



## Chapter 5

It's about a year later now. I'm 13, and Avia is 15. Samantha's room got switched to mine and Avia's. Me, Avia, and Samantha stand in front of an older man with a short beard and brown hair.

"I'm assigning you three to look after the president while he's here in Furaca. Make sure his stay on our continent is safe. You will have older, more experienced soldiers with you. This is just training. Don't get in the way." He instructs.

"And who exactly are you?" Avia challenges. I nudge her in the arm with my elbow.

"I'm the new commander." He glares at Avia, who looks away sheepishly.

"Now, this mission will be in Uraykia. You will ride a carriage there. Go pack, it'll be here in an hour." He dismisses us.

"I'm so excited!" Samantha skips down the hallway.

"Yeah! Me too!" I smile.

"Same here, the president, wow!" Avia's voice wavers.

"Well, this is our room." I say stopping. I open the door and let Avia in. Waving bye to Samantha, I close the door.

"What are we going to do? We can't escape from a land we don't know!" Avia panics.

"Hey, it'll be okay, we can do this. Just wait till we come back from that mission. We can do it then" I try to soothe her.

"But who knows how long that will be?" Tears well out of her eyes.

"Let's pack." I try to distract her. I throw some clothes at her and she puts them in a bag, wiping away her tears. Once we are done packing, we walk outside, there's a carriage waiting there.

"Here." A man passes us each a sword. We did sword training and fighting in training.

After we all grab a sword, he opens the wooden door to the carriage. We get into it, I sit on one side, while Avia sits next to Samantha on the other side. The carriage is dark brown and made of wood. It has hard and uncomfortable wooden seats. It starts to move, I set my head on the wall and look out the window. I close my eyes, trying to sleep.

"ITS A TRAP!" The yell wakes me up.

"What's going on?" I question, suddenly alert.

"Someone's attackin' I think!" Samantha shouts over the noise of yelling. I stand up.

"What are you doing?" I ignore Avia's question, walking to the door of the carriage and swinging it open. I turn and grab the sword I was given before flying out the door. There's a group of people, about 10, standing around the carriage. The two men that were driving it are standing, swords raised.

"A kid came out! Grab her! We can use her as a hostage!" One of the men shout.

"Stay in there!" I shout back to Avia and Samantha before closing the door to the carriage. A man comes up to me and tries to punch me in the face. I duck and attempt to stab him in the stomach, but he side steps it. I spin around his fist as it comes flying at me. My sword swings smoothly with the movement of my arms. I graze the mans arm. He looks at the wound and I kick his legs making him lose his balance, but not fall over. While he's regaining his balance, I try to stab him again, but he dodges.

Focus.

I try again, he dodges again.

Focus!

My blade swings at his neck, and he ducks, and pulls out his sword.

Focus!

He tries to swipe my legs with his foot, but I jump. His blade was already waiting for me, and I feel a sharp pain across my left ear and cheek.

Just a graze.

Focus.

I take a deep breath. My eyes darken.

Suddenly I swing my blade, I cut the man across the stomach.

"Fuck!" He shouts before looking at me angrily.

Yes, lose your temper. Lose focus.

He stomps towards me and I slide to the right, dodging an angry fist. I kick him in the side and he loses his balance, falling over.

"It's just a kid! Come on!" A woman shouts, running over to help. She draws her blade and I duck under it, stabbing her dominant arm.

"Shit!" She squeals.

"Tsk. Stupid." The man sneaking up behind me thinks I'm talking about the woman when I say this. I spin around and cut him across the stomach again, deep this time. He stumbles backwards into the blade of the carriage owner. I turn back around right as the woman sends a fist my way. It makes contact with my stomach and I stumble back. She steps forward and tries to jab me with her sword. I side step it, and step right into the fist of another man. My face erupts with pain. I duck as a second woman waves her blade at me.

"Fuck, back would you?" I say annoyed before kicking the first woman's feet out from under her, since she's the smallest. Probably around 15. I quickly end it with her. Slicing her neck open. Not my first kill.

"Uri! No!" The other woman shouts before looking at me "You bitch!" I dodge her sword, and then the mans fist. She woman knees me in the gut and I step back into the mans sword. He pushes it into my back lightly.

Hesitation.

I step forward using my blade to knock the woman's away, using the mans hesitation to get away. While she's focused on my hands and sword, I kick her in the stomach. While she's stunned, I dodge the mans blade and turn back on him. I stab him through the stomach, then feel pain in my right leg. I spin around and see the woman grazed my leg. I swing my blade at her, and she hits it away with hers.

She swings hers at me, and I duck, sliding around her. I run a few steps back, trying to buy some time.

So tired.

Luckily for me, the carriage owner just finished fighting his guys and stabbed the woman while she was facing me.

"You okay?" He asks.

"Yeah. I'm fine. You?" I question.

"Don't worry about me. Get back in the carriage, we will deal with the last two." I nod at his request.

"Are you okay?" Avia asks the second I step into the carriage. I nod and look to Samantha, who was watching the whole ordeal. She opens the door on her side and pukes.

"Oh, my god! Are you okay?" Avia shouts as she reaches for the older girls hair to hold it back for her.

"Yeah. Sorry. I haven't really seen death this close up before. Guess I gotta get use' to it now, huh?" Samantha tries to joke.

"I'm sorry..." Avia says sympathetically.

The rest of the ride went smoothly. I slept for part of it. Once we arrived we were lead to this hallway and are standing in front of huge doors. One of the men from the carriage pushed the doors open and lead us into the room.

"This is president Dante." The man introduces us. We salute to him and he opens his mouth to speak.

"It's nice to meet you. You already know who I am, so what are your names?" He asks.

"I'm Samantha! This is Avia, n' this is Iris!" She introduces us to the president and his other guards. Dante shakes each of our hands and smiles at me. He gives off a warm feeling, he makes me feel safe for some odd reason...

"Alright, well it's nice to meet you. You can go with Andrew, he'll give you the tour." Dante nods to one of the guards, who I'm guessing is Andrew. After Andrew shows us around, we are shown to our room.

He passes us a uniform.

"Put this on, then come to the main room when you're done. Allie will show you the ropes." He walks out of the room after saying this. When we are done changing, we meet Allie in the main room. She explains the schedule, and when the morning meetings are. Right now, at 7 o'clock, is dinner time. Then we have guard rotation. Me and Avia are on day watch for the first few days. So we get to go to a lesson, eat then go to bed. We have to wake up at 6 Am to get ready for guard rotation. Me and Avia walk down the hallway and into a classroom looking room. Other younger trainees are already sitting in the room. Me and Avia sit together in the back. A man walks in, about 30ish looking, with black hair and green eyes.

"Alpha suits." He starts. "Something each of you will get if you make it to a higher rank. It's a suit of wires that go around your body and help you conduct your sources, which you will also get, around your body and to the outside of your body. You..." I zone out, his voice droning on.

After the class, me and Avia head to dinner. Samantha went to run to her room for something. We sit down and start eating.

"What do you think of it here?" Avia asks me.

"Better than the old place. Better food." I nod to our plates. Salad, potatoes, and some ham.

"Cleaner." I wipe the top of the table with my hand and look at it.

"Still really gross though..."

"Pleaseee, you and your cleaning obsession. Ooooo, I'm a germ, I'm going to get you dirty, oooo." Avia teases then takes a bite of her potato. I glare at her and she smiles sheepishly.

"What's goin' on?" Samantha sets down her tray next to Avia.

"Nothing, just Iris being a weirdo." Avia smiles. Samantha and her laugh. We finish eating, Samantha and Avia go to our room. I stay in the cafeteria for a little bit longer. Is that... Tea? My mother always loved tea. I've never tried it though. I stood up to go get some. Green tea? Why not? I make myself some green tea and sit down to try it.

"Oh, hey Iris." It's Milos, he sits down across from me. There was nothing wrong with his sentence, but... There was this weird feeling...

A bad feeling. A very bad one. He had this dark aura around him.

"What are you doing here, Milos?" I cock my head to the right.

"Someone had to watch over you guys. So me and Cole came." He smiled. His smile felt... O ...

"Ah, I'm going to head to bed now. Have a good night." I grab my cup and dump the tea. Feeling weird, I walked down the hallway. I heard light steps behind me.

"Hel-" I start to say when I'm cut off by a vision.

**"RUN!"**

**"RUN RUN RUN!RUN NOW! RUN NEPTUNE!"**

"What?" I mutter under my breath. I start to walk faster. I feel a hand grab me by my arm and pull me into a room.

"What the h-" A hand covers my mouth.

(TRIGGER WARNING FOR S3XUA] ASSULT)

"Shhh, be quiet now." It's Milos's voice. I feel him grab me. He removes his hand from my mouth.

"Let me go." I say darkly. He slaps me.

"Shut up." I open my mouth to yell but he grabs me by the neck. He bashes me into the wall. Pain explodes through my back and my neck. He starts to unzip his pants.

"Iris? Are you okay?" Avia asks me.

"Do I look okay?!" I scream at her. I'm shaking in my bed.

"Sorry... What happened? Are you okay?" She half whispers.

"No, I'm sorry. Sorry for yelling. I'm fine, nothing happened, sorry. I'm just sick I think." I say.

"Maybe we should leave her alone' for now." Samantha suggests.

"Is that what you want?" Avia turns to me.

"Yes, please." I say.