

Chapter 76

Atlas Pov

"STOP," Samael said as Jasmine approached the woman she called "Sabrina." Sabrina looked at Jasmine with a strange expression on her face, as if she didn't recognize her. Jasmine turned around and looked at Samael.

"She is a Samsara," Samael said, and we all looked back at her. I smiled, surprised that they were quick to catch on.

"I'm sorry, she is a what?" Ava asked.

"A reincarnated spirit with a unique dragon. Every war with our species has had one sent to us by our dragon lord. He sends one with the face of someone we can trust and makes sure they are rare. The dragons are imbued with knowledge from over 10, 000 years ago, when they were created. The golden dragon. One of the rarest of our species. He must have known you would recognize her," I said, looking at Jasmine.

"So, she isn't Sabrina?" Jasmine asked, looking at Samsara, who only looked at Jasmine with a look of pity.

"No, but I will admit, you seem very familiar to me. I assume we were close in my past life. I will be here to help Ava however I can." The Samsara said: Jasmine nodded and went into the arms of Samael.

"What is your name?" Ava asked.

"I was created without a name, but I named myself Gold, from my dragon color. You must be Avaa," Gold said, holding her hand out to Ava. Ava shook it and nodded.

"Pleasure to meet you, Gold. Did Typhon give you any instructions as to what you would be doing here?" Ava asked.

"Only that it is my duty to stay by your side during this war," Gold said. Ava suddenly went rigid, and her eyes darkened black. We all looked at her, since nothing like that had ever happened before.

"Your witch belongs to me," she said in a deep voice that was not her own. A symbol of a scythe appeared on her head and burned, leaving a black mark on her forehead. She dropped unconscious, and I caught her before she hit the ground. Gold put her hands over Ava's forehead and closed her eyes. Water droplets rose from the ground and shrouded her hands in a bubble. When she opened her eyes, they were golden. Rynixon and Jasmine also kneeled beside her.

"She has been marked by death itself. Lucifer is draining her magic expression slowly and will soon be able to get out of his prison. Ava suddenly opened her eyes, and they were still black. She looked up at Gold with her hands over her forehead and grabbed her hands, causing steam to rise from her hands, as if her hands were flames themselves.

"She will never be yours. Be gone, demon," Gold said, and the water around her hands started bubbling. Ava let go of gold, and her eyes closed. The scythe symbol on her forehead disappeared, and a symbol of a small gold dragon appeared before disappearing. Gold lifted her hands away from Ava, and the water around them dropped back into the ground.

"What is happening to her?" I asked Gold.

"Lucifer has marked her. I imagine, from what you have told me, that it would have happened when she was with him in his realm. He left his imprint on her, so they will be linked. He is slowly draining Ava's magical expression. I have put a block on his connection, but he is powerful enough to break through it when Ava is at her weakest. None of the information gifted to me by Typhus tells me how to break this connection with her since it has never been done. The last time Lucifer imprinted on someone, she eventually died." Gold explained.

"He will not have me," Ava said, opening her eyes and looking up into mine.

"Ava," I said in relief, glad to be looking back into her purple eyes again.

"Atlas," she said, reaching up and touching my face. I sat her up.

"Did it happen again?" Ava asked.

"Again. What the fuck do you mean again?" I wanted to know. She looked up at me with a tired look.

"I have been feeling Lucifer drain my magic ever since I left his realm." She spoke.

"And you didn't think to share this with me?" I wanted to know. I was angry. Not at her, but at the risk to her own safety and her magic.

"I was trying to deal with this on my own. We have all been busy," she said, looking down.

"Please, Ava, do not hesitate to come to me with stuff like that. We can't win this war without knowing all the details going into it, and your safety is the most important thing to me. Even more so than being king. You are my mate, Ava," I told her. She looked back up at me and nodded.

"I am sorry," she said in a small voice, and I could feel her feelings through the mate bond.

"Let us reconvene tomorrow. Ava needs rest." I told everyone.

"We will be back early tomorrow, Ava," Rynyxon told her, kissing her head. Jasmine looked at Ava, and her eyes were flickering. She must have been communicating with her own wolf.

"Your birthday is coming up soon, and with it, the full extent of your own magic. Lunar says it is possible you can break the connection yourself, as we have always felt you are more powerful than we have always thought you to be." Jasmine said, and Samael held out a hand for her to stand up. I also lifted Ava into my arms from the ground, carrying her bridal style. Samael opened a portal back to their realm, and everyone went back through it, leaving behind Ava, Gold, and myself.

"Gold, make sure you get settled in the castle. I will be accompanying Ava for the rest of the day," I told Gold, my eyes never leaving Ava. Gold looked at Ava, waiting to see if it was what she wanted. As much as I wanted to be annoyed with that, I had to remind myself that she was there as a service to Ava for the most part. Ava nodded to Gold, dismissing her. Gold shifted into her dragon and flew to the castle. Ava nudged her head into my chest.

"I am feeling a little tired," she said. I carried her back to the castle and up to my room. She fell asleep on the way there. Having her in my arms after being apart was like a hole in my chest finally being filled. I had missed everything about her constantly. I watched everything about her. The way she sighed in her sleep. The way her hair covered her heart-shaped face. With the upcoming war, we were all on edge, and I felt upset with myself for snapping at her earlier about not telling me about Lucifer draining her, but even Kai agreed that this was something she should have told us immediately. It had not occurred to me that the one person who could cost us this war could possibly be Ava herself.