was confirmed that they were sending Charlotte to another pack. It may not be Ginny's plan to send Charlotte there but she sure planned

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on making it worth. Coveting a Powerful Alpha sounded easy, but who knew what will happen once Charlotte goes there.

Anaya peacefully finished making lunch and reserved a little for herself. She wasn't going with Charlotte, no matter what. Anaya would be gone after midnight and no one will know about it.

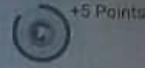
When Edgar came home, Ginny told him about sending Anaya along with Charlotte. At first, Edgar was not happy to send his daughter over to the southern warrior pack. When Alpha Clark told them that Alpha Roman had put up this condition, he refused right away. However, after listening to Ginny's idea, he started to consider it.

Aloha Clark was not too happy with the arrangement either, since it was too risky to send an elemental over to Alpha Roman. But they didn't have a choice. After a few years when blue stone will be back on it's feet, they would break the alliance and bring her back.

That was what Alpha Clark thought and commended himself for this smartness.

Unaware of the schemes around her, Anaya finished her chores in the house one last time. She ate dinner in the attic by the window. She spoke to Arnold a little, telling him about the big step she was about to take.

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"I will not forget about you, so don't worry." Anaya said to the empty sky.

Anaya switched off the light in the attic late at night but stayed awake. She wasn't going to fall asleep and miss the only chance. If she were to accidentally fall asleep, then they will send her over to another pack with Charlotte to be her maid. Anaya was determined to stay awake and leave after everyone went to bed.

When the clock striked one in the morning, Anaya first checked if everyone was sleeping in the house. Charlotte's room was locked from the inside, which meant she was already in bed. The faint sound of snoring could be heard from her parents room. Confirming that the route was clear, Anaya went back upstairs and got her duffle bag.

She left through the front door, making sure there was no sound. After closing the front door, Anaya looked at the house one last time and then turned around to leave.

Anaya wouldn't leave the pack without saying goodbye to her only friend. Instead of leaving through the border, Anaya took the street where Silvia lived.

It was way past midnight so Silvia was sleeping as well. She heard a knock on the door and was startled awake. She was cautious of the visitors who came at her door after midnight so she took a

kitchen knife before opening the door.

When Silvia saw Anaya, she relaxed and kept the knife aside. She saw the duffle bag in her hand and understood that Anaya must be leaving the pack.

"I am leaving." Anaya confirmed her thoughts. She spoke very softly, as if afraid of being heard by a third person.

Silvia smiled and said, "Be safe. I wish you a happy life ahead."

Anaya nodded and thanked Silvia for that night, "If it weren't for you, I would have really jumped into the well. Thank you for being my friend. I will never forget you."

Silvia chuckled at the sincere gratitude. She hadn't seen one in quiet a long time. Silvia remembered something and told Anaya to wait. She went into the house and rummaged through the kitchen.

Anaya stood outside in the dead of night and waited for Silvia to come out. When Silvia came back, she was holding a few packets of snacks. There were a few chips, mixed nuts and all kinds of things Anaya had only seen but never tasted.

"I got a bonus for working three night shifts a few days ago and bought these. You will be travelling so take these with you. Don't stay hungry." Saying that, Silvia squatted and opened Anaya's duffle

bag. The bag was only halfway filled, with a few sets of clothes and a few miscellaneous things.

Silvia stuffed the packaged food inside the bag and closed the zipper. Anaya stood stunned. She didn't expect Silvia to think so much about her and even go as far as to spend her bonus money to give her extra food.

Anaya gripped the strap of the duffle bag tightly. She didn't know how to thank Silvia, but she started by saying it out loud.

"Thank you so much." Anaya said with as much sincerity as she could muster. Silvia shook her head saying it was nothing.

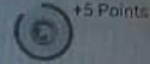
"Can I get a hug before you go?" Silvia asked as she opened her arms. She was proud of Anaya for making the decision that she couldn't make. She hoped Anaya would be free from the struggles she had to face in Blue stone.

Anaya barely made skin contact with anyone, but when Silvia asked, she couldn't deny it. She placed the bag on the ground and lightly went into Silvia's embrace.

Anaya's eyes were wide and red. The warmth from Silvia's body was a new experience. Anaya had never felt this kind of warmth before. It felt nice.

Anaya broke free from Silvia's hug and said, "I will come and meet you when I can."

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"You don't have to. Just send a letter or a phone call will do. I just need to know you are fine." Silvia said, "Now go, or you will be late. I wish you happiness for the rest of your life."

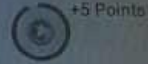
Anaya nodded and picked up the bag with wet eyes. She walked away from Silvia's home without looking back. The border was a bit far from this place and Anaya had to go from the street where her house was. Being extra cautious, Anaya crossed all the streets and finally reached the border.

The patrol guards had long ago stopped doing their job seriously so it was easy to get out of the pack. Anaya made sure her footsteps didn't make any noise as she got ready to cross over.

However, as soon as she lifted her foot, a force pulled her back inside. Anaya stumbled back a few steps and her entire body was thrown on the ground. Anaya heaved as her back came in contact with the ground.

"Are you trying to run away from us?" Ginny's chilling voice came from above her. Anaya opened her eyes in horror. Ginny and Edgar were in front of her. Charlotte was hiding behind Edgar, afraid of what was happening. She successfully hid her smug smirk.

Ginny bunched up Anaya's hair and pulled her head up. Anaya screamed in pain.



+5 Points

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"I've been too lenient these days. Looks like you forgot what it feels like to have your bones broken."



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