

Chapter 0083

I just want to crawl in a hole. I know my cheeks are flaming and I focus very hard on the uneaten food on my plate. I can't make eye contact with anyone, I feel like such a freak. No teenager acts the way I do. I didn't realize I brought that much attention to myself today. Sierra isn't one to exaggerate or embellish. If she noticed all of that, who else did? I really don't like everyone staring at me either, I have to figure out a way to change the subject.

I cleared my throat abruptly. "So I heard that you are doing trials for elite warrior training because there are so many applicants and you're going to let high schoolers participate. Is that true? Are you going to start training high schoolers to be Elite Warriors?" I blurted, hoping to get someone else to talk and take the conversation in a different direction.

"Uh, yeah." Nickolas looked a little taken aback. "Many packs want their warriors trained well and going through the two year program allows us to fully train elite warriors and get them real life experience in peacekeeping, rescue and recovery, and battle strategy. We don't just train for war and not all packs understand that, so they have been sending

more and more warriors for the Elite program trying to get enforcers and we fail most of them out within the first two days, so we now have a trial that lets us evaluate if someone is right to train in the elite program.”

“You fail them in two days?” Mateo asks. “Damn, isn’t that harsh? It’s hard to get to know someone in just two days.”

“That’s the point though. To not know them, only to see them for the potential that they have to be an elite warrior. There are qualities we have to see that cannot necessarily be taught. It can’t be personal, we all have to detach, that’s the job. It’s an intense line of work and we train as such. There isn’t anything wrong with pack warriors, they are actually crucial to the safety and well being of each pack, and we have trainers for them as well, but the Elite Warriors are utilized differently so they are trained differently.” He finishes off vaguely looking at all the warriors surrounding him. He has clearly had this debate before and wants to avoid a conflict.

“Do you implement the same training tactics for the ranked training that you do in the Elite training?” Oliver, of course, wants to know if he’s missing out on something.

“Some things, yes. You have to remember ranked members, like you guys have a pack to run. So while you need to know how to fight and protect your pack, the goal is to teach you how to not ever have the need for that. To teach you to always be ready for anything, but conflict resolution, pack growth and camaraderie are more important here on the home front. You have and train warriors for a reason, to protect. The Elite Warriors are sent on some of the most dangerous missions. We would never send a future Gamma on a mission, for example, where the possibility of not coming home is high and that is almost the whole scope of an Elite Warrior’s job description. They are required to go undercover and sometimes go dark for months or years. A certain personality is needed to do that.”

“Damn, that sounds nuts and yet I have FOMO all at the same time.” Sam shakes his head and everyone laughs, breaking the tension.

I almost hate to admit it, but I agree with Sam. It sounds nuts and yet it’s exactly what I need to get out of this pack and away from Kaley and all of her bullsh*t. We all finished eating and the adults were conversing in their own little small groups. Luna Ava made sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink, and I

was able to finally scarf down my food when the guys got up and left to start their usual clean up routine. With so many people it took a few trips, so I didn't feel super weird since several other people were still picking at their plates. 1

“Warrior Nikolas, how will the trails work? Obviously you are looking for recruits now, but are you also scouting for the future? Will you be doing the same two day elimination you have at your compound?” I can't help but wonder if I could do it and get out of here sooner than I thought.

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Chapter 0084

“Why are you so caught up in this warrior training? It has nothing to do with you. As soon as you graduate, you’ll find your mate and give him pups right away. You have no need for all the training you do as it is.” My father chimes in. I have successfully avoided him all night. He’s not looking at me, but there is no doubt to anyone who knows our relationship, who he is talking to.

I keep my face as neutral as possible. “I am just curious, that’s all. Hearing how other packs do things is always fascinating. It helps to have knowledge of other pack’s customs and traditions, training is no different. It will be especially important if my mate happens to be in another pack.”

CRASH!

We all turn to look at the kitchen where Oliver and Mateo are scrambling to pick up broken pieces of what I think was several plates.

“Bite Size, you really have to stop talking about leaving.” Oliver huff’s loud enough for everyone to hear and giving me the side eye. The rest of the guys gave me a similar look.

How did he even hear me? They are like forty feet away, with water running and banging dishes around. I mean the glass door panels that make up the patio wall of the kitchen are open completely today, since it's nice out, so there is no barrier between the massive table by the pool and the kitchen, but still there are like 20 people between me and them and not everyone is listening to the conversation Nickolas and I are having. Several are talking amongst themselves adding to the noise.

"What's wrong with them?" Gamma Brett asks, turning his attention back to me.

"They are not dealing with the idea that Sky is a very strong beta and therefore probably going to be mated to a high ranking wolf, who is possibly NOT IN THIS PACK!" She shouts over her shoulder. "They are not liking the idea or taking the news well." She shrugs.

The adults around us all laugh a bit, but I don't miss the look that passes amongst the Luna, Alpha, Gamma and Delta. Our parents are keeping something from us, or have information we don't about mates and clearly not in the mood to share.

"To answer your question, Skylar, we will be allowing potential candidates to do some portions of the trials.

We can't give you everything because some aspects need to be done in the moment. We also adapt the training regularly so things may change or evolve. We don't usually take anyone under 17, but again we don't work in absolutes. We also prefer mateless warriors. Having a mate complicates missions and puts a target on the mate, should someone want to use them as leverage as a hostage."

No mate while a warrior, good to know.

We have to head home this week, but will be back the following week to begin the trials here at Blue Crescent. We are bringing in potentials from the four surrounding packs as well. You should join us. It will be interesting to see you up against people you don't train with everyday. In fact I insist that you join us, I think you would give a few of my team members a run for their money." He laughs and so does his partner.

I can't help but smile, I know he's just stroking my ego. There is no way I would give any of those guys a run for their money, but I like that he's trying to make me feel better after my father basically said I'm not good for anything but being a baby making machine.

"Well, all of this training talk is fascinating, but we


need our friends for some well deserved down time.”
Sam slid my chair back and threw me over his
shoulder before I knew what was happening.


“You guys do realize that my legs work, right? I
mean, the amount of takedowns should be proof
enough.” I laugh lifting my head up just as a crack
sounds and my buttcheek is on fire. “Ow! What the
hell?”

“No sass from you, Smalls. You would never leave a
conversation about fighting willingly.” Kota says low,
but I know everyone heard. I laugh again as I hear
Sierra squeal too, meaning someone pulled a caveman
on her. I can see her brown hair bouncing to my right
as I look around Sam’s back, Mateo has her and the
rest of the adults are laughing at us.

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