

The Rise Of The King

The Rise Of The King Chapter 26

-Vera-

I keep walking in the direction the wind is guiding me on, but I already know this sensation and this smell. Noah is around here.

I figured he would still be at the Council meeting; after all, he would take them by surprise by challenging them and you never know what the Council might do at any given moment; I assumed the meeting would take all kinds of twists and turns. When I'm far enough from the bonfire, I feel him and, more importantly, his aura. It's faint, but it's a grim indication of how the Council meeting went.

Getting closer, I find him sitting below a tree, looking up at the full moon.

"Noah?" I call for him so as to not take him by surprise.

He turns to look at me, standing up immediately. He's wobbling.

Has he been drinking?

"Noah, are you alright?"

"Just," hiccup, "maybe a little too much wine."

Now that he's up, I can see that beside him are several empty wine bottles.

"Did you drink all of that by yourself?" I ask, concerned.

Hiccup.

"Yeah."

"What happened?" I say, now directly in front of him.

I put my arms on his chest and realize his heart is beating faster than usual.

"I came to find you after the meeting but nobody knew where you went," hiccup, "they saw you at the library but then you just disappeared."

"I was outside the Castle with Elden." I explain. "What happened at the Council meeting?" I ask again.

He huffs, dragging a heavy hand through his hair. He extends his other hand to me and I take it as he tops us both to the ground. I'm sitting with my back to his chest as he rests his back on the tree again. He's caressing my arms gently, but I have a feeling it's an attempt to draw comfort from me and not the other way around.

"They accepted the challenge, as we expected." he says.

"And?"

He stays silent.

"And I have to prove my lineage now, so the plan is in motion."

I let this news sink into my stomach. I am coming face to face with my very legitimate fear of the plan failing and of all of this possibly coming to an end; everything we worked for, everything that we have yet to do to make this a better place, could all go up in flames in the next...?

"How much time are they giving you?"

He stays silent long enough for me to be unnerved. I turn to him.

"Noah, how much time do we have?"

He looks at me, suddenly sober.

"One week."

I gape at him.

"One... one week?"

He nods, taking another swig of the bottle of wine he was holding.

I down the drink Ethan got me, but it's not enough. I take the bottle from Noah's hands and down a giant swig.

We have **one week** to execute an already intricate plan.

"I thought they normally gave like a month? What happened?!"

Noah pinches the bridge of his nose.

"They're desperate to get rid of me, that's what happened."

If that's the case, if the Council really is this desperate, it means that they actually see Noah for the threat he is; in turn, this means that they might keep a closer eye on all of us and the plan will be impossible to execute. "Vera, I doubt we'll be able to pull this off. I don't want you going to wolf territory anymore, it won't be worth it. We don't even know if such documents exist. It's too risky."

"Noah, I understand how daunting this all seems, but we can't just hand them the throne like this. This is your home, and you *know* what will become of it if left at the hands of the Council.

He hiccups again.

"Vera, I admire your enthusiasm, but I don't want you risking yourself for a plan that will essentially require a miracle. Because that's what we will need. A miracle."

"I'm a wolf, Noah, I won't be risking anything."

"V, the trail alone is dangerous. We don't even know how close the rogues are to us because Liam hasn't returned. Not to mention, I don't feel comfortable with you going without me."

"I'm a *wolf*, Noah, entering wolf territory won't be dangerous for me, and even then, I'll have the protection of my pack when visiting the Gold Moons. I promise it will be alright. What *you* have to worry about is your end of the deal." He sighs, looking back up at the sky.

After several moments of silence, he looks back down at me.

"Ok. We'll go ahead with the plan, but I will personally choose who will come with you; warriors we can trust."

I smile at him and peck him on the lips.

"We'll be fine," I reassure him.

He smiles back at me, but it's a smile that doesn't reach his eyes.

"We will, I'll make sure of it," he says, rubbing my arms with his hands.

I return back to the resting my back on Noah. We both stay like this for a long time, just star gazing and drawing comfort from each other. At one point I even sigh, letting anxiety drain from my body. It didn't occur to me before that all I needed to ease my mind, was to be with Noah.

"Come on, let's go get some rest. We'll have a busy day tomorrow," he says, standing up and lifting me to my feet. [Search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Hand in hand, we skip the bonfire area altogether and return to the Castle.

"I was surprised to find you here," I tell him casually as we make our way back.

"I figure you'd be here. All of this was done so that you and Violet could kiss and make up."

"What do you mean?"

"Lucas figured if Violet saw you interacting with other people, she'd be less afraid of you," he chuckles, "quite frankly, I found it all to be very amusing."

"He went through all this trouble just for that?"

"Well yeah, he didn't want his mate living in fear, much less of you."

I roll my eyes. This was so over the top.

"She asked me to train her," I say.

"She did?" he laughs.

"I don't even know what I'm getting myself into. Cassia asked me to teach her magic, and now Violet wants me to teach her how to fight, on top of everything I already have going on." "Cassia knows you're a witch?" He asks in a hushed voice.

"Yeah, she caught me using magic in the garden."

"And can she be trusted?"

"My wolf seems to think so."

In cue, I feel my wolf slightly come to the surface, showing her agreement.

We reach our room and immediately get into our pajamas.

I miss this.

The simplicity of coming to bed together and just chatting, connecting. We've gone a long time without it.

Once we're both lying in bed, looking up at the ceiling and unwinding from the day, Noah comes up over me and kisses me. It's a tender kiss, but it soon becomes a lot more urgent, demanding.

I happily accommodate him between my legs and moan into his mouth, knowing exactly where this will lead.

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The Rise Of The King Chapter 27

-Vera-

The next morning, Noah and I wake up and get dressed, dragging our feet. None of us are looking forward to what today holds for us. Today is day one of our plan, meaning I have to leave him to venture off into wolf territory. I have a knot forming in my stomach just Noah grunts as I pull back the curtains, letting some light in. I chuckle, going to my night stand to retrieve some aspirins.

thinking about it.

"Here," I tell him, handing them to him, "it will help with your hangover."

"Thanks," he says, swallowing it without any water and rubbing his temples with his hands, "I'm never drinking again."

I hug him from behind, placing my palms on his chest and my cheek on his back.

We haven't even parted ways and I already feel such longing for him.

"It'll be fine." he says, turning in my arms and hugging me, my head on his chest.

I breathe in his scent, closing my eyes and hugging him a little tighter.

"Vera," he says, using his fingers to raise my chin and look into my eyes, "if anything happens, if for some reason we fail, I need you to go back to the Pack House with Sofia. They'll protect you if it comes to it." "Noah, even if we fail, I'm not leaving you here."

"If it comes down to it, I would probably have to flee anyway, I'm just asking you to wait for me at the Pack House. I need to make sure you'll be safe."

After a few moments, I nod. This is our contingency plan, and it's for the best. Noah will always be welcomed into our clan since he's my mate; I just hope it doesn't come down to that.

"Okay, let's do this," I say and he kisses my forehead briefly before we separate.

When we walk out of the room, he goes directly to Eli's office at the gym, and I head to the clinic.

As I enter, I notice so much of it has already been organized to the way it was before.

"Hey!" I hear, "where did you go off to last night?" Charlotte asks.

"Oh, hi Charlotte! You're up early." I say, noting the clock on the wall points at it being seven A. M. Normally, we start work at the clinic around eight.

"I didn't get much sleep last night," she says, but then quickly changes the subject, "hey, do you think we could quickly go over the inventory? I think those old guys got rid of some of the tools we bought." I groan.

"I wouldn't be surprised; most of them didn't even know what they were."

We had bought tools for the new clinic which I had intended on teaching with. Since many of the practices here are outdated, I wanted to make sure they knew the more efficient, medically proven practices before we opened up the clinic to the public. "Okay, let's start from the first item," I say, picking up the inventory I had created earlier this month when the tools came. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

For the rest of the morning, I keep busy with Charlotte and the rest of the women that help me out at the clinic. We sort out every item on the inventory and indeed, many are missing; we will have to order more.

I have so many great ideas for this clinic; the potential is enormous; but I have made up my mind: we cannot do it with the old healers. When I come back, I will have to get rid of every single one of them.

"Alright ladies, I think I have kept you long enough," I say, noticing the clock indicates it's already one P.M. "We'll continue after lunch."

They all excuse themselves, leaving for the dining hall.

"Are you coming?" Charlotte asks at the door.

"I'll meet you guys there," I tell her with a smile.

She smiles back and leaves.

I take a deep breathe.

Today is all about pretending we are all continuing on with our normal lives so that the Council doesn't suspect what we're up to. They almost never pay any attention to me, so I'm not worried about them knowing I have left lycan territory; but I'm sure they're keeping a close eye on everyone else.

I close the door to the clinic as I step outside, making sure there is nobody around to see where

I'm going.

When I enter the gym, I knock on Eli's door.

"Come in," I hear from within.

"Doc," Eli nods at me as I step inside.

Within the office, I find Ezra, Noah, Caleb, and Eli looking at a map.

"Fill me in." I say, approaching them.

Noah takes my hand and interlocks our fingers as soon as I'm within reach.

"We will have to exit through the back of the Castle to go unnoticed. From there, we will round up the northwest corner and enter the woods; security there is nonexistent after midnight. Also, we have chosen warriors that won't raise suspicions, they were due for vacation time anyway. We leave tonight." Ezra says.

"What are we expecting travel time wise?" I ask.

"Well, in order to make good time, we will have to enter wolf territory by tomorrow night."

"Tomorrow night?" I frown.

Last time we traveled from the Pack House to the Castle, it took us a few days to get here.

I turn to Noah,

"You'll have to run as your wolf," he says, grinding his teeth.

"It's the only way to make it in time," Caleb says, looking at Noah.

Noah doesn't look at him. I can see he's not comfortable with this at all, but I for one, am thrilled.

I squeeze his hand gently.

"What's the plan for when we get to the Pack House?" Caleb asks.

"Sofia's family and the Goldmoons have always had a great relationship, we can count on her to arrange a meeting. Their territory neighbors ours so the trip will likely be short. Once there, we just have to search for Noah's birth certificate," I say, a little flutter of excitement igniting in my stomach at the prospect of seeing Sofia and everyone else.

As much as I'll dread being away from Noah, I'm incredibly excited to go back home; even if it's under these circumstances.

"Okay. Gentlemen, and doc, we have ourselves a plan. We will meet at the library to access the tunnels that lead behind the Castle at half past eleven to ensure you make good time. I will make sure patrol is thin at this time," Eli says, clapping his hands once. We all nod and leave the office, making sure there is nobody close by to see us.

Ezra leaves first. Then Caleb after a few minutes. Then Eli, and finally Noah and myself.

My stomach growls. I skipped breakfast because of how nervous I was.

"Vera, if you don't feel comfort -"

I interrupt him,

"I'll be fine," I tell him, "it's even better that I'll be on my wolf form, I'm much more aware of my surroundings like that. Besides, once this is all over, it won't really matter if they know what I am."

He nods after considering what I just said.

"You're right," he says, leading me to the dining hall.

At first when Noah would come eat at the dining hall, everyone would pause, unsure of what to do about the King eating with them; but slowly, people have understood that to him, it's just a title and not much else has changed. Some don't even raise their gaze to look at him anymore. To avoid an incomplete reading experience, visit Jobn'i'b.com. We eat lunch quietly, finding Eva, Ezra, and Charlotte chatting after they're done with their meals.

"Are you ready to go?" Charlotte asks, standing up to return to the clinic after we are all done.

Before standing up. Noah squeezes my hand which he's been holding this entire time below the table.

I smile at him reassuringly and he lets go..

This silent communication between us has become second nature by now and it's especially useful now since nobody here but Ezra knows what's about to happen.

The rest of the day passes by in a heartbeat. Along with checking the inventory, we have rearranged the tables, beds, and everything else back to where they were before I left.

Once we are all done and almost everyone is gone for the day, I sigh, closing up the last box of equipment.

"Hey, Charlotte?" I call to her as she's storing another box filled with bandages and such.

"Yeah?"

I turn to look around to make sure we're alone.

"I'll be gone for the rest of the week; can you please make sure these old folks don't mess up our work? You can come to Noah or Eli if they give you any trouble, I've already talked to them. "Is everything alright?" She asks, a frown on her face.

"Yeah, I just have some things to sort out. It shouldn't take me long."

"Okay, I got you covered," she says, winking at me.

I place my hand on her shoulder and give it a gentle squeeze. Trusting her to keep everything in order in my absence actually helps relieve some of the anxiety I'm feeling.

I exit the clinic with Charlotte but soon, we each go our own way. I go up directly to the room, not wanting anything for dinner, and she heads out to the garden.

When I reach the room and open the door, I'm surprised to see Noah is already here.

"Lost your appetite, too?" he asks as soon as he sees me.

He's lying in bed, looking up at the ceiling.

Without saying a word, I enter the room and shut the door behind me. Then, I proceed throw myself at the bed and land directly on top of Noah, using him as a pillow, completely depleted of energy. I'm just so tired. He hugs me to him.

I don't know if it's the overwhelming anxiety I've been feeling lately or everything that's happened this past week, but I am completely done for the day and, without even answering him, I slowly start to snooze to the sound of his heartbeat.

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The Rise Of The King Chapter 28

-Vera-

"V, it's time to go," Noah kisses my forehead. [Search The website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

I groan.

"Ten more minutes," I say, twisting in his arms to face away from him.

He chuckles.

"Come on, we can't be late, and you still have to pack."

"Ugh," I say, feeling every inch of my body heavier than I should.

We slept for a good four to five hours since we skipped dinner, but I still feel so heavy and tired.

Unreluctantly. I get off the bed as Noah fetches my duffel bag.

"I feel like I *just* unpacked that." I say, groaning again.

I proceed to pack up *again* a few clothes and underwear. I don't expect this visit to be eventful. and even if it is, I have always had Sofia's wardrobe available to me so I decide to pack light.

In only ten minutes, I am fully packed but not at all ready to go. I lay on the bed again, closing my eyes.

"Hey, are you feeling alright?" Noah comes over me, placing his hand on my forehead, "you don't seem to have a fever."

"I don't, I'm just really tired," I reply, not opening my eyes.

"We could postpone the trip if you're not feeling up for it..." he says.

My eyes shoot open.

"No, absolutely not. I'm up. We're going."

I change into my pants, loose t-shirt and sports shoes. Most of the running will be done in our beast forms so I'm not concerned with my outfit right now.

After quickly brushing my teeth and splashing some cold water on my face, I'm good to go.

"Ready?" Noah asks, carrying my duffel bag on his shoulder for me.

"Ready." I say, at least trying to sound energetic.

Noah creaks the door open, checking if there is anybody in the hall. When the coast is clear, we exit the room and make our way up to the library, where we will enter the tunnels that lead to the back of the Castle. Once we get there, we slowly push the massive doors open and enter.

Thankfully, Elden made sure to have every scholar and apprentice out of the library for us to

leave unnoticed.

"Good, we're all here," I hear Eli off to the corner of the library.

As we approach, I see the other warriors that will accompany us.

"Vera, this is Emmett, Rowan, Ryker, Colt, and Arlo; Ezra you already know. These are some of our best warriors and will keep you safe if it comes down to it. They are all aware of how crucial the success of this plan is for the continuation of this Kingdom," Noah says. I nod at them, but they remain quiet. This is them in mission mode and I'm not about to throw them off.

"And gentlemen, I know I don't have to tell you how important it is that you return Vera to me, unharmed," he says, looking at them directly.

Some of his aura seeps through his comment and the one named Rowan gulps; they all nod, otherwise unfazed.

Elden, who has been listening to everything off to the side, comes closer to me and takes my hand, placing a small wooden box in it.

"For good luck," he says, his eyes hiding an ulterior meaning that I can't quite figure out.

I frown at him, but before I can ask him anything, Eli speaks.

"Wonderful, pleasantries are over. Let's get a move on," he says, opening the fake door to the tunnel.

One by one, each warrior enters the tunnel, carrying a torch to help guide the way; we have to go in in a line since we wouldn't fit otherwise.

I'm the last one to go in, but before I step inside, I turn towards Noah.

He smiles at me reassuringly as he comes closer to me to hug me. I hug him back.

I get on my tippy-toes to kiss him on the lips as his hand rests on my cheek.

Eli clears his throat and both Noah and I roll our eyes.

"I'll be right here, waiting for you to come back," he says, handing me my duffel bag.

I smile at him and turn towards the tunnel, Eli shutting the door behind me.

I take a deep breathe, and begin walking behind the warriors.

After walking for about half an hour, the line suddenly stops.

"Uh," I hear Ezra.

We have reached the end of the tunnel.

"Oh," I say, understanding what's going on.

For someone who is unfamiliar with these fake doors, it can be hard to understand how they work.

I squeeze through the line to make my way to Ezra.

"Here," I say, pushing the door forward until I hear the distinct 'click.'

The door opens and we are met by chilly night air. One by one, the warriors leave the tunnel behind and I shut the door once the last one is out.

Without a second thought, I go into Elden's green house, strip, and switch to my wolf. We have no time to lose. I close my eyes, completely naked, and summon my wolf. For some reason, she's harder to reach than usual; I thought I was getting better at this. After several seconds, she comes to the surface.

Are you ready? I ask, putting my hand on her cheek gently.

She nods and closes her eyes.

Soon, I feel the tell-tell eruption all over my body where she is taking over.

When I return to where the warriors are, they have all already switched to their lycan form. When they see me approaching, they each nod at me.

It feels good to be in my wolf form, despite how apprehensive I may feel about it amongst people I don't know. Not to mention, I can't gauge their reaction to me in their lycan form.

I nod at them and quickly we start running, rounding up the Castle just as Ezra told me.

The ground beneath our paws feels incredible as we run and the chilly wind on our face is amazingly liberating. It's in this form that we feel the freest.

We run for a few miles until we have rounded up the Castle and we are at the entrance of the forest.

We pause for a moment, looking back at the Castle, feeling Noah moving about inside.

I promise I'll be back soon. I think to myself while thinking of Noah.

My wolf nods, finally turning away before the others get too far ahead.

The countdown has begun...

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Read The Rise Of The King Chapter 29

The Rise Of The King Chapter 29

-Vera-

After running well into the sunrise, we are halfway to the camp when the group suddenly stops.

Ezra shifts first.

"We'll rest here for an hour, get something to eat, and then continue."

I nod, thankful that my wolf can't blush because all of these men are shifting back to their human forms, b**t naked.

Getting behind a tree for some coverage, I shift to my human form and change. When I get back to the group, the one named Arlo hands me a small wooden lunchbox.

"Jeremy prepared these for us," he says with a smile.

My mouth immediately begins to water. I didn't have dinner last night and to hear this is Jeremy's food? I basically tear open the box and start eating before I've even sat with the others. There's fresh rice, fresh meats with some sort of smokiness to it, sautéed vegetables, and even some sort of ham. It's absolutely delicious.

We all sit in silence, in a circle, as we eat our food.

"I say we should always bring Arlo with us, this food is fantastic." Rowan says. [search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"You wish, I'm only doing this because it's for Noah. We're not even half way and I've wanted to puke three times during this run," Arlo says, liking his fork.

"Take one for the team, man. Jeremy would never cook this for us," Rowan says.

I'm watching the exchange with a frown, curious. Ezra notices and fills me in.

"Jeremy seems to have a crush on Arlo," he explains.

**Seems to have a crush on Arlo? That poor guy nearly shits himself every time Arlo is around.

He even changed his shift in the kitchen to fit some training in his schedule, training with *Arlo.* "Ryker says.

"Jealous much?" Colt asks Ryker.

"Absolutely! With the way he cooks? I don't care about anything else." Ryker says and we all laugh.

"Leave him be, a tiny crush never hurt anyone." Arlo says, finishing his meal and closing the box.

"This one might," Ezra whispers, too low for anyone else to hear him.

After our small chat is over, the guys lay on the ground and within minutes, they're asleep.

I watch dumbfounded how they just fall deeply asleep so easily, Rowan is even snoring. The only two left up are Ezra and myself.

"Alright," I say, getting up. "I'm gonna go stretch a bit," I tell him.

"Don't wander far, we've gotten reports of rogues around these areas," he says.

I nod.

Stretching is just an excuse. What I really want is to leave the group so nobody sees me using my magic.

Finding a tree big enough to carry deep roots, I step behind it to cover myself from any wandering eyes.

"Here we go," I say, taking off my shoes and rubbing my hands together.

I crouch down to the ground and close my eyes, taking a deep breath as I bury my hands on the soil as deeply as I can. I move my hands inside slowly, shifting the dirt between my fingers as I search for what I'm looking for. Before, I didn't understand how this worked. I was subject to what the forest wanted to show me and when, but now I understand how it works a little better.

What I'm looking for is that intrinsic, organic magic that free flows throughout the entire forest. I've found that it is strongly carried in the roots of the trees, kind of like a subterranean spider web.

I stop moving my hands, having found that electricity I was looking for.

"There you are." I whisper to myself.

Once I tap into it, I let it move within my fingertips, concentrating on what I seek.

Soon, my vision begins and this time, it's showing me exactly what I want: a layout of the entire

area.

We've never been here before, and this way, I can find out if there are any hiding spaces, caves, waterfalls, waterholes, or anything that could be useful to us in the case of an emergency. If I concentrate enough, it will even show me if there are other people around us; in this case, rogues.

Having the forest show me people is a little trickier unless it really wants to. I have no problem accessing the magic of the forest and therefore locating natural landscapes, but people operate outside this network of magic, so it's not intuitively trying to show me that.

After several minutes, I'm satisfied enough to stop.

I sigh.

So far, there doesn't seem to be any danger in this route we're taking.

I return to where the other guys are resting with my shoes in my hand.

Off to a side, I spot Ezra sitting up against a tree with a book. I decide to join him.

"What are you reading?" I ask when I'm close enough.

He perks up, lifting his eyes from the book.

"You're back," he says, closing his book, "just some history."

I note the cover of the book and recognize its symbol.

"You like reading about witches?" I ask nonchalant, but in reality. I'm very interested in his answer.

"Not particularly, I just recently got into it."

I rummage through my mind for any excuse to continue on with this conversation, any comment or story that might help, but before I can come up with something, he speaks.

"My family has served the Crown for generations; it is said that my great-great-grandfather owed a debt of blood to the then King and Noah's great-great-grandfather, therefore, my entire family line is destined to serve the King." I frown.

"You serve him because there's a debt?"

He chuckles,

"No, no, I serve Noah because I respect him; he is going to be a great King once he gets rid of that f*****g Council. He's always had that," he pauses, "that *aura* about him. In the way he moved, in the way he fought, in the way he would lead us. There has never been a doubt in my mind that I would give my life in service for someone like that. It's almost as if I already knew he was King. In fact, I think many of us already perceived it."

I smile at this, proud of the way he refers to Noah, and proud to know this is how most of the warriors feel.

"That being said," he continues, "as my lineage goes back generations in service to the Crown, I grew up with endless tales of witches and warlocks and all that nonsense they tell you as a child to frighten you. As you may know, those who fought for Noah's family were trained as witch hunters."

I stop breathing.

"Which is why it intrigued me to find out today that *you* are a witch."

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The Rise Of The King Chapter 30

-Vera-

"Which is why it intrigued me to find out today that you are a witch."

I'm still holding my breath but I try to remain casual.

I frown at him as if what he's saying is utter nonsense.

"I think you've been reading too many of those books, Ezra."

He stares at me impassively, clearly not buying my façade.

After a minute or two, but really it feels like forever, he cracks a smile.

"Vera, the first thing my grandparents ever taught me about a witch was to watch for the eyes. Your wolf has those eyes they implanted in my mind with their stories. I'd never seen them before, and I'm quite unfamiliar with wolves, but I'm not wrong."

I clench my jaw, unsure of what to do next.

If he's so confident about me being a witch, and he had a problem with it, he would try to kill me. But judging by his lack of action, I think it's safe to assume he doesn't have ill intentions, right?

He sighs after I chose to remain silent.

"I'm only interested because, other than knowing that we're here to protect you from rogues as we make our way to wolf territory, I wasn't told anything else. If this has anything to do with witches, warlocks, or magic in general, I feel like as the leader of this team, I should know, otherwise we'll be completely unprepared if something were to happen." Okay, he has a valid point.

"All you need to know is that I don't expect any trouble as we reach wolf territory. Once we get there, I'll handle everything and you guys can relax at the Pack House."

"Relax at the Pack House? We're coming with you to the second location."

"Absolutely not. Sofia, our Alpha, is permissive with you guys because of me; these are special circumstances. Before Noah, Lucas, and Eli made it to us all those months ago, a lycan would be

killed on sight. This other Pack I'll be visiting is not this open; they **will** kill all of you, and maybe us too for bringing you."

"This was not the plan," he clenches his jaw, obviously distressed by this news.

"It's okay, I'll be with Sofia and the rest of the party. Us wolves are cordial amongst ourselves, even friendly, unlike lycans," I explain.

After a few moments, he finally nods.

"And they won't suspect you?" He asks.

"Suspect me of what?"

"Of witchcraft and stuff," he says.

"Of course not. I don't plan on shifting to my wolf in front of them anyway, it's the only giveaway I have."

His eyes widen, showing his amusement.

"So you **are** a witch?!"

I frown.

"Isn't that what you told me?"

He laughs.

"I was going off on a suspicion but you just confirmed it! I didn't actually think it was true. This is sick!"

I narrow my eyes at him.

"You motherfuc

"Hey, guys! It's time to go," Arlo comes close to us.

I turn to look at everyone else and they're either still sitting on the ground, or up and about, stretching and getting ready to resume our journey. "Come on, Vera. It's time to go," Ezra says, standing up and offering his hand for me to stand.

I slap it away.

"I'm going to kill you the first chance I get." I say under my breath, storming off as I hear him laughing out loud behind me.

I'm fuming.

The Moon Goddess is my witness, I **will** kill him.

I step behind the tree again to change, neatly folding my clothes into my duffel bag before turning.

Again, a few moments pass until I can reach my wolf and we can turn.

Once we have shifted, we place the duffel bag on our back.

When I return once again to the clearing, everyone else is already in their lycan form. The site has been cleaned so that nobody even knows we were here.

Ezra nods at me and I nod back.

We begin to run, picking up the pace with every passing minute to ensure we make it to the camp before nightfall. From what I've learned, rogues are often seen at night rather than during the day. They use the cloak of the night to survey campsites, farms, and vulnerable, unprotected land they might take for themselves to advance their position. The only reason why they haven't taken the campsite we are going to now is because it is much too close to wolf territory and we are not their target.

As we run, we pass by several spots I saw in my vision, making me feel confident that we won't find any trouble as we reach the campsite.

Several hours have passed since our last break, we have now settled into a jog since the guys were getting very tired. It requires a lot of stamina to keep up this pace for several hours, and most of us aren't going off on much rest from last night.

Truth be told, even our paws are beginning to hurt a little from the rough terrain, and since my wolf and I haven't had much time to run in this form, our paws are not used to this level of activity. I'm going to have to put something on them so they don't blister and bleed.

Fortunately, according to my vision, we are only a few miles from the campsite and we will be able to rest there for a while.

In only a few minutes more, we arrive at the campsite.

"Thank the Goddess!" I hear someone behind me. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Arlo has turned into his human form and just plopped on the ground right before entering the camp. His chest is violently falling and rising, showing just how worn out he is. For a second, I fear this man is going to have a heart attack right here, right now.

"Alright, gentlemen, find yourselves a bed so you can rest. There will be no more running for today, we will continue on first thing tomorrow morning." Ezra says, "Vera, you will stay in Noah's quarters, he told me you know where they are."

I nod and walk inside the tent, where the guys have already laid in bed... naked.

I do my best to avert my eyes as I make it to Noah's tent, finding everything exactly as it was when we last came here.

Before changing, I take a look at our paws.

They're not too bad I think, and my wolf nods inside my head.

Before turning back to human form, my wolf instinctively starts licking her front paws to provide them with some relief.

I'll ice my hands, too I tell her.

I don't know to what extent that'll provide relief to her, but from my experience, any damage done to us in wolf form, somehow translates to my human form.

When I'm back to my human form, I immediately lay on the bed.

I'm so tired; of course, the running took its toll, but I think tapping into the magic of the forest also wore me out.

Without a second thought, I close my eyes and almost immediately, I'm asleep.

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