Chapter 0625

***"I will try to find him, but he can't be our whole plan.

There is too much going on here. From where we are it's a whole ecosystem. We need to get an idea of what kind of supplies they have and how long they can outlast us. I think they were hoping for a better showing from Brecc and his goons, but we still don't know if they are all working together or not. Brecc is just a greedy asshole, he may be on his own plan."***

"Bitty, Babe. You need to keep this link open and let us know what you are seeing and what you are doing at all times. We can be there in minutes if needed."

"I will keep the link open, we always do, but you all cannot come running until we ask for back up. And before anyone protests look at Osiston and Nikolas. They can vouch for us. This is how we do this. We are on a mission like any other mission right now, this is what we do, this is my team, it's exactly what we have trained for. I can guarantee that Wyatt and Nathaniel are doing their jobs like any other mission. Go find them and they can help you wrap your minds around us being out here working and probably give you four different visuals too." This is as calm as I can be for them. I don't want to fight or start a fight, but they can't just come running after us and leave the rest of our warriors stranded, especially if the plan was to get me here and

separated. They are targets, all of them, but my mates specifically.

I leave the conversation there. We need intel, not discussions. I know that Nik and Osiston will handle them now that everyone has been called out. As promised I don't shut down their link, but I do shut out their comments, wish is mostly just grumbling and groaning about safety and mate trust and other bullsh*t.

"So far, only three big buildings that we can see from here. There is still no scent that we can track. We need to decide if we should test if being inside the treeline changes that." Lil starts our observations.

***"Still tracking about four hundred on the ground, but they don't seem to be in any active state, just going about general business." Jena adds on.

****"We need to figure out what each building is for. One for sleeping, one for eating and probably some type of office and one for supplies, but we need to be sure since they are heavy on the magic use too."*** I add.

***"Since their wolves are disposable, we can probably assume there isn't much in the way of a healing space.

Maybe we can use that against them. Find a way to attack the masses here and they won't be able to recover."***

Sierra continues our verbal note taking.

We continue to stay in the treeline and move toward where

the majority of the wolves are. I find it odd that they are all in wolf form here. There is not a single human form around. The rest of the girls agree with me.

"These buildings give nothing away. They are all big metal rectangles. No windows, flat roofs, no garage doors that we can see, so they might not have any vehicles here either." Jena says as we continue to belly crawl forward.

Once we get close enough we can see what they are doing a little better. They are walking around, but in more of a patrol fashion than what we thought. The buildings make a 'U' shape with two parallel and one closing off an end. They are at the open end moving around what can only be another fire-pit-magic-link-control thing. F*ck my life. I don't want to deal with another one of these. I brought the girls attention to what I was seeing.

It's like they are just pacing around it aimlessly. No rhyme or reason. I just don't understand. We move closer. I can't sense any magic from here, but I can smell the wolves now. Lil was right, the scent masking was just around the border in the trees. Thick enough to make them feel safe, they just weren't counting on us to be nosey and follow through with our search.

"Stay here, I want to see how close I can get and we are not testing your camouflage abilities with this many opponents. Don't argue." I hiss at LiI, she knows I am right and wants to protest because I'm sure everything in her big Gamma heart is telling her to go before me. It's not happening.

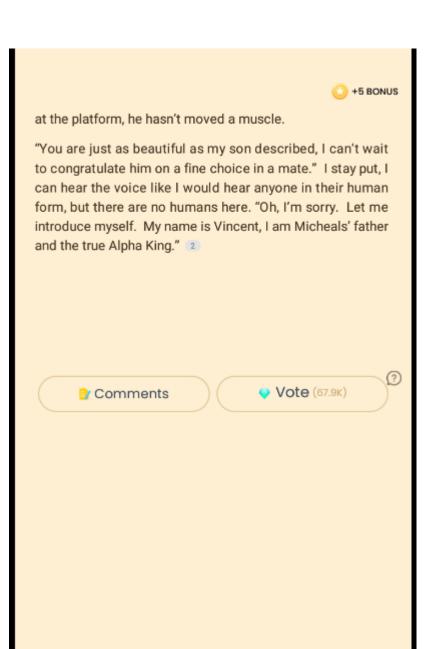
Before she, or anyone else, can say anything, I start crawling forward more slowly than I have ever moved in my life. I know the camo only works when I am still. Or, at least, that's when we have noticed it working the best. I get about twenty feet from the outside line of wolves. They are pacing in a circle around a platform that is three shallow steps above the ground. It's almost like they are in prayer or meditation. There is a small gap and I take my chance to scurry through towards the center and then plant myself at the bottom step and take a deep breath.

There is a light gray wolf laying on the platform facing the fire. His head is moving up and down and in circles. It doesn't seem to be a pattern, but there is a rhythm to the movement. His eyes are closed and he seems to be the only one solely focused on the fire. Based on his size, this must be the Rogue King or someone high up on the leader rung.

He's not as big as my guys but about the same size as my brother with muscles he clearly uses. His fur has a matted quality to it, not unkempt, but like he lives outside, in this form most of the time.

"So good of you to finally join us. I was hoping you would make your way home sooner rather than later."

Where the hell did that voice come from? It wasn't the wolf



Chapter 0626

I am trying not to move. I don't know if this guy actually can see me or if he can just smell my scent. I thought I could mask it, but I have never put any conscious thought into it until now. Something my wolf and I agree was stupid on our part. The big gray wolf on the platform still hasn't moved or opened its eyes. I don't think he's the one speaking, but looking around as much as I can without turning my head, there isn't anyone else here either. What the hell is going on?

"I haven't heard from my son in a while, I hope he is treating you well as his chosen mate."

Huh? This guy is crazy. And how does he not know that Mike is dead? I blasted a hole in his ass for threatening my family. All wolves can feel when a direct family member passes back to the Moon Goddess.

"Come out, child. There is no need to hide from me." His voice is silky and smooth. Something enticing threatens to pull you in if you don't know he's the worst type of psychopath around. I kind of understand why he has so many followers. Just the rumbling deep tenor makes you want to listen. "We are family now and will be so much more soon."

Now we are officially at creeper level, but I have to do something, he knows I'm here, I think. I stand slowly, my guard up completely. I can feel my fur tingle with electricity. Magic is crackling along it with some kind of protection I don't understand, but appreciate all the same.

"Can you guys hear him? Tell me I'm not crazy." I call out to my team and I know everyone else can hear too. "I can't see him though, what is going on?"

"Skylar, give your wolf control of your eyes, you can share your vision with us. It shouldn't impede yours at all." Gentry directs in her gentle tone.

"Oh, shit! Do you know how many times we could have used this on other missions? This is going to be so helpful in the future." Lil exclaims.

"F*ck off!! There had better not be a repeat of this f*cking situation." Cameron growls. He's not usually the one to shut down ideas of my abilities so quickly. That's usually Dakota and my brother, but all three of my mates are radiating the same aggressive emotion right now.

I feel like Lil, Jena and Sierra are the only ones who see my abilities for their possibilities, like I do, instead of the dangerous positions it might possibly put me in.

***"Knock it off! All of you. Help me look for something, anything to let me know who's talking to me. I'm going to start moving around, they are clearly expecting me. And he doesn't know Mike is dead, what's up with that. He thinks Mike has mated with me." My mate's growls turn into a roar

in my head. "STOP! Or I will block you! He can tell I'm mated, but not who I am mated to. Gentry, what's going on? Osiston and Nikolas muzzle my mates if they become a danger or just a bigger pain in the ass."***

"I'm not sure dear girl, but it probably has to do with how far he has gone down the path of dark magic. There are abilities he has gained, but clearly he has lost or given some up in the process."

"I'm going to shift, he knows I'm here so I don't have the element of surprise anyway. Can you still see through my eyes if I do?"

"We will find out, remember everything you do is experimental from this point forward. Your magic will be tested, your faith in the Moon Goddess will be tested and your mates are already being tested and at their breaking point. Choose what you do and say carefully and with complete intention. If you don't know what to say, say nothing at all." I think that is the most direct advice I have been given since I started using magic.

I shift and send a silent thank you for Dakota insisting I put on his shirt. I don't want to give Vincent any ideas.

"You asked me to show myself, but I can't see you. I believe courtesy dictates that you show yourself as well." I called out. I can feel my girls fanning behind me but staying just beyond the treeline. I hope their scents are masked as well. We seem to have a nonverbal agreement to stay silent. I

don't know if his magic allows him to hear my thoughts or the mindlinks attached to me. That must mean that they can see through my eyes though, since no one is asking any questions.

"You are right dear girl. What kind of father-in-law would I be if you didn't have the opportunity to know me? You will understand who the superior portion of the Royal bloodline is." Vincent comes from somewhere in the center of the pacing wolves. I see him out of the corner of my eye and whip to my right. I don't want him in any kind of blind spot. He's too big to miss, but there was no way he was standing there when I crawled over.

I am frozen as he saunters, at least I think that's what he is trying to accomplish, towards me. I just stand and stare at this cartoonish looking, arrogant asshole. He is huge, way bigger than my guys, with long, stringy hair the same midnight black shade as Mike's and the same hazel eyes. Those are the only family traits though. Vincent's shoulders have got to be as wide as I am tall, but his waist is tiny, like him and I probably could wear the same belt tiny. It gives him a top heavy look. The muscles in his shoulders and chest are puffed up like balloons and he has no neck. I think this would be the equivalent of a human getting plastic surgery and taking it too far. The problem is I don't know if those muscles are for show or can actually function, and the only way to find out is to piss him off enough to fight me, and no one in my current mindlink group is going to appreciate that. 3

He stops in front of me, breaking me from my wild thoughts. "My you are a little thing aren't you? We will have to do something about that so you can bear strong Royal pups."

The look on my face must tell him how I really feel about that idea since he just smiles showing off perfectly straight white teeth.

"Such a well trained female, you don't speak much, that is always a plus. Micheal did say you were very intelligent. It looks like your father brought you up very obediently. That will be helpful when we start working through your Royal attributes."

Seriously! How many times can one person say 'royal' in a conversation? I decide to test the waters and see how far I can push him.

"There actually hasn't been anything to say. You haven't asked me a question that needs an answer. I am just here to figure out what you want and why you are attacking my pack." I shrug like he is barely worth my notice. I need to keep him talking anyway.