

## Chapter 32 The Loneliness in shadows

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Hercules, consumed

by his anger and bitterness, again sneaked out of the Royal Academy during the

night. Unable to accept the lack of progress with Eduarda and her bond with

Erick, he sought a refuge in the forest to vent his tumultuous emotions.

Meanwhile, Eduarda's

uncle Peter and Joshua, knowing that Eduarda was the last daughter of the moon

mentioned in the prophecy and Erick's companion, were deeply concerned for her

safety. Determined to investigate the whereabouts of Hercules and protect his

niece, Peter chose to return alone to the hiding place where a horrendous act

had been committed: the sacrifice of the kidnapped child.

Entering the lonely

hiding place, Peter found an environment full of shadows and secrets. The sight

of the dead child aroused in his heart a mixture of sadness and fury.

Determined to discover the truth behind Hercules' actions, Pedro immersed

himself in a thorough investigation, going through every corner of the

place.

While scouring the hideout, Peter came across disturbing clues. Enigmatic scrolls and macabre artifacts suggested that Hercules was involved in forbidden and dangerous practices. The solitude of the environment echoed his thoughts, increasing his determination to unravel the dark secrets Hercules held.

The darkness was his only companion as Peter unraveled clues and connected the hidden dots. Feelings of anguish and fear intertwined in his mind, but he was strengthened by his love for Eduarda and Joshua. Peter knew that he needed to protect them from any threat just as he had promised his brother before he died, and the search for Hercules was the way to achieve this goal.

Not far away from there in a fit of overwhelming rage, Hercules allowed his rage to run out of control in the forest. Every obsessive thought about Eduarda and her relationship with Erick fueled his determination to achieve supreme power through her. The thought of Erick being more powerful than he was was unbearable, and the increasing closeness between Erick and Eduarda

aroused na

even more intense rage within him.

Meanwhile, Peter,  
driven by deep concern for the safety of his niece Eduarda, made the  
decision

to return to the city and find Joshua. He needed to share the disturbing  
discoveries he had found in Hercules' hiding place. The sight of the child  
sacrifice

along with the disturbing evidence of forbidden practices confirmed his  
suspicions about Hercules' dark involvement in extremely dangerous  
and cruel

practices and rites, but if he could achieve his goal his powers could  
match

Erick's, and that was worrisome.

Peter knew that he needed to warn Joshua so that he and  
Erick could face Hercules and protect Eduarda from any imminent  
danger. Racing

against time, he left the dark hiding place behind and headed into the  
city in

search of his nephew. Peter's mind was filled with worry and  
determination as

he imagined the devastating consequences that Hercules' anger and  
obsession

could bring to Eduarda and everyone around her.

On the way back to  
the city, Peter was interrupted by the sounds of out-of-control coming  
from the

forest. Curious and concerned for everyone's safety, he decided to

investigate

the source of these noises. Upon arriving on the scene, he found a student from

the Royal Academy involved in the chaotic situation.

Not knowing that the student was actually Hercules in disguise, Peter assumed that he was involved

in a fight or conflict. Pedro, as the royal guard and responsible for the safety of the members of the Pack, acted immediately.

"Stop immediately! What's going on here? Why are you involved in all this destruction? Shouldn't you be at the Royal Academy?" asks Peter in an authoritative tone.

"I'm sorry, sir. I... I lost control. Something made me very angry, and I ended up taking my anger out on the forest," says Hercules but deep inside he was overjoyed, fate was smiling on him by delivering Eduarda's uncle Peter into his hands.

"That's no excuse to destroy the forest and disturb the peace of the region. You should do better than that as a student of the Royal Academy. Your behavior is unacceptable."

"I know, sir, and I am deeply sorry. It was a moment of

weakness and I let my anger get the better of me. I promise this will not happen again," Hercules says waiting for the best moment to attack Peter, for

as a royal guard Hercules knows that he should not be na easy opponent

"I sincerely hope it's true. As a member of the Pack, it is your responsibility to maintain order

and safety. I don't want to see you involved in any trouble again. Return immediately

to the Royal Academy and reflect on your actions," Peter says even more

irritated when he sees the extent of the destruction caused by the young man

"Yes, sir. I will follow your orders. I apologize for the trouble I caused," Hercules laughs inwardly

"Anger is not na excuse for irresponsible actions. Go back to the Academy and concentrate on

your training. I will make a report about this incident and hopefully not see

you involved in any more trouble" Peter says feeling a strange chill run through

his body, which makes him hold the handle of his silver dagger plated in aconite .

"Understood, sir. I

thank you for the opportunity to redeem me. I will do my best to improve my

behavior," Hercules says amused by the situation

"I hope you will.

Now, go away and don't stray from the proper path again. The safety and

integrity of the members of the Pack are of paramount importance. I don't want

to see you putting anyone in danger again," he says signaling for the student

to move on.

Hercules nods, backing away slowly before turning and walking away. Peter watched cautiously until he was out of sight, keeping the

worry in his heart and strangely feeling relieved to be away from the student.

Now, he needed to find Joshua and share the disturbing discoveries he found in

Hercules' hiding place in order to protect Eduarda and face whatever threat was

coming.

As Peter watched

Hercules walk away, he still felt a chill run down his spine. However, his concern for Eduarda's safety and his determination to face any threat kept him

alert.

As Peter advanced

towards the city, he realized that he was approaching a densely wooded area.

The shadows of the trees seemed to come alive, dancing around him and

concealing mysterious figures.

Unbeknownst to him, Hercules remained hidden in the shadows, patiently waiting for the right moment to strike. He watched

Peter get closer and closer, knowing that Eduarda's uncle's guard would be down

and he would have a perfect opportunity to surprise him.

When Pedro finally reached a moonlit clearing, he felt a strange sense of relief. He slowed his pace, convinced that he was safe. But

just as he turned to continue on his way, Hercules emerged from the shadows

with frightening speed.

Peter's eyes widened in surprise when he realized the impending attack. Instinctively, he reached

for his silver dagger, ready to defend himself. However, Hercules was determined to outdo him and possess the supreme power he so craved.

Hercules launched himself at Peter with incredible ferocity, his hands raised to deliver a mortal

blow. But Peter, despite his initial surprise, was prepared for the confrontation. He used his experience as a royal guard to dodge Hercules'

attacks, moving with agility and speed.

The fight between the two was intense and fierce. Peter was fighting to protect himself and

Eduarda, and the world, while Hercules was determined to subdue his opponent

and achieve his dark goals. Every move was calculated, every blow was executed

with precision.

As the battle raged, Peter's determination grew stronger. He remembered his brother's words before

he passed away, promising to protect Eduarda and Joshua at any cost. This

promise fueled his courage and endurance.

Eventually Peter found a breach in Hercules' defense. And he took advantage of it by wounding

Hercules in a deep cut just below the eyes.

But this unleashes Hercules' anger and he manages to subdue Peter. ①