

Chapter 0091

Once we get to school, you can feel the energy in the air. Something is different today. All the kids are buzzing about something. What could have happened in the last hour since training ended?

Kaley runs up to the twins who are leading our group up the wide path to school, and grabbing both by an arm.

"Oh. My. Goddess! Did you hear?" She punctuates every word. "The trials for Elite Warrior training are going to be at the end of this week. Isn't that so exciting? I heard the Alpha King himself is going to come down, since he heard so many great things about all of us from training yesterday."

"What did she mean by 'us?'" She didn't actually do much of anything but parade around in her pink outfit." Sierra whispers to me and we exchange an eye roll, but say nothing else.

"You guys have done such a great job training everyone and leading. I bet that's why he's really coming. He wants to see all the high ranking wolves in action. I can't wait to sit next to you while our best warriors show off their skills." She jumped up and

kissed Cam on the cheek unexpectedly and turned toward Kota who stepped back knowing it was coming.

Cam looks like someone slapped him and he's pissed. Kaley doesn't seem to notice.

"We'll see. Our parents usually have plans when we have guests. Not sure about what they will expect of us if the Alpha King is truly coming. This is the first we are hearing these rumors." Always the diplomat, Cam.

"I'm sure they will expect the future alphas and their Luna as well as the rest of our future leaders to be present for all of it." She looks around at the guys and giggles then playfully slaps him in the arm.

Oliver clears his throat. "We don't know who our future Luna is, and I'm sure if the Alpha King wants people present he will let us know who will be allowed in his presence, I'm sure there are protocols for that. We're going to be late, let's go." He didn't wait just stepped around Kaley and the rest of us followed without looking back. She didn't try to approach them when Sierra and I were around, for the rest of the day

Tuesday and Wednesday are a blur of activity.

Training remains the same and the Elite Warriors end up sticking around because they are, in fact, running

trials on Thursday and Friday. The school board decided to cancel regular classes after training Wednesday morning so our higher level students could spend time focusing on getting ready and the younger kids were just too wound up with excitement over the whole thing to focus. I trained like I normally do and the guys and Sierra grudgingly came along.

No one has confirmed whether or not the Alpha King is going to actually come, but the high school rumor mill spread that information like wildfire. The dance is also next Saturday night so there will be several things to celebrate. Which is our current topic of discussion.

We are all sitting at the diner, Martha bringing our usual meals. She always throws extra fries on my plate or brings me a milkshake, even when I don't order one. Sam is still trying to get her to give him extras.

“We have to go as a group, it's the only logical thing. No one takes a date to the spring dance because of the mating celebration, but I still want a reason to tell Marnie I can't go with her.” We all laugh at Mateo. “She has told me twice a day, everyday, for two weeks what time to pick her up and what color shirt to wear so we match. This b*tch is crazy!”

“She’s going to have a rude awakening when she’s waiting and no one shows.” Sam laughs.

“Jeanie tried the same thing, but I shut her down and I blocked her, so if she’s tried since I have no idea.” Oliver shrugs his shoulders and lets out a huff that I think might have been a rare laugh.

“What about Kaley? Has she tried to rope the two of you into taking her?” Sierra asks the twins.

“She did, I told her we were taking Skylar.” Kota shrugs his shoulders. My eyes went wide.

“You what!?!” Now she really is going to try and kill me.

“Relax, it wasn’t a lie since we are all going together.”

“You know you need to put a protective detail on Sky now right?” Sierra looks between the two of them who look like they’ve been hit with a stupid stick. “I’m kind of joking, but kind of not. Kaley is willing to do anything to get close to the two of you including harming people. We’ve seen it.”

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“Sky will be fine. She’s taken down pretty much everyone in the pack who can actually fight. I’m not worried about f*cking Kaley.” Kota finishes. He has no idea, it’s never Kaley who gets her hands dirty and they never come at me one at a time. 2

At least we don’t have school, that will help me avoid her. Although she has actually been coming to training every morning and dressed in workout gear. She doesn’t appear to do much, but she’s good at looking busy. We all leave looking like something the cat dragged in while she looks exactly as she showed up.

She won’t fool people for long. She’s trying to impress the Elite Warriors by pretending to be involved. We just need to keep our head down and make a good impression so they will take us next year. Then we can get away from her for a bit. I love that my wolf just gets me and knows what I need to hear.

“I know, I just hope that she doesn’t start bullying other kids while we are gone. She’s starting to get worse with her bow-to-me Luna tirades.”

“Hey Shorty, where’d you go?” Mateo looks at me, concern clouding his eyes. “You know we won’t let anything happen to you, right?” This comment, of course, gets the attention of the others.

“It’s not me who needs protection.” I move to get up, annoyed that they are so short sided still, even after what I told them about the bullying in school. I take the bullying so no one else has to. And I have told all the kids not to fight on school grounds since they are the ones most likely to get into trouble for it. So, they just come to me.

I walk toward the door and start a slow jog back over to the training field. I need to hit the gym and punch something that won’t actually get hurt if I put my full rage into it. I know they are following me, but at a distance. They have at least picked up on when I need some time to myself. It doesn’t mean that they actually leave me alone, they just don’t try to engage and I have stopped trying to run and hide from them when I am upset. I just kind of shut down verbally. It’s only been about six months since we have been hanging out and I still find myself overwhelmed at all of them being around all of the time. There are times when I do miss the quiet and peace of being by myself. 2

I make the effort not to rip the door open as I reach

the entrance to the gym attached to the main training grounds. I'm not here much since I prefer to train outdoors no matter the weather. But the weights and the punching bags are a great way to release pent up frustrations quickly. Also the guys can all be here with me without being in my way or in my space. It's the best compromise I can give them. I walk over to the stereo and hook up my phone and blast the loudest, most aggressive rock playlist I have. The guitar and drums fuel my irritation and help me channel the rage that has been slowly building up as the year has gone on.

I walk to the wall and grab a spare set of wraps for my hands and begin the irritatingly long process of wrapping my knuckles. I prefer the MMA wraps to boxing gloves, it's closer to the real thing and I tend to not overdo it since the pain comes more quickly. I get one done and struggle with the other since it's my off hand. Without a word large hands grab the wrap and my hand and begin the process of securing my knuckles. I don't look up, I don't have to, each of these guys brings me comfort in their own ways. Oliver is the one who showed me how to wrap properly so I did less damage to my hands. He always makes sure I'm safe, but never tries to stop me from letting out my anger in a constructive way. That's the part of me he seems to understand and can

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sympathize with. When he's finished, he just turns and walks away, leaving me to my thoughts.

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