



Chapter 0392

"Well that sounds ominous." I say to my wolf and she just purs a little in my chest.

"I'm just glad we're back. We need to figure out what they used on you that kept us apart for so long. We normally can work off anything, even silver after a few hours. I want to know what Mike and his witches were doing that actually affected us."

"I didn't even think of that, you're right. I forget that all the things Kaley did to me didn't ever last that long, but we were gone a month and I could feel the wolfsbane and belladonna and whatever else they gave me working."

"What's your wolf thinking?" Jena asks, suddenly pulling me from my conversation.

"Oh, umm, she was asking about the stuff that Mike's people gave us. I don't usually have that big of a reaction. My body kind of just gets rid of stuff like wolfsbane with minor effects, but whatever Mike gave us, was enough to mess me up and separate me from my wolf the whole time we were there."

"Really? How did you learn to not be affected?" ⁴

"I didn't learn, just born like that and unfortunately I have had some experiences that let me find out the hard way what my body and my wolf can do." I say vaguely. I know at some point I will have to explain to her that she isn't alone

when it comes to sh*tty experiences, she just happens to have the worst between the two of us.

"Well, that sounds like a story that needs drinks to get through."

"Yep." I say popping the 'P.' "Now let's eat before everyone else gets back, lunch is worse than breakfast and I have a feeling people left us alone on orders, but I don't know how long that will last. Warriors are worse than a group of middle school girls when it comes to gossip. And I just got back from a mission I should have been too young to go on and came back with a hot alpha female." 1

She giggles. "Well I'm glad you were on it, because no one else would have been able to get me out of the hellhole. I wonder how long I'm going to have nightmares about it?"

"No idea, but I can't even imagine what yours are, mine are bad enough." I say as we get back into the cantina.

Some warriors are already in line waiting for the kitchen staff to set everything out. A few look at us, but they are older warriors so they don't gawk and stare. I'm sure used to people coming and going at this point.

Just as I am about to move forward I am tackled in a hug from behind. "Omff! What the hell?"

"Oh my Goddess! I am so glad to see you!" Mina's smell wafts around me before I even recognize her voice.

"Hey!" I turn around to return the hug. "I'm glad you're here. I wasn't sure what they had everyone doing after we got

back. I've seen Wyatt, Lillian and Nathaniel but just real quick at breakfast. Where have you been?" 1

"I've been over at the castle. Since you have been gone, I guess the little vipers have been trying even harder to get to Xander and Luna Queen Anne had me there yesterday and today for some small meetings as Xander's plus one. You must have made an impression at the Alpha conference, because all the Luna's and all the daughters were there and some of them were actually paying attention and talking about relevant things." She laughs and I join in.

"The Luna's just realized that they do actually have a voice and are a part of the leadership of the pack. I didn't do anything, but stand with Luna Anne and answer a couple questions."

"First of all, that is NOT what you did. You put an Alpha in his place and it was classic. People were still talking about it and that was like ten months ago. Several of the Lunas asked to meet you too and you should have seen the look on Alpha King Reggie's face when he told them you were on a mission and unavailable. You would have thought he was a proud dad talking about his daughter's accomplishments. Even Xander made fun of him liking you better."

I just roll my eyes. "You're ridiculous. Anyway, Mina, this is Jena. She was my cell mate and managed to make it out with me. She's the Female Alpha of the Black Diamond Pack." 2

"I wouldn't go that far. I don't even know if I have a pack left to be an Alpha for."

"You know we'll search right? That's part of the reason why you're here and not somewhere else looking for them. We want to help and we have the best resources here."


"I'm sure you really don't want to talk about your pack being attacked, but was anyone else captured with you?" Mina asks as we fill out plates and head to our usual table.

"I don't know. Everything happened really fast."

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"I'm sure Alpha Reggie will ask you too, so if you want to wait and not have to tell the story twice, we understand." I shared a quick look with Mina.

"You know she's more likely to tell you than anyone else. We need to push her to talk or we can't help. And the sooner the better, it's already been a year."

"Ugh, I know." I link back, while leading us over to our usual table again, hoping the rest of my friends make it in before we are done. "I just feel bad and she has been through a lot. No one wants to relive stuff like that."

"Except, she's going to have to if we want to help her search for survivors."

We sit down and dig in. I try really hard to listen to Osiston's advice and eat slow, but the food is so much better than I remember.

"You are going to throw up, you know that? Slow down."

"Osiston said something like that before we came in, but I am so hungry and the food is so amazing!" I close my eyes practically drooling.

"Well, Warrior Brogen is right, stop gorging, otherwise you're going to have to taste it twice and I can guarantee the second time will not be as good as the first."

We all laugh.

"Why do you call him by his title and Sky calls him by his first name? I noticed that with the Alpha King too."

I shrug, not really thinking about it in a long time. The guys and Xander made fun of me once for it too. "I just call them what they told me to call them. It's going to be weird adding the title back onto Nickolas' name here though, he's been my 'uncle,'" I air quote, "for so long that I'm worried I'm going to forget and get some kind of punishment." I cringe and they laugh at me.

We eat and talk, eventually joined by the rest of my friends and they all ask the same questions of Jena. I think they are all looking forward to helping her find her pack. In some way they all experienced this with her, like me, and we all feel responsible for helping her. This is why the warriors are here to help and protect in a major crisis.

Jena and I get to join the group for the obstacle course after our run with Osiston. The run has been by far the worst part. Why did I ever run so much before?!

"Because it kept you from beating Kaley and her friends every time they did something to you." My wolf snarks. "You aren't looking over your shoulder all the time or angry and scared here. There isn't any frustration to burn."

"Well what is going to motivate me now?"

"The fact that you know the guys are training to be better than you as we speak and neither of us can have that, no can we?" 1

"You make a solid point. Motivation reinstated."

"What are you smiling at? There is no way you enjoyed that run and now we have to go do more training. You and your warriors are crazy." Jena puffs next to me.

"Enjoyed it? No, not a chance, but my wolf reminded me why I train so hard."

"Why is that?"

"My brother and some of my friends from back home are extra competitive and when I get back, I can't be weaker than when I left them. I left with some standards to achieve and I have no idea what they have been up to for the last year. I have to assume they have gotten better while I have been under guard and we can't have them becoming better than us." I give her a wicked smile.

"Are you sure it's them who's competitive?" She giggles at me as we pass through the bushes to the obstacle course. "Oh sh*t! This is awesome. We never had anything like this back home."

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"Welcome to training. The instructors sometimes have us go the whole course, sometimes part of it. We work solo and in teams. There's a lot to do just here. We also weight train and spar as a group daily." We walk over to the que at the start of the course and Wyatt notices us.

"Hey ladies! You ready for this?"

"No!" We both say together and then laugh.

Wyatt runs us through the requirements and I pull us to the back of the line so we can watch the other go through. Jena is a good strategist too. We came up with a plan to get through the course. It's an individual run today, but we are being sent every thirty seconds so there are warriors everywhere. It doesn't seem to be a timed thing, but I could be totally wrong since the trainer is looking at his watch to start us off.

It is just like my first time. Everything hurts, I have rips in my hands that are bleeding from the ropes, my lungs and heart feel like they are going to burst out of my chest from exertion. And yet, I feel amazing! I can't stop the smile that has spread across my face. I am exactly where I am meant to be.

I look back at Jena who is following me just to my left flank so she can stay close, but not trip either of us up. She is smiling too. I can't even imagine what is going through her head right now.



We make it through the whole course, finishing by crawling in the dirt and then running across the completion line.

"Good time ladies." Thomas, one of the other Elite lead trainers says.

"Thank you, Sir." We say in unison.

"You are both to report back to the war room after cleaning up. Alpha Reggie and Warrior Brogen want to see you for assignments." 1

My eyebrows scrunch of their own accord. "Assignments? I thought we would be here for a while retraining and psych evals and all of that stuff."

"I am not in charge of any of that. I just know that you were summoned and that is all I got by way of orders." He shrugs. "Go get cleaned up and changed and make your way to the war room. You have ten...no eight minutes now. I would run." He winks at us and I turn quickly, grabbing Jena's hand and taking off.

"What the hell?!"

"He wasn't kidding. They don't do late around here and I don't want to know what a punishment looks like. So move your skinny ass!"

We run up to my room and wipe the dirt off as best as we can, changing into clean black training gear. An extra set of gear was brought in and laid out on the bed that Jena was in. I wonder if she is going to be in here with me now. But what does that mean for Mina? I'll have to remember to ask

when we get downstairs.

I rip a brush through my hair and pull it back into a ponytail, Jena mimics me and we both run down the main stairs giggling. I don't know why I am excited, but I feel like something great is going to happen to us.

We bust through the doors a little aggressively and both Osiston and Alpha Reggie look up stunned.


"Sorry, Sir. We got here as soon as possible." I say looking between both of them. "Warrior Thomas said you needed to see us about assignments." I huff out a little breathily.

"Take a seat, I think you will like what we have to offer you." Alpha Reggie says, smiling like he's up to something.

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