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Well that wasn't ominous or anything. I look at her, not even trying to hide the worry I feel. Why does this have to come down to me being able to handle the spell? I don't even know what the spell is.

"Let's go, you'll see. We have the rest of your team together. Gentlemen." She places an arm around my shoulders. "Oh, you may want to let down your shield from the clearing so others can use it. There's no reason to waste energy maintaining it while you aren't here."

I looked surprised. "What?! I totally forgot about that. How did you get through the barrier? When you get a little further along with your training I will show you. It was actually a great barrier though, I'm impressed. You make for a very quick study even with your lessons being fragmented."

"Oliver has been a big help. He seems to get the magic better than I do."

"Well, that does make sense. He is your anchor. When you get lost in the magic he will bring you back. We choose our anchors typically, it seems yours was chosen for you." I look over my shoulder at the men following me. If he's my anchor, that makes sense why I am drawn to him and why he can help me with the magic, but what about the other two? I don't get too much further in my thoughts before we get back up to the patio and sure enough my whole team, the ranked leaders and all their mates are present. Even Ava and Brett are here.

"We are going to head to the first location, please stay in

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your vehicle until Elena and I call you out. Placements need to be precise. You all know your duties. This will take some time and energy on everyone's part. Martha and Lenny are preparing for our return.

Everyone nods and we follow the witches around the front to all the vehicles that seem to have been prepped while I was hashing things out with my guys. As I am walking I smell Sierra before she even wraps an arm around me and leans in to whisper in my ear.

"It looks like we need a girls night, so you can fill me in on the last two hours of your life."

"It's been two hours? It didn't even feel like ten minutes. And yes! I need to figure this sh*t out before I go insane. There is way too much going on to be distracted by the three of them right now."

"Oh, so you've upgraded from two to three?" She smiles wickedly. "You have never done anything the easy or traditional way, why not three?"

"Ugh. You are not going to be any help are you?"

"Not right away, nope. Cause you are one lucky girl." She looks behind me. "Yep, lucky."

"Did you just purr? Don't you have a mate?!" I elbow her in the side.




"I do and he is as amazing as the day I met him. He is my one and only and all of that. But you have some things to work out and I am totally here for it and I want details."

I nod my head, "As soon as we are done with this, it's a girl's night." I lean into her shoulder.

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The Twins, Oliver, Sam, Sierra and I hop into the truck. Mateo and Jena join Elena, Gentry, My dad and Nickolas in another SUV. Lil is driving Nathaniel, Wyatt and a team of Elite warriors to cover us while we work. The rest of the former leaders are in a third vehicle. [2](#)

We drive for about twenty minutes when I start to doze off. I lean into Dakota's arm. He doesn't move away, but neither twin has touched me or tried to hold my hand and I don't know what to think of that. So I am trying to stay focused on the task ahead. Gentry said everyone knew their duties. I have no idea what the hell she's talking about so I hope what I have to do isn't super difficult, because I am screwed if that's the case. As I come up with all the scenarios I can think of I fall asleep to the warmth of their bodies around me and all three scents filling my nose.

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I wake up to a finger stroking my cheek and someone is playing with my ponytail. I take a deep breath in, they are all still here with me. I sit up and look out the window. It doesn't look any different than when we were here the other day. It's a clearing similar to the one behind the packhouse that the students use, but the twenty foot circular patch of wolfsbane lies in wait. The tall plants are deceptively beautiful with their long pointed leaves scaling up each stalk meeting up to brilliant purple trumpet shaped blooms. Even with the pointy leaves the plant looks soft and unassuming as it sways in the breeze blowing off the ocean a few miles away.

"Gentry needs us, are you ready?" Cam asks softly.

"No, but that doesn't mean I'm not going out there." All three of them laugh at me as we climb out of the truck.

I notice Mateo, Jena, Sam and Sierra are evenly spaced around the circular plot. Ava, Brett, Kyle, and my dad make a second circle behind them. For the first time I wish that Gwen was here in this mess too, but she is helping with all of our pack members in the Royal pack. Gentry and Elena motion us forward and I see stones and bundles of different herbs on the ground all around the circle. We walk up and Gentry positions me inside a ring of clear stones. She places Cam to my left and Dakota to my right, but a step behind my position. Oliver stands directly behind me so we form a diamond. They are each only about a foot away from me. If I wanted to I could reach out and touch all of them which makes me feel so much better.

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Elena and Gentry take their positions behind us, completing the second circle. "Skylar, there is nothing for you to say or repeat, but you will be our conduit for the spell. Everyone needs to maintain their positions at all times, you will be tied to her and any movement can harm her." Gentry begins and as anyone could have predicted there are several growls from the circle. "Relax gentlemen, she knows what she was unwillingly signed up for. She can handle this, but she needs all of us."

Gentry talks as if I am not here and I am actually okay with the whole thing. I am trying to tune her out. If I don't have to say anything or repeat anything then I am going to stand here and just let her do her thing and try to get this done as soon as possible. The first experience is always the worst.

They both start chanting in a language I don't know, but it sounds like deep humming music to my ears. I just stare at the unassuming wolfsbane and as I do I see the magic floating around it. The protections cast on it are purple like the flowers. But instead of a bubble like I saw on the packhouse it is like a mist or more like dust particles floating around. Little motes you can see when the sun hits them just right. Each lazy mote just sways with the flowers, not floating up or down, just hovering through the plants. I can feel my eyelids getting heavy again, but before I can fall asleep a sharp pain rips up my spine and I let out an involuntary scream.


"DON'T YOU MOVE!" Someone shouts behind me and all I can think is, 'my f*cking feet are glued to the ground I couldn't move if I wanted to.'


More chanting, this time it is less melodic and more sharp

 +20 BONUS

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and spiky like the leaves of the plant I can't seem to look away from. Now it looks like there is a gold translucent ribbon floating around the plants and the people surrounding the patch. Another pain rips through me this time it starts at the center of my ribs and flies down my arms and out my fingers. I can see more gold light flying around and weaving around my friends and family. My hands grab each of the twins' arms. "OLIVER!" I need him too, but I don't have another hand.

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