




Chapter 0017

"Do either of you have a variation on short you would like to throw in for good measure?" I look at Oliver and my brother. They both chuckle and I attempt to use the moment to get out of the twin sandwich I am in.

But they just move as I move, so I stopped trying to get away and looked around to Oliver as he said, "Let me get back to you, Bite Size, I'll come up with something clever." I rolled my eyes at him and Sierra just laughed.

"And you?" I look at Mateo.

"Right now, Shorty, the only thing I get to call you is the take down champ. Dad is never gonna let any of us live that down." Everyone chuckles at the memory. He reaches for me between the twins and wraps an arm around my neck and pulls me close in a gentle headlock type hug, a gesture he has never done before. I don't know if it is the beer slowing down his uptight faculties, although I didn't think beer really did much to werewolves, and he hasn't had a ton, but who knows, I've never had any and he stopped the guys from giving me any tonight. They all offered multiple times as we mingled. Or was he uncomfortable with how close the twins were to me. He's never been protective before, but I guess I haven't given him a reason to be, we don't hang out. Hell, I don't hang out, with anyone, this is all new for me and he probably knows it.



The moment seemed to go unnoticed by the others and they all started discussing this morning's training, while we all moved over closer to the fire and found seats on logs or the ground. Mateo didn't take his arm off my shoulder until I sat down and leaned against one of the logs. Sierra sat by me, but Sam sat on the log behind her, placing her in between his legs. My brother sat on my other side, leaving Oliver, Cameron and Dakota on the next log that was angled towards us.

"Don't remind me. I was on the receiving end of that particular beatdown." Sierra mumbles. I was worried for a minute that maybe she was irritated with me for the way I beat her during training, but when I look at her, she doesn't look upset. She actually looks amused. They all laugh again and I take a deep breath and join them.

Man, was that training only this morning? I feel like so much has happened since then. I did notice as we changed our location many more people had shown up too. I was so caught up in our own group, I didn't even notice. I guess Sam was right, everyone came whenever and just hung out as long as they wanted. The fire was really nice, it was more chilly than I had anticipated. I wasn't cold, but I would take warmth over cold weather any time.

"The Alpha told us that all the warriors tried to match or better her time using the takedown today and no one could do it." Sierra supplies to our group. "Including all your dads." she added like an afterthought taking a pull from her beer,

but I think she was rubbing salt in the wound.

"Really? Damn! Well I don't feel so bad then, if none of our dad's could beat it either." Sam says.

"How many training sessions do you go to?" Oliver asks in his low growl, I can see his brain doing some kind of calculation. "I know you're at all the mandatory pack training and you train with Luna Ava at advanced training, but what else?" He seemed genuinely curious as he took a slow drink of his beer.

"All of them." I shrug, keeping my focus on the fire. I don't know why, but I feel uneasy saying that outloud. Until today I didn't hang out with anyone, so outside of getting my homework done I trained. It was the only time I left the house and Kaley left me alone. I was not going to explain that to them though. I was just starting to feel a little normal.

Oliver choked on his beer. "All of them, what do you mean 'all of them'?"

I wasn't sure how that was unclear, but whatever, maybe the beer was getting to him too. "I attend all of the morning mandatory trainings for the high schoolers, the advance training for the warriors and ranked members three times a week and I help and work with Delta Kyle and the warriors who do the basic trainings, patrol training and work with the pups during beginner training." I shrug again like it's no big deal, because to me it isn't, never has been. I look forward to working with the pups and with all of the crap Kaley pulls,

I like knowing they are learning to deal with people like her so no one else has to go through this. It keeps my head clear too, the effort makes me happy. I also think that basics are undervalued and people don't focus on them enough. It's the best way to warm-up and stay sharp. In the middle of a fight, your muscle memory is what takes over and it's not the fancy sh*t these guys like to mess around with that saves you.

 Comments

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Chapter 0018

"That's almost 30 hours of combat training a week. You do that on top of school and everything else." He's looking at me like he's never seen me before and I look around at the rest of the group and their looks aren't much different.

"I've never done the math before, so I'll take your word for it, but yeah, I guess." I stammer out, looking back to the fire and start to feel uncomfortable with all of the attention. I shift a bit and try to look smaller, if that's even possible. Like it will stop all their staring.

"Aren't you like the top student in your grade?" Cameron asks me.

"And in advanced classes and stuff too right? I know you're in my English class for sure." Dakota adds finishing his twin's thoughts.

"Okay, we get it, she's amazing. Now stop making it weird." Sierra jumps to my aide after coming out of her own shock and pulling me in for a hug. I let her pull me to her side, but I keep my focus on the fire or the ground. I was doing so well fitting in, but now my oddities are starting to be revealed and I don't really want to talk about why I avoid people.

"I think we all just got an ego smackdown, and are feeling a bit inadequate right now, that's all." Sam says, wrapping his arm back around my friend, sliding down behind her and

pulling her back to his chest, but still staring at me.

"Speak for yourself, no inadequacies here." Oliver laughs and we all join in.

"Yeah right, you're so competitive, I'd put money on you attempting to hit 30 hours of training next week." Sam laughs back at him. Oliver doesn't respond but takes a large gulp of beer, telling me Sam is probably right and I will see more of Oliver in the coming week. I can't decide if I like the idea or not. Training was my oasis from all of the crap going on behind the scenes at school, which they are a part of. I am not going to pretend like this little show of friendship is going to last. They have never acknowledged me before today and Kaley made sure everyone at school stayed clear of me on the threat of physical punishment and my dad made sure I wasn't involved in any leadership training that he is aware of. The only reason I got to train with Luna Ava is because she requested me specifically as the only daughter of a ranked member and my dad wasn't going to deny his Luna. I think her and Delta Kyle said whatever they had to say to get me permission to work with her, especially after I got my wolf.

We were sitting in comfortable silence after that. Small conversations here and there, but nothing major. I just listened in, but mostly stared at the fire, enjoying the warmth and the calm. This is not what I pictured a high school party to be like. I expected wild kids trashing the place and loud music, kids dancing on tables super drunk. I'm sure there

are parties like that, but this was very nice.

I should have known things were going too well and something bad was due to happen. Just as I had the thought 'I can't remember the last time I had this much fun' the sound of a fake high pitched voice cut through the crowd.

"OMG! Babes! Your favorite girls are here, now the real party can start!" Kaley squeals from the entrance to the clearing with Jeanie and Marnie in tow.

 Comments

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