

Chapter 23 : An Alliance.

Anaya had no idea where they were going. Sitting in the car, she had no way of knowing which route was being taken or which direction they were heading in.

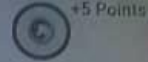
All she could do was look outside the window and try to read the road signs. But the car was moving fast and Anaya couldn't read them either. Charlotte did not speak much. She had her phone plugged with wired headphones and was listening to something. Anaya was relieved, she didn't want to talk to Charlotte either.

Anaya had already guessed that Charlotte was the one who must have told Ginny and Edgar about her plans to run away. She couldn't be a hundred percent sure but it had to be her.

Charlotte was a heavy sleeper and Ginny wouldn't wake her up just to go out and catch Anaya running away, which means Charlotte was already awake when Anaya left the house and must have seen her. It all made sense.

Anaya knew she will be paying the price of her actions for the rest of her life. Being caught wasn't on her cautionary list and in the end it ended up happening.

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Anaya was deep in her thoughts, wondering where she went wrong, when a hand landed on her arm. Anaya flinched and almost bit her tongue off in pain. Charlotte immediately retracted her hand and put on a sorry expression.

"I forgot you were hurt. Sorry." Charlotte said.

Ans

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Anaya looked at Charlotte for a few seconds and gave up on speaking. She just looked down and didn't answer.

"Anaya, are you feeling okay?" Charlotte asked and put down her headphones.

"I'm fine." Anaya answered. She wasn't fine. But if

someone asked like this, what else could she say? Charlotte had seen Anaya's wounds before, she knew just how vicious Ginny could get when angry. Was asking if she was okay, truly out of concern? Anaya felt like she was being mocked.

"I just wanted to say that if you feel tired or hurt, you can just go ahead and rest in the place they provide for you. You don't have to follow me around like mom said. I am your sister after all, when you are not well, I should look out for you."

Charlotte's goodwill was nothing more than a bucket of cold water being dumped over Anaya's head. She felt a chill all over her body. Not only was this twelve year girl in possession of some powers but also knew how manipulation. As expected of the child born and raised by Ginny and Edgar.

"I'm fine." Anaya repeated.

Charlotte didn't like this kind of reply so she didn't say anything more. Anaya also got some quietness back and cherished the rare peace.

Her body was still hurting badly, the dressing had to be changed as well or the blood will stain her clothes. Anaya only had a few sets of clothes in her bag so she couldn't afford to stain one.

"How long until we get there?" Charlotte asked to the driver. Anaya looked up through her lashes as

well. The driver calculated a bit and answered, "Twenty minutes more until we reach the border."

"Oh, drive faster please, we have to get there before the sun sets." Charlotte said and put on her headphones again.

The driver pursed his lips and stepped on the accelerator.

"Where are we going?" Anaya quietly asked. Charlotte was listening to something so Anaya asked in a low voice so she couldn't listen.

The driver looked back through the mirror and frowned. He didn't want to talk to Anaya but since she asked something, he won't refuse.

"Southern Warrior pack." The driver answered shortly.

Southern warrior pack?!

Anaya's first thought was that this was Silvia's old pack and the second was that it had the reputation for being ruthless. How could they send Charlotte in such a place?!

Anaya was shocked to the bones, trying to come up with explanations in her head. But Anaya soon remembered that she didn't know a lot of things. There were many layers under the surface and without them, Anaya couldn't even question something.

So with that though Anaya just left it at that. Assuming Blue stone must have sent Charlotte to the Southern warrior pack due to a reason, Anaya made peace with it.

Soon the car came accross a large bridge. Om the other side of the bridge was the gate of the pack. The pack border of Southern warrior pack.

The car moved slowly and was stopped by a patrolling guard. The guard spoke to the driver. In the process Charlotte took off her headphone and placed it into her backpack. Then she tidied up her hair and clothes.

Anaya recalled the conversation between Charlotte and Ginny when she saw this.

"Go ahead." The guard told the driver. The driver drove ahead and eventually reached inside the pack. The pack was like an entire city. Instead of individual houses, it had small buildings and superstores, the roads were wider and had more greenery. The blue stone pack was broke compared to southern warrior pack.

Charlotte's eyes shone as she took in the scenery as well. Her mother was right. If she gained the favour of this Alpha, then her life will be smooth and luxurious.

They drove right through the wide roads and reached a pair of iron gates. They were stopped

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once more. Anaya tried to look inside the gate out of curiosity.

On the other side of the gate was a large mansion. The drive way between the gate and the mansion wasn't too long but it gave a sense of luxury to have a driveway. There was no such thing at blue stone.

Every little thing in southern warrior pack reminded Anaya just how poor blue stone was.

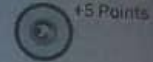
"We will be greeting the Alpha now, so please behave properly Anaya." Charlotte warned, "Don't let him know that you are injured or it will affect his view on blue stone. We are here because of an alliance; if he thinks badly of our pack then the alliance will be gone."

Anaya's mind suddenly opened up. So it was for an alliance?

The car stopped in front of the mansion. Anaya was sitting on the other side so she couldn't see the two people waiting at the front door.

"I will go out first. I am the guest here so you don't have to introduce yourself either, I'll do it for you." Charlotte said and tidied up her clothes before getting out of the door. Anaya wasn't interested in the first place so agreed.

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Once Charlotte went outside, Anaya opened the door and got out as well. Her legs felt soft as soon as they hit the ground, but Anaya somehow managed not to fall. The pain was getting worse but she couldn't show it on the face.

Anaya habitually kept her eyes on the ground and walked slowly while balancing herself with the help of the car roof.

"Good afternoon Alpha Roman, Good afternoon Beta Easton." Charlotte's honey like voice fell on her ears. Anaya wasn't looking up at all, even after listening to Charlotte's introduction. She just bowed her head so they won't think that she is rude.

"Good Afternoon." A man replied.

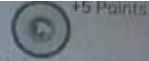
Since very tiny movement hurt, Anaya was breathing abnormally. The movements of her chest were shallow and fast.

"Is this Charlotte? You look a bit too young to be accompanying her like this." Another man spoke.

Charlotte looked back at Anaya who was as timid as ever. Alpha Roman's eyes were fixed on Anaya. Did he misunderstand?! How could he look at Anaya and think she is an elemental? Maybe Alpha Roman isn't that bright after all.

"I am Charlotte, Alpha. You misunderstood."
Charlotte corrected and introduced Anaya in a

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vague way, "That's someone my parents send with me so I won't be alone. We are distant relatives."

Anaya gulped and stayed quiet. She was tempted to look up and see who had spoken. Their voice was smooth like velvet and a bit heavy. It sounded amazing to the ears.

She was so mesmerized by the voice that she didn't even hear Charlotte calling her a distant relative.

Alpha Roman frowned a little bit accepted it. He waved a hand as a gesture to let them inside and turned around to leave.

"Come inside." Easton told the girls. Charlotte hopped over the stairs to catch up with Alpha Roman but Easton blocked her way before she could get to him. Charlotte looked mildly annoyed by this behaviour. No one dared to block her way in blue stone.

Easton couldn't care less about this child's annoyance and said with a smiling face, "You can't go with the Alpha, Charlotte. He has some other matters that need his attention, you follow me to your room."

Anaya was slowly making her way up the stairs to get to the front door. Easton saw this and waited to let her catch up to them. Charlotte started tapping her feet, a sign for Anaya to hurry up.

Anaya tried to walk faster but her thighs, ankles and back hurt a lot and a single mistake made her trip. Anaya fell forward, her knees hit the marble stairs. With the habit of not screaming loud, Anaya bit her tongue and endured the pain.

Easton saw the girl falling and went to help her. As he drew closer to her, he smelled disinfectant. He couldn't touch her without permission so he lend a hand for her to grab. Anaya saw the hand extended towards her and took it.

"T-Thank you." Anaya mumbled. Her eyes were hidden from the man who helped her, only her chapped lips were visible.

"Are you sick?" Easton asked as he led her into the mansion.

"N-No." Anaya answered.

"Then did you hurt yourself before coming here? You shouldn't have come if you are hurt." Easton said softly. Seeing someone in this state, even if he was in a bad mood, he wouldn't say any harsh words.

Anaya pursed her lips in annoyance. This man has many things to say. Anaya didn't want to talk to anyone, can they leave her alone please?

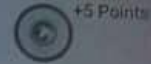
"I-I am Fine."

Charlotte, the forgotten, was following them and couldn't help but feel like Anaya was stealing the show. Even after greeting the Alpha and Beta, they only looked at Anaya and even assumed that Anaya was the elemental.

And now Beta Easton was taking care of Anaya as if she was a cripple. Charlotte was annoyed in her heart but she didn't show it because she had to be the good person here. She saw a group of teenagers sitting in the large open living room and her eyes shone.

Her mother had mentioned that the Alpha kept a few kids at home for some reason. They were all older than Charlotte but didn't look any special. Charlotte's superiority complex rose up high.

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She was the only elemental in her pack, and if she had to guess, she was the only one in Southern warrior pack as well. Or else why would Alpha Roman ask for her in exchange of this alliance? Obviously because she was special and he was interest in her.

Easton stopped by the youngsters as well. The four kids looked up and found two strange girls with Easton. Their first reaction to both the girls were a different.

First they saw Anaya because Easton was helping her stand upright. They didn't think much of her, she had very low presence.

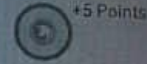
Next was Charlotte. The air around her was different which they didn't like. The four of them exchanged looks. She didn't look like someone they could get along with, but they were taught not to judge a book by it's cover. They didn't have much of an opinion about Charlotte.

Holden was about to go back to his homework when he spotted something. He blinked a few times, if he was seeing correctly, was that blood on the girl's top?

He frowned and pointed at Anaya as he said, "Easton, is she hurt? Should I call a doctor?"

Easton was just about to introduce the girls and tell the kids that they were going to live in the

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mansion when he heard Holden say that. He looked down at Anaya's top and found a coin size red down on her torso, it was getting bigger as if her shirt was soaking. Anaya noticed it too and retracted her hand from Easton's to cover the spot.

She spoke urgently, "Where is the servants quarter? Can I get my luggage first?"

"Why the servants quarter?" Easton said, "You look hurt, I'll call the doctor first."

"Holden, call the doctor real quick." Easton instructed and held Anaya's arm to lead her upstairs to the room prepared. Holden got up as well and ran to get his phone from the bedroom.

Charlotte stood there alone, ignored by the other three youngsters, wondering how Anaya was so special that they completely ignored her.



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