

Chapter 141 - Dr.Luna

“So how do we plan to handle this little situation now? You know with Lee kissing the king's mate?” Rhea giggled as she wrapped her arms around Lee’s neck. “Look who the trouble maker is now?” Lee chuckled and pecked at her lips again. Rhea gasped. “He did it again!” She said it in a telling voice.

This time Lee pressed his lips onto hers. Singeing them with his heat. “These...” Lee brought up his finger and traced it over her lips delicately. “These are mine and mine alone.”

Rhea giggled. “Well so much for pleading not guilty.”

“I’m trying to think how I would actually handle the situation... and I honestly don’t know. I guess I trust Levi too much. I don’t know if I could ever think badly of him because I know he would never do anything to intentionally hurt me. In fact, you could argue that he felt the most comfortable kissing my mate knowing it wouldn’t mean anything.” Titus was also possessive and wouldn’t share what was his. However, things were different with Levi. He stepped in and took on the role of a big brother. He taught him and protected him. His father never paid him any attention and Levi filled that void. So, if Levi did something his first judgement would be to think he had a logical reason for it first.

“Awe, Titus... that is so sweet. You really care for Lee, don’t you?” Rhea smiled at Titus with appreciation. He believed in Lee like she believed in her brothers. She could never think that they would do something to intentionally hurt her. They wouldn’t. Just like Lee wouldn’t. She looked up at Lee. She could see how touched he also was by Titus. Sure, they bickered at times. That was normal for brothers.

“Thank you, Titus. I also trust in you. I must... I mean if I am letting you touch my mate, I have to trust you.” Lee shook his head with a smile. It was a new realization to him as well. Just how much he trusted Titus. The little boy he looked after really grew on him. He was now a man that he fully trusted. There is no one else he could trust with his mate but Titus. No one that he trusted enough to touch his mate in the way he would be. Even how he has been holding her and treating her as his mate. Titus is the only one he could tolerate it from. He used to brush off the joke of them being like brothers, but they were. Titus was like a brother to him. He filled a void in his life that was also missing.

Rhea took a step back and reached out her hand for Titus to come over. He smiled and walked up to them. Lee reached out and patted Titus’s back. Then the two men looked over at Rhea. She leaned in and hugged both men. More and more... the longer she was here it was starting to feel like home. These men were family to her. And subconsciously, she was not as homesick as she

used to be. She looked up at the two men and grinned. “So, we will just brush off the earlier incident as a big joke. That none of us took seriously. I think if we act like it is not a big deal then it will only reflect on the closeness of you two. If anything, it may make people a bit more leery of Titus knowing how close their deity is to him.”

Titus stepped back and grinned. “I think that is the best action to take as well. We will play it off. It was a statement for them but did not mean anything for us. Since we know that he wasn’t serious... When in reality he was serious and was making a bold statement to all of us that this little fairy was off limits.” Titus chuckled.

“Right, we can laugh it off because I am Lee’s mate. However...” Rhea lifted her finger and poked Lee in the chest. “If you ever do kiss Titus’s mate, I’m cursing your immortal life. I’ll become a dark fairy and make your immortal life a nightmare.”

“Yikes... she’s scary.” Titus watched as Lee grabbed her hand and kissed her fingers.

“That will never happen. You are the only one that I will ever kiss. Well, you and maybe our children.” Lee winked down at her and grinned as he saw the faint blush creep upon her cheek.

He brought up children on his own. Now my question won’t seem crazy obsessive weird. “If we have kids would they be immortal too? How does that work?”

“Taking an interest in our future children?” Lee chuckled. She was too adorable. “No, they would have longevity, but they would not be immortal.”

Lee would be around to see his mate die. His children die. His grandchildren die and so on. He would see them all live and see them all die. There was a small pang in her heart. While Lee would be there to watch over his legacy, he would also have to see them die. Endlessly. She wished she could at least always be by his side. Of course, if she got the Ocean’s Tear she would. There would never be a time that they didn’t have the other because their lives would be linked together. Then it would take away his immortality. Immortality, it was a blessing and a curse.

“No what will be most interesting is to see if they are wolves or dragons... or both! That would be wicked sick.” Titus was now speaking in excitement at the idea of a dragon being able to shift into a wolf. “They would be part fairy, part werewolf, part dragon and part god. They will be the coolest kids ever. It is like creating your own tribe of superheroes. You of course must have a dozen kids or so. Your kids would be too cool not to have that many.”

Rhea held up her hands in front of her and chuckled nervously. “Heh heh... I’m not sure about going through that a dozen times. And as tradition the first born will be a girl in order to take on the fairy princess role. But I heard about what will happen when I become pregnant. My mother made sure to warn me because she was never warned. She told me that it can get pretty painful and exhausting.”

“What do you mean? You won’t be in danger, will you?” Titus was suddenly concerned for her. It made sense since he lost his mother at childbirth.

“No, I won’t be in danger. But I guess having a magical child drains all of my energy and can become painful. I’m not sure how it works exactly but I guess having your partner near you keeps it away. Almost like he shares his energy with you or something. And the amount of time you can be apart from them gets shorter and shorter as your pregnancy progresses. My father was missing for a few days while my mother was pregnant. She said she never talked about it then, but it was torture on her body. She was too concerned about finding my dad though and ignored the fatigue and pain. She said she had no clue how she would have gotten through the pregnancy if she never found him.” Her mother was so strong to endure such a painful experience. She was in physical distress and mental distress. Still, she never gave up on finding her daddy.

“As long as Levi is by your side you won’t be in any distress then?” Titus felt a bit better. He did not want to lose her. She was precious to him.

“That is what I am told.” Rhea shrugged and felt Lee pull her backwards into his chest.

“Then I guess I’ll have to always be by your side when that time comes.” He gently cooed next to her ear.

She tilted her head back into his chest and grinned up to him. “When the time comes... I’d like to have a bit more time just enjoying you and having you to myself for now.”

Lee chuckled and kissed her forehead. “That sounds good to me too.”

“Sooo.... No Uncle Titus any time soon then huh? Bummer...” Titus let out a disappointed sigh. “Well, maybe Cody and Kelsie will pull through then. I wonder what a water bear will be like...”

Rhea began to giggle. She never thought about what their children would be like.

“Hey, where is your grizzly bear at?” Lee said just now realizing his absence.

“He is um... well he asked Kelsie to be his mate and she agreed. So she should be well marked about now. Actually, I know she is marked.” She looked up to Titus. “I felt it during our lunch today. I could feel a mental connection to her now. I think she is now my guardian too. I feel it...”

“Hmmm... now that is interesting. Is that how it always works?” Titus never knew how guardians worked with the fairies.

Rhea shook her head no. “No, actually guardians usually don’t take mates since it can be a problem with their charge. Or so we have been told. I disagree though. In fact, I encourage it. I don’t see why they can’t also have someone special. And with Cody, it being Kelsie is even better because she was already protective of me and understands the relationship. There is nothing to get jealous over or anything. It is their personal choice, and I am proud of the choice he made.”

"Wow... talk about commitment. So I guess this means you are stuck with Cody and Kelsie as guardians now, huh? Of course, you are stuck with me now too and I am not your guardian or anything... well not officially." Titus was protective over Rhea too. So, while it wasn't his title or anything, he still considered her someone to protect.

"I wouldn't have it any other way. I'm happy with you guys. I can't tell you what it means to have you all part of my life. Being with you all... it makes being away from home a bit more bearable every day." While there wouldn't be a day that goes by that she didn't miss her family she was at least happy here. The constant longing was getting drowned out by the overwhelming love and acceptance she had here. She could always visit her family but this... this would be her home. She was happy. It felt like the pieces of her life puzzle were starting to come together. She was meant to be here. She was meant to be with Lee. She was meant to be near Titus too... something inside of her pulled her to him. She wasn't sure what it was though. Just that she felt content being with him too.

"Sounds like my princess finally accepts this place as her home." Lee smiled down at her lovingly.

"I accepted you as my home Lee. My home is with you." Rhea leaned into his warmth. He was her biggest comfort. She couldn't imagine not being with him now.

"Let's hope you always feel that way." He kissed the top of her head and rested his chin there. Deep inside he was still worried. He was worried that the mate pull would rip her from his arms. And honestly, he did not know how he would handle it. He could never let her go. He needed her. For the first time, he needed someone else.

Please...let her always be mine.

Book 2

Chapter 60 Mark me Rhea

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Titus was leading Rhea back towards the room where they had the food fight. Lee was following behind them and savoring the view of his mate while there were no eyes around.

Titus pushed the door open, and several sets of eyes landed on them. Reese and Dex were standing off to the side. The old man and his granddaughters were nowhere to be seen. However, Weston and Grayson were now present in the room. All of the men looked nervous and were darting their eyes over the three who just entered. They were nervous about what was going to happen. It was now show time for Titus.

Titus started laughing. “What are you guys all nervous about?” He turned his head to look at Levi and Rhea. “You didn’t think that we would be fighting now... did you?”

Dex looked at Reese and then back to Titus. “You aren’t mad at him?”

“Hahaha. If it was anyone else but Levi here, then I would be. But he didn’t mean anything by it. And I know my girl here didn’t enjoy it.” Titus looked up at the unconvinced eyes. “You know, Levi here is like a brother to me. I trust him. We have a solid relationship. He isn’t just our deity to me. He is also close with Rhea too. He tries to keep his distance in public, so others don’t get the wrong idea.”

Lee walked up and put a hand on both Rhea and Titus’s shoulder. “These two are family to me.”

“Well, I could have told you that much. I could tell you three were close from the first day I met Rhea.” Ruby walked in from the side room where she had gone to bring out a few drinks. She turned and looked at Grayson and smiled. “I had never seen those two so close with anyone else before. I remember how shocked I was. I knew then that she must be someone special to both of them. I just didn’t realize how special she would be to me as well.” She handed a drink to Grayson and leaned into his side. “I tried to tell you boys that everything between them would be fine.”

The men finally all relaxed in the room. Rhea felt Lee’s hand slide away from her shoulder. She missed his touch instantly. Though, as his hand slid away, he managed to delicately run a finger down her back. It sent a small shudder down her back and a small smile spread on her face.

Titus then continued on, now that he saw everyone was relaxed again. “I blame the old man and his granddaughters... speaking of his granddaughters.” Titus turned and looked at Weston. “We have a problem that you need to deal with, otherwise Levi here will.”

Weston’s eyes flickered up to Lee nervously. “What seems to be the problem with my cousins.” He looked over at Ruby since she was the one closest to the girls.

“Rhea here has told us that they alluded to one of them sleeping with Leviathan here and that the other one would be as well. And that he would be taking one of them to be by his side. They even had a shirt of his they were presenting as evidence.” Titus watched Ruby’s shocked eyes.

“Are you sure, Rhea? You didn’t misunderstand them?” Ruby knew that her cousins could be bratty, but she couldn’t believe that they would do something so blasphemous.

“I heard it too. What Rhea said is correct. I was standing right beside her when they told us that. I could also smell Leviathan’s scent on the shirt they had. It was clearly his.” Reese came forward as a witness to what Rhea had said.

“Obviously, Levi here did nothing of the sort. That also means they went down a restricted hall in order to obtain a shirt of his. Then with what they are claiming... I do not need to stress to you how serious this issue is.” Titus looked at Weston who nodded in understanding.

“I’m terribly sorry. Please accept my deepest and most sincere apologies. I will handle this situation accordingly.” Weston bowed his head slightly to Lee who nodded to him.

“Wow... that was the most royal like I have ever seen Weston.” The words just slipped out of her mouth and she clasped her hand over her lips in embarrassment. Everyone looked at her and then the cascading sounds of their laughter filled the room. She even heard Lee and Titus chuckling beside her. How she wished she could just bury her head in Lee’s chest right now.

“I love how honest she is.” Dex snickered and looked at Weston. “She already has you pegged.”

“Hey, I may play around a lot, but I take my duty seriously.” Weston smirked up at Rhea and then shook his head. “I guess this is payback for all of my inappropriate jokes.”

“What inappropriate jokes?” Titus immediately sobered up and pinned his gaze on Weston.

“Let’s not go down this road.” Rhea patted Titus’ back; it was not the time to get into his crude jokes.

“You mean the jokes like how he gets his jollies off when you hurt him?” Dex said with a wicked grin.

Yep, these men loved to provoke the other. The problem is, they unknowingly were provoking their deity.

“What was said?” Titus growled.

“Hey!” Rhea slapped her hand on the back of Titus’ head. “I said we weren’t going down this road remember?” Then she pointed at Dex, “And don’t think you won’t get smacked either. So, I’d zip it.”

Titus tugged her into his side and chuckled at the little spit fire. While Dex whistled.

“I think you have your hands full there Titus.” Dex grinned as he stared at Rhea in amusement.

“From now on, I don’t think I’ll ever be able to say I am bored.” Titus chuckled and gave a side glance at Lee. He was telling Lee that he would never be bored with Rhea around.

Lee stood behind Rhea and Titus quietly with a small smile on his face. Her being his mate was perfect. She was the picture-perfect fit. She wasn’t intimidated by anyone. She wasn’t power hungry. She didn’t care about any of that. She really was the person who could stand next to him on equal footing.

When he first met her, he tried to deny the connection at first. He tried to fight being attracted to her. Loving her... just came easily and naturally. She wasn’t just his mate but the girl he had fallen in love with. The deeper he fell the more the bond pulled. He realized he couldn’t stay away from her. He couldn’t fight it. He did not want to either. Even now, every day he felt his

heart swell for her. She gave him a new sense of life. And in all the years he had been alive... he was now actually living.

“It’s about time someone is able to smack Titus around a bit. It has been long overdue.” Ruby giggled into Grayson's side. “So, are you nervous about tomorrow? If it makes you feel any better, I have to go through it publicly too then. At least we get to be embarrassed at the same time.”

Rhea bit on her bottom lip. “I’m not thrilled about being a public spectacle. But I was informed that I don’t have a choice. I guess the unmated males need a way to get their jollies off...” Rhea rolled her eyes and Ruby giggled.

“Now now... you are making it like us dragons are a bunch of perverts. That’s not what it is about at all. It is for everyone to see and know that you have been accepted by your mate.” Weston leaned against the wall and listened as Rhea clicked her tongue in irritation.

“And that’s the other thing. It is such a one-way street here. It is the males showing their acceptance of the females. Like that is the only part that matters. You don’t show it the other way around with the females claiming the man as theirs.” If they had to make a public spectacle of it to prove that they accepted one another then shouldn’t it go both ways?

Grayson chuckled and Dex whistled out again.

“Okay... now that’s hot. I want that. When I meet my mate, I want her to claim me publicly. Damn, why does Titus get the good one.” Weston eyed Rhea enviously with a small frown on his face.

“Please Weston, you couldn’t handle a girl like Rhea.” Titus chuckled and kissed the top of Rhea’s head.

Ruby looked at Rhea. “I think I would be too embarrassed to do something like that.” She gave Grayson a shy smile. She felt him squeeze her tightly.

“Our angel can be Titus’ handful. You just continue to be my gentle spark.” Grayson leaned down and kissed her cheek.

“I’m just saying women should at least have the option if they wanted to.” Rhea understood it wasn’t for everyone. But as it was now it was just a man show. It was almost a dominance show. The man claiming his woman. The idea was really caveman to her. She was like her mother in that way. She didn’t have her wolf, but she felt the desire to claim. She wished she could mark Lee so that everyone knew he was hers.

“So, do you plan to? Plan to mark Titus?” Dex was now smirking and looking at Rhea. He was putting her to the test. He figured she was all talk, but when she was put on the spot, she would bow out like any of the women would.

“When my wolf finally breaks out... yes. I am going to mark my mate. He’s mine. And I am going to claim ownership of what belongs to me.” Titus choked a bit on his spit then. His head tilted to the side so that he could look at Rhea and Levi. She had just said she planned to mark their deity! No one else knew that but him and Levi. Levi was looking at her with a very intense interest, a hidden smile resting on his face. No doubt he felt excited hearing how she wanted to claim him.

“Woooo.... You sure you want Titus? I mean, my neck is bare over here....” Dex pulled his shirt to the side and leaned his neck out playfully.

Titus snarled at him. “This is my mate you are talking about, so I’d be careful.”

Rhea giggled. “Now wait a minute. I was told that dragons marked each other.”

“Eh... not quite. They mark us with their scent, but they don’t brand us like we do to them.” Weston rubbed his neck wistfully. “I want to be claimed too. Damn it, I don’t want Titus to have you.”

“Shut up Weston. Go and find your own mate already so you quit staring at mine.” Titus growled in irritation. The longing looks from Weston were now starting to irritate him. Not just him though. He heard the quieted irritated sighs from Levi behind him. Weston had no idea who he was provoking here.

“You are the complete opposite of how I pictured a fairy princess.” Dex said in amusement.

“Yeah... that’s the werewolf in me and the fact that I grew up in a werewolf pack.” Rhea scrunched her nose and shrugged. Her grandmother was probably more like the ideal they had in mind. However, her and her mother were not. But they were exactly what the fairy kingdom needed.

“If I don’t get a mate as half as interesting as Rhea then I quit life.” Weston said with mild annoyance.

“When do dragons typically find their mates?”

“There really isn’t a typical time frame. I guess within your first one hundred years of life. Eh, it just depends. Then you have my sister and Grayson who have known they were mates for a couple years now, but they couldn’t be together.” Weston had always felt bad for his sister and his friend. It was a horrible situation to not be able to have your mate when you know who they are.

“Thanks to our angel here we can finally be happy.” Grayson smiled up at Rhea in appreciation.

“I actually already found my mate.” Dex said quietly and all eyes drifted to him in shock.

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“You did? When? Who?” Titus couldn't recall him ever mentioning it before. In fact, he knew he hadn't.

“A couple years ago...” Dex looked up to Titus. “It is what it is, but she already had someone else. She actually left the dragon kingdom to be with the man she loves.”

“Wait a minute... what? She refused you? Where is she now?” Weston was shocked at this. Who would refuse a dragon king?

“I actually never planned to mention this before.” He looked up at Titus again. “She lives in one of the utopia villages now. I went to check up on her just to make sure it was what she really wanted.” His gaze never left Titus' eyes. “She lives there now happy with the man she loves.”

Rhea felt Titus' hand tighten around her and he nodded his head quietly. “You saw him there...” His voice quietly spoke out. It was so quiet and sounded almost sad. Rhea naturally leaned into him and rubbed his back trying to comfort him.

“She was with him. They are happy together. He seemed like a normal happy guy...” Dex said quietly.

“Good... I am glad he is now able to be happy.” Titus was glad. He wanted his father to find happiness. He just couldn't help but feel sad knowing that he couldn't have that being around his son. No... to his father he was the creature that killed his wife.

“So, what does that mean for you now Dex? Are you searching for someone to love or hoping you have another mate out there somewhere?” Rhea tried to move the conversation along. She knew that Titus wouldn't want to talk about his father. Who would? The man who left to find happiness somewhere away from his son.

“Both I guess. If I find another mate that would be amazing. It doesn't happen often though. So, in the meantime I guess I am open to see where life leads me. Who knows? Maybe I will meet a fairy of my own.” He winked at Rhea and chuckled. “Honestly, I am young and not worried about finding my mate at this moment. I am not in dire need to start a family or anything. So, for now I am just enjoying life.” Dex was thoughtful as he spoke. He wasn't bitter over being rejected. If anything, it put things into perspective to him. That he could find love if he really wanted it.

Rhea smiled and nodded. "I think that is a very healthy way to look at things. The person you love doesn't have to be your mate. They are the person that calls to your heart. It doesn't matter if you have a mate out there if you have found the person your heart connects with. The mate bond pulls you together... but love is something different and special. Being able to fall in love with your mate is just the icing on the cake. Even that doesn't always happen though. So I think if you find love you should seize it and never let go."

Dex smiled. "You're a lucky guy Titus. Sounds like your mate is already proclaiming her love for you."

Rhea blushed. She just spoke from her heart, but it was obvious she was speaking from experience. She couldn't make eye contact with Lee at all. Instead, she bit her bottom lip and looked at her toes. Her cheeks were betraying her with their crimson color. She was talking about Lee when she spoke. Thinking about how she loved him even though he wasn't her mate. And to her it didn't matter. She didn't know what a mate pull felt like, but she knew how she felt for Lee. She knew that she could never be without him.

She peeked her eyes up at Titus. He was smiling down at Rhea. That's when a small, pitted feeling hit her stomach. Titus still hadn't found his mate. She wondered if it was hurtful. Being told you were a lucky guy when he really hadn't found his mate. Was he lonely? She felt sad for him. She couldn't bear it if he was hurting. She wanted to comfort him. She had an overwhelming urge of wanting to know if he was okay. Was all of his joking and teasing a mask to hide the pain?

Her mother said how he seemed like a lonely boy. And he was. At the same time, he was pushing himself to look happy to others. He didn't want anyone to worry about him... Sort of like her. When she was first taken to Elysium, she always put on a happy face. She didn't want to worry anyone. Lee was the only one who ended up really knowing how sad she was. Was Titus still putting on an act now? Was he still hurting? She squeezed onto his arm making him look at her curiously.

The thought of Titus being in pain was hurting Rhea. She was reeling on the inside. A pull was felt in her fingertips. Something deep inside of her was calling out to his soul. It was like she was trying to reach him but couldn't. She could feel the light that emanated from him. The voices around her began to muffle as she felt the light under her fingertips. The gentle warmth tingled at her fingertips. She felt like she recognized his light. There was a warmth inside of her that tried to answer him but couldn't.

She felt like if she could just connect with him then she could heal his light. It was a warm light that swirled with loneliness. She felt like if her light could reach his then it wouldn't be lonely anymore. Oddly enough... her light also swirled with the same loneliness. It was like the two lights needed each other. Her light was calling out to his and his was calling out to her. But hers was stuck. Stuck inside the bubble. No matter how much she focused the bubble wouldn't break. She had no idea what the Moon Goddess was up to. Why was she blocking her wolf? Why was she blocking her light?

She inwardly sighed and pulled out from her inner search. She had to wait. She couldn't unblock her wolf until the Moon Goddess took away the barrier. As she refocused, she felt a gentle warmth on her back. Lee had moved closer to her and had a small hand resting on her. She looked around. No one else seemed to have noticed as they were heavily engaged in other conversations.

Titus leaned his head down next to her ear and in an almost inaudible whisper he said, "What was that?"

Rhea's eyes widened as she met with his topaz gaze. Did he feel it too? Was he able to feel what she felt? Or was he asking what had happened to her there? She didn't know how to answer him though. She just shook her head slightly to the side.

Titus studied her for a moment. "We have a few things we need to attend to... so if you all wouldn't mind excusing us." He looked out at the others who nodded in understanding. He used his arm to pull Rhea along in his embrace while Lee slowly trailed after them. He led her back and through the door to the long stairwell that went back to their rooms. After Lee shut the door behind him she walked up and leaned against the wall.

She clutched her chest and took in gentle breaths. Her insides were burning from tampering with the barrier. She let out a breath.

"Rhea what happened?" Lee rested his hands on her shoulders as he gazed into her eyes.

"Yeah... what was that feeling?" Titus looked at his arm then inquisitively back to Rhea.

So he did feel it too. Rhea looked at Titus curiously too. She didn't know why their lights were the same. Everyone had their own unique light. Even her and Wyatt had different lights... but Titus's was the same as hers. She did not know what that meant.

She shook her head. "I don't know... but your light. Your light was resonating with mine. It is the same as mine. What does that mean?"

Lee's eyes widened and then he turned to Titus. He pointed at Rhea and then growled out, "Is she your mate too?"

"Whoa whoa whoa. Slow down there, Levi. She's not my mate. But... Well I would be lying if I didn't say I was drawn to her. I don't know why either. I don't understand what the whole light thing means that she is talking about. Only that she is someone important to me." Titus didn't know how to explain it other than that. She was important to him.

"I feel that too Titus. That you are someone important to me." Rhea wouldn't know anything more than that until her wolf was out. Apparently, neither would Titus.

Lee furrowed his brows and looked between them. "That sounds like a mate pull..." He trailed off quietly.

Rhea giggled and reached her hands up and cupped Lee's cheek in her hands. She reached up from her tiptoes and sweetly pressed her lips into his. "Titus is not my mate Lee." She glanced at Titus who was also smiling at Lee. "Titus would know if I was his mate just like you knew I was your mate. This isn't like that. It is different. It feels different."

Lee leaned his head into Rhea. He didn't know what he would do if she ended up being Titus's mate. That is what the initial pull felt like. It felt like being drawn to someone important. He couldn't help but worry about it.

"And in case you weren't listening earlier. She did just give a pretty cute declaration of love towards you earlier." Titus smirked as he watched Rhea's face heat up. She leaned her head into Lee in order to hide her embarrassment.

Lee smiled down at her and chuckled. He wrapped his arms around her and kissed her head. "That was pretty flattering to hear... but I want to hear more about how you plan to mark me?" Rhea pushed her head deeper in his chest. She was being smothered by her own embarrassment.

"Yeah... maybe leave that talk for the bedroom." Titus said with a wink.

Rhea cleared her throat. "The point being here is that you are my person Lee. It is you. It is only you. The feeling with Titus..." She pulled her head away from Lee to look at Titus. She was perplexed by the draw towards him. He just felt... safe. He felt like being home. She reached her hand up to her chest as she tried to think of the feelings. "It feels like coming home. It's a relaxing and familiar feeling. It is hard to explain. I guess we will just have to wait for this barrier inside of me to be broken to find out."

"What does it feel like with Levi?" Titus smirked and watched Rhea's face turn five shades of red. "Come on Rhea... I think it would be helpful for 'Leeeee' to hear the difference." He poked again he was just teasing. He didn't think she would actually do it...

She rested her forehead in Lee's chest and looked down at their feet. She gnawed on her bottom lip nervously. She knew she didn't have to but Titus actually had a point. In his own sadistic way. It would help for Lee to hear the difference in how she felt.

"From the start... from the-"

"Shhh Rhea you don't have to." Lee gentle spoke to her. She didn't need to explain it to him. He appreciated what she was going to do, but it wasn't necessary. He knew she loved him.

She gazed up at him and smiled. She knew she didn't have to but she knew Lee was worried about her not being his mate. She wanted him to know how much different the feeling she had for him was over the one for Titus. So, she took in a deep breath. It might be a bit embarrassing, but she was going to try to convey her feelings for him in words.

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“No... I know I don't. But Titus is right. I think it will be helpful for you to hear the difference. Just don't look at me.” Rhea let out an airy laugh as she continued to keep her head hidden. “From the start, from the first day that I met Lee it has only been him. He was the only guy who ever existed to me. The tiniest gesture melted my insides. Even hearing him tell me good job could keep me in a euphoric high for days.” Rhea chuckled thinking how lame it sounded. “I don't know about a mate pull... but I am always looking for him. Every room I find myself trying to find him. Even being away from him for a moment is agonizing. My chest hurts when he is away. And on...” She let out a dry cough. “And on an intimate level... I crave his touch. No, it's more like I need it. No one's touch does to me what Lee's does. And on an even more humiliating level I have an insatiable desire for him all the time. And mmmffff-”

Lee crashed his lips into hers and pulled her tightly up to him. She was being so honest and open. How the hell was he supposed to just sit there and listen to that. She had no idea how those words made him feel. It was more than hearing how she felt about him. It was almost hearing exactly how he felt about her. He loved her so much. And he was able to hear how much she loved him. It was more than love though. She was also drawn to him. This gave him hope. Hope that maybe she would view him as her mate after all.

Titus cleared his throat. “Still in the room here. But I think you've made Levi pretty happy with your raw honesty.” Titus had a crooked smile on his face.

Lee pulled away from Rhea and smiled into her lips. “Thank you. Your honesty is the best gift anyone has ever given me. You don't need to say anymore. I understand exactly what you were putting into words. I feel the same way towards you.”

Rhea looked down and bit her bottom lip. “I told you not to look at me.” Then she let out a quiet giggle in minor embarrassment. “Anyways... it isn't the same at all with Titus.”

“What no insatiable desire for me?” Titus chuckled as he humiliated Rhea a bit more.

“Shut up Titus.” Rhea rolled her eyes and then looked up at Lee. He leaned down and gently prodded her nose. She smiled up at Lee. Then decided while she was on this heart-to-heart train she might as well make the next stop.

“Titus...” Rhea watched as he looked at her curiously. She fidgeted a bit trying to think how to tell him how she was feeling.

“I feel like I’m about to get the love confession.” Titus taunted again but the amusement soon faded as he noticed her seriousness.

“Umm... the thing is. I know you don’t need me saying anything but I am. Your dad is wrong. He was wrong with how he treated you and he was wrong for leaving you. I’m sorry. It should never have been like that ever. And I know that wasn’t easy and isn’t easy. I guess what I am trying to say is... I’m here. I don’t want you to ever feel lonely. I’m here and I’m not going anywhere.” She looked up to see Titus and Lee looking at each other. There was a gentle smile on both of their faces.

“Thank you, Rhea. I’m not lonely anymore. And with you here keeping us constantly on our toes I don’t think I’ll ever have time to be lonely again. Honestly it was hard when I was young. But once Levi moved in everything changed. Because of him and gramps I was never alone. I mean sure it still hurts with my dad, but I’m okay now. And lately ever since you came it has been really good. I’m happy. I love seeing Levi happy and I love having you here. Being around you is... it is like home. So, don’t worry about me. Thank you. It is sweet of you, but it isn’t necessary.”

Just when Lee felt like he couldn’t love her anymore she went and said something like that. She was worrying about Titus and if he was lonely. She was such a sweet person. Titus was family to him so seeing her care about him warmed his heart. She was the best mate he could have asked for. And he could not wait until he could tell everyone that she was HIS mate. In fact, he was anxiously waiting for the day. He just needed a bit more time.

“Do you think those two are done romping around up there? It’s been pretty busy lately and tonight is a down night since there is a big event tomorrow. You guys all want to watch a movie or play a game?” Titus asked and watched Rhea’s eyes light up in excitement.

“Yes! Should we watch a movie... only what movie... or should we play a game. Ugh.. but not Old Maid. F that game. I’m so excited. It will be nice to just have some fun. We need snacks too. Lots of snacks.” Rhea was speaking so fast as she got carried away with her excitement.

Lee chuckled. “Sounds like it’s a definite yes.”

“I’ll let Cody and Kelsie know we are coming up.” Rhea was wanting to talk with them anyways. She was now linked to the two of them.

I hope you both are decent. We are coming up. It’s a games or movie event time. And this is pretty cool, I can mind link Kelsie now too.

Wow this is awesome. I can hear you Rhea. Wow. This is exciting.

I was going to take a nap. Cody grumbled in the mind link.

You can nap later. Yes, we are in for some fun.

Rhea giggled. "Okay Titus you are in charge of arranging all the snacks. So mind link your chef and tell him we want a bounty."

"Don't you feed her Levi? Your girl here is hungry." Titus laughed. "I'll go and bring some movies and games up. You guys go ahead and head up. I'll be up in just a few minutes."

The moment Titus left and shut the door Lee hoisted Rhea up in his arms. He held her up to his chest bridal style and began carrying her up the stairs.

Rhea giggled. "Lee I can walk perfectly fine."

"I know. But I need to hold you close. I need this." Lee nuzzled his nose in her hair and breathed in. He has been trying to hold off with completing the mating bond. He wanted to wait until they were in the clear. It was becoming increasingly harder for him. Especially when she has been making declarations of love for him all day. Silly girl. She did not have the faintest clue how much her words affected him. A single word from her could bring him to his knees. She had that much power over him. He would give her anything and everything if he could.

Rhea felt her body heat up in his arms. She stared up into his light blue eyes as he carried her up the stairs. She wished she could always be in his arms. She wrapped her hands around his neck and pulled herself up. She pushed herself into his lips. Firmly taking the lead this time. She licked on his bottom lip and lightly nipped it. She pushed her tongue in the moment she was granted entrance. She met with his tongue in a passionate dance as she continued to hold him up to her. Soon she felt her back against the wall as he used it to brace their position. Okay... engaging in the middle of a steep stairway wasn't the smartest decision, but just like he needed to hold her. She needed this. She needed this moment.

Her soft whimpers in his mouth were driving him crazy. Not only did he want her, but knowing she wanted him as well was setting his beast on fire. He began to respond to her more urgently. His one hand held her in his arms while his other hand began exploring her body. She arched into him encouraging what didn't need encouraged. The passion was heating up between them. He broke apart from her lips. Panting heavily in front of her. He let out a low growl. "If this continues, I won't be able to stop from devouring you. You are an all too willing temptress. I need you to play a bit more hard to get."

Rhea giggled. "Then you would only take it as a challenge and a game you must win."

Lee chuckled and kissed her nose. "Probably. In either case... I won't be able to keep your virtue much longer."

"Take it when you want it. It's yours." Rhea said coquettishly.

Lee growled out a chuckle. "Damn Rhea... quit seducing me." He leaned in and bit at her marking spot. Causing her to let out a soft whimper and moan from his touch.

“Once this is settled Rhea... I am going to pay you back for all of this sexual build up you have created.”

“Promises. Promises.” Rhea rolled her eyes playfully and he nipped at her mark again.

“Mmm they are promises.” He licked at her mark once more and straightened his head away from her. His eyes flashed from dark back to blue as he struggled to rein his beast in. “Besides... the stairs are no place for love making.”

Rhea scrunched up her nose. “Yeah, it really isn’t.”

“Rhea...” Lee said quietly as he continued to ascend the stairs.

“Hmm?”

“I don’t know what having the same light means with Titus. But I want you to know that when you find out... don’t be afraid to tell me. I don’t want you to think you can’t talk to me because you are afraid of hurting me.” Lee wanted her to feel comfortable talking to him no matter what she found out. No matter how badly it might hurt him.

“Lee... I promise. I will tell you when I find out what it means. I don’t know what it is but please... believe me when I say it’s you Lee. It will always be you.” There was no reason that Lee would hurt. Because he was the one that she has decided to be with.

He smiled and nodded. “I know Rhea. I know how you feel about me now.” He stared down into her sapphire eyes. “Thank you again for that. I really did mean it when I said it was the best gift anyone has ever given me.” Lee stopped walking and then let out a quiet sigh.

“What’s wrong?”

“What is it that you have been keeping a secret from me?”

Rhea’s eyes widened. How in the heck did he know? “What do you mean?”

“Rhea. I know you. I know when you are holding something inside. I have been waiting for you to bring it up, but it seems like you intend to keep it a secret.” Lee was studying her face waiting for her to fess up.

Just then the door to the top opened. Kelsie peaked her head down and looked at them. “What is taking you guys so long?”

“Oh... nothing. Rhea is about to tell me what she has been keeping secret from me.”

“Oh... she was ... well umm... okay.” Kelsie said in a very unsmooth manner.

“So, you know what it is too?” Lee turned his accusing look onto the water horse.

Kelsie shrugged and smiled before she backed out from the door.

Lee turned his gaze back to Rhea. "So?"

"I'm sorry Lee. I can't tell you." Rhea said quietly.

"Why not?" His voice now softened as he gently asked.

"Because..." Rhea bit her lip and frowned. She wanted to talk to him about it. But if he knew what she had planned if things failed with the deities he would stop it. "I'll tell you about it later."

"Rhea."

"I can't tell you right now Lee. I'm sorry. I don't want to keep secrets from you. And I will tell you. Just not now."

Lee sighed and frowned. "Well as long as it isn't anything dangerous then... wait... what's that look? It is dangerous, isn't it? Rhea." He began to growl lowly trying to make her spill her secret.

Guess the honeymoon is over. Rhea thought wryly.

"You guys are still in the stairs? What were you two doing that was taking this long?" Titus said as he came up from behind them.

Rhea took that moment to hop out of Lee's arms and dash towards the top. She quickly fled to Kelsie and Cody. "He wants to know... how did he know?"

Cody looked at Rhea with a side smile. "You are the worst secret keeper in history that's why."

Lee came up from the stairs with Titus right behind him. He was dead pinning his gaze on Rhea. "Tell me what it is you are planning."Book 2

Chapter 63 Truth Time

Chapter 145 - Dr.Luna

I think he's mad. Cody mind linked with a smirk.

No shit Cody. Now what. Rhea sighed and squeezed herself between her two guardians.

It's not like he has truth serum. Let the bastard fret over it. He can't force it out of you. Don't tell him. Better for him to be mad then to stop you from doing what you need to. Kelsie snorted. How dare he look at Rhea like that. What Rhea was planning was for his own damn good.

Or he puts her on lock down anyways because he is suspicious over what she plans to do? Cody sighed.

"Man, I can't keep up with your guys' mood swings." Titus rubbed his temples as he looked between Levi and Rhea.

"We don't need a public audience for this. Rhea let's go talk." Lee walked to his room and waited for her inside. This did not need to be a public affair. It didn't need to turn into a shouting match or an argument. He just wanted her honesty. She's been holding something back for awhile now. He could feel it. She never was good at hiding secrets. He had been hoping she would tell him whatever it was. At first, he was nervous. He thought maybe she had feelings for Titus, but once he realized that wasn't the case, he finally decided to ask her about it.

Rhea looked back at the room and then sighed. "What should I do here?"

"You already know Rhea. It's what you have wanted to do since you knew. You have been looking for his answer over a certain question anyways." Cody smiled down at her. "No matter what... if it is something that has to get done it will. I promise no one will stop us."

"It's fine guys. It's fine. Everyone knows what is going on but me. It's fine though." Titus kicked at the ground a bit with a frown.

"Titus. If there was something really important, I might have to do but it could be dangerous... you wouldn't stop me, would you?" Rhea asked him quietly.

Titus looked at her thoughtfully and then smiled. "No, I wouldn't stop you, but I would be coming too."

Rhea smiled and nodded her head. "Thank you. I think fun time will be on hold for a little bit. You three decide what it is we are going to do." Rhea slowly walked to the bedroom and shut the door behind her. She saw Lee leaning against the wall. He was quietly staring at her. Whether this was the right or wrong decision to make it was the one she needed to make. She needed to know how he felt. It wouldn't be fair if not. She walked up to him and took his hand into hers.

"Lee..." She looked into his blue pools and smiled. "There is something that is on my mind. And I haven't told you about it because... well I wasn't sure if I would need to and I didn't want you to stop me if I did. But honestly it is bothering me not talking to you about it which is probably why you could tell I was keeping something from you." She started rambling a bit and Lee reached a hand up and gently cupped her cheek. He smiled at her and she smiled back.

"I guess I didn't want you getting mad or trying to stop me..." She whispered out quietly.

Lee let out a sharp sigh. “So, it is dangerous then.” He closed his eyes and groaned as he leaned his head back. He told himself to calm down and hear what she has to say. He never wanted her to feel like she couldn’t tell him something. He knew it was his reaction that she was worried about. So he told himself to be more open. But when it comes to her safety...

“I mean yes and no. It has been dangerous, but it shouldn’t be as dangerous to me.” Rhea bit her bottom lip and watched Lee open his eyes to look back at hers. “I guess I should start at the beginning.”

“Back when I had my vision. I also heard a voice then too. At first I thought maybe it was my great grandmother but now grandpa Sage and I think it was from the Moon Goddess.”

“The Sage is in on this too?” Lee growled out in annoyance.

“I left Titus out though.” She gave Lee a sheepish grin and then cleared her throat. “The voice...” She took in a deep breath. This next part would give everything away. “The voice said for me to find the Ocean’s Tear.” Yep, that did it. Instant dark stormy eyes flooded over Lee. She watched his lips curl back into a snarl and he sighed angrily.

“You. Were. Going. To. Go. Get. The. Ocean’s. Tear?”

She listened as he enunciated each word as he struggled to hold in his anger.

“I don’t know. Maybe... if I had to.” She bit her bottom lip as she heard him let out a dark chuckle.

“The game you played... about immortality. You were fishing for my thoughts because of the Ocean’s Tear. Sneaky.”

“It wasn’t fair though. A game is hypothetical. It isn’t your real thoughts. That’s why I have been struggling. How could I possibly take away your immortality from you? That would not be fair. Just so we can be together. How could I make such a big decision on my own to link our lives together?”

Lee’s eyes softened and he held her face gently between his hands. “That is not the problem here. A mortal life with you is all I could ever ask for. I don’t need eternity. I need you. My life would end when yours did whether I was immortal or not.” He leaned his head against hers. “If my life could end when yours ends it would be a blessing. I don’t want to live in a world where you are not part of it.” He leaned in and kissed her forehead. “But the Ocean’s Tear... it’s a trap baby. And I don’t know what that damn Moon Goddess, Selene is up to.”

“Why is it a trap?”

“No one has ever returned from trying to retrieve it. Everyone who has gone for it has died. It is nothing more than a trap from a jilted goddess. If she can’t be happy then no one else can be either.”

“Is the Ocean’s Tear not what it is said to be?” Rhea wondered if the item was actually real.

“It is. It is just impossible to get.” Lee brushed his lips against her forehead again.

“Is it though? I’m not just a mere mortal, Lee. If it is in the merrow queens hands then I have a chance. She is technically one of MY subjects. She is a marine fairy.”

“She’s vicious. She would never give it to you. Rhea push this from your mind. It really isn’t an option.” He did not want her embarking on a fool’s quest where she had no hope in succeeding.

“Lee, she is no match for me. I can at least speak with her with no ill will.”

“Rhea... I can’t go where she is at. She stays in a barrier where deities can not go. This is why we can’t get the tear for ourselves. I can’t go there with you. I couldn’t protect you there.”

“I don’t need you to protect me. Lee. I’m not going right now. But. At least think of it as an option. Don’t take it off of the table. Because I would do anything and risk anything to be able to live freely with you. Do you not feel the same?” Rhea listened to his agitated breath.

“I can’t lose you Rhea.”

“Right, and I can’t lose you either. I won’t live with you locked away somewhere. We can’t keep this secret forever. I need you Lee. I can’t survive without you.”

Lee leaned in and pressed his lips against hers. “I’m going to convince the others. So you don’t have to worry about this okay?”

Rhea smiled. “Okay, but if you aren’t able to, I am going to choke the merrow queen until she coughs up the tear.” She gave a super sweet smile that made Lee chuckle.

“No more talk of the Ocean’s Tear then... promise?” Lee tilted his head down and raised his eyes looking at her.

“Promise. But if you fail this fairy princess is raising hell. You really are over thinking all of this. The merrow queen killed other mortals but I will be the first fairy princess asking for it. She won’t kill me. She could refuse me but she wouldn’t kill me. I’m the one she needs to worry about. It isn’t the other way around. I’m being underestimated here.” Rhea sighed and rolled her eyes.

“I prefer to underestimate you. Then you’ll never be at risk.”

Rhea swung her arms around Lee’s neck. “Thank you for just listening and not freaking out. Was it hard?” She smirked up near his lips.

He chuckled down at her. “Yes. I don’t want you to feel like you can’t tell me something. No secrets between us, Rhea. I want you to tell me everything.”

She smiled. “I think I have been pretty honest with you. I even told you exactly how I felt about you.”

He leaned down near the crook of her neck and buried his face in her mark. “You know... after tomorrow... I’m going to have to purify this mark again.” Lee’s hot breath fanned against her skin.

“Maybe I need a pre-purification now?” She smiled and leaned her neck into him as he chuckled against her skin. He gently nipped at her mark and placed a hot kiss over it.

“I better get away from my little temptress before you steal my virtue.”

Rhea gave him a side look. “Who are you fooling? You are a deity. You’ve lived for who knows how long... you don’t have any virtue to steal.”

Lee looked at her a bit sadly. “Hey, don’t be sad Lee. It’s understandable. I’m not bitter or mad about it.” She really wasn’t trying to jab at him for being... experienced.

“None of them ever meant anything to me. None. No one has ever mattered but you... you are the one I will give everything to Rhea. I will not look at anyone else but you. My life...everything I am now belongs to you. Whatever you want from me just say it and it is yours.”

She gave him a wry grin. “That’s not true either because what I have been wanting from you, I haven’t gotten yet.” Instantly, he flipped their positions around and she was now pinned up against the wall. Their ragged breaths now quietly filled the room.

“We don’t have to wait Rhea. I’ll give you whatever you want... now...” His voice was raspy as he drew his face close to her lips. His eyes flickered from his blue and dark hue as he waited for her response.

“Now who is tempting who?” Rhea leaned forward and pecked his lips. “Sorry for teasing you. I don’t want to wait. But I agree. It will probably be for the best to wait until our relationship doesn’t have to be a secret. I can barely keep parted from you now. It will probably be worse after completing the mating bond.”

“Much worse...” Lee leaned forward and melted his lips against hers. He slowly parted and let out a frustrated groan. “Come on sweet fairy. I need to get you away from my inner demon. Let’s go enjoy our evening.”

Rhea was wanting to meet his inner demon. It sounded intense and fun. She smiled and nodded to him. She walked by his side and leaned her head on him. She couldn’t wait for her wolf to come out so she could claim and mark Lee. He might have had fun with others before, but he was no longer available. She wanted to officially declare him off limits.

Chapter 146 - Dr.Luna

Rhea and Kelsie sat off to the side pouting. They both lost all their property in the game of Monopoly. The board was now well divided among Titus, Cody and Lee. The men were all glaring at each other like it was a death match.

“Does it feel any different being my guardian now?” Rhea turned and looked at Kelsie with a smile.

“A bit. Like I feel like I am stronger now and I also have this connection with you. Besides being able to mind link I can almost feel your feelings. It’s enough that I can have a pretty good idea of what is going on.”

“We have a whole new way of telling secrets now.” Rhea giggled.

“Hey no secrets remember.” Lee called out not looking away from his game.

Rhea rolled her eyes and then had a devilish idea.

Hey... Kelsie. What do you say we give Titus a hand in winning the game? Rhea watched Kelsie’s eyes flicker with mischief. She nodded her head knowing exactly what Rhea had in mind.

The two girls each walked next to their mate and sat next to them. Kelsie leaned near Cody and pressed her chest into his arms. While she traced her fingers along his chest with a glint in her eyes.

Rhea had pressed herself against Lee’s back and was playfully nibbling on Lee’s ear with a small smirk on her face.

“If you are trying to get me to lose it isn’t going to work. I have superior mental focus.” Cody snorted as he desperately tried to focus on the game.

Lee chuckled and pulled Rhea into his lap. “You think your tactics will work on me? Are you trying to make sure Titus achieves victory? It won’t work kitten.”

“Oh... well then maybe I should go and nibble on Titus’ ear then.” She smiled as she heard his throaty growl as he squeezed a firm hand on her waist.

“If you don’t value Titus’ life then go right ahead.” Lee threatened in a low voice.

“Hey now! I am innocent here. Why do I have to die?” Titus eyed the board trying to take full advantage over the new distractions to his enemies.

“That’s the curse she gets. I won’t ever harm her. But anyone she touches will end up dead. Because she is mine and mine alone.” Lee watched as her sapphire eyes drifted over his lips. She had licked her own and gently bit her bottom lip. His focus was now on her as his breath grew heavy watching her. She leaned forward and then licked his lips. Then she popped out of his lap and giggled.

“Who wants snacks?” Rhea smirked as she looked down at Lee.

He let out a dark chuckle and stood to his feet. “What game do you think you are playing here?”

Rhea giggled and took a few steps back. “The one where you don’t win.”

“That’s where you are wrong...” He smiled and stepped towards her. “Even if I don’t win today... I will win eventually. So, in a sense I have already won.”

Rhea shook her head and smiled at him. “See that is where you are wrong. When my wolf comes out and I mark you... that is the day that I win. And you will never be able to win again after that.”

“You plan to mark him like mom marked dad? Yeah, you’re a goner Levi.” Cody chuckled and shrugged. There was no hope for him if his sister was like his mom.

“If you don’t want her marking your neck Levi, she can mark mine.” Titus grinned as he provoked him.

Lee turned and gave Titus an icy smile. “Go ahead... let her mark you and see what happens.”

“Rhea, he’s threatening meeeeeee.” Titus called out in a tattletale voice.

She giggled. “You don’t really buy into those threats do you? It’s like being threatened by a rabbit.” She watched his eyes dance in amusement as he looked at her.

“A rabbit huh? Then why does it look like you are about to sprint from this rabbit?”

“It’s because you aren’t reading me clearly. I’m a wolf so you are my prey.” Rhea grinned as she stepped into him and flicked his nose. “Go finish your game. Kelsie and I are going to put on a movie and binge on snacks.” She leaned up and pushed her lips into his. Gently sucking on his bottom lip and prodding it with her tongue. She pulled back and winked at him. With a side smile she walked into the kitchen to gather her tray of snacks.

“Come on Lee. There is a game to be won here.” Titus grinned as he watched Kelsie leave to join Rhea.

“You’re right. There is a game to be won here.” Lee’s eyes drifted on Rhea with a promise before he turned back to join the other guys. He looked at the board with a small frown. What was he planning to do next again?

Rhea and Kelsie were sitting on the floor around their spread of snacks. They finally settled on the movie *Gladiator*. Titus didn’t have any chick flicks to watch and Rhea (like her mother) was not into scary movies.

Kelsie smirked at Rhea and winked. “Mmm... now there’s a man Rhea. Can you imagine Maximus holding you at night?”

Rhea grinned. She let out a sigh. “If only. That is some tasty man flesh I wouldn’t mind consuming.” She listened as she heard Lee snort and smiled over at Kelsie.

“Talk about getting the best night’s sleep you could ever imagine.” Kelsie continued to tease.

“Who said anything about sleeping? If he’s in my bed we wouldn’t be sleeping.” Rhea watched as Cody sat behind Kelsie and pulled her up into him.

“I’ll be your Maximus, Kelsie. Trust me... I’m way better.” He lowly growled near her ear.

“What happened to your game?” Rhea watched him hug Kelsie up to him. They were so cute together.

“Eh, I lost. But now I get to sit here and hold my girl, so I didn’t really lose.” Cody kissed Kelsie on the nose, and she smiled up at him lovingly.

Rhea started crying when Maximus arrived back to his home to see his wife and child killed. She couldn’t stop the tiny streams that trickled from her eyes.

“Awe Ray Ray.” Cody grabbed a tissue and tossed it over to his sister. She was always so sensitive with movies.

“I can’t help it... it’s just so cruel.” She sniffed.

Rhea was dabbing her eyes when she felt warm arms lift her from the ground and pull her up onto the couch. She looked up to Lee, who curled her body in his lap. He had a small smile on his face as he took the back of his hand to wipe her tears.

“Who won the game?” Rhea asked quietly.

Lee leaned forward and kissed her forehead. “Titus... there is no way I can concentrate on the battle with you around.” He situated her comfortably in his lap and leaned her head into his chest.

Titus hopped over the couch and sat at the opposite end. “Thanks Rhea. You ended up being the best player on my team.” He winked at her and shoved a handful of popcorn in his mouth.

“Couldn’t you own happier movies?” Rhea pouted and snuggled into Lee.

“What are you talking about? This is an awesome movie.” Titus was now getting engrossed into the film.

This was nice. She was curled up in Lee’s arms while they all relaxed and watched a movie together. She wished life could always be this good. The only thing that could make it better would be adding Wyatt and Jason to the group.

It wasn’t long before she felt Lee’s hot breath fanning against her ear. “You really want that over me?”

Rhea smiled. “Who said over you? I was thinking about having both.” She listened to his low growl as he gripped her possessively.

“You can’t have anyone else besides me.” He snarled near her ear in a low whisper.

She tilted her head to the side to look at him better. She leaned forward and placed a soft kiss on his jawline. “I can agree to those terms.” She snuggled back into him and continued to watch the movie.

By the end of the movie Rhea was crying again. Lee chuckled and pulled her up into him more.

“Don’t mind her Levi. She always cries during movies.” Cody chuckled as he tossed another tissue her way.

Lee handed Rhea the tissue and she turned to Cody. “I don’t always cry during movies.... Just sad ones.”

“Well, no watching sad ones unless I am here to hold you.” Lee leaned his head down and kissed her forehead.

Titus stood up and stretched his hands over his head. “Well we have a big day tomorrow with the kiss and all.”

“The what?” Cody asked.

Titus looked at Cody. “Oh that’s right you didn’t hear... I have to give Rhea a mate acceptance kiss tomorrow.”

Kelsie looked at Rhea. “What is a mate acceptance kiss?”

Rhea furrowed her brows down and pushed into Lee more. "He has to mark me publicly tomorrow."

"No chance in hell!" Cody growled and eyed Titus like he was the enemy.

"Stand down honey snatcher. We already talked this over." Titus motioned to Lee and Rhea.

Cody stood up and looked at Lee mortified. "And you're okay with it?"

"Hell, no I'm not okay with it. But if he doesn't claim her publicly then it is like not claiming her at all. We went backwards and forwards over this issue. And Rhea and I decided that this scenario... while we both don't like it... makes the most sense." Lee sighed feeling himself become frustrated again.

"Cody, I trust Titus. He won't mistreat the situation. It's the best way to continue to keep our relationship a secret. I don't want to risk losing Lee." Rhea's voice trailed off quietly as Lee's grip tightened around her.

Cody sighed and nodded. He didn't like the idea of Titus slobbering all over his sister. If Wyatt and Jason were here, they would be raising all sorts of hell. He wanted to do right by his brothers in protecting their sister. In this situation there were not a lot of other options. And who was he to object when her own mate was agreeing to it.

"It's your choice Rhea and I will respect it. However, I'll have to excuse myself. I'm afraid I'll snap Titus's neck when I see him touching you like that." Knowing that Titus wasn't her mate it was something he couldn't excuse. He was protective over Rhea. Not to mention... no one wants to see their baby sister getting marked.

"I appreciate your feelings Cody. I am happy that she has someone like you always at her side." Lee nodded towards him with a smile.

"I don't mean any offense to you Titus. It's just she's-"

"Dude I get it. She's your baby sister. She isn't my sister, but I am protective over her too. If I saw another guy touch her, I'd roast him. I know it doesn't help much but I promise I have good intentions. It will be as minimally done as it can be." Titus looked over to Lee as he spoke the last few words. It was the best he could do. He couldn't fake kissing her. While he wouldn't be branding her neck he had to make it look like he was.

"Thank you, Titus... for doing this for Lee." Rhea was thinking how awkward of a situation this put him in as well. He was lying to his own people in order to protect Lee. It wasn't fair to put him in this position either.

Titus winked at Rhea and smirked. "Don't get me wrong. I mean... having to kiss a pretty woman in order to help out my big bro.... I mean, I guess I'll take one for the team." He let out a

small chuckle. This wasn't exactly going to be torture for him. "I think I am going to go to bed before I get myself in trouble."

Rhea walked back with Lee to their room as well. What was going to take place tomorrow was still heavy on both of their minds. No matter the situation it was still an invasion of intimacy between the two of them. Lee pulled her close in bed and rested his face in her mark. Deep down he couldn't help but worry. He was worried that tomorrow might change things between them. He laid there and quietly held his precious fairy. Tomorrow was going to be difficult.

Book 2

Chapter 65 Forever and always

Chapter 147 - Dr.Luna

The evil sun beams shined into the room letting the couple know that the day had come. Rhea clung onto Lee's arm. He would be leaving to go to the council soon like he did every day lately. She rolled over and laid her head on his chest.

"Stay with me today, Lee." Rhea didn't want him leaving her. She felt a bit anxious over this evening and wanted to have his comfort.

He wrapped his muscular arms around her and held her quietly against him. "Tell me what to do Rhea and I will do it."

Rhea smiled. "Just stay with me like this for a bit longer. I know you need to go. The sooner you convince them the better. So just for now... hold me." She appreciated Lee here. He would do whatever it was that she wanted him to do. He was putting her feelings first above everything else that was going on. They needed to get things finalized with the deity council. It was something that had already taken longer than she had anticipated. It needed to be finished. She was concerned with how long it was taking and hoped it didn't mean anything bad.

"Rhea. This doesn't change anything." He was saying it for himself as much as for her. "And tonight, I will scorch off any evidence of his existence from your neck. I promise."

Rhea felt a slight shiver ripple down her back as she listened to his hot words. "No, it doesn't change anything. I just hope I don't get sick or nauseous when he kisses me. I've gotten used to him hanging on me but that's the extent of the invasion. This is a whole other level."

Lee chuckled. "I hope you don't go falling in love with him." It was a joke but it was also a hidden truth. Something that he was afraid of happening deep within.

“You’re safe there.” Rhea giggled. “The idea of anyone but you touching me is repulsive.”

“Good. That’s the way it should be.” Lee kissed her head gently and breathed in her intoxicating scent.

“It better go both ways mister.” Rhea scolded playfully.

“Baby I promise you it does. When you have lived as long as I have... I never realized how unalive I was until I met you. It was like my heart didn’t start beating until I met you. And since then it has been a horrible traitor trying to give me away whenever I am around you.”

Rhea leaned on her elbow and smiled down at him. “You know... I thought that I was this obsessive fangirl over you. No other males existed in my mind but you. I was always thinking of you. Honestly, the first time I recognized other males existed was when I first met Titus.” Rhea giggled as she heard his low growl. “And even then it was still different with you. Titus might be attractive but my pull to you was overwhelming.” Rhea flopped backwards off her elbow and looked up at the ceiling. “I had to tell myself I couldn’t think of you like that. You were a deity, and I couldn’t have you. I wanted you so badly, but you were someone I could not have. I couldn’t get you out of my head. You were my gorgeous summon who came to help me. I couldn’t stop myself from developing feelings for you. I tried... I tried to tell myself I would forget you and that I just needed to find my mate.” Rhea felt his finger on her chin as he turned it to himself. She looked into his light blue eyes and smiled.

“My point of all of this is just that while I haven’t lived long, especially in comparison to you, but from the moment I met you it has only been you. Even when I tried to tell myself it wasn’t you. Even though I tried to fight being in love with you... I lost miserably. It got so bad that I couldn’t stand the thought of you treating me like a sister. I felt like I was being locked into the baby sister zone where you would never look at me. Which is when I freaked out wanting you to look at me as a woman.” Rhea smiled and bit her bottom lip. That freak out led to her being marked by the man she was in love with.

“Lee... I’m nervous about the whole public display. But I am not nervous about Titus touching me. I am comfortable around him. So, while it may gross me out some it is because in my head it will be like Cody slobbering on my neck. Titus is like a brother to me. When it comes to my heart it is yours. It has always been yours. So, don’t worry about today. Do what you need to do and come afterwards to pretend to bless the union. And then tonight show me who I really belong to.”

Lee leaned into her lips and pushed himself on top of her, pinning her to the bed. He deepened the kiss and sensually sucked on her bottom lip. The moment her mouth gently parted he immediately invaded. He dipped his tongue into her mouth slowly at first. Letting his warmth invade her and enjoy the sensation before the kiss began heating up. The sparks inside of him ignited as he tasted his mate. Soon their tongues were clashing together passionately and dancing in a heated rhythm. The moment was pure passion as he poured his love into an intimate physical act. The kiss was him showing her that she was his person, his love. He slowly pulled apart from

her warmth. They both needed a break for air. They panted into one another's lips and gazed into each other's eyes.

"Rhea... I will gladly bear your mark when your wolf is ready. I would be honored. I want you to claim me as well. That's what I want the most. I want to have a family with you. I want to be part of all of your moments. I want to fill my life up with you. So that I can hold onto it forever. You being part werewolf and part fairy means that I should have several hundred years to claim you and to show you who you really belong to. This isn't a sprint Rhea. I am going to take my time loving you. You will never be able to have any doubts about how important you are to me. I will never let there be any room for it." Lee kissed her nose and then pecked her lips again.

"You'll never be able to doubt just how much I love you either, Lee. You are mine for always." The two rested their foreheads against the other and quietly absorbed the other. The moment felt so intimate between them. They quietly listened to their quiet breaths while they were wrapped in each other's arms.

They snuggled together for another hour before Rhea sighed, she knew they needed to get their day started. Lee would need to go and meet with the council and she would need to prepare for her day. She looked at him with a wry grin and rolled half on top of him.

"Is it probably not a good idea for you to take a shower with me?" She batted her eyes at him innocently.

Lee chuckled darkly. "Not a good idea at all. I can barely lay here without devouring your body. There is no way I'll be able to leave you untouched in the shower. You'd be mated in five seconds flat."

"What happened to taking your time with me?" Rhea asked coquettishly.

"After... after the first time I'll take my time with you." Lee chuckled. "My beast's instincts are screaming for me to mate with you. I am holding on by a thread here."

"Well, I can see the first time won't be too enjoyable." Rhea said with a playful jest.

"Oh honey... I promise... you will still enjoy yourself thoroughly. I'll make sure your first time is sweet and memorable. I'm just not promising much foreplay before getting down to business." Lee smirked and looked at her through hooded eyes.

"I hope I won't disappoint you. I don't exactly have any experience." She said shyly.

Lee chuckled and pushed her off of him and onto her back. He leaned down and began to lick and nip on her neck. With a low growl he began to suck furiously on her mark making her throw her head back in a soft moan. Between clenched teeth he breathed into her neck, "You have no idea how hard it is to keep stopping myself." He launched himself off the bed and took a few steps away from the temptation.

“Baby... there is no way you are going to disappoint. The fact that you are untouched and unknown to man...” He let out a low throaty moan and ran his hand through his hair. “My beast wants you even more. The idea that you are only ever going to be mine...” He squeezed his fists together and looked at her from the side. “That’s special Rhea. You’ll be entrusting me to take something that can never be given again. It’s another gift that you’ll be giving to me. I feel like I am just on the receiving end of your gifts. I plan to repay you back for everything and then some.”

Rhea smiled slightly. Just because I am giving you my virginity doesn’t mean I’ll be any good at it. The truth was she felt a bit nervous because he was experienced. He knew what he was doing. He’s been with others. He knows what good is. It might be good for her but what if it isn’t for him. Deep down she was afraid she would suffer by comparison.

Lee looked at her face and could see that she was thinking about something. “Baby, what are you thinking about?” He turned to her and tilted his head to her with a side smile.

Rhea turned around so he couldn’t see her face. “It’s just your experience is a bit intimidating.” She bit her bottom lip and stared at the wall. “You’ve been with others more experienced too... and I don’t want to disappoint you. You are building up something in your head and I am afraid you are going to be let down.”

Lee chuckled and walked up behind Rhea, sliding his arms around her. “Your kiss is a million times more pleasurable than anyone I have ever kissed before. I’m not building anything up. If anything, I haven’t built it up enough. Being with you is going to be like nothing I have ever experienced. My beast is excited and trembling for it. You are my perfect match... my mate. The pleasure from being with you will be like nothing I have ever felt before... I can barely control my hunger thinking about it.” He smiled into the back of her head. She just didn’t understand what she did to him. “There will not be any disappointment.” He kissed the back of her head and then spun her around to look at him.

“I guess there is only one way to get that experience... So, I will practice with someone until you are able to seal the deal.” She trailed her fingers up his chest and felt his gentle vibrations under his hand. His eyes flickered darkly, and he smirked down at her.

“When I seal the deal... you better still be inexperienced.” He leaned forward and bit her bottom lip, tugging on it gently. “You can practice all you want with me... Rhea. I will be your first and last... but you will also be my last. I’ll never be with another person again but you.”

“Lee... I want you to be happy.”

“I will be. I’ll always have your memories to cling to. I’ll have our children and their legacy to remind me of you. You’re it for me. Forever and always.”

Rhea smiled and leaned her head on his chest. “I’m also forever and always yours.” Book 2

Chapter 148 - Dr.Luna

Lee had kissed Rhea goodbye and she went to jump in the shower. They had a very intimate morning together full of truths and affirmations. They promised each other to one another. The emotional connection between them was sealed. Now they just needed to seal the physical side of the deal. She was nervously excited for the day. She couldn't wait to be completely his.

She walked into the closet and pulled out a dress that she was to wear for the dinner tonight. It was a long form fitting spaghetti strap silky black dress. Two slits were on both sides of the gown that came up to her lower thigh. She put the dress on and prepared her hair and make-up. She had a part to play tonight. Inwardly she was pretending that she was an actress getting ready to go on stage. That was what she was... an actress. And as the leading actress she wouldn't be outperformed. No, she had to shine.

A knock was heard at the door and Kelsie walked in with Cody.

"Rhea. You are so beautiful." Kelsie gushed as she came up to admire her friend.

Rhea smiled. "Says the gorgeous girl in front of me. Your dress looks perfect on you." Kelsie was wearing a blue satin sleeveless dress that accentuated her body beautifully.

"She is gorgeous, isn't she?" Cody pulled Kelsie into his side and kissed her temple. "You look stunning as well Rhea." Cody looked up at his sister and smiled. "I don't think dad would approve of the dress though."

Rhea giggled. "What dress would dad approve of...a habit?"

"We will be nearby tonight Rhea, but for obvious reasons won't be near the main attraction." Cody wanted her to know that even though she might not be able to see them they wouldn't be far.

Rhea nodded and smiled. "Don't worry about me or anything. I am fine. I feel okay about all of this."

"Well, I don't. Look how appetizing you look? How is Titus not going to want to devour you for real?" Kelsie pouted and folded her arms across her chest.

"Titus is family." Rhea smiled and looked at Kelsie. "Just think of him as one of my brothers."

"Except he isn't family. You are just a delicious entree on the table." Kelsie snorted unconvinced.

“Kels... you can feel my feelings now. I trust Titus. I want you to trust him too.” Rhea loved how protective Kelsie was but she also wanted her to trust Titus like she did.

Kelsie smiled and nodded. “Well... we will be close by if you change your mind and want us to cause a scene. I’ll send my little bear in there to cause some havoc.”

“Hmmp... there is nothing little about your bear.” Cody teased lowly near Kelsie’s ear which caused her to giggle.

“Too much information. Sister here.” Rhea closed her eyes and held her fingers up to her ears. “Okay I am done. So, let’s get this party started.”

Cody groaned a bit and dragged his feet following Rhea and Kelsie.

“Don’t worry Cody they will have food there.” Rhea teased.

“Yeah, you don’t have to worry about robbing any picnic baskets today.” Kelsie giggled and yelped as he quickly ran up to her.

“I’m heading down the stairs now so I don’t see or hear anything that I shouldn’t.” Rhea giggled again as she headed down the long stairwell.

Cody and Kelsie followed behind her and after the long downward journey they finally reached the main floor. Rhea opened the door and the three of them entered the hallway.

“Hey Rhea, I was just coming to get you...” Titus looked at her quietly and a small blush rose in his cheeks. “Damn Rhea, you look a bit too appetizing.”

“Brother my ass...” Kelsie snorted quietly.

“You look all nice and dressed to impress yourself.” Rhea walked up to Titus and held onto his arm.

Titus smiled down at her. She had no clue how charming she was. Simply lovely. “I have to tend to a few things before the dinner gets started. I’m leaving you in Dex’s capable hands... stay away from Weston.” Titus growled as he walked Rhea down the hall. “I don’t trust his philandering self near you.”

“Weston is just a flirt... not unlike yourself.” Rhea gave him a wry smile and he chuckled quietly. They turned to walk into the great room and Dex was standing there along with Reese.

“Reese will also be watching over you. He’s family and I trust him. Plus he knows I’ll kill him if anything happens to you so there is extra motivation there.” Titus watched Rhea roll her eyes.

“What exactly am I being protected from right now?”

“It doesn’t matter. You will always be someone that will need to be guarded. If I’m not around you will have a guard.”

“Hmmm... awful confident in your capabilities.” Rhea shot him a side eye in which he grinned at her as he stopped and turned to look into her eyes.

“Yes, I am. I’m very capable.”

“Well... surprise because so am I.” Rhea snorted and crossed her arms.

“I know princess. Humor me though.” He winked at her and then looked back at Cody. “I know with the circumstances tonight you may not be right there but I do have others watching over her today too. So, feel free to enjoy yourself. Take a night off as her guardian.”

“There is never a day off especially with this one. But I may relax on the job a bit more tonight.” He winked as he tugged Kelsie’s side. After all, he was getting to spend a night with his girl. He was going to treat this as a date.

Dex whistled. “Now don’t you look enchanting. I’m in luck to get to have you at my side.”

“For now... Dex. Not for keeps.” Titus snorted at him and then turned to Rhea. “Be good.” He pointed at her and leaned in to kiss her forehead. “Dex...” Titus turned and looked at him. “She’s precious to me... so.”

“Titus go do what you need to. Nothing will happen to her next to me. She’s safe.” Dex smiled at how protective Titus was over her. He had never seen him like that before. It showed how treasured she was by him. She was special. She was captivating. She drew you in. She was someone he could see becoming good friends with. And he was never the type of person to make friends with easily.

Titus nodded. “Reese keep a distance but always in view.” With those final words he walked away.

Dex chuckled and wrapped his arm into Rhea’s. “Well now that the warden is gone let’s go for a walk. Have you seen the lower flower garden?”

Rhea shook her head no and his eyes lit up in excitement. “I am so excited to show you then. It is the highlight for me coming here. No where else has a garden like it.”

Rhea turned and looked back at Kelsie and Cody. “You guys can go in and get seats inside of the tent. I already have a seat reserved so you may want to go and save your own.”

Cody and Kelsie stood there staring at her looking at her like she was crazy. “You two I am fine. You act like I am about to get sniped by an assassin. Seriously, get. You two go and enjoy some time together.” Rhea wanted them to enjoy themselves. Honestly, it was ridiculous all the armed guards she was under. She was not exactly fragile.

The two continued to stand there unconvinced.

Kelsie please. I can't enjoy myself if you guys don't go and have fun. I'll mind link you if there is a problem.

Kelsie snorted. "Fine. But I swear if something happens to you, I am having dragon soup." She tugged onto Cody's arm and he reluctantly allowed her to pull him away.

Rhea sighed and shook her head. This would be good for them. This was the best chance they had of not having to guard her. They needed to take advantage of moments like these.

"So beautiful you are all mine right now?" Dex grinned and led her out the door.

"I don't think so. I'm coming too." Weston yelled from the side walking up to the two of them. He looked Rhea over. "Yeah... I'm not letting you anywhere alone with her."

Dex laughed. "Like I am the one who is untrustworthy with women."

Weston grinned. "This one is on a whole different level and you know it."

Rhea laughed and shook her head at the two men and stepped away from them. "You know what is really funny? The fact that you both think that you could actually do something about it if you wanted to. You think I am just a little doe that will fall prey to the wolves?" Rhea giggled and walked ahead of them.

Weston looked at Dex. "Damn..."

"Yeah, Titus got a good one." Dex smiled and followed after Rhea with Weston at his heels.

"Honestly though... you really think you could beat one of us in battle? We are not just ordinary dragons." Dex chuckled as he walked by Rhea's side.

Rhea shrugged. "I don't know. I just know that I wouldn't make it easy on you that's for sure."

"Princess, you don't have to worry about such things in my company. I might play around but you belong to Titus who is dear to me. I'd never do anything to hurt him. You are someone who I will protect for his sake but hope to make friends with for mine." Dex nudged her shoulder with his own and smiled at her.

"I'd like that too. I want us to be good friends."

"What about me?" Weston pouted.

She giggled and looked at her other side where Weston was walking. "Yes, I want to be friends with you too. Maybe with fewer nose bleeds if we can help it." She winked at him and he nodded his head with a chuckle.

“I’ll behave. You can’t blame me for looking though. I am an unmated male and you’re gorgeous. But I’ll tell my hands to behave themselves.” Weston winked at her and gave her body one more side eye.

“That’s all I ask.” Rhea smiled and then let Dex take her arm again as he led the way.

Dex led her through a spiral cobblestone path that was surrounded by lush green bushes. The tall bushes made a wall around the area. As they reached the opening Rhea was met with a breathtaking sight. There were stone flowerbeds flooding the inner area. It was filled with so many different and exotic flowers. But that wasn’t all. There were also several fae dragons in the area. And to her surprise she saw sprites and brownies playing in the flower beds.

She smiled as she walked up to the brownies and the sprites quickly flew over to her and perched on her shoulder. She reached down and picked up a brownie and held it up to her chest. These were some of the creatures she was protecting. Creatures who were too weak to protect themselves.

A fae dragon landed on Rhea’s other shoulder. The fae dragon and sprite began to fight over the position.

“Hey... that’s enough. Be nice. There is room for both of you up there. I won’t say it again little friends.” Rhea’s gentle voice called out and they immediately responded to their princess.

Weston and Dex watched her curiously. They could see the fae dragon but could not see the sprite and brownie.

Dex walked up next to her. “Your eyes are amazing. To be able to see what others cannot. It is almost as if your sight allows you to see deeper than most. Maybe even deeper into people’s souls.” He looked at her curiously and wondered about her. It wasn’t just her fairy sight. She did seem to be able to recognize friend from foe rather easily. Maybe the skills went together.

She smiled at Dex and shrugged. She lowered the brownie back down to the flower bed and smiled as the sprite and fae dragon flew off. “Sometimes we get so caught up in life that we forget there are those out there that depend on us.” She met her gaze with Dex. “We have a duty to protect those who can’t protect themselves... don’t you think?”

He smiled and nodded. “Yes... we do.” Though what he was relating the thought to was protecting the fairies. The dragons had a duty to protect them. It wasn’t that they couldn’t protect themselves but that they were going to be overwhelmed by an evil force. They had a duty to make sure nothing happened to them. The world needed fairies. Book 2

Chapter 67 Showtime

Chapter 149 - Dr.Luna

“Rhea!” Ruby called out as she walked around the corner with Grayson. “You look incredible.”

Rhea smiled. “So, do you.” Ruby walked up and pulled Rhea into her embrace.

“I’m so happy we ran into you here. Titus has been hogging you all to himself.” Ruby pouted while Grayson chuckled beside her. He looked up and noticed Reese standing in the distance.

“I see you are well guarded today.” Grayson smiled as he saw the immediate annoyance in Rhea’s eyes.

“Titus thinks I’m going to be sniped by an assassin or something.” Rhea let out a huff of air.

“No, he is doing his job keeping you safe. You are special and in an important position. Extra precautions are necessary when it comes to you. Better safe than sorry.” Ruby understood what it was like feeling smothered by guards, but it was also necessary. Especially in Rhea’s case. She wasn’t just the future queen of the west she was also the fairy princess. In her opinion she wasn’t being protected well enough.

“So is this like the official pre-party hang-out?” Rhea figured she would switch topics. The truth is she never felt like she needed to be guarded. What these people didn’t know is she could call for Lee if she ever needed help. He was her summon. She was never really alone.

Ruby walked out from Grayson and locked arms with Rhea. “I guess we were just drawn to you. Come on I want to show you my favorite spot here.”

The three men watched the two girls walking away together... well four men if you count Reese in the distance.

“You and Ruby ready for showtime?” Weston elbowed Grayson playfully with a wry smile.

Grayson chuckled. “I’ve been ready for showtime for years. I’m sure you know Ruby is ready too. We have spent too much time apart. This is the final declaration before I crown her as my queen back home.” He turned and looked at Weston. “You know... I’ll take good care of her.”

Weston looked out after his sister and nodded with a small smile on his face. “I know you will. Because it is you I am able to part with her.”

“She’d be touched to hear you say that.” Grayson smiled at him knowing he didn’t express his real feelings often.

“She would... but she won’t. It’s easier on her this way. If she doesn’t realize how important she is to me then it won’t hurt her to leave.”

“Weston you always like to play the clown and jokester... but how do you really feel about things? That is always the biggest mystery.” Dex turned and looked at him. From as long as he has known Weston he has always hidden behind being the prankster. The player. The jokester.

Weston chuckled. “Now don’t go analyzing me, Dex. There is already too much seriousness in life. I want to have fun and enjoy it. I like watching everyone’s reactions. It tells me a lot.”

“So, what are your real thoughts about getting involved in the upcoming war?” Dex asked quietly.

Weston’s eyes looked forward to the two smiling girls. “It’s our war too. Do you really think that after conquering the fairies they will stop there? Besides, I don’t think I want to exist in a world where the fairy princess doesn’t exist.”

“Hmmm? That sounds like a declaration of love.” Dex teased with a small laugh.

“You trying to get me killed by Titus?” Weston chuckled and shook his head.

“I know what you mean, Wes. I feel the same way. She’s important. Already, she is important to me as well in a sister type of way.” Dex made sure to add at the end.

“Good. It better be a sister type of way.” Grayson growled lightly.

“Poor Rhea...” Weston said with a sigh and the other two looked at him. “She grew up with three overprotective brothers and she just got a few more.” The three men nodded their heads and laughed.

“Don’t be nervous about later Rhea.” Ruby said quietly as she leaned down looking at the flowers. “Just forget about the crowd.”

Rhea smiled and nodded. “The crowd is the only part I am nervous about honestly.” Rhea closed her eyes and breathed in the scent. There was a strange sweet scent in the air. She didn’t think more about it because the next thing Ruby said shocked her.

“You love Titus don’t you?” Ruby asked and Rhea tightened a bit. She didn’t want to lie. But she didn’t have to. She loved Titus, but she wasn’t in love with Titus. There was a difference.

“Mmmhmm. I trust him completely.” Rhea added and flashed her eyes to Ruby.

“He’s a good guy. Despite his early life he grew up well.” Ruby added with a slight frown.

“He’s happy now. He isn’t lonely. And I promised him I would always be around for him. He will never be left alone again.” Rhea watched as Ruby straightened up and turned to look at her. She reached her hands out and held onto both of hers.

“You have touched all of our lives in such a positive way. Are you sure you are not a fairy godmother or something?” Ruby smiled and Rhea giggled at her.

“Have you been watching Cinderella lately?” The two girls giggled.

“It is about that time... Let’s escort each other. It will be the last time we will be able to do so.” Ruby wrapped her arm with Rhea’s and the two walked back up the path.

The group made their way to the party. Rhea could see Cody and Kelsie seated in the very back in a secluded spot. Most of the seats have already been taken and dragons were happily chatting amongst each other.

“My sister Lila is here.” Dex pointed out in the distance to a very pale girl. She had both ivory skin and light blonde hair.

“Maybe I should go and pass some time with her?” Weston teased and Dex snarled at him lowly. “Easy there. It was obviously a joke. This is her first mating party isn’t it? You nervous about maybe losing your baby sister?”

“I don’t really want to talk about it.” Dex said in an annoyed gruff.

Grayson walked up behind Rhea and Ruby. He wrapped both of his arms around the two girls and led them towards the head table.

“Hey. That’s not fair Gray!” Wes snorted. “You can’t hog Rhea when you have Ruby.”

“Can’t I? Come and take her then little whelp.” Grayson grinned and watched Weston frown.

“You’re such a bully.” Weston walked up to the table and plopped into a seat.

Dex walked over and winked at Grayson. “This one is mine until Titus comes and claims her.”

Grayson nodded and relinquished Rhea to him.

“HEY! You let Dex take her and not me?!” Weston's eyes were raised as he asked in exasperation.

“Yeah, I trust Dex with her more. I don't want you spoiling the goods.” Grayson snorted and helped Ruby into her seat.

“I wouldn’t spoil the goods.” Weston folded his arms and pouted playfully.

“Aww Weston maybe if you're good I'll save a dance for you.” Rhea giggled and Dex tugged her towards him.

“Now you’ve done it. You can’t promise to dance with the likes of him. You have a reputation to protect.” Dex teased and Weston’s mouth went agape.

“You are all picking on me now. Yep, let's just pick on the baby of the group because he isn't the king yet.”

“Hate to break it to you Wes, but we will pick on you then too.” Grayson said as the rest of the table snickered.

Rhea sat down at the circular table. An empty seat to her right and Dex on her left. Beside Dex was Weston, then Grayson and across from the empty spot was Ruby. The table was set similarly to when she was at the party before. The tablecloth was silver this time and had floating silver heart candles in the middle of the table. The group was sitting around the table and having a good time.

Rhea felt a slight tap on her shoulder and she turned around to see Reese standing there looking a bit awkward.

“Reese? What’s wrong?” Rhea asked and stood up sensing there was a problem.

He leaned his head forward and whispered quietly. “Come with me Rhea.”

She looked at him for a moment and studied his face. What did he want with her? His eyes looked urgent though. She turned and looked down at Dex. “I guess I’ll be back.”

Dex stood up and grabbed onto her elbow and looked at Reese. “Where are you taking her?” His tone was low and he all but glared at the nervous man in front of him. He wasn't about to let Rhea out of his sight.

Reese’s eyes shifted around nervously. “I just need her for a moment.”

“Then I’m coming too.” Dex said adamantly. He wasn’t about to let Rhea out of his sight.

Reese ran his hand through his hair, and he shifted to the side nervously. “I... umm... the thing is... Titus just needs to see her for a moment.” He finally blurted out.

Dex nodded but kept a suspicious eye on Reese. “Well then take us to Titus.”

Reese paled slightly and then his eyes looked back at Rhea. He looked down at the ground and sighed. “Okay then... follow me.”

They followed Reese away from the party tents. He took them around to the backside of the castle. It was completely deserted here with no one around. The gentle chirping of crickets were the only ones making their presence known. At the lower end there was a hidden door that had been overgrown with bushes. He pushed the bushes aside and looked back at Dex and Rhea. “Through here.”

Rhea glanced up at Dex who tightened his grip on her. Something felt off about all of this. Dex eyed Reese once again before slowly proceeding forward through the door. Inside it was dark and poorly lit.

Okay so this really did look like a dungeon. Rhea looked at the small candles that were lit along the walls. It seemed very old fashioned. There was no electricity in this area or at least it wasn't hooked up here. The small drip of water hitting a puddle echoed off the walls. Each step filling the air with a hollow thud.

"Up ahead here." Reese said in an agitated voice. He squeezed his hand together and moved his thumb over his fingers. He glanced back at them swiftly before returning his full attention forward.

Rhea watched as Reese walked down a dark hallway. Dex and Rhea followed quietly. Why did Titus need to talk to her down here? The stone was cold and emitted a frigid chill in the air. Rhea shivered in her dress and Dex wrapped his arm around her chilled shoulders. He was also pulling her closer into his protective embrace.

Reese stopped when they reached a small circular room. "He will be with you in a moment." He said hurriedly before scurrying out of the room. Rhea looked up at Dex with confusion and glanced around the room.

"What is this place?" She asked quietly.

"It's the abandoned part of the castle. We used to play here as kids." Dex looked around the room. The sound of a door creaking was heard and they both turned towards it.

Dex's eyes met with the person and he tightened his grip on Rhea pulling her into his side. "What the hell is going on?" His voice reverberated in a low growl.

Book 2

Chapter 68 Truth

Chapter 150 - Dr.Luna

"What are you doing here?"

"I wasn't about to leave her side. I promised to watch over her, remember? Now what is going on?" Dex looked up at the face that was in turmoil in front of him.

"Rhea... we have a problem."

Rhea walked out from Dex's side and up to Titus. His face was torn as if he had just come back from a tragic event. She reached her hands up and cupped his face.

"Hey... calm down." She smiled up at him. "What's wrong?"

His eyes flickered up to Dex and then he shook his head. "I can't say..."

Rhea looked back at Dex and then to Titus. She knew it was about their secret. "Well... I think it is okay if Dex knows the truth. Right? At least the general idea."

"Knows what truth?" Dex asked now fully intrigued with what was going on.

Rhea turned and looked at Dex. "Titus is not my mate."

"Well, that cat just got let out of the bag..." Titus chuckled and shook his head.

"Wait... what?!" Dex couldn't understand what was going on. Why would they lie about being mates? And who is the one who really marked the fairy princess? Who is Titus protecting?

"Titus... what is the problem?" Rhea looked up to him and he sighed.

"My mate is here." He smiled. "I found my mate. And I don't know what to do so I hid down here and asked Reese to bring you here."

Rhea smiled. "That's wonderful that you found your mate Titus."

"Not now it isn't. Not yet. Now what are we supposed to do? I am supposed to mark you today, remember?" Titus shook his head flustered.

"Not at the expense of your mate getting hurt Titus. I already explained this to you. When you found your mate you couldn't pretend to be mine anymore. Remember?" Rhea sighed quietly. At least Titus would not have to slobber on her neck today. She just wasn't sure what steps to take now.

"Rhea.." Titus sighed and ran his hand through his hair.

"Titus. That's it. The charade is over. You need to go and talk with your mate. Who is your mate?" Rhea asked curiously.

Titus's eyes flickered to Dex. "It's Lila."

Dex was standing there quietly taking in everything he was hearing. "My baby sister is your mate... your real one?! So what is this? What is going on?" Dex motioned between Titus and Rhea. "Who marked you Rhea?"

Rhea shook her head and frowned. "I um..."

“Did someone force themselves on you?!” Dex suddenly yelled angrily.

“No... it’s nothing like that. It just has to be kept secret for now.” Rhea answered quietly.

“You were protecting her... you claimed her as your mate in order to protect her...” Dex sighed and nodded his head. No one would dare touch Rhea if they thought she was Titus’ mate.

“There is a lot to it. I’m sorry for lying to you. Rhea is precious to me, but she isn’t my mate. I just hope I can explain the mix up to your sister without her getting upset.” Titus sighed again. Lila would have heard that Titus had a mate already. He was hoping she would be understanding. When he saw her arrive his body screamed at him to claim her. That she was his mate. Instead, he quickly ran away before she noticed him.

“Titus... who is Rhea’s mate?” Dex looked at him and waited. “I want an answer.”

“Dex... this has to be kept secret. But I think you knowing might be helpful. Honestly, the royals knowing would be helpful.” Titus frowned and looked at Rhea. This was her secret. It was up to her if she wanted to tell.

“I’m just worried... the more people who know...” Rhea trailed off quietly.

“Your secret is safe with me princess. Don’t you trust me?” Dex smiled and tilted his head towards her.

She smiled and nodded. They couldn’t keep the charade up forever. It would be easier if she had a few more powerful dragons knowing her secret.

“Okay... Dex...” Rhea nodded her head and looked at Titus. “I think you should also tell Lila the truth. I think she will be more understanding then. I don’t want her looking at me like I am competition.” Rhea smiled and then took in a breath. “I am Leviathan’s mate.”

Dex’s eyes bulged out and his jaw dropped. “Damn...” He nodded his head as the puzzle formed together. “Well I guess it makes sense. I mean... I knew you were too good for Titus. Of course, you would be Leviathan’s mate. You are prime cut meat and that lucky bastard knows it. Are you his mate mate? Or did he just take you as his mate?”

“I am Lee’s mate. He has known since I was sixteen.”

“He’s known you since you were sixteen?” Dex was now looking between Titus and Rhea. How was Leviathan, their deity, connected to the fairy princess?

Rhea could almost read his mind. She twirled her fingers and water spun around and danced in the air. “You see... Lee is my summon.”

“Well... holy shit. Our deity is at your beck and call? So what is with the secrecy?” Dex watched as Titus placed a hand on Rhea’s shoulder.

“Deities can’t take non-deities as mates. Lee is working on trying to fix that now. But no one can know she is his mate until then.” Titus watched Dex as he looked between him and Rhea.

“So... what is the story with you two then? This seems to be more than just pretending... the two of you seem close.” Dex was also protective of his sister and didn’t want Titus skirting around on her.

“My wolf is sort of trapped in me at the moment. I don’t know what my connection is to Titus except that he feels like family to me.” Rhea didn’t know why that was just that is the way it felt.

“Same with me. She is someone I feel close to.” Titus smiled and shrugged. “It isn’t in a mate way though. Especially now that I know how it feels... it isn’t like that at all.” Titus chuckled a bit and sighed.

“Leviathan was going to let you mark his mate tonight?” Dex raised his eyes as this realization hit.

Rhea smiled. “It isn’t like he wanted him to. We were just trying to keep up a layer of protection.” Rhea looked at the floor as she tried to think what to do next.

“The charade with me and Titus is over now. So, I am not sure how to respond about the mark on my neck now... especially since your purple raison friend won’t leave it alone.”

Titus growled. “Melvin better not come near you or I’ll claw him in half.”

“Melvin is giving her problems?!” Dex snarled angrily. “I can keep you by my side Rhea. No one would dare do anything to instigate a fight with me. I don’t mind claiming you as my mate.” He said with a small wink.

“I think the jig is up with that. I can’t go floating between kings as their mate. All I guess I can say is that I am not ready to say yet.” Rhea couldn’t think of any other graceful way out of it.

“Titus covering for you as a mate makes sense for protecting you. It would be the easiest way to protect you. I’m sure this will be the rationale that most of the people have. Though, yes, they will be curious as to who actually marked you. But the hype of Grayson claiming Ruby and Titus claiming Lila might help drown that out.” Dex sighed and looked at Titus. “That’s my precious baby sister so you better treat her well...”

“I will Dex. As long as she will still have me.” Titus smiled and nodded to the other man.

“I think we need to talk with Grayson and Weston. We are going to need their support and added protection for Rhea.” Dex was thinking logically over the situation. If she was still being protected by the four kingdoms, she would still be safe.

“I’ll ask Reese to bring them here.” Titus said quietly.

“Titus... tell him to bring Lila here as well. I think the two of you need to talk.” Dex watched as Titus looked a bit nervous but nodded in agreement.

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Lila could sense it immediately. She could sense that her mate was in this forgotten part of the castle. As soon as she rounded the corner she saw him. It was Titus. This didn't make sense. How was Titus her mate? She watched him looking at her with a small smile. He walked past the others and up to her. He gently took her hand. “We have a lot to talk about.” He said gently. She allowed him to lead her away and through another set of doors. She didn't know what was going on...but she knew that Titus was her mate and she wanted him.

“Wait wait wait... What is going on here?” Weston pointed to the door where Titus and Lila had disappeared to. “Rhea are you okay with this?”

Rhea smiled and nodded. “Lila is Titus' mate.” She watched the confused faces in front of her.

Ruby stormed up to her and squeezed her arms around Rhea. “That bastard! He did force himself on you didn't he. I'll kill him. I'll choke him and burn him alive.”

Rhea giggled. “It isn't like that at all. Titus was protecting me.”

Ruby pulled back and frowned. “Who marked you then Rhea?”

Dex put his hand on Rhea's shoulder and looked out at the others.

“This is something that has to stay a secret for now. I know that you all can be trusted, and Rhea trusts you too.” He smiled down at her and she nodded her head looking at them.

“Oh for goodness sake just tell me who I need to kill.” Ruby said angrily. Whoever touched her angel was dead.

“Ruby, no one forced themselves on her. This person is indeed her mate. The man who branded her is Leviathan.”

Ruby shut her mouth. “So I guess I won't be killing him then.” She giggled quietly.

“Wait... he branded her? She is his mate? Oh man I am dead. I was flirting with Leviathan's mate. I did it in front of him too. I am so dead. Underworld here I come.” Weston slapped his hand in his head.

Rhea giggled. “I think he will give you a pass this one time since you didn't know any better.”

Dex and Rhea filled them in on the whole story. They explained the reason for everything. They were now waiting to hear their responses.

“I’m sorry we lied to you all.” Rhea added quietly.

“Well, no wonder. You have had a lot happen to you. Then to find out that you’ve been claimed by a deity. He better be easy on you. That experienced ogre better not have been rough with you. Is he attentive with you sweets?” Ruby asked as she placed a gentle hand on Rhea’s shoulder.

“Ruby are you asking her about their sex life?!” Weston asked in curious disbelief.

“She’s such a sweet innocent fairy. What if she’s being mistreated?” Ruby snorted back to Weston and turned back to Rhea.

Rhea could not believe what was just asked in front of everyone. Her cheeks were hot and flaming red.

“Ummm... he...we...haven’t.” Rhea barely choked out quietly.

Weston leaned against the wall. “Damn, he has more restraint than I do, I give him that.” He looked up at the ceiling but noticed the small nod from Dex in agreement.

“He hasn’t completed the mating bond yet?” Ruby asked astounded.

“He was waiting until he worked out everything. He said he wouldn’t be able to stay away from me afterwards so in order to keep our secret...”

“Awe, so underneath that rough persona he is a sweetie, isn’t he?” Ruby gushed and held onto both of Rhea’s hands.

Rhea smiled. “He treats me well.”

“Well guess I have struck out completely. Stealing you from Titus is one thing... stealing you from Leviathan is never going to happen.” Weston smiled and winked over at Rhea. He then straightened himself up and spoke more seriously. “No one will touch you Rhea. They don’t need to know who your mate is. Just that you have a dragon mate, and you will let them know when the time is right. Anyone who gives you a hard time after that will have to deal with me.”

Ruby smiled back at her brother and nodded. “You have the support of the four kingdoms. Anyone who doesn’t have a death wish will leave you alone.”

“Thank you... I really appreciate it.” Rhea felt herself ease a bit.

“So, you were going to let Titus... you know... on your neck even though he isn’t your mate?” Grayson asked incredulously.

“Titus is like a brother to me. And I am like a sister to him. I know that is hard to understand... but we are connected somehow. I’m hoping I will know more when my wolf comes out. All we both know is that we feel like family. But it is nothing more than that from either of us.”

“Well, that is a relief. I guess I can feel better about this whole situation then.” Lila’s voice echoed as she entered the room with Titus at her side. She bore a fresh mark on her neck.

Book 2