



Chapter 4

"I volunteer." I raise my hand. "I'll take it today."
"If she's taking it, I am too." Avia says.
"Me three." Samantha raises her hand as well.
"Alright then, follow me, anyone else?" The teacher asks. No one else raises their hand.

"Alright. So, first you will be doing hand to hand combat against the squad leaders, then sword combat then...." I zone out as a woman explains the test.

"Move!"

"What?"

"Zavade! Move!"

"Iris!"

"Iris!"

"Iris!"

"Huh, what? Sorry."

"Are you okay? Did you have another episode?" Avia whispers to me.

"Yeah.." I respond.

"What was it of?"

"Um.. I can't... remember... WAIT, AVIA MOVE!" I push her out of the way. Right as I do, a tree collapses right where we were standing.

"Holy! What were you two zoning out for? We were showing examples of sources, we said to get back!" The woman shouts.

"Sorry..." Avia mutters pulling me backwards to where Samantha was standing.

"What happened?" Samantha asks.

"Iris has these visions. It's like, of situations other people are in, or conversations. They usually relate to a situation she's in, or is telling her to do something." Avia explains.

"Huh? Wh-"

"Alright, time for hand to hand combat." The woman cuts Samantha o .

"Iris, you will be with Terry." She instructs, another woman, I assume Terry, walks over to me. She has bright red hair, and green eyes. She seemed to be about 5'2 and only around 20.

"Let's go that way." She turns and walks away. I follow her.

"Ready?" She asks.

"Yeah." I get into my stance.

She sprints at me and I duck a punch. I slide under her wide stance, and jump onto her, getting her into a chokehold. She tries to fall backwards, but I jump o . She lands on her back and I stomp on her stomach. I go to throw a punch, but she grabs my fist and pulls me onto the ground with her. Then she got up and got on top of me. She started punching me in the face. Over and over. I try to block with my arms, but she's moving too fast. My vision goes blurry.

"Your right! Slayaleo! Your right!"

I look to my right. There is nothing there. I look at Terry's right side. Her stomach is bleeding. I jam my finger into her wound.

"Ow! What th-" I punch her in the face and throw her o of me, cutting o her sentence. I kick her in the face, then in the stomach.

Then I start punching her in the face like she was to me.

"Times up!" The woman from before shouts.

"Good job." Terry smiles. She gets up and o ers me a hand. I take it. She pulls me up and shakes my hand.

"Next is sword combat!" The woman shouts. "Iris you are with Viron."

I nod and follow a man that nodded back at me. He passes me a sword and grabs his own. We get into our stances and start. He waits for me to move. I charge at him. He backs up then side steps my swing. I spin around to face him. He swings his blade at my face, I block it with mine. He moves his to try to get my stomach, I move mine to block it. We continue doing this until he grazes my leg. He pulls his sword back to attack again, but I kick his legs out from under him and put my sword to his neck. He puts his hands up in defeat. I relax a little, but then I see a glint in his eyes. I jump back. Right as I do, he picks up his sword and swings it up to where I was previously standing.

"Clever." He says getting up.

"Mm." I take a step back. He steps forward. I dash around him, I try to get him from behind, but he whips around and cuts me across the face. Over the top of my nose. I step back, then forward, and thrust my blade towards his stomach. He bends around it, and kicks me. I fall to the ground and he stands over me. He pins a foot on my wrist, trying to make me let go of my sword. I let go, and reach with my le hand, down to the thigh-high boots we wear. I pull my dagger out and cut his leg. He looses balance and falls onto his knees on top of me. He puts his sword across my neck, and I put my dagger across his.

"Time's up!" The lady shouts.

A er the test, the woman, who I now know is named Lacy, announced that all three of us passed.

We were all o icial soldiers now.

A man lead us to a room with a bunch of syringes and a chair.

"Sit, whoever's going first." He says.

"I'll go." I walk over to the chair and sit in it.

"Here's the needle." He holds it up in front of me, it's about 2 inches.

"I will inject you in the neck, on your le side. It will hurt a little bit, and be sore for a bit, but in a week, you will have a fully working source." He looks around at the syringes. "You will be getting the fire source."

"Okay." I get comfortable in the seat. he sticks the needle in my neck.

"Fuck! Ow!" I shout.

"Almost done..." He mutters.

"Shit! Ow! OW!" I close my eyes. A er about 20 seconds, he pulls it out.

"Holy shit, that hurt." I rub my neck.

Once we all get our injection, Avia getting water, and Samantha getting earth, we go to dinner.

"Wow! Being an o icial soldier feels great! Samantha says, taking a bite of her potato.

"Yeah!" Avia smiles.

"Other than the injection." I mention.

"Agreed." Avia says as Samantha nods.

"Let's celebrate!" Samantha raises her drink, smiling at me. I smile back and raise mine, Avia follows.

"To being o icial!" We all say and clink drinks.

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