

The Legend of Greywinds – Book 3

Fires of Edana

Chapter 1 – The Leky

“Captain Leky, will you make that wonderful seafood stew for us this evening? This is, after all, a celebration of sorts. And you know how much Carena enjoys seafood.”

“Jada, you have a way of making it difficult to say no,” he said with a smile. “I would be happy to make my seafood stew for our evening meal. I will need some fresh fish. Has Arial returned from Palu with her supplies?”

“Yes. She and that adorable little creature of hers returned before the first sunset.”

“Will you find Arial and tell her I would like to speak with her? She will need a list of sea fare to catch.”

Giddy and clapping, Jada nodded and quickly left to find Arial.

“She is definitely not a typical Echo, but she is an exquisite dancer,” said Vee.

“Jada is a young soul, wide-eyed and enthusiastic about the entire world around her,” he observed. “When she dances, she is simply mesmerizing. And I will wager she has no idea how beautiful she is to watch. All that is important to her is that she is enjoying herself. I truly like having Jada around. She keeps me from taking my life too seriously and shows me how to enjoy the simple pleasures of this world.”

“That may be, however I find her annoying at times,” said Vee. Captain Leky smiled and kissed her head. “Vee, you can be a tough woman as most Protectors are. Echo, Celie, and Shaylee are less assertive clans.”

Vee looked around to see if anyone was looking. “I have guarded various areas of Tana and every Echo assigned to me was a determined, knowledgeable, and observant Listener,” she said to him quietly, and then admitted, “I would not want Jada on an assignment with me.”

“We each have a purpose in this world. Jada’s purpose may not be to assist in protecting Tana. Come. I see Arial and her companion, Garam, approaching. I believe she is going to do a little fishing for me now thanks to Jada.” Vee looked confused but did not say a word. The two of them met Arial and Garam in the bow area of the ship where they determined what needed to be caught.

Fiera waited until Arial and Garam departed then she joined Captain Leky and Vee. “Our plans have changed, and we will need to go back to Tana. The second key we seek is connected to one of the images I saw in the Neroli Abyss. Jada and Lexa remembered a statue with that image at the Grotto of Aludat. We must go there, and we need to find a way to get the horses back to Tana as well.”

“The fastest way to get to the Grotto is to go west around the tip of Tana and follow the shoreline north to the Sands of Aludat,” said Captain Leky. “Vee, will you see if Captain Rego still has room for eight more passengers? If he does, then tell our patrons who are

still aboard the *Leky* that we will not be going to Tana Bay after all. They may board the *Rego* this evening for passage to Tana Bay early tomorrow morning. Tell Rego that I will make him my seafood stew to serve his passengers this evening. That should make the whole idea more palatable for everyone." We all laughed at that statement. The captain continued, "We must clear the ship and make room for the horses. They will come with us."

"Thank you, captain. Once the passengers have departed, I will prepare an area for the horses," said Fiera.

"I will assist you once I have finished helping Captain Leky," added Vee.

"I must pick the vegetables for this evening. I will see you both later," he said as he walked away.

"I have noticed that you spend much time with Captain Leky," teased Fiera.

"Nonsense. We have work to do and it so happens that our work puts us in the same places at the same times."

"Oh, I sense you are a bit sensitive about this situation. Would you like to prepare a place for the horses and I will work with Captain Leky in preparing the evening meal?" teased Fiera knowing what the response from Vee would be.

"That will not be necessary," Vee replied coolly. "Captain Leky and I have a method in place when preparing meals for groups. We assisted Arial with the meals during the construction of the Healing Center and took over for her in her absence. We are quite efficient together. Thank you for the offer."

"No worries. Let me know if you change your mind," said Fiera working very hard to hold back an enormous grin. Then she turned and headed toward the starboard side of the ship where Arial was preparing to launch a dinghy from the side of the *Leky*. "Arial, would you and Garam like some company on your fishing expedition?"

"You are more than welcome to accompany us. You carry quite the grin on your face. What is so funny, Fiera? Please tell me. I could use a good story right now."

Fiera helped Arial lower the dinghy while recounting her conversation with Vee about Captain Leky. "I do believe I struck a chord with Vee."

Arial laughed. "I believe you did." Grinning, they climbed down the rope ladder and joined Garam in the dinghy. They briskly paddled away from the *Leky* and began fishing shortly thereafter.

Lexa and I both emerged from short naps. The last sun was nearing the horizon and Lexa was now able to remove her cloak. Her lavender eyes were stunning but often hidden by the hood she wore when the suns graced the sky each day. Her skin was fair, and her shoulder-length hair was the color of snow. Her pearlescent white robe framed her small, delicate form. The gold wristbands and neckband were quite elegant. She had a gentle strength about her that commanded respect, a trait of those in her clan.

"It is good to see you again, Lexa. Would you do me a favor?"

"Certainly Carena, what is it?"

"Please contact Clar and let her know we are on our way back to Tana."