

## Chapter 15 Possessive Hearts

"Elena?" Lucy asked, her eyes studying her daughter quietly.

"I think Elena has had enough stress already." Aba could see the slight panic in Elena's eyes and immediately came to her defense. "This isn't a problem. I can be her blood source if she needs it."

"Aba, she won't be able to take a mate." Lucy frowned, still looking at her daughter for an answer.

"She is immortal and this isn't an issue right at this exact moment. Remember, Rogio can fix a blood bond. This is within his capabilities. Whether he chooses to—" Aba shrugged.

"That completely slipped my mind." Lucy nodded her head, letting out a relieved breath. "He would do this. He doesn't want to lose his royal line—"

"I'm not interested in 'fixing' this." Elena responded calmly.

"Well not right away but—"

"No, mom. I don't want to, ever. I don't want

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anyone else by my side but Aba." Elena let it out. It was obvious anyway. Why else would a blood bond work? She glanced over at Aba anxiously but he didn't look shocked. It was as if he already expected it. Suddenly, he hunched over in pain, grabbing his chest.

"Sh\*t." He growled as a red aura began to menace around him. "This isn't good." He panted as he winced.

"Aba? What is wrong?" Tears welled up in Elena's eyes as she reached for him. She gripped his arm, the moment she touched him her fingers began to tingle. A small vibration that made her heart race. Wait. She looked at him in shock as the whisper rang in her mind. *Mate*.

"Elena drained all the magic out of me that was holding this off." He grunted, wincing to the side.

"Holding what off?" Lenore asked nervously, but her mother placed her hand over her mouth as if she already knew.

"She's your mate?" Lucy looked between the two of them. "Why did you hide it?"

Elena clenched her jaw as she glared at his dark eyes. How could he hide this from her?! How long had he known?



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"I had to." He choked out. "I had to protect her... from me." He panted as he tried to regain some control. "My demon heart claimed her as a mate. Lucy, you know what happened before. This heart is too powerful. I remember..." He whispered looking down. "What I did in the past and how I terrorized your family. It turned me. I wasn't like that before. What if it turns me again? I can't—I won't." He looked up at Elena as tears streamed down his cheeks. "I can feel its possessiveness with you. It's getting worse. I have been fighting not to lose control completely. Maybe putting this disgusting demon heart in a werebear's body was a bad idea. Especially as a guardian. It gave my demon the power to succeed. I can't let it win." He shook his head. "I love you so much, but I can't be with you." He tried to move but only managed to get his feet on the floor. "I have to get back to Beryl. She's been making potions for me. She has had to cast enchantments as well because it's been getting stronger. Damn, it might be too late to control this."

That's why he was with Beryl. She was helping him hide the mate bond and control his demon. He should have told her. This wasn't his decision to make alone. It was their decision. And she didn't care. If his demon wanted to consume her, then let

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it. As long as she could be with him, that was all she wanted.

"Aba, it's okay." Elena gripped his arm. "I'm not afraid of you. I wish you would have told me. I—" He leaned over as he grunted in pain.

"It's too late for Beryl to help him right now, but Taric can. He's the demon prince and can command Aba's heart to submission. Lenore, take Aba and run. Your grandfather can't see him like this. Your father will make sure you get there okay. Go quick." Lucy looked at Elena, shaking her head. "You have to stay here. I'm sorry Elena. I can't risk you leaving right now. Not with everything going on."

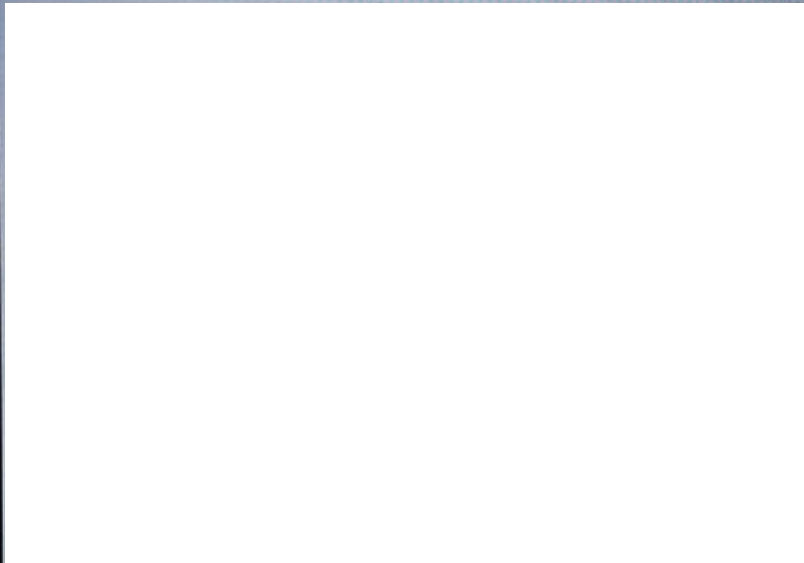
Elena shook her head. "This is all ridiculous. Aba, your demon side isn't going to hurt me. It's acting like this because you've suppressed it for too long. We can work it out."

"You don't know who I was and what I did. Your mother can explain so that you understand. Lenore, we don't have much time. I don't have my guardian strength right now. I lost too much blood and I don't know how long I can hold this off." He pushed himself to his feet, fighting through the pain. The physical and emotional pain. It destroyed him to say he couldn't be with Elena.



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Gods, she was all he ever wanted. It kept getting worse, driving his temper out of control. When he finally realized they were mates, he was happy, but only for a moment. That was when the memories flooded into him. It was only with Beryl's constant



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help that he was able to manage his demon and hide the mate bond from Elena.

He didn't know what he would do when Elena finally took a mate. He knew he would have to stand aside but was afraid it would tear him apart. She deserved to know the truth, but then she would have to know about the monster he was.

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Now she would finally know. She would never be able to look at him the same way again. He couldn't. How could he have been so disgusting? Why did he lose control back then? And it terrified him that he could turn into that now.

Lenore grabbed his hand and pulled him towards the door.

"Misha, enhance my powers. We are going to go fast. Aba, just focus on running." Lenore couldn't even be excited about seeing Taric again. Right now, Aba was about to lose control. And after the talk yesterday, this was one of the things her grandfather was afraid of. She had to get him out of there and fast.

Elena moved to her feet but her mother grabbed her wrist. She watched her sister and Aba disappear out of the room before she turned sharply to meet her mother's soft gaze.

"Sit down. I have a story to tell you..."

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"We're just going to have to set off the alarms."

Lenore pulled Aba toward the entrance to the underground kingdom. The underground kingdom was always known as the catacombs. A place full of their dead ways and history, but now she no



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longer viewed it as such. It was an underground palace that housed the demon prince, her mate. And it may very well be her future home.

She heard a rustling sound and two dark figures appeared from the side. They were vampires who she had seen before in the village, but it was clear they weren't ordinary vampires. They were now blocking her from entering the tunnel.

"I always wondered about you two." A familiar cocky voice sounded from behind her. It was Jasper and with him his two sons, Ashton and Joel. "Guess the secret is out. Too bad it is in vain." Jasper's teeth clamped down hard on his finger, sending drops of blood to the ground below. He was about to unleash his most powerful skill when a piercing light shot past him and towards Alaric's two guards. The men scrambled desperately out of the way as Colton emerged from the darkness.

"Would you look at that control and power?" Colton bragged as he moved next to Ashton. "That one was a beauty, right?" He elbowed him playfully. In a blur, Jasper moved to block the guards' path between Lenore and Aba. "Quick, go!" He ordered, bracing himself for a battle.

Lenore hesitated for a moment before sprinting towards the exit, her feet pounding against the

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ground. She dragged Aba towards the tunnel as chaos erupted behind her. The elite guards of Alaric would follow orders even if it meant their deaths. Her family would be alright, but Aba was losing to himself. She could feel the darkness emanating from him. His eyes were glossy onyx as she flew down the stairs.

"Taric!" She yelled as they reached the bottom floor. Immediately he appeared, instantly assessing the situation.

"I was afraid of this happening the last time we met." Taric sighed, shaking his head. "Be still."

With those words, Lenore felt Aba's body completely relax as he fell to his knees. She was going to check on him, but Taric's strong arm gripped her around her waist, bringing her to him. "You were supposed to come to me last night." He growled in her ear. "I decided I'm keeping you no matter what. You can change your mind, but it won't matter. You are mine."

She lifted her head up at him with a smile. "Good, because I decided I am going to keep YOU. And any woman you ever try to sleep with will be destroyed, and you will be punished."

"I don't think I'll need another woman. You are



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more than enough." His eyes moved over her hungrily.

"My grandfather wouldn't allow me to come. He—" The ground trembled with Taric's growl.

"That old fool didn't allow you? Well, I'll make sure that isn't a problem ever again." His dangerous snarl echoed off the walls.

"Aba, are you alright now?" Lenore turned to look at him.

"He's fine now." Taric snorted, pulling her back to his chest. "Pay attention to me now!"

"I'll pay attention to you later. Such a child—" She gasped as he bit her ear, growling lightly. His hands roamed over her as if he needed to fill himself with her touch.

"Taric." She finally hissed. Aba was right there. What was he doing? She watched amusement danced in his eyes as a soft chuckle came from his lips. "Alright, princess." He then turned and looked at Aba. "Stop suppressing your demon. It's only going to get worse if you do. Our demons are selfish and possessive. It's best to let them have a taste every once in a while so we don't lose control."

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"I can't." Aba whispered. "I don't want to risk losing control of my demon. I did before—in my past life. That's why I can't take Elena as my mate. Maybe I need to sever the guardian bond in order to protect her. I was so obsessed before with claiming the fairy princess. And the things I was going to do—"

"Hold on." Taric stared at Aba. "You have your past memories, right?"

"I have my memories from my first life. They're a bit scattered, but I know what I did." Aba watched as Taric turned his head to the side, a small frown resting on his lips. "What?"

"Your demon isn't a problem. If you have a mate and want to claim her, then do it. Don't use your demon as an excuse."

"But my past—"

"Isn't what you think it is." Taric ran his fingers through Lenore's hair, lifting it up to his nose. "We are possessive and have a natural darkness." He chuckled as he looked at Lenore. "Anyone who looks at what is mine risks excruciating pain. That's how I am. It's how demons are. Your grandfather is going to get reminded of that too." He gently prodded Lenore's nose before turning



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back to look at Aba. "But your demon didn't lose control because of the fairy princess Alice." He saw Aba's shocked eyes. "I know all about it because you were an experiment."

"What do you mean?" Aba moved to his feet as he

studied Taric.

"You probably never noticed but at times, when your demon surfaced, a red glow could be seen flickering in your eye. It wasn't my doing. My father had this idea of having to have Elysium. He hates the fairies and their world. He said it has an untapped source of power, and he wanted it. So

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he started with you. When you were given Alice as a mate, he decided to enhance that desire. Only once she was pregnant, she was worthless. He wanted a fairy princess to give birth to a demon. He was convinced that was the way. He made you obsessed with impregnating the princess. Any fairy princess. It didn't matter. See, our demons don't work that way. If it was about the mate thing you wouldn't have stopped until you got Alice." He sighed as he glanced at Lenore. "We don't stop with what we deem as our possession. But you were just obsessed with procreating. Your demon was poisoned with nembrant dust. It worked well enough that my father decided to recreate the nycrops. He wanted more nembrant glass which was stronger. That was when he developed his master plan to take over the world."

"Wait, I don't remember being controlled."

"It wasn't glass. It was dust. The dust had my father's will imbued to it. Once it entered your body, it couldn't be changed. You would be obsessed with procreating with any fairy princess you could get."

"But this possessiveness I feel with Elena—"

"We are demons, not lap dogs. But because of our desire to possess, we usually make excellent



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lovers." Taric winked at Lenore as he openly looked her over again. "I intend to possess you too."

Lenore was getting caught up in Taric's intense stare before she turned to look at Aba with a sudden epiphany. "Aba! Do you realize what this means? It means you can be with Elena." She felt so happy she started to cry. It was what her sister always wanted. Aba was her mate. There was a blood bond. "What are you waiting for, you i\*\*\*t?! Put her mind at ease and claim her. But be prepared... she is probably going to yell at you." She giggled as Taric let out a frustrated sigh. His nose moved in her hair. It was obvious, he had a one track mind right now. His demon demanded to have her.

"I'm not going to lose control?" Aba asked out loud but to himself. But Taric answered anyway with a growl.

"No, i\*\*\*t. But you will if you keep suppressing it." The annoyance in his tone evident.

"You know, once my guardian powers are back to normal, you won't have any authority over me. Not even my demon heart."

"No, but good thing I did this time, huh?" Taric

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tilted his head to him with a smirk. "You were like a child about to throw a tantrum because he didn't get his new toy."

"Well seems to me like he isn't the only child here." Lenore grinned up at him. He moved his face in close before suddenly lifting his head up to look at the ceiling. A moment later, she felt it too. She knew this aura that was seeping down into the earth. It was her grandfather's.

"Aba, we will escort you to the top. There is someone I want to speak to." Taric's dark eyes moved to the stairway. He might be a guest in the Vampire Kingdom, but he was still a demon prince. No one was going to keep what belonged to him away.



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