

# Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

## Chapter 141

### Chapter 141

Darius

I heard my mother enter our room, and I wondered what she wanted with Zora ; I was still battling with my cufflink, so I remained. I didn't interrupt

her.

My mother's words touched my heart. I knew Shanon had been trying to reach me since she arrived, but I ignored her.

Glenda had come to see me in the office twice, and by the third time, I had banned her from my wing.

The woman was obnoxious, so Abelardo still found it hard to commit fully to her.

I was sure he would change if Abelardo met someone like Zora.

I had to ask her how she would feel if I tried to turn Abelardo away from her, and she got the message.

I thought it was stupid of her to try to get me to see Shanon knowing that I was mated to Zora.

I was glad that my mother took the initiative.

I exited the closet when my mother left and saw Zora.

She looked breathtaking. If the event weren't important, I would have peeled off her clothes and taken her on the spot.

Her tummy was flat, and I wished her bump was showing like Eloise's so that Casey would know to keep off.

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I trusted my woman and knew she would only have eyes for me.

I also took comfort in the fact that Hardy would not be attending the event.

I did not know his reasons, but Marcel had put someone to watch him. just in case he was up to no good.

I still could not forget that he believed he should be lord because he killed my father.

Inviting Hardy without my consent was going to cost Joan and Pamela. I just needed the games to be over before I made my move.

We arrived at the ballroom, and everyone stared at us.

I heard the whispers, and I ignored them.

It was mainly envious folks. They made it sound like I took someone's wife and made Zora seem like she was a social climber.

I was glad Zora wasn't listening, or maybe she heard and just chose to ignore it. Either way, her mood wasn't affected.

I did not miss the multiple lustful eyes that looked at Zora, I had to grow! to make them stop, but there were people that couldn't help it. My mate and soon-to-be wife had that effect. She was captivating

We sat at the table, joining my friends, their mates and my mother.

I did not miss the eastern Alphas that angrily left the hall With how they looked at Marcel and Theo, I figured they were Kara and Eloise's exes, and I knew the women were enjoying it

The Alphas lined up to greet me, and when it was Casey's turn, I could see he had it bad.

The man seemed like he had fallen on hard times. He had dark circles,

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and his eyes weren't lively.

He stared at Zora with regret and longing but dared not express it. Zora was no longer a member of his pack, so he could not link her.

He walked away, and I could tell he wished things had happened differently.

If it weren't for the letters exchanged between us, I might have beat him up for what he did to Zora, but all was water under the bridge now.

had fun at the party and Zora and I danced and socialised with people.

Zora and I went to sit at our table when Shanon walked in.

She looked elegant. She looked so good, and I knew it was deliberate. I was a bit pissed off that they would allow her into the party, but I kept it together; there was no time that I wouldn't have to face her, besides, she was the one who left me; it was okay to be civil.

I was still thinking of how to handle seeing her when the scent came. Roses and mint.

Cremin growled in my head, and he began to do somersaults.

I felt an overwhelming giddiness in me, and I tried to fight it. My eyes stayed glued to her.

Everything faded in those moments. My hands were itching to touch her. my lips were begging to kiss her, and my entire system was out of control No one existed. Nothing mattered. I looked at her, and our eyes met

"Mate," the words escaped my lips effortlessly, and she smiled and responded .

"Mate," I did not hear her voice, but I read her lips, and she was coming for me.

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I wanted to take her away from that place. There were colours around her. and the swirl of colours blurred out the crowd, making me zero in on her She was my focus, the centre of my attention.

Someone was trying to link me, I could feel it poking at the sides of my mind, but I was closed off. All I wanted was Shanon. All I needed was her, and Cremin wanted to go for it.

“Darius.” I heard a faint fearful voice call out to me, but I did not care, it did not matter. I just wanted Sussan.

“Mate.” Cremin kept saying, and her scent filled my senses. I knew something was wrong, but I couldn’t figure it out.

Shanon walked towards us.

“Shanon,” Cremin said, howling in my head, and I knew I needed to take control.

He had dominated me completely with his animalistic side, I was fighting him. I did not know why I was fighting him, but I knew it was wrong. Something felt utterly wrong about it.

I began to fight the scent because it was overpowering me.

The more I breathed her in, all the emotions I buried and tried to forget came back. Memories of us filled my mind, and I wanted to return to those days when I had no care in the world, and we made plans for the future, hoping we would be fated.

I fought and then remembered that she left and I was broken, and I tried to move on.

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## **Content**

### **Chapter 142**

Darius

Zora came to **my** mind. From the moment I lifted her chin and gazed into her eyes to the promises I made her, our baby and her fears, I knew I had to push back.

As

calming and soothing as the feeling was, I had to push back. Every fibre of my being wanted Shanon, Cremin wanted Shanon, and he fought me. I fought him with all my might. I could not do this to Zora. I dared not break her again.

Shanon approached confidently, and I could see she was glad we were fated.

She spoke her mind confidently, already assuming the mate role, and I felt people were watching us, but I was battling Cremin at the same time. She spoke to me, and I felt Zora get up.

I dared not let her leave like this. I did not have complete control, but I held her wrist to stop her from leaving.

I knew it would be over if she walked away at that moment.

I went

through the motions. I heard a loud noise. Someone had somehow taken the crowd's attention from us, but I could not look, the bond enthralled me. It was trying hard to snap in place, and I fought it with all my might.

I fought Cremin while I spoke to Shanon. I noticed how she looked at Zora, and it pissed me off. She had no right, and I wasn't going to give her the power to make that okay. Her disrespect towards Zora **was** what gave me **the** strength to reject her.

## 10.02

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**The pain** cut through my chest **as I felt** something cut the bond's connection.

The pain increased **gradually**, and **I let** Zora lead me out of the **hall**.

**I** dared not show weakness but felt the drain of strength and **joy**.

**It was so** strong that Cremin began to howl and growl in agony.

288 Vouchers

All of the happiness left me. I felt empty and incomplete. It **was** a strange feeling, one I had never felt before.

Zora led me, and I followed her.

We got to the room, and she helped me to undress. I lay flat on the bed in complete agony and felt like I would die. Cremin went crazy.

I heard Zora mumble something, but I could not pay attention. The pain was blinding, and my energy was completely gone. I understood why people feared rejection. The pain was excruciatingly painful. I groaned and groaned until everything went dark.

I woke up and saw that it was the early hours of the morning.

The pain was gone, but my body felt physically weak.

I had successfully weakened my wolf.

I looked beside me, and Zora **was** sleeping.

I could only imagine what she went through in those moments in the ballroom.

I wanted to show her off and have fun with her, but instead, I had to deal with the mate bond and scare her.

I felt a **tear** roll down my cheek from my deep sadness. I felt empty, and I felt a big void inside me. Was **this** what Zora felt when she rejected

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**Hardy?** She sacrificed for me **greatly**.

288 Vouchers

She did not have to reject **him**; she could have run off with him, but she came home to me feeling the way **I was** feeling now, and **she** kept the emptiness to herself. I had to respect and appreciate her love. I brushed the feeling aside and went to the bathroom to shower.

“I am weak, Darius,” Cremin growled in my head when I turned on the water.

“I couldn’t betray Zora, Cremin,” I told my wolf.

“I am glad you had the strength to reject Shanon and Maya. I almost made us break Zora and Monica’s hearts. I felt their pain, Darius, but I could not snap out of it. She will be mad, Monica will be mad,” Cremin said, worried that he had messed up, and I sighed.

“I am sure they understand, Cremin. I am sure they understand,” I said, and he groaned.

“I love Zora and our pup,” My wolf said, and I chuckled a bit under the shower.

“You do not have to tell me, Cremin, I know. Do not worry. I am sure Zora would not think you betrayed her, and I do not think she will punish us for your conduct,” I told my wolf, knowing exactly why he was bothered.

I finished up I and went back to the room.

Zora was up, and she was crying. I knew it was her hormones, but I also knew they were tears of relief.

I went to her, and she wrapped her arms around me.

“Shhhh, it’s okay. I am here,” I said, knowing she might have had a bad dream. What happened with Shanon must have triggered something, and I

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felt terrible.

“You left me for her. I was dreaming about it, and then I woke up, and you weren’t beside me, and I panicked,” She said, and I held on tightly to her.

“That phase is over, Zora; we belong to each other. You are mine, and I am yours. No more surprises or fear. We are done with them. I am glad that it is over. You no longer have to worry. All we should do now is enjoy the game and plan our wedding. I know you do not want something grand, but with all that has happened, I want to celebrate it.” I said and looked into her green eyes as I once did before.

There was something different about her eyes. I couldn't place it because it looked the same, but it reached into my soul, and I felt a bond snap into place between us. It was faint, but it was there. I felt the emptiness I was feeling in the bathroom fade away, and I felt renewed. I did not know what it was, but it gave me hope that we would get through this.

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## **Content**

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288 Vouchers

Chapter **143**

## **Casey**

**Max**, Cruz, me, and our polo teammates arrived at the north nervous.

We had no clue how to play the game, but we knew Darius would be playing Polo, and Cruz wanted to discuss the exchange of Eloise for Samanta.

Likewise, Sheperd, who miraculously concluded that he needed Kara and not Gabriella Shieldse.

I tried to talk them out of it, but they refused to listen.

I was the leader of the east; it **was** my duty to support them.

Supporting them would torture me because I could not bear to see Zora with the wolf Lord.

I knew I had sent her a goodbye letter, but my guilty heart could not say goodbye. She was everything to me. There was no way I could get over that.

I wanted to come with Lori so she would not be alone, but she had things to do; she promised to join me soon, and I hoped she would come. We had been trying, and I believed we were making progress.



When I learned Hardy was around, I panicked for Zora because if what he was saying was true, then he would draw her attention. I could not reach him or Zora, so I opted to wait until the ball.

When we arrived at the ball, I was nervous while Cruz and Sheperd were eager to see **the** mates they maltreated and threw **away**.

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### Chapter 143

It **was** amazing to see how delusional **they** were.

They were either unstable or stupid.

### 288 Vouchers

I knew those women would not return to them, and they would end **up** disgracing themselves trying to play Polo.

Maxwell and Cruz had only two weeks of polo training, I wondered how they would survive on the field against people that had played the game all their lives

When Eloise entered with Gamma Raphael, Cruz complained bitterly. Her bump made him sick, and he got so angry I thought he would have a fit. Their eyes met, but she looked past him as if she did not know him.

Gamma Theo seemed to be taken by her, and he paid much attention to her.

Pulling out her seat and helping her sit. She was introduced as his fiance. How the hell was Cruz hoping he could beat that?

There was no way they would exchange Eloise for Samanta. He had just set himself up for humiliation at the games for nothing.

Raphael seemed to adore Eloise, and I could see it in their eyes, they were in love. It would be easy for her to fall because Cruz irreparably broke her.

I wondered how Theo did it, but I had to commend him for being the man for her.

I had failed her as the leader of the east. If I knew of all Cruz was doing to her, I would have stopped it, but it was kept private. Nonetheless, I felt responsible for her pain.

Kara entered and was introduced the same way. I began to wonder how these women **did** it.

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**It was as if Darius and his friends split** our wives amongst themselves and fell **in** love simultaneously.

It was troubling, and I hoped there wasn't a grand design or plan. Maybe a ploy to get them comfortable enough to use them to take over the east.

"Or they might have truly fallen in love," Sage said in my head, and I sighed.

Kara did not even look at Sheperd. She was over him. I knew she might have seen him, but she did not look at him. Instead, she concentrated on the man she was with, the second most powerful man in our world.

The women had upgraded, and they looked beautiful. If my friends weren't on the losing end, I would have openly commended them for their choices. I was internally grateful that they found love while I maintained a stoic face.

"These greedy bastards, they can have anyone, and they chose to have our women," Sheperd linked me, sounding angry.

"He got my Eloise pregnant, that bastard," Cruz linked me, and I knew it hurt him most because he had called her barren and good for

r nothing when in actual sense, he was the one with issues and not Eloise; her tiny bump said it all.

I stopped myself from laughing at my friends. They helped themselves to the champagne flute, realising that their reason for coming and signing up for the polo tournament was defeated,

A woman was introduced as the Lady of the north, a position Zora would soon occupy.

I figured she was the wife of the former Lord and Darius's mother.

She looked young and pretty, but her eyes showed her age. People cheered and greeted her respectfully. It was evident that everyone loved

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her.

288 Vouchers

She went **to sit at the table**, and I knew Zora and Darius would enter. I **did** not know how I would **feel** when I **saw** her again.

I maltreated her mentally when I broke my promise to her and made her share .

Although I tried to salvage it, the deed had been done. If only I could go back in time, I would reject Lori on the spot, but deep down, I believed Zora **was** where she was meant to be.

Seeing how both Kara and Eloise were with their newfound love, I knew Zora would be better.

They weren't vicious like we thought. We were the brutal ones, forcing our mates to share and some maltreating their lunas. I would change a lot when I got back home. I would start by creating a committee to rescue and help abused victims.

When Darius and Zora were announced, my heart leapt, and I looked toward the entrance.

Zora looked beautiful. She had always been beautiful, and I tried to hide her looks by stopping her from wearing revealing clothes and makeup, but she still looked terrific that way.

Darius allowed her to go **all** out, and she took liberty the best way. She looked like a goddess.

I could not believe I had let my weakness make me throw her love away. I looked at her with longing in my heart. She used to be mine. Mine to love, touch, but now she rests in another man's arms, and it seemed like I had faded into the shadows of her heart.

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## **Content**

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## **Chapter 144**

## **Casey**

"Zora", Sage said, trying to link her, but I knew she would not hear because she wasn't mine anymore.

I fought my tears and looked at her. Darius was possessive, and I felt his menacing and strong presence warning us to look away.

Even if I ever dreamt of taking her back, I doubted Darius would let go. His countenance and possessiveness of her said it all.

She smiled at me, and my heart broke.

I remember growing up when we started dating and everything we did together until our wedding, and I felt a lone tear roll down my cheek.

had fucked up. Broken my promises and hurt her.

I was glad Darius was there to help her. I was glad she was happy. Every doubt I harboured about the Wolf Lord's intentions towards my Zora faded away, and as painful as it was for me, I prayed he gave her all I couldn't.

The event started, and the women seemed in their world with their men. It was obvious that they were now northern Lunas.

Raphael and Marcel were Alphas of their Clans and next in command in the royal line. They had ended up with the three most powerful men in our world.

Everything went smoothly until the blonde woman in a peach dress **walked** in.

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## Chapter 144

I **saw** the wolf lord's reaction and knew **what** had happened.

**My** heart began to break for **my** Zora.

How could this happen to her twice?

I read her body language and knew she **was** worried.

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Everyone **was** looking at them, and I did not know what Darius would do.

I needed to protect her from the shame that might ensue.

I was angry at myself and fate for allowing her to go through this again. I planned on saving her from the humiliation and demanding Darius give her to her fated. I also hoped he would pass the test that I failed. If he did, there would be no need to demand he gives her to Hardy.

So I began to talk and act like I was drunk.

I felt people looking at me, and some were laughing **at** me.

I was the leader of the east, so I knew I would make headlines with my behaviour.

It was a small price to pay to protect Zora from the pending humiliation.

It was worth it. As long as they would not witness Zora's humiliation, it was worth it.

I continued until it seemed the wolf Lord snapped at the woman, and everyone turned their attention to them.

I saw him holding on to Zora's wrist, and I was concerned.

I hoped he **wasn't** planning on keeping both women as I did. Zora deserved better than that.

I watched and then **saw** him do the one thing I failed to do.

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He **rejected** her.

288 (Vouchers

**He** did not think about **it** or **speak** to her **privately as** I did; he just went for it and rejected her.

I watched the woman fall to the ground, and Zora led Darius out of the ballroom.

She had found her Cremin in shiny armour, and he wasn't me.

I had a lot of respect for Darius in those moments. I had a lot of respect for their love.

If I thought he was playing her, what he did in those moments made me realise that his feelings for Zora were real and that he genuinely loved her.

I was grateful that they found each other. In those moments, my heart was lifted, and I felt my guilt fade away a little, realizing that I had lost her to a better man.

The party continued after they had left, and everyone was in shock.

I heard people talking about Zora and Darius's relationship, and based on all I could gather, people knew they were crazy about each other.

Those who might have doubted their love's depth would now believe it because Darius had just thrown away a rare gift for Zora.

It was rare to find a fated. It wasn't impossible, but it was rare, so people were reluctant to let it go when they found theirs.

Darius had shown everyone and Zora that his love was deep and genuine.

The party continued, and soon it ended.

I knew Zora and Darius wouldn't be returning.

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When I let Zora go, I slept the pain off most **of** the **night**. I had **to claim** Lori a gain recently to regain the strength I lost.

Although Darius **might** be weak now, I knew he would regain some of his strength on the night of the blue moon when he claims Zora. I took comfort in knowing they would be okay.

Max, Cruz and I returned to our hotel in Wonderland, and they grumbled all the **way**. The moment we entered our suite. I began to laugh.

"You guys just bit more than you can chew. You can't play Polo, and you are not getting those women back. Too bad you can't withdraw. I will just advise you to watch your backs on

the field because I doubt you will have it easy,” I said, and Cruz did not find it funny.

He forgot himself and wanted to punch me, but when Sage growled at him, he held back.

“Do not forget I am your Alpha, Cruz. I might be playful and easygoing, but I am still the leader of the east.” I warned him, and Sheperd tried to

calm me down.

“Word of advice, better be nice to Samanta, or she might leave you too. It is just so much you can do to someone before they snap,” I told him and

went to my room.

I hoped Cruz would take my advice, and I hoped both he and Sheperd would snap out of the fantasy of swapping their mates for their ex-wives. The women had upgraded.

I took out my phone to call Lori and ask her when she would come to the north. After seeing Zora happy tonight, I was willing to try with Lori without reservation.

72.16%

## **Content**

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### **Chapter 145**

#### **Zora**

Darius held me into the morning. I felt a strong connection between us, something that wasn't there before.



He was mine, and it was confirmed this time. There was no **fear or** uncertainty between us. He was mine.

still could not believe that he kept his promise and made me proud.

thought I would walk out of the ballroom alone and humiliated, but instead, I left with Darius after he had publicly rejected Shanon.

I honestly felt bad for her, but she did not seem nice.

How could she expect me to get up and walk away from my man simply because she showed up and they were fated? I guess she knows now.

I woke up in the morning feeling light. The void I felt when I rejected Hardy was gone. I was filled with love and hope.

I looked to my side, and there he was, handsome as always, with his messy hair on the pillow, and I thanked the goddess for giving him to me. I would have never imagined that I would be this blessed or there was hope for me after what Casey did. I was grateful, and I knew I would always be.

I woke him up gently because we needed to be present for the opening ceremony in Wonderland. It also meant we would be staying in the house in Wonderland.

I knew the staff had helped pack our things, so all we had to do **was** get dressed, get some food in our systems and head to Wonderland to attend

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**Chapter 145**

**the** opening ceremony.

I could not wait to be a part of the celebration.

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There would **be** parades and performances from different packs from all over. I **was** excited.

I nibbled Darius's ear, and he groaned, waking up gradually.

He opened his eyes and looked at me with a frown which I returned, and then he grabbed me and turned me on my back and leaned over me. Darius **was** that alert, and I liked it.

He tickled me, making me laugh until my lungs began to hurt. Then he stopped and stared at me.

"Good morning, darling," He said, kissing my neck, making a moan escape my lips.

He did not stop but continued.

As much as I wanted to tell him we had something to attend to, I wanted him to touch me, So I held my tongue.

"I wanted to peel that beautiful dress off your body the last night," He said, working his way down to my breast.

"I guess I will have to imagine I did and make do with what is in front of me," He said and sucked one of my nipples while he played with the other. My body anticipated it. Soon he was inside me pumping.

I wanted to stay in the room and not go anywhere, but soon we both came and had to shower.

Darius washed my body, and I washed his. It felt great. Nothing was burdening our hearts. I could not speak for him, but his eyes showed he was light, and I **was** light too.

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**“Thank you** for remaining **by my side** through it, Zora,” **He** said in **the** shower while **I** traced his tattoos with **my** hand.

“My love,” He said and lifted my chin. I was battling tears, but we were under the shower, so he could not see it.

“I can never leave you. Always know that.” He said, and I hugged him and placed my head against his chest.

“I can never leave you, darling. I can never leave you,” I said, and he held

1. me.

We did not need to say anything. Our actions had said it all. I had

rejected Hardy for him, and he had rejected Shanon for me. Love did not get better than this. Making our choice and sticking to it. Not driven by some forces that compel us to love, but falling naturally and nurturing the feeling as it blossoms into something beautiful.

We finished and went for breakfast.

The moment we stepped into the dining room, everyone started clapping Marcel, Theo, Kara and Eloise clapped. Darius and I had crossed a fire they had not experienced and might never see. I smiled, and Kara winked at me. She knew I had crossed that fire with Hardy long ago.

“Yours finally,” She linked me, and I smiled at her because she understood my relief. We went to sit down, and they took turns congratulating us.

I was very hungry, so I ate a lot of food, and Darius kept adding things to my plate. He always reminded me I was eating for two, and he did not want his child to be malnourished. It was cute, really.

“We are expected to cut the ribbon for the opening,” Marcel said, and Darius smiled at him.

“I think Abelardo should cut the ribbon this year. He had always wanted

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## Chapter 145

to do it **badly**,” Darius said, and **his** friends laughed.

“**He is** a serious handicap on our team,” Theo said, grumbling and everyone laughed.

“Zora,” **Kara** said, and I turned to look at her.

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“Guess who is playing polo?” She asked with a mischievous grin, and I frowned at her.

“Casey, Sheperd and Cruz with some other douchebags from the east.” She said, and I was in shock because I knew Casey did not play polo.

“When did they start playing polo?” I asked and looked at Eloise, who shrugged.

“I don’t know, but I think it is a bit suspicious,” Kara said, and I remembered how the men were looking at them at the ball.

“Was that why they were looking at Marcel and Raphael scornfully?” I asked, and Eloise smiled.

“I saw that. I looked right past him.” She said, laughing with satisfaction in her voice.

“I can’t wait to see them fool themselves on the field.” She said and looked at Theo.

“If your team happen to meet theirs, please do me the honours by beating the crap out of Cruz. After all, accidents happen on the field,” She said and kissed Theo, who seemed to be on board with what she was saying

-I wanted to say they should exclude Casey from their plan, but I did not know how Darius would feel about it

I could not laugh at their plan. As great as it sounded, I couldn't.

Above all, I remember that Casey made a fool of himself at the ball to **try**

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to save me from embarrassment. He was **the** leader **of** the east, I knew many people would **talk** about his drunken stunt, and it **might** make headlines, and he did it for me. I also knew **Casey** knew nothing about polo **and** wouldn't be safe playing against our men on the field.

Darius touched my hand and kissed it gently.

“I won't let them hurt Casey, Zora. Just Cruz and Sheperd, not Casey,” he linked me, and I searched his eyes expectantly.

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**Content**

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Vouchers

## Chapter 146

### Zora

“It is **okay** for you to feel protective of him. Before he broke his promise, he was your first best friend and confidant. I could see that even at the ball, I could see the connection. It was still there. I am not jealous, Zora, because I know I own your heart. He is a friend and a loyal one at that.” He linked me and kissed my hand, and I was relieved.

“But I can’t promise the same where Hardy is concerned,” He said, and I laughed because I honestly did not care about that.

I wished him well, but if he made a nuisance of himself, then it was okay that Darius messed him up. He deserved it for bringing Shanon and her uncle.

“I am excited about the blue moon,” Eloise said, rubbing her tiny bump.

Theo kissed her neck where his mark would rest, and she moaned.

“I think we should start leaving,” Kara said, and I knew she was a bit unhappy because she wanted a baby too.

“Should we go in the same car or separate cars?” Eloise asked innocently, but I knew Kara would say no, so before Kara spoke, I quickly spoke.

“It will be a great idea, Kara,” I told Kara, and she knew I suspected her mood was a bit foul.

“Okay, Lady Zora,” she said, and we all giggled. We left the dining room and went to prepare to leave.

I wore a simple Sage dress with a fascinator on my head. While Darius was decked up in his official outfit. Just like the ball night, he looked

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dashing.

“My prince charming,” I said, and he **smiled** at me.

I was nervous about our Croquet team, but I kept it to myself. I knew we would have lots of fun.

There was a knock at the door, and Darius asked the person to enter. To my surprise, it was Abelardo, and he was wearing the same outfit as Darius, but where Darius’s outfit was decorated in gold threads, his was decorated with regular cream-coloured thread, and he looked handsome.

He had on his official suit what I had come to know as the Hand’s crest. A profile of a wolf bearing its teeth. It was beautiful.

“I hear I am cutting the ribbon this year,” He said, and Darius smiled at him and nodded.

“Yes, big brother. You will also be welcoming the guests in my stead. You are a Hand, too,” Darius said and pulled me close to him.

It was obvious that we were genuinely happy.

A heavy load had been lifted, and the dark clouds of fate had been chased away. It was just us and the brilliant love sun.

Abelardo beamed at Silvester, and he looked like a child. His eyes wandered to me.

“She is good for you, I see,” he said, looking at me, and I did not know what to say.

He walked up to Darius and shook his hand.

“Glenda shouldn’t know I did this, but I am proud of you. I thought you would do **what** father did,” He said, and my heart skipped because, contrary to what Nellie thought, Abelardo was aware of what was happening when he was little. I wondered what secrets he kept in his

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## Chapter 146

mysterious **mind**..

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288 Vouchers

Darius frowned at him pretending not to know what **he** was talking about.

“What do you mean by that?” Darius asked, and I commended him for his quick thinking.

Abelardo looked at me and smiled.

“After what my brother did for you and seeing how you were indifferent towards your ex, I believe I can officially call you a member of my family now, Zora, so I will speak in front of you.”

“Father had a fate. Her name was Alissa, and she was one wicked bitch. He did not reject her for mother. Instead, he made her share. I wouldn’t call it sharing, really, because we were sent to the west wing,” he said. and his eyes became misty.

“That was why I did not want to go there when you sent me there, Darius. It just brought back memories,” He said with a sad tone.

“That woman was the reason father hated me so much. She set me up all the time, and my father disciplined me. He did things that I could never tell mother.

She did not know, which was why I was quiet for most of my childhood. When we left, I was happy, but father asked us to return, and mother was turned into that bitch’s slave. Giving massages, washing her feet, name it. There was nothing that mother wasn’t made to do. Some I had to do because it degraded m



y mother. I dared not speak then,” He said and pinched the bridge of his nose between his eyes.

“Father used to hit her, you know. I do not know if she told you, but he will beat her because she did not get the taste of Alissa’s food right, or she messed up with the menu. Mother did not know that I knew. I knew he would lock her in the dungeon for days and lie to me that she went to visit her nonexistent family, whom he had slaughtered because they refused to allow him to remain Lord if he divorced her. You see, Uncle Arnold Balyaev, mother’s brother, you did not know him because father

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## **Chapter 146**

288 Vouchers

killed him, would have ascended and become Lord, but father married his sister and kept the lordship in his bloodline while he controlled the council. There was a balance of power then. He killed our uncle so he could divorce our mother and wed that bitch. I prayed that she would die a painful death, and she did. Talking about answered prayers,” he said and chuckled a bit.

“Father seemed to have repented, and he became nicer to mother. When she had you, and he realised you would succeed him because you, unlike me, were an Alpha, he began to dote on her and did everything to make her forget what he did. I doubt she ever did.” He said and wiped away his tears. I could only imagine the trauma he went through as a child. Seeing everything that was happening but not being able to speak of it.

I could not believe the wealth of information Abelardo had locked in his heart.

I could see Darius’s disbelief too.

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Chapter 147

288 Voucher

Chapter **147**

Zora

Abelardo's erratic behaviour made a lot of sense. It was an outlet for his trauma.

"Why did you go to war for him?" I asked because I could not hold my tongue.

"Because Hardy laid claim on my brother's seat. I couldn't have it. I did not try to kill Hardy because he killed our father. I was trying to protect you, Darius. Everything I have done is to protect you. I believed everything Larry told me about you being unable to lead and might fall victim to our enemies soon because you will be a point of target. I thought if you stepped down and I took over, they would focus on me. When I got set up. I realised I was wrong and that Larry was a bastard hence why I do not talk to him anymore," He said and then looked at me.

"I did not trust your intentions, Zora. I hated that you had blinded my brother. When I heard you were affiliated with Hardy, I began to suspect Hardy had sent you to do a job in the north. That was why I did what I did. But you proved yourself, and now you carry a Hand in you, and I have seen you stand by my brother through thick and thin. There is no way all this will be pretence. I have watched you. I thought you might sneak off to see Hardy I know you met him in Brighton, an informant told me, and I was ready to laugh at Darius when you did not return, but you proved everyone wrong. I do not know what transpired b

etween you two that left him broken, but you came home. That was enough for me to know you had nothing to hide,” He said and bowed.

“I am sorry we had a rough start, and I cannot promise you I will be pleasant because I know I can be annoying, but I will never work against you or my brother,” He assured me, and I smiled at him. I was glad I told

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Chapter 147

Darius **the truth** about **Hardy**. If not, I would have been in trouble now.

“So now that my brother has rejected his fate for your sake. I hope you won’t leave him if you ever find yours,” he said with worry and concern in his **eyes**. I could genuinely see why Nellie was protective of him. He loved to a fault, and he had a large heart.

“She already rejected her fate for me, Abelardo. She did it before she even found out she was pregnant,” Darius told him, and I felt heat rise to my cheek.

“What? Who was it?” He asked.

“Hardy Corrigan,” He said, and Abelardo cursed.

“Fuck fuck fuck!!” He said, looking at me.

“Was that what happened in Brighton?” He asked me, and I nodded

“Oh fuck! How did you do it, Zora? You left that man a broken shell. My informant said he cried.” Abelardo said, and I felt sorry for Hardy

“You did not have to. All you had to do was leave with him, and yet you took the jet back to the north and came back to my brother,” he said, and I was speechless.

“Thank you.” He said with a breathy voice.

“Thank you for choosing Darius. It means a lot,” he said, and Darius touched his hand.

“No one should know this,” Darius told him, and Abelardo nodded

“My lips are sealed.” He said,  
“at least that is something I am good at,” he added, and we laughed.

As morbid as the joke was, we laughed.

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Chapter 147

288 (Voucher S

“I guess I will see you **at** the games. We will **all** be **staying in** the house in Wonderland,” He said, and Darius nodded.

Abelardo **left** us, and it felt like I **was** still holding my breath.

“I can’t believe it. He knew Alissa,” I said, and Darius was silent. He was stunned.

I could understand **his** shock. Nellie never went into detail about the things she endured. She was light about it. I could understand. Witnessing the event had broken Abelardo, she might not have wanted Darius to be broken too.

“There is no need to tell your mother you know what happened,” I told him, and Darius wiped away a lone tear he had lost a battle to.

I hugged him to calm him down.

It wasn’t easy to find out that most of the things he believed in were lies.

“We will get through everything together, my love. You have me,” I said and hugged him tightly.

He wrapped his arms around me and breathed in my scent.

When he did that, I realised he had a different scent.

He smelled of Cedar and Cypress. It was calming, and I breathed him in. It was a sweet scent.

“Cedar, mmmm,” I said, and he gently broke the hug.

“What is that?” He asked.

“Your scent since we woke up,” I said, and his eyes widened.

“Yours is of Citrus peels,” he said, and I was shocked that we had distinct scents instead of our normal, natural scent enhanced by our body wash

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## Chapter 147

and lotions.

“**We** will be late,” I said, not wanting **us** to read meanings into our discovery.

288 Vouchers

We arrived outside, and the Limo was waiting. We got inside, and I could see Kara **was** a bit annoyed.

“We have been waiting for thirty minutes,” She complained, and I smiled at her.

“You are lucky we didn’t make you wait longer,” I teased, and everyone laughed because it implied Darius and I was making love while they waited.

We left for Wonderland in high spirits. I could not wait to see what would happen to Cruz and Sheperd on the field. It would be awesome.

We got to the venue.

Since the games were yet to begin, everyone was lined outside the gate that led to the lands.

The red carpet was rolled out for us as we exited the Limo. Abelardo and Glenda had already arrived, and I could swear I saw murder in the woman's eyes when she looked at me, but I ignored it. The council members were there too, and Vino smiled and waved at me. I waved back.

Abelardo gave a welcome speech and cut the ribbon, and everyone cheered, and we entered the gate.

I was expecting a stadium or an arena. It had both and had other fields too.

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## **Content**

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Chapter 148

288 Vouchers

Chapter **148**

Zora

People were to go to the area where they played their preferred sports. I wondered where we would play Croquet, but I knew it would be fun. There were mini carts that were made available for us to move about the place to watch sports.

I was sure Darius must have organised it because of Eloise and me. I could see it in his eyes, so I did not bother asking so I didn't make Kara unhappy

We went to the polo field, and the list of teams was rolled out on the table.

The western Polo strikers were going against the Eastern Bulls. I checked the player's list, and it wasn't Casey's team.

Southern

Sharks were going against Northern Bears. I checked the list and did not see Hardy's name.

There were three other southern teams.

"There had been a last-minute adjustment to the matches," I heard the commentator announce, and I wondered why that was.

We went to sit in our booth, which was cosy and had shade.

"Theo went to ensure they put our team against Casey's Team," Darius said, and I realised Theo was going to give Eloise her wish and beat the crap out of Cruz on the field. This was going to be hard to see.

The first match began, and we watched from our booth. Darius's game would take place the next day, so all we were doing was observing.

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Chapter 148

288 (Vouchers

Theo returned grinning from ear to ear

"**What** happened?" Marcel asked him.

"Our friends said they are amateurs for polo and wanted out because it won't be a fair match. It was clear they did not know how this worked because they forgot that it only meant they were to add another sport to the list so they would have a chance of winning something, in case they lost in the game they claim to be amateurs in. I kindly signed them up for rugby," Theo said with a wicked grin.

"And I signed us up for rugby too. We will get them in polo and in rugby," he said, and Marcel laughed with anticipation and likewise Darius. They were not going

to play to win. They were going to play to kick their arses. I felt sorry for Casey

.

The day was eventful. Western strikers won against the eastern bulls, and the southern sharks won against the Northern bears.

The winners would move to the next round, while the losers would play another game to get a chance at winning. If they lose, they are out completely. We moved from the polo section to watch the rugby, and we enjoyed the match. I could only imagine what would happen to Cruz and Sheperd.

I was sure by now they would know our men were after them because Theo had deliberately signed them up for rugby to get a go at them.

The day ended, and we returned to the duplex.

Eloise continued talking about how some people would get their arses whooped, and the funny part was that Theo humoured her.

They looked like teenagers, and it was cute.

Who would have thought that they would be so good together? I was happy for Eloise. She wasn't the same drunken depressed woman I knew in the east. She was a different person, and she radiated.

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Chapter 148

**We** arrived at the house, and I **was** famished.

288 (Vouchers

This would be the **first** night we would have dinner with Nellie and Abelardo. I wasn't worried because we had bonded at different points. It wouldn't be difficult and awkward as it was in the beginning.

Darius and I showered quickly. My tummy was growling, and I hoped they would have enough food. I began to suspect I might have more than one baby growing inside me with the rate I was eating.



We arrived at the table, and everyone was there, including Glenda.

I could not forget that Shanon had mentioned her name, and it seemed the bitch was the one that encouraged Shanon to try to take my man.

I sat down and looked at her sternly. I wanted to see the bitch try to antagonize me.

I was a lady of the north. There was no debating it. It was best she watched herself where I was concerned.

Dinner was fun. We ate, and those that could drink drank while Eloise and I were subject to Juice. Nellie also made sure Kara drank Juice. She said she should not expose her body to harmful chemicals since they are trying to have a baby.

It wasn't long before Glenda crossed the line. She was drunk, but it was no excuse.

"You are one heartless bastard!" she said, looking at Darius, and the table was silent.

"How can you sit here and pretend everything is okay? My cousin is at home in pain, and here you are, enjoying your sleep. I knew the Hands were heartless, but.." She said, and Abelardo interrupted her.

"Watch it, Glenda. He might be my brother, but he is lord; I can't help you

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## Chapter 148

**if you** overstep," he warned her, and **she** laughed.

"You think I **care**?" She said and then looked at Darius.

"Throw me into prison, do what you like, but I will speak the truth.

288 Vouchers

“She waited for you, Darius. She kept herself for you, hoping you would get back together one day. She loved you,” She said in tears.

“No one asked her to, Glenda. She left me.” Darius said calmly, humouring her, and Glenda started laughing.

“You believe that?” Glenda said and looked at me.

“You would pick someone’s wife, a bloody leftover, over your first love.” She said, and Abelardo almost slapped her, but Nellie stopped him.

“Don’t hit her because of your brother.” She said to him, and I could understand why. It would have been a huge mistake on his part. But his misty eyes said it all; he was only trying to shut her up, so Darius won’t do anything to her.

“She was forced to leave: Your father did not think.” She said, and Nellie tried to shut her up.

“No! he needs to know the truth, so he can understand what he threw away,” she said in tears.

“Your father felt she wasn’t Lady material because we were middle-class merchants, so he threatened my father to make sure she walked away. That was why Uncle Nikolay took her with him to the south, far away from your father’s reach. He took her to the only place the Wolf Lord dared not go to. Where he had no power, and they remained there.

She was forced to leave you. That letter was written under duress. I was there. So do not feel smug and proud that you left her writhing in pain on the floor in the presence of everyone. You humiliated a woman that loved

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Chapter 148

you deeply,” **She** said, and Darius started laughing.

288 Vouchers

“Your cousin should accept the rejection and move on. I am not interested. My father has been dead for five years, she could have returned in those years. I do not want her anymore, Glenda The feeling **isn’t** there anymore. I cannot force it to return because my father scared her off,” Darius said to her gently.

“The feelings are there. She is your fated, yet you rejected her because of that woman. That piece of..” She said, and Kara slapped her.

Glenda was in shock.

“I believe you can make your point without insulting my friend My friend might be patient and slow to anger, but I am not. You can plead your cousin’s case, but don’t you dare insult my friend, or I will beat you up Trust me, I have a lot of rage bottled up for it,” she said, and she meant Glenda was in shock. She did not see it coming, but Kara meant it.

“I won’t punish you, Glenda, for disrespecting my mate and me. I won’t punish you because of Abelardo, but if you dare try this again, I will not hesitate to have you dealt with it. This is also the last time you will eat with us. I do not want to hear of Shanon or anything that has to do with her again. Tell her to accept the rejection if you care for her so much. Nothing can ever happen between us. I have moved on and found true love, she should do the same, too,” Darius said, and Glenda was in shock.

Kara had hit her hard because there was blood in her mouth. A tiny bit sipped out. She used a napkin to wipe it and looked at Abelardo to do something, but it was awkward for the man. Marcel was above him. He dared not insult Kara.

His eyes pleaded with her to be calm, and honestly, I believed he was better off without her, I could see why he got involved with the women in the harem. The girl was toxic.

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**Content**

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Chapter 149

288 Vouchers

## Chapter 149

Darius

I wondered what got into Glenda that made her feel it was okay to talk to my mate the way she did.

I watched tears stream down her cheeks after Kara slapped her, and I wished Kara would give her another.

This was supposed to be a fun dinner for us, and she had tried to ruin it with talk of Shanon.

Honestly, it had nothing to do with the mate bond; I was done with Shanon when I laid eyes on Zora.

I have never been so happy and fulfilled in my life until now.

I was in love with a woman that loved me just as fiercely as I loved her. We were expecting. What more could I ask for?

If Glenda truly cared for Shanon, she should have advised her to move on.

I knew Shanon did not return because she missed or wanted me. She came because her uncle had something to do in the north.

Even if I wasn't with Zora, I would have rejected her. She was nothing but pride and ego when she walked into that ballroom.

To her, it was her **right**.

She expected me to dump whoever I was with because she had arrived. It **wasn't** that she loved me. It was her ego and her need to be with the most important man. That **was** all.

It was the same thing that kept Glenda with Abelardo. That same drive

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## Chapter 149

**made** Shanon try to come for me.

Shanon looked at Zora scornfully **with** little respect, meaning her **intention** was as malicious and wrong.

288 (Vouchers

Although Cremin fell for it, I had to be grateful for the strength to snap myself out of the trance.

Every longing I felt about our past together had disappeared, and I felt absolutely nothing towards her.

Suppose she was in pain; that was her problem and not mine. I had moved on. Come the blue moon, Zora will be mine fully.

Glenda stood up, and I thought she was going to leave us **as** I had instructed, but instead, she bared her neck to Zora and me.

“Forgive my stupidity, Alpha and Luna,” She said, and I knew Abelardo had warned her.

It did not matter; I did not care for her shit.  
I looked at my big brother, and his eyes pleaded with me.

Zora touched my thigh gently and squeezed, indicating it was okay, and I let it be.

“Do not mention your cousin’s name or speak to my mate disrespectfully again. The next time you do, Luna Kara’s palm will be the least of your troubles,” I said, adding Kara’s title so she would know none of the women at the table was at her level.

I prayed my brother would dump her arse because I believed she wasn’t good for him. We talked about sports and what we would do tomorrow.

Zora’s Croquet match was before ours.

We had made them place the match **in** the morning before the sun was high in the sky so our mates won't be exhausted. My mother wasn't happy

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## **Chapter 149**

about it.

"I honestly did not think these women should play croquet." My mother said, and I knew her fear.

Zora was carrying my baby, her grandchild, my mother would do anything to ensure she was safe.

"We won't be running about the place or doing anything physically tasking. Luna." Zora told her.

My mother looked at me with pleading eyes begging me not to allow them to play

"You do not know how malicious women could get. You do not know how many young women envy the three of you. Do not expose yourselves like that." She said, and Kara giggled.

"We would beat them up, or better still, throw them in a cell if they attempted to do that. No woman in her senses would try to mess with us She said, and the three women laughed.

My mother had to let it rest, and we all soon retired.

Marcel. Theo and I decided to hang out on the patio while our women went to bed.

I did not want to be away from Zora for too long, but we had things to discuss. We could not let the event take us out of our goal.

Lily had agreed to our terms and was participating in the sports.

She was to report anyone that contacted her and tell us what they wanted Brian Wilson was watching her.

Also, Bricks Liam had been locked up, and Brian William was overseeing his questioning.

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## Chapter 149

288 Vouchers

“So, what have we learned so far about this group?” I asked Marcel, and he took a sip of his drink.

“The man seems too forthcoming for my liking. I do not think we should take his word as truth. He might be trying to mislead us deliberately. I know that someone or some people on the council are actively working against us,” he said, and Theo nodded.

“Hopefully, our mole will turn out something better,” **He** said, referring to Lily without mentioning her name just in case someone was listening. It was impossible, but we had to be careful.

“What would we do about the members openly and actively working against us?” Marcel said, talking about Pamela and Joan.

“Let the games be over in peace, and let everyone go home. This period is to help us gather the information we need to get our enemies. We need to find out where Alissa and Jenny’s sons are. I believe that would help with our investigation,” I said, and they agreed.

“So what do you think about them playing Croquet?” Marcel asked, and with his tone, I realised my mother had gotten to him.

“Honestly, I did not want them playing any sports, but you know how stubborn these women are. We just have to warn the organisers to make sure nothing happens. Although I doubt anything would happen while playing croquet. It is safe and somewhat relaxing. Besides, they need the exercise.” I said, and Theo agreed. He was the most spooked of all of us. Eloise was showing, unlike Zora, where only a few handful knew she was carrying my child.

We talked about our game the next day, and Theo and Marcel were eager to get on the pitch with Cruz and Sheperd.

They were looking forward to the Rugby more. I could just imagine them pounding on them. Although we would need fifteen men, I wondered how they planned on doing it.

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Chapter 149

288 Vouchers

“**We** are complete for Polo. The four of us, including Abelardo, are complete for Polo. **We** have four more Brians to take over when we have to rest every seven minutes, but I wonder, how will we get a team of fifteen people plus the seven extra for the Rugby?” I asked, **and** Theo and Marcel laughed.

“Oh, that is easy. You do not have to join us. We are joining the Northern Bulls against them,” He said, laughing

“I spoke to the team managers and teammates, and they were excited to have us on board. Of course, I told them our intentions, and they were excited about it.” Theo said, and I realised they had gone all out.

“I want to join in the game, too,” I said, and Theo shrugged.

**Chapter 150**

**Content**



## Chapter 150

Darius

“You do not seem to have qualms with Casey. It won’t be fun,” He said, and I shook my head.

“I want to mess with Cruz. That bastard is a sick fuck that has no business running a pack,” I said. Just as if I had triggered a memory for Marcel, he raised his hand slightly as if in a classroom, which made Theo and I laugh.

“Yes, Marcel,” I said, and we all laughed. He smiled, realising what he had done.

“We traced the order of the attack.” He said, and I frowned at him, but it seemed to have clicked for Theo.

“The attack that made us attack the east. We were able to work it out. Abel got some damning evidence on an Alpha Ramsey Kuhn. We are still investigating him. We have not shared our findings with Casey, but we are looking into it deeper to be sure because we found out he is Casey’s father, and there was a time he was soliciting for warriors to go to battle against Casey. We do not know what for, but we are still digging.” Marcel said, and I shook my head.

I did not need to know what he was gathering the fighting force against Casey for. I knew immediately. Zora had told me Lori was forced into their home. That must have been it.

Casey did not stand a chance, even if he did not want the girl. She was daddy’s little princess, and he would get her whatever she wanted. Too bad for Casey; she wanted him by all means, even if it meant going to war with his people.

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Chapter 150

## 288 Vouchers

I **was silent a bit** because I remembered the hurt and regret in Casey's eyes during the ball. After experiencing the mate bond myself, I knew he did not stand a chance with his fated sleeping in the same house with him. Losing Zora **was** a painful loss for him, one he had no power over because of this Ramsey guy.

"I want the man investigated thoroughly. I want to know why he would attack the western borders where my soldiers were and try to make it look like Cruz did it. I want to know his issues with Cruz and why he would even go that far. I also want us to question and isolate the trophy he gave us. I want to know how he gave the trophy and what the trophy is to him. It isn't his daughter unless he has more than one." I said, and Marcel nodded, realising the bigger picture.

"I did not think of it that way." He said. That he did not tell me immediately meant he did not think of it that way.

"The asshole must have known that I would strike back. He prepared for it. I want to know if he fought or simply surrendered his trophy. That way, I will know how to deal with the matter. I also need to know why he would do such a thing." I said, and my friends understood my point of

view.

We talked some more, shared a few glasses of rum, and went to our rooms.

On my way to my room, I decided to link my brother.

"You know you can hang out with **us**, right?" I linked him, and he was silent, then he responded.

"Are you sure?" he asked me, and I smiled, climbing up the stairs.

"With a woman like that, you can hang out with us as much as you like, just to take the break," I said, and he sighed. He thanked me, telling

me he would be **with** us all through the games tomorrow since Glenda won't be around, and I realised that Glenda was killing him.

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Chapter 150

288 (Vouchers

I believed another woman would be a better mate for him. I planned on asking Zora to do some match matchmaking for Abelardo. I also plan on including my mother. I wasn't comfortable having Glenda in his life. She seemed toxic, and from what I have learned about his childhood trauma, he does not need that kind of bad energy around him. I just hope he finds someone so he can say goodbye to Glenda.

I returned to the room and took off my clothes.

I snuggled into bed behind Zora, who **was** in a deep sleep.

I breathed in her citrus scent and felt a strong pull to her, similar to what I felt with Shanon, only that this was slightly different. It wasn't

aggressive. It was subtle and pleasing. I felt my teeth elongate by her sweet spot, and I held myself back. I knew it would not work unless I did it under a blue moon so the goddess could bless it and cause the bond to form. I would hurt her if I did it now, but Cremin wanted to do it badly. He wanted to seal the deal, and I could feel his need grow. I pulled her close and sucked the skin there, making her moan in her sleep. Her voice was music to my ears. I allowed myself to be filled with her citrus scent as I drifted into dreamland, resting for the energy we would expend on the polo pitch the next day.

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**Content**