

5 princes and I Chapter 74-76

Chapter 74 Party of Rogues

“She’s none of your concern.” Ace said. The other princes made their way towards us and stood beside Ace, shielding me from the rogues.

This can work too.

“I was just asking. I mean, come on. You don’t get to see girls in these parts of the woods that much. Especially in Tereau. We just want to have some fun. Princess, what do you say to a party? Hmm? sounds good?”

“I am just a poor peasant girl with a poor farm,” I said. I don’t even know why I keep talking?

“Don’t speak to her, you b*****!” Ren snarled and I saw Dan grabbing a hold of his brother’s arm to stop him from charging. Ren suddenly glared at his brother but Dan seemed calm as he stared back at him. I’m guessing that the two were having conversations in their head.

“As much as we would like to stay at your party, I must say that we decline. See, we are in a bit of a hurry here.” Said Nate.

“What? Just because us petty rogues throw a party doesn’t mean your higher blood can decline. Psh! Boring. How about you boys? What do you say to a party?” The rogues cheered.

“This is getting bad,” Nate said to Ace while keeping his eyes on the rogues.

“Tch! Mutt number 2.” Said Ace.

“What?” Asked Ren and Dan at the same time.

“I said mutt number two,” Ace repeated. The twins only gave him a confused look, which irritated Ace. “Who’s younger?!”

“Me,” said Dan.

“By a few minutes!” Argued Ren.

“Doesn’t matter! You’re mutt number two! And I say when things go bad you take Rose out of here and run. Head straight to your right. There you will see a small clearing with a giant rock you go right. They use your hearing because you will hear a river flow

though it will be faint if you are in your human form. After all, it's too far. I suggest you go into your mutt form."

"It's wolf form." Dan and Ren muttered.

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"I said it doesn't matter!"

"Hey, aren't there supposed to be five of you? Where's the other one?"

"He's not here." Said Nate. "He's not a candidate anymore."

"What? Well, that's boring. He won't be able to join the party. Well, not like you princes are needed in the party anyway." Suddenly I heard swords being pulled from their sheaths.

"Mutt number two!" Ace yelled.

"Rose, come!" Dan suddenly pulled my arm as we ran to his right. "Hurry, Rose," Dan said.

"What about them!?" I asked worriedly as I looked back. The three of them – Nate, Ren, and Ace – were blocking the path we just took and were fighting off rogues. But with the number of rogues ganging up on them I could barely see anything.

"There's too many of them!"

"Numbers don't define victory. It's the quality of the skills. Now keep running, Rose. And don't look back." He said and I did just that.

I was running on adrenaline. Both from fear of my life and fear of the prince's lives. We finally reached a small clearing with the rock that Ace said. We were just about to turn left when an arrow was shot at the tree in front of us.

Dan cursed and looked and saw 3 rogues that must have managed to pa** through the princes. "Stay behind me, Rose. I'll just take out the trash."

"Royals. Think you're so high and mighty that you can take us?" One of the rogues said and he dropped to the ground. His shirt tore open. Yellow and black striped fur covered his body. He let out a savage growl as he fully shifted into a tiger. His two comrades grew out of sharp needle-like teeth which I guess are vampires.

This time it was Dan's time to shift into a wolf. He let out a growl at the tiger, which I guess was him trying to piss him off. It worked because then the tiger jumped at him. Since Dan, in wolf form, was a lot bigger than the tiger, he easily used his paw and sent

him flying sideways. The two vampires charged and Dan used his tail and back paws as he too sent them flying. The tiger got up again and charged at Dan. This time Dan ducked and used his massive jaws as he bit the tiger's shoulder and threw him at the vampires who were just about to get up. Dan, still in good form, was about to charge at them when out of nowhere two wolves came out and started to charge at Dan.

"Dan!" One of them got one of his front paws while the other bit the back of his neck. Dan suddenly let out an agonizing howl and used his free paw to push the one that got his neck.

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While Dan was busy fighting off the two wolves, the other three took that advantage as they slowly stalked towards me. Dan must have seen them coming after me because he started to struggle a little harder. Even managing to scratch one at the eye. When he managed to break free I saw him tackling one of the vampires down and ripped his throat out before going for the second one.

'Rose, go now! Run!' I heard Dan in my mind.

I turned around and started to run when I felt teeth sinking into my right arm. The tiger bit me, but not for long since Dan bit the tiger's tail making him cry. I took that opportunity as I drew my arm back and dropped to the ground. The wound was pretty deep and blood was flowing out too fast that my legs immediately gave in. I started to faint. Dan was fighting off two wolves and a tiger at the same time. Whatever my problem is, I have to fix this on my own.

I know this isn't the time for first aid but unless I stop the bleeding now I can't go far without dying. I started tearing my skirt for a bandage. I got a twig and was just about to do a tourniquet when I saw the little wolf by the rock and accompanied by a few forest nymphs. The wolf held my gaze there for a moment but then it started running towards me and wagged its tail. The nymphs just stood there and smiled as they regarded both of us.

"Not now. Get out of here." I said, but the wolf only wagged its tail at me yet again and eyes my wound. "I don't have time for this. I have to" Dan started whimpering in the background. Dan was already pinned down by one of the wolves. "Dan!" I grabbed a random pebble on the ground and hit the wolf that was about to lunge at Dan's throat. The rock hit him on the head making their attention turn from Dan to me. The wolf that was holding Dan down snarled at me, but the other one let out a grunt. The wolf holding Dan down nodded at the other wolf. It snorted and nodded at the tiger too. Before I knew it, the other wolf and the tiger were making their way towards me.

Dan saw them and started to struggle despite his weak state. The wolf holding him down got annoyed and pressed more weight on him and I heard ribs cracking.

“Dan!” Then I started crying. At that time it didn’t matter that the others were after me, all that matters was that Dan’s life was in danger because of me. No not me. The others too. There is no doubt in my mind that they could have taken them all easily if I wasn’t around. I mean, it’s not like I could fight like them. I’ll just be a dead weight. I always have been. It always feels like they have to sacrifice for me. Even their lives if they could. And I hate that feeling. I want to do something for them. To help them even just a bit. But what can a normal teenage girl do in a supernatural world? Nothing.

I gasped when a nymph appeared in front of me and pointed at the little wolf. The little wolf beside me barked. I felt him licking my fingertips. Suddenly I felt a little prick on my fingers and saw that the little wolf bit me. “Ow!” If only my arm didn’t hurt that bad I would have drawn back but no. I don’t care anymore. I might be good as dead. The little wolf started licking the blood on my fingertips and even rubbing his head on the wounded finger staining the top of his head with blood.

Suddenly the little wolf’s eyes turned red and it started drooling like a savage animal. Its whole body started to shiver and he turned towards the wolf and the tiger that was almost up to me. It started to growl and started to walk in between me and the rogues. As it did I noticed something strange. He’s getting bigger. With each step, he grew and his fur started to turn white.

The rogues, upon seeing the wolf, stopped dead in their tracks. The wolf now stopped growing. It was huge. But not as huge as Ren and Dan. But still, it was huge! The previous golden brown wolf now turned white. Its red eyes regarded the two rogues in front of him.

Even the wolf that got Dan paused when he saw the white wolf. Even Dan looked shocked.

The white wolf wagged its tail from side to side and just then, it charged at the wolf holding Dan down and tore at its throat. Then it went after the other wolf. It grabbed its neck and threw it at a tree with much force that I heard his spine crack. And lastly, it went after the tiger. At first, it pulled at its tail, but it’s an ear, before making the kill. It hovers at the tiger for a while. Playing at the dead body as if it was amused.

Dan took that chance as he started to get up and whine when his ribs hurt. The white wolf heard Dan. Its eyes glowed brighter red as it lost interest in the tiger and slowly made its way to Dan. Even though I can’t see its face I could feel that it was still thirsty for killing.

“Wait no. Stop.” It was still advancing towards Dan. Its jaw is open and drooling. “Stop it.” Dan struggled to keep his balance as he faced the white wolf. Even with his size, he can’t take on the white wolf. Not in his condition. Still, the white wolf advanced and I started to panic. “I SAID STOP!” I screamed and felt a severe headache as I yelled. I saw the white wolf shiver and when it looked back at me, its eyes were no longer red, but back to their original brown ones.

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It wagged its tail playfully at me and headed in my direction.

“Rose?! Dan!?” The others took that perfect time to show up. They emerged from the forest looking messy and bloody but still in one piece.

“What the hell!?” Nate said when he saw the white wolf heading towards me growing smaller and smaller each step and it’s color starting to turn back to its golden brown ones. When it was back to its original form it crawled on my lap and laid there.

The nymphs approached the little wolf and patted its head.

“Dan!” Ren, in human form, rushes to his brother’s side and helps him up. After that, they all came to me and looked at the little wolf on my lap.

“What...what just happened?” Ace asked and for the very first time, he seemed clueless and lost.

‘Our job is over.’ We all gasped when one of the nymphs suddenly spoke. The princes and I watched as the nymphs started to disappear into the forest.

“Did those nymphs just-” Ace wondered out but was cut off.

“What’s that?” Nate asked and pointed at the wolf on my lap.

“I-I don’t know. Whatever you are thinking, I am not a**ociated with this!” I said and the little wolf started licking my wound.

Suddenly my wound started to close making the princes look from the wound and back at me. Doubt all written on their faces that I have nothing to do with the wolf. “I-I swear I don’t know what’s going on!”

Then, it would seem as if my energy was being s***ed out of my body and I grew more and more tired. I guess I pa**ed out from both shock and the severe headache that I have. But just before I lost my consciousness I noticed one thing that I swear I would never speak of in front of Nate.

I saw a bird poop on his hair.

Chapter 75 Cute + Bastard = Custard

I was dreaming. Dreaming of a far-off land. There were houses and huts. People walking alongside animals. I saw a man with a huge green snake around his neck, a woman riding on the back of a bear, a little girl with a monkey, a middle-aged man with

a hawk on his shoulder, a bald man with a mountain lion – there's too much for me to tell.

In my dream, I was walking. And as I did, I felt a presence beside me. A shadow of some sort. It was very small like a puppy. When I glanced down I saw the little brown wolf looking at me and barked. I blinked in confusion.

Why is the little wolf here in my dreams?

Suddenly I noticed that all the villagers stopped and turned in my direction. When they saw me, they started to make a clear pathway for me and made a bow.

What's happening here?

I looked at the little brown wolf, but he was already gone and was replaced by a huge red-eyed white wolf. He stood tall and majestic like an Alpha. He was so beautiful and mesmerizing that I almost forgot that he's a killer and almost attacked Dan.

Dan.

Suddenly realization hit me. How is Dan? Is he alive? This is no time for me to be dreaming! I have to wake up now and go check up on Dan and the others!

I closed my eyes and willed myself to wake. Come on, Rose. Wake up! Wake up!

I suddenly felt myself slowly shifting into reality when someone from my dream placed a hand on my shoulder. I opened my eyes and looked back. The wolf beside me turned to the stranger too and bowed its head as if in respect. Curious about the wolf's behavior I looked up at the figure. In my dream, the image was a bit blurry but I could tell that it was a man. He was smiling at me. "Finally." He says.

Then he turned to the white wolf. "You take good care of her." He said and the wolf let out a howl that made me have goosebumps.

"Who the hell are you?" I asked.

He only smiled at me and then he was gone.

Someone was moving me and I could feel it. I felt myself being carried and suddenly felt my bruises.

"Hey easy there, vampire. You're hurting her."

"I'm doing the best I could so shut up. And keep an eye on that wolf."

“Yeah yeah.”

I started moving my fingers in trying to push myself back to reality. When that was good I started moving my toes and felt awake.

“Hey, I think she’s waking up.”

I slowly opened my eyes and saw Nate looking at me. “Morning.” He greeted me. I smiled and tried getting up when I felt pain in my shoulder. I hissed. “Hey, careful. Your wounds may have healed but your bruises haven’t.” Said Nate as he carefully helped me sit up. As he did I noticed that he still had poop on his hair so I decided to look away.

I would not be the one to mention that to him.

“What happened?” I asked.

“You fainted.”

“For how long?”

“Just a couple of hours.”

I started to look around me and found out that we were in a different part of the forest now. I saw Prince Ace sitting on the log with his eyes closed in concentration while the twins were busy eyeing something that I could not see because they had their backs facing us.

“What are they doing?” I asked and pointed at the twins.

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Nate glanced at the twins and sighed. “Hey, you idiots! Rose is awake.”

As soon as Nate said it did the twins turned to look at us. Ren’s hair was a mess and there were rips and cuts on his shirt. Dan, on the other hand, looked badly bruised and you could tell because he was wearing nothing but a pair of trousers.

When the twins saw me they both had wide grins on their faces. “Rose!” They both yelled and shifted so that they were fully facing me. As they did I now noticed what they were looking at.

It was the little wolf and he was cowering in fear especially when being faced by two alphas. The little wolf looked up and when it saw me it let out a happy bark and ran towards me.

“Hey!” Ren tried to catch the wolf but it was so fast and slippery that it even pa**ed Nate as it jumped into my arms.

“Um...” I now looked at the little wolf who was rubbing its head on my stomach.

The twins marched towards us. “You get away from her right now or I swear I’ll rip your fur!” Ren said.

“Yeah!” Dan agreed. “Not to mention that you wanted to kill me a while back! Tell me, is it nice to threaten someone as good-looking as me!?” Immediately the little wolf shook its head in fear of the twins.

“Damn right it isn’t!” Ren said and glared at the little wolf. “To hell do I trust you! How do I know you won’t bite Rose when we’re not around huh? You could be a spy!” He accused me.

The little wolf whimpered and again shook its head.

“Don’t you go play innocent on me, mister! You’re cute, but I am not buying cuteness around here.” Said Dan.

“What is your motive?! Who sent you?” Added Ren.

“Give us one good reason why we should trust you!”

“And don’t go all close to Rose!”

“Hey hey hey!” Nate said to the twins. “Don’t you think you guys are getting too far? It’s just a little wolf.”

“Spirit.” The twins corrected him.

“Yeah, but I don’t think this spirit is going to harm us,” Nate said in total defense of the wolf. I looked down and saw the little wolf looking at Nate and wagging its tail. It must have appreciated Nate for backing it up.

Nate then turned to us and bent down and patted the little wolf’s head. “There, now that’s a good boy.” He said with all smiles and all, but the next second Nate’s eyes turned dark and leaned in closer to the little wolf. “If you ever hurt Rose in any way or even harm a single strand of her hair I swear, spirit or not, I will gut you while you’re still alive and make you watch all your insides spill and I will feed them to you and gut you over and over again. Are we clear?”

I felt the wolf tense up and gave a little nod at Nate. When Nate continued to stare at him the wolf started to shake that I felt sorry for the wolf. “Hey cut that out already,” I said and placed my hand over his face and pushed him. “It’s just a little wolf,” I said.

Suddenly, three pairs of eyes were on me.

“Really?”

“Oh, I guess that bloodthirsty white wolf was my imagination.”

“Where did that white wolf come from then?”

Alright then. Point taken! “Oh come on! He’s not that bad.” I said and petted the little wolf to comfort it a little and to make it stop from shaking. “If it wasn’t for him Dan and I would be in serious trouble.”

The three seemed to consider my point.

Finally, Dan said, “Yeah. I guess you’re right.”

“So...” I said while looking down at the wolf. “What should we do with him?” I asked and pointed at the little wolf. It was looking right back at me with huge brown eyes. Its ears were down and it let out a small helpless sound that the image of it being a bloodthirsty wolf and it being a spirit seemed to disappear and be replaced by awe. I placed my palm on top of its head and it rubbed its head on my palm.

Aww!

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“Can we keep him?” I suddenly asked as I picked up the little wolf for a hug.

“NO!” They all screamed at me, making me flinch.

“What are you jerks screaming at me for!?” I screamed back. Sheesh! I asked them nicely and they screamed in my face.

“Rose, you can’t. It’s a spirit!”

“You don’t know what that thing is gonna do to you.”

“And the germs! Don’t forget about the germs!”

“You guys sound like my parents. Calm down will you, guys?” I said. “And besides, he seems harmless just look at him! And Nate, I don’t see why horse germs don’t bother you.”

“It’s a spirit!”

“So what? How do you know that spirits have germs?”

“I don’t! That’s the point.”

“Our horses are here.” Ace suddenly said from where he was sitting. He got up and dusted his pants. I noticed that just like the rest of the princes he was a mess. His coat was torn, his shirt sleeve was ripped, and overall he was stained in blood. A second later and our horses – Midnight, Garius, Wiren, Ryde, and Cloud – appeared from the trees behind him. “Let’s go. We don’t want to encounter more rogues.”

“Finally!” Dan said and did a little stretch. “That power of yours is pretty handy, PRINCE Ace.” Ace did not comment on it as he, Dan, and Nate made their way to their horses.

“Rose.” Ren stayed behind and walked beside me. “Let’s go. Leave that spirit here.”

“What?” I said and looked at the wolf hesitantly. “But I want to keep him! He did help us. And you guys may not know it yet but he already helped me a bunch of times. Plus, he keeps on following me everywhere so basically there is no point of not bringing him.”

“Rose.” He said.

“Ren.” I countered and held his gaze.

“Let her have it.” PRINCE Ace interjected. “Whatever attachment she has with that spirit might be essential when we tell the story to the queen.” He said then turned back from his horse as he looked straight at me. “And more importantly, it might be a clue for us to know ‘what you are. It seems like we made a mistake. The nymphs want Rose to meet with that spirit and not Fred. And we are going to bring it along to know why.”

No wonder Fred and I were confused by the nymph’s actions. It seems as if we misunderstood the nymph’s main purpose.

“If that’s true then it would explain why the nymphs are active again,” Nate mumbled.

With the intensity of Ace’s gaze on me, all I could do was nod and say, “R-right.” I mounted Cloud with the help of Ren and pretty soon we were all on the move with the little wolf resting at Cloud’s back in front of me. I was petting the little wolf’s fur when Nate slowed the pace of his horse to even with Cloud’s.

“So,” He started and eyed the wolf. “what are you going to call it?”

“Call who?”

“The wolf. What are you going to name him?” He asked again.

“Oh,” I said in surprise and looked down on the little wolf in wonder. “A name huh. Um...I’m not sure.” I looked up at Nate. “Any ideas?”

“Hey don’t look at me. I don’t like wolves so you can’t expect me to name one.” Said Nate.

“Oh! Oh! Oh! I have an idea!” Ren said coming to my other side. “How about Wolf of Doom?”

“Brother, that is wrong!” Said Dan who was now riding a few paces behind me. “How about The Wolf Killer?”

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“Good choice, brother.” Ren agreed. “But I think Rogue Killer would do him good.”

“Or Evil Wolf.”

“Evil? How about Demon Wolf?”

“Brother, you forgot that it is a spirit and not a demon. How about Ghost Wolf?”

“It may be a spirit, brother, but it is not dead. How about The Undead Wolf?”

“Hey hey hey! You two stop it right now.” I said and gave Ren a look. “And Ren, I am not naming my wolf spirit undead like the zombie from the W*lk*ng Dead.” Ren and Dan were about to comment on it when I quickly said, “And no. I am not naming my wolf The W*lk*ng Dead either, so if you guys got no cute or nice name to say then I suggest you guys zip it.” Nate started to snicker at the twins but stopped when they glared at him.

“b*****. You name that wolf b*****. That would suit him.” Ace said who was clearly in the lead because he’s using his powers to navigate us out of the forest.

“I said a cute name. b***** isn’t cute.”

“I don’t see anything cute about that wolf,” Nate muttered.

“Nate, zip it,” I said. Now it was the twins’ turn to laugh at Nate.

“I agree with Prince Nathaniel. Nothing is cute about that wolf. May I remind you that it killed three rogues back there?”

“Yeah, not to mention that it has an intent to kill me!” Inserted Dan.

“But that was his beast mode. It’s in a pa**ive state right now.” I explained.

“Beast mode? Really? You named his form?” Ren gave me a weird outlook.

“Oh shut up. Like you don’t name your saddle Roy.”

“Hey! That was supposed to be a secret!”

“You name your saddle Roy? Pfft!”

“O shut up, Bloods***er!”

“Alright! Back to the point. I need a name.”

“Killer.”

“Beauty.”

“Fury.”

“Guys? Do you think that adding e-r-y to a name would make it cute?”

“I didn’t add e-r-y to Fury.” I glared at Nate.

“Custard. Name it Custard.”

Everyone looked at Ace. Shocked that he managed to give a cute name that doesn’t need to sound forced. “Custard,” I repeated the name and liked the sound of it. “Hey, that is it!” I said and carried the little wolf to my lap. “His name is now Custard. How about it boy?” I asked if the little wolf expected it to bark or something like in movies, but it just fell asleep on my lap.

Well, so much for movie expectations.

Chapter 76 Princess Rosalie

Ace navigated us out of the forest and made us take a bit of a shortcut through a thick and bushy path, but with a flick of his hand, our path cleared. It was almost sundown when we reached Thalia. Upon our arrival, the guards quickly ran off and announced our return to the others. A few moments later as we approached the castle doors the king and queen came out and paused at the doorway. Shocked and relieved of our arrival.

Dan helped me off of Cloud while I made sure to carry Custard with me. Stable boys came and took our horses while the rest of us made our way to the castle door where the king and queen waited.

“Your highness we-” Ace started to say but the queen immediately cut him off when she came right at his face looking mad.

“Who permitted you to leave the palace grounds? Much less go on an adventure without my consent! What’s worse is you brought Rose with you! You know how ignorant she

is,” The queen carried on scolding Ace while the rest of us stayed silently hidden behind Ace.

“Can’t believe I’m saying this but I feel sorry for PRINCE Ace,” Nate muttered.

“Hey, Rose. If I were you I would hide that wolf before the queen sees it.” Dan whispered to me.

“Yeah. Best throw it away to the bushes over there.” Ren pointed to my right.

“Oh shut it you two!” I whispered back and adjusted my hold on Custard. “But where am I to hide him? Under my skirt? That would be too obvious. Ren, can you hide Custard in your coat?”

“Absolutely!” Said Dan.

“Not!” Ren added with a glare at Dan. “No way am I hiding that spirit in my coat.”

“Oh don’t be such a baby!” I said and shoved Custard to Ren.

“Rose, what am I-”

“What’s going on back there?” All of us then displayed perfect behavior when the queen glanced our way. Even Ren who wanted nothing to do with the wolf kept him hidden in his coat in a matter of seconds. Unfortunately, Custard didn’t like the new arrangement and kept moving making it hard for Ren to hide him.

“Pfft! Brother, I think the wolf is trying to say that you stink.”

“Shut it, Dan,” Ren grunted.

“Ren, what do you have there in your coat?” The queen suddenly went to stand in front of Ren. Ren immediately stiffened.

“Nothing, your highness.” Said Ren and tried to calm Custard in his coat.

The queen seemed unconvinced and continued to stare at him for a while making Ren take a glance at us for help. As usual, not wanting to be caught up in the queen’s wrath, we all looked away and dispersed.

“Prince Ren.” The queen says a warning.

Ren gave out a nervous laugh. “Nothing unusual here, your majesty.” Custard’s nose poked out of Ren’s coat, so Ren slapped it back inside while Custard let out a yelp. “See?” He laughed nervously.

“Prince Renevier Rutledge!”

Dan flinched beside me, “Oh! Full name and t**le. That can’t be good.”

“But, your majesty, I can-OW!” Ren drew his hand back from the coat only to see that Custard was biting him. “Get off!” Ren yelled and started shaking his hand until Custard released him and went flying towards the queen. The queen caught him.

“A spirit!” The queen yelled and let go of the spirit. Custard managed to land on his feet as he ran back towards me. “Why is a spirit in my castle!?”

“You’re majesty let me explain.” Said, Ace.

The queen looked at Ace and carefully studied him. “Very well.”

“The night we disappeared, Rose was lured to the forest by the nymphs. We wanted to return it, but it seems as if the nymphs wanted her to meet up with Prince Fred – at least that was what we initially thought. Throughout our journey, we happen to pa** by the ruins of Gija, where Rose claims to have first seen the spirit.”

“And you guys thought that I was imagining it.” I inserted and earned a scowl from PRINCE Ace.

“From there on,” Ace continued. “the spirit has been following us ever since – well Rose to be exact. Then, later on, we finally realize that it was not Fred whom the nymphs wanted to meet, but the spirit wolf right here. They even showed up and disappeared once these two were together.”

“And not only that, your majesty, but that spirit bonded with Rose and became this wolf monster that was about to kill me,” Dan added.

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“Bonded?” The queen looked confused. She looked at the wolf by my feet before looking at me. “How could it...why would it when you are just a human? No offense, Dear.”

“None was taken,” I said.

“That is why we brought the spirit along with us, your majesty. We hope that you would know why this spirit has been acting fondly of Rose. I mean, with all due respect, your sister had been in Gija.”

“Maybe because they like pretty girls,” I whispered to Nate beside me.

“Then why did it follow you?” He said and started to laugh. I hit him.

I notice the queen staring at Custard. Her face was hard to read. It was as if she was remembering something. Suddenly, the queen let out a gasp. "Nagga." She whispered and carefully approached the little wolf by my feet. She knelt before Custard and reached out her hand to touch him. Custard sniffed her hand for a while as if deciding whether to trust the queen or not.

Finally, he let her pet him.

"No. You are not Nagga." The queen said. Almost sounding a bit disappointed. "Nagga is dead and so is the King. You only look like him. Strange." The queen continued to say. "Why is it that you have the same aura as him?"

"Who's n****?"

Ace suddenly came out of nowhere and hit me on the head. "It's Nagga, you dimwit."

"Ow! You don't have to hit me, b*****!"

"Nagga was once the king of Gija's animal spirit." The queen said. "He was a golden brown wolf just like this one. Only bigger and powerful. A rightful partner for a king. His massive jaw can cut an enemy in half. Its speed matches a werewolf and a vampire. Some say Nagga is faster."

"Well, what happened to Nig – I mean – Nagga?" I quickly corrected myself when I saw Ace frowning at me.

There was a long pause because the queen said, "He died when the king died. Once a spirit is bonded to a tamer their lifeline will be linked to each other. When one dies so will the other."

"Well, that's.....depressing." That was all I could say at that moment.

"There is only one thing that confuses me though." The queen said as she got up to level her height with mine. "Why did this wolf bonded with you when you are not a Tamer?"

"Beats me," I said.

"Rose, I need to see your blood."

"What for?"

"I want to know why the spirit bonded with you."

"Well, you want to know why it bonded with me while I want to know how to unbind with it. If what you say is true, I don't want to die when Custard dies."

“Oh for goodness sake.” Before I could react, the queen grabbed my hand and used the pointed area of her necklace to draw blood on my finger.

“Ow!” As soon as I reacted Custard sprang into action and snapped at the queen’s feet. Luckily the queen was able to jump back. The necklace with my blood on it was still in her hands.

“Interesting.” She said as she looked at the wolf before looking back at my blood. “I’ll run a few tests real quick. I’ll be informing you of my findings later tonight. For now, I suggest you take a good rest.”

Just as the queen was about to leave Dan jinxed us, “For a second there I thought that she would punish us for leaving.”

The queen paused at the doorway. She turned and looked at us with a sinister smile on her lips. “That reminds me. I still have to punish you. Thank you for the reminder, Prince Daniel.”

At that moment everyone turned to glare at Dan. “DAN!!” We all screamed while he gave us a sheepish smile.

“Ren and Dan, you are forbidden to go running outside at night and are required to practice your sword every single day for a week. Nate, you are forbidden to talk/flirt with girls inside and outside the castle. Especially Rose. ESPECIALLY ROSE. This goes on for a week! And PRINCE Ace, you are simply banned from the library for a week. That means you go out and SOCIALIZE with actual people and not fictional ones. And Rose,” I suddenly tensed up when the queen called my name.

“You’ll wear 3-inch heels for a week. Nothing personal.” Then she started to leave while we all called out in protest.

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“You’re majesty, please!! Sword practice every day? That would kill us!” Said Ren.

“Our sword fighting is just fine!!” Added Dan.

“Your majesty I cannot go for a week without talking to girls! That is.....insane!!! Also, can I talk to Rose if I consider her a boy for a week?”

“DO YOU F&r#\$ KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO WALK IN F#\$%^ 1 INCH HEELS? YOU WANT ME TO DIE IN THOSE #\$\$%^& 3 INCHES!?!”

But out of all of us who complained I do believe that Ace had it bad since he just stood there in shock and muttering something like, “books...library...banned...”

I kind of pity him. Kind of.

~*~*~

It was no use reasoning with the queen for grounding us, so we decided to get up to our rooms, clean up and rest.

Well.....in my case after Custard and I got to my room I immediately jumped on my bed and fell asleep instantly. When I woke up Custard was licking my face.

“Gross. Custard, I know I’m smelly and looks like I need a bath but please let me clean up on my own.” I said. Custard stopped licking and laid his head on my pillow while looking at me. I got up into a sitting position and pulled Custard to my lap. I looked out of the window to see that the sun had already set and it was dark out. Wow, I may have slept till morning if Custard had not woken me.

“I don’t get how you turn into beast mode but I like your cute mode better. Who’s the cute little spirit? Yes, you are!!” I cooed when Custard suddenly licked my face again. “Gah! That’s it. I’m taking a bath. And you are staying here. Don’t tear anything up alright?” I said and wondered if it understood me since it just wagged its tail. Well, that’s good enough.

I headed for the bathroom and started a nice and long relaxing bath. I made sure to scrub all the dirt from my body and washed my hair until I was sure that it smelled nice like my lavender shampoo. After that, I stayed in the tub for who knows how long. I only got out when I heard voices outside.

“Gah! The demon wolf is here! And he ate Rose!!”

“Back! Back you foul demon!”

Just by hearing their voices I immediately know who they are.

I grabbed my bathrobe and wrapped the belt around my waist to secure it before going out of the bathroom. There I saw Custard sitting on my bed while looking at the twins, who were doing some sort of movements like they were trying to exorcise Custard as if he was an evil spirit or something.

“Why are you guys in my room?” I asked and gave them a look. They were both wearing clean clothes now and are looking refreshed and relaxed despite being in Custard’s presence.

Dan let out a wolf whistle as he nudged Ren. Ren tried to look at anywhere but me. Probably in respect. “Um...the queen sent us to get you.”

“What for?” I asked.

“Said it was something about your blood.”

At that point, I started to get goosebumps. It's just blood right? I mean, everything is normal. Nothing is going to change just because I bonded with Custard. Still, why do I feel so tense?

“Get out and I'll get dressed.”

“Sure. I'll leave while Ren stays here to watch.”

“Brother!”

“Leave. Both of you. Now.” I said.

“Dan will leave while Ren stays,” said Dan calmly and even made some hand gestures.

At this point, I was starting to lose patience so I did the only thing I could think of at that moment. “Custard, show them the door,” I said. At first, I didn't expect Custard to follow but then he started to move. He jumped down from the bed and ran towards the twins with his teeth exposed. He snapped at them when they didn't move.

“Alright alright! We'll leave!”

“We know where the door is! Rose, we will wait for you outside. The queen is in the study room.” Ren said before Custard chased them out of the room. I couldn't help but laugh after that. Especially when Custard walked back toward me with his tongue out.

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“We'll you showed them,” I said and headed for the closet to change. I put on a simple white dress, brush my hair, and tied it into a ponytail before heading out. Ren and Dan met with me outside and frowned when they saw me carrying Custard but didn't comment on it.

Together we headed for the queen's office. Upon entering we noticed that everyone was already there waiting for us. Ace stood by a corner, Nate sitting on a couch opposite the king, and the queen sitting on a chair. Her eyes looked red and puffy while clutching onto the necklace that she used to draw my blood.

“They're here.” Ace announced as soon as the three of us entered. And now everyone was looking at us. Well...more like me.

“Um... 'sup?” I said awkwardly not knowing what to do throughout all of this attention.

“Rose.” The queen called for me and when I looked at her I noticed that she looked nervous and bewildered. She got up from her seat and walked over to stand in front of me.

“Er...is something wrong?” I asked. Even though I don’t know the results yet I could feel that something wasn’t right judging by their silence. The queen said nothing as she placed a hand on my shoulder.

“I never imagined such a coincidence to happen since bringing you here.” She whispered. “I never could have...” There was a pause.

“Your majesty, what is it?” Nate asked when the silence grew thick.

The queen turned to look at Nate for a second before looking back at me. “Rose, you have a Tamer’s blood in you. Very faint that I could not have sensed it since I met you. You stay in this world must have strengthened it somehow that is why this spirit came to you.” She said looking at Custard.

“Wait a minute,” Ren spoke beside me. “Rose, could not possibly be a Tamer. She came from the human world and the kingdom of Gija has been wiped out hundreds of years ago. It’s impossible that someone survived that ma**acre and came to the human world when the only entrance there is here.”

“I hate to say this Ren is right,” Nate added. “No one is allowed to come to the human world unauthorized.”

The queen nodded at them. Considering their opinions. “Yes, it’s true. No one is allowed into the human world unless I ask them to.”

“Hang on. You said the kingdom of Gija has wiped out hundreds of years ago. And you speak as if you know the king before. Exactly how old are you?”

Everyone then stared at me for my question.

“Not the time for that question.” Ace muttered and the others agreed.

“Dear, that topic will be discussed another time. Right now we are focusing on you.” said the queen.

“Sorry.”

“As I was saying, citizens can’t simply waltz to the human world without my permission. But when we are talking kings and queens now that is a different story.”

“Your highness, you can’t mean...”

“The kingdom of Gija’s King Varon Lanis and his wife Queen Izani Lanis, my older sister.”

“Your sister is-” I started to ask but the queen cut me off.

“Questions later dear.” She said, making me shut up as she continued, “King Varon and Queen Izani had a son. He was still a baby when the war broke out. I was there when the enemy attacked. It was a ma**acre. No one saw the invasion coming so we couldn’t even help with the war. When the rogues reached the castle that was when King Varon asked us to escape through a hidden pa**age to the stables and asked me to keep my sister and their son safe. Adding to that, he specifically asked me to send his family to the human world since he knew then that the rogues won’t stop until they are all wiped out. And so, my sister and I made our escape. From Gija we rode to Thalia. And from Thalia, I sent my sister and her son to the human world. Not knowing if she and her son would make it, but I was following the king’s orders. And ever since I sent her there I couldn’t find her. The time difference between our world is unstable. When I sent her off – a few weeks or maybe a month must have pa**ed the day after I sent her to the human world.

Day after day I came to the human world hoping that maybe I could see her again. If not her then maybe her son. I wanted to see how he grows. The last prince of Gija. I wanted to see him. But as time went by I somehow accepted the fact that maybe I was too late. Time must have taken them away and if prince Carter somehow found a family in the human world I would never know. That is until I met you.”

I was listening so intently to the queen’s story that I didn’t realize that she was talking to me. “Um....what? Me? Why?”

“Rose, not only do you have a Tamer’s blood in you, but your blood matches King Varon’s. Rose’s ancestor is prince Carter.”

“Your highness.” It was Ace. He somehow moved from his post to move closer towards us. “If Rose here is related to the King and Queen of Gija then that would mean....”

“Yes.” The queen said as if she knew what he was about to say. She then looked right back at me. Tears started to well up in her eyes.

“W-What? What did I do?”

“Rose, you are not a pretend princess anymore. Because you are a princess by blood. The last Tamer in this realm and the Princess of Gija.”