

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North

- Chapter 241 – 260

Chapter 241: IT'S OVER

Zander held Dawn close to him, because he didn't want them to be sucked into the hurricane that Zaya created.

But, Pyro rushed toward him and created a shield around them. He used his last magic stone to do so.

In this case, he had created two spots of shield, which exerted so much of his energy. The other spot was to protect the knights and the warriors.

"How is she? Is she alright?! Where is Zen?!" Pyro had to raise his voice above this loud and harsh wind. He looked at Dawn with concern in his eyes. "Is she alright?!"

"No."

Physically, Dawn must be very exhausted, but mentally, it would take a long time for her to be alright... Zander knew that. He knew the real agony would come to her the moment she opened her eyes and faced the reality.

"Where is Zenith?" Pyro asked again, but from the look on his face, it seemed, he already knew what the answer could be. He gritted his teeth and didn't ask more question, as they watched how Zaya unleashed the power of black magic, sent it back to the underworld, where it belonged and no one should ever touch it again.

The wind was so harsh, but it was not as hot as before and the sky slowly returned to its color. It was early morning, as they could see the soft light of the sun.

But, Zander's eyes found something else. He caught a sight of Nadia.

She was standing not too far from the crater, the masked men behind her and the little wolves spirits around her legs. She smiled at him.

"Look after her," Zander said as he handed over Dawn to Pyro and step out of the shield.

“Zan! Where are you going?! Come back here! Why are you going?!” He looked panic because he was afraid that Zander would do something reckless. He wouldn’t put it passed him if he wanted to jump over the crater.

But, he couldn’t leave Dawn alone.

“Zan! Don’t be stupid! Come back here!” Pyro called him frantically when he saw Zander walked over to the edge of the crater, but he stopped a few steps away from there. He simply stood there in the harsh winds. “What are you doing there?!”

However, Pyro couldn’t see what Zander could see. The royal beta was unable to see the masked men, the wolf spirits and the woman that should be the queen of this kingdom.

This sight only appeared in Zander’s eyes, it was only him, who could see this.

“Is this a goodbye?” Zander asked, his voice was barely a whisper against the howling wind and Nadia smiled softly at him. “There are a lot of things that we should talk about.”

“I know.” Nadia nodded, she took a step forward to him.

“Can I touch you?” Zander asked softly. He raised his hand, but stopped before he could touch her. “Or are you going to disappear if I touched you? Or maybe I will not feel anything, but the wind?”

Nadia smiled brightly, she giggled. Zander felt like he was going to go crazy with the need to feel her.

“Why don’t you find out?” Nadia tilted her head and allowed Zander to touch her cheek.

Zander gasped when the flesh under her fingers was solid. She was real. She was not only in his imagination, though it was only him, who could see her, who could confirm that she was there, standing in front of him.

Her skin was smooth and the heat was real, as if her blood rushed in her veins.

“How this could be...”

Nadia winked at him. “Magic.”

Zander felt like his heart was going to burst. “Could this magic make you stay with me?”

Nadia wrinkled her nose, her gaze turned sad. "Unfortunately, no. It's best for all the dark magic to disappear from this realm."

"You are going to disappear too."

The word left his lips and he knew that was true. He knew that this was not a second chance or anything like that. Nadia had died and the woman before him was only a vivid hallucination of what remained of her.

She was a powerful magic user, a clairvoyant and she knew from the beginning they wouldn't be together, therefore she would say something so strange during their time together.

"Our time was very short," Nadia said. "Don't you think?" She took a step closer toward Zander and caressed her cheek. "I don't know that I will leave you like this with so much pain and I am really sorry for that."

"What is so great about magic when you couldn't even stay?"

Nadia shook her head, she then leaned over to rest her head against his chest and Zander caressed her nape. She liked it when he played with her hair.

"You are so real. I can touch you and I can smell your scent. Why couldn't you stay?"

"You know the reason why."

She used black magic too and in order to get rid all of the black magic from this realm, she needed to be disappeared as well, more so, she died already. Her place was no longer here.

"Thank you for everything, Zander. I really loved the time we spent together." Nadia lifted her head and looked at him with her beautiful green eyes. "That's the highlight of my life."

Zander gritted his teeth, as he leaned over and kissed her lips. She was very real, even her lips were real. Why she couldn't stay?

Nadia reciprocated the kiss, but then she pulled away gently. "It's time."

And with that, she went toward the edge of the craters, followed by the rest of the masked men and the little wolf spirits.

The moment her body disappeared, the crater was closed and the sky turned normal, as the wind stopped.

The black magic was gone from this realm as well and cool wind blew from the west. Everything was over now.

Chapter 242: HE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE

It was done, the war was done.

But this war this time left so much impact in the shifter world, because right now, they lost their ability to shift into their wolf.

All the shifters lost their wolf spirit, but they would live, just like what happened to Zander. They didn't lose their ability to heal, they didn't lose their strong senses, but they couldn't have any connection to their wolf spirit, which meant, they wouldn't be able to shift... at all.

Jared's aim to destroy the werewolf world, somehow, succeeded, though he didn't manage to kill them all, since all of them still lived.

However, it would take a long time for them to adjust themselves with the fact that they couldn't shift into their beast anymore.

This was the most fucked up thing that they had ever felt. It almost like they lost their limb. Something was missing, there was this void that they couldn't explain.

A huge hole that nothing could replace.

"Dawn?" Zaya called her when she saw she furrowed her brows. "Wake up."

Her gentle voice guided Dawn through the fog of her mind. She opened her eyes and the first thing she saw was Zaya's worried face.

"Are you alright?" She asked again.

"Where am I?" Dawn felt lethargic. She had a hard time to keep her consciousness when the darkness pulled her back. She wanted to hide...

"The palace." Zaya poured a glass of water and helped her to sit down, she arranged the pillow behind her back. "You are alright. Everything is alright..." She said, as she held the glass to her lips. "Drink this, you will feel better."

Dawn didn't think a glass of water would make her feel any better. "Where is Zade?"

"Zade is with Yara. You don't need to worry. He is fine," she said with small voice. She caressed her cheek and checked her temperature. "Your fever had gone down, thankfully."

“How long?” Dawn rasped. She didn’t want to talk about the war. She didn’t want to be reminded what she had lost.

“A week.” Zaya knew what she wanted to ask.

Dawn nodded and moved to get off the bed, but Zaya stopped her. “No. You can’t go. You need to rest. This is in the middle of the night, Zade is already sleeping now.”

“I want to see my son.” Dawn wanted to see Zade. She wanted to see him with her own eyes, to know that he was really safe.

She gritted her teeth when she felt the discomfort on her body, she pushed through. She didn’t want to stay.

Zaya could see that Dawn really needed this and helped her to get on her feet and take her to Zade’s room, where Burke and the other stood guard.

They greeted Dawn and Zaya, but they only nodded at them.

“It’s okay, I want to be alone.” Dawn stopped Zaya from coming into the room with her, she wanted to be alone with her son.

Zaya wanted to refuse that, because she didn’t think it would be wise for Dawn to be alone, but the look on her eyes must have told her that she needed this alone time, thus she nodded and then stepped back.

Dawn closed the door behind her, she strode inside the room and found her baby was on the bed, sleeping peacefully.

She approached him and couldn’t help, but broke down crying. She tried to keep her voice down, but she couldn’t.

The sadness and pain, the longing and misery that she felt with the thought how she had lost Zenith came racking her body like a hurricane.

The dam was broken and she couldn’t control herself when she saw Zade’s sleeping face, especially when he opened his eyes.

Those beautiful blue eyes, the eyes that she loved the most, stared back at her.

“Momma?” Zade immediately got up and hugged his mother. He wrapped his arms around her neck and patted her back. “Momma, don’t cry... don’t cry.”

“I am sorry, Zade. I am sorry that I woke you up.”

"It's okay... don't cry momma." Zade gave kisses on her cheeks and all Dawn wanted to do was to curl herself and drawn in misery. "Momma, where is Dada?"

"I am sorry, Zade. I am sorry..."

How she could explain to him that his father wouldn't come to see him again? How she could tell him that he would never see his father again? How she could bring herself to tell him that he would never Zenith again and he would never return?

"I am sorry, Zade... I am sorry..."

The little one blinked his eyes, he didn't know why his mother was crying, but he didn't ask for his father again, because the more he asked the more his mother became so sad.

Zade caressed Dawn's hair, he was very gentle with her, he saw how his father used to caress his mother's hair and she used to smile when he did that.

Therefore, Zade thought it would make his mother less sad.

"Momma, it's okay..." he kissed her cheeks and hugged her.

Two days later, the funeral was held. It was a huge funeral, since there were so many people that died during the battle and because most of the bodies couldn't be retrieved, since their dead bodies couldn't be saved, thus they held the funeral for them by using the item that belonged to them.

The sky looked gloomy, as if the universe mourned their death too.

Zaya stayed with Dawn all the time and she didn't allow anyone to hold Zade. She hugged her son closely and it broke her heart when the little one was smart enough to catch on thing that was happening.

"Momma, is my dadada dead?"

Zaya couldn't control her emotions when she heard the question and excused herself, while Dawn had to be tough for her son.

"Dada is... no longer with us," Dawn replied. "But, he will always be here." She put her palm against his chest.

Chapter 243: THE AFTERMATH

"She has been avoiding me," Zander said. He was no longer seeing the masked men, but sometime, he still wore his golden mask, especially when he had to see Dawn.

“You know how hard it is for her.”

Zander understood, that was why he used to wear the golden mask whenever she was around, because it must be so hard to see him with Zenith’s face.

“She decided to go back to the north.” Zaya had talked to Dawn and she said her desire to go back to the northern park at that time, because she didn’t think she wanted to stay for long in the capital city.

“She didn’t need to go back,” Zander replied. “She could stay here for as long as she wanted.”

He was worried. Darius and Axel would definitely take care of her and Zade would be the alpha of the north when he came to age and while he was still a child, Dawn would be in charge for the pack.

Before this, they had never heard a woman, a luna alone led a pack, but Dawn wanted to do that.

“I think it’s best if she returned to the north.” Zaya agreed with Dawn’s decision. “She couldn’t stand to see you and being in the palace will be very uncomfortable for her, even though you wore your silly mask and more importantly, Zade is expected to lead the pack one day, it would be better if he is raised there, so he will know what he needs to learn.”

Zander listened to what Zaya said and he could see the point.

“Where she will leave?” Zander put down the mask. He stared at his reflection on the mirror. The only thing that he could do right now was to protect his twin’s family.

“She wanted to leave in two days.”

Zander nodded. “Understood.”

Later that night, Zander asked someone to call for Dawn. He wanted to talk to her, though it would be hard for her to see him, but this conversation was long overdue.

Dawn came after she put Zade to bed and Zander was still wearing his golden mask, he had his back against her, as he stared at the night sky.

“You don’t need to turn around to talk to me. I am fine now.” Dawn knew it was ridiculous for her to avoid him, but she couldn’t help it. “It’s not like I will see you again in the near future.”

“You don’t have any plan to come and visit your brother in law? I will miss Zade terribly. Maybe, I will ask for Pyro to create a portal that took me to the north every day.”

“He will chew you out for not taking care of the report.”

Zander chuckled and Dawn felt this pang in her heart when she heard that. Their voice was almost the same. She pressed her lips and arranged her expression before Zander could notice that.

“How is the problem in the west?”

“We managed to take down Vemion a week ago. I am sure you heard the news. The west is under our control now.”

Without the help of the dragon sect and the Holy Kingdom, which now had been eradicated, they didn’t have any real power, thus it was easy for Zander to penetrate their defense.

Zander moved so fast, he gathered all the warriors and asked for help from the knight of Marca El people.

King Rowan happily helped, because it was Zaya, who asked for his help directly. Dawn was not sure what kind relationship that the two of them had, but she was happy for her.

“How is... the people?”

Since they lost their beast, it was hard to tell whether they were shifter or not, it was a great adjustment for them, especially when they needed to learn how to fight in their human form even more.

Therefore, king Rowan had suggested his stay in this continent a little bit longer to teach all of the warriors of how to fight like the knight.

It hit the ego of the warriors, but then they couldn’t do anything. This was part of the hardest adjustment that they had to do regarding their inability to shift.

“They are still adjusting.”

Dawn and Zander talked a little bit more about trivial thing before the king brought up the main topic.

“Do you really need to move?” Zander asked.

“Yes.” Dawn then gave him the same reason why she wanted to return to the north and Zander agreed with her point, he only wanted to hear it from her.

"I hope things are different."

"I am sorry," Dawn said.

"For what?" Zander tilted his head, he didn't think there was something for Dawn to be apologized for.

"In the end, I killed him." She swore to Zander that she would never put any harm on Zenith, she swore that she wouldn't kill him, but here she was...

Zander walked toward Dawn and caressed her head lightly. "I asked you to do that. You don't need to feel sorry for what you have done. If it's not because of you, all of us would have died. I am the one, who should apologize because I put a huge responsibility on you. I am sorry, Dawn."

Dawn pressed her lips, she chided herself not to cry.

She was too deep in her sorrow, she didn't even realize that Zaya and Zander also lost their sibling. She was not the only one, who was struggling with this grief.

"No. Don't. Don't apologize." Dawn covered her face and Zander hugged her.

They stayed like that for a while and talked about a few things before Dawn left the room, but before that, she asked Zander to take off his golden mask.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

Zander took off his golden mask and silent ensued, until Dawn chuckled.

"Zenith is more handsome than you," she said lightly before she closed the door.

"No way. We are literally twin, okay."

Chapter 244: RETURNED TO THE NORTH

One more reason why Dawn wanted to leave for the north because she didn't want Emily and her father to stay there for long, especially the former. She knew that Emily would create trouble for her the moment she stepped in the pack.

She had lived with her for almost all of her life and Dawn knew what she was capable of doing.

Emily could make all the people in the pack to turn their back against her and she was very stupid if she let her to do that again.

The north was her pack. She could do whatever with the Moonlight pack, but she wouldn't allow her to get what she wanted in the north.

Dawn couldn't trust her father either.

The day that Dawn left the capital city, it was a bright day, where her entourage was not so big, she didn't want to make a fuss over this and there were only a few people who came to see her.

Zander and Zaya, also Pyro and Celine. Hecate only came when she was about to get on the carriage.

"Oh, I will miss you, baby..." Zaya hugged Zade tightly and kissed the little boy to the point, Zade told her to stop.

Zade still couldn't grasp the fact that his father was no longer with them, he knew that his father had died, but he still couldn't grasp the concept of death really well.

"Stop, aunty..." Zade pushed Zaya's face away from him. "Stop." He raised his arms toward Yara, asked her to carry him, because Zaya became a little bit annoying.

Zander came to his rescue instead and hug him, in which Zade hugged him back. He blinked his big eyes at him, but he didn't call him 'dada'. It seemed, he knew it was not his father. He could differentiate Zander from his father.

"Please, write more, okay?" Zaya hugged Dawn tightly, she kissed both of her cheek and didn't want to let her go. Both of them fought back their tears.

The death of Zenith was still fresh in their memory. They avoided to talk about it, but it didn't mean they didn't mourn him in private.

Zaya spent the whole night cried in Rowan's arms one day because she missed Zenith terribly, she wished she could do something differently.

"I will."

Zander was not wearing his golden mask and he gave her a hug too. "Tell me if you need anything. Understood?"

Dawn nodded. "I will." She knew that she would need all the help that she could get if she was going to manage the north pack and to have the king behind her back was a privilege.

After that, Dawn got inside the carriage, but only then Hecate came, he brought a box with him. "Here, take this. This is my precious baby. You will like it."

Dawn was frowning, but when she saw the item inside the box, she laughed. "Thank you. I really appreciate it."

"What is that?" Zaya craned her neck, wanted to see the item, but even when she saw it, she didn't know what one could do with that.

After that, Dawn left with Zade, Yara, Darius and the remaining warriors from the north, which was not many.

"Bye bye..." Zade waved to Zaya and Zander until he couldn't see them again. "Momma... where will we go?" he asked, he was playing with Zaya's hair. His big blue eyes looked at her with curiosity.

Dawn was silent for a while, before she smiled bitterly. "We will go home..."

She didn't know if the north could be called home. It was home when Zenith was there. The capital city was home when he was there, but now, when he had gone, she didn't know where was her home anymore.

"Owh..." Zade didn't ask anything anymore, he was busy to watch the scenery. It was almost winter, where the wind was rather cold, thus Dawn wrapped him up.

It took them a few days to reach the north and once they were there, all of the pack member greeted Dawn, they expressed their condolence for her lost and how sad they were for losing the alpha during the battle.

They were also very excited to see Zade, who had grown up. Their attention on the little one was rather too much, which made Zade felt a little bit uncomfortable and Dawn could feel that too.

He would tug her sleeve and furrowed his brows whenever he felt uncomfortable. His blue eyes would turn sharper and there would be no smile on his lips.

With that, Dawn carried Zade in her arms and then went to her bedroom, but before she could leave, she saw her father and Emily approached her.

"You are here early," alpha Tony said. He approached her daughter and hugged her briefly, while Emily stood behind him sheepishly with a little boy, who was only a few months older than Zade.

“How are you, Dawn?” Emily asked in small voice, she didn’t dare to look at her in the eyes.

“Let’s talk later, I am tired,” Dawn said, she wanted to dismiss them quickly, so she could go to her bedroom and hide.

“Yes, yes, you need to rest.” Tony looked at Zade, he stretched out his hand to touch his cheek, but the little one swatted his hand away from his face. He was in a bad mood because there were so many people bothered him.

Dawn didn’t say anything and then left, she didn’t even look at Emily at all when she walked past her. She went straight to her bedroom, but then she decided not to go inside and instead choose to stay in Zade’s room.

“Momma, I don’t like here...” Zade complained. He furrowed his brows.

“It’s okay, honey. They were only excited to see you.” Dawn kissed his cheeks. “Now, let’s clean you up and then take some rest, okay?”

Zade pursed his lips. He looked like Zenith when he was having an attitude.

Dawn felt this pain in her chest again.

Chapter 245: THE RESPONSIBILITY

“Momma, where dada will come?” Zade asked when Dawn tucked him to sleep. She laid down next to him and caressed his cheek. His eyes looked sleepy.

“Dada will not come...” Dawn felt this pang in her heart, but she didn’t want to sugarcoat or even lied to him. She didn’t feel that was the right thing to do.

Zade opened his eyes, he pursed his lips because he didn’t agree with her. “Dada will come.”

Dawn took a deep breath, for a moment, she didn’t know what to say about that or how to response to his determined answer, but she watched how sleep finally took over and Zade’s breathing became even.

“I hope the same thing too, honey. I wish nothing but for him to come home too.” Dawn kissed Zade’s forehead. She fought back her tears, but in the end, she lost.

Dawn cried the whole night in silent. She wanted to believe that Zenith would return, but it was so hard to hold onto such hope when she knew it would never happen.

She really hoped what Zade said was true.

The next day, Axel came to her. He had been taking care of the affair in the pack, thus as the luna, Dawn would be the one, he gave his report to.

“Play with Yara, okay?” Dawn kissed Zade’s cheek and gave him to Yara.

“Come on, I will show you the rest of the pack! You will like it!” Yara looked happy to return to the pack, because she could meet with her parents again.

However, the death of the alpha still lingered heavily in the air. All of the pack members were wearing black color, as a sign of mourning, while Dawn would wear black dress for a month.

“I am sorry to bother you with this matter when you are still mourning,” Axel said, he led them to the alpha’s study room.

“I can say the same thing to you.” Dawn walked toward the chair, where Zenith used to sit. She caressed it and curled her fingers, as she composed herself. “You knew Zenith longer than me. We all lost him.”

For a moment, the atmosphere was so heavy inside the room, before Dawn cleared her throat and sat down on the chair, while Axel took the opposite seat.

“So, how should I do this?”

Axel took a deep breath. He furrowed his brows. “Maybe I should come back later. This is too early.”

Dawn shook her head. “If you came to me, it meant this matter is urgent. I want to hear that.” More so, it would help Dawn to distract her mind from her grievances.

Axel then started to talk about a few important things related to the pack and how they need to be prepared for the winter.

Dawn tried so hard to focus on what Axel told her. She had never taken care of a pack before, she really had to learn from zero.

“Dawn?” Axel called her. “Did you listen to me?”

“Oh, what? I am sorry, what did you say?” Dawn’s mind was drifting off and Axel could see that. He felt so bad for her, because losing a mate was something that no shifter wanted to feel.

“I don’t think you are ready for this...”

Dawn shook her head vigorously. "No. I need this." She was desperate. She would go crazy if she let her emotions ran rampant.

There was time when she felt so numb, but there was also time when she felt very overwhelmed. She wanted to scream to the void to ease this pain.

"There is another way to do this, actually." Axel crossed his arms, he looked reluctant to give this suggestion.

"How?" Dawn narrowed her eyes.

"You can take another alpha as your chosen mate, or..." Axel quickly added when he saw the look of disgust in Dawn's eyes. "You can ask your father to act as an alpha for the pack."

Dawn didn't like the second suggestion either. "Why don't you become the alpha then?"

Axel chuckled when he heard that. "If I became an alpha, it means you and I must be together. I don't think it will work."

Dawn couldn't see Axel in that way. "No. I will be the luna."

"If that's your decision, you will be the first luna, who led a pack."

"There is always the first time for everything, right?" Dawn smiled, but it didn't reach her eyes. She had been crying for the whole night.

"It will not be easy, Dawn."

"I know." Dawn nodded. "But, I have you and Darius. Both of you will help me right?"

"Obviously."

More so, she had the king and Zaya. There was nothing she should be afraid of.

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Alex, the gamma from the Moonlight pack, returned with the merchant from Karam continent before the winter was here and the sea was frozen.

Because of what happened, the first thing that Zander had to take care of was food supply and Alex had been in Karam continent all this time to take care of that.

The Holy Kingdom was no longer a problem now, because they were proven to breach the rule countless time, there was no mercy for them anymore, especially when the elders and the leader of the Holy Kingdom were not there to defend their territory.

It was pretty easy to take them down and now, Andel Kingdom was the only kingdom in Andel Continent. The relationship between Ogregon continent and Andel continent was better than ever.

However, grief was still very thick in the air, as they lost a lot of people, especially the aftermath of the war, where all the shifters were not able to shift into their beast anymore.

It was a great lost for them, since they relied on their beast form so much in the act of defense and attack.

They were still adjusting to this new situation.

Meanwhile, in the north, the winter came early, the wind was so cold and it was even colder at night.

Chapter 246: THE RUMOR

Dawn had been busy for the last month, there were a lot of things that she had to take care of. She learned everything from the very basic and Axel would be there to guide her, so did her father.

Dawn had strictly told her father that he was there to help her to grasp the knowledge of how to take care a pack, but aside from that, she didn't want to talk about their personal matter.

Her heart was going to explode if her father would put another burden in her emotion.

However, Emily didn't seem to know when to stop.

Today, she had been trying to get a hold of Dawn again, where she looked for her in the study room, but Denzel stopped her before she could bother the luna and she was not happy with that at all.

"I only wanted to talk with her, why you couldn't let me see her? She is my sister."

Dawn lifted her head when she heard this annoying voice. She was sitting behind a bunch of reports that she had to read, but Emily found the worse time possible to ruin her day.

However, Dawn knew that she wouldn't stop until she was able to get a hold of her and when the argumentation increased. Dawn slammed the report in her hand and stood up. She was annoyed.

She opened the door and glared at Emily.

"Come in," Dawn said coldly. Whatever Emily wanted to say, she needed to say it right away before she lost her patient.

Emily went inside the room and threw a nasty look at Denzel, but Dawn immediately slammed the door which made her startled.

"You have five minutes. Say whatever you wanted to say."

"Dawn... I only want to offer condolence to you." She started.

"You better get straight to the point, because five minutes is not long." Dawn was not in the mood to talk with Emily, not to mention to see her face and tears.

"Dawn... can we forget the past? Can we start anew?"

"No." Dawn tilted her head. "Is that all?"

If all Emily wanted was for her to forgive and forget, of course, it was too much for her to ask, she would never do such thing. She was fine with everything that happened here.

"Dawn, what should I do for you to forgive me? It happened long time ago, can't you forget about that? Why are you being like this with me?" Emily's lips trembled. The same old tactic. "Do you want me to leave the pack? Is that what you wanted?"

Dawn looked at Emily in the eyes. "Yes. Leave. If you couldn't stop bothering me, then leave this pack. This is not your pack, you should go back to Moonlight pack."

Emily was shocked, she started crying. "I have a small boy, how could you do that to me? Even if you hated me so much, how could you send me away to the ruined pack? Arren is still your niece, don't you feel bad about him?"

Emily used that boy to gain sympathy, she used the same trick to gain sympathy from other pack member.

While they knew that Dawn just lost her mate and had a child on her own, but Dawn had never showed them how devastated she was, therefore, they were more inclined to sympathize with Emily, who would look so pitiful and need some protection.

"No." Dawn smirked. "Your five minutes is up. I will arrange a few warriors to escort you and father back to Moonlight pack in a week. Prepare yourself."

Emily was shocked, she didn't want to go back to that pack, there was nothing there, but ruined, even though they said that they had been rebuilding the pack, but what could be fixed within only a month?!

This was not Emily's goal to talk to Dawn.

"Dawn! Don't you feel bad with me? I lost my pack, my mate and I have a young little boy, who needs a safe place to stay, why would you kick me out of the pack? How could be so heartless?"

Why would Dawn feel bad about Arren? It was not like she would throw them on the street. She would return them to Moonlight pack, that was their home.

Dawn didn't want to hear such rambling, she opened the door and asked Denzel to drag Emily out of the room if she refused to leave.

Dawn would love to throw her out of this pack in this right second, but she still needed her father to teach her a few things about the pack, therefore, she gave them a week. She wanted the two of them to leave.

"Don't touch me!" Emily glared at Denzel when he tried to escort her out of the room.

Emily wiped her tears and lifted her head when she walked out of the room on her own, her pride didn't allow her to let anyone to degrade her that way.

However, it was a great mistake if you thought she would stop at that because the next thing that happened, Emily gave a hell to Dawn. She spread nasty rumor about her and Axel.

"Do you think that's what happened?"

"I am not sure, but the two of them have been very close with each other, right?"

"Yes, I saw them talking at night..."

"Do you think that's a secret meeting?"

"Do you think Zade is really alpha Zenith's son?"

"No way, the little boy has the alpha's eyes."

"Yes, you are right."

"Don't make a bad rumor about the alpha's child."

"Yes, but..."

The nasty rumors started in two days but on the fourth day it was snowballing and became out of control and when it reached Dawn, she was not even surprise.

It was Yara, who told her about all of this.

“Luna... should I...”

“No. I will take care of it,” Dawn said coldly. “Thank you, Yara.”

“I will let you know more about the rumor.”

Chapter 247: I WILL TAKE CARE OF HER

Yara was very upset when she learned about the rumor. They pictured the luna and the beta in a very bad light, saying that they had a special relationship.

However, they indicated that the relationship had even started when the alpha was still alive, even questioned the father of Zade, which was very stupid, since the little one had the alpha's eyes and he looked exactly like him.

‘But, it doesn't proof the luna's innocent. Zade is the alpha's son, but it doesn't mean she has never seen the beta behind the alpha's back in that time.’

That was the best thing that they could say.

They became this wild because Dawn was too busy with a lot of things and didn't have time to deal with them, which they thought they could get away with what they said.

More so, they had never been led by a luna alone before, thus a woman leader was not really appealing for them. It made their pack looked weak...

“Are you asking for me, Dawn?” Alpha Tony entered the study room.

Dawn was staring at the moon, she was standing next to the window, leaning her back against the wall. Her eyes drifted from the beautiful sight out there to her father, who just entered the room.

“Sit, please.” Dawn always used this formal voice whenever she talked to Tony, creating a distance between them.

Tony had been trying to get close to her, but Dawn would always shut his attempt down. She only let him to see Zade a handful of time, but aside from that, she didn't allow him to get close to her baby, while Emily...

Dawn didn't allow her near her or Zade at all. Arren could play with Zade, but Emily wouldn't be there, since there would be a lot of people around Zade and Arren, thus her presence was not necessary.

"I assumed you must have heard about my plan to send you and Emily back to Moonlight pack," Dawn said, she walked toward the sofa and sat down. She didn't want to be close to her father.

In the past, she used to seek for his attention, for his affection, but right now, she didn't even want to say anything to him if it was not necessary. She felt so distance from him, even though he was her father.

"Yes, I have heard that. Axel had told me about your plan." Tony took a deep breath, as he listened to Dawn.

"Alex has been taking care of the pack while you are here, therefore, I think this is the right time for you to leave. Emily will go with you, so did Arren. I only wanted to ask a favor from you."

"Anything, Dawn. You can ask me for any favor." Tony was too eager to make things right for her, thus he would agree with whatever Dawn wanted him to do.

"I want you to take Arren to Ava's grave. She really wanted to see him for the last time." Dawn didn't give any detail of the story, but the next thing that she said made alpha Tony lowered his head in shame. "She fought bravely. She fought Blake, even though he was her precious son. She knew what's right and wrong."

"I hope I was there."

"You were not there and you don't need to beat yourself up for that."

Dawn didn't know why her father chose to stay in the north when he could come and help them, but then it didn't matter. Having an additional one shifter wouldn't change the story.

"Dawn, if you wanted me to leave because you don't feel comfortable with Emily around, we can send her back to the pack. I can stay here for a little bit longer to help you to get a grasp of how to run a pack."

"You don't need to, Axel will help me with that. I have learned enough from you."

"Dawn... do you still hate me?"

Dawn finally met his eyes. She took her time to answer that. "Do I hate you? Sometimes, I wondered about that too, but now when you asked me the question, I don't think I hate you."

Her answer made Tony sighed in relief, but it was not for long.

"But, I don't love you either. I don't even care about you, to be honest. It almost feels like you are a stranger for me and whatever happened to you, is none of my business."

"Do I hurt you that deep to the point you don't even care about me at all?"

"You had been hurting me in the past, father, but right now, what I feel about is the feeling of an indifferent."

Tony lowered his head. He clasped his fingers together. "If I left... the rumor about you and Axel will ruin your reputation." He was still trying to stay. He didn't want to leave for his pack. He didn't want to see that pack anymore. He wanted to stay here with his daughter and his grandson, he was getting old and he had no family in that pack... he would be alone and Tony didn't want to spend his old days alone...

"I will take care of that." Dawn leaned her back against the sofa. She crossed her arms. "I know who has started the rumor."

Of course, she knew. Tony also knew who had started the rumor and he had talked to Emily, but she was adamant to refuse that she was the one, who had spread that nasty rumor.

"I will take care of Emily."

"You have said the same thing over and over," Dawn said. She stood up and then walked toward the door, she held it open. "I think our conversation is done here. I am more than capable of taking care of her."

And Dawn proved it to him, because the next day, something big in the pack happened and all of them learned in the hardest way to never cross the luna.

Chapter 248: THE PUNISHMENT

"Luna, you shouldn't wear that dress anymore. A month has passed," Yara reminded Dawn, because she was still wearing black dress.

For the pack member, it only a week for them to wear black clothes, as a symbol that they mourned their alpha, but for the luna, she had to wear it for a month.

And yet, a month had passed and Dawn didn't even try to wear anything aside from this color.

"No. My mourning is not over yet," Dawn said. She didn't think it would be over. She looked at her reflection on the mirror and sighed deeply.

She didn't have any energy or desire to wear another color. She loved this black color, because it reminded her of Zenith's black beast. She didn't mind to wear this color for the rest of her life, until the day she could be with him again.

"But, luna..."

"It's enough, Yara."

Yara shut her mouth and didn't say anything anymore, as she went outside and then gathered all the omega in the main hall.

Today, Dawn would get to the bottom of the rumor. She was not going to let this slide. Tomorrow, Emily, Tony and Arren would leave for the Moonlight pack, but she wouldn't let her go without any consequences.

The last rumor that she heard from them was about how she was so heartless to kick her own sister, niece and father to the Moonlight pack, when she already knew how ruined that pack was.

Alpha Tony would only rule ashes if he returned.

They felt sorry for Emily and Arren because they had to leave.

"Luna Dawn," all of them greeted her politely, they looked confused because they were gathered in the main hall.

They were worried that the rumor reached her, but at the same time, they assumed the luna didn't care much about it, because she had never showed any interest in that.

Dawn nodded at all of them, most of the people that she gathered in the main hall was women, there was only a handful men among them.

"Do you know why I gathered all of you here?" Dawn asked, she looked at them one by one, she looked so calm, but this calmness didn't bring peace. The calmness didn't give them peace of mind, as if Dawn could explode at any moment.

All of them looked at each other, but they didn't dare to look at Dawn in the eyes, there was something that made them scared to look at the luna right in the eyes. This must be because of their guilty conscience.

Dawn didn't want to prolong this uncomfortable situation.

"I heard a lot of rumor about me and beta Axel, some of you even went as far as to accuse me of cheating on alpha Zenith when he was still alive. Some of you even questioned the blood in my son's veins, whether or not he is the alpha's son."

Dawn didn't raise her voice, but it was clear for them to hear the severity of her wrath.

The whispered died down and they lowered their head, staring at their toes. They were afraid. They had never seen the luna was angry before.

"Let me asked you, who started this rumor?" Dawn asked.

Right at that time, Axel entered the room, which made all of them became even more terrified because of the presence of the beta.

They didn't know Dawn for that long, but obviously, they respected the beta, just as much as they respected the alpha, since it would be Axel, who was taking care of the pack house whenever the alpha was not there.

"I really don't appreciate such nasty rumors about me and the luna," Axel said, he looked at all of them one by one, his hard gaze sent shiver down their spine.

Because the rumor just spread for a week, thus it didn't cause so much damage, especially when it was a groundless rumor without any proof.

But, it was enough to tarnish the luna's name.

"Is this the person, who started the rumor?" Axel asked again and he allowed Tony to enter the room, along with Emily with him.

Emily looked angry, but she clamped her mouth. This was a humiliation for her.

"I know the rumor came from her," Dawn said. "If no one wanted to speak, I will let all of you to go with her to the Moonlight pack tomorrow."

Her last statement caused an uproar among the women there, they didn't want to leave this pack, they had lived here for decades.

"Just like what you have learned, the Moonlight pack has been ruined beyond recognition because of the last battle, more so, the pack will need a lot of people as their new member, not only that, the pack will also need help with a lot of things, so I will let all of you to start your new life there."

"Luna... please, no...!"

"That's her! That's her who has spread the rumor!"

“That’s her, who had told us about those nasty things!”

“We don’t believe her!”

“Luna! You couldn’t kick us out of the pack! The alpha will be not happy with this decision!”

Dawn glared at the person, who said that, she walked toward her and she immediately knelt down, knew that she had messed up and crossed the line.

“What do you think the alpha would have done if you tarnished my name and questioned his son as his?” Dawn’s words carried venom. “Have you forgotten what the alpha did to Fern when she wronged me in the past? What do you think the alpha will do if he heard this? This punishment for all of you, who have been questioning his son would be like a child play.”

They were trembling in fear, they knew if it was the alpha, being kicked out of the pack, would be the mildest punishment for them.

They would be very lucky if they were still able to see the sun tomorrow.

Chapter 249: THEY ARE LEAVING

“Luna, we are innocent. We are wrong, we are sorry, luna... please forgive us!”

All of them immediately knelt and begged for Dawn’s forgiveness, but she had no room for mercy. She might have considered that if they didn’t implicate Zade and even questioning him.

However, it pissed her off that they talked about her son. She would never forgive or forget anyone, who talked that way about her son. They could beg all they wanted, but she would never change her mind.

More so, they really needed people for the Moonlight pack, since most of the pack member had been killed during the battle.

Zander asked for a solution from Dawn in one of his letters and this was her solution for him.

There were around a hundred women in this room, most of them had their own family, this number was enough to create a new pack.

This was a win win solution, but apparently these people didn’t see it that way. Their mate would be pissed at them because their reckless gossipy traits made them being kicked out of the pack.

But, that was not Dawn's business.

They kept pleading, yet, the luna didn't budge.

Meanwhile, Emily was trying to plea her case, but one look from alpha Tony, she shut her mouth, she was trembling out of anger and humiliation.

If all of these women would come to the Moonlight pack, she wouldn't have a good day, since they would hate her to the core and make her life a living hell, while her father wouldn't care enough to shield her.

But, that was what Dawn wanted. This was always her method. She didn't give a physical punishment, but her punishment would last for so long...

"Luna... we have been like a family. We just lost our alpha, how could you kick us out from the pack?" One of them still had a gut to talk to Dawn, probably this was her desperate attempt to get the luna's sympathy.

Unfortunately for them Dawn had none. Zenith taught her that it would be better to get rid any potential trouble for the future as soon as possible.

"I lost my mate, the father of my child, is that justified me to talk trash about other people?" Dawn asked her. "Are you trying to compare your pain with mine?"

The audacity of these people was appalling.

There was no agony that was more painful than losing one mate for a shifter and now they had no one to be blamed but themselves for talking rubbish behind the luna's back and was easily provoked by Emily.

With that was being said and the punishment had been issued, all of them would leave the pack the next day.

This news spread throughout the pack. All of them had their own opinion about this punishment.

Some of them thought the luna was too harsh, but some of them thought the punishment suit the crime, yet most of the people agreed if it was the alpha, they wouldn't even be alive right now for questioning his son.

With that, the next day, there was a long entourage of people, who marched toward the Moonlight pack.

“Momma... where are they going?” Zade asked, he hugged his mother and rested his head against her chest, while staring at the long entourage out there from the hallway.

“They are leaving the pack, baby,” Dawn replied.

“Grandpa left too?”

“Yes.” Dawn kissed his cheek. Zade liked his grandfather, but Dawn was not ready to have any relationship with her father. Probably, when Zade had grown up, he could bond with her father, but for now, Dawn was glad that she didn’t need to see her father again for the near future.

“Momma. Dada will return, right?”

Dawn kissed his cheeks again and smiled, but she didn’t answer the question.

No one knew about this, but Dawn spent her entire night screaming to the void because she lost Zenith, she didn’t even think about the fact that she lost her wolf. The people kept making a fuss for not being able to shift into their beast anymore, but Dawn simply didn’t care about that fact, because there was another thing that was more painful.

“I missed dada...” Zade snuggled against Dawn.

“I missed him too, baby. I missed him so much.” Dawn hugged Zade closely, she breathed in his scent and tear fell on her cheek.

She wanted to see him again, even in her dream. She didn’t mind if she saw him in her dream, she only wanted to tell him how much she loved him, how strong she became and how she could handle the pack so well.

She was standing up for herself now. She could protect herself, their baby and make a decision on her own, but she needed him...

“Momma... snow!” Zade pointed his finger against the window. “Snow! Momma!” Zade wriggled his body, he wanted to get down and run.

This was the first snow that he saw.

“Let’s go out! Let’s go out!” Zade wriggled his body even more, trying to get away from Dawn, until she put him down and he dashed out.

“Be careful, Zade!” Dawn clicked her tongue, but Burke had run to follow the little one, her personal warrior would make sure that he would be fine.

“How are you feeling?” Darius asked, he yawned widely, as he stretched his body. “I am hungry.”

"When you are not?" Dawn rolled her eyes. She knew what Darius was asking. "I am fine. This is not bothering me at all."

Darius looked at the entourage from the window and shrugged his shoulders. "Good riddance," he said simply. He was not really fond of those people, who talked bad about Zenith.

As the gamma of the pack, he didn't really bond with the other pack member aside from the warriors, since he used to work with them and meet with them very often, but the rest... unless they could cook him his favorite meal, he couldn't care less about them.

Chapter 250: MOURNING

"Hm? What happened with her?" Darius caught a sight of Emily, she kept sneezing. "You did something to her?"

Dawn shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly. She didn't answer the question, but Darius knew she had done something to that woman and he was right.

It was not something fatal. This was something that Hecate gave to her before she left for the north. She had asked him to find an item to create a concoction, which she would give to Emily.

The concoction would make Emily has an allergy to winter. She would keep sneezing until winter ended. It was not something fatal, but it would be so annoying.

"Zaya will leave to Marca El in two months, are you going to see her off?" Darius reminded her about the last letter that Zaya wrote for her.

Dawn thought about that for a while. "No. I think I will skip that. I will write for her to apologize for my absent."

Dawn didn't want to go to Moonlight pack. She didn't want to be there at all, because there were so many memories that would bring her to the edge.

Moonlight pack was the place where she lost her mate, she still remembered every moment of it. She remembered how Zenith's warm blood in her hands and how the black beast fell to the crater.

No one knew about the detail of what happened, aside from those people, who saw it, therefore, they didn't know the fact that she was the one, who had stabbed the alpha.

Zander decided it would be a secret, because people would try to twist the fact and it would put Dawn in dangerous position, especially when they learned that Dawn's mother came from the west and she originally was a spy in Moonlight pack.

Thing would get out of hands and people's hearts were so fickle.

Based on that, they only said that Zenith died during the battle. That was all.

"Are you, okay?" Axel asked one day.

"I am fine."

"You don't look good."

Dawn chuckled. "Stop nagging at me. I am fine." She smiled at the beta, as she retracted her gaze from Zade, who was playing with the other children. He was nine years old now.

Day turned into months and now years had passed since the battle in the moonlight pack, but Dawn felt she was stuck in the past.

It had been a decade since what happened and Dawn felt time moved very slow, but at the same time, it moved very fast, since she saw her son was already so big. Zade refused to be kissed in public now because it would ruin his image as an alpha of the pack, though in private he would still ask for a hug or two from his mother.

Zade was a sweetheart. He learned so fast and excelled in his training.

"I have a headache with these." Dawn flicked the letters from Alpha Deckan. He was the alpha from the west.

Axel glanced at the letters and immediately knew what she meant. He chuckled and threw a sympathetic look toward Dawn.

"You need to consider that." Axel put another report on her desk. "We need to do clean up in the untouched land, there are so many monsters now. I think it's time for Zade to come and see how it's done."

Because they couldn't shift into their beast anymore, they adopted the fighting style from Marca El people and used sword to fight like those knights.

Axel refused to use the sword, many warriors refused to do that because it hurt their pride, but as time went by, the idea was not really bothering them anymore and now Axel had one. A sword and a dagger always strapped around his waist now.

"Consider?" Dawn scrunched her nose. She didn't want to consider anything. She didn't even want to think about that at all. "There is nothing to be considered."

Axel flicked his gaze at her black dress. "Don't you think it's time for you to stop mourning?"

Dawn's expression turned solemn. "I don't see the point why I should stop mourning when I can do my daily activity just like any normal people and go on with my life."

"You are not going on with your life, Dawn. You only wait for your time to end," Axel said. "Let it go, Dawn. I am sure Zenith didn't want you to go on like this."

"No. No one will know what exactly in his mind." Dawn pushed away the letters from alpha Deckan, who asked her hand. They met once and he wanted her to be his chosen mate, to strengthen the power of two packs.

Dawn didn't need that, under her reign, the north was as strong as when Zenith was the alpha.

"I have Zade, I have my pack and I have everything that I need here. I don't want to change anything." Dawn looked at Axel. "There is nothing wrong with me waiting for my time to end, all of us do the same thing, right? We only wait for our time to end. It's not like I am sitting idly while waiting."

Axel didn't know what to say anymore and then dropped the topic, he always knew that Dawn was very stubborn and he didn't want to bother her.

Not long after, Zade entered the room. He greeted Axel and then went to his mother with a bouquet of wild flowers.

"Mother, I found these beautiful flowers," he said, as he handed the flowers to Dawn.

"Thank you, my love," Dawn said, as she gave a kiss to Zade's cheek, but he dodged it.

"I am big already, mother. You can't kiss me in front of other people."

"I am not 'other people'," Axel chimed in. "Promise, I will not say anything." The beta chuckled when Zade glared at him.

"Give me a hug then if I can't kiss you."

Zade thought about that for a while and then leaned over to give her a hug.

Chapter 251: THE CROWN

"In three weeks, there will be a clean up in the Untouched Land. Axel thought that you are ready for it, what do you think?"

Zade's blue eyes lit up. "Really?! I want to go! I will go!" He said excitedly.

Dawn nodded. "But, you need to promise me that you will not roam around the area on your own, promise me?"

"I promised."

Dawn felt a little bit uncomfortable to let him go to the Untouched Land, because of what happened to her son in the first life, but Zade and Rex were different. There would be a lot of people with him, he should be well protected.

And when the day came, Dawn sent all of her personal warriors to go with Zade, despite his protest. She couldn't be at ease.

"You are being paranoid," Darius teased her.

"Maybe," Dawn replied softly, as she watched how Zade mounted his horse and went to the forest.

Thankfully, there was nothing happened to Zade during their 'clean up' in the untouched land. He actually managed to kill five monsters and look so proud of himself when he told her the story of how he killed them.

Dawn didn't know whether he exaggerated his story or not, but when he told her what happened, Dawn felt the urge to not allow him to go to the untouched land anymore.

But of course, she wouldn't do that, it was only her motherly instinct, who was being a little bit frantic to hear that her son was in danger and surrounded by monster.

"Is that true? What he told me was true?" Dawn asked Denzel when Zade had left with the other warriors. "Did he exaggerate the story?"

"Yes, luna. He didn't exaggerate the story."

Dawn glared at him. "Why did he put himself in danger? Where were you?"

"It's okay, Dawn. Those monsters were only goblins, they were not really dangerous," Axel reassured her. He was also there, thus he knew Zade was not in any real danger. "You don't need to worry, he is an excellent fighter."

Dawn glared at Axel too. "Yes, but I will prefer for him not to be in any danger at all." She felt her heart leapt from her chest when she heard how her son fought against two goblins at the same time. She would look for those goblins and flayed them herself.

However, after some time, she realized that she was only being a little bit paranoid. Zade needed to know this and this was important for him, since he would be the alpha once he came to age. She couldn't shelter him forever.

She loved to see how he grew up to be a strong and responsible man.

He was sweet and nice, but you wouldn't want to see when he stopped being nice, since he would show you what fear was.

Actually, it happened once when Zade showed his other side of his sweet nature and everyone was shaken up by the sight.

At that time, Dawn was being bothered by alpha Deckan, who kept persisting to have her as his chosen mate and when Zade found all the letters, he marched toward the west and met with the alpha directly.

Long story short, the king had to come to the west to calm down his niece and prevent him from tearing the pack apart, since Zade was going to burn the entire pack in his wrath.

He was a man, who would bring you flower and give you kisses and hugs, but he was also the same man, who would show no mercy to those people, who crossed him, especially those people, who bothered people that he cared about.

At that time, Zade was only sixteen, but he was the strongest fighter from the north, a clever one to be precise.

What was more terrifying was the fact that he inherited the knowledge of poisons from his mother.

After that incident, needless to say, the letter stopped and alpha Deckan was replaced by his son.

And today, when he was eighteen, there was a ceremony for him, as he came to age, where he would carry his father's legacy. Dawn would step down from her position and let Zade run the pack.

"Are you nervous?" Dawn asked Zade. She came to visit him before the ceremony. He looked regal in his black attire, just like his father, but she could see her own resemblance on him.

"Not really," Zade replied. He leaned over and gave kisses to both of Dawn's cheeks. "They are the people that I know."

"And there is the king."

Zade scoffed. "What the worse thing that my uncle could do?"

Dawn chuckled. Zander dotted on Zade so much to the point it was ridiculous. It felt like Zander tried to fill the void of Zenith's absence and did everything that Zenith would love to do with his son.

Zander had never been a king for Dawn and Zade, but a family.

"Did he still insist for you to take the throne?" Dawn asked. She neated his cloak.

"Yes."

Zander had given this idea when Zade was still a babe and Zenith didn't give him a definite answer for that.

"He should have looked for a chosen mate and make his own child rather than bothering me."

Dawn caressed his cheek. "You know that he will not take anyone to be his queen."

"Yes, I know." Zade contemplated about it for a while, he had been thinking about this for quite some time actually. "I will consider the offer."

"Do whatever you think is right for you."

And after that, the ceremony went smoothly, Zade was officially the alpha of the north and half a year later, he was crowned as the crown prince, which meant, he would be the next in line for the throne after Zander stepped down or passed away.

"Don't even think to die quickly, uncle," Zade said in low voice when he was crowned.

"Brat!" Zander hissed, but mirth danced in his eyes.

Chapter 252: LOVE YOU RIGHT

Ever since Zade was crowned as the crown prince, he had been going back and forth from the north to the capital city. Often, he would ask Pyro to use his magic to cut short the trip by using the portal, but because he needed to meet his subject often and see the situation of the area that he would rule one day, he couldn't do that every time.

"What are you staring at?" Darius asked her, he followed her line of sight, but he couldn't find anything interesting that could make her zoned out.

“Nothing.” Dawn turned her head and looked at him, she smiled beautifully at the gamma. “Thank you for everything, Darius. You and Axel have been there for me in my difficult time.”

“Stop right there!” Darius raised his finger. He was alarmed. “Don’t jinx! I don’t like that kind of talk!” He grimaced and Dawn laughed to see how his eyes widened. “I don’t want to talk to you if you are going to say something like that!”

Dawn chuckled. “Where are you going?” She laughed even more when she watched Darius dashed away and only waved his hand at him.

The beta and the gamma had been like brothers for her. They were the people that she could trust her life and Zade’s.

But recently, she had this weird feeling. She didn’t know why, but she felt there was something that would happen. Something big.

Dawn touched her neck, she still had Zenith’s mark.

Usually, when your mate died, the mark would slowly fade away. Thirty days and the mark would disappear. That was why, the living one should wear mourning attire for a month.

However, Dawn’s mark was still the same. It didn’t fade away. You would be able to see the beautiful intricate mark on her slender neck. It was gorgeous.

No one could explain why it was like that, but Dawn was grateful enough it didn’t disappear.

Dawn touched her neck again and closed her eyes. She became very anxious nowadays and she didn’t know why.

Her night would be restless, she would toss and turn. She couldn’t sleep soundly and find herself was staring at the window, as if she was waiting for something to happen... or maybe someone, she was not sure about that.

And tonight was not different.

The restlessness returned and she decided to get up and drink a warm tea to calm her nerves. Yara served her and she looked worried because she knew Dawn had been having this problem for some time.

“Don’t say anything to Zade, Yara.”

Yara avoided her eyes. "Luna, you know that I can't lie to the alpha."

Zade had his own way to get information from Yara, because he was more than aware that Yara knew his mother better than anyone, especially when he used to not be at the pack.

"Well, you can avoid him."

"You know that I can't luna." Yara frowned. Dawn knew that she had tried to avoid Zade, but the alpha would be able to find him and dig information about her mother and how her condition, since Dawn wouldn't tell him anything that would make him worried.

Dawn sighed. "You can leave, Yara."

Yara then left the room and Dawn sipped her tea, while staring at the window. The sight was the mountain behind the untouched land and in the night sky, the moon was shining brightly.

Dawn leaned her head against the windowsill and zoned out she was not sure what she was thinking at this moment, but she replied the first moment she met with Zenith, both in her first life and the second life.

She kept wondering if this was really their second chance?

In a way, it was. This life helped Zenith to redeem his mistake in his first life, but even in this life, they couldn't be together.

Dawn wouldn't trade her son's life for anything, but... she missed Zenith like crazy. She was still wearing her black gown. She had never worn any other color, but black. She was still mourning of his death and she would always be.

Dawn closed her eyes and she was surprised when she felt a tear fell on her cheek. She touched it and more tears followed. She sobbed quietly alone.

She touched her mark and wished he was here. She wished to see him again, she begged for different ending.

But then she snapped when she realized something and stood up. She went outside to find Denzel guarding her room.

"No need to follow me."

Dawn then rushed out of the pack house and galloped on the horseback to the fortress. She didn't know why, but she could feel it. Somehow, she knew it.

There was one thing that had not yet happened.

She must be crazy to think that was a possibility. She wanted to cry because hope was a cruel thing, but then she saw him.

He walked toward her, just like that night... the quiet night when he found her in that small shabby house. He came for her....

"Zen..." Dawn rushed toward him and hugged him, she hugged him so tightly, as if she was afraid that he would disappear if she didn't hold onto him.

"I came back. I keep my promise to fix this." Zenith caressed her back gently and relished in her sweet scent.

That was what he said when he came for her again, either it was in the first life or in this life.

Just like in the previous life, Zenith returned from the hellish place to see Dawn again after two decades had passed.

In the end, what happened in their first life was repeated, even though the sequence of it was not the same and this time, Dawn wouldn't kill him.

They would live together from now on...

"Don't kill me this time, okay?" Zenith kissed her head. "I do really want to love you right this time."

Dawn chuckled between her sobs. She shook her head vigorously. "Let's be happy."

"Let's be happy for a long time."

Chapter 253: BURNING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

It had been a week since Dawn returned to the north, leaving the capital city.

The enemy had gone, their wolf spirit had gone, the ability for the shifter to shift into their beast had gone and... Zenith had gone too, but life went on.

It was suck.

Zaya watched how Zander literally threw himself to the piles of work. He worked in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening, even during the night...

He appeared unaffected by Zenith's demise, but Zaya knew this was how he coped up with Zenith's death. After all, they had been very close. They only had each other for a very long time.

They schemed against their enemy together, created plots after plots and fought alongside each other. There must be a lot of moments when they only had each other. Looked out for each other's back.

Zander lost his brother, his twin, his confidante...

Zaya felt selfish if she wanted Zander's attention. She knew that Zander was struggling with his grief, but Zenith was also her brother too. She felt sad and wanted Zander's comfort, but she didn't dare to disturb him.

She felt like the bond that Zander and Zenith's share was something that she would never get, since she had been away from the kingdom for years and she was not there for them during their difficult time.

Zander also made a point not to talk about Zenith. The conversation about his death had never been brought up and this killed Zaya because she couldn't talk about this to anyone.

She couldn't talk about it with Celine too, because even though she showed sympathy for her, the healer would never understand...

Zaya wanted to talk to Zander, but she didn't dare to bring the topic and disturb his 'peace'.

"Are you going to burn the mountain down?"

Zaya snapped from her reverie and realized that she had created a bonfire in front of her. Currently, she was in the Goffa mountain, near her family's burial ground.

No one should be here, but of course, the rule didn't apply for king Rowan, he seemed to determine to break all the rules that her brother created and annoyed him to his death.

Zaya waved her hand and the fire ceased. "Yeah, I am thinking about doing that, but then my brother will sulk for days because I add more task into his worklist."

King Rowan approached her and Zaya created a barrier around her, which made him frown. "You don't need to waste your magic stone to create a barrier against me, princess. I believe you can just turn me into frog if you wished the moment I became a threat."

Zaya didn't put down her barrier. She didn't want him to catch her off guard and kiss her again. He had done it twice and as much as Zaya was upset for his action, surprisingly,

she was even more upset with herself because she was not angry enough for his brashness.

"I am sure that will be counted as harming a king and while it's tempting, I can't do it."

King Rowan flashed a bright smile, which drew Zaya's attention to his lips and she hated to pay attention to his lips.

He stole her first kiss and now he acted like there was nothing happened. He looked so calm. Zaya wondered how many women he had kissed before. She must be only one of his long list women that he had been with.

Zaya knew how liberal men in Marca El.

People like Rowan would have a long list of mistresses, who would be over the moon whenever he graced them with his presence and Zaya didn't want to be one of them.

"What do you want, king Rowan. You shouldn't be here." Zaya then added. "I meant it. This is family ground."

Rowan looked at her deeply for a while before he answered her question. "I only wanted to check on you, because you looked distraught nowadays." He took a step closer, he only stopped because the barrier preventing him from walking even closer. "I saved this place from your fire, am I not?"

Zaya narrowed her eyes. "I am fine, thank you."

"How can you be fine when your brother just died?"

Now Zaya understood why Zander often looked very upset whenever he finished talking with this king. Rowan knew how to struck a nerve. "Thank you for the reminder, but life goes on."

"Lower that barrier, I will tell you how to vent your grief in a safe way."

"What? Hunting Leonard and it's siblings?"

Rowan frowned. "Who is Leonard?"

"The monster in the Goffa mountain."

Rowan came here to console Zaya because he knew she had been bottling up her emotions, but it was actually him, who got a good laugh.

"Did you name all the monsters here?" Rowan asked between his laughter.

Zaya didn't find this amusing at all. She was upset because Rowan laughed at her. "Since you can find me here, I am sure that you can find your way back alone."

Zaya turned around and attempted to leave Rowan, but the king chuckled and unstrapped the sword around his waist and raised it for Zaya to see.

"I got the same swordsmiths to create this sword for you, with the same fire magic stone."

What Rowan said managed to make Zaya stopped walking away, she turned around and looked at the king and then the sword. It was a beautiful sword.

"I don't know how to use sword." She could handle dagger, but sword was different thing.

"I will teach you." Rowan knocked the barrier with the hilt of the sword. "Put it down."

Zaya raised her brows. "Are you going to train me of how to fight with sword?"

"Yes." Rowan watched how Zaya withdrew the barrier and walked toward him to get the sword. Her eyes lit up, though she tried to appear not interested with his offer. "It's better than burning down the mountain, right?"

Ever since that night at the burial ground, Rowan had been accompanying Zaya to learn of sword fight. She improved, she had a knack for it, but of course a few days of training wouldn't make her able to beat Rowan.

She got frustrated and when it mixed with her grief and her desire to vent all of her frustration and sadness, she became impatient and more aggressive.

"You make it easy for me to know your next move, Zaya if you attacked me like that." Rowan ward off her attack easily and it upset Zaya even more when she saw how calm he was when she was drenched in her sweat.

"Really? Can you see this?" Zaya then used her magic to create tendrils of fire that caged Rowan. The tendrils trapped Rowan and she used this opportunity to attack him.

Rowan was alerted, but he looked as calm as ever, despite his predicament. If he kept provoking Zaya, he might end up dead one day, but he liked her this way more than how she was a few weeks ago. She looked more alive with the anger in her blue eyes.

He looked around him, the heat of the fire licked his skin, but he knew that Zaya would attack his back, thus he only needed to concentrate and to feel her.

The tendrils of fire shifted and Rowan was right, Zaya came from his back with her sword drew, she tried to stab him, but he took a step to the side and caught her hand. The tendrils of fire dissipated and he disarmed her easily.

"You hurt me!" Zaya complained, she pushed him away, holding her wrist. It was not hurt that much, she only exaggerated it, but her ego was hurt.

"Princess..." Rowan chuckled. He knew that Zaya was only sulking, but he didn't get to finish his word when he felt another person's presence and this time, he raised his sword in defense. The calmness in his face disappeared when he faced this sneak attack. "King Zander," he greeted the other king with a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

Rowan found this amusing when the two siblings loved to attack their enemy from behind.

"Zan, what are you doing?" Zaya immediately approached the two kings, she was afraid one of them would get hurt. "I am fine, it's okay."

Both of them stared at each other, there was no word, but the moment Zaya came closer to them, they immediately withdrew at the same time. Zander took Zaya to his side and check on her hand.

"I am, okay," Zaya repeated what she said to calm her brother down. "It's not hurt." She wriggled her wrist to emphasize her statement. "See?"

"I have been receiving the report about your training," Zander stated, he threw an accusing look toward Rowan, as if this was a big mistake and it was his fault.

"We have been training. The princess seemed interest to sword fight, so I helped her." Rowan didn't miss a beat when he replied to Zander's question.

"Your help with the princess is not needed."

Zander then took Zaya away, but she traced back to get her sword which made Rowan chuckled, but he stopped when Zaya glared at him and followed her brother, who looked like he was going to snap the sword into two.

It was surprising to know that this kingdom and Rowan's kingdom had a good relationship when the two kings looked like they wanted to bite the other's heads off every time they met.

Chapter 254: REAL INTENTION

"What was that about, Zan?" Zaya asked, she looked at her brother with disapproving look.

Both of them stopped walking as they had put a good distance away from Rowan.

Zander looked at her sister and then sighed deeply. "I don't want you to get hurt, Zaya. You don't need to learn the sword fight. That's not for you."

"You are not the one, who decided that." Zaya was upset, but she was not sure what the reason why she was very upset. She didn't learn the sword fight for the sake of learning, but to vent out her emotions and even now, Zander still refused to talk about Zenith.

Zaya felt so angry with him, because it felt like he wanted to forget about Zenith, but at the same time, she could understand how it was hard for Zander, which made her angry at herself for being so dramatic and unreasonable. And the circle continued.

"Do you like him?"

Zaya pressed her lips. She didn't answer that and turned around to walk away. Zander didn't come after her, which annoyed her. He didn't want to have a confrontation with her, he chose to avoid it.

And for the next few days, Rowan couldn't see Zaya anywhere. He came to the training ground at the same time when they used to have their training, but she didn't come.

Instead, one night, Rowan found king Zander there. He was holding a sword.

"Spar with me," Zander said, as he unsheathed his sword.

"If you wanted it." Rowan withdrew his sword and soon after the two kings fought against each other. The sound of the swords clanking and their quick footsteps filled the open area.

Because the shifters lost their beasts, they adopted the fighting skills from Marca El people, thus Rowan prolonged his stay in this continent, though Zander doubted that was his only reason to stay. He could see the way he looked at Zaya.

However, what irritated him was how Zaya acted around him, she was... flustered.

"What did you kill your father?" Zander asked, as he ward off his attack. He was good at it, since he had learned sword fight long before this, because losing wolf spirit was not something new for him.

"Are we having a conversation over a sword fight?"

Zander ignored that mocking remark. "You killed your own father and your own brother, so you can usurp the throne. What do you want with Zaya?"

Zander was wicked, he wouldn't be in this position and be the king of this kingdom without his wickedness, thus he knew someone like him when he saw one.

"What is your real intention with Zaya."

"I like her. I want to ask her hand for marriage and the reason why I killed my father and brother, believed me, the world is a better place without them."

They breathed raggedly, as the other tried to take down their opponent. They were serious in this fight. The warriors and the knights, who watched from the side grew restless because they were afraid it could be the start of another war.

The chance was pretty high when you saw the killing intent in their eyes.

But, they could breathe in relief when princess Zaya came and create a barrier between them. "What are you two doing?" She approached the two kings and to everyone surprised, chided them. "Sheath your swords."

"We are only sparing, princess," Rowan replied, but he did what Zaya asked him to do. He unsheathed the sword and Zander did the same.

"You look like you are going to kill each other." Zaya put down the barrier.

"Actually, you have the same look when you fought me, princess." Rowan held back his smile. Zaya couldn't answer that, she pressed her lips, refused to talk to him. "I will see you tomorrow at the same time for training? You have skipped so many days and I don't think it will improve your fighting skill."

This time, Zander didn't say anything and watch Rowan walked away with his knights. Just like that the crisis stopped and all of the onlookers could breathe in relief because there would be no blood that was spilled.

"You like him."

That was not even a question, Zander said it in accusatory tone. He looked at Zaya closely. There were only the two of them now in the training ground after he dismissed all the people. He needed some time to talk with his sister. He had been dismissing her for long and this matter needed to be discussed.

Zaya opened her mouth, she tried to find the right answer, but she couldn't and what came out of her mouth was a silly reply.

"I will need to marry eventually, so I thought why don't we strengthen the kingdom with the marriage alliance."

Zaya learned about the crisis in the kingdom. They lost so many people and without their beast and how the shifters were still trying to adjust with this fact, their kingdom looked so weak.

They would need Marca El knight's help more than they could admit. Zaya understood. Zander did not only bury himself in his work, but there was indeed a lot of things he needed to do and decide.

It was a win win solution if Zaya entered this marriage alliance.

It would be Rowan's obligation to help her kingdom and Zander didn't need to reveal and ask for his help more than he already accepted.

More so, Zander would never ask for Rowan's help if it was up to him.

Zaya believed Zander would find another solution eventually of how to strengthen their kingdom again, but this was the fastest and safest solution for them.

"Do you even realize what you are talking about?" Zander narrowed his eyes at his sister. "I will not marry you off for that reason."

Zaya was exasperated. "What if I said I like him?" She tried to say it as nonchalantly as possible, but she couldn't help, but blushed. "I like him a little, respect him because he could choose to turn his back on us during the battle, but he didn't. He helped us in the battle, whether you wanted to admit it or not, the result of the battle might be worse than this if he didn't help, so I think married to him is not a bad idea." Zaya then added when she saw Zander wanted to speak. "Moreover, he has been nice to me. I think I can make this marriage work."

Zander looked at her intensely, which made Zaya felt uncomfortable under his scrutinize gaze.

"You are very logical Zan, you know that this is the best solution for our situation."

Zander could see through Zaya. The realization left him speechless for a moment. "Are you trying to justify your feeling by using that excuse?"

Zaya pursed her lips like a petulant child, because she didn't have the right answer to reply for that accusation. "He is cute, though."

Zander shuddered when Zaya used that word to describe Rowan. "You once said a monster was cute." Zander shook his head. "We will talk about this later. I will have a deep discussion with him too."

He needed to clear his mind before he was making an impulsive decision, because right now, he really wanted to refuse Zaya's idea.

But the problem was; Zaya liked this king too and Rowan had not done anything that could harm her. Only if she showed some sign of reluctance, he wouldn't be faltered by his desire to send that king back to his continent.

"No. I will talk to him," Zaya said firmly. "If this is happening, I want to be the one, who discussed the term of my marriage."

And what Zaya didn't tell Zander was she had a few requests to Rowan if he was really serious in this marriage.

"I want one hundred thousand knights as my dowry. They will guard this kingdom."

That was what Zaya asked from Rowan when she met him again for the sword training the next day. The pale moonlight fell on their features, created long shadows on the grounds.

"One hundred thousand knights?" Rowan raised his brows. "That's a great number, don't you think, princess?"

"Am I not worthy of one hundred thousand knights?" Zaya challenged him.

Rowan took a step closer and caressed her cheek. "You are more than worthy of the whole kingdom, Zaya," he said softly.

"One hundred thousand knights?!" Addie looked like he was going to have a heart attack when he heard that. He took a step back, but he shook his head in disbelief. "And you agreed to that?! You must be kidding me!"

"Watch your tone, Addie. I am still your king," Rowan said sharply and Addie needed to exert everything in him not to explode even more.

"Yes, my king, but I am sure that you are aware of the civil war in your kingdom. You have not forgotten about that, right?" Addie wanted to pull his hair and hit the king, but of course he wouldn't do the latter. "One hundred thousand is a great number. We can't do that!" Addie cleared his throat and corrected his wording and tone. "It will cause us a great damage, my king. What about the knights at the border? Our enemy will manage to break it in no time if you agreed to send one hundred thousand knights!"

"Is our border that weak that our enemy would have breached it in no time?" Rowan tilted his head, he raised his brows at his knight.

Chapter 255: THE AGREEMENT

Addie shook his head. "I am exaggerated my king, but it will cause some damage on us." Addie furrowed his brows. "And what will get from this kingdom aside from their princess?"

That was what Rowan and Zander would discuss in this meeting. After that night, Zander invited him for a drink in his study room. The place where they could keep things formal and without the involvement of sword or any dangerous object around them.

"Five hundred magic users and unlimited supply of magic stone," Rowan said his demand in exchange of one hundred thousand of his knights.

One hundred thousand of knights was indeed a great number compared to five hundred magic users, but Rowan had witnessed himself of what magic could do. He watched with his own eyes what kind of power a magic user held and the people in his continent had never seen magic before.

It would be a surprise for his enemy to witness it firsthand in battle if they dared to cross him.

"We don't have five hundred magic users. I believe you know that," Zander responded calmly. He didn't know that Zaya had asked such thing from Rowan, but he knew she only did that for their kingdom.

"And I believe you have a strong connection with people in the Andel kingdom." Rowan leaned his back. "You were the one, who instigated the attack on Holy Kingdom. I believe there are so many magic users under Andel kingdom's control, since Holy Kingdom is only a history now."

Rowan read the situation between Ogregon and Andel really well. Yes, Zander didn't have five hundred magic users, but it didn't mean he couldn't make it happened.

The other king was clever and it annoyed Zander. He couldn't find a way to make things difficult for Rowan, since his demand was fair and Zander would get more than he would ask of him.

Zander couldn't prevent this because he could see how Zaya slowly fell for this brute king, but then he was not able to find fault on Rowan, since he treated his sister well and even though he didn't want to admit it, he knew.

This situation irritated him.

"They will be under Zaya's command." Zander looked at him calmly. The two of them knew how to keep their façade. "It's only natural for Zaya to command the magic users, since she is the only person, who knew about magic, more so, those magic users would

come from Holy Kingdom. They are the people that she knew, since she lived there for years.”

This would be Zander’s last effort to protect Zaya. He wouldn’t send his only remaining sibling, his only little sister far away without any protection.

This was the least he could do to assure her safety. Zaya was a strong magic user herself, but having a small army on her own would benefit her.

Rowan thought about that for a while. “Fair enough.”

“And no mistress or any other woman aside from my sister.” Zander’s expression turned rigid when he said this.

It was well known that every kingdom had their own tradition and rules. And even though Ogregon kingdom was quite wild and free with women in the past, thing had changed ever since King Cane, Zander’s father, changed the rule.

As a shifter, they should return to their root, as a monogamy creature.

However, Marca El people didn’t follow the same rules. The last Zander heard, Rowan had five other brothers from different official mistress of the previous king, but not to mention about the woman that the previous king had bedded on a whim.

“No mistress. No other woman. Only my sister.”

Zander would agree to have a long discussion about the other demand, but for this one, he wouldn’t budge.

“She will be the queen.”

“That’s not the answer for my demand.” For a moment, they only stared at each other, until Zander stood up and nodded toward the door. “I think this is the end of the discussion.”

Zander didn’t need to hear the answer, if this king was having a doubt to agree to this condition, then there was nothing more for them to talk about.

“She will be the only woman.” Rowan finally opened his mouth, he looked as calm as ever.

“You are having a doubt.”

"No. I am not." Rowan shook his head. "I believed the princess will be more furious if I was being disloyal to her, more than you, king Zander." He smiled at him, this time it looked genuine. "I only wondered for a moment what it felt like to have a sibling, who would risk everything to ensure my safety, since all of my siblings will be happy to stab me on the back the moment I looked at the other direction."

"And you will bring my sister to such situation."

"I killed my father and brother, remember?" Rowan reminded him.

"I am not happy," Zander said. He crossed his arms in front of his chest when he spoke. He stared at his sister, who was hugging him, but he refused to hug her back. He was sulking.

"Oh, come on, Zan. I did this for our kingdom. I did my duty as the princess of this kingdom. What are you complaining about?" Zaya furrowed her brows, those blue eyes stared back at Zander. Annoyed.

"You look happy to leave. You don't like someone, who is under the pressure. And now you are blushing." He pointed his finger at her cheeks.

Zaya swatted his finger from her cheeks. "I am not blushing, okay?" She glared at him, but her aggressiveness lacked of confidence. She knew that he was right, but she would never admit that. "It's because of the light from the sunset."

They were currently in the garden, where Zaya was trying to cajole Zander from being irrational. He had agreed with the terms that Rowan gave to him and the other king had also agreed with his term.

However, Zander wanted to back away and plot against Rowan in order to breach the agreement. He had a second thought, if it was not the third or fourth of giving away Zaya to a foreign land.

Thankfully, Zaya knew about that and stopped him before he could really go on with his crazy plan. Pyro was the one, who informed her about this, because the royal beta thought the king was doing this out of impulsiveness and didn't think straight about the consequences.

Pyro was right. Zander simply didn't want Zaya to leave the kingdom again. He wanted to keep her within his sight. If he were going to lose her too... he didn't even want to think about that, but this feeling crept on the back of his mind and plagued his night and day.

He would be doomed if something happened to his little sister.

Zander touched her curls. He played it between his fingers, deep in thought and Zaya could only sigh and rest her head against his chest.

"I will be fine, okay?" She still hugged him, while he refused to reciprocate it. "You know that I will be fine. He will gain no benefit from harming me. He helped us during the battle, remember? The result might be different if he decided to help our enemy."

"He killed his father and brother."

"I heard they were not good people."

"I don't want you to live a life like that." Zander touched her cheek and this time he looked at her intensely.

"I am stronger than you think of me, Zan." She wouldn't be here, if she was not strong. Just because she was away from the messy court in this kingdom, it didn't mean her life was a smooth sailing.

After all, she lived in the Holy Kingdom, where they had done everything to keep her. Forced her to be strong to the point they could no longer restraint her.

Zaya had done everything to survive, just like Zander and Zenith. And she had gone through her struggle alone.

"I know you are, I just don't want to lose you too." Zander leaned over and kissed the tip of her nose before he finally hugged her.

They stayed like that for a while, talking about idle things of their childhood and for the first time they talked about Zenith.

Zaya was surprised, but it was therapeutic to talk about him. It made her feel relief because she was afraid that Zander would forget about him, which was a silly thing to think of.

Two months later the ships from Marca El came, there were around a hundred ships, which brought the one hundred knights that Zander demanded.

Zander was not really happy to see this, because it meant Zaya was so close to the day she would leave the continent and he didn't like this nagging feeling that told him to make her stay. He simply didn't want her to leave.

"What are you doing?!" Zaya hissed when she watched Rowan entered her bedroom through the window. She widened her eyes in surprised and immediately pulled him inside, just in case someone saw him.

"I want to see you, of course." Rowan's answer was very blunt. Zander had been pissing him off because he limited his time to meet with Zaya by asking him to do something else or call him to a meeting that lasted for hours, but there was no conclusion in those 'meetings', since they didn't really talk about a real issue.

"Are you crazy?!" Zaya frowned in displeasure, she crossed her arms and faced the king, her blue eyes shone brightly under the moonlight.

Chapter 256: LEAVING THE KINGDOM

"Probably." He shrugged his shoulders. "You know what I have done to get my position, sneaking into your room could be counted as something sweet."

Zaya grimaced. "You have a peculiar way of thinking," she shook her head, while Rowan simply pulled her closer and hugged her.

Zaya's body was small compared to the woman in his continent. He knew it was ridiculous of him to think that he could break her if he put so much pressure on her, despite knowing this stubborn girl could turn him into a frog with a flick of her finger. She had showed him how fierce she could be when she fought.

But she looked so delicate. His consciousness told him to be careful when he touched her.

"Your brother has been keeping me busy." He buried his face against the crook of her neck, she had this unique scent. "He has been a pain in the ass."

"Be careful, he is still my brother." Zaya chuckled when she heard him groaned in frustration, but she hugged him back to appease him.

"I can't wait to have you only for myself." Rowan kissed her neck and Zaya shuddered. "I will show you my kingdom. Our kingdom. You will be a perfect queen for our people."

Finally, the day, where Zaya would leave her kingdom, was here. She stared at herself on the mirror, while Celine helped her with her dress. She looked beautiful in her red dress, which complimented her auburn hair.

"Don't you think red color is too much?" Zaya frowned at her red dress. Celine was the one, who had chosen this for her.

"No. You will appear in public, that's why you need to be more presentable than usual."

"This is not the first time I appear in public."

"Yes, but this will be an official send off for you, so you will carry your title as the princess of this continent, hence you need to be more glamorous than usual. More so, you are going to marry a king from the other continent." Celine narrowed her eyes and met Zaya's gaze in the mirror. "You don't think the king will let you leave without a proper send off worthy of a princess, right?"

Zaya sighed. "Zan tended to be overreacting." Zaya pulled her curls, but Celine grabbed her hand.

"Don't ruin your hair. It took me hours." Celine reminded her to stop pulling her hair. She tended to do that whenever she was nervous.

"Where is my brother?" Zaya wanted to have a conversation alone with Zander before she left. The entourage to the Moonlight pack was ready and there would be a lot of people to give her a proper send off.

One thing that Zaya felt bad about was the fact that Dawn wouldn't be there to see her.

But, Zaya understood why she couldn't. The Moonlight pack held so much memories for her, whether it was about Zenith or her childhood memories. At this moment, she simply couldn't be near the Moonlight pack.

However, Dawn promised that she would attend the royal wedding in Marca El.

"I think he is having one more meeting with king Rowan right now. I saw Pyro begrudgingly went to find the king."

Zaya grimaced. Her brother indeed gave Rowan a hard time. She knew if it was not for the fact that they were going to leave, Rowan would have exploded long time ago.

"What they are talking about?"

"I don't know." Celine was not privileged to know such detail.

Later on, when Zaya was in the carriage with Zander, she asked her brother about his 'meeting' with Rowan and he simply scoffed.

"A simple threat."

Zaya squinted her eyes. She should expect this much from her brother. "Did you threaten a king?"

"I am also a king," Zander retorted childishly.

Zaya shook her head. She wouldn't win this argument if her brother was being like this. She put a beautiful smile on her lips and then waved to the people on the street that had been waiting to see her since morning.

While Zaya was in the same carriage with Zander, Rowan was on the horseback right behind their carriage with the knights from Marca El followed behind. One hundred thousand knights that Rowan 'gifted' for this continent were there as well.

"Are you sure this is the right decision to give one hundred thousand knights? We only got five hundred magic users," Addie said. He had been mildly nagging Rowan for his decision.

More so, there would be one hundred thousand knights, who wouldn't return to their homeland anymore, it would cause trouble for king Zander if they tried to rebel.

Rowan smirked when he heard Addie's opinion. "That's the trouble that he needed to take care of."

As much as Rowan hated to admit it, he knew that Zander would have anticipated such thing and had a plan in line to make sure those one hundred thousand knights wouldn't cause trouble in his kingdom.

And with this long entourage, it took them almost a day and half to reach the harbor. This place had been fixed and it looked like a fierce battle had never happened in the first place.

Only the thought that king Zander wouldn't be able to bother him anymore once they boarded the ship that kept his annoyance in check, because all the way to this pack, he couldn't even have alone time with Zaya.

Rowan couldn't even have a proper conversation with her because the other king would hover around like a moth.

"Is this whole thing necessary?" The corner of Rowan's lips twitched when he was forced to watch the performance of five beautiful girls. They were dancing and singing and all Rowan was thinking he wanted to push them all to the water to end this unnecessary 'ritual'. "Tell him how stupid and pointless their dance is. I am sure the God of the ocean will be pissed off if they watched this."

Yes, Zander had the audacity to call this a ritual, a proper thing to do to send off the princess. Only stupid people would believe that. Zander only wanted to buy more time to keep his little sister in this kingdom.

"Tell him that just because he has a horrendous taste, it doesn't mean everyone does." Zander was smiling at the performances that had been going on for an hour.

"Tell him that I choose his sister to be my queen. There is no way my taste is horrendous."

Zaya was speechless and Zander couldn't find a way to respond to that, aside from his deadly glare that was directed at him.

"If you two wanted to bicker, go and find somewhere else to do that," Zaya said, tired. Who was the person, gave her a seat between these two?!

They were so close, they literally could hear what the other people said.

Thankfully, two hours later all of the 'ritual' was done and it was time for Zaya to leave. No matter how hard Zander tried to prolong it, he couldn't keep going on with it forever, unless he wanted to breach the agreement and Zaya would give him an earful if he did that.

"Please, be safe. I will go to Marca El, if you didn't reply my letter."

"Zan, I will be fine." Zaya hugged her brother tightly and giggled when he didn't want to let her go. "Okay, that's enough. There are so many people watching us. A king shouldn't act like this."

"I am not a king now." He was being clingy right now.

Yes, Zander was not acting as a king, because if he were, he wouldn't have tried to stop her from leaving, since this marriage benefited the kingdom.

"We will meet again soon," Zaya said, as she kissed his cheek, but she could feel Rowan's eyes on her back. His gaze became more intense the more Zander was not willing to let her go. She was afraid that he was going to explode if Zander kept holding her like this.

These two kings were insufferable....

"Write me a letter and let me know if he did something bad to you. Even if he simply raised his voice."

"Okay." Zaya wouldn't argue with him right now, she would agree to anything he said because that's the only way to give him the assurance that he needed.

However, even when Zaya was so eager to make Zander to let her go, the moment he actually did it, she felt at lost, especially when she boarded the ship and watched her brother from the deck. She felt this hollow in her heart and she already missed him, even though she was still seeing him right now.

Rowan was standing next to her. He put his arm around her shoulder and watched as the long entourage became smaller and smaller, as the ocean loomed over.

Zaya staggered when she was no longer able to see her brother and the land had become one thick line in the horizon.

"Are you, okay?" Rowan asked, he held her body and looked at her with concern in his eyes. She looked pale.

"I am fine. I don't really like to travel by water," Zaya replied. "I think I will lay down," she said in small voice and stumbled to get inside, but Rowan carried her in his arms instead.

"You are seasick," he stated and Zaya didn't argue. She simply rested her head against his shoulder and closed her eyes, as she hugged his neck.

There was so much water. She didn't like it. She was... scared.

Chapter 257: THE FIRST PROBLEM

"I will get you some medicine," Rowan said, as he put her down on the bed and tucked her in. Zaya curled her body and hugged her blanket. She still had her eyes closed when she nodded.

After that, Rowan left to get her medicine and something to eat, but Zaya couldn't eat anything. She only managed to get two spoonful of rice before she stopped. She was going to throw up if she forced herself to eat more than that.

Rowan stayed with her until she fell asleep and then left to his bedroom next door, where Addie had been waiting for him.

"If you are going to complain, get out," Rowan said, he had to read a few reports that he had postponed for long. He had been away for longer than he expected, hence it was only natural that he had a lot of things to be done.

"I am not going to complain, I only wanted to remind you that our people have never seen a magic user and for you to have her as your queen will create a ripple within our people." Addie then added. "Your enemy will love to rile people up with this issue."

"As far as I remembered, you were the one, who encouraged me to pursue her."

"Yes, but... I meant.... not something as serious as this..." Addie scratched his head. "I only thought you would love to have some fun with her, but not actually take her as your queen." He shook his head. "This is way too far from what I expected."

“You have to raise your expectation.”

Addie pressed his lips. “Are you serious about... her? I meant... you really do like her?”

Rowan lifted his head and looked at him for a while without saying anything. “She is a powerful magic user,” he finally said.

“You are going to use her ability.”

“I like her.”

“You like her because she is useful.”

“I think you have a lot of free time to make assumptions.” Rowan stood up and walked toward Addie, he nodded at the reports at the table. “Read them all and give me the summarize for each of the report.”

“What? No!”

Addie wailed, but Rowan had left. He went to the room next door and watch Zaya was sleeping. She was sweating, curling herself as if she had a really bad nightmare.

Rowan assumed that Zaya simply had a very bad seasick, thus he didn't think of anything else when she spent the rest of their journey to Marca El in her bedroom. She refused to go out and have fresh air, so she would feel a little bit better.

She chose to spend her time inside the room and ate very little, sleeping more.

Two weeks later, they finally arrived in Marca El harbor. Those two weeks were gruesome weeks for Zaya, but she couldn't confide it to anyone else.

This was one of the reasons why she couldn't go back to Ogregon, even though she really wanted to leave. She didn't have trauma with the ocean before, since she had gone to Karam continent with her brothers and father when she was little, but she developed a strong fear of large amounts of water during her training in Holy Kingdom.

“Feeling better?” Rowan asked, as he helped her to enter the carriage.

They arrived in the middle of the night and there was no welcoming party or anything like that, but Zaya didn't mind it at all. The last thing that she wanted was giving a fake smile at the people that she didn't know.

“Yes.” Zaya leaned her head against his shoulder. She closed her eyes and fell asleep again.

Zaya didn't remember how she could get into her bedroom, but she was sure it was Rowan, who had carried her. She didn't have enough energy to walk on her own, she didn't think that she inspected her bedroom before she fell asleep in this big bed.

The bed was as big as the one that she had back in the palace, with four pillars around it. The room had this cinnamon scent in the air.

Zaya stretched her body, she curled herself again before she stared at the ceiling. She was no longer in Oregoon or in the sea. She was in Marca El. The foreign land that she had never visited before. She had never thought that she would end up in this place at all.

However, as much as she wanted to fall asleep again, it wouldn't look good to wake up so late. She knew better not to let anyone to gossip about her in her first day here.

Therefore, she grunted and grumbled when she pushed herself up into a sitting position and then stared at her reflection on the mirror.

She grimaced.

Her hair looked like she just hit by a tornado every time she woke up. Hastily, Zaya tugged at her curls to tame them and make them looked more presentable before she got off the bed and walked out of the door.

The hallway was empty and this confused her. She thought there would be a guard or two, or even a maid that would wait for her, since that was what happened back in Oregoon or in the Holy Kingdom.

"Hello? Anyone is here?" Zaya walked along the empty hallway and heard a few people talked from one of the rooms.

Didn't have any other choice, Zaya came closer and found a black door, where the source of the voices came from. The door was slightly ajar, thus she could hear the conversation from inside.

To her relief, she saw Rowan was sitting at the head of the table. She was glad that she found him here, but she couldn't enter since he was in the middle of a heated discussion with the other three men.

Zaya was taught to be a proper lady and eavesdropping was not a good habit, but what to do? Her curiosity got the best of her.

She squatted down next to the door that was slightly ajar and listened to their conversation.

“... You can't have her as your queen, my king. This will be a disastrous.” The first man looked agitated with Rowan's decision. “You have not yet discussed this with your councils!”

“She is a witch, but she has a bloodline of a shifter, what if she gave birth to a monster?”

Zaya raised her brows when she heard that, she poked her head to see who said that and peek. She would mark that man.

These people had never seen a monster, but had the audacity to say that she might give birth to a monster?

Zaya saw a man in his armor, looking at Rowan with a heavy disappointment in his eyes. Unfortunately, Rowan had his back against Zaya, thus she couldn't see his expression, but he didn't say anything. He let those morons talk, which irked Zaya a little bit because he didn't stand up for her.

What a great day. She just arrived last night and already had people against her.

“From what I heard she lived in Holy Kingdom, she grew up there and that Holy Kingdom was the kingdom that sheltered black magic, what if she used black magic?”

These morons...

Zaya clicked her tongue. They clearly needed to be educated about magic.

“What if she wanted to take this kingdom and actually she is here because she has hidden agenda? You have given her kingdom one hundred thousand knights, don't you think it's odd?”

Rowan must have given that man a look to elaborate his claim, because he explained in detail about his accusation.

“How could you exchange one hundred thousand knights to five hundred magic users only? Pardon me... but, I think she got in your head... probably, she already used her charm on you, my king.”

The other knights there chimed in, they agreed with this statement.

“If the words got out, people will revolt. No one wanted a king, who was charmed by a witch.”

Zaya poked her head the more she heard the growing voice of displeasure from the other three men, while Rowan didn't say anything. Did he fall asleep? Why he didn't defend her?

“What are you doing here, princess?” Addie asked her in low voice, he also squatted down next to Zaya, giving her a start. “You shouldn’t have eavesdropped the conversation. A princess shouldn’t do that.” Not to mention how she was literally squatting down next to the door.

Zaya glared at him. “They are badmouthing me, why don’t your king say something?” She straight up ignored Addie’s complain about her behavior. “Who are they?” She talked in low voice.

Somehow, Addie poked his head to see who were inside. This was not a planned meeting, but this early morning the three generals heard what happened and immediately went to confront the king.

“General Declan, General Zake and General Xander.”

“That one, the ugliest one, who sat on Rowan left side.”

Addie was speechless, the three generals were around the age of late thirty, but they were good looking, thus for Zaya said General Declan was the ugliest one, he must have said something that offended her.

“General Declan, he is the one, who is responsible to the safety and the security around the capital city, especially the palace,” Addie explained.

“My king, losing one hundred thousand of knights is a great lose for us!”

“You shouldn’t have let that little witch to charm you.”

“Please, thinking thrice about making her your queen.”

Chapter 258: THE ANGRY KING

“Please, thinking thrice about making her your queen.”

This time, Rowan stood up, but he still refused to talk to them, instead he walked toward the door and opened it wider.

“I see you are awake,” Rowan said with a small smile on his lips, he stretched out his hand to help Zaya stood up.

Meanwhile, Addie immediately stood up and straightened his back when he received a warning look from the king. Why would he squat down with Zaya and eavesdrop too? He didn’t have any explanation for his action...

"I am awake and I can't find anyone. There is no guard." Zaya tried to act normal, despite how embarrassed she was to be caught eavesdropping.

"This is my quarter, I don't like anyone to be around, but if you wanted a guard or two to ensure your safety, I will make an exception for that."

Zaya scoffed. She crossed her arms in front of her chest and then tilted her head until she could see the three generals inside the room. All of them had stern look on their faces and they stood up. They looked at Zaya rigidly, knowing she had heard their conversation.

If they were embarrassed for badmouthing her behind her back, they must have concealed it perfectly.

"There is no need. I agreed with you," Zaya said solemnly. "More so, I am more than capable of protecting myself."

Rowan chuckled. He stretched out his hand and tucked strands of her hair behind her ear. Her curls looked cute when she just woke up. This was the first time he saw her like this and he liked it.

"Don't worry, we will stay in the same bedroom, so there is no need for you to be on guard."

Zaya's eyes met general Declan's and he was stunned because the woman held his gaze. "Is that so? I heard the gentlemen over there disagreed to our marriage and they have different opinion from their king."

Zaya stepped aside and then entered the room. Addie was about to stop her, but Rowan simply waved him off. He followed behind Zaya, as she sat down on his chair, which made the three general's faces turned black.

They gritted their teeth, because they saw this as an inappropriate act. Zaya shouldn't have sat on the seat for the king. She was not even a queen yet.

All of them looked at the king, but he didn't say anything. Rowan simply stood behind the chair. The look of amusement on his face.

"You shouldn't have sat there," General Xander said.

"Let me make things clear for you," Zaya said, she ignored the statement completely. "I am not a black magic user and I feel compelled to educate you on a matter of magic."

All of their expression turned ashen now because Zaya made it sound like she was teaching children about basic thing, but indeed, Zaya only told them about basic thing of magic.

“No offense, but we don’t believe that you have nothing to do with king Rowan’s decision to gift your king one hundred thousand warriors,” General Declan said. He looked at Zaya suspiciously.

However, Zaya’s reaction next startled all of them. She pounded her little fist against the table. Though the sound of it was not intimidating at all, she startled them with her defiance.

Women in this continent tended to be very docile. They would do what their men told them to do and it was their virtue to take care of their men. Let alone to have an argument with their men, they wouldn’t dare enough to pound the table and show their blatant rage against them.

“Insolent!” Zaya said.

They were too shock to say anything, but in their eyes, it was Zaya, who was being insolent. Yet, before they could say anything, she already lashed out.

“How could you say that the king has a weak mind?!”

“What?!” General Xander growled. “We have never said that!”

“The way you talked about the king earlier, people who heard that will assume that the king has a weak mind because he could be easily manipulated!”

“You used dark magic! That’s why the king agreed with your request!” General Zake was fuming. He had been silent, but finally he reached his limit.

“I am not a black magic user! How many times should I educate you about magic for you to understand the concept?” Zaya narrowed her eyes dangerously. “Even if I were a black magic user, only people with weak mind would be easily manipulated. Do you want to say the king is weak minded person? Are you trying to insult the king? In my kingdom, that could be counted as a treason and the punishment would be a death sentence!”

Zaya looked very fierce when she said that, which made them lost their ability to speak. How could thing escalate so fast. Why it became a treason when they simply voiced out their disagreement for Zaya to be the queen of this kingdom?

“Don’t you dare to put words into our mouth!” Xander grabbed the hilt of his sword and he unsheathed it quickly.

Zaya had seen that and was ready to use her magic. Thankfully, she had one magic stone in her pocket. Zander had made all of her dress to be tailored again so she would have a small pocket for magic stone. That was crazy, but Zaya had to thank him for that.

However, Rowan moved faster, he grabbed a quill from the table and hurled it toward Xander, in which it stabbed the back of his hand and he dropped the sword immediately.

He hissed but he didn't dare to make a loud sound.

"How dare you unsheathed your sword in front of the king?" Rowan's voice was heavy with rage and Zaya had to tilt her head up to see the storm in his expression.

She had seen how ferocious this king could be, thus she felt sorry for them to be the receiving end of his anger.

This story will end at the end of this month, read my new story: A Mate For The Last Lycan.

Chapter 259: PLAYING A MIND GAME

She was actually surprised. She thought Rowan only wanted to be a spectacle. She didn't know what his end game. He neither helped her nor stopped these generals from tarnishing her name, but he attacked one of them for threatening her.

"My king, I didn't aim you..." Xander tried to explain himself.

Xander immediately knelt in front of Rowan, so did the other two generals. They could be very fierce with their displeasure in front of the king earlier because Rowan didn't say anything and listen to their grievances, but when the moment Xander acted impulsively and drew his sword in front of the king, it had turned into different matter entirely.

"My deepest apology for my misconduct, my king."

Zaya felt awkward now. Even though they were kneeling down for Rowan, but because the man was standing behind her, it looked like they were kneeling down for her, while she was sitting comfortably on the seat.

These three generals must be so pissed. If they made a big deal when she sat on Rowan's seat, let alone to have to kneel in front of her like this.

Especially when Rowan didn't say anything and they were forced to kneel until they were pardoned.

Zaya nudged his hand that was on her shoulder and mouthed. 'Don't you suppose to say something?'

Rowan simply smiled at her and caressed her cheek, while Addie was also shocked. He knew that the king liked the princess, but he didn't know that he was this infatuated with her. He shouldn't have encouraged him to have fun with this princess. Probably the generals were right... Zaya was using magic to charm the king?

Addie shook his head. Rowan was not someone, who was easily manipulated, or else, he wouldn't be in this position right now.

"Why don't you charm me to punish them, since they assumed you have me under control?" Rowan said lightly, he played with her curls and noticed she was wearing too little.

The three generals lifted their heads slightly to look at the king and the witch. They pressed their lips to prevent them from saying anything that could put them into more trouble.

Meanwhile, Zaya raised her brows, she knew there was a hidden meaning behind Rowan's words, but she couldn't put her finger on it. She was not sure what he wanted her to do.

And Rowan could see his woman was trying to figure out what he meant, so he gave her a clue.

"What do you call their act in your kingdom? Ah, a treason?" Rowan circled the chair and then lifted Zaya's body up with ease, she yelped because of his sudden action, but Rowan simply sat down on the chair and sat her down on his lap. "What the punishment for a traitor?"

Zaya was flustered for a while. She was not sure it was wise to rile them up by displaying such affection, but then Rowan knew his people better, if he wanted to play the situation in this way, she would love to assist him.

"Hm..." Zaya relaxed her body and rested her head against his shoulder, she peeked through her lashes. Looked very docile, but not in the way that these generals liked it. "Death sentence. Put them in death sentence. I want them to die."

Addie gasped, he was shocked, so did the three generals, they immediately lifted their head to protest. The sight of the witch on the king's lap boiled their blood with rage.

The king was under the witch's charm! And now he was going to give them a death sentence.

"My king! You can't do that!"

"My king, please clear your mind!"

"The witch is trying to charm you!"

They started to complain and Addie was about to step forward to give the king an advice as well, but Rowan had spoken first.

"Unfortunately, this is their first offense. Base on their merits, their punishment wouldn't be a death sentence."

"Why?" Zaya sulked. She pouted. "I want them to die."

"No, little witch. I will give them a proper punishment."

The corner of Zaya's lips twitched. Little witch? Was that a nickname for her? She was not sure if she liked it.

"But, I want them dead." Zaya buried her face against the crook of his neck. She was not used to act like a spoiled girl like this.

"No." The answer was firm. This time, the king directed his gaze toward the three generals. "All of you are dismissed. I will let you know your punishment later."

They thanked the king and gave Zaya a look when they stood up and left the room without saying anything anymore.

However, they looked so worry with their impending punishment. What if the witch managed to charm the king? What would their punishment be?

It was Xander's misconduct, but the other two felt like they were not going to escape unscathed.

Once the three generals had left the room, Zaya raised her head and looked at Rowan. She narrowed her eyes at him, all of her spoiled behavior had disappeared.

"I am not sure that I got your clue right." Zaya tilted her head. This must be the first time they had a secret code.

"You did your part perfectly," Rowan said, he complimented her.

Only then, Addie got it. They were fooling around, but he didn't get it why Zaya had to act so spoiled and aggravated the generals.

"Really?" Zaya chuckled. "I think we started to have a chemistry."

"We have a chemistry." Rowan leaned over and kissed her lips. "I think you indeed have me bewitched with your charm," he said against her lips.

"In that case, I didn't see your resistance at all," Zaya replied, as she bit his lip.

Meanwhile, the confused Addie left the two of them, since they didn't seem to pay attention to his existence. Wisely, he closed the door behind him and tried to understand what had just happened.

The two of them seemed playing a mind game.

Chapter 260: A GEM

"What now?" Zaya pushed Rowan away, prevented him from kissing her because there were a few things that they had to talk about. "Your people don't like you? Don't you worry that they will turn their back against you?"

Zaya didn't know how things worked here, or how loyal Rowan's people to him.

Crap. She had a lot to learn.

It was a surprise for Rowan to see how well Zaya handled the situation. She was very bright and mischievous. She knew what to do and was familiar with plot in the court.

At first, he didn't think Zaya would catch on what he intended to do, but a single clue was enough for her to figure thing out.

"Stop staring at me," Zaya said, furrowing her brows. She was still sitting on his lap, while he cradled her in his arms, occasionally kissing her. "And stop kissing me too." Zaya pushed his face away, couldn't understand why this man was being touchy with her.

"I found a gem," Rowan said.

"Did you mean me?" Zaya raised her brows, her lips quirked up into a beautiful smirk. "I know. I am fabulous."

Rowan laughed, he liked her confidence, she didn't shy away and admit it openly. She was proud of herself and knew her worth.

He thought, he was mesmerized by her courage and boldness during the battle, but right now he found himself was deeply interested in this auburn woman on his lap. She was fierce and was a fighter, but at the same time, she carried herself gracefully, just like the princess she was.

Rowan didn't need a docile woman who would do anything to please him. He had a lot of people, who obeyed her and were eager to please him. All he needed was someone, who would stand with him. Someone, who could be his equal.

However, this was too soon to say that Zaya was up for the real challenge, since the three generals was only the beginning. There would be more people, who would go against her and Rowan told her that.

"I am aware of that," Zaya said. She didn't seem surprise. "Every kingdom has their own political issue and problem. I am not sure how bad it could be. I will need your pointers in the future, but as long as you have my back, I will be fine."

This was not Zaya's first time to deal with this kind of thing. Even though it would be slightly different from the Holy Kingdom and Ogregon Kingdom, but greedy people, who lusted over power and wealth were everywhere.

"What? Do you think I will not familiar with this?" Zaya chuckled. "What are you thinking? That I expect sunshine and rainbow here? I know there will be problem with me being an outsider. They have never seen magic or met with a magic user. It was either they would like me and was amazed by my ability, or they would fear me. From the look of it, unfortunately, it's the latter and..."

Zaya didn't manage to finish her words because Rowan had kissed her again, this time he became a little bit aggressive, which startled her. She blushed when she felt something hard poked her ass. This man was having a hard on.

Zaya patted the back of his head, silently asking him to slow down, since her mouth was occupied by his.

"Do you want to suffocate me?" Zaya protested when he finally let go and allowed her to catch her breath.

"No. I want to bend you on this table and take you."

Zaya's eyes widened when she heard that. Rowan would flirt with her, but he had never said such vulgar thing to her blatantly.

“Don’t worry, I will not do it. Not yet.” He whispered against her ear, which sent shiver down her spine. Zaya could feel how hard he was and she was not sure what to do in this situation. “You deserve more than a fucking table.”

“I don’t know that you swore.”

“I swore a lot, princess.” Rowan chuckled when he saw her expression. “The king can’t swear, but I can. I am not a king when I am with you.” he kissed her neck and licked her tender skin.

Zaya flustered, she pushed his face away from her. “Is it because of the air in this continent? Why you look so much different now?”

“This is my home and this is the real me.”

He was right, Zaya could see how relax he was. “I wonder, how bad your personality could be now you show your true color.”

“Don’t worry, I will behave.”

Zaya pursed her lips and wriggled her legs. “I am hungry. There is no one when I woke up, so I couldn’t ask something to eat. I am sure it has passed breakfast.”

“I thought you will wake up a little bit later, since you slept very peacefully last night.” Rowan stood up and placed Zaya on the floor. “I have arranged people for you. They should be here by now.”

Rowan was right, when Zaya walked back to her room, she found three people had been waiting for her.

Meanwhile, Rowan had something urgent to take care of, but he promised that he would take her around once he had all of his troubles handled.

Zaya didn’t know what Rowan was going to do to the three generals because he didn’t return until very late at night and by that time, she had fallen asleep.

Rowan came to her bedroom and watch her sleeping for a while before he returned to his own bedroom.

There were ten more similar rooms like the one that Zaya occupied, since these rooms used to be used for the king’s mistresses.

However, Rowan wouldn’t need that. He didn’t have any intention to take a mistress, even without Zander’s threat. He had watched firsthand how messy the court was when the women got involved whenever her father made a decision. Those women would whisper to his ear.

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