

Chapter 27 Invitation

Benjamin's P.O.V.

I am surprised that Daniel invited me to dinner, to say the least. He didn't tell me what was going on, just that he had something he wanted me to see. At the age of one-hundred and sixteen years old Reginald and I have seen enough in life to know that this is important.

Daniel's Mate was my Daughter, Sarah. She was born with a heart defect and Rain, my Mate, and I feared that we would never see her grow up. She was twenty-three when she met Daniel and had to shatter his dream of growing old with his Mate.

Like Rain and myself, he cherished every day he had with her and I remember the fear in his eyes when they found out that Sarah was pregnant. Rain and I moved into the Palace to ease his mind, keeping an eye on her whenever he couldn't be with her.

I remember the worry in his voice when he linked me that Sarah had gone into labor, Rain and I were right there with him and the relief the three of us felt when Jayce was born.

We went through that rollercoaster three more times after that, after Justin it was Sarah that said it was enough and they concentrated on raising their four Pups. Sarah loved her Pups, held them whenever she could and cuddled and kissed them until the day the boys told her to stop doing it in public.

Rain and I loved watching our Pup with her Pups, she always told them how much she loved them and she always made sure they didn't part angry at one another.

After Justin turned eighteen, she started hoping that she might live long enough to meet their Mates. Unfortunately both Sarah and Rain didn't live long enough and till this day the boys are without their Mates.

It was the Harvest Moon after Justin turned thirty when we lost our Princess, our Queen. Reginald had been feeling off for a few days already and he insisted with me that we should stay at the Palace.

Reginald never steered me wrong on anything in my entire life, so we stayed at the Palace and enjoyed a day with the family. Sarah was surrounded by her Sons when the Moon reached its peak, she slowly collapsed against Jayce and her last words were "I love you, my Pups."

Reginald howls in my head at the memories of that day, Sarah was born on a Harvest Moon and she was taken from us on a Harvest Moon. I should hate the Harvest Moon, but I don't as it gave me Daniel and my Grandpups.

Rain wanted another Pup after Sarah passed away, but it was not meant to be and over the course of three years she had seven miscarriages. It didn't seem to bother her too much after the first six and even though I would have loved to raise a Son, we knew it was what the Goddess had intended for us.

Rather unexpectedly Rain became pregnant again, this time it was a girl and Rain was extra careful as she hoped this time she could carry our Pup to term. On the Harvest Moon Reginald was erratic after we had finished our training that morning.

Rain had organized the ball from her bed as she was half way through her pregnancy and her hopes were high on carrying full-term. Daniel had linked me in a total panic while I was on my way back from the training grounds.

I had rushed back, unable to make sense of anything he had said. Jayce and Jax had tried to stop me, but no one would have been able to and the scene in front of me had made me crumble.

Rain lying on the bed with her wrists slit, a silver knife still in her hand and I knew no one could have done anything. What broke me completely was seeing Daniel in the doorway of the bathroom with a little bundle in his arms, tears streaming down his face.

Reginald and I had felt a searing pain during training, but we had chalked it up to the punches we received. Looking back we both knew what that pain had been and we had howled in pain when Daniel held my stillborn Pup in front of us.

We buried Rain next to Sarah, Daniel had taken care of everything for me as I had done for him when Sarah had died. I was standing at the graveside with a blank expression on my face, feeling numb on the inside and I thought I had no more tears to shed.

Justin proved me wrong when he carried the little casket, with my little girl in it, to an altar and placed it next to Rain's casket. My knees had buckled and if Jax and Jayce hadn't been standing next to me, I would have crashed to the ground.

Everything after that was still a blur, I had just stared at both caskets. Unable to pull myself out of the darkness with everything I ever loved gone, no longer a part of my life.

Daniel and the boys were the ones to pull me out of the darkness, forcing me to get out of bed every single day. They forced me to have breakfast, lunch and dinner in the main dining-hall, Daniel would have me go over reports in the morning and one of the boys would keep me occupied in the afternoon.

It took them a few months, but eventually I started to function again and I even started enjoying life again. It wasn't what I had had, but it was enough for me to realize that I still had my Son and Grandsons to live for.

When Daniel told me he was ready for a second chance Mate, I was happy for him and told him that I hoped he would find her soon. I want to see them happy, all of them and recently I started thinking if I should look for a second chance Mate too.

I know that Rain wants me to be happy, but it took me and Reginald a long time to come to terms with it ourselves. Just as it had taken Daniel a long time to figure out that Sarah didn't want him to be alone the rest of his life.

We are both able to find our second chance Mate at any time and Daniel told me that was the reason he accepted so many of the Council's assignments. Those assignments sent him everywhere and with that he would increase his chances of finding her.

I can't wait for the day that Daniel calls me to tell me that he found her. Even though the boys are all grown up and don't need someone to raise them, they still need a Mother-figure to figuratively kick their asses from time to time.

I decide to head to the Palace a little early and pay the graves of my three females a visit. I always go to their graves after the Harvest Moon, still not being comfortable with visiting them on the day itself.

Instead of taking my car I walk to the Palace, it gives me time to think, it gives me time to enjoy the little things in life. The closer I get to the cemetery the stranger I feel and it is Reginald that points out that we haven't seen Vincent.

Vincent is the Palace Gardener and he always walks with me to the cemetery, picking the flowers I will leave on the gravestone. For some reason he is not here today and I wonder if maybe he found his Mate and is absent for that reason.

The gravestone was made of ruby red granite and was engraved with three open books, surrounded by floral engravings. At the head of the grave stood a blue pearl granite headstone with a Wolf howling at the moon engraved on it.

Justin had taken this task on his shoulders, just like he had chosen the little casket and the first time I saw it I had broken down again. Sarah's name, birthday and the date when she died were engraved into the first book. The second book had Rain's details engraved in it.

However it was the third book that made my heart stop beating for a second. The engraving reads: Jessy; never known, for always in our hearts. Reginald and I had howled and cried, but we were both grateful that Justin had remembered his Grandmother's words.

As the gravestone comes in sight I stop dead in my tracks, because the gravestone is cleared of all the dead flowers and there are fresh flowers in their place. Vincent never cleans the grave because he knows that I want to do that myself and I wonder who could have done this.

I don't smell any scent surrounding the gravestone and that means that whoever did this hadn't been here today. I smile as I see that the fresh flowers are similar to the engraved flowers and I realize that whoever is responsible paid attention to the engravings.

Like me, Reginald is not upset with the fact that someone took care of the graves. Like me, he wonders who could have done it. "Maybe Daniel has an idea on who took care of the graves." Reginald states and I promise him that I will ask Daniel during dinner.