

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North

Chapter 41: THE ALPHA OF THE MOONLIGHT PACK

Stirring this concoction was not as easy as it seemed, you have to know when you have to stir it slowly or fasten your movement, and to top it, you need to control the fire as well. It couldn't be too small, but couldn't be too big either, because it could spoil the concoction.

In other words, within those three hours, you need to focus on the concoction alone and must not get distracted. This was the most tiring part and when the healer in her pack taught her this concoction, Dawn felt like giving up and forgetting about it several times.

Thankfully, she didn't.

"You have to keep the color dark green like this, if the color changes into light green, you need to add salt and if it turns to a darker shade, you need to check the fire and slow down the stirring."

Dawn explained all of this to Zenith, when he insisted for her to let someone else do it.

"That's why, I can't let anyone else do it," Dawn said, she added a pinch of salt because the color changed.

Zenith was not happy with this, but there was nothing he could do when he knew nothing about the concoction while his brother's life was on the line.

And after three hours of boiling the concoction, finally it was done. She got only two bowls of it.

"Let's go," Dawn said, she massaged her hand, which felt so numb. She was tired and wanted to clean herself because she was sweating.

But, before Dawn could take the tray, on which she put the two bowls of concoction, Zenith stopped her. "Let someone else bring this."

Zenith then called one of the omegas to bring the tray to the king's bedroom, but she didn't enter the room, because Zenith took it from her hands and dismissed her.

The omegas, who worked in the kitchen, started talking about how the king was making something with the alpha's chosen mate. Speculation started and rumors spread slowly...

“You need to make him drink this every five hours.” Dawn pointed to the two bowls. “I will make another batch later. He needed to drink this for three days at least, after that, let’s see his condition.”

“Every five hours?” Darius frowned. “And, after making this for three hours, you only got two bowls? How many times do you have to repeat the process?”

Dawn yawned, she stretched her body. Her hand was numb now. “As many as necessary.” She then reminded them again to give the concoction every five hours. “I still have less than seven hours now to make the next concoction. I am going to rest, wake me up only if it’s important and don’t forget to find those two ingredients as soon as possible. This concoction will not be able to cure all the poison, he will get side effects too if he consumes this too much.”

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

And after giving a few other pointers, Dawn left the room, she stopped Zenith from coming with her.

“No. I don’t want rumors flying around.” It was already bad enough for people to see her going inside the king’s room very casually.

More so, as the alpha’s daughter, she knew the decorum and she had to keep her image clean. She didn’t want a scandal, okay? The problem with Blake was already scandalous enough.

With that, Dawn left them and went back to her bedroom, after she cleaned herself and changed her clothes, she went to bed and slept.

But, little did she know, when she was already fast asleep, Zenith entered the room and checked on her...

=====

Jason was extremely furious with Ava because of what his son had done.

“And only now you told me about this?!” Jason was so mad, he raised his voice, something that he had never done before.

“Please, understand our son...”

“You lied and then covered up for him! That’s what I understand!” Jason roared and this made Ava clamp her mouth shut and lower her head. She was very afraid of her mate right now. Tears streamed down her face.

Blake told him that he was going to the harbor to take care of the problem there, but it didn't take long for Jason to get a report that he had never arrived, only then Ava confessed what their son was up to.

Livid was an understatement to describe what Jason felt right now.

"He went to the palace and there was no news from him for days?!" Jason growled angrily, while Ava kept crying and apologizing.

"What should we do now? Do you think the King punished him? What should we do now?"

Jason wanted to lash out again, but he held himself back. There was no point in screaming in his mate's face. Right now, he needed to figure out what happened to his son in the palace and the only person who could help him was the alpha.

Jason didn't say anything, as he stormed out of the house and went to the pack house to tell Alpha Tony what was actually going on.

At first, Jason thought the alpha would scold him, but as it turned out, he was very calm and agreed to go to the capital city.

"We will leave tomorrow."

"I will make the necessary preparations."

Actually, Tony had been wanting to go to the capital city since he heard about Dawn's whereabouts, but he didn't have the courage to face his daughter. The disappointment in her eyes still haunted his sleep.

Not only that, Julia also kept discouraging him from going. She kept blowing into his ear that Dawn would never forgive him for what he had done and now his relationship with Julia and Emily was very tense.

Later that night, when Julia learned about Tony's plan to go to the capital city to see Dawn, she made a fuss again.

"Do you really think she will agree to see you!?" Julia's voice was so harsh, it was heavy with anger. "There is no point in meeting her! She hates all of us!"

"She is my daughter! She will understand!"

"She is going to marry into the royal family! She is going to make our lives miserable!" Julia shouted back. "I am going with you too!"

The fight was so loud, a few pack members avoided the alpha's quarters altogether. They had been fighting a lot these days and they felt bad for their alpha.

Tony stormed off after this meaningless fight and didn't return that night, he chose to stay in Dawn's bedroom. He missed his daughter so badly.

"Mother." Emily entered the room, she looked visibly pregnant now. Not only her mother, she was also under so much stress because Blake had been treating her horribly. She couldn't believe that he was still hung up on Dawn even when she was pregnant with his firstborn. "Do you think it's a mistake?"

"What are you talking about?!" Julia snapped at her daughter. She didn't want to have another argument after her fight with Tony, but Emily talked nonsense.

"Alpha Zenith is part of the royal family, if I mated with him instead, wouldn't that have made me a princess?" Emily was not happy with this fact. Dawn's position right now was actually hers, but because of her mother's interference, Dawn would have a higher rank than her.

No. She would be the highest ranked female shifter in this continent after the ceremony, since the king had not yet found his queen.

The thought of that alone made her sick.

"We are talking about Alpha Zenith! Haven't you heard how cruel that man is?" Julia was frustrated. "Do you want to live in that pack full of monsters? Spending the rest of your life there?!"

Emily grimaced. That was the bad part of being Alpha Zenith's mate. "But, if I can be a princess, I don't mind living there."

"That alpha could kill you!"

"Dawn is still alive now." And she was going to have a big ceremony for her union with Alpha Zenith. She would be a princess. Emily felt her stomach churning. Anger and hatred boiled in her veins.

"It's not worth it. The Alpha from the north and the King don't have a good relationship."

Emily didn't seem to listen to what her mother said. "She is going to be part of the royal family. That position should be mine." Her brows furrowed deeply with the realization.

=====

As Dawn promised, she woke up after sleeping for three hours and then ate before she continued to make the next concoction for Zander. The process was exhausting, but thankfully, Zenith was not there to accompany her.

But, even on the next day, Dawn didn't see Zenith, she didn't see him during breakfast or dinner, but she didn't really mind it, because she was busy as well.

Only on the third day, Dawn finally saw him. He gave her a small box when she came to the king's bedroom to check on Zander.

The king was still unconscious, but he was not as pale as before.

"Is that what you are looking for?" Zenith asked, he gestured for her to open the box.

The small box was a little bit heavy and inside, Dawn could see the thing that she was looking for and she was rather surprised. "Yes! This is what I am looking for!"

"Great! You can make the concoction now, right?" Lance asked excitedly. The royal gamma started to warm up to Dawn and sometimes, he would even volunteer to accompany her in the kitchen.

"Absolutely."

But Pyro entered the room and informed Zenith that someone requested to meet with him. "Alpha Tony and his beta from the Moonlight pack."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 42: DAWN'S PETTY REVENGE

Dawn expected to see her father, because she decided to invite him for the ceremony, but she didn't expect to see her father this soon.

Pyro looked at Dawn, as the royal beta, he knew how the relationship between Dawn and her father currently was. He was also well aware of what had gone down the last time Dawn was in her pack.

"Why are you all looking at me?" Dawn asked, she frowned. She could sense the atmosphere shift. "Alpha Tony requested a meeting with the King, it has nothing to do with me. If Beta Jason is also here, it means they wanted to ask about his son."

Dawn appeared nonchalant, as she waved the box in her hand.

"I am going to make a concoction." Dawn glanced at Darius and asked him to come with her to help. "Don't bother me for the next ten hours. I want to get done with this quickly. It's so tiring to deal with this and the preparation of the ceremony."

This matter wouldn't have dragged on for too long if Aurel didn't interfere and worsened Zander's condition.

After saying that, she walked away with Darius in tow.

But, once she was out of the king's bedroom, her aloofness disappeared. She lowered her head, deep in thought.

"Do you want to see your father?" Darius asked. The silence was very uncomfortable for him, but Dawn didn't respond to the question. "If you want to meet with him, you can just say so to Zenith."

Darius didn't think Zenith would let them meet easily though, knowing how he rejected all the letters that came from the Moonlight pack.

"If he wants to see me, he will ask for a meet up." Dawn hastened her steps. If her father really wanted to see her, he didn't need to bring Beta Jason with him. Since the beta was here, it meant, their main purpose to come was to ask about Blake.

Once again, her father let her down by putting her second.

Darius wanted to talk, but then he clamped his mouth shut and as he helped Dawn with the concoction, he felt like she got her sweet revenge on him by ordering him around, rendering him unable to talk.

"Focus on your task, if you mess this up, you will put the King's health at risk," Dawn said sternly, as she instructed Darius on how to stir the concoction.

The gamma felt like crying, his hand was numb.

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

On the other hand, Zenith graced Alpha Tony and Beta Jason with his presence. He was sitting on the throne, staring down at the two of them, who were still kneeling in front of him. They couldn't get up, because the king didn't say anything.

Therefore, Alpha Tony had to talk in his kneeling position.

And the first thing that came out of his mouth was; Blake. He asked to meet with Blake, because they heard his beta's son had visited the palace, but had never returned to his inn.

"I sent him to the dungeon." The way Zenith said it was very casual, as if he was talking about the weather and Pyro, who was standing next to him, gave him a look.

The royal beta had warned him that he shouldn't create trouble for the king, because it would be Zander, who had to clean up after his mess once he had regained his consciousness and resumed his position.

Yet, Zenith didn't even give him any acknowledgment of his existence

"What crime had he committed, My King?" Beta Jason was shocked to hear that. He knew that his son had come to the palace to seek Dawn, but what had he done until it caused him to be sent to the dungeon?

"What crime you say!" Zenith leaned his body forward. His eyes narrowed sharply. "Having desire for a woman who does not belong to him and acting on it, it's considered a crime in this continent," he said viciously. "Coveting a chosen mate of the royal family member and blatantly seeking the said woman is treason. Do you want me to continue?"

"T- treason?" Beta Jason was stuttering. He was shocked by the accusation. "There is no way... that's too far, My King! This is a huge misunderstanding!"

"He can be hanged anytime soon for his crimes after an investigation."

Pyro thought Zenith went too far, too. He took advantage of his position as the king. He wondered why he was going to such lengths just for that woman. Zenith had never been reckless like this before.

"I can explain!"

"Who told you to stand up?" Zenith asked lazily when he saw Beta Jason stand up from his kneeling position and was about to approach him, to give him this so-called explanation. "Talk from where you are beta. Comfortably."

Meanwhile, Alpha Tony was shocked. This must be the third time he met the king in person, but the aura that he gave off was very different.

The king lived up to the people's expectations, as a benevolent and kind sovereign, but the man before him was very different from the one he met twice in the past. He remembered the odd golden mask that he used to wear, but it almost felt like it was a different person behind the mask.

"His trial will be scheduled three days from now." Zenith stood up. He had wasted enough of his time by entertaining them. "You are dismissed."

"My King!" Beta Jason immediately stood up and wanted to approach the king. "Your Highness!"

However, royal guards immediately stopped him as royal warriors blocked his way from going closer to the king, while Pyro glanced over his shoulder and watched how the beta was mortified to hear his son would go into a trial.

“You went too far, Zen.”

Zenith spared him a glance. “You judged me too fast. You know what it would have looked like if I went too far.”

Pyro pressed his lips. He knew better than to provoke Zenith further, because he could really show him how far he could go.

The least he could do was to wait for Zander to regain his consciousness and let the king clean up after his brother’s mess.

He wondered about the concoction that Dawn was making right now. He was still ill at ease with that woman and wondered how she, as a shifter, was very knowledgeable about poison.

More so...

Pyro stared at Zenith’s back. He had never seen this side of Zenith before. He didn’t know that he could be very caring about his future chosen mate when originally, he wanted to kill her off. What changed?

At the same time, Dawn got additional help when Lance curiously came to the kitchen and she took advantage of this royal gamma to help her as well.

“Ten hours?!” Lance and Darius exclaimed at the same time.

“Yes. Ten hours.” Dawn emphasized her words clearly.

“No. I am just curious about what you are doing, so I came to see.” Lance scrambled with his words, he wanted to get out of this kitchen. He couldn’t imagine himself having to spend the next ten hours here, grinding the herbs.

“Don’t stop,” Dawn said when she saw Lance was about to put down the mortar and pestle. “If you do it wrong, the concoction will be spoiled and it will have a bad effect on the king.”

Lance froze, he didn’t dare to stop.

Dawn smirked. “Do you think I don’t know that you came here to investigate me? You don’t trust what I am doing, right?”

“No.” The answer was too fast for it to sound believable. Lance then cleared his throat. “I only wondered what you were doing here...”

“Don’t stop.” Dawn warned the royal gamma again when he was about to stop, because he was in a hurry to give Dawn an explanation. “The toxicity of the ingredients is pretty high. You can accidentally make a poison instead of an antidote.”

Lance felt like crying, while Darius was too scared to provoke her further.

The worst part was; they didn’t even know whether Dawn was telling the truth or she was just bluffing them and they couldn’t even call her out for it.

And after ten begrudging hours, the antidote was finally done and Dawn was very happy to see the outcome was as she expected, while Lance and Darius were too spent to even feel happy.

“Good job!” Dawn patted the two gammas. “This is what you call teamwork!”

“What teamwork?!” Lance grumbled. “It was us who got it done.”

Dawn didn’t heed with that comment and immediately put it into a jar. “Come on! Get up!” She said happily, because the past ten hours, she only needed to instruct these two gammas to get everything done. “Since you wanted to investigate me, do it properly. Here, take this.”

Dawn shoved the jar into Lance’s hands and then urged them to giddy up.

Cursing and complaining, Lance and Darius got up from the floor and followed Dawn to the king’s bedroom.

“Where did your alpha get this woman from?” Lance asked Darius in a low voice, while the latter could only shake his head.

When they arrived at the bedroom, they found Zenith, Pyro and Aurel were there as well. The healer insisted on checking on the antidote first and Dawn didn’t mind it at all.

Zenith took the cup from Dawn’s hand when she was about to feed Zander. “I will do it.” The alpha then took it upon himself to make his brother drink the entire cup.

“Can you do it gently? You look like you are going to choke him to death.” Dawn grimaced.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 43: EXHAUSTED DAWN

It irritated Dawn when she saw Aurel try to insert herself as she inspected the

concoction she made. On a normal occasion, she might not have minded it at all, since she was the royal healer, but she was already annoyed by Lance.

More so, what Aurel was doing was not genuinely out of her duty as the healer, but because she had her own malice intention to prove herself right about Dawn.

Yet, she couldn't find any fault with the antidote. To be honest, she didn't even understand anything about it.

"When will he wake up?" Aurel asked. She crossed her arms in front of her chest and looked like a petulant child, trying to nitpick what Dawn was doing.

"Three days." Dawn then added. "More or less." She couldn't say the exact time, it depended on how his body would react to the antidote.

"You can't even say that for sure." Aurel then turned to Lance. "Do you really believe in her ability?"

Dawn shot her a glare. "It's rich coming from you to question my ability when you were the one who put the King's life at risk."

Lance stopped himself from smiling, but Darius chuckled a little because he could see how Aurel's smug expression changed drastically.

But, Pyro cut them off before this argumentation could escalate. "What should we do now? Is there another concoction that Zander needed to drink?"

Dawn shook her head. "No. You only need to nourish his body. It will help him to absorb the antidote faster."

Zenith immediately took her hand. "You are done here." He then took her out of the bedroom. He didn't even need to ask for permission to take her away and left just like that.

Dawn could feel shivers down her spine when she turned around. She was sure Aurel was staring daggers at her right now, but the healer was too afraid of Zenith to complain.

=====

"What do you mean he is in the dungeon?!" Ava clutched her chest, she looked at her mate in disbelief when she learned about her precious son's situation. "How did he end up in the dungeon? What do you mean he was accused of treason?!"

Treason was not an ordinary accusation, because the only punishment for that was; death.

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

Ava staggered and thankfully Beta Jason caught her body before she could fall to the ground, while his mate started sobbing.

Beta Jason wanted to tell her that this was all because of her wrongdoings, by allowing Blake to request a meeting with the king, but he didn't have a heart to do so.

"What to do about our poor son? What should we do to save our baby?" Ava started to cry. Her heart ached to think her child was in that filthy dungeon.

"Don't cry. We will figure out a way to get him out of there." Jason hugged his mate. He had been thinking of a way, but to be honest, there was only one way to reverse the claim.

=====

"I don't need to sleep. I am not sleepy," Dawn said, she insisted that she was fine, but Zenith was having none of it.

"Lay down," Zenith ordered her sternly. He noticed Dawn's lack of sleep, because he counted the time, where she had to make those stupid three hour concoctions and now, she had to stay up for ten hours straight.

Out there, the sky had turned dark and the wind rattled the branches on the tree, as they knocked on the window.

"Lie down, Dawn," Zenith said, his voice softened, as he coaxed her to lie down.

In the end, Dawn obliged and Zenith tucked her in. "I told you that I am not sleepy." She still protested, but then Zenith covered her eyes with his big, callous palm.

"Close your eyes for thirty seconds." Zenith asked Dawn to count and despite being reluctant, she did it, because his hand was very comfortable.

"Twenty three... Twenty four..." Dawn kept counting, but with each number, her voice softened and her breathing deepened, her count was lagging. "Fifty one.... Fifty..."

And when Dawn finally stopped counting, Zenith lifted his hand that covered her eyes and found his sweet woman had fallen asleep, her lips were slightly ajar, as she snored softly.

"Goodnight, my Dawn." Zenith kissed her forehead gently. He didn't immediately leave, but stayed for a while, staring at her sleeping face.

It was hard to tell what was in his mind. His blue eyes darkened and his lips pressed tightly, as if staring at the woman before his eyes hurt him physically.

Dawn didn't realize how tired she was until Zenith coaxed her to sleep, because she only woke up the next day. She even skipped her breakfast.

But, when she woke up, she almost got a heart attack, because she found Zenith staring at her.

"Heavens! Zenith!" Dawn almost jumped out of her skin, she clutched her chest. Her heart was beating so fast. "What are you doing staring at me like that?"

"I am wondering whether I should wake you up, or not."

That was the weirdest answer that Dawn had ever heard. "What?"

"Zander has regained consciousness." Zenith poured a glass of water and helped her to sit down. He held her hair when she drank. This gesture was rather intimate, but he did it casually.

"Oh, really? We need to go see him."

"No." Zenith took the empty glass and put it aside. "You need to eat first. You skipped your breakfast."

Dawn was about to argue with him, yet she relented quickly, realizing that she was really hungry and the meal that Zenith prepared for her was very appetizing. It was deer meat.

While Dawn was eating, she felt a little bit weird because Zenith kept staring at her, thus she took a piece of the meat and shoved it into his mouth.

"Stop staring at me like that, you will give me indigestion." Dawn pursed her lips. "I know I am beautiful, no need to make it obvious."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 44: BIG REVELATION ABOUT THE KING

After Dawn was full and she had cleaned herself up, Zenith took her to the king's bedroom. She could feel the guards and warriors' eyes on her as they walked, as if they were going to dig a hole in her back.

"Zenith, you will create an unnecessary rumor if we walk together like this to the King's bedroom." Dawn frowned, she felt like a mistress.

People knew that she had been preparing for her ceremony with Zenith, but for her to walk back and forth to the king's bedroom freely, it would make people talk.

Dawn looked at Zenith, but she couldn't see what kind of expression he made behind that golden mask, he didn't say anything at all either, which caused her to keep her mouth shut.

Once they entered the room, there was only Pyro by the king's side, talking in a low voice, while Zander looked pale, but was alive nevertheless.

They stopped their conversation once they realized they were not alone and a bright smile appeared on the king's lips.

Dawn still couldn't get used to seeing Zenith's face smiling like that, very innocent and kind, even though in truth, this king was far from his angelic appearance.

"My savior!" Zander exclaimed exaggeratedly. "Come here! I will give you a hug!"

Zenith took off his mask and looked at his twin, his gaze was cold enough to freeze the hell. "Cut the crap." He threw the golden mask to Zander's lap.

"You are so mean, don't you feel happy to see your brother has made it alive?"

Zenith sat down on a chair next to the bed, while Dawn checked on Zander's condition. His vitals were great and actually, he recovered very fast, even for a shifter, who had healing ability, he healed quite quickly.

Pyro then filled her in about Zander's recovery and the royal beta actually was very thankful for what she had done.

"How should I reward you?" Zander tilted his head. His eyes softened when he stared at the woman before his eyes. "After all, you have saved the King's life."

"There is one thing that I truly want." Dawn lifted her head and met with Zander's blue eyes. He was the exact copy of Zenith, but somehow was very different. "Promise me that you will not kill me, harm me or do anything bad to me."

"Are you still hung up over that? Are you still mad?" Zander raised his brows, he thought she wanted something extravagant, like an exorbitant reward or even the kingdom's treasure.

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

"You sent a bunch of rogues to the north and one of them even managed to enter my bedroom to assassinate me, don't you know how traumatized I am? I want a guarantee

for my life.” Dawn shrugged her shoulders. “I don’t think I asked too much. A life for a life.”

Dawn thought Zander would be offended, but she was wrong, the king actually smirked when he heard that.

“I have been thinking about what my brother saw in you. But, now I got it.” Zander tilted his head. “Fine. Now, let’s talk about the poison that caused my warriors to be unable to shift.”

Dawn had been wanting to talk about this matter, since Zenith didn’t want to get involved in this.

“Basically, the poison that was used on you is similar to the poison used on the warriors, but the result is very different.” Dawn furrowed her brows. “Maybe because your body is built differently?” She was not sure with her theory.

“What do you mean?” Pyro jumped into questioning.

Dawn then explained that for a shifter, there was this small bone on your jugular that connected to your wolf, which allowed you to shift into your beast and the poison attacked exactly that area, but only that area alone.

“Yow know that once our wolf spirit dies, our body would follow after, but in the normal process, the body would die slowly, it would take months or maybe years, but because of this poison, the effect is accelerated.”

Dawn then told Zander he should have died after a few hours when he made contact with the poison, but weirdly enough he survived. She wondered why.

“Right. I didn’t check it before.” Dawn stretched out her hand to touch the said bone on Zander’s jugular. However, before she could touch him, Zander and Zenith moved at the same time and caught her hand. “Huh? I just want to check it, because it almost felt like he didn’t have that bone.” Dawn explained herself.

“There is no need.” Zander smiled, he let go of Dawn’s hand, while Pyro was visibly tensed. “I don’t have it.”

Dawn blinked her eyes. She didn’t think she heard him right. “What?”

But, it was Zenith who explained to her briefly. “He can’t shift into his beast.”

Pyro was shocked when the two of them revealed this biggest secret. No one should know about Zander’s condition and the fact he couldn’t shift!

=====

“People are talking about the upcoming ceremony!” Emily roared angrily at her mother. She was very distraught with the fact that people were very excited about the royal ceremony, since it didn’t happen often and they were very blessed to witness it. “She will be a princess! How can I accept that?! I should be the one people talked about!”

Julia was trying to calm her daughter down, but Emily was too furious to listen to her.

“How can you do this to me!” Emily cried so hard.

Currently, they were inside an inn in the capital city, they came with Tony, who was followed by Jason and Ava, under the excuse that Emily needed to see the father of her child.

“Emily, calm down!” Julia covered Emily’s mouth. She didn’t want Tony to see her like this. She had enough fights with him over Emily lately, but her daughter actually bit her hand. “Argh!”

“If it was not for you, I would have been the one that will have that royal ceremony! How can you do that to me, mother?!”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 45: I LOVE YOU

Julia was at a loss when she had to face her daughter’s outburst. She was very furious and didn’t want to listen to her explanation.

But what else Emily had to hear when she kept singing the same old tune?

“If you hadn’t meddled in this matter, I would have been the one becoming a princess now! People would be talking about me! And the grand ceremony of the royal family?! All of that would have been mine!” Emily was furious. “But now, what?! I have to be with a man, who didn’t give a shit about me and my baby. He is not even going to be an alpha!”

“Blake will become the alpha, who else will take the position if it’s not him?” Julia tried to talk sense to her daughter. “Your father was upset, that’s why he said what he said. But, think about it, there is no way Dawn will take the role, she has her own pack in the north.”

“She became part of the royal family!” Emily kept hanging onto that fact, it irked her.

“Emily...”

“What else do you want from me?! Did I say something wrong?!” Emily snapped. “He is not even my father!”

However, from outside of the door, they didn't realize that someone had been listening to their bickering and this was not a conversation he wished to hear.

Tony was standing there like a statue, his hand hovering over the door knob, but he clenched his fist and walked away.

This was the girl he treated like his own. Despite his intention to use her as a replacement for Dawn, he had never mistreated them at all. He had never even raised his voice and always provided them with everything they wanted, even at the expense of hurting his own daughter.

But, this was what he got in return? They didn't even feel grateful for what he had done.

No. That ungrateful woman didn't even think of him as her father.

Tony gritted his teeth. The only thing that was in his mind was this question; what had he done? He pushed Dawn away to please those ungrateful people.

=====

Dawn was surprised when she learned that Zander couldn't shift into his beast. That was a huge matter and as a king, it could cause tumult within his court.

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

No wonder Pyro looked so upset when Zander and Zenith blurted this out before Dawn so recklessly.

"What happened?" Dawn furrowed her brows. "Is it because of black magic? Poison?" The only poison in her knowledge that could repress a shifter from shifting into their beast was the Rottingbane leaves.

"That's a long and wonderful story," Zander said with a grin, as if it was something casual. "I will tell you over some evening tea in my back garden. What do you think?"

Dawn narrowed her eyes. "No, thanks." She immediately declined. "I will just ask Zenith about it." She did not care enough to know more about Zander.

"Ah, you are the first woman who turned my offer down. I am quite hurt." Zander was being dramatic now.

Dawn then explained about the cause of why some of the royal warriors couldn't shift into their beasts and after some investigation, she came to a conclusion, but she was still not sure about this, thus she wanted to ask for their opinion.

“The kingdom’s treasure?” Pyro slid his gaze to the king. “Yes, we use a certain spell to trace them.”

“Do you want to say that the poison reacted to the magic, which made it lethal?” Zander concluded. “How do you know?”

Dawn pointed at the golden mask. “You put the same spell on this mask too, right?”

“You are right.” Zander nodded. He was deep in thought and Pyro looked very much concerned about the whole thing. There was no doubt, someone within Zander’s council was trying to get on their nerves.

“You need to check your treasury, I am sure there is something missing there.”

Zander and Pyro were deep in thought, but the king suddenly grabbed Dawn’s hand and kissed the back of it, smiling brilliantly all the while.

Zander did this all of sudden, which caught Dawn off guard. After all, she didn’t expect him to make such a move.

“Thank you for your hard work,” Zander said cheerfully. “You have solved half of my problem... ah!”

Zander writhed in pain when Zenith swatted his hand forcefully from Dawn, he was sure that his brother had broken his hand.

“Zen!” Zander roared, while Pyro could only grimace and Dawn was lost for words.

“Let’s go,” Zenith said, he took Dawn’s hand and escorted her out of the bedroom. Since Dawn was done with her task, she didn’t need to indulge Zander or his antics.

“Zander, I think you broke his hand,” Dawn said in a small voice.

“Hm.” Zenith couldn’t care less about that and took her to the fountain to wash her hand, the one that Zander had kissed and this made Dawn laugh.

“Are you jealous?”

“No.”

“You can’t lie with a straight face.”

Zenith wiped her hand dry and looked at her. “Jealousy is for something that you don’t have, but you are mine.”

Dawn blushed when she heard that, but she pursed her lips when she remembered something. "You don't even like me." Zenith said it himself.

"I don't like you, I love you."

Dawn was surprised to hear this confession, but before she could ask further, Zenith pressed his lips to hers, which forced her to swallow back her question. His kiss was so gentle and the way he touched her was very careful, as if she was made of glass.

However, Dawn was still unable to understand the sadness in his eyes and all of the dreams and prophecies that surrounded him. She knew Zenith and Zander took it seriously, though.

After Zenith had enough of her lips, he raised her hand and kissed the back of it as well, before he stood up and took her with him.

Dawn was speechless, this man could be very petty. "Hey, did you just say that you love me?"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 46: THE DEEPEST REGRET

"Why did he put him in the dungeon?" Zander was shocked upon hearing the report from Lance about what Zenith had done. He put Blake inside a jail. "For what crime?"

"Coveting the woman of a royal family member."

Zander clicked his tongue. "He only uses his status when it's convenient for him."

"So, what are we going to do now?" Lance then told him about Alpha Tony and Beta Jason, who came the other day.

"Put him on trial." Zander didn't seem to care.

"Alpha Tony is the alpha of the Moonlight pack, Zan, he can do something with the harbor there." Lance reminded him. "We are still investigating the harbor and we will need his cooperation in the future."

Zander glanced at him. "Well, too bad. If he doesn't want to cooperate, I can put him down and replace him with someone who has no problem cooperating with the King."

Lance threw his hands in the air, giving up. "Okay, okay." For Zander, if the gentle way didn't work, then he would take the harsh way.

"What about the preparations for the ceremony?"

“We sent out the invitations yesterday.”

A month from now, the first royal ceremony in three decades would be held, therefore, people were very excited. You could feel how different the atmosphere was when you walked in the streets and all the people talked about the new princess of the kingdom.

However, the more Emily listened to it, the more furious she was. She couldn't stand still and was drowning in jealousy.

It should have been her! It should be her that people were talking about!

Currently, she was sitting on the windowsill, staring into the distance and hating herself for listening to her mother. She glanced at her bulging stomach and hated it even more, because this was a reminder of Blake.

What a coward! And now she was pregnant with his child!

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

Six months! She was currently six months pregnant and when she attended the royal ceremony, she would be seven months along. Her body would get bigger and she wouldn't look pleasant. She hated it.

“Get out!” Emily hit her stomach. She wanted this baby to get out of her body quickly.

“Emily! What are you doing!?” Tony caught her hand and scolded her for trying to harm herself and the baby.

“I don't want to birth that bastard's baby!” Emily shouted back at the alpha.

They were in the living room of the inn and Tony was having a conversation with Jason about what to do, while Julia and Ava were in the other room.

“Lower your voice! Don't be stupid!”

“Why? Why do you care? You are not even my father!”

Tony felt like he wanted to slap her across the face, so she could get back to her senses. The regret he felt toward Dawn deepened. How could he trade his own daughter, his own flesh and blood, for this ungrateful bitch?!

Hearing the commotion, Jason, Ava and Julia came to check, as they watched the screaming match between Tony and Emily.

“You don’t care about me! You only wanted me to replace Dawn to be with Alpha Zenith! But, you know what?! I would rather have Alpha Zenith as my mate than that coward of a man! It is very disgusting to think I am pregnant with his child!”

And before anyone could react and discern what Emily was saying, Ava had rushed forward and slapped her so hard, Emily fell to the floor and wailed in pain.

“How dare you badmouth my son?!” Ava growled, she was only a step away from shifting into her beast and mauling this bitch! “You were the one who seduced my son! You were the one, who brought chaos to his life! You were the one, who was very shameless to throw yourself at him! You are nothing, but a useless bitch!”

Ava screamed at the top of her lungs, until the people from the next room could hear her.

“Dawn is a thousand times better than you! You are not even worth holding a candle to her! It’s bad luck for my son to even know you!”

Julia was furious to hear the insults hurled at Emily. And her heart ached to watch her precious daughter wail in pain.

“How dare you talk down to my daughter!?” Julia jumped in. She shifted into her beast and was ready to attack Ava.

With this, the situation escalated very quickly, Tony and Jason were on alert, they tried to calm the women down before blood was spilled.

“Shift back!” Tony used his alpha’s voice, which made the beast back off, but she was still not willing to shift back. “SHIFT BACK!”

The alpha’s voice boomed inside the room and this caused pain to anyone who heard it. Unable to bear the alpha’s wrath, Julia shifted back into her human form, she glared dagger at Ava, who was being held back by Jason.

“She hit our daughter! Don’t you want to do anything?! Will you stand there like a coward when you see your daughter being hit?!” Julia was on the verge of crying because Tony didn’t stand by her side.

However, Tony’s answer silenced her. “Didn’t she say it herself that she didn’t see me as a father? I am not a father to her.”

Emily was stunned.

And then, there was a knock on the door. It was a royal messenger. He was here to deliver the invitation for the ceremony that would be held within a month.

Because they were spotted in the capital city, thus it was not hard to find where they were staying.

“Lady Dawn also invited you for an afternoon tea tomorrow. Will you give the answer right away?”

Tony was surprised that Dawn wanted to see him privately, of course, he wouldn't miss this chance. “Yes. I will go to the palace and meet with her.”

Tony felt anxious about their meeting tomorrow. He would take her away if that was what Dawn wanted.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 47: BUT, I DON'T FEEL SORRY

“You are very tense,” Zenith pointed out, and held her hand. It was very cold. He remembered how her hands used to feel so cold. “Do you want to cancel this meeting?”

Dawn shook her head. “No. I want to see him.”

“Okay.”

Currently, Zenith was accompanying Dawn to drink tea in the backyard garden, while waiting for her father to arrive. She looked very nervous and kept fidgeting.

“I thought you were busy.” Dawn recalled Zenith had been spending his time away from the palace quite often, but she didn't know what he had been doing, since she was also busy preparing for the ceremony.

Zenith didn't give much of an input, because he always said ‘just do what makes you feel comfortable and happy.’ He would be fine with anything.

True to his word, he would nod to everything that Dawn decided. But at the same time, Dawn felt like he didn't care about it, despite his confession the other day.

“They are here,” Zenith said. He saw a guard come toward them and inform Dawn that her father had arrived. “I will take my leave, see you at dinner.”

However, the guard then added. “But, Alpha Tony is not alone, he is with Luna Julia and their daughter.”

Hearing that, Dawn felt like crying, not out of helplessness and sadness, but anger. She was very mad, she clenched her tea cup tightly, but Zenith took it away from her.

“You will hurt yourself if you do this.” Zenith put the tea cup on the table. “You can refuse them.”

Yes, she could refuse them, but... "No. Let them in," Dawn said through gritted teeth. It took everything in her to compose herself.

The guard then went away to get the guests, but unexpectedly, Zenith sat down again.

"I thought, you are going to leave."

"No." Zenith poured a cup of tea for himself. "I am here to even the score."

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

At first, Dawn didn't understand what he meant, but then it clicked in her mind that Zenith welcomed himself just like Julia and Emily did.

On the other hand, Emily and Julia cheered when they heard they were allowed to get inside the back garden. This was a private place for the royal family, not anyone could come and go to this part of the palace.

"See? I told you that Dawn is not holding a grudge." Julia had been pestering Tony to take them with him, because she wanted to apologize to her for everything that she had done all this time. It would also help them to heal and move on as a family.

Their deal was; if Dawn rejected them, they wouldn't make a fuss and leave the perimeter.

This also came as a surprise for Tony, because he didn't think Dawn would allow Julia and Emily to come, knowing the bad blood between them in the past.

"I know Dawn is not a petty person," Emily chimed in. She looked better after her outburst yesterday, though what she said was very unforgivable and Ava was still very mad at her. She didn't really care about that.

The guard announced their presence and when they stepped into the garden, Emily froze in her tracks when she saw Zenith was there.

The last time the alpha came to their pack, he didn't stay for long. No, he didn't even go to the pack house nor did he rest in the room they had prepared for him. Emily also only saw a glimpse of him when Alpha Zenith fought Blake and the latter lost the fight embarrassingly and needed to be dragged out.

But now, when she saw him clearly, her heart started beating so fast. He was very handsome! He was very attractive with this dangerous aura around him, but more important was the fact that he looked regal when he was simply sitting in that moderate chair.

“What are you doing?” Julia nudged Emily, because her daughter didn’t move from where she was standing like a statue.

“Oh.” Emily immediately followed her mother and Alpha Tony.

Alpha Tony was also surprised to see Alpha Zenith there. He was a little bit disappointed, because he thought this would be a family conversation, but he curbed his disappointment and approached Dawn with a light step.

“Dawn, I missed you.” Alpha Tony approached his daughter and was about to hug her, but Dawn still continued to sit, thus he could only bend his body and awkwardly hug his daughter. “Thank you for giving me a chance to meet you.”

Dawn’s body turned stiff, her father’s hug felt very foreign to her, because it had been a while since she had seen him.

“You can sit now, father,” Dawn said, nodding at the only empty chair there.

After her father, it was Julia and Emily, who came to approach her, but Dawn raised her hand to stop them from getting closer to her.

She even felt awkward to be hugged by her father, let alone these two.

“I remembered that I didn’t extend the invitation for them two. I wonder why you think it is a good idea to bring them here to see me after all these months we had not met?”

Tony was caught off guard with the question, but Emily rubbed her belly and started to talk pitifully.

“Dawn, I know that you hate me for what I have done. I know how awful I am...” Emily shed the non-existent tears from her eyes. “I fell for Blake’s ruse. He wanted to tear us apart. I am also a victim in this.”

Alpha Tony felt his blood boil when he heard this. How could he be very obtuse not to see this coming? Was this what they called asking for an apology?

“Alpha Zenith.” Emily shifted her attention to Zenith. She fluttered her eyelashes and looked like a pitiful doe. “I am sorry the arranged marriage between us couldn’t happen.”

“But, I don’t feel sorry,” Zenith replied bluntly.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 48: THE TRUTH WAS IN THE OPEN

Dawn could see that Emily started again with her pity party and tried to find a way to

stop her without giving her the opportunity to paint herself as the victim here and villainize her sister as usual.

But, she forgot that she was not alone and Zenith could be very brutal with his actions and words.

“But, I don’t feel sorry.”

Dawn almost choked on her tea when she heard that, it took everything in her not to laugh out loud because of how funny it was and how quickly Zenith humbled Emily down, without even trying.

She was not sure what Emily tried to aim when she acted so pitiful like this.

Tony cleared his throat to intervene with this embarrassing moment. He then looked at the guard nearby and asked him. “Can you get two chairs for them?”

Yet, the guard didn’t accept that order from him. Without the alpha’s permission, none of them would budge from their place.

This situation only became more and more awkward and even Dawn felt uncomfortable, but when she saw Zenith sipping his tea like nothing happened, she wondered how he could escalate the situation to the point it was suffocating, while it appeared he didn’t care at all.

You could call this talent, right?

“Dawn, can you ask someone to bring chairs for your sister and mother? Emily is pregnant and your mother can’t stand for too long.”

Emily clenched her jaw, she hated it when Tony brought up her pregnancy and pointed out the obvious, especially now in front of Alpha Zenith.

Yet, no matter how upset Emily was, it couldn’t compare to what Dawn felt. She stood up, her expression turned stern. Her eyes filled with rage and even her father felt taken aback with how much hatred she had for him.

“You know what? I am done here.” Dawn gritted her teeth. She was not a violent person, but she really wanted to hurl this tea cup at her father’s head so he would get some of his sense back. “How many times do I have to tell you that they are not my sister and mother? I had a mother but she died years ago. No one, not even your chosen mate can replace her.”

Dawn didn’t raise her voice, but every word that left her lips was very clear and filled with so much rage.

“You have never listened to me and even now, you brought them both with you.” Dawn narrowed her eyes because her father avoided her gaze. “What? You can’t look at me because I am so much like my mother? Did you actually blame me for her death?”

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

Dawn had been suspicious about this. Deep down, she knew that her father loved her, he cared for her, but there was something that made him take a step back from getting close to her. He said it himself that Dawn grew up to be like her mother and she resembled her so much that was why he couldn’t see her, but there was more to it.

“Do you resent me?” It just clicked in Dawn’s mind that her father blamed her for her mother’s death. “Are you serious?” Dawn scoffed. “I can’t believe it.”

Tony lowered his head, he looked very ashamed and Dawn didn’t need his answer to know what he was thinking.

“Dawn, you are being too harsh to your father...”

“Shut up!” Dawn growled at Julia and this made her glare at her as well. If it was not a public area and there were only the two of them here, she would have slapped her.

But, Julia felt this chill down her spine. She felt like she was in danger and when she glanced toward the source of this feeling of fear, she saw Alpha Zenith staring down at her with his bright blue eyes. His eyes flickered into golden color and this made Julia take a step back.

Emily saw this too and she found this man even more fascinating. He demanded respect and fear at the same time, he looked so regal and ethereal.

People always said that he was a cruel alpha, but as it turned out, he treated Dawn very well. He was even giving her the grandest ceremony seen in decades.

How stupid of her mother to think she didn’t want to be his bride? His mate, someone, who would be by his side forever.

Comparing Alpha Zenith and Blake was the most ridiculous thing. Blake wouldn’t even be qualified to hold the clothes Alpha Zenith was wearing.

On the other hand, without any intervention, Dawn continued to talk to her father.

“If there was someone, who should be blamed for that, it would be you.”

Dawn didn’t want to say this, because she knew it would hurt her father greatly, but then her father had hurt her so badly all these years. This pain now was nothing, especially when compared to hers.

“You should blame yourself for not coming in time to save your mate. You should blame yourself for my mother’s death. You failed to protect your mate and your daughter and then instead of owning your mistake, you neglected me and put the blame on me because you need someone else to blame, to make yourself feel good.” Dawn talked very calmly, but you could see the storm brewing in her eyes. “You punished me when you played ‘A happy family’ with them. Because in your sick mind, you are thinking that you are punishing the one, who was responsible for your mate’s death.”

Tony’s body was trembling. He didn’t want to hear that. He didn’t come here for this, but Dawn was merciless when she laid all the truth before him.

“Don’t you feel ashamed that you blamed a five year old child for the death of her mother? You let them mistreat me all these years while you turned a blind eye to everything happily.”

Dawn didn’t see the father that she loved. All she could see was this pathetic man.

“I prefer you don’t attend the ceremony.”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 49: A BAD LUCK BRINGER

Dawn thought being apart from her would open her father’s eyes and he would finally realize what he had done to her all this time.

And for the first time after such a long time, he finally put her first.

However, Dawn couldn’t be more wrong. The moment his father decided it was a good idea to bring Julia and Emily, she knew that her father was far gone.

She was more disappointed in him than angry as she walked away from him. It was not a mature thing to do, but then, hating a child for his own mistake was far from being mature.

Her father didn’t really hurt her, but he didn’t do anything when these people mistreated her. He allowed them to do whatever they pleased, hurting her without facing real consequences for their actions.

When Dawn walked away, Tony was about to follow her, but Zenith waved his hand to make the guards stop him before they escorted them out of the palace.

After that, the alpha from the north followed his woman. He gave her space to calm down. Dawn didn’t even notice that he had been following her, until she finally stopped realizing that she had reached the palace gates.

“Do you want to go out?” Zenith asked, as he bent his body and talked near her ear, which startled her.

“Have you been following me?”

“No. I have just been walking in the same direction as you.”

“If you want to lie, you need to try harder than that.”

Zenith kissed her lips, which made Dawn widen her eyes, because there were so many guards and warriors around them.

“Do you want to go out?” Zenith asked the same question again.

“I don’t have money.”

“You are with a prince, Dawn. Do you think I will let you starve?”

Follow new episodes on the "N0vel1st.c0m".

It felt so foreign for Zenith to call himself a prince, but then he was indeed a prince. Dawn gave some thought to the offer and then nodded. “Let’s go!”

“For a while.”

“What?”

Zenith was mindlinking someone to bring them two cloaks to hide their faces.

“People know you, but they didn’t know about me, why should I wear this cloak?” Dawn was sure that she was not that famous to gain attention from the people, even though from what she heard, they had been talking about the ceremony a lot.

Zenith didn’t answer that question, he pulled down the hoodie to hide her face and took her hand.

That day, Zenith spoiled her by buying everything that she wanted and Dawn had never known that she had the ability to spend a lot of money.

At first, they went to an antique shop, where she bought three beautiful daggers. The cost of these three daggers was enough to buy a huge piece of land. Dawn was worried, but Zenith simply paid for that.

“You don’t have to buy that for me, I only admired it, it’s not like I will use it.” Dawn was panicking, she tried to stop the transaction, but Zenith pushed her face against his chest to stop her from rambling.

The next shop was a drug store, where she bought a few toxic ingredients, which Zenith didn't understand, yet he paid for them anyway.

"For what purpose did you buy those things?"

"If someone tries to bully me again in the future, I am going to poison them." Dawn was still upset because of her meeting with her father, though she was rather calm now.

"You need to continue your training."

"Zenith, I am sure you will be able to tell that I am not gifted with combat power," Dawn groaned. She needed to find a believable excuse to avoid training with him in the future.

And when it was time for dinner, they chose a tavern near the jewelry shop.

"Why don't you eat?" Dawn asked, as she gobbled up her food, she was hungry and by this time, she had forgotten about what happened this afternoon.

"I am not hungry." Zenith stared at Dawn's food, the look on his face told Dawn what she needed to know.

"You are a picky eater," Dawn said in an accusatory tone.

"That's not a bad thing."

Zenith didn't even deny that, which left Dawn speechless, in the end, she couldn't care less about that and continued to eat.

"Are you happy now?" Zenith asked when he saw her sigh, satisfied.

"Very!" Dawn exclaimed.

Zenith smiled to see her beaming. He only wanted to see her smiling like this. It upset him whenever she was uncomfortable.

"Please, remember this." Zenith caressed her cheek and kissed the tip of her nose. "I will never hurt you. Never."

Dawn didn't understand what he was talking about, but it wouldn't be long until she learned the truth behind Zenith's weird behavior and how he knew about her even though they only met for a few months now...

Zenith only hoped by the time she learned about all of that, she wouldn't despise him.

"Well, if you hurt me, I will poison you, too." Dawn was fed up with being hurt. She was also not serious about what she said.

“Okay.”

“I have one request, will you allow me?”

“What is it?” Zenith narrowed his eyes, because he sensed this was not a good thing.

“I want to try that.”

=====

Zenith learned his lesson. He shouldn't have allowed Dawn to drink because she was a mess when she was drunk.

“I am going to beat her up! I am going to slap Julia and Emily and kick both of them and... what else should I do to them?” The drunk Dawn turned her head to look at Zenith. “Do you have any suggestions on how to torture someone?”

Currently, they were inside the carriage.

“Skin them alive?”

“Yes! Yes!” Dawn was happy. “You know what? Julia kept saying to me that I was the cause of my mother's death and my father didn't love me! She said that I am a bad luck bringer. I am not one, right?”

“No, you are not.”

No data found.