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Silas POV

Watching as she left, I feel the bond pull me, wanting to go after her. Some invisible gravitational pull towards her. She infuriated me, yet I couldn't help the feelings she awakened within me. The fates really were testing me, and I refuse to let history repeat itself. This was our last chance, one hundred years waiting for her. One hundred years of praying to find her. Were they really that cruel to punish us again? The Oracle gave us hope that finding our mate would restore the balance.

Meeting Elora though, left me unsure. She was determined not to let us have her. It was foolish of her to think she could escape us. A hundred years and there is no way I will let her bloodline destroy me again. How Aziza's thought the first time they would escape my wrath I didn't understand, foolish enough to believe that there would be no retribution over their actions. We could have avoided all this, if they just handed her over like promised. They made the treaty, and they still broke it, condemning themselves and cursing us. So many species are extinct or on the brink of extinction from their selfishness. We were willing to share, willing to let her keep her husband as much as it pained us to see her with him.

We would have done that for her, she chose him over us, knowing full well the toll it would have on her own mate's and that was their downfall.

Our downfall blinded me with rage. I just wanted to hurt her like she hurt us, for her to feel the same pain she made us endure. There is only one way to escape the mate bond, and that is by death. The Aziza's knew that when they refused to hand her over, when she refused to be ours. They brought it on themselves, and we have paid the price ever since.

"You need to control yourself around her, Silas. We need her and if you keep this up, she will refuse," Matitus speaks, pulling me from my spaced-out thoughts.

"You say that like she has a choice. There is only one choice, Matitus, you know that. The mate bond is getting stronger. She can feel it, she just refuses to admit it."

"Whether or not she feels it is not the point. You know Fae are the only ones that can reject the mate bond, ignore the pull. You need to be gentler with her, we can't afford to break her like you did with Blaire."

Just the mention of her name alone was enough to make my blood boil. They know better than to mention her name in front of me. They may have forgiven her, but I never will. What she did is and always will be unforgivable. My hands curl into fists as I try to stop from jumping over the table and beating him senseless.

Dragus's eyes are on me as he watches me glare at our mate. They both know the pain her name causes me, and yet he dared mention it in front of me. The screeching of his chair as Dragus got up and moved toward me, pulled my gaze from Matitus.

Dragus places his hand on my shoulder, the familiar sensation of his touch calms me as he leans down wrapping his arms around my shoulders.

"You know he means no harm. We just need you to be gentler, more understanding of her. She fears us and I don't want to have to force her. Just think about it, Silas. We can't fuck this up again," Dragus says before sighing.

"We all want the same thing, you know that. We can't force her, I don't want to cause her more pain, she will be ours you just need to be patient," Matitus says.

"And if she refuses?" I ask, curious to know what their grand plan was because I only see one way for this to go, and that is by force. Though it would be easier if she were willing. Just the thought of destroying her, makes my bile rise and my stomach to turn.

"We wait, like you said she already feels the mate bond, the more she is around us, the more she won't be able to deny us," he says.

"And you want to wait?" I ask, looking up at Dragus.

"Yes, I won't force her. Just try please, if not for her. Do it for us," he says, leaning down and kissing my lips. His fiery tongue brushes my lips and I grab him, holding him there as I groan into his mouth. My cock twitches in my pants at the feel of his lips on mine. All too soon he pulls away, leaving both of us breathless. Matitus watches with hungry eyes as his eyes darken, feeling our arousal through the mate bond.

"Fine, we will try your way for now," I tell them before standing. Matitus smiles, looking at Dragus who shares the same excited look.

"Where are you going?" They ask as I head toward the door. "To find our mate," I tell them, letting the mate bond pull me in her direction. I follow it all the way to Abigail's room. The door is closed but I can smell her mouth-watering scent and I know she is in there.

Pushing the door open, Abigail's eyes go wide, and she immediately sits up before stuffing something under her pillow, Elora looks to me in alarm and I can see the fear in her eyes, smell it seeping from her pores strengthening her scent, her heart rate increasing the closer I get.

Both of them tremble under my watchful eye.

Walking in, I hold my hand out for what Abigail tried to hide.

"Hand it over," I tell her, and she hesitantly reaches under her pillow.