## Chapter 0616

"You didn't think it was going to be that easy did you, Smalls?"

"I don't think anything about this is easy, Kota." I laugh, turning over and finally getting my shirt back. I try to maintain my stance and not fight like Elena suggested, but Cam starts towards me again.

Cam swipes at me and we are now both throwing and dodging punches. Being a foot taller than me makes it weird for both of us. He has to aim correctly so he doesn't hit me in the face every single time and I have to aim higher than normal to hit him anywhere other than in the family jewels. I have decided I rather like them and would like them to function beyond today's training. He's backing me up and I can feel Kota behind me and Oliver to my right now. They are trying to corral me. I let them get a little closer, thinking they have me. My wolf and I dig in and feel the magic just hanging out deep in my chest like it was just waiting to be called on.

It starts slow, unsure, like it's attached to my emotions. I know we won't hurt them, but that is always a concern. I never want to hurt anyone unintentionally. I have plenty of people to take my wrath out on that deserve it. I let go of the fear, I have to trust my magic and my wolf to know the difference between people who I care about and people

who are enemies. The wind starts to pick up and I can feel the specks of dirt as they pass me to start encircling my guys.

"What the hell?" Oliver catches on first. Of course he does. I try not to let him get too far into his realization so I just amp up the dust storm.

It's amazing! I'm in the middle of it, but the flying debris doesn't seem to bother me at all. I can see all of them, like looking through water, but they are all struggling, arms over their faces and ducked down to avoid dirt clods pelting them. It seems I have it contained around the three of them though, sweet!

\*\*\*"Try to make your sphere around them smaller, force them to the ground. With your size this puts them at a disadvantage and in a cage of sorts."\*\*\* Elena coaches me through trapping them and now I smile, this is so much fun and so far, it's easier than fighting. We'll see how I feel when it's all over.

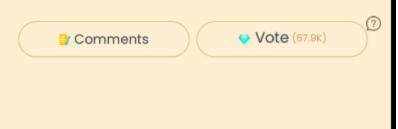
I think of packing a snowball, keeping my hands domed and pressing in making it tighter and more compact. The three of them get closer and closer, eventually squatting down looking like the tiny animals Elena intended when my wolf and I finally let them up.

"Oh damn, Bitty. You're going to have to teach me that one." Oliver brushes dust out of his hair.

"Definitely not fair with the multi element sneak attack, Smalls." Dakota smiles at me. "But I like that you can pin people down and out of the way. Is it stupid that I know you are a beast and I still worry about your safety? It kind of makes my head spin." He grabs me in a hug and plants a dusty kiss on my cheek.

"No, it's not stupid. She's special, we will always worry about her safety. She's our Alpha mate, but also our Luna, the one person we can't live without." I turn in Kota's arms, Cam is talking to him but looking into my eyes and I am locked there. He brushes his thumb across my cheek. "Even covered in dirt and whatever else she threw at us today, she's perfect."

"Hey!, back off you had your day. No goo-goo eyes for you." Dakota pulls me further into him and I laugh.



## Chapter 0617

"I was just getting some dirt off of her face, that you put there, that's all." He just smiles and I stop breathing. Man. These men of mine and their little panty melting half smiles. I am such a sucker.

"Well, it's my turn to clean her up or get her dirty. So just step right on back to your magic training." They both laugh and Dakota starts to turn me around when we bump into Oliver.

That's the only time I don't register a presence next to me, when they are trying to and succeeding in riling me up with their ability to turn my hormones from zero to a hundred.

"Cam's right though, you are perfect and we will worry about you no matter what badassery you can do. Never forget that." Oliver rubs his thumb over my other cheek, like he's leaving a little piece of himself with me when he walks away to work with Cam, Elena and Gentry.

"No offense, Little Bit, but I am so glad I don't have to share." Sam laughs at us, wrapping Sierra up in his arms. I just roll my eyes. Of course he would need to be the center of attention in his mates world. She doesn't even acknowledge his comment though.

"So sweet! Does it take a ton of energy to maintain? I know the pentagram magic made you weak and almost unconscious." Sierra asks. I see so much of her mom in her now that I have met her parents. She can't help being curious.

"That one didn't feel too bad. More like stretching a muscle I don't use very often than an energy drain."

"Not gonna lie. It was kind of hard to watch you fight the three of them. I don't know if I can look past the 'little sister' thing. But it is fun to watch you put all of them in their places at the same time." Mateo laughs and gives me a hug. "We are going to head out though, we are running in the next patrols and I want to get some sleep in while I still have the chance." He takes Jena's hand and starts to lead her away, but she hesitates and stops to give me a hug.

"We really need an actual girls day, when we aren't under an indefinite imminent threat. I miss you." She whispers in my ear.

I hugged her. "Miss you too and I agree. Go, make my brother happy and calm." I whisper back.

She giggles and lets him drag her off. I get the sentiment. I want to hang out with just her and Sierra and Lil, but I also cannot even fathom being out of sight of my mates right now. It's weird being of two minds about it. Lil and Sierra both hug me too then head off with Sam.

"I think we have had enough training for one day. What do you say we eat and then get cleaned up and just see where the rest of the day takes us?" Kota picks me up and spins me so I am facing him with my legs sitting comfortably on his hips.

And just like that he throws my need to keep them all in my sights out the window with the deep look of desire in his eyes.

"I think I like the sound of that plan."

I screech and then laugh as he takes off out of the arena.



## Chapter 0618

He ran all the way to the packhouse, straight through the front doors and out the back patio door. I braced myself for being thrown in the pool, but he veered off to the left and around to a side I've never had a need to go to before. It has a fence and I always assumed it was where practical things were stored and hidden away from the pretty aesthetic that Ava had. I was wrong.

"What is this?" I asked, completely taken aback by the beauty of the space. It doesn't even look like it belongs here.

Just past the fence, which is easily eight feet tall so I can't see a thing over it, but I'm sure the top of this wonderful greenhouse can be seen by my guys and a normal sized wolf. It is a glass box framed by thick black metal supports. It probably looks like a giant spider from above with each and every wall glass or whatever clear material was used. In each pane I can see green leaves, like a rain forest is inside. The windows are streaked with water that collected from the air. It is probably the size of the room I called mine for a little while on the third floor, which is not to say it's small, but it looks comfortable.

Dakota lets me down, but takes my hand and leads me in, letting the gate shut and latch behind us.

"This was my mom and dad's place. He built it for her, with

his own two hands. All her favorite plants and flowers are here and no one was ever allowed in here...until now." He stops at the door and looks back at me.

"Wait! You've never been in here? Cam's never been in here? We should all go in together, shouldn't we?"

"Sweetness, he knows I'm bringing you here, they both do, and we will come here all together at some point, but I want some time with you and I know that you will love this, my mom loved this and she loves you and she wants you to have this. No one but the two of them were allowed in here. We have the same rule. She cleaned and maintained everything, it's the one escape that no one but those of us in the packhouse knew about. I know that you like your safe space and your alone time and we want you to have this, all three of us. Buuuutttt, I really want to open this door now. Okay?"

I feel apprehensive getting to experience something so special and personal when Cam hasn't yet, but Dakota's face is so cute. He is so excited to give this to me. And I have to believe that he talked to Cam and Oliver about this. They wouldn't keep secrets like that from each other. I squeeze his hand and nod. He opens the water speckled door and my jaw drops.

It is an oasis. That's the only thing that comes to mind, a tropical oasis. A riverstone path leads into the space.

About five feet in the path divides to the left and right

around the edge of a long thin pool. To one side of the pool is a sitting area with Ava's signature cushy chairs and couch with a table for small snacks and drinks. I bet this spot gets great morning sunlight. I will have to test that theory soon. The other side features many plants and flowers. Some are set in the big planting boxes lining the walls and probably built to open right into the ground. Others seem more delicate and have their own pots. I move to the left first where the plants are, gliding my hand gently over each one. I think every color is represented here, but it is obvious that Ava's favorite color is pink.

At the far edge of the greenhouse is a waterfall that circulates the water in the pool. It smells amazing, not like chlorine or chemicals, but like fresh water and it is so calming. I raise my hand up and without even thinking I start to play with the water, pulling droplets up and spinning them before letting them fall back into the stream.

"I never thought to use the excuse to train with water in here. I could have had you in here so much sooner."

Dakota whispers as he wraps one arm around my waist and the other is just above my hand repeating the water droplet dance I just did.

We move together this time and the water dances around each other before falling back into the stream. We continue to move like this, but Dakota adds his lips to my neck and my water falters for a second.

"Concentrate, Sweetness, we wouldn't want you to get distracted when you're training, would we?" He keeps making trails from behind my ear down to where my neck and shoulder meet and I have chills all over my body, but now that I know he's trying to distract me, it's a game I want to win.

I breathe in slowly and let out a little sigh the next time he kisses behind my ear and I tilt my hips backward, knowing what I am going to find. He gives up on the water manipulations entirely after that, but I'm not giving up just yet.

He moves to glide my shirt up my body. "What are you doing?" I breathe out. We are the only people here. I have no idea why we are whispering, but it just doesn't seem like the place to talk loudly, let alone a normal voice volume.

"I need my mate naked and in the pool, now." He pulls my tank over my head and rips his own shirt off.

"Awe, but I was just getting the hang of this." I bring a quarter sized droplet of water up to his cheek and trail it down the side of his face, his neck, angling towards the center of his chest where there is a gap between his defined muscles and I let the droplet go. I can feel it trail slowly down the plains of his pecs and over each bumpy ridge of his abs until it reaches the waistband of his shorts. As I raise my eyes back up I can see his chest heaving deep breaths.

"You didn't even touch me and I am ready to blow. How do you do that? How can you affect me so thoroughly with a drop of water."

"I wouldn't be a very good mate if I didn't."

"It's not just that, it's you. You have always had an effect, it's just more intense now." He leans in to kiss me. He is sweet and slow, picking me up again and walking us back toward the door. I thought he would take us over to the sitting area, but he turned abruptly to the zero depth entrance to the pool and waked us in.

The water was heaven, like bath water. Warm enough to soothe muscles, but not jacuzzi hot.

