



## Chapter 53

### God bless you guys and have a wonderful day ahead

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#### Princess Aeval Florentine's POV

"I can't believe I never thought about all this." I buried my head in my hands. How is this going to work? If anyone asked me these questions six months ago, I might have had an answer but now it was ridiculous. I've already fallen in love with him. I just haven't told him yet, but my heart was already his.

"Li don't know..."

"Well, I strongly believe that your parents are going to make you queen, Aeval. Who better to look after and protect Golden Haven than you?" Beth spoke as she paced around my room.

"I'll have to agree with Beth there," India laid down on the bed next to where I sat. "And Prince Phoenix was born to rule Red Kingdom. He's the strongest hybrid on earth for God's sake. Who better to rule than him?"

"I don't mean to sound rude but I'm glad I'm not in your position. Oooh! India threw a pillow at Beth's head.

"I understand that. This is messing up my head you guys. I don't feel so good."

"Whoa, breathe Aeval. Don't throw up," Beth rushed to me and rubbed my back.

"What made you guys think about this?" I asked them curiously. Thinking about it, the timing was quite perfect.

"Hey I've been having these questions for some time now," India casually said while eyeing Beth.

"Well, in case you didn't know, the Dark Prince and you have lately been the center of attention to both our family, and his On one occasion, maybe two weeks ago, I can't really remember. The alpha king shared his doubts with Prince Phoenix and Alex." I gaped at Beth.

"The alpha king already asked all this to Phoenix? Alex knew about all this?" I snapped. Why didn't he tell me? Why didn't my twin brother tell me anything while he had the nerve to call me out when I kept things to myself.

"Please don't burden the love of my life," Bethany squeaked out.

"You were mound to be questioned sooner or later. They simply had a conversation about the possibilities." Beth spoke calmly.

She was right. They didn't do anything wrong. I should be the one preparing on how to make wise decisions. This was bigger than us. My relationship with Phoenix does not only concern the two of us. It concerns two powerful kingdoms.

"This is a lot to think about."

"How about you rest first Aeval? Sleep well and think about it tomorrow morning," came India's advice.

"I don't think that's going to work. I need to be alone." I said quietly.

"Are you sure?"

"She'll be alright. Come on Beth." I smiled at India thankfully and wished them both good night. Once they left, I plopped down on my bed again. Looking up at the ceiling, my mind clouded itself with so many unanswered questions.

"I have to talk to him." I muttered to myself.

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The moment I was done with breakfast, I lie on the bed to release my stress. I woke up much earlier that morning so I appreciated not seeing anyone else.

Stepping outside the castle walls, I spread my wings out and took a flight. It didn't take long for me to land outside the life giving sanctuary. Lord Durin and the other guardians greeted me before I walked in.

Almost immediately, my mind, body and soul was blanketed in the pure serenity that the Core of Life provided. I didn't stop to converse with any of the creatures there. Instead, I walked straight towards the heart of the core.

Sitting on the edge of the golden pool, I gingerly took off my slippers before sinking my feet into the water. I felt a surge of energy flow throughout my body as I lightly moved my feet back and forth.

Once again I had my face buried in my hands as my mind drifted to what my friends said to me last night.

It was more serious than I thought.

Last night, before sleep took over, I imagined how things would be if we joined the two powerful kingdoms.

It was just as the idea came, it was gone in a flash.

It was ridiculous. Just because I liked a prince from the royal pure blood family, there was no way that I would punish so many others. Golden Haven is Golden Haven and Red Kingdom is Red Kingdom. Vampires and Fae Creatures are not meant to coexist.

One fae and one vampire together is different.

Hundreds of thousands together? No.

We have separate duties, different lifestyles and different beliefs and purposes. Drastic change cannot be forced upon the beings of the two kingdoms.

All the kingdoms have their specific duties to the world. Joining any of the two kingdoms we have is simply out of the question.

Especially, Golden Haven and Red Kingdom. Us creatures couldn't be more contrast with one another.

Of all the beings, fae creatures are somewhat more tender. Vampires, not so much.

On top of everything, we've finally achieved lasting peace. We should not risk any more conflict.

What do I do?

Take my responsibilities more seriously and serve my people? I should stay, right?

If I choose to stay will he stay with me?

I can't do that to him. This is not his way of life.

Our natures are basically opposites.

Must I give up my feelings for him?

I don't think I'll be able to do that. Not now. I've fallen too deep to climb out now.

I love him.

What if I deny the crown if my parents decide to choose me as queen? Would that be selfish?

Oh god, yes it would!

A single tear fell into the pool creating a circular ripple in the water.

"I don't know what to do. I am so confused. If I give him up, I know my heart will never again taste the satisfaction that comes with true love. If I follow him, I will be abandoning my kingdom and my birth right." Heit torn again by the two choices. As more tears fell into the pool, I wiped them away not wanting to upset my surroundings as well.

They didn't need to feel my stress and I bet they have better things to do.

After spending about an hour in the pool, I took my slippers in my hand and got up. It was time I headed back and I did feel a lot better. More energized. It must be the golden water.

Turning around, I placed my foot on the ground. The moment that happened, a powerful, glowing energy spread out from where I stood. It was like an extension of me. The ground looked as if it had veins and they were glowing, stretching far and wide. They covered the whole area.

Observing closer, the golden glow of energy looked more like roots beneath the ground and they didn't stop spreading. How far is this energy going to spread?

I ran outside the core and almost collided with Lord Durin.

"Princess Aeval! Thank God you're alright. What happened? The energy of the core is blanketing the land of Golden Haven with all her plants and animals."

"I'm not sure what's happening yet Lord Durin. I just immersed my feet in the pool for some time," I replied and looked around. He was right. The energy source covered every square inch of the ground, as far as our vision could go. This included the trees.

The trees swayed like they were being caught up in a breeze. They liked the energy flow. All of them. Even some of the animals grunted in approval.

"But princess, this glow is coming from you. Not the life giving water," he looked at me, expecting a full explanation.

I must have absorbed a lot of energy.

Choosing not to give him a reply, I ran towards the glowing roots that were still spreading. I ran as fast as I could but it spread too quickly and soon it was a fair distance ahead of me.

This won't work.

Relaxing my wings I flew up high to get a wider view. When I couldn't find the endpoint of the glowing energy I flew up higher and higher until I could finally see it. To my astonishment, the gold covered the lands of Golden Haven and now it was spreading beyond the borders.

There was a soft glow that surrounded my wings as well. I couldn't understand any of it.

Landing on the ground, I ran towards the Core once again. I ran past a very worried Lord Durin but I didn't stop. Once I found myself in the serene sanctuary, I dipped my hands in the pool of gold and looked at the water. Tucking my legs under my thighs, I leaned forward.

"What are you trying to tell me? I know you gave me that energy for a reason. What are you trying to teach me?" I asked breathlessly.

"Whatever happened just now has to mean something to please." I closed my eyes and relaxed my mind, opening myself to anything that could help.

For a long time, there was nothing. Not a single sound.

"Please, I need to know..." I sighed looked at my lap.

"Princess?" I saw Ily turned around, slightly alarmed but slowly eased up when I saw Grendon.

"What are you doing here, Grendon?"

"I came here with Pendelope. She lost the white owl and thinks he might have wandered in here." He replied with a laugh.

"Hey princess, what happened? Why are you touching the core? Were you the cause of what happened ten minutes ago? Did I do that?" he shot question after question. Instead of shoing him anything, I explained exactly what had happened, not leaving any way out.

"So what do you think?"

"Have you tried asking? Someone here might be able to explain. Help might even come from an animal."

"I did ask but I received no answer."

"If you really think the core is trying to tell you something, you should stay here a little longer. Your answer will come in time," he said thoughtfully.

"How long?"

"In time. Your connection with the heart of Golden Haven is the strongest. You and the core have a special bond. It will reveal whatever you seek I know it," he said confidently.

"Well, you haven't exactly told me what you think."

"Hmmm, maybe it was to show you how powerful you are and how deep your connection with our kingdom truly is. My heart sank at that. More reason why I have to stay."

I sat by the pool and looked up at the great fall. I never failed to keep me spellbound. The way the dazzling gold seemed to fall from the sky, it was soothing in a unique way. I don't know how long I sat there admiring what existed before me but soon after, I found myself getting sleepy by the second. Laying down on my side, I dozed off in the next few minutes.

Aeval.....

Aeval.....

Aeval.....

"Hu?!" I woke up with a jolt.

"Wake up, princess, a soothing voice came. I groggily stood up and stared at a figure touching the golden water from the pool. I tilted my head and walked closer to the stranger. I thought I was the only one here who could touch the core."

"Who are..." before I could finish my sentence the mysterious stranger turned around. I instantly took a small step back in fright. He gave me a kind smile while I remained shell-shocked.

"Grandpa?"

"Oh, she remembers," he laughed. I couldn't help but gape at the man. Then I suddenly took a step forward.

"You passed on long before I was born..." He straightened up and tapped his arms and legs.

"Yeah, I'm still dead alright."

"How?... I'm dreaming aren't I?"

"Maybe. Maybe not."

"What do you mean maybe grandpa? I haven't died... Oh no! Did I die?!! This can't be! Not so soon! I haven't even..."

"Shushhh! You're upsetting everyone here. Don't you know your grandpa can't see those around you?" the man scolded me. "You're not dead. That is the truth."

"How did I recognize you so fast? And I feel so close to you." I hugged myself at the odd sensation.

"You have been told of me and you have pictures. I still exist in your memories. Keep those memories fresh or I will haunt you in your sleep!" I smiled and nodded at him. He was so relaxed and calm.

"I didn't mean to rude and I do love you but I have to ask. Why are we here? How is it that I can talk to you?"

"Well, you have to tell me that yourself sweet child. What have you done to get yourself into trouble?"

"I'm not exactly in any trouble," I fidgeted with my fingers.

"We are usually needed in difficult times."

"We?"

"We fae guardians who have passed on. In my time I was both king and guardian of the Core."

"I can talk to de...!! I mean Fae who have passed away?"

"Not exactly. Both must be extremely close to the Core of Life. I was and you are most certainly. So when we have a special bond with the core, we have a special connection with each other as well, sweet child. The unbreakable bond we have with the heart of Golden Haven is deep so if we use that bond for good, it's will always find a way to help us when we feel lost or if we face any trouble."

"I didn't know this." I whispered to myself. "So now it is helping me by leading me to you?" I said excitedly.

"Perhaps," he shrugged. "How are you lost?"

I poured out my heart to him. Every difficult choice I've faced with, how I feel about Phoenix, my fears and doubts about staying, my uncertainty in leaving and so much more.

"I love him too much to make him stay and I know my responsibilities here and I have to fulfill them too." I sat on the ground and sighed.

"Young love. Very hard to break it."

"I know."

"I understand the feeling. Your grandmother was my entire world. I think she still is," he chuckled.

"What did it mean grandpa? The energy flow that happened."

"It's easy actually. When you spoke of your troubles, the Core simply showed you your true nature and how powerful you really are as a fae. You are so deeply bonded with the Core that wherever you are in the world, the connection never fades. It will always find you and you will always find her. Which also means, that if anything happens here, you will be able to feel it."

"Wow. I can't believe that I can hold so much power."

"You better believe it. Trust yourself more. I recall one important memory, I was still but a young king and I was carrying out some business all the way in the Great Myrtle Mountains up in the Even King's castle. While carrying out my duties, I felt a sharp stab in my heart. It hurt so badly that I doubled over and cried out."

Seconds later, I was surrounded by the generals and the king, all panicking as they saw no wound.

When the king yelled at me demanding what had happened, I could only whisper, "The core. The Core of Life is in danger."

"And you know what? I was right!" he yelled suddenly a lot more excited. "Dark witches invaded my very sanctuary and tried stealing the life giving water. Thank heavens I felt that intense pain. We were able to warn the Fae and the witches were caught before they could do anything."

"That is incredible grandpa. You could feel if the Core was in any danger?"

"Yes. Something happens after that incident, I was able to feel threats before anything happened."

"Wow..." I looked up at him and saw that he was staring intently at the pool.

"What is wrong grandpa?"

"My time with you is running short sweet child. Remember, to completely solve this, you will have to talk to troublebloom, hard-headed prince of yours?" I chuckled at his choice of words.

"I will... I have to do it?"

"Yes. I hope you find your happiness. It may not be here but all that depends on you. I trust that my granddaughter has the wisdom to make good choices." I blushed at his words.

"Has the core ever been moved grandpa? Or has it always been with the Fae? What I mean to ask is, will it have the same energy outside of Golden Haven?"

"You witnessed what happened today did you not? The glow spreading outside the boarders?" I nodded or I think back. "To answer your question, the water can survive out of our kingdom but only in the care of a powerful Fae or in the midst of a group of fae creatures."

"I see. I've always wanted to know this. So we need each other?"

"Yes. This golden goodness will not survive in a place with no Fae or nature. It needs both to maintain its powers but we're here to talk about you," he stared at me.

"I know, I need to know everything about the Core of Life before making any decisions. I learned so much in this short amount of time. This only tells me how little I know of it."

"This place here," he gestured to our surrounding. "Is the best place for meditation. Meditate, ask and answers will come. Don't underestimate this place."

"I won't grandpa."

"You already know you carry a strong bond with the Core. No matter where you go, you're always connected to us. Remember that matters remind yourself of who you truly are."

"Grandpa?" His voice began to fade and so did he.

"I love you sweet child. Remember that too."

"Grandpa?" I woke up covered in sweat, panting heavily. He was gone. The dream was over.

"What did I say about sleeping on dirt?" I yelped in shock before turning towards a stern looking prince. My legs were a little shaky. Before I could fully stand, Phoenix swiftly moved forward and carried me in his arms.

"I'm alright."

"You don't look so good. Just let me take you to your chambers. It's already very late," he led me to my rooms.

"Wh... what time is it?"

"Around ten." He casually answered as he walked out of the place. The first thing I saw was the shimmering stars that scattered across the dark sky.

"It's night time?"

"Yes... being so scared suddenly, I knew he wasn't happy with me. Stop being so anxious Aeval! You're stronger now!"

"Should I get used to this?" I jumped a little at his harsh tone.

"To what?" I squeaked out. The second I heard my mousy voice I cleaned my throat.

"Finding you asleep out in cold, dark places. You do know that you're not immune to sickness right?" his bitter tone started to annoy me.

"Just take me back Phoenix and you know what? Maybe I am immune to sickness. I don't know everything about myself yet." I sassily spoke. I guess I angered him further because his hold on me tightened.

"Stop playing games. Realizing that you just disappeared wasn't funny to me. You could have at least told someone about your whereabouts. I asked everyone and not getting an answer did not have a good effect on me," he gritted out the words angrily.

"Oh, I looked downwards. I didn't mean to make him uneasy. Things just... happened. I didn't mean to make you worry."

"Just inform someone next time," he grumbled as he walked up the stairs.

He gently sat me on my bed and asked if I was hungry. Once I quickly nodded he told one of the servants to bring me dinner. He then stood before me and simply stared.

"What?" I played with the hem of my blouse.

"Well... Anything interesting happened to you? Besides the whole passing out part?"

"I didn't pass out Phoenix. I just visited the Core of Life. I can do that." I stared back at him, feeling a little braver than usual. He held my gaze for some time before letting out a sigh.

"I guess you can. Just finish your dinner and do whatever else you plan on doing." He spoke so ly and walked towards the door.

"Wait."

"What is it?"

"I went there to think... about us." He still entered for a second and then he slowly turned around to meet my gaze again.

"I was so focused on our relationship that I unknowingly ignored the fate of our kingdoms. Last night this huge question was suddenly thrown my way and I had no proper answer." I looked up at him and saw him look away. "That is why I want to visit the heart of my kingdom. I needed to be alone and I needed a better understanding of things."

"I get it," came his short reply. Before I could talk, there was a knock on the door. One of the maidservants came in and arranged my dinner on the table then she quickly left after giving us a bow.

"There's nothing else you would like to say? Surely all this would have crossed your mind?"

"Of course it has my Little Flower. The very moment I realized my love for you. That is why I have everything planned out and I know the choices I have to make when the time comes." I gaped at him not impressed in the slightest.

"You... have decided on things? So what? You didn't think that you had to share your decisions with me?" I asked quite shocked. He closed his eyes for a brief moment. When he opened them, he looked at me with a certain seriousness.

"I needed things to improve between us first. I thought our relationship needed to be stronger before I could tell you."

"It has improved Phoenix! It really has! And we are in too deep. We've fallen for each other. Can't you sense it? I know you do because I know you're not that dense. I already told you that I really like you and that was a week ago! We've changed so much over the months. Since we first met." I blurted out wondering why he didn't come forward with his decisions to me earlier. Whatever they may be.

"I know, I know. I should have told you certain things but I couldn't keep track of both."

"I just needed to know your thoughts on the matter regarding our kingdoms. It's huge and I didn't know what to do." I muttered and looked away from him. "Yes, we should have spoken about it a little sooner and I should have been more attentive but here you are already having thought things through. Then there's me without a clue as to what I'm going to do. Well, now I do but that's not the point. You've already planned it all and you didn't tell me." I looked at him.

"You are upset." He said it like he found a missing puzzle piece.

"Wow, how did you know?" I crossed my arms.

"You are very upset now."

"Yes! Maybe I should calm down but I can't! I held my head and massaged the sides of my temple."

"What can I do to make you feel better?"

"Leave me alone."

"But..."

"I want to be alone Phoenix." I spoke firmly.

"Fine. I will talk to you tomorrow morning?"

"Maybe."

"Only if I feel like talking to you." I turned away from him. I knew it was childish but I didn't care. Him not telling me about his plans made me really upset for some reason.

"I'm... I am..." He began to clear his throat. "I apologize," he released the words a much thought. "I should have been forward about this matter but maybe once you hear about my decision you will forgive me."

"Phoenix, it's not about what you have decided. You should have told me sooner so I would have been more prepared." I said finally having calmed myself. He gave a brief nod.

"You are still upset."

"Yes. Not as much as I was but yes I am still a little upset."

"Do I need to kneel and beg for mercy?"

"That would be entertaining." I muttered, rolling my eyes at his creative question. I then heard his footsteps coming closer, followed by silence.

Thinking he had left, I slowly turned around. To my disbelief, I saw the Dark Prince sitting down on his knees. Scrambling out of bed, I rushed towards him.

"I was kidding! Get up this instance!" I hit his arm.

"I thought you said this would entertain you."

"So you're here to entertain me now? Get up Phoenix, please." He got up at once and cupped my face.

"I apologize for not sharing my plans with you. Allow me to explain myself after breakfast tomorrow." He said seriously.

"Okay. Have a good night and don't do that again." I mumbled and walked towards my dinner while he walked out of my chambers.

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#### Third Person's POV

"My name is actually Twindrill."

"Do I look like I give a fuck? Get out of my face before I punch you to the ground and no I won't feel any guilt looking at your pathetic ash once I do it."

"So mean. Just so mean." The Dark Prince resisted the urge to end the pixie's life and walked away from the little fellow. He saw his Little Flower from a distance, busy attending to some plants.

He kept silent as he slowly walked closer to her, observing his precious princess. Her movements were graceful and she looked lovely with all the plants that she was surrounded by.

"Good morning Phoenix. Have you eaten?"

"Yes."

"Just one second aaaaaand I'm done," she adjusted a few leaves on a plant and took a step back.

"Shall we?" the prince offered his right arm for her to hold in which she gladly took. "I'll be relaxing walk around the gardens but keep your pines away from me," he said coldly. Princess Aeval lightly laughed but she knew he might actually hurt them.

"So Phoenix, are you ready to share your plans?"

"Yes. How about you? Last night you said you didn't know what to do but you also said 'now I do,' he looked expectantly at her.

"Hmm, you grasp little things," the young princess stated as she looked