

Chapter 25 Yang

"Everett's magic was very unique. It felt very pure and powerful. He might not be a deity, but I would venture to say he could hold his own against one." Uno fluttered in front of Elena as they walked through the unfamiliar terrain.

"Like a primordial? Or a type of titan? Like how Micah is as strong as the gods..." She voiced her thoughts out loud before a searing pain seized her. She immediately fell to her knees and grabbed her head. Everything went dark until a blinding light entered her mind. A white wolf stood in front of her, its tail wagged slowly as it held its position.

"Elena, I am your wolf, Yang. It is great to finally be connected."

"My wolf? Yang, you're my wolf?" She stood in her own conscious. A bizarre experience, like being in another world. "But that means—"

"Your sister's heart has chosen. She will not leave this earth. Yin belongs with her. You still have a choice, but my place is with you. My strength and powers are now yours."

"I was told recently that I am not a shadowbender,

that I am a prism bender."

"You both control the light in different ways. You have formed a relationship with the shadows because of your manipulation of the light. You grasp the shadows, but they were never yours to hold."

"I honestly don't understand it. I can create a towering wall or protective barrier with the shadows, but I am not a shadowbender."

"You see the shadows when you bend, Elena, but shadows can't exist without the light. When light can't move through something, it casts a shadow behind it. Shadows come from being in the path of an object in the light. Simply, a shadow is blocked light. This is how you control the shadows. You block out the light to create larger shadows. Once you fully understand how your bending works, you will become even more powerful."

"So I limit the light?"

"You do, but you can do more."

Elena sighed as she stared at the white wolf. "So how is this relationship going to work?"

"What do you mean? Just like it has always

worked. We're just not sitting in your conscious like normal werewolves. You call upon me."

Elena blinked at her, shaking her head. "Wait, you aren't part of our conscious like other werewolves?"

"Elena, if we were like other werewolves you would have been born with us. We would have been with you all along, and it wouldn't have mattered who chose what. Yin and I were gifted to you and Lenore. Our purpose is to use our powers to safeguard and guide you. Then, with our combined strengths, we can unite the worlds. This is why we were sent to you, but we don't exist in you. Yin and I and Cosmos can communicate through realms and worlds."

"Wait, who is Cosmos?"

"Kendra's wolf."

"She never mentioned having a wolf."

"She has one now."

"So I can communicate with Lenore now?" Elena watched as Yang shook her head.

"You will be able to, but not yet. Once your bodies adjust to us, then the three of you will be able to communicate seamlessly. You'll be able to meet

mentally like we are now. This is how you'll still be able to see each other when you are separated."

"So, I will still get to see her." Elena smiled. While it wouldn't be the same, it was still something. She would be able to hear her sister was doing. They would always be in communication with each other.

Elena's heart swelled with a mixture of gratitude and longing. The knowledge that Lenore would always be within reach, even across different realms, brought her comfort amidst the uncertainty that lay ahead. She understood now that their bond went beyond the physical, transcending the limitations of their separate existences.

"So, are you more like a summon than my werewolf?"

"That is a better way to put it, except my powers will always be with you, even if my consciousness isn't."

"Just tell me, is Lenore okay? You can communicate with Yin, right? So—"

"She is fine. She is safe and has chosen to remain with Taric, as his mate."

"We can talk more about destiny and powers later. I need to get to my sister so we can rescue our family."

Yang looked away from Elena, lowering her head sadly. "I'm sorry Elena. but this is going to hurt. I must imprint upon your soul, and without your guardian, this is going to be quite painful."

"Can't it wait—"

"I'm sorry, it can't. Yin has already begun the process with Lenore. Brace yourself." Yang's eyes began to glow as a blinding light made Elena shield her eyes. The world shifted, and she was back in the cavern with Uno.

A surge of scorching heat engulfed her, searing every inch of her skin and turning her body into a vessel for molten lava. She writhed in agony, feeling the fiery liquid flow through her veins like a raging river, threatening to consume her from within. She rolled, curling into a tight ball as the pounding pressure threatened to consume her from within.

Elena's heart thudded painfully in her chest as the volcanic energy scorched her insides. Her vision wavered as she watched Uno hovering around her frantically. His desperate cries seemed far away as fiery heat attacked her. Blistering heat radiated

from her body, and she clenched her fists trying to hold on. She watched as Uno spun around defensively, raising a shield around them.

SKAAAA

A strange hissing sound filled the air. Elena lifted her head enough to see the terrifying creature heading her way. It was a monster she had only seen in a book, a nauc. A large, vicious serpent with a voracious appetite. It hissed, baring its fangs at them as it raised its head. It lunged towards them, bouncing off the barrier that seemed to crack under the pressure. This wasn't going to hold him. She had to recover so that she could defend herself, but the scalding onslaught was not relenting.

In a lightning strike, it lunged at the barrier again. This time, the loud crack of it breaking filled her ears.

"Run, Uno." Elena whimpered out.

"I'm going to protect you. Just hold on."

A deafening roar shook the ground beneath her. Elena's heart leaped into her throat as she recognized the sound, a primal and familiar terror. Aba's bear, with its thick black and white fur and massive size, burst into view from behind the dark

serpent. Without hesitation, it lunged forward and clamped its powerful jaws around the serpentine creature's neck, snarling and thrashing in a fierce battle.

Elena watched in awe as the battle between the serpent and the bear raged on, the cavern alive with the deafening sound of their ferocious struggle. The aggressive dance had small rocks falling from the ceiling above. Elena tried to move to her feet, but she couldn't. Even though she was in blinding agony, she was determined to stay conscious and watch Aba. She wanted to help him, but the only thing she could do was breathe and try to endure the pain. Not making a sound so that she didn't distract him.

The nauc twisted and writhed, but Aba's bear was relentless. The bear's massive paws swiped at the serpent, tearing at its flesh and sending blood splattering across the rocky terrain. A nauc's scales were as tough as steel, but the bear's strength was immeasurable. Aba's bear growled ferociously, shaking the cavern walls as he tore into his serpentine foe, leaving a trail of destruction in his wake.

The ground began to shake as more debris fell from above.

"It's going to collapse!" Uno yelled as he hovered over Elena. He restored his shield above Elena's head to protect her from the falling pebbles and dust.

Aba's paws tore into the creature, leaving deep gashes that bled thick, crimson blood. Then, with a quick spin, he grabbed onto the nauc again. His powerful jaws locked onto the serpent's neck, and with a deafening crack, the nauc's body convulsed before going limp. Violently, he began shredding the creature until Elena's cries brought him out of his blind rage.

Aba immediately transformed into his human self and ran to Elena's side. There wasn't time for anything as the cave shook angrily. It was going to collapse. Swiftly, he lifted her, holding her against his chest. He had expected to feel the sweet tingles, but with them came unexpected pain. A brutal, searing heat attacked him.

He quickly turned and sprinted in the direction he came. A strange creature was flying next to him, but he didn't have time to examine him. They had to get out before it was too late. Even though the tunnel was caving in around them, he couldn't help but feel relieved to have her in his arms.

The moment Aba touched her, the pain alleviated.

His warm tingles raced over her body as her mind screamed *Mate!* loudly.

"Stay with me," he whispered in her ear, his voice laced with urgency. "I've got you. We'll make it out of here." Showers of rock and sand began to collapse around them. Aba's powerful grip on Elena never wavered, even as he took the pain away from her.

Finally, light greeted them as they burst through the entrance of the cave. Cool water from the waterfall misted over them and cooled the volcanic pain they were experiencing. They were out of the cave, the imprint from Yang had stopped, and Elena was in Aba's arms.

"Elena." Aba collapsed to his knees, leaning his head against hers. The eruption of mate tingles attacked his senses, screaming at him that he was holding his mate. His fairy princess, the woman he loved more than himself. He had silently endured his pain because he thought he had to protect her. But he was wrong. And his body trembled as he was finally able to hold her. Yet, he had to tell her the traumatic news of her friend's passing. "Are you okay? What was happening to you?"

"Yang has imprinted on me." Elena whispered quietly as he raised his head so that their eyes

met.

"Elena I—I am so sorry. Bernard—"

"I know." She pursed her lips together. "Everett told me he died, but I really—I just can't think about that right now." It was too painful and there was too much that needed done.

"Everett?" Aba looked over at the strange little creature.

"No, that's Uno, my new friend. Everett is a man from another realm that I somehow got into." She wiggled her body, but Aba wouldn't release his grip on her. "We have a lot to discuss. But let's start with who the hell do you think you are, hiding the bond from me?!"

"I'm sorry."

"And that fixes it? All the years of pain that could have been avoided? Do you really think I cared about your past? Why would you think that would bother me?"

"I was afraid, El. I was terrified of what I might do because I thought I lost control in my past life. But I didn't." His chocolate eyes held hers. "I didn't. I was being controlled back then. Taric told me that my obsession was because of the demon king,

and it wasn't my own doing. I thought—I thought I was protecting you. I was an i***t. I didn't know—”

“Well, I did! I know you, Aba. You should have trusted my instincts!” She shoved herself out of his arms and stood firmly to her feet. She watched as he rose up to his own towering height.

“I know I don't deserve it, but please forgive me, Elena. I'm sorry. I want you—I want to be with you and—”

“No.” Elena shook her head angrily, watching the wounded expression in his eyes. “You don't get to want. You don't get to make any decisions about us. You lost that chance.” She stormed up to him and fisted his shirt in her hands, bringing his head down to her level. “I am making the call. Aba, you are my mate, and you better get damn comfortable with that idea.” She slammed her lips against his, and he gripped her body tightly. The euphoric tingles overtook her body, encouraging her to continue. This wasn't the quick peck she gave him before. This was her claiming what she always knew to be hers. She felt his lips move greedily against hers, but it was her tongue that thrust into his mouth, demanding access. His tongue clashed with hers hungrily, proving how much he wanted her. She moved her hand up to tangle in his hair as she pulled apart from him. “

"Mate." She held his gaze as he panted against her mouth. Slowly, he nodded.

"Mate." His hot breath pelted against her lips, sending a shiver down her spine. She was controlling the moment, but she couldn't ignore how much he affected her.

She wrapped both her arms around his neck and touched his nose with her own. She held that position as his eyes studied her quietly. Slowly, she watched a small smile spread across his lips. It was a simple smile, but it revealed many feelings. She breathed in his heady scent that called to her, this time knowing it was always meant for her. The reason his scent was different was because it was the scent of her mate.

Being in his embrace felt surreal. This was everything she had been dreaming of, and it was hard to believe it wasn't a dream. She loved him so much, but now wasn't the time. She still couldn't enjoy having her mate. "We have to get to Lenore and rescue my family. But you are going to make this up to me later."

"I look forward to it." His deep voice and predatory eyes promised. Finally, he looked at her in the way she had always craved, but they couldn't do anything about it now.