

## Chapter 0261

As the soap sluices down my body I graze my hands over my n\*pples which are hard peaks at the thought of my guys. I slowly travel further down my stomach, my heart rate increasing the lower my hand travels. I settled on Dakotas face, the playful look in his blue eyes, His thick dark hair tousled from me running my hands through it. His god-like muscles on full display for me. He reaches between my legs and finds the nub at my apex waiting and ready to detonate for him. Then Cameron's emerald green eyes come into my vision. They are both leaning into me one in front one behind like that day when they told me when they kissed me it wouldn't be in the hallway. 2

I rub slow circles living through my fantasy. It doesn't take much effort for blinding white lights to sear the backs of my eyelids as I come so hard on my own hand. I continue to rub until my core has stopped pulsing. I am panting and gripping at the tiles of the shower. I have no idea how long I have been in here, but I hurry to get out and change, just in case it was longer than necessary.

I guess I didn't need to be in a hurry, since it was a full thirty minutes late that Xander and Oscar came to retrieve me. 1

"I'm sorry, okay, I can't help myself. You will understand when you find your mate. You won't be able to keep your hands to yourself." Oscar is pleading with me, even though I

haven't said a thing. I may be a little flush in the cheeks and laughed at him looking completely out of sorts when they came to get me, but I left the topic alone. What they do as mates is what they do, it's none of my business.

"Just remind me when I do find my mate to call you for advice on technique." I say to get him to stop yammering at me. I meant it to be a joke, but Xander's head snapped to me and Oscar got the biggest grin behind his back. Oscar and I are going to be lifelong buddies, I can feel it.

"Stop talking, now. I feel like Cameron, Dakota, Mateo and Oliver are all screaming in my subconscious to keep you two apart." Xander scrubs his face with his hands.

"All the better to pretend we are not even having this conversation." I say as if it were Sierra by my side, not Oscar. Oh, the two of them are going to get me in trouble.

"By the way." Oscar whispers in my ear, even though we both know Xander can hear us. "Who were you thinking about?"

I just look at him in confusion.

"You have that 'just got laid' look and I know for a fact no one was in your room, so which one were you thinking about?" 1

"Does more than one count?" I smile and leave it at that, hoping he could live his vicarious feeling out with very little information.

## Chapter 0262

We make it to the elevator, Oscar and I laughing and Xander being dramatic saying if the guys find out that I have been having these kinds of conversations with his mate, they will find some way to torture him.

We step out to a crowd similar to yesterday morning, just less formalities. I still get the stares from the people who have decided I am a threat, but don't know what to do with that since I am never left alone.

A few people I don't recognize from the meetings yesterday are here. Based on build and the way they stand they must be guards or warriors of some kind. I wonder why they are all here?

Alpha Reggie and Luna Anne have already stepped up into the buffet line, they seem to be waiting for us, I hope they haven't been waiting long, I didn't even bother looking at the time. We make our way towards them, Xander not acting like we are late at all. I am a nervous wreck, I am not someone who keeps the King and Queen waiting.

"Nice of you to join us, Xander, Skylar, Oscar." Alpha Reggie says polite enough, but the undertone is exasperation and amusement rolled together. He at least knows what kept the boys, and I am too chicken to say anything to correct his assumption.

We move through the line quickly, saying hello and acknowledging people as we go. When we get to the head table, I am sitting between Oscar and Xander. Clearly there is some potential for threat against me. This is really frustrating, I just need to fight in front of these people and then they won't mess with me. On second thought though, these idiots would probably think it's rigged so it wouldn't matter. It's so stupid.

Unlike yesterday though, people are milling about throughout breakfast and several come to the head table to talk, mostly to the King and Queen, but to Xander and I too. A female warrior approaches. I only know because she has the same training gear we are required to wear on the Elite Warrior grounds. She can't be much older than me and she looks fearless, like Sierra on the warpath for the perfect dress. She walks straight to me.

"Did you really take on the whole warrior team at trials?" She asks without even bothering with the formalities of introductions. It wasn't an aggressive or accusatory question either, she really is just curious.

"I, umm, I actually don't know, really. I don't even know who or how many I went up against, it's kind of a blur." I look to Xander, maybe he knows the answer.

But before he can say anything a large man I vaguely recognize walks up behind her and places a hand on her shoulder. "You'll have to forgive my daughter, you have

become something of a legend amongst the warriors around here. She doesn't believe me when I tell her what you were able to accomplish during your trials." He laughs and she doesn't even pretend to be offended. "Skylar, this is Wilhelmina, my daughter, and may I say your wolf is an amazing fighter. We learned a great deal from our time with you at trials." He inclines his head to me.

"Thank you, I appreciate that..." I leave the end of the question hanging since he didn't introduce himself too.

"Jeremy. I hope to train with you again." He smiles warmly.

"And you can call me Mina. There's no reason to go throwing that mouthful of a name around." She smiles at me. "But really, do you know how many people you actually fought against? The rumors are all over the place and no one wants to offend you by asking you outright."

I knew I liked her straight away.

"Honestly, Warrior Osiston would be the best person to ask, I really don't know how many opponents I had. I have been told I went against the most though." I shrug trying to give her the best answer I can.

## Chapter 0263

"Every warrior keeps stats, there's no way you didn't count if you're as good as everyone says." She puts her hand on her hip, letting me know that my answer wasn't good enough, but there's still no animosity in her tone, just logic.

"You're right, I normally do, I'm actually really competitive, but I also went into trials this year under the impression that it was just an assessment for my trainers to see me with warriors from outside packs and for me to learn. I'm only fifteen, we had to get special permission just for that. Alpha Reggie allowed it because it was hosted at my pack, otherwise I don't think I would have even been able to participate this year. So my focus was more on watching the people around me in battle scenarios."

"What were your takeaways then?" Her eyes light up when she asks.


"Were you there? I feel like I would remember you even if you fought in your wolf form only."


Something about this girl draws me in, kindred spirit maybe. I vaguely hear someone say, 'we lost her.' And a response of 'we lost them both.' But I couldn't be bothered, another warrior who might have been at trials like Wyatt and Lillian, makes me feel closer to home somehow, that connection still alive even with everything that has happened since then.

"No, not this year, but next, I'll be eighteen soon and there's enough time between my birthday and the next trials for me to look for my mate and if he's not here, then Dad says I can participate."

"That's so exciting. Either way you have something to look forward to."

"So, if you're only fifteen, why are you in Elite training? How did you manage that?"

I try not to let the darkness that passes through my mind at what Kaley and her cronies did to me show on my face, I take a deep breath and give a half truth. "Alpha Reggie, Warrior Osiston and Warrior Nathaniel decided that since I was ahead in school, that it would be okay for me to come and do a modified training and education schedule here. It was an opportunity I couldn't refuse." I left out the part about not being able to refuse because I was beaten unconscious, that would open up the floodgate of questions I'm not ready to answer for any of these people. 

She looks at me for a second and I think she might try to probe more, but she must see something there that stops her. Instead she asks, "What is something you learned that you didn't already know?" 

"Really the basics are always crucial and I think they are sometimes overlooked when warriors start to advance. I noticed that my ground work and grappling need to

improve. I'm small so I try not to let the fight go to the ground, then my opponent's size can be used against me. No matter how skilled I am, if my arms and or legs are pinned I can't use them to defend myself."

She nods her head. "We should workout together. I bet my dad could make that happen."

"That would be great! I love working with new people." I almost jumped out of my seat, from excitement.

"You weren't this excited to work with Xander and I." Oscar pretends to whine next to me.

"I have already worked out with and beat Xander and I'm faster than you, so I think we're all good." I smile and wink at him and Mina starts to laugh, like actually cackling loud enough for half the room to turn around and look our way.

"Oh man, I like you. How long are you here, in the castle I mean?"

"I go back to the training compound today sometime, but Alpha Reggie hasn't really said when yet."


She nods her head in thought for a beat and then looks over her shoulder. "Dad, can I take SKylar to the training grounds for a couple hours? I bet she hasn't even seen the whole territory yet." She looks back at me. "We have a few different training grounds since the territory is so big, but the one closest to the castle is probably the best after the Elite Warrior grounds, but us lowly general warriors aren't allowed



 +15 BONUS

on those grounds." She smiles as she says it, being dramatic with her hand on her chest.

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