

## Chapter 116

### Zander's Predicament

"Why are you angry with me?!" Aurel talked back to the magic user, as she stepped forward and checked on Zander again. From the look of it, the pain became more unbearable now. He had been like this for two hours straight, but the king started to feel the discomfort ever since last night. "You trust her judgment before, you should ask for her now!"

"Stop being ridiculous! The king's life is on the line right now!" Pyro snapped at Aurel, while Lance was trying to deescalate the situation.

"I will call Celline to check on Zander," Lance said.

"There is no need for that, she only knew basic treatment, do you really think she can handle this?" Aurel was being a little bit rude there.

However, Lance chose to hold back his tongue, because he would only worsen the situation if he talked back to her and defend his mate.

"If I have to treat the king, I want you stick to it. I don't want my treatment being interrupted again." Aurel squared her shoulders and looked at Pyro right into his eyes. "Can you do that? No more intervention from anyone."

It was obvious who Aurel's meant with 'anyone'.

Since the king was not here and Zenith had not yet arrived, thus the royal beta was the one, who could make the call.

"I am sure it happened because you messed up the treatment that I gave to him and instead trusted that woman. She is not even a healer to begin with. She only knew some poison and you believed her right away."

Pyro fell silence for a while, before finally he spoke. "Fine. Do whatever it's necessary to save the king."

However, Aurel was being greedy, as she demanded more, knowing they couldn't do anything without her. "There is one more thing that I wanted you to do..."

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Dawn could hear the commotion out there when the warriors fought off a horde of troll. Darius was right, they shouldn't have met with troll when they took this route, there was rarely a monster around this forest.

Dawn sat inside the carriage uncomfortably, because she heard how the fight grew increasingly vicious. Roars and growls filled the air, as she tried to calm her nerves down. She bit her lip and peeked through the window.

The warriors that Darius brought with him was not a small number, but they were not prepared for a horde of troll and now, it was very obvious that they were outnumbered.

Dawn wanted to help, but if she went out there, with her current condition, she would only be their liability instead of help.

It was not a good feeling to be a burden, especially when she saw those warriors, who were injured in order to protect her.

When Dawn was trying to think of what she could do, the carriage was shaking and she saw a troll managed to get closer to her carriage. Darius in his grey wolf tried to intercept and jumped on the troll's back.

The gamma bit a good chunk of the troll's flesh viciously, which caused the beast to fall, but unfortunately, it fell on the carriage, which trampled it to the other side.

But thankfully, Dawn saw that and acted immediately, she jumped out of the carriage quickly before the troll's body could crush it and she sustained injuries because of it.

Darius, who didn't see that, killed the troll as fast as he could and rushed toward the carriage. He shifted into his human form and started shouting Dawn's name, calling her and trying to lift that heavy metal, thinking she was trapped under.

"Hey, I am fine," Dawn said, she appeared from behind the bushes.

"Oh, you almost give me a heart attack!" Darius wailed. He clutched his chest; he didn't forget with his dramatic trait.

"What are we going to do now?" Dawn looked around, she was not familiar with a fight against a monster, but she knew for sure, they were going to lose this fight if they kept it going.

"Come with me, we need to leave right away," Darius groaned. He didn't want to leave the battle, but his main priority was Dawn.

While the warriors could hold them back, he would use this opportunity to escape with Dawn. They could buy them enough time.

"What about them?" Dawn realized what Darius was going to do.

"They could hold them back." Darius took Dawn's hand. "The smell of those trolls' blood is really disgusting."

"Smell?" Something clicked in Dawn's mind and she swatted Darius's hand. "Call them all to retreat!"

"What do you mean?" Darius couldn't understand because Dawn looked excited. It was enough to have an unpredictable alpha, please, did not let the luna have the same antics too.

"Just trust me and call them all to retreat." Dawn was not a hundred percent sure, but it was worth to try.

Meanwhile, in the palace, Aurel actually put Zander to sleep, so he wouldn't be in pain. On the surface, it looked like she had managed to cease down the king's pain, but without her knowing it, it was a fatal decision, since it didn't help with the main problem and Zander's condition became even worse without them knowing it.

Dawn had told them not to put the king to sleep after all.

"See? If you just let me do my job, none of it will happen," Aurel said smugly. "It is fine for now," she said to Lance and Pyro.

The king was indeed no longer growling in pain, but they couldn't say for sure.

"What are you going to do now? You can't put Zander into sleep forever," Pyro voiced out his concern.

"I am going to make a concoction," Aurel said, she stood up and went out of the room, she lifted her chin, satisfied with herself.

"Call Celine," Pyro said once Aurel was out of the room. "I want her to check on Zander." The royal beta was being cautious.

## Chapter 117

### The Numbness in Her Voice

Pyro needed to take all the precaution, since it was the king's life that he had to deal with. He needed to take all the precaution.

He didn't fully trust Aurel, but at the same time, he didn't fully trust Dawn either, knowing she didn't have any background to know this kind of stuff.

As far as Pyro knew, Dawn was alpha Tony's daughter, that was all. There was nothing outstanding about her before she met with Zenith and became his mate.

Celine came with Lance not long after, she was a healer, but of course she was not on par with Aurel, but at the very least, she could tell them something, since the king's condition was a top secret and she was the only healer that they could ask for this favor.

"I thought princess Dawn has handled this," Celine said, as she checked on Zander, while the king was sleeping. She knew about what happened before from Lance, but she didn't know the detail.

"Apparently not," Pyro said grimly. "How is he? Is he fine now?"

Celine furrowed her brows. "I don't think so." She bit her lip. "Putting the king to sleep will not solve the problem." She then told them her opinion, which was more or less the same like what Dawn said.

At the very least, if the king was awake, they could say whether the concoction or the method of treatment worked on him or not, he could also tell them how he felt, but with him sleeping like this, Zander wouldn't have the ability to tell them and they were not able to be aware of his actual pain.

"The king's heartbeat is erratic, it's not a good sign," Celine said, but then they startled when they heard a loud voice came from the door.

"What do you know about that? Don't talk nonsense!" Aurel suddenly entered the room. They were too focus on listening to what Celine said, thus they didn't realize Aurel was already in the room and heard everything. "What are you doing here?" Her sharp green eyes fell on Celine.

The other woman looked composed to see Aurel's outburst, it seemed, she had gotten used with it.

"I am here to check on the king," Celine said calmly, she looked at Aurel in the eyes and didn't shy.



"Have I given you the permission?" Aurel narrowed her eyes.

"I am the one, who gave her the permission," Pyro said. "I am still the authority figure here, respect that."

Aurel pressed her lips, annoyed. "Fine."

Didn't want to escalate the situation, Lance took Celine away from the room. Thankfully, his mate didn't insist to stay.

As they walked in the corridor, Celine said what she was thinking. "You didn't say anything again."

"What do you expect me to say?" Lance frowned, he became defensive. This was not their first argument about this kind of topic. "You know Aurel well, talking back to her will only worsen the situation. You need to understand."

Celine stopped walking and then turned around to face the royal gamma. Her expression showed nothing, she looked detached emotionally, as if she was tired to talk about the same thing over and over again.

"I am always understanding," Celine said. "To the point, I don't even know whether this is my understanding or my stupidity."

"Why are you saying that? Are you picking a fight with me?" Lance's body language told Celine that he was ready for the confrontation, but she didn't have the energy for that. She didn't want to give him the satisfaction too.

"It will be nice if you directed this energy toward her and not me all the time."

After saying that, Celine walked away, she didn't lower her head and walk gracefully, nodded to the servants and the warriors, who greeted her.

She was no longer upset and this made Lance felt uncomfortable.

When Celine argued with him, Lance felt annoyed because she didn't want to drop the matter, but when she didn't engage, he felt bad because he felt she distanced herself.

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"How do you know that?" Darius was surprised to watch how Dawn's plan actually worked and it saved them all.

"I told you there was a funny smell inside the carriage before."

"When?" Darius frowned. He was too focus on digging the information from Dawn about whether or not she was pregnant, therefore, he didn't pay attention to anything else.

Dawn scowled.

"How do you know about this?"

"The healer in my pack told me about it," Dawn said.

It was only recently known that there was a certain smell that attracted a specific monster and the scent that Dawn smelled in the carriage was one that attracted trolls.

Lyra taught some of the scents and she remembered the funny smell only now.

"Someone orchestrated this." Dawn couldn't find another way to explain it. There was no way the scent suddenly inside the carriage and a horde of troll was close enough with them to catch the scent.

"Exactly what I am thinking," Darius replied, his eyes darkened.

"I think the king is still unable to get rid of all the traitors within his people," Dawn voiced out what Darius was thinking.

"Yes, I think so."

Meanwhile, before their eyes, the horde of trolls destroyed the carriage that Dawn used earlier, they gathered there, didn't even care about the beasts that surrounded them, watching their strange behavior.

And inside the palace, the situation was not very good. The king's absent raised suspicion and concern from the elders and the councils. They were questioning about the king's whereabouts, because it had been three days since they saw him.

Elder Renos demanded the king's presence on the fourth day of the king's absence, in the morning meeting that was held by the royal beta, instead of the king.

"What the meaning of this beta Pyro? Did something happen to the king?" Elder Renos was being so loud. "The next important trial must be attended by the king!"

## Chapter 118

### Admiration for their Luna

The next trial would be held early in the morning. There were four important people from the council, who were accused of staging a coup during the royal ceremony for Zenith.

Therefore, the king was needed to attend, since he would give the final verdict after hearing all the evidence, but if the king was absent, the trial would be postponed. Even so, they still needed a clear explanation about what happened with the king, because it had been a while, since the last time he appeared in public.

Pyro couldn't cover for such important event.

However, they couldn't leak the king's current condition, because it would cause another uproar to know the sovereign fell sick. It was so rare for a shifter to fall sick and if they knew how Zander was currently unconscious, it would shake the entire kingdom. It would give a leg for their opponent to cause more trouble again.

"The king will attend tomorrow trial. You don't need to worry about that," Pyro said sternly and when someone tried to make a demand to see the

king again, the royal beta shot him down. He didn't dare to pursue the matter further.

The morning meeting was done and all of them were in a gloomy mood, couldn't wait for tomorrow trial.

A warrior approached Pyro when he walked back to the king's bedroom. He had put a strong protection around Zander's bedroom, so no one could see him, neither they would be able to sneak into the bedroom without his permission.

"Prince Zenith is on the move, but I doubt he will be able to reach the capital city by tomorrow."

Pyro clicked his tongue. He should have asked Zenith to stay in a familiar place and create a portal to fetch him, in that way, it wouldn't take much time for him to get here, because right now, he didn't know where exactly he was.

"Keep me update with the elders' movement."

"Yes, royal beta Pyro."

The warrior then left.

They thought this plan was flawless, but apparently those traitors still found a way to survive after that night when Zander chose to make a move on them.

And because Zenith's intention was already well known, he couldn't play both sides anymore.

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"It will take half a day to get a new carriage," a warrior reported to Darius about their current situation. Because the previous carriage was destroyed, they needed to get one from the nearby village. "It will be faster if the luna shifted into a beast and all of us went to the village together."

"No, she can't do that," Darius said. He didn't explain further, because it was not his place to spread this news without Dawn and Zenith's permission. "You go and come back right away."

The warrior glanced at Dawn, but then he left.

"He must think of me as a spoiled brat," Dawn sighed. She then glanced at the horse that they managed to save before the trolls ate it.

Previously, there were three horses that pulled the carriage, but they could only save one.

"Wait." Dawn stood up. "I can ride that." It would be very improper for her to ride one of the beasts, but a horse wouldn't be a problem, right? Most men would ride it, even a shifter, if they had to go on a long journey.

"You can ride a horse?" Darius raised his brows. He didn't know that Dawn could ride a horse.

"Hm. I can." Actually, she didn't.

However, in her first life, she remembered she learned how to ride one when she was in the west. It was Lucia, who taught her how and later on, she was quite skillful.

Dawn approached the horse. It felt weird when she tried to remember her lesson with Lucia. Yet, when she was on top of the horse, she felt the familiarity.

"Are you sure?" Darius looked worried, because falling from a horse could cause a miscarriage and he would need to move to different continent if something happened to their baby in order to get away from Zenith's wraths.



"Of course," Dawn said confidently and then galloped.

All of the warriors there were surprised too, because they didn't expect their luna to be able to ride a horse. Not many women, who could ride a horse, or even wanted to learn it, because it took physical strength and most of the time you could get hurt.

"What are you doing? Let's go!" Darius snapped at all the warriors, who stared at Dawn on the horseback, instead of following her, because they were astounded by their luna.

Darius then shifted into his beast first, followed by the other warriors, as they tried to catch up with their luna. They wouldn't believe if she just learned it, since she looked like an expert when she handled the horse.

With this, they could reach the capital city faster than they had planned.

Their luna actually saved them from the trolls and now she could ride a horse, what else that she could do?

Back in the capital city in the next day, where the trial for four traitors would be held, all of them were waiting for the king to arrive.

On the high platform, where the king's three advisors and two elders sat, the front seat of the king was empty.

Elder Renos looked around and then demanded Pyro's explanation about this. "Where is the king?!"

Elder Max stood up as well, demanding the same question. He slammed his hand against the table and looked livid. "This is inappropriate for the king to let us wait for him!"

The other councils and the three advisors started to voice out their dissatisfaction for the king's tardiness.

"In this case, the king is very irresponsible and no longer could be tolerated. Probably, it's right for him to step down from the throne if he didn't care about this kingdom!" Elder Max said loudly.

"You can join the traitor for what you said, Max."

## Chapter 119

### The Affair

The king entered the room with his royal gamma, followed by the king's personal warriors. He was wearing his golden mask like usual.

The second the king walked in, all of the complaint died down, they looked surprised and lowered their head, but the king had none of it.

"Bring the traitors!" The king said, his voice boomed inside the room and four guards immediately dragged the four traitors that would be in trial today.

However, as the king walked toward the platform, he nodded toward Elder Max. "I said elder Max can join the traitor for what he said earlier."

"No way! You can't do that?!" Elder Max was furious, but you could see fear in his eyes when he spoke. He looked at the king's personal warriors, who came closer toward him, ready to get him.

"Talking about the king to step down from the throne carelessly in front of public is a treason!" Royal gamma Lance roared, as he personally

escorted Elder Max out from his seat from the platform, while the man was wailing and trying to fight him.

However, he was so old to put up a fight with the gamma.

"We can continue with the trial." The king sat down on his seat. He looked regal and aloof, as he listened to all the evidences that was pointed toward the four people, who got involved to stage a coup.

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Emily didn't believe this. She didn't know what to feel when she saw Blake really put an effort to bond with his son, he came to visit her ever so often and this pleased alpha Tony and Julia.

Beta Jason and Ava were relief to finally see an improvement from their son, seeing how he started to move on from Dawn and took a responsibility as a new father.

"What should we name our son?" Emily asked Blake. She was happy enough to finally get a mate that she deserved.

"Matt." Blake suggested the name without a second thought.

"I don't like the name." Emily scowled at the name. "I want to name him Arren."

"Okay," Blake agreed readily.

Emily was a little bit disappointed because Blake didn't give another suggestion, but she didn't think too much about it.

He held the baby for a while and put him in his crib again, as he turned to face Emily and start kissing her roughly. He was a little bit rough with her, but then this was the first time they did it after a long time and a lot of tension between them, thus Emily endured it.

Blake took her to the bed, he didn't even bother to make Emily comfortable first, as he lifted her dress and pulled down his pants. It was so hard when he entered her.

"Slow down, Blake..." Emily breathed heavily, as she tried to ease herself, as he thrust her, but Blake didn't listen to her. He bent her body and thrust her from behind, he bit her shoulder and drew some blood, which made Emily wailed, but Blake shoved her face against the pillow and muffled her protest.

In this position, it was hard to see Blake's expression when he enjoyed himself, disregarding the pain that he inflicted on the mother of his child.

And once he was done, Emily was crying, she curled herself on the bed and whimpered. It felt so painful.

In a split second, the aloofness on Blake's face switched into a concerning look, as he scooped Emily's body and hugged her tightly, despite her protest and how she tried to push him away.

"I am sorry, I am sorry... did I too rough with you? I am sorry, I didn't mean it. I didn't mean to hurt you." Blake peppered kisses on her face. "I am sorry. I lost my control because it had been so long, since the last time I have you. I am sorry."

His voice was soft and the way he treated her was very different from the intimate moment a few minutes ago.

"I lost control over myself. I sorry I hurt you." Blake held Emily for a long time, as she cried.

But, after a lot of apologies, Emily stopped crying and composed herself, she told Blake that she wanted to be left alone.

Blake agreed, but the next day, he would send her flowers a few little gifts for her. He looked remorseful, even though he kept his words not to approach her for the meantime.

In the end, Emily couldn't keep avoiding him, since there was a ceremony coming up. Blake needed to mark her in order for him to get away from his sentence.

Alpha Tony didn't involve much in the preparation and he had distanced himself from Julia and Emily after the last time Dawn visited them.

"It will be nice if you announced that Blake will be the next in line for the alpha of the pack," Julia said one night to Tony, as she came to Dawn's bedroom. Tony would sleep here. She forgot when the last time they slept together.

"I will think about that," Tony said. He didn't want to argue and kind of telling Julia to leave him alone.

Julia left him, but on her way back to her bedroom, she encountered Jason.

"Can we talk for a while?" the beta asked.

"Sure." Julia agreed with it.

There was nothing weird about it, but the moment there was no one around them, the beta pushed her toward the empty bedroom.

"What did he say?" Jason asked, he pinned Julia against the wall with his body. This closeness was very inappropriate, but both of them didn't seem to be uncomfortable, as if they had done it countless time.

"He will think about it." Julia caressed his face. "I can't press him. He has been very distraught ever since he met with Dawn."

"I know." Jason leaned over and captured her lips. "Try to please him next time, that's how you got him, right?"



## Chapter 120

### Denied Her Entrance

The result of the trial was a chaos. The four people would be sent to the gallows, along with the people who followed their orders, which reached a high number of two hundred people.

But that was not all, because there would be the second trial for different group of people. Zander's plan was to lure them all out and they bit the bait; they staged a coup. Their number was massive, because they were going all out that night, since Zander opened the opportunity for them.

However, what caused the uproar was not because of the trials, but the fact that the king had disbanded the council of elders and the advisors.

Two elders and three advisors were formed around ten years ago when they faced a crisis, when the future queen, Zander's mate turned into a traitor.

"Don't you think it's too fast?" Pyro asked Zenith on their way back to the king's bedroom. "Zander wanted to see the progress and gather more evidence."

"There is no need to wait. They will attack us eventually." In that case, it would be better if they attacked them first, giving no room for retaliation.

Both brothers had different method.

"He is the king, one evidence is enough to send them to the gallows."

"Yes, but public will not see it that way."

"Why? He wants to keep the image of that silly and kind king?"

Pyro was speechless. Both of them entered the room and found Aurel was inside, she checked on Zander and Lance was already there.

The beta gave a look to Lance, but the gamma ignored it.

"How's the trial?" Aurel asked, she stood up and approached Zenith and Pyro.

"How is he?" Zenith asked, didn't bother to answer her question.

If Lance had been here and Aurel really wanted to know about how the trial ended, she could ask him, since the gamma was present in the court room.

"He is fine," Aurel said in small voice, but all of them could smell her hesitation. "I only need some time."

"Are you sure about that?" Pyro stepped forward and checked on Zander, but unfortunately, he knew nothing, but a very basic checking up. He couldn't tell whether or not Zander's health had improved. "Call Celine here."

"No!" Aurel immediately rejected the idea. "You promised me that you will let me cure the king! I don't want any involvement from anyone! You could see it, right? Because you messed up with my treatment, Zander relapsed again."

"Call Celine here," Zenith said.

"But you promised..."

Zenith's sharp glare was enough to shut her up. "I don't promise you anything."

Aurel cowered under Zenith's eyes, she felt his hatred. If before Zenith would be aloof with her, right now, he actively hated her. Aurel was confused, what she had done so wrong to deserve his wrath...

Lance returned with Celine not long after and the healer immediately checked on Zander. What she said was the same like before and this angered Aurel.

"If you thought that you are smarter than me, you can treat the king." Aurel gritted her teeth and looked at Celine with hostility.

"I only said my opinion. I didn't mean to contra your method," Celine replied calmly. The way she carried herself was so different from how Aurel acted.

There was a deafening silence that fell inside the room before Pyro made a decision.

"Continue with the treatment."

Aurel smiled smugly, in which Celine didn't understand what was that for, since they were not in a competition of short. She excused herself if they didn't need her anymore and left the room.

Zenith approached the bed and he could tell that Zander didn't do well, but he didn't make any suggestion to let Dawn check on him again and this pleased Aurel, thinking Zenith was no longer trust that woman.

Meanwhile, when Celine went out of the room, Lance followed her, he walked beside her without saying anything, because it bothered him to see how calm Celine was.

He knew that Celine was always like this, but he could feel how she pulled away from him. Their mate bond was not as strong.

Sometime, he couldn't even hear what she said through mind link.

"Just say it. You have put some effort to follow me, you can say what you are thinking." Celine didn't even look at Lance.

"Why are you pulling away from me?" Lance asked, their relationship was not good recently.

"I don't know, maybe because my mate always chose to fight with me, instead of fight for me."

That hit Lance. "It's not that I will not fight for you, but you know how Aurel is."

Celine stopped walking and sighed deeply. "I don't know her, Lance. I don't know her." Celine looked at him for the first time and he could see the hurt in her eyes. "But, it seems, you know her more than your own mate."

"That's nonsense." Lance narrowed his eyes. "You are not like this before."

"Yes, because I am done to be very understanding."

"She is nothing to me."

"But, the way you acted, said otherwise."

Celine wanted to say the words, but she held herself back and didn't want to do it out of impulsiveness, thus she chose to walk away, because if Lance didn't see the error in this fight, then there was nothing she could say would be enough for him.

The next day, Dawn arrived early in the capital city than they expected, but when they were about to enter the palace, they were stopped.

"What do you mean we are not allowed to enter? Don't you know who she is?" Darius shifted into his human form; he confronted the guards.

"This is an order from the royal beta Pyro."

"What?" Darius furrowed his brows, livid. "Why the hell he forbade the princess to enter the palace ground? We will enter in one way or another, so you better call Pyro here to give us an explanation."