

# Chosen Mate Of The Beastmen Empire

## Of The Bea 441

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Her confidence threw the agent off. Honestly, the gossip was so out there it barely seemed credible

After mulling it over, he calmed down but stayed cautious. "Stop the bots quick- she's still Seafarione

Trash talk was normal in the biz, and some troll attacks were small fry, but if Nyx got mad and sicced Seatation on them, it would be troublesome.

Her initial fire cooled, regret creeping in as her eyes flickered. "Fine, got it."

She opened her phone to call the troll company, then froze, her face paling visibly.

"What's wrong?" the agent asked, his chest tightening too.

She didn't answer, staring at her screen, muttering in disbelief, "How? Just one morning, So fast?"

In mere hours, the troll ring got flipped upside down, exposed, and pinned to the wall by official posts,

[Cracking Down on bots, Protecting a Clean Web]

[Beware the Legal Risks of "bots"-Stay Lawful, Don't Cross the Line for Petty Cash!]

[Cut Off the Gray Market, Restore Industry Integrity]

Every troll outfit she'd hired got nabbed as examples, old crimes dug up too- enough to sink them deep. The web cheered

[About time they nailed these bots-lawless jerks.]

[Knew they were full of it, blind hate-paid off!]

[Lol, unmasked so quick.]

Worse, leaks pointed at her-people cursed her name, claiming she hired them. Nyx's fans, fuming from the morning's fights, were out for blood.

Watching her follower count plummet, her heart sank. Even her own fans turned, ashamed they'd backed her, calling it a stain like a rap sheet.

"This is your 'no big deal?'" the agent said after a long pause, chuckling dryly. "Pack up and lay low-ditch the spotlight," he added, wiping his face and walking out fast, not looking back.

He had to cut ties quick or get dragged down too. He wasn't even sure if he'd dodged the big shots' hit list.

Morning work wrapped up, and Nyx ate lunch between her two partners as the head producer apologized, wringing his hands.

That's when she learned the hater was Breaking Chains' lead actress, leaving her speechless.

'Didn't she quit the show herself? Why's she acting like I stole it, all bitter?' she thought.

The producer gritted his teeth. "She flaked on me, and I knew she was shady then-didn't think she'd be this low!"

'Not just low-plain dumb. She messed with the wrong person, he thought. He glanced up at the two big shots flanking Nyx, swallowing hard, eyes darting. 'Messing with Nyx is basically suicide.'

Nyx missed his look, checking her phone to see Marilyn's posts urging fans to keep the web civil and not take revenge offline.

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Eye for an eye was fair, but moderation mattered-violence wasn't cool in a civilized world. With the star speaking, fans followed, calming down.

[Got it! I don't curse!]

[Gonna be a good little fan, no trouble for Nyx!]

[Sisters! Pull back!]

Seeing this, Nyx relaxed, a faint smile forming. Scrolling further, she hit a fanfic tagged [SeaXNyx], [Cowgirl], and her smile froze.

Both males caught her shift, leaning in to see. Nyx tried to hide the screen, but their sharp eyes won.

"Nyx," Seafarion said, clueless about [Cowgirl] but catching [SeaXNyx].

"Is this from our shippers?" he asked, using "shippers" he'd just learned, shy yet excited. "Can we read it together?"

Nyx stared at him, silent. 'Don't be so eager, please?' she begged internally. His ethereal, otherworldly face clashed weirdly with this. Reading this in public felt so wrong. Even in private, she never had the fetish of reading her own fanfiction. She opened her mouth to refuse, but Kai cut in, bristling. "Why him?"

He refused to believe Seafarion outshone him with Nyx, pulling up a slew of [KaiXNyx] fanfics, clicking the top one smugly. "Let's read this."

Nyx glanced down-[Forced], [Coercion], [Enter at Risk]-and blacked out momentarily.

"No way!" she yelped, one hand on the screen, the other over Kai's eyes, stretched thin.

"Why not?" the stubborn leopard pressed for a reason.

Nyx clammed up, scared he'd get ideas, pinching his ear instead. They bickered all noon, and before afternoon work, Nyx warned them sternly. "No looking, got it?"

She'd never read fanworks, but she'd heard how wild fans could get. Seafarion nodded meekly, and Kai agreed too. But her nervous, blushing fuss only stoked their curiosity-'What's in there?' they wondered.

After wrestling with it, they chose to sneak a peek behind her back. At the set's logistics area, staff buzzed around, spotting the two big shots rush out, flustered, and not return for ages.

'What's up? Another incident?' they thought. They checked phones-no new drama; the morning's haters were cleaned up, no more trouble brewing. 'Not Nyx- related-maybe work stuff?'

Big shot business bored them, too complex to care about, so they forgot it fast.

When Nyx finished afternoon work and packed up, Seafarion and Kai had recomposed themselves, looking calm, no cracks showing.

"Come to my place tonight," Kai suggested. "The mountain berries are ripe." Nyx perked up. "Sure!"

No shoot tonight, early evening-perfect for some mountain air and fun. She glanced at Seafarion, who nodded, joining in.

It'd been a while since an outdoor trip, so Nyx played till dark, picking a basket of colorful berries. The fruits were tiny but fresh and natural, washed to a sparkle- she grabbed other fruits from the fridge, tossing an orange playfully, then noticed

Seafarion blush hard.

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Nyx tilted her head at him. Under her stare, his cool facade cracked fast. Memories clicked-Nyx's eyes widened, gasping, "Did you sneak a peek at fanfiction?"

"Sorry, Nyx," Seafarion mumbled, head down, confessing. "Should I, uh, clean up all that fanfiction?"

If it was just Nyx being fantasized about, he'd be mad, but he was in it too. The versions of them weren't real, yet used their names, all wild and weird, stirring odd feelings.

'Has Nyx read this stuff?' he wondered.

"Forget it," Nyx said, rubbing her temples. "Let them be."

Seafarion could wipe the web clean if he wanted-she knew he could. It crept

her out, but no need to kill their harmless fun; they weren't hurting anyone, just creating in their corner. Or so she thought.

Past midnight, Nyx wanted to take it all back. 'What did these two learn?' she thought.

As if reading her, Kai leaned in, nipping her ear for earlier, whispering some tags slowly. And more-they could try them one by one.

Nyx nearly cried. She thought, 'Give me back my sweet, innocent partners! Fanfiction's a curse!'

For the final show, the crew switched to a huge venue, thousands of fans below- Nyx scanned the crowd, spotting sly shipping signs, her resentment bubbling up. Fans thought she was upset over the smear campaign, yelling "Nyx!" and "Love you!" to cheer her up.

The cheers roared louder-Nyx shook off the grumpiness, a warm smile softening her eyes. The camera caught it, a highlight moment, kicking off the finale with a bang, ending perfectly.

A newbie actor blew up via the show-people wondered if Nyx would pivot to singing. Then, after years of silence, global action director Jouste announced a new film with Nyx cast, sparking a domestic frenzy.

[Jouste? Holy-!]

[In my lifetime?]

[A local actor in it? Nyx? Who's that?]

Unlike rookie Nyx, Jouste was a household name across ages. Folks outside the entertainment loop, clueless about Nyx, dug into this woman working with Jouste, finding she was a total newbie.

Sure, she had killer looks, solid acting, and stunts in Breaking Chains, plus mad skills on the show-but she was so young. And there were whispers of a backer.

'Did her sugar daddy hand her this global gig?' some Jouste's fans thought. They doubted her ability, worried she'd flop worldwide. Her role wasn't small-screw it up, and it'd shame more than just her; the whole country would feel it. After a day's shoot, Nyx walked her leopard in the wilds, returning to find Seafarion at the computer. She peeked- entertainment threads, not work. "Nyx?" Seafarion jumped, almost hiding the screen, then gave up. "Someone posted that if your role gets over half good reviews, he'll eat-"

Nyx clapped a hand over his mouth before the crude bit slipped out.

He lowered his eyes, kissing her palm. "I boosted the post a bit-tons of people screenshotted it for proof." Once the film hit, that guy couldn't dodge it.

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Nyx looked closer-the post had millions of views, rocketing to top trend, the poster panicking, deleting old personal flexes.

I'm getting way too much attention now,' she thought.

Since filming began, naysayers abounded-Seafarion and Kai disliked it but let it ride, waiting for the movie to prove itself. This was their first pushback.

Nyx scrolled the guy's history, seeing why Seafarion targeted him. Thousands of posts, daily attacks on her. No grudge, yet he hated her guts. Not just her-other actresses got trashed and twisted too.

A gutter rat behind a screen, now exposed and freaking out. Nyx shook her head, not stopping Seafarion. Nailing this creep quieted similar types, clearing the air. Leftover doubts turned rational, reasonable.

The trailer dropped, flipping skeptics to hype.

[AHHHHHHHHH!] [Fights are insane!]

[That's the vibe!]

[Jouste nails it-he's still got the charm and detail.]

[Actors crushed it too.]

[So young-this is incredible!]

A few trailer clips sparked excitement, crushing doubts. Jouste even did an interview, saying without Nyx, the film might've been delayed for years.

Word of Sherilyn's sabotage spread, and fans pitied Nyx, who was hand-picked by Jouste, auditioned, and targeted.

At the wrap party, Nyx toasted Jouste in thanks.

"Hahaha! No need!" Jouste beamed, winking jokingly. "Too bad no collab with Mr. Kai this time-next chance, I'll set you two up as lovers!"

This script was fixed-Nyx's role had no romance, unchangeable.

Nyx chuckled, downing her sparkling wine. It was the weakest drink there, basically juice, but her tolerance sucked-soon her cheeks glowed red.



Feeling woozy, she rubbed her forehead, deciding to dip early, calling her partners for a ride while heading out.

Someone shouted, "Nyx!"

Nyx stopped, turning to see the film's villain. Vincent played a bad guy but was cheery in person-now drunk, face flushed. "Nyx, I like you!" Nyx's buzz vanished. She was stunned. A tall figure slipped in from outside,

silently behind her, green eyes coldly fixed on Vincent, saying nothing.

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Kai had waited outside, entering after Nyx's call, catching the confession. He moved noiselessly, like a stalking predator, barely there. Topsy Nyx didn't notice him right behind her.

After a stunned pause, she shook her head awkwardly. "Sorry, I've got a boyfriend."

Hearing that, the tense male relaxed, purring with delight..

Vincent glanced at Kai but didn't back off, nodding. "I know-he's at the set daily for you. I heard Seafarion's your boyfriend too, so, can I be your third? I really like you-like, crazy about you."

Nyx wasn't his usual type-she had a youthful look; he'd thought she was underage at first. His past girlfriends were curvy, mature-Nyx's soft, non- threatening vibe wasn't his

thing. But filming flipped that. She was too stunning, too strong. She'd conquered him effortlessly.

"Please, give me a shot," he pleaded. "I'm different from your boyfriends-if you're curious, why not try me?"

Despite his pitch, Nyx shut him down firmly. "Sorry, not interested."

She turned fast, smacking her forehead into a solid chest. After a brief scare, recognizing the familiar scent, she wrapped her arms around his firm waist, leaning in relaxed.

Kai scooped her up bridal-style, shooting Vincent a final warning glare before leaving.

"Nyx!" Vincent tried one last call, but-hallucination or not-Kai's green eyes flashed like a cat's icy stare, chilling him with

sweat.

'What was that?' he thought. He shook his head hard, blaming the booze, squatting to recover. By the time he did, Nyx was long gone.

"How much did you drink?" Kai asked in the car, sniffing her like a suspicious spouse, grilling her.

Nyx lazily waved a pinky. "Just one glass-my tolerance is trash, you know that." Mentioning tolerance reminded Kai of her tricking him, his gaze darkening as he nipped her tiny finger. He didn't bite hard, just grazed it.

Nyx teased his tongue with her finger, faking a whine. "Ow, hurts."

Kai let go, shifting to kiss her lips instead. The car partition went up-he kissed her silly all the way home.

Nyx's lips swelled slightly, pushing his head aside to switch topics and cool off before he got too eager. "When'd you come in earlier?"

She wanted to know how much he'd heard. Kai got her drift. "I heard it all. From him calling you, saying he liked you."

Knowing this jealous leopard had bolted once in a huff, Nyx played it safe. "I barely know him-hardly talked, not much screen time together."

Honestly, she had no clue why Vincent confessed-they'd only nodded hello at the set. Kai nodded a few times, no anger on his handsome face, looking pleased instead.

Once home, with no outsiders around, he swept Nyx up, heading straight for the bedroom.

"You turned him down-because I satisfy you, right?" he asked, tugging his collar

to flash his chest, drawing her eyes. Nailing courtship and keeping a mate put him at the top of the male game. Kai was smug about it.

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"Satisfy how?" Seafarion's cool voice cut in from the doorway. "Who'd Nyx turn down?"

Fresh from a shower, steam clung to him. Rushed out by the noise, he wore just a towel, bare torso showing sharp lines from shoulders to abs, like rugged peaks.

Nyx's gaze wandered again, coughing lightly, recounting the wrap party confession. Good thing no one else saw. She didn't want rumors with some other

guy.

"So Nyx is happy with us?" Seafarion's eyes twinkled.

Before she could answer, Kai sized up his rival critically. "If she was happy with you, she wouldn't date me."

'First guy on the scene, yet couldn't keep her-must be weak, unsatisfying, Kai thought.

Seafarion's gentle smile froze, turning icy on his foe.

"It was just once with him," Nyx laughed, smoothing it over for Seafarion's sake. "An accident-we weren't dating then. I went out with you because I wanted to, not because he let me down."

"Accident?" Kai frowned. That wasn't what he'd pictured. He thought Nyx ditched Seafarion for him after a test run flopped. He hadn't dug into their past, just assumed the worst of his rival.

Nyx blinked, surprised. "Didn't you investigate me? How'd you miss that?" She'd thought both guys knew her inside out.

"My ex-agent screwed me over, nearly handed me to some Mr. Williams- Seafarion saved me, neutralized the drug," she explained briefly.

Every time it came up, Seafarion felt ashamed.

"Given another chance, I'd probably still take advantage," he admitted-not a saint, driven by selfish want, a truth he'd accepted.

He took Nyx's hand, pressing his forehead to it, confessing earnestly. "But I'd do everything to keep you, not run."

Nyx rubbed his head with her hand to comfort him. Turning, she saw Kai half- kneeling, jaw dropped.

"Sorry, Nyx," Kai choked, speechless. Seafarion buried the details-he'd only found Dylan pimping Nyx to Mr. Williams, not the dirty drug trick.

She'd been hurt by a male, yet trusted him, accepted him-a demon clan guy-after who-knows-what struggle. He'd used her and bailed, hiding abroad, and now his head hung, ashamed.

Nyx didn't get his sudden mood, thinking he regretted sniping Seafarion, pulling him close to pet him. "Hey, behave-this stays in the past, okay?"

Coaxing Kai, she turned to Seafarion with the truth. "I did it because I liked you. I was clear-headed that day-it had to be you, or I wouldn't have gone for it."

With proof right there, both males pondered, feeling lucky.

Vincent was the main villain in Jouste's movie. It meant top-tier looks and skill, but he was willing to be Nyx's side guy. But Nyx didn't budge-she didn't like him, end of story. Good thing she liked them, sparing them a hopeless chase.

After a smug moment, they imagined her rejecting them-they'd never give up, hounding her relentlessly. Seafarion hugged Nyx tight, wary; Kai gripped her waist from behind, not backing down.

Trapped, Nyx sensed trouble. "What're you guys up to?"

The bickering duo suddenly teamed up, wordlessly showing off their latest "skills"

on her. They'd make her so happy no

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other male stood a chance.

As they'd guessed, Vincent didn't quit that easy. Sober, he reflected, deciding confessing in front of a rival was his mistake, so he bounced back, asking Nyx out repeatedly-dates, parties, piling on flowers and gifts.

At first, Nyx politely declined; as it dragged on, she noticed each stunt from him sparked silent jealousy at home, vented physically.

After a few rounds, she was spooked. She dodged him hard, even skipping the premiere, bolting back home.

It was Vincent's first total chase fail-he took it rough, paparazzi snapping him crying over drinks. But weeks later, no Nyx- related gossip leaked.

Cash steered the narrative-people speculated he wept over slashed screen time. Maybe taking it as a threat, he chilled out, leaving Nyx alone, scared of scarier rivals.

What if they cut all my scenes?' he thought. 'Already dumped, I can't lose my career too!

The movie finished shooting early in the year and was released late. Vincent's scenes stayed intact, so the rumors faded.

No one cared about old gossip-Jouste's long-brewed masterpiece dominated talk, presales insane, topping charts on release.

Packed with stars, Nyx still held her own, shining bright, going global overnight, becoming a national pride.

Offers snowed in like crazy. Nyx didn't rush into scripts, just took two endorsements.

Filming abroad taught her tons from Jouste and the cast-she digested it quietly, then picked a new show as lead, her first big role, on Marilyn's nudge.

Early March, the Global Gold Film Awards listed nominees-Nyx snagged a Best Supporting Actress. She heard about it mid-shoot when the crew congratulated her. She took a few days off to attend the event.

Late in that month, ceremony pics and vids hit the web fast.

[Look what I spotted.]

[Seafarion! Sitting with Nyx for real!]

[Matching outfits-official now, right?]

[Who's the hot guy beside her? Matching too, whispering in her ear.]

[Duh, Kai! The other rumored big-shot backer!]

[Huh?]

[All three just sitting there, so bold?]

[The trio's gossip's been wild online, but I thought it was too nuts to believe-  
actually true?]

Rumors had buzzed forever, but this was the first legit photo-video proof, rocking  
the net. Nyx wore a black gown, flanked by two men in matching black suits,  
sandwiching her.

Fans weren't the only ones gawking-industry bigwigs snuck peeks too. People clipped  
the footage, rewatching obsessively.

[I have to admit, it was really a feast for the eyes-wow!]

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[I'd seen plenty of beauties paired with ugly guys before, but looking at this pair,  
should I even call them a pair? Anyway, seeing the three of them sitting together  
felt like my eyes got a thorough cleansing!]

[Those two look better than most actors!]

[Yeah, it's not even close.]

[The only difference is their aura is too strong-actors don't have that kind of commanding, kingly vibe that big shots carry, haha!]

[Haha, I can't stop laughing!]

[When Nyx sits in the middle, she looks so well-behaved.]

[Our Nyx is adorable to begin with.]

[Nyx, Nyx, you're such a bae!]

[Uh, sisters, I have something to say, but I'm not sure if I should.]

[Me too.]

[Same here.]

[Seeing I'm not the only weirdo made me feel relieved.]

[With that size difference, poor little Nyx.]

[I feel bad for her.]

[I can't take it anymore-I need to read a couple of fanfics to calm down; my nose

is bleeding!] Nyx still had no idea that her shipper fans were already going wild, while fanfic writers burst with inspiration and churned out tons of stories overnight. When the camera panned to her, she innocently flashed a smile at it. On stage, the host was announcing that the next award was for Best Supporting Actress. Hearing this, she looked up, focusing her attention on the big screen.

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Clips of all the nominated actors played one by one on the big screen. Nyx tilted her head up, watching intently. When it got to her part, she felt too shy to look, but the two guys beside her stared without blinking.

"Why are you guys watching so seriously?" Nyx asked, reaching out to cover their eyes and tugging at their clothes.

Seafarion deliberately leaned into her pull, getting closer. His voice was soft as he whispered in her ear, "Nyx, you look good,"

The warm breath brushed her ear, making Nyx shiver. Then Kai's voice came from her other side. "I could recite this scene by heart."

While they were whispering, the music suddenly swelled, and the spotlight landed on Nyx, illuminating the two guys clinging to her as well.

Nyx looked up, startled, just as the presenter loudly called her name, "Best Supporting Actress-Nyx!"

If it were anyone else winning, they'd have already acted surprised or touched, then stood up to hug everyone around them before strutting onstage to accept the award.

But Nyx was still caught up in the panic of being caught whispering. Like a startled bunny, she lost control of her expression for a moment. A wave of friendly laughter rippled through the crowd.

This close-up moment made it back home online, turning the internet into a sea of laughter. Some over-the-top fans even screenshot Nyx's wide-eyed look, turning it into a meme with the caption: [Caught in the Act],

[I laughed so hard-hahaha!]

[So cute, so cute!]

[What were they chatting about? Could they let me in on it?]

[Nyx's ears turned red.]

[Did anyone notice Seafarion and Kai's looks? Really worth savoring.]

[Of course! It was so obvious! They were staring at Nyx the whole time!]

[That host sure knew how to stir things up!]



Nyx had just regained her composure and smoothly delivered her acceptance speech when the host suddenly asked, "Your gown today is stunning. Did you have it custom-made with someone special?"

As he spoke, he glanced toward Seafarion and Kai, his gossip-hungry expression plain as day.

Nyx didn't hide anything, but she also didn't want to announce her relationship status in such a grand, formal setting. She brushed it off vaguely. "Mm-hmm, it was specially made for this awards ceremony."

Truth was, she hadn't known beforehand. It wasn't until right before the event that she realized those two had sneakily coordinated matching outfits with her.

The host flashed a subtle, satisfied smile, like he'd just gotten the tea he wanted. In this industry, not denying something was as good as admitting it.

The gossip-hungry crowd left feeling fully satisfied.

[Perfect-it's official now.]

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[I approve of this match!]

[The three of them just need to live happily-that matters more than anything"]

After the ceremony, a few backstage photos leaked. One minute Nyx was wearing Seafarion's suit jacket, the next it was Kai's, sealing the romance rumors for good.

The upper crust always got the juiciest scoops first-they'd been munching on this gossip for ages.

Employees at Tanis Group had been in on it for a while too. As long as Seafarion wasn't in the group chat, they fangirled freely, shipping whoever they wanted. Some had even openly shipped Nyx and Kai before, though now they'd all jumped on the "all together" bandwagon.

Meanwhile, in the Nyx demon clan fan club group chat, the demons felt a mix of emotions. For once, the chat went quiet. They'd always avoided talking about this topic.

But no matter how much they dodged it, they couldn't change the fact that Kai and Nyx were in a hot-and-heavy romance. Now, they couldn't keep fooling themselves anymore.

[Ahhh.]

[When did they get back together?]

[Why would they get back together? How could Nyx go back to an ex?]

[This hurts, ugh.]

[Nyx is perfect in every way except for dating Lord Kai.]

[@Nyx'sLittleAssistant, how do you do your job? You're right there with Nyx-why didn't you talk her out of it?]

Helly got dragged into the mess and felt wronged. She replied: [I didn't dare.]

Helly: [Lord Kai's busy vying for her attention every day. If I got in his way, he'd definitely tear me apart, sob sob sob!]

Helly: [And it's not a reunion. Lord Kai said they never broke up.]

To think he was that lovesick. Seeing Kai so far gone, the demon clan felt

hopeless. They knew deep down how inseparable he and Nyx were-no amount of persuasion could change that.

Helly: [Honestly, I think it's fine now. It's not as bad as it seems.]

Helly: [They've been together this long, and Lord Kai's still doing great-not weakened at all.]

Helly: [And he's living so happily now-haven't you noticed?]

Anyone who knew Kai even a little could tell his energy was livelier than before, his emotions richer too. That's because he was with someone he liked.

With just a few words, Helly convinced most of the fans. The worried demon clan members mostly backed off.

[The little fox is right.]

[I hate villains who break up couples in tv shows, but now I've become that villain myself.]

[No more persuasion-they're in the honeymoon phase. Forcing them apart would just make them pine for each other more. Let's wait it out-maybe they'll break up on their own someday.]

[Since Lord Kai's fine for now, let them keep dating.]

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[@Nyx's LittleAssistant, when will Nyx's new show finish filming? When does it air? I can't wait!]

[Nyx's black dress today was gorgeous-so flattering, drool.]

[Have you noticed Nyx put on a little weight? I love it-she looks soft, makes me wanna cuddle her.]

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[Seems like the entertainment industry's been into healthy beauty since last year. Those stick-thin stars are all bulking up.]

[That's a good thing! Otherwise, Nyx starving herself for the camera would break my heart!]

The chat returned to its usual vibe, buzzing with life again after the silence.

Nyx came back home with her award, and everyone in the crew envied her while genuinely congratulating her.

The director teased her, "Your value just shot up even more. Lucky I snagged you early."

"You've got way more awards than me," Nyx replied with a grin, shaking her head. "Who knows, maybe this show will win something too. We're all riding your coattails to the top."

The director loved hearing that, and so did the actors. It lit a fire under everyone, filling them with ambition. They threw themselves into filming with extra effort.

With the whole team united like that, plus Marilyn's sharp eye picking the crew, it'd be hard for the show not to blow up.

At the celebration party, after a few rounds of drinks, the director's face glowed

red as he kept praising Nyx. "Nyx is really the industry's lucky charm!"

Since she'd started, every project she touched-movies, shows, lead roles, or supporting ones-turned into a hit. That wasn't something money could buy. Plenty of stars got pushed hard but never made it big.

Nyx was different-she was blessed. Their show, thanks to her blessing, soared from the start. Ratings topped the charts, reviews across platforms were stellar, and at this rate, awards were a sure thing.

The director called out, and the actors chimed in, toasting their lucky goddess one glass after another. Even though she was just drinking soda, Nyx couldn't keep up. She slipped away to the bathroom during a break, letting out a long breath.

The window was open, and from the mirror, she caught a glimpse of something. When she glanced up, her peripheral vision seemed to spot a small black shadow crouched there.

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## **Of The Bea 444**

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The shadow's shape looked kind of familiar.

"Helly?" Nyx asked tentatively. After a few seconds of silence with no reply, she figured it wasn't Helly. Maybe a stray kitten.

Nyx walked toward the window, pulling a homemade, high-protein, salt-free sausage from her pocket-something she always carried to lure stray cats and dogs to her rescue shelter.

With her knack for animals, cats and dogs often got drawn to her, and she'd grown used to it. As Nyx got closer and looked carefully, the black shadow vanished in a blink, like she'd imagined it. She stood there confused, peering out the window.

Back in the private room, the director raised his glass again but paused when he saw her empty seat. "Did Nyx leave already?"

"No, she went to the bathroom," someone next to her spot explained.

But his question made them realize something was off. They exchanged looks. "It's been half an hour-why isn't she back yet?"

Someone tried calling Nyx, only to find her phone was off.

"What?" The director's heart sank. He pulled out his phone and dialed Marilyn.

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When Nyx came to, her eyes were blindfolded, and all she saw was darkness. Her hands were tied, and her mouth was taped shut. She stayed still for now, letting her sluggish body adjust. She figured she was probably in the back seat of

a car.

Even though she didn't move, the person in the passenger seat noticed she was awake, turning to glance at her without saying a word. The driver, though, spoke up when he saw. "She's awake?"

Then he grinned and chatted at Nyx. "Don't worry, we just want to borrow some cash. We won't off you that easily."

"Kidnapping for ransom?' she thought. Since they knew she was awake, Nyx saw no point in playing unconscious. She propped herself up with her elbows, frowning.

She'd let her guard down, sure, but the one who knocked her out and took her wasn't human-it was a demon clan member.

Because she never suspected small animals, she'd walked right to the window without a second thought, and then she was out cold.

'But why would a demon clan kidnap me for money? Did they have a grudge against Kai? Are they defying his authority?' She thought.

Up front, the driver kept rambling. "Seafarion's loaded, right? Global richest guy! He wouldn't skimp on ransom, would he?"

He didn't name a specific amount, just chuckled, "Our hundred or so brothers are counting on you for the rest of our lives' worth of riches!"

Nyx got it—he was planning to demand a fortune. 'But why Seafarion? If they have a beef with Kai, shouldn't they be targeting him instead?' Nyx thought. She was puzzled, but with her mouth taped, she couldn't ask.

The driver hummed a tune, clearly in a good mood. After a bit, he got bored and started fishing for gossip. "Hey, I heard you've got another boyfriend, huh? Online they say he's some big foreign noble. Probably just rumors, right?"

"If he's legit, why's he hiding so no one can dig up anything? Isn't that just smoke and mirrors?" he asked, glancing at Nyx in the rearview mirror. "Tell me the truth- is he just some pretty boy you're keeping? Nod if yes, shake your head if no. 1/3

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"Man! Seafarion's cool with you using his money to keep a side guy? Is he crippled down there too? That foreign pretty boy must be good in bed-look at his build, seems like he's got it going on."

"Shut up!" the passenger finally snapped.

His voice dripped with anger. "Keep yapping nonsense, and I'll toss you out."

The driver clearly feared him. He clammed up instantly, only muttering after a long pause, "Toss me out, and you can't even drive."

Nyx was speechless. She started piecing things together. The passenger seemed to be the demon clan member-maybe the one who nabbed her.

His voice sounded young, like a teenager, and he couldn't drive. He seemed green, not seasoned. Since he defended Kai, he probably didn't have a deep grudge against him, so this wasn't about revenge.

He could be a rookie demon, tricked by crooks into joining a gang and going astray.

They reached their destination, and the car stopped. The passenger stayed silent the whole time, and even the driver quieted down, leaving Nyx with no more clues to dig into.

Someone opened the door and yanked Nyx out, pushing her forward. Without sight, Nyx walked slowly. Someone behind her got impatient and shoved her. "Hurry up, stop dawdling!"

A hand caught her before she fell, then quickly pulled back. Right after, she heard a thud of bodies colliding behind her, followed by an "ouch" of pain.

"You!" the guy who'd pushed her yelled, furious. But he seemed wary of whoever hit him, only grumbling under his breath before slinking off reluctantly.

After a few more steps and down some stairs, Nyx felt the ropes on her hands come off and the tape get ripped from her mouth.

"Damn, what's with her face? How'd it get this big red mark!"

"Anyone who didn't know better would think we hit her!"

"No big deal-it works as a threat. Quick, make her record a video to rush her guy for the money!"

They took off her blindfold. Nyx blinked to adjust to the light and saw a few burly guys standing there, debating what she should say in the video and whether to jack up the ransom.

A guy in a hoodie with his face hidden stood off to the side, keeping his distance from them, looking out of place. Nyx's gaze lingered on him. If she guessed right, that was the demon clan member who'd grabbed her.

He looked scrawny, as expected. His clothes were clean but worn, hinting at a tough life.

."What're you looking at?" the hoodie guy asked coldly, his voice confirming he was the teenage-sounding one. He glared at

Nyx, and she caught a glimpse of his brownish-yellow eyes-like animal pupils.

"Ooh, got a crush on him? Hoping he'll let you go?" the burly guys noticed and started teasing Nyx. "Don't think he's soft just 'cause he's young. He's fierce, bad-tempered, and beats people up all the time. He's the one who nabbed you!"

"Flatter him all you want-better off sweet-talking me!"

"I will protect you, keep you from getting hit!"

"First time I've seen a celebrity up close-damn, she's hot!"

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Sure, the tape left a red mark on her face, but it didn't dim her beauty. The kidnapper eyes roamed over Nyx, and soon their thoughts turned dirty, their words getting flirty

One of them reached out, trying to put an arm around her shoulder playfully. Nyx was about to dodge when a gust of wind whooshed by, The hoodie guy lunged, landing a punch that sent the grabby kidnapper sprawling

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The chaos lasted only a moment before it settled. The guy who got hit tried to fight back but took a few more blows. Beaten worse, he gave up, shrinking into a corner with a bruised face.

In the clutch, none of his so-called brothers stepped up for him. They all looked away, pretending not to see.

No kidding-that kid was freaky. He'd stormed in alone before, and even their boss with a gun couldn't stop him. They'd all just get thrashed if they ganged up.

The vibe got weird and quiet. Even when they made Nyx record the ransom video, the kidnappers lacked any real menace.

Nyx scoped them all out and got a rough idea. Just a bunch of lowlife punks-a ragtag crew, not some big-time crime ring. They probably relied on this demon clan kid's skills to pull off her kidnapping.

Seafarion and Kai would likely track them down soon. Figuring this out, Nyx felt less nervous. This wasn't her first kidnapping, come to think of it. She had some experience and stayed pretty calm.

The kidnappers kept eyeing her, totally shocked that she wasn't crying yet.



After filming the threatening video for her family, she didn't flinch or skip a beat. She delivered her lines smoothly, like she was on a TV set or something.

With the hostage so chill, the kidnappers felt deflated. The burly guys who'd planned to mess with her lost interest, just warning her, "Stay put, before filing out. The hoodie guy left last, not looking back.

The iron door clanged shut and locked tight from the outside, blocking out all light. The already dim room got darker. Nyx looked around—it was a small basement, damp and moldy, empty of furniture or windows. That iron door was the only way

out

She walked over and pushed it a few times, confirming it wouldn't budge. Giving up for now, she found a less filthy spot, folded her jacket to sit on, and settled down.

Her phone was long gone, taken by the kidnappers. She rested her chin in her hand, staring at the door, lost in thought.

She wondered what time it was and how long she'd been missing. Seafarion and Kai were probably looking for her by now. They must've been worried sick.

Even if they hadn't tracked the kidnappers yet, once the ransom message went out, it'd be easier to pinpoint her location.

While she was thinking, the iron door creaked, startling her. She thought, "That fast?"

Seeing a black shape squeeze through a crack it forced open, she snapped out of it, realizing she'd misjudged. It wasn't rescue—it was that demon.

He was a Dark Fox. No wonder he'd seemed familiar. From a distance, just by outline, he really wasn't far off from Helly. Pointy ears, fluffy tail, jet-black fur, and glowing eyes in the dark—he stared at Nyx, studying her closely.

Nyx studied him back. The light was too dim to see clearly, but she picked out the obvious stuff—his beast form was skinny, and his tail was only half there, like it'd been through something rough.

Nyx reached into her pocket, pulled out the sausage, and offered it. "Want some?"

Dark Fox's eyes widened, clearly thrown off by this move. Snapping out of it, he stepped back and refused flatly, "Put away your tricks—they won't work on me."

"Keep it for yourself," he sneered. "Who knows how long you'll be here? They might not even feed you."

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His tone was harsh, but that young voice and fluffy little body didn't faze Nyx. 87%1

She set the sausage aside and asked gently, "Why not go to Kai? He's got programs to help struggling demon clan members -jobs, basic supplies. If you can't work normally because you don't have an ID, he could set you up with a human identity.

"Shut up!" Dark Fox cut her off, bristling with embarrassment. "I'm not struggling! I can eat just fine! Don't mention Lord Kai again!"

'Lord Kai?' Nyx paused, caught off guard. She hadn't misheard-there was reverence in his tone. Her earlier guesses crumbled. She eyed Dark Fox, trying to figure out why he'd kidnapped her.

He glared back and decided to lay it all out since it'd come up. "They brought you here for money. I didn't. I want you to leave Lord Kai."

"Why?" Nyx asked, more confused. "Do you like Kai too and think I'm not good enough for him?" she guessed, following a stan's logic.

"What nonsense is that?" Dark Fox snapped, practically exploding. His fur puffed up as he darted over, inspecting her. "Are you clueless or just pretending? When demons pair with humans, they die young! Don't you know that?"

'Lord Kai has even revealed his demon clan identity to her-how could he not have told her something this big?' he thought.

Nyx's eyes widened in shock. She really didn't know. She thought, 'What kind of rule is that?'

Seeing her stunned, Dark Fox eased his bared fangs but quickly showed them again. Right-this human chick was an actress with killer skills. He couldn't let her fool him.

Nyx ignored his shifting expressions, rubbing her forehead with a headache. "He never told me any of this. I'll talk to him."

Logically, it shouldn't work that way. Heavenly Law wouldn't set them an impossible test.

"Could it be a misunderstanding? Have you seen a demon clan die from being with a human?" she asked, her voice tense over her partner. Absentmindedly, she reached out and petted Dark Fox's fur.

Instantly, Dark Fox froze, nearly collapsing. He barely held himself up, wanting to bolt, but his legs wouldn't move.

Nyx snapped out of it, realizing her mistake, and pulled her hand back. She glanced at the scrawny fox, seeing through his fake calm from his back, and picked up the sausage again, unwrapping it and holding it out.

The smell hit the air fast. Dark Fox's stomach growled uncontrollably. He turned slowly, eyes full of disbelief.

"Eat it-it's safe. I made it myself," Nyx said, breaking off a piece and popping it in her mouth. It was tasty, just unsalted. "It's open now-not eating's a waste."

Demon clan were beasts at heart-self-control wasn't their strong suit, not like humans. After a short wait, Nyx felt her palm warm as Dark Fox snatched the rest of the sausage.

.He scurried off a bit, head down, munching quietly. He ate fast, gulping it down like he was starving or used to fighting for food. One sausage wasn't enough to satisfy him.

Even though he tried not to look greedy, Nyx seemed to read his mind and opened another one without hesitation. This time, Dark Fox ate slower.

But it didn't soften him up. After licking his chops, he went back to his cold stance.

"I haven't seen a demon clan die from being with a human, but the older ones all say it-passed down forever. Either way, I won't let you see Lord Kai again."

Humans were no good. She might smell nice, have soft hands, speak sweetly, and toss him a couple sausages, but that wouldn't trick him.

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This Nyx chick was slick-no wonder she had tons of fans and was a huge star. Kai falling for her charm was just a demon thing. He'd help Kai break up with her. Hearing

Dark Fox admit he'd never seen the rumor play out, Nyx relaxed a bit. Sometimes rumors were just that-maybe Heavenly Law was testing their resolve

Human and fox sat there, each lost in thought, the room quiet for a while, Just as Nyx debated whether to keep persuading Dark Fox, the iron door rattled again. The lock clicked, and someone kicked it open with a "bang"

"Why's this door crooked with a gap

"Did Nyx bash it?"

"No way!"

"Where'd she get that strength?"

Two big guys strolled in, chatting, Seeing Nyx sitting, crow-legged, they grinned. "Look, the pretty lady's still here-can't

runt"

The second he heard them, Dark Fox tensed, claws out, ready to fight. But the two intruders were fixated on Nyx, ogling her, missing the fluffy shadow in the dark.

One of them-the guy Dark Foz had just beaten-stared at Nyx, sneering as he closed in, cracking his knuckles. "Damn it, that kid's nuts-not even a touch allowed. Well, I'm gonna touch, and I'm going all in!" He wasn't taking that beating for. nothing

"Randy, really? Is that okay?" his buddy hesitated, unsure. They were just in it for the ransom-once they got the cash, they had to keep Nyx safe.

"What's there to fear!" Randy rolled his eyes, annoyed at his cowardice. "We've got her here-she's ours to mess with. Just don't kill her,"

Asking the boss first, he'd probably say no to sleeping with her. But if he did it first and asked later, the boss wouldn't punish him much.

"Chance like this doesn't come twice. You telling me you don't wanna taste a top- tier star?" said Randy.

Seeing his pal daydreaming, clearly tempted, Randy waved a hand. "Go shut the door. This place is soundproof-once it's closed, no one outside'll hear a thing." Just the three of them in here-Nyx could scream all she wanted, but no one would save her or ruin his fun this time.

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## Of The Bea 446

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The iron door creaked shut, dimming the room even more. The hazy, hard-to-see vibe thrilled Randy. He slowed his steps on purpose, wanting to spook Nyx and make her scared. Doing bad stuff wasn't fun if the victim stayed too calm.

But it didn't go like he planned. Even as he got close, Nyx sat there, steady as ever. Randy got mad, muttering a curse. He crouched down to get a good look at her face.

The shift in angle finally brought Dark Fox into his view, Caught off guard, Randy stumbled back, nearly falling on his butt.

'What is that glowing-eyed thing? Whoa! A giant black rat?' he thought.

"What's up, Randy?" his pal asked, running over after locking the door to help him up.

They barely got steady when a black blur shot at them, too fast to track, claws glinting.

"Ah-!"

"AHHHHHHH!"

Screams echoed in the basement, but the locked door muffled them completely from the outside.

When the two finally crashed the door open, battered and bleeding, they

scrambled up the stairs, yelling to anyone they saw, "Rat! There's a rat! A huge rat!"

"Where's the rat?"

"In the basement? It attacks people?"

"How's there so much blood. Shouldn't you guys go to the hospital?"

"Holy crap, Randy, your neck's sliced open-go to the hospital!"

"Quick, quick! Check the basement!"

If two tough guys like them got mauled by a rat, a delicate girl like Nyx was probably dead already.

A mob of brawny guys grabbed pitchforks and rushed to the basement. Even the kidnapper boss showed up, nervous as hell, terrified Nyx had been bitten to death by a rat. She was their ticket to billions in ransom.

They'd just gotten a reply to the ransom video-her people agreed to pay but wanted to call Nyx and hear her voice to make sure she was okay.

If she was hurt before the call, they wouldn't get cash-they'd get the cops' dragnet and the richest guy's no-holds-barred

revenge.

The boss hid behind his crew, using them as shields, peeking out to ask, "How's it look?"

A few guys swept the basement with flashlights but found no rat. "Can't find it, boss!"

Blood on the walls and floor, plus a stench in the air, proved a fight had gone down, but Nyx stood there fine, her face clean

-not a scratch on her.

The boss shoved through the crowd into the basement, looking around, baffled. After a long pause, he muttered, "This rat's got

weird taste."

It ignored the tender young lady to shred his two guys like that.

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Good thing Nyx was okay. The boss went ahead and made the call Seafarion requested, putting it on speaker and watching Nyx closely so she wouldn't say anything off-script.

The call connected in a second. Nyx hadn't figured out how to calm her guys down yet. On the other end, hearing her breathing, the two guys called out eagerly, "Nyx!"

"Mm-hmm, I'm fine," Nyx said, wishing she could pat their heads through the phone, but she couldn't.

"Fine for now, huh," the boss cut in darkly from the side. "Call's done, you've confirmed what you needed. If we don't see the money soon, we won't be so nice to her.

"Got it? We've got a biting rat here that just half-killed two of my guys. So think hard before you act-Nyx's pretty face might not look so pretty if the rat gets her." Nyx was speechless. She glanced down at her slightly bulging jacket on the floor. The boss didn't notice, smugly sure his threat hit home. He laid out the deal. "No objections? Then do what I said-drop the money at the spot I gave you. We'll check it, and if it's good, we'll let her go."

As he moved to hang up, the other side stopped him. "Wait. What if you take the money and don't release her?"

Hearing the doubt, the kidnappers grumbled, insisting their boss was a man of his word, never going back on a deal.

The boss let them yap for a bit before waving them quiet. "So what do you want?"

Kai's low voice came through. "By the end of today, I'll come alone with the money to pick her up."

His tone carried a restless fury, firm and undeniable. Somehow, the boss got roped in and nodded along. After hanging up, it hit him. "Where's he picking her

up?"

The kidnappers looked at each other, panicking a little. "Did they figure out our location? So fast?"

The boss freaked out too but forced himself to stay cool, acting like he'd expected it. "They're rich-tons of tricks up their sleeves. Makes sense they found us."

"Relax, we've got the hostage-they won't call the cops. Didn't you hear? He said he'd come alone with the cash," he said, a ruthless glint in his eyes. "If they snitch, we'll kill her on the spot."

"Kill her?" The kidnappers' eyes flickered. They didn't really dare kill her. They just wanted big bucks for a lavish life-not to end up empty-handed, running from the law.

"What if they don't care that much about her and are just stalling to take us all down?" someone whispered.

"No way!" the boss shot back loudly. "I can tell if they're worried or faking it!" He sounded certain, but it was mostly to keep his crew steady.

Leaving the basement, he quietly grabbed his gun, tucking it close, waiting anxiously, ready to bolt if things went south.

On the crumbling wall of the rundown courtyard, someone perched with binoculars, scanning the road's end. Suddenly, they shouted, "They're here!"

"Huh?"

"Let me see!"

The lookouts crowded over, peering through the binoculars. Sure enough, a black car rolled their way.

"Whoa. That's an expensive ride-definitely here to pay up, no doubt!"

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"Make him leave the car with us!"

The boss hurried over, hiding behind the wall, squinting through the binoculars, one hand on his gun.

Once he confirmed it was just one car, no backups, and only one guy got out, unloading box after box of cash, he relaxed his grip, grinning. "He really came alone!"

His crew nodded excitedly, their nerves fading, chattering away.

"It's not Seafarion-it's Nyx's other boyfriend, that foreigner, Kai,"

"Thought he was just a freeloader pretty boy, but he's got guts-showing up solo like this.



With their hundred-plus crew, this pretty boy wouldn't dare try anything-he'd have to hand over the money and take her quietly.

## Of The Bea 447

### Chapter 447

The boss tucked his gun into his waistband and strutted out confidently.

He led the pack, his crew trailing behind, feeling on top of the world. But up close, he noticed his height got oorclawed, denting his swagger. He puffed out his chest, cleared his throat, and said "You-

He got one word out before Kai cut him off coldly. "Where is she?"

Meeting those bloodshot eyes, the boss flinched. "B-basement"

After answering, he snapped out of it, clenching his teeth, face red with shame and anger. On his turf, this guy dared to talk down to him and interrupt him.

It wasn't just a height loss now-it was a major hit to his pride. The boss yanked out his gun, waving it threateningly in Kal's face. "Look at this. Know what it is?" But instead of begging or freaking out like he'd expected, Kai didn't even glance at him. He barged through the gate, scanning around, breathing a few times like he had a built-in GPS, then headed straight for the basement.

"Hey, kid, stop!"

"Damn it! Ballsy little punk!"

"How's he moving so fast!"

"Stop! Hands on your head, kneel! Or I'll shoot!"

The kidnapppers scrambled after Kai, but even at full speed, they couldn't catch up. They tripped over each other instead. looking ridiculous.

Panting all the way to the basement, the boss clutched his aching chest, sneering, "Keep running-dead end. Where you gonna go now?"

He raised his gun, but a massive crash cut him off. The whole rickety building shook, dust flying everywhere, his face going pale.

He hadn't fired yet. The other kidnapers thought it was a misfire too, panicking and stumbling back, causing a pile-up on the stairs, falling over each other.

When the dust cleared, they saw it wasn't a gunshot. The boom came from the basement wall collapsing, the iron door flattened on the ground, twisted out of shape.

"You-you brought a bomb?" the boss stammered, swallowing hard, his voice shaky.

His pistol couldn't do that-not even a machine gun could. Bad guys feared worse bad guys. These guys were outlaws, sure, but not hardcore gangsters-just petty thugs who smashed stuff and collected protection money. Kidnapping Nyx was their first big score. And they ran into this.

Recalling vague rumors of Nyx's mysterious boyfriend having underworld ties, the boss suddenly felt he'd kicked a steel plate.

"Calm down, calm down-don't blow it, Nyx is still in there," he warned, forcing a smile to negotiate. But Kay's face darkened like a vengeful ghost from hell.

"Nyx, where is she?" He growled each word, slamming a fist into the wall.

The kidnapers watched, stunned, as the still-standing wall caved in with a hole, then crumbled completely, steel beams and

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all.

The boss's face went white as a sheet, hands trembling so bad he dropped his gun. He smashed a wall bare-handed. This was scarier than a bomb.

What's more, Kai glared at him like the next punch would cave his skull in.

With the door down and walls gone, the basement lay bare. Everyone saw it was empty-Nyx was nowhere in sight. She was

gone.

"How?" The boss couldn't believe it. Then it hit him like lightning, making him shudder.  
"It's him!"

"It's gotta be that kid!"

"Adrian! It's him for sure!"

That kid was freakishly strong and fast too, just like this Kai guy-way too weird. He wondered if they were some kind of genetically engineered superhumans. The boss's imagination ran wild, growing more terrified, regretting getting mixed up in this mess. He gestured wildly. "Do you know a guy named Adrian? Young, about this tall, quiet. Does he have a beef with you?"

"He's the one who egged us on to kidnap Nyx! He grabbed her, and he must've taken her away too! Quick, go-" Before he finished, Kai grabbed his collar and flung him hard to the ground."

A big guy like him didn't even yelp-he just passed out cold. The already spooked kidnapers lost it, crying and begging as Kai advanced, crawling up the stairs on all fours to escape the nightmare basement.

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A white midsize sedan tore down the road like a wild horse. It swerved left, then right, finally straightening out, but still flew like it was skimming the ground.

Even Nyx, who wasn't easily rattled, gripped the seat tight. "Slow down! Stop driving-pull over!" She could tell-Dark Fox had no clue how to drive.

After that call, when he heard Kai was coming himself, Dark Fox sneaked her out of the basement, dodging people through twists and turns, slipping out a tiny abandoned exit like a dog door, then sprinting off.

Lucky for them, Seafarion had people surrounding the area. The second they noticed something, they gave chase. No matter how fast or tough a demon clan was, they couldn't outrun gas-powered cars forever.

Dark Fox grabbed an electric scooter first but ditched it when it was slower than his legs. Then he spotted a running sedan- its owner probably at a convenience store-and jacked it without a second thought.

A roadblock loomed ahead. The white sedan smashed through it with a "bang," sending it flying. The car jolted hard, Nyx's butt lifting off the seat. Without a seatbelt, she'd have smashed into the dashboard.

"Stop already-slow down at least," she said, heart pounding, wishing she could hit the brakes herself but too scared to grab the wheel. She could only snatch the steering, not the gas or brake under Dark Fox's feet-she wouldn't win that fight.

Dark Fox stared dead ahead, glancing at the rearview mirror. "Can't slow down- they'll catch us."

Nyx's head throbbed. "You can't speed like this either! What if we crash?"

The cars chasing them seemed worried about that too, easing off, not daring to push too hard. Demon clan didn't get "car crashes." They could run as fast as cars and stop on a dime, so this didn't feel risky to him.

But her nagging wore him down. He checked the mirror again, lips tight, debating slowing down, when he suddenly saw

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emerald beast eyes reflecting back.

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## **Of The Bea 448**

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His hands jerked on the wheel. Tires screeched against the road, the sedan spinning a full circle before veering off and slamming into a tree.

The impact flipped the car. The tree snapped at its base, teetered for two seconds, then crashed down on the vehicle with a "boom." Glass shattered under the weight, parts scattering everywhere.

All the noise seemed to vanish in an instant. Kai stood frozen in the middle of the road.

His face was smudged with dirt, hands bloody. He'd beaten the kidnappers senseless, torn their hideout apart, confirmed Nyx wasn't there, then tracked her scent here at a dead run.

He'd just glimpsed Nyx's face through the window, a spark of joy flaring, when he witnessed the whole crash.

The car's lights flicked on from the impact, casting a cold, harsh glow. Kai stared at the mangled wreck, eyes splitting with rage, tears streaming down uncontrollably.

The legend said demons who paired with humans died young. He'd laughed it off as nonsense before, but now it sank in. Human lives were a fleeting few decades-barely a dewdrop to a demon clan.

When a mate died, the demon lost the will to live too. Like him now-hopeless, strength drained, soul ripped from his body. Death had never felt so close, ready to swallow him whole in a heartbeat.

The chasing cars stopped, hazard lights flashing. Seafarion shoved his door open but couldn't stand. Pain shot through his legs, overwhelming him, and he dropped to his knees, hitting the ground hard with a teeth-gritting thud.

"Sir!" Lancet jumped out of the driver's seat, sprinting over to help, but Seafarion brushed him off.

The usually polished man crawled a few steps, then forced himself up, pushing through the agony. He sped up, nearly running.

Lancet's eyes widened in shock. Snapping out of it, he yelled, sweating, "Sir! Don't go over there! Stay back!"

The car was totaled, crushed by that huge tree-anyone inside was likely done for. He saw flames flickering already; it'd blow any second. They needed to run.

No matter how Lancet screamed, Seafarion ignored him. He grabbed the tree pinning the car, veins bulging in his arms.

"Holy crap!" Lancet blurted out. 'He threw it? What? That massive tree-my prim- and-proper boss just grabbed it and tossed it aside with his bare hands? Is he superman or something?'

The tree landed right in front of Kai, brushing past his face. The despairing demon jolted, yanked out of his death wish.

Lancet's eyes bugged out, watching Kai stride to the car and rip the warped door off with one pull. That was steel-welded. Not some toy model.

The two guys worked silently, tearing the car apart in seconds like it was nothing.

They'd cleared enough space. Seafarion ducked inside without hesitation. Kai's lashes trembled, too scared to look but unable to turn away, waiting for life or death's verdict.

Nyx's feet poked out first-shoes gone, bare. Kai grabbed one, breath hitching. It still had warmth. Daring to look up, he met Nyx's round, lively eyes, clear as ever.

Nyx forced her eyes wide, blinking hard to signal she was okay. Her face was flushed from being pinned earlier. Once she caught her breath, she said, "I'm fine."

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The moment she spoke, a sudden feeling hit her, making her shudder. The guys' expressions shifted subtly too. Their eyes locked, all three sparking with joy,

It wasn't just surviving-it was more. The test was over,

Nyx closed her eyes, feeling two new threads tug at her soul. Seafarion and Kai clutched their burning chest marks, sorting

their memories.

Only Lancet was clueless, seeing them freeze up for no reason. He jumped, waving. "Run already! It's blowing up!"

His frantic shouts snapped them out of it, like waking from a dream.

The test was done-they could leave this world anytime. But since it'd keep running after they left, they figured they should tie up loose ends first.

Scafarion grabbed the car's fire extinguisher and snuffed out the flames, stopping an explosion. Kai scanned the wreck and pulled out a half-dead little critter,

As he moved to crush Dark Fox, Nyx stopped him fast. "Don't kill him."

She sighed, her expression complicated. "When the crash happened, he shielded me a bit-that's why I'm not hurt."

Dark Fox, though, was banged up bad. Sure, he'd caused it all, but letting him die like this felt off. After all, he could've jumped out alone but stayed to protect her. A split-second choice in a crisis showed true colors.

Nyx checked Dark Fox's breathing. "Let's get him to a hospital first. Save his life, then figure out what to do with him."

The mess lasted just half a day, but there was a ton to clean up.

Lancet got a crash course on what to say and what to keep quiet, then took a fat overtime bonus to handle his boss's mess.

"Dark Fox kidnapped me not for ransom but to split us up," Nyx said once they were home, just the three of them.

She locked eyes with Kai, digging for the truth. "He said demon clan with humans die young-is that real?"

Kai froze for a second. After a pause, he shook his head. "Being with a human doesn't cut a demon clan's life short."

But if Nyx died, he couldn't live on alone. He'd just figured out the rumor's real meaning-Adrian not knowing made sense.

When Kai thought about that severed tail, only half of it left, he recalled how he once rescued Adrian, who had just turned into a demon, from the hands of humans who abused animals. It wasn't surprising that Adrian chose such an extreme way to repay the favor.

But no matter what, a crime was a crime. "Once his injuries heal, lock him up for a hundred years of confinement and education, then make him serve two hundred years of labor," Kai said, sparing him only because he hadn't harmed Nyx.

Nyx touched the tip of her nose, wondering if three hundred years was a bit too long-other kidnappers usually got just a decade or so in jail. But then she remembered that the demon clan's lifespan wasn't like humans, so she didn't question Kai's decision.

She turned to Seafarion standing beside her, tilting her face up to look at him. "Your leg?"

"It's already healed," Seafarion replied in a warm tone, skipping over the messy details.

When the pain in his heart was at its worst, the ache in his leg faded into the background, drowned out. All he wanted was to get to Nyx's side as fast as possible. Once the weight on his chest finally lifted, his leg somehow returned to normal too.

Before Nyx could press him further, he suddenly wrapped his arms around her waist and lifted her up in one swift motion.

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"Hey! What are you doing?" Nyx yelled, startled, instinctively clinging to his neck as her long, flexible legs wrapped around him.

Seafarion let out a soft, barely audible hum. "I'm just checking if you have any injuries," he said.

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## **Of The Bea 449**

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Even though Nyx kept insisting she wasn't hurt, he still checked her over thoroughly, leaving her cheeks flushed red. No matter how refined and noble a male looked, when his desires kicked in, it could get pretty intense.

Finally free at last, she immediately rolled across the bed to put some distance between her and Seafarion. But she misjudged it, rolled too far, and banged the back of her head against a solid wall of chest muscle.

Nyx froze stiff. Hot breath brushed against her neck, and her toes curled up from the tension. The leopard, who'd been waiting for ages, didn't hesitate to pounce on the little rabbit who'd delivered herself right to him.

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After a hearty feast, the greedy male was already plotting his next meal.

In a drowsy haze, Nyx heard someone whispering in her ear, grinding against her, saying he wanted to delay leaving this world a little longer.

It wasn't that this world had anything worth clinging to-it was just that competing as two was a lot easier than competing as

nine.

Nyx didn't quite catch their meaning at first, assuming they had some unfinished business. She nodded slowly, still half- asleep.

The first day they stayed, none of the three left the house. The second day, they kept messing around.

By the third day, Nyx finally caught on that something was off. She pushed away the heads buried against her, one on each side. "Are you two getting a little too comfortable here?"

"What does 'too comfortable' mean?" Kai asked, leaning down to cradle her calf, rubbing it a few times before pressing his face against it tightly.

Ever since his memories returned, his skin hunger seemed to come back with them. Once he latched onto Nyx, he wouldn't let go.

"Too comfortable' means you're just chasing short-term fun and don't want to go home!" Nyx said, poking his face with her finger.

Kai leaned into her touch shamelessly, showing no remorse. "Yeah, I'm too comfortable."

Nyx couldn't help but pinch his cheek, testing how thick his skin really was. Not missing the other males back home was one thing-they were rivals, after all. "But don't you miss Gabby and Leo?" she asked. "They're your children!"

Seafarion slid up behind her, gently resting his hand on her waist. "The cubs are all grown up now. They'll have to strike out on their own eventually. Only they would stay with Nyx forever.

For a split second, Nyx actually zoned out, then snapped back to reality. "But Gabby and Leo are still so little!"

She almost let them lead her astray. Sure, some of the cubs at home had grown up and started venturing out into the world, but Gabby and Leo definitely weren't among them. They were still tiny, and their favorite thing was to circle her, calling out

"Mama."

Seeing Nyx's eyes soften, clearly missing the cubs, the two males put on a show of fatherly affection, nodding in agreement.

"Then we'll head back tomorrow," they said. As for why not today-well, they just couldn't bear to break this perfect vibe.

Wet kisses landed on her neck, and Nyx's lashes fluttered. Her thoughts scattered, and half-reluctantly, she ended up spending another day tangled with the two males. When they finally left that world and got back home, she still felt a faint

ache in her lower back.

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"Mama!" The clingy little leopard had been perched on the table, staring at Nyx without blinking. The moment he saw her stir, he knew she was back. Beaming, he leapt off the table-

Nyx's mind had barely returned when she couldn't stop him. It was like a tiny cannonball slammed into her. She slowly clutched her waist.

The males scrambled to their feet, rushing over. Zayne waved everyone off, carefully lifting Nyx to take her for a check-up.

The cub was still small, so they couldn't scold him too harshly in front of everyone. Instead, the males turned their accusing glares on Kai.

The little leopard got scooped up by his dad, dangling by the scruff of his neck, flailing his four stubby legs, desperate to get back to his mom. Realizing he'd messed up, his round eyes welled up with tears. "Mama, does your waist hurt?"

'Am I too fat? Did I break Mama?' he wondered.

Nyx came to her senses and quickly shook her head. "No, it's not that."

This body wasn't that fragile. She'd only clutched her waist out of reflex-probably a phantom pain from three straight days of indulgence.

She shot a glare at Seafarion, then another at Kai, before taking the whimpering Leo from his hands. She kissed his fuzzy face and smoothed his fur over and over. "Leo's not fat at all."

To prove she meant it, she held the little leopard in one arm, then scooped up the little Merfolk too. With both cubs snuggled against her, they perked up fast, wriggling happily like carp. Nyx held them steady the whole time.

After playing with the cubs for a bit, she took them both and headed back to the bedroom. The living room fell silent for a

moment.

The males stood there stiffly, realizing Nyx had temporarily ditched them. Their faces darkened, and their eyes locked onto Seafarion and Kai with pinpoint accuracy.

It was these two jerks who'd gotten them in trouble with Nyx. 'What the heck have they done?' they thought.

Amid the brewing tension, Jaws suddenly spoke up, "You two went through the trial with Nyx at the same time, right?"

When Seafarion and Kai nodded, his expression soured. Kian frowned too, his thin lips pressing tight. That left just the two

of them.

Sure, their bad blood went back years, but even after all this time under the same roof, they still weren't exactly buddies. They'd thrown punches in secret more times than anyone could count.

If Heavenly Law decided to toss them into the same trial world, it would be a lot of trouble.

Jaws slipped into Nyx's bedroom like a shadow, wrapping himself around her the moment he got inside. His voice was low and wistful. "Nyx, you can't play favorites with him too much."

A male's jealousy was a scary thing. He wasn't sure what he might do if he lost his memories.

The two cubs tilted their little faces up, their round eyes brimming with curiosity as they studied the grown-ups pressed together.

Nyx flushed with embarrassment and elbowed her clingy partner hard. "Sit properly." The cubs were right there-cuddling like this was ridiculous.

"Don't worry, I won't let you bully him this time," she said coolly, pinching Jaws'

ear. She remembered how this Space Pirates leader used to threaten her with Black Mamba's safety at the drop of a hat, and her grip tightened a bit.

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But an SS-level male was tough as nails. That little pinch didn't hurt him-it felt more like flirting than a warning. Heat flickered in his eyes. His head dipped lower, closer to Nyx.

"Gabby, Leo, want some watermelon?" Kian's voice suddenly cut in from the doorway.

"Yes!" The cubs threw up their hands, cheering, shattering the steamy atmosphere completely.

As Kian walked in with the watermelon, Jaws' forehead veins popped, but he forced a smile. "Take them outside to eat."

Before Kian could respond, Nyx shut it down. "Why take them outside? They can eat here."

Every time a trial ended, it felt like coming back from a long trip-her motherly instincts were in overdrive. She washed her hands, grabbed a spoon, and lined up the two cubs side by side. "Mama will feed you."

Jaws was speechless. Cubs this big didn't really need hand-feeding-they could stuff their own faces just fine. But Nyx was so eager. He couldn't object.

He swallowed his frustration, turning it into a creepy smile as he shot Kian a cold look. The tension was palpable. Even slow-on-the-uptake Nyx could smell the gunpowder in the air.

She hesitated, wondering if they should start the trial now. "How about we push it back a few years, let you two smooth things over first?" she suggested, her tone uncertain.

She was worried about these two ending up in the same world too. The moment they heard "a few years," both males panicked.

Kian shook his head frantically. "Actually, we get along great. No need to smooth anything over."

"That's right," Jaws said with a smile and a nod. To prove it, he even clapped a hand on Kian's shoulder. "We've fought side by side countless times. How could we not get along?"

Guys like them could roll with the punches. Even with amnesia, they'd never cause Nyx any trouble.

"If we fight, you can just slap us both," Jaws said, taking her hand and pressing

his face against it gently. Not to be outdone, Kian silently pressed himself against her other hand.

Nyx fell silent for a moment. Then she said, "Fine, I'll remember that."

She said it, but knowing how these two never got along, she still took them out to hang out a few times, hoping they'd work out their tempers.

They put on a flawless act, looking like the best of friends. Nyx couldn't find a flaw

in it. Seeing how eager they were, she gave in, picking a lucky day to sit them down together. "Ready? Let's get started."

She was a pro at this by now, calm and collected, but the two males were visibly on edge. Kian, already the quiet type, went even quieter. Jaws, usually all smirks, barely spoke, his usual grin faltering. This trial wasn't about life or death-it was bigger than that.

Nyx's hands were gripped tight by both of them. She couldn't pat their heads, so she soothed them with words. "Don't be nervous. It'll be fine."

Before she finished, her consciousness slipped away. With one blink, the scene before her changed completely. The room had an old-fashioned charm, like a lady's boudoir. A bronze mirror sat in front of her, reflecting a graceful figure. Nyx checked herself in the mirror, then looked down. She was decked out in jewels and finery, her face full and rosy- clearly living the good life.

Another ancient setting. This time, she wasn't a downtrodden nobody.

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She closed her eyes, letting the flood of new memories settle in. Her brow

twitched, her expression shifting subtly. This wasn't just any ancient world-it was one where people could cultivate immortality.

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Sure, cultivation was possible, but not for everyone. Only those with spiritual roots had a shot at the immortal path. Her identity was that of a mortal.

Her family had once produced a cultivator, but that was hundreds of years ago.

That ancestor barely kept in touch, seemingly cutting ties with the mortal world.

Still, the family bragged about him constantly, using his name to rake in wealth and become filthy rich.

"Get lost! Stop pestering us!"

"The head he house said we can't take you in!"

The engagement's off. Nyx's been promised to someone else. Our families have nothing to do with each other now!"

Noisy shouting came from outside. Nyx pushed the window open and spotted a tall, lean figure in the distance, standing silently, radiating gloom. "You-You're too much!" someone next to him yelled, probably his servant, arguing furiously with a few of her family members.

"Back when the Voss family was kissing up to the Linden family, you set up this engagement. Now that the Linden family's down on their luck, you flip-flop like this? Aren't you ashamed?"

The Linden family might only have my master left, but one day, we'll make a comeback!"

The lines were so familiar, Nyx couldn't help but finish it. "Revenge of the fallen noble, huh?"

The noise outside stopped dead. Everyone turned to look up at the loft. The servant, robbed of his line, flushed red and white. "Y-Yeah! Exactly!"

Kian glanced up too, his dark, brooding eyes widening slightly. A flicker of emotion

he couldn't hide flashed through them. But when his gaze met Nyx's, he flinched like he'd been burned and quickly looked down.

Just that brief eye contact made Nyx feel like the gloom around him thickened.

After a stunned pause, the Voss family snapped back, bursting into laughter. "Exactly? Exactly what?"

"Your master's spiritual roots are ruined! Where's he gonna rise to? Oh, right-he's not even a master anymore!"

"His immortal path's done for. He'd better settle down as a mortal and figure out how to beg for scraps!"

Our Nyx's a beauty-how could she marry a useless guy like you? The head of the house already found her a better match, a real immortal lord! As for you, Kian, you

had some talent before, maybe you were worthy of Nyx then. Now? Don't even think about it!"

"Go on, get out of here! Don't ruin Nyx's reputation!"

The servant was outnumbered and out-talked, tears welling up as they kept hitting sore spots.

The Linden family had been massacred by demonic cultivators, their home burned to ashes. Only the two of them-master and servant-survived, homeless. They'd hoped the Voss family, old allies, would take them in for a while, maybe even help them contact that cultivator ancestor for aid.

They didn't expect the Voss family would turn their backs so fast, no trace of past friendship. His heart burned with outrage. He turned to Kian and saw no light left in his master's dark eyes.

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Even with all this humiliation, Kian stayed calm and restrained, never lashing out.

"Let's go, Bobby," he said to the servant, turning to leave.

Self-interest was human nature. If the Voss family wanted to cut ties to avoid trouble, he wasn't going to beg

As for Nyx, today was the first time he'd laid eyes on his fiancée. That fleeting spark couldn't be ignored, but now she was no longer his. With his spiritual roots destroyed and a blood feud on his shoulders, he really wasn't worthy of her. "Kian Linden!" A shout froze Kian in his tracks. He turned in shock and saw a girl

with thick hair and good skin hike up her silk skirt, rolling it a few times. Then, with surprising agility, she climbed onto the high window and jumped-

At that moment, it was like the world lost all color. She was the only thing left in it.

Without thinking, Kian's pupils shrank. He bolted forward like a blur, tapping into every last bit of spiritual energy he had, arms outstretched.

Her soft body crashed into his arms, her sweet scent filling his senses. Nyx hooked an arm around her stunned partner's neck, grabbed his chin, and forced him to meet her eyes. "I'm running away with you!"

The Novel will be updated on this website. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!