

RM || Kaseko – Initiation

Kaseko followed Rubi and Balavan to the training grounds. He could feel her heart bound into his throat as he stepped in line behind them. The three arrived, stepping forward Rubi cleared her throat catching the attention of young felines, the cadets waiting impatiently for their drills. Near by other teens had gathered as well, talking among the group of cadets that had been waiting for what seemed to be hours. Rubi stood before them confidently as she spoke. **“Good morning Cadets. I would like to introduce you to Lieutenant Kaseko. He will be handling training with Balavan as a drill instructor as well.”**

Balavan nudged Kaseko with his shoulder, though the force made him stumble forward a bit. Damn, that tiger was strong. Gathering himself he stood again holding his head high as he tried to seem confident. **“Morning Cadets.”**

His nerves where obvious, and this lion was rather lean, almost like he had just started eating healthily again. He was not at all like the stern Balavan who’s very presence seemed to command respect. He didn’t at all seem like the image one would picture as a drill Sargent let alone a lieutenant. The cadets and teens looked among themselves. This was the lieutenant?

Kaseko stood in the silence offering a somewhat nervous smile. “Alright, We’ll leave you to training with Kaseko today.” Balavan finally broke into the silence.

What?

Kaseko looked back at Balavan and Rubi as the pair turned to head off to other duties. “I-” He stopped short unable to bring the words out. Oh, no.

The lion swallowed his nerves looking to the teens. A blank stare on his face as he tried to speak again, not a word coming out.

---

Jigsaw left brow rose as she studied the figure before her. This was their lieutenant? Wait. She had seen his face before, maybe. Didn’t he tend to spend time with her parent? Yeah, she was sure of it, she had seen this Kaseko before! Jigsaw’s attention turned to her brother who she had been chatting with just moments before. The lioness gave Ghost’s shoulder a nudge to gain his attention. **“Want to have some fun?”** She whispered beneath her breath.

Giving her a silent shrug he stood with her. Looking back at Kaseko a moment before the pair continued on slipping away while Kaseko tried to find his voice.

---

The lion finally spoke, **“How about we start with some laps around the training grounds. Something to get our legs stretch for training. Who here is here for Triaining.”**

The group divided having the cadets start there laps. Kaseko paused counting heads that went by or sat on the sides. Where there not two more among them before? Maybe he had miscounted? No he was sure there where two more before hand when Rubi was speaking. Oh no, he had lost two of them already. He already was messing up? Oh no. No, oh no.

He was startled by a call from a distance.

Jigsaw came running back up to him breathing heavily. **“Jigsaw?”** He questioned, baffled at the commotion. He knew this lion, yes he was sure of it. One of Commodus cubs.

She stopped short in front of him blood on her paws. Kaseko’s ears pinned his neck at the sight, **“What happened?!”**

**“Ghost, he’s.... I... Quickly!”** She pleaded startling the other teens before rushing off the way she had come. Kaseko’s heart dropped, he knew of the dead being dug from their graves, feasted upon by something, but was a living lion now the victim of the very same? Kaseko left his post, running quickly behind Jigsaw. They approached Ghost, laying still on his side. Blood covered the ground around him and his side and neck where drenched in the stuff. **“Gods...”** Kaseko muttered sliding short. His heart beat racing, Not only had he messed up, he messed up big. Commodus son?! He would never be able to face Commodus again, not after this. He had been trusted to watch the cadets and teens. Yet it only took moments for him to lose sight of two. Now one of them lay before him in blood. He approached slowly Jigsaw staying behind him. A mischievous grin crossed her muzzle going unnoticed as Kaseko’s mind raced.

Kaseko trembled a bit as he approached, his heart pounding in his throat. Closer. Closer. He stood over the boy with hushed breaths before suddenly looking over his side to see the damage that had been done. It was then the boy looked up from chewing on a dismembered zebra leg startling them both. Kaseko stumbled back falling onto his hind end with an audible *“oof!”*

Jigsaw did not hold back her laughter. The blood had come from recently caught prey. Carefully painted upon the ground and upon her brother to look like devastating injury. It seemed the boy had been bribed too with his meal.

Kaseko breathed heavy as though he had, well, seen a ghost. His ears pinned his neck again as he stood. Ghosts expression was hard to read as it changed to looking over to his sibling. Jigsaw’s laughter had died down slowly. In the silence the tension could almost be carved with a knife. **“Are we through...”** Kaseko’s voice was cold. Jigsaw’s smile slowly dissipated. **“I- uh..”** Jigsaw began before cutting herself off.

Kaseko turned to face Jigsaw, a scowl on his face as he glanced at them. Something like a parent angry with a cub’s behavior. It made Jigsaw shift a bit. She didn’t like that look. Ghost too shifted moving to begin to walk away. **“Ghost...”** Kaseko’s voice stopped him and he backed up to sit besides his sibling. The pair looked up at Kaseko. Suddenly he seemed a bit more intimidating. **“Jigsaw,”** He continued, **“I don’t find you funny.”**

His voice suddenly boomed, **“What if someone else found you first? Or something worse. Now is not the time for these kinds of pranks. You KNOW about the bodies being disturbed don’t you?”**

Jigsaw and Ghost remained quiet, glancing slightly at the other.

**“Cadet!”** Kaseko’s voice boomed again and Jigsaw sat up with a start, **”Ten laps around the training ground.... Clean your paws first.”** He ordered turning to head back himself. **“Ghost get cleaned up before Commodus sees you. That’s an order!”**

Jigsaw stuck her tongue out to Kaseko's back. **"Who does he think he is?!"** She questioned aloud once the lieutenant was out of ear shot. Ghost just sat quietly next to her.