

## Chapter 221

### The Critical Situation 13

"Do you think it is alright to let Zaya absorb the dark magic? Do you think it will work?" Pyro asked, he didn't really understand what Lyra and Dawn were doing, he was there to guard this place from the monster, but he felt agitated because he couldn't do anything, but standing there, watching them doing something he didn't have any knowledge of.

He could be out there and help, he could advise Zaya of what to do and how to absorb black magic, even though he was not sure how it worked, since nobody had ever been able to do so, aside from the previous queen.

However, Pyro knew how dangerous it was and Dawn said it herself that she saw Zaya was dying and that was the last thing the royal beta wanted to happen.

"I don't know, Pyro, but that's something Zaya has to do." Dawn kept her focus on the material in front of her. "Can you call for all the knights and the shifters to gather here?"

"What do you want with them?"

"Just call them here, Pyro." Dawn was frustrated, but Pyro felt the same, because he used to know everything, while Dawn didn't have time to explain thing to him.

Pyro followed Dawn's instruction begrudgingly and then went to get those people, who seemingly had butchered most of the monsters.

These people from Marca El were scary, as they could match the stamina of the shifters and from the look of it, they had a fun time, treating this as a battle hunter, since the one that they had previously didn't work really well, because the capital city was under attack.

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"They are here, my king." Burke went to approach Zander, who was still trying to calm Zade down, the baby was still crying.

Though they still could move around just fine, it didn't mean they were in good condition, the shifters lost their ability to shift and they look in pain.

For the warriors, who used to feel pain from various occasion, this simply made them uncomfortable, after the initial shock that they couldn't shift had worn off.

However, for Zade the pain was too much. He had been making a fuss and no amount of consolation that could stop him from crying.

Now, he clawed his thigh, the spot where the mark was.

"Tell them to come in," Zander said.

And with that, two people the king had not seen for a long time stood in front of him. They nodded at him politely, as if they were simply showing courtesy.

"It has been a long time, Rye, Lucia." Zander took off his golden mask.

Lucia's eyes lit up when she saw Zade, she immediately came to the baby. "Is he Zade? Zen's son? Why is he crying?" Lucia then gave an accusation look at Zander, so bold to make that move on the king, if only you were not close. "What did you do to him?"

"I am not so deranged to make a baby cry."

"Maybe because of your stupid golden mask that scared him."

Yara gasped because what Lucia said was too brazen, she was afraid for her, but Lucia simply smiled at her winked.

Lucia was wearing man's clothes; her long hair was tied into a messy bun above her head.

"On our way here, we realized that we can't shift into our beast," Rye said.

"Yeah, and what the hell with the sky? It's a chaos when we crossed the Moonlight pack." Lucia added, she nudged Zade's little feet. She wanted to carry him, but she was reeked of blood and dirt.

"Yes, thing doesn't look good in Moonlight pack." Zander kept patting Zade's back, it bothered him that the little one was in so much pain. He then told Lucia and Rye about it.

The two of them had been spies in the West Kingdom, they had witnessed countless children had to meet their demised for the sacrifice that the black magic users did.

Therefore, they were also familiar with the mark and confirmed that was the one. The two of them looked pissed off.

The only reason why they couldn't save those children was because it would expose themselves. It was not easy to get into the West Kingdom;

therefore, they needed to turn blind eyes and deaf ears when they witnessed each sacrifice that they did, in order to get more information and help Zander to take down the West.

That was the only consolation for them.

And now, the time was near, that was why they were here with the children that they managed to be rescued.

"Some of the children that came with us have the same mark too on their bodies." Rye contemplated about it. "No wonder, some of them kept crying."

Zander handed Zade over to Yara and then followed them out of the room, where they saw three carriages that filled with children, some of them the children that were kidnapped from Moonlight pack.

Lucia took a five years old girl, who kept crying and asked her, why she was crying. It was hard to ask Zade, because he was too little to elaborate what he felt.

"My shoulder is hurt..." The little girl said between her sobs, she touched her left shoulder. "And..."

"And?" They waited for the girl to explain what else that she felt.

"There are men..."

"Men?" Zander knelt down in front of the little girl, but she hid behind Lucia's legs. "What men, little one?" He was not wearing his golden mask now; thus, he was smiling softly at the little girl.

"So many men wearing black cloak..."

"What men?" Zander touched her hand, to reassure her that he wouldn't hurt her.

"Men..." She murmured, her eyes looked around her filled with fear and tears. "Men with golden mask..." she said and then cried again; she hugged Lucia's leg and refused to answer more question. Her little body was shaking. She was really scared.

"Men with golden mask?"

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### The Critical Situation 14

The only man with golden mask that they had ever seen, without a doubt, was the king. But, when the little girl told them that she saw many men with golden mask, it confused them.

However, they couldn't say what the little girl said was wrong, because the other two children, who were at the same age as her and could tell them what made them crying, saying the same thing.

"Golden mask?" Lucia repeated the same thing.

In the end, Lucia decided that she would talk with the little girl and see if she could get more information from her, for the meantime, Zander and Rye discussed their next move.

Everything went well according to their plan in the West, but the only aspect that they didn't see coming was what happened in the Moonlight pack and the newest revelation from Dawn's memories that Zenith was the target.

"We need to handle the problem in the Moonlight pack first before we can continue with our plan in the West," Rye concluded, after they went through every option that they had to win this battle.

This was a critical situation.

"Oh, I hate this situation." Rye grumbled. He hated the unexpected.

"Do you think I love it?" Zander closed his eyes. "What do you feel? Your wolf spirit, I meant."

"I feel like someone is squeezing my heart tightly. Uncomfortable, painful." Rye then looked at Zander. "The golden mask..." he started. "Do you think it has something to do with what happened ten years ago? With... her?"

Both of them knew, who 'her' that Rye referred to. It was Zander's destined mate.

However, Zander had never talked about what happened ten years ago and what happened that night when he lost his wolf spirit, which caused him unable to shift. It would be a great scandal if people learned about it, since it would show how weak the king was without his beast.



That was the time when he started to wear his golden mask to hide his face.

"No, I don't think so." Zander's answer came so fast, as if he didn't even reconsider it at all. He simply thought that was not the case at all, or maybe he didn't want to even think about that.

Rye opened his mouth, he wanted to say something, but the look on Zander's eyes made him stopped himself and then sighed deeply.

How could those children could see the golden mask men, but they couldn't?

Not long after that, Lucia came with another information about what the children said about the golden mask men. They described the golden mask was the same like what Zander had.

"Lend me your golden mask, I will let them see whether the intricate of the mask is the same like what they are seeing."

Zander looked at Lucia's hand that stretched out, waiting for him to give her the golden mask.

"What is it, Zan?" Lucia narrowed her eyes, because she felt there was something wrong.

Zander pressed his lips, his jaw hardened. Both Lucia and Rye knew there was more about the mask, something more that he hid deeply and didn't want anyone to learn about this, but what? All of them were confused about what actually was going on with the king.

"Zan?" Lucia walked toward him, but Zander's gaze stopped her.

His eyes were cold; his blue eyes looked a few shades darker. They had never seen Zander like this, especially when they had not yet met with him very often due to their assignment in the West.

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Dawn and Lyra managed to finish whatever they were doing and asked all the knights to pour their sword with the liquid that they concocted.

"What is it?" the knight scrunched their nose because the smell was so awful.

"Think of this as holy water," Dawn said simply. She was fine with the smell. "So, your sword will be able to cut down the devil."

"Ugh. I don't know that holy water is so disgusting." One of the knights stared at the green liquid. "What is the point of this?"

Dawn then explained that the liquid would enhance the power of their sword, which would allow them to ward off the magic from magic users.

"How do you know that it will work?"

"Let's find out," Pyro said, as he attacked one of the knights. The magic scattered, but the sword cracked.

"This is not really working," the knight said unhappily because his sword cracked.

"Well, I think it works." Pyro tilted his head. "Without it, I will be able to cut your body into half."

"What?!"

They thought Pyro wouldn't really attack the knight seriously, because they only tried the strange liquid that Dawn poured on their sword. They were not happy with the smell though.

"What did you expect? Do you think those magic users will attack you playfully? Of course, they will attack you with the intention to kill you."

That was how Pyro justified his action and thankfully, Dawn cut them off before thing would escalate. They had their enemy to be taken down, it was not the right time to attack each other.

But, when they finally reached the place, where Dawn left Zaya, she couldn't see her, instead it was the black wisp and flames that clustered in the wind.

The knights that came with king Rowan fought off the magic users, the fight had broken loose and Jared seemed to try to get to Zaya, while Zenith was left in his beast form.

Dawn didn't know what happened to him and it seemed, the eleven black magic users that surrounded him looked very tensed.

When all the shifters couldn't shift into their beast, Zenith was the only beast there. His black beast looked magnificent and... feral.

But Dawn could tell something was not right with him when their eyes met and a second later, the beast launched at the closer magic user and ripped his head off, before he went to the next one.

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### The Critical Situation 15

"What happened?" Pyro watched the same thing too, he was dumbfounded... he watched how feral the black beast was and from the look of it, Zenith didn't even realize what he was doing. He kept attacking all the people that he could reach, not even a shield could stop him.

He became ridiculously strong.

"What is going on here?" Addie approached them as well.

Meanwhile, Zaya was still trying to absorb all the black magic from Zenit, but if you watched closely, you would know that it was her, who was being absorbed by the black magic.

They could no longer see her body, as she was engulfed by the black wisp. It was like an ominous cocoon.

"What else did you remember from your previous life, Dawn? I am sure there must be a missing piece somewhere!" Pyro asked loudly against the harsh wind. The wind was very hot, it felt like it was going to burn them.

"I don't know... I can't remember anything else." Dawn shook her head. She would have told them if there was something that she remembered, but she agreed with Pyro. There must be a missing piece somewhere.

Meanwhile, all the knights fought the black magic users. The concoction that Dawn and Lyra created helped their case, though it didn't strengthen the sword, but at the very least, it would give them some form of protection.

Dawn observed it. Three strikes. Three strikes from black magic that the sword could handle before it snapped into two.

She told Addie to relay the message to all the knights.

Meanwhile, the warriors, who couldn't shift into their beast took the swords from the dead knights and fought as well. They were not used to using sword, never in a sword fight, but they learned quickly and their sharp instinct helped them to adjust with this uncomfortable situation that they were in.

But it wouldn't really help with their current situation, because their real problem right now was not those black magic users, but this black wolf that ran rampant, killing all the people around him.

For now, because he was being surrounded by the black magic users, he killed them, yet Dawn was afraid, he wouldn't stop there.

She was sure that he wouldn't stop there...

Dawn knew from the crazed look in his eyes that Zenith wouldn't stop there. There was something not right with her mate, but she couldn't put her finger on it.

Dawn then looked the ominous cocoon that engulfed Zaya. "I think we need to get Zaya out of there." She couldn't absorb the black magic, but what happened was the opposite and it could put her life in danger. That was the last thing that Dawn wanted for Zaya to be in danger.

Pyro cursed under his breathe. "Yes, I think she couldn't handle it."

With that was being said, he immediately rushed toward Zaya to get her out of the cocoon that trapped her, but his power was not enough, even with the help of Rowan, since the king was not a magic user.

"What kind of nasty thing that you put on the other knights' swords?" Rowan asked Pyro and the royal beta explained it to him. "Give me one."

Pyro then took a small bottle from his hip and poured it on Rowan's sword, but he warned him first. "Don't let your hope high, I don't think it

will work. It will only protect you from three strikes, before the sword snapped into two."

"I don't do it to protect myself," Rowan said. He scrunched his nose because the smell of it was really disturbing. "Now, back off."

Pyro looked at him with a frown. "What are you going to do?"

"Saving the princess," Rowan replied nonchalantly.

Pyro did not really understand what Rowan was aimed for, but when he watched how he swung the sword and intended to break the cocoon of black wisp that covered Zaya, his eyes widened in shock.

"You could cut her!" Pyro shouted. Rowan could accidentally cut Zaya in the process, but he simply took a step back and stared at his sword.

This was the sword that made of fire magic stone. The same stone that was in Zaya's dagger and Rowan could feel there was something different when he poured the concoction in it. The sword felt more... alive and stronger.

"Stop this!"



However, Rowan didn't listen to him, he went ahead and swung his sword and this time, he did it with all of his might.

The sound when the sword and the black wisp cocoon made a collision was deafening. Pyro had to take a step back and cover his ears, so did the magic users, knights and the warriors nearby.

However, to their surprised, Rowan managed to split the cocoon into half and reveal Zaya inside.

"What the fuck are you doing?! Go and get her!" Rowan said, he couldn't retract the sword, the black wisp held on it tightly, it was akin to a vine that crept on the blade. "GO AND GET HER OUT!"

Pyro finally snapped and then rushed to get Zaya out of the cocoon, she was unconscious. Her body was cold.

And once she was out, Rowan let go of his sword, as the black wisp swallowed it. It was a pity, since it was a good sword, but right now, Rowan's main focus was on Zaya.

"What happened to her?!" Rowan asked, as he approached Pyro, who laid Zaya down on the ground, she was still breathing, thankfully. The king could see the movement from her chest, but she was unconscious.

"I am not sure." Pyro shook his head. He checked on Zaya, she was fine, but he couldn't tell for sure, since he was not a healer.

Meanwhile, not too far from them, the black beast managed to kill most of the black magic users, but just like what Dawn was afraid of, he didn't stop there, because right now, he attacked the knights too.

## Chapter 224

### The Critical Situation 16

"We need to get her out of here," Pyro said.

But, even before the royal beta finished his sentence, Rowan had carried Zaya in his arms to a safe place.

They found a spot, beside the ruin of what it looked like one of the bedrooms in this pack house and laid Zaya on the bed, after Pyro cleaned it up from dirt a bit.

"I will call a healer," Pyro said, he then stood up and rushed to find Lyra. He remembered that the healer must be nearby, she was with Dawn earlier.

Rowan didn't say anything and let Pyro left the room. He stared at Zaya and wiped her face from dirt. He checked her body and found the back of her hand was bleeding. There was not much blood, because from the look of it, it was only a scrap.

However, he tore his clothes and tied it around the wound. This was enough for now.

And for the meantime, he was waiting for the healer to come. Rowan looked up and saw the sky was still the color of red from the hole on the ceiling and the wind became even hotter than before. This place would turn into hell in a few more hours.

Sweat trickled down from his forehead, as he tried to keep his composure. He held her hand and saw the dagger on her waist.

Thankfully, it didn't take long before Pyro finally returned with Lyra. The healer checked on Zaya and said that she was fine.

"But she is unconscious," Rowan stated the obvious. "She is not fine."

"She got a backlash from using her magic, king Rowan. She will recover after some time," Lyra replied.

It didn't put the king at ease, but he accepted the explanation. "Take her back to the palace with the portal and informed your king about what happened here."

"I can't."

"Why not?" Rowan frowned.

"I don't have enough magic stone with me to create a portal." What happened here was not as they had predicted. Pyro and Zaya came here with different mission.

While Zaya came to convince king Rowan not to take the enemy's side, which was not even a problem in the first place, since he proved it that he was on their side, Pyro came here to take Zenith back to the palace, but as it turned out, he had to fight the enemy.

"Fuck." Rowan looked frustrated. "Those magic users from the Sect could use their magic as they pleased."

"They were using black magic; they used sacrifice as the source of their power."

"Then do it. You can do the same, right?" Rowan furrowed his brows at the royal beta.

"I will not go down in the same path like that." Pyro was strongly against it. He had never done it, but from what he knew, the feeling of using black magic was akin to drink your own blood. Who would do that? But obviously, many people were willing to do that for more power.

"Fine. Go and find a carriage to take her back to the palace."

Pyro squinted his eyes at the king. "You care so much about her."

Rowan didn't say anything, he simply stood up and then took one of the swords from the dead knight. He glanced at Pyro and then his eyes fell on Zaya. "I demanded a great deal from your king for what I have done for him."

He didn't say that he would ask, but it would be a 'demand'. And from the way he looked at Zaya, Pyro knew what he wanted. He was sure that the two brothers would throw a fit, but right now, it went without saying that the Marca El people really helped them a lot.

"Make sure you don't die, if you wanted to demand anything from the king," Pyro said before Rowan left. He didn't know whether the king hear him or not among the roaring sound out there. He then looked at Lyra. "Do you know where can I get a carriage?"

"I don't know if they still kept a carriage, but I know where is the stable."

"Good."

Lyra then helped Pyro to put Zaya on his back, as both of them went out of the room and away from the chaos. The wind became even more unbearably hot. They felt like they were going to be evaporated at some point.

The horrendous sky didn't even help with the ominous feeling that they felt.

Pyro was panting heavily. He gritted his teeth and fastened his steps, as Lyra led them to the stable and they to their bad luck, there was no carriage, but there were a few horses there.

"You have to take her on horseback," Lyra said, she took one of the horses and then led him out. She helped Pyro to secure Zaya on the horse, while he hugged her from behind. "I don't know if it will help or not, but take this."

Lyra gave him a small bottle with white liquid inside.

"What is this?"

"Be careful with that. That contain a very corrosive liquid. If someone touched it, their skin and bone will melt almost immediately."

"Why you people have this dangerous thing?"

"That Dawn's creation, not me." Lyra raised both of her hands in her defense.

"What if the bottle cracked accidentally? I will die." Pyro thought the thing that Lyra gave him was not helping at all.

“They Shut Me Out!” — Nigerian Actress Spills Blacklist Truth

"Don't worry, the bottle is strong enough. It even managed to contain the corrosive liquid."

Pyro shook his head. "I don't know what to be worried about now."

After that, he went away with Zaya, but the battle in the Moonlight pack kept going, as it only grew vicious, since the black beast started to kill anyone on his path. He absorbed back the black magic that Zaya managed to extract before.

"Do you have plan?" Rowan asked Dawn when he finally saw her. He approached her. "That's your man, right?"



## Chapter 225

### The Critical Situation 17

"Yes," Dawn said. Her heart was torn apart to see Zenith in his beast form. Her mind brought her back to the night, when he annihilated the whole pack when he let his beast loose.

It went without saying that he could do the same thing right now, because whatever Jared and those filthy black magic users had done to him, it only made him stronger.

"Well, don't be shy, you can share it with me," Rowan said casually, he stared at the sword in his hand. It didn't feel right, because this was not his sword. He liked his own sword better. "So? What is the plan?"

"We need to stop him," Dawn replied, she turned her head and then looked at Rowan.

"Yes, I am aware of that. So, what is the plan?"

"The plan is to stop him and turn him into normal again."

Rowan stared at Dawn for a little bit longer and then it dawned on him what she meant and he sighed deeply. "I really couldn't talk with strategy with woman." He then unsheathed his sword. "Fine. I will try to stop him. Don't cry if I manage to kill him."

"You will not be able to kill him," Dawn said with conviction. "Both of us know."

Rowan scoffed at the statement and then went ahead. It was not like he was going to argue with Dawn over something that petty.

And after he joined with the knights, they decided to back off and let the beast to kill all the people there, the magic users to be precise, since Jared was still trying to get a sense of control over Zenith.

It was funny to see how he didn't know what to do and was equally surprised by the alpha's outburst. Jared didn't even have a plan B as a backup.

Because previously, he extracted the black magic from Zenith's dead body, but right now he was still alive and obviously, fighting back when he stole some of his black magic.

The beast could be very petty and now, he aimed for the leader of the dragon sect. The magic users tried to stop the beast, but it was a futile attempt, since technically, their power came from the same source of magic, which was very ironic.

Dawn stared at the black beast that fought against Jared. That man was insane, he was powerful enough to be able to hold a fight against the black beast, but probably because he had consumed enough black magic from Zenith that was why he was so powerful right now.

The wind became more and more hot, it was suffocating and her dress stuck to her skin, which made her felt like she needed to peel it off if she wanted to take it off.

"Dawn!"

Dawn startled and saw Darius rushed toward her. He looked fine, it seemed, the venom from the snake had worn out and he looked like a brand new.

"What happened here? What did I miss?"

"A lot." Dawn then gave him a brief summary about what was going on and how the situation could escalate to this point.

"I think it's good if Zenith fought those black magic user, especially Jared," Darius said, his voice laced with proudness, but he missed the big point here. "I think he can kill Jared and we can go back home quickly."

Dawn shook her head. "Zenith is not in his right mind, after he killed Jared, who would guarantee that he wouldn't kill us too?" She looked at Darius and watched how the realization finally came to her mind. "He had killed three knights in his beast form. He doesn't see us as friend or foe; he only moves out of instinct and his main instinct right now is to kill."

Darius pressed his lip. "Do you think his outburst will run its course after some time? I meant, I happened to see him lost control over his beast, but there is some point where he had this clarity and then regained his control back. Don't you think we only need to wait?"

That made sense.

"Let's see," Dawn said, unsure. She felt her heart ached so bad to see how Zenith didn't even remember himself at this moment. She wanted to reach to him, but then she remembered one more crucial thing that she overlooked, because there were a lot of things that was going on in her mind right now.

She was the one, who killed Zenith in their first life.

And the prophecy...

In a way, the prophecy was right. She killed Zenith.

Zenith tried to avoid the prophecy by taking another woman as his mate in their first life, but apparently, it didn't work that way. Dawn still ended his life.

Would that be the same right now?

"Dawn... what do you think he is doing?" Darius asked when Jared let out a shrill scream when the beast managed to bite down his shoulder. They saw there were something so red shoot up like a shooting star that entered to his body. There were a lot of it and it came from the direction of the safe place.

"Oh no..." Dawn recognized that. "He took the soul of those who had been marked as the sacrificed.

It would enhance his power and with there were a lot of them, she was sure all the people inside the safe place had been marked as the sacrifice.

It clicked in Dawn's mind now about why they would take the pain to save them in the first place when they appeared couldn't care less of taking someone else's lives, but as it turned out, they saved them as their back up power.

This was the reason why they saved them. Dawn explained it to Darius.

"That's disgusting."

But, little did Dawn know, her own son had the same mark too, along with a few other children who had been saved by Rye and Lucia from the West.