

Wrens venture

Prologue

Wren is in the elite group of guards for queen Kazimirah (the queen of Rahtan). Wren is tall, lanky but strong, her hair is almost always a mess, neglected curls squished in a helmet, her blue eyes always scanning, seeing everything. The elite guard is the guard most close to the queen, she takes them wherever she goes, whether it was to a neighboring kingdom or to breakfast they were always there. Most people however rarely noticed them, the guards had been specially trained to disappear into shadows and even the most seeing of eyes most likely missed them. Wren had gained the queen's trust over many years. She had started in the training program at 6, the youngest person to join.

Chapter 1.

Her mother was very dismissive of Wren, always focusing on her siblings even though Wren was the youngest. Wren grew up in Delvie with the neighboring kingdoms being Rahtan and Valor. In Delvie men were the money makers and were always respected, meanwhile the women were thought of as lowlifes and so women were congratulated and celebrated when they had a male heir but if they had a girl then they were forgotten about thrown in the mud. That's why Wren's mom never paid any mind to Wren. Wren was always doing her mother's dirty work taking up the role of the "maid" in the house. Wren's mother blamed her for her downfall. That's why Wren ran away to the neighboring kingdom of Rahtan. Why she chose Rahtan over Valor is because Valor was the exact same as Delvie and she would get nowhere over there. Meanwhile Rahtan was perfect, they respected everyone and even the queen was the main leader which was unheard of in Delvie or Valor. She wasn't allowed in Rahtan though, you see Rahtan has very strict rules on who's allowed to come in and out of the kingdom. Merchants are allowed in but their wagons had to be thoroughly searched by guards stationed there and if they found anything that wasn't allowed in like *children from a neighboring kingdom* you would be banished and never allowed back in, so most merchants flat out refused to bring Wren into Rahtan because Rahtan is a wealthy kingdom and they would make tons of money selling there, which meant Wren had to get creative. Now it took a while for Wren to come up with a plan but she had plenty of time to think while she cleaned the house. She eventually came up with the idea of sneaking into a royal cart. By watching the carts when she went to the market Wren knew that the royal carts weren't checked by the guards and that they went into their own entrance, though it was a stupid idea she decided that it was probably the only way to get into Rahtan so she went through with her plan.

The first thing Wren had to do to get her plan into motion was to find the perfect cart or wagon to sneak into. Most of the carts were medium sized but there was no place to hide on the outside so Wren had to wait. She waited for a good long hour and right as she was about to give up and go home to face her mother's wrath, the perfect opportunity came. The cart was huge,

maybe giant, certainly the biggest cart Wren had ever seen. It was filled with crates of different food and things that Wren did not know the name of but she could smell the sweet scent protruding from it even from her hiding spot a few meters away. It had a perfect little slot on the back that wren thought she could just squeeze in, so while the driver was distracted by a merchant selling fresh lemons she raced over to the cart squeezed into the slot and she fit *perfectly*, she was almost confident that nobody could see her from the outside. She expected to have a lovely ride into the rahtan and then escape from the cart, but what she did not expect was somebody shouting and pointing at the cart while guards ran towards it looking straight at her.

Chapter 2.

The guards were running at her and she was sure of it. The guards were screaming for the cart to stop and whoever was driving the cart was obliging but very slowly so as to not hurt any of the food Wren thought. The guards caught up to the cart and in about two seconds they were pulling Wren out of the cart by her feet causing her to get a splinter in her arm but that splinter was the least of Wren's worries in that moment. The guards surrounded her with their weapons raised and pointing at her, she had no idea what to do so just decided to stand there and not do anything as to not get shot. They stood like that for a good long while the guards just stared at her all non blinking. They only moved when a stern far away voice shouted "stand down!", they all put their weapons away but still stared at Wren. Then a woman walked up to Wren, looked down at her and waved her hand to signal away the guards.

The woman had on a pretty blue flowy gown made out of silk, she had a soft but stern face. When the woman finally spoke, Wren recognised her voice as the one who had told the guards to stand down.

"Walk with me child." The woman said. Wren followed behind the woman as she explained the history of the palace and how the other buildings came to be and that she was the queen and that her name was Kazimirah. Wren had no idea what was happening and what to do about it so she just followed along and listened. When the woman was done telling Wren about the palace she turned to her and asked

"Now my dear child you now know about my home, my name and my story. So I want you to tell me yours."

So Wren told her, she told her her name why she was in the cart why she wanted to come to rahtan she told her *everything* and the woman *the queen* sat and listened to wrens every word "Well Wren, that certainly is a sad story." She stood up and brushed herself off.

" Well now that I know why you're here-" wren cut her off " What will you do to me, will you send me back, execute me, steal my eyes?!"

"No my dear child I will not do any of those things, I am going to let you stay here but I am going to choose what cave you stay in and you will also have to train to be my guard. Do you understand?"

"Yes your majesty." Wren said. "Good now let's go".

The queen led her to one of the outside buildings, the bunks if Wren remembered correctly. She led her up two flights of stairs and into a room full of bunk beds and children.

"Listen now children, this Wren and you will treat her with respect, do you hear me?"

"Yes, your majesty," the children replied, and Wren smiled for the first time in months.