

Fated out Chapter 60

60 Evil is coming...

Miriam (Nanny)

Hours later, as the excitement died down, I met Mother Liora.

I wanted to ask her about the real reason I was here but as soon as I opened my mouth, she raised her hand to stop me. wWw.ñó©eIWôrm.(c)om

"Tomorrow, Miriam," She said softly "I have a feeling you haven't come with good news. Whatever it is, it can wait until morning. I'll be

more receptive then. Rest tonight, dear."

I nodded, though anxiety gnawed at me. I had wanted to tell Liora everything but it would have

to wait.

Later that night, I made my way to my old room, the one I had gotten after I became a "Moon Devotee! The room was still unoccupied after all these years and I wondered why. Sinking into the bed, I stared up at the ceiling a soft smile playing on my lips.

When I was younger, I would lay awake on this bed every night trying to imagine myself as Mother Liora, carrying out duties and being responsible for the whole Temple and all the affairs of the Goddess... back then, I would feel thrilled and anxious at the same time. I had wanted to

explore the world... to see life outside the temple.

We never had opportunities like that except it was for a function, even so, only a few of us were selected to attend. To think that I've been so immersed in life outside the Temple all these years and all I wanted to do now was to come back here and never leave.

The door creaked open softly and a figure stepped inside. I sat up, recognizing her instantly.

"Terra," I whispered. "You're late!"

Back then, Terra would sneak into my room every night after the evening prayers and sneak out before dawn. She never liked the girl that she had to share a bunk with after I left.

"I used to cover the distance from the dormitories to this place in 10 minutes back then, now I do it in 30," she whizzed dropping on the bed. "I'm old, my friend. In case you haven't noticed."

"A few grey hairs don't qualify as old, Terra," I laughed lying down beside her. "Those human ment would go crazy if they ever saw you and your curves."

"Human men?" she propped herself up with her elbows, her eyes widening with curiosity. "How do you know that?"

"That's where I live," I chuckled copying her position. "I came from here to this place but that's a story for another day. Tell me, what's been going on since I left."

"A lot of things changed since you left, Miriam, Terra began, dropping back to the bed as she turned her gaze to the ceiling. "High Priestess Liora, she was broken after you left. I remembered how frantic she had been searching for you and at the same time trying to keep it hidden from the other Priestesses in the council and then finally admitting that you left the Temple on your own accord... She never recovered and... we all never did. She more than anyone blamed herself. vou know."

60 Evil is coming...

My heart clenched with guilt. "I never meant to hurt any of you. I just... I couldn't stay. All those months I spent afterwards, I had a lot of anger and resentment, I questioned too many things and, in the end, I couldn't find the courage to stay"

"Do you know what the worst part is," Terra continued. "The Moon Goddess is yet to choose a successor for her. So, she has been carrying all the burden of her duties alone and it has aged her.

1 blinked in surprise. "The Moon Goddess has been silent?"

"Yes!" Terra nodded gravely. "Countless offerings have been made but she is yet to name a successor for her. These days, the Council is growing worried. They've been discussing appointing an apprentice."

"I'm sure there are worthy candidates, I shrugged. "I don't think you need a lot to become a High Priestess." ©(w)w.n0veIwoRm.c0m

"Don't be ignorant, Miriam," Terra glared at me. "Only those who bear the mark of the Silver Wolf can become High Priestess and now the Council are worried that Mother Liora might drop dead any day now with no one to fill in her position. I heard they asked her to take in Jemimah but she refused. She said she would only teach the person appointed by the Goddess herself. She still believes... that you're the one.

Jemimah had been my rival when I was at the temple. She had always been jealous of my progress and the attention and favour I always got. When I had been appointed "Moon Devotee' she had been green with envy and was almost going to challenge the Priestess Council until they revealed the criteria for choosing a High Priestess.

I had the mark, she didn't.

"Mother Liora should stop being sentimental and teach Jemimah already. She can learn anything fast and it'll be risky for our world if she ever dies without having a successor. I can't be her successor. I am no longer pure," I sighed.

"Yeah!" Terra nodded and turned to me, her eyes searching mine earnestly. "Did you ever find your child? And the Alpha..." wWw.ñó©eIWôrm.(c)om

My hands shot out, covering her mouth before she could finish the sentence. "Don't, I whispered before letting go. "I endured the intense scrutiny of the Priestess Council to keep the identity of the Alpha hidden. If they knew it was an Alpha, they'd take him to the White Mountain Council and he would lose everything.

Terra's eyes flashed with annoyance. "I can't believe you're still protecting him after all these years. Did he even reach out to you once? Did he try to find you or your child?"

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I sighed, cupping Terra's face in my palms. "Women in the human world are so independent. Most of them choose to raise their children without help from any man, Terra. There, women have a lot of power. They're not hemmed inside a Temple, bound by traditions made by dead people.

"That means... her tone dropped a notch lower "You found your child?"

60 Evil is coming..

lie, she would see through it.

"It doesn't matter," I said softly, trying to change the subject. "I came here for answers, and not to dig up the past."

"Then leaving the Temple would be in vain if you didn't find it, she said.

"Let's just say that I did. I know where the child lives but I have never approached and no more questions about it. I'm beginning to be pissed off."

Terra shrugged, shifting inside the bed and reaching for a pillow which she placed under her head. "The Council will appoint Jemimah anyways

With or without Liora's consent but she's still staying she would never teach her anything. We hope she changes her mind soon."

I nodded, muttering "Me too!"

We laid down quietly. I couldn't sleep, I kept thinking of Lyla and Xander. I couldn't help but wonder if she was fine and if I should just take the risk and bring everything to Lime Light,t, especially about that Alpha and about my real identity.

I could confess and get closure.

"You didn't come back to stay right?" Terra's voice cut through my thoughts.

"What?" I turned to her. "What did you say?"

"I was asking, she turned her face to me again, a sad smile on her face. "You showing up here doesn't mean you're ready to come back to the Temple, right? I know it's foolish to be hopeful but I wish it was true. I've not had one good friend since you left and behind these walls, you know friendship is all we have."

"I'm sorry!" I shook my head solemnly "I wish I could say back but I cannot, not after everything. Besides, a lot of people rely on me for so many things now but I will visit again, I promise."

She looked away, staring at the ceiling again. "If there's a chance the slightest opportunity for you to come back here, to come back to the way things were twenty years ago. Say, the Goddess chooses you again, would you?" Terra asked me suddenly, throwing me off balance with the question.

"You know the Goddess choosing me again is a farce, Terra!" I sighed. "I have lain with a man and I practically have a child, that will be going against a lot of traditions!

"Just answer the question, Miriam!" Terra rolled her eyes. "If it's true and the Goddess still wants you, would you come?"

I remained silent for a minute thinking about her question.

"I don't know!" I responded with a sigh after a few minutes. "Life outside the Temple is not as beautiful as I used to think it would be. There's freedom and technology and the men and the pleasure!" I chuckled at my immoral thoughts "But then, I missed the peace that exists behind these walls. The unpredictability, the routine of everything that followed. Honestly, I don't

know!"

"What if!" she continued after another lapse of silence "The Goddess decides to call your

60 Evil is coming.

I stiffened, turning to face, her, my heart pounding with apprehension.

"Why would you even say that, Terra? You know that's impossible. I told you that Alpha already had a mate. You think the Goddess would use a child that brought suffering to another of its

creatures?"

She sighed and turned to me, claming her eyes as she wrapped her hands over my form, and murmured.

"Evil is coming. Miriam...I've had revelations of our world crumbling, of everyone dying... the Priestesses, Mother Liora, the Novices, all the packs crumbling, the White Moon Throne withering... Something is coming... And it's EVIL!"

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