

Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

Chapter 61

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Zora's POV

"I guess we won't be eating together," Darius remarked to his mother, disappointment evident in his voice. She shook her head, understanding his reluctance, and approached Darius with concern in her eyes.

"Please stay, son. It's been a while since we've had quality time together. I am sure you, Abelardo will mend his ways. He won't question your choices or say anything negative about you or Zora again," she pleaded, hoping to convince Darius. However, I could sense that Darius had already made up his mind.

"I should probably leave. This is meant to be a family lunch," H chimed in, about to make my exit. Darius intercepted me, his expression determined.

"You are my family, and Abelardo needs to accept that, whether he likes it or not," Darius stated firmly, addressing his mother. He turned to me, a sense of protectiveness in his gaze.

"Like I said, mother, you are important to me. I'll still spend time with you, going for tea and strolls in the garden. But while Abelardo is around, I won't share meals with you anymore – breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Zora is my partner; I've claimed her as my own, and I won't tolerate any harm befalling her. I don't care what others think. However, if anyone disrespects, insults, or poses a threat to her well-being, they'll have to answer to me," Darius declared, his determination unwavering.

His mother sighed, aware of his fierce devotion.

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“You should have saved that special moment for your wedding night, son,” she chided with a smile, and he grinned in response.

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“Whether it’s now or on our wedding night, my decision won’t change, mother. Somehow, I suspect Abelardo let slip what you both discussed, and I have a feeling you said some hurtful things to Zora when she escorted you to your room,” he revealed.

I was taken aback that he had figured it out. Did I really wear my emotions on my sleeve that much?

She exclaimed, shooting me an angry glance. “You’re quite clever. So, you told him what I said,” she stated, disappointment evident in her eyes. I shook my head.

“There’s no harm in a mother looking out for her son. I simply asked her to prove herself to me. I asked her to demonstrate that her love for you is genuine and not just a strategic move for survival,” Nellie defended, and Darius burst into laughter.

“Actually, Mom, that was quite a sneaky question. Zora didn’t **say** a word, but I’m not oblivious. After Abelardo spoke and you let him finish without interruption, I realized you shared his opinion. You’re just not saying it outright because you don’t want to hurt my feelings. I know you won’t hold back when you’re alone with Zora, so I figured you must have taken the chance to tell her something.

But you know what? I don’t really care what you think or how you feel. I’m a grown man, not a child. I make my own decisions. Zora doesn’t need to prove herself to you or

anyone else. I won’t force you to accept her, but I strongly suggest you both show her respect, or else you’ll have to deal with me.

Sure, you’re my mother. You gave birth to me, protected me, and raised me. I’ll always love and respect you for that. But you can never

take the place of my soulmate. You can never be my companion, my confidante, my lover, and the mother of my children. You have your role in my life, and Zora has hers. Don't try to belittle her. My heart and soul belong to her. Let this be the last time anyone mentions Shanon's name to me or brings up Zora's ex-husband," he said, squeezing my hand tightly.

"Excuse me," he said, and he walked away, pulling me along.

"You should've just told me what she said to you privately instead of looking so downcast," he remarked, leaving me speechless.

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"After **we** finish eating, you definitely deserve a little spanking," he chuckled, and I felt relieved that we were dining in **our** own quarters, though I hoped it wouldn't strain his relationship with his mother.

I long for the day when I can have children of my own, and I aspire to cultivate a strong bond with them.

Ensuring that Nellie maintains a wonderful connection with her son is crucial to me. I'll have to have a conversation with

Darius when he's in a better mood.

A week slipped by, and with each passing day, the anticipation of the dinner at Vino's extravagant mansion grew stronger.

Kara hosted numerous tea parties in the garden, and

occasionally, Nellie attended them. Surprisingly, she treated me politely during those gatherings.

We were never alone, not a single moment to ourselves. With constant company, she never had the chance to express her true feelings to me.

Kara effortlessly achieved what she desired, radiating an undeniable connection with Marcel. I could tell he was completely infatuated with her.

Contrastingly, Eloise and Raphael seemed to be at a standstill, their relationship lacking progress. And I knew it was Eloise who dictated the pace.

Darius made the decision for all of us to gather in the cozy dining area, just like we used to. His mother and Abelardo maintained their separate dining routine.

This change was a breath of fresh air, as eating in the same room had become monotonous and uninspiring.

We were still deciding on our attire for the dinner at Vino's extravagant mansion. Kara wanted to meet me in the Beta's section to chat about our outfit choices. Eloise and Kara preferred to steer clear of the Alpha's domain due to

Abelardo's presence. Nellie was delightful as always, but Abelardo's incessant quarrels with Glenda only added to the tension.

To my surprise, I also discovered that he indulged in orgies with certain women in the harem. Initially, I assumed he was exploiting them, but upon learning that it was consensual, I decided to turn a blind eye.

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Zora's POV

"Where are you?" I heard Darius's voice echoing in my mind, our telepathic link bridging the physical distance between us.

Intent on making my way to the Beta's wing to visit Kara, I reluctantly realized that I would have to divert back to my own living quarters.

"On my way to see Kara, but I'll be returning to our wing shortly," I responded.

"Great, meet me in my office," he instructed, his message resonating in my mind with a sense of urgency.

I hastened my steps, determined to reach my destination, but unexpectedly collided with Nellie along the way.

Caught off guard by the encounter, I couldn't help feeling a certain uneasiness around her, and it seemed she sensed my apprehension, as she greeted me with a knowing smile.

"Good afternoon, Luna," I greeted her in return, attempting to maintain a composed facade despite my inner unease. She simply nodded in acknowledgement.

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"Did you **make** any changes to **the** food menu?" she inquired, her question catching me off guard. I wondered why she would approach me on such a matter.

"I haven't made any changes, Luna. My involvement has been limited to preparing your accommodations prior to your arrival," I clarified, watching her closely as she scrutinized my expression, searching for something beneath the surface.

"Do not break his heart, Zora," she pleaded, her voice filled with concern. "He is head over heels for you. I've never seen him act the way he did that afternoon with anyone else. Not even Shanon." As she spoke, she moved closer to me, gently reaching out to touch my hand.

"Darius means the world to me, Zora," she continued, her eyes welling up with tears. "Please, don't hurt him." Her words echoed in my mind, and I couldn't help but respond. "If there's anyone who has the power to hurt someone, it would be him. Hurting me. He's the alpha, the one in control. I can't possibly hurt him," I explained, but she shook her head, disagreeing.

“You and I, Zora, we’re the only ones who can truly hurt him,” she confided in a hushed tone. “Throughout his life, those he loves have always been his Achilles’ heel.” Her apology followed swiftly. “I’m sorry for how I behaved when I first arrived, Zora. I truly am. I hope we can start anew,” she expressed, her sincerity evident, I mustered a smile in response, acknowledging the effort she was making.

Although I couldn’t fully trust her words, I appreciated her

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was no

gesture and decided to reciprocate with a smile. It was no **small feat** for her to extend an olive branch, considering our complicated history. With that, I excused myself from her presence, making my way to Darius’s office. I was uncertain about the reason for his summons, but I hoped it wouldn’t be something problematic.

I lightly tapped on the door, awaiting permission to enter. Darius’s voice came from inside, inviting me in.

He didn’t recognize me at first until I entered. “You didn’t have to knock, you know,” he remarked, leaving his desk behind.

We settled on his cozy couch, and I joined him. “Have you eaten?” he asked, his fingers gently toying with my hair. “Not yet,” I replied, and he nodded understandingly.

Then he revealed that he had changed the menu to venison instead of the usual steak. Suddenly, I understood why Nellie had posed that question to me earlier.

“Your mother asked me if I changed the menu,” I confessed, causing a furrow to form on his brow.

“She asked me nicely, Darius,” I quickly added, trying to clear any potential tension in the air. He nodded, seemingly relieved by my clarification.

After a momentary pause, he asked me a rather unexpected favor. "I need you to plan a dinner menu for a small event.

Would that be too much to ask?"

I was taken aback, unsure of how to respond, especially considering that his mother had explicitly instructed me not to make any decisions without her consent.

"Don't you think your mother should handle it? After all, she is the Luna," I suggested, hoping to divert the responsibility. However, my words seemed to unsettle him as he furrowed his brow once again.

"I must admit, she's not my Luna anymore. The times have changed," he whispered softly, his touch sending shivers down my spine as his lips brushed against my neck.

With a serious tone, he presented me with a request, "I need you to handle the menu for an upcoming event. We'll be hosting some important guests in just two nights. It's time for us to make our engagement official and introduce you to the council. Additionally, we'll be packing Alphas in the north and west. You'll have to choose the perfect venue for this occasion."

I pondered how Nellie would react to me taking on such responsibility, but I decided not to bring it up. After all, I didn't want to add more strain to our already delicate situation. Darius had already caused enough trouble for his brother because of me.

"Alright, I'll give it a shot," I replied, trying to sound confident. His smile grew wider as he leaned in to kiss my neck once

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again, eliciting a soft moan from my lips. He had a way of affecting me like no one else.

"Darling, I'll need more than just a try," he murmured seductively, his lips now nibbling on my earlobe. I knew exactly why he had called me to his office. He was feeling stressed, and he knew exactly how to distract himself.

With a mischievous grin, I playfully taunted him, “Are you sure that’s all you want to discuss?” However, he remained focused on his task, undeterred by my teasing.

After wrapping up my conversation with Darius, whose lively presence in the office had left me a bit drained, I made my way towards the Beta’s wing. Along the way, I couldn’t help but feel the weight of my own weaknesses weighing me down. It was evident that I needed to address them sooner rather than later, as they were starting to take a toll on me.

As these thoughts consumed my mind, I found myself pondering whether Casey was facing similar struggles. I fervently hoped that wasn’t the case, knowing all too well that Elbert never fought fair. If Casey was to stand a chance against him, he would need every ounce of strength at his disposal. Trying to push those thoughts aside, I focused on the task at hand and approached Kara’s door.

From within, I **could** hear the voices of Kara and Eloise engaged in conversation. “It is open,” Kara called out in response to my knock, permitting me to enter. Stepping inside, I found Kara scolding Eloise about something, her tone

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filled with concern and frustration. I couldn’t help but wonder what had happened.

Curiosity getting the better of me, I couldn’t resist asking, “What’s going on?”

Kara turned her gaze towards me, her expression a mix of weariness and exasperation. We gathered in the bedroom’s cozy sitting area, where tea, juice, and biscuits were laid out. It seemed that she was indulging in the life of a queen, taking a momentary break from her responsibilities.

“Eloise seems determined to sabotage her own life. We’ve all been given second chances, but it appears she has carelessly thrown hers away,” I stated, my frown directed at Eloise, who avoided making eye contact. Her disinterest in the matter was evident, which only fueled my frustration.

“Cruz may have mistreated you, Eloise, but seeking vengeance by making another man pay for his mistakes is utterly wrong,” Kara admonished, her words laced with

concern. It was clear that her remarks were connected to

Raphael, drawing attention to the choices Eloise had been making.

Curiosity consumed me as I asked the burning question, “What happened?”

It was a perplexing situation, and I turned to Kara, waiting for an explanation. Her gaze met mine, and she began to unveil the tangled web of events.

“Raphael, believe it or not, has decided to attend the dinner party with Cindy,” she revealed, and I couldn’t help but furrow my brows in confusion and concern.

Kara

delved deeper into the unfolding drama, sharing the news that Eloise had moved out of Raphael’s room a few nights ago. Eloise had made it clear that she wasn’t seeking anything serious and preferred to be just friends. It seemed Raphael desired a more committed relationship, causing frustration to boil within him. As a result, he refused to engage in a friends-with-benefits arrangement with Eloise and ceased all communication with her.

Trying to piece it all together, I questioned, “So, is that why he’s going with Cindy?”

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Eloise herself chimed in, providing further insight into the matter. She explained that Darius had advised Raphael to take Cindy as his plus one to the party. Cindy had expressed her desire to attend the event, but lacking an invitation, she needed someone to accompany her. In the absence of a date, Darius saw fit to assign Raphael the task, effectively killing

two birds with one stone.

As Eloise's explanation concluded, a wave of disbelief washed over me, mingling with a tinge of frustration. It was hard to comprehend how foolish she had been in this situation. I couldn't help but let my emotions spill out as I addressed her, adding a personal touch to my words.

"You seem determined to cling onto the past, wallowing in

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unhappiness. We can't assist you in perpetuating that misery. In **fact**, no one can. It's time for you to move on. You're far too **young** to be trapped in such negativity," I admonished, hoping my words would penetrate her stubborn mindset.

Eloise shook her head, seemingly unconvinced by my plea. With a resolute gaze, she spoke, her voice tinged with a hint of defiance. "Neither of you is destined to be with these men. Have you considered the consequences when they discover their true fates? I refuse to be a victim twice in my life," she declared, her eyes locked on mine, urging me to understand her perspective.

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"I completely understand why you're willing to take the risk of getting hurt again. Casey was an absolute sweetheart, and he loved you with all his heart until the very end. Honestly, I

wouldn't be surprised if his love for you still lingers," she said, her gaze fixed on Kara.

"But what I can't understand is you. Sheperd treated you horribly, he abused you, and yet you're contemplating giving it another shot?" she questioned, perplexed.

"I can't afford to take that risk. No one can truly comprehend what I went through during my time in that cell. The pain of losing my baby... it's the sole reason I kept going. I went from being a free spirit on Luna to being treated like a mere plaything in the pack. Even though I didn't want to, my husband demanded it as entertainment. I can't simply forget and move

on from such a traumatic experience. Trust me, I've tried," she said, tears streaming down her face.

"I had it all once. Land, money, and power were within my grasp, and that bastard took it all away, leaving me with nothing. He handed me over to the soldiers from the north as if I were worthless. To him, I meant absolutely nothing. Everything my father had left me now rests in his possession. I've never had to rely on anyone's mercy before, but here I am, with nothing to my name," she said, wiping away her tears.

"I suggested to Raphael that we have a friends-with-benefits arrangement because I don't want to experience heartbreak again," she confessed, tears streaming down her face.

"I don't want to be hurt. I refuse to live in constant fear and spend nights crying myself to sleep. If Raphael ends up hurting me, I won't be able to recover. That's why I can't take the risk," she explained, and I approached her, offering my support. Kara did the same, showing her care and understanding.

"I understand your fears. We all have them, but love requires courage and hope. We have to hope that history won't repeat itself, and we must be brave enough to walk away if it does. However, if we don't give love a chance and keep trying, we'll be the ones missing out the most," I reassured her, speaking from my own experiences.

"Every day I spend with Darius, I'm plagued by the fear that his destiny will catch up with us, and I'll find myself in the same messed up situation I was in before. Yet, I treasure each moment as it comes because I know that if I run away and close myself off, I'll never heal from the pain of the past, and I'll be left with regrets," I confided, gently lifting her hand.

"We all share the same fear, but it's how we decide to confront it that truly makes a difference," I expressed, emphasizing the significance of our choices. "That guy, he's genuinely smitten with you. He's been incredibly patient, taking things slow. Please, don't break his heart. He may not be Cruz, and he'll never be Cruz."

As my words sank in, she tightly embraced me, finding solace in our friendship, her **tears** mingling with mine. It was a

moment **of** shared vulnerability and understanding, a bond that transcended words alone.

Addressing her concerns, Kara chimed in, her voice filled with empathy and wisdom. "The odds of finding one's fated mate are exceptionally slim, my dear. Sadly, we were just unlucky. In all of the eastern territory, only two alphas were fortunate enough to marry their fated ones. The rest of us settled for our chosen mates, and some of them managed to grow old together with their chosen partners. Even within our pack, very few have been blessed with the union of fated mates. In fact, there are even packs where no one has found their destined match."

She continued, her tone reflecting the harsh reality of our world. "Encountering fated mates is a rare and challenging occurrence in our lives, but sometimes people like us become victims of circumstance. Nevertheless, we mustn't allow these circumstances to dictate how we live our lives. We can't let the fear of not finding our true mate hinder us from embracing happiness and living life to the fullest."

Kara's heartfelt words resonated deeply within her, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the gloom.

I pulled Eloise aside, concern etched across my face. "Do not let him take Cindy to that dinner party," I urged, my voice laced with worry. "You know we'll be spending the night at the mansion. Cindy had her chance with Darius, but now that ship

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has sailed. And as for Marcel, well, that's out of the question. Raphael seems to be the next best option. If she manages to capture his attention, it could be game

over, and you'll be left with nothing but regret," I cautioned, hoping she would understand the gravity of the situation. She glanced at me, her eyes reflecting a mix of uncertainty and longing.

Kara chimed in, emphasizing the importance of my words. “You really should listen to Zora, Eloise,” she urged, her voice firm. “If Cindy manages to infiltrate that party, it’s unlikely she’ll find her way back out unscathed.” Eloise wiped away a tear, clearly torn by the conflicting emotions swirling within

her.

Determined, Eloise declared, “I will make my way to his room.” Her words took me aback, and I couldn’t help but widen my eyes at her audacious plan.

Concerned for her well-being, I offered a suggestion. “Perhaps you should talk to him about it first,” I suggested, hoping to steer her towards a more cautious approach. But she shook her head, dismissing my idea.

“I think I need to take action. He won’t kick me out,” Eloise asserted, her voice filled with determination. It became clear to me that she harbored genuine feelings for this guy, yet she was paralyzed by fear, afraid to reveal her true emotions.

We spent a good amount of time discussing our outfits for the upcoming event. Eloise seemed more laid-back about it, while I was a bit more concerned with making sure everything

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looked perfect. I decided to ask for their help in organizing the impromptu dinner that Darius had requested. To my surprise, they were absolutely thrilled about it. As we continued our conversation, it slowly began to sink in that this was actually happening – I was going to be the Luna.

Planning the engagement dinner turned out to be quite a task, but luckily Kara and Eloise really came through for me. Eloise had moved back into Raphael’s room, although it was clear that there was still some tension between them. I

noticed how guarded Raphael was whenever Eloise was around, especially during

dinner. It was obvious that her previous actions had deeply hurt him, and he needed time to heal, just like Eloise did.

Nellie turned out to be a huge help when it came to the seating arrangement and the menu for the engagement dinner. Her involvement made me realize that she had moved past the past and was ready to focus on the present. Standing in the dance room, I felt a sense of pride and admiration for what we had accomplished together.

Meanwhile, Nellie was sipping on a glass of wine and chatting with Kara while Eloise opted for juice. We had all been working tirelessly for a day and a half, only taking short breaks to eat and catch some sleep. Needless to say, we were completely exhausted.

At that moment, I couldn't help but wonder why Darius had insisted on us organizing the event ourselves instead of hiring a professional event planner. He never really gave me a

straight answer, but I couldn't help but think that it had

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"You need to prepare for yourself, Zora. The Northern Alphas are infamous for being very stubborn. Besides, most of them are very proud men," Nellie jokingly warned me, which made all of us chuckle.

"The east isn't that different compared to the north," I responded to Nellie while Eloise chose this moment to comically imitate Cruz.

"Well, you're a woman. What do you know about these issues? Leave these to the men to take care of them," Eloise said, making us laugh again.

"I can see how well they took care of the problems the moment the Northern warrior

s called for war against us. They would just shove us in the Northern faces because they were afraid of these Northern men,” the woman said again bluntly as it was exactly what happened to her.

While Eloise, Kara, and mine packs had managed to kick the Northern warriors from our regions by making alliances in the south to go against the north. Nevertheless, our former husbands refused to listen to our advice about the idea of alliance. Only then us she—wolves were given to the north as peace offerings, except myself. Even though the former Lunas of our pack didn’t commit the crime, we eventually had to pay for it.

“You won’t be involved in much trouble thanks to Darius. My

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son loves you very much,” Nellie made a remark that made me smile.

“Anyway, how are things going with Raphael?” she asked

Eloise, making my friend look away because she knew that it was her fault for bringing that up.

“Well, the women in the harem were talking about both you and the Gamma. That’s why I know about your relationship with him,” Nellie explained to my friend as Darius’ mother kept smiling.

“Both Marcel and Raphael come from influential families. Their fathers used to be in their current positions, so did their fathers before them and so on. The rules that’s applied to Darius are also applied to them too. While they haven’t quarreled or fought anyone about the idea of marrying Kara and Eloise, they’re also going against the tradition too. Their families aren’t that excited about the idea. But it’s truly not important as long as those young men are pleased,” Nellie commented as she sighed softly.

“Goodness, why am I telling you this?” she then asked before she let out a slight smile as if she could guess what Eloise, Kara, and I were thinking.

“It’s because I’ve never seen men as devoted to their women

as these men are to the three of you. The ones that came before them were all just assholes. They were so bad to us she-wolves that we, their mates, agreed to their harsh treatment being rules here. The former top-ranking wolves were involved in any kind of orgies and torture. We didn't dare to speak or complain. Our tasks as their wives were already clearly explained, so we were forced to stay only within those barriers. Otherwise, we would be in a huge problem. When I

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saw Darius by your side, Zora, I couldn't help but wish that Collier loved me the way Darius loved you. Yet, the truth isn't like that. At the end of the day, I was merely a tool for him. That's why I'm telling you this, Eloise. Don't ever throw away a good thing. While I do know what happened to the three of you in the east, I can testify that my son and his friends are adequate men for you. They're not jerks. They respected us she-wolves. Indeed, they were heartbroken in the past. But it's a happy thing to see them try to find love again. So, don't force Raphael to pay for what he doesn't do. The only crime he does is loving you. He wants to erase the pain you have, Eloise. I can see it in his eyes. I can see how he looks and treats you. Recently, his mother had been pestering me about you. I only had good things to say about you which is true. I beg of you, please, move on from your past. Let yourself look into the future," Nellie lengthily talked as she caressed Eloise's hands gently.

"I do know that you're not drinking, but do your best to try to drink alcohol for tomorrow night," Darius' mother **said** as she smiled widely this time.

The middle-aged woman then rubbed Eloise's palm as she kept her smile.

"Besides, it won't be good for the baby too," she continued, prompting all of us to gasp at what she just said. Immediately, I took a look at Eloise. That was when I noticed that she seemed to be shocked by this revelation as well.

"Well, I used to work as a midwife. There are early signs of pregnancy in you from your pigmentation, mood changes, extra sensitivity to any smell, and consistent tiredness. If you don't trust me, you

can test it yourself,” she calmly said, but I still found it hard to believe that Nellie was able to say it only

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from seeing it..

I couldn't help but feel a bit jealous because I wished it was me who got pregnant. Eloise was such a baby magnet.

“I do have some pregnancy test strips that you can use if you want to test yourself,” Kara told Eloise.

“I bought them because both Marcel and I are trying,” Kara truthfully confessed.

After that, Nellie turned her attention to me as she looked at me. “What about you and Darius?” Nellie asked me, causing me to smile.

“I'm very jealous of Eloise right now. It's because both Darius and I are also looking forward to this happening to us,” I eventually told her my feelings.

This time, Nellie smiled softly.

“Yeah, *me* too. I'm also looking forward to it. It'll be lovely to have mini Hands running around this whole place. After all, children always find a way to make home much livelier.”

“Do you all mind staying there when I test myself out?” Eloise asked.

From her voice, she sounded a bit nervous. All of us were fine with it. If Nellie wasn't being an overprotective mother, she clearly would make a great friend for me. While Eloise used the toilet, the three of us were waiting in Kara's room. Not long after, Eloise came out of the bathroom with tears streaming down from her eyes.

Initially, I thought that the result was negative. However, I

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quickly realized that her tears were tears of joy. Eloise was indeed pregnant. I almost couldn't believe that. Somehow, everything that was taken from her was now being restored to her again. At least, her baby now would have a good father instead of some cowardly warrior who couldn't even fight to keep the woman whom he declared to love.

All of us congratulated Eloise. After that, both Nellie and I went back to the Alpha's wing. Throughout the way, I felt a bit deflated. I couldn't help but be scared that there might be something wrong with me. However, I just kept it to myself for

now.

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Zora's POV

"Tomorrow night is going to be awesome. Please make sure that Darius gives you time to get some rest," Nellie advised warmly as she hugged me.

After that, the woman turned to open the door when Glenda approached both of us. Shanon's cousin obviously was crying about something. But I had no interest in it because I just wanted to get away from her.

"What is it now?" Nellie asked, sounding clearly tired about Glenda and Abel's dramatic antics.

Recently, both Glenda and Abel often fought. Frankly, it really irritated me. So, I quickly left because I didn't want to listen to anything that distressed her.

As soon as I returned to my room, I had made up my mind to have a hot bath in order to calm myself down. After that, I used vanilla salts to the tub while I laid in it. I couldn't help but feel anxious about tomorrow. Even worse, I felt more anxious about my life with Darius. I truly hoped that today's revelation about Eloise's pregnancy turned out to be mine as I caressed my lower belly with a strong yearning. I truly wished to bear Darius some pups.

When Darius came back to return to our room, I didn't even realize that I was actually crying. Thus, I immediately stopped crying.

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The moment I heard that the man was walking to the bathroom, I forced myself to smile. He then entered the bathroom before he knelt by the bath to give me a peck.

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"How was your day going?" the Dark Lord asked me warmly, causing me to smile at him.

"It's pretty busy. But I got some help, particularly from your mother," I replied to him, making him smile at me in return.

"I'm happy to see the two of you are getting to know more and more," he gently said to me before he began to take off his clothes to follow me in the bathtub in the opposite direction

to me.

"I guess vanilla isn't that bad when you're covered in it," the Alpha made a remark, making me laugh as I got some of the foam to blow it in his direction teasingly.

We then sunk ourselves together in the bath before we returned to our room to get some clothes for dinner. After that, we prepared to have dinner with our friends in the tiny dining hall. Darius still insisted that he didn't eat with his mother and brother. Seeing this, I thought of talking to him in order to rethink this decision after our engagement dinner party was over. When we entered t

he dining hall, I realized that both Eloise and Raphael weren't sitting very closely.

Obviously, the woman hadn't told Raphael. But I had no idea why. It seemed to me that my friend was afraid of her lover's reaction. I couldn't put blame on her. After all, her former mate ran away from her. While Raphael would never run from her, Eloise was still scared that her lover might not be prepared. Her eyes told that to me. As the food was being served, I made up my mind that I would break the awkward

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silence between them.

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"So, will both of you go to Vino's party together?" I asked them, causing Eloise to frown at me.

"No," Raphael answered for me.

It made me realize that both of them hadn't made up with each other yet, so I couldn't help but wonder about what they were doing in their room.

"Such a shame," I commented while Darius put his hand on my thigh to tell me to keep my hands out of their fight.

However, I refused to listen to him.

"It'll be bad to leave an expecting lady alone in this place," I calmly said, but what I said managed to make Raphael pause from savoring his dinner.

"Who's pregnant?" the Gamma asked me, but I just looked at Eloise who was looking away somewhere in turn.

Although I knew that she was pissed at me, someone still had to let the good news be known. Meanwhile, Eloise's lover was still stunned. Then, he grinned widely before he started to chuckle.

“Congratulations,” Marcel told him, which was happily accepted by Raphael.

“Congratulations to you both,” Darius congratulated Raphael, looking sincerely happy for his Gamma which was accepted by the Gamma who pulled Eloise closer to kiss her neck.

“You should’ve told me that. Now, I can see the reason behind your mood swings,” he said as he kissed Eloise more and more

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while he gave her little tickles.

Even though Eloise tried to act upset, she eventually began chuckling. Just like that, both Raphael and Eloise had reconciled. The dinner then went on merrily. Raphael couldn’t even stop touching Eloise. Clearly, it seemed that we needed to hold three weddings during the blue moon as everyone could see.

It made me remember that I would wear a backless blue velvety gown which was decorated with Swarovski crystals for our engagement. This dress was so gorgeous. I truly wished to wear it to Vino’s dinner party. However, Darius really wanted me to wear it only for our engagement dinner. Not only that, the Dark Lord had bought a palladium jewelry set with internally flawless diamonds on them.

“Let’s go, shall we?” he asked me.

Darius wore his white beautifully tailored shirt and pants. The Alpha looked very good-looking. Even better, he styled his hair into a little bun at the back of his head. He definitely looked very sexy. Although I truly wanted him for myself, I needed to be patient because we had guests who were waiting for us to come here.

As soon as we entered the dance hall together, the place immediately went quiet. Lots of people look dazed.

Nevertheless, I could see men were gazing at me with burning desires.

“She’s gorgeous,” some guests whispered, which made me secretly chuckle.

Abel was also there. For the very first time, I could see that he had nothing but astonishment in his eyes. Meanwhile, Darius

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was leading me to where we were supposed to sit. Soon enough, the evening started.

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Nellie had made a promise that she would handle the entertainment for my engagement party. Indeed, she did it excellently. Both Darius and my engagement was then formally declared. People began congratulating us one by one. I shook hands with lots of Northern and Western Alphas with their Lunas. They respectfully congratulated both Darius and I. Obviously, those she-wolves were slightly jealous of me. But I didn't mind that. After all, I felt that I was envious of myself too.

I had lost my love in the past. Finding much greater love was something to be envied. My life was definitely what she-wolves would dream of. Instinctively, I put my hand on my lower belly as I hoped that my happiness would be completed soon.

For most of the night, Darius and I danced with each other. That man only had eyes for me. Meanwhile, Raphael never left Eloise at all. The Gamma gave my friend lots of love. Not only that, the man even introduced her to some of his family members and his mother. Marcel's family were also attending this party. They were immediately smitten with Kara. However, Kara always had that charisma in everyone.

There were some people who were obviously opposed to my engagement, like Larry from the council. There were also Abel, Glenda, and a few alphas. However, they were still a minority. That was the reason why I could care less about them. As long as Darius loved me dearly, their feelings and judgments were nothing to me.

On the other hand, Vino congratulated both Darius and I. He

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then used this time to give us a reminder to attend his dinner party. The man was lovely. Somehow, I had a guess that the council made it hard for him because he was the youngest member of the council.

While everyone was enjoying the party, I learned more about them. I realized that Abel tried to make friends with Vino at all costs. Since I knew about Abel's ambition to take over the Dark Lord position from Darius, I wasn't shocked. Besides, I also noticed that Nellie looked at him disapprovingly.

When I saw Nellie was all alone, I asked Darius to have a dance with her. The Dark Lord obeyed me. His mother was overjoyed when he brought her to the dance floor. Clearly, that woman cherished her son so much. I could tell that she was happy that her son was happy.

"Congratulations on your engagement," Abel congratulated me, but I immediately squirmed at his congratulation.

"Would you like to dance with me, future sister-in-law?" he offered as I declined politely with a smile.

"Don't be that sure of yourself, Zora. Things can suddenly change. Then, you'll be left alone by yourself. I'm sure that your experience with Casey has taught that to you by now," he coldly said, clearly making that remark to ruin my high spirits.

But I just let out a soft smile.

"Believe me, Abel. I never take words to heart. I just left it and moved on. As you can see, both Darius and I are in a strong relationship," I told him flatly which made him upset as he walked away from me.

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Chapter 66

Hardy's POV

Ever since the dinner party where I laid my eyes on Zora, I found it hard to sleep because I was unable to. On most nights, I stayed awake as I couldn't help but wonder about what I had to do. Indeed, I just agreed to make an alliance with the east. It would be wrong for me to ask its Alpha to separate from his wife just because she was my fated mate. While I could tell that she wasn't of Alpha blood because she couldn't sense me, it would be hard for me to make sure of her that she was mine.

Although the circumstance between Zora and Casey made me full of hope, I wanted to wait for a while. After all, I knew well that Casey wouldn't keep her for way too long. So, I wished to claim her as mine when they ended their disastrous relationship.

Unfortunately, I didn't know that Hand would interfere. That asshole bullied his way through. Even though I tried my best to ignore the Hands, they always found a way to mess my life. First, they messed with my parents and my childhood. Thanks to that fucking Collier, my father died early. It made me unable to be a normal teenager because I had to take over as an Alpha way too early. As for now, Darius dared to take my fated mate.

I had to admit that attacking his mansion in the north was a stupid move. It caused me to sacrifice lots of lives while I tried to get Zora. However, I was very desperate to have her. After **all**, I could no longer take this.

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My wolf, **Rex**, was in a constant state of pain. Day by day, I was hurting. I was afraid that with me knowing Zora was taken to the north, I might never be able to see my fated mate ever again just like mother.

When Casey questioned on whether I had told Darius about Zora being my fated mate, I couldn't help but laugh. The Hands would never ever let go of what they had taken. They weren't called trophies for nothing, after all. The she-wolves they had taken were reminders. Those poor women became living pro-

of that the Dark Lord had beaten a pack. Eventually, I was left without knowing what had to do in order to get her. As the time passed, I became more and more anxious to get my mate.

Indeed, I had to respect Casey's decision to hold a meeting just because that man had heard that I planned to attack the east to conquer the rest of the east. Meanwhile, I already heard that he planned to attack me in order to take back the part of the east that joined the south. This man never liked involving himself in problems. It was one of the strengths that he had.

After that, I made up my mind that I would have to be more cautious before I chose to act because of someone or some people who obviously tried to beat us off together. After all, my feelings were still hurt because Cruz assumed that I was the one who was behind the attack against the western borders.

In my view, I was sure that it was Cruz who did it. When it became worse, he then denied it. As the days had passed, I started to assume that it might be Darius who was behind this entire sudden attack. That way, that jerk would get another reason to attack the east to make them his. If only Casey

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could see that it would be a bad move to allow such a crazy guy like Darius to rule over us. How many more did we have to give to the Dark Lord?

Even though Casey himself didn't wish to beat Darius, I would do it. I would do this for Zora's sake. After all, the universe had made her to be my fated mate. I was unable to let her get away from me.

When Casey told me that both Darius and Zora were in a relationship, I couldn't help but feel disgusted. I was sure that she had a relationship with him because she had to do what she could in order to stay alive. If I were put in her position, I would also do the same.

It had to be because of how she lived her life with Casey and had to share with Lori that hurt her heart so deeply that she saw her captivity as a miracle. Lat

er, I learned that she wrote to several Alphas in the south to give her permission to get her own land and property in their territories. Obviously, she actively tried her best to leave her husband.

Yet, why didn't she write to me? Why didn't she inform me of her plans when both of us danced as I had her in my arms? Thinking of this made me even more hopeless as I didn't know what I could do. Not only that, I also felt that I was running out of time.

'We can't keep going like this,' Rex, my wolf, told me, which made me sigh.

By now, I was lying on the grass on the back of my house in my garden. For all of these years, I lived alone. I had lived alone ever since my father passed away. Even worse, I never dated anyone until it became a serious relationship. Not only

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that, I never brought any she—
wolf to my home. It was because I was determined to wait for my fated mate. I always told anyone whom I was dating with that I was still waiting for my fated mate. So, how could I be this unfortunate?

'We can't let Darius have her for himself, Hardy,' Rex kept talking in my head as he growled.

He was pained by all of this.

'I'm doing as best as I can, Rex. When we want to attack, we must get the timing right,' I told my wolf that made him go silent...

It wasn't that he was pleased with my response. Rather, my wolf knew that I was right. The Alpha of the pack in western region, whose area was attacked for disagreeing in tax rates, was currently on his way to pay me a visit. While I wasn't actually prepared to accept him because I was still mentally sad, I didn't have any choice other than to accept him warmly.

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Chapter 67

Hardy's POV

I only felt glad because I was able to help him as long as he gave me something to help me in return. After that, I tried to force my feet to walk as I readied myself to go to the office to wait for my guest, Alpha Brighton. Soon enough, I was already

in my office waiting for him. Not long after my arrival, the Alpha finally came. He then apologized because he had a long night because he went to a dinner party at the Hand's estate. I could care less about that, so I just offered him a drink. The man happily accepted my offer.

"Thank you so much, Alpha Hardy, for helping us. While the north speaks badly of you, it's those damn Northerners who are actually barbarians," he spoke before he swallowed his drink.

It seemed to me that he looked annoyed. Not only that, Brighton also looked as if he hadn't rested well because he looked pretty messy and disheveled. After all, this man didn't tuck his shirt in. He even had his sandals on.

"That fucking overprivileged asshole don't even give us time to mourn our dead. Instead, he acted as if he never attacked my pack. He dared to invite us to his engagement party. I find it hard to believe that someone agreed to marry that asshole. I also found out that she was a Luna from the east. She's one of the Dark Lord's trophies. She's very gorgeous, I've got to admit. Her name is Zara Rohan," he told me about the engagement party, but he already got me lost with those **words**.

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"Did you just say Zora Rohan?" I asked Brighton, which he **responded** with a nod.

"She's a beautiful woman. It's so unfortunate for her to get married to such a jerk. But I have to say that she looks happy as a captive. I can't tell whether she acted that out or it was what she truly felt," the man kept talking, but he totally made me lose in my train of thoughts.

My heart started to beat even faster. Soon enough, my hands were shaking hard. I couldn't help but be overwhelmed with rage and anxiety. I tried my best to stop my tears from falling. There were only so many men that I could bear.

On the other hand, Rex started to howl in my head. How would Zora be able to sense our mating bond if she had Darius' mark? Thinking of that made me enraged. It seemed that what Casey said wasn't a lie at all. It seemed that both Zora and Darius had fallen in love deeply. I had to get a way to meet her before the damned Dark Lord claimed her as his. I had to make her know that she belonged to me as my fated

mate.

"Alpha, are you okay?" Brighton then asked me worriedly, so I tried to keep my head cool as I let out a smile to be seen by him.

"Oh, I'm okay," I responded to him.

After that, the man drank scotch before I forced myself to smile again.

"Who would've thought that the damned Dark Lord would eventually settle down? I heard that his woman had left him for years ago as she went to the south. She must've found **out** how fucked up the Hands were. It made her realize that she

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didn't want to be a part of **it**. Let me say that she totally saved herself by doing that. I also found out that Darius had searched for her for a while before he let her go. It seemed that Darius finally made up his mind to move on. Or, rather, just like his father, he was trying to make this woman named Zora as his baby machine. After all, he's the Dark Lord. He still needs an heir," he kept talking, but the way he talked about Zora made me enraged that I clenched my palms into fists.

However, Brighton kept looking at me as he smiled again.

"I've got no idea how I can return your sympathy after you've given us your kindness even though you're nemesis with the north. Let me tell you, I'll do whatever you want to show my kindness. Besides, we've already agreed to pay the taxes that are forced upon us to avoid any future attacks," the man told me as he looked sadly.

“How will your people hold on then?” I asked Birghton because I knew that it would be too much from him.

I really had to keep my emotions in check. It took lots of effort for me to do that.

“It seems that we’ll have to keep paying until we can no longer pay. If that happens, we’ll have to leave our lands as we’re looking out into different packs,” he solemnly replied, which made me feel bad for him.

I couldn’t help but wonder how Darius could be this merciless. Thinking that he would get married to Zora made me hate to imagine what my Zora had to go through later with him. Finally, Brighton left my office.

As soon as he left, I lost my composure. My insides were shaking hard. I was in a strong state of confusion. When I left

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my office, I immediately shifted into **Rex** as I ran to the forest to howl. I was in sharp pain. It made me confused because I had no idea about what I could do. As things are, I needed to get my Zora back either between now and the blue moon.

I wasn’t sure if my army would be ready by the time the blue moon came. Frankly, I no longer wished to be a lord. Rather, I only wished to stay by my fated mate’s side. Then, I howled longingly as I asked the high powers to help me. There wasn’t any possible way for me to live my life without her. To me, Zora was everything that I had dreamed of ever since I laid my eyes on her. Thus, I couldn’t let her be someone else’s mate.

This time, I had to try even harder to move faster. I decided to ask Casey for help as a part of my plan. Since the man wrote to his former wife, he might be able to tell the truth about the mating bond to Zora. It might help.

However, it was also a risky one because Darius might be interfering with Zora’s letter. If that happened, he might know about it and make sure that I would never see her ever again. It made me even more confused about what I could do.

While I did plan on finding a way even if I had to sacrifice my life to go to the north to make her see me and know that I was her fated mate, I would do it. I truly wished that I would end up as a victor because I already suffered so much. To me, my happy ending was obviously not a lovely one.

Content

C 68

Darius' POV

Zora looked extremely stunning at our engagement dinner party. Not only that, I loved showing my woman off. While I could see that some people looked at her with lust, I couldn't help but feel proud of it. After all, I frankly found it hard to believe that I eventually took a huge step for both of us. So, I was very thankful with whom I was taking this huge step.

The moment Zora came into my life, this woman managed to make me feel my own feelings that I thought were already numb and any other feelings that I had no idea were there. When I saw how she smiled and talked to other people, my heart was filled with pride. Even better, the fact that both her and my mother eventually got along with each other truly made my heart happy.

While Abel tried so hard to make her inferior, I also noticed that he looked at her with burning desire. That was when I knew that I had to tell him through mindlink several times because it became too visible. Zora was a beautiful gem. She was mine. At this point, I found it really hard to wait for the blue moon to come.

I was dancing with my mother now. My mother seemed to be happy that I asked her to dance, which was what Abel had to do. Yet, I was sure that he was too much of an idiot to notice that. On the other hand, people kept congratulating both Zora and I as they gave their well wishes to us. I did hope that some of their wishes would come into reality, particularly the one about pups.

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If I had to be frank with myself, I was slightly envious to Raphael. In those kinds of moments, I wanted

my beautiful mate and I to get that news too. While I didn't want to rush her to get pregnant, I was sure that it would still happen to us.

Meanwhile, Vino

acted very warm and courteous. It seemed to me that he liked Zora. When I noticed

how most of the people here were charmed by Zora because of how she behaved, I already knew that I made the right choice for the Luna in the north. Our engagement party ended merrily. After that, both my beautiful mate and I went back to our room. Since she was very tired, I let her fall asleep first

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For the next few days, we spent our days planning our wedding. After all, we knew that there

would be three weddings instead of two. While I did realize that Raphael's family gave him a hard time when it came to Eloise, I knew very well that he wouldn't listen to them. Indeed, it might sound

way too early to say that. However, his own enthusiasm

outshone him.

By now, it was already time to go to Vino's dinner party. Our she-

wolves had chosen their clothes to attend the party. Since they already planned it for two weeks, I was sure that it would look stunning. While Zora was dressing herself up, she asked me to leave

our bedroom. Even though she could wear her dress in the closet, she would rather put her dress on in the bedroom. I couldn't help but love watching it. After all, she wanted to surprise me. Besides, I also knew that it was because my beautiful mate didn't want any of us to get late.

After I watched her wear

her underwear, I already got used to taking a look at her. To me, it was always wonderful to see her. Not only that, Zora did

it sensually. Eventually, she told me that she was ready. That was my cue to return to my

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room. When I entered the room, she totally looked like a goddess.

My beautiful mate was wearing a peach lace dress that looked almost as if she wore nothing but got everything covered. I could tell that she wore nude-colored underwear beneath the dress which was matching her skin tone to give the illusion. It was really nice. Not to mention that the Venetian lace design was wonderfully done.

When I approached the woman to let my fingers brush against the fabric, I was determined to brush the tip of her nipples. Her lips quickly let out a light moan. Immediately, I could smell her arousal. Then, I leaned closer to her ear to bite her. After that, I whispered in a rough voice as I sighed softly into her ear.

“You definitely look gorgeous,” I told her.

Instead of thanking me, Zora began moaning as she grabbed onto me.

“As much as I’d like you to ease the little one, I don’t want to mess your dress, sweetie,” I continued as I pulled her closer than before.

Then, I licked her ears as she held herself.

“Remove my dress. I really want to have you right now,” she uttered as she was unable to control herself any longer.

I couldn’t help but click my tongue.

“After the party is over, honey. Your button will be drenched. Then, you’ll cum for me non stop,” I responded to her.

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Soon enough, I could hear Monica growling that made me chuckle. If the dress was short, I would definitely roll that up to take her on. However, this dress was long and delicate.

“Can we?” I asked her.

This time, her eyes had turned into wolfish yellow. I could see that Zora was in a dilemma as she tried to control herself. If only she knew that I was very hard down there. Surprisingly, she then shook her head. After that, she began untying her hair and zipped her dress from the dress to let it fall. Then, my soon-to-be Luna got out of her dress. It seemed that Zora refused to take no for an answer. After that, she knelt as she unzipped my pants. I also had a hard time saying no because I was already rock hard by now. Zora knew it very well. Soon enough, my cock was free. She gently sucked it in her mouth as she moved and jerked her head off. After that, she put her hands to use for the rest of my length that couldn't reach her mouth. When I looked at her, I softly pumped my cock into her mouth.

Since I didn't wish to cum inside her mouth, I pulled myself out from her mouth and made her go to the bed as I went on her hands and knees. Then, I began removing her underwear as I quickly put my cock to enter her wet entrance. She immediately moaned as I started to squeeze out inside of her. She felt so warm and moist. Her button truly squeezed my cock dry.

"Ah," she moaned with pleasure as I moved faster.

How the hell did this happen?

Content

Chapter 68

Darius' POV

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How the hell did this happen?

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Chapter 69

Darius' POV

Although I had some expectation that both Zora and I would hold on until the party ended, it didn't turn out that way. I gripped her hips firmly while I was leading her ass. After that, I slammed my length into her bud to cover it deeply inside of

her.

"Oh! Darius, yeah. More," my beautiful mate uttered as she moaned loudly, making me growl because the sense of pleasure immediately went to my head.

Instinctively, I squeezed more inside of her as I fastened up

my pace.

"Yeah, please," she cried as she almost reached her peak.

By now, I realized that both of us were talking nonsense because of how both our needs and satisfaction were going to our heads easily. After that, I brought her body up until her back arched to the point it touched my chest as I kept banging Zora. Then, I kneaded her gentle breasts by brushing my thumb against her nipples while I used my other thumb to rub her clit.

I could hear that Cremin was howling cheerfully in my head. The room felt as if it was rotating around me. The sex made it hard for me to look clearly. The only thing I could feel was the strong sense of enjoyment from what both Zora and I had been doing.

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"Darius, more! Please give more," the woman begged as she moaned, which made me moan back in return.

Then, I could feel that her walls were tightening around my cock very firmly to squeeze my cum. It seemed to me that my gorgeous woman had already reached her peak, so I kept hitting that same spot with the same speed in order to keep her orgasm. That worked well because her peak stayed for a while.

Meanwhile, the way her bud milked my length managed to make me go crazy. Immediately, I shot inside of her as I put my cock so deep inside of her to make sure that my loads of cum was deep enough to reach her bud. At the same time, I could feel how she took all of me very well. Not long after, both of us reached our peaks. Then, I pulled myself out from her.

We quickly got dressed up. Zora wasn't putting on too much makeup. Instead, she only did some touch up on her lip by putting on lipstick. After that, we got out as fast as we could.

The six of us were sharing a limousine. It became clear that both Zora and I were the late ones. As soon as the two of us entered the limousine, we came to attend Vino's dinner party.

Vino was already at the entrance to greet us. Frankly, I didn't feel good when I saw how he greeted my woman. Nevertheless, I tried to ignore it.

I had to admit that the rustic hall design was very gorgeous. I

couldn't help but enjoy the view as I danced with Zora whom I was holding gently in my arms. After we danced a few times, both my beautiful mate and I returned to the honor table where the six of us were put by Vino.

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Not long **after** that, there were lots of Alphas, council

members, and people

from powerful families that approached our table to greet the six of us. Another thing for me was that I realized that there were lots of young she-wolves at this

dinner party. It made me wonder who was summoned here. Besides, they didn't look like someone's plus ones to the party.

“Lord Hand, I believe that you’re enjoying your time at this party, right?” Vino asked me as he smiled.

I nodded my head as a response. Obviously, the man looked as if he wished to inform me about something. Seeing this, I quickly excused myself from the table as he brought me to a private room to talk to me.

“What’s wrong, Vino? Why did you look so anxious?” I immediately asked Vino about it, but he kept smiling at me.

“Did you give an order to the military to attack Alpha Brighton and his pack just because they disagreed to pay taxes?” he asked me instead, which made me frown because I didn’t have any idea what he was talking about.

“No, I never gave an order,” I firmly replied.

The man then nodded in return before he let out a huge sigh.

“Well, his pack was attacked a few weeks ago because they rose up against the increased rates of development tax. It was Hardy who supported them. I’d like to let you know that the region Alpha Brighton lived in is a poor area. I don’t think it’s a wise step to impose a rising tax rate on them,” he glumly told me, which confused me even more because I didn’t know what he was actually talking about.

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“I didn’t **increase** taxes,” I responded to him, then Vino shook his head in return.

“Well, we’ve got a document signed and sealed by you. You were the one who ordered it,” he told me.

I couldn’t help but feel surprised when I heard that.

“Why did no one bother to inform me about this?” I angrily asked.

Again, Vino just bowed his head apologetically.

“The order came from you, so we didn’t think that we had to tell you,” he quietly answered, looking a tad bit

uncomfortable.

“If you weren’t the one who wrote the order, it would be someone who was close to you who did that,” he continued.

Soon enough, I curled my palms into fists. I was preparing myself to hit Abel as hard as I could for his sabotaging efforts.

“It must be Abel,” I angrily said to him.

However, Vino shook his head.

“I don’t think that Abel will do this kind of thing. After all, he’s not that smart to do that. I think it’s someone who’s close to you,” he responded.

I almost couldn’t believe whom he was trying to imply.

“Raphael, Marcel, and I are basically triplets at this point. The three of us together. They’d never ever stab me in the back. After all, they don’t have any reason to do that,” I told him as I gritted my teeth.

As usual, Vino nodded his head.

“I understood. But I just wanted to let you know about what’s happening right now. Thanks to this problem, the council is enraged. They want to have a talk with you about this attack on Alpha Brighton’s pack,” he told me calmly.

Eventually, I could get the reason behind his nervousness when he spoke with me. It turned out that the council wanted to interrogate me. That was why they asked this man to come here.

“Don’t be scared. I’ll attend the council meeting,” I told him assuredly as I put my hand gently on his shoulder.

“Let me tell you, you’re doing an excellent job as the council’s head. Never ever let those old assholes scare you off,” I then gave him advice, which he responded with a smile as he nodded again.

Then, I went back to the honor table in order to enjoy the rest of the party. However, I had also made up my mind to talk about this problem with both Raphael and Marcel when

n this party was over because I didn't want to crush both Zora and I's fun time. My lovely soon-to-be Luna looked very graceful. It would be wrong if I didn't spend the whole night with her covered deep inside of her.

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Chapter 70

Zora's POV

It turned out that the dinner party held by Vino was way more awesome than I had expected. Excluding the time when Darius spoke to Vino, my mate stayed by my side throughout the party. People came to congratulate the six of us on our wedding that would be held at blue moon. That was when I realized that my wedding was an important event. I couldn't help but feel anxious about it.

The moment I got married to Casey, it was a quiet one. Most people didn't even know about our marriage. At the time, the Magic Fang Pack was still a small pack. Thanks to that, any activities that happened in the pack were seen as unimportant. Our wedding was held in a little ceremony where both Casey and I declared our vows before a few pack members. After that, we just went home. The celebration of our marriage was done quietly. Then, we ended up rising to the top together. Soon, we became a big deal in the east.

Obviously, I realized that my marriage with Darius would be so different. It felt as if it would be a grand one, which made me slightly noxious about it. When I looked at Raphael who cared about Eloise so much, it made me wish that Cruz could secretly see her because the Gamma truly focused his attention on my friend. Not long after that, Abel attended the party with Glenda. Nevertheless, both of them was flirting with other people instead of staying by each other's side.

When the party was over, we came to the room provided by Vino. Frankly, I didn't even want to stay the night. I just

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wished to **return** to the mansion **to** fall asleep in our bed. However, sleeping over in vVino's place was a part of the party because we were meant to have breakfast with the other very important guests tomorrow morning.

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Lawrence family was a truly rich one. I just realized that they were the fourth most powerful family in our realm. When **it** came to rank, Vino's family came after Raphael's family. By now, I could get the reason behind the Northern Council who gave Vino a hard time. After all, they expected so many things from him.

As soon as both Darius and I got into the room given to us, I quickly took off my clothes to wear my nightgown that I had brought from the mansion. The staff from our mansion had brought a casual outfit for breakfast for tomorrow morning and night clothes for us to wear here in the Lawrence estate. It seemed that the driver was the one who put our stuff in this room that was meant for us.

"What's wrong?" I eventually asked Darius because I knew that there was something that really troubled him even if he tried his best to cover it throughout the dinner.

After that, my mate asked me to sit on his lap on the couch in our room. I quickly did that. Then, the man slipped his hands into the robe to caress my body gently. He definitely was feeling me, which made me gently moan.

"You must answer what I'm asking, Darius," I told the man as I tried to make him inform me about what troubled him.

Darius showered my neck with kisses before he let out a sigh.

"**It** seems that people had falsified my signature and seal to send an order to increase tax rates in the west," he informed

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me, causing me to be shocked.

“That’s not the worst news. There’s a small pack on the western border that couldn’t pay the taxes, so someone from the northern army attacked them. Not only that, those warriors also claimed that the order came from my office. The painful part was that the Alpha of that pack came to our engagement dinner party. Yet, he didn’t even say anything to me. Obviously, he must’ve thought that I’m an ass for throwing a party to invite him after I gave an order to attack his people. Vino assumed that someone close to me wanted to sabotage me,” he explained to me as I turned so that I could see his face.

“Obviously, Vino is on the right track. Someone close to you wishes to sabotage you. So, do you think it’s Abel or that old Larry?” I asked the Dark Lord who nodded in return.

“I’m sure that it’s like that. But Vino didn’t think that Abel could do that,” the man replied, but I shook my head.

“It’s bad to underestimate people,” I told him before I stopped when I realized what Vino’s deduction had implied.

“Who does Vino think is the one behind all of this?” I asked Darius as I wondered what the young head of council was thinking about the perpetrator behind this.

“He assumes that it can be Marcel or Raphael,” my mate grimly replied, which made me stand up as I shook my head repeatedly.

“I wish that you don’t trust Vino’s assumption,” I responded in horror, but Darius thankfully shook his head.

“Of course not, I don’t trust what he told me,” the man

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assured me, which made me **calm** down.

“Both Marcel and Raphael are your best buddies. They’ve been loyal to you. Besides, they would get nothing from sabotaging your rule,” I told him, which made him smile softly.

“On that you’re wrong, Zora. They actually do have something. If the Hand family fails him, the lordship will be passed to the Sidorov family, which was Marcel’s family. Then, Raphael’s family, Orlov family, was in the next line. After that, it will be the Lawrence family which was Vino’s family,” he told me, causing me to nod grimly.

“I just found that out from you. However, Vino then is as much of a suspect as Raphael and Marcel if that’s Vino reasoning,” I explained to him, which made him nod again.

After that, I approached my beloved mate to put my hands on his chin so that he could see me clearly.

“Don’t look at those two with suspicion. If you did that, it’ll crush the barrier you three have and the only defense you have. While I do know that Vino wishes to be your friend, he doesn’t have any right to think who’s in the wrong for this. In my opinion, we must observe Abel and Lary closer. But, I have to admit, that I don’t even think Abel has the brain to pull this off. Still, we could never really tell that,” I tried to reason with Darius as he smiled at me and pulled me back on his lap.

“The council already asked Vino to bring me to the council hall to interrogate me in order to answer some things,” he told me as he gave me tickles that caused me to chuckle.

After that, Darius then stopped as he smelled my scent. The man then put his nose on the back of my neck.

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“I really wish for you to come with me,” he said as I turned to look at him and I looked straight into his eyes.

“**Do** you really want me to come with you?” I asked him as he nodded.

“I do

know very well that you’re still clueless about the north or what’s actually going on. Still, you’re my Luna. I wish for you to look and watch the council. You’ll be able to see the things that I may miss or can’t even see. That’s why I wish for you to be there with me,” he explained the reason why he wanted me to be there with him as he looked at me

pleadingly, which made me nod my head in approval.

“That’ll be

an honor to me,” I responded to him, which made him stand up as he lifted me up in the air to throw me in the bed, causing me to jump on it.

The fun was so much that I couldn’t help but giggle. Meanwhile, the man then walked to the closet to take out some silver cuffs. Seeing this, I frowned. Yet, Darius then knelt before me as he smiled.

“Before we’re going here, I ask them to pack something special along with our clothes,” he told me as he put the cuff on my hand and the other cuff on the post. This cuff was made of a soft fabric that covered around it, which made the silver don’t directly touch my skin. However, it still managed to weaken me until I was unable to break it. With my other hand, he did it the same way. After that, my mate put blinds over my eyes.

“You dared to let Vino flirt with you at the dinner before, Green Eyes, So, I’ll give you punishment,” he flirtatiously said as he opened my robe.

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“There **won’t** be any safe words now. **I’ll** be the one who decides when we should stop,” he continued.

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Soon enough, my breathing became heavy. I could only smell him. Although I didn’t know what he would do to me, I was looking forward to it. The man then opened my robe to reveal my naked body. Then, I could feel him pressing my breasts. After that, his wet tongue was licking my nipples that made me shudder.

“Who do you belong to, Green Eyes?” he asked me, but I wanted to be stubborn which made me keep quiet.

Darius expertly sucked my nipples one at a time, causing me to moan. I could feel how his tongue moved throughout my body to my navel down to my bud. I wished that I could caress his hair, but my hands were already chained by him. My body easily crumbled.

“Who do you belong to, Green Eyes?” he asked me again, but I just shook my head stubbornly.

The man then sucked my bud which made me moan even louder. He never stopped as he kept doing what he did. The Dark Lord was licking and sucking my clit and played with my bud by using his mouth and tongue. I had to admit that he ate me so well that I was overwhelmed with both the pleasure and lust in it. After that, he paused for a moment before he put his hand into my pussy that crashed the climax for me. I truly wished for him to give me the pleasure he just took from me.

“Who do you belong to, Green Eyes?” he asked me again as he sighed deeply, which made me eager to see how long I would disobey him.

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