

## Chapter 0181

“Basically.” Nathaniel shrugs. A man of few words, I like it.

As we round the corner from the foyer to the living room, the low rumble of noise lets me know just how many warriors live here. We walk towards the glass wall at the back of the room and I can already see the line forming.

When the Alpha King and Warrior Osiston showed me around earlier we didn’t go further than the kitchen. I didn’t even think about the lack of usable seating in that space. We must be heading to a dining room.

When I get around the corner and through the door, the roar of conversation is almost deafening, and I love it. You can feel the excitement and energy radiating off of everyone in the room. The buzz is almost overwhelming. I get goosebumps and my wolf is even purring.

It is just five after 8 and the room is already almost filled. The line around the buffet styled counter is moving faster than anything I have ever seen before. These wolves know what they want and understand the time crunch.

“See, we told you, you have to be right on time. This place is a madhouse. Especially when everyone is here.” Wyatt says in my ear and all I can do is smile. I love it!

We got through the line and I think every type of food was available. I remember what Oliver said about me being too small and losing weight, so I piled my plate up not wanting to have to deal with being malnourished if training is going to be as intense as everyone makes it seem.

“I think there is enough room for all of us over there.” Lillian points out at the far corner of the room.

We walk through the long rectangular room. This seems to be more like the kitchen, industrial and functional. No decoration or frills here. Made to house the hundred or so warriors that live in the bunkhouse. We sat at the end of a long wooden table that looked antique, but sturdy, with grooves and nicks and stains all over it. This table would have thousands of stories to tell if it could talk.

“So you need to tell me what I am in for with Audrina. I need to know how not to piss her off any more than I already have apparently. What does doing my baseline today with Warrior Osiston have to

do with her issue with me today?" I ask the three of them, taking a huge bite of a burger that just melts in my mouth. Alpha Lucas could take lessons.

They all look at each other and must come to some kind of agreement.

Lillian takes a deep breath then starts. "So normally, new recruits do their baselines in front of the whole warrior training camp. It's like a right of passage to get heckled and basically suck at the thing. Almost nobody finishes, because there is no kind of preparation for it, it's long and no one helps each other. When we all got accepted after the trials, we were housed in a shack overnight, then given a set of training clothes and brought here, straight to the gauntlet. No directions were given, we were just told to 'go.' There were about 50 of us to start, after the gauntlet, when we came to lunch there were about 30 of us. By the end of training our first day 20 were given room assignments. So there's that."


I just looked at her confused. I did all of those things, just maybe not in that order and not with an audience.



"Drina is the only other person Warrior Brogen has ever personally evaluated. I think that made her feel special. She was also the youngest recruit, at 17, until you." Nathaniel supplies around a mouthful of

spaghetti.

“My situation is different though, I wasn’t supposed to be here for two more years and it’s more than a month after the trials. Surely she understands that it would be a waste of time to stop everyone’s training, just to give me a hard time, now that the new session has already started.” I try to reason.

“We get that, but he also told you to call him by his first name. That is a rare thing, I’m sure you’ve been told that. Not even Drina gets that liberty. And he has a pet name for you, something she also doesn’t have.” Wyatt looks at me seriously.

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## Chapter 0182

"Okay, so she might be under the impression that I am here to overshadow her or take her place in some way. I just need to stay under the radar enough to stay out of her way. I don't want to be 'the favorite' or whatever she thinks. And the Alpha King calls me 'Little One' too, it's not a unique nickname. Almost all of my friends back home call me some synonym of short. Even Wyatt calls me 'Mighty Midget.' It's just a thing." I shrug.

"She doesn't know that though. She was only at trials for the second day and she left on assignment almost immediately after. She didn't see any of the interactions you had with other people socially." Nathaniel says matter of factly.

"Midge, you just turned 15 and were personally brought here by the Alpha King and his lead warrior, you are on everyone's radar." I can feel the color drain from my face and I feel sick. Wyatt must notice, he hurries to amend his statement. "I think she's the only negative one though. You have been the talk of the compound since we got here. Lillian and I have been asked nonstop questions about you since we got to work with you in a team. I think that's why they

assigned me as your guide for the day tomorrow. I'm kind of interested in following you around at school. I graduated two years ago, I wonder if anything has changed much?" He looks a little thoughtful, like he is remembering something pleasant about his high school experience.

"I think your brain might explode following her around to classes." Nathaniel comes up from his food again. "Has it occurred to you that at 15, a technical sophomore, she is going to qualify to graduate by the end of the summer? She's two and a half years ahead of all her peers, you barely made it out on time." He and Lillian are laughing as the idea settles on Wyatt. The look on his face was priceless.

"Okay, so really, what do I need to look out for? I don't think I can do anything about Audrina right now. What other newbie hazing mistakes can I at least avoid?" I am pleading with them, but I need to transition in quickly. Like I told Warrior Osiston and Nathaniel pointed out I am on people's radar and I can't afford to make mistakes. This probationary thing must be serious if they got rid of thirty people on just the first day.

"It's not so much avoidance of things, Everything we do is designed for us to f\*ck up. It's the way we learn

best, from our own failures. Make sure you are on time and are prepared. Listen to the little instructions, read between the lines and you should be fine. Like you said, it's only been a month, you aren't that far behind us. And based on what everyone was going on about after trials, I think you will pick up quickly." Nathaniel gives me a warm smile and goes back to eating.

I have at least figured out, if I want a straight answer, he's my guy. It seems like I made a good enough impression on Wyatt and Lillian that they will help me if I really need it too. We'll see. I'm not sure if they play us against each other at all here, since they seem to do eliminations during the probation period.


"Oh! How long is the probation period and what happens after that?" I have to move away from the topic of Audrina and people trying to get rid of me.

"We have three levels of probation. The first 30 days we are probies or newbies, depending on who's talking to you. No one is outwardly hostile, but not helpful either. They all want to see what you are made of, but understand if they are too mean or try to sabotage you and you end up on their team later, you could cause them problems if you hold a grudge." Lillian points at me with her fork, like I am the one

causing problems.



 Comments

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