Chapter 76

“There it is Dragon.” The tone in Henry’s voice sounded serious. “That’s where your friends are being kept.”

“I know Henry.” Keely said annoyed.

“Yes I know you know. But still... it’s there.”

Keely sighed. Now she knew how Sheina felt when Baas wouldn’t stop joking around.

After Henry had gone over his plan with Keely and Savvi, he and Keely rested for the night before heading out. Using their knowledge of the area, the two were able to catch up to the group that had captured Atsuma a couple of days before they reached their destination. Once that happened, they lurked far behind, trying to stay hidden as they followed the trio. It seemed easy enough, but once, one of the gold Leaders, a serious looking one dressed in all blue, had turned around and looked at them. Keely was sure he had spotted them. Henry assured her that he hadn’t. Henry had to have been right, because the two were never encountered. Once the Gold group reached open fields which no longer provided hiding places for the grey and black, Keely and Henry used the maps Brothamo had given them, to locate the most likely base that the group would come to. And now they were here, in the middle of the woods, only yards away from the back of a huge wall. Savvi had said to make sure they approach from the rear, so they wouldn’t be seen. The forest made it seem even more safe then he had emplied.

“Okay.” Henry said. He kneeled down so that if anyone walked by he would not be seen. “Let’s go over the plan one last time.”

And with that, Henry laid two manila papers that he had in his possession. One chart showed a map of the territory the two were about the infiltrate. That was placed on the right. To the left was a guard duty schedule.

“Okay.” Henry said in a serious sounding tone. “According to Savvi, we’ll be safe here as long as we stay hidden behind the territory in the thick of the forest. The angle from the wall makes it so the scouts won’t be able to see us... unless we do something to stand out. Sorry Dragon, I know you’ve been waiting for a chance to be alone with me, but we’ll have to save our make out session for later.”

“Why do you insist on calling me that?”

“Hey, you’re the one that said it was your name. Besides, Dragon sounds much cooler.” Henry went back to looking at the charts.“Anyway, according to the guard schedule, these guys have the least amount of guards about just before sunrise. That’s the best time to enter. We’ll go in just as…”

“Whoa whoa whoa.” Keely interrupted. “We?”

“Yes ‘we.’ I can’t get them out by myself and Brothamo refused to offer me help.” Henry paused for a slight second. “Did you actually expect me to rescue them without you helping.”

“But I can’t help Henry.”

“Sure you can. You’re pretty decent with that sword. As long as we stick to the plan, you should be able to get out safe and sound...”

“No Henry.” Keely interrupted. “I mean that I can’t go in there. Haven’t you heard of the new rule?”

Henry made a sarcastic serious face. “I’m not exactly known for being the most obedient to the rules of Wig.”

“Right.” Keely remembered. “The whole black band thing. Well, Greys aren’t aloud to enter colors of wars’ bases anymore. It was a rule passed not too long ago.”

“Psht. Is that all?” Henry noncaringly said.

“Is that all? I could be black banded.”

“And we all know how horrible a fate that would be.” Of course, there was sarcasm in Henry’s voice. “Look, you already broke a rule by not killing me when you first saw me. You can only be black banded if the Discretes know you broke a rule. Don’t you want to save your friends?”

“Well...” Keely hesistated. “Yeah.”

“Well this is the only way. We both have to go in.”

Keely was still unsure and it was her unsureness that made her not disagree with Henry. Henry himself turned back to the chart. But before returning to finish his plan, he turned back to Keely and asked, “Hey, your friends aren’t gonna be this difficult about me helping them too are they? Just cause I‘m a black band and all?”

“No.” Keely answered not looking at Henry. “None of them are scared of anything. Plus, they’re really determined to save their Commander. They’ll do anything to recue her. They just need to get out of this place.”

“That’s good.” Henry said returning once again to his plan. “Now, we’ll enter here.” His finger was pointed at the bottom of a chart. “According to Savvi, there’s a secret passage we can take. We’ll then use that to go to here. Once there, we’ll have to separate. Brothamo said that if there’s more than three of them, they’ll most likely separate them. You go to the tower on the right side, I’ll go the tower on the left. The windows are supposed to be unprotected. Guess they thought only Golds would be inside the territory. We’ll use the hooks and ropes to scale in and out. Once we get them out, we have to get back to where we met. Savvi says there are many locations to the secret pathway, but he only told me about this one. When we’re all back in there, we should be safe. If we don’t meet up there for some weird reason, this spot where we’re at right now should be good enough.”

Henry stood up, his body still protected from the sun by the shade.

“Well, that looks like that it. Now all we have to do is wait.”

And wait the two did. The hunch about being safe in the forest had been correct. The two never came across a guard that asked them questions. It seemed like the Golds only took the front entrance to go out and come back from whatever missions they were on. Though most weren’t coming back since it was getting close to sunset. As time passed, Keely could not help but still feel nervous. She was about to go into a base. She was about to break the rules of Wig. What if the Discretes found out?! If they should come looking for her. She had been forgiven by the Officials once; there was no way it would happen a second time. Keely’s mind wondered, and as it did, it became tired. Soon after the sun had set, Keely’s eyes closed.

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“Keely. Keely wake up.”

Keely awoke. Henry was standing and looking toward the wall of the Gold base. Looking around, the mind of the Grey began to recall what she was doing.

“I think now’s a good time.” Henry said. His words helped Keely’s make everything out.

“It’s just before sunrise.” Keely asked standing up. “Have you been awake this whole time?”

“No.” Henry said. “I fell asleep a while ago.”

“You fell asleep!?” Keely was shocked at the boy’s priorities.

“Shh.” Henry insisted.

Keely remembered that they had to be quiet and began whispering.

“Why didn’t you wake me up when you started feeling sleepy. A guard could have spotted us. We could have overslept.”

“I’m sorry if I didn’t know that I was gonna suddenly pass out. Now come on. I’m not sure what time it is, but I’m betting I woke up now for a reason.”

“We’re trying to not get caught! You think you’d be a little more precautious.”

“Blah blah blah. Let’s go.”

The two gathered up what they needed to prepare for their adventure. Keely kept the Dragon on her belt and grabbed one of the ropes and hooks Henry had brought. Henry only held a rope and hook. He decided to leave the charts and schedules behind just incase they got in his way. Once prepared, the two faced the outside of the forest. Before it was a patch of grass, followed by the wall of the Gold base.

“You ready Dragon?” Henry asked. “This is gonna be fun.”

“Can you be serious?” Keely asked. “We need to not get caught. The Golds will kill us if they see us and if theydon’tthentheDiscreteswill surely…”

“KEELY!” Henry said almost loudly. He grabbed Keely fiercely by her arms. He would’ve reached for her shoulder but she was taller than him.

“Calm down.” He said. He then began to reach in his pocket. “Here, if you’re so nervous, maybe this will help you.”

Henry then pulled out a small mask. Keely almost gasped when she saw it. To her, it looked exactly like...

“Here.” Henry said. “My brother made me bring it. He makes everyone wear masks whenever they go somewhere. Usually we wear ones that cover all of our face, but since I never wore one at all, he thought it would help me remember if I had one like this.”

Henry gave the mask to Keely.

“And you’ve got to stop being so nervous about messing up. That person who chased me when I stole her sword, Who fought me so awesomely, she wasn’t scared like this. Find that girl and bring her out. That’s who we need. She would make a great criminal.”

Keely looked at the mask in her hand. She couldn’t help but feel a sense of irony. A mask just like the one she had wore before.

“Henry.” She spoke as she began to place it to her face. “I don’t think that...” But Keely did not finish her sentence. When she placed the mask on her face, it reinstilled a feeling in her. A feeling of confidence. One she had not felt since she had started on this journey with Henry. Many a times she felt like crying. But this mask only made her want to smirk. And as she did just that, her right hand clasped the handle of the sword that was on her belt.

Henry did not notice that Keely had not finished her sentence, nor did he notice her emotional change. He was looking up at the wall to make sure that no guard just happened to be passing by.

“Okay Keely.” Henry said with stare still stuck looking up.”

“What did I tell you, Henry?” was the response Henry got. He turned to see a triumphant looking person. She was standing in a heroic stance with her a smirk on her face and a black maskover her eyes.

“I am to be called Dragon.”

Chapter 76 End