

Epilogue 3 - Ezekiel

I sat on the balcony overlooking the plains and forest behind it. I'd taken a liking to getting up early, smelling the morning dew as the world slowly woke up. A shot of cappuccino and a bowl of yogurt with fruit and just a drizzle of honey was on the table in front of me. My tablet also was sitting but there wasn't much in the way of news to capture my attention away from the view.

Rowan had called me yesterday from Egypt. He moved there after he found his mate. At first, I thought they might want to both step up as Beta, much like AJ and Jax did back in the day but they started to follow their own paths. Rowan was far more subdued. Taking after the bookworm side of Vale and maybe my introverted side. Reagan didn't. Reagan was a fists first fight the world kind of girl. She stayed with Golden Moon, though she dragged her poor mate with her wherever she went.

She was the Alpha King Nathan's, Beta and had been for many years now. I had four grandkids and I got to see them as often as I wanted. Lucy's son became Gamma, and the boy had a mind for strategics. Took after his grandpa on that one. They were cut from the same grumpy cloth too.

If anything, I felt lucky that not only was I able to provide a good platform for Alpha King Nathan to step onto, but that my own kids were able to help continue the dream that Vale set out. It had been over twenty years ago now that I handed over the reigns of the pack to Nathan. Poor kid was raised by such good parents and then got thrown to the wolves with me, Auri, and Hector teaching the poor boy.

Bryan, sadly, didn't make it long enough to see the new

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King crowned. He was able to see his grandson and granddaughter born. But his age caught up to him and I don't think he felt one ounce of regret when he passed. Lucy and Felix retired back in Harvest Moon. Though, Lucy trained more than an army of doctors and nurses before Felix finally was able to convince her. She didn't speak to him for a week and I didn't think financially we would ever have recovered if they didn't make up.

Bast and Osiris were still the two of Auri's kids who came around more often than their parents. They stopped aging at around twenty-five or so. They didn't know if it was that they were going to have the vampire length of time to live but they were just living as if they didn't. The two of them set up a new pack in Australia. Apparently, they had the same mate, which I found fascinating. I'd been able to visit a few times but travel now was such a chore. My knees honestly couldn't handle it anymore. I wasn't like Bryan, the thought of walking around with a cane sounded demoralizing and I'd die on that hill.

Running my hands through my solid grey hair, I wondered if I should get the kids to rewrap my strands in threads. I had to take them out a week ago but hadn't put them back in yet. If I called Herr, she would pop over immediately but she tended to go a little overboard when she did them.

Uriel was having her work with him in their military sector, much to the chagrin of Auri. She'd done her best to try and get Herr to knock her habit of being reading people and talking about them out loud. It only got worse when she grew up and she was a menace to the entire house in her teenage years. Uriel finally took her on as a challenge and she was adjusting really well to being head of their military. Given no quarter though ended up being a new motto for them.

My eyes narrowed as I saw a car driving down the

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driveway. Technically, this was Auri and Hector's castle that was just outside the pack. They handed me the keys after Nathan took over and all the kids started to go off every which way. Now, I lived here and whoever else from the extended family decided to stay. It had actually been a quiet week but apparently, that was about to change.

The car slowed to a stop and I couldn't see into the front of the windshield. The door opened and I nearly spit my coffee out.

"Auri?"

She stepped out of the car and waved, smiling up at me. Part of me was mad, for multiple reasons. One because she looked the same. She always looked the same. Despite her being nearly twice my age, she looked like she was in her early twenties. Hell, she looked younger than Bast and Osiris. Those were her youngest kids.

The other reason was because I hadn't spoken to her in over five years. We would send letters at the very least but usually it was phone calls or texts. Except one day they just dropped off the face of the earth. I didn't know if she finally decided to go underground, to let the world forget her, but I figured Bryan would haunt her till the day she died herself if she tried. Hector smiled up at me as he shut the door to the drivers side of the car.

"Where the fuck have you two been?" I called down, unwilling to move from my spot in case I was going senile and hallucinating them.

Auri laughed and shook her head. "I'm not talking to you like this, Z. Give us a second."

They disappeared from my view as I heard the front door open and close. I turned and waited, much longer than it would take for the two of them to come up the stairs to the guest room. My toe started to tap as the door opened

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and Auri smiled brightly. She was carrying a coffee cup, some pasties, and a bowl of fruit. I rolled my eyes.

"Help yourselves."

Hector chuckled as he came in, coffee cup in his hand too. "It's early for us. We aren't used to this time. Give us a break."

I shook my head. "Five fucking years. Five years. You better have a good explanation. Bast and Osiris have been here more than you. They haven't even heard from you!"

Auri leaned in, scooting her chair forward. "We found it."

Crossing my arms over my chest, I didn't want to take her b**e but I did. "Found what?"

"Alexandria."

My eyes widened and the grumpy facade dropped. "You found...Alexandria? Like..."

"The library. All of it, Z. It's all there. Our actual accounts of how our races started. The very beginning. No fluff. In scrolls. In hieroglyphics. Oh, Z, it was amazing. Books and scrolls for as long as you could even look. You couldn't see the end of the shelves. They were as tall as the trees in your home pack."

"How...I thought...but..."

Hector snorted, taking a sip of coffee. "How else. Magic. It was kept in a bubble all this time. It's the reason why we weren't able to get anything out, or really receive anything. It's in a self-contained ecosystem. Frankly, for how old it is, magic like that just doesn't exist anymore."

"So...I...I have so many questions. How did...when did..."

Auri took my hands and placed a book into it. My eyes widened and I felt my hands start to shake.

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"Please don't tell me you took one."

Auri snorted. "I didn't take it. I borrowed it. We will put it back. But you need to read it. It's incredible."

I ran my hands over the cover. It looks old. Not as old as I thought it would. I was thinking mummified, turn to dust as soon as you touched it, kind of old. Slowly, I opened up the pages. The script was handwritten, for sure. It was just barely legible between the writing itself and the ink bleeding into the paper.

"Take your time with it. It's not going anywhere." Auri smiled. "It's the account of the first wolf. The first wolf who was turned into a human for the Goddess."

My eyes met hers. "A first hand account?"

She shook her head. "His account, Z. The very first Silver. Your ancestor. This is his direct account, from the beginning of when he could start to write. It's incredible. Technically, it's your legacy. Your name and where you come from."

I bit my lip down to stop from crying. "Auri...Hector...this..."

"Does it make up for it a little bit?" Hector asked, teasingly.

Huffing, I shook my head. "Barely. Just barely."

Auri smiled as she brushed some hair behind my ears. "How are you doing?"

I sighed and leaned back, taking the last slip of my cappuccino. "Getting slower every day."

She snorted. "I dunno, you looking spry for your age, young man."

"You can't say shit. You're almost double my age. Don't you dare."

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Auri gasped. "Double? I think not!"

Hector just laughed and shook his head. "We were planning on staying a bit, if that's okay with you."

I smiled. "I would like that. It get a little lonely sometimes."

From this spot, I could see the tree on the hill. The white tree that continuously bloomed throughout the seasons. It's part of the reason why I loved this spot so much, even if it was off one of the guest rooms. I felt like I could sit here and just talk to him, to my mate. I missed him, probably now more than ever. It got harder to feel the need to keep going. To keep myself tethered here.

"Z?" I looked back at Auri. She was leaning into me, rubbing my arm. "You okay?"

"Yeah, sorry. Mind wanders sometimes. You were saying?"

Hector rolled his eyes. "She wasn't saying anything. She was telling you that her restlessness is going to be taken out on all of us while she renovates the whole damn

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place."

I chuckled. "I don't mind. Could use a little updating here and there. Just make sure it's updates and not looking like it belongs in the side room of the library."

Hector laughed as Auri pouted. She flicked a blueberry at him with such force that it splattered onto his forehead, covering him in blueberry juice. I covered my mouth and started to laugh, shaking my head.

"Goddess, you two are going to be the death of me."

"There we go." Auri smiled at me, as did Hector.

I looked at the two of them, confused. "What?"

Hector shook his head but Auri was the one who answered. "Just thought we lost you there for a moment. Your laugh brought you back."

Shaking my head, I took out a slice of strawberry and flicked it at Auri. She laughed and caught it, but it left a yogurt spot on her cheek. "I'm getting old. Fuck off."

"Not yet you aren't." Hector settled into his chair opposite of me. "You've still got plenty more years in you, Z. From this view, it might not feel like it but you do."

Auri nodded and placed another book on the table. This one was leatherbound and brand new. It was a big one and I flipped through the empty pages.

"What's this for?"

She smiled. "You. There is an account of every single Alpha King in the library. I've had two write two. I wrote Logan's and I wrote my own." Reach out, she put my hands on the book. "But you need to write his. You're the

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only one who can."

Shaking my head, I tried to pull my hands back but Auri wouldn't let me. "I don't...I wasn't around when he was younger."

Auri shook her head. "He didn't become the Alpha King until he met you, Z. He was just a pup, trying to learn the ways of the world. For you, he became the Alpha King."

"Don't say that...Auri..."

She smiled. "You aren't to blame for what happened, Z. The fact that you still are is disheartening. There is nothing you could have done differently. What you need to do is tell the story of how he lived. I need you to do that because I wasn't there for most of it. It needs to be you, sweetheart."

I stared down at the book under hand hands for a long time. Eventually, Auri lifted up her hands but I didn't take mine off the book. Instead, I pulled it closer into my lap. Running my hands up and down the leather.

"Is this from there?"

She nodded. "They had several empty ones, waiting to be filled."

I sighed and nodded. "Alright. I'll do it. But I'm not helping you renovate. You do that shit on your own."


Auri laughed and pulled me into a tight hug. I let her but I wrapped my arms around her and pulled her into a deeper hug.

"I missed you."


She brushed the back of my head a couple times. "I'm


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sorry, Z. We are here. We will be here from now on. I promise."

I let go and gave her a smile. "No yellow. I fucking hate yellow."  1

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