

Read Novel Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 71

Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 71-Natalia:

I woke up to Blake letting out a low growl, making my heart race.

The fact that we managed to sleep last night to begin with came as a surprise to me. Especially since I knew that the night had been rough on the two of us.

I frowned in confusion as I opened my eyes, and looked at my husband who was sitting up, glaring at two women, witches, standing by the door as Drake entered the room we were sleeping in. I had to admit, it took me a few seconds to recall the fact that the two of us were not alone in the room, and though we both had our separate beds, we still chose to sleep in one another's arms. The last thing I wanted or needed was another night without him. The two of us have had enough nights of that.

"You seem to grow more aggressive as days go by, I have noticed, brother." Drake said, shrugging his shoulders. I frowned at the sight of the man who looks like he has lost more than half of his weight in less than a day. His eyes met mine and he smirked, angering me more than I already was. "And you more dashing through you just woke up."

The fact that he was casually flirting with me in front of my husband, his own brother, was something that I couldn't understand. I wasn't being delusional, I knew that. The man didn't even respect that he had a woman in his life, witch or not, and had Myla tied to him, claiming that he was 'in love' with her. A mate that he rejected who was also suffering a fate that no one wanted to be in, and he was now flirting with me.

I had to stop Blake from attacking his brother who was trying to stir a problem. I could tell that he was finding joy in annoying his brother, but I didn't know how much whatever rubbish he was doing was going to last. If anything, I knew that he would be getting in more trouble than he could afford, and that was something that he didn't seem to understand.

If anything, the man was dying right before our eyes and yet, he didn't seem to care. He simply wanted whatever task he had in mind to be done with. He didn't understand that the ending of this would be on him as well. The witches, regardless of whether or not he survived whatever Riya did to him, would not let him live. They were taking advantage of him. Their eyes as they studied the scene before them told me that despite not spending a long time here, and

yet, Drake, who has been with them for a long while, was blind enough not to see it.

Elijah sped toward the wolf whose eyes widened in surprise when he found the vampire standing face to face with him. Ariana, who was just waking up, wrapped her arms around herself. I could tell that whatever was happening annoyed her, especially considering the fact that she was initially mated to the man.

I didn't know what her story was, her real and full story, but I knew for fact that she was in more pain than she was letting out. It was something that I wouldn't wish for my enemy, and she, a kind girl like her, was going through that pain on her own without even showing it. It was something that I didn't like, and that was something that I couldn't lie about.

"Is there anything that we can help you with, wolf?" Elijah said before speeding behind him. He bared his fangs as he let his hot breath hit the man's neck. He was about to dig his teeth before his body floated and his back cracked, making my eyes widen as the two witches glared at him. The man wailed in pain, and had it not been for Blake holding me down, I would have rushed toward him, but that was what Drake wanted. He wanted me away from Blake for him to try and use me to break my husband, and that was not something that I was going to give him.

"Start getting ready, we are going to feed you before you start your first of events." Drake said, and I frowned. The man was literally treating us like some pests that he was feeding to kill. If anything, I believed that it was the case at this point. The man was a psychopath, and I could literally expect anything from him at this point.

"You are going to regret this, Drake." Riya was the first to speak, reminding him of the bite that he got. He limped toward her only to stop when she raised an eyebrow at him, creating a barrier between us all.

"Don't worry, demon. I will enjoy every second of this regardless of what you might think that you can do." He said before turning to the door. My heart raced against my chest, and turning to my husband, I shook my head in question, now unsure of how things were going to be. The last thing that I wanted was to be put in such a situation, but now I knew that I had no option but to fight.

I needed to get Crystal out of there, and in turn, I also needed to get the others out. They would end up dying if the tasks weren't fulfilled, and now I was put between fire and ice.

One cost my life as well as everyone else's. And the other cost everyone's life, and either way, knowing that I was here, Crystal leaving would mean my and her death as well. I really didn't know what to do at this point, but I knew one thing, I regretted revealing that I was a manipulator to begin with. Somehow, something inside me tells me that none of this would have happened IF I chose to simply stay quiet about it.

"Are you okay?" Blake asked, running his finger over my thigh. I knew that he was well aware that I was concerned about this, I knew that he was just as concerned. I didn't need to lie to him about how I felt, it was something that I knew very well. If not my mind, I knew that my love could read my expression as easily as reading a book, and that was something that I wouldn't be able to escape no matter how hard I tried. I just hated that he had to see how scared I was right now, and how much pain I was in. And at this point, I didn't even know whether or not he was getting in my mind again. All that I could truly see was his pain in his forest green eyes.

"I'm lost in my thoughts, that's all." I said, and he nodded before motioning for me to get up as he stood. I knew that he was still upset after last night's conversation. And I didn't need to get in his head to know what he was thinking to know that he was hurt. But he also knew very well my reasons, and that was the most important part of it. His eyes that once provided me with safety and warmth by just looking at me now held more pain than he would ever be willing to let out, and I didn't know what to do about it.

Now that we have spoken about everything, the two of us would know whether or not things could be solved. It was just a matter of time for us to decide, accept, and speak it out to one another.

However, my main concern wasn't that when it came to our relationship.

It was the fact of how things would be AFTER these games. Whether or not we would survive, or whether or not we would choose to be together. Yes, the two of us were supporting one another now, but we were in a tough situation. Would that be our reality when all this was over? Would he still love me the same way? I didn't know.

But I did hope for the best, and I was going to fight for it to be so.

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Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 72-Blake:

I wrapped my arm around my wife, pulling her to my chest as the two of us ate.

I had to admit, I was still in pain after our conversation last night, but right now, this was not what I had to keep in mind.

With everything that was going on, I knew that I had to understand her own point in this. The woman was in more pain than I was, and that was something that I couldn't deny.

I, as her husband, caused her more pain than she was supposed to handle, and that was something that I needed to make up for.

I knew that if it were Jordan, I wouldn't have allowed this to happen, and therefore, I knew that I needed to earn her forgiveness rather than expect it. I, myself, wouldn't have handled what I put her through.

"You need to eat, baby girl." I said, breaking whatever train of thoughts she was having. I knew better than to get inside her head right now. There were things that I needed to respect when it came to her privacy and thoughts. And the fact that I knew that she was concerned about me being upset was something that made my chest swell as it showed me that despite everything, she did take a second to care about how I felt.

She turned to face me and I cupped her cheek before leaning in to kiss her. My kiss was gentle and loving, taking her off guard. I knew that the two of us were around others, but that was the least of my concerns. If anything, I wanted everyone to know that she was mine and I hers.

I pulled away to look her in the eye as the two of us took deep and slow breaths before I kissed her forehead, letting my lips linger there for a few seconds while I ran my fingers through her hair. I pulled away and couldn't help the smile that formed on my lips as I saw her own smile.

It was one that I grew used to over time, and one that I didn't want to find myself living without. If anything, just the idea of being without her anymore did not feel right. Mates or not, I knew that I was deeply in love with her. And my love for her was different from the one that I had for Myla.

Myla and I grew up together, and by time, we grew attracted and attached to one another. The two of us were a couple a while before we became mates, and one day, we chose to break up only for us to turn out as mates. I had to admit, I did consider rejecting her at the time. We were young and childish, and I knew that my brother had his eyes on her. But as days went by, the two of us grew closer, and that was when I marked her in the forest one day.

How I marked her, I didn't know, but I knew that I followed my heart at the time, ignoring all rationalism that didn't seem to exist in my head at the time.

However, with Natalia, things were completely different. If anything, the woman was an angel sent to me, and that was something that I knew for fact.

The patience that she had despite my attitude. The strong personality, her forgiving heart, and genuinely kind heart were what made my heart skip a beat whenever I thought of her.

"You're not angry about last night?" She asked, running her finger over my scruff and I shook my head before leaning into her lips, pecking them gently.

"I am going to earn your love and trust, one way or the other, I am going to earn you trust, baby girl." I said, and I couldn't help but smile when I heard her heart race as she blushed. "As for being angry, I can never be angry with you, Natalia. I am more upset with myself than I can ever be with you. I know that I broke a gorgeous angel, but I will be sure that my beautiful angel finds her wings to fly."

Natalia smiled and leaned in to kiss me, letting her lips linger over mine for a few seconds before we heard clapping that forced us apart. The claps were slow and taunting, as if waiting for the challenge that was to come as a response. I smiled into the kiss before biting my wife's bottom lip, making her giggle before we both pulled away to look at Drake who was entering the cafeteria alongside Myla.

Myla's eyes met mine, and I could swear that I saw tears welling in them; however, I wasn't going to dwell on that. The woman was getting what she deserved, and that is something that I knew for fact.

If anything, she was lucky that she wasn't killed by one of the demons yet. Ariana, who was eating alongside Riya, looked up at the pair, noticing that Drake's eyes were on her. The woman wasn't stupid, she knew how strong a mating bond was. Rejected or not, the pair were lovers when everything first

started. They never did complete their mating bond, but they were about to. But when a witch decided to play her dirty games, life ended up taking a whole different turn on the woman.

Ariana was not only forced to live without a pack because of him, but she was forced to deal with the pain of losing her mate all by herself simply because she fought to be with a man who wanted nothing to do with her. It killed me to admit that I knew that life was unfair to her. She was in more pain than she ever let out, and I couldn't help but respect how patient she was as a person.

"You two never fail to amaze me with your romance, I have to admit that." Drake said, raising an eyebrow at the two of us. "I am just curious to know when it will end up dying out."

"When death does us part." Natalia said, and I couldn't help but smile. The fact that she was willing to give the two of us a true chance was something that I couldn't help but feel grateful for. It was something that made my heart swell. She lay her head on my chest as I tightened my arm around her before kissing her temple.

"Interesting, coming from a woman who almost filed for a divorce?" He asked, and Natalia smiled.

"Yes, at least I did it with dignity, and it proved to me that my mate was more than willing to fight for my love whereas his twin brother seems to be playing around with different women." Natalia said, glaring at the man whose eyes hardened. "You know, Myla, I envied you."

I looked at my wife, watching as she put her hand on my knee, gently squeezing it before I took her hand in mine and intertwined our fingers. She smiled at that before looking at Myla whose eyes were wide in both anger and surprise.

I knew that it was the fact that Natalia was actually speaking to her to begin with. Drake either brought her back to weaken me or stir Natalia, but either way, seeing as that wasn't the case, I knew that both Myla and Drake were somewhat disappointed.

"I envied my mate's love for you, and I envied the fact that the pack seemed to adore you to the point where most of them refused to accept me as their Luna." I had to fight back whimpering in pain as I knew that her words were true. Up until recently, I refused to respect her as a mate, and as a result,

most of the pack members didn't accept or respect her. What surprised me most was the fact that she rarely complained about it. If anything, it was as if she accepted things the way that they were. "It just turns out that you are a lame excuse for a female."

"Who the fvck do you think you are to speak to me in such a sense?" She asked, glaring at Natalia who gave her a cold smile. I knew that she wanted nothing more than to make everyone pay for what they were making us live; however, Natalia was the patient kind, and the thing was, if she decided to explode, then it was hell on Earth. That was something that neither Drake, Myla, or the witches seemed to process.

Natalia got up from her chair, glaring at the woman whose eyes widened in surprise as she used wind to levitate Drake, Myla, and the witches. The witches tried using their magic on Natalia but she shook her head and started a wall of fire which sucked in their magic, making it grow bigger before it shot the magic back at the witches who burned as they screamed out in pain.

Myla and Drake were forced toward the door before she crossed her arms over her chest as she turned to face me.

"I am your worst nightmare, Myla..."

Read Novel Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 73

Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 73-Natalia:

Drake stood in front of me for a few seconds before shaking his head.

"You really don't get it, do you?" He asked, his tone mocking. I had to fight back rolling my eyes at his current ignorance. The man was too full of himself to even understand what I was referring to; however, it wasn't the other way around. I wasn't as stupid or blind as he currently was.

I understood very well what game he was playing at, but I was going to make sure that we all got out of it, even if it meant me dying. My mate and husband were not going to suffer the consequences of his brother's actions, and considering that me winning would also mean me dying, I knew to put them first.

"You would be surprised about what I do and do not understand, Drake Knight." I said, putting a finger on his chest. "But I think the main issue here is

YOU not understanding what you're getting yourself into and that alone could be a problem."

"A little too confident, aren't you?" He asked, his tone mocking, and I shook my head. If anything, I was nowhere near being confident. I knew that this world was not meant to be my place of peace. I should have realized it sooner, but I knew that I was too naïve to see the facts right before my eyes.

"At least I have something to fight for, what is your cause behind this? Because as far as I am concerned, you seem to be going after greed and revenge." I asked, raising an amused eyebrow. Just the idea of him making a whole event for people to die in a public revenge sickened me, especially since I could tell that he had no valid reason for it. Most were his enemies out of actions that he or his witches might have made. Otherwise, if things were as 'unfair' as he claimed, then all these creatures would be at one another's heads right now. It didn't seem to be the fact to me, and though I haven't known any of them for long, I could tell that they have lived with the society long enough to know how to cope living with different creatures in one environment.

"Oh, really? Would you be kind enough to enlighten us about your 'cause'?" He asked and I smiled, shaking my head at him.

"You wouldn't even understand if I tried to explain it," I said, tapping his chest twice. His eyes were fixed on my hand for a few seconds, and I couldn't help but roll my eyes at his action. His eyes softened for a second, as if confused about what was going on before they hardened once more making me frown in confusion. Blake, seeming to notice what I did, wrapped his arm around my waist, pulling me back to him. The two of us studied his twin's expression carefully before noticing that the witch behind him tensed for a second.

"We will leave it at that." Blake said, choosing to be the one to talk. "Now, if you have nothing to say..."

"I do," Drake said, stopping his brother. "Level one is in an hour. Therefore, I do suggest that you start reviewing these maps and scrolls while you wait."

A few maps and scrolls appeared in front of us, and I frowned, looking at them as they opened, revealing helmets and knights. The main helmet was golden, floating over the others and it was as if a war was happening in whatever hologram we were seeing. I could tell that it was all magic, and though I knew the fate that awaited us during the period, I couldn't help but feel somewhat

amazed by the map's details and beauty. It was almost surreal. In reality, I knew that it might be for some, but to us, this was all very real, beautiful, and accurate.

"You have one hour, and I do suggest that you use it wisely." He said, looking at Blake and I. "That is, unless you decide to die."

He walked out without waiting for any of us to bother responding. And I turned to look at Blake who seemed to be just as confused as I was. "Please tell me that I was not the only one who saw what I did."

"No, you were not, and I have a feeling that I am starting to pick up what is going on." He said, looking at the door. "However, now is not the time to discuss this."

I nodded in understanding before picking up one of the maps to frown when it glowed. The blue glow shimmered and radiated over my arm before the map floated, revealing a path. My heart raced against my ribcage as I noticed that the map only moved when I touched it. The others who were using the maps seemed to have normal paper ones.

The River of Justice was written on top of the paper, and staring at it, I couldn't help but feel like my veins were threatening to pop.

A long river appeared in front of us, leading through what looked like a deadly path. Three knights emerged from the water followed by what looked like sea creatures. Though neither one of them came out of the water, their eyes turned red as I lay my finger on the river. The knights seemed to turn at my touch to the map. I pulled my finger away and their eyes turned back to normal, seeming to fade as they focused on the river.

The Island of Truth was written, replacing the first title before the whole paper shifted to a completely new drawing. Blake tightened his arm around my waist, holding me upright as the two of us looked at the map.

A dark forest appeared, none of the trees had leaves on their branches, and one could tell that they had been dead for a while. An owl flew in the dark night before landing on top of what looked like a reaper's scythe. The reaper had no face but the words 'answer the question with all honesty or die,' repeated itself in the air before the owl flew once again. I looked at Blake for a second before he nodded, assuring me that he was there for me. I knew that

he was also scared of what he was seeing. This was not something that we were used to and the amount of magic could be felt within or veins.

The sounds around us seemed to be blocked and the only things that I could feel or hear were my mate and maps. Nothing around seemed to exist anymore and now, it was like time was truly relevant and did not exist.

The Heart of The Lion, replaced the previous title revealing what looked like a door with the face of a lion. A keyhole and a gong were the only things that could be seen; however, the dark and stony path told me that I did not want to know what lay behind that door. Helmets flew by the door before the golden helmet appeared once again, this time, landing on top of what looked like a stand for it. The helmet landed on it before being sealed as if waiting for a result.

Then suddenly, as if it didn't exist at all, everything faded and the room lit up again. Voices and clatters around us could be heard, and it was like no one had seen what we were seeing. If anything, everyone seemed to be busy doing their own thing as if what we just experienced didn't exist. Most of those who were in the room were already heading out, leaving to wherever it was that we would be taken to. The fact that this whole thing would be done publicly didn't escape my mind, though how it was going to be done without raising questions from people, I didn't know; however, now was not the time to question it.

I looked at the watch that was hung on the wall to frown when I noticed that it had been an hour already. And I couldn't help but feel my heart race at the fact that it barely felt like a few minutes.

"Blake, Natalia, what are you two waiting for?" Elijah asked, nodding at the door as he held on his map. Each one of them had their maps in their hands and it seemed like the 'groups' that initially formed were now broken into even smaller groups. That fact alone was alarming to me as I knew that now things were going to be different.

These smaller groups would break into smaller and smaller groups until even lovers no longer know one another. It would be a game of lives, and that game is not going to be one that is easy. If anything, I knew for fact that it would be a game that questions our very existence. And that is not something that I wanted to think of.

"Blake..."

“It would be us against the world, baby girl.” He said, answering my unsaid question. I didn’t even know how I was going to voice it out if I had to; therefore, I was thankful that he chose to respond without the need to do so. “Until the end of time, this is how it’s going to be...”

Read Novel Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 74

Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 74-Blake:

We walked through the hall, heading where we were guided by three witches toward what looked like an empty theater field.

I could hear the crowd’s cheers of excitement from above. We were right under the podium, and that meant that the ground beneath our feet was going to rise until we reached them.

These people were going to watch us publically fight for our lives, and what sickened me even more was that neither one of them was aware that this was going to be a public execution. They didn’t know how serious this was or how things were going to be. And I doubted that they would, that is unless one of us dies in front of them. That was going to be the only thing that was going to turn the tables. However, by then, I doubted that they would be able to do anything. It was already too late as it was.

I stayed completely quiet as I kept my arm wrapped around my mate, noticing a different behavior from the others. It was like neither one of them knew the other anymore as each one held onto his map for dear life.

Those who were supposed to be on one side were now more or less playing against one another without mentioning them. Some were even of the same kind, and that fact alone came as alarming to me. If this was the case when we didn’t even enter the first level, then I didn’t know how things were going to be in further ones.

“You two seem to have made it.” Drake said, raising an eyebrow. “I have to admit, I expected you to cower down, but it seems to me that you still have more than just a little talk on you.”

“And you seem to want your life on the line. Though judging by how fatigued you look, I can already assume that you are well aware that it is indeed on the line.” I said, looking the man up and down. It killed me to speak to him the way that I was, but the man didn’t even know that he was being used by a bunch

of witches who wanted nothing from him but his life. I doubted that he even saw that he was used.

However, judging by what Natalia and I saw earlier, it was like the man was under a spell. The panic that the witch behind him had made me frown, and seeing his eyes soften almost completely only made my heart ache. The man came back momentarily before the witch put him back under his spell. That alone worried me.

How long has the spell been going on? Was it the reason why he changed on all of us all of a sudden? Did my brother truly lose himself to a witch's spell?

"You two are going to be enjoying this the most, I can already tell." Drake said, and Natalia shook her head, giving the man a sarcastic smile before making him float in the air. His eyes widened in surprise and he shook his head, trying to extend his legs as if he would be able to touch the ground beneath him. However, using wind, Natalia kept making him and the witches behind him rise in the air.

"I am curious to ask though, how do you plan on getting down to host your 'show' right now?" She asked, raising an amused eyebrow at the man who growled. I smirked and shook my head at my beauty who knew exactly that she was playing with fire. I knew that it was a fire that she played with very well. If anything, she was a manipulator who was to play with the fire that SHE wanted.

The witches tried stopping her; however, a shield around us stopped whatever spell that they tried casting and she rolled her eyes. I could see the power from the spell radiating on the shield and it alone told me that they did not intend to play clean; however, to what extent was my wife willing to take this, I didn't know. "Put us down."

"Or else?" She asked, raising an eyebrow. Fire formed under them and she put the witches down, watching as they tried jumping wanting to escape the fire that was to eat them alive. I knew that she wouldn't burn them, this was a method to warn them of playing with her. A fire puddle formed under my brother, making his eyes widen as he tried staying up in the air. Everyone in the room laughed, watching as he tried holding himself up as high as he could to ensure burning.

“What do you want?” Drake asked, wanting to persuade. Natalia stayed quiet, studying his expression before the fire died down, taking the two of us by surprise as a whimper of pain escaped her suddenly.

The two of us frowned in confusion and I shook my head in question at Natalia who shook her head as her body dropped as if shocked by electricity. The two witches were also confused, letting me know that it wasn't them.

Fire burned my skin, and I couldn't help but find myself on my knees as if something was pushing me down.

The familiar scent of Jaiden filled my nostrils, taking both Natalia and I by surprise as we saw him walking into the room with cold, heartless eyes. Nikita took slow steps forward, standing one step behind Jaiden whose eyes were fixed on Natalia who shook her head.

“Dad?” She asked, frowning in confusion as she tried recomposing herself.

“I have to admit, it is sad to see you on the other side of this, Nat.” He said, his tone colder than it has ever been, making my breath get caught in my throat at what he was doing. “But it is you who made her choice, and considering that I believe that it is about time that you died, I think that the game would be a pleasing way for it to happen. Your story would never be forgotten as the ‘hero who died in the end.’”

“Why?” She asked, shaking her head and he smiled, his smile devious and not reaching his eyes despite his daughter's obvious pain. I wrapped my arm around my wife, holding her to my chest as the two of us got to our feet, standing in front of the man who called himself her father. The man pretended to care enough about her to ‘train’ her, and if anything, he claimed to be protecting her as her father.

“You were a mistake, little one.” He said, shrugging his shoulders. “Killing you would make me lose your mother, I have to admit that much. I don't want to end up losing the one woman who I love most in this world; therefore, this would be an easier solution, don't you think? You know, at least the whole world would see that I had nothing to do with it, and better yet, I would be seen as the sentimental father who has lost his child.”

“You are fvcking sick.” She said, shaking her head as tears fell from her eyes. She went to approach the man, but I knew not to allow her to. At this point, I didn't even want to think of what I could and couldn't trust him with. The man

was playing a game of ice and fire, and it was one that was getting confusing based on circumstance.

“I have been told a few times.” He said, shrugging his shoulders. “But this encounter was to remind you of your weakness and reality, Natalia.”

I tightened my grip around her, giving her the silent message not to respond. I didn't know what game the man was playing at, but I wasn't stupid, I could tell that he was using my wife's weaknesses to hurt her. If anything, he knew how to hurt her more than anyone would have, and he knew that breaking her confidence right now would do the trick of weakening her just like Drake wanted. And the fact that the others were watching did not make things any easier. If anything, I knew that it would be shaking my wife more than she would ever be letting out.

And judging by the fact that I knew that at this point, it would be us against everyone; I knew that they might end up trying to break her using the one weakness that they caught about her. It was something that sickened and hurt me; however, I knew not to comment about it right now. It was the place or time, and I knew that the last thing my wife needed was to feel like she was pitied by me. If anything, I wanted her to know that I was going to be her strength through it all. I didn't want to be the one who expected anything from her, I wanted the one to give her everything, and that also meant the support that she as my wife and mate needed.

“I suggest that you don't let all the ‘power’ that you think you are having get to you.” He said coldly as I tightened my grip around her, reminding her of my presence by her side.. “It will drain you long before you think that you have mastered it. And believe me, I will be sure to be that reminder, little one...”

Read Novel Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 75

Arranged To The Alpha Chapter 75-Natalia:

My heart raced as we entered the podium where people would be watching our ‘public execution’.

The fact that my father, the man who was supposed to protect me, was in on this too broke me more than anything in the world.

I hated admitting it, but at this point, I doubted if anything would be worth fighting for. That is, unless it was my husband's life on the line. However, as a person, I had nothing.

The crowd cheered on and flashes of lights could be seen as they snapped the pictures of the contestants. I knew that most would be choosing their favorites soon, and it would be like some pure children's game until they realized that it was the real deal.

"Nat..." Blake whispered, breaking my train of thoughts. I jumped at his voice and he tightened his grip around my waist, knowing that I was lost in the darkness of my brain.

My heart raced against my ribcage and I looked at him, my eyes broken before he cupped my cheek and kissed my forehead. The crowd cheered as they saw that, some muttered random awes, but I couldn't help the tears that escaped my eyes at that point.

I felt weak to my knees despite my usual calm demeanor, and this was not the type of weakness that I liked dealing with.

"I know that you're hurting, baby girl, but right now, I am going to need you to be strong. We are going to end up fighting more than just whatever Drake is playing." He whispered, gently wiping my tears. He rested his forehead against my own, his low purrs making me somewhat calm down despite the mental battle that I was having before he kissed my forehead again.

"I'm lost, Blake, and at this point, I don't even know what to do." I said, choosing to be honest. There was no need to lie anyway. I knew that he would easily be able to read my mind if he wanted to. The fact that he was speaking to me only told me that he wanted me to voice out what I was thinking or how I was feeling.

"I know, princess, but this is the dirty game of life, and we are going to have to deal with it somehow. I know that it is trash, and I know that it is tearing you apart, but I also know that my beauty is stronger than that." He whispered to me. "Fight for your freedom, our family, and our pack. Believe me, the rest will come by as we go, but we can't give them the benefit of doubt."

The podium suddenly roared with screams and cheers and frowning, both Blake and I looked up to find Drake walking out of the hall. His eyes were filled with light and excitement despite his obvious weakness, and I had to fight

back shaking my head at his sight. The man was playing a game of fire, and that was something that he couldn't see; however, at this point, I knew that he was blinded by the witches, and Jaiden who seemed to be playing a dark game. The man was breaking everything that his ancestors worked on by making this deal with the witches, and the thing was, I didn't know how he was going to end up surpassing this.

"It seems like our love birds have been interrupted, but you know, the games have started." He said, looking at both Blake and I. I had to admit, I wanted nothing more than to end this contest to simply blow his mind off. The man was like a plague, and we needed to end him, his witches, and whoever else was allying with him before it was too late. Otherwise, we and everyone around us were going to get into a deep mess that neither one of us wanted to afford.

"So, how about we begin with the first level?" He asked, smiling at the crowd who cheered on. The map, similar to the one that Blake and I had, appeared on the screen, revealing the challenges that we were going to face, and both Blake and I stared at it for a few seconds as we saw the darkness of the places that we were going to go to. People, mortals, clapped their hands, and children gasped at the sights before their eyes, some growing excited, others wanting to hide behind their mothers.

"Our contestants are required to reach the helmet and give it back to the worthy Knight of The Night. ONLY one helmet would be able to pass, and whether our contestants choose to work individually or as teams would not make a difference." He said, looking at us all somewhat paired in groups. Well, most were in groups, when it came to Blake and I, it seemed like everyone was currently avoiding us after the backlashes that we were having from everyone. It seemed to me that they were more scared about having us as partners now that they knew that conflicts were rising between us and those who were hosting this event.

The crowd cheered again before the podium completely shifted. This time, turning into a river that made my heart race as I recalled the map. At the end of the river, three knights appeared, ready for the fight. Behind them, sea creatures, females to be more specific, enchanting those who listened to their voices, more specifically, the males who were around us; they were mermaids...

Blake looked at me for a few seconds before connecting his lips with mine in a kiss that seemed to be more dominant than gentle. It wasn't something that

he tended to do when we were in public, but I knew that he was fighting back the mermaid's effect.

"Focus on my voice in your head." I said in his mind and he smiled before nodding.

The two of us were the first to walk toward the river and that was when the knights' eyes changed from the normal black color to red. The mermaids' laughter filled our ears, it was piercing and frightening. But I wasn't stupid to think that it would be for long. It was only a matter of time before their true colors showed.

"We are going to need to cross the river without stepping on the water." Blake said, and I nodded. Riya was already floating while holding Ariana while Elijah was speeding past the knights. I had wind raising both Blake and I as we went to cross the knights; however, we were stopped when the knights grew triple their sizes, noticing that we were trying to flee.

I looked at Blake whose canines were already bared, his wolf acting on instinct. And the same thing seemed to happen to Riya and Ariana who were standing by our sides. Elijah was knocked down by one of the knights, and it wasn't long until one of the mermaids emerged from the water, cooing a gentle lullaby that had his eyes glowing blue as he fell into her chant.

Fire formed on my palms, catching the knights' attention before Riya and Ariana laughed at the momentary distraction and went to escape. They didn't even bother looking at Elijah who was getting dragged by one of the mermaids toward the water. The vampire was going to be dead if they managed to get him inside, but that didn't seem to phase any of them.

I threw the ball of fire on the knight only to be surprised that it didn't hit him and instead, it retracted toward me, making my eyes widen before I blocked it from hitting both my mate and I.

"We are going to need to find a way to cross the river without them being around." Blake said, speaking out loud, and I nodded. My heart raced against my chest as I heard the splash of water before someone struggled to get out. Loud shrieks filled my ears, making my heart race and if that wasn't enough, a clock suddenly appeared.

The sounds of its ticking made me more nervous than I already was; however, forcing myself to control how I was feeling, I looked at my husband who was already ready to attack one of the knights as he went to fling his sword at us.

Blake wrapped his arm around my waist, forcing me to use my own power as we stood on top of the blade. The people watching us screamed and cheered, and as if on instinct, ice formed under my feet as we glided on the blade. The knight seemed to freeze and Blake raised an eyebrow at that before he nodded.

“Freeze the river.” He said, and I looked down at where Elijah was to find that he was an inch away from getting into the water. Three others were already inside, fighting to get out, but the mermaids seemed to be dragging them.

“Blake, we are going to end up killing them...”

“At this point, we both know that they are dead. Might as well save him while we can,” he said in my head, nodding at Elijah. I knew that he also meant us, but that was a whole different story. We needed allies and at this point, it seemed to me that we were completely alone as most simply wanted to get away with their own lives.

I nodded and forced myself to focus on the ice, freezing the two giant knights before the river and the smaller one which had one of the girls in his grip. His sword was already in his abdomen, making my heart drop as her body seemed to freeze with him. Blake and I slid down the knight’s body, and he grabbed Elijah, pulling him away from the mermaid before she touched his face, pulling him back, snapping him out of the momentary daze that he was in.

The man’s eyes widened in surprise as he regained his consciousness, but that didn’t last for long before he ran, trying to escape the falling knight. I took my husband’s hand and the two of us flew away from the knight, heading toward the next door, leaving those who couldn’t cross behind as screams and wails of fear and pain filled the air.

Blake looked at me and I took a deep breath as I looked at the man we just saved. He didn’t even bother thinking twice before running, and that was something that I couldn’t get out of my mind.

“The man would have given us up for his own life, even after we saved him.” I said, and Blake nodded, his eyes hardening as he glared at the vampire.

“It truly does seem like it is the two of us against the world now,” Blake said, looking me in the eye as the crowd cheered for those who passed the first round of the first level. “For now, let’s focus on the tasks that we have in hand. As it is time for round two...”