

Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

Chapter 131

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Chapter 131

Darius

Zora walked into the room tired. I was at my desk working on **my** computer.

Someone had sent money to a Bricks Liam in Gad, and I was on it.

It was an anonymous transfer, but the receiver had slipped off.

Instead of using a number as an ID to collect the money, he gave his Id and name.

This was the first slip-up since I started tracing the transactions.

Was it possible that Lily was the one helping these people hide their tracks because this was an idiotic move?

If that was it, I would make sure the bitch suffered most excruciatingly. The truth

about Lily was she wasn't a trophy, as everyone believed. Her father sent her to the estate the year we had decided we would no longer keep a harem.

He wanted her to be my mistress and bear me children, but I felt it was wrong and saw her more like a younger sister. I did not know it would get to her and make her act stupid. I was angry.

The only reason I let her stay was that her father was my father's friend, and they agreed that she would live on the estate.

I had abolished the laws of the lord and alphas keeping harems, but some people still wanted it in place. Bearing a bastard for the top **six** families would guarantee an elite life for such people and their families. Hence, everyone wanted **it**, and the elites would rather their daughters be

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mistresses **than** marry into **lesser** families.

It **was** a sick tradition that people still tried to keep even though I had abolished it. I banned alphas, betas and gammas from sending their daughters **to my estate** three years ago, and I have maintained it since then.

“Are you alright?” Zora said, bending and hugging me from behind. She kissed my cheek, and I grabbed her and placed her on my lap to kiss her properly.

I drank her in, kissing her and taking in her scent until she moaned for me and broke away from the kiss, getting up. She went to sit on the bed, and I watched her move.

“I am so tired,” she said, arching her back and moving so she could crack her spine for relief. She turned her neck, too, for the same reason, and I laughed.

“That is why there is a planner. So you do not have to stress yourself, my lady, but you always choose to. I can’t stop you because I did not want to argue with you,” I said, and she laughed at me.

“I think I would soak in the bath,” She said, and I nodded.

She stripped as she walked toward the bathroom and moved seductively, making Cremin growl and lust for her.

“Zora,” I growled, and she giggled, knowing exactly what she was doing. I closed my laptop and decided to join her in the bath.

It had been two **days** since we made love, and I would not let her get **away** from me tonight.

I **waited** a bit, then took off my clothes and went to join her in **the** bathroom. She **sat in** the tub and looked **at** me, smiling.

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“Did **you** miss **me**?” She asked, knowing exactly what was on my mind, **and** Cremin growled in response.

I got into the bath with her, and she moved to me and kissed me. She broke the kiss and put foam at the tip of my nose, laughing.

She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. Her eyes captivated me, and her laughter was enthralling.

She had brought me to my knees entirely before I knew it. She was easy to love and be with.

No tension and no stress.

She wasn't a social climber. Her love and affection were true.

What did I do to be this lucky? I looked at her innocent eyes and drew her close to me.

“My Zora,” I said, and she stopped laughing. Her eyes flashed golden, and I knew it was jealous Monica.

“I love you too, Monica; you two are the same,” I said, and she giggled.

I pulled her close and kissed her lips. We kissed deeply and had to break to catch our breaths. So I rested my forehead against hers.

“It will always be like this. My love will never die, and it will never weaken. It will always be strong, Zora. I will never allow you to regret this. I am nothing like my father. You will never have to share, and you will never have to deal with shit. I will be true all my life, worship and cherish you until I die. You have nothing to worry about where I am concerned, my love.” I said, and tears streamed down her eyes.

“I know, Darius. I know. I want you to know that for me, it is the **same**. **This is** my family. You are my family. You and our baby, and it will always **be** like that. My past is behind me and forgotten; it can never

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compete with what we have. Know that and trust me, Darius,” She said, and from how she said it, I knew something was troubling her, but I did not want to spoil the moment and ask what it was because I knew she was speaking her truth.

She kissed me and soon came over to me in the bath. I let her.

My body was ready and eager to please her and receive the love she was willing to give. She came over to me, and I grabbed her waist and guided my length into her. Her warmth engulfed me with peace and pleasure as she rode me.

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It felt so fucking good that I did not want it to stop. I held on to my cum, wanting her to ride her fill.

Zora rode me, and I enjoyed every bit of it. She was my haven, and I was grateful. The pleasure got into my head, and I moaned.

“Fuck!” I said, trying to hold on to my cum. My toes were curling, and the pleasure was at its peak. I felt her pussy clench as she grabbed onto me tightly.

“Darius,” she called my name, and all I could do was growl as she came and milked my cock.

Soon I could not hold it anymore. Her pussy was too warm, soft and sensitive for me to hold out on her for long.

I spilt my seed into her, feeling my toes curl in the bath. She rode me until I went soft.

I held her for a bit in the bath and kissed the side of her neck.

“We have seven more weeks to go, and you will be mine. We will be connected **as** one,” I said, and she held me tight.

I knew something **was** troubling her, and I could not keep it anymore. So I broke the hug so I could see her face. I searched her worried green eyes, and she searched mine.

“Tell **me**,” I **said**, and her tears began to fall freely.

“Oh, Darius. The council wants to break us up. They invited our **exes** for

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the games,” **She** said, and I froze.

I **was** pissed off.

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Pissed off

because I knew Casey and Sheperd were not over their mates. I can't say the same for the sick bastard, Cruz, but Sheperd had tried to take Kara from the estate, and Casey has been on the fence even though he claimed he had given her to me. I could not forget the fact that she gave herself up, and he would have rather died than let her go.

Everyone knew how those men felt about our women. The only person whose intentions weren't clear was sick Cruz.

I knew Casey still loved Zora. Why will they do this? I could understand Zora's fear, and I held her.

“It's

's okay, my love. They can't break us. In fact, it is good they see the three of you have moved on, so they can move on too. I know I am the only one in your heart now, Zora. You have nothing to worry about. I can't be jealous of Casey Grady because I have you. Do not worry about what that evil council is doing." I said to ease her mind, and she held on tightly.

"Once we solve the mutiny case, they will be dealt with accordingly, I promise," I said, and she squeezed tightly.

"She said scary things like our marriage and union not being set in stone. She said you could change your mind," Zora said. Usually, I knew this wouldn't faze her, but her hormones were all over the place, making her extra sensitive. Most people did not know she was pregnant with my child yet.

"Who said **this?**" I asked so I would know who to discipline.

"Pamela Rivers," **She** said, and I cursed under my breath.

"That social **climbing bitch**. She tried to send her daughter to join the

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Harem three years ago, but we turned it down. She had been bitter ever since. She is just jealous of you, Zora. She can't win, and I know you know this, so cheer up and stop letting your fear get the best of you." I said, and she broke the hug and looked at me.

We left the bath, dried up and went to bed naked.

I lay down, and Zora placed her head against my chest. I needed to ease her mind and change the topic.

"Guess what?" I asked her, and she pinched me in response, which made me flinch, and we both laughed.

"The money transfers finally turned up a name at the receiving end." I said, and she sat up abruptly and looked surprised and overjoyed at the same time.

"A break!" she said, and I nodded, laughing and sat up.

Zora was overjoyed.

"Finally, we have a trail," She said, relieved for the same reason.

"I think Cindy has been helping them hide their tracks since, but not anymore." I told her, and Zora nodded.

"I suspected that might be it, but I had no proof. That bitch." She said, and I laughed.

"I will have him arrested tomorrow," I said, and she stopped laughing and shook her head.

"You can't do that.

Put someone on him and have him watched. He might lead us **to** someone and blow this thing open wider. They do not know their moles have been caught.

No one knows what happened to Cindy and her handler. We will keep it **that way** and keep letting them slip up. There will be more activities during the game because Lily had told them

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security would be low then. That **is** when we'll strike, and I am thinking of using Cindy to get them," She told me, and I could understand her angle. I agreed with everything she said except for using the treacherous bitch to trap the people.

"I do not trust Cindy to have her do our bidding," I said, and Zora nodded.

“I know she is selfish, and that is exactly what we will use against her. Right now, her life is forfeit because she committed treason. We will offer her lesser punishment if she can help us catch some of them. She will throw them under the bus to save her skin. The woman is selfish like that. She does not believe in their cause. She only did what she did out of scorn. Her conviction is different from theirs. That is why we will use her.” She explained, and I could see her point.

“What about Sofia, her handler?” I asked, and Zora shook her head.

“She will be challenging to use. We will keep her locked up, and soon word will get out that she has been apprehended. So the uprising group, whatever they call themselves, will have no choice but to work with Cindy directly.” Zora said, and I understood what she was planning on doing.

“I think we can work on that,” I said, and she nodded.

Zora’s eyes looked sleepy, so I made her lie down.

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She placed her head back on my chest, and soon I heard her snoring. She was exhausted. I thought of what she said about Pamela, and I decided it was time to clip the wings of the council. They had done too much damage.

I woke up in the morning, and Zora was still sleeping.

I knew she was exhausted and overworked.

Not wanting her to fall ill, I ordered the staff to serve her breakfast in the bedroom.

I showered, got ready for the day, and headed to the dining room.

To my surprise, only Marcel and Raphael were in the dining room for breakfast.

“Zora too?” That was the first thing Raphael said, and I nodded.

“They must have overworked themselves yesterday,” Marcel said, and I agreed and sat on my seat.

I knew it would be a boring breakfast without our soon-to-be wives.

“Eloise returned to the room and passed out last night. She said she just wanted to put up her feet and fell asleep immediately.” Raphael said, and I **smiled**.

“**Kara** passed out immediately. She entered the room and pleaded with me not to wake her before passing out. I wondered if Lacy left all the work for them?” Marcel said, sounding slightly annoyed, thinking **the** event

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planner **didn't do** her work.

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“I do not think Lacy **is** the problem; you know how the women like to handle everything. That might have been it. I have asked the staff to serve Zora in the room. Honestly, they need to rest.” I said, and they agreed with me.

We ate breakfast in a rush, and then I broke the good news to them.

“So finally, I traced a money receiver in Gad yesterday. He slipped up and collected money using his ID instead of a secret word or number,” I said, and Marcel was surprised.

“That was a bit too easy, don’t you think? What if they are trying to divert our attention,” He said, and I shook my head.

“I thought as much until I called Noel in Gad to have her trace the guy His name is Bricks Liam. He exists, and he is, indeed, a bit shady. wanted her to arrest him, but Zora came up with a nice idea that we should trace him and investigate him and his associates before we move in to arrest him. That way, he will lead us to other people,” I said, and Marcel agreed.

“So what has Noel found out?” He asked, and I laughed.

“She saw him yesterday evening. We need to give it time, but I think it will lead us to a mole or part of Lily’s so-called organisation members here.” I said, and they agreed.

“I think Lily was why we did not catch anyone all this while. She might have been alerting them to cover their tracks,” Raphael said, thinking the same way I thought.

“I believe so too. It **was** smart to keep her and Sofia’s arrest a secret.” Marcel said, and I nodded.

“As for Lily, **Zora thinks** we **can** use her to our **advantage**,” I said, and

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Marcel frowned.

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“Lily has committed treason, and the punishment is death. For a **lesser** punishment, she will have to cooperate and help us catch some of the people. If she agrees, we will make Sofia’s arrest public and prosecute her; it will force the organisation to reach out to Lily directly. Zora said she heard Lily telling them that security would be low during the games. We could use the games to trap some of the members,” I said, and they were silent, thinking about what I had said.

“That is an excellent Idea. The girl is too selfish not to agree. Besides, I doubt she believes in their cause. I think she was just mad you refused to fuck her,” Marcel said, and we all laughed. It was a pity because I saw her as my younger sister and treated her well.

“Speaking of the games, there is a slight issue. It isn’t an issue, but it was created to be so,” I said, and they frowned.

“The council is at it again, and Pamela decided to invite the eastern alphas,” I said. Raphael banged his hand on his table angrily.

“When will those bastards stop? What is her fucking problem? She sent her daughter here once, and neither of us accepted her, and now she is trying to ruin our lives because of it?” Raphael said, livid.

“Eloise loves you, Raphael, and she hates her ex, you shouldn’t be worked up,” Marcel said, trying to calm Raphael down, and he shook his head.

“I just don’t say it, but Eloise has nightmares. She doesn’t know, but most of the time, I have to wake her in her sleep and hold her. She is traumatised to her soul. I hear many things she mumbles in her sleep, and I could not imagine anyone could be subject to that kind of treatment. Imagine what I had to deal with when she got here. She was broken. I am not worried about where her heart lies. She is pregnant. I do not want anything that would trigger her memory and cause her stress: She might think she **is** over the **guy**, but she still dreams of revenge. I do not **want**

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her to **be stressed**. How **dare** Pamela do this?” He said, very angry.

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I did not know he was dealing with all that until he voiced it out. I now understood their slow progress and the woman’s reluctance.

Cruz was a bastard, and I wondered what Casey was doing as leader **of**

the east.

He was supposed to strip Cruz of his rank and take his pack from him. The bastard was unfit to rule.

“They should strip that man of his rank and take his pack from him,” I said, and Raphael nodded.

“I would have moved to do that, but I do not want to cause a war with the east. Most of the land he uses and the money he spends belongs to Eloise. She is an heiress. The guy is a bastard. He caused a problem with us, and when we came, he gave her to us and decided to keep her things so he and his bitch could share. Once I am married to Eloise, I will retrieve her property. He has no right to hold on to her things since they are no longer together. I will see how powerful his pack will be without her land and money. The man needs to suffer.” Raphael said, and we were silent because of the new tension in the atmosphere.

Now that Raphael put it that way, I was a bit worried. What if Casey showed up and stressed Zora out? She did not need any form of stress at the moment. Her pregnancy was still in the early stages. Pamela was a bitch.

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Darius

“I swear, Darius,” Marcel said, and I could see the pure rage in his eyes.

“That bastard Sheperdwell tried to take Kara from the north.” He said, pointing out his own situation.

“How could the council invite an Alpha that had attacked the north with an Army? We need to query them and water down their power,” Marcel said through gritted teeth, angry and disgusted by their conduct.

“I planned on doing that after the games. I do not want them to think we harbour anything against them. If we move now, the mutiny culprits will be careful, and it will be hard to catch them. We need them to be relaxed so we will be successful when we move. We cannot lose our eyes on the goal. Someone or some people are working against us. We must deal with the situation quickly before it gets out of hand.

“I can’t wait for the blue moon to come so we can rest,” Raphael said, and I laughed.

“Too bad the games will occur before the blue moon,” I pointed out, and there was silence.

They were processing the situation, and soon we resolved it individually without sharing our resolutions.

“No matter what happens, I won’t doubt my mate. I will let her do what **she wants**. Our women have shown us complete loyalty, and we have to respect **that** aspect,” I said, and Marcel smiled at me.

“You can **say that since** Hardy is not coming. You know that **dude is**

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obsessed with Zora, right? **I did** a little digging and found that she wasn’t lying. They met only once. My sources in the east said he danced with her and was enthralled..” he stated, and I interrupted him.

“Hardy is a closed Chapter in Zora’s life. She loves me, and I know it. He had his chance, and he blew it.” I said, and everyone began to laugh. It was great to see everyone lifted.

I finished breakfast and headed to my office to call and ask Noel about Bricks Liam.

It wasn’t long after I sat down when Abelardo barged into my office.

“Why are you sending me to the western wing? It is meant for workers,” he said, and I bowed my head.

I hated dealing with his drama, and now that he was over his imprisonment, he was back to his old self. I could understand why our father did not want him heading the council.

“There is a luxury apartment in the wing meant for my Delta. If Vino had joined the service, that would have been his wing. I am giving it to you because I can no longer take your activities with Glenda in this wing. My mate is pregnant, and she needs to rest, yet **you** guys fight and ravage yourselves in the halls. And you always seem to do it close to my door. I am tired. At least you will own that wing and can do what you like.” I said as calmly as I could manage, and he grumbled. I knew he wanted something.

“Please, Abelardo, I do not have time for all this,” I said, wanting him to get to the point and leave.

“Sign me up for the Polo team. I want to play,” He said, and I studied him. I knew he would not take no for an answer, and the truth was the games were to connect and have fun. He would be a severe handicap on our team, but I just nodded so he could leave my office. He thanked me immediately.

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“Glenda **has great ideas** for our uniform,” **he** said, and I shook **my** head.

“Zora **has already** handled **that; she** should **have** spoken up earlier,” I said, and he grumbled.

“The Sage and white combination is tasteless. Also, the monochromatic design for the ball is too plain,” He said, and I sighed.

“Tasteless or not, my woman wants me in a Sage and white uniform, and I am lord, so I will wear what she wants. If she wants to paint the entire estate in whatever colour she likes, I will allow it. Anything to make my Lady happy. Hope you know my wedding is fast approaching. You need to start respecting Zora as your sister in law, Abelardo. She was the one that got you out of that bind.” I told him, and his face dropped.

“I do not disrespect her. Did she report me? I have been nice to her. I am forever grateful for what she did, but you know I am the older brother. and Glenda is my woman; she should have something to do. She does not feel like I am not taking her seriously, Darius, and I love her.” He said. and I looked at him. I could not believe my brother would ever use that word with anyone. He was like our father, and he was incapable of being faithful which was why they fought all the time, but for him to say he

loves her means it is serious.

“She can meet Zora. I am sure there will be something for her to do. Trust me, my mate needs the help. She was tired yesterday.” I said, and he nodded.

“She shouldn’t be overworking herself, she is carrying your baby,” He said with concern. I could see that Abelardo had changed, so I pushed my luck a bit.

“Word of advice, Abelardo, try to be faithful to Glenda. I know what you have been doing with the girls in the harem, you have to respect her. So you do not hurt her like father hurt mother. I am just saying,” I said, and he looked **away** because he knew that was precisely what he was doing.

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He excused himself, and **my** mother walked in. I wondered if she was waiting for Abelardo to finish talking before she interfered.

She was angry and worried, and she looked unsettled.

“Darius, we need to do something about Pamela and Joan,” She said, looking angry and very worried.

“Please have a seat.” I said, and she looked towards the bathroom door of my office. I shook my head to let her know no one was there.

“I went through the guest list. They invited Hardy and Hardy requested to place his pack in the Polo tournament,” She said.

As much as that did not sit well with me because I doubted his intention was pure, knowing what transpired between Zora and him, I trusted my woman not to betray me. She had rejected him, and he had accepted that. He was stupid if he was still hoping to try his luck.

I was angry at the council, and I knew I would have to suspend them and review their authority because this was just too much. They know the bad blood between Alpha Corrigan and my family, yet they chose to do this. I just hoped they did not plan to start a war.

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Darius

I looked at my mother, who seemed a bit nervous and worried.

“What is it, mother?” I asked, wanting her to get to it because I wanted to call Noel and find out if there had been any other leads other than the one I gave her.

“It is not Hardy I am worried about, my son. Nikolay Sullivan is the registered captain of his team, and he is coming with Shanon,” She said. and my heart was caught in my mouth. I felt a pound in my chest, one I had not felt in a long time, and fear engulfed me.

Why would the council do this to me? I had picked up the pieces of my life and moved on, why would they bring my past to hunt me? If Zora finds out Shanon is coming, she will be perplexed, and I do not want anything to happen to our baby. I bowed my head, trying to figure out what to do.

“Pamela and Joan are smart, son. They brought in the list at the time closest to the event when we could not cancel the guests,” My mother said, repeating what was playing on my mind.

“Zora,” Cremin said, livid at what the council had done.

I remained speechless in my office, and my mother stared at me. She looked genuinely worried, and I knew why.

I wanted to speak, but she interrupted me.

“That girl has been through a lot, and she loves you with all her heart, Darius, do not break Zora’s heart,” She said with tears forming in her

eyes.

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“I used to **want** a daughter so badly, but I never had one. Zora feels like my **blood**.” She said and wiped away her tears.

“I love her, Darius, and I love what you two have. Please,” She said and put her hand together to beg me.

“Do not break my Zora’s heart. I know Shanon is your first love, and you never got over her, but please; Zora deserves better. Your wedding and claiming ceremony is seven weeks from now, please do not disappoint her and me. If you do, I will leave with her and my grandchild, and I will forget that you are my son,” She said with conviction in her eyes, and I knew she wasn’t lying.

“Why do you think I will be conflicted where Shanon is concerned?” I asked her, and she composed herself.

“Because you keep your promises, Darius. You swore you would never settle down until she came back. You said you would find her and bring her back to make her your luna. You have remained single all this while. and that bitch Pamela said everything isn’t set in stone. Please, my son. Shanon gave up on you and ran away. She should have hung around, fated or not. She should have waited to see what you would do, but she had no faith in you and left you alone with nothing but a letter and a broken heart. Do not destroy Zora for her sake. I plead with you. I know you had a strong feeling for that girl, but she isn’t worth it. Please,” She said, and I felt terrible that my mother would think I would hurt Zora for Shanon’s sake.

“I love Zora, and she is carrying my baby. I can never hurt her,” I said, and she nodded. She did not believe me, it was in her eyes, and it annoyed me a bit.

“I am nothing like my father, mother. I will never hurt the woman I love. Zora **has** no **family** but us; I can never be cruel. I will die without her,” I said, and my **mother** studied **my eyes** and nodded.

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“That was all I came to tell you, I will take my leave now,” she said and got up.

“Mother,” I called her attention, and she stopped to listen to me.

“Do not tell her about Shanon. Allow me to do it myself, please,” I pleaded with her, and she hesitated before nodding, and then she left.

I sat at my desk, and my heart was still racing. Why would Shanon come now after eleven years?

Why will she come to the north?

Why would Nikolay Sullivan come with her?

Was she playing on the Polo team?

I remembered how we learned horse riding and played Polo and Polocrosse together. I took an interest in the sport because of her, and it has remained my favourite since then.

Why would she return now when I had picked up the pieces of the heart that she shattered and moved on?

I was confused and angry.

I did not know how I would act when I saw her, and I did not know how I would feel.

I wondered how she was doing, if she was okay, and what she looked like now.

Was she married?

Did she have children?

Was she happy?

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Those questions crossed my mind.

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I remembered everything we did together, and the pain of her abandonment returned to me as I fought back my anger and tears sitting in the office.

I blocked everyone from the mind link so I could gather my thoughts and put my emotions in check.

My office phone rang, and it snapped me out of the deep thought I was in.

"Hello," I said, and it was Noel.

I should have called her first thing in the morning, but many things distracted me from contacting her. She had finally called me.

"My Lord, Bricks noticed he was trailed, so he tried to escape. I had to get involved and arrest him," she confessed, and I was sad because it meant

we wouldn't learn more like we wanted to.

"So what will happen now?" I asked her, and she sighed.

"That is why I called you. He said he works for the council's spokesman Jacob Mikhailov." She said, and I felt relief wash through me as I finally had a name that led to someone on the council.

"They are funding an extremist group that seeks democracy and Liberation," she said, and I was stunned.

"He claims they want to eliminate the lordship and put the council in charge while the regions would be ruled by governors," she said.

I wondered why he quickly gave up names and told Noel their plans.

"Why **did** he tell you all of this?" I asked her, and she sighed.

"I tortured him and told him he would be tried for treason. He begged for

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a lesser sentence in exchange for information.” She said, and I realised he wasn’t **as** loyal **as** his recruiters might have needed him to be. He did not sound like someone that believed in the cause.

“Very well, transport him here secretly for questioning,” I told her and hung up.

I ran my fingers through my hair, feeling frustrated and sad.

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Chapter **136**

Darius

It was good news, but my heart wasn’t happy. The whole Shanon thing had destabilised me.

There was so much happening at once, and I needed a breather. I needed the noise to quiet down and the spinning situation to stop, but I knew it wouldn’t, and it was getting to me.

I was tempted to have Jacob Mikhailov arrested, but I would instead do it after the games.

I did not want to do anything that would disrupt the games or interfere with the investigations that would occur during the games.

I needed the traitors to be relaxed and follow their plan. So we could catch them.

I attended to some documents in the office and went to train.

After training, I joined Marcel and Theo at the stables to practice polo. Shanon plagued my mind, and I needed the thought of her to fade away

I practised so hard until I was tired.

I skipped lunch and remained outside, trying to free my mind of what was happening

I sat by the cliff and wondered what I would do.

took the horse back to the stables when it was dinner time, showered, and went for dinner.

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I entered the dining room, and Zora looked at me with her green eyes, she **was** worried; I could tell, but she did not **say** a word.

I went to sit next to her, and she smiled at me.

I had not seen her the whole day, and I felt guilty. Why was I acting like this? What was I worried about?

“You locked everyone out of your mind. Is everything alright.” She said to me, and I rubbed her back gently, then began to plate her food.

“Everything is alright, my love.” I said to her, releasing my mind to communicate through the link.

“They have arrested Bricks and are bringing him here for questioning. He said Jacob Mikhailov was the one that sent him the money, and they are funding a group that wants to remove the lordship, place the council in charge and liberate the people of the regions by installing governors. I told her to bring him here so we can interrogate him properly,” I said aloud, and Marcel growled.

“What about Jacob?” He asked, and I shook my head.

“Let him continue to believe his secret is safe. I want them to make more mistakes. Please, place someone to watch him and study his activities and associations. That could help.” I said, and Marcel agreed.

We ate the rest of the meal in silence. It was apparent that I wasn't in high spirits, but I tried to keep it together.

Soon we finished, and Zora and I got up to leave.

We walked in silence, and she did not utter a word.

I could not read her. I could not tell if she **was** angry or just giving me space.

We entered the **room**, and she went to the bathroom.

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I went to check **my** computer for emails, but there **was** nothing. By the time I was done, she had exited the bathroom in her night dress with wet hair. She had taken a quick shower, and she looked gorgeous.

“Hectic day?” She asked me with a smile, and I nodded.

I felt relief wash through me because I realised she was just giving me space. She wasn’t mad at me.

I watched her moisturise her skin at the vanity table and then move to the bed. I decided I had to tell her that Hardy and Shanon were coming so she would know and would not be surprised and shocked when she saw them or found out before then.

“Hardy is coming for the games,” I said, and she looked at me, stunned. I could see a glimpse of fear in her eyes.

“He has never come for the games before. He accepted and even signed up three polo teams to play in the tournament for the south.” I said, and she looked worried.

“That isn’t all, my ex’s uncle is the captain of his team, and he is coming with my ex, Shanon,” I said, and her hand shook a bit.

She sat upright on the bed and looked at me with fear. She was speechless.

“Shanon is coming?” She asked, and I nodded and went to join her on the bed.

“Yes, Zora,” I said and pulled her into my arms.

“I am not telling you this because she is important, I am telling you this so you will not be surprised when she shows up and some loudmouth council member decides to use it as a jab. I do not want you to get worked up over this,” I said, and she nodded slowly, so I turned her to look at me.

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"I love you, Zora.. You have nothing to worry about. She blew her chance when she left me. My time with her is over now, my heart beats for only you," I said, and she did not respond.

"Was that why you were scarce all **day** and you blocked your mind from communication?" she asked me.

Although it was part of it, I couldn't tell her because she did not seem to be taking it well.

"No, the issue with the council is what is killing me. I am only telling you this because I want you to know so you aren't caught off guard." I said, and she nodded.

She looked at me and searched my eyes for a bit.

"I trust you. Darius. With all my heart," She said with teary eyes, and I

knew she was worried.

I leaned close and kissed her lips.

This was why I was worried. I did not want her to be stressed about it. I held her, and she wrapped her arms around me.

"Please don't break my heart, Darius. I won't survive this one," She said, and her words cut me deeply.

The fact that she thought there could be a possibility made me want to check myself.

I was shocked and nervous about seeing Shanon, but it wasn't because I wanted to get back with her. It was because, deep down, I was still mad that she did not break up with me properly before leaving.

"I won't, I promise. You have nothing to worry about. You own and rule my heart now. I will never betray you and our baby, Zora. I promise you that my love is true, and it will always remain that **way**. Please don't be

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worried. Don't **make** me **regret** telling you," I said, and I heard a faint sob. I held her, and we laid down. She placed her hand on my chest, resting her body on half of mine. I touched her hair, gently stroking it and stared at the ceiling. I could not wait for the blue moon and make her mine permanently.

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Chapter **137**

Zora

Planning the ball for the games became a bit challenging after what Darius told me.

As time drew near. I became a nervous wreck. I tried to hide it, but I couldn't.

Darius would often figure it out, and I will pretend to snap out of it.

I was afraid that Shanon would take him from me. She was his first, and he never had closure: what if his heart remembers her? I tried to be calm,

but I couldn't.

Nellie was a bit worried; she somehow knew Darius had told me about the guests coming.

Four days before the event, I couldn't hide my fear anymore. I sat on the chair in the hall, going through the table arrangement, and I looked like a wreck.

The eastern alphas and Hardy had turned down the ball for reasons best known to them.

Eloise wasn't happy about it, but since they were going to play polo too, she would still have her day. My heart was so troubled that I felt sick and had to vomit.

I returned to sit down, and Nellie came to speak to me.

"My dear, you need to have faith in him," She said, knowing what troubled my soul.

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Chapter **137**

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I did not share the news with Kara and Eloise, so they did not worry for me, but I was **dying** inside.

"What if he wants her back?" I said, tears almost streaming down my face, and Stephane pulled me in and held me.

"I won't allow it," she said, and I knew she had no power in that regard. Darius was lord. Was he going to make me share? What would I do? I

was a mess.

"Have some tea and retire to bed. Lacy and I will handle the rest. Please try and sleep," Nellie said, and I was too much of a mess to argue with her. I got up and left the hall.

I returned to my room, and Darius was there on his computer.

I did not speak to him. I just walked to the bathroom to freshen up.

I stood under the shower for minutes, deep in thought.

“We should be strong, Zora. We should be ready,” Monica said, and I did not know how to feel about it. I never imagined that Shanon would return, and I did not know what to do now that it was in four days.

“What if she decided to see him before the ball? Most of the participants are already arriving. Zora. It can happen anytime,” Monica said, and I covered my mouth to cry.

I heard Darius enter the bathroom, and I shook from the sound of his entrance which snapped me out of my thoughts. I stopped crying immediately.

He got into the shower with me and held me from behind.

He kissed **my** shoulder, turned me around, and then turned **off** the water.

“Look at me, Zora,” He **said** gently, and I did not want to look up because he would know I was crying, and I wanted to be strong.

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“**Please look** at me,” He **said**, lifting my chin up. I looked **at** him.

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“Please do not doubt my love. This should not bother you. She isn’t even my friend, Zora, and you are a wreck. I want to believe it is the hormones, but you need to keep it under control. I regret telling you, but I did not want you to be taken by surprise. Please, Zora. I know your time with Casey scarred you, but I am nothing like him. I am a one—
woman man, and you are my woman. Shanon is my past; you are my present and future. Yes, she will want to see me and talk to me, but I promise I will not disappoint you. I won’t do anything that would make you

a laughing stock. I won't break your heart. I need you to cheer up. We have all been looking forward to this ball. Do not let Shanon take away your joy, our joy. We have a lot to look forward to. Please do not let this hurt you. If you are worried about an ex-girlfriend, then I should be paranoid about an ex-fated," He said, and I giggled hearing him put it that way. I just hope he will be faithful to his words.

I placed my head against his chest, and he wrapped his arms around me and turned on the water.

"I want my green-eyed beauty back," he said, and I dug my nail into his skin.

"Zora," he groaned in a sexy way, and I looked up at him.

He crashed his lips on mine and kissed me hungrily. His kiss said it all; he was mine and no one else's.

I wrapped my **legs** around him, eager for him to pound into me, and he did not disappoint.

We moved from the shower to the bed.

I had been distant for over a week. It was expected behaviour that he would **ravage my** body, and I liked it.

Darius **made** love to **me**, and I could feel his heart and intention with

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every passion and stroke.

I came twice before he released into me, but his dark eyes let me know the night was only beginning.

The day of the ball finally came, and I dressed in a cream dress to fit the event's mood.

Casey, Cruz and Sheperd had changed their minds and decided they would attend.

I could only imagine Eloise and Kara making an effort to look good.

I couldn't blame them. The men deserved the shock. I was counting on Casey to be civil. Hardy was still not coming, so I would not have drama to deal with.

Darius was in the closet dressing up when there was a knock on the door.

I asked the person to come in, and Nellie entered the room in an onyx dress.

She looked young and beautiful.

She could easily pass for Darius's older sister, and I wondered how Collier could treat her so terribly, but I could also see why he couldn't let

1. go.

She was a beauty. She held a jewellery box, smiled, and walked to me.

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Chapter **138**

Zora

"You look beautiful, Zora. You look like a goddess," She said, and I thanked her.

I put a lot of effort into the dress and make-up. The lace cream dress hugged my body and gave me a mermaid shape.

It was backless with a halter neck and no sleeves.

The left slit showed my long legs, and the beautiful golden high-heeled slipper I was wearing complemented the dress.

I wore my hair down straight and parted in the centre.

My make-up was subtle but beautiful. I was still contemplating what to wear as jewellery

Nellie looked at me and smiled.

“I am here to check on you and make sure you are alright,” She said, and I nodded and smiled at her.

“Be confident in your love, Zora. That girl does not have good intentions, but I know Darius will not betray you,” She said, and I frowned at her, wondering why she would say that.

She smiled and winked at me, so I prompted her to tell me what she had **done**.

“Please tell **me** why you **say** she doesn’t have **good** intentions?” I said, and **she smiled**.

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“She tried to **get** in here to see Darius two days ago, but I had given orders at the entrance that no one is let in, especially her, only on the day of the ball.

I do not want her to have time alone with my son. I blocked her twice, and yesterday I went to see her in their home in Wonderland to tell her to back off.

I told her my son had moved on and that you two were getting married soon. She shouldn’t think she can just walk away and come back and find him waiting for her. I did not say it nicely, either. I wanted to hurt her with my words, and I wanted

her to back off. She wept, of course, but I need her to get the message.” She said and winked.

“You are my daughter, Zora, and the only woman I want with my son. I will protect you and my grandchild,” she said and gave me the jewellery box.

It had a golden bracelet with diamonds and looked really beautiful.

“I picked it out for us yesterday,” She said, showing me hers, an exact replica, and I felt loved.

She helped me wear it on my wrist, and I thanked her. She left me alone, and I turned to look at myself in the mirror. The bracelet was all the jewellery I would need. It was perfect.

Darius walked out of the closet, smiling. It was clear he heard what his mother said.

He was decked up in his official attire. His uniform rank and adornment made him look exquisite. He packed his hair in a ponytail, and I somehow knew Marcel and Raphael would dress the same.

He was fixing the **cufflinks** of his white shirt under his official suit.

“I see you two are a **team**,” He **said** and kissed the tip **of my** nose. I

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giggled, and he laughed.

“You look beautiful, green eyes,” he said, and I smiled at him.

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“And you look handsome, Lord Hand,” I said, and we laughed at each other.

"I can't wait for the party to end so I can take off your clothes and bury myself inside you," He said and kissed the sweet spot of my neck. Which made me crumble in his arms.

I moaned, and he laughed.

"Shall we?" He asked, and I nodded. He led me out of the room, and we headed toward the hall.

"Lord Hand and Lady Zora," The announcement said, and Darius and I walked into the ballroom hand in hand.

People were silent, and they stared at us in awe. I looked at the people and my eyes caught someone I never imagined I would ever see again, Casey.

He looked different. He had lost weight, and his beard was very bushy. He was a shadow of the man I used to know, and I looked around to see if Lori was with him, but she wasn't there.

Did he leave her at home? It felt awkward, but I looked away.

I saw Sheperd and Cruz standing, staring at their ex-wives who ignored them and were having fun with their new mates. They, too, did not bring their mates, and I wondered why they did not use their plus ones. It was okay. Darius and I were led to the high table, where the beta, gamma and their mates were and sat down.

Kara and Eloise looked beautiful. Eloise wore a red dress, and Kara wore a cream dress like me.

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They were beaming with joy, and I could see mischief in their eyes. Nellie was also at the table with us and winked at me.

The Alpha guests formed a line to greet their hosts, Darius, Marcel and Raphael.

Only the Alphas could get close to the lord of the north. I did not know how powerful and important Darius was until now. They greeted him. with the utmost respect.

It was Casey's turn, and he greeted Darius respectfully. Darius answered. and then Casey's eyes were set on me.

"Lady Zora, good evening," He said, and I smiled.

"Good evening. Alpha Albert; we hope you enjoy our hospitality," I said, and he had no choice but to thank me and move on.

Cruz and Sheperd refused to join the line, and I could see that they were angry. In fact, I was surprised when they left the hall to sit outside.

It was apparent they were having it hard seeing their ex-wives happy.

I knew there would be drama where those two were concerned, especially Sheperd, who looked at Marcel evilly. I hoped for his sake Marcel did not catch the evil stare.

The party went on, and everyone was happy. Darius and I danced and mingled, then returned to our table to rest. My friends and their mates weren't at the table, nor was Nellie.

Darius and I were admiring the guests and the atmosphere of the ball when a beautiful Blonde woman walked into the hall.

She wore a short peach dress and held her hair in a bun. Many men stared at her because she looked beautiful, and it was clear that it was intentional on her part. Her late arrival **was** deliberate too. She wanted the attention.

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I stared at her a bit, trying to place her, but I couldn't She was new

She looked in our direction, only that she wasn't looking at me, she was looking at Darius. When I turned to see if Darius saw her, he was staring at her as if he was in a trance.

Darius's eyes lingered on her, not moving, not blinking.

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Chapter 139

Zora

I wondered if she was Shanon. I looked around, and I saw Casey looking at me with concern.

I could remember this scene from before. It had happened to me before, but I did not want to believe it was happening to me again.

I saw Eloise and Raphael dancing and did not want to call them. Nellie was talking to one of the guests, and Marcel was introducing Kara to people.

I did not know if I should squeeze Darius's thigh or call his name.

"Darius," I said with a breathy voice, and he did not respond.

My heart began to race.

"No, no, no, Zora," Monica said in pain, and I contemplated waiting around to experience the disgrace that would ensue.

"Darius," I said with a breathy voice again, but his eyes remained fixed on the blond woman in the peach dress, and I watched the words escape his lips.

"Mate".

My eyes filled with tears immediately, but I fought them.

Even if I cried, it would not be in public. It would not be in the **eyes** of Pamela and Casey. It will not be before everyone. So I held it together, but I was utterly broken inside.

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The woman began to approach. She was beautiful. Hourglass shape, plump lips, doe eyes, oval-shaped face. Perfect in every way. I sat still, shaking inside.

Darius stared at her; to him, she was the only person in the world. I understood the feeling, I had been there. Every fibre of me wanted Hardy. I wanted him so badly, but I fought it. I did not know where the strength came from, but I fought it. It didn't look like Darius was putting up a fight.

Darius was the wolf lord. He did not need to fight it. He was allowed to have mistresses and keep harems. Being faithful to me was a choice for him and not an obligation.

He had not claimed me yet and did not need a blue moon to claim this woman. I was truly fucked.

What if he accepts and claims her and chooses to keep me as his mistress because of his baby? If that ever happened to me, I would run away and not look back.

I sat still and watched her approach. I wanted to chase her out of the hall and have the guards hurl her away, kicking and screaming, but I knew Darius wouldn't have that. She was his mate, after all.

Her eyes were teary as she approached. She looked relieved and happy. There **was** so much **joy** in her and a tinge of regret too. Who was she?

“Mate,” I heard Cremin say with a growl, and my insides churned. I could no longer speak. Breathing was hard, but I sat still.

“Shanon?” Darius said, and I figured out why they both strongly reacted to the mate bond.

She **was** Shanon, **his** Shanon, the Shanon that he told me I did not need to worry about. He lied.

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I now understood the look of regret in her eyes.

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If only she had stayed and not run off to the south, they would have been happily married with pups by now. Suddenly I felt like a placeholder for her.

I began to gather myself. I prepared myself mentally to walk away from the hall. She approached our table and smiled at Darius.

“Darius,” She said with a breathy voice ignoring me.

Tears were falling down her face. People were staring at us, and then someone made a loud noise that took people’s attention from us.

I looked in the direction of the sound, and it was Casey.

He was talking to someone at the top of his voice.

I saw him, and I could see that he knew.

Casey did what he did to help me save face because everyone was looking at Darius and Shanon before Casey diverted their attention to himself.

I looked back at Shanon and Darius, and she smiled at him.

I did not know what to say, but I was getting ready to leave the place.

“Darius,” She said again, staring at him in disbelief.

She ignored me completely as if I wasn't there, and I could not blame her. How could she acknowledge her placeholder? She had returned to take her man, and it seemed I would have no choice but to let him go.

I heard low growls coming from Darius, and his breathing was a bit laboured. He did not want to breathe her scent.

I looked at him, and I could see him battling Cremin, and I knew **fate** had done it again.

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Chapter 139

What did I do to deserve this?

It was alright that it happened to me once, but not three times.

1288 Vouchers

Finding a fated in my world was rare, but it seemed to be a curse that followed me everywhere. Only three people found their fated in the Magic Fang, and Casey was among the three. In Kara's Pack, only Sheperd found his fated. Likewise, Eloise's pack.

Why did a rare thing have to happen to me three times?

I fought my tears and tried to be strong through the humiliation that was about to happen to me.

Pamela's words ran through my mind, and I was ashamed of myself.

I had told Darius it wouldn't be easy, and he had disputed it and called Casey weak. I could see him doing the same thing Casey did.

"Shanon," he said, and she smiled at him.

My heart broke because he called her name and not mine. He did not look at me. He kept staring at her.

I guess that was my cue to leave.

I stood up gently and was about to walk away when Darius held my hand firmly.

He stood up and continued to stare at Shanon.

Why did he want me to witness this painful event? I wanted to run away

I wanted to leave and go and hide. There was no way I would remain with him and his fate. This was my time to leave.

"If I had known, I wouldn't have left," Shanon said, tears spilling down her eyes.

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Darius did not reply. He was staring at her, and I could feel the conflict between him and his wolf.

"Thank goddess you are.." She said.

"Unmarried?" He said, completing her sentence, and she nodded.

I tried to get away, but he held me still. I tried to wiggle my hand away from his. My tears were threatening to spill, and I was crumbling inside. but he locked his hand on my wrist, stopping me from leaving.

"Well, you are wrong. I have someone I love, and we will be getting married soon," he said, and Shanon looked at me, a bit surprised.

"But we are fated," She said with surprise and confusion. Thinking Fate was a strong reason for him to dump everything and be with her.

"I do not care about such things," he replied.

"Glenda said you were planning to find me and bring me back so I can be your Luna. Now fate has made it that we are fated," She started, and he cut in.

“Your cousin lied to you. I have someone I love very much, Shanon,” he said, and I was battling tears.

I doubted he would want to risk being weak because of me.

A war was brewing, and he had to be at his strongest. This was not a good situation.

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Chapter 140

Zora

“Darius, I won’t be mad,” I linked him, resigning myself to my fate, and he squeezed my wrist. His hand was shaking. It was difficult for him to resist her. It would be so because they were once in love. The bond would amplify their buried emotion.

“You shouldn’t have come here, Shanon, you should have stayed away like my mother warned you to,” He said, and she began to weep.

“I still love you. I never got over you, Darius. I regret leaving and always dreamed of returning. but I was too afraid of what would happen if I did. Please, Darius. We are meant for each other. My heart still beats for you the same. Please. I did not leave you intentionally, I wasn’t given a choice, please. We can make this work. We are destined to be together,” She argued, and he shook his head.

“Let us talk about this in private without interference. Please.” She pleaded for privacy because she knew she could get the best of him that

way.

“Just you and I,” She said, and her eyes looked at his hand on my wrist There was a rage in them, but she hid it immediately

She was fighting to control herself. I could see it, and to her, I was an obstacle

.

“Let us find a private place to talk things through, away from the crowd,” She pleaded, and I knew when she said crowd, she meant me

“Fate had put us together like we always wanted when we were younger,” She said with tears in her eyes.

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“I make my own destiny, Shanon,” He said to her and looked at her

“I, Darius Hand...” he started, and I could not believe what he was about to do .

“Wait, do not do this. It will weaken our wolves. You are lord. Cremin can’t be weakened. I do not mind sharing you with her. It is a price I am willing to pay for letting them force me to leave you, but please don’t will do anything to be with you and remain yours. Please reconsider Shanon said, then looked at me with tears streaming down her cheeks By then, everyone was concentrating on us again. Casey’s diversion had ended.

“Don’t be selfish; stop him. It will be your fault if he does this, it weakens his wolf, and the north falls.” She said to me, and I wanted to punch her at that moment. How dare she put it on me?

“Shut up!” Darius told her, and everyone was silent. We were now the centre of attention.

“You are not to speak to my mate in that tone ever!” he warned her and continued his sentence.

“I, Darius Hand, reject you, Shanon Sullivan, as my fated mate now and forever. May fate find you another match,” He said, staggered, and sat down.

She fell on her knees in pain, and I knew the deed had been done.

I watched Darius battle with his pain, and my tears finally fell, but instead of falling from pain, they fell from relief.

Darius was indeed telling the truth when he made those promises.

I doubt I can ever pay him for the gift of love he gave me.

“Let us go, Darius. You need to rest,” I linked him, and he stood up,

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leaving Shanon writhing in pain on the floor.

Darius was in severe pain, too, but he was masking it, which was why I needed to get him out of the hall so no one would see his pain.

People came to Shanon’s aid.

Darius and I left the hall together, and I realised that even though the architect of my misfortune tried to play the same situation twice, I was favoured this time.

Darius did not even leave room for conversation between himself and Shanon. It should have been more difficult for him because they had a

history.

Casey was indeed a weak man, and I was glad I ended up with Darius.

We got to our bedroom with much difficulty because of the pain Darius was experiencing.

Though he masked it through the hall, it became visible in our wing as his wolf groaned in pain.

It made me wonder why I felt no pain with Hardy

I quickly undressed and undressed him.

Then I held him in bed to sleep it off. He had just weakened his wolf tremendously for my sake. I had great respect for him

“I love you so much,” I said, even though I doubted he could hear me

I began to cry tears of relief.

“Thank you, Darius, for not breaking my heart,” I said, weeping.

I was afraid it would be like **Casey**.

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I was ready to leave and run away.

“I love you so much. I promise to remain by your side. I promise to

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balance your strength and do everything to make you happy. I love you so much.” I said and held on to him tightly.

Fate did not give him to me. We chose ourselves, and it was a great match of love, trust, determination and promise.

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