



Chapter 0286

We got to work getting familiar with the surrounding area from the overhead views of the pictures. Any idea we had about places that might be used for hideouts or holding areas, the team has already searched, but with the knowledge that scents cannot be tracked, they could very well be hiding in plain sight and we would never know.

We also started talking about what they could be using to block their scents. Since the girls that have been taken have also had their trails go cold. It is more than likely the work of a powerful witch or, according to Jorge, most likely a coven of witches working together. But no one has heard of a spell like that.

That is where the other two in the group come in. Alyssa and William have been contacting and working with covens near us to try and figure out what is working against our sense of smell. They have both been gone for the last month studying and learning. William took the more treacherous route, going north east, nearest to the Canadian border and most likely where the rogues are. Alyssa took the western part of the state where a large coven is. These witches have almost completely immersed themselves into the human cities and towns in the area. They have a really good handle on intermixing and keeping their existence a secret. They also have some of the most powerful leaders

and elders that our group has found.

Everything I have ever heard about the different species is that none of us get along, so we never work together or socialize in any way. But, it seems like at least some of us can intermix without a problem. I'm sure everything I have heard is from idiots, like my dad, who have been taught their species is the best and only species that should be around. Your standard, run of the mill racism doing its job to spread hate. My dad also can't stand that I am a female and want to be a warrior not a breeding machine, so I shouldn't be surprised with other types of discrimination. 2

I have never had any interactions with species other than werewolves, so I can't say whose opinions are right or better or whatever, but I do know that there are several werewolves that I love and many I hate. So I'm sure it would be the same with anyone else.

Alyssa and William are currently working to find what type of spell or more likely potion is being used to mask not only the rogue's personal scent, but also the scent of their victim. They are both getting help from different Coven leaders, but witches keep their information close and don't like to share with outsiders. Getting into their inner circles to even ask about things like that is hard and takes time, which is why everyone here is so agitated. They can't do anything until we have more information and something to work with. Warriors don't do well with downtime of any kind.

“Now that you have an idea of what we have been working on for the last eight months, this is where you both come in.” Jorge starts.

“We are going to take you into the cities where the most activity has been. The most kidnappings.” Warrior Osiston takes over. “Clearly they are looking for a female, but there isn’t a pattern of what they are looking for specifically, so we are working under the assumption that they just need women.” 1

“We have looked into each female that has been reported missing. There is always a possibility that the female is being used to control or blackmail her mate or family if they are high ranking. But they are of all different ranks and backgrounds, no connections that we can see, yet.” Jorge jumps in again.

“The problem is that we don’t think all of the women that have gone missing have been reported. Many times high ranking wolves will work in house because enemies will use that distraction to attack.” Nickolas scoffs.

“Is it just Alpha King Reggie’s kingdom that is being attacked? Are other King’s having the same problem? Have all the attacks happened in Royal Pack territory?” Mina fires off questions.

It’s almost like we can read each other’s thoughts. Although when I remember that I can actually mindlink, maybe I have

been feeding my own exact same questions to her through it.

"That's the thing, we all have attacks and people trying to overthrow their king for whatever reason, but this seems to be directed specifically at us. So we have to assume it is directed towards Alpha King Reggie." Jorge says looking worried for the first time since we entered the room.

"For the next couple of weeks we will get you brought up to speed with all of our intel. As much as it seems like we don't know anything, we have made some progress. It's really the location of the Rogues and their captives that we can't seem to get. Any rogues we capture die before we can question them. Another thing we need to figure out how they are doing because it's not any form of suicide that we can tell." Osiston says, leaning forward in his chair. "You will still do your school days as normal. Your training will happen here with us unless you are out on recon missions. We travel at night and you will travel by vehicle to keep your scents hidden as much as possible."

"Why do we need to keep it hidden that we are here?" I ask. As far as I can tell we aren't off Royal Pack territory, so it shouldn't matter.

"This location is a black sight. None of the trainees know that it is here and we want it to stay that way. As trainees yourself there are still things that we need to teach you about masking and we don't need anyone catching your

scent by accident on patrols and trying to follow you here.”
He looks at me and I feel the weight of the implication.

Audrina would follow me here to try and find a reason to get me in trouble or kicked out and she would definitely make a big deal about my being on this mission, while her high and mightiness is still stuck at the training compound.

“Let’s run, we can show you our boundaries and get your time in.” Nickolas stands, like his pants are on fire.

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Chapter 0287

We are getting deep into the fall and our recon missions have been going well, I think. I still don't know what information we are getting and I have the feeling it is meant to be that way.

I guess I can see the appeal behind our lack of knowledge since the idea is for us to be taken. We really don't know much. I haven't noticed anything out of the ordinary as Mina and I walk through the streets of different neighborhoods and cities near where the most girls are being kidnapped.

Mina and I spend almost every weekend staying in a rental property with Nickolas posing as our uncle. The backstory for the humans is we are looking at the University, for the wolves we are traveling for Mina to find her mate. Hoping both stories get us noticed we aren't super shy or reclusive, we both talk to everyone and play up the 'girl vibe' as Nickolas calls it. I am so exhausted after we are out all day acting like that, who knew being social could burn you out more than training? But it is working to get us noticed and I am being pushed, no thrown, out of my comfort zone acting like this and wearing trendy clothes, going to restaurants, shops and other heavily attended areas around Orono, which is the closest city to the University of Maine campus.

What Mina and I have gathered by accidentally overhearing

bits and pieces of conversations is that some of the clubs and bars near campus and in Orono are becoming heavily attended recently by an unusually high amount of new guys to the area. Most around college age so the humans aren't really suspicious yet since we are in the middle of a semester, but we know they are wolves. Some smell like rogues, but not all of them, which is making us suspicious. 1

No one has approached us, but that might be because of our chaperone who is less than pleased when any male walks our way. Nickolas is playing his protective part a little too well, but it does give us an excuse to rebel a little. We haven't done anything yet, but we do plan on returning to this area in January with Mina attending classes at the University. If anyone asks, I'm being homeschooled until I can join her. It's the most plausible story we have. So Mina and I have come up with a few ways to 'sneak out' and meet up with a few of the other girls we have met while walking around when we get back. 1

We have our rental until the Thanksgiving holiday and then we need to move on for a bit to make our mate story more believable.

There are several conservation areas in this state and surrounding our position. While we have been working the people here, the rest of the team has been fanning out working methodically to search them for any signs of rogue camps or hideouts. They keep coming up empty handed, but that also could be the masking thing they have going on



too.

I think everything is truly riding on Mina and I being taken. That is where we are going to get answers. I don't know how I feel about that though. I know we have plans in place so our attackers won't get far with us no matter how sedated or subdued we are. And we get to be temporarily branded sometime after the Thanksgiving break so they can track us. Since Mina will be 18 soon, I think whoever is holding up the branding process was waiting and hoping for her to find her mate, which would effectively put a stop to this part of the operation since no one in their right mind would let me out alone for this.

Nickolas and Osiston got their way though, since we venture further and further from them as we explore the city. They can't be with us all the time and our mind link only goes so far. The magic of the brand is it covers any distance and Nickolas more than anyone has been fighting for us to get it done, especially now that we are in this mission fully.



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Chapter 0288

"I can't wait to go back to the compound, I want to train and run hard, my body needs it. I feel so lazy right now." I whine at Mina in our shared room of the rental property.

We just got back from shopping and meeting up for dinner with some other college freshman we met a couple weeks ago. We have managed to keep people friendly but at a distance. We don't go to people's houses and they don't come to ours. Having an overprotective 'uncle' is doing wonders to keep a certain level of separation.

"I can't wait to go back and use the hot tub. My feet are killing me."

"You were the idiot who chose to wear heels to the mall." I scoff at her, but she smiles right back.

"Yeah, but it got their attention, didn't it?"

I roll my eyes. "Of course it did, your legs look a mile long with them on and that short skirt. I still can't force myself to wear those. These shorts are bad enough, there's barely enough material to cover my hooha."

"What are you talking about? You wear skimpier stuff to training. Those shorts are nothing."

"My training gear isn't going to intrigue anybody, we all wear

the same stuff, it's a uniform. This stuff we wear to the mall and everywhere else is a choice I would not normally make on my own."

"Yeah, but you have to admit, they look good on you. You have this tiny, totally ripped body that you only show off during training. You really need to show it off more, you work too hard to hide it under the baggy crap you like to lounge in. Have your boys seen you in 'normal' clothes?" She air quotes at me.

"They have seen me in lots of stuff. I had to dress up for a couple things for Luna Ava, they've seen me in that kind of stuff."

"But they haven't seen you recently, have they? I mean you haven't had the chance to message them while we have been on assignment. And I know you only sent the one letter after they all wrote you separately. You have put on some weight and gotten more definition since I met you. I'm sure you will look completely different to them." She waggles her eyebrows at me. "I can't wait for them to see you all glammed up the way Luna Queen Anne does. I bet they will all fall over from heart attacks." She's laughing at the prospect now.

She's had more than a couple conversations with Sierra while we have been at school and apparently Sierra has some insight to my interactions with the guys she didn't even bother to tell me. Now Mina likes to give me a hard



time the way she does at their supposed infatuation.

“Okay! Stop! You’re making it weird now. They are my brother and friends. None of them see me as more than a little sister. And that is still only a year in the making, before that, I was nothing to them.”

“All the more reason to learn to flaunt it tastefully. Let them know what they are missing.” She Laughs again as I throw a pillow at her.


“Okay, for real, enough now. I need to finish this assignment. You may not care about your grades, but mine can’t slip. That is one of the stipulations of my being here. I have to stay ahead, no matter how distracting you are.”



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