

Chapter 246

The Rumor

Dawn had been busy for the last month; there were a lot of things that she had to take care of. She learned everything from the very basic and Axel would be there to guide her, so did her father.

Dawn had strictly told her father that he was there to help her to grasp the knowledge of how to take care a pack, but aside from that, she didn't want to talk about their personal matter.

Her heart was going to explode if her father would put another burden in her emotion.

However, Emily didn't seem to know when to stop.

Today, she had been trying to get a hold of Dawn again, where she looked for her in the study room, but Denzel stopped her before she could bother the luna and she was not happy with that at all.

"I only wanted to talk with her, why you couldn't let me see her? She is my sister."

Dawn lifted her head when she heard this annoying voice. She was sitting behind a bunch of reports that she had to read, but Emily found the worse time possible to ruin her day.

However, Dawn knew that she wouldn't stop until she was able to get a hold of her and when the argumentation increased. Dawn slammed the report in her hand and stood up. She was annoyed.

She opened the door and glared at Emily.

"Come in," Dawn said coldly. Whatever Emily wanted to say, she needed to say it right away before she lost her patient.

Emily went inside the room and threw a nasty look at Denzel, but Dawn immediately slammed the door which made her startled.

"You have five minutes. Say whatever you wanted to say."

"Dawn... I only want to offer condolence to you." She started.

"You better get straight to the point, because five minutes is not long." Dawn was not in the mood to talk with Emily, not to mention to see her face and tears.

"Dawn... can we forget the past? Can we start anew?"

"No." Dawn tilted her head. "Is that all?"

If all Emily wanted was for her to forgive and forget, of course, it was too much for her to ask, she would never do such thing. She was fine with everything that happened here.

"Dawn, what should I do for you to forgive me? It happened long time ago, can't you forget about that? Why are you being like this with me?" Emily's lips trembled. The same old tactic. "Do you want me to leave the pack? Is that what you wanted?"

Dawn looked at Emily in the eyes. "Yes. Leave. If you couldn't stop bothering me, then leave this pack. This is not your pack; you should go back to Moonlight pack."

Emily was shocked, she started crying. "I have a small boy, how could you do that to me? Even if you hated me so much, how could you send me away to the ruined pack? Arren is still your niece; don't you feel bad about him?"

Emily used that boy to gain sympathy, she used the same trick to gain sympathy from other pack member.

While they knew that Dawn just lost her mate and had a child on her own, but Dawn had never showed them how devastated she was, therefore, they were more inclined to sympathize with Emily, who would look so pitiful and need some protection.

"No." Dawn smirked. "Your five minutes is up. I will arrange a few warriors to escort you and father back to Moonlight pack in a week. Prepare yourself."

Emily was shocked, she didn't want to go back to that pack, there was nothing there, but ruined, even though they said that they had been rebuilding the pack, but what could be fixed within only a month?!

This was not Emily's goal to talk to Dawn.

"Dawn! Don't you feel bad with me? I lost my pack, my mate and I have a young little boy, who needs a safe place to stay, why would you kick me out of the pack? How could be so heartless?"

Why would Dawn feel bad about Arren? It was not like she would throw them on the street. She would return them to Moonlight pack, that was their home.

Dawn didn't want to hear such rambling; she opened the door and asked Denzel to drag Emily out of the room if she refused to leave.

Dawn would love to throw her out of this pack in this right second, but she still needed her father to teach her a few things about the pack, therefore, she gave them a week. She wanted the two of them to leave.

"Don't touch me!" Emily glared at Denzel when he tried to escort her out of the room.

Emily wiped her tears and lifted her head when she walked out of the room on her own, her pride didn't allow her to let anyone to degrade her that way.

However, it was a great mistake if you thought she would stop at that because the next thing that happened, Emily gave a hell to Dawn. She spread nasty rumor about her and Axel.

"Do you think that's what happened?"

"I am not sure, but the two of them have been very close with each other, right?"

"Yes, I saw them talking at night..."

"Do you think that's a secret meeting?"

"Do you think Zade is really alpha Zenith's son?"

"No way, the little boy has the alpha's eyes."

"Yes, you are right."

"Don't make a bad rumor about the alpha's child."

"Yes, but..."

The nasty rumors started in two days but on the fourth day it was snowballing and became out of control and when it reached Dawn, she was not even surprised.

It was Yara, who told her about all of this.

"Luna... should I..."

"No. I will take care of it," Dawn said coldly. "Thank you, Yara."

"I will let you know more about the rumor."

Chapter 247

I Will Take Care Of Her

Yara was very upset when she learned about the rumor. They pictured the luna and the beta in a very bad light, saying that they had a special relationship.

However, they indicated that the relationship had even started when the alpha was still alive, even questioned the father of Zade, which was very stupid, since the little one had the alpha's eyes and he looked exactly like him.

'But it doesn't proof the Luna's innocent. Zade is the alpha's son, but it doesn't mean she has never seen the beta behind the alpha's back in that time.'

That was the best thing that they could say.

They became this wild because Dawn was too busy with a lot of things and didn't have time to deal with them, which they thought they could get away with what they said.

More so, they had never been led by a luna alone before, thus a woman leader was not really appealing for them. It made their pack looked weak...

"Are you asking for me, Dawn?" Alpha Tony entered the study room.

Dawn was staring at the moon, she was standing next to the window, leaning her back against the wall. Her eyes drifted from the beautiful sight out there to her father, who just entered the room.

"Sit, please." Dawn always used this formal voice whenever she talked to Tony, creating a distance between them.

Tony had been trying to get close to her, but Dawn would always shut his attempt down. She only let him to see Zade a handful of time, but aside from that, she didn't allow him to get close to her baby, while Emily...

Dawn didn't allow her near her or Zade at all. Arren could play with Zade, but Emily wouldn't be there, since there would be a lot of people around Zade and Arren, thus her presence was not necessary.

"I assumed you must have heard about my plan to send you and Emily back to Moonlight pack," Dawn said, she walked toward the sofa and sat down. She didn't want to be close to her father.

In the past, she used to seek for his attention, for his affection, but right now, she didn't even want to say anything to him if it was not necessary. She felt so distance from him, even though he was her father.

"Yes, I have heard that. Axel had told me about your plan." Tony took a deep breath, as he listened to Dawn.

"Alex has been taking care of the pack while you are here, therefore, I think this is the right time for you to leave. Emily will go with you, so did Arren. I only wanted to ask a favor from you."

"Anything, Dawn. You can ask me for any favor." Tony was too eager to make things right for her; thus, he would agree with whatever Dawn wanted him to do.

"I want you to take Arren to Ava's grave. She really wanted to see him for the last time." Dawn didn't give any detail of the story, but the next thing that she said made alpha Tony lowered his head in shame. "She fought bravely. She fought Blake, even though he was her precious son. She knew what's right and wrong."

"I hope I was there."

"You were not there and you don't need to beat yourself up for that."

Dawn didn't know why her father chose to stay in the north when he could come and help them, but then it didn't matter. Having an additional one shifter wouldn't change the story.

"Dawn, if you wanted me to leave because you don't feel comfortable with Emily around, we can send her back to the pack. I can stay here for a little bit longer to help you to get a grasp of how to run a pack."

"You don't need to; Axel will help me with that. I have learned enough from you."

"Dawn... do you still hate me?"

Dawn finally met his eyes. She took her time to answer that. "Do I hate you? Sometimes, I wondered about that too, but now when you asked me the question, I don't think I hate you."

Her answer made Tony sighed in relief, but it was not for long.

"But I don't love you either. I don't even care about you, to be honest. It almost feels like you are a stranger for me and whatever happened to you, is none of my business."

"Do I hurt you that deep to the point you don't even care about me at all?"

"You had been hurting me in the past, father, but right now, what I feel about is the feeling of an indifferent."

Tony lowered his head. He clasped his fingers together. "If I left... the rumor about you and Axel will ruin your reputation." He was still trying to stay. He didn't want to leave for his pack. He didn't want to see that pack anymore. He wanted to stay here with his daughter and his grandson; he was getting old and he had no family in that pack... he would be alone and Tony didn't want to spend his old days alone...

"I will take care of that." Dawn leaned her back against the sofa. She crossed her arms. "I know who has started the rumor."

Of course, she knew. Tony also knew who had started the rumor and he had talked to Emily, but she was adamant to refuse that she was the one, who had spread that nasty rumor.

"I will take care of Emily."

"You have said the same thing over and over," Dawn said. She stood up and then walked toward the door, she held it open. "I think our conversation is done here. I am more than capable of taking care of her."

And Dawn proved it to him, because the next day, something big in the pack happened and all of them learned in the hardest way to never cross the luna.

Chapter 248

The Punishment

"Luna, you shouldn't wear that dress anymore. A month has passed," Yara reminded Dawn, because she was still wearing black dress.

For the pack member, it only a week for them to wear black clothes, as a symbol that they mourned their alpha, but for the luna, she had to wear it for a month.

And yet, a month had passed and Dawn didn't even try to wear anything aside from this color.

"No. My mourning is not over yet," Dawn said. She didn't think it would be over. She looked at her reflection on the mirror and sighed deeply.

She didn't have any energy or desire to wear another color. She loved this black color, because it reminded her of Zenith's black beast. She didn't mind to wear this color for the rest of her life, until the day she could be with him again.

"But, luna..."

"It's enough, Yara."

Yara shut her mouth and didn't say anything anymore, as she went outside and then gathered all the omega in the main hall.

Today, Dawn would get to the bottom of the rumor. She was not going to let this slide. Tomorrow, Emily, Tony and Arren would leave for the Moonlight pack, but she wouldn't let her go without any consequences.

The last rumor that she heard from them was about how she was so heartless to kick her own sister, niece and father to the Moonlight pack, when she already knew how ruined that pack was.

Alpha Tony would only rule ashes if he returned.

They felt sorry for Emily and Arren because they had to leave.

"Luna Dawn," all of them greeted her politely, they looked confused because they were gathered in the main hall.

They were worried that the rumor reached her, but at the same time, they assumed the luna didn't care much about it, because she had never showed any interest in that.

Dawn nodded at all of them, most of the people that she gathered in the main hall was women, there was only a handful men among them.

"Do you know why I gathered all of you here?" Dawn asked, she looked at them one by one, she looked so calm, but this calmness didn't bring peace. The calmness didn't give them peace of mind, as if Dawn could explode at any moment.

All of them looked at each other, but they didn't dare to look at Dawn in the eyes, there was something that made them scared to look at the luna right in the eyes. This must be because of their guilty conscience.

Dawn didn't want to prolong this uncomfortable situation.

"I heard a lot of rumor about me and beta Axel, some of you even went as far as to accuse me of cheating on alpha Zenith when he was still alive. Some of you even questioned the blood in my son's veins, whether or not he is the alpha's son."

Dawn didn't raise her voice, but it was clear for them to hear the severity of her wrath.

The whispered died down and they lowered their head, staring at their toes. They were afraid. They had never seen the luna was angry before.

"Let me asked you, who started this rumor?" Dawn asked.

Right at that time, Axel entered the room, which made all of them became even more terrified because of the presence of the beta.

They didn't know Dawn for that long, but obviously, they respected the beta, just as much as they respected the alpha, since it would be Axel, who was taking care of the pack house whenever the alpha was not there.

"I really don't appreciate such nasty rumors about me and the luna," Axel said, he looked at all of them one by one, his hard gaze sent shiver down their spine.

Because the rumor just spread for a week, thus it didn't cause so much damage, especially when it was a groundless rumor without any proof.

But it was enough to tarnish the Luna's name.

"Is this the person, who started the rumor?" Axel asked again and he allowed Tony to enter the room, along with Emily with him.

Emily looked angry, but she clamped her mouth. This was a humiliation for her.

"I know the rumor came from her," Dawn said. "If no one wanted to speak, I will let all of you to go with her to the Moonlight pack tomorrow."

Her last statement caused an uproar among the women there, they didn't want to leave this pack, they had lived here for decades.

"Just like what you have learned, the Moonlight pack has been ruined beyond recognition because of the last battle, more so, the pack will need a lot of people as their new member, not only that, the pack will also need help with a lot of things, so I will let all of you to start your new life there."

"Luna... please, no...!"

"That's her! That's her who has spread the rumor!"

"That's her, who had told us about those nasty things!"

"We don't believe her!"

"Luna! You couldn't kick us out of the pack! The alpha will be not happy with this decision!"

Dawn glared at the person, who said that, she walked toward her and she immediately knelt down, knew that she had messed up and crossed the line.

"What do you think the alpha would have done if you tarnished my name and questioned his son as his?" Dawn's words carried venom. "Have you forgotten what the alpha did to Fern when she wronged me in the past? What do you think the alpha will do if he heard this? This punishment for all of you, who have been questioning his son would be like a child play."

They were trembling in fear, they knew if it was the alpha, being kicked out of the pack, would be the mildest punishment for them.

They would be very lucky if they were still able to see the sun tomorrow.

Chapter 249

They Are Leaving

"Luna, we are innocent. We are wrong, we are sorry, luna... please forgive us!"

All of them immediately knelt and begged for Dawn's forgiveness, but she had no room for mercy. She might have considered that if they didn't implicate Zade and even questioning him.

However, it pissed her off that they talked about her son. She would never forgive or forget anyone, who talked that way about her son. They could beg all they wanted, but she would never change her mind.

More so, they really needed people for the Moonlight pack, since most of the pack member had been killed during the battle.

Zander asked for a solution from Dawn in one of his letters and this was her solution for him.

There were around a hundred women in this room, most of them had their own family, this number was enough to create a new pack.

This was a win solution, but apparently these people didn't see it that way. Their mate would be pissed at them because their reckless gossipy traits made them being kicked out of the pack.

But that was not Dawn's business.

They kept pleading, yet, the luna didn't budge.

Meanwhile, Emily was trying to plea her case, but one look from alpha Tony, she shut her mouth, she was trembling out of anger and humiliation.

If all of these women would come to the Moonlight pack, she wouldn't have a good day, since they would hate her to the core and make her life a living hell, while her father wouldn't care enough to shield her.

But that was what Dawn wanted. This was always her method. She didn't give a physical punishment, but her punishment would last for so long...

"Luna... we have been like a family. We just lost our alpha, how could you kick us out from the pack?" One of them still had a gut to talk to Dawn, probably this was her desperate attempt to get the Luna's sympathy.

Unfortunately for them Dawn had none. Zenith taught her that it would be better to get rid any potential trouble for the future as soon as possible.

"I lost my mate, the father of my child, is that justified me to talk trash about other people?" Dawn asked her. "Are you trying to compare your pain with mine?"

The audacity of these people was appalling.

There was no agony that was more painful than losing one mate for a shifter and now they had no one to be blamed but themselves for talking rubbish behind the Luna's back and was easily provoked by Emily.

With that was being said and the punishment had been issued, all of them would leave the pack the next day.

This news spread throughout the pack. All of them had their own opinion about this punishment.

Some of them thought the luna was too harsh, but some of them thought the punishment suit the crime, yet most of the people agreed if it was the alpha, they wouldn't even be alive right now for questioning his son.

With that, the next day, there was a long entourage of people, who marched toward the Moonlight pack.

"Momma... where are they going?" Zade asked, he hugged his mother and rested his head against her chest, while staring at the long entourage out there from the hallway.

"They are leaving the pack, baby," Dawn replied.

"Grandpa left too?"

"Yes." Dawn kissed his cheek. Zade liked his grandfather, but Dawn was not ready to have any relationship with her father. Probably, when Zade had grown up, he could bond with her father, but for now, Dawn was glad that she didn't need to see her father again for the near future.

"Momma. Dada will return, right?"

Dawn kissed his cheeks again and smiled, but she didn't answer the question.

No one knew about this, but Dawn spent her entire night screaming to the void because she lost Zenith, she didn't even think about the fact that she lost her wolf. The people kept making a fuss for not being able to shift into their beast anymore, but Dawn simply didn't care about that fact, because there was another thing that was more painful.

"I missed dada..." Zade snuggled against Dawn.

"I missed him too, baby. I missed him so much." Dawn hugged Zade closely, she breathed in his scent and tear fell on her cheek.

She wanted to see him again, even in her dream. She didn't mind if she saw him in her dream, she only wanted to tell him how much she loved him, how strong she became and how she could handle the pack so well.

She was standing up for herself now. She could protect herself, their baby and make a decision on her own, but she needed him...

"Momma... snow!" Zade pointed his finger against the window. "Snow! Momma!" Zade wriggled his body, he wanted to get down and run.

This was the first snow that he saw.

"Let's go out! Let's go out!" Zade wriggled his body even more, trying to get away from Dawn, until she put him down and he dashed out.

"Be careful, Zade!" Dawn clicked her tongue, but Burke had run to follow the little one, her personal warrior would make sure that he would be fine.

"How are you feeling?" Darius asked, he yawned widely, as he stretched his body. "I am hungry."

"When you are not?" Dawn rolled her eyes. She knew what Darius was asking. "I am fine. This is not bothering me at all."

Darius looked at the entourage from the window and shrugged his shoulders. "Good riddance," he said simply. He was not really fond of those people, who talked bad about Zenith.

As the gamma of the pack, he didn't really bond with the other pack member aside from the warriors, since he used to work with them and meet with them very often, but the rest... unless they could cook him his favorite meal, he couldn't care less about them.

Chapter 250

Mourning

"Hm? What happened with her?" Darius caught a sight of Emily, she kept sneezing. "You did something to her?"

Dawn shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly. She didn't answer the question, but Darius knew she had done something to that woman and he was right.

It was not something fatal. This was something that Hecate gave to her before she left for the north. She had asked him to find an item to create a concoction, which she would give to Emily.

The concoction would make Emily has an allergy to winter. She would keep sneezing until winter ended. It was not something fatal, but it would be so annoying.

"Zaya will leave to Marca El in two months, are you going to see her off?" Darius reminded her about the last letter that Zaya wrote for her.

Dawn thought about that for a while. "No. I think I will skip that. I will write for her to apologize for my absent."

Dawn didn't want to go to Moonlight pack. She didn't want to be there at all, because there were so many memories that would bring her to the edge.

Moonlight pack was the place where she lost her mate, she still remembered every moment of it. She remembered how Zenith's warm blood in her hands and how the black beast fell to the crater.

No one knew about the detail of what happened, aside from those people, who saw it, therefore, they didn't know the fact that she was the one, who had stabbed the alpha.

Zander decided it would be a secret, because people would try to twist the fact and it would put Dawn in dangerous position, especially when they learned that Dawn's mother came from the west and she originally was a spy in Moonlight pack.

Thing would get out of hands and people's hearts were so fickle.

Based on that, they only said that Zenith died during the battle. That was all.

"Are you, okay?" Axel asked one day.

"I am fine."

"You don't look good."

Dawn chuckled. "Stop nagging at me. I am fine." She smiled at the beta, as she retracted her gaze from Zade, who was playing with the other children. He was nine years old now.

Day turned into months and now years had passed since the battle in the moonlight pack, but Dawn felt she was stuck in the past.

It had been a decade since what happened and Dawn felt time moved very slow, but at the same time, it moved very fast, since she saw her son was already so big. Zade refused to be kissed in public now because it would ruin his image as an alpha of the pack, though in private he would still ask for a hug or two from his mother.

Zade was a sweetheart. He learned so fast and excelled in his training.

"I have a headache with these." Dawn flicked the letters from Alpha Deckan. He was the alpha from the west.

Axel glanced at the letters and immediately knew what she meant. He chuckled and threw a sympathetic look toward Dawn.

"You need to consider that." Axel put another report on her desk. "We need to do clean up in the untouched land, there are so many monsters now. I think it's time for Zade to come and see how it's done."

Because they couldn't shift into their beast anymore, they adopted the fighting style from Marca El people and used sword to fight like those knights.

Axel refused to use the sword, many warriors refused to do that because it hurt their pride, but as time went by, the idea was not really bothering them anymore and now Axel had one. A sword and a dagger always strapped around his waist now.

"Consider?" Dawn scrunched her nose. She didn't want to consider anything. She didn't even want to think about that at all. "There is nothing to be considered."

Axel flicked his gaze at her black dress. "Don't you think it's time for you to stop mourning?"

Dawn's expression turned solemn. "I don't see the point why I should stop mourning when I can do my daily activity just like any normal people and go on with my life."

"You are not going on with your life, Dawn. You only wait for your time to end," Axel said. "Let it go, Dawn. I am sure Zenith didn't want you to go on like this."

"No. No one will know what exactly in his mind." Dawn pushed away the letters from alpha Deckan, who asked her hand. They met once and he wanted her to be his chosen mate, to strengthen the power of two packs.

Dawn didn't need that, under her reign, the north was as strong as when Zenith was the alpha.

"I have Zade, I have my pack and I have everything that I need here. I don't want to change anything." Dawn looked at Axel. "There is nothing wrong with me waiting for my time to end, all of us do the same thing, right? We only wait for our time to end. It's not like I am sitting idly while waiting."

Axel didn't know what to say anymore and then dropped the topic, he always knew that Dawn was very stubborn and he didn't want to bother her.

Not long after, Zade entered the room. He greeted Axel and then went to his mother with a bouquet of wild flowers.

"Mother, I found these beautiful flowers," he said, as he handed the flowers to Dawn.

"Thank you, my love," Dawn said, as she gave a kiss to Zade's cheek, but he dodged it.

"I am big already, mother. You can't kiss me in front of other people."

"I am not 'other people'," Axel chimed in. "Promise, I will not say anything." The beta chuckled when Zade glared at him.

"Give me a hug then if I can't kiss you."

Zade thought about that for a while and then leaned over to give her a hug.