

Chapter 111 - Dr.Luna

Lee leaned his head down and kissed her forehead. How did the tables get turned so quickly that within a day she was now actively pursuing him? He went from trying to keep his distance from her, to marking her, to her pushing herself on him. Talk about a whiplash of emotions right there. He couldn't help the wide grin that formed over his lips. He was happy. Happier than he had ever been. He wanted to enjoy it all. All stages of their relationship. The very thought of the word relationship made his chest throb in excitement. Things couldn't be conventional between them because they would have to keep a certain level of secrecy, but he wanted to do things right. Even though he craved her and desired her body he wanted to wait. He wanted to bring more to their new connection than just being physical. He wanted her... pretty damn bad. He wanted all of her though and was determined not to screw this up. She was his mate...she was his and he wouldn't lose her.

“My sweet fairy.” Lee cooed lowly near her ear. He felt her shiver from his hot breath. “I promise we will get to that part... and it is going to be great. I want to try to do all of this right and not let my mate urges take over. I want to form an even stronger emotional connection with you. So, that there will never be any doubt that it isn't only a physical attraction. Though...” Lee chuckled lowly. “I promise that is there too. All too strongly.” He nipped at her earlobe and trailed a couple gentle kisses to her neck. “Please don't continue to tempt me because I won't be able to resist.”

She shuddered as she felt his steaming breath on her neck. Heating up her delicate skin. She was honestly touched. He wanted to really build a relationship with her, and he wanted to start from the ground up. It made her feel special to him. That she was really someone he found important. She understood what he meant. She didn't have the mate pull with her. So, she never wanted to question her relationship and what it meant to him. For her... this would feel like a more... primitive relationship? It wasn't an animal driven one. It was like one that humans had for one another. Without her animal screaming at her to be near her mate this was all on her and her emotions. Though she felt connected to him. She was always driven to him. Maybe it was because he was the most beautiful male specimen she had ever seen? And he always catered to her when he was around. She couldn't help but be attracted to him. And over the years she finally recognized that feeling. She finally realized it was more than just attraction. She was in love with him. She appreciated the fact that he wanted her to fully understand his love for her. And in truth... maybe it would be good on his end as well. Lee knew he was attractive and desired. He knew there would be a physical attraction to him because... well to be honest what female wouldn't find him attractive? She wanted Lee to also know that she was interested in all of him. She never wanted him to doubt that he was the one she wanted, and it was not only physically.

She smiled and gently placed her hand on his cheek which he nuzzled into. “Is food off limits?” She scrunched her nose up to him. “I didn’t have a chance to eat earlier and right now I would be happy munching on stale bread.” She heard him chuckle and his eyes were dancing with laughter as he looked down at her.

“That can definitely be managed. I will have Titus bring some stuff up and also have Cody and your friend brought up here. There are some things we need to iron out before we go out into the public eye again.”

“Okay, but I should probably find some bottoms to put on before company arrives.” She watched his eyes look down at her darkly as they trailed down to her exposed thigh.

“Yeah, let’s see what I have. I don’t want anyone else seeing you like this. You are mine... all of you belongs to me. I don’t share... and that includes views that should only be mine.” He smirked at her and walked her over to his closet. He had some lounge pants in there with a drawstring that she could use. He might not be partaking in everything she had to offer right now, but that didn’t mean that he didn’t claim it all. He was possessive. He didn’t share. She was his. He had no clue how he would ever be able to let her go if she did have another mate out there. If she ended up leaving him for her mate... he did not know how he would ever be able to cope. It was what he had always been afraid of. He didn’t want to fall in so deep only for her wolf to claim another as her mate. Then the mate pull would lead her into another’s arms. It could happen. It was now a risk he was entering into. He would love her deeply, forever and for always.

Rhea walked back out of the closet with Lee’s pants on. She did a little spin for him. “There, all better now.” She giggled and watched as he walked over to her. He gripped his hands on her thighs and pulled her into him.

“You look perfect. And what is even better is that now you smell like me in them.” He lowered his head and let out a pleased grumble as he took in her scent. “Mmm, I’ve always dreamed you would wear my scent.” He began to feel the animal in him feel excited. His animal had claimed her as his own... but he was wanting more. He felt his fingers begin to tighten over her possessively but was able to reel his emotions in. He kissed her cheek gently and then straightened up. Clearing his throat, he said “They are on their way up.” He winked at her and swooped his arm around her tugging her out into the main room.

Rhea might have been new to relationships and men in general, but she could feel it. She was suddenly aware of his desire for her and how much he was fighting for control. How did she not notice it before? She must have told herself it was so much out of the question that she turned a blind eye to it. But it was there. Her thoughts were interrupted by the creek of the wooden door as it was flipped over. She saw Titus’s head emerge first, then followed by Cody and Kelsie.

“Rhea!” Cody yelled and quickly walked over to her. He knew that Leviathan was her mate, but that didn’t stop him from worrying about her. After all, before she was ever anyone’s mate, she was his sister. And he was her guardian. “Is everything okay? Are you okay?”

Rhea smiled and nodded her head. "I'm fine. I promise."

"I'm a bit hurt. You act like I would mistreat my mate?" Lee said with a soft chuckle and a loud gag sound was heard in the background. All eyes turned to Kelsie.

"I'm sorry. No no... honest... Rhea. I am really happ-" She retched again. Kelsie covered her mouth with her hand. "Seriously Rhea. I am really happy that you found your mate. Even if he is a-" She let out another dry heave and her eyes watered up. "Sorry. The idea of being touched by a drag blllleeeehh." Another strong gag hit her. She waved her hand off at the others. "I promise I really am happy for you Rhea."

Rhea rolled her eyes but giggled at her friend. She walked up to her and patted her on the back. "Thank you for trying Kelsie. And thank you for saying you are happy for me." Kelsie gave her a small apologetic smile.

"I'll get used to it. I promise. It's just the smell and scales." Kelsie quickly cupped her hands over her mouth and shuddered in disgust.

"Well tell me how you really feel." Lee said with slight annoyance. A kelpie looking down on a deity now that was a joke in itself.

Rhea rubbed the back of her neck and smiled nervously. "I'm sure we are all going to be the best of friends."

"So, are you planning to accept him as your mate then?" Titus asked with a sly grin as he side eyed Rhea.

Rhea looked over at him and gave him a mischievous smile. "Of course, I am. But... Titus... I know you were supposed to act like my mate and all because you were trying to allude to that but... I don't think you needed to kiss me behind closed doors for that." She watched immediate fear flash over his eyes as he realized what she had just done. A thunderous growl echoed in the room as Lee eyed Titus with dark eyes.

"No no no! Levi I would never, ever! She is teasing. Rhea you tell him you are teasing." Titus pleaded with her as he put his hands up in surrender to Lee.

Rhea giggled. "Serves you right." Rhea stuck her tongue out at Titus. Seriously, though. How did they know that she wasn't going to fall for his games? They were just lucky that she didn't. Pfft. Men. Thinking they can just manipulate all of the events and leave her in the dark.

"Well, that's a dangerous game." Lee smirked and fixated his gaze on Rhea.

"So was yours. What if I would have fallen for Titus and his advances? Then what? You were playing with emotions. Luckily, Titus being a perpetual flirt wasn't an attribute of his that I missed."

“Ouch.” Titus grabbed his chest and feigned injury.

“You’re right. This was not a well thought out plan. Which is why you know it began with Titus and not me. The young whelp still has a few things to learn.” Lee said in minor annoyance. He hated the idea of Titus having to act close to Rhea. It bothered him on a cellular level. Rhea was his and Titus having his hands on her made him want to lash out in anger.

“Well, she just showed up spur of the moment. I thought I did well for putting the plan together within a minute.” Titus shrugged. Hey it worked. Rhea was here. Levi finally had his mate, and no one was the wiser to it. “But I agree. Now we need to have a better plan formed. We don’t want any mistakes.”

Book 2

Chapter 30 Say It

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“Everyone understands then? Rhea is to be considered my mate for the time being. Lee will keep an appropriate distance unless behind closed doors.”

“So... what happens at night?” Kelsie said with a wry smile. “I mean. If she is pretending to be your mate Titus... wouldn’t she be joining you in your room at night?”

“Over my dead body.” Lee growled out.

“We have to avoid suspicion, Lee.” Titus shrugged. He was okay taking Rhea to his room. They could work out sleeping arrangements.

“No, it won’t work. I can’t accept it. I won’t allow her to sleep in another man's room. She will stay up here at night. I want her close to me.” Lee’s eyes locked onto Rhea’s. She was his. He wanted to be near her.

“What are those doors over there?” Cody pointed out to the opposite side of the kitchen.

“They are bedrooms.” Titus said uninterestedly.

“Right then. So, this is like a big apartment suite? A kitchen, a couple bathrooms, bedrooms, big living room.... Are you getting the picture? What if we all just moved up here? You could say as extra privacy for the adjusting mate and obviously her guardian would come too. And since this place is off limits to everyone no one would ever know what goes on up here.” Cody watched the eyes of the men around him. They both were on board with his suggestion.

“Good thinking Cody.” Lee praised him. It was a good idea and this way he could have Rhea close.

“I still can’t believe that you knew and didn’t tell me Cody. You are supposed to be team Rhea.” She crossed her arms and pouted grumpily.

“I’m always team Rhea. Always. It is because I am that I kept it a secret. I wanted what was best for you. And I agreed with Leviathan here that you should be the one to choose him. I don’t really care about his happiness and wants... no offence.”

“None taken.” Lee responded tersely.

“But your happiness is what matters the most. I know you were confused a bit but it is working out.” Cody beamed his signature crooked grin at her that she couldn’t help but to return the smile to.

“Ugh. I’m going to smell like a nasty slimy dragon by the time I leave this place.” Kelsie scrunched up her nose in disgust.

“Umm, first off. We are not slimy. We aren’t frogs. And second off what do you mean by the time you leave here?” Titus raised a questioning eye up to the water horse.

“Obviously, I meant what I said. Dumb reptiles. Let me use smaller words so you can understand. Kelsie. Stay. Here. Rhea’s. Friend. Here. Understand? I am not about to leave my defenseless friend to live among you disgusting barbarians without me around to protect her. I see what happens when I am not around.” Kelsie pointed at Rhea’s neck and gave Lee an accusing look. “No, I’m sticking around to make sure Rhea doesn’t get forced into going further than she wants.”

Rhea giggled at this. After all, she was the one trying to force Lee into a more intimate relationship.

“Perfect... now the place is going to smell like mossy mold.” Cody grumbled under his breath.

“It’s better than stale crackers and peanut butter Baloo.” Kelsie waved her hand off at him in disinterest.

Lee walked over to Rhea and pulled her into his chest. He felt her lean into his embrace. It was hard to believe that this was not a dream. This was real. She was willingly in his arms and also wanted him. Finally... he felt like his long lonely life was now beginning.

“BLECK!” Kelsie covered her mouth. “Sorry... it will just take some time to get used to.” She shuddered and turned away from her friend. “So gross.” She whispered though everyone could still hear her.

“Gosh Kelsie grow up. You aren’t five.” Cody rolled his eyes heavily.

“I know what a relationship is Cody. But it is like the equivalent of a frog being in love with a rabbit and forcing its nasty slimy self over its lovely soft fur. It’s just sickening. Nasty.” Kelsie shook the disgust off one more time. “Okay, I am going back to get me some clothes and mentally prepare myself for the long stay.” Kelsie abruptly turned and hopped down the hole descending the stairs.

Rhea giggled. “You know how she is Lee. Don’t hold it against her.”

“I would never. I know how good of a friend she is to you.” Lee smiled and nuzzled her head taking in hits of her scent close to him.

“Well, I’m not a fan... but I’m sure I can tolerate her.” Titus shrugged and then turned to Cody. “How do you put up with her?”

“Eh, she grows on you. And you learn to tune her out.”

“Well, I have a question.”

All eyes were now on Rhea. “So... this is sort of a big finding your mate party for dragons... so my question is what happens if Titus finds his mate?”

There was long silence between the men. Lee continued to gently hold onto Rhea. He couldn’t ask Titus to continue to pretend that she was his mate if he finds his own. It would be too cruel. He couldn’t imagine if the situation was reversed. If he was protecting Titus and having to pretend to have another mate in front of his own it would be torture. No. He wouldn’t and couldn’t do that to Titus. If that meant that he had to go public with Rhea, then he would and hope the other deities wouldn’t find out. Or that they would at least be lenient.

“We wouldn’t be able to keep up the farse if Titus finds his mate. I would not risk a wedge getting formed with his new mate because he was protecting me.” Lee answered confidently.

“Just because Titus wouldn’t be her mate doesn’t mean we have to say who her mate is.” Cody answered thinking this seemed logical.

“No, we don’t. There would be speculation for sure. And they would be wondering who I was covering for. In either case, Rhea still falls under my protection though. Regardless of whether she is my mate or not. She is my special guest and is privy to being treated as such.” Titus nodded slightly deep in thought.

Rhea stood there quietly. If the deities discover that Lee had taken her as his mate, then they would take him away. How could she rescue him from there if they did take him? What was the ace that Grandpa Sage was talking about? She needed to talk with him. He would talk with her and tell her what she needed to know. Well, at least she hoped he would. She knew Lee would never tell her if there was a way but could put her in danger. If something happens to Lee, she wanted to know if there was any hope of saving him. Even if it meant she had to renounce him as her mate she would do it. She couldn’t bear for him to be held captive because of her. Even if it

would crush her to refuse him, she would do it if it meant to save him. She could handle being miserable if it meant his freedom.

“You’re awful quiet.” Lee gently rubbed Rhea’s shoulders. He could tell that she was deep in thought. Her skin on his fingertips felt soft and it made him think greedily about her. About how soft the rest of her body must also be. He wanted to be alone with her and spend some precious time with her. He just needed to figure out how to do it with the beast within him. His animal nature demanded him to fully claim his mate. To take her as his own. To fill her with his seed. This was natural and he was denying it for now. A small flicker in her eye calmed everything down though. He could see a small trace of worry there. Immediately his protective instincts were kicking in. He wrapped his arms around her deeply and waited for her to speak.

“I just hope nothing goes wrong.” Rhea whispered out with a small smile that she was hiding behind.

“Awe Rhea, you better not be starting to worry over there. You know things will work out. They always do.” Cody grinned and walked over to the bag that Titus had brought up. “What do we have to eat in here.”

“Oh yes! I am hungry too. Don’t eat everything Cody. I need some sort of nourishment too.” Rhea leaped towards the food. Cody grabbed the bag and held it up playfully over her head.

“Say it Rhea. Say it first.” Cody chuckled as he swayed the bag just out of reach.

“Ugh, Cody quit being a pain.”

“No, not that.”

“FINE! For the sake of me not starving to death. You’re the best guardian ever. There, happy now.” Rhea mumbled out begrudgingly.

Cody lowered the bag and did a playful bow as he handed it to her. “Your food princess.” The other men chuckled as Rhea stormed off with the bag of goodies. She took a seat on the couch in the great room and sifted through the bag. She found a yummy meat bun and excitedly pulled it out from the bag. “You guys can have the rest. I have all I need.” Cody waltzed over and snatched the bag shooting her a cocky grin as he walked away. Rhea took a bite into her food. Her brows furrowed over having to eat humble pie in order to get her food. She heard the gentle step near her and then felt herself being hoisted up into the air.

Lee chuckled as he held her against his body. “Let’s go out and sit on my balcony so we can talk.” He looked down at the ball of adorableness in his arms. Even her pouting was cute. Everything had seemingly happened so fast between them. It really just seemed that way. In reality, both of them had been in love with the other for quite some time now. Still, this was new. Their relationship was new. He had also had the mate tug with her. He wanted to spend some time with her alone. He wanted to build the comfort level in their relationship.

He effortlessly carried her into his room and shut the door. Then he headed to where the ceiling windows were on the far side. There was a sliding door that led out to a balcony that had a stone bench with two small end tables sitting there. He sat down but kept Rhea on his lap. He was enjoying being close to her and for once he wasn't feeling guilty about it. Book 2

Chapter 31 Alone Time

Chapter 113 - Dr.Luna

Rhea leaned into the warmth behind her as she slowly ate her food. She stared out in the night sky that had been peppered with little diamonds. The moon was shining brightly, and it almost appeared like it was shining on them. Maybe this is the moon goddess' blessing? She thought wistfully to herself. There was a slight breeze in the air that had a cold chill to it. She wasn't cold though. Not while she was being held by the electric heater behind her. She finished the last bite of her food and curled her body into his soaking up more of his heat.

“Are you cold?” His gentle voice came out quiet but strong.

Rhea shook her head no. “Not in your arms I'm not.” Ugh, Rhea! That was cheesy as hell. You sound like some lovesick kid step up your game woman! She inwardly groaned at herself for her choice of words. A simple no I'm not cold was all that was needed. It didn't feel... well it didn't feel weird being with him now. No, it actually felt more natural. Almost as if being a couple with him was the real normal and their former relationship was not. She was comfortable and felt at complete ease with him. And as cliché as it is... it felt like they were meant to be. She kept that one to herself though. She didn't need to send him flying for the hills escaping for dear life against the stage five clinger that she was.

Her mother and father had always protected each other. They were the perfect complement to one another. She wanted to be able to offer that to Lee as well. He was a strong deity and a dragon at that. Still, she was the fairy princess, water elemental, and she had a wolf somewhere deep within her. She would find it deep down. Find the power to be able to also protect him.

“Lee...I love you... I'm really happy.” Rhea was happy and she wanted him to know it. She wanted him to know that being with him was what she wanted too. She felt his arms encircle her and pull her deeper into his embrace.

“I love you too. You have no idea how happy I am to hear you say that.”

“Yes, I do actually. Because I feel the same way hearing that from you.”

He smiled into the back of her head. "It's a bit different for me Rhea. I was hooked instantly knowing you were my mate. I have waited for you for so long. You have always made me smile. The mate pull only takes you so far though. It is up to you to go the rest of the way. And it wasn't long after meeting you that I knew you had captured my heart." He took in a deep breath of air inhaling her scent. "When I first saw that it was you... I couldn't believe it. My mate was a half fairy and a half werewolf. Not just that though. She was the fairy princess and daughter of the Alpha and Luna of a powerful pack. I wasn't sure what to think. Dragons never took a mate that was not a dragon. But I also knew that being a deity I was not supposed to ever take anything but a deity as a mate. Not that a deity couldn't play around with others... but to take one as your mate? That is off limits. I struggled for a while over it. The more I was around you though... the deeper I fell. Before I knew it, I had fallen in love with you. Nothing else mattered. I didn't care about it being forbidden. I knew that it had to be you. You are the sun in my life, and I revolve around you. I don't know how everything is going to pan out Rhea. I just know that I can't not be with you. This wasn't a choice for me. It was you or it was you." Lee planted a sweet kiss on the back of Rhea's head. His precious fairy was in his arms. It was not a dream that he played over in his head. She was here.

Rhea traced her finger over his arm that had blanketed her. It was amazing that something she didn't have until now suddenly made her feel like her life would be empty without it. "Lee, what if they find out and take you away from me? Is there anything that can be done?" She knew he wouldn't tell her even if there was. But she felt protective over him too. She was growing stronger everyday both mentally and physically. She would fight for him. There had to be something that she could do.

"Baby don't worry about it. Everything is going to work out. Who knows? Maybe if that happens you will find your destined mate and choose to be with him." He chuckled almost bitterly.

"Never. Never going to happen so please, Lee, please don't think like that. I know you are afraid that I am not always going to choose you. I promise. I know me and my heart. I will always pick you. If you could only feel my own feelings, then you would know the truth. Mate pull or not. I will always be by your side." If dragons could refuse their mate when they found them then it wasn't unescapable. Wolves have refused their mates before too. So, would she. She would not accept anyone other than Lee.

Lee tightened his arms around her. She didn't understand what it felt like finding your mate. The instant pull. You are filled with thoughts of only them. Some can drop their mates like it is nothing. Not someone as kind as Rhea though. She would always feel towards her mate and her thoughts would always wander back to him. She was too kind of a person. He worried about her. She would be a mental wreck as she struggled between him and her mate. She would constantly be thinking about them and not herself. It would have been better to wait until she could recognize her mate so that she would not have to suffer in the future. He believed her words though. She would stay with him but he was afraid it would tear her up inside.

"I just want you to be happy, Rhea. Your happiness is what matters the most to me."

“Which brings me back to what I was saying. I can’t be happy without you Lee. If something happens to you-”

“Then forget about me.” Lee’s voice was quick and sharp. “If the council ends up confining me then there is nothing that can be done. You will have to let me go. There is nothing that you could ever do in that situation.”

Rhea wasn’t convinced. She knew she couldn’t fight off the deities but surely something could be done. Maybe they could reach an agreement. After all, isn’t that what Lee was trying to do? Isn’t that why he was going to try talking with the deity council? Who was the deity council anyways? Was Lee on it?

She looked up in the distance. They were already at the top of a mountain but now she was on top of a high balcony. Had it not been dark she was sure she would be able to see far instead of just scanning the hazy void. She could feel something heavy out there. The darkness which had never been nothing more than night suddenly had an ominous feeling about it. Even though she should be relishing in this new moment with her love she felt her heart speed up. She felt her eyes flicking over the abyss of darkness. She was scanning for what she felt. It was as if her heart was fleeing from it as its rhythm picked up. This reminded her of reality. This was bigger than just her and Lee. She also had to protect her people and family from the demons that were gathering. For the first time... she could feel them. What was scarier? She could feel something searching... for her. It was as if it was scanning frantically but unable to locate her. But she could feel that it’s menacing gaze was searching for her.

“Rhea?”

Lee’s voice pulled her from her sinking trance. She could feel the hair on her arms standing up and her skin was covered in goosebumps. Deep inside of her there was a pit. The danger was growing, and she was finally more aware than ever of it. She felt almost connected to it. Almost as if because of the gift of her premonition she was able to be more connected to the earth and her surroundings.

“Rhea, are you okay?” Lee noticed the tension in her body. There were tiny bumps forming on her skin that almost now felt chilled. She had been unresponsive to him as he called to her.

“Mmmhmm.”

Lee spun her around so that she was facing him. She wasn’t going to do that to him. She wasn’t going to pretend in front of him. Not him. He was the one that she could tell everything to. He held onto her hips firmly with one hand as the other held onto her face. He looked into the blue pools and gave her a small smile. “Not with me. You can hide things from everyone. But not with me.” He said in an intimate whisper.

Rhea let out the breath she had been keeping from the tension. He knew her so well. She offered him a smile and nodded. She leaned forwards and sagged her body into his. He was her comfort.

He was right. She should at least always have him to talk to. He was her summon too, not just the man she loved.

“They are gathering. And they are searching for me.” Her voice quietly whispered out under his neck.

“You are safe here, Rhea. No demon would come close to this place. For one they can’t come here. This place also has a barrier against demons. And another, no demon would risk infuriating the dragons. And lastly, I will murder any demon that even looks at you.” Lee growled as he said the last few words.

Rhea smiled and sat up slightly looking back into Lee’s eyes. She reached her hand up and gently placed it on his face. “I am not worried about myself. It’s just this means the war is drawing near. I worry for my people. I worry for my family and friends.” She leaned in until her lips were almost touching his. “I worry for you.” She closed the tiny gap between them. She wanted to feel his heat again. She needed her lips to be burned by him.

The heated response was instant. Lee had shifted her onto the bench so that her body was now beneath him as he leaned over her. The passionate kissing continued causing her to moan softly from the incredible intimacy of it all. Her stomach was doing flips from his touches. Her lips were being singed by him. And her core was being ignited by him. She welcomed being scorched by him. As if she was a phoenix and needed his fire in order to be reborn. He gave her a new life. He was waking up the person that she was supposed to be. She couldn’t help it. She wanted more from him. Her body was almost screaming for more and the fiery kisses intensified.

Book 2

Chapter 32 A Kelpie’s Game

Chapter 114 - Dr.Luna

He felt her body push up into him as his tongue danced passionately with her own. He felt her arms pull him down on her forcing his tongue deeper in her mouth. The animal groan from his throat escaped involuntarily. His animal self was pleased with the reaction from his mate below him.

She was going delirious with his intoxicating touches and deep kisses. She felt him pull his lips away from hers and she whimpered from the loss of contact only to gasp as she felt his lava like tongue flick over her neck. When he reached his mark on her he began sucking on it. Stabbing her with little knives of heat and ecstasy. The pleasure and pain created an exhilarating feeling that she had never experienced before. This was all new to her and her body reacted on instinct. Her soft cries encouraged him as she stretched her neck out to him for more access. Her body

rolled into him again. Her body knew what it was wanting. She bit her bottom lip as she arched her chest up and threw her neck back. She was being completely dominated by him. And if this was a game where there was a winner she didn't mind losing. Not if losing felt like this.

Every movement, every moan, every gasp they were all beckoning him and encouraging him for more. His animal was content to ravish her and satisfy them both right then and there. With great restraint he lifted up from her. He stared down at the sapphire eyes below him. He really wanted to take his time with her. There wasn't any need to rush. And once he claimed her he was afraid he wouldn't be able to control himself. She lifted her hand up to his face. He kissed each of her fingers delicately. Then sat up. Pulling her up with him. Her body sagged into his and he held her. They were both breathless and slowly waking up from the delirious passion.

“Soon, my sweet fairy. Very soon, I promise.” He was saying this to comfort himself more than her. He planted a tender kiss on her jawline and then felt her head lean into him. He wanted to take things slow for her. He really wanted her to see how he felt about her. This was only day one. He wouldn't make it much longer. There were a few things that needed settled though and hopefully soon. He smiled wryly to himself. He was barely making it through the first day. He knew it was only a matter of time and they would be completing the mating bond. He just hoped he could hold off until everything was settled. He had given her little tastes of the passion that was to come. He hoped she would be ready for it. He hoped she could feel how deeply he cared about her. He had to remind himself that she didn't have the mate pull. He didn't want to scare her with the intensity that he felt towards her. At the same time, he wasn't sure he could control how deeply he cared about her. How intensely he desired her.

She felt content, warm and safe in his arms. She just spent who knows how long passionately making out with the man she loved. She closed her eyes as she breathed him in. She listened to the rhythm of his heart. The gentle rising and falling of his chest. The perfect recipe of relaxation. She did not mean to, but soon she had drifted into a peaceful sleep.

Lee felt her body relax and could hear the gentle breathing of her light slumber. He chuckled to himself. She was so innocent. She fell asleep in a beast's hands so trustingly. He carefully stood up carrying her inside and away from the night chill. He eased himself into his bed and kept her sleeping body on his. He laid there watching her. A small smile resting on her face. She looked so content and peaceful. He felt like his chest was about to burst staring down at her. When he woke up this morning, he never thought he would be going to bed with his mate in his arms. He didn't mean to mark her, but now he just couldn't bring himself to regret it. This moment, right here, was everything he had ever wanted. For the first time in his life, he also drifted off to sleep peacefully, only this time it felt like everything was right. This is how life was supposed to be. He had not been truly alive until today. This sweet little fairy had given him life.

Rhea stretched and her eyes opened. She looked around confused at first then slowly the memories from yesterday began to trickle into her mind. She sat up and looked around. She was in Lee's bed. The sun was trickling into the room. It was morning. She could hear a slight commotion going on outside of the bedroom, coming from the great room. She swung her feet out of bed and walked to the door, slowly opening it.

“Cody that is mine and I swear if you take a bite of it, I’m going to kill you.” Kelsie shouted angrily. Cody grinned and licked the food in his hand. “That’s it Yogi! I’m done playing nice you are dead.” Cody took off running and shoved the bun into his mouth. Kelsie took off after him. The two bodies raced around the room. Jumping over furniture and dodging between obstacles.

“Come on Kels. You need to learn to share.” Cody laughed as he continued to run.

“I did share! I only wanted one. Just one. And you ate the whole bag.” Kelsie snorted as she dove at him.

Cody latched onto her two arms as they went to make contact with him. He grinned down at her as he held her captive.

Rhea watched with interest. Kelsie was not at all disgusted by Cody’s touches. In fact, she seemed comfortable near him. Maybe something more was there? Guess time would tell. Rhea glanced around. There was no sign of Titus or Lee. They must have left together. She felt a bit disappointed. As if spending the night with him wasn’t enough. She needed to see him already. And once she left this area, she had to pretend that he wasn’t hers. He wasn’t hers to touch. Hers to claim. Wow... this was going to be hard.

“Oh look, Ray Ray is up.” Cody nodded his head over and Kelsie’s eyes brightened.

“Rhea!” Kelsie ran over and hugged her poor captive friend who had been seduced by the evil dragon deity.

“So how was your night with your dragon?” Kelsie asked in girl talk interest. Though she repressed a gag over the word dragon.

“It was just a normal night. Nothing happened that you are thinking. I ended up falling asleep on the bench outside. The next thing I remember is waking up in the bed.”

“Good. And in the future if and when something does happen... remember that I am your brother and as far as I am concerned you don’t have an intimate life. And I would like to keep it that way.” Cody walked into the kitchen and began chugging a carton of chocolate milk.

Rhea giggled and shook her head. “Where is Titus and Lee?”

“They had to go out first thing this morning.” Cody said with little interest.

“How long ago did they leave?” Rhea asked as she looked to be in deep thought.

“Huh Uh! Whatever you are thinking Rhea just stop. Today is our uneventful lazy day where we are going to sit around all day and do nothing.” Cody growled as he shoved a cookie in his mouth and angrily chewed.

“Hush Pooh Bear and just eat your honey. What do you have in mind Rhea?” Kelsie asked with increasing interest. Cody growled at Kelsie and her annoying nicknames. He continued to eat his cookies as he quietly listened waiting to hear what his troublesome sister had in mind.

“I wanted to talk to Grandpa Sage is all. I have a feeling he is the only one I can get real answers from. I just think I should be prepared too. I want to know what all my options are if something might happen to Lee. I think it is the responsible thing for me to do.” Rhea glanced over and could see Cody nodding his head. He seemed to understand how she was thinking and actually approved.

“I’m not sure when they are due back. They didn’t say. They also did not say for you to wait here.” Cody took a bite of an apple and gave Rhea a crooked smile.

“Gosh, do you ever get full?” Kelsie asked in disgust.

“Once I’ve satisfied my hunger I am.” Cody looked down at his apple as he took another bite.

There seemed to be a hidden meaning behind that remark. Rhea could feel there was something extra there meant just for Kelsie. For a second she thought she could see a slight blush on her friend’s cheek but if it were there it was not now.

“Okay so let’s head to the library. That is Grandpa Sages personal library. Maybe we have a chance to run into him there.” Rhea smiled and then looked around. “Did anyone bring some of my clothes up?”

“Not yet. We will get to that today.” Cody threw his apple core away and then grabbed a banana.

“Ugh.” Kelsie said and turned away from him. “I have some clothes here that will fit you Rhea. Come on I’ll get them for you.” Kelsie tugged Rhea to the room she had claimed for herself while she was staying there. She rummaged through the closet and then came out holding a black camisole and a white mini skirt. She also had a pair of white sandals to go with it.

Rhea looked at the mini skirt and frowned. She would have preferred shorts or pants. She looked up and noticed the arch of her friend’s eyebrow and quickly smiled. “Thanks Kelsie.” She reached up and took the clothing from her. It wasn’t worth picking a fight over it. Kelsie always insisted Rhea dress more feminine and she didn’t want to go down that lecture road again. Rhea quickly discarded Lee’s clothes and put-on Kelsie’s. The skirt was shorter then she would have liked but other than that everything fit perfectly. Almost too perfectly. She wondered if her friend had intentionally got this skirt just for her.

“You look so cute. You are perfect Rhea.” Kelsie smiled and clapped her hands together. “Okay we are ready to tackle the day now.” Kelsie turned and the light flickered in her eyes. Lee had to pretend that Rhea was not his mate. So, how better to torture him than making him look at something incredibly delicious that he can’t have. It’ll serve him right for taking advantage of her dear, sweet, naïve, trusting, precious friend.

Rhea walked out of the room and watched Cody do a double take.

“Kelsie! Where are her clothes.” He choked out.

“Oh, hush little cub. She looks perfect.” Kelsie turned and smiled happily at Rhea.

Kelsie opened the door and motioned her hand for Rhea to proceed first. Rhea headed down and just as she was about to follow, she felt a strong hand lock onto her wrist. She turned and looked back at Cody. He leaned in close to her and whispered almost inaudibly. “You know exactly what you are doing with her. That is just plain evil.” He then chuckled. “I like the way you think sometimes... just maybe if it wasn’t Rhea. This is going to end up biting her in the end... probably literally.”

“Oh, come on. You know you are going to enjoy watching the fireworks as well. Now we have something to keep us entertained all day.” Kelsie grinned and then hopped down the stairs after Rhea. She was quite pleased with herself and was excited to watch Lee’s reactions today.

Cody shook his head and smiled. This was going to be fun to watch. He was afraid of what the consequences would mean for his sister later. He didn’t want to think about what might happen tonight. With Lee looking at her dressed like that all day and unable to touch her... he would be battling with his animal hard core. Man... Kelsie could be just plain vicious sometimes. And his sister Rhea was too naïve to know when she was getting dragged into a kelpie’s vindictive game.

Book 2

Chapter 33 Sacrifices

Chapter 115 - Dr.Luna

Rhea opened the door to the library and was happy to see Grandpa Sage sitting at his desk. She knew that this area was private for the Sage, so she motioned for Cody and Kelsie to wait for her. She gently knocked as she peaked at him through the open door. She watched him glance up and smile immediately seeing her.

“Rhea, my dear girl, come in child.”

Rhea walked in and closed the door behind her. She then proceeded up to his desk and took a seat across from him. She suddenly felt like a child sitting across from the teacher in school.

“I have been wanting to speak with you. Now more than ever after yesterday’s events.” His eyes twinkled a bit as he smiled at her knowingly.

Rhea reached up and rubbed the mark on her neck. “I have been wanting to speak with you as well. Over a couple things. I know there can be consequences for Lee if he is caught being with me. I am hoping you will give me an honest answer and not hide anything for my protection. Since, it is in the dragon’s best interest not to have Lee kept away as well. If something happens to Lee is there anything that can be done? More pointedly, is there anything that I can do?”

His eyes flashed with interest. “Would you do anything that you had to do? Don’t answer halfheartedly dear. You can take some time to think about it. Are there things that can be done? Yes, there are a couple. The real question is how far is too far? What would you be willing to do?”

“Grandpa Sage, I know that I do not have the mate pull so my dedication to Lee may be in question. I assure you there is nothing to question. What am I willing to do for Lee? Anything. There is no hesitation. As long as it is something I can give. As long as I don’t have to sacrifice anyone besides myself then I will do it. Just as long as I don’t have to drag my family and friends into it.”

“Some sacrifices will ultimately affect your friends and family... even if it is inadvertently.”

“You mean like my death... yes I know this. But Lee is more important to me. His safety and happiness is more important to me. I know he is the one who is supposed to protect me. But I am going to also protect him in return. It is who I am. I am not scared of whatever I would have to do. As long as there is something that can be done.”

The Great Sage looked around the room cautiously. As if he was double checking that they were truly alone. “There are things that would free him if he is held captive. One such thing would be for you to take another as your mate or to reject him as your mate. Obviously, the end of your life would also give Lee his freedom. There is another for sure thing though. One that would be a great risk for you to take but would also offer the greatest reward if you are able to do it.” His voice drew even lower as he began to whisper the last part. “This must remain an absolute secret my dear. If Levi was to find out he would be furious. He would absolutely forbid it for more reasons than one. However, I think this is what you are meant to do.”

Rhea was sitting on the edge of her seat and found herself inching closer and closer to him as his voice quieted even more. It was so much suspense. Just out with it already.

“I won’t say anything.”

“Before I tell you, I will tell you what would come of you choosing this option. If you succeed the deities would not touch Lee. They would allow the two of you to live your lives together. You would also have their favor and support. However, with a great reward there is also a price to pay. You would both be paying this price. It would be a decision that you alone would have to make my dear.” He captured her gaze feeling her determination. “You would have to make the decision to link your lifeline together.”

“Link our lifeline together? What would this mean?”

“Leviathan is a deity. He is immortal. And while fairies and werewolves also have longevity, they are not immortal. Immortal as you know is not the same as invulnerable. You would have to make the decision to link your lives together. Meaning if you were killed then Levi would also be killed and visa versa. It would also mean that you would be taking away his immortality. If you make it to the end of your lifetime it would also be the end of his. Whether that be several hundred years from now or not. Levi would no longer live forever.”

Rhea gasped at this news. She would be taking away his immortality. “Shouldn’t he have a say in this? I wouldn’t want to take his immortality away from him for my own selfishness. That seems cruel.”

“Hmm, I wonder if it is cruel though. What is the cruelest? To lose your immortality or to live an immortal life without your mate? Which do you think you would choose?” A grin formed on his face as he clasped his hands in front of him on his desk. His lips curved upwards as he waited for her expected answer.

Rhea thought about what he said. She knew her answer. She would not want to live without Lee... no amount of time. She wasn’t Lee though and she was not immortal. Maybe if you were immortal you would feel differently. Maybe even fear death because it was not something you really had to worry about. Especially with him being a strong deity.

“For me, an immortal life without Lee would be the cruelest. I am not Lee though. I have never been immortal. Why can he not have a say in this?” Rhea didn’t understand why she couldn’t just ask him for herself.

“Because of what you would have to do in order to grant this. There is no way he would approve. You would be putting your life at risk in order to even obtain such an outcome.”

“What if I casually asked him? Like playing the ‘What if’ game.” She watched him look at her in confusion. “You know the what if or what would you do game? Like What would you do if you were lost in the woods? Or if you were starving would you eat your own leg before you ate your pet? You never played that game before?” Rhea watched his eyes widen and then listened to his gentle chuckling.

“Eat your own leg or your pet? Oh ho ho ho. That’s funny. That’s an interesting game. I suppose presented in a game as a question you might be able to avoid suspicion. You would have to weigh the costs on that. If it means that much to you to have his answer. But is it really an answer? If it is posed as a hypothetical game versus a real possibility? When the fun of the game is not there and it is a real reality... does a game’s answer hold any clout?”

Rhea smiled. She understood what he was saying. A game was done in fun and thus could have fun answers. These answers were never meant to be serious. “I will keep that in mind. All I am looking for is a hint of how he feels. I think I might be able to find it. You never said what I have to do though.”

“Is it something that you think you should know now? Does this mean you are going to embark on this journey immediately instead of waiting to see how things turn out?” The Great Sage watched her with interest. He was indeed interested in her. Her lack of selflessness. She was very interesting to him.

“I don’t know yet, to answer you honestly. Do I wait and see how things turn out and only go on this quest if things turn for the worst? Or should I go before anything can happen? Have faith in my abilities and bring back what I need so that this is something we never have to face.” Rhea bit her bottom lip and stared at her fingers. In either case she should have the knowledge. What if something happened and he wasn’t around to tell her what he knows. She should have the knowledge and then do with it how she decides is best. “I do think that I should know now. So that I have the knowledge. If anything should ever happen, I would know where to turn next.”

“Okay... but just know this. If you go on this journey first, Lee will find you. He is connected to you as your summon and as your mate. He will not allow you to go on this journey. I can assure you of that. Not because of the outcome but because the chance of you achieving your goal is only fifty percent.”

Wow... that was harsh. Did he already rate her ability so low that he could only give her half the chance of success?

“This has nothing to do with you. It has to deal with who has the item in their possession. And whether or not you can convince it to give it to you. You see you will not be able to steal it. You will have to plead your case for it. But if you fail to convince it... then it will try to kill you in order to keep the item a secret.”

Rhea nodded her head slowly. She understood now. There was no way Lee would allow her to make this trip. Who would allow her to make such a trip?

“Remember from your premonition you said a voice called out to you. That you thought that it might have been your great grandmother’s voice? The more I thought about it... I do not think that was the voice you heard. I believe that you were being given advice from the Moon Goddess herself. She told you to find the Ocean’s Tear. This is not some secret weapon against the demons. Your family still has to battle them but already you have changed the future with the building of allies. I dare say you have the ability to win over all the dragon kingdoms. They will be an invaluable ally in the war against the demons. Though... your brother, Wyatt, will also have a part to play in aiding in the war but that is all I will say about that.... Anyhow back to the Ocean’s Tear. The Ocean’s Tear was created from the tears of a Goddess who mourned the loss of her mortal lover. This tear has been kept hidden and out of reach of deities because it is something that they cannot claim themselves. It is an item that only their lover can claim on their behalf. With this item you can link your life together with Lee. It would be creating you as one. Your souls would be connected. Your life force would be connected. Whatever happened to one... it would happen to the other. Meaning if either one of you dies... so would your partner.”

“Why would the Moon Goddess speak to me in a vision to help me out? Who am I to her?” On this point Rhea felt confused.

“She has taken an interest in you Rhea. All wolves are a gift from the Moon Goddess. However, your wolf was handpicked by her. She is putting her hope in you. She is putting her hope in your family so that the werewolves are not destroyed by the demons. Werewolves are like her children... they are her chosen kind. She doesn't want to see them destroyed. So, she is putting her hope with you and your family.” Grandpa Sage leaned back in his chair. This war was also important to him. He knew that if the dragons did not get involved now that they would be battling the demons later. It was imperative for them to fight now alongside of Rhea and her family. This would present the least number of casualties.

She did not really understand it all. If the Moon Goddess handpicked her wolf, then why was she keeping her hidden? Grandpa Sage probably didn't know the answer to this question, or he would have told Lee. So, she asked the next question on her mind.

“Where do I find the Ocean's Tear?”Book 2

Chapter 34 Ocean's Tear

Chapter 116 - Dr.Luna

The Sage nodded his head and looked at Rhea with an intense gaze. “The Ocean's Tear is in the hands of the Queen of the Merrow.” He watched Rhea's eyes widen which showed that she knew of merrows and mermen. These were not like mermaids that most fantasy books depicted. No. The merrow was vicious and cruel. “Men who have found her end up being used as her own lover and then drowned. Women who have found her are also killed. To be truthful, no one has ever managed to collect the Ocean's Tear from her. Perhaps, with you being the fairy princess you have a chance. Since merrows fall under the fairy queens' wards. They are a marine fairy after all. If anyone has a chance at obtaining this... it is you.”

Even in the fairy world the merrows were often avoided. Now she would have to seek out their queen in order to retrieve the Ocean's Tear. Merrows were not very pleasant. The Queen of the Merrow is known to be downright cruel and vicious. She isn't one you can reason with.

“I would suggest that you take your horse and bear with you if you embark on this journey. You will need strong allies in your corner.”

“You've got that right.” Rhea chuckled and shook her head. “Wait... you told my mom about this. What did she say?”

“I only told your mother of what the Ocean's Tear was. I did not tell her where you would have to go to get it. Knowing your mother, she would have stormed down to the merrow queen and demanded it herself.” Grandpa Sage began to chuckle, and Rhea nodded her head and laughed along with him.

Rhea knew her mother would have. It was a good thing she didn't know about it. There was no way she would approve of her seeking out the Queen of the Merrow. She knew she would need Cody and Kelsie with her. But how would they react hearing what she had to do? She would tell them about it. Since it wouldn't be fair to drag them into a dangerous situation without them knowing the stakes. Rhea wondered if there was a way, she could fight the merrow queen for the Ocean's Tear.

"Could I not just fight the merrow and claim the Ocean's Tear?" Yes, this would be an act of war against the merrows, but she wanted to at least know if it was an option.

"If she refuses to give you the Ocean's Tear and instead tries to claim your life, indeed, you should fight back. However, killing the queen will not give you the Ocean's Tear. She would have to summon it from wherever she has it hidden. I'm sorry. I do not know much. What I know is just from the legends of the Ocean's Tear. Levi would know the most about it... but it is obviously something you can't talk to him about. If he even suspects you plan to retrieve it... I do not know what he would do."

Rhea nodded her head in agreement. She knew that Lee would come up with some sort of plan in order to keep her safe. If he ends up being held captive he could ask Titus to keep her captive. She knew he would not want her risking her life. That wasn't how she looked at it. Pfft to hell with that merrow. She will have another thing coming if she thinks she can easily kill the fairy princess. If she fights, it will be her end. Not mine. Her skills as a water elemental would be useless against a merrow. Honestly, this task would be more fitting for her mother, a fire elemental. Bringing her mother along would be too risky. The demons would have cast their eyes upon Elysium and would be watching her movement. No, this task would have to be her burden to carry.

"Thank you, Grandpa Sage. I knew you would tell me what I needed to know. And that is, that there is hope. There are options." Rhea appreciated his honesty with her. Though, she knew he was telling her this for his people's benefit at well. She liked to look at it as mutual beneficiaries. They both had something to gain from this.

"I'm afraid I do not know where to find the Queen of the Merrows. Her location was never disclosed."

Rhea smiled and looked at him confidently. "Being the princess of the fairies does have some perks. I know where to find her." This is also where having a kelpie as a friend would come in handy. Rhea stood up and smiled at the older man. "Thank you once again." She watched him nod his head towards her as she turned and headed to the door. She turned and looked at him once more. "I understand why you said this needs to be kept secret from Lee. It is because he might stop me. But... there is no reason other than that, right? Him having this knowledge doesn't change anything else?"

"No, but do you think he would allow you to embark on such a dangerous journey?" The old man had a gentle smile on his face.

She smiled. "I don't know. Probably not. But I just... I just don't know how comfortable I would feel taking his immortality away without asking... I guess I will just have to think about it for a while... Thank you again." She then opened the door and walked out of the room. She got the answers she needed. She would now need to discuss them with the two people who have been waiting for her out of the room. She needed them on board and to keep it secret. Rhea closed the door and looked between the eyes of Kelsie and Cody. She would need to find a private place to confide in them with everything she had just learned.

"You know something, huh? By the look in your eyes, you have some interesting news." Kelsie smirked and folded her arms over her chest.

"Why do I feel like you are going to be marching into danger...?" Cody sighed and shook his head. Yep, being her guardian had to be harder than being Lilly's or Wyatt's.

"I do have some things to discuss with you two, but we will need to do so privately. And it will have to be just between the three of us." Rhea looked up at them and saw Kelsie beaming.

"Keeping secrets from your mate but including us... I feel so special again. I knew you wouldn't forget that I am your favorite even after taking a mate." Kelsie bounced over to Rhea and lifted her into a hug.

"Why would I ever forget you two? Not to mention, how could I? We are always together." Rhea giggled. She could see that a wave of worry had actually left Kelsie's face. It must have been something she was worried about. She thought she was going to end up losing her friend. That would never happen. Ever. Who drops their friends just because they found their mate... well... kelpies do all the time. So, she could understand where her concern would come from.

"Rhea could discard you, but never me. I'm bound to her for eternity." Cody poked at Kelsie who turned and shot daggers at him.

"And I cry for her everyday because she is stuck with you." Kelsie straightened up and turned to face the annoying bear.

"Okay you two. Let's see if we can find a-"

"Rhea!"

Rhea turned and looked behind her to see Reese jogging up to her. She watched as he got closer to her his eyes trailed her up and down. Damn it Kelsie you made me eye candy! A streak of red rose over his face and then he cleared his throat.

"My king has ordered me to accompany you throughout the day. I am now your personal guard."

Greeeaaat, now I'll never have any private time. I can mind link Cody easily enough but I'd still need to get Kelsie alone to talk. Well, I have time. I'll have to wait until I get my next opportunity. Rhea gave him a forced smile.

“Yuck! She doesn’t need a worm following her around constantly. She has me and Cody. No one would be able to lay a hand on her. Though... wandering eyes might still be a problem.” Kelsie didn’t withhold any punches and made sure to embarrass the young man. His face almost shaded to purple with embarrassment and he looked down at the ground knowing he had been caught.

“Kelsie, we aren’t going to cause any trouble for him. It isn’t his fault if Titus ordered him to be here. You should take your grievances up with him.” Rhea tried to smooth the situation out. She felt sorry for the guy. She could see he was really embarrassed. Cody and Kelsie seemed to be relishing in his embarrassment though. Yep, they were a lot alike in that sense.

“I’m sorry if me being around is a problem. I am just following orders to protect his mate in his absence.”

Ugh, that’s right. She is supposed to be Titus’s mate. She could see Kelsie shudder in disgust and was almost curling her lips. She was often surprised how well Kelsie had taken to her. She seemed to hardly like anyone or anything. The two of them have been steadfast friends since the beginning.

“Where is Titus at?” Rhea was really asking where Lee was since she knew the two of them would more than likely be together.

“My lord is speaking with the other nobles and lords. It will probably be a while.”

Rhea nodded her head in understanding. Of course, he was working on damage control right now. They just heard he was taking a non-dragon as his mate. These were seeds he was planting for Lee of course. He had to first break the soil so that it was primed. She wondered how the talks were going. No one could force Titus into taking a dragon mate.

“Might as well take a walk outside. Last I checked the sun was shining and it would be a shame to waste such a nice day indoors.” Rhea turned and looked up at Cody and Kelsie. They both looked like they liked that idea as well.

The moment they walked outdoors the sun greeted her skin warmly. The warm air swirled around her playing with her strands as it passed by. Everything seemed so peaceful. It was as if there were not any problems at all in the world.

“Want to go for a ride?” Kelsie asked with minor excitement.

“In this?” Rhea motioned over her short skirt.

“Why not? No one will be able to see anything with you sitting on my back.”

“A run does sound good.” Cody wanted to shift into his bear. It had been a while and he wanted to stretch his muscles out.

“Will that be an inconvenience to you?” Rhea turned and looked at Reese who shook his head no.

“Not at all. I will fly above you and keep an eye on you.”

It seemed there wasn't a problem and everyone was on board. “Okay, a ride sounds perfect.” Rhea grinned. It felt great riding at full speed with the wind flowing in her hair.

Kelsie shifted into her ebony horse. Her dark silky mane flowed in the wind as her head turned and looked at Rhea. Cody also shifted into his huge bear form. His rich dark chocolate brown fur looked so soft. Rhea couldn't help it. She walked over and squeezed her hands in his fur. It was indeed soft and warm. She listened to him snort at her and she giggled. Kelsie took a knee so that it was easier for Rhea to climb up.

“Okay, let's go for a ride.” Rhea hopped onto Kelsie and in an instant they were racing across the ground.

Book 2

Chapter 35 Burned

Chapter 117 - Dr.Luna

Cody was running along side of them. He was definitely making a point to Kelsie that he also had some speed at his disposal. Though there was no way he could keep up with her at full speed. A large shadow passed over them from the sky. Rhea glanced up to see a large green dragon flying above them. It was Reese who was keeping a watchful eye on her as he effortlessly kept up with their pace.

It was such a freeing sensation to feel the wind whip against your skin. This gave her an idea. She wondered if Lee would take her for a ride. It must feel amazing to fly. To be so free. Lately, she had felt anything but freedom. She felt like she was always being caged or leashed. Maybe that is why she had this new obsession with feeling free.

The view was splendid. The mountainous area had so many wonderful scenic areas that she greedily took in. It was beautiful up here. No wonder the dragons claimed it for themselves. A slight commotion was being heard under a canopy of trees in the distance. She could make out some slight shouting.

“Kelsie, let's go check it out.” She watched the horse nod it's head as she raced forward into a sprint. Once under the canopy of trees she heard the minor screech from Reese as he lost sight of them. Kelsie made her way through the thick forest. It was a struggle at times, but she manages

to fight her way through. Cody was having a bit more trouble keeping up in the denseness of the woods. A loud airy grunt was heard and the yells of a couple children. The forest had become so thick that Kelsie was slowing down considerably. Rhea slid off of Kelsie and ducked under the trees heading towards the noise. She heard her friend whinny in protest. Rhea had started running towards the sounds when she heard Kelsie's voice yelling at her to wait. She knew she should wait but she was afraid that the children would be in trouble.

Rhea was beginning to see a bit more light. There was a small clearing in the middle of the forest. As she came closer, she saw two children. One of them she recognized. It was Todd, the boy she rescued from the river. And he was guarding the other child from something large. Rhea hopped into the clearing to see the creature snorting and stomping at the children.

Rhea's eyes widened as she looked at the large minotaur that was starting to charge at the children. Rhea jumped in front of the kids and held her hand up to stop the creature that was advancing quickly. What she didn't realize is that the moment she did Todd had also launched a spiraling flame towards the minotaur. The flame met with Rhea's arm and she winced from the pain. She held her stance steadfast as the minotaur approached. Her arm was throbbing. The burn was almost nauseating. She pushed the pain back though. She kept her focus on the beast as it slowed before her.

Rhea smiled at him and held out her hand. He snorted at her and gently stomped at the ground. "Why are you so angry?" Her gentle voice cooed to the animal. She then turned an accusing eye to the two children behind her.

Kelsie and Cody crashed through into the clearing. They looked over the situation and both of their gazes landed onto the angry red mark on Rhea's arm.

"Who did it?!" Kelsie hissed as a dark gaze was directed towards the two children. Being a child meant nothing to the overprotective kelpie.

"It was an accident. I didn't mean to burn her." Todd whimpered out.

Kelsie felt a firm hand land on her shoulder. She looked up at Cody who looked angry as well. She could see that he was telling her to calm down since they were just children.

"What happened here?" Cody growled out as he tugged Kelsie with him up to Rhea and the minotaur.

Rhea turned back to the minotaur. She could see a few singe marks on him as well and she was basically putting together what happened. "Were you children tormenting him with your fire?!" Her voice was raised in a stern agitation.

"He dared me to do it." Todd pointed to the other child beside him.

"Hey Cody... how about daring me to give those kids some underwater lessons?" Kelsie's eyes flickered angrily at the two children.

Cody chuckled and lifted up Rhea's arm to inspect it closer. The burn was deep and pretty bad. Her skin was bubbling up. "We need to get this treated."

"I'm okay." Rhea insisted and then turned back to the minotaur. He didn't speak like the centaurs did, but he was still akin to them. And an ally of the fairies. "I'm sorry for what these two troublemakers did." She reached up and scratched at his forehead. She felt the large animal relax under her touch. It was amazing how they easily they recognized the fairy princess. They knew who she was instantly by her aura. A large shadow appeared and lowered down on top of them. Reese descended into the small clearing.

He looked at the minotaur, then to the children and then came to rest on Rhea. His eyes widened as he caught a glimpse of her arm.

"What happened here?!" His dragon growled out. Dragons were one of the few creatures who also could speak in their animal form.

"Pfft, what do you think happened? Your young whelps over here were picking on this poor minotaur and then ended up burning MY princess!" Kelsie snorted out angrily. This time Cody didn't try to calm her rage. He was too busy looking over Rhea with worry.

"Both of you are to go home and remain there. You will both be punished." Reese watched the two children scurry away. "Let me give you a lift back. I can get you there faster and have that arm looked at."

"Nuh uh! You are not touching my princess. I'll get her home." Kelsie furrowed her brows and stood in front of Rhea and the dragon. This was all their disgusting species fault.

"It's okay." Rhea lied. "It really isn't that bad." Her stomach was queasy from the burning sensation. Her arm felt like it was being sizzled. The constant stinging was almost unbearable. It looked very irritated and inflamed. Okay... it was that bad. And she didn't have her mother here to heal her. Damn it, she needed her wolf and its healing abilities.

"Cody clear a path for me so I can get her through faster." Kelsie didn't need to ask twice. He immediately shifted into his bear and began to take his anger out on the trees and shrubs as he cleared the way for Kelsie's horse. She shifted and then snorted at the dragon. She was telling him to go.

"I'll let Titus know you've been injured." Reese started to flap his wings to take flight.

"No no no that is unnecessary. We don't need to cause a panic over a minor burn." Rhea pleaded not wanted to make a big deal out of the situation.

"Sorry, but if I don't report this, I won't live to see the next sunrise." And with that Reese was off. Rhea watched him go and sighed. An urgent whinny was heard beside her and Rhea turned to see Kelsie kneeling down waiting for her to get on.

“Okay, Kelsie. I’m coming. Honestly.... The lot of you act like I am bleeding to death. It is just a burn.” Rhea gave Kelsie a crooked smile as she climbed on. “Hey Kels... don’t run as fast okay? I don’t think I can use my other arm.” Rhea said quietly, noticing how severe her injury was. There was no way she could grip onto the horse. It would be up to her legs to hold on tight.

Kelsie gently carried her out of the woods and then picked up the speed once they reached the clearing. Cody ran along side of them watching Rhea intently.

Rhea winced in pain as her arm throbbed. Her mother and grandmother are healers. Healing ran in the family. It was a skill that had to be developed though and it looked like she was going to be stronger with premonitions than healing. It might be a skill that develops later. Her mother developed healing first and later she was able to pick up minor things and feelings related to premonitions. Since Rhea used a lot of power yesterday to help out Grayson, she wasn’t sure if she had it in her to unlock her healing power.

As they approached the castle, she could see Titus, Reese and Lee already standing outside waiting for them. She had to focus not to keep her eyes on Lee. She had to pretend that Titus was her mate... and not him. Kelsie came to a slow and Titus immediately was at the dark horses’ side helping her down. His eyes flickered to her exposed upper thigh and then managed to look over at her burn.

“Not exactly riding attire... not that I am complaining personally. I love the view, but I don’t like sharing this view.” Titus flashed a side eye back towards Reese who looked away in guilt.

Rhea grinned. Titus played his part beautifully. That’s what happens when you flirt for a living. “Well, someone left me without any clothes this morning. Beggars can not be choosers. I had to borrow something off of Kelsie. So this...” Rhea motioned to her short skirt. “Is not my fault.” She winced a bit as she forgot and moved her burned arm abruptly.

Titus’s eyes softened and he held up her injured arm. He was holding her arm so delicately and tenderly. He was genuinely concerned about her. “This looks pretty painful.” He frowned and gently put an arm around her while he continued to hold up her injured arm.

Cody and Kelsie were shifted back into their human selves. “What do you think? Should we get mom to heal it?” Cody asked looking up at Rhea.

“No. We are not going to bother her over something like this. Just let me sit somewhere quietly for a bit. Maybe I can muster up my own healing...-”

“No. It is too dangerous for you in your current state to experiment with your magic. Not without having a guide to help you.” Lee immediately shot her down.

“No one guided me when I helped Grayson.” Rhea looked at him with minor annoyance. Seriously? He is going to tell her she can’t use her own magic.

“Which could have easily ended very badly for the both of you.” Lee’s eyes locked onto hers without backing down.

“Alright... no more. I’m not going to have Rhea getting upset. Let’s get her inside and see what gramps has for burns. Reese... I want you to see to the discipline of those boys.” Titus’s eyes flashed with anger.

“They were just being children. Don’t be too hard on them.” Rhea pleaded their case. They were not bad kids, and it was an accident.

“You are too kind my dear. I want the punishment to be as such that they will never pull a stunt like this again.” And with that Titus nodded once again to Reese who swiftly left following his orders. Titus looked her over. “Let me carry you.”

Rhea giggled and shook her head. “Titus there is nothing wrong with my legs. Besides with the skirt I am wearing you would be touching my bare bottom if you carried me.”

Titus smirked at her as he led her into the castle. “Now that’s a tempting offer you should save for the bedroom.” Lee followed closely behind them with a deadly silence. While Cody and Kelsie were also nervously keeping up.

Titus played his part well... too well. She could almost feel Lee seething in anger over what he was saying, and she knew that Titus was relishing in it.

Book 2

Chapter 36 Unburned

Chapter 118 - Dr.Luna

Rhea could see a small crowd in the main hall in the distance. Titus walked protectively next to her as they got closer. In order to get to the back hall they would have to pass through the crowd. And among them was the worm, Melvin. Rhea could see he was almost sneering at her as they walked up to them.

“Oh my! What happened to your arm dear?” A girl asked. It was the most fake sympathetic voice Rhea had ever heard. Kelsie immediately walked in front of the girl blocking her view of Rhea.

“Easy Kels.” Rhea gently reminded her friend not to cause trouble.

“It looks like this is a bit of a rough country for your fairy, Titus.” Melvin hissed out with venom.

“Not at all. Just some children that had gotten into mischief and my sweet angel paid the price for their trouble.” Titus tried to keep walking past them. He wasn’t going to keep Rhea there in her uncomfortable condition, but Melvin kept talking almost blocking their path.

“You’ll have to forgive the children. They are used to us adult dragons that they wouldn’t be able to harm with their weak flames.” Melvin curled his lips up at her showing off his grotesque smile.

Rhea heard him loud and clear. He was saying look how badly she was burned by weak fire. Imagine getting hit by an adult. Well asshole that wouldn’t happen in a fair fight. Had she know that the child was using fire she would have easily blocked it with her water. She was getting ready to say something when Ruby and Grayson walked up.

“Get the hell out of their way Melvin.” Ruby shoved the lower ranking man out of the way. Melvin’s eyes flickered with anger, but he wouldn’t dare speak back to her. Not with Grayson right there. He knew better. Grayson had no affection towards him. No responsibility. If he insulted his mate, Grayson would kill him.

“Hurry and get her taken care of Titus. After you feel better let’s have some girl time.” Ruby smiled at Rhea and nodded for Titus to continue past.

“Take good care of my angel, Titus.” Grayson said and Titus let a small growl rip from his chest.

“She isn’t your anything.”

Grayson and Ruby chuckled. “He was always the over possessive one.” She was both of their angel. Because of Rhea they could now be together. The torture was over. They still were awaiting their chance to properly thank her.

Titus eased Rhea through the crowd and then down the long corridor. He was taking her to the library. When they reached the door, he turned and looked at Cody and Kelsie. “I’m sorry, but the two of you will need to wait here.” They nodded without a fight. Like they already expected this. He found this interesting but not enough to take time out to dwell on it.

“Gramps you in?” Titus hollered as he pushed open the door.

“Such a rude young king you have become.” Grandpa Sage clicked his tongue loudly. When he rose his eyes, he was shocked to see Rhea. “Oh, my dear sweet child what did you get into.” He gently rose and came over to inspect her arm.

“Tch, I see how it is. I’m the rude king and she is your dear sweet child.” Titus grumbled in playfulness.

Now behind closed doors in the Great Sages private library Lee walked up to her side. He took his arm out and gave Titus a hard shove away from Rhea’s side.

“Well... there you have it. I am just not appreciated around here.” Titus continued to playfully pout.

Lee ignored him and inspected Rhea’s arm closely. There was such an intimate tenderness in the way his arm caressed her shoulder.

“I think I have something in here that will fix that up in no time. I would only use something so precious on someone so precious.” Grandpa Sage winked and walked back behind his desk looking for something.

“Does it hurt bad?” Lee gently cooed to Rhea.

It was funny. Suddenly next to Lee the pain was forgotten. The intimacy of being near him was the only thing she could focus on. “No, I’m fine. It really isn’t that bad.”

“I can see your wound Rhea. It is that bad. There is barely a layer of skin left.” Lee’s voice suddenly dropped with minor irritation.

“Lee.” Rhea smiled and kicked her foot at him playfully. “It is just a burn. It will heal. Stop being over dramatic.”

Titus and Grandpa Sage both chuckled. She was the only one who could get away with such actions and words to Levi. And it was interesting to see him in this state. The state of the lovesick dragon.

Lee lowered his head onto hers and gently pecked the top of it. “You are my little troublemaker. I can see you will always keep me on my toes.”

“Well, I wouldn’t want you to get bored.” She smiled into his chest. She felt his hand rub her in soothing motions. His very touch put her at ease. It was amazing the effect he had on her body.

“Here it is.” The old man walked over with a small vial. “Let me see your arm my dear.”

Rhea lifted up her arm and sucked in a sharp breath at the sting. Lee instinctively nuzzled into her neck trying to comfort her.

Grandpa Sage put three drops on her arm from the vial . “There. In about thirty minutes you will be as good as new.”

“Hey what was that stuff? You never used it on me when I was hurt.” Titus looked at the vial with interest.

“I said it was only for someone precious that’s why.” Grandpa Sage walked back to his desk and locked the vial away in his drawer.

“Ouch.” Titus held his chest in fake pain but wore a smile on his face. In reality he liked these games and playful banter.

Lee continued to keep constant contact with Rhea. He rubbed her back with his fingertips and rested his head upon hers. When he had heard she had been injured it took all his self-restraint not to fly to her instantly. Then he had to watch Titus go up to her first. Touch her first. Hold on to her first. And then seeing her in the outfit that was barely covering her body... Yes, his jealousy was going out of control. Titus was doing this on his behalf, but he wanted to torch him for touching his mate.

“Is it feeling better?” The low rumble of Lee’s voice sent a shiver down her spine. She couldn’t help it. Her body just naturally reacted to him. She nodded her head into his chest. It was feeling better, but the truth was she was just happy to be in his arms. She missed him. She had wanted to see him since she woke up this morning. From now on he was to at least kiss her goodbye in the mornings if he was leaving. She had to at least get a small fix in to hold her off until she could see him again.

“I have to say it. This side of you Levi... she brings out the better in you.” Grandpa Sage smiled as he took his seat.

“Right? Seeing Levi like this is such a complete flip. It is like seeing a different guy.” Titus beamed and Lee let out a small grumble in annoyance.

Rhea looked out from Lee’s chest and over at Titus and Grandpa Sage. “Really? He doesn’t seem that different to me?” Lee had always acted like this with her. Just that now there is a bit more touching, but he was the same guy she had always known.

“He is a complete grouch when he isn’t with you. A mean snake that can’t wait to lash out and sink its fangs in someone. He is like a wasp. You don’t have to do anything and the bastard will sting you. You calm him down and make him more like a cuddly puppy.” Titus smiled widely as he noticed Lee’s annoyed glance.

Rhea looked up at Lee. She raised her good arm up and brushed his cheek gently. “Not my Lee. He has always been cuddly.” Damn it Rhea you did it again. Just pour the wine and cut the cheese. She was the one acting like a lovesick puppy. Though... the way his light blue gems were shining down at her it looked like he didn’t mind her corniness.

“Hahaha trust me he isn’t. He is like a rabid dog when you aren’t around. You do your best to tip toe around him because you know you are going to get bit if he wakes up.” Titus laughed loudly obliviously destroying the mood between the two lovers.

Lee flashed Titus a quick unreadable look. Well, it was unreadable to Rhea, but Titus seemed to have read it loud and clear because he instantly quieted down. He looked back down at Rhea. He gently reached his hand up and tilted her chin up to him. He gently held her there as he looked her up and down. His eyes flickered back and forth when his gaze landed on her thighs. “Are you

trying to test my restraint today, princess?” His voice had a low rasp to it. He drew his mouth closer to hers so that his breath tickled her lips.

“This is your fault for not having clothes ready for me this morning.” Rhea pointed the blame back on him.

“You should have just worn my clothes.” His lips brushed against hers as he spoke.

“I don’t think that would have looked right. Why would Titus’s mate be wearing your clothes?” Rhea smirked against his lips.

“My MATE.” Lee growled and crashed his lips against hers claiming possession. He didn’t care about the two other men in the room. This was his mate. HIS. And he already had to suffer through so much restraint. He couldn’t do any more. He torched her lips branding them as his own. All the while he made sure he gently held on to her body. He was being sure not to aggravate her injury. He eased away from her. Listening to her staggered breaths for air. “I might have to play along with this charade for now... but that doesn’t mean I am a willing player. I am barely tolerating it. I don’t share. I don’t pretend share. I’ll kill anyone who touches what is mine. And you are mine.”

“Well, that last part sounds more like the Levi that I know.” Titus smirked and then made the lock and key motion over his lips when Levi shot him a dirty look.

Rhea sighed. She had needed that contact from Lee. She had been craving it. She smiled and rested her head against his chest. She liked hearing him calling her his. She liked how he claimed her. It was what she had always wanted him to say over the years. And now him saying it was like pure ecstasy. She was his and he was hers. She hoped he would turn out to be her mate. She wanted that complete bond between them. But even if he wasn’t. He was going to be hers. She loved him and that would never change. It’s her wolf’s fault for taking so long so she doesn’t have a say in their mate.

“We should probably head out. Cody and Kelsie are sitting out there worried.” Rhea said reluctantly. She didn’t want to leave his arms, but she didn’t want her brother and friend worrying out there.

“How is your arm?” Lee lifted her arm and stared at it. It had only been maybe ten minutes and her arm already looked completely healed.

“Now that is an interesting turn of events.” Grandpa Sage hobbled back up to inspect Rhea’s arm. “This stuff works fast but not that fast. This must be some sort of reaction with your fairy powers. That is the only explanation.”

Rhea looked at her arm quite pleased. It looked good as new. As if nothing had ever happened to it. She moved her arm around and smiled. “It feels completely normal.”

“I guess it is back to the meeting room again.” Titus huffed with a tired air.

“How is the meeting going?” Rhea looked between Lee and Titus.

“Eh, it is about what I expected. Actually, in truth a bit better. Grayson and Ruby are taking a hard stance in support. Their views alone are very strong for our side. We just need a bit more support for all of the dragons to accept it. We need one of the Northern leaders and one of the Southern leaders. Ruby’s brother will be here today and she said we can bank on his support. We are expecting the Northern leaders in about a week so we will have to wait until then for full support. It will work out. It is not like they can do anything about it. We were just looking for complete acceptance. If the four main leaders all accept it then no dragon will have any room for protest.” Titus rubbed the back of his head and yawned.

“Sorry for causing you guys trouble.” Rhea said quietly.

“No, Rhea. You don’t apologize. This is about the dragons and their ways. You have nothing to apologize for. Nothing at all my sweet fairy.” Lee kissed her forehead and looked down at his beautiful mate in adoration. She was perfect. The dragons and their issues were not her problem. They would deal with it. One way or another he thought darkly to himself. Book 2

Chapter 37 Best for Her

Chapter 119 - Dr.Luna

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“Rhea... your arm looks back to normal. Thank goodness.” Cody sighed with a breath of relief when he saw her walk back out with her arm looking normal.

“I’m so happy you are not in pain anymore. I couldn’t stand it. Can’t we just take her home now where it is ACTUALLY safe for her.” Kelsie glared between Titus and Lee. This would not have happened if she was back in Elysium.

“Kels.” Rhea tilted her head and raised her brows at her friend.

“She’s right. We need to do a better job at keeping you safe here.” Lee said with a chilling quiet.

Oh damn. Rhea shot Kelsie an angry look. Kelsie immediately backed away. She knew she had just made things worse for Rhea. “I am safe. It was an accident. I am fine. Don’t overreact now.”

“I’m not overreacting. This could have been avoided. In the future we can make sure something like this doesn’t happen again.” Lee’s voice was threateningly quiet.

“I don’t know what you are thinking Lee but there is nothing that needs changed. It was a simple accident. Please don’t go overboard now.” Rhea tugged on his arm while her eyes pleaded with him.

“I don’t think it is going overboard. I’m thinking keeping you inside the castle when we are not around might be the best thing.” Lee said the words Rhea was afraid he was going to say.

Rhea sighed loudly showing her dislike. The caged bird fluttered a little bit... better clip her wings even though she is caged. “I don’t want to be locked up in here Lee. That isn’t fair just because of an accident. Besides. Why is the inside any safer? There are people who don’t like me here. Does it really matter whether I am in or out?”

Lee narrowed his eyes. “Even if they don’t approve of you. No one would dare touch you. They know the consequences if they do.”

“Yeah, it’s called getting their ass kicked by Yogi and a kelpie.” Kelsie said with annoyance. As if they would let anyone touch her. What happened earlier was an accident. Nothing would have gone too far. They were near her moments after the incident.

“Hmph. I’m not too confident with that. You weren’t able to prevent this.” Lee said with mild anger.

“You better not be questioning how I protect my sister!” Cody suddenly raised his voice and stepped forward towards Lee. He would tolerate a lot. He would not put up with someone questioning how well he looked after her. No way. He was her guardian, and he would never let anything happen to her. Sure, an accident might happen at times, but in a life-or-death situation he would give everything in order to protect her.

Titus immediately took a protective stance next to Lee seeing the agitated guardian squaring off towards Leviathan.

Rhea looked between the two angry groups. Lee and Titus were staring off with Kelsie and Cody. This was becoming a mess. She was upset with Lee too, but things were getting taken to another level. Seeing them at odds like this hurt her heart. She was angry but she was also incredibly sad. These people were all important to her and were now seemingly divided. She wanted to scream at all of them. No one was thinking about her right now. Not entirely. They were all selfishly thinking about her. They were all selfishly saying what THEY thought was best for her.

That is what everyone did. They all kept doing what they thought was best for her. Was it best for her? Was it best for her to be taken away from her pack? Was it best for her to be separated from Wyatt and Jason? No one asked her. They just did it. The fact of the matter is she needed them. It was always the four of them. Always. They said it was for the best. It was to keep her

safe. It was to keep the pack safe. The four of them were not asked how they felt about it. It was just what was best so they had to accept it.

She knew she would leave the Diamond pack eventually, but she had thought it could be on her terms. When she found her mate and chose to leave. Or when she decided to move to Elysium. She was bitter over it. She was angry about being separated from them. And here it was... happening in front of her right now. More people deciding things about her. Once again, she wasn't getting a say. She knew she was letting her anger from being separated from Wyatt and Jason pour into her now. Everything was compounding up. Forcing her to feel feelings that she had been trying her best to suppress.

She stomped her foot sending whipping waves towards the group. Lee was able to block the waves at the last second from hitting everyone. All eyes turned and looked at the angry orbs staring back at them. She took in a deep calming breath. She had to be strong. She had a job to do. Several in fact. She couldn't afford to lose to her emotions. She would see Wyatt and Jason again soon. She would visit her pack again soon. She would bury her sadness once again. She looked between the four people in front of her, but she had no words for them. Whatever. Just lock her up if that is what they want. What should it matter what she wants? It never mattered before and it doesn't matter now. She turned abruptly and just quietly walked away from them.

Cody looked after her for a second and frowned. "She's doing it again." His eyes filled with sadness. "She's trying to bury everything and act like everything is fine.... It hurts when she does this." Cody said quietly.

"She doesn't think we see it... Doesn't she know we know her better than that? She has been hurting for months now." Kelsie's voice was very soft. It was one of the rare times you could hear her gentleness.

"I know she is upset about leaving her pack and your brothers. I wish I could give her what she wanted. I know she is hurting. Damn... and we just made it worse. Us fighting... hurt her." Lee cursed at himself inwardly for hurting his mate.

"Well, you three are the bunch of assholes because I didn't know she was hurting." Titus folded his arms and looked at the jerks in front of him. They were the ones who knew her the best. He dodged out of the way as Lee swung his hand around at him. "Hey, don't be mad at me. You guys better go and fix it."

Cody took off running after her down the hall. She was walking slowly so she didn't get far before he wrapped her into his large body. "Don't keep shutting me out Rhea. It hurts more than anything when you do that." Cody finally decided to tell her that he knew she was hurting. He was hurting too but this was their reality. He watched her eyes widen and look back into his. "Of course, I know Rhea." He leaned his head into hers. "I'm your guardian. I can sense your feelings, remember? I'm like the non-mate mate." Cody grinned at his horrible joke.

Rhea gave him a weak smile and then hugged him back. "I'm just tired of feeling like I never have a say in anything. My life is always getting tossed about in how someone else thinks is best.

I guess I harbor some harsh feelings over it. I don't want you thinking it is anything against you though."

"Me too Rhea. Me too. But I have you and you have me. I'm sure it is tough for Wyatt and Jason too. It is worse because it was so sudden, and we didn't have time to mentally prepare. It was bound to happen eventually. As long as I have you close, I will always be at home though. Wyatt and Jason will continually be there for us. And soon we will be able to visit each other often. It only feels bad now because we can't visit them." Cody's deep voice rang true for Rhea. He was right. At least she always had him. He was hurting too. "Us fighting... made you uncomfortable, didn't it?" Rhea nodded her head. "You know that I would never seriously get in an all out fight with them though, right? Unless they did something to you then there is no going back." Cody chuckled. "We all have strong personalities, so we are bound to clash and collide. Even you and I bump heads at times, but I think it makes us all closer in the end."

"Are you giving me life lessons and all that?" Rhea giggled into his chest. She already knew everything he was saying. She was just having an emotional moment. Who the hell wouldn't? Anyone who was put in her shoes would be on an emotional rollercoaster ride of their life. Her problem was that she suppressed her feelings until they bubbled over and then suppressed them again. She just never wanted to bother anyone. Since last night though she has had a nagging uneasiness that continues to grow. It wasn't just about Lee. She could feel an eerie growing presence. It was as if her body was instinctively trying to get farther away but couldn't. She might be safe here, but if she embarked to find the Ocean's Tear she would have to leave the safety of the dragon kingdom. Not only was it dangerous to get the Ocean's Tear, but she would also have to worry about the demons that are lurking out there. It was no wonder she was an emotional mess.

"Rhea... What is bothering you now?" Cody's voice was soft as he took a small step back from her. He could sense her thready emotions. They were all over the place. And almost gut wrenching at times.

Rhea's eyes flickered towards Lee who was now walking up to them. Then she looked back to Cody. Later when we can talk alone. Rhea shifted her steps side to side while she squeezed her hands together. She felt a bit anxious as her eyes had a hint of vulnerability in them looking up at Cody. Could she really put him and Kelsie at risk too? She undoubtedly needed them, but then she was basically dragging them into a gauntlet of danger.

Relax. We will talk later. Cody's gentle voice resonated in her mind. He reached out and placed a tender hand on the top of her head. He leaned his head onto her forehead and smiled at her. Cody pulled away and took a step back when Lee walked up to them.

Rhea could see the concern in his eyes. She noticed his thumb was playing with his fingers and a gentle smile spread over her face. He was nervous. "Everything is okay Lee. I just didn't like you guys fighting and then there is the same old stuff that has been bothering me. I'm okay now."

"Rhea, I would never hurt those that are precious to you. I-"

“I know already. The fact that you guys are able to argue just means that you are actually close. I get it. It still felt a bit divided. Like sides were split. And everyone was arguing on my account without even talking to me. We don’t need to talk about it anymore. It’s fine. The only thing we still need to discuss is me being kept under lock and key. But I will give you until this evening to make a wise decision about that.” Rhea smirked and leaned back on her heels.

Lee’s lips curled up into a smile. He knew keeping her locked up was not an option. There was no way his little troublemaker would simply stay put and obey. He would have to think of another way to keep her safe when he couldn’t keep an eye on her. He took a step closer to her. He wanted to hold his girl in his arms. He wanted to comfort her and himself. He needed her touch.

“My lords.”

Lee immediately stopped his approach and let out an irritated breath. He gave Rhea a look of promise before he took a retreating step to the side while he had to watch Titus wrap his arm around HIS mate. And in that outfit that she was wearing too... Damn that water horse for that outfit. I’ll be paying her back. Book 2

Chapter 38 Diplomat

Chapter 120 - Dr.Luna

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Titus rested his hand on Rhea’s waist as Reese walked up to them. “Wow! Your arm looks better already, that’s amazing.”

“Reese, I’m sure you are not here just to chat.” Titus said tersely.

“Sorry my lord. The children have been taken care of and their parents have been informed so that they can see to their punishment. Also...” Reese cleared his throat and then his eyes glazed over.

My lord, Melvin is really against your mate. I think you need to handle this situation firmly.

Titus's eyes flickered over towards Lee as he nodded slowly. "Reese will you keep a BETTER eye on my mate for me this time while I handle things?"

"My apologies my lord. I will do better this time."

"Awe now it isn't Reese's fault. You can't blame him for an accident." Rhea defended the man whose eyes lit with a smile.

Titus grumbled near Rhea's ear. "You aren't taking up for another man, now are you?" He spun her around aggressively making her short skirt reveal her bottom cheeks for a moment. He tugged her flush against his chest. "Do I need to teach you to only look at me?"

Wow... what an asshole. If this is how he intends to treat his mate I am glad it isn't me. However, you want to pretend that we are mates then I am going to teach you how I would treat my mate in this instance as well.

She smiled up at him sweetly gazing into his topaz eyes. She swung her hand up and flicked him hard right between the eyes. He reached up and held his hand over his head. "Ouwie."

"The lady dragons may swoon at your feet and love it when you treat them like an asshole but not me. You see, I have this thing called self-esteem. And you've got another thing coming if you think I'm going to allow you to act like that towards me. What? I can't stick up for someone else because your ego can't take the hit? Well get over yourself. I am going to do what is right whether it pisses you off or not." Rhea could see Kelsie and Cody leaning against the wall smiling in approval. Out of her side eye she could see the laughter in Lee's eyes as well. There was laughter there and something else. Something dark that she couldn't place.

Titus smirked down at her and took his thumb gently tilting her chin up to him. "See, right there. That's hot as hell." He leaned in and pecked her forehead. A dangerous move in front of Lee but he had to play his part. Plus, he really thought she was too damn adorable there. "This is how you should always be, Rhea. Always do what is right no matter who you make angry. This is why you are born to be a leader." As he stared into her deep blue eyes, he could feel a connection between them. It was weird. It felt like he knew her or that he should know her. Something deep down within her pulled him to her like a moth to a flame. He didn't want to analyze it too much, not the girl who Levi took as his mate. He dropped his hand from her. "Try to stay safe and out of trouble."

Rhea watched Titus wink at her and then he walked swiftly down the hall. She looked up at Lee as he followed after him. His eyes were dark and unreadable. But his facial expression looked to be upset. She wondered if he has noticed it... the weird feeling that just sparked between her and Titus. She wondered what it was. She had this nostalgic feeling deep within her, but she wasn't sure if it was from him or her or both of them. There was some sort of interesting connection with her and Titus. Whatever it was, it wasn't like her connection with Lee. That was a whole other animal.

“Thank you... for sticking up for me.” Reese smiled sheepishly as he nodded his head to her in respect.

“Don’t think anything of it. I was just doing what was right.” Rhea turned and looked at Cody and Kelsie.

“I don’t know about you guys, but I could go for some food.” Cody grinned widely making Kelsie scoff loudly.

“Of course you can. When aren’t you hungry? You’ve been low on the picnic basket theft lately.” Kelsie snorted but let a soft smile form over her lips.

“I’m hungry too. So, food it is.” Rhea smiled and then looked towards Reese. “That shouldn’t get us in too much trouble.”

Reese chuckled and nodded his head. “Follow me, I will lead you to the private kitchen. It is for Titus’s personal use.”

“Nice job there with Titus, but next time I think a sucker punch to the stomach would be more fitting.” Kelsie grinned and a quieted snarl was heard from Reese.

“I couldn’t possibly treat my mate like that, Kels. But a lesson needed to be learned nonetheless.” Rhea linked arms with Kelsie as they followed Reese to the kitchen. “After this I think I could use a nap.” Rhea said thoughtfully. What she was really thinking was maybe Reese would leave them alone for a nap. Then she could talk to Kelsie and Cody. It wasn’t exactly pressing, but she just wanted to get everything off of her chest. She needed to know where they stood as well. She didn’t want to force them to follow her into danger. And she knew she didn’t have to, but she wanted them to really understand the risks. It was a great risk, but it came with a great reward.

“You’ll need to use Titus’s room on the main floor for that so that I can stand guard. The upper tower is restricted so I can not go up. And after what happened earlier, I am determined not to let anything happen to you.”

Well so much for that. Reese shot that idea down pretty quick.

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Cody was inhaling the food around him. He always used the excuse it was because he was a bear and that was the reason he could eat so much. Honestly, Rhea thought that was just an excuse.

“Should we put the kitchen table on your plate too?” Kelsie looked at him with a raised brow.

“Depends what is on it.” Cody smirked and took another bite out of his sandwich. Kelsie took in a sharp breath from his comment. It was unexpected to her, but she understood the meaning behind it.

Yes, there was definitely some subtle flirting going on between the fighting. Rhea was sure of it. Most guardians never took a mate since they solely focused on their job at protecting their charge. Jealousy often played a role and it rarely worked out. This was a special case though. Kelsie was already aware of how things worked with guardians. Plus, she was just as protective over her and possessive. The two of them might actually be a really good match if they decided to give it a chance. She wouldn't push either way though. But she would support them and be happy for them if they did decide to be together.

“Are you still wanting to take that nap, Rhea?” Reese asked, noticing she had finished eating.

The nap was originally an excuse to ditch him. Now though. She did feel a bit drained. Laying down didn't sound like a terrible idea. Plus, it would help pass the time.

“Yes, I think I could use some quiet time.”

“If you are going to take a nap then I am going to head home really quick. There are a couple things that I forgot, and I want to get a couple of my favorite snacks.” Kelsie hopped up to her feet.

“So, I am getting left all alone? I'm not really feeling the nap thing.” Cody frowned. “But I don't mind reading a book and watching you rest.”

“You want to stay in the same room as her while she sleeps?” Reese asked with a bit of hesitation.

“Yeah, I am her guardian and her brother. Is that a problem?” Cody felt a bit agitated from the hesitation in his voice.

“It's just that... I would have to allow you in my lord's chambers and...”

Rhea understood. He would need permission for that. “On second thought nix the nap. I can rest later. Maybe I should walk around and get to know some of the other dragons better?”

“In that case, I will wait to head home. I can't trust these men to watch you properly. No, I know I will do a better job keeping you safe.” Kelsie said in her usual snotty voice.

Cody smirked and stood up. “There is no way you are a better protector than me, swamp horse. But you can say whatever you like if it makes you feel better.”

“Let's not start the arguing already.” Rhea quickly shot down the gripe fest that was coming. “Actually, I think I better leave you two behind. I don't need you both making things worse while I am trying to work on relations.”

“Awe Rhea, no. I am coming with-” Cody started but Rhea shook her head.

“No, I am pretty sure it isn’t a good idea. Not with your temper and her attitude. I won’t be long. You two stay here.” Rhea was certain that the two of them would make it harder for her to win the dragons over. She wouldn’t be long. She just wanted to try to ease some of the tension that was forming over her.

“Stay close with me. Some of the dragons are not completely receptive of you right now.” Reese seemed a bit uneasy, but he also was no one to deny her request. His job was to simply protect her. That was it.

Rhea looked around the big hall that still had a small crowd gathered. She had hoped to catch a glimpse of Lee, but he was nowhere to be found. She was sure that Titus and him were dealing with more political garbage. She also did not see Ruby and Grayson around which practically confirmed that theory.

“So, this is the fairy that has the dragon of the west breaking protocol.” A deep voice sounded from the side. Rhea looked up to see a very large, built man walking up to her.

“It isn’t fairy. It is Rhea. Unless you want me just to call you dragon.” Rhea gave him a sassy smile to which the man laughed loudly at.

“Weston. You my dear can call me Weston.” He extended his hand out to Rhea who shook it gently.

“I was beginning to think that I must be a terrifying creature. Most of your kind seem afraid to speak with me.” Rhea looked around the room at the others who seemed apprehensive around her.

“We usually do not associate much with other kinds. They are considered lower than us.”

Rhea internally scoffed, she knew she shouldn’t, but she had a bit of a bite in her tone as she answered him. “Well, I’m sure that makes them feel better about themselves. It is easier to believe your species are superior when they are never allowed to associate with those who actually are.”

Weston’s laugh boomed out of him. “I like you already. He let his eyes trail over her for a moment. “I can definitely see what the king sees in you... all of you.”

Reese shifted his weight as his eyes nervously flickered around the room. Rhea noticed his unease. This man must be a fairly high up noble since Reese feels uncomfortable around him.

“Hmmm. I wonder if you have some sort of pheromone that draws dragons to you.” Weston stepped closer to Rhea and leaned his head in. He inhaled deeply taking in her scent. “Mmm you smell sweet.”

“Wow... do those pick-up lines usually work for you?” Rhea rolled her eyes. If he was trying to make her uncomfortable it wasn’t going to work.

A quiet chuckle escaped his lips. “What if I told you that I was someone who could give you what you wanted? All you need to do is play nice with me.” In one quick move Weston wrapped his arm around her and pulled her against him. His face was dangerously close to hers and inching closer.

Book 2