

Chapter 25

Not Bad

"They are at it again," Axel said, feeling irritated when he saw a letter from the palace bearing the king's insignia. This was not the first letter that King Zander sent to them. His order was still the same; take care of the monsters that managed to 'escape' the untouched land and keep destroying the border in the north.

It caused turmoil in the whole continent, because the north pack served as the first line of defense against monster problems.

But, the reply that came from Zenith was the same; he would try his best to deal with it.

Not only did this matter cause rippling anxiety in the people of the kingdom, but it also gave the king a headache. Zenith was still pissed because his brother sent someone to blatantly kill his mate.

"I think this will last for another two months," Darius said. "Zenith purposefully weakened the protection around that spot."

"I know." Axel frowned. "Why do you think the King wants to kill that woman? I know they disagree on a lot of things, but the King doesn't have any reason to interfere with the mate Zenith chooses."

"I am not sure either." Darius took the letter and opened it. "Why didn't you open this?"

"It will be the same nagging letter about how we need to strengthen our protection." Axel didn't want to read the same thing over and over again.

However, reading its content, Darius frowned. "No. This is not about that." He handed the letter to Axel. "We need to inform the Alpha about this letter."

Meanwhile, after that attack, Dawn was sleeping in Zenith's bedroom. The alpha also appointed someone to follow her anywhere she went, aside from Kynes and Pyllo. Zenith also made the seamstress come to her room, instead of her going to the village.

This level of protection started to feel overwhelming for Dawn.

"You are better now, but still far away from my expectation," Zenith said after one of his training sessions with Dawn.

"Your expectation is too high, Alpha. You overestimated me." Dawn laid down on her back, staring at the bleak sky that made her feel even more depressed. She missed her pack and wondered if she should write to her father.

"You lack ambition."

"I just want to live peacefully." Dawn blinked her eyes, as she remembered something. "Oh, right, can I return to my room? I think the smell of blood has disappeared by now."

"No. It's not," Zenith replied too fast to make it sound more convincing, which made Dawn give him a look.

"I think I can handle it."

"Why? You don't like to sleep with me?" Zenith sat next to her, his piercing blue eyes forced Dawn to avert her gaze. Most of the time, this man was very overbearing and intimidating, even looking him in the eyes was already an effort for her.

"It's... uncomfortable." Dawn tried to find an excuse, but could only come up with the lamest one.

Hearing that, his blue eyes turned a few shades darker. He pinched her chin so she could look at him. "How?"

Dawn tried to think of something, but she couldn't, so she chose to be honest with him. "I am not used to sleeping with a man."

"You slept with your ex-mate." The way Zenith said that was filled with aversion.

Dawn swatted his hand from her chin and glared at him, but her face turned very red. "I didn't." She gritted her teeth.

"You didn't?" Zenith narrowed his eyes. "Do you want to say that you are a virgin?"

Zenith knew that Dawn had been with Blake for five years, ever since they knew they were destined mates and it was unusual for them not to be mated, not even once. Most of the shifters around their age would have an experience or two, or even more, especially if they found their destined mate.

Zenith was even surprised to see that she didn't bear Blake's mark, which made the severed mate bond not as painful.

The alpha could understand if she had not been marked yet, because it was not a trivial process, but not to be mated...

"I don't want to talk about this," Dawn was embarrassed. She didn't want to talk about this topic anymore, but before she could escape, Zenith had wrapped his arm around her waist and pulled her into his lap.

Dawn could feel her back against his chest. He felt so warm. His scent engulfed her.

"Let me make it clear." Zenith almost growled when Dawn tried to escape from him again, which made her stop and turn rather docile. "He had not yet marked you, which is obvious, and the two of you had not mated either, am I correct?"

Zenith could understand if they had done it, which was fair, since Dawn was with him. He wouldn't be surprised or make a big deal out of it, but what surprised him was the fact they didn't.

"We kissed, okay." Dawn felt so stupid to even entertain this topic. "What? Are you having second thoughts about me because I am inexperienced?" She wanted to sound angry, but she only sounded embarrassed. "My father

is very strict. We weren't even allowed to be together in the same room for the first three years we found out that we were mates."

The corner of Zenith's lips quirked up. Alpha Tony might be a terrible decision maker, but he was good at keeping his eye on his daughter, unfortunately, his other daughter slipped through his fingers.

"So, he never kissed you like this?" Zenith asked, his voice was a little bit husky when he nibbled on her neck and traced her collarbones with his callous fingers. It sent shivers down Dawn's spine to feel his touch. He was exceptionally gentle with her right now. "Answer me, little one."

"N- no..." Dawn cursed herself when her voice sounded like she enjoyed it. "S- someone will see us."

"Do you really think that I will let someone see you so vulnerable like this?" He traced down his hand and brushed his fingers against her breast, which made Dawn gasp. Her heart was pounding loudly against her ears.

What was she doing? Shouldn't she push him away? Why didn't she do anything?

Dawn was curious, this was a new territory for her, there was this ticklish sensation in her stomach that she couldn't ignore. Her adrenaline rushed in her veins and she wondered what Zenith was going to do, but at the same time, she didn't know what she should do at a moment like this.

Should she touch him back? Where should she touch him?

"Has he ever touched you like this?" Zenith lifted her dress and caressed her inner thigh, which made Dawn curl her toes as she shook her head. "Answer me..." He coaxed, as his hand trailed higher to her intimate part.

"N- no..." her voice was shaky, but at this point, Dawn didn't care much about how she sounded. It felt... good.

She felt a little bit guilty to even feel that way.

"Hm," Zenith hummed in agreement. She was so sweet and innocent, just like how he remembered her before he flipped her world upside down and she was filled with rage and malice. "Your scent is intoxicating..." he whispered in her ear and nibbled on her earlobe.

Dawn blushed so hard when she heard that, she felt her body was so hot, she thought the snow around her would melt at some point if she touched it.

She was breathing raggedly when she tilted her head and took the initiative to kiss him first. She moaned into his mouth when he squeezed her breast gently. This felt so right. She could hear the ripping sound of her undergarment when Zenith tore it and slid his finger in her opening.

She gasped and moaned loudly when he started to touch her intimately.

Dawn had never thought this was how you would feel when someone touched you in this way. Her body was trembling when he picked up his pace and moved faster. She felt tension building up in the pit of her stomach.

"I- I feel weird..." Dawn said breathlessly when the tension built up and she was not sure whether she wanted to cry or scream.

"It's okay... don't hold back," Zenith said against her lips. He could feel her tensed body and how she almost reached her climax. "Don't hold it back, little one, it's okay..."

Dawn was not sure what she had to do, but she really couldn't hold it any longer and it almost felt like something inside her snapped and she felt this rush of pleasure that washed over her body.

This was the first time for her to feel this intense feeling and she didn't know what to do, but to clutch onto Zenith and bite his lip, until it ceased.

Once it was over, she felt so tired and everything became clear again, but when it happened, a wave of embarrassment hit her so hard, especially when Zenith's finger was still in her private part.

Dawn pushed his hand away from her and she felt this warm feeling that made her slightly uncomfortable.

"I... That's..." Dawn couldn't find a word to explain herself, nor did she know what to say.

"I assume that's your first time to be pleased?" Zenith tilted his head, he liked that Dawn struggled with her words. "How's it?"

Dawn bit her lip and mumbled. "Not bad."

A flicker of amusement flitted past Zenith's eyes. "Not bad, huh?"