



## Chapter 0183

“After that we are in preliminary, or prelims. Again this lasts 30 days. If you make it that far you get to be inducted and get a temporary warrior brand and can start going on smaller missions.” Wyatt says around a mouthful of taco.

“What is this brand that everyone keeps talking about? Why is it so special?” This is like the fourth time I have heard about that today.”

“The brand is what links you to the warriors. Think about it like a pack link, but just with us. We all come from different packs and we don’t want to renounce our pack connection just to do training, so we are given this brand that is applied to the inside of our right wrist.” Nathaniel indicates the spot. “It doesn’t sever your pack link, it just brings you into the warrior link. You can communicate with the warriors on your team while out on missions and you have access to the lead warriors no matter how far away you are, which comes in handy from what I have heard from some of the veteran warriors.”

“I wonder how that will work for me then? Warrior Osiston said that I won’t be able to join missions until

I am 16, that's just under a year from now. I hope my probationary period doesn't last a year, that would suck!" I let out a little whine.

"Who knows. The Alpha King and Warrior Brogen already seem to have plans for you or you wouldn't be here." Nathaniel deadpans. Yep, he's a keeper, I think right before he starts talking again. "The other thing the brand does is shut down your mating hormones."

I choke on my water and almost spit it across the table. "It what?"

"It shuts down all the hormones that make you want to mate, at all. You won't be able to find your mate while you are branded, I think that is the most obvious thing. But, you also won't have any s\*xual desires or any kind of attractions either. At any given time there are about a hundred warriors in this building, both male and female. We are all very active and fit, even for werewolves, which usually correlates with our s\*x drive. By shutting this down, there is no relationship drama or other distractions that come from sleeping around. It allows us to focus on the task at hand keeping those emotions in check."

"Who gives us this brand and what happens if someone wants the chance to find their mate?" I ask, a little horrified. I can't find my mate for another

three years, but I don't know how I feel about the option to find them taken away from me.

"The brand is applied by the warrior elders and a coven of witches. It is temporary and wears off after a while. I don't have many more details about it than that. I do know that every five years the Alpha King requires warriors to remove the brand for a full year and travel to try and find their mate. So, mates have been considered."

"Nathaniel, how do you know so much about this? It seems like a lot of detail, that isn't common knowledge." I ask, truly curious. He must be a sponge. The quiet observant guy that no one thinks twice about talking in front of, but he gathers every piece of info he comes across.

Clearly this isn't something either of the other two thought to ask as their heads whip towards him looking expectant. He stares at me for a moment, clearly deciding something. I don't feel any animosity coming from him and I hope he doesn't find any from me. He really is just a fascinating person and I have only known him a couple hours.

"My dad was a warrior. He found my mom on one of his sabbaticals. She died when rogues attacked our pack, it almost killed my dad to lose her. He brought

me here and joined the warriors again to remove the pain of the broken bond.” He looked back into my eyes, a kindred spirit in a way. Somehow he knows what my family, what I, went through. I just nod, confirming his unasked question.

 Comments

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Before things get too heavy another chime rings and everyone starts getting up and clearing the space.

Warrior Osiston wasn't kidding when he said it's our job to take care of this place. There was not a single crumb left on any of the tables. It was incredible.

"What do we do now?" I ask after we all disposed of our garbage and organized our dirty dishes into bins for the omegas.

"We actually have free time until lights out. Most shower and head to their rooms for some quiet time, especially when they have been out on the territory all day. Some hang out in the common room, it's really the only down time we get here." Lillian links her arm into mine, "Come on, let's see what's going on."

We spent the rest of the hour mingling around with the other warriors. We didn't spend too long with anyone though and I couldn't tell you any of their names yet. It was interesting to see the dynamic of the older warriors and the younger generation. There was a distinct difference in the interactions.

The warning chime for bed time went off sooner than

I wanted, I was enjoying listening and talking to the warriors here. It already feels like home, but not the same way the Blue Crescent pack house feels like home. It's strange and I don't know what to make of it.

"Is it the chimes that wake us up each day too?" I ask Lillian as we walk up the stairs together.

"No, that's the floor leader's job."

"Oh, great." I say sarcastically. "Will you do me a favor and check on me in the morning? My routine is off from the last month and I don't trust myself to get up when I usually do and I don't think my floor leader likes me enough to show me that courtesy."

"I can, but she really should. It makes her look bad if anyone on her floor is late, unprepared or out of uniform."

"That's good to know I guess. I think I have classes tomorrow, so I don't know when I will see you. Thank you for helping me today. I appreciate a friendly face." I smile at her as I step onto the landing of my floor and she ascends to hers.

"You are a team player and so am I, we got this." She winks at me and heads up.

With the exception of Audrina, my first day here wasn't so bad.


I head to my room and find more books and a folder on my desk. I opened the folder first. It has my schedule for this week on the top of the small stack of papers. It looks like tomorrow will be at the school. At least I get to see Sierra and check in with her, but it would be nice to see the warriors in action now that I have gotten to know them.

I toss and turn all night, but not because I was uncomfortable or scared. I am excited to get started and only wish my first day could be on the training grounds and not at the school, I have so much energy to burn after being cooped up in the hospital. I have to stay positive though, I will be able to graduate earlier than I thought and I will get to train. This is like a dream come true. There is a wall clock next to the door, but no alarm clock or any outlets actually. They take this separation from the outside world seriously. I'm sure there is a place downstairs to charge and use phones in a designated space and at designated times.

Once the sun starts to rise and the dim yellow light peeks through my curtains, I get up and get dressed, assuming I have to wear the uniform no matter where

I am at on the territory, including school. I flip to the second page of the folder that was left for me which has my class schedule. All core classes, nothing unnecessary and no battle classes. This might actually be boring. On the other hand all of the classes say 'advanced' so they might all be really hard and suck.

 Comments

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