

## 1022 SIDE STORY (WILL): IN THE MOUNTAIN

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" How can you get injury every so often?" Penny asked, she furrowed her brows because Jace was being reckless again on the monster hunt.

"I am not reckless, I took a bunch of young warriors, who have never been on a monster hunt before." Jace replied, he folded his sleeve and showed Penny the wound on his arm. There was a monster that had poison in their fang and his healing ability was not enough to heal the wound quickly.

If he let it be, the wound would fester and he would be in so much pain for the next few days until it healed, thus the quickest way was to have Penny to look after it.

" They should assign more full fledge

warriors to accompany you," Penny said with a sigh when she saw the wound.

" All of them were busy. We have our own assignment, you know."

The monsters in the Goffa mountain were not as abundance as in the north, but still, they had to do the ' clean up' every now and then, because they couldn't have the queen to do it all the time. The king would have killed them if they even suggested that.

Especially when they just have their daughter.

In the past, the king wouldn't have imagined that he would have a child at all, because of what happened to him, but right now, he had a twin and an adorable daughter. Of course, people wouldn't forget about their twin daughters.

" Yeah, still..." Penny said sullenly, as she cleaned up the wound and put an ointment, she also used her healing ability to make the process faster, yet Jace needed to come to her again. " You need to come see me two days from now, okay?" Penny bandaged his wound and patted his shoulder. " You can go now."

" Thank you, Penny."

Jace then went away, but he took a second glance at her before he left the

room.[www@loveworm.com](mailto:www@loveworm.com)

What he said was right. In the past, alpha Gill had this crazy idea to make all the women conceived, so he could have so many young children in a few years to help building a tunnel to the harbor, which resulted there were so many babies that were born in that year.

And now, those babies had grown up and

the little children at that time had reached the age, where they could join the training, some of them had become a young warrior now.

Therefore, all the full fledge warriors were busy to train these little ones and the young one.

It was nice to know that they grew in number, since more than half of their population had wiped out during the war.

Well, at the very least, they could take an advantage of alpha Gill's notorious method now.

The next time Jace went to Penny's study room because the healer said so, Ania told him that Penny had gone to the mountain to gather more herbs, because they were running low of some of the herbs here, since there were so many young warriors

and the children, who injured during the training.

"I think she forgot about that. Do you want to wait?" Ania asked, she was here to help with Penny along with the other girls.

Jace furrowed his brows. " Did she go alone?" he asked and didn't like the answer.

" Yes, she went alone. She used to go alone to collect the herbs."

Jace knew about this, because Penny had done this a few times, but he always warned her to take some warriors with her when she went to the mountain, it was not really safe to go alone.

" Thank you, Ania," Jace said, he shifted into his beast and then headed toward the mountain.

Ania chuckled when she saw this. Penny actually didn't forget about her appointment with Jace, she had told Ania to tell Jace to meet her in the evening, but the girl conveniently forgot to relay the message to the royal beta, thus it caused this.

" Sorry," Ania said to no one in particular, but she didn't look sorry at all. She hummed, as she continued what she was doing.[www@loveworm.com](mailto:www@loveworm.com)

And for Jace, it was not difficult to find Penny, because he knew the spot where she would visit and moreover, he could catch her scent from afar when the wind blew.

" What are you doing here?" Penny was surprised to see Jace.

" You forgot about the appointment," Jace said after he shifted back into his human

form and pointed at his arm.[www@loveworm.com](mailto:www@loveworm.com)

Penny furrowed her brows." No. I didn't." She shook her head. In her hands, she was holding a basket that filled with so many herbs. She only needed to find two more items and then she was done." Didn't Ania tell you to meet me in the evening?"

" No, she didn't." Jace shook his head and then took the basket from Penny hands. "I think she forgot."

Suddenly, it clicked in Penny's mind. She couldn't help it, but sighed in irritation. "I think she conveniently forgot about it."

The mountain was quiet and the only thing that they could hear was the sound of the chirping bird and the wind that rattled the leaves.

" Why don't you go back and wait for me in my study room? I will wrap this up quickly." Penny suggested.

" If you were going to leave soon, why don't we go back together?" Jace said. "I am already here."

Penny looked like she was going to refuse the idea. " Unfortunately, I didn't bring the concoction. If I brought it, I would have healed you right away now."

" There is no need to be in rush. I am fine. Actually, this is nice to be here." Jace put down the basket and laid down on the velvety grass."I told you so many times not to go to the mountain alone, right?"

Penny chuckled." You and your young warriors just did the ' clean up', right? More so, this part of the mountain is relative safe. There is nothing to be worry about."

" It's good to be a little bit more cautious. You need to bring some warriors with you." Jace used his arms as a pillow and closed his eyes.

Meanwhile, Penny didn't even bother to argue with him, because this was not their first conversation about it. "I am going to find more herbs and then we will go back home," she said.

" Okay. I will close my eyes for a while."

Jace had been very busy for the past few months, so did all the other warriors, it was good thing that he could get some sleep here and there.

And right now, the quietness of the mountain made his mind relax and her scent added to the comfort, thus once he closed his eyes, he actually fell asleep

without trouble.

On the other hand, Penny smiled to see the beta and continue what she was doing. She went a little bit further into the mountain to find the last two herbs.

It took a while for Penny to find them, but when she finally gathered the last two items, she heard the sound of breaking branches behind her and this made her sit up straight. She turned around to see what was that, because suddenly, her heart was gripped with fear.

Probably, she knew what it was, but she simply didn't believe that.

However, when she turned around, she sawa Vermeyes, trolled the area. The monster must have not noticed her here, but it was clear to see that this monster managed to escape during the ' clean up' and was pretty

pissed.

Penny looked around. She was quite far from Jace and she didn't think she could outrun the monster to reach to the beta.

Thus, her best bet was to hide herself and wait for the monster to leave. She should have listened to Jace and now she put herself and the beta in danger.

The monster trolled around her and this gave Panny anxiety. She held the herbs tightly and prayed the monster would leave.

Yet, what happened next was the opposite. When the wind blew, it brought her scent to the monster, made her presence was known and a shrill scream tore her throat when the Vermeyes charged toward her.

Penny scrambled to get away from the

attack, but she couldn't run fast enough to the safety and her legs felt so numb.

She needed to run faster if she was going to safe herself, but she felt like she was running in the same spot. Why wouldn't she move?

Penny was frustrated, she could feel the monster was on her back, in a second it would gnaw on her flesh.[www@loveworm.com](mailto:www@loveworm.com)

" Arrgh!" Penny screamed when the monster tackled her to the ground. This was it. This was the end of it.

It was unthinkable of how a few minutes ago, she was fine and never thought of dying, but right now she was going to die.

However, in this critical moment, she heard this dangerous growled from behind her

and suddenly the monster was no longer pinned her to the ground. She immediately sat down and watched a brick color beast attacked the monster.

Penny knew who it was, it was the beta.

His beast had this beautiful brick color and he looked fierce when he fought the monster off. It was a gruesome scene to see, but thankfully, Penny had seen worse.

She was worried because Vermeyes was a dangerous monster and a monster that you shouldn't fight off only by yourself.