

Chapter 113 Father And Daughter Bond

Aero

General Halcynos remained contemplatively silent after I asked him that question. He had been my father's beta and had served the kingdom for close to eight hundred years, so I was confident he would have an answer for me.

He was there at our wedding. He saw how the marks were created. He was even one of the councils who received my temper when I sought an answer regarding this but since it was Sedsah, my father's augur, who stepped in and somehow distracted me, I wasn't able to delve deeper about this issue.

Serena sat beside me and waited for her father to speak too. I wrapped my arm around her waist and kept her close.

"You mentioned before you came here that you wanted to know more about the crescent moon marks, Your Majesty," he started with his hands clasped on each other. "Since then, I tried my hardest to remember any memory that can help you, but unfortunately, I have none."

My brows twitched at his words. Well, that didn't make sense.

“Shortly after I became your father’s beta, I was summoned by a conjurer on Earth,” he continued, explaining his story. “This conjurer was one talented but strict man and he ordered me to stay in the human realm until he died. It took me sixty years before I was able to return to Phanteon again and when I did, your father ordered me to strictly patrol the Baltic Meadows. I became the leader of Alchidna during this time too and so I had very little knowledge of what was happening in our kingdom while I was away.”

“I see,” I replied, trying to hold back my disappointment from showing on my face. Serena sensed this, however, grabbed my hand and gave me a fleeting smile.

“What I am sure of though is my own experience when I met Serena’s mother,” he added and stared at his daughter with warmth. “I admit I was distracted with her. Cyrena was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. Granted fae women were already known for their ethereal beauty, but Cyrena, she was different. Unique. She captured my heart at that moment and we instantly felt a strong bond with each other. If your theory is correct, Your Majesty, maybe, if we were successfully married, we would have the same crescent moon marks like you two have.”

“I couldn’t agree more,” Serena stepped into the conversation. “Mother always told me about how strong and handsome you were, father. She expressed her love to you many times. She saw you in

me, like how we had the same shade of hair and eyes, and how I was stubbornly determined for a good cause. She never really told me about who you truly were, but she cultivated love inside me: a love for a father. I understood your absence during my growing years and never questioned why. I had no doubt you longed for your family too: me and mother. I had no doubt you two were destined for each other.”

They exchanged compassionate stares but it was the general who reached out and sandwiched her hands with his own.

“Serena, know that I tried so hard to return to her side, but Ehnrelil and Phanteon that time was in a mess. The distance was breaking us. I was in pain. She was also in pain and this, unfortunately, slowly affected her health. If I could turn back time, I would have been on her deathbed, comforting her like I was supposed to do as her mate. Or even better, die with her.”

Serena quickly shook her head; her eyes now welling up with tears.

“You had a purpose to live, father, and that was to meet me. We wouldn’t be in this position now if you died. My sons wouldn’t have a grandfather to look up to.”

His father pulled her up and embraced her. “You had me at grandfather,” he said, partly sobbing partly chuckling. Serena buried her head against his chest like a lost puppy now found. Their bond was the best family bond I had ever seen in my life. I wished my father and I were this candidly close, but I guess...the way we were worked out just fine.

General Halcynos turned to me and lowered his head. “My apologies for this emotional display, Your Majesty.”

I quickly lifted my hand and shook my head. “Please, take your time general. Serena needs your comfort too.”

And I meant it truly. It wasn’t just because I wanted to look good in his eyes as a son-in-law.

Serena returned to her seat after a minute and the general did the same.

“Phanteon used to have a collection of historical documents in the Royal Depository and Library, Your Majesty, but your father ordered to burn all of them down,” he confessed. “It was supposed to be a secret but I knew about it because I was the one who brought all those scrolls and books

from the library to the Baltic Meadow's deserted border. He employed a witch to create a rune that would torch all the pages to ashes."

"Did he tell you why he did so?" I asked, finding this unusual. No one would do such a thing unless they were hiding something.

"Unfortunately, he didn't, Your Majesty," was his reply.

This time, my disappointment really did come to the surface. I clenched my jaw, exhaled hard, and gave the floor a sharp glare as if it was the culprit of my problems.

"I advise you to visit Alpha Edmond next, Your Majesty. You know his status as the Royal Adviser of your father. He could have saved some of these documents."

I contemplated for a moment before answering. My original plan was to visit Alpha Margaret next because she was the kingdom's main healer and midwife and would surely have extensive knowledge regarding mated couples throughout the kingdom. Plus, Serena would love to visit her and have her health checked too, but since General Halcyos advised this—

"Yes, we will take your suggestion and go to Alpha Edmond's pack next, father," Serena answered for me instead.

Our gazes met. She nodded silently to me—her way of telling me it was okay.

I nodded back and grabbed her hand again.

“Yes, that plan is set, but we will stay here until tomorrow so that we could attend the ascension ritual of your new alpha, general.”

He lowered his head again and said, “Excellent, Your Majesty. I’m confident Alpha Edmond has the answers you look for.”

Since we were already in Alchidna, Serena and I used our time to inspect the pack house, more of the training grounds—including the devastation I just created during the spar—and also we met up with the pack members—or in this case, the knights and soldiers of Phanteon.

Serena was taken aback to find out that the majority of the population in Alchidna were males. If there were females, these were servers and mostly, older women who couldn’t distract the werewolves and lycans in training.

The arrangement was the same in Jaxis, however, with Alpha Kane’s blatant womanizing ways, he had a harem in his pack house that could house a quarter of Phanteon’s she-wolves.

Damn, women again—ugh. With or without a true mate, this was an unbelievable feat. I couldn’t imagine how he lives in such a toxic environment.

Serena took advantage of spending time with her father too. She helped with preparing for the ascension ritual the next day and he was more than happy to accept her inputs.

By evening, we went to the venue just located near the pack house, on a very spacious clearing that boasted a hundred-foot drop cliff and an ocean view. The full moon was almost at its peak and I knew by then, the ritual would start.

Serena and I were directed to our special seats and it was actually located in the stage. Two customized golden thrones were placed side by side. It differed greatly the last time I attended such a gathering. Usually, I sat in an inconspicuous area, away from attention and pressure.

As I sat now with the audience facing me, I saw how inspired their expressions were.

‘Let me guess, this is the first time they are graced with the alpha king and luna’s presence together,’ Serena commented in my thoughts. Her, sitting beside me in front of my full military power, made my insides flutter. I hadn’t seen her fight personally—only caught glimpses of it through mind-link when she fought Geraden’s daughter—but I was certain she looked badass doing it. Definitely, the rightful queen for my army. Returning to her earlier question, I showed a neutral face just as I answered, “My mother was

never into these kinds of occasions, Serena. She preferred to celebrate in her own party with her men and handmaidens doing orgies and fetishes.' She held my hand and squeezed it a bit.

'I'm sorry to hear that, Aero.'

'Don't feel bad,' I stared at her and slightly tugged my lips upward. 'These people have you now.'

'Us,' she corrected. 'They have us now.'

I remained silent but I knew she was aware I agreed with her words a hundred percent.

When the full moon was high, the ritual started. The local priest garbed in a maroon robe climbed up the stage and read the established rules of Phanteon and Alchidna. These rules were made by my father, the first ruler of Phanteon, and I rewrote some when I became king.

Among these were lowering the taxes of the pack houses, setting up watchtowers on each border of the realms, allowing the alphas free reign over their packs unless they needed my presence, and prohibiting war among our species. Rogue packs had been the problem of some alphas in other territories but I let them fix it. Unless it affects the whole kingdom, I chose not to intervene.

The priest signaled the future alpha to join us on the stage. Alpha Russel did, climbing up the

center steps wearing the official colors of Phanteon—red, blue, black, and gold—in his general's uniform and cape. He knelt on the floor on one knee and kept his head down as the priest continued to speak.

“Power, unity, integrity, and trust,” he said, pertaining to the main pillars of Phanteon.

“Power, unity, integrity, and trust,” Alpha Russel echoed, pronouncing each word with conviction. General Halcynos entered the stage too, his unsheathed sword dangling beside his waist.

“What is your promise Alpha Russel?” the priest asked.

The latter raised his head, placed his clenched hand against his chest, and looked up at the moon.

“I promise to protect Alchidna; its peace, harmony, and honor. I will offer my services to the crown: to Alpha King Aero and Luna Queen Serena. And lastly, I will lead it to victory in every battle.”

General Halcynos drew his sword and wounded his palm using it. Blood quickly oozed from the laceration yet not a single worry marred his face. The priest took the sword from him and handed it to the new alpha.

“A blood oath must be fulfilled,” he said and Alpha Russel didn't hesitate with using it. He sliced

the surface of his palm consequently mixing his own blood with General Halcynos'—the outgoing leader of Alchidna.

The priest took the sword after this and raised it up for everyone to see.

“The ritual has ended! Welcome the new alpha of Alchidna, Alpha Russel!” he cried out.

The crowd immediately erupted in cheers. Serena clapped her hands enthusiastically too while I nodded my approval.

From the many guests of this occasion, I saw one particular man who caught my eye and it was none other than Alpha Edmond. He was sitting with his cheering mate and wife, Lady Georgia, near the stage.

What a convenience. I tipped the corner of my lips in delight.

I was about to tell Serena about this when I noticed his wife raise her arms up. To my surprise, I saw the same crescent moon mark on her right wrist.

[Table of Contents](#)

[+ Add to Library](#)

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)