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Before we get any further in the conversation, there's a knock at the door. I just shout for them to come in and Xander, Oscar and Mina all look at me like I have lost my mind.

"What? No one gets on this floor, I know food is coming for us. We should take bets as to who is delivering. I think it's Barty and he has probably been with our food for the whole preparation and delivery." I roll my eyes as I get up and head to the door, because whoever is on the other side must think along the same lines as the rest of my friends since no one came in.

I don't wait for a response as I slowly open the door. "Oh, Barty, what a surprise to see you delivering our food!" I say loud and mockingly, giving him a wink so he knows the sarcasm is not directed at him in any way, he just got caught in the crossfire.

"Hey, settle down. At this point we only know there is a threat, and it's close. No one has a clue who or why right now so everyone is a suspect." Mina chides me with a smile. I stick my tongue out at her in response.

"So what do we know?" I ask as Barty closes the door and wheels the tray over to the sitting area. "This attack doesn't seem like a surprise to you or your dad Xander, but the rest of the Alphas had their panties in a wad. You dad also mentioned hypotheticals when you guys were at Blue Crescent. This isn't the first attack is it?"

I don't even hide my curiosity and Mina jumps on the question wagon with me. We talk into the night and don't even notice how much time has passed until Osiston comes into my room unannounced telling the guys to head to Xnader's room and Mina and I to stay in mine. It doesn't escape my notice that we are being kept in pairs.

"It's one in the morning, you all need your sleep after the events of today. Mina, you will be traveling with Skylar to the Warrior camp, rooming and sharing a schedule since you are both still attending school. We will leave right after breakfast, 8am sharp, do not be late, any of you. Mina, things are being packed for you and your training gear will be provided. None of you are to travel alone, anywhere, including the bathroom, showers, everything. We don't know the nature of the attack or the reason behind it. All of you are important people so any of you could have been the target."

"So are we under guard then?" Mina asks.

"In a manner of speaking, yes. We aren't advertising what is going on, but you all are to keep track of each other. For obvious reasons we are keeping Xander and Oscar together, which leaves the two of you, but that works in our favor in several ways."

"Wait! What's obvious about Xander and Oscar?" Mina cuts him off and I flinch a little at the look that crosses his face from the interruption.

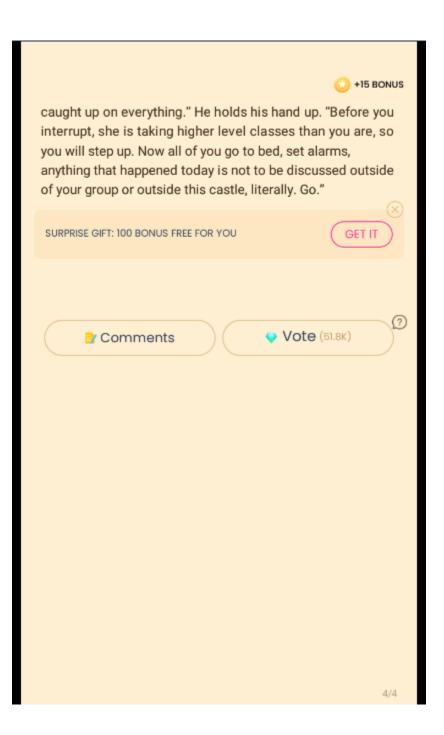
"We're mates, Mina." Xander says confidently and her eyes go wide.

"How does that work exactly? Being the prince and heir and needing to continue your family line and all that."

"We haven't found our female mate yet. We know we have one, but that's all we know." Oscar steps closer to Xander and laces their fingers together. The show of support is sweet and I get the feeling they will get that question a lot if people find out about them before they understand Xander has two mates and they are not looking forward to it.

Mina doesn't even question it past that though. She just takes in the info, nods and moves on with her questioning. "So how does this work in our favor then?" She points between the two of us.

"Before you interrupted, I was about to explain." Osiston deadpans and then moves on like it never happened. "Skylar has had a lot of attention surrounding her arrival here. We don't discuss it, really it's no one's business and I will not be questioned any more, but your presence will help since it will be, on the surface, identical to her arrival. You have a late start and need to finish school while you are training. You will transfer to all of Skylar's classes, she will get you



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He isn't angry, but the tone in his voice has even Xander moving more quickly. I get Mina a pair of the silky soft pajamas Luna Anne gave me and we both settle side by side in my bed. It makes me think of my time with Sierra and a pang of guilt washes through me. I haven't even seen her since the last time I was in school. She's my best friend and I have barely thought about her in the last couple days. I have so much to tell her and so much I have to keep quiet. I've never had a friend like that before and I feel terrible at just the thought of keeping something from her.

"What? Your whole face kind of went soft and pouty." Mina asks, her voice softer than I've heard it at all today.

"Nothing, I was just thinking about my best friend. I tell her everything, like everything everything, and I have to keep so much from her. I feel bad since I only get to see her at school and we don't have any classes together here, so lunch is the only time we can talk at all."

"How do you already have a best friend here? Didn't you just get here?"

"Yeah, I did, but Sierra came to my pack to stay with her aunt and uncle last year and we got close. She came back home and then I was brought to the Elite training, but it has been hard."

For the first time I am sad about being here. I don't regret it at all and I love that I get to do this, but now I have people to miss and maybe missing out on things normal teens do during the summer. I never thought about what I wouldn't be doing when I was here, it's a strange revelation.

"Are you talking about Doc Sylvia's Sierra?" I nod.

"Oh girl! No worries there. She probably knows everything anyway, she's got this weird way of getting people to spill their guts without even trying." Mina starts to laugh and I join in, it's true. "I know her, we've had a few classes together over the years. If she's your best friend I wouldn't worry about it, she won't let your friendship go without a fight. You could be on your deathbed and she would negotiate more time with the Moon Goddess if she thought you needed it." I smile at the thought.

"I can't wait for all of us to hang out a bit tomorrow. We get to start classes right away. Although I don't know why we are going to start so late. If we are eating breakfast at eight, we will for sure miss the first two periods, that seems strange."

"Who knows, Warrior Brogen has like ten plans running through his head at all times and I bet each of those has two back-up plans." She laughs again. "But let's get to sleep, cause he seems to have a soft spot for you, but he will publicly humiliate me and Oscar and probably Xander too, if we are late."