

## Chapter 251

### The Crown

"In three weeks, there will be a cleanup in the Untouched Land. Axel thought that you are ready for it, what do you think?"

Zade's blue eyes lit up. "Really?! I want to go! I will go!" He said excitedly.

Dawn nodded. "But you need to promise me that you will not roam around the area on your own, promise me?"

"I promised."

Dawn felt a little bit uncomfortable to let him go to the Untouched Land, because of what happened to her son in the first life, but Zade and Rex were different. There would be a lot of people with him, he should be well protected.

And when the day came, Dawn sent all of her personal warriors to go with Zade, despite his protest. She couldn't be at ease.

"You are being paranoid," Darius teased her.

"Maybe," Dawn replied softly, as she watched how Zade mounted his horse and went to the forest.

Thankfully, there was nothing happened to Zade during their 'clean up' in the untouched land. He actually managed to kill five monsters and look so proud of himself when he told her the story of how he killed them.

Dawn didn't know whether he exaggerated his story or not, but when he told her what happened, Dawn felt the urge to not allow him to go to the untouched land anymore.

But of course, she wouldn't do that, it was only her motherly instinct, who was being a little bit frantic to hear that her son was in danger and surrounded by monster.

"Is that true? What he told me was true?" Dawn asked Denzel when Zade had left with the other warriors. "Did he exaggerate the story?"

"Yes, luna. He didn't exaggerate the story."

Dawn glared at him. "Why did he put himself in danger? Where were you?"

"It's okay, Dawn. Those monsters were only goblins, they were not really dangerous," Axel reassured her. He was also there; thus, he knew Zade was not in any real danger. "You don't need to worry, he is an excellent fighter."

Dawn glared at Axel too. "Yes, but I will prefer for him not to be in any danger at all." She felt her heart leapt from her chest when she heard how her son fought against two goblins at the same time. She would look for those goblins and flayed them herself.

However, after some time, she realized that she was only being a little bit paranoid. Zade needed to know this and this was important for him, since he would be the alpha once he came to age. She couldn't shelter him forever.

She loved to see how he grew up to be a strong and responsible man.

He was sweet and nice, but you wouldn't want to see when he stopped being nice, since he would show you, what fear was.

Actually, it happened once when Zade showed his other side of his sweet nature and everyone was shaken up by the sight.

At that time, Dawn was being bothered by alpha Deckan, who kept persisting to have her as his chosen mate and when Zade found all the letters, he marched toward the west and met with the alpha directly.

Long story short, the king had to come to the west to calm down his niece and prevent him from tearing the pack apart, since Zade was going to burn the entire pack in his wrath.

He was a man, who would bring you flower and give you kisses and hugs, but he was also the same man, who would show no mercy to those people, who crossed him, especially those people, who bothered people that he cared about.

At that time, Zade was only sixteen, but he was the strongest fighter from the north, a clever one to be precise.

What was more terrifying was the fact that he inherited the knowledge of poisons from his mother.

After that incident, needless to say, the letter stopped and alpha Deckan was replaced by his son.

And today, when he was eighteen, there was a ceremony for him, as he came to age, where he would carry his father's legacy. Dawn would step down from her position and let Zade ran the pack.

"Are you nervous?" Dawn asked Zade. She came to visit him before the ceremony. He looked regal in his black attire, just like his father, but she could see her own resemblance on him.

"Not really," Zade replied. He leaned over and gave kisses to both of Dawn's cheeks. "They are the people that I know."

"And there is the king."

Zade scoffed. "What the worst thing that my uncle could do?"

Dawn chuckled. Zander doted on Zade so much to the point it was ridiculous. It felt like Zander tried to fill the void of Zenith's absence and did everything that Zenith would love to do with his son.

Zander had never been a king for Dawn and Zade, but a family.

"Did he still insist for you to take the throne?" Dawn asked. She kneaded his cloak.

"Yes."

Zander had given this idea when Zade was still a babe and Zenith didn't give him a definite answer for that.

"He should have looked for a chosen mate and make his own child rather than bothering me."

Dawn caressed his cheek. "You know that he will not take anyone to be his queen."

"Yes, I know." Zade contemplated about it for a while, he had been thinking about this for quite some time actually. "I will consider the offer."

"Do whatever you think is right for you."

And after that, the ceremony went smoothly, Zade was officially the alpha of the north and half a year later, he was crowned as the crown prince, which meant, he would be the next in line for the throne after Zander stepped down or passed away.

"Don't even think to die quickly, uncle," Zade said in low voice when he was crowned.

"Brat!" Zander hissed, but mirth danced in his eyes.

## Chapter 252

### Love You Right

Ever since Zade was crowned as the crown prince, he had been going back and forth from the north to the capital city. Often, he would ask Pyro to use his magic to cut short the trip by using the portal, but because he needed to meet his subject often and see the situation of the area that he would rule one day, he couldn't do that every time.

"What are you staring at?" Darius asked her, he followed her line of sight, but he couldn't find anything interesting that could make her zoned out.

"Nothing." Dawn turned her head and looked at him, she smiled beautifully at the gamma. "Thank you for everything, Darius. You and Axel have been there for me in my difficult time."

"Stop right there!" Darius raised his finger. He was alarmed. "Don't jinx! I don't like that kind of talk!" He grimaced and Dawn laughed to see how his eyes widened. "I don't want to talk to you if you are going to say something like that!"

Dawn chuckled. "Where are you going?" She laughed even more when she watched Darius dashed away and only waved his hand at him.

The beta and the gamma had been like brothers for her. They were the people that she could trust her life and Zade's.

But recently, she had this weird feeling. She didn't know why, but she felt there was something that would happen. Something big.

Dawn touched her neck; she still had Zenith's mark.

Usually, when your mate died, the mark would slowly fade away. Thirty days and the mark would disappear. That was why, the living one should wear mourning attire for a month.

However, Dawn's mark was still the same. It didn't fade away. You would be able to see the beautiful intricate mark on her slender neck. It was gorgeous.

No one could explain why it was like that, but Dawn was grateful enough it didn't disappear.

Dawn touched her neck again and closed her eyes. She became very anxious nowadays and she didn't know why.

Her night would be restless; she would toss and turn. She couldn't sleep soundly and find herself was staring at the window, as if she was waiting for something to happen... or maybe someone, she was not sure about that.



And tonight was not different.

The restlessness returned and she decided to get up and drink a warm tea to calm her nerves. Yara served her and she looked worried because she knew Dawn had been having this problem for some time.

"Don't say anything to Zade, Yara."

Yara avoided her eyes. "Luna, you know that I can't lie to the alpha."

Zade had his own way to get information from Yara, because he was more than aware that Yara knew his mother better than anyone, especially when he used to not be at the pack.

"Well, you can avoid him."

"You know that I can't luna." Yara frowned. Dawn knew that she had tried to avoid Zade, but the alpha would be able to find him and dig information about her mother and how her condition, since Dawn wouldn't tell him anything that would make him worried.

Dawn sighed. "You can leave, Yara."

Yara then left the room and Dawn sipped her tea, while staring at the window. The sight was the mountain behind the untouched land and in the night sky, the moon was shining brightly.

Dawn leaned her head against the windowsill and zoned out she was not sure what she was thinking at this moment, but she replied the first moment she met with Zenith, both in her first life and the second life.

She kept wondering if this was really their second chance?

In a way, it was. This life helped Zenith to redeem his mistake in his first life, but even in this life, they couldn't be together.

Dawn wouldn't trade her son's life for anything, but... she missed Zenith like crazy. She was still wearing her black gown. She had never worn any other color, but black. She was still mourning of his death and she would always be.

Dawn closed her eyes and she was surprised when she felt a tear fell on her cheek. She touched it and more tears followed. She sobbed quietly alone.

She touched her mark and wished he was here. She wished to see him again; she begged for different ending.

But then she snapped when she realized something and stood up. She went outside to find Denzel guarding her room.

"No need to follow me."

Dawn then rushed out of the pack house and galloped on the horseback to the fortress. She didn't know why, but she could feel it. Somehow, she knew it.

There was one thing that had not yet happened.

She must be crazy to think that was a possibility. She wanted to cry because hope was a cruel thing, but then she saw him.

He walked toward her, just like that night... the quiet night when he found her in that small shabby house. He came for her....

"Zen..." Dawn rushed toward him and hugged him, she hugged him so tightly, as if she was afraid that he would disappear if she didn't hold onto him.

"I came back. I keep my promise to fix this." Zenith caressed her back gently and relished in her sweet scent.

That was what he said when he came for her again, either it was in the first life or in this life.

Just like in the previous life, Zenith returned from the hellish place to see Dawn again after two decades had passed.

In the end, what happened in their first life was repeated, even though the sequence of it was not the same and this time, Dawn wouldn't kill him.

They would live together from now on...

"Don't kill me this time, okay?" Zenith kissed her head. "I do really want to love you right this time."

Dawn chuckled between her sobs. She shook her head vigorously. "Let's be happy."

"Let's be happy for a long time."

## Chapter 253

### Burning Down The Mountain

It had been a week since Dawn returned to the north, leaving the capital city.

The enemy had gone, their wolf spirit had gone, the ability for the shifter to shift into their beast had gone and... Zenith had gone too, but life went on.

It was suck.

Zaya watched how Zander literally threw himself to the piles of work. He worked in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening, even during the night...

He appeared unaffected by Zenith's demise, but Zaya knew this was how he coped up with Zenith's death. After all, they had been very close. They only had each other for a very long time.

They schemed against their enemy together, created plots after plots and fought alongside each other. There must be a lot of moments when they only had each other. Looked out for each other's back.

Zander lost his brother, his twin, his confidante...

Zaya felt selfish if she wanted Zander's attention. She knew that Zander was struggling with his grief, but Zenith was also her brother too. She felt sad and wanted Zander's comfort, but she didn't dare to disturb him.

She felt like the bond that Zander and Zenith's share was something that she would never get, since she had been away from the kingdom for years and she was not there for them during their difficult time.

Zander also made a point not to talk about Zenith. The conversation about his death had never been brought up and this killed Zaya because she couldn't talk about this to anyone.

She couldn't talk about it with Celine too, because even though she showed sympathy for her, the healer would never understand...

Zaya wanted to talk to Zander, but she didn't dare to bring the topic and disturb his 'peace'.

"Are you going to burn the mountain down?"

Zaya snapped from her reverie and realized that she had created a bonfire in front of her. Currently, she was in the Goffa mountain, near her family's burial ground.

No one should be here, but of course, the rule didn't apply for king Rowan, he seemed to determine to break all the rules that her brother created and annoyed him to his death.

Zaya waved her hand and the fire ceased. "Yeah, I am thinking about doing that, but then my brother will sulk for days because I add more task into his worklist."

King Rowan approached her and Zaya created a barrier around her, which made him frown. "You don't need to waste your magic stone to create a barrier against me, princess. I believe you can just turn me into frog if you wished the moment I became a threat."

Zaya didn't put down her barrier. She didn't want him to catch her off guard and kiss her again. He had done it twice and as much as Zaya was upset for his action, surprisingly, she was even more upset with herself because she was not angry enough for his brashness.

"I am sure that will be counted as harming a king and while it's tempting, I can't do it."

King Rowan flashed a bright smile, which drew Zaya's attention to his lips and she hated to pay attention to his lips.

He stole her first kiss and now he acted like there was nothing happened. He looked so calm. Zaya wondered how many women he had kissed before. She must be only one of his long list women that he had been with.

Zaya knew how liberal men in Marca El.

People like Rowan would have a long list of mistresses, who would be over the moon whenever he graced them with his presence and Zaya didn't want to be one of them.

"What do you want, king Rowan. You shouldn't be here." Zaya then added. "I meant it. This is family ground."

Rowan looked at her deeply for a while before he answered her question. "I only wanted to check on you, because you looked distraught nowadays." He took a step closer; he only stopped because the barrier preventing him from walking even closer. "I saved this place from your fire, am I not?"

Zaya narrowed her eyes. "I am fine, thank you."

"How can you be fine when your brother just died?"



Now Zaya understood why Zander often looked very upset whenever he finished talking with this king. Rowan knew how to struck a nerve. "Thank you for the reminder, but life goes on."

"Lower that barrier, I will tell you how to vent your grief in a safe way."

"What? Hunting Leonard and it's siblings?"

Rowan frowned. "Who is Leonard?"

"The monster in the Goffa mountain."

Rowan came here to console Zaya because he knew she had been bottling up her emotions, but it was actually him, who got a good laugh.

"Did you name all the monsters here?" Rowan asked between his laughter.

Zaya didn't find this amusing at all. She was upset because Rowan laughed at her. "Since you can find me here, I am sure that you can find your way back alone."

Zaya turned around and attempted to leave Rowan, but the king chuckled and unstrapped the sword around his waist and raised it for Zaya to see.

"I got the same swordsmiths to create this sword for you, with the same fire magic stone."

What Rowan said managed to make Zaya stopped walking away, she turned around and looked at the king and then the sword. It was a beautiful sword.

"I don't know how to use sword." She could handle dagger, but sword was different thing.

"I will teach you." Rowan knocked the barrier with the hilt of the sword.  
"Put it down."

Zaya raised her brows. "Are you going to train me of how to fight with sword?"

"Yes." Rowan watched how Zaya withdrew the barrier and walked toward him to get the sword. Her eyes lit up, though she tried to appear not interested with his offer. "It's better than burning down the mountain, right?"

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Ever since that night at the burial ground, Rowan had been accompanying Zaya to learn of sword fight. She improved, she had a knack for it, but of course a few days of training wouldn't make her able to beat Rowan.

She got frustrated and when it mixed with her grief and her desire to vent all of her frustration and sadness, she became impatient and more aggressive.

"You make it easy for me to know your next move, Zaya if you attacked me like that." Rowan ward off her attack easily and it upset Zaya even more when she saw how calm he was when she was drenched in her sweat.

"Really? Can you see this?" Zaya then used her magic to create tendrils of fire that caged Rowan. The tendrils trapped Rowan and she used this opportunity to attack him.

Rowan was alerted, but he looked as calm as ever, despite his predicament. If he kept provoking Zaya, he might end up dead one day, but he liked her this way more than how she was a few weeks ago. She looked more alive with the anger in her blue eyes.

He looked around him, the heat of the fire licked his skin, but he knew that Zaya would attack his back, thus he only needed to concentrate and to feel her.

The tendrils of fire shifted and Rowan was right, Zaya came from his back with her sword drew, she tried to stab him, but he took a step to the side and caught her hand. The tendrils of fire dissipated and he disarmed her easily.

"You hurt me!" Zaya complained, she pushed him away, holding her wrist. It was not hurt that much, she only exaggerated it, but her ego was hurt.

"Princess..." Rowan chuckled. He knew that Zaya was only sulking, but he didn't get to finish his word when he felt another person's presence and this time, he raised his sword in defense. The calmness in his face disappeared when he faced this sneak attack. "King Zander," he greeted the other king with a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

Rowan found this amusing when the two siblings loved to attack their enemy from behind.

"Zan, what are you doing?" Zaya immediately approached the two kings, she was afraid one of them would get hurt. "I am fine, it's okay."

Both of them stared at each other, there was no word, but the moment Zaya came closer to them, they immediately withdrew at the same time. Zander took Zaya to his side and check on her hand.

"I am, okay," Zaya repeated what she said to calm her brother down. "It's not hurt." She wriggled her wrist to emphasize her statement. "See?"

"I have been receiving the report about your training," Zander stated, he threw an accusing look toward Rowan, as if this was a big mistake and it was his fault.

"We have been training. The princess seemed interest to sword fight, so I helped her." Rowan didn't miss a beat when he replied to Zander's question.

"Your help with the princess is not needed."

Zander then took Zaya away, but she traced back to get her sword which made Rowan chuckled, but he stopped when Zaya glared at him and followed her brother, who looked like he was going to snap the sword into two.

It was surprising to know that this kingdom and Rowan's kingdom had a good relationship when the two kings looked like they wanted to bite the other's heads off every time they met.

## Chapter 254

### Real Intention

"What was that about, Zan?" Zaya asked, she looked at her brother with disapproving look.

Both of them stopped walking as they had put a good distance away from Rowan.

Zander looked at her sister and then sighed deeply. "I don't want you to get hurt, Zaya. You don't need to learn the sword fight. That's not for you."

"You are not the one, who decided that." Zaya was upset, but she was not sure what the reason why she was very upset. She didn't learn the sword fight for the sake of learning, but to vent out her emotions and even now, Zander still refused to talk about Zenith.

Zaya felt so angry with him, because it felt like he wanted to forget about Zenith, but at the same time, she could understand how it was hard for Zander, which made her angry at herself for being so dramatic and unreasonable. And the circle continued.

"Do you like him?"

Zaya pressed her lips. She didn't answer that and turned around to walk away. Zander didn't come after her, which annoyed her. He didn't want to have a confrontation with her; he chose to avoid it.

And for the next few days, Rowan couldn't see Zaya anywhere. He came to the training ground at the same time when they used to have their training, but she didn't come.

Instead, one night, Rowan found king Zander there. He was holding a sword.

"Spar with me," Zander said, as he unsheathed his sword.

"If you wanted it." Rowan withdrew his sword and soon after the two kings fought against each other. The sound of the swords clanking and their quick footsteps filled the open area.

Because the shifters lost their beasts, they adopted the fighting skills from Marca El people, thus Rowan prolonged his stay in this continent, though Zander doubted that was his only reason to stay. He could see the way he looked at Zaya.

However, what irritated him was how Zaya acted around him, she was... flustered.

"What did you kill your father?" Zander asked, as he ward off his attack. He was good at it, since he had learned sword fight long before this, because losing wolf spirit was not something new for him.

"Are we having a conversation over a sword fight?"

Zander ignored that mocking remark. "You killed your own father and your own brother, so you can usurp the throne. What do you want with Zaya?"

Zander was wicked, he wouldn't be in this position and be the king of this kingdom without his wickedness, thus he knew someone like him when he saw one.

"What is your real intention with Zaya."

"I like her. I want to ask her hand for marriage and the reason why I killed my father and brother, believed me, the world is a better place without them."

They breathed raggedly, as the other tried to take down their opponent. They were serious in this fight. The warriors and the knights, who watched from the side grew restless because they were afraid it could be the start of another war.



The chance was pretty high when you saw the killing intent in their eyes.

But they could breathe in relief when princess Zaya came and create a barrier between them. "What are you two doing?" She approached the two kings and to everyone surprised, chided them. "Sheath your swords."

"We are only sparing, princess," Rowan replied, but he did what Zaya asked him to do. He unsheathed the sword and Zander did the same.

"You look like you are going to kill each other." Zaya put down the barrier.

"Actually, you have the same look when you fought me, princess." Rowan held back his smile. Zaya couldn't answer that, she pressed her lips, refused to talk to him. "I will see you tomorrow at the same time for training? You have skipped so many days and I don't think it will improve your fighting skill."

This time, Zander didn't say anything and watch Rowan walked away with his knights. Just like that the crisis stopped and all of the onlookers could breathe in relief because there would be no blood that was spilled.

"You like him."

That was not even a question, Zander said it in accusatory tone. He looked at Zaya closely. There were only the two of them now in the training

ground after he dismissed all the people. He needed some time to talk with his sister. He had been dismissing her for long and this matter needed to be discussed.

Zaya opened her mouth, she tried to find the right answer, but she couldn't and what came out of her mouth was a silly reply.

"I will need to marry eventually, so I thought why don't we strengthen the kingdom with the marriage alliance."

Zaya learned about the crisis in the kingdom. They lost so many people and without their beast and how the shifters were still trying to adjust with this fact, their kingdom looked so weak.

They would need Marca El knight's help more than they could admit. Zaya understood. Zander did not only bury himself in his work, but there was indeed a lot of things he needed to do and decide.

It was a win solution if Zaya entered this marriage alliance.

It would be Rowan's obligation to help her kingdom and Zander didn't need to reveal and ask for his help more than he already accepted.

More so, Zander would never ask for Rowan's help if it was up to him.

Zaya believed Zander would find another solution eventually of how to strengthen their kingdom again, but this was the fastest and safest solution for them.

"Do you even realize what you are talking about?" Zander narrowed his eyes at his sister. "I will not marry you off for that reason."

Zaya was exasperated. "What if I said I like him?" She tried to say it as nonchalantly as possible, but she couldn't help, but blushed. "I like him a little, respect him because he could choose to turn his back on us during the battle, but he didn't. He helped us in the battle, whether you wanted to admit it or not, the result of the battle might be worse than this if he didn't help, so I think married to him is not a bad idea." Zaya then added when she saw Zander wanted to speak. "Moreover, he has been nice to me. I think I can make this marriage work."

Zander looked at her intensely, which made Zaya felt uncomfortable under his scrutinize gaze.

"You are very logical Zan, you know that this is the best solution for our situation."

Zander could see through Zaya. The realization left him speechless for a moment. "Are you trying to justify your feeling by using that excuse?"

Zaya pursed her lips like a petulant child, because she didn't have the right answer to reply for that accusation. "He is cute, though."

Zander shuddered when Zaya used that word to describe Rowan. "You once said a monster was cute." Zander shook his head. "We will talk about this later. I will have a deep discussion with him too."

He needed to clear his mind before he was making an impulsive decision, because right now, he really wanted to refuse Zaya's idea.

But the problem was; Zaya liked this king too and Rowan had not done anything that could harm her. Only if she showed some sign of reluctance, he wouldn't be faltered by his desire to send that king back to his continent.

"No. I will talk to him," Zaya said firmly. "If this is happening, I want to be the one, who discussed the term of my marriage."

And what Zaya didn't tell Zander was she had a few requests to Rowan if he was really serious in this marriage.

"I want one hundred thousand knights as my dowry. They will guard this kingdom."

That was what Zaya asked from Rowan when she met him again for the sword training the next day. The pale moonlight fell on their features, created long shadows on the grounds.

"One hundred thousand knights?" Rowan raised his brows. "That's a great number, don't you think, princess?"

"Am I not worthy of one hundred thousand knights?" Zaya challenged him.

Rowan took a step closer and caressed her cheek. "You are more than worthy of the whole kingdom, Zaya," he said softly.

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"One hundred thousand knights?!" Addie looked like he was going to have a heart attack when he heard that. He took a step back, but he shook his head in disbelief. "And you agreed to that?! You must be kidding me!"

"Watch your tone, Addie. I am still your king," Rowan said sharply and Addie needed to exert everything in him not to explode even more.

"Yes, my king, but I am sure that you are aware of the civil war in your kingdom. You have not forgotten about that, right?" Addie wanted to pull his hair and hit the king, but of course he wouldn't do the latter. "One

hundred thousand is a great number. We can't do that!" Addie cleared his throat and corrected his wording and tone. "It will cause us a great damage, my king. What about the knights at the border? Our enemy will manage to break it in no time if you agreed to send one hundred thousand knights!"

"Is our border that weak that our enemy would have breached it in no time?" Rowan tilted his head; he raised his brows at his knight.

## Chapter 255

### The Agreement

Addie shook his head. "I am exaggerated my king, but it will cause some damage on us." Addie furrowed his brows. "And what will get from this kingdom aside from their princess?"

That was what Rowan and Zander would discuss in this meeting. After that night, Zander invited him for a drink in his study room. The place where they could keep things formal and without the involvement of sword or any dangerous object around them.

"Five hundred magic users and unlimited supply of magic stone," Rowan said his demand in exchange of one hundred thousand of his knights.

One hundred thousand of knights was indeed a great number compared to five hundred magic users, but Rowan had witnessed himself of what magic could do. He watched with his own eyes' what kind of power a magic user held and the people in his continent had never seen magic before.

It would be a surprise for his enemy to witness it firsthand in battle if they dared to cross him.

"We don't have five hundred magic users. I believe you know that," Zander responded calmly. He didn't know that Zaya had asked such thing from Rowan, but he knew she only did that for their kingdom.

"And I believe you have a strong connection with people in the Andel kingdom." Rowan leaned his back. "You were the one, who instigated the attack on Holy Kingdom. I believe there are so many magic users under Andel kingdom's control, since Holy Kingdom is only a history now."

Rowan read the situation between Ogregon and Andel really well. Yes, Zander didn't have five hundred magic users, but it didn't mean he couldn't make it happened.

The other king was clever and it annoyed Zander. He couldn't find a way to make things difficult for Rowan, since his demand was fair and Zander would get more than he would ask of him.

Zander couldn't prevent this because he could see how Zaya slowly fell for this brute king, but then he was not able to find fault on Rowan, since he treated his sister well and even though he didn't want to admit it, he knew.

This situation irritated him.

"They will be under Zaya's command." Zander looked at him calmly. The two of them knew how to keep their façade. "It's only natural for Zaya to



command the magic users, since she is the only person, who knew about magic, more so, those magic users would come from Holy Kingdom. They are the people that she knew, since she lived there for years."

This would be Zander's last effort to protect Zaya. He wouldn't send his only remaining sibling, his only little sister far away without any protection.

This was the least he could do to assure her safety. Zaya was a strong magic user herself, but having a small army on her own would benefit her.

Rowan thought about that for a while. "Fair enough."

"And no mistress or any other woman aside from my sister." Zander's expression turned rigid when he said this.

It was well known that every kingdom had their own tradition and rules. And even though Ogregon kingdom was quite wild and free with women in the past, thing had changed ever since King Cane, Zander's father, changed the rule.

As a shifter, they should return to their root, as a monogamy creature.

However, Marca El people didn't follow the same rules. The last Zander heard, Rowan had five other brothers from different official mistress of

the previous king, but not to mention about the woman that the previous king had bedded on a whim.

"No mistress. No other woman. Only my sister."

Zander would agree to have a long discussion about the other demand, but for this one, he wouldn't budge.

"She will be the queen."

"That's not the answer for my demand." For a moment, they only stared at each other, until Zander stood up and nodded toward the door. "I think this is the end of the discussion."

Zander didn't need to hear the answer, if this king was having a doubt to agree to this condition, then there was nothing more for them to talk about.

"She will be the only woman." Rowan finally opened his mouth; he looked as calm as ever.

"You are having a doubt."

"No. I am not." Rowan shook his head. "I believed the princess will be more furious if I was being disloyal to her, more than you, king Zander."

He smiled at him; this time it looked genuine. "I only wondered for a moment what it felt like to have a sibling, who would risk everything to ensure my safety, since all of my siblings will be happy to stab me on the back the moment, I looked at the other direction."

"And you will bring my sister to such situation."

"I killed my father and brother, remember?" Rowan reminded him.

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"I am not happy," Zander said. He crossed his arms in front of his chest when he spoke. He stared at his sister, who was hugging him, but he refused to hug her back. He was sulking.

"Oh, come on, Zan. I did this for our kingdom. I did my duty as the princess of this kingdom. What are you complaining about?" Zaya furrowed her brows, those blue eyes stared back at Zander. Annoyed.

"You look happy to leave. You don't like someone, who is under the pressure. And now you are blushing." He pointed his finger at her cheeks.

Zaya swatted his finger from her cheeks. "I am not blushing, okay?" She glared at him, but her aggressiveness lacked of confidence. She knew that

he was right, but she would never admit that. "It's because of the light from the sunset."

They were currently in the garden, where Zaya was trying to cajole Zander from being irrational. He had agreed with the terms that Rowan gave to him and the other king had also agreed with his term.

However, Zander wanted to back away and plot against Rowan in order to breach the agreement. He had a second thought, if it was not the third or fourth of giving away Zaya to a foreign land.

Thankfully, Zaya knew about that and stopped him before he could really go on with his crazy plan. Pyro was the one, who informed her about this, because the royal beta thought the king was doing this out of impulsiveness and didn't think straight about the consequences.

Pyro was right. Zander simply didn't want Zaya to leave the kingdom again. He wanted to keep her within his sight. If he were going to lose her too... he didn't even want to think about that, but this feeling crept on the back of his mind and plagued his night and day.

He would be doomed if something happened to his little sister.

Zander touched her curls. He played it between his fingers, deep in thought and Zaya could only sigh and rest her head against his chest.

"I will be fine, okay?" She still hugged him, while he refused to reciprocate it. "You know that I will be fine. He will gain no benefit from harming me. He helped us during the battle, remember? The result might be different if he decided to help our enemy."

"He killed his father and brother."

"I heard they were not good people."

"I don't want you to live a life like that." Zander touched her cheek and this time he looked at her intensely.

"I am stronger than you think of me, Zan." She wouldn't be here, if she was not strong. Just because she was away from the messy court in this kingdom, it didn't mean her life was a smooth sailing.

After all, she lived in the Holy Kingdom, where they had done everything to keep her. Forced her to be strong to the point they could no longer restraint her.

Zaya had done everything to survive, just like Zander and Zenith. And she had gone through her struggle alone.

"I know you are; I just don't want to lose you too." Zander leaned over and kissed the tip of her nose before he finally hugged her.

They stayed like that for a while, talking about idle things of their childhood and for the first time they talked about Zenith.

Zaya was surprised, but it was therapeutic to talk about him. It made her feel relief because she was afraid that Zander would forget about him, which was a silly thing to think of.

Two months later the ships from Marca El came, there were around a hundred ships, which brought the one hundred knights that Zander demanded.

Zander was not really happy to see this, because it meant Zaya was so close to the day she would leave the continent and he didn't like this nagging feeling that told him to make her stay. He simply didn't want her to leave.

"What are you doing?!" Zaya hissed when she watched Rowan entered her bedroom through the window. She widened her eyes in surprised and immediately pulled him inside, just in case someone saw him.

"I want to see you, of course." Rowan's answer was very blunt. Zander had been pissing him off because he limited his time to meet with Zaya by asking him to do something else or call him to a meeting that lasted for

hours, but there was no conclusion in those 'meetings', since they didn't really talk about a real issue.

"Are you crazy?!" Zaya frowned in displeasure, she crossed her arms and faced the king, her blue eyes shone brightly under the moonlight.