

Arcona Citadel
Selen - Estle City

"We should totally do that," came an excited female voice from my right side.

"Absolutely not," a gruff, powerful voice echoed on my left.

Sighing, I turned my head to regard each of the Entar's flanking me as I escorted them through one of the many hidden tunnels scattered throughout the Citadel. Cethgus managed to loom over me despite my significant height. His black and white skin and piercing green eyes seemed restless and wild, his strides determined and powerful.

In stark contrast, Atyiru was nearly skipping along the shadowy corridor. Sashar had made me memorize the paths during Meja's reign as Shadow Lord. I hardly needed the torches that lined the walls as a guide as we made our way forward, but kept my pace steady as if trying to balance the Quaestor and Aedile duo's.

"Come on, it's a brilliant idea and you know it," Atyiru said with an impish grin.

"My lady," I said, lifting my hand up in the air in front of us slightly.

"You don't need to raise your hand, Bly-guy," the Miraluka said with a grin. I tried not to groan at her refusal to address me by my title of Captain in favor of her own nickname for me. "Speak freely, my friend."

"I am going to have to side with Master Cethgus," I said calmly, keeping my voice level. There was a trick to critiquing your superior officers plans. After dealing with Mejas and Sashar, this was an afternoon stroll in the garden. "I think that giving all those who decided to support the Quaestors with, er (and I can't believe I actually had to say the words) pink capes."

Atyiru tilted her head, as if she couldn't fathom a world in which her idea did not make sense. Cethgus grunted.

"Just think about it," the Aedile explained, sneaking between Cethgus and I and linking her arms under each of ours. "The Arconae, namely Teroch, show up ready to fight, and we jump out with our bright pink capes. Teroch would be distracted, if not momentarily, and then we lay on the hurtin'!"

I shook my head, and was saved as Cethgus repeated in a steady baritone, "Nope."

We continued down the hall as I tried to figure out a better alternative. Sadly, one wasn't coming to mind.

Sigh.