

Chapter 0418

2-111

Finally on day three we got a reprieve from her coma.

"Wha...Where am I? What happened? I feel like I am moving through sand."

We all jump up. Xander and Oscar have made her a sandwich every night. I have been sleeping on a recliner and not loving it, but the alternative was worse. I found I got sick if I was away from her, trying to sleep in my own room. So here I am.

"My head hurts. Sky what did we do at the Alpha meeting? We didn't take shots did we?"

She still thinks it was days ago. 1

"No, we didn't do shots." I smile at her, at least her humor is still intact. Do me a favor, take a deep breath and tell me what you notice."

She looks at me funny but does what I ask. "Oh, my what is that?" She sniffs again and then looks around, just noticing Xander and Oscar sitting next to her. "Oh, sh*t!"

I giggle and she looks back at me. "You found your mates and it seems you weren't ready for that surprise."

"No way! There is no way I'm their mate. That is not possible, I cannot be the next Luna Queen. No one would want me as their queen." She's still talking to me like the

guys aren't even there.

"You're our Queen." Oscar purrs behind her.

"Oh, no! I'm out, ya'll need to talk...or whatever." I got up and tried not to run out of the room.

—

I did not see Mina, Oscar or Xander for a couple weeks after that. I have been spending more time with Sierra though, which has been a bonus.

We were hanging out in the castle, she's been helping me review the grimoires that Elena left for me now that neither of us are subjected to regular school hours. I'm actually getting the hang of some basic element manipulation. I was able to spark a fire yesterday and blow Sierra's hair around. But it takes a lot of energy out of me. Elena thinks that might be because I don't actually have witch blood, just access to the use of the magic. Something I will have to work on, because it won't make sense for me to use the power at the cost of weakening my whole body to the point of not being able to protect myself. Elena thinks that I might be able to build up my use with time, like a muscle.

"I can't wait!" She beams and slams a book closed. "The guys should be here within the week. I haven't seen Sam since my birthday, they have been so busy. I mean I guess we have been busy too." She gives me a look. It's the same one she always gives me when we get close to the subject of my capture.

"Sierra, I'm not going to break or run off crying about what

happened. Stop doing that. I have always been able to count on you to treat me the same no matter what has happened to me. Please don't change now." I walk over from my seat to give her a hug.

"It's easier said than done. I have seen so many of your injuries, but it was always after the fact. This time I got to see you right after, barely alive and it was really scary, and super impressive at the same time. I don't want to treat you differently, it's just different here. You are a leader here and so many people want your attention or your advice. You're kind of a big deal."

I laugh and nudge her. "You have always just seen me for me, even before people who have known me my whole life, don't let that change." I take a deep breath and look over at her. "And speaking of the guys, do they know? About any of it?"

"I actually don't know what they know. Obviously Alpha Lucas and Luna Ava have some kind of idea, but I don't think even they were told the whole story. Alpha Lucas would have had you back home just as fast as the guys." She smiles at me with her little joke.

"You'll have to give them hugs for me. Technically speaking, I am still in training and can't have contact with the outside world. And we are gearing up for our next rescue mission."

"How long are you going to hide behind that excuse? You will have to see them eventually."

"It's not an excuse, and I know, but I don't even know what I would say to them now. It's been a year, but it feels like

forever and the only contact we had was a letter and the necklace they sent for my birthday, that still brings up rough memories. I was attacked, poisoned and beaten within an inch of my life all because of something as minor as wanting me to go to a dance. That's the last actual memory we all have of each other. It's so stupid, but I still just struggle with that. With being beaten by her, again, with them not noticing what is really happening right under their noses. With the imbalance of discipline and justice from them and even Luna Ave and Alpha Lucas. Ugh!" I rub my hands over my face.

"So it is Kaley. It took you two years to tell me that." She huffs.

"That's the part that you caught in the whole conversation? Damn. I must be tired or you are getting better at your interrogation techniques. Yes, Kaley is my problem. She wants to be Luna and has always had a target on me, even before you came along and forced the guy's notice my way." I gave her a half smile. "We are the same age so there is still time before she finds out if she is mated to any of them. But I don't think she will care, she will try everything to be Luna. She's worse than Olympia and Charlene."

"I gathered that. She threw quite the tantrum when the boys left the mating ball. Broke a few things... very Luna-like, I might add." She laughs at her own sarcasm. 1

"You didn't tell me that! Actually I don't think I heard anything about that night. Everyone was focused on what happened to me, we never talked about everyone else."

Chapter 0419

2-112

"Well it took you weeks to heal and you returning to health was everyone's main priority and then we were all told to leave you alone and let you focus on training. Everyone was really worried about you and your safety. I was actually surprised that the Alpha King let you go to school and train."

"I see it differently. No one wanted me to train, but they also didn't want to 'waste my skill.'" I rolled my eyes. "Just because I was too young to do the full training. So the obvious choice was the hybrid thing, that no one else does, which brought even more attention, negatively, to me.

Audrina saw fit to spread rumors that I slept my way into the training program and even went so far as to try and haze me out on my first day. That was super fun. Then it got more weird when I started attending functions at the castle, again something no other warrior does, inciting more rumors both in the castle and on the training compound. No one knew I was related to Alpha Reggie, so some of the rumors I heard were a little gross. Then, I was sent on a mission because my age and intelligence conveniently fit into a bracket that served their purpose, so then my age wasn't an issue and I was allowed to be branded. Oh and I went into the mission with the intention of getting captured, might I add."

I took a deep breath in slowly and out slowly.

"I know I sound like I am complaining, and maybe I am a

little, but it just feels like I am a walking contradiction. Everyone is worried about my safety and wants to keep me in a bubble, but my skill set requires me to be on the frontlines. I'm too young to participate, but my knowledge is needed. Things need to be kept from me because it's assumed that I might be triggered, but no one thinks to ask if I want to know and everything comes back to me dealing with it anyway. Oh and to top it all off I am related to the royal family and have special abilities, but no one can really explain them because I have multiple, again unlike anyone else before me. It's like a bad pattern. Like I told the guys, I know you all mean well, and it's coming from a place of love, but at some point I really do want a say in what I am going to do with my life. Do you realize that the only thing I actually asked for was to do warrior training when I turned 18?"

I sit down in a squishy reading chair by the window and rub my face again, leaning my elbows on my knees and pressing so hard into my eyes I see colors behind my eyelids. It's the first time I have said any of these things out loud before. All my worries, all the jumbled thoughts in my head. Everything that is overwhelming me. I feel drained all of a sudden.

She comes over and pulls me up and into a hug. We just stand there for a few long minutes. "Come on, we need to run, you need to burn some energy. Maybe some sparring for old time's sake and we will make sure to take extra warriors with us because you seem to be a magnet for trouble. Call Wyatt and Nathaniel, oh and Lillian and Jena. You all need a break. None of you have really had down time that didn't include being unwillingly unconscious." I

huffed a laugh into her shoulder. She isn't wrong.

We meet up at the sparring grounds on the warrior compound, because as much as I said I want control over my life. Sierra is right and I have become a magnet for trouble and I will not be caught off guard again if I can help it. The compound is the safest place for me to let go and just be.

Sparring was fun. We laughed and gave each other a hard time, but actually worked and got sweaty too. Jena and Nathaniel told us about the information they found on some members of her pack and once everything has been confirmed she might be able to go out and see them and give them the invite to follow her back here or officially join the pack that took them in.

They have actually done a really good job working together. We have located about twenty people. Only five families have taken her up on her offer to come to the Royal pack, but they were all ecstatic to see her and promised to reach out as well, letting people know she is safe and looking for them. Many of them found homes and even mates in other packs, but the more people we talk to the faster word is getting out to her pack members who want to come home to her. The reunions have been heartfelt and tear filled.

They have also been searching for signs of the rogue king's operation, now that we have a better idea of what their needs are we have started tracking those things. Like ingredients that are specific to the spells they are using or large quantities of food being sent to what seems like the middle of nowhere. Many witch covens are on our side as

well, now that they know what is being done to their kind.


"So did you figure out Mina's brand? Do you know what happened and will it happen to you guys, since yours are temporary too?" Lillian asks Sierra, Jena and me as we are stretching.

"We have some theories about that, but I think my parents agree with Sky and it was the proximity to her mates and the fact that the bond to the Alpha King is so strong, it literally disintegrated the brand." She looks at me. "The both of you were spending so much time here too, between all the c*ckblocking events and actual learning, you were with him more here than you were ever with me back at Blue Crescent.

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Chapter 0420

2-113

"I actually miss all of them, but I get needing time to form the mate bond. Has anyone seen them since the bond kicked in? I've been spending so much time holed up in the study and I didn't want to disturb...anything." I can feel my cheeks heat up.

"You are so funny!" Sierra laughs at me.

"What?!"

"You can say s*x, it's okay. They are probably having tons of baby making s*x. Why are you blushing?" Sierra scolds me. "It's normal."

"I'm not blushing, and I just don't really like talking about it. It's personal and private, no one else should be discussing it." I try to shrug it off.

"Of course we should, how do you think anyone learns? I can bet all the guys discuss it, Right Wyatt, Nathaniel?"

"Probably not as in depth as you think, but yeah, I guess so." Wyatt says and I can't keep my eyes from going wider. I do keep my mouth clamped shut.

"It has helped when some girls struggle with getting the memo that it's casual, even when you tell them many times before anything happens. Clingers are the worst and we usually try to help each other out before a situation gets

rough..” My jaw did drop, that was the most I have ever heard out of him at one time. “I mean, it’s been a couple years though. The full warrior brand makes it impossible to do anything.” It was his turn to look shocked, he didn’t mean to let all that slip out and I had to giggle. At least I wasn’t the only one to feel awkward in the conversation.

“Really? Nothing at all?” Sierra asks. “I don’t know if I could handle that.”

“It’s not a big deal, honestly. There isn’t any desire to have s*x. If we were just banned, but had all the urges I would have been kicked out before we even started.” His booming laugh carries across the field and we all join in. “Like I don’t even think I could get it up if I watched the hottest porn all day. Or if you all stripped right here and started rubbing one out.” He shrugs. “Nope, nothing, and you all are hot, the idea alone should have me all worked up.” He shrugs again.

“That was graphic.” I mumble

“What don’t act all sweet, you’re probably the most kinky out of all of us. The shy ones usually are.” He winks at me, and I just sit there with my mouth shut. How do you tell people that you haven’t done anything with anyone, ever?

Sierra knows my inexperience, but she is a great friend and keeps that to herself. Before we dive any further down this rabbit hole the dinner bell goes off and I am the first to jump up and head in.

—

Morning training has been better now that we have been put

into teams. It's so weird to think that I have been a part of this program for a year already and there is another string of new recruits coming in.

Now that we have the basic training done, Osiston and Nickolas have divided us into tactical teams. These are the teams we will go on missions with primarily. There are always exceptions if someone extra is needed or a special skill is needed, but this is our go-to team.

Lillian, Jena, Wyatt, Nathaniel and I have been teamed up. And because of our personal experience with the chemicals, poisons and spells from the rogue king, we sometimes get Sierra to work with us as an onsite liaison to her parents. Our primary missions consist of finding Jena's pack members and tracking down this rogue group.

It's an obsession that both Jena and I have. Some have mentioned that it is borderline unhealthy, but they weren't there. They didn't have to witness or experience the things we did. This f*cker will pay for his crimes, with his life, if it is the last thing I do.

—

We have been gone for a week, which was helpful, cause Xander, Mina and Oscar still haven't been seen. This mission is interrupting a supply of herbs needed to perform the cloaking spell that they have. When it didn't stop and off load where our information said it would, we decided to follow.

We made it about six hours away and I am so glad that I learned how to shift without shredding my clothes or having

to change at all, because we have been sleeping outside following this convoy around. Sleeping as my wolf has been way more comfortable. The two semi trucks would not have caught anyone's attention except Mike's face showed up on one of the facial trackers Jena set up and now that we found them, they have picked up another semi and an entourage of black SUV's following them like a protection detail. So it's either very important spell ingredients or they are transferring people. They are heading back in the Royal Pack's direction.

Our orders are to follow and report and nothing else and Jena and I have been having a hard time with that since we have seen Mike walking on his own a few times. The cocky asshole. He thinks he's untouchable. I'm holding it together better than she is, but barely. Nathaniel and Wyatt only need to monitor one of the crazy girls, not both.

Nathaniel was able to get trackers on the original two trucks, but not the third. There have been too many people patrolling to get in and out undetected. I want that third one. They only added extra patrols when it joined them. We did notice all the guards are wolves, but they are all carrying guns and few have knives strapped to their legs. Why do wolves need so much weaponry?

"Alright. I think I see a window." I say from my spot up high in a tree. "The patrol has a hole in the route. In about thirty minutes there is going to be a five minute gap between one guard and the next. Nathaniel, is that enough time?"