

## Chapter 16 Cruel Intentions

"Wait, what is this?" Aba growled as they reached the top of the stairs. The entryway let in the light from outside but there was a powerful force radiating from it. As he stared past the opening, his eyes met with Alaric's. Derek, Jasper, Justice, Colton, Ashton, and Joel were standing to the side. Derek's elite guards in front of them. Across from them was Alaric and a powerful group of men.

"Daddy!" Lenore gasped as she tried to go to her father. Taric gripped her arm and pulled her back.

"Wait." He then looked at the invisible wall in front of them. A block had been made and this was not done by anyone here. Something this powerful was either done by a god or a demon. Well there was one other option but it could not have been that. "We've been locked in." He growled looking at Alaric.

"Lenore, please come through. You are free to leave." Alaric watched as Taric pulled her behind him.

"And what happens if she leaves? You won't let her return? You'd keep my mate from me? I think you have lived too long if you think this barrier can

stop me."

"Oh it isn't meant to stop you. Besides, you can't come out because the enchantment won't reach out here and then your daddy will know where you've been hiding." Alaric's gaze moved to Lenore. "The barrier will not prevent my royal bloodline from passing through. Anyone can enter, but only my blood can leave."

"And then what? What about Misha?" Lenore looked at her dad trying to reach him through her mental link. It didn't work. The barrier must also cut off mental communication. Damn it. *Elena*. Silence.

"I'm afraid for now Misha won't be able to follow you. I can't exactly ask our deity to come back for something trivial like that."

"Lenore, stay where you are at." Her father said boldly, meeting with his father's angry eyes. "If you leave, your grandfather won't let you return."

"It is for the best," Alaric said in a matter-of-fact tone. "Same with keeping you down there Aba. I heard some disturbing news. I heard that Elena is your mate. This is too problematic. It is best that you forget about her. She can get a new guardian."

"What the hell is your problem?!" Aba growled as

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Taric pushed him to the side.

"Calm down. Don't cause a cave in." Taric moved to the front of the opening. "It is a good thing Lenore didn't come out." He said casually as long talons grew from his fingernails. "Because I would have come for her and you would have been destroyed."

"You think killing her own grandfather is a way to win her heart?" One of Alaric's guards said in disgust.

"I'm not a saint." Taric shrugged. "I am the demon prince. My love may venture into the dark, but nothing can ever happen to her by my side."

"Unless your father finds her." There was a darkness in Alaric's tone. "A risk I am not willing to take. You will doom her if you mark her. She deserves better. Both of my granddaughters deserve better."

"This isn't your decision to make. None of it is." Lenore spoke softly, moving next to Taric's side. "Just for the record, he wouldn't kill you. Even if he wanted to because I wouldn't allow it. And because I am his mate, he wouldn't hurt me like that." She winked up at Taric. She already understood his heart and she could feel just how

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much she affected him. He was very protective of her, in every sense. "However, I think you understand that leaving him is not an option. I have chosen Taric. I want him as my mate. However, I was willing to hold off being marked so that I could freely travel back and forth. But—"

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"Lenore, I understand the pull of the mate bond but please think about this carefully and what this means." Alaric sighed. "You are a vampire princess and your people need you."

"And I can still be here for them. I was already thinking about it. The vampires used to live

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underground. They could do that again during the next war. There is a lot of work that needs done but it can happen. Maybe this is where I am meant to be so I can help our people." She felt Taric place his hand on her side lightly. It was so soft and feather-like that it sent sweet tingles through her. "Aba is good for Elena. He is exactly who she needs. Keeping him down here—"

"Is a matter of self preservation." Alaric sighed, shaking his head. "You haven't seen it yet but I have. I have seen what is coming. And you want to know who is leading the demon army? It is a guardian." He pointed at Aba. "One of his offspring will destroy the world. I have to prevent that from happening."

Lenore looked back at Aba's blank face but could see he was shaken by this news. "And you know this for a fact?" He didn't say anything which spoke volumes he was guessing.

"That could happen to anyone." Derek spat out angrily. "According to the premonitions that Lucy has seen that person will be compromised. And she couldn't see who or what it was exactly. Just that he had a red eye. Same with her family and they would have seen more than you. If Lilly and Rhea can't see clearly then neither can you. You

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are guessing! How dare you put that on Aba?!  
These are not your choices to make!"

"But this is my kingdom to protect. You have seen him losing control. For that very reason it is best to keep him locked down there. I won't have him destroying the kingdom I have worked so hard to protect. Regardless of what his role would be in the future."

"What the HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU!" Derek yelled through gritted teeth as he glared at his father. "Why are you acting this way?"

Alaric sighed as he looked at Derek. "You've never understood. I tried so hard to teach you." He shook his head. "You act too much with your emotions and not your head. This doesn't have to be a permanent solution. But as of now it is the best. I can reevaluate it later. One problem at a time."

Taric then began to laugh, making the attention turn back to him. "And you mock demons." He clicked his tongue as a smirk rested on his lips. "We may act irrationally, but at least we are being honest with ourselves and our emotions. You want to act like you are better but in reality you are far worse. You put your own family in danger as long as it is for the good of the kingdom. Yeah, well fvck that. What is the point of anything if you lose

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those who are most important to you? Your son understands this. Why don't you?"

"There is a reason that this kingdom has survived through the tests of time. I don't expect someone like you to understand." Alaric's voice sounded void of emotions as he moved his gaze to Lenore. "If you don't come out you'll be leaving Elena all alone."

Elena was her weakness and he knew it. Her eyes widened as her lips parted. "You asked for a mental block on purpose, didn't you? So that I couldn't contact Elena." Her grandfather stared at her blankly. A barrier alone would have been enough but he made sure to cut off communication. This was to put pressure on her to leave. She had no way to communicate with her sister. She looked up at Taric, pursing her lips together. If she left him and didn't return he would destroy the place to get her back. Her grandfather knew this so he had something else planned.

"Forget this." Aba charged to the front pressing his hands on the invisible barrier in front of him. "You can't keep me away from my charge." The ground began to tremble as dust filled the opening.

"Id\*ot! This whole place will collapse." Taric growled, grabbing onto Aba's shoulder.

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"Maybe, but we'd survive it. I can break this. Nothing can keep me away from my princess."

"Hey d\*ckwad, this place is my home for the unforeseeable future. I don't need you destroying it!" Taric glared at him. *What demon trusts unconditionally? Do you think I came in here without other ways out? Relax and let him play his game. He has already lost because he miscalculated.*

Aba growled as he turned his attention to Alaric. He understood what Alaric was thinking but he was wrong. This was endangering Elena. There was no way she was safer without him. He admitted he knew he wasn't good enough for her. How could he ever deserve someone like her? And then he hid their bond from her. She must be furious.

As the realization of his past settled over him, he could hear his heart pounding in his ears. He paced away from the opening, feeling like he was in a cage. All he wanted to do was find her and explain everything. He now knew the truth about his past and it changed everything. He didn't go crazy in his past. He was manipulated. He didn't lose to his demon. Damn. When he left her he told her he couldn't be with her. He felt his heart racing,

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desperate to go to her and make things right. A wave of panic washed over him. His heart was pounding with the need to get to her and explain everything.

Even though she was too good for him, even though he was her guardian, it suddenly didn't matter. She was his. His to protect and his to love. And he did love her. He loved her beyond rational reason. So much that it hurt to hide it. Not only that, but the potions he took put an emotional disconnect from Elena. He lost the ability to understand her feelings. It was pure torture, but he thought he had to in order to protect her from himself. Now that the magic block was drained from him he felt panicked. He needed to get to her. He had to be next to her. How could he ever leave her side before? If it wasn't for the magic he never could have done it. He never realized until this moment how much those potions dulled his own judgment and emotions.

His heart raced faster than it ever had before, and the pounding in his chest was echoed by the thunderous noise inside his head. A swirling hurricane of thoughts and emotions raged within him. Elena wasn't there to calm him and yet his demon never tried to take control. A sign that Taric was right. It was only like that before

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because he was suppressing himself.

"Nora." Derek looked at his daughter. "Elena said for you to stay right where you are at. And Aba— she said that you no longer get to make any

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decisions about her life. Your blood belongs to her so sit and wait for her to collect it." He chuckled.

"Yes, about the blood bond. That needs to be corrected." Alaric could see the confusion in Lenore's eyes. "Mira isn't the only soul servant we have. Sending her away and sealing the room doesn't mean anything when another servant remained there. In either case, Rogio can fix this in

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time. I'm afraid it won't be the most comfortable for Elena. If she won't willingly accept it she will have to be desperate enough to accept it."

"You will not make my daughter suffer. Do you think I am going to just allow this to happen?" Derek balled his fingers into a ball.

"Derek, the blood is poisoning her mind. She is like a drug addict needing their fix. They can't make rational decisions until they are clean. Same with Elena. She will need to be so desperate for relief from the pain that she will ask to have it removed. Then once the bond is broken she can think clearly again. She didn't make the blood bond of sound mind. She was not even conscious. This is for the best." Alaric watched as his son shook his head furiously.

"These are my children! Furthermore, they are adults. They can make their own decisions. You are not forcing this."

"They are vampire princesses—"

"They are also fairy princesses! Don't think for a moment this won't upset the fairy king or the fairy prince. You think that Rogio can protect you from those two? Leviathan and the Kraken will not allow it. Think carefully about what moves you are

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making because the signal you are sending out—” Derek suddenly paused. He understood. His father and mother planned to stay in this world. They wouldn't be traveling to Elysium. Each move he was making was calculative. He was playing his cards to remain neutral. No longer on the side of fairies like during the demon war. He was back to being on the side of vampires. And that meant not being enemies with demons or friends with fairies. He was reverting to how they were before. That is what he meant about self preservation.

His daughters had primordial blood and one of them would remain on earth. She would grant the vampires extra power and protection. But keeping two primordial vampires would give them even more. He stared at his father in disbelief. Did he plan to keep both of his daughters here? Elysium would disconnect from the world forever. They could only unite if one remained on earth and one in Elysium. What exactly was his father planning? He stared at the man as if he had suddenly become a stranger. Someone he no longer knew.

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“I don't even think so.” Lucy grabbed a bag out of a closet tossing a silver dagger in the air. Her mother had been trained as an assassin. Though

she never had to be one, she had the skills.

"Dad said to wait for him." Elena watched as her mother grabbed another dagger out of the bag. When her dad mind linked them what was going on they were all shocked. Well, they were but she wasn't. Her grandfather had been acting weirder these days and this wasn't surprising to her. In fact, she felt like something was going to eventually come to a head.

"Your daddy should know better."

"Why don't we just send a messenger fairy out for help?" Elena watched as her mother shook her head.

"This would start a species war. We can handle this on our own. We don't want to get the innocent vampires involved in this." Lucy smiled as Nita and Terra tied their hair up. "We don't need anymore help and Alaric doesn't want a war. He needs to remember exactly who he is provoking. You aren't just his granddaughter. You and Lenore are MY children. And no one messes with my family."

Her mother was fiercely protective of her family. This only comforted Elena more with Aba. After learning about his past she asked her mother how she felt about it. Her mother said that was

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Abaddon not Aba. They aren't the same and she trusted him completely. She told her that he might be stubborn and need convincing but he would be a wonderful mate. She approved of them.

Elena loved that her mother confirmed what was already in her heart. Aba wasn't allowed to tell her it can't work out. This time she would make the decisions. He was hers and she would have him. Though he needed a good earful she wasn't taking no for an answer. She would get her guardian back...her mate. And Lenore could stay with Taric without worrying. They would break the mental link barrier so they could still communicate but Lenore needed to be with her mate. Just like she needed to be with Aba.

Lucy straightened up as she moved to the door. She stopped and then sighed looking at her daughter. "Maybe you should stay here?"

Elena grinned as a monstrous shadow rose above her body. "Momma, you should know better than that."



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