

Chapter 0408

When I am done I can hear voices on the other side of the door. They weren't sleeping as soundly as I thought.

"Seriously, Midge! You cannot do that!" Wyatt runs his fingers through his already messy hair.

"Do what? I woke up and took a shower. Or did you miss the noise I made in the bathroom in your anger at my not being in your line of sight?" I raise an eyebrow, crossing my arms over my toweled form.

He looked slightly ashamed of his outburst, but then squared his shoulders. "You have to tell someone if you leave. That wound is still too fresh for surprises."

"So, you are telling me, that if I wake up in the middle of the night and have to pee, that I have to ask permission to walk across the room to the attached bathroom, so you feel better?" I tilt my head slightly, daring him to say anything else that comes close to stupid. My irritation is bubbling right under the surface. He knows how I feel about being put in a bubble.

"We were all worried, when you weren't here. Jena woke up in a panic yelling for you, and..." I cut him off moving to Jena quickly.

This happens regularly, but it's not my story to tell. I sit next

to her and wrap her in a hug, her head tucked under my chin.

"I'm sorry, it's my fault they are all freaking out." She whispers into my neck. "I can't shake the nightmare and you are the only thing that seems to bring me out of it." This time she is talking loud enough to be heard by everyone.

I just nod. "It's okay, we'll figure it out as we go, like everything else."

Before I can say more, there's a knock at the door, then Barty walks in.

"The King and Queen would like to see you all in the Mahogany Room in twenty minutes. The Luna Queen wanted me to let you know that breakfast would be served and the ladies all have clothing in Miss Skylar's room."

"Barty, we talked about this, drop the 'miss' okay?"

"Not inside these castle walls, missy. You are an honored guest as are Miss Mina and Miss Jena. The title stays while you stay. On the warrior compound I will concede to your request." He winks at me before closing the door. The girls and I laugh at the theatrics.

"Well let's head over and get dressed. Boys, sit right back down, there are three of us and I can guarantee a minimum of five warriors in the hallway, we will survive the ten feet to my room. It will go faster this way."

I stand up, securing my towel and head to the door with the

girls following me. We were actually ready before the boys, waiting in the hallway for them to come out. All of us, except Xander are decked out in warrior gear. If you didn't know who we were to Xander it would look like we were his six person protection detail.

The guys have black, almost too small, t-shirts showing off every muscle they have in their upper body. The tactical cargo pants hide more, but still look rugged and intimidating all at the same time. The girls and I were given the same black form fitting t-shirts. It's not cotton, but a matte water wicking material that feels like butter on my skin. We all have black leggings, black socks and black boots that match the guys. Our only difference is the tactical belt. It's thick and sturdy, designed not to move too much over the slippery material of the leggings. There is a cargo pocket at the belt with two thick straps hanging down attaching to another cargo pocket, which has a thigh belt to attach to our leg. I feel a bit like Lara Croft right now and it's hard to hide my giddiness at the thought. This must be what Sierra feels like when she sees a dress she really likes. [1](#)

We made our way to the Mahogany Room, which is the meeting room where I told off Alpha Brecc. It shouldn't surprise me that the meeting rooms in the castle have names, but my inner little girl thinks it's so neat.

"There's the team!" Alpha Reggie looks far too excited right now. That means he is up to something. Xander stops next to me, mirroring my look.

"Dad, what are you up to? And do I need coffee to keep up with whatever you are about to throw at us?"

Ignoring Xander's sarcasm, Alpha Reggie goes on. "Sit, sit. We have plans to make."

"Here we go." Xander laughs under his breath, but doesn't look frustrated or annoyed, so I'm hoping 'plans' is a good thing.

The seven of us sit side by side across the round table from Alpha Reggie and Luna Anne.



"Alright, let's jump right in. You all did amazing last night. We gathered a ton of information and Jena, you are just as amazing as we were told with the computers. Thank you for setting all of that up. My guys have lots to work with right now, meaning you all have jobs to do. Jena, I am going to have you work with our cyber team alongside Nathaniel. The two of you made more progress last night than my team has in the last year. Nathaniel I want you to start working with our weapons specialists. Many of the rogue teams have been using weapons over their wolves and we need to know why and how they are getting their hands on them. I also want to know how they are moving the ingredients they are using for poisons, mind control and spells. It can't be a small or easy operation." Nathaniel nods. "Mina, you and Sky will alternate your time here with Xander. The summer brings all the meetings and celebrations and after Olympia's display, people seem to be getting desperate and I don't

want him alone. Oscar you will remain as his guard. There's no other place you should be. Jena, we need to get you a warrior brand. I have been talking to Nickolas about the temporary brand that we did for Mina and Skylar, but I want to guarantee that you will be able to communicate with your pack members. If you are in a close enough range you should, theoretically, be able to mindlink them since you are now the Alpha of your pack. Skylar, your journey and education has been sporadic at best, but I feel like after your time in college, going back to high school probably is a waste of time. I would prefer to teach you here at the castle. We can go over the family history and see what we can make of the Rogue King's plans for our family." I nod and I can feel, rather than see, heads turn towards me.

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Alpha Reggie smiles and gives a little sigh before continuing.

"For all intents and purposes, Skylar is my niece and Xander's cousin. There are some greats and grands and probably twice removed in there somewhere, but it doesn't matter she is a blood member of my family, just so you are all aware." I hear several intakes of breath, but I am still focused on Alpha Reggie. "I asked Skylar to keep the connection a secret until I had more information, now we do. As her team, you should know that, so you know what is being asked of you. She was a target before the discovery, now that she has been captured and from what I understand from Sky and Jena's accounts of their time with the rogues, blood and other samples were taken..."

This time my friends didn't hold back their surprise.

"What samples?"

"Why didn't you say anything?"

"What does that mean?"

"You're Royal?"

"Wait? Did you know she was Royal before you sent us on that mission?" Mina asks, kind of aggressively considering she is addressing the king.

"I did. Is there a problem with that?" Alpha Reggie keeps his calm, but his posture and aura change like he is readying for a fight.

"A little bit, yes. Sir." She adds, not backing down. "Why would you send a royal on a mission with the intention to get captured?"

"You meant for her to get taken!" Nathaniel almost shouts. I don't know if I have ever heard him actually shout before. He's loud when he has to be, but he mostly observes and keeps quiet.

I place my hand on his shoulder next to me. "I was in on that part of the plan, take a breath, and calm down. We are getting off track." I look back to Alpha Reggie. My friends won't let that go, so I will have to tell that story later. I don't know if Jena even knew that part.

So many secrets, from people I trust and care about. That is something to unpack later.

Alpha Reggie nods and goes on like there was no interruption. "I am positive that the Rogue King knows of Sky's lineage now, or we should at least work with that assumption. She will be an even bigger target." He holds up a hand as Wyatt and Nathaniel both look like they are going to interrupt again. "Before you say anything, I have no intention of locking her away, she is not a damsel in distress, she is an important member of the Royal family,

one many people will want to get their hands on, no different than Xander. So I will train her mentally and you will all train her physically. Preparation is going to be our friend."

Alpha Reggie stops to take a drink and appears to be collecting his thoughts. "Over the next few weeks you will all train in your specified areas as well as with the elite warriors. As information continues to come in about the Rogue King, kidnapped girls and Jena's pack we will send your team out to handle it with some of our most skilled warriors. This is what we know so far. The kidnapped girls whose identities we could confirm were all high ranking females. They were subjected to the same treatment as the two of you," He looked from Jena to me. "We did find a couple of the more recent girls disposed of very unceremoniously, meaning they were in a hurry and made mistakes. Doc Gannon and Doc Sylvia have come to the conclusion that the girls were being dissected..."

"What the hell? That's awful. Why would he do that?" Oscar asked.

"Skylar already knows some of this, but my family's history is somewhat bloody when it comes to succession. I have recently found confirmation that my Great Great Grandfather's second son, who was wildly vocal about being passed over as the Alpha King when his nephew took the throne, captured his own sister and her daughter and experimented on them both." He took a deep breath and we

all waited silently for him to go on. "The women born into my family have special abilities and powers. I'm sure you have all noticed some of Sky's talents are beyond that of an accomplished warrior. Don't get me wrong Little One, I believe you would be a force without your abilities but even I have noticed abnormalities knowing what powers you could possess."

"What do you mean 'abnormalities'?" I ask, now concerned that something is wrong with me.

"Normally each female has one gift or enhancement. Your mother, from what I understand, had emotional control over others. Something I know you have, I've seen you use it on all of the boys, even here this morning. Jena is drawn to you when her emotions become too much. You have the ability to keep everyone level headed. Proof enough you have that ability. You also can fight off an Alpha's aura, even as a born Beta with Royal blood, I should be able to make you do just about anything and I don't think you even know you're resisting. And trust me, I have tried. I don't think it's your natural stubbornness either." He winks at me, breaking some of the tension in the room. "Then there are your scars. Based on all of your altercations and injuries, even you can't deny that you have enhanced healing abilities, again, beyond what Royal blood would give you. You can fight off silver and wolfsbane put directly into your bloodstream." I look down at my hands folded into my lap. I can feel my friends' eyes burning holes in the sides of my head. I don't think Xander knew about the silver until now.

“Is that what the scars on your back are? Silver?” He asks, just above a whisper. I can feel his body heat increase while he is trying to hold in anger that is radiating off of him.

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