

The Dragon King

Chapter 11 ~ Which One?

Aurora's POV ~

I was up early.. showered and had dressed in a navy blue suit jacket with pencil skirt. A white silk blouse and navy and white blocked three inch heels. My hair braided and bunned at the nape of my neck.

I felt Draco at the door, and opened it before he knocked. He grinned "Eager, are we?" I laughed "Why yes, Alpha! I plan on dazzling them with my magic!" He agreed, nodding "You're going to distract them with your beauty! They'll forget why they're there!"

Adrian groaned "Will you two schtahhhp! It's too early to listen to your flirty banter! I need caffeine before I decapitate someone." I laughed and took his arm "Let's hurry, then.. Before you're running helter skelter through the corridors yelling Off with their Heads, like the Queen of Hearts!" Draco followed, laughing.

We walked into the council hearing room.. and I groaned under my breath. I absolutely hate that all cases are heard consecutively..ours being after Sacred Moon.. yet, we all have to sit through every case. It's council edict.. trying to teach every Alpha in attendance how the laws operate.

Sacred Moon lost the dispute.. having to return nearly a thousand acres to Black Hills. Not because they were in the wrong.. simply because their attorney is incompetent!

By the time Draconium was called, I was past ready. Since we were the defendants, and American Gas was the plaintiffs.. they presented their case first. As they finished, I stood.. proving the carbon footprint the pipeline would leave upon the earth.. the detriment to the wildlife.. air quality.. and the amount of time it would take to recover would far outweigh the positives of a shorter distanced pipeline.

The council asked the plaintiff, they wanted rebuttal.. their attorney stood and said "The pipeline will allow more than a million people a more economical way to heat and cool their homes.. to heat water or prepare meals. We can guarantee the damage left would be minimal."

I then said “Minimal? To whom? You would have to remove over twenty thousand acres of trees.. depriving birds.. insects.. and squirrels of their natural habitat! You would churn the earth into mush.. disturbing rabbit hutches.. natural wolves dens.. groundhogs, prairie dogs, chipmunks, mice.. and other creatures. Making them virtually homeless. Then, you face gas leaks.. allowing massive forest fires, should a spark catch. The astronomical costs to recover from that, would come from where? If you are willing to compensate the billions of dollars it would take, I might be able to persuade my client to reconsider. Would you humanely trap all the wildlife and relocate them, at your expense, to guarantee they would not unduly suffer? If so, it would behoove me to discuss that alternative with the landowner.”

I sat back down, and we waited. I held Adrian and Draco’s hands in my own.. offering a silent prayer to the Goddess. Lead councilman announced, ten minutes later “Continued construction of American Gas pipeline through Draconium territory is denied. This council cannot, in good conscience, allow the earth to be so disturbed.” I breathed a sigh of relief!

The owner of the pipeline jumped up and yelled “This is bullshit! This hearing was a farce.. prejudiced and geared toward shifter justice.. and I will appeal in human court!” I smiled and said “Please do! I will defeat you there, as well! It’s idiotic to believe human courts will overturn a council verdict. Inconceivable that they would entertain the notion. Our treaties state that shifters have the right to govern ourselves. We are a country, within a country, gentlemen! And, for the record, shifter’s justice? We are adhering to our laws.. otherwise, as shifters.. we would have just killed you and be done with it! Stop being a sore loser.”

The day was finally over, and we were joining Caleb for dinner. I dressed, accordingly, in a deep red shift dress and black shawl, with matching black heels. I piled my hair on top of my head in a messy bun, and loose tendrils.

We met Caleb, just as Anderson and his party walked in, to be seated. Adrian asked “Doesn’t that woman own any real clothes? How can Kane not be embarrassed by that blatant display of vulgarity?” And I cracked up “Damn, Adz! Tell us how you really feel!” He shivered his whole body in disgust.. making me laugh again.

Amelia did look like a hooker, though. Another neon colored dress.. with deep décolletage. I whispered “I hope she taped her boobs in place.. or there’s going to be a nipslip in her soup!” Caleb roared in laughter “Nipslip? Oh my Goddess, Rori! That’s priceless!”

Draco whispered into my ear “Thank you for always dressing with such classic taste! You are elegant and exotic,, all at the same time!” I shrugged “It is always possible to look decent and sexy, at the same time. Amelia has ever been an attention whore.. she likes eyes on her all the time” Caleb grins and says “Yeah.. that works, for a moment! I see every man turn to eyeball her.. then they all turn away with a ‘what the fuck’ expression!”

Adrian laughed and high fived my brother. I admonished him “Cal, that is still your Luna! She doesn’t deserve to be talked about by her Beta!” He grinned, again and said “No, baby sister. You are my Luna. She is a poor substitute! She’s Anderson’s Luna! Even the pack go behind her back to do exactly what she tells them not to. She’s a joke!”

I sighed.. so disappointed in her. “She had three years lessons in Luna etiquette! What the fuck was she doing.. six hours a day, four days a week? Chewing on pencils? Is this a result of lead poisoning?” Draco spit his drink out his nose.. choking on laughter, and said “Oh Goddess! I’m sorry for laughing, because I know you’re being serious.. but that was some funny shit!”

As we walked out of the restaurant, Amelia came over and asked “Aurora, can I talk to you a minute?” I rolled my eyes.. muttering “ here we go” and I stepped off to the side.. not so far that she couldn’t be heard, though.

She whined “I know you hate me because Anderson and I fell in love.. and that deprived you of your true mate. But to make Momma and Daddy suffer is just you, being childish! You need to grow up and stop trying to get back at me by fucking MY true mate! That’s low.. even for you!”

I started laughing.. really hard “Oh! You’re being serious, right now? I don’t hate you for falling in love, dumbass! I hate you for fucking my mate.. knowing the pain I would endure without his rejection! I heard you that night, Amelia. Laughing.. saying ‘take that, Aurora’ at the top of your lungs.. that was truly vicious.. and spoke to the type of bully you had become. Your parents knew! Your parents condoned it! If not for MY brother, and Luna Bridget.. I would have died! And every last one of you knew it! That! That’s why I hate you! You’re all heartless! Soulless! And you will have to answer to the Moon Goddess for your crimes!”

I turned around.. pulling Isla forward.. I let her summon Axel.. “Axel! Forgive your human! I couldn’t live with you withering away because of his stupidity! Regain your strength and find your pride! Your pack needs you! Be the Alpha I

know you can be! Show your human you are better than this! I am sorry for your pain! You really are a special wolf!"

I hugged Caleb.. looked back at Amelia and she said "Go near my mate again and I will end you!" I laughed and asked "Which one?"

Chapter 12 ~ When Can We Do It Again

Draco's POV ~

The monotony of the past two weeks are getting to me. We have been unsuccessful in locating either Johnston.. or Michaelson. Aurora ran a check on Johnston's practical license and it's still valid.. only in Alaska. She believes he is still in Alaska.. just has no active cases, as of right now.

My phone rang, and I immediately answered. A female voice asked "Draco? Can we talk?" I had a sinking feeling in my gut.. I linked Aurora to please grab Adrian and get to my office.

I asked "Who is this? Who gave you leave to use my given name? This is Alpha Arconium.. state your business!" As I put the call on speaker, Adrian came in, followed by Aurora. The voice giggles.. making me want to gag.. and she says "*You know who this is, silly! It's your mate!*"

Again.. gag! I replied "You're most definitely delusional. I am waiting for my mate.. and it's definitely not you!" She whines "*Don't be like that.. I made a teensy mistake.. but I'm ready to forget about it.*" I look at Aurora and she puts her finger over her lips.. grabbing Adrian's phone, she sets it to record.. then calls Caleb, after she texted him not to talk.

I said "Oh! Is this Amelia?" She giggles and says "*Of course, silly! Who else would be your mate?*" And I replied "Anyone.. but.. You! I rejected you. You aren't worthy of being My mate! Why are you calling me, anyway!? And how did you get my number?"

She whined again "*I have decided to forgive you and accept you! This isn't where I belong.*" I laughed.. and told her "Nope! You are exactly where you belong? Where is Anderson? Put your mate on the phone! I want to talk to him!"

She snarls "*Anderson is Aurora's mate! All I hear is how he should have accepted Aurora.. How why am I not more like Aurora? Why am I a Bimbo..*

why do I act like this.. Why can't I be a lady like Aurora. Aurora, Aurora, Aurora! Everyone wonders why we all hate Aurora! Well that's why!"

I am trying not to laugh "What's why? You didn't give a single reason why anyone would dislike Aurora. Are you drunk?" Now, Aurora is trying not to laugh.

Amelia snaps "No, asshole! I'm not drunk! I called you to let you know I'm coming to your pack! You are MY mate and we are going to do exactly as the Goddess said! We are mating!"

Before I threatened her life.. because I will definitely kill her, if she ever showed up on my territory.. I hear Anderson in the background "*What are you doing, Lia? Who the fuck are you talking to?"* And she lied.. literally.. lied "*It's Draco! He called and I answered your phone on accident.. he wants to talk to you"*

Now, I really am laughing. Anderson asked "*Draco? How can I help you?"* I responded, angrily "I didn't call you, Anderson! That bitch called me.. and I am only saying this once, if she shows up in my territory.. if she dares approach my gates, her life is forfeit! She will die here! Keep your trash home!"

I hung up, as I hear Aurora say "Good thinking, Bubba! Hold on.. I'm texting you the recording of the call." She took Adrian's phone and texted the recording.

Caleb said "I love you, peanut.. I gotta run damage control. Call you later!" Aurora said bye and looked at me.. her eyes sparkling with mirth "How do you accidentally answer a phone? Is that like accidentally fucking someone's mate?" We all cracked up! This girl!

After lunch, I asked Aurora if she wanted to run.. and she blushed and said "I have been wondering if I could maybe.. meet Donnaugh? I have been imagining riding him!" And she blushed deeper "I mean.. on his back.. when he flies..not ride, ride him"

I chuckled.. she is just too frickin cute! I whispered "Are you having naughty thoughts, sweet cheeks? Because.. I gotta tell ya.. I've been imagining you ride riding me! And I'm not shy about it!"

She slammed her head down on the table and bounced it a couple times.. saying “Damnit! Now I got a dirty movie playing in my head!” Making me laugh out loud.

I said “Dress warm! It’s colder in the sky!” She slipped on her snow boots and her parka. I grabbed her hand and led her to the only open field we had, large enough to hold our shifted dragons.

I stripped and called Donnaugh forth.. he burst forth in a shimmer of incandescent scales that glimmered in the waning sunlight. He shook his enormous body, as he stretched to his entire length.

Aurora walked straight up to him, no hesitation or fear in her posture..and scratched his forehead, between his eyes. She whispered “You’re magnificent! As handsome as Asmodeus! Such a stately King!” And she curtsied. Damn! This girl is doing something to me!

Donnaugh purred into her hands and nudged her tummy. She giggled and rubbed his head again. I linked her to climb on, while he dropped his wing for her to use as a step. She climbed up, and settled, between his shoulder blades, just behind his massive neck. I told her to hold onto his horns, and as she did.. he leaped into the air and soared towards the sky.

Aurora squealed, then she giggled.. holding tight. We circled pack territory for an hour.. then he took off for the mountains that overlooked the pack house. She giggled again, then laughed out loud.

Donnaugh took her to the peak and landed. She climbed down and flung her tiny arms around his huge neck.. she whispered “Best adventure of my life, Donnaugh! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” She pulled back and kissed him all over his massive face and he pulled her into his neck with his head, holding her to him. Yep! The dragon is in love!

She climbed back on and we descended back to the clearing. Once I was dressed, she flung herself into my arms, little tears in her eyes, she whispered “This will always be one of my favorite memories! My imagination could never imagine something so fantastically magnificent! Thank you, Draco!” I held her tightly and said “It was our greatest honor! Donnaugh has never let anyone ride his back before.. yet he’s already asking when we can do it again

Chapter 13 ~ Finally! I Can Move Forward

Aurora's POV ~

I have nearly completed my documentation to file the lawsuits against Michaelson.. it's taken two months of hard work and long hours. I want to take this asshole down!

Draco has been an absolute wonder! Helping organize depositions.. arranging testimony.. I keep telling him it's my job.. and he keeps telling me the sooner we file.. the sooner we can save the dragons.

I have been on pins and needles this last week. It's been nearly six months since Draco rejected Amelia. She's been calling him at ungodly hours.. nearly every day. Anderson finally locked her up three days ago. Bitch gone crazy!

Isla is running nearly every day. She's antsy and anxious. I'm annoyed with her because I have to struggle to concentrate. I think she's secretly smoking crack! I don't sleep.. she paces in my head all night. She carries on conversations with Asmodeus at all hours.

I keep reminding her Draco may not be our second chance.. trying to prepare her, if he isn't. She doesn't care. I get it! I do! I know I have fallen in love with him.. but I would never stand in the way of his second chance! I will even help him find her, if it isn't us. But, Isla is having none of it.

I walk into my office and call Connie in. She's smiling and asks what I need. I tell her "I need you to type up our proposal for filing charges against Michaelson, to be ready to email to the council in the morning." Her grin widens "My day just got a whole lot better!" And went off to handle that.

Culver knocks on my door and I smile "What can I do for you, Culver?" He grins " I was wondering if you wanted to spar with me? I've noticed your need to burn energy and thought it might help." I squeal and jump up "Let me change real quick and I'll meet you in the gym!"

Racing up the stairs, I round a corner and bump straight into a wall! Landed on my ass! "Fuck! That hurt!" I stand up.. rubbing my butt and turn to walk more sedately to my room.. when I hear a deep rumbling chuckle. I whip around and Draco is standing there. And my intelligent ass says "I thought you were a wall."

He busted out laughing “Nope! Last I checked! All man!” I nodded and mumbled out an I’m sorry.. then thought and what a man! He’s still laughing and said “Think out loud much?” Oh kill me now! Damn it! I ran for my room.

I met Culver in the gym, and we sparred for over an hour. I was sitting on the bench.. leaned back and sipping water. Draco came in with Adrian and started sparring. The man was sheer poetry in motion! What is wrong with me!!?
UGH!

He must have felt eyes on him, because he glanced in my direction.. which was enough for Adrian to clock him a good one. He asked “Distracted, Alpha?” And he laughed and without taking his eyes off me, he punched Adrian in the nose. “Owww! Fuck!” Draco laughed again “Not that distracted, Beta!” I laughed at them both. “You guys are too much! See ya later! Time for my shower!” I walk out.. hearing “Agghh! Thanks for the visual! Fuck!”

I had just slipped on jeans and a tee shirt that said ‘Only trust people who like big butts, they cannot lie!’ And went down to dinner. Everyone started laughing and Naomi said “Goddess damn it! Now it’s stuck in my head” making all of us laugh again.

I sat down beside her and asked “Girl’s night? I need some me and you time.” She nods and says “Netflix and Chill?” I shook my head “Eww! No! You’re not my type for chillin’ bitch!” She laughed and said “Fine! Netflix and Wine?” Nodding, I said “Bet!”

She came in my room with two big bottles of wine.. and climbed into my bed “Okay.. spill! What’s going on?” I poured us each a good sized glass and sat down beside her “I’m in love with Draco.” She snorts “Duh! Everyone knows that! We also know he’s in love with you! What’s the prob, Bob?”

I moaned “What if he isn’t my second chance mate? I’d have to leave. I won’t take that away from whoever the lucky girl is. It was done to me and I was devastated! I won’t do that to someone else!”

She hugged me close “Oh honey! You are too good for this planet! Let’s get drunk and forget for awhile!” Sounds like a plan to me!

Two hours later found us creeping downstairs to get more wine. I said “Shhh! We’re gonna get caught! It’s your fault we ran out!” She giggled “No.. that would be you! I only drank three glasses.” I shook my head and said “Yeah..

me too!" She disagreed and said I had six! Six? Pssh! Why wouldn't I remember that!?

A deep voice behind us said "Are you ladies sneaking into the wine fridge?" I snapped "Shhhish! Draco will hear you!" And Naomi busted out laughing! Great! We are for sure getting caught now!

She pointed over my shoulders and said "He already did!" I turn around and sure enough! There that big guy stood! I said "Naomi drank all the wine." She said "Damn! Did y'all see that bus?!" And we both cracked up laughing.

This morning, at breakfast.. I am miserable. I have taken headache medicine.. drank three glasses of water.. wearing sunglasses and my eyelashes still hurt! Naomi sits down and said "Damn, bestie! You look like shit!" I said "Shhhh!" Which made her laugh again. Seriously! Why she gotta be so loud!?

Culver asked "Rough night?" I tried to nod.. but stopped.. in fear of my head rolling off my shoulders and ending up in someone's plate. Draco tells him "Aurora had one glass of wine too many, it seems." Naomi laughed and told everyone "more like three too many, but who's counting?" I snarked "Apparently... You!" Causing them all to laugh again.

By noon, I was feeling better and had sent the email to council. They wanted to see me, before they proceeded. I went to find Draco to let him know I was headed to council. He asked who I was taking with me, and I agreed to take Culver with us.. and my team.. along with Culver, left within the hour.

Once in chambers, I handed them copies of the testimonials from the victims.. whom they kept referring to as witnesses. Set them straight on that, right away.

Councilman Thompson was a stickler.. and so old school he had to walk uphill both ways to attend.. had a grudge against me. Women weren't supposed to be in a courtroom and I should leave all this for the men to handle. He's going to be an issue.

He asked "This matter is more of an internal one. The Dragon King should be handling this in-house." I looked at him a hard minute "King Arconium was not king at the time of these crimes. The former King was aware.. but chose to sweep the issues under the rug. We have chosen to expose this form of torture as discipline.. for the world to see! It is no longer allowed, as the new king has completely outlawed this practice. This case was first brought to the

council's attention nearly a year ago! But since the court summons was considered undeliverable, the complaint was ignored. Much like the former king had done. As a newly formed council.. the situation should have been pursued, not forgotten! As soon as a courtdate has been established, a blanket notice will go out to all existing weyr so that Michaelson has the opportunity to respond."

I stood to leave and was told to be back in the morning.. and a decision will have been made. Finally! I can move forward!

Chapter 14 ~ Culver Already Did

Draco's POV ~

Adrian and I have been scouting the mountains to the east of our pack.. a tip came in about Johnston.. supposedly living in a cabin outside a little hamlet buried between two peaks. Once we had found the cabin, it was empty.. only by a couple days. Meaning whoever was staying here, knew we were coming.

We believe we may have a traitor in our midst. I am irate.. and will find out who it is. We have been out in the wilderness for three days, completely incommunicado, and the frustration I am experiencing right now is through the roof. I shifted into Donnaugh.. carrying Adrian on my back. Just not in the mood to run home on all fours.

We reached home in the early morning hours.. and I was so exhausted, I barely made it through a shower, before I passed out. I slept until well past ten, and felt hungover. I had just slipped into jeans and a sweatshirt when Adrian linked me to come downstairs.

I could hear yelling and then a slap.. I rushed forward to find Chancey Griffin and John Kane standing in my foyer. But, I also found a scent.. of gardenia and spring honey.. She turned to face me, her eyes full of tears.. and a red handprint on her cheek.

Donnaugh and Asmodeus pushed forward and I roared.. rushing to Aurora and pulling her into my arms.. **"Who dare lay hands on my mate?"** John Kane growled "Your mate?! I don't think so! She is returning to Sacred Moon and taking her place as Luna!" I punched him square in the jaw.

I snarled "Listen to me! Listen carefully and hear me well! Aurora and I are second chance mates. A moment ruined by you assholes! You have your

Luna.. if you are dissatisfied now.. THAT is on you! Leave my pack! Do not return! The only member of Sacred Moon welcome here, is my mate's only family member! Only her brother will have contact with her. If I ever see either of you.. or your daughter.. your ONLY child.. again.. I will not hesitate to kill you all! Which one of you lay hands on her?"

I touched her cheek.. neither man answered.. I asked gently "Who, baby?" She whispered "John" I snarled "Which hand did you hit her with?" He chose not to respond.. so I grabbed him and snapped first his right wrist.. then his left. I looked at Adrian and said "Throw out the trash!" And lifted Aurora in my arms, bringing her to my office.

I sat down, with her in my lap.. I quietly asked "What happened?" She smirks "I honestly have no idea! I had just walked out from my office and John grabbed me.. pulling me toward the door. He said I was coming home, and I informed him I was home. He slapped me.. then my superhero rescued me."

She smiled up at me so beautifully and whispered "We're mates! My prayers were answered.. my wish came true! I love you so much! I was terrified I would have to leave you!" I leaned down and touched my lips to hers.. and knew in that moment, everything in my life, had led me to her.. right here.. and I thanked the Goddess a million times.

We ended the kiss and I said "I am so in love with you, I was prepared to ask you to choose me.. to love me.. I didn't care about a second chance.. I didn't want one, if it wasn't you. I, Alpha Draco Arconium, King of Dragons, accept you, Aurora Rose Heartsong, as my mate, my Luna, and my Queen!"

She smiled back at me and repeated her acceptance.. when our bond snapped into place, it stole my breath, at the strength of it. She felt it, too.. because her tiny body shook with the force of it. I said "We're mates! Goddess, baby! You have made me the happiest man on earth!"

Adrian knocked and walked right in.. we both looked at him, with what I am certain was the silliest grins ever. He laughed "Well! Hello Luna!" She blushed adorably. Culver crashed through the door and yelled "Gamma has his Luna!" Grabbed her off my lap and danced around the room, with her giggling and I fell in love again!

He handed her back and sat down.. I looked at Adrian and asked "How did those assholes get in?" He was already shaking his head.. "Dude! I have no idea! I was alerted to an Alpha at the border, requesting an audience.. so I

went down to head out there. But, an omega had already let them in the house. I was already grabbing for that dick when he raised his hand, but I wasn't fast enough."

I looked at Culver to speak and he said "Both border guards are on their way in to see you. I immediately sent out replacements, so they could get in here! The omega is in the hall.. awaiting interview." I nodded and said let her in.

Adrian offered her a seat and I said "Alice? Is it?" At her nod, I continued "Why were those men allowed entry?" She gasped "I would never, Alpha. We heard the door knocker.. and cook told me to get the door, because she's expecting a delivery.. just figured it was a new driver and he wasn't told to go around back. As soon as I opened it.. they pushed past me.. and started yelling for Miss Aurora. I didn't even have time to get out of the way."

I dismissed her. Poor girl was scared to death. I asked Aurora to call her brother.. and she did. As soon as he answered, I asked "Caleb, what the fuck is going on over there?" He asked me what I meant.. so I told him what had happened. He growled "Are you shitting me? I was told they had both gone to arrange an alliance over at Black Hills!"

Aurora said "Did Anderson know what those assholes were up to? Isn't he still mated to Amelia? I don't understand!" Caleb responded "He and Amelia are on a second honeymoon to straighten out their bullshit! They left this morning. He never said a word to me about his dad. I could ask Bridget.. but I doubt she knows anything.. and Allison wouldn't tell me shit, anyway!"

I told him "I broke both of John's wrists and threw them out. Sacred Moon is no longer a concern of ours.. you are the only one welcome here. And.. that will be in two weeks. For your sister's Luna ceremony and coronation."

The silence on the other end of the line was deafening.. then he said "Wait.. Is she.. are you.. you're mates? Second chance mates?" We told him yes.. and he started laughing.. He said "Karma! I am in Love with that bitch! Oh My Goddess! This is pure gold!"

We hung up and Aurora left to find Naomi and Connie to get started on a plan for her ceremony. I am so excited and happy, I want to dance a jig! Culver already did!

Chapter 15 ~ I Was Now a Queen

Aurora's POV ~

Everything was in place for the ceremony to make me Luna.. and to say I was excited, would be an understatement. My dress was a simple ivory satin.. with a fitted bodice with a sweetheart neckline, and cap sleeves. It had a slit from the floor up to the top of my thigh. Connie did my hair.. pulling it into a viking styled do.. She had six thick french braids at the sides and top.. twisted into a single braid that resembled a dragon's tail.

I wore no jewelry.. and my feet were bare. Caleb had arrived the night before and was waiting to walk me down the aisle. I smiled and said "Did they give you a difficult time when you asked to come?" He laughed "Oh sure! But I didn't ask them.. I told them I was coming. Amelia did the whole meltdown thing.. accusing me of betraying the family.. and the pack. I laughed as I walked out the door."

I sighed and said "You know, I don't hate them anymore. Actually, I pity them! They will never know the joy of grandchildren from us. I can only pray this has taught Amelia some kind of family values. I doubt it.. but I always pray for them."

Caleb groans "Enough! Just enough, peanut! Don't spare another thought for people who mistreated you so badly! This is your day.. and I want to see nothing but smiles on that beautiful face. Besides, there's a surprise waiting for you downstairs.. so let's head that way!"

We walked out and I took his elbow, as he led the way. At the foot of the stairs, I saw Luna Bridget! She was smiling, with tears in her eyes. I hurried to her and she folded me into her arms, whispering "You look beautiful! I have missed you so much! In my heart, you will always be my daughter. I couldn't miss your big day." I smiled and said "I am so happy you're here! I miss you every day!"

I turned to take Caleb's arm, only to find him staring at the double doors. Naomi stood frozen.. staring back. I hear them both whisper 'mate' and I squeaked in happiness! Oh my Goddess! My two favorite people in the world, besides Draco. He hurried to her and yanked her into his arms, he told her "I have waited for you.. so long!"

I hugged them both.. telling them how happy I am. Then, I asked “Shall we hold your ceremony today? You both are already beautiful! The matriarch of Sacred Moon is in attendance as witness.. And I certainly don’t mind! I would be thrilled!”

Caleb dropped to one knee and said “Naomi” and I linked her last name to him.. he cleared his throat “Naomi Watson, head warrior of Draconium, will you do me the honor of being my mate, for now and always?” She smiled and replied “I absolutely will accept you, Caleb Heartsong.. it is my deepest honor!”

I had linked Draco to tell him the news and he was excited. As soon as the doors opened, and I saw my magnificent man on the stage in the ballroom, every coherent thought I’d had fled my brain.

Caleb walked me down the aisle, Naomi had walked in front of me, as my bridesmaid.. and she was practically bouncing on her feet now. Waiting for Caleb to get there.

Our pack elder performed our mating ceremony, and I spoke my vows.. we clasped bloodied palms together and marked each other. I felt the connection to our people, deep in my soul. The bond before now, was a simple connection.. unlike now. Now, an invisible tether attached each pack member to my heart.

Draco performed Caleb’s and Naomi’s mating ceremony.. then looked out over our pack. “The coronation will happen in two hours. For now, we feast!” And everyone adjourned to the dining hall.

Caleb and Naomi were noticeably absent and Draco chuckled “That’s going to be us, in a few hours. I plan on sequestering you for a few days. I have waited a lifetime for you.. for this.. for US.. I will not rush a single second.”

I raced upstairs to change into my coronation gown. It was deep purple, with gold embroidery. The colors of the kingdom.. this ceremony has me even more nervous, as it is televised for the world to see. The Kings and Queens of other species are going to be in attendance.

This dress had a square neckline with long bell sleeves.. a full flared skirt the required a hoop slip, and a shoulder train that trailed behind me for close to six feet. Apparently, becoming queen is all about the pomp and circumstance!

This time, when Caleb appeared to escort me, he was dressed in black tuxedo.. purple bowtie and a royal sash from his left shoulder to right hip. I grinned “My! Don’t you look dashing, Bubba!” He laughed “Yeah.. calling me Bubba makes me feel dashing!”

The ballroom had been transformed.. the royal colors abounded.. an aisle runner in deep purple paved our path.. the flowers had been altered to include violet orchids amid the gardenias. The windows draped in gold and purple.

Draco stood, atop the dais, in front of two thrones.. carved and cast from solid marble and gold, with deep purple tufted seat and back. He wore the traditional uniform of the King. A deep purple tuxedo jacket that matched my dress.. epaulettes in gold.. black slacks, and a gold sash emblazoned with the symbol of the dragon king. Atop his head, set a massive crown.. gold, encrusted with amethysts and diamonds. A more handsome man has never existed.

When I stood before him, he spoke.. in a deeper voice than I had heard from him before, and knew it was my Donnaugh, the King of Dragons.

“Will you, Aurora Rose Heartsong-Arconium, solemnly promise and swear to govern and nurture the peoples of the Draconium Empire, according to the respective laws and customs of our realm. To uphold, protect, and defend all dragons within our realm?”

I knelt in front of him.. and in a clear, concise voice, I responded “I do solemnly swear to, the utmost of my power, love protect and defend my peoples from all harm, both foreign and domestic. I will maintain and preserve inviolably, the doctrines and edicts of worship, discipline and government thereof, as instructed by our most sovereign Goddess, Selene, Mother of the Moon.”

He placed a heavy crown on my head, and lifted me from my knees.. turning to the crowd **“For the first time ever, I give you.. Queen Aurora Arconium, our blessed and true Queen of Dragons!”**

He pulled me in close and whispered “I am so sorry, my dearest love.. this one is going to hurt..” as he sunk Donnaugh’s saber teeth into the opposite side of my neck.. Asmodeus on my left. And Damn me! He was right. The pain went deep.. it felt as if my blood was on fire.. and I could feel my skin burning.. radiating outward, across my chest and down my upper arm, to the back on my shoulder.

He pulled back.. smiling at me, and kissed me. He said "Donnaugh is most pleased. No other queen has ever had such an intricate mark. The burning I had felt was from his venom tattooing my skin, with the mark of the dragon!

I was now a Queen!