

Chapter 91 - Dr.Luna

“Do you think you’ll be able to manage without getting lost?” Titus chuckled as he led her back to the main hall.

“Maybe not right away.” Rhea giggled. She was lost just walking with him. Some of the areas were enormous. Clearly made to fit the dragons in their shifted form.

“Well, if you get lost just yell for me. I have excellent hearing and will rescue you.” Titus grinned and rested his arm around her shoulders again.

Rhea had gotten used to having his arm on her. It was a comfortable feeling. There was an increased warmth that came from his body. It was soothing and relaxed her. She felt like they were kindred spirits. She was surprised on how relaxed she felt around this perfect stranger.

“Want to go back out to the party for a little bit before you turn in for the evening?”

He looked at her and gave her his award-winning smile. Rhea couldn’t help but to return a smile back to him. There was excitement in her chest from being in his proximity. Not only was he attractive, but he had an aura that drew you close. She was enjoying getting to know him better.

“Yes, that sounds nice. I love dancing.”

Titus led Rhea back out to the party. They had several eyes that followed them with interest. He led her out onto the dance floor and twirled her around causing her to giggle at his goofiness.

“This is your second time dancing with a dragon... what do you think?” Titus lifted his chin and straightened his shoulders back as he tried to look dignified.

Rhea giggled. “It feels like dancing with anyone else. How about you? This is your first-time dancing with a fairy... werewolf.”

“Hmmm... I guess it’ll have to do.” He teased. “I don’t sense your werewolf part of you though. I can feel it from your parents... but I can’t feel it from you... well it’s there only really faint.” Titus studied her eyes curiously. He saw a flash of sadness flicker over them but it had disappeared quickly.

“That is probably because I haven’t shifted yet. I... well it feels like my wolf is there but having trouble surfacing. I’m not sure what it is... I guess she will come through when she is good and ready.” Rhea did feel a little bad about not having her wolf, but there really wasn’t anything she

could do about it. She looked up at Titus who seemed to be studying her. He was looking at her like he was putting a puzzle together. She was curious as to what he was thinking.

“We will have to see about waking that wolf of yours up soon. After all, you need her around. Without her... your mate could be right in front of you... dancing with you... and you wouldn't even notice.” Titus smirked and twirled her around again.

Rhea laughed. “Are you implying you're my mate?” She watched Titus grin widely.

“You'll have to find that out for yourself.” Titus winked at her and then pulled her close to his chest. He leaned his head down pressing his lips close to her ear. “Even without your wolf though... you would probably feel something. Don't you think?”

Rhea felt his hot breath on her sensitive skin sending electric jolts down her body. Even being in the warmth of his arms she felt her body shiver. There was something about him, but she didn't know what was different about him. She did not know how she would feel if she was around her mate. She never had a boyfriend before and was not sure what feelings she should feel. She knew she was attracted to him, but she was attracted to Lee too. That doesn't mean one of them is her mate. Right?

“So, what is it like for dragons when you find your mate? Do you also have a link that tells you someone is your mate?” Rhea leaned back a bit out of his intimate hold so that she could look up to his eyes.

“Yes. It is similar with werewolves except your wolves tell you who your mate is. Us dragons know for ourselves. Sometimes we know long before our mate knows. When this is the case, we usually wait for them. We want them to choose us as well. It is more special than just being told 'I am your mate'. You want them to feel the connection to you as well. Then...” Titus pulled her close to him again as he continued to slowly dance to the music. “When our mate also recognizes us, we marked each other so that everyone knows we are taken.”

“That is similar with werewolves. Though not all female wolves mark their mates... it just depends on the wolf. So... how does it work with dragons if you meet a mate that isn't a dragon? Obviously, wolves have mixes but do dragons?” Rhea never heard of a part dragon before. She felt Titus stiffen and frown.

“There aren't any mix races with dragons. It sort of isn't allowed or permitted. It is the unspoken rule. Dragons stick with their own kind. They keep the blood pure. Dragons who find other mates with another race tend to pair up with like dragons. Two dragons who found improper mates would pair up together in order to protect the gene pool...” Titus sighed and then smiled at Rhea. “I think it is silly though. Why deny yourself of your mate? Who wants to torture themselves like that? I know I don't. It takes a lot of self-control to stay away from your mate. Who wants to do that on a permanent basis?”

“I cannot imagine it. I agree I think it is silly. My mother's original pack... my uncles pack, used to be like that. They didn't like my mother because she wasn't a pure werewolf. She was isolated

and left out. She said no one wanted to be around her and she never was around others socially. It wasn't until she got with my father that things changed for her. My Uncle Aaron and my Aunt Cadence changed that. There are now several members of their pack that have other races as their mate. It is finally becoming like all the other packs... It is a shame. My mother never should have had to experience such isolation... she is a wonderful person." Rhea frowned thinking about her mother. It must have been so painful being unwanted. All because of the elitist attitude of the Silver moon pack. Thank goodness it isn't like that anymore. Now no one else there will ever have to go through something like that.

"That is a shame. Your mother is a very special person. She comforted me as a child and then shocked the heck out of me when she didn't burn from my touch. I had the biggest crush on her. She gave me my first kiss right on my forehead. It is safe to say that I was enamored with her." Titus smiled as he thought back to when he met Lilly. She left a lasting impression on his heart. He credited her to the reason he was so open with other races. She was the first person who reached out to him. The fairy princess treated him as an equal and not just a lord. She didn't try to gain anything from him. Everyone else always wanted something from him or to be close to him because he was someone of power. He only had a handful of people that he truly trusted. Everyone else he knew just wanted to be near a position of power. Dragons were a powerful race... but Lilly never did push her meeting with him. She never tried to use that to get a foot hold in. He barely knew her, but he trusted her. Just like Rhea. He was instantly connected to the beauty in front of him.

"I hope I become a person like her." Rhea said absentmindedly it was more to herself than to anyone.

"What makes you think that you aren't?" Titus looked down at her gently as the music stopped.

"I'm not yet... but I hope to be one day." Rhea smiled up to him confidently. She couldn't compare herself to her mother yet. Her mother had a lot of time to get to where she was, but one day... one day she hoped to be someone to be admired like her.

"Maybe I am bias... but I already see it in you." Titus winked at her causing her to blush as he led her off of the dance floor.

"I think you are a hopeless flatterer." Rhea smiled and rolled her eyes playfully at Titus.

"No, I think you are very special Rhea." Titus looked into her blue pooling eyes. They were captivating. They drew you in like an inviting body of water. "You can do it Rhea... you will be able to do what has never been done." Titus had a proud gaze as he looked down at her. She would be the one. She would be able to bring the dragon world out of the past. Just like the Silver Moon pack... it was time for things to change in the dragon realm. Rhea would be the one to do it.

"Thank you, Titus. I appreciate that you think so... if that is what you really think. I still think you are just being shameless." Rhea was trying to figure out Titus's personality. When was he being serious and when was he just being a flirt? Another good thing about spending time in

dragon country... soon she would know Titus. She would be able to understand his personality and exactly what kind of person he is.

Titus's lips curved up and he winked at Rhea. "Come on beautiful. I'll show you to your room... it's getting late and I am sure you are tired from the long day you have had... Unless you don't want to sleep by yourself. It being your first night about and all. I will gladly share my bed with you."

Rhea smiled and shook her head. "My room will do just fine."

"Okay... but the offer is on the table... or the bed as the case may be." Titus smiled as he squeezed her shoulder, gently leading her inside. Book 2

Chapter 10 First Night

Chapter 92 - Dr.Luna

Titus led her down a corridor and to a room located near the end. "This door is to your room. The door at the end over there is to my room. The door across from yours is Levi's... when he uses it. Basically... you are in good company. If you need something come and get me or yell for me." Titus pushed the door open to show her the room. "I know you don't have your clothes, so I had a few things brought in for you. They are laying on the dresser. That door to your left is to the washroom. I'm sure you probably want to get cleaned up before bed."

She looked up as Titus paused for a second. It seemed like he was inwardly debating something. She watched him run his hand through his hair and sigh. "I guess if you don't need anything else then I'll leave you for the evening... unless you want some company in the shower?" A wry grin spread over his face.

"Like I said... you're shameless." Rhea shook her head and giggle as she walked into the room.

Titus winked at her with a wide smile. "Good night Rhea." He leaned in and kissed her forehead before leaving, closing the door behind him.

Rhea reached up and touched her forehead. The kiss on her forehead left a hot sensation. Lee was the only non-family member who has ever kissed her. Even if it was just on the forehead for both men. Still, Titus kiss felt warm and endearing. It was like she could feel a level of trust in his kiss. It was different from Lee's kiss. It confused her. "I think I'll get the shower now."

Rhea walked into the bathroom and giggled when she looked at the tub. The spout on the tub was a bronze head of a dragon with an open mouth. Of course, it is, she thought in amusement.

Beside the tub, was an enclosed stone shower that had multiple rain shower heads. She discarded her clothes and stepped inside the shower letting the hot water cascade over her tired body.

What an eventful day. She never would have dreamed when she woke up in the morning that she would have met a dragon. Let alone end up living in the west dragon kingdom. Even more weird... the dragon she just met today she felt close with. Thinking of this made her mind wander back to what Titus said earlier about her not knowing her mate... even if he was right in front of her. She inwardly thought about how she felt around Lee and Titus. They were both very handsome men. Was this just physical attraction or could something else be at play? Lee had always treated her like a kid sister, though even at sixteen she found herself attracted to her summon. It was different with Titus though... the feelings between the two men were different. She sighed as she turned the water off. It didn't really matter. One was a dragon deity, and the other was a dragon king. Both of them were off limits so surely the moon goddess wouldn't bestow one of them as her mate....

She put on one of the shirt's Titus had left for her and a pair of boy shorts. She didn't have her wolf senses, but she could still smell Titus on the clothing, so she assumed they were his. Tomorrow Cody would arrive with her own clothes. Cody... Thinking of him made her feel a bit homesick. Even when he wasn't with her, she always knew he was close by. Having him so far away felt... well it felt weird. What hasn't felt weird though in the last six months? She was separated from Wyatt and Jason. Pulled away from her home and now she was in an unfamiliar place.

Rhea walked out of the bathroom and into her room. To the side of the bed was a tall glass open door that led to a small balcony. She walked over to it and opened it, gazing at the stars. It hurt. Being away from her brothers hurt. She knew she couldn't live with them forever, but everything felt so sudden. She knew one day she would move to Elysium, but she didn't think that would have happened already. Then she had to wait for Wyatt and Jason to visit her because she wasn't allowed to come and go freely. Everything has changed so fast. Her chest felt tight as she thought of home. And the reality of the task that she had taken on. The fate of the fairy kingdom could very well be resting on her gaining the dragons as allies. A cold breeze swirled through the air and damp hair, causing her to shiver.

“Rhea.”

Rhea jumped startled by the voice behind her. She looked back to see Lee standing there looking at her. “Lee! Where have you been?”

Lee's eyes flickered as he took in her appearance. Her eyes were teary, and her cheerful face looked sad. He walked up to her, wrapping his arms around her. She was shivering too. “Are you okay, Rhea?”

Rhea leaned her head into his familiar chest gripping onto his shirt. He was so warm. She nodded her head into him. She was okay. She just needed to focus on one thing at a time. She needed to focus on the things she could change and not what she couldn't. She no longer lived with the Diamond pack. That was something that couldn't be changed... at least for now. An impending

war with the demons was coming though. This was what she needed to focus on. She needed to work on helping her people. This included both the fairies and the werewolves. When the battle finally comes, they would both be caught in the war.

“I’m okay Lee. Why did you disappear? Titus said you live here too... It would have been nice having you around. I am a stranger here.” Rhea bit her bottom lip unsure why she felt anxious. Maybe it was because she was afraid of his answer. Did he only tolerate her because he was her summon? Was she someone who he really didn’t want to see often?

“I was angry with Titus. He is no better than a whelp acting like he knows better and deciding things on his own. He doesn’t listen... I needed to get some space from him before I busted his head open. I’m sorry for leaving you alone.” Lee took his hand and ran it through the strands of Rhea’s damp hair. “You shouldn’t be outside with your wet hair. You are going to end up sick.” He said as he closed the doors to the balcony.

“Lee... if you live here too then we will get to spend more time together. That’ll be nice. Being able to see you whenever instead of just when you pop in.” Rhea smiled and looked up at him.

“You want to see me more then you already do?” He chuckled down at her. “You know if you ever wanted to see me you only needed to call for me.”

“Yeah... but I don’t want to bother you.” Rhea said quietly.

“But it’s okay to bother me here since I live here?” Lee looked down at her with a wry smile.

Rhea stood still in his arms. She would be a bother to him if she just kept on invading on his private time. This was his sanctuary... his home. Maybe she was a burden... “I don’t want to be a bother to you at all Lee. So just let me know when I am being one.”

Lee chuckled heartily. “Rhea... I was teasing. You are not a bother to me at all. You can never be a bother to me.” He tilted her chin up to look into her eyes. “Understand?”

Rhea’s face flushed under his gaze. She was incredibly close to his face. She could feel his breath. Lee was special to her. He has been special to her. She couldn’t help it... she liked being close to him. He had a way of making her feel better without doing anything. She slightly nodded her head as she stared back into his eyes. His eyes seemed to flicker as they stared at her. As if there was something internally going on in his head.

“You smell like Titus.” Lee touched the shirt she was wearing with a frown and snorted.

“Cody is bringing me my clothes tomorrow.” Rhea giggled and scrunched up her nose.

“Now... are you going to tell me why you’re upset? If it is about being here let me know Rhea. I’ll bring about hell to make Titus change his mind.” Lee meant it too. He already was upset with Titus over this decision. He felt like the timing wasn’t right.

“I think that this is a good opportunity to try to fix the relationship with dragons since all four kingdoms have gathered for this event. I’m going to do my best to help my people.” Rhea met his gaze confidently as she smiled.

“Then why are you upset?” Lee was proud of her. She was a born leader and thought of her people first. Still... there was something bothering her and that bothered him.

“I think I just... maybe felt overwhelmed by all of the changes. Missing my brothers and stuff... having the weight of my people on my shoulders... and just feeling a bit lonely.” Rhea admitted the last part quietly.

“Rhea... I am here to help you. I’ll share your burden with you. I can’t fix you not being around your brothers... but Cody will be here tomorrow, and I am here too.”

Yeah... of course he would lump himself in with my brothers because he has always seen me as a little sister... She knew she wanted him to see her as more than that. Though she would just be setting herself up for heartache. She couldn’t help it. He was her first crush. She had come to depend on him and having him as a part of her life. She knew once she found her damn mate all of this would get fixed. She really needed her wolf to break free so she could break free. She wanted to be able to have feelings for her mate and know that it was okay to feel that way.

“Thanks Lee. It’s just my first night away from everyone is all. I’ll be fine.” Rhea smiled up at him weakly.

“Do you want me to stay with you?” Lee asked quietly and then quickly added. “Until you fall asleep that is.”

Rhea smiled up at him. She wouldn’t mind if he stayed with her all night... but until she fell asleep would work too. “Would you? You’re sure it would not be a problem?”

He chuckled and shook his head. “Come on. Let’s get you in bed. Do you want me to tell you a story?”

Rhea swatted at his side playfully. “Quit teasing me. You’re making fun of me.”

“No way... maybe just poking a bit of fun.” Lee grinned and pulled the blanket over her.

“Will you sit beside me and play with my hair as I go to sleep?” Rhea batted her eyes at him.

“Awful demanding of your summon, aren’t you?” Lee gave her a crooked smile but obliged her climbing into the bed to her side. “Get some sleep Rhea. You look tired.”

She snuggled into the warmth beside her. It was like an electric blanket. So warm and cozy. She let herself relax under his touch. It was soothing, she felt content and safe. Book 2

Chapter 11 Sleeping with a Man

Chapter 93 - Dr.Luna

Rhea woke up as the sun trickled through. She was being held captive in two large arms and buried into a firm warm chest. She tilted her head up to see Lee sleeping. She had to admit... it was one of the best night sleeps she had had since she left the Diamond pack. She wouldn't mind sleeping in his invigorating embrace every night. Her heart rate was quickening as she realized she slept with him last night. The butterflies in her stomach swarmed together and she felt a gentle excitement growing. She felt him stir and then suddenly his body tense.

She looked up at him and smiled when she found his shocked eyes looking back at her.

“So... does this mean I can say I've slept with a man?” Rhea teased coquettishly. She watched as his eyes flickered down at her. There was something unreadable there, but it quickly vanished and all that was left were his usual warm eyes.

“If you want to say you've slept with me then I wouldn't mind. Heck, it might help keep the boys away... Sorry about this though. I didn't mean to fall asleep in your bed.” Lee sat up and cleared his throat.

“It was nice. Honestly... I haven't slept this well in months. I feel fully rested.” Rhea sat up next to him and watched him smile.

“Must be my protective aura.” Lee gave her a cocky grin and raised his eye brows slightly.

Rhea made a bold decision and leaned towards his face, kissing him on the cheek. She watched his eyes flicker again towards her. She couldn't tell what it meant. But she felt incredibly excited. She had trudged into unknown territory. “Thank you. I know I wouldn't have been able to sleep without you.” She suddenly felt a bit shy over her action. She glanced up to him from beneath her eyelids and tucked her bottom lip under her teeth. She watched him staring at her. He reached up and gently stroked her cheek all the while gazing at her with his eyes. Rhea felt the evil heat rise to her cheeks again as she began to lose herself in his gaze. She felt weak... she wanted him. She wanted his attention and affection. She wanted him to hold her in his embrace every night. Unconsciously, she licked her lips, her body was giving him an invitation if he chose to accept it.

“Rhea, how about breakfast...” Titus opened the door and then locked his eyes onto Lee. He took in his position and stared at him waiting for a response. “You want to tell me what went on here last night? Maybe I should have placed you in my room for safe keeping.” Titus heard Lee snarl at him as he pulled away from Rhea standing up from the bed.

“He stayed with me to help me sleep.” Rhea said calmly as she eased herself out of bed. The calmness was a ruse because her heart was drumming loudly. She could feel the tension between the two men. They clearly still haven't worked out their issues from yesterday. “I think it is best

if we are all going to be around each other that you two lose the tension. I mean it's pretty thick and you two are supposed to be like brothers, right?" Rhea walked up and put her hand on Lee's arm.

Titus began laughing and Lee soon joined him. "Rhea you are too cute. This isn't tension between us. This is normal. This is just what it feels like being near powerful dragons. The fact is we are both leaders. Neither one of us does well with being told what to do. Lee and I may have some things to work out, but trust me, everything is good between us."

Lee patted Rhea on the head playfully and grinned down at her. Rhea sighed and looked at the two men. They were both enjoying her naivete when it came to them. Which reminded her of something. "Does everyone here know who you are?" She looked up to Lee curiously.

"Yes, everyone here knows who I am..." He smiled down at her. He thought her curiosity was adorable. "They tend to give me a wide girth and reverence. No one wants to anger a deity, you know? Except for Titus here and the Sage. Those two have no problems poking at me with a stick." Lee looked over at Titus with some minor annoyance.

"Am I going to be a problem... for you both?" Rhea paused looking at the two of them who didn't understand what she was asking. "It's just that I noticed yesterday I had a lot of... interesting looks being around Titus. Will it be a problem to be close to you two?"

Lee snorted in irritation while Titus nodded his head chuckling. "Probably... I'm sure there will be many jealous and confused about it. However, Levi and I have never cared to follow along with the rest of the dragons and their pretentious code. The risks will be readily known by all... if anyone dares touch you, they would be risking death. Levi isn't a very forgiving deity as it is... let alone when it comes to the girl he gifted as his summon. And then as for me..." Titus looked at Rhea intently. "Well... no one touches what is important to me without consequences."

Rhea giggled. "How am I important to you? We just met."

Titus glanced up to Lee before returning back to her gaze. "I think you can already feel that we are connected, right?" Titus winked at her with a crooked smile on his face.

Rhea knew what he was talking about. She felt like she had known Titus and was close with him. It was like being with Cody... he was familiar. She didn't know what it meant though. Was he really serious before when he eluded, he was her mate? She was sure he was joking then. She couldn't help but feel confused over this. After all... dragons didn't intermix so how would this work? Then there was Lee... what about how she felt about him? She was connected with him also, but she always thought that was because he was her summon. She didn't have her wolf screaming who her mate was. She hated being the last one to know things and by the look of it, she was. They both knew something she didn't... didn't they?

"You... you both know something that I don't... don't you?" Rhea looked up to Lee. Her sapphire eyes looked at him with confusion. She felt his strong hand on her head, and he bent down resting his forehead onto hers.

“Nothing you need to be concerned about, Rhea. You just continue being you.”

He was right. She tended to overthink things at times. Whatever it was that they knew, it was probably nothing. She was going to just continue to be herself. She would just wait and see. It was okay to be attracted to others, this didn't mean they were your mate. How many girlfriends did Wyatt have? Not one of them were his mate... well that she knew of. He had not found his mate yet either.

A loud roar rippled down the hall. That would be Cody. Rhea quickly dashed past Titus and out the door. The last thing she needed was to break up a fight between him and a dragon. She saw him standing in the distance being blocked by a couple guards. There was also a man dressed in purple who was sneering at him from a distance.

“Cody!” Rhea ran past the guards and into him. He wrapped his big arms around her and pulled her into his embrace.

“Rhea... are you okay?” Cody asked watching her nod yes to him. He sighed. He instantly felt better. He was anxious being away from her. He could live in the dragon kingdom or wherever as long as he was with her. He pulled away from her and looked her over. He raised an eye at her and frowned. “Rhea... you have another's scent on you... and it's strong.”

“That'd be me.” Titus walked up and dismissed the guards. “Don't worry I went easy on her.”

Cody narrowed his eyes at Titus. He knew that the clothes smelled of him... but that was not the smell on her body. His eyes flickered up to Lee as he approached. Before anything could get said though a voice came from behind Cody.

“Where do you want all of these bags?” One of the dragon men asked looking up to Titus.

“Wow how did you carry all of those here on one hippogryph?” Rhea asked looking at everything.

“Two others came here with me so that we could drop everything off.” Cody looked behind him and walked back to grab a couple bags. He would be speaking with Lee later.

“I'll show you where we will put the teddy bear, it will be in the next room over. I'm debating on whether I should just save time and put the princess's stuff in my room now...” Titus smirked as he listened to the two men growling in disapproval.

“Aww you are giving me your room? How sweet.” Rhea teased him back as she scrunched up her nose at him.

Titus chuckled and swung his arm around her shoulder. “I already told you. You are welcome to share my room with me whenever you want. Come along let's get these things to where they belong.”

“Yes, and then I need to take another shower. No offense but I have some of your scent on me and I prefer my own. Plus, we wouldn’t want for people to start gossiping already.” Rhea teased. She was enjoying the playful banter with Titus.

“Actually, that’s what I was going for. I don’t need any other dragon fancying you. We need to get you branded so that they know you are off limits.” Titus tugged her along back down the long hallway.

“Branded?” Rhea raised her eyes up to him questionably.

“Yes, branded... a mating mark is how werewolves define it.” Titus smirked down at her while she popped her shoulder into his chest playfully.

“Well then... just point me in the direction of the single dragons so that I can choose one.” Rhea turned and looked back as Cody growled.

“This is not the type of conversation I want to listen to. I’ve done well to keep the wolves away from her and I’ll continue to do it with the dragons. I don’t want no slime balls messing around with my sister.” Cody grunted out as he hauled the luggage into her room.

“Yeah? Well between you, Jason and Wyatt there wasn’t anyone approaching me. I had to go to the dances with my cousin Winston because no one else would ask me since they were afraid of you guys.” Rhea pouted and furrowed her eyebrows down.

“Nice job keeping her ladyship safe and untainted.” Titus smiled back commending Cody of his efforts.

“Hmmp, don’t think I did it for your benefit.” Cody growled in minor annoyance.

“Yep, we are going to be good friends. Come on little bear. I’ll show you to your room.” Titus walked out of the room and Cody followed him grumbling behind him.

Rhea giggled and looked up at Lee. “I think they’ll become good friends.”

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Chapter 12 Flirting Games

Chapter 94 - Dr.Luna

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Lee walked up to Rhea and sifted his hand through her silver hair. “Rhea... if I am not around, I want you to be with Cody or Titus at all times. We have four different kingdoms all gathered here and more are coming in. Just like with all kinds there are always a few bad eggs. I want you to be safe.”

Rhea leaned her head onto his chest, feeling his heat beneath her. “Why don’t you just make sure you are around at all times then?” A small smile raised on her mouth. She was openly teasing a deity... and probably one of the very few, if not the only person, that could get away with it.

He let out a low chuckle and bent his head down next to hers. “You don’t think you’d get tired of me being around you constantly?” His breath was hot, and his voice was low.

Rhea’s heart quickened and her body tensed up under him. If this was a battle he was already winning. She never was one who liked to lose though... She leaned her head up to him and drew herself on her tippy toes so that she could reach his ear. “I didn’t get tired of you last night. In fact... I am open to you joining me... every...single... night.” It was small... but she was certain she felt a minor shudder from the man beneath her fingertips. She had never been this bold before in her teasing... with maybe some seriousness. Okay, fine. She was totally serious. Only an idiot wouldn’t offer themselves up on a silver platter for the deity to feast upon. She’d be his breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, mid-night snack... heck she would be a buffet table that he could partake of when ever he wanted.

“There are some games you shouldn’t engage in.” There was a certain hoarseness detected in his voice. His eyes were looking at her with an unreadable haze over them. And his breath may or may not have become a bit heavy.

Rhea pulled back and shrugged her shoulders while smiling at him. “Who said I was playing a game?” His light blue eyes looked darker as he stared at her a small glint of something streaked over them.

He closed the small gap between them and held her possessively. “I don’t mind the teasing and games Rhea. I do want you to know this... I wouldn’t try these same games with anyone else. Not unless you want them dead.”

“Oh? What does that mean exactly?” Rhea wasn’t sure how she felt about this new possessiveness about him.

“Rhea...” His hot breath fanned her cheek. “I’m going to protect you... even if it also means to protect you from yourself.”

“Then I guess I’ll have to protect you from yourself.” Rhea smirked and tilted her head up to him.

Lee chuckled and kissed her forehead. “But can you? Can you protect yourself from me?”

Damn. He did it again. She felt hot and flustered instantly. Her cheeks flushed and she felt her body weakening next to him. Don’t lose Rhea. You started this game now finish it!

“Maybe I don’t want to be protected from you.” Rhea stirred the hot coals in the fireplace. She could see by the change in his dilated pupils that she had affected him. He was holding his gaze onto hers. She could feel the buildup between them.

Lee was looking into her deep pooling eyes and a small smile formed on his lips. He reached out to her, cupping her chin in his hand. “The real problem is... you don’t know what it is that you want. Now enough games Rhea. Go and get your shower. I’m going to see to Titus and Cody.” Lee rubbed the back of his hand against her cheek before turning and leaving her.

Wait? She didn’t know what she wanted? What did that mean? Is he insinuating that she wasn’t serious about him and was just flirting? Which got her thinking... was she being serious with him? Or was this just a game she was playing with a very attractive man? No... this wasn’t just a game. She was attracted to him. He was the one who always treated her like a little sister. Or was he finally beginning to see her as a woman? Does any of that even matter though? Even if he sees her as more what does that do? She realized more and more something. Without her wolf... she wouldn’t be able to find her mate. She needed to decide something soon. She needed to decide how long she would wait for her wolf before choosing a partner for herself. Without her wolf she was just a fairy. And fairies didn’t have fated mates. They chose their partners just like normal humans did. They met someone... developed a relationship and fell in love. This didn’t seem to be such a horrible thing. Except for the fact that deep inside of her she did have a wolf and somewhere out there... a mate.

“I think I’ll get that shower now.” She said to herself.

Rhea was freshly showered and was very happy to be in her own clothes. She chose a light blue sundress to wear. She double checked herself in the mirror before she strolled out of her room. The hall was empty. She went and checked the rooms that belonged to the guys, but they were all vacant. In a mocking voice she said “Rhea... if I am not around, I want you to be with Cody or Titus at all times.....” She rolled her eyes. “I can’t help it if no one is around.” She took her hand and pushed her hair behind her as she walked down to the main hall.

There were a few guards standing there. A couple by the main entrance and a few more near the hall she just exited. She took a few more steps out into the wide open area. A large red rectangular rug filled the center of the domed area. The ceiling was several stories high. It had a very unique cavernous look in this area. It was honestly quite breath taking.

“You there.”

Rhea turned to see a man dressed in all purple stride up to her. She could tell that this man had some importance to him by the way the guards straightened up as he approached. Then she felt a bit annoyed... was he referring to her as ‘you there’? She turned and faced the man who walked up to just a few feet in front of her. He looked to be about Titus age. He had red hair and green eyes. He might be a dragon... but he more appropriately should be a snake.

“What is your business here?” The man in purple asked... well she thought it was supposed to be a question, but it sounded like an order.

“Oh? Are you someone not important enough to know what goes on here?” Sure, she was being a bit of a brat, but she did not like this man’s tone with her. Rhea may not have her wolf, but she had the tenacity of one.

The man snorted and glowered at her. “What is your relationship with the king of the west?”

Rhea smirked. “Oh, you mean Titus? I mean... I’m not sure I am at liberty to say or not.” Rhea tapped her chin with her finger. “I think you were out here this morning when I came out wearing his clothes... I mean... if that isn’t telling enough then I am not sure what is.” She watched the man’s eyes widen and he practically curled his teeth back at her.

“You should be careful on what you are insinuating.” The man in purple hissed.

“How touching that you care so much about who warms Titus’s bed.” Rhea smiled sweetly at him.

“It’s his majesty. You shouldn’t speak so casually of him.” The man’s face was turning an ugly shade of red as anger was rising inside of him.

“Well for one... he isn’t my king. And two... I am speaking intimately of him... not casually-” Rhea felt warm arms snake around her from behind. She looked up to see Titus smirking down to her.

“You’re not giving my princess a rough time... are you Melvin?” Titus looked up to the man in purple setting his commanding gaze onto him.

“My Lord...” Melvin bowed his head. “I am just doing my job. We don’t need vicious rumors spreading and-”

“Vicious rumors?” Titus chuckled and pulled Rhea tightly against his chest. “Who said they are rumors?” He pressed his lips against the top of Rhea’s head looking up to Melvin from his eye lids. He was all but daring him to continue down that path he was going.

“Your majesty... playing around with the fairy queen’s daughter is inappropriate.” Melvin was barely hanging on to his composure and had a fist clenched in anger.

“Why do I have to be playing? Maybe I am serious.” Titus watched Melvin begin to turn purple as he swiftly bowed his head and took his leave.

Once the man was gone Rhea and Titus busted up laughing.

“Well, there is one dragon I won’t be making friends with.” Rhea held her hand up to her mouth as she giggled.

“You are more of a troublemaker then I had you pegged for. We are going to make a great team.” Titus laughed as he swung his arm around her.

“He gave me attitude right from the start. He deserved it.” Rhea furrowed her brows as Titus led her towards the main entrance.

“Yeah... that’s Melvin... I am not a fan. His father was good friends with my father. I was forced to be his friend as a child. Though your mother gave me good advice. She said that you can try to get along with someone but that doesn’t mean they have to be your friend. A friend is someone you can trust... and I don’t trust him. I tolerate him but that is the extent of it.”

Rhea could feel the tension in his hand as he spoke about Melvin. It was obvious he did not like the man. “So where is everyone? I was told I wasn’t allowed to go anywhere without one of you but then no one was to be found.”

Titus smirked and looked down at her. “Cody wanted to have a chat with Levi, they took a walk outside and I was giving out orders for the dinner tonight. Were you terribly lonely without me?”

“Hardly, actually I wasn’t about to wait around for an escort. I’m not exactly that kind of girl. You’ll find that I am not intimidated easily... not even by ‘dragons’.” Rhea scoffed a bit and tilted her head up to Titus. “I dare say I am just as strong as most of you.”

“I know I wouldn’t bet against you.” Titus beamed at her. He would not refute that fact. He knew she was powerful. Already, without anything else, she was a water elemental. That power alone would give any dragon a fight of their lives. He already knew all about Rhea. After all, Levi had told him of the girl he gifted as his summon and with the power to control water. Book 2

Chapter 13 Still Caged

Chapter 95 - Dr.Luna

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“RHEA!!!” Kelsie yelled as she ran up to her. “You are not hurt, are you? Were you treated well? You poor thing... having to live with these reptiles.” Kelsie gave Titus a disgusted look.

“The water pony doesn’t like me much.” Titus pouted and tightened his arm on Rhea so that she couldn’t go to Kelsie. He knew a thing or two about Kelpies. And one of the things he knew was that they did not like to share what they considered theirs. He watched Kelsie’s eyes blaze with anger as she stared at the hold he had.

“You’re making her all smelly. I don’t like you holding onto her like that.” Kelsie snorted and crossed her arms.

“Kelsie are you making trouble already?” Cody and Lee walked over from the tree line. Cody was rolling his eyes as he looked at Kelsie.

“Great... I see the bear is here already. Yay, now we are all safe.” Kelsie sarcastically hissed as she glared at him.

“You’re a little low on the food chain to be acting like that don’t you think? Why don’t you go back to your puddle before someone accidentally touches you.” Cody snorted and crossed his arms.

“Shouldn’t you be out robbing a picnic basket or something?” Kelsie scoffed with a dramatic eyeroll.

“Haha yeah Yogi bear.” Titus snickered as a cold glare was now directed at him.

“Hmmp... this coming from a dragon which I always heard had little brains.” Cody jabbed at Titus.

“Not to mention a complete lack of hygiene.” Kelsie chimed in with agreement. It seemed the two of them could unite together against a common enemy.

Rhea sighed as the bickering began to pick up. She looked over to Lee who seemed to be a bit distracted. He was looking out into the distance at nothing. It looked like he was inwardly communicating with someone.

“Ugh...” Titus said rubbing his forehead and looking up to Lee. “Looks like Grayson has finally arrived.”

Lee nodded his head and looked back towards the large party tents that were being put up. “We need to go over and greet him and check in on the East Dragon kingdom.”

“Man... this is going to be painful.” Titus whined. “Rhea... why don’t you head back for now? I think it is best for you to stay inside the castle for now.”

“I wanted to walk around outside.” Rhea frowned. She wanted to have a look around and get better familiar with her surroundings.

“I think it is best, Rhea. I’ll walk you around later.” Lee directed his attention to Rhea. There were just too many other dragons around. She would be safer back at the castle.

“Fine. But don’t blame me if I decided to paint the whole inside pink because of boredom. Look Kelsie... another kingdom with the same rules. Don’t go anywhere because it is safer. I’ll just go count how many stones are on the castle walls.” Rhea turned and stomped away. Was she being a bit over the top? Perhaps. She was just tired of always being confined. Already at day one and she was under castle arrest. She was allowed to pout a little bit. She heard swift footsteps walk up from behind her as two strong hands landed on her shoulders, pulling her backwards. A soft chuckle was heard near her ear.

“Well, aren’t you in a feisty mood today. Don’t be upset.” Lee gentle spoke from behind her.

Rhea turned her head so that she could look at Lee’s face. His face looked amused and there was a sparkle in his eye. She was glad that her disappointment was amusing for him.

“We won’t be long, and we are having a party tonight. I promise you’ll have a good time.” Titus chuckled as he walked up beside her gently nudging her with his elbow.

“You better not leave me cooped up for too long because I likely won’t stay there waiting. Sorry... it’s a bad habit of mine.” Rhea turned fully and looked at the two smiling men. They were both amused with her and she felt irritated over their amusement. It was like they were laughing at a little kitten that was hissing at them. They found it cute... “I really don’t know why you think the castle is that much safer for me... I mean that’s where I ran into the grump from earlier.”

Lee’s eyes suddenly turned dark. “What grump from earlier?”

“She’s talking about Melvin. He was giving her a hard time this morning. I think we taught him a lesson though.” Titus winked at Rhea with a wry grin.

“What did he say to you?” Lee looked at Rhea with an intense glare. He never liked Melvin. He couldn’t be trusted. It was safer to keep him close where they could keep an eye on him. You know what they say. Keep your friends close but keep your enemies closer. This was exactly the case with Melvin.

“He was prying into my relationship with Titus. So, Titus and I gave him something to really think about.” Rhea shrugged with a mischievous smile.

“You certainly like to play with fire don’t you princess?” Lee rubbed his forehead.

“Of course, fire is no match for me. Plus, I have a water dragon on my side.” Rhea grinned widely at Lee.

Lee chuckled and shook his head. “So, what you are saying is, you like creating more trouble for me?”

“No, she just likes causing trouble.” Cody grinned widely as he walked up to Rhea’s side. “Don’t worry. I’ll keep an eye on her... it’s what I do.”

“Stay close with Cody, Rhea. We will be back shortly.” Lee looked at Cody and nodded before him and Titus turned to walk away.

“How about you show me around our new home away from home?” Cody nudged into Rhea’s side. “And maybe help us find something to eat.” He let a small pout show.

Rhea giggled as she turned to him. “Alright Cody. I’ll be a good prisoner and play along. Come on Kels, I’ll show you my room.”

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“You poor thing. This whole place reeks of dragon stench. You’ll never get it off of you.” Kelsie patted Rhea on the back. This was horrible. Her dear friend had to live among dragon filth.

“Kelsie, it really isn’t that bad. I’m going to enjoy myself and try to learn as much as I can.” Rhea shook her head at her persnickety friend.

“That’s right. That’s a good attitude to have. Just keep being upbeat and don’t let your horrible situation get you down.” Kelsie rubbed her back sympathetically.

“Gosh, Kelsie, enough already. We know. If it isn’t under a rock in a swamp it isn’t up to your standards.” Cody growled out in annoyance.

“Hey Pooh Bear, shouldn’t you be out finding some honey?” Kelsie shot back at him.

“No, I’m too busy waiting for you to turn back into your horse so we can make glue out of your hooves.” Cody glared at her with his eyes raised.

“Enough of that you two.” Rhea shot them both annoyed looks in which they looked away from the other in opposite directions. Rhea sighed. This was going to be a long day with their constant bickering. She looked out in the distance and noticed some interesting creatures scurrying down the hall and into another room. She smiled and shook her head. They were trying to escape from Cody’s presence.

“Cody. Let your fairy aura down a bit. There seems to be some company here.” Rhea gently placed her hand on his arm and then walked off to the room. She opened the door to see the little brownies scurrying about over a desk pushing papers all over the place.

“Now this is no way to treat someone else’s things.” Rhea bent down and held out her hand. The three little brownies scurried her way. They glanced up towards Cody and Kelsie with caution before they finally hopped onto her hand. “I’m surprised you little ones have settled in a dragon kingdom. It isn’t exactly the most fairy friendly place. You are lucky they can’t see you. Still... you shouldn’t go around causing trouble little ones. I had my guardian take his aura down some so you will be able to move about freely again. I’m sorry... it was probably very intense for you.” Rhea set the little fairies back onto the ground and watched them scurry off.

“You sure you want me to keep the aura down? I think it would be better for them to leave this place.” Cody frowned. Brownies were trouble and on top of that living among dragons wasn’t their brightest moment.

“The dragons can’t see them Cody. Plus... with the demons this is probably a safe haven for them.” Rhea looked over at the mess of papers scattered. “Guess we should straighten it back up.”

Kelsie and Cody followed behind Rhea towards the desk. Cody and Rhea knelt down picking up the papers that had been knocked off of the desk, while Kelsie stood there with her arms folded. “This whole place smells like dragon musk... it’s repulsive.” Kelsie complained as she reluctantly joined in.

Rhea smiled and shook her head. This was probably a good experience for Kelsie to have. It wouldn’t hurt her to grow a bit more tolerant of others. Rhea grabbed a rolled-up paper. As she grabbed it, it unfolded slightly. Her eyes widened and she let out a small gasp at what she saw. Immediately, her stomach flipped. She felt queasy and uneasy. Her tiny hands trembled as they unraveled the paper fully. In an instant her world had been turned upside down. She was filled with confusion. Why would they have this?

“Rhea? What’s wrong?” Cody asked. He looked at her trembling hands and crawled over to her. His eyes drifted to where hers were looking. “What the hell?!”

Kelsie looked over at the paper in Rhea’s hands and scowled. “I freaking knew it! I told you. You can’t trust serpents. They have little brains and a tiny heart. Cold blooded reptiles. Treacherous creatures... and this proves it.” Kelsie shook her head in disgust. She frowned though when she looked at Rhea. She was clearly shaken up. This made Kelsie furious. How dare they injure her friend like this? In her eyes, Rhea was always too trusting... still... she never wanted it to come back to bite her like this.

“I... don’t understand.” Rhea’s voice barely whispered out. She stared down at the paper in her hand. Why did they have this? Who made it?

Chapter 14 Trust

Chapter 96 - Dr.Luna

Rhea looked at the paper in her hand and scoured over the contents with her eyes. It was a map. What was more important was that it was a map of Elysium. This was not just a map of the location though. This was a map that had a structured picture of the entire grounds. Why would they have a map like this? In the wrong hands this could be very dangerous. What scared Rhea the most was that pitted thought that maybe they were in the wrong hands....

“Who would have made this?” Rhea breathed out and looked up to Cody and Kelsie.

“Leviathan or the Sage. Those are the only two who have been there enough to make an accurate representation such as this.” Kelsie hissed out in distaste.

“I don’t believe Leviathan would have done something like this.” A small frown formed over Cody’s lips as he continued to scan over the contents of the map.

“Why not? He is a dragon. His number one loyalty will always be with dragons.” Kelsie shrugged. This just made sense. To her it seemed obvious that Leviathan had the map made.

“No, Rhea is the person he chose to protect. He gave her powers as her summon. I don’t believe he would do anything to betray her.” Cody shook his head not believing that Leviathan would do anything to betray Rhea.

“Maybe that is just it though. Maybe he chose Rhea in order to learn more about the fairy kingdom and gather important information.” Kelsie already had a natural distrust towards others, and she was certain she wasn’t wrong about Leviathan.

Cody shook his head again. “No, I am telling you... he wouldn’t. He didn’t even want Rhea staying here. He could have visited Elysium even without involving Rhea.”

“So, maybe Rhea is just the icing on his cake... I don’t know. Maybe he was just pretending he didn’t want her staying here? I just know that it makes the most sense.” Kelsie said pointedly.

Rhea sat there feeling a bit numb. She was listening to the two of them talking. She knew what they were both saying. She trusted Lee... was she wrong to trust him? Was her confidence in him jeopardizing her people? The thing that really was bothering her was the reason for such a map. This was the question she feared to ask but knew she must.

“Why would someone create a map like this?” Rhea bit her bottom lip and braced for the answer she knew was coming.

“Why do you think? This is a war map. This is something that you would want to have if you ever planned to attack the fairy kingdom. So, the real question isn’t what it is for... no it is who it is for...” Kelsie squinted her eyes and then continued. “What I mean by this is... are the dragons already in league with the demons? A map like this would be very valuable to the demons.”

Rhea closed her eyes and took in a deep breath. Was she being betrayed? Was Titus in on this? Was this something in the works with Lee, Titus and Grandpa Sage? She trusted them. She felt connected with Titus and Lee. Was she wrong? Was she making a mistake trusting them?

“That’s enough Kelsie... we don’t know anything like that to make such a bold judgement call.” Cody noticed how tense Rhea was and immediately tried to make it better. It was true though. They didn’t know anything to understand why there was a map like this. Maybe it was just for their own intelligence? What if it was for their protection? Besides... with Rhea there now she could have a map made of the dragon kingdom just as easily. It didn’t make much sense to make the map maliciously... still... it also couldn’t be refuted.

“And what gives you so much confidence in the dragons? Have you bonded so much with them that your new best friends couldn’t possibly be up to no good?” Kelsie rolled her eyes at Cody. Surely, he wasn’t so naïve to really think that the dragons were not up to anything malicious.

Cody growled at Kelsie’s attitude. “It is better than being like you... everyone is out to get you and they can’t possibly be good people.”

“Enough... please.” Rhea rubbed her hand to her forehead trying to ease the tension. She then rolled up the map and stood up, setting the contents back onto the desk. “For now... let’s just sit on this and be alert.” It would be pointless to just ask them about the map. Afterall, they could easily lie about it. No, the best thing to do would be to observe things around them and see if anything seems suspicious.

Cody pulled Rhea into his arms and held her gently. He knew she would be feeling distressed and uneasy... he could also feel it from her. “Try not to over think things Rhea... I am sure there is a reason for this. Please don’t be depressed.” Cody wasn’t the biggest fan of the dragons. Still, he had reason to believe that they didn’t mean Rhea and the fairy kingdom any harm. At least Leviathan, Titus and the Great Sage didn’t. That didn’t mean that there weren’t other dragons who were not a problem.

Cody knew her too well. She was feeling confused and depressed. Confused as to why they would have a map like that. Baffled why she was so trusting. Bewildered at her feelings towards both Lee and Titus. Could she not trust her feelings? It was such a stabbing feeling deep inside of her when she thought that they could be up to no good. Her chest clenched and it felt hard to take in air. In the depths of her soul, she knew something else too, though she would keep that to herself for now. A restlessness stirred from within her. She could almost feel her... she could almost feel her wolf. She felt certain that she would be revealing herself soon.

“I think we should use caution but try to be positively optimistic about this. For now... I think keeping our silence is best in order not to draw any suspicion.” Rhea gave Cody and Kelsie a weak smile before she walked out of the room. She really didn’t know what to think, but it hurt her heart to suspect them of something foul. For the sake of her people though she would do her best to find out the reason for the map.

A couple of guards were facing away from the group as they were walking to the main hall. The guards were talking in excitement over the banquet that was being held tonight.

“Is tonight any different from the other nights?” Rhea asked and she noticed the two men practically jumped from her voice. They stiffened up and stood in a very professional manner.

“At ease gentlemen. You don’t need to worry about being so formal with me.” Rhea smiled as she watched them begin to relax.

“Nothing much different, but another group of dragons arrived today. This means that there are new ladies that could end up being our mates.” One of the guards smiled wryly with a bit of a red stain creeping over his cheeks.

“I hope you find them tonight.” Rhea smiled and walked past them.

“Where are you heading Rhea?” Cody asked as his eyes nervously shot towards the door to the outside where she was heading.

“I’m bored. I want to go and explore.” Rhea gave Cody a crooked smile.

“Yeah! That’s my girl. You are your own person. You should do what you want to not what the reptiles want you to do.” Kelsie felt more energized hearing Rhea going against the grain.

“Rhea, I don’t think-” Cody began but was interrupted by Rhea.

“Pooh Bear, shouldn’t you be raiding a honey tree right about now?” Kelsie scoffed with a dramatic eye roll. Since when was Cody the lapdog for the dragons?

“Can it Kels, they would not have recommended her staying in for no reason. They said it for her safety.” Cody looked up to Rhea. “This is for your safety.”

“I’m perfectly capable of keeping myself safe, Cody.” Rhea snorted and reached for the door.

“Besides... isn’t that your job?” Kelsie smirked as she glanced over at Cody.

Cody placed his hand on the door to stop it from opening. He shot Kelsie a pointed look before returning his gaze to Rhea. “You can explore another time. A new group of dragons have arrived... you heard the guards. It is best if you stay inside... I insist you stay inside.”

Rhea glared at Cody and furrowed her brows down at him. “I see... so you are my boss now?”

“Rhea”

“Can I not make decisions for myself? Even if something is dangerous... do I not get to make my decisions? If it is a bad decision, then let it be my bad decision.” Rhea was very annoyed at this point. Cody was her brother... her guardian... but he wasn’t her boss. Neither were the

dragons. No one could tell her what to do. They could suggest it and they did make their suggestions. She decided that she wasn't going to follow them. She did have that right... didn't she? Or were those orders? If so, who were they to order her? No... they wouldn't order her to do anything and this was her making that statement. The truth was, she wasn't afraid either. She might not have her wolf, but she wasn't weak. She was the future queen of the fairies and a water elemental. Not to mention she could summon Lee in an instant if she really needed to. She also had Cody and Kelsie with her. Kelsie might be selfish and high class, but she would come to Rhea's aid if she thought she was in danger. Kelpies were not a type of fairy to be messed with. She also had Cody... between the three of them she was certain she was safe to walk around the grounds.

Before Cody could respond Rhea pinned her blue gaze upon him. "I'm going out Cody. Either you come with me or stay here, but I am going for a walk."

Cody muttered angry words under his breath and snorted angrily. He lifted his hand away from the door and then pointed towards her. "Fine, but let's not venture too far."

"Okay." Rhea grinned triumphantly and pulled the door open. After all, too far was a matter of opinion and she had her own opinions of what that meant. To her venturing too far would mean leaving the dragon territory. Which she didn't plan on doing so agreeing to this was perfect for her. Book 2

Chapter 15 Ruby

Chapter 97 - Dr.Luna

Rhea had a sense of freedom as she strolled out under the sunlight. Probably the same freedom that a caged bird feels when they have their cage opened. The bird later finds out it is still stuck in an enclosed room, but because it is a larger room it feels free. Still, with no dragons hovering over her this was the next best thing, even if she was surrounded by them in their kingdom.

The small group traveled under a canopy of trees that were layered with big leafy bushes. It kept them covered though they were still able to see what was going on around them. Rhea looked over towards the large, tented area. Just to the outside of one she noticed Titus and Lee. There was another man some distance from them sitting down at a table. The man looked less than amused as he watched the two-gentleman chatting it up with the others. Lee and Titus were practically surrounded by other women. No doubt they were hoping to catch their fancy. No wonder they didn't want me around. Rhea thought to herself in annoyance. Rhea turned her attention away from them and continued on her stroll. She wasn't sure why, but she was feeling really annoyed. Not that anything was happening there. None of the ladies even had a hand on them... still... she felt a bit possessive. Like a child who didn't even want their toy to be looked

at. A small smile rested on her face as she walked on. This was one of the times she realized she definitely was part werewolf.

“Will you leave me alone already? I’m not interested. Thanks but no thanks.”

A lady’s voice was heard to the front of Rhea. Of course, this peaked Rhea’s interest, so she headed over to the direction of the voice. Just in front of her was a gorgeous woman with red shiny hair. She had a very slender frame and light pale skin. She looked to be in her mid-twenties. In front of her was a man who was looking at her in agitation. Rhea guessed he was just turned down for something.

“Come on... you know you want to? Waiting around for eternity is going to be lonely.” The man took another step towards her.

Rhea rolled her eyes and stepped out from behind the bushes. Much to the dismay of her two companions.

“I hate it when a lady has to repeat herself.” Rhea smiled at the man and then grinned over towards the woman. The woman returned an appreciative smile to her.

The man openly scoffed. “She doesn’t know what she wants.”

“Oh? So, you are a mind reader?” Rhea said in fake awe.

The man gritted his teeth. “Who are you?” He all but growled at her. The moment he did Cody and Kelsie were at Rhea’s side and glaring at the man challengingly.

“I wouldn’t speak to her that way.” Cody growled as he towered before the man.

“What are you people? You don’t smell like dragons...” The man eyed them in disgust.

“It doesn’t matter Reynold. She is right. I shouldn’t have to repeat myself. The answer is no.” The red-haired woman snapped at the man.

“You’ll change your mind... then you’ll come looking for me.” Reynold chuckled and shook his head. He gave one last sideways glance to the three people before he walked away.

“Thank you. I was trying to figure out another way of telling him no besides lighting him on fire.” The red-haired girl giggled with a shrug.

Rhea could tell immediately that she liked this girl. “I think lighting him on fire still wouldn’t be obvious enough. I’m Rhea by the way.” Rhea felt the gentle discouraging tug on her arm from Kelsie but shook it off as she walked up to the red headed woman.

“Ruby, so who are you exactly?” Ruby extended her hand and gently shook Rhea’s.

“Hmm...that’s a tough question. Who am I exactly... that would be the fairy princess... why am I here? I am trying to decide between being a willing prisoner or a caged bird.” Rhea scrunched her eyes up as she tried to decide exactly what her role was here.

Ruby giggled. “Titus not letting you leave? Who knows what he is thinking half of the time. I don’t think it is proper etiquette to keep the fairy princess hostage.”

Rhea realized that this girl here referred to him as Titus and not his majesty. This was someone close to Titus then. “I didn’t think it was either and yet here I am.” Rhea smiled warmly at the girl. “So, besides a dragon, who are you?”

“I am the second princess born of the Southern Dragon kingdom... so basically a nobody. My older sister and brother take that spotlight. I’m just the afterthought. Everyone ogles over my two older siblings. I’m the obligation. Wait she is their little sister and oh she is their daughter we better be nice... yep that’s me. I’m the odd ball out.” Ruby shrugged with a crooked grin.

“That Reynold guy there seemed interested enough.” Kelsie dripped out a little poisonously. The truth was she was feeling possessive over Rhea and didn’t like how friendly the two girls were being.

Ruby looked up and smiled at Kelsie. “That guy there is just a pain trying to take advantage of an unfair situation.” Ruby frowned slightly as she thought of the unpleasant thing. She shook her head and then smiled. “In either case, I am here to have fun and dance and eat way more than a woman is supposed to.” She giggled.

Kelsie could not help it. She liked this girl. Okay... so maybe not all dragons were horrible. Still, they weren’t better than kelpies, but she could grow to like a couple.

Rhea studied the girl while she smiled at her softly. There was a sadness in her eyes. Ruby was obviously forcing herself to be happy but deep down... it was obvious that she was hurting. Everyone had their secrets and whatever hers was she planned to keep it to herself. Rhea wondered what it was that was making Ruby sad.

“Rhea.” A deep stern voice sounded from behind her.

Rhea spun around to see Titus seething down at her. Busted.

“Titus.” Rhea smiled at him weakly. She watched as he shifted his angry gaze towards Cody and then back to rest on her. This was the first time that he had really directed his anger towards her. She could feel the intensity. There was a deep power that was drilling her through his eyes. She wouldn’t back down to it though. She met it head on and stared defiantly back at him.

Titus eyes flickered as he stared at Rhea. “I thought we had an understanding. I told you not to leave the castle. I didn’t want you wandering around. It hasn’t even been that long.”

“Says the person who hasn’t been cooped up all day.” Rhea sighed out in frustration. She looked at him with discernment. Was he the one who wanted a map of Elysium? This was still something she would have to figure out with time. What was the purpose of keeping her here?

“It’s not like we are going to burn her to a crisp Titus. Why make the poor girl stay locked up in your stuffy castle?” Ruby chimed in frowning with disapproval.

“Ruby, stay out of this. This is about her safety. Last time I checked this is the West Dragon kingdom not the South... Rhea... Rhea are you ignoring me?!” Titus watched as Rhea looked away from him and refused to make eye contact with him. He let out a dark chuckle and reached out to her. He heard her gasp as he pulled her into his embrace. “Be careful of playing such childish games with me or I really will lock you up.”

Rhea wasn’t having it. She was tired of being pulled around by these men who just assumed they had the right to hold her close to them. She stomped on his foot and swung her elbow back into his gut. She heard him let out an ‘Ooof’ sound as she managed to escape his grasp. She took a few fleeting steps backwards and landed into another warm chest and strong embrace. She tilted her head up and clicked her tongue in agitation. She was now being held by Lee. Out of the frying pan and into the fire.

“What a feisty kitten we have here... Rhea.” Lee bent his head down and spoke gently near her ear. He spun her around and pulled her forward into his chest. “I told you I would show you around later.”

“I just needed to get out in the fresh air. I wanted to clear my head a little.” Rhea flinched as the words came out. She didn’t mean to mention she wanted to clear her head. She felt the strong arms tighten around her.

“Clear your head? What happened?” Lee prodded as he rested his head against hers.

“Now this is an interesting sight. I have never seen you two act like this around someone else.” Ruby smirked as she looked at Titus and Leviathan.

“You can leave now Ruby.” Titus snarled up at her threateningly. She caught a glimpse of the darkness behind his eyes and immediately took refuge away from it. There was a menacing anger behind his gaze, and she knew better than to provoke it further.

“Rhea? Are you going to answer me?” Lee gently squeezed on her shoulders.

Rhea lightly gripped at his shirt and closed her eyes. She was absorbing his heat and listening to his soothing voice. She needed to escape away from him where she could think more clearly. Being next to him like this made her body feel compelled to tell him everything and give him everything. With an enormous amount of effort she gently pushed back from him. She looked up to his eyes and for a moment she thought she saw a flicker of hurt. It was gone just as quickly so maybe she had imagined it. Sure. She wanted him to feel hurt, so she saw the emotion she

wished was there. Until her mind reminded her that it was never there in the first place. The mind could be such an asshole.

“It’s nothing. Just missing home and wanted to feel the sun on my skin.” Rhea smiled tightly. It was a lie, and she was never good at lying. But the truth was not something she could come out with. She found a map of Elysium and wanted to know why they had one? Could she trust the answers that came out of their mouths? More importantly... she didn’t want to hear their answers because she knew that she would believe them. She trusted them. So, she didn’t want to hear their reasoning just yet. She wanted to do her job as the future leader of her people and objectively search for an answer. There had to be a logical explanation that didn’t mean utter betrayal.

Lee looked at her unconvinced. His eyes then flashed to Cody who refused to meet his gaze. He knew there was something more. For now, he wouldn’t push the issue. He would find out eventually though. No matter how he had to obtain it... he would know what happened. Book 2

Chapter 16 The Future

Chapter 98 - Dr.Luna

“Okay Rhea. Let’s go back to the castle.” Lee smiled at her and nodded his head in the direction of the castle.

“We have a gown prepared for you for the banquet this evening.” Titus swung his arm around Rhea’s shoulders and grinned down at her. Quite honestly he liked a girl with a bit of fight in her.

Rhea felt like she just got whip lash from Titus’s mood swing. He was just angry at her, wasn’t he? Now he is grinning and draping his arm on her. Maybe it was a dragon thing? Who was she kidding though... werewolves were like that too. Cody could be like that too. This was just their typical moodiness thing. A feral animal thing.

She allowed herself to be corralled along towards the castle. As they approached an area that overlooked into the forest below them, she suddenly paused. She stared out into the dense forest area.

“Rhea?” Titus stopped along with her sudden halt.

Rhea could barely hear his voice. It had come across as a muffled sound. The forest was warping before her as she watched the trees all catch ablaze. She was suddenly alone looking down onto the barren land. A massive army drew closer to Elysium. It front of Elysium was another army. It

consisted of fairies and werewolves. There was also another group there, but she couldn't discern what they were. They seemed to have formed an alliance with the werewolves though.

A deep icy chill slithered down her spine. A stabbing pain hurled into her stomach. She could see the devastation that the demon army was creating. She frantically watched as the two army's drew closer. She felt like she was there. She was suddenly brought down in the heart of everything. She could see her mother and father. She also saw her brothers all bracing for the attack. Her eyes widened as the air stung at her face. Off to the side she saw herself and Kelsie near her. Dirty tears were streaming down her face as she stared up at the sky. She was looking for something that wasn't to be seen. She listened to herself yell for Lee... but he never appeared.

Rhea felt her stomach turn. Her chest tightened and she too was now desperately looking around. There were no dragons... not even her summon. She was having a hard time breathing. The air was burning her nose as the demons continued to approach. The time was nigh. The battle was happening, and she was about to lose everyone and everything.

The armies collided together. Cody and Jason were fighting side by side in the fray. Suzaku flew high in the sky casting her fire downwards. Wyatt was beginning to get taken over. A girl raced to her brothers side coming to his aid. At the same time her father also rushed to help them. Then she saw a demon with scythe like claws impale Cody. There were just too many... too many demons. Rhea tried to join in but she couldn't. She was just a bystander that had to watch the events unfold in front of her.

A light blue glow radiated from Elysium and shot into Rhea. We must have the ocean's tear.
Rhea, find the Ocean's Tear!

Everything was gone. She was staring back towards the luscious trees below her. Her body could still feel it. Could feel the heat... smell the sting. Salty water trickled from her eyes and her body slightly trembled. She could feel a hand around her and another on her shoulder. It was Titus and Lee. In front of her she could see Kelsie and Cody. Cody was calling out to her and his eyes were filled with worry.

Cody... Her blue watery eyes came to focus on his. She took a staggered step forward before she ran into his arms. Once she was safely buried in his chest she began to sob. She couldn't make sense over what she had seen. Was it a premonition? Did she fail in bringing the dragons to their side? Where was Lee? Did he abandon her too? Was this a for sure future or just one from this moment? What if she brought the dragons to their side... There was still the haunting question looming in her head. Where was Lee? Regardless, he should have been there. Why wasn't he?

Rhea clung onto Cody. She had watched his blood pour out onto the ground. She watched as his eyes faded dull. She had to protect him. She had to save her people. The Ocean's Tear... What was it? And how does she find it? And was it something that could help them in battle?

She had never had a premonition before. She knew that her grandmother had a couple to an extent but her great grandmother was extremely gifted in that aspect. She knew about the

impending battle with the demons. Which did give her a hopeful thought. Her grandmother had seen the impending battle and had actively tried to change things for it. If that is the case... maybe this premonition isn't set in stone. Maybe it was just a premonition of what was to come for sure with the demons. There was still time... time to alter the future. She could bring the dragons to their side. But Lee... what happened there? Why would Lee not come to her? Was she just a tool that he was using? She was driving herself nuts with these thoughts. Her mind and heart battled against the other. She wanted to believe in Lee.

Rhea tightened her hands on Cody and controlled her breathing. She couldn't get emotional. She needed to use this time to her advantage. Both a gift and a curse, the premonition had showed her what was to come. Now she had to use that to her advantage. Now more than ever... she knew she had to win the dragons to her side. She needed to learn about the Ocean's Tear and where it was at.

"Rhea, what happened?" Titus's gentle voice called out to her.

Rhea peaked at him from Cody's arms. She could see him and Lee standing close to her. Their eyes were studying her and looking at her with concern. Was it real concern? Her eyes moved from the amber eyes of Titus to the blue eyes of Lee. She felt a shattered feeling inside of her as she held her gaze on him. There was an inner struggle inside of her. She knew what she saw but it wasn't how she felt. She felt like she could trust him. Maybe she was a fool. She had to be a fool because she wanted to be in his arms. She wanted to feel his gentle touch and take comfort in his embrace.

Rhea. She heard Cody's voice call in her head. She couldn't talk about this right now. She needed to make sense of it. She needed to talk to her mother. She would be able to help her make sense of everything.

Cody... I need to talk with mom.

"Kelsie. Go and let our mother know that we need to speak with her when she can." Cody looked over at Kelsie who nodded in understanding.

"I'll go and get in contact with her." Kelsie patted Rhea's head and then turned and headed to the nearby pool of water.

"Rhea..."

Rhea looked over to Lee who now extended his hand to her. She stared at it. She felt confused. She wasn't sure if she could trust herself anymore.

"Rhea, please..." Lee's voice almost sounded as if it was cracking as he held his hand out for her. Practically begging her to take it.

Rhea looked into his pleading eyes. He looked like he was hurting. She bit her bottom lip. She sucked in a deep breath through her nose. Then she cautiously reached her tiny hand out into his.

The moment she touched it his hand encompassed hers and pulled her from Cody. She was soon flush against his chest and being held by his two protective arms. She couldn't help it. She felt soothed being in his arms. Was she damning her people by trusting him?

She felt his hand run through her hair. His head lowered next to hers and she heard him breath in her scent. "Rhea... what happened?"

Rhea shook her head. She wasn't ready to talk about it yet. Not until she spoke with her mother. Still... she couldn't help the words the whimpered out. "You didn't come for me." It was barely audible she had spoke so quietly.

Somehow, he managed to make out what she said. He nuzzled his nose in the crook of her neck and gently cooed to her. "Shhh... I'm here. I'll always come for you. Shhh."

But he hadn't. He didn't come for her then. She shook her head. She could feel the burn in her nose as tears threatened to escape again.

"You didn't..." Rhea whispered out unable to finish it. The fact was that he didn't come to her in the future she had seen. She could see herself. She saw the eyes of desperation as she scanned the sky. He didn't come.

"I don't care what you saw. I will always come to you. Rhea... do you trust me?" Lee pulled away and tilted her chin up to him so that he could stare into her sapphire eyes. "Please tell me you trust me?"

She was a fool. She did trust him even when she saw it for herself. Even when she saw in her premonition that he didn't come for her. His eyes were searching hers. They looked desperately at her. It almost felt like if she told him she didn't trust him that it would shatter him. She felt a rogue tear slide down her cheek as she stared at him in silence. If she didn't trust Lee, then she didn't trust herself. In her core, her deepest center... she trusted Lee. She nodded her head up to him and saw the instant relief in his eyes.

Another stomach stabbing pain hit her as another realization crept into her mind. What if Lee had been killed and that is why he didn't come? Was she going to be the reason that he is destroyed?

"What if... something happened to you because of me..." Her voice barely came out. She felt him pull her close and she rested her head against his chest.

"Nothing is going to happen to me, Rhea." Lee's voice was calm and soothing. He stroked her back in gentle circles and rested his chin on her head. "Tell me what happened? What did you see?"

She buried herself deeper into his hold and slightly shook her head no. "I'm not ready to talk about it."

Lee's eyes flashed up towards Titus and Cody. The three men all were worried. What did she see that she refused to talk about? It had affected her so much that she visibly trembled.

"Let's get her inside. How about a cup of tea, Rhea?" Cody knew that Rhea needed to relax so she could sort through her emotions. Their mother would be there soon, and she would be able to help... he hoped. Book 2

Chapter 17 Her Mother

Chapter 99 - Dr.Luna

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Rhea sat on a small balcony that overlooked a tiny, flowered garden. It was nice. It reminded her of Elysium. She sipped her hot tea and inhaled deeply. She knew that the men were anxiously waiting to hear what she saw. She just thought it was best to talk about it with her mother first.

She looked up to the sky and smiled softly to herself. There was time to change it. She could change the future that she saw. She would find the Ocean's Tear. She would win the dragon's over so that they would be there to help. She had to have faith in herself. The premonition was a gift so that she could prepare for the upcoming future. Though she had no idea what the Ocean's Tear was actually for... It had to mean something though. For some reason she was told to find it... by someone.

She thought about her mother. How strong her mother had to of been when she first left her home. She was often told stories of how her mother faced every challenge head on. And that she always wanted to be front and center in the action. She even faced the demon Abaddon alone in order to protect a child. She could be strong like this too. It was in her blood. She would rise and meet her destiny as well. She might not be as brave as her mother. She also had something her mother didn't. Her mother may have had Tristan, but he wasn't Cody. Rhea had Cody. Cody was her rock and constant. Plus, she had Lee. Unlike Suzaku, Lee made an effort to be part of Rhea's life. Was it for a sinister motive... no... she wouldn't... couldn't believe that. He had always doted on her and treated her like an older brother. Even though what Rhea really wanted was for him to look at her as a woman. She couldn't help but wonder. Wonder if she could ever be with him if he ever did look at her differently. With feelings like this inside of her no wonder it was easier for her to believe in him. If she ever discovered that he was betraying her... it would shatter her. She trusted him that much.

“How was your meeting with Grayson?” Rhea decided she wanted to focus on something else. It looked like they were enjoying themselves from what she had seen earlier. Though bitterly she was a bit annoyed over the lady attention.

Titus raised his eyes a little and then a genuine smile spread across his face. He found her so interesting. In fact, she fascinated him. She was so different than what he was used to. She managed to always keep him guessing and that was intriguing.

“Well, Grayson was... well Grayson. Grayson has some issues and that makes him... uninterested in everything and everyone. Which is sad since he is the king of the East Dragon kingdom. Though his issue is sad in itself. Anyways, the meeting went as anticipated.” Titus eyed Rhea thoughtfully. “I wonder if someone like you could actually help him with his problem...”

“Titus!” Lee growled angrily. “No.” Lee said very coldly in which Titus put his hands up in defeat.

“It was just a thought. Sheesh.” Titus was only thinking out loud. He wasn’t trying to force anything.

Rhea let her eyes wander over the two dragons sitting across from her. She thought about her premonition. Would neither of them come to her aid? How can they act like they are so close with her, but leave her when she needed them the most? There was still the thought that her premonition didn’t take into account her making the dragons allies. Lee should have been there though. He said he would always come to her... and she felt like when he said it he was answering truthfully. If that is the case and that is true, then what happened? Does something happen to him? Does something happen to him because of her? Could he have been killed? At that thought the nauseating pit in her stomach returned.

She wondered what the Ocean’s Tear was? How could it change the events? How could she get it? There were so many questions that she had.

“Rhea?” Cody nudged at her.

Rhea was shaken from her thoughts and noticed the three men looking at her. She must have been in her own world for some time. “Yeah?”

“Rhea...” Lee’s voice came out soothing to her. She popped her blue eyes onto him. She could see that his eyes were studying her. She knew he wanted answers, but so did she. She trusted her mother and wanted to talk to her first. She also wanted to hear what her mother thought about everything... including the map of Elysium.

“Here she comes.” Titus pointed up to the sky.

Rhea turned and looked. She could see a gryphon flying their way with her mother on it’s back. She found this interesting since they always took the hippogryph’s. Plus, she didn’t like that her

mother had come alone. She immediately hopped up and took off from the balcony heading for her mother. Cody was right at her side and she could hear the other two men following after them.

Rhea watched her mother hop off of the giant animal. “Mom!” She yelled and dove into her arms.

Lilly giggled. “Did you miss me so much already?” She rubbed her daughter’s hair gently and extended a hand over to Cody who leaned in to hug his mother in return.

“Mom, why are you alone? Where is dad and Uncle Tristan?” Cody asked feeling protective over his mother.

“They are visiting Wyatt and Jason. I sent Kelsie there to let them know I was coming to see you. Though knowing them they are probably panicking at the mere thought of me being out of Elysium.” Lilly giggled at the overprotective men. She took note of how protective Cody was acting as well. “You act like I have never been in a fight before. Not only have I fought in battles, but I have never lost one. So save that protectiveness for a girl who needs it.” Lilly tapped Cody on the nose with a gentle prod.

“Still... I’ll see you back home just to be safe.” Cody said with a frown.

“Me too.” Lee said with a slight nod. “I will also ensure that you return safely.”

“I guess no matter where I go there is always someone watching over me.” Lilly grinned and then looked down at her daughter who was still buried in her arms. “Rhea... why don’t you show me to your room where we can talk.” She felt her daughter nod into her. Kelsie seemed very distraught saying that Rhea was very upset over something. It sounded like a vision of sorts. Lilly never really had these gifts, but her mother had them. And her grandmother was extremely gifted in her foresight. She knew enough about it that she could help her daughter with it.

The two walked together back into the castle and down the long hallway leaving the men in the main hall. Rhea opened the door to her room and then shut it gently after they both walked in. Lilly walked over and sat at the edge of the bed and patted for her daughter to come over. Rhea walked over and laid down on the bed, laying her head on her mother’s lap. She felt her mother run her soft hands through her hair. This was something she had always done for her. It helped relax her and a small smile spread across her face. Even as a young adult, there was something special about being comforted by her mother. It was such a warm and safe feeling.

“Why don’t you tell me what happened.... Start from the beginning.” Lilly’s smiled as she stared down at her daughter and waited for her to speak.

Rhea explained everything to her mother. From the map to the premonition. She let her emotions flow freely and her mother helped dab at her tears.

“I don’t know what to think... about everything. I am so confused, mom.” Rhea stifled her lip and sat down next to her mother’s side.

“Hmmm... Well... I can’t imagine you failing at anything. I think that the vision didn’t take into account that you win the dragons to our side. As far as the map goes... why don’t you just ask about it? I don’t think there is any real threat with it though. The dragons are wise. They would not instigate a war with the fairies. I think there must be another reason for the map. Why not ask Titus or Lee? Do you not trust them?” Her mother’s voice was filled with wisdom as it gently carried in the room.

“What about Lee not coming... I-”

“Rhea, do you trust them?”

“Yes... am I wrong for trusting them?”

Lilly smiled. “My sweet girl. Trust yourself. You have to be able to trust yourself and your feelings. And believe in them. The world could be telling you that you are wrong, but you must have the courage to trust in yourself... You know... there was a time when after a fierce battle that everyone told me to give up on your father. They told me he was dead, but I believed in myself. I knew that he was alive. I ignored them all and followed my gut. I found your father. Who knows how things would have turned out if I wouldn’t have believed in myself. You must have enough faith in yourself and your feelings. Trust yourself and what your insides are telling you. Try not to overcomplicate things, Rhea.”

“You make it sound so simple.” Rhea smiled and sighed.

“Some things are. Trusting yourself is simple. Having the courage to follow that trust can be a bit trickier.”

“What about the Ocean’s Tear...?”

“I have never heard of it. I’ll ask your grandmother and see if she knows anything about it. I bet Grandpa Sage knows about it... maybe even Leviathan and Titus too. I can’t see any harm in asking about it.” Lilly reached her hand up and brushed her daughter’s hair back.

“I felt like I was doing something wrong by blindly trusting them.” Rhea gave her mother a weak smile.

“It isn’t blindly trusting. You can feel it deep inside if a person is good or bad. It get’s stronger with your wolf too. I’m sure she will come to you soon. When she does... trust her. She is your partner.”

“Thanks mom. I knew I would feel better talking to you.” Rhea wrapped her arms around her neck and smiled widely. This is why her mother was the best. It was simple for her mother. You

believe in yourself and you follow your gut. She trusted them, she trusted Lee and she would continue to do so.

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Chapter 18 Mine

Chapter 100 - Dr.Luna

Rhea smiled up at her mother as they walked out of her room. Her mother was such an extraordinary person. Not only was she brave, and confident, but she was also caring and very forgiving. In her eyes... she really was the complete package.

“This is the library here... would you like to take a peek? Maybe we can find something? Or do you have to leave now?”

Lilly smiled at her daughter. “Who doesn’t have time to snoop around in the dragon’s library?”

Her mom also had a tendency to get into mischief too which was also why she was awesome. Rhea led her into the library. They were surprised to see Grandpa Sage sitting at the desk in there. His eyes met with theirs and he smiled warmly at them.

“I see my favorite Queen has returned again. What an honor.” Grandpa Sage waved for the two to come over towards him.

“We came to look around in the library. I found some little brownies in here the other day messing up the papers on the desk.” Rhea smiled with a small shrug.

“That explains things then. I noticed my papers were out of order. This is actually my personal library. Besides Titus and Leviathan, no one else is permitted to enter.” Grandpa Sage waved his arm motioning around the room.

“I’m so sorry. I didn’t realize this room was off limits.” Rhea began to say but he held up his hand to her.

“Of course, this doesn’t apply to you or your mother. You are most welcome here.”

Rhea bit her bottom lip and then came out with it. “Why do you have a map of Elysium?”

The old man’s gentle eyes were smiling. “I’m relieved to know it was you who picked up my papers. I was actually concerned someone else had seen that map. I promise to keep it locked up in the future.” The older man paused and then looked into Rhea’s and then rested on Lilly’s eyes. “We wanted a plan. We needed a complete lay of the land....” The old man scratched the back of his head and then shrugged. “I guess there is no use hiding this now. Neither of you will like this... but it was decided that in the event that the demons attacked we would capture both the Queen and Princess of the fairies.” He watched both of their eyes widen. “You must understand. You are both very important and play an intricate role in the world. It is imperative that you both or at least one of you survive. With Rhea safely tucked away here with us we are able to ensure the order of the fairies.”

Rhea frowned slightly. So that is why they are keeping her here. It was to make sure that at least someone from the fairy royal family survived.

“Rather than go into such an extreme rescue mission wouldn’t it be better for the dragons to aid us in battle? Who do you think the demons will turn on next once we are out of the way?” Lilly calmly spoke and dead pinned her gaze against the older man.

Grandpa Sage nodded his head and hummed slightly. “I know. Titus knows this too. This is another reason having Rhea here is important. She is such a bright person, and her aura is captivating. Honestly... it is unlike one that I have seen. She draws people to her. We are hoping she can win the hearts of the other leaders as well. This is for our self-preservation as much as it is for yours. Many dragons refuse to think that the demons will attack us. Because we are such a powerful force. The demons are greedy. They will demand our allegiance or try to take it.”

“Rhea has had a vision of the future. In the vision there were no dragons joining in the battle.” Lilly began quietly. The Great Sage had prophetic powers and would understand the vision more.

“Some prophecy deal with what will happen or what could happen. Some take certain aspects of the future into consideration but not others. That is why visions can only be used as a guideline but not as something for certain. The demon war is the one constant that we can all foresee.”

Rhea squeezed her fists together and bit her bottom lip.

“What seems to be bothering you, princess?” Grandpa Sage noticed her tense posture. He was here to help. The fairies were not underneath him but he looked at them as equal partners. They can both benefit from one another.

Rhea shook her head and gave him a weak smile. “It’s nothing really...” She wasn’t even sure why all of the sudden she was thinking about Lee not showing up. It just did and it made her feel uneasy.

“Come come my dear. Nothing will be solved by locking it inside.”

Rhea looked at her mother who nodded at her to continue. “In my vision... I was calling for Lee... but he never came.” She watched the old man’s eyes become very serious. His eyes then flickered towards Lilly’s and he let out a sad sigh.

He gave her a small nod. “Was there anything else from your vision?”

“Yes, a voice called out to me... I think... I think it might have been my great grandmother’s voice... The voice told me to find the Ocean’s Tear.” Rhea watched the older man’s eyes open wide.

“Hmmm.” Grandpa Sage squinted his eyes and rubbed his forehead.

“Is this Ocean’s Tear something very powerful that will tip the scale in battle?” Lilly asked watching the man looking conflicted.

“It isn’t a tool for battle... It is something else entirely.” He let out a loud sigh. “In order to even get the tear... you will have to get it from the sea.... witch...” He coughed a bit over the word witch. “She is very dangerous and vicious.” Grandpa Sage looked at Rhea with sad eyes and then nodded his head. He looked over at Lilly. “I agree that it could have been your grandmother who spoke these words. It could also be... Well anyways, the Ocean’s Tear will be something needed for Rhea’s happiness. I don’t think she will survive without it. There is just... well there is a lot more to it. Things that I can’t discuss with Rhea at the moment.”

Rhea read him loud and clear. “You want me to step out?”

“If you wouldn’t mind. I would like to speak to your mother privately. Oh and Rhea... don’t mention the Ocean’s Tear to anyone else for now.”

Rhea nodded her head and left the room. She frowned as she closed the door. This had something to deal with her, but it was something he couldn’t say to her? Also... the way he fumbled over the word witch made it seem like it wasn’t a witch at all. So what was he talking about? She walked slowly down the hall and then leaned against the cold stone wall. She let out a long sigh and stared up towards the cathedral like ceiling. She let her mind wander and speculate what the Ocean’s Tear could mean to her and her happiness. Maybe it was about her wolf? Some sort of release for it? What if it was something to erase her memories in the event something catastrophic happens? If everyone she loved died she wouldn’t be able to go on without them... She hated that she wasn’t allowed to hear what he knew. She didn’t understand why it had to be kept secret from her.

“Rhea!” A man with blue eyes and blonde hair called out as he approached her.

“Reese, I was wondering when I would see you again.” Rhea smiled and took a few steps towards him until they were only a couple feet apart.

“So you were thinking about me?” Reese grinned and Rhea rolled her eyes.

“Are all dragons perpetual flirts?” Rhea giggled but watched as his eyes turned almost sinister.

“Who else is flirting with you?” His eyes sharpened on her and held her in a protective gaze.

Rhea felt a bit taken back. His voice sounded threatening. “Does it matter?” Rhea came back confidently. Who the hell were these dragons to be so interested in her personal affairs? She watched as he smiled at her, though the smile itself was more like baring his teeth at her.

“Yes, it does.” Reese’s voice was quiet and serious. He was almost looking at her with a sense of possessiveness.

Does she have some sort of weird dragon pheromones? What the heck was going on? She did not like his tone. A tone almost as if he had a say in what she did. She was not born to submit to anyone. As she stared at him inwardly stewing, she could feel it. A flash of inner control. Someone else was inwardly angry and was trying to bust through.

“I see your wolf is battling you.” Reese said calmly.

“What? She is?” Rhea felt almost giddily excited hearing this.

“Your eyes were changing color. Something that usually happens with shifters when their beast is trying to come forward. You angry at me?” Reese looked at her with almost a pouty face.

Rhea had to tuck away her excitement about her wolf. She almost choked on her spit. He really had no clue why she would be mad? “I don’t like other’s thinking they have a say in my life.”

He grinned. “I’m not trying to boss you around. You were born to lead. I am just making sure no one else is trying to get close to you.”

“Why is that?” Rhea asked with her arms folded. She watched his eyes flicker and then they quickly lowered.

A pair of warm arms snaked around her waist and pulled her backwards. Hot searing breath came close to her neck. “That’s because you are MINE.”

Book 2