

Chapter 4. A Celtic woman that picks flowers

On the other side of the Atlantic in Mexico; Nadie and Ellis had been on move keeping one step ahead of the Coven. So far they managed to do so with few problems, but the lifestyle was starting to get to them both. They both wondered why the Coven took an interest in them again after so long. After the events in Wiñay Marka the Coven stopped their pursuit. Now after a year the Coven once again came after them though they came close to capturing them in the last town if it weren't for the unintentional interference of the local drug cartel. Nadie had been driving for nearly ten hours straight and it was beginning to show on her face.

Ellis noticed the look on her friend's face and wondered what she could do. Then she saw in the distance the outskirts of a small town. "Nadie there's a town ahead, let's stop and rest."

Nadie was going to argue but she knew that Ellis had a point and it would be only a matter of time before they got into an accident.

They drove into the town with Ellis looking for a place to safely park or at least keep the car from being easily spotted. They found a public parking lot and parked. Nadie wanted to rest but it was too dangerous to sleep in the car. They got out and went out to the main road.

We can stay here the night, if we can find some place." Nadie said looking over the cluster of buildings that made up the town.

As they walked towards the center of town, the pair passed an old woman selling trinkets on a blanket. Ellis stopped and looked as Nadie continued walking. The old woman was selling native crafts along with the odd piece of silver jewelry. One piece stood out from the rest; It looked like it wasn't made around here, the designs on the bracelet looked like knots intertwining with each other.

"May I look at it?" Ellis asked pointing at the bracelet. The old woman nodded and Ellis picked it up and looked at. She could feel something benign from it but nothing else.

"How much for this?" Ellis asked with a smile.

The old woman squinted at the bracelet and at Ellis. "Oh that thing, I've had that for years and I've never been able sell it. People say it's cursed or something."

"I don't think so, it's very pretty. I like to buy it." Ellis said digging in her pocket for money, but she could pull out was a few coins and she frowned.

The old woman reached out to Ellis' hand and felt the coins in her hand and then took them and smiled.

"This will do child, I'm glad somebody was willing to buy this. May it bring you good fortune child."

Ellis smiled and said "Thank you." She could hear Nadie calling out for her and she ran to her.

Ellis turned to look at the old woman, but she was gone...

When she had caught up to Nadie she noticed she had a tired smile on her face.

"I found a place. Hopefully we can rest awhile before "they" show up." Nadie said pointing down the street.

"I don't see why we can't ask Blueeyes for help?" Ellis asked as they walked down the street.

Nadie barely turned her toward Ellis and answered in a tired voice. "I rather not risk calling Blueeyes unless we really need to. For all we know she could be back working for them."

Ellis frowned but she realized that Nadie had a good point.

"What about Ricardo?"

Nadie sighed. "I really don't think he'll want to get involved. And then there's Lirio to consider, there's a chance they maybe after her as well."

"Oh" Ellis said dejectedly.

The pair walked for five minutes till they got to a small hotel. After checking in the pair went to the room. The room was small but they didn't care. After making sure the door was locked behind them Nadie collapsed on the bed and fell asleep. Ellis yawned and she laid next to Nadie and fell asleep.

Across the Atlantic in Nafrece Altena surveyed the vineyard as twilight fell over the landscape. The report she received brightened her mood. She knew the Ring of Morrigan was in Nafrece and now the Torc of Rhiannon was there as well. With two of the artifacts practically in her backyard and the Bracelet of Brigid soon to come if the law of attraction held true. She didn't want to use such obvious "pagan" artifacts but Enfant's obsessive search for them meant they were worth something and if it meant using them to keep them out of their hands, so be it. Besides the current courier of the Torc of Rhiannon headed straight to where Altena had predicted. Straight to the "key"...straight to the little seed she planted so long ago.

But there were a few snags; the first was Enfant's leader in Europe. He was proving to be a real thorn in her side. The only concrete information about she knew about him was his name; Douglas Rosenberg. But the man connected to that name supposedly died a year ago. There was a chance they were the same person. After all didn't she fake her own death...Altena grinned on that.

The best Altena could do was keep Enfant away from the Torc which lead to the second snag; her agents could force both the courier and "key" to go into hiding. This was easily solved. By having Chloe watching them she could keep track of their movements. Also she could have her agents back off enough to give the illusion of safety. Hopefully the "key" Margaret Burton would find the ring as well and then once the Bracelet showed itself she would collect all three along with their "keys".

Then there was the matter of the two rotten saplings. Eliminating them was turning out to be no small task and now they were in Nafrece produced a potential problem; The Justicars might take notice and take action. For now Altena and the Soldats would have to keep a low profile if they didn't want to alert them. Once she had the three the Le Grand Retour could begin at last. She wrote down orders and passed them to a nun.

While she slept Ellis found herself standing in a moonlit field all alone.

"Nadie!" Ellis cried out to no avail. For some reason she was running from hands that were trying to grab her. Ellis seemed to run forever trying desperately to get away from the grasping hands.

When all hope seemed lost she heard Nadie's voice. "Ellis...Run toward the light."

"Nadie?"

"Run toward the light."

Ellis saw two lights in the distance and she willed herself to run towards them.

As she drew closer the lights turned into bonfires. The closer she got to the bonfires the less the hands tried to grab her.

Ellis ran between the bonfires and suddenly she was in a hut.

The inside of the hut was quite large. In the middle was a fire pit with a warm fire burning brightly.

On the other side of the fire pit Ellis saw a woman sitting on a primitive chair. She tried moving closer but her legs turned leaden.

"Welcome." The woman across from her said in a British accent.

Ellis felt the woman's eyes penetrate her.

"Interesting, I can see why they are interested in you Plentyn y Blodau. Mankind has once again regained the knowledge once held by Math. So tell me Plentyn y Blodau, what do you desire?"

Ellis didn't understand what this woman was talking about. She panicky looked around for Nadie.

An image of Nadie appeared in the fire and Ellis reached out to touch the image but found that she could not move closer to the fire.

“Nadie!” Ellis cried out trying to reach the image. Then the image of her and Nadie traveling appeared. Ellis realized that it wasn’t really Nadie in the fire so she calmed down.

“I see, you wish to be with your friend and to travel free of your enemies. I can help with that.”

“You can?” Ellis asked a bit confused.

“Yes, but you must do a favor for me in return.”

“All I need you to do put on this.” An image of the bracelet appeared in the fire.

“Okay.” Ellis agreed as she reached into the fire not realizing that she could move. Just as she was about to touch the flames she woke up. She rubbed her eyes and looked around the room for Nadie.

“Oh good, you’re up. You should take a shower before we go.” Nadie said coming out of the bathroom.

“Yes sir.” Ellis said with a smile.

Ellis finished her shower and got dressed. Just before she left the bathroom she took the bracelet out her jacket pocket. She gazed at it in curiosity. She put it on and closed her eyes.

She opened one eye to peek but nothing happened and she relaxed.

“Come on hurry up.” She heard Nadie say from behind the door.

Ellis shrugged her shoulders and assumed the woman’s request was just a dream.

“Yes sir.” She said leaving the bathroom.

When they left the hotel the sun hadn’t risen yet. They slowly made their way to the car and just before they reached the parking lot Nadie stopped.

“Nadie?” Ellis asked before Nadie made the Shhh sign.

The lot was quiet, too quiet. Nadie tried to see into the darkness as much as she could. “Do you see anything Ellis?” Nadie asked in whisper knowing that Ellis could pick up on it.

“I can see a couple bodies on the ground, but other than that don’t see anything.”

Nadie pulled out her gun and the pair slowly made their way to car. Halfway there Ellis pulled Nadie out the way before she was shot.

Nadie began to notice the lot had gotten brighter. Then she looked in wonder at Ellis; Ellis was source of the light! Bullets raced toward them with deadly accuracy. Just before they got close Ellis held out her arms and spread her fingers. The light surrounded them both and bullets melted on contact with the light. Nadie noticed one of the bodies on the ground. It was a Caucasian man in a black suit. A broken pair of sunglasses and a revolver was nearby. Nadie’s attention was drawn away by Ellis.

“YOU WILL NOT HARM US! YOU WILL LEAVE US ALONE!!!” Ellis shouted as jets of flames shot from her fingertips and stuck from what she could see now were the ninjas from the Coven. As the jets struck them they were overwhelmed by the flames and were incinerated on the spot.

As the last ninja died the light dimmed and Ellis stared out her hands wondering.

“H...how did I do that?” Ellis said in shock looking at her hands.

Nadie surmised that since Ellis didn’t really know how powerful she was did it by instinct. She gently grabbed Ellis by the arm and said. “We have to get out of here before anyone else shows up. So let’s go” Ellis somewhat still meekly followed and got in the car and once they got out the parking lot sped away. A few minutes and miles later Ellis was still looking at her hands.

“You going to be okay?” Nadie asked worriedly.

“I guess it wasn’t a dream after all...” Ellis said dejectedly.

“What dream? What are you talking about?” Nadie asked with a bit of confusion.

Ellis told Nadie what she could of about the dream.

“Plentyn y Blodau? What does that mean? And what did she mean the knowledge held by Math?”

“I don’t know...I wish I knew...”

“What about that bracelet?” Nadie asked now curious about the bracelet.

“Oh...” Ellis tried to take it off but she found it wouldn’t even come off. “It won’t come off.”

“Okay that tares it, once we get to a big city I’m going to call Blueeyes. She might know something.”

“Why a big city?”

“There’s less chance of the Coven trying to pull something blatant.”

“Do you think Blueeyes will help?”

“I hope so...I really do...” Nadie said as they drove on as the sun began to rise.