



Chapter 0277

Warrior Nickolas walks out a few minutes later, just nods his head to follow, turns and walks back down the hall he came from. We enter a meeting room with a large oval table in the center and at least a dozen chairs surrounding it. There isn't much for decoration, but there is a screen on one far wall and a projector that hangs from the ceiling. Other walls are covered in large bulletin boards and white boards. This must be a strategy room for bigger missions.

"Sit, please." I look up and Alpha Reggie is sitting at the end of the table furthest from the door. "We have several things to discuss and I am on a time limit."

We both nod and sit opposite Warriors Nickolas and Osiston. Alpha Reggie usually isn't this curt with me so something must be really wrong.

"You both have excelled far better than we could have expected out of such young wolves, but as it is you are now being considered for a future mission."

My ears perk up and I sit a little straighter at this revelation. I didn't expect to go on any kind of mission until I was at least eighteen.

Alpha Reggie takes a deep breath before he continues. It feels like he is being forced to say whatever is about to come out of his mouth.


“This mission is recon only,” Another deep breath, “But you both fit a demographic that will allow you to get closer and possibly gain information that my warriors have yet to obtain.” He looks at the warriors across from me with irritation oozing off of him. Neither of them shift or acknowledge the barb. “With the more frequent and bold attacks, we can now assume that the royal family is the target. Trying to weaken our defenses by having our warriors continually injured or over tired from fighting. Setting the rest of our pack and surrounding packs against us by making it appear like we can not do something as simple as protect our borders. I think the hope is to wear us down for a less defended final attack.” 1

He takes another deep breath and rubs his eyes like he is already tired.

Warrior Osiston speaks up, finishing the thought. “We know it is the Rogue King trying to take the King’s place. We know that he has pockets of rogues stationed throughout the kingdom. Our biggest issue is we can’t seem to find them. None of them have a scent to follow and there doesn’t seem to be a rhyme or reason to the attacks. They are using chaos to hide what they are really up to and so far it’s working.”

“What does that have to do with us?” I ask.

“What demographic do we fill that can get you information?” Mina follows right up.



"They have started taking girls around your age." Alpha Reggie looks right at me and I can feel my face go pale and cold. No way. He just nods his head. "We have been avoiding this for a while and I have tried to keep you out of it, but it's time. We need to know what he is doing and figure out how to stop him."

"Wait, what just happened? I don't understand. Mina is looking between me and Alpha Reggie.

"Having the both of you on the team allows us more access. We all look like warriors on a mission while we walk around in our everyday lives. The two of you blend into crowds better. Fitting the demographic allows you both to ask questions about what is going on without raising suspicion, you can both play concerned girls trying to stay safe and trying to understand what's happening." Nicolas continues. "Any recon we do has to be done in the shadows, in the background. While the two of you could stroll down the street talking to whoever walks by. We are at a standstill and we need to figure out where these guys are hiding."

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Mina and I look at each other. I know I am trying to contain my excitement, by the look on her face she is too.

"So what does that mean for us? What are we doing exactly?" Mina asks.

"You will start training with our recon team. We have a very specific way that we gain and relay information. We need to make sure that you are able to work within our formations and understand all of our calls and codes." Nickolas looks serious, letting us know that he's on board with this but wary at the same time.

"We also need to get you branded." Alpha Reggie begins. "It's for your safety and our peace of mind. The elders voted 'no' last night when we proposed it, but we will approach them again. Now that we have solid proof that female wolves are being stalked and taken, it's less of a choice as it is a duty now. These untrained, unwilling girls are being taken and we don't know for what purpose. But, you both need the brand so we can track you if something goes wrong."

"And when it comes to the Rogue King, we expect it to go sideways." Nickolas mutters loud enough to be heard by all of us.

A flutter rushes through my stomach at the thought, but I

don't think it's fear. Is it crazy that the thought of being captured excites me a little? What does that say about me? Oh Goddess, I am nuts, but I don't feel bad about it at all.

"Can we start training with the team even if we aren't branded, while you are trying to convince the Elders to allow our brands?" Mina asks. I was too far ahead of the game in my mind. We need to start first.

"I think that would be wise. The Elders will be brought to reason, but we can't delay. They could move at any time and we need to get into one of their locations." Osiston says. "You will no longer be doing your regular daily training. You will both join our team for overnight training beginning today. Your school schedule will remain the same and we expect you to keep up your work, but you will not be required to do evening training so you can rest before joining the team again. The team's mission and your roles in it are classified."

We both nod when he doesn't continue.

"Report to the front of the dorms tonight at 8pm, we will take you to the team from there. Make sure you eat before you go, there will be no other time for that once training begins." Nickolas says in that serious voice again.

I've never heard him like that in our other training sessions. But maybe it's because this is real, not training or a demo.

"Once we know more about the branding we will let you

know." We both nod again. "You may go." Alpha Reggie dismisses us.

We both stand quickly and move towards the door. As soon as we're across the threshold they all begin speaking and not really all that quiet.


"We are setting them up, why would we do that?" Nickolas's voice carries.

"I agree they don't belong on this mission, but we have no other choice. We know what he's after now." Osiston's voice answers, clearly bored with this line of thinking.

"So we're just going to give them what they are looking for on a silver platter?" Nickolas barks back.

The door closes before I get the chance to hear anymore of the conversation. Nickolas clearly doesn't want us on this mission. I thought we got along, were even becoming... friendly isn't the right word, but maybe we have a mutual respect, but I guess we aren't ready enough for him yet. Which makes me angry and has me worried all at the same time. 2

I bust my ass in training, I know how to fight and defend myself against all of the best warriors here. I am getting better at the submission game we have been playing. But if he's worried we aren't ready then maybe we are missing something. He spends the most time with us during training sessions and knows our skills well. He doesn't seem like the



type to hold anyone back, but we are different being younger than everyone, in my case a lot younger. 

We head back to the dorms and our shared room. I was so excited when I was told we were going to be roommates. Audrina, of course, was pissed. I think mostly because we were moved to the guys side of the hallway into the floor leaders suite. Wyatt gave up the suite and moved next door to an empty room happily.

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We have our own bathroom, which is helpful with our schedule and the space is big enough for our twin beds and two desks. We aren't here enough to need to lounge or anything, just the basics. We share the closet too, but since everything is uniform there isn't a lot to it.

No one knows why we have this set up, it's never been done before, but we are working the 'too young to actually be here' angle and that it's more efficient for school.

Since she has been here and attached to my hip Audrina and her friends haven't even tried to mess with me. I don't know if it's the commanding aura she gives off, the fact that we are never apart long enough to be cornered, or that together we have beaten every single person or team we have come up against, but I'm not complaining.

Overall training has gotten better without the constant undermining. I feel like I have finally started to settle here and this is where I am truly meant to be. The only thing I miss is my brother and the guys. I haven't had a chance to write back to them. I feel like everything has picked up pace since the attack. Trainings are more grueling, school has gotten into full swing and Mina needs help since joining all of my classes. She decided that my class schedule should be used as cruel and unusual punishment. And we haven't seen Xander or Oscar since the attack.

Barty stopped by and told me there is a family dinner happening soon and Mina and I are to attend. Which will be a nice treat.

"So what do you think all of that was back there after we left?" Mina turns to me after shutting and locking our door. Another thing we both do out of self preservation.

Our door is locked no matter if we are here or not. We have to assume the attacks are being assisted by someone. Nothing has happened here on the compound grounds, yet, but we can't get complacent. It's what got us both injured in the first place.

I sit cross legged on my bed after kicking off my shoes. "I don't know, but it sounds like Warrior Nickolas really doesn't want us on this mission. I wish he would say why though. Maybe if there is some training we haven't completed yet, we could get on that. It's not like they have us on a normal track anyway."

"I think he is worried about something. I didn't get the feeling it was us though. More like he's worried for us not about us being there. They are taking girls, maybe he's worried about sending you into the lion's den with your royal blood and all that." She gives me a shove and a smile. 1

"If they were worried about that at all, I wouldn't even be here. There's no point in training me to be an elite warrior and then lock me in a tower for the rest of my life." I shrug

her off. "Who knows, maybe he's tired of all the double standards when it comes to us. I mean, I was told that I would be training with the warriors, like the warriors, and to expect the extra school and work stuff to be a secondary priority, but still a big deal. But, when I think about it. I have been given every pass that is possible to have. I miss trainings to do things at the castle, I guess it counts as training when I'm learning and training with Alpha Reggie. I also had that whole Elders weekend thing with all of the outfits and dresses and changes to my schedule then. My classroom teachers don't even blink now if a warrior comes in to deliver a message to me." I roll my eyes.

"That's how it is for any of the Royals though, and I hate to break it to you, but you are a Royal whether you like it or not." She pats me on the head like a toddler. I shove her off and over to her own bed.

"Well, look at it this way, at least now we can see how they do research and recon. I have always been curious about the planning rooms, it's so mysterious. She's tapping her steepled fingers to her chin like a cartoon villain. "I want to know what they do to plan everything."

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