

The Ivory Queen Chapter 71

Aurora's POV

Celina's question caught me off guard but I'm able to get out of the room before having my mental breakdown in the hallway.

I hadn't been completely honest about my relationship with Javier back in Idaho. I did, in fact, have a crush on him back in 6th grade after the spring dance but I failed to mention that he confessed his feelings for me too and that he was my first kiss. I kept those details out for obvious reasons. Our relationship didn't go further, however, and I'm glad it didn't.

After the rogues attacked, I become the leper of the pack and had no friends left to lean on except him. Javier told me he believed me and being the broken 13 year old girl that I was, I clung on to him desperately. I thought he was my friend. I confided in him all of my fears and secrets as well as what Salvador and Karina did to me. He'd always listen quietly, without judgement. He made me feel like I still mattered. But it was all a lie. Javier's true colors eventually came out.

On one particular night, he told me to meet him in the courtyard and I went without questioning him. He blindfolded me under the guise that he had a surprise for me. Unbeknownst to me, he led me straight to the supply closet in the laundry room where he locked me inside for almost two days. Salvador projected a rogue inside with me. Despite the pitch black, my night vision forced me to look at the ugly creature standing in the corner. It would lean back on its hind legs and snarl or growl at me, the suspense of its potential attack driving me to tears for those two days. I screamed my head off for hours but my cries were useless. The rogue never lunged at me and no one came to rescue me.

When Javier finally let me out, I was a complete mess. There was an unbelievably disgusting stench emanating from my clothes as I had spent two days with no food or water... or a restroom. Javier and Salvador took photos and sent them to my classmates for further humiliation. When I returned to school, people started locking me in closets and throwing diapers at me.

This would unfortunately only be the first of many nights where I was locked in the supply closet. Salvador would get creative with the things he'd project in there with me. Javier told him all my fears so he had an infinite supply of

things to torture me with. He'd even projected multiple versions of Emiliano's corpse to make me relive the pain of losing him.

Javier never lay a single finger on me, but he singlehandedly broke me beyond repair. For three months after the incident, I did not utter a single word. I had no courage to speak, nothing to say. It wasn't until Karina beat me so severely that I finally found the strength to scream for help again.

I learned a very valuable lesson in that closet and I never told anyone my secrets again. I relied solely on myself for the next five years and I was safe from ever being betrayed that way again. Oliver is the only other person I've opened up too since then but there is still so much I have to tell him, so many things I've kept locked away and hidden from anyone else. It won't be easy sharing any of it.

I stifle a sob in my arm and allow myself to cry for about 20 more seconds before I wipe my tears away and force a smile on my face. I then run down the hall to the office and find Oliver bent over Javier who is still crying in pain on the floor.

"Aurora, go take care of Celina. I can handle Javier," Oliver mutters as he pins Javier on the ground. "Sit still!" He growls at Javier. "You have to breathe. Just breathe."

Javier gasps for air and whimpers as his pain continues. I ignore Oliver's orders and silently kneel down beside Javier. My fingertips touch Javier's cheek and a jolt of electricity enters his body to relieve his pain. He sighs, letting me know my job is done and I get back on my feet.

As I turn to leave, Javier's fingers wrap around my wrist and I yank my arm free in a frenzy. Oliver starts choking Javier and he turns red as he claws at Oliver's arms.

"Don't f*****g touch her. I already don't like you. Don't give me a reason to kill you!" He snarls.

Javier nods and Oliver finally lets him go. He fills his lungs with air and starts to cough and massage his throat.

"Aurora, please," he begs, his voice just a whisper. "Where is she? Please. I-I need to speak with her."

I understood the pain he felt all too well. I wanted to die when Oliver rejected me and regardless of what Javier did to me, I would never wish that pain on anyone.

"I-I can't help you," I reply with a squeak, backing away slowly. "I-it's her choice... n-not mine."

"Please!" He cries, getting on his knees. "I'm sorry."

His sadness is overwhelming and I can't take his presence any longer.

"I-I need to go."

I rush out of the room, hearing his pleas all the way down the hall. I sprint downstairs to the kitchen and almost crash into Carter.

"Hey slow down there, Speedy. Where's the fire?" He chuckles. I don't smile back and instead push past him to get some water bottles from the fridge. "Aurora, what's wrong?"

"Celina and Javier are mates but she rejected him," I reply nonchalantly and try to rush off.

To my annoyance, Carter grabs my arm to stop me from escaping. "Are you ok?"

"I need to help my sister right now. She's in a world of pain. My feelings are the least of my worries right now. So please, let me go."

Carter eyes me suspiciously but complies to my request. I rush off upstairs and do my best to store away my emotions before I walk into my bedroom. Celina and Evan are waiting for me and I can tell they're expecting an explanation as to why I took so long.

"Here's your water," I say sheepishly and hand her a bottle. I sit on the bed and she crawls over to lay her head in my lap.

"How is he?" She mumbles and I raise a brow at her. "Don't look at me like that, I know you went to go relieve his pain. You took too long."

"Hurting. He's asking for you," I sigh.

"Well he can keep asking. I don't want him near me."

“I’m sorry I messed up you’re your relationship.”

Celina shakes her head at me. “This isn’t your fault, sis. He hurt you. He chose to do that.”

I’m silent for a moment, thinking of Javier. Not the Javier who betrayed me, but the Javier who used to make me laugh so hard, milk would come out of my nose. The Javier who’d star gaze with me on cloudless nights. The Javier who used to dance with me, whatever the occasion. The one who once made me feel pretty at a school dance.

“Celina, please reconsider. Yes, he hurt me... but maybe you can change him for the better if-“

“I’ll reconsider if you tell me what he did,” she says, giving me a stubborn grin.

I’m silent for a moment, unsure how to proceed. Celina will never let this go. “Evan can you give us some privacy?” I ask.

Celina sits up excitedly while Evan and Rio leave the room. When they’re gone, I get off the bed and walk to the closet, grabbing a sports bra, a top and some active leggings. Celina looks utterly confused as I toss the clothes at her.

“Here, put this on.”

“Wait I thought-“

“Nope,” I shrug, giving her an innocent smile. “Now get dressed. We’re going to the training grounds.”

She groans but does as I tell her. I open the window, push out the window screen and climb out, landing perfectly on my feet below. Celina follows suit and together we sprint behind a tree when we hear a few soldiers walk in our direction. The fear of being caught must have activated our powers because the next thing I know, Celina’s skin blends in with the tree we’re hiding behind.

“Holy s**t,” she loudly whispers. She touches the tree and her skin blends in with the texture and color of its bark. “I can camouflage!” Her eyes widen when she looks at me. “Aurora if you could see yourself right now...” she gawks at me.

I frown at her. What did she mean?

I'm about to ask when I catch a glimpse of my hand. It's gone! Completely invisible to the naked eye.

"Did I just....!" I quietly giggle and Celina scolds me to shut up as a few more soldiers pass by. I plaster myself against the tree and think invisible thoughts. When they're gone, I burst into a giggling fit, switching my invisibility on and off like a light switch. "f**k yeah! I can sneak out whenever I want too now. Poor Evan. He's in for a real treat."

We continue to use our camouflage and invisible powers to maneuver undetected until we reach the training grounds. Adrien, the head training instructor, eyes us suspiciously when we arrive.

"Luna, does Alpha know you're here?" he sighs, rubbing his temples.

"Of course he does," I smile innocently at him. "Oh, by the way, this is my sister Celina."

"Nice to meet you," he greets her. "Now, care to explain how you got here... without Alpha's knowledge?" He asks, frowning at me.

My smile falters. "How did you-"

He starts to laugh. "Alpha warned us that you'd try to sneak your way here and he was very clear. You are never to set foot on the training grounds. No exceptions. Now go home. I'm sure Evan is probably losing his mind somewhere looking for you."

"Please let us train. We need to be prepared for whatever this witch throws at us," I argue.

"I'm sorry, but I cannot disobey Alpha's commands. It's out of my hands," he shrugs, his eyes fogging over. "I've mind-linked Evan to come get you."

"That won't be necessary. I'll take her back to the house in one piece. I promise," Celina says, ushering me back in the direction we came from. Before Adrien can argue, Celina's already dragged me away.

"What are you doing? I thought you wanted to train!" I hiss when we're out of view.

“Oliver said we’re not allowed on the training grounds... so we won’t go to the training grounds,” she grins, tugging my arms and pulling me deeper in the woods. “We can practice using our powers somewhere else.”

I smile mischievously at her and we take off to find a clearing for us to work.

“Ok, I think we should spar using our powers. Let’s start with the elements,” Celina instructs, getting into fighting position. “Come at me.”

“Celina, I’ve never sparred in my life and I don’t know how to control my powers all that well. What if I hurt you?” I ask, tentatively taking a weak fighting stance. “I have no control over the fire element. I could seriously injure you.”

“Moon Goddess said our powers compliment each other. We’re equals. Besides, you forget I can control the water element. I can handle some flames. Now come at me.”

She takes advantage of my hesitation and swings around to create strong gust of wind. I fly through the air and collide with a tree. She literally knocked the wind out me. When I look back up at her, her eyes glow violet and pink.

“If you think I’m going to go easy on you because you’re my sister, you’re dead wrong,” she calls out with smirk from the far side of clearing.

Come on, Aurora. Let’s show her what we’re made of! Reyna encourages.

I get to my feet quickly as a blade of wind comes rushing towards me and lift a chunk of earth to shield me. Celina charges at me and I stomp my foot on the ground, creating a small tremor and crack on the forest floor. She loses her balance slightly and I lift another chunk of earth and throw it at her, knocking her on a*s.

Game on.

For the next 15 minutes, we’re caught in a fierce battle of earth and air before Celina begins a water attack. Much like the violet flames I control, Celina can create her own ice and water or pull it from the moisture in the air. She freezes some water, creating a chain of ice. The end of the chain catches my wrist and traps me against a tree. She charges at me again, flinging sharp ice crystals at me which I manage to block with a wall of stone I create using my free hand. I’m apprehensive of using my fire element, but seeing that she has

switched elements, I light a flame in the palm of my hand and melt the ice chain trapping my wrist.

I aim weak fire balls at her which she easily avoids.

“You’re holding back,” she says, aiming a wave of water at me. “Don’t. I can take it.”

Fire is fueled by your emotions, Reyna explains. It’s okay to be a little nervous but fear and anger will make you lose control. So don’t be afraid. She can take the heat.

I move out of the path of the wave and focus my energy on fire. Taking Reyna’s encouragement, I ramp up my flames and create a ring of violet fire around her. As she attempts to put it out, I sprint at full speed and aim a ray of powerful flames at her. She forms an X with her arms and blocks the fire with a shield of ice. My flames are strong, however, and she slides back a few feet. She surprises me, though and stomps a foot firmly on the ground. A row of ice rushes toward me on the ground and lifts up when it reaches me, flinging me into the air. I’m able to think quickly and land on the balls of my feet.

Feeling a new sense of confidence, I focus on the flames in my hands and they become flashes of lighting. Celina and I both stare at the violet lighting coming from my hands and she squeals.

“Now we’re talking!”

I center myself and emit a wave of lightning which Celina manages to block with a wall of water. She then sends the charged water hurdling towards me. Without thinking, a force field forms around me, protecting me from potential electrocution.

I drop the force field and before I can even comprehend what I just did, Celina shifts her weight on her back leg then pushes forward to transmit a earth shattering sonic scream. I’m knocked on my a*s instantly and struggle to get back on my feet as the sonic waves weaken me and hurt my sensitive ears. I finally manage to put up my shield and her screams dampen. She pants when she’s finished and I look around to see a mess of trees and branches littering the floor.

“Oh my Goddess,” Celina giggles. “That was f*****g awesome!”

“Did you see my force field?” I jump up excitedly. I make a new one around myself to show her and she shoots ice crystals at me to test it out. The force field deflects them easily. “Are you tired yet?” I grin.

“Tired? I’m just getting started,” she laughs, creating a floating pink ring of water around herself. “Let’s go!”

My palms light up in flames and I charge at her. We’re midway through a fire and water battle when we hear snarls emerging from the forest.

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Aurora’s POV

Celina and I stop our fighting and put our backs together in a defensive stances. From the trees, a pack of wolves emerge and I relax a little when I realize it’s just the boys and a few soldiers. My heart starts racing uncontrollably, however, when I notice the black wolf standing at Oliver’s side and sense Celina’s uneasiness. Javier’s wolf takes in the scene, completely shocked at our display of power.

Oliver’s wolf looks pissed as it takes in the mess we created. The clearing is full of tree debris and there are ice crystals, piles of ashes, stones, vines and some burning branches scattered everywhere.

“We’re in trouble, aren’t we?” Celina whispers.

“Oh yeah.”

Celina and I get to work cleaning up the mess by putting out the fires and melting the ice. I grow some vines to pick up the debris and make a pile near a tree.

Oliver stalks over to me menacingly and I gulp. It’s doesn’t help that Javier also steps toward us. The sadness in his eyes hasn’t faded. His gaze settles on Celina but she ignores him completely and turns her attention to Oliver.

Celina tries to ease the tension by explaining the situation. “We just wanted to test out our powers. You wouldn’t let us-“

Oliver growls at her, baring his teeth as warning to stop talking. Celina doesn't seem the least bit fazed, however, and glares back at him. Javier reacts to Oliver's aggressive demeanor towards Celina by snarling at him.

Before the two Alphas can engage in a full blown fight, I stand between them and hold my hands up to keep them apart. Oliver's silver eyes spit fire at me but I stand my ground despite the crippling fear I feel in Javier's presence.

"I know you're angry so let's just go home," I say. Oliver doesn't move, panting as his anger grows. I lift up a hand to stroke his cheek but he dodges my touch. "Don't do this! We were just training!" I argue, frustration lacing my words.

He turns around and lowers himself for me to climb on. This conversation was over.

"Oliver—"

I'm interrupted by his cold glare and a warning snarl. I sigh and decide to just shut up and climb on his back. Javier lowers himself for Celina but she walks past him and storms up to Evan, who lowers himself for her. Javier growls at Evan as she climbs on his back, obviously jealous of their interaction and it reminds me of a certain Alpha I was sitting on. It seems Evan just has a way of making Alphas angry. With a single swipe of her hand, Celina hurdles a blade of wind at Javier and knocks him over before instructing Evan to go.

I know Celina is putting on a strong front for everyone else but I see right through it. Being away from Javier is hurting her. I open up our mind link to speak to her.

"Celina are you sure—"

"My mind is set, Aurora," she replies. "Javier needs to understand that."

She shuts me out and I sigh. When we arrive at the house, Celina and I wait at the fountain while the boys shift and change behind some trees in the distance. I shift nervously on my feet as I anticipate the fight Oliver and I were about to have. Celina doesn't seem to be doing any better, Javier's presence seemingly affecting her. She paces back and forth, furrowing her brows as she thinks.

"You ok?" I ask.

"I just don't understand what he's still doing here," she says absentmindedly.
"He needs to lea-

Celina's reply gets cut short as Javier comes racing towards us. Celina finally loses her cool and snaps.

"Don't you dare come any closer," she warns him as he gets within 10 feet of us. "Don't. Go home."

"But I-

"No! Don't you get it? I don't want you here. I hate you! I hate you for all the things that you did to Aurora and all the things you let happen to her under your watch. I can't be under the same roof as you, understand? Just leave me and my sister alone. Go!"

Every word seems to stab Javier in the heart as he listens to her angry speech. He's completely defeated. He looks to me for help but I can't offer any and just stare at my feet. After a few seconds, he finds the strength to speak.

"I'm sorry," he whispers before turning on his heel to leave.

Celina storms inside the house and I run after her. She collapses in the living room, finally screaming and crying in pain. Oliver and the boys come inside and seeing our state, give us some privacy. I transfer some healing energy into her body to help sooth her pain and she finally stops crying. An omega brings over some tea and I force her to drink it. Filled with warmth, I have Evan take her off to the guest-room to rest her mind and send Rio after them so he can comfort her while I head up to my room to face the big bad wolf.

I walk timidly into my bedroom where I find Oliver waiting for me on the couch. An angry aura surrounds him so I know I have to tread carefully.

"Sit down," he commands. While his Alpha voice is useless against me, I take a seat at the opposite end of the couch.

"You're angry..." I whisper and he snaps.

"What did you expect? I told you to never run off without telling me where you're going but you never f*****g listen! Goddess, you are so irresponsible! Do you have any idea how f*****g scared I was that Tais might have taken you

under my watch? I was going mad just thinking of the things she would do to you! I mean do you even think about me when you do these things?”

“I-“

“And then you have the audacity to go to the training grounds when I specifically told you you were forbidden to go there.”

“I-“

“And then you have the audacity to go to the training grounds when I specifically told you you were forbidden to go there.”

This fuels anger inside me. “You can’t forbid me from doing anything-“

“Oh yeah? Watch me. You are never allowed to go to the training grounds. Ever. You so much as poke your nose over there and I’ll lock you in this room, do you understand? And don’t you dare try to use your Royal voice to trick my men into letting you fight or I swear I’ll-“

“You’ll what?” I snap. I get to my feet, my palms lighting up in flames. It doesn’t seem to faze Oliver.

“Put them out,” he snarls, getting up from the couch and stalking over to me.

He towers over me menacingly but I refuse to give in and instead make the flames bigger. Reyna is furious. No one tells her what to do.

“You can’t make me.”

His eyes switch to silver. “What did you say, princess?”

Uh oh.

My confidence flies out the window with Michael’s presence and I cower back in my seat.

“What did you say?” He snarls and I let out a small squeak.

He grabs both of my wrists in one hand and pins them over my head, the skin contact between us turning off my flames in an instant. He lifts me up with his free hand and I wrap my legs around his waist to steady myself. Michael then walks over to the bed and throws me on it.

"You might be my Queen but that does not give you the right to do as you please. You are my mine!" He growls before smashing his lips against mine and kissing me forcefully. His fingers grip my hair and pull a little, making me gasp and allowing him to slip his tongue inside me.

I fight against him but it's useless. Reyna is purring in my head and his kiss is turning my mind to mush. Before I know it, my leggings are torn off, my black panties the only barrier left to protect me. Michael's hand slides over my cunt and massages it harshly. I hold back a moan as he starts working his hand harder, the friction making my body tingle in pleasure.

He pulls back from the kiss and his fingers push aside my panties. I tremble in anticipation before he slams a finger inside me, making me cry out.

"Who do you belong to?" He asks, moving his finger slowly but with force. His silver eyes are full of lust and dominance. He's in control.

I don't answer, too focused on the finger driving me crazy. His thumb finds my clit and starts rubbing it painfully slow.

"Who do you belong to?" He growls.

"Y-you," I moan, arching my back and wriggling my wrists in his grip.

"Who. Is. Your. King?" He snaps, slamming his finger inside me with every word.

"F**k.... I-it's you," I pant, completely at his mercy. "Please... Faster!"

He slips another finger inside and starts thrusting faster. I moan and cry out as I near my release when he suddenly pulls out and stops rubbing. I whimper in frustration, upset to be robbed of my o****m. I manage to free my hand from his grip and try to finish myself off but he grabs my hand again, pinning it back at the top of my head.

"Please!" I whine.

"I'll give you what you need if you promise not to train again."

Now I'm pissed. Who the f**k does he think he is to do this to me?

I break free from his grip and sit up on the bed, pushing him away from me. "f**k you! Don't talk to me. Don't even touch me. You and Oliver are sleeping on the couch tonight," I scream.

Michael doesn't seem to like my response because before I can stand up from the bed, he wraps an arm around my waist and throws me back on the bed. He then rolls me onto my stomach and pushes me up on my knees on the edge of the bed with my a*s in the air. At the same time, Michael grabs my wrists and pins them against the small of my back with one hand. He tears my panties to shreds and I whine.

Ugh! Did he have to rip them? These were really cute!

I feel his hand grip and knead my a*s cheeks. Suddenly a pleasurable pain radiates off my right butt cheek and I moan.

Did he just spank me?

I feel it again on my left cheek and I'm practically dripping down my thighs. I get a few more spanks before his fingers once again slip inside me and f**k me hard.

"Michael..." I whimper. "You son of a... f**k yes..."

Goddess, he feels so good, I can't even concentrate anymore. I'm furious but I also want him. His soaked fingers rub my juices around my clit and I lose my mind, craving my release. My body trembles when I feel the tip of his rod tease my entrance, sliding up and down my slit. I whimper, wanting him inside me so bad.

"Mine," he pants before he releases my wrists, grips my hips, and rams himself inside me.

I cry out as he starts to pump himself inside me harshly and unbelievably good. I curve my back up to give him better access and prop myself down on my elbows, my arms no longer able to support me as he pounds into me from behind. He hits my g spot in a single thrust and a burst of pain and pleasure explodes inside me.

"Please, just like that!" I scream and he complies, hitting that spot over and over again with quick and hard thrusts. I'm so close and start clenching down

on his c**k, wanting him to stay inside but he only lifts his leg on the edge of the bed and thrusts harder.

My knees feel like they're going to give out as I tremble uncontrollably. I bury my fingers in the sheets to hold myself up as the sound of slapping skin fills the room. In a matter of seconds, I start cuming, long and hard all over him, driving him over the edge. I let myself fall forward and bury my face in the sheets as my o****m rips through every cell in my body.

"f**k, f**k, f**k," Michael hisses, tightening his grip on my hips.

I know there will be bruises there tomorrow. His strokes become animalistic until he reaches his own climax and he empties himself completely inside me. We ride our high a while longer before he hardens once more.

Michael chuckles in amusement when I gasp as he starts to thrust once more even harder than before, hitting my back walls with every stroke.

"Oh goddess, Michael yes!" I moan, knowing my release was close.

I feel him lean over my back and brush away my hair before he bites down on my mark. My visions blurs with tears and my chest tightens as yet another o****m ripples through me, the aftershocks turning my legs to jelly.

He pulls out and lifts me up so my back is to his chest and my knees are still on edge the bed. He licks and kisses my neck, his hand making its way underneath my sports bra to pull and pinch my throbbing n****s. I moan, my breaths quickening at the sensation of his touch. I slide my hand down to his d**k and wrap my fingers around him, tugging and pulling gently. He hisses in pleasure in my ear, but pulls my hand away and places it on my p***y instead.

"No, baby. We were in the middle of something, remember?" He whispers, nibbling on my earlobe. "Goodbye Princess," he chuckles as he gives control back to Oliver.

I finally catch my breath and turn my head to see two beautiful blue eyes staring back at me.

"You okay?" He asks with a smirk. He stops his assault on my breasts and kisses my shoulder.

"I hate both of you," I growl and free myself from his arms. "Those were my favorite panties!"

He bursts into laughter as I turn around to get off the bed. Much to my annoyance, he pins me to the bed, climbing on top of me.

"You enjoyed that, don't lie," he chuckles and I hate that he's right. It was amazing. He gives me a soft kiss on the lips. "I love you, Aurora. I don't want to have to control your every move but you're so stubborn. You don't listen."

"I know," I murmur. "I'm sorry for leaving without out telling you, but you wouldn't listen to my reasons for wanting to train. You're scared I might get hurt and I get that but.... I'm so scared something will happen if I don't learn to use my powers."

"Nothing will happen-"

"You don't know that," I whisper, kissing his collar bone. "Oliver, I want to train so I can learn more about myself. I discovered so much today already. Look."

I become invisible and he gets to his feet.

"Where did you..."

I reappear in the same spot and laugh at his reaction. He watches in awe as I disappear again and walk up to him. I kiss his lips and reappear.

"See? And there's more I have yet to discover. I'm not so weak. I can handle the training grounds."

"I don't want my men touching you," he says, shaking his head.

"Then I'll train against Celina. She and I are equals. I can't hurt her any more than she can hurt me. And I'll just spar against females if it makes you feel better. Please, Oliver? Please?"

He looks at me for a second, contemplating what to do and finally sighs out his answer.

"Okay," he agrees and I squeal with excitement, showering his face with kisses. "But," he warns. "Evan stays with you during the entire training."

"Deal," I say, leaning forward to kiss him.

I'm suddenly pushed onto the bed and Oliver's eyes darken with lust.

"I'm not done with you. Michael had his fun. My turn," he smirks before pouncing on me.

Tais POV

"Finally... after 18 long years, the twins are together," Ira, my sister, says. "I heard the warriors talking about them running off to try to use their powers."

I smirk at this news, twirling a pen in my fingers. "Have they bloomed yet?" I ask and she shakes her head

"Tonight. All the preparations will be ready tonight."

I smile at the news. It's all coming together. "Call the mutt. I don't want another failure like Erin again. As much as I hate to admit it, these twins are powerful. One wrong move and it'll all be for nothing."

"I told you that stupid mutt was useless," Ira snarls. "Erin ruined everything. We could have already gotten rid of Aurora by now had we not trusted that b***h with such a simple task!"

"Always such a pessimist..." I sigh. "Ira, thanks to Erin's failure, we opened our eyes to an even better option! We even found ourselves a new ally."

"With ten times the risk!" She snaps at me and I throw a vase in her direction, missing her by a mere centimeter. She doesn't flinch, used to my angry outbursts.

I get up from my seat and place my hands on her shoulders. "We will succeed. Now dear sister, get the mutt on the phone. We have work to do."

Ira glares at me. "I hope you're right."

The Ivory Queen Chapter 73

Javier's POV

I haven't left my bedroom since I arrived home yesterday. I spent the entire night tossing and turning, my wolf crying for its mate and my mind torturing me

with guilt. Celina's rejection keeps replaying in my mind like a broken record, each word killing me slowly.

What's driving me insane, however, is knowing she's justified in her hatred of me. After Oliver explained Aurora and Celina's shift more and I saw their powers in action, I realized I made a huge mistake in taking part in Aurora's torture. My shame kept me up all night. Aurora was never the same after I locked her in that closet. I took her peace of mind and given how she reacted to me yesterday, I can only assume that closet still haunts her.

I need to fix this. I need to ask for Aurora's forgiveness and I need my mate.

I call Mia and Salvador to my room. They both stare at me in confusion when they step inside and I motion for them to sit down.

"You look like s**t" Chava comments, clearly concerned for my well-being. "Where were you yesterday?."

"I met my mate," I whisper.

"Holy s**t, congrats," Chava smiles. "Who's the lucky girl?"

His smile fades when I look up at him. "She rejected me." I have to hold back my tears as I admit this to my closest friends.

"What!" they say in unison.

"She rejected you?" Mia asks. "But you're such a great guy!"

"She thinks I'm a monster..."

"Is she human?" Salvador asks sympathetically. "Humans mates are really complicated."

"Aurora isn't your sister, is she?" I blurt out.

Chava's face hardens at the mention of his greatest enemy. Before he can say anything, however, Mia beats him to the punch.

"How did you know?" she asks accusingly. "Who told you?"

So she knew...

“Oliver,” I admit. “I was at River Moon yesterday.”

“WHY?” Salvador demands.

“Because he asked and I was curious as to what he had to say. I wasn’t planning on staying for as long as I did, but I met my mate and had to make sure she was okay before I left.”

“Your mate is a River Moon mutt?” he snarls.

“No, I don’t really know where she’s from,” I sigh. “She said she was a Princess from some place. Sol de Something, I don’t know.” Mia’s face drains of blood and she looks like she’s about to pass out. “Hey what’s wrong?”

Salvador notices and wraps his arm around her. “You okay?” he asks, shaking her shoulder.

“She found her,” she mumbles absent-mindedly.

“What are you talking about it?”

I ignore Salvador since he clearly has no idea what Aurora and Celina are and instead focus on Mia. “You know who Aurora is, don’t you?”

She nods her head while Chava’s frustration seems to grow. “Will someone explain to me what’s going on?”

Mia proceeds to explain a hidden letter written by their uncle Mateo that claimed Aurora and her sister, Celina, were royalty. She tells us she did research on Aurora’s lineage (against Aurora’s wishes), through some enchanted book she found at the library and like Oliver, claims Aurora and Celina are extremely powerful silver and gold wolf hybrids known as Ivory twins.

When she’s done, she turns to look at me. “Have Aurora and Celina shifted yet?”

I nod. “Oliver says they completed their first shift on Monday.”

Her face falls and a few tears roll down her cheek. “So then you know Aurora is innocent and she was telling the truth the entire time.”

“What the f**k did you just say?” Salvador snarls at his sister. “You think Aurora is innocent?”

“We know she is innocent,” I mumble.

Salvador looks at me in disbelief. “How could you say that?”

“Oliver explained Aurora’s history in detail to me and Mia just corroborated the story. Aurora is an Ivory twin. There is no feasible way for her to have gone rogue and killed your father.”

“What the f**k does being an Ivory whatever the f**k you just said, have to do with her killing my father?”

Mia answers his question with an annoyed tone. “Because, dipshit, Ivory twins must complete their first shift in each other’s presence or else the shift results in death.”

“And since Aurora is clearly still alive and only just met Celina this past Monday, it would be impossible for her to have shifted, gone rogue, and killed Emiliano that night,” I finish for her.

Salvador is seething with rage, too filled with hatred to understand the truths we’ve given him.

Wait until I tell him about the bombshell Oliver dropped on me regarding their mother.

Aurora’s POV

I have been sitting near the water’s edge for Goddess knows how long, waiting for Celina to appear and I’m growing impatient. Had she not fallen asleep yet?

As if on cue, Celina finally shows up. We sit on a warm patch of grass as the sun shines down on our glistening brown skin. A cool breeze passes through, carrying the smell of wildflowers. The forest is still but peaceful.

“So how are you holding up?” I finally ask, slipping my hand in hers and waiting.

She lays her head in my lap and stretches out. “I don’t know. I didn’t think it would hurt this much,” she shrugs.

"I'm sorry."

"Don't be. It's not your fault. I'm just.... Confused. For years, all I've ever wanted was to find my mate and live happily ever after. And when I saw him," her voice breaks, "I was ready to love him completely. But then," she laughs bitterly, "I saw the way he looked at you... with pure hatred. And you're so afraid of him! What was I supposed to do? I couldn't accept him knowing he hurt you, especially when I don't even know how he hurt you."

I wipe the stray tear that falls down her cheek and sigh.

"I can tell you this. Before Emiliano died, Javier was one of my favorite people. He was very sweet and always looked out for me. And Goddess, he was so funny too. We used to team up and mess with Salvador all the time," I laugh, remembering the time we replaced all of Chava's photos with pictures of Cheech Marin. It took him a whole week to notice!

"We were the ultimate pranksters. Once, we taped a walkie talkie to Chava's ceiling fan and if he was busy studying or sleeping, we'd meow into it. He actually thought a stray cat lived in his room and he started buying it food!"

She bursts into laughter as I continue to explain all the pranks we used to pull on Chava and even Mia sometimes. "Sounds like you two were close..." she says, a hint of jealousy in her voice and I smile.

"Once upon a time," I reply, grinning at her. "No need to get jealous. We were kids, remember and I'm happily mated now."

She rolls her eyes and shakes her head. Her face turns grim. "How did he hurt you?" she asks, her voice quiet.

I brush my fingers through her white locks and think for minute. "Javier never hit me. He never screamed or yelled at me either," I say. "But he is the reason I don't trust people with my thoughts anymore. I told him my secrets and he betrayed me."

"But how did he do that? There's gotta be more to it than-"

"Look, if you want to know, ask him yourself! I swore a long time ago that I would never speak of it again with anyone and I never will," I snap, losing my patience. Celina looks at me with hurt in her eyes and I regret exploding on

her. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to sound harsh but I'm really done with the subject. Javier can answer that question if you're still curious."

She purses her lips, but agrees to drop the subject. "So we get to train?" she asks, forcing a smile.

"Yeah, Oliver and I... uh... came to an agreement." My cheeks turn red as I remember the events leading up to the agreement. "We train with the females and Evan has to supervise."

She rolls her eyes. "Evan might as well be your shadow."

"Tell me about it."

—

Celina and I report to the training grounds at 8 am sharp, excited to finally be allowed to train with the other females. Evan remains by our side, reporting to Oliver every thirty minutes about our progress.

We spend the first four hours going through rigorous drills, boxing and learning self-defense moves. We spar against some females without using our powers to get a feel for hand to hand combat. By noon, I'm deeply regretting my decision of coming here. I don't think I've ever worked out this many muscles at the same time and I know I'm going to feel this tomorrow. After our lunch break, we select the sparring circle furthest from the grounds for us to practice using our powers. It starts raining, which is perfect for Celina's water element.

"If you hurt my Luna, I will hurt you," Evan warns Celina as we enter the circle.

I laugh at his threat but I can tell he's not kidding.

"Don't worry, I won't let him touch you," I whisper in her ear and she giggles.

As we start preparing ourselves for our match, a crowd gathers around at a safe distance from the circle, the warriors curious to see what the Ivory twins can do.

"Ready?" Celina asks as she stretches her arms. I give her a small nod and the battle begins.

Celina leans back and I know she's going to activate her sonic scream. I put a force field around myself just before the first sound wave can touch me. Unfortunately, the scream manages to knock over a few wolves in the crowd. I drop my force field and throw a couple of fire balls at her. To her amazement, a pink force field emanates from her arms, protecting her from my flames. Wanting to throw her off, I become invisible and charge at her but she retaliates by spinning around and creating a wind blade that knocks me over on my a*s.

Ok, enough games. Let's show her what we're made of, Reyna says.

I stomp on the ground, raising a chunk of earth of the ground and jerk my hands forward, sending the chunk at full speed at Celina. Her barrier cracks and I take advantage to aim a ray of lightening at her. That's when the most incredible thing happens. Celina disappears from her spot and the next thing I know, I'm punched in the face, a little blood trickling from my nose. Celina stands beside me, grinning from ear to ear. Evan jumps into the circle, his eyes glowing lime green and he snarls at Celina.

"Evan it's okay. STEP BACK," I command in my royal voice.

He obediently leaves the circle and returns to his spot, grumbling a few cuss words and threats at Celina under his breath. I wipe the blood off my face.

"Oh my goddess, I teleported!" Celina squeals when I'm done scolding Evan. "I just thought about being next to you and next thing I know, I'm standing beside you! Sorry about the nose though," she adds sheepishly.

She can teleport?

We get back into fighting position and I eye her carefully, waiting for her next move. We're both still and I decide to make the first move. I lift a stone and aim it her but she just blows it away. Celina charges at me, ready to punch me again but a vortex opens in front of me and her hand plunges into it. A second vortex opens beside her and her arm comes out it, punching her over the head and knocking her to the ground.

Ha! She punched herself!

"I can make portals!" I whisper looking over at Evan who smiles proudly at me.

Celine stares at me wide eyed as she picks herself up and rubs the side of her head. "I hate you," she mutters.

I open another vortex in front of me and run through it, coming out of a portal behind Celina and tackling her to the ground. She uses her sonic scream and blasts me off of her. I hit the ground with a groan but get back on my feet quickly, afraid she might knock me down again. Suddenly the world seems to stop, the droplets of rain becoming frozen in midair. Everything stands still.

"Is that you or me?" She asks looking around at the world frozen in time.

"You're glowing pink!" I gasp.

"Holy s**t, I think just slowed down time!" Celina giggles as she examines herself.

What? No fair, she controls time!

Celina's eyes widen as she finally turns to look at me. "Woah you're glowing too!"

I look down at my hands and realize she's right, I am glowing, a violet hue emanating around me.

"What power is this?" I say out loud and Celina shrugs.

"I don't know, but it seems you are immune to my time manipulation. See, everyone else is frozen. Even the wind is still."

Light manipulation, Reyna whispers. You're moving at the speed of Light so her powers don't work on you unless she touches you. There's more to your powers of course, but it will take time for you reach your full potential.

Light manipulation? I repeat.

Celina speeds up time again, the world continuing as it was and I stop glowing.

"My wolf says I can manipulate light," I say. "I'm immune to your time manipulation unless you touch me."

"This is so cool!" She squeals excitedly. "My wolf says we have so much to learn though! I can't wait!"

We continue to fight and haphazardly stumble through our powers. To sum up what each of us discovers, Celina can: camouflage against any surface she touches, manipulate time, sense and manipulate emotions, produce a sonic scream, mold her body into different shapes (think Elastigirl and Mr. Fantastic), and teleport.

I, on the other hand, can: turn completely invisible, manipulate light, manipulate and alter the senses, produce lightning, create armor from objects I touch (i.e. if I touch iron, my skin turns to iron), and create vortexes.

Apart from our individual gifts and our elements, we also share many abilities. According to Reyna, Celina and I both share healing, mental shields, force fields, the royal voice, telekinetic, and telepathic powers. Most of our gifts will take time to develop properly, especially the telekinetic and telepathic powers.

Reyna also tells me there's more but for now, this is more than plenty of power for me to figure out how to control.

As you can imagine, we did quite a bit of damage to the training grounds, but fixed as much as we could when we were done with our battle. Our warriors were shocked at the raw power we possess, their excitement growing with every ability we discovered.

Back at the house, Celina and I heal, shower, and nap for a few hours, having exhausted ourselves in training.

Mid sleep, I'm rudely awakened by Evan knocking on my door.

"What is it?" I grumble as I let him in, still half asleep.

"Salvador, Mia and Javier are at the River Moon gates."

I'm awake instantly. "What?"

"They requested an audience with you and your sister. I've already dispatched 20 guards to the gates and informed Oliver. He'll be here soon, but he said it's up to you what we should do. So should I let them in or send them home?" He asks.

"I-I don't know," I mutter.

Discovering Mia partook in my torture was devastating for me and stomaching both Salvador and Javier's presence at the same time seemed like an impossible task. Noticing my uneasiness, Evan pulls me into his arms.

"It okay to not be ready to face them. You are not obligated to let them into your life," he sighs, rubbing my back.

Celina burst through the door. ""What going on?"

I explain the situation and her face hardens. "If you're worried about me and Javier, don't be. I'm not afraid. As for the other two, I think you should let them in. You're not the same helpless girl anymore. Don't give them power over you. Show them what you are."

Celina's POV

I'm standing in the foyer waiting for our dear cousins and my stupid mate to arrive. I left Aurora upstairs in her room so she can compose herself. She needed some alone time before she had to face her former tormentors.

"They're here," Evan growls as he opens the door.

Finally, I'm going to put a face to the monsters who hurt Aurora.

I look down the walkway to take a peek but all I see are a s**t ton of guards blocking my view. As I requested, they were forced to leave their car at the River Moon gate and walk the mile to the house with the guards. Evan and Oliver went a little over board with the number of guards trying to protect Aurora, though. I'm kind of jealous at how much everyone here seems to adore her. There's no doubt in my mind that every River Moon member would willingly give their lives for her in a heartbeat and she hasn't even taken the oath yet!

The guards lead the way into the house, boxing our three guests in like prisoners. My wolf whimpers, wanting to see her mate and I block her. I don't need an emotional outburst at the moment.

The two guards at the front step aside and Javier and Salvador come into a view. A girl, who I assume is Mia, wedges herself between the boys and my wolf growls at how close she is to Javier.

Stupid wolf. I grumble to myself.

I steal a glance at Evan and notice a green aura of jealousy around him. He feels the same anger I do in his mate's presence.

Javier looks like he wants to say something to me but only musters up the courage to say a weak hello. I ignore him completely despite Sarai's cries and turn my attention to my two i***t cousins.

Salvador is a man of 6ft 3 with finely chiseled cheek bones, green eyes, and dark brown curls. Mia is also very pretty, with long brown hair that had a wave to it and deep olive skin like mine. Her soft chocolate eyes settle on me and a small smile hangs on her lips.

"Hi, Aurora," she says timidly.

She thinks I'm her Aurora? Oh right, I'm wearing my medallion and she can't smell me. Hmmm.... This might actually be fun...

Evan and Javier are about to correct her when I lift my hand to stop them. They give me confused looks which I ignore.

"I'm glad to see your shift went well. Y-you look nice. The hair and the eyes- I mean. They suit you," she continues.

I open up my emotional receptors again and take note of her emotional aura. She's nervous...

"Thanks," I reply coldly. "So you're here to do what exactly?"

"These two seem to think you're innocent," Salvador snarls. "But you and I both know what a monster you truly are. There is nothing you can say to convince me otherwise."

Evan and the guards snarl at his comment but I lift a hand to silence them.

"So then why come here if you already know what happened?" I ask, tilting my head to the side in curiosity.

"To tell you to stay away from my family and stop feeding lies to Mia!"

I laugh. Is this some kind of joke?

“Trust me, I don’t want anything to do with you or your family. As far as I’m concerned, we’re not related,” I say, turning towards the living room. “If that’s all, you’re free to leave.”

“Wait!” Mia calls out, stopping me in my tracks. “Javier said you have something to tell us... about our Mom.”

“Lies, probably,” Salvador mumbles.

We hear footsteps descend down the stairs and Aurora walks down gracefully, a box in her hands. If there was any ounce of fear in her, she hid it well. I’m proud of her. I know coming out to face these monsters was a big step for her.

Salvador and Mia realize who she is immediately and shift their gaze between the two of us. Aurora walks over to my side, devoid of any emotion.

“Aurora?” Mia mumbles, looking between the two of us and her cheeks tinge red with embarrassment. “Oh.. You must be Celina then. Sorry,” she chuckles awkwardly as she rubs her neck.

Pathetic. She spent 17 years with Aurora and can’t even tell the difference between us.

“We’ll speak in the living room,” Aurora announces, turning her back to our visitors.

It’s not a suggestion, it a demand. I smile proudly. She’s not going to show them weakness.

We make our way to the living room, Aurora and I sitting beside each other while Evan stands directly behind us. The guards move into position, keeping their guard up around Salvador.

“So Aurora,” Mia mumbles. “How are you?”

Aurora ignores her, instead focusing on the box in her hands.

Interesting... I thought they were on good terms...

The lock glows dark red from the heat and pops open. She pulls out a letter.

“Read it, Chava,” she says, extending the page out to him, her gaze cold and emotionless.

The Ivory Queen Chapter 74

Aurora's POV

He glares at my hand, unwilling to cooperate and I snap.

“NOW,” I command with my Royal voice.

As if in a trance, Salvador takes the page and reads it. When he's finished, he looks uncomfortable and swallows hard.

“What exactly happened that night?” He asks, his voice trembling.

I sigh. “Emiliano was taking me to meet Celina the night he died. The trip was a secret which is why he never mentioned it to anyone, myself included. He told me to wait outside while he searched for this box,” I say, lifting the wooden box for him to see. “Your mother hid it from him,” I whisper.

Mia and Salvador exchange glances. I take a deep breath and slowly release the air from my lungs.

Here we go....

“She hid it from him because she knew the rogues were waiting outside for me.”

“What?” Salvador asks, utterly confused. “What did you say?”

“Our parents were slaughtered in an ugly war against a witch named Tais and her sister,” Celina explains. “It's the reason your parents fled Mexico and came here.”

“Karina reached out to Tais. We don't know why but we can only assume it was to protect you guys from being killed. Tais has this vendetta against silver and gold wolves so we think Karina wanted to turn Aurora over to the witch in exchange that you not be harmed in the oncoming slaughter,” she continues. “But it backfired.”

“Stop,” Mia mumbles, her voice trembling.

I know this is hard for them but they deserve to know the truth. “Moon Goddess showed us what happened that night. Your mom hid the box to keep your dad inside while leaving me to fend for myself outside. I guess Karina didn’t count on him jumping in to save me.”

“I said stop!” Mia cries, holding her head in her hands. “No... No... No... Mom couldn’t... She wouldn’t-“

“I know it’s hard to believe-“

“Hard to believe? You just told us our mother is responsible for the death of our father,” Salvador snarls. “You are so full of s**t, Aurora! Goddess, I can’t believe I almost believed you! You’re sick, you know that? f*****g sick!”

My heart shatters. No matter what I say, I’ll always be the villain in Salvador’s story.

I sense Evan getting angry so I reach for his hand to calm him down. Evan looks down at me, his eyes flickering between hazel and lime green.

“I’m okay,” I whisper and he scoffs. “I can handle this,” I reassure.

His jaw clenches but he calms down for me. I turn back to Salvador and Mia.

“Ya know, I don’t get it! You came here to get answers but you refuse to accept the reality that sits right in front of you!” I huff. “Look, believe what you want, I don’t care anymore. I’m done. Go home if you think I’m lying!” I snap, trembling with anger.

Salvador gets up from the couch and prepares to storm out, making the guards take a defensive stance but Mia pulls him back.

“Mia, let me go!” he snarls at her but she refuses and yanks him back on the couch.

“Do you have any proof of what you’re saying, Aurora?” Mia asks, a stray tear rolling down her cheek. “Any evidence that proves without a shadow of a doubt that she did this to us?”

I shrug and get up from my seat. “You didn’t need proof to decide I was Emiliano’s killer all these years, why should you need proof to know your mom is the one responsible for it all?” I ask coldly. “I mean did anyone actually

inspect Emiliano's injuries? He had defensive wounds and I was free of harm! There was not a scratch on me! My birthday was not for another day when it happened so I had no wolf! You found my luggage and claimed I wanted to run away but no one seemed to notice his bag was packed too! All these holes in your theory and yet I was still blamed!"

"You were the only one there that night!" He screeches. "All the evidence pointed to you, you f*****g b***h!"

I've had enough. He wants a monster, I'll show him a monster. Anger takes control of my body and suddenly Salvador starts screaming in agony. He collapses on his knees, his nails scraping across his arms and legs in a desperate attempt to soothe the stinging sensation on his skin.

"It burns! Everything f*****g burns!" He cries. "What the f**k are you doing to me!?"

I continue to manipulate the nerves on his skin, making it feel like his flesh is being seared off and his wails bring Mia to tears. I don't have time to think about the power I just unleashed because Mia's screams fill the room.

She gets on her knees beside Salvador and desperately grabs at him, hoping to relieve him in some way. Her every touch, however, only worsens his pain and he pushes her away.

When she looks back at me, her face pales. "Aurora, please! Stop-"

The pure rage surging through me turns on her and she collapses on the ground, begging for mercy. Memories of their torture fill my mind, nurturing the wrath I've kept locked away for years. All the cold nights I spent in that f*****g closet... All the nightmares that still haunt me to this day... All the pain I shoved away in a dark corner of my being... I wanted to make them feel it if only just for one moment.

"Aurora, this isn't you!" Javier pleads with me. "This isn't-"

"And who the f**k are you to tell me who I am?" I snarl.

"You are not cruel," he says. "You don't hurt people-"

His voice annoys me and I visualize a hand gripping his neck. Much to my surprise (and his), he starts to gasp for air, clawing at the invisible force

currently crushing his windpipe. He turns red as he struggles to breathe and crashes onto the floor.

Within a span of a few minutes, I have my three tormentors at my mercy and it's intoxicating. I want more. I stop the sense attack on Mia and Salvador and put them both in telekinetic chokehold. A very sick and twisted part of me thoroughly enjoys the power I hold over them.

I watch the fear in Salvador's eyes and smirk, savoring every second of it.

Oh how easy it would be to simply snap his neck and never cower in his presence again. I could just squeeze a little harder and he would cease to exist...

Evan and Celina whimper softly, feeling and sensing their mate's fear and pain. It's enough to snap me out of my vengeful haze and I release all three monsters from my grasp. Evan and Celina did not deserve to be punished for the crimes of their mates. Mia, Salvador, and Javier slump onto the ground, tears and spit covering their cheeks and chins. They take huge gulps of air and pant furiously, none of them daring to look at me.

I glance around the room and fill with shame as everyone stares at me with fear and horror. I was the monster again.

I open my mouth to explain myself but my words are caught in my throat.

Do not apologize, Reyna snaps. Not to them!

I take a few seconds to compose myself before removing the emotion from my face. Guilt fills the pit of my stomach but I quickly tuck away the feeling. This was not a time to be weak. Even though I felt disgusting for hurting them, I had to give them a taste of what I felt all those years for them to understand me.

"That pain you just felt... I felt it for years and not one of you had mercy on me. Not one! I am not the monster here. You are. For five years, you people tortured me with no solid evidence against me. You hurt me in ways I know I will never recover."

"You-" I point to Salvador. "All my fears, all my pain, every nightmare starts with you." I turn to Javier. "And you? You're the reason I'm afraid to let anyone in anymore, the reason I've struggled to open up to the people I know care

about me!" Tears roll down my cheeks but I don't care anymore. I'm tired of being afraid of them. "And you, Mia. I forgave you and I tried so hard to give you a second chance and what did you do? Huh? You lied to me. You had so many chances to confess but you kept it all to yourself. You lied!"

I straighten up my shoulders. "So I am not sorry for any of you fuckers. I'm done. Believe me, don't believe me. I don't care anymore. I said what I needed to say and I've warned you of the coming war with Tais. My conscience is clear and I am no longer responsible for you. Now if you'll excuse me, I've stomached enough of your presence for one night and I'd like to go lie down now."

With my head held high, I swiftly walk out of the living room towards the foyer just as Oliver comes home. One look at him and I feel my knees give out. He catches me before I fall and presses me up against his chest.

No matter what, Oliver is always there to catch me...

He lifts me up bridal style as I begin to fall apart and he whisks me off to our bedroom.

"It's okay, baby," he murmurs, kissing away my tears. "I'm right here. I'm not going anywhere."

The Ivory Queen Chapter 75

Celina's POV

I watch Aurora glide up the stairs but know as soon as she reaches her bedroom, her façade will crumble. She tried to hide it but I know she fears herself. Hurting them was only temporarily satisfying for her. She'll be piecing herself back together all night, but at least she won't be alone. She'll have Oliver to lean on.

The three monsters finally collect themselves off the floor and onto the couches and I realize this an opportunity of a life time to find out what really happened to Aurora all these years. I could try to read their minds but it was quite a complex procedure that I hadn't quite figured out yet. In fact, I was still recovering from attempting to read Evan's thoughts while training and it took quite a bit of energy to even try to comprehend the information I received from his brain. I don't know how Aurora managed to activate her telekinetic powers and I was not about to drain myself trying to figure it out.

Looks like I'll just have to ask for their thoughts for now.

"So, who wants to start?" I ask, shifting my gaze between the three of them.

They look confused by my question.

"Start what?" Mia asks.

"I guess you do," I smile coldly. "What did you lie about?" I ask, getting right to the point.

She lowers her eyes and stares at the coffee table in front of her. "I don't know what you're talking about..."

Fine, we'll do this the hard way.

"Aurora called you liar. What did you lie about?" I command with my Royal voice.

Her gaze shifts up to me and she struggles against the command. When she speaks, tears line the rims of her eyes. "When one is tortured during the day, they often seek solace in their sleep. They look forward to rest, however short it may be. Well when I figured out my powers... I-I took that from her. I filled her mind with pure evil, not wanting her to get a moment of peace. The nightmares I'd conjure up for her would get so bad, she'd go days without sleep, too afraid to shut her eyes. Exhaustion would win every time, though and she'd be forced to fall asleep only to wake up screaming again. I drove her mad sometimes even during the day. Pretty soon, I no longer needed to implant the illusions in her head for her to have nightmares, her mind creating its own horrors for her to scream at," A few tears spill onto her cheeks and she furiously wipes them away. "I haven't done it in years though," she adds, as if that somehow made it any better.

Evan and I are absolutely horrified by her confession. Even in her sleep, Aurora was tortured.

My goddess, how did she survive?

"How could you?" Evan snarls. "All the evil in her life and you put more in her brain?"

"I'm sorry. I-I know it was cruel," she whimpers, tears rolling down her cheeks. "But I thought she killed my father-"

Evan is on his feet in an instant, wrapping his fingers around her throat and squeezing. Salvador gets up, throwing a powerful punch at Evan and knocking him and Mia to the ground. Salvador pounces on Evan and the two ensue in a full blown fist fight. The guards and Javier pull the men apart, restraining them both in chokeholds.

"If you ever touch my sister again," Salvador shouts, "I'll kill you, you bastard. I tear you apart with my own bare hands!"

Evan wipes some blood from his mouth and smiles at Salvador. "Touch my sister and I'll show what a gamma will do for his Luna."

"ENOUGH!" I command. "Evan, I mean it. Calm down. Do it for Aurora."

Evan pants with rage but softens when I mention Aurora. The guards release him and he takes his seat, but not before spitting in Salvador and Mia's direction.

"Leave us," I command the guards and they oblige. I'm sure Aurora wouldn't want them knowing everything about her past. I'll just handle these bastards on my own from now on.

I sigh and turn my attention back to Salvador. Thinking back to the night of our shift and remembering all the scars on Aurora's body, I know exactly what I want to ask about. "Tell me about the scar on her stomach." I command. "The one that looks like a target."

He blinks at me with an emotionless expression and answers without so much as a struggle. "It's not a target. It's an eye. An owl eye."

I roll my eyes. "Explain," I demand.

In a trance like state, Salvador begins to detail the horrific meaning behind the scar. "Owls are a symbol of evil and death in lots of cultures. They're bad omens and that's exactly what Aurora was in our family. The source of all the pain and misery in our lives." Evan snarls but Salvador continues, still in his trance. "I was tired of Aurora claiming rogues killed Dad so a couple of friends and I hatched up a plan to teach her a lesson. I took piece of silver wire and

molded it into the shape of an owl eye and held it over a fire while my friends held her down-

Evan is on feet again, lunging at Salvador. "You son of a b***h! You branded her?"

I slow down time and the world stills. I get up and push Evan back in his seat before speeding up time again. He stares at me in shock for a few seconds before attempting to get back up. I hold him back and he growls at me to let him go.

"I will once you calm down," I snap.

"Calm down? Did you not hear what he said?" He growls.

"I heard it loud and clear. Now calm down!" I demand.

Evan just glares at me and I decide to use my gift on him. I grab his face and focus on his emotions, willing peace into his heart. His heart rate slows down instantly and he relaxes. With him pacified, I turn back to Salvador.

"You're an evil piece of s**t," I growl at Salvador. "I don't know how you could do that to your own sister!"

"She's not my sister," Salvador retorts, shifting in his seat. "She never was."

"Yes she was! You grew up together, took care of each other, loved each other! And if there were ever any trouble, you know Aurora would stop at nothing to help you. That makes you family!"

He remains emotionless. "Are you done?"

I read his aura and sense his shame and anger. His strongest emotion, however, is his overwhelming guilt. He was incredibly good at hiding his feelings but his detachment was a lie.

He's dying inside, Sarai whispers.

Good. f**k him...

"It's going to eat you alive and I'm going to enjoy it," I say. He looks confused and I laugh. "You don't fool me, I see what you're feeling."

I glance at Javier and watch him squirm under my gaze. “You’ve been awfully quiet, mate. Is your conscience eating at you too?” I say, tilting my head to the side and plastering a fake smile on my face.

Javier looks up at me and Sarai whines when she sees the despair in his eyes. I look away and order Evan to take Mia and Salvador to the gates. Evan begrudgingly gets up, mumbling something about me being bossy and not his Luna under his breath.

Once we’re alone, Javier tries to speak but I stop him. “Aurora refuses to speak about what you did to her but she has given me permission to ask you,” I say, trying my best to keep my voice steady. “I need to know what you did, a*****e if I want to move on. I can’t – I can’t even think of being with you when I don’t even know what you’re capable of.”

Just as he’s about to speak, Oliver and Aurora come walking in, hand in hand. Aurora’s eyes are puffy and a little red but she looks calm in Oliver’s presence. Oliver sits down beside me with her in his lap. Javier visibly stiffens at the sight of Aurora but she keeps her eyes glued to Oliver’s chest, watching it rise and fall.

“It’s ok,” she whispers, playing with Oliver’s shirt. “I won’t hurt you again. Just tell her the truth.”

Javier nods and starts to explain. With every horrific detail, I glance over at Aurora who seems surprisingly calm, tucking herself under Oliver’s chin and closing her eyes. She looks like a little angel, peacefully asleep but I know that’s far from the truth. I wish I could read her but she’s put her mental shield up. Oliver, on the other hand, looks like he’s about to explode with how much anger radiates off his aura. Aurora hugs him tightly, kissing his neck to keep him from murdering Javier. When Javier finishes, I get on my feet, a sob caught in my throat. I feel like I’m suffocating and start gasping for air. Aurora reaches out a hand to me in an attempt to comfort me but I push away from her.

“Celina-“

“You want me to forgive him knowing what he did to you?”

“I just want you to be happy with your decision.”

“I think I need some air,” I say before storming out of the house and shifting.

Evan's POV

Celina put me in a state of tranquility before sending me off to escort Mia and Salvador to the River Moon gates but the farther we walk away from the house, the more my anger grows again.

I'm sick to my stomach just thinking of Aurora screaming in pain as Salvador burned her flesh with his hatred but worst of all, it killed me to know about Mia's sick betrayal. I had experienced firsthand the power of Mia's ability and the damage it could cause. I now had a stupid fear of wardrobes of all things! I can't imagine experiencing that kind of terror every night for years.

I can't love her, Bodhi.

She's our mate for a reason. Don't you dare give her up!

You can't expect me to actually care for her. I am just hours away from swearing to protect Aurora with my life, the girl my mate willingly tortured for years! I snap.

Aurora will forgive her, you know she will, Bodhi growls. If she can do that, so can you!

I block Bodhi, annoyed with his persistence with Mia. As we approach their car at the gates, I feel Mia's stare bore into the back of my head and it pisses me off.

"What the f**k are you looking at, Mia?" I growl, keeping my eyes focused on the road ahead.

"You better watch it.... There's no one here to save you," Salvador threatens in a sing song voice. His lips curve into a smirk. "Ya know, now that I think about it, there's no one here to stop us. Why don't you show me what a punk a*s gamma can do?"

I stop in my tracks, eager to accept his challenge when I hear a thud and a groan. I spin on my heel and see Salvador laying on the side of road, his eyes staring blankly into space. Mia stands over him, her eyes glowing gold and I take a few steps back now that I'm in the presence of her wolf.

Bodhi howls with excitement when he sees her, but I could care less. All I see are two sides of the same monster.

“Don’t worry, I won’t use my powers on you,” she says quietly.

I steal a glance at Salvador, wondering what kind of hellish nightmare she put in his brain and it seems she reads my thoughts.

“He’s not in any pain. He thinks he’s at the beach right now with dad,” she sighs. “My powers aren’t always evil or cruel.”

“No, just you then,” I scoff.

Her face reddens with anger.

“You’re impossible!” She snaps, shaking her head. “I just saved you from getting your a*s handed to you!”

“Oh, I’m impossible?”

“Yes, you are! Do you have any idea how powerful he is? What he could do to you?” She asks, pointing to her brother.

“Actually, I do. I believe the bastard once attacked me with a lion...” I respond, rubbing my shoulder at the memory.

“Then why would you provoke him?”

“Because I’d gladly take the opportunity to inflict any kind of pain on either one of you, regardless of how powerful you are compared to me. I would do it for Aurora in heart beat because unlike you two scumbags, I actually love her.”

She glares at me with her gold eyes and I prepare myself for the nightmares but am relieved to have my mind left intact.

“You think you got me all figured out don’t you?” She snaps, her eyes shifting back to brown. “You think you know me, but you have no idea what goes on in my head-“

“And I thank Moon Goddess for that!” I sneer at her. “Let me explain something to you, Mia,” I say, clasping my hands together. “You, your thoughts, you powers, everything about you really... Make. Me. Sick. You disgust me!”

Hurt flashes in her eyes and she wraps her arms around herself, trying hard to fight back tears. My wolf growls at me.

Take it back! He snarls. You hurt her!

When she speaks again, her voice is so fragile and her words catch me off guard. "Then w-why did you ask me what I felt the last time we spoke?"

My heart sinks to the pit of my stomach but I try to give off the impression of indifference. "I don't know what you're talking about.." I shrug.

A single tear falls down her cheek.

"You asked me if I felt something, right? A spark, perhaps? I couldn't stop thinking about it and then it clicked. I-I'm your mate, right?"