

Chapter 0212

"Hey, don't do that. You are not weak."

"Are you a mind reader too?"

"It's my job to anticipate what the Luna Queen needs, which has me interacting with a lot of different people, including warriors. You all have a look when you feel inadequate in some way." He gives me a look like when Alpha Lucas is trying to get a point across without giving a direct answer. "I have seen warriors come back looking far worse than you from battle. It is just part of the dynamic here."

I nod and try to change the subject. "How old is the Royal Pack? Some of the buildings look like they grew out of the mountain."

We spend the next thirty minutes talking about all the different histories of the Royal Pack that Barty knew of. It was really fascinating. Alpha Reggie's Great Great Grandfather was the first Alpha King of the Royal Pack. Which doesn't sound like that long ago, but as wolves we age more slowly than humans, so many Kings, who didn't die in battle, made it to close to a hundred before they even considered retiring. It sounds like they were all well loved and respected Kings too. Meaning Xander has some big shoes to fill.

"So, since you are so well informed. What is my role

exactly? Everyone at the warrior camp seems very confused that I would be invited to protect Prince Xander, but I can't think of any other reason anyone would want me there."

"Well, first, it is rare for the Alpha Prince to make friends as fast as he did in your pack. He talked of nothing but the couple of days he spent with you and all of your friends. It was a welcome break from all of the parading around he usually does. Second, you are a gorgeous female that any guy would probably cut his left arm off to have the chance to call his date for the evening. Third, you can handle yourself. These pompous assholes seem to think that because they have been elected as an elder, they are entitled to a piece of the royal family, among other luxuries. Those with daughters will not appreciate the Alpha Prince having you on his arm all night, and that is where the Prince will keep you. You are a trusted friend, so he might actually enjoy himself. You can help protect him as a warrior, but also as a woman, blocking unwanted advances."

"Politics sound awful. I'm kind of glad my brother, Cmeron and Dakota have to deal with all of that and not me." We both laugh. Before I can ask any more we pull up to the castle I saw from a distance on the hospital drive and my jaw hits the floor. 1

The castle is a whitewashed looking stone that extends from the side of the mountain. Another structure that looks as if it just grew out of the side of the mountain. The circular

drive pulls up to a set of double doors made of thick dark wood with black metal accents and handles. This seems to be a theme on all of the older buildings I have seen on the territory. There is nothing else but the entrance doors on this level of the castle. 1

Above that is a balcony with a stone railing, maybe for greeting guests who are really important. The wall of glass behind the balcony is either tinted to not be able to see in or the glare is just too strong for me to see anything in the morning light. From here the castle extends left and right with many windows and doors attached to various outdoor stone staircases. Going up there are at least five levels, but it's kind of hard to count since they stagger upward toward the sky, several ending in tall turrets and towers.

"This way Miss Skylar, I will let the Alpha Prince give you the grand tour." He smiles at me from a bent position at the door of the car. I didn't even realize I had stopped midway of getting out.

"Wait, Xander is here? I thought he was at training."

"He, like you, has to fulfill other responsibilities. So he is missing training too."



Chapter 0213

Hey Guys!

Sorry I disappeared. This summer has been crazy as I'm sure it is for most parents. I coach 2 sports and both my kids play sports (that I don't coach). Just when I thought I was catching up I caught the worst case of the Rona I have ever had. I have been down with a blinding migraine for a week.

I don't know how many of you have experienced full on symptoms, but I never had this was rridiculous and mad respect goes out to people who have had this over and over again. [1](#)

I can actually look at a computer screen now, so give me a couple days to catch up and edit the next chapter. I should have something up by the end of the week.

As Always, Thank you so much for your support and your feedback.

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Chapter 0214

We walk inside to a grand entrance and I am immediately wrapped in a hug. I can't see anything around the soft material covering my whole head, burying my face in a chest.

"You have no idea how good it is to see you. I thought we were all going to go crazy not being able to check in or see you at all this summer."

Xander releases me from the stranglehold he has on me and holds me out at arms distance, giving me a once over clearly checking for lasting damage.

"Xander, I'm okay." I pat his arm awkwardly, his tight grip on my shoulders making it difficult to do anything. "I promise Doc Sylvia and Doc Ganon patched me up and cleared me for training."

He doesn't say anything, he just grabs my hand and drags me off without a word to anyone around us. I guess he's my tour guide now. We traipse through the main hallway that could easily fit hundreds of people, like a banquet hall. But got no better look at it before he had me flying up the grand set of stairs to the balcony overlook. Just when I thought he was going to stop and show me something exciting he turned another corner and started down a hallway that was dimmer than the entryway. We flew past doors and I thanked the Goddess for my endurance, no mere mortal

would have been able to keep up with his pace. 1

"Where are we going, Xander? Are you trying to rip my arm off?" I went for a joke to see if I could get him to respond. Nothing.

We just kept moving. Like he was trying to get away from someone, he dodged in and out of hallways and doorways, up stairways and every other kind of 'ways' you could think of in the humongous maze.

We finally came to a stop in a little alcove in who knows what part of the castle. Then he spins me around and grabs my shoulders again.

"Who hurt you, Skylar? We want to know, now!" He looked a little deranged at the moment.

"Excuse you!" I shrugged him off. "Who is 'we?' And what makes you think I will answer to a demand like that? No friend asks a question like that. You have been hanging around Cameron, Dakota and Oliver a little too long, I think." I'm angry now. I was so excited to see my friend and the first thing he thought to ask me is who attacked me over a month ago, he's just as bad as the guys. 3

I shake out of his grasp and turn to the window, wrapping my arms around myself to stifle the chill that just ran through me. It felt like the same wall of separation that was between me and the guys before I left shot up between Xander and I at that moment. I don't want to do this here.

I'm a new me, I'm away from all of that for just a little while. I want to pretend that the whole situation doesn't exist. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath to calm my nerves and bring back my patience. He has been with the guys this whole time, I'm sure they have asked about me or if he can get any info on me from his parents. I don't want to be 'checked-up' on for my brother and his friends' benefits. I want someone to check in on me because they want to see me.

"Hey, don't be like that. We have all been terrified and no one would tell us anything, but that you were alive. You have no idea how excited we all were to hear that you were going to be here today. All the guys tried to get a pass, but...well..."

"Your title got you special privileges." I supplied his answer without looking at him.

He walked over in front of me and just shrugged. "It has its advantages sometimes. I really am glad to see you, though. And I really appreciate you doing this for me. You have no idea what some of these vipers can be like, if they set their fangs they don't let go the whole night, no matter what I do. Usually my parents can get me away from them, but it takes no time for another to latch on. The Elders have this wild idea about choosing my mate for me, which is ridiculous to even entertain the idea of a chosen mate, let alone someone I don't even get to choose." He enunciated the last part.