

Chapter 171

The Sacrifice

"Sacrifice for what?" Blake didn't have any idea about the ritual. Jason had never said anything about the ritual or something close to that.

But apparently, new king from the west had joined this sect, to gain power from them, in his attempt to leverage king Zander's force.

They called themselves as Dragon Sect, where they believed the dragon was still alive and Vemion was dragon reincarnated, which sounded ridiculous for Blake.

However, what was in front of him was real.

The bloody scream from the little boy was real. He cried so hard, he would have ruined his vocal cord when they drew the blood from his little body and drank it.

Blake wanted to vomit when Archie offered a cup that filled with the boy's blood.

"Finish it and you will be one of us," Archie said.

Blake stared at his cup and then glanced at the boy, who was still alive and was sobbing silently, as his life left his eyes and here he was, he needed to drink his blood.

However, Blake realized there was no going back from this. All the people there stared at him from behind their hoodie, waiting for what he was going to do in this situation.

The cup in his hand felt very heavy, but he brought it to his lips and drank the thick liquid. It tasted... sweet.

But suddenly, Blake dropped to his knees and he felt like his organs were being burned. The pain was almost unbearable. He looked up and saw the figures with black cloak, chanted something in strange language, he didn't understand.

Archie then knelt down in front of him too, as he whispered to his ears.

"Don't worry my friend. This is only a little taste of what dark magic is."

And after Blake heard that, his vision was blank. He felt like he was on fire. Probably the dragon was real and he was being burned by its fire.

The baby was asleep now after his little tummy was full and Zaya and Zander cooed on the little one in his crib.

The two of them were fascinated and argued whether his eyes would take after them or it would take after Dawn's.

All the royal bloodline would have golden eyes for the first seven days after they were being born, only after that, their real eyes color could be seen. In this case, the royal bloodline wouldn't be mistaken.

Meanwhile, Zenith stayed with Dawn. She had been cleaned and ate something and now, she was sleepy.

"Have you held the baby?" Dawn asked.

"Not yet," Zenith replied truthfully and this made Dawn frowned, but he reassured her it was not something like she might imagine. "The baby is very small, Dawn. I am afraid I will hurt him." He had never held a baby before. To be honest, he had never held a child before. He was not sure how to hold them.

"You need to practice." Dawn yawned, she was very tired and sleepy.

"I will." Zenith leaned over and kissed her forehead. "Sleep, Dawn. Thank you, you have done an amazing job. I will handle the rest."

Dawn closed her eyes and then fell asleep.

Only after Zenith was sure that his mate had fallen asleep, he told Yara to stay with her, while he went to the nursery room, which was right next to their room.

Zaya and Zander were still staring at the baby.

"My baby is not an entertainment," Zenith said, as he ushered the two of them out of the room, lest they woke the baby up.

"Do you think his lips looks like mine?" Zander contemplated. "No, I think his nose too."

"If there is something that baby took after, it must be from his father, not you," Zaya said, reminded Zander that they were twin.

They talked a little bit more before Zaya excused herself, as she wanted to see Dawn and Celine.

"Don't wake her up," Zenith warned her.

"Relax, I will not," Zaya replied and then went to the other room, leaving the two of them alone, but actually, he knew there was something that Zander wanted to talk about with Zenith. They had discussed this and the only solution that Zaya could give Zander was; he needed to talk directly to Zenith about this matter.

And that was what Zander talked about the moment Zaya was out of their earshot, as they walked in the hallway, toward the throne room.

"I want your son to be crowned as the crown prince."

If there was similarity between the two of them, it must be the fact that they hated it when someone talked in circle. They liked a direct conversation.

"Drop the idea, you are not infertile."

"No, I am serious," Zander replied, his tone proved that, since Zenith couldn't see his facial expression.

"You still can find a second mate, a chosen mate, or even a marriage of convenient. So, we will not discuss this anymore."

Zander had expected that this would be Zenith's reaction. "I am not going to take a queen, Zen."

Zenith stopped walking and now the two of them were facing each other. "Is it because what happened ten years ago?" he looked at his twin closely.

"That and many more."

"That's not your fault."

"I know."

"So, stop punishing yourself."

Zander didn't answer that, he simply stared at the distance and watched the first ray of the sunlight from behind the horizon.

"I wish I can turn back time too," he said in this gentle voice. "Think about this, Zen and think about this carefully."

Zenith crossed his arms. He didn't say much and the two of them resumed walking toward the throne room, where Zenith would announce the birth of his son to all the important figures, who had gathered there.

"Send that king back to his kingdom," Zenith said before he entered the room. "I couldn't care less about your steel business and your plan, Zan."

Chapter 172

The Movement of the West and the Holy Kingdom

This was the different between Zenith and Zander. The former was too blunt, but the latter was being sneaky. Zander liked to do thing very subtly.

Zenith knew about king Rowan's intention on Zaya and he was not the least happy about it, thus his solution was to kick him out, because he saw him a nuisance for their little sister, but Zander couldn't do that. He had a reason and plan to get Marca El involved.

He needed to get them to their side before the people from Holy Kingdom did that, or else, they wouldn't stand a chance to fight against the Holy Kingdom if it came to that.

The movement and the relationship between Ogregon kingdom and Holy Kingdom had been very strain for as long as Zander could remember and now, his spies reported that the latter had been very shady and the last report said that they had been in contact with the west, to Vemion to be exact.

It was as clear as day what their intention was.

And now, not only that, there was this sect, in which one of the worshippers or it might be their leader, had the memories from the previous life. They used the poison that Dawn created.

No wonder Dawn knew the antidote of it, though she had not yet remembered fully, but probably deep down, in his subconscious level, she knew it.

"If you wanted a marriage alliance, you can do it with king Rowan's sister, I heard he had one."

"His sister is only ten." Zander gave Zenith a side look, which he only shrugged.

"You can wait for her to come to age," Zenith replied nonchalantly.

"Ridiculous."

The two of them then stepped inside the throne room, where all the people had been waiting for them and because Zenith still disagreed with Zander's idea to crown his son as the crown prince, they didn't announce anything aside from the birth of Zenith's firstborn.

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Blake woke up in a luxurious room that could only belong to a royalty. He groaned and a young girl came to him and offer him a cup of water, she looked skinny, her big doe eyes trembled. She was scared.

"Where is it?" Blake asked.

But, before the little girl could answer that, someone had stepped inside the room and greeted him. He was wearing purple cloak, looked fancy and was over the top, but he was not alone, there was a young man around the age of twenty, who walked beside him and also Archie.

"I am glad you are awake at the right time," Archie said, as if he praised Blake for being alive after what happened, he approached the bed.

"What happened?" Blake touched his forehead. He was still a little bit dizzy.

"Let me introduced you to king Vemion and his advisor, Jared, he is the head of the sect too." Archie gestured for Blake to stand up and gave them a proper greeting.

Blake did what he was told. He could feel the chill ran in his spine when he saw the man named Jared. His instinct told him this was not someone that he could mess with.

However, king Vemion didn't impose such a threat. His presence was a king was so weak, the alpha from the north imposed more dominant than him.

"Welcome to the Dragon Sect," Jared said with his bubble voice, as if he was a harmless person. "You are part of us now."

"And then what the benefit that I will get from being part of your sect?" His father had never mentioned anything about this sect, but then it did make sense if he was sworn secrecy for them.

Jared grinned. "It's beyond your imagination. You can get anything. Is there something that you wanted?"

Blake's eyes dimmed. "There are only two things that I wanted. I want my mate back and that alpha from the north died."

King Vemion chuckled when he heard that. "Granted. You only need to wish for one thing, because I have my own plan for Zander and his two siblings that included them to be buried beneath the ground."

Blake was not sure what they had done to his body, but he was satisfied enough that they had the same goal.

"Sounds great for me."

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Tony had been paying close attention to Blake's movement. He remembered what Dawn said to him and he started to become more involved in the pack's affair and not throw it right away for Blake to handle like he did in the past few months.

He was a wreck after what happened and he kicked both Julia and Jason out of the pack. He couldn't even look at Emily, because the thought of the possibility that she was not his daughter plagued his mind. He couldn't see her the same.

Every day was a torture for him. He was alone. The pack house was empty and he didn't have anyone to talk to.

This must be his punishment and when he heard that Dawn had given birth to a boy, he was devastated. He wanted to see her so bad.

Therefore, he packed his things and went to the capital city against his better judgment and gave Blake the authority for the pack.

"Hold him like this," Dawn said, she tried to help Zenith with the baby. It was the seventh day after she gave birth to Zade.

They named their first born Zade Cane Northern, in honor for the previous king, the royal siblings' father.

"He looks like he is going to cry," Zenith said, he frowned when his baby was frowning too.

"Your arms are too stiff." Dawn looked at her mate helplessly.

"I think you need to take him, Dawn. I think I hurt him." And as if on cue, Zade cried because he felt uncomfortable. "Take him, Dawn, take him." His brows knitted deeply.

Right at that time, Yara entered the room and informed them that alpha Tony was here.

Chapter 173

The Heavy Rain

Dawn laughed when she watched how Zenith and baby Zade looked uncomfortable with each other. The baby wriggled his little body in Zenith's arms, feeling uncomfortable and looked at Dawn, as if asking her to take him away, while the alpha looked under the pressure.

"I have never held a child, let alone a baby," Zenith said in his defense and Dawn took back Zade from his arms when the little one started to cry.

"You will get there," Dawn encouraged him and kissed his cheek. Zenith indeed tried to hold Zade.

"Yeah." Zenith looked at his son helplessly, the little one stopped crying the moment Dawn held him.

And that was when Yara entered the room and told them that the alpha from Moonlight pack came to see Dawn.

"I will see him," Dawn said and Zenith seemed to expect that.

"Do you want me to come with you?"

"I would love to, but I think I will handle this on my own this time," Dawn replied.

"Okay." Zenith contemplated a while. "Give me the baby."

"Are you sure?"

Dawn handed baby Zade to Zenith again, in which the baby knitted his brows again, as if saying; not again, mommy...

She chuckled to think about that and pecked Zenith's lips. "You can do it."

And after that, Dawn walked away, leaving Zenith and baby Zade alone.

"Work with me, okay?" Zenith said to his son, who pursed his lips. His golden eyes stared at him unhappily and then their color changed into blue. There was this small smile on the corner of his lips. "So, they are blue."

It was not unexpected for her father to come, Dawn thought he would show up eventually when he heard about the baby, but still, it was

impulsive of him to leave the pack to Blake after her warning, or maybe, he simply didn't listen to her and didn't take what she said seriously.

That wouldn't be the first time, though.

"Good evening, alpha Tony," Dawn greeted her father. She kept her words when she said that she didn't see him as her father anymore and alpha Tony looked sad when he heard the way she addressed him, but said nothing.

"Dawn," Tony said her name, there was longing in his eyes. He wanted to hug her, but he stopped himself. "I heard you have given birth. I came here to see you and the baby."

"Thank you for coming all the way here." Dawn nodded. "It's already late. I will ask someone to prepare your room, you can see the baby in the morning."

This was already generous of Dawn to let Tony to see Zade.

"Dawn, what should I do to make it up to you?" Tony asked, he looked at his daughter with this look that showed how remorseful he was for everything that happened between them.

Dawn chose to stay and have this conversation with him. "I don't know." She shook her head. She didn't even take a seat, indicating that this conversation wouldn't be long. "I don't expect anything from you. there is no point of fixing this broken relationship, because I don't want it anymore," she said calmly. "You have been checked out from my life for so long. You have never been by my side ever since you have that little perfect family of yours and I used to not have you."

Tony was devastated when he heard that. He couldn't help it. He felt remorseful. He felt this strong regret every time he saw Dawn, especially when she looked like her mother.

It was his guilt that stopped him to get close to Dawn, because every time he saw her, he remembered of what happened. His mate and his daughter were attacked, but he found comfort in another woman's arms.

The guilty feeling was too strong and he couldn't face it. He couldn't face Dawn and now, he lost everything.

"I will do everything for you, Dawn."

"I only need you to follow what the king ordered you to do. You must have known that there are a few conflicts in the harbor." Dawn could see hope in his eyes, but she shattered it. "But it doesn't mean I can forgive you. It only means, I can stand you."

Called her vengeful, but she didn't see the reason for him to be part of her life anymore, not after what he had done.

"Okay. I understood." Tony looked defeated and then a maid approached Dawn to tell her that the room for alpha Tony was ready. "Dawn, do I hurt you that much?" To the point that she couldn't forgive him?

"You used to hurt me, but right now, I don't feel anything toward you." And that was the worst thing that could happen.

If Tony's action still hurt Dawn, it meant, she still cared into a certain level, because what he did still evoke her emotions, but right now, she felt nothing.

"I am sorry for what I have done to you, Dawn."

"Good night, alpha Tony." Dawn cut the conversation short and then returned to her bedroom.

That was a long night, out there, the sky was so dark and close to midnight, rain started pouring down. It felt like storm was coming.

However, that night also two ships docked in the harbor. With alpha Tony gave the authority to Blake, since he wanted to see his grandson, he didn't

know about these two ships and because of the storm, the report about this came very late.

"They are..." Blake narrowed his eyes, the wind was so harsh and he was drenched in the heavy rain when he watched two ships docked, while Archie stood next to him. They were not alone, there were these two siblings behind them, Rye and Lucia, they were also part of the sect.

"Our sect brothers," Archie replied, grinning from ear to ear. "You are a great help, Blake. We have been waiting for this opportunity. Jared will know your contribution."

Chapter 174

We Should Spend more Time

The ships had been here for three days; they only waited a perfect opportunity to dock at the harbor and alpha Tony's impulsiveness handed that said opportunity in a silver platter.

"I only one woman."

"Dawn, isn't it?" Archie arched his brows at him. "You can have any woman, but you only wanted her."

"She is my destined mate. She is mine."

"You must have gone into insanity by now."

"Probably."

It was pathetic of Blake, because he was the epitome of someone, who only learned the value of something when they lost it and right now, Blake had to take a long, arduous journey to get back what initially belonged to him.

"Do you know that Dawn's mother hailed from the west?"

Blake turned his head; he had never heard this information before. "From the west?" The previous luna died when he was little and there were not many stories about her, more so, people were not really curious about her background, since she didn't interact much with the pack member, Dawn must have taken after her.

"The west?" Archie replied happily because Blake didn't know this information. "She was a spy, but turned out to be a traitor because she met her destined mate there." He guffawed loudly when he said the next word. "That must be her karma for betraying our sect that her mate that she loved so much, someone that she sacrificed everything for, betrayed her."

This was a shocking revelation for Blake.

Rye and Lucia's face were unreadable as they listened to their conversation and watched as the ships drew near.

"Do you believe in karma, Blake?" Archie asked, his eyes looked at him intently.

The storm made it hard for the ships to drop the anchor. It took them close to two hours for them to leave the ships and Archie welcomed them with opened arms.

Thankfully, the storm stopped in the morning and the sky was so clear, as if the heavy rains and thunder last night had never happened.

Baby Zade woke up so early, because he was hungry, thus Yara didn't have another choice, but to wake Dawn up and informed her.

Dawn woke up and found Zenith was still sleeping, she didn't know when he returned, because last night he had something to discuss with Zander, but from the look of it, he must have only slept for a few hours.

Thus, Dawn got off the bed carefully and then went to the room next to hers to find Zade was crying and saw his beautiful blue eyes.

"Oh, you have your father's eyes!" Dawn looked at her baby happily, as she caressed his chubby cheeks and started breastfeeding him, sitting down on the couch there.

Zade was sleeping when she returned and Zenith didn't say anything about their baby's eyes, thus only now she could see them.

"You are so beautiful, Zade," Dawn cooed.

The baby made noises as he latched onto her, as if he wanted to talk something to her. Sometime, he would stop and babble something incoherently and then continued again.

Dawn was not sure if another baby was like this, but Zade was very cute when he did that. She felt like she could stare at her son for a whole day.

Just like Zenith, she was not presence in the first year of her child's life too in her previous life. She was robbed from the opportunity to breastfeed him, to watch his first step and all the milestones, therefore, Dawn didn't want to miss this one.

Dawn didn't realize how long she had been there, until her stomach was growling. She was hungry. Breastfeeding caused her to eat more than usual.

But to her surprised, Zenith entered the nursery room with a few maids, who brought their breakfasts.

"I know you are hungry," Zenith said, as he kissed her forehead and took Zade from her arms.

"You got the hang of it already?" Dawn was surprised.

"I think he barely tolerates me," Zenith replied, because Zade pursed his lips when he was taken away from his mother's embrace. "Your mother needs to eat too," he said to his son, as if he could understand him and this made Dawn laughed.

Later that afternoon, Dawn finally let Tony to hold Zade. This must be the first time they met and the alpha's eyes turned red; he was holding back tears when the little baby settled in his arms.

"Hello, Zade. This is your grandfather..." Tony said, as the baby wriggled in his arms. "He has your lips and nose." He noted. "He is so small..."

Emily would cry if she saw this moment, because not even once Tony would look at her son this way. It got even worse when he thought Emily was not his daughter.

"Your eyes are so beautiful..." Tony muttered to himself, he was mesmerized by the baby, especially when Zade started to make noises.

Once again, it hit him so hard what he had lost because of his impulsiveness.

Meanwhile, at the same time, Zaya faced her predicament. Zander and Zenith had tried their best to get rid all the possibility for king Rowan to encounter Zaya, but the king from Marca El was persistent. He found a way to find her in the infirmary, as she stayed there with Celine.

"Are you avoiding me?" King Rowan asked when Zaya walked out of the tent. They still had a few warriors, who was poisoned and was not able to shift, but thanked to Dawn, they could produce the antidote and this was no longer a pressing issue.

"I will not dare to do that," Zaya replied, but she hastened her steps to avoid him.

"So, you will not mind to have a lunch with me?" King Rowan smiled when Zaya gave him a look. "Did your king brother told you about my marriage proposal?"

"I will not be wed off to a stranger."

"We should spend time more, then." King Rowan concluded.

Chapter 175

How to Woo a Woman

Zaya tried to get away from him, but unfortunately for her, the king had a long stride, thus it was not a problem for him to catch up to her. The king had a shoulder length black hair that he tied behind his nape and his penetrating eyes made Zaya felt... exposed.

She had never seen anyone that looked very intimidating aside from her two brothers and this rather made her a little bit uneasy.

"What should I do to make you change your mind?" King Rowan asked, he matched her steps.

"I will not change my mind."

"As far as I know, you are not a shifter, so it's rather impossible for you to wait for that mate things. So, what are you waiting for?" King Rowan was very persistent and blunt with his approach.

"I am waiting for someone that I love." Zaya stopped walking when king Rowan stood in front of her and smiled confidently.

"He is here now."

"Obviously not you, king Rowan." Zaya gave him a harmless smile and then stepped aside to avoid him. This time, he didn't chase her, but what he said next made Zaya stopped walking on her own.

"Do you really think I don't know that your brother tried to pin me against the Holy Kingdom? So, I can help with the battle if it has to come to that?"

Zaya turned around. "What makes you think that way?" She narrowed her eyes.

"Just the truth of the situation. I know the relationship between the two kingdoms is not good. I learned that it has been strained ever since the very beginning." King Rowan's gaze softened. "I know that your brother will eventually reach to me to ask for help, especially when I resented the Holy Kingdom for not taking responsibility for the death of my knight."

Zaya was relief when she heard that. At the very least, king Rowan didn't know that the death of his knight was orchestrated by Zander.

"You get benefit from this situation too, king Rowan." Zaya reminder him.
"Asking my hand will make you look greedy."

After saying that, Zaya walked away and one of his trusted knights approached him. "You should stop with that blunt approach. You need to have a plan to woo her. Women like that kind of thing."

King Rowan tilted his head. "What do you mean?"

Addie grinned from ear to ear. "Start with giving her flowers and take her out for sightseeing, while doing that, you need to compliment how beautiful she is. That's for the start."

King Rowan looked at him skeptically. He squinted his eyes and then walked away without saying anything.

"Did you even listen?" Addie was frustrated. "You are good when you swung your sword, but you are not good with woman at all."

"Do you want to see how good I am with my sword?" King Rowan stopped walking and looked at him dead in the eyes.

Addie pursed his lips. "Why are you angry?" he said in small voice, glancing at the sword at the king's waist worriedly.

Alpha Tony had an hour with Zade and he cherished this time so much, he had never felt this happy recently, but with the baby, he felt like he could forget all of his misery for a while.

However, when his times was up and Zade was taken away from him by Yara, the king called him to meet him in the strategy room because there were a few things that he wanted to ask.

Of course, alpha Tony gladly went there. Dawn said to do whatever the king told him to do and that was what he would do. He prayed Dawn would see this as his effort to mend things between them.

It's not like he could deny the king's order though...

But inside the strategy room, not only Zander, but Zenith was also there, along with Pyro and Darius. From the look of it, this must be something serious.

"Sit down, alpha Tony," Zander said, nodded at the chair in front of him. "There is something important that I couldn't do without your favor."

That was only a sweet way for Zander to address his request and with what Dawn said, alpha Tony was more than willing to fulfill whatever assignment that was given to him.

Obviously, Dawn knew about this plan, but currently, she was with her baby. Couldn't care less about what happened, because she was enjoying her time with him, Zaya came after that to join her.

"Oh! See! I told you that he will have blue eyes!" Zaya giggled when she saw Zade's blue eyes. "Oh, he is so cute! Let me hold him!"

Zade giggled when Zaya carried him and kissed him, he babbled and played with her auburn hair.

"Do you know that Zander proposed to make Zade to be the crown prince?" Zaya asked.

"Yes, Zenith told me about that." Dawn nudged, she nudged her baby's chubby cheek. "But I think that's too early because it will be complicated if one day he decided to take a chosen mate."

Zaya smiled sadly. "I don't think he will do that."

"What happened to him?" Dawn had been very curious about this, but Zenith always said that this was not his story to tell.

And Zaya said the same thing. "I am sorry, I can't tell you. I was not there when it happened either, so I don't know the detail of what happened."

Dawn nodded, she respected that and they spent the day together with Celine. The healer looked a little bit better after a few weeks had passed, since the death of Lance. She still didn't know the truth.

"Oh, right. Will you come to the battle hunt?" Zaya asked.

"Battle hunt?" Dawn was confused.

"Zenith must have not yet told you about this, but a month from now, there will be a battle hunt in Goffa mountain. It seems, the knights are mesmerized by the monsters."