

## Chapter 241

### It's Over

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

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

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

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

"No."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But he couldn't leave Dawn alone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Why don't you find out?" Nadia tilted her head and allowed Zander to touch her cheek.

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

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

"How this could be..."

Nadia winked at him. "Magic."

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

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

"You are going to disappear too."

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

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

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

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

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

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

"You know the reason why."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Chapter 242

### He Will Always Be Here

It was done; the war was done.

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

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

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

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

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

A huge hole that nothing could replace.

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

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

"Are you alright?" She asked again.

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

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

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

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

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

"A week." Zaya knew what she wanted to ask.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I am sorry, Zade. I am sorry that I woke you up."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Momma, is my dadada dead?"

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

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

## Chapter 243

### The Aftermath

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

"You know how hard it is for her."

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

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

"She didn't need to go back," Zander replied. "She could stay here for as long as she wanted."

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

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

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

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

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

"She wanted to leave in two days."

Zander nodded. "Understood."

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

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

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

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

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

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

"How is the problem in the west?"

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

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

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

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

"How is... the people?"

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

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

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

"They are still adjusting."

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

"Do you really need to move?" Zander asked.

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

"I hope things are different."

"I am sorry," Dawn said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

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

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

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

## Chapter 244

### Returned to the North

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

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

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

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

Dawn couldn't trust her father either.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I will."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Momma, I don't like here..." Zade complained. He furrowed his brows.

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

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

Dawn felt this pain in her chest again.

## Chapter 245

### The Responsibility

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

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

Zade opened his eyes, he pursed his lips because he didn't agree with her. "Dada will come."

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

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

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

She really hoped what Zade said was true.

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

"Play with Yara, okay?" Dawn kissed Zade's cheek and gave him to Yara.

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

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

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

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

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

"So, how should I do this?"

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

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

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

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

"Dawn?" Axel called her. "Did you listen to me?"

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

"I don't think you are ready for this..."

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

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

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

"How?" Dawn narrowed her eyes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It will not be easy, Dawn."

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

"Obviously."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They were still adjusting to this new situation.

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