

Chapter 125 Believe in yourself.

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AMALTHEA'S POV

Why is his story feeling so relatable? Why are these emotions so relatable to me? This has nothing to do with me. So why am I feeling like this?

"I didn't go and meet him, neither did he come to me. After a week, I went to the training grounds again, and that's when I saw that. The large mark on his face. He was brutally injured in the battle and then captured and tortured for three days and nights. He never spoke anything to anyone after that. I turned him into this," Jake said as more tears fell down his eyes, and I looked at the shadow.

I know Ashton was sitting there and hearing everything intently, and maybe that's what these two wanted right now. What happened with Ashton because of Jake's negligence can't be changed, but maybe Jake's love can make up for it.

"Is this what has been weighing you down? You blame yourself for whatever happened to Ashton?" I asked after a few minutes, and Jake looked into my eyes before nodding slowly and bowing again.

"How can I not? If I had been a bit more patient with him. Only if I had taken my phone with me, and had picked up his call or saved him from all the torture. Or maybe if I wouldn't have ignored and treated him like he was my arch enemy, then maybe he wouldn't have turned into what he is now," Jake said, and I sighed before lifting his head.

"And what has he turned into? From what I see, he is perfectly fine. Just a man who wants to be accepted for who is. Someone who wants people to look into his eyes and not his scar. He is just a normal man who wants people to treat him normally and not like he is some heartless soldier. Earlier, I saw how everyone looked at him warily when I called and moved toward him. He was standing in the corner, away from everyone," I said before looking at Jake.

"Do you think he blames you for all that? You said you used to hate him because of what happened, right? But you did notice how he was always around you. I am sure you also noticed how persistent he was, and it gnawed at your heart, no? His love was irking you, right?" I said before smiling.

"Do you want to know what I think?" I asked, and he looked up into my eyes before nodding softly.

"I think you had accepted him way before that accident. You didn't realize everything after you saw that scar on his face. No one apart from you knows how affected you were by him. You started accepting his presence and his smiles while he followed you, or you wouldn't have blamed yourself for so long. If he meant nothing to you, you wouldn't have hated him at all. You wanted, no, you needed him to be like how he was before that accident because a part of you started liking how he used to roam around you while calling you his big brother. It filled you with emotions like love and affection, and it was exactly the thing that you hated," I said before smiling.

"You didn't hate Ashton, Jake. You never did. It was the emotions he was making you feel that you hated so badly," I said, and he widened his eyes at me as if he didn't believe what I was saying.

"I don't think a person who is guilty or heartless towards his younger brother would be so much affected because of some random girl speaking to him. You better than anyone else knows what you are feeling right now. Is it the feeling of gratitude because you felt guilty for Ashton, and now you are calm that someone talked to him? Or is it because you always loved him and were just ignoring your emotions for so long because he was your stepbrother, and you told yourself you are supposed to hate him, and now that he is smiling again, you feel happy in your heart," I said before pointing at his heart.

"Come to me when you have your answer. Till then, I don't see why I should waste my time here," I said before placing my hand on the wall and was about to stand when Jake held my index finger.

I looked at his dejected face, my heart swelling as it ached for him. I don't have any idea what Jake has gone through or what he feels inside, but he always gave me the feeling of my elder brother, even when I didn't have any feelings for Augustus. And honestly, seeing him like this was making me sad too.

"Don't go," he whispered, and I sighed before sitting again.

"If you don't want me to go, then start being truthful to yourself," I said,

and he nodded.

"You are right. It was because I started liking his presence around me. It was a subtle feeling that started with searching for him when he wouldn't be following me. I started going to the extent of stalking his every single action. With his small actions like how he would smile happily after drinking a chocolate smoothie or his grunts when he would see the bitter guard on the dining table, I started noticing everything. And it scared me. I was supposed to hate him forever. He destroyed my perfect family, no?" He asked me, and I smiled.

"And there was a time when you started questioning yourself, that maybe it's not Ashton's fault. He was a kid too. He didn't deserve that kind of hatred because he was innocent. You started accepting him in your heart, but your mind always told you that you were just deluding yourself. You held yourself back and reminded yourself to carry on with those negative emotions," I said, and he nodded.

"I loved him. That's why I reacted so much when he joined the guards' squad. It wasn't because I hated that he followed me here too. I wanted him out of the trouble, but he said he came because of me, and that made me hate myself and him even more. I didn't know something like this would happen. He lost his smile because of me. He got a scar for life that is not only etched on his face, but his soul too," Jake said, and I looked up before relaxing.

"Sometimes we unknowingly make bad decisions and choose to hurt others because we want to protect them from harm's way, no?" I asked, and he sighed.

"When I saw you talking to him today and motivating him, I saw him breaking like that for the first time. He didn't express anything after that accident to anyone. However, today he let his guard loose. I was grateful to you for that. But when I heard his melody, which was filled with sadness and grief, I felt like he was shouting for help. He was shouting and expressing his emotions through his melody, and no one apart from you heard it," Jake said before taking a deep breath.

"I noticed how you walked on the pedestal and talked to him. Everyone is usually afraid of him, but you talked and laughed with him. And for the first time, I saw the same glint in his eyes. The glint that held human emotions as he heard you talking to him. That's why I couldn't control my emotions, and wanted to thank you for bringing his side of him to light once again. I didn't plan to cry like this though," He said with an awkward smile, his eyes still brimmed with tears, and I sighed.

"Do you think Ashton will accept your brotherly love now? You guys have been blaming each other for quite some time. However, I am sure if you try a little, things might work. Don't you think so?" I asked, and he shook his head.

"There is no reason for him to accept me now, and I completely understand that. I am ready to live with this guilt as long as he is happy. I just wanted to ask you for this favor. Can you please talk and interact with him more when you are in the training field? Maybe train with him? It would make him relax. I will owe you a big one for this," Jake said, and I scoffed.

"All your life you jeopardize your emotions for him and make decisions for both of your lives, no? Don't you think you should ask Ashton what his thoughts are about the revelation of your emotions for the first time?" I asked, and Jake shook his head.

"It's futile. What I have done is unforgivable," Jake said, and I sighed.

"Let's leave that to Ashton, yeah? The least you can do is believe in yourself and try your best. You will do that for him, right?" I asked before pointing my finger to my lips and asking him to stay quiet.

Looking towards the wall where Ashton was probably sitting and still hearing us, I sighed.

Walking towards the wall as slowly as quietly as I could, I sighed when I saw his shoulders shaking.

Of course. What did I expect other than this? Ashton was crying. He was feeling as emotional as his elder brother.

"It's not good to eavesdrop on someone's conversation, you know," I said after sitting close to him, and like a thief caught stealing something, he widened his eyes before turning towards me as he tried to make a sprint. However, before he could move an inch, I held his hand firmly, making him look at me.

"Let me go," He growled, his voice appearing more pleading than threatening.

"Where do you think you are going? Do you feel nothing towards your brother? I am sure you had your reasons for giving up on him, and that battle where you got this scar left a deeper scar on your heart, but can't it be healed? It has already left a mark because both of you didn't treat it well on time. Do you guys want it to become deeper and uglier than it already is? What is wrong with going toward each other and talking? Why are you guys behaving like children when I can clearly see you guys are



grown enough to make some," I scoffed before pulling him all the way towards Jake.

"Now you two better get this whatever sh*t going between you sorted, or I am really going to kick down your asses. And before you mention you are some kind of dangerous and powerful Lycans that I can't handle, I am sure Augustus won't have any problem doing the deed for me," I said, and Jake sighed before looking at Ashton, who was looking everywhere but him.

"Jake, this is your only chance to explain yourself and make things right. Don't let it slide from your fingers. And Ashton, this is your only luck getting your elder brother back. I hope you know what to do," I said before sighing and leaving them alone.

This is the most I can do for them. I can lead them towards each other, but the rest of the talking and its outcome completely depends on how they resolve this thing with each other..

'Amalthea, I am proud of you,' Crystal suddenly said, and I nodded at her.

'And I would've been even prouder if you would've learned something from this,' She said, and I paused in my steps.

'What do you mean?' I asked, confused, and she laid back before sighing.

'Can't you figure it out yourself? Do you know why Jake and Ashton's relationship is so strained right now? Because they never expressed what was there in their hearts. Ashton was like a kid, always going around Jake, but because of Jake's own emotional turmoil, he never accepted Ashton and his affection,' She paused before smiling.

'Jake didn't accept that someone could love him unconditionally like that until Ashton suddenly stopped. That's when Jake realized what he had lost. They got another chance in life because they were lucky. Do you think everyone is so lucky in life to get second chances? Jake's turmoil has left a deep scar on Ashton's memories. Even if things go back to normal, I hardly believe it will be as good as they could've been if Jake was honest with his feelings,' Crystal said, and I tilted my head.

'What do you want to say?' I asked, and she smiled.

'It's for you to decide,' She said before smiling and closing her eyes, blocking me from the mind barrier.

The nerve of this girl. How can she really block me from my own space? I thought, bewildered, before thinking about her words.

Huh. She is just spouting nonsense. There is no way this thing can relate

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+120 Points at most

to me. I have no one like that in my life. I sighed before walking towards where my room was.

Opening the door with the door pass, I was about to enter my room when I heard a deep sigh from the corner of the corridor.

"What did he talk to you about?" Augustus said as he came out before looking at my shoulder and squinting his brows.

"Can I come in?" He asked me, and I shrugged before walking inside the room.

'You are in denial, Amalthea. Even we can see what your wolf was talking about. How can you be so blind?' I heard another voice in my head, and I paused in my steps, unsure.

Was this the sound of my Siren self? Was it the powers of that lady Antonio was talking about? I thought before shaking my head.

