

## Chapter 36

### Blake was in the Palace

"Who is that? Are you close with her?" Dawn stopped walking, her attention was on Darius.

The gamma then explained about this woman's background. She was actually a healer. She became the royal healer ten years ago. She was a talented and powerful healer, despite her young age.

"Obviously if there was someone close to her, it must be Zenith." Darius gave her a meaningful look. He knew, the one that she wanted to know if Aurel was close with or not, must be Zenith, not him. "Well, I don't know if you can say that the two of them are close or not, but all I can say is; the Alpha needs her."

"For what?"

"About that, you need to ask Zenith." Darius made a gesture to zip his mouth. "I can't tell you more than this."

Despite seeing Zenith seemingly infatuated with her, this matter was very crucial and he didn't think he was in the position to disclose or explain it.

"But, you don't need to worry, Zenith doesn't see her in a romantic way. Once his business is done with her, he will not engage himself with her."

"But, I don't think she sees him in the same way." Dawn continued walking, she contemplated this matter, instead of the problem with the poison. She really couldn't concentrate.

Zenith was supposed to be the one, who apologized to her for what happened that night, but now that he was gone for days, Dawn found herself becoming a little bit upset with his silence.

"If this woman named Aurel is that powerful, she should take care of the problem with the poison instead of me," Dawn mumbled to herself.

"She knew a lot about herbs, but she knew nothing about poison." Darius stretched his body. "She despised that subject and thought it was too low for her to learn about that."

Dawn scrunched her nose. "I don't like her."

"Yeah, me neither." Darius had encountered Aurel a few times and he could say that her presence was not pleasant. "So, do you know about the source of the poison?"

Dawn was startled with the question. "I need a few more days," she said in a small voice. She really needed to put her focus more on the problem with the poison and stop thinking about Zenith.

However, how could she do that when the alpha disappeared for a whole week? Dawn didn't even get a glance of him, as if he had vanished into thin air.

"Are you sure he is not going back to the pack and still in the capital city?" Dawn asked Darius on the eighth night Zenith disappeared. "How come I have never seen him?"

She had been roaming around the palace and not even once she caught his shadow.

Currently, she was sitting next to Darius in the dining hall, where all the important figures in the palace were present to eat together.

Every diner was like this here.

While Dawn was sitting on her seat below the platform of the king, where Zander sat with his royal beta and his royal gamma, she was on the platform above the officials, but slightly below the king. This was Zenith's place with his beta and gamma. Because the alpha was not here, thus Dawn sat with Darius.

"I am a hundred percent sure that Zenith is still in the palace," Darius said. "You might not be able to see him, but he can see you clearly and know everything that you are doing."

Dawn put down her cutleries and glared at him. "Are you spying on me and then reporting whatever we are doing to him?"

Darius grinned. "To be fair, I have been accompanying you for days, you can't say that I have been spying on you, moreover, I only report about my day..."

"Including the time you were with me."

"Exactly."

Dawn was frustrated. Zenith was too cunning. Why would he avoid her instead of apologizing for his wrongdoings and explaining himself?

Not to mention the king had been acting differently. Zander hadn't bothered her at all ever since that day. When they met each other, he was very polite and didn't even stop to tease her or engage in a conversation with her.

That was weird, but Dawn didn't think much about it. Her main problem currently was Aurel, who was sitting with the officials. She would occasionally give her a dirty look.

Two days later, Dawn found out the source of the poison. By that time, there were already ten warriors who couldn't shift and one of them had died, which in a horrific way, helped Dawn to focus more on this matter.

She pushed the thought of Zenith to the back of her mind, as someone else's life was at stake.

And now Dawn had found the source of it, she needed to see the king to discuss this matter right away, but she halted when a familiar scent hit her. She thought she was mistaken. There was no way he was here. What was he doing here?

Her mind was racing, but before she knew it, her feet had taken her to the throne room and there he was, standing in the presence of the king with determination in his eyes.

"I want to object to the union between Alpha Zenith and the daughter of Alpha Tony." Blake looked at the king. This was the first time he met with him. He had heard about this peculiarity, the fact that the king used to wear this golden mask in the presence of other people. "She is my destined mate and this sacred bond shouldn't be taken lightly."

Dawn was enraged when she heard that. The audacity of this man was palpable!

"She had rejected you."

"There was a mistake. I came here to straighten the misunderstanding between us." Blake lowered his head politely when he asked for a favor. "My King, please allow me to see my mate."

But amidst her anger, she realized one thing; she didn't feel any attachment toward him. The only feeling that was left was anger. She wanted to get inside and drag him out to snap him out of his delusional thoughts to think she would go back with him.

"'My mate' my ass," Dawn grumbled, she ignored the guards, who stared at her with a questioning look. They had received an order to let her roam around the palace and not to restrict her movements, thus she could be anywhere with no one questioning her. "You didn't think I was your mate when you fucked Emily."

Somehow, Dawn ended up peeking through the gap of the door, she watched how everything unfolded and what reaction the king would have upon Blake's request. She wished Zander wouldn't put her into trouble.

But, she was shocked when Zander ordered the guards to capture Blake and put him in a dungeon.

"What?" Dawn was confused, so was Blake, who became furious with this ridiculous order. He demanded an explanation from the king.

"My King! What do you mean by this?!" He roared angrily when two guards came to him and gave him Rottingbane to prevent him from shifting into his beast. This was very sudden, no one expected this order at all. "Why do you put me in the dungeon?! How could you do this?! My King! You are abusing your power!"

Dawn was too stunned to react and when she finally snapped out of it, they had taken Blake away through a different door from where she was standing.

"Come inside, I know you were there," the king said. His voice echoed in the throne room.

At first, Dawn didn't realize that it was her that the king talked about until the guard next to her nudged her shoulder.

"The King ordered you to enter the room." Most likely, the guard had informed the king about Dawn's presence that was why he knew she was here. "You have something to tell him too, right?" He felt slightly guilty, as he justified his action, even when Dawn didn't say anything.

Taking a deep breath, Dawn entered the throne room and greeted the king.

"All of you can leave." The king stood up from his throne and approached Dawn. His eyes from behind that golden mask of his looked so cold. This was very different from the king that Dawn knew.

The guards left the throne room and now this huge hall was very quiet.

"I want to talk about the poison," Dawn said. She came here for this matter, even though she was curious as to why the king put Blake in the dungeon.

"Is that what you wanted to talk about?" The king asked. He stopped right in front of Dawn, his piercing eyes stared straight into hers and she felt this familiar feeling.

"Yes." Dawn nodded.



The king remained quiet for a while. "Don't you want to know about your ex mate?"

Dawn thought about it, but she shook her head. "No. I don't care about him."

"Are you sure? Don't you care that I put him in the dungeon?" The king took a step closer, which forced Dawn to back off. He was being too close.

Dawn narrowed her eyes slightly. She felt something was off and she knew she couldn't be mistaken about this. "Why should I care? He is not my concern to be worried about."

The king remained quiet.

"Don't you want to know about the poison, My King?" Dawn thought she was crazy, but she really needed to make sure of her suspicion.

Her blood rushed in her veins when suddenly she snatched the mask off the king's face.

## Chapter 37

### She was going to Poison the King

Zenith saw this, he could have avoided Dawn's attempt to expose him, but he didn't do that. He stood there and let her take off his mask.

Dawn didn't really look surprised, as if she had expected this, her small lips quivered when she hissed with a thick hint of annoyance. "I know it's you."

These previous days, she didn't pick his scent because they were not close enough for her to notice this.

For some people, they might not be able to tell the difference between Zander and Zenith's scent, because they almost had the same scent, more so, aside from the royal beta and the royal gamma, the other people would keep their distance from the king.

"What now? Are you playing king?" Dawn didn't know why, but she could feel how hostile her words were.

A few days ago, she was still thinking as to how she would react when she met with Zenith again, but now he was standing in front of her, she felt nothing, but annoyance. He had fooled her for days!

"How long have you been playing the King?" She pressed her lips and when Zenith refused to answer her question, she didn't have any reason to stay. "I have business with the King, not you." She turned around and was about to leave when Zenith caught her hand and stopped her.

"I am sorry."

Dawn was still holding the golden mask in her hand. "For pretending to be the King?"

"For what I have done the other night," he said.

And at that time, Dawn could see the flicker of sadness in his eyes again, before it disappeared and he hid his emotion.

"Why did you do that?" Dawn sighed deeply. "Did you mean to hurt me?"

"No." Zenith's reply was very curt and it didn't explain anything, but this was how he was.

"Okay." Dawn waited for a while, waiting for him to give her some explanation, though she didn't know what kind of explanation that she was looking for. "I will talk about this with the King once he is here."

Dawn remembered that Zander had asked Zenith to take his position for a while as he had to go out to take care of something.

This must be the reason why Zenith played the king right now and Dawn was satisfied with her own assumption without feeling the need to confirm this.

Yet, when she was about to leave, Zenith was still holding her hand. "Oh, here." Dawn thought he wanted the mask back, since she was still holding onto it.

Zenith took the mask, but he still didn't let go of her.

"I don't know what you want, Zenith." Dawn had forgotten about Blake at this point. "If there is nothing you want to say, I will leave."

"Come here. You can meet with Zander now." Zenith didn't let go of her hand when he took her to the king's bedroom. He put on his mask again when they stepped out of the throne room.

There were no guards, since Zenith had told them to leave.

Only now Dawn realized how similar the two of them were, from their bodies to their voice, down to their scent. If she was not already very familiar with his scent and they weren't very close with each other, she wouldn't have known that he was Zenith either.

When Dawn went to the king's bedroom with Zenith, she saw the royal beta, the royal gamma and Darius were there.

The three of them were surprised to see her there, but Darius had a guilty conscience when he saw Dawn. He felt bad because he couldn't tell her that the king was Zenith all this time.

Darius was about to speak when Dawn glared at him and turned her head, ignoring him. But, she didn't have time to hold a grudge against the gamma when Zenith took her to the bed and there, she saw Zander was lying down with a pale face.

He opened his eyes and grinned when he saw Dawn's shocked expression.

"Wait!" Dawn took a step back and Zenith caught her before she tripped on her own feet. She was too shocked to see Zander's face for the first time.

The alpha even helped her to process the whole thing when he took off his mask. They had the same face!

No! They were twins!

Dawn thought the fact Zenith had been fooling her by pretending to be the king was the last thing that would surprise her today, but this was even harder to comprehend.

"You are twins!" The word came out like an accusation from her mouth.

Despite how pale Zander was, Dawn could see the eerie similarities between them, it almost felt like they were mirror images of each other.

Dawn looked around and the other three didn't seem surprised with this. Silly her. Of course, they knew about this from the beginning.

"Long time no see," Zander said with a grin. It was so weird to see Zenith's face smiling so carefree like that when she used to see him being gloomy most of the time.

"Why do you look like you are about to die?" The word just came out of her mouth, she didn't even think about it when she spoke. She was very upset.

"Insolent!" Pyro chided Dawn, but the royal gamma was laughing when he heard that, so did Darius, though he only let out a small chuckle.

Pyro didn't continue with his complaint when he caught Zenith's sharp glare, more so, Zander was also laughing with Dawn's question.

"Well, my luck ran out on my last outing." He called his last mission an outing.

"I think karma bit your back." Dawn made a snarky remark. This was indeed a karma for his attempt to kill her. How many times had he tried to do that?

"He was poisoned," Zenith finally explained. He didn't tell Dawn in detail about what kind of mission that Zander went to, he only told her about his visit to the harbor.

"Sorry to trouble you," Zander said with a smile on his lips. "I hope you can cure this one, or else I need Zenith to pretend to be me longer than this. He has been very snappy."

Dawn was still upset, but she pushed her annoyance down and checked on Zander's condition.

"You should be the royal healer, you know. I would like to have you in my court if you agree."

"Can you be quiet? I need to concentrate." Dawn felt annoyed at the very mention of the royal healer, because she knew who she was.

"Okay," Zander said obediently, but he was only quiet for a while before he spoke again. "Do you think I will die?"

Dawn ignored him and not long after she asked for Brettel flowers, a pinch of salt and a bowl of warm water.

"What is a Brettel flower?" Lance asked, none of them were familiar with such things.

"You have a royal healer, right? Why don't you ask her?" Dawn reminded them and Lance immediately left sheepishly.

"My offer still stands," Zander said.

"I will think about that."

Hearing her reply, Zenith frowned.



Half an hour later Lance returned, but this time, he didn't come alone, but with that green- eyed woman that had been glaring at Dawn at every chance she got.

"Who asked for the Brettel flowers?" Aurel asked, her high pitched voice was a bane of their ears. For some reason, she looked very furious.

"I thought I had mentioned all the things I needed. I have never mentioned additional people," Dawn said sarcastically.

They had never interacted before this, but it was weird to see how Aurel harbored such strong feelings toward Dawn when it was Zenith, who chased her out of the room the other day.

"Why did you bring her here?" Zenith looked at the royal gamma darkly. He hated to have this woman near Dawn.

The alpha stepped forward a little to cover Dawn behind his back, because right now Aurel was glaring daggers at his woman.

However, Dawn was not happy, she poked her head from behind his waist, since she was sitting on the edge of the bed.

"I am the royal healer, I need to know who asked for the Brettel flowers!" Aurel didn't even lower her voice.

"Me." Dawn raised her hand, she looked Aurel straight in her eyes. She saw the anger that lit up in her green eyes when she became frantic.

This woman was very loud.

"You have to capture her! She is going to kill the King!" Aurel pointed her finger at Dawn, but not only that, she marched toward her when all of them were still stunned with the accusation.

Dawn stood up as well, she was not going to sit down and take it when someone threw her a false accusation.

But, before Aurel could confront Dawn, Zenith had pushed her away, she stumbled back and thankfully Pyro caught her before she fell.

"Z- Zenith?" Aurel looked shaken with his aggression.

"Don't you dare lay your hand on my woman," Zenith growled dangerously, which startled all of them with the animosity that emanated from him.

On the other hand, Dawn was surprised with the way Zenith defended her, but at the same time, she felt this weird warm feeling. It had been a long

time since someone stood up for her... and it felt really good for not fighting alone.

"Do you even know that the Brettel flower is a poisonous plant?!" Aurel blurted out. "What is she going to do with that?!"

## Chapter 38

### Buried Next to Me

They didn't have any idea what the Brettel flowers were, more so that the plant was actually a poisonous plant.

"Poisonous plant? Are you sure?" Lance's face turned serious and Pyro glared at Dawn, asking for explanation in this matter, while Darius was alerted seeing how the situation escalated. He moved closer to Zenith and Dawn, just in case things went south.

"Yes!" Aurel nodded, her green eyes blasted with confidence. "Tell me if that's not a poisonous plant. Do you dare to lie?"

Zenith glanced at Dawn, but he didn't budge from his position, shielding his woman, but Dawn's next statement surprised all of them.

"I have never said that the Brettel flower is not poisonous. Yes, it's a poisonous plant," Dawn admitted lightly.

"See?!" Aurel pointed her accusatory finger at Dawn. Her eyes widened in disbelief. "She tried to poison the King! This is an act of treason! She tried to kill the King!"

The accusation was very heavy. Admitting that the Brettel flower was a poisonous plant was one thing, but being accused of attempting to kill the king was a serious matter.

"You heard what she said! You need to capture her and throw her in the dungeon!" Aurel was livid.

Dawn didn't understand where her hostility came from when they had never been entangled in any altercation before this.

"Lady Dawn, please provide your explanation," Pyro said. He didn't immediately do what Aurel told him to do. After all, he was the royal beta, he didn't take any orders other than the ones from the king.

"You should catch her immediately! Why do you need an explanation from her?!" Aurel was being vicious and loud.

"Can you be quiet? You are in the presence of the King," Lance said sternly, he crossed his arms in front of his chest. He didn't know what was going on, but Aurel became very vile recently, precisely since she learned that Zenith came back with a woman that would be his chosen mate.

"Be quiet, Aurel," Pyro emphasized his words when he saw Aurel was about to retort Lance's words. This time, the healer clamped her mouth

shut, though unhappily. "Explain to us, why did you want to give the King a poisonous plant?"

"I am not going to kill him, okay." Dawn started with this, she needed to make it clear that it was not her intention at all before she explained about the Brettel flowers.

Aurel was right to say the Brettel flower was a poisonous plant, but her knowledge was not enough to tell that a poisonous plant could be used as an antidote too, just like how medicine could be a poison with the wrong dose, the same sense applied to poison as well.

Dawn explained that to the healer. But, while the others seemed to grasp the analogy, Aurel was still obstinate with her own understanding.

"There is no way something like that could happen!" Aurel hissed. "Do you really believe her? Will you let your brother be treated with poison by her?" This time she talked directly to Zenith. "Zen, I know that you are worried about your brother, but it's a big mistake to entrust his life to her."

Dawn was upset, she was only here to help. Couldn't anyone understand it would be very stupid of her if she really wanted to kill the king by using a method so obvious like this?

"So, you think I am going to kill the King?" Dawn stood up, she stepped forward from behind Zenith and faced Aurel directly. "How stupid I am to make it very obvious."

Aurel smirked when Dawn said 'stupid', as if the latter admitted that she was not that smart, which annoyed Dawn.

"You are the one who said it," Aurel sneered. She glared at Dawn because she was standing too close to Zenith and she didn't like the sight.

"Yeah, why don't I stab him directly if I want it to be so obvious?" Dawn wondered if Aurel and Emily met, would they be best friends? "Since you are suspicious of me, you can take care of this matter yourself." Dawn raised both of her arms. "I am here because Zenith brought me here."

With that, Dawn walked away, she didn't want to spend another second inside this room with this weird healer, who thought she knew everything.

And if they didn't want her help, that was fine with her. She wouldn't beg to help someone, who didn't want to be helped.

However, Aurel grabbed Dawn's elbow when she walked past her to stop her. "Where do you think you are going?! Are you trying to run away after attempting to kill the King?"

"Let me go or I will claw your face," Dawn said. She felt deja vu, the same thing happened to her back in her old pack.

"Don't you want to help Dawn? You need to stop them, right?" The gamma looked nervous to know what was going to happen.

"Why do I need to stop them?" Zenith crossed his arms and watched how everything unfolded and Darius frowned when he saw the indulgent smile on the corner of the alpha's lips, as if he was enjoying a show.

"Do you dare?!" Aurel growled, her grip on her elbow tightened and this made Dawn mad, her claws elongated from the tips of her fingers, she was ready to claw her face when Lance stopped her in time.

The royal gamma held her wrist when she raised her hand, ready to claw Aurel's face.

However, Zenith moved very quickly, as he held Lance's hand, which held Dawn's.

"Let go of her!" Zenith growled. He was serious, his grip on Lance's hand tightened and you could hear the sound of his bones breaking and the royal gamma grimaced. He was forced to let go of Dawn's wrist.



Once he did that, Zenith swatted Aurel's hand from Dawn. He did it harshly, which made the healer yelp in pain, but it was unfortunate for her that the alpha didn't care about her pain, as he took his woman and walked out of the room.

Darius immediately followed Zenith and Dawn out of the room as well. He glanced over his shoulder and watched how Lance tried to console Aurel.

"So? What now?" Zander asked, he finally opened his mouth when his twin brother had left the room with his people. He pushed himself to sit down and Pyro immediately came to help him. "Can you cure me?"

Zander's voice was impassive, he didn't seem to pity Aurel at all when she was clearly in pain. She was not a shifter, thus if Zenith broke her bones when he swatted her hand, she would need to ask another healer to cure her.

"You dared to chase her out, I assume you have come up with something to cure the poison in me?" Zander probed Aurel. His happy-go-lucky demeanor disappeared and he looked almost as cold as Zenith.

"My King, I have been trying to find out a way to cure the poison, just give me some time..." Aurel said, as she lowered her head and stopped herself from crying in pain.

She was the first person who learned about the king's condition, but because she was not familiar with poison, she didn't have any idea what to do. She thought the poison could be cured with medicine, no illness couldn't be cured with the right medicine. Curing poison shouldn't be a problem, right?

"The plant that the woman wanted to give you is poisonous, My King, I can vouch for that."

"Didn't she say it can be a cure too with the right dose?" Zander narrowed his eyes. He listened to what Dawn explained earlier and to him that made sense.

"No. That can't be. I don't know what her motive is, but how could she cure your poison with another poison?" Aurel insisted with her theory.

Right now, Zander looked so pale, but his clear blue eyes were so cold. He didn't want to talk about this matter anymore and waved his hand.

"For your understanding, Aurel, if I have to be buried because of this poison, you will be buried next to me."

Aurel gasped. She visibly trembled in fear when she heard that and what made it worse was the fact she knew the king would go through with his words.

People out there might see the alpha from the north as the cruel one and the king as the sunshine after the rain, the warm light on a winter night, but you would be surprised to know that the two of them were equally cruel in their own way.

"Yes, My King."

After that, Lance took Aurel out of the room, while Pyro stayed and talked to the king. "How do you feel?"

"Awful." Zander felt so much pain, he felt like every movement was torturous, but he didn't show it. Normal people would have wailed in pain and lost their temper, but Zander endured it well. "Did you get any information from the harbor?"

"Not really." Pyro scrunched his nose. "But, now we know there is a spy inside the palace."

"Well, that's not a surprise."

Zander expected a spy or two within his people, but the involvement of a dark magic user was the last thing among his considerations.

On the other hand, Zenith had put his mask on, but he was still holding Dawn's hand when he walked, which made all the guards there glance at them.

"I think you need to let go of my hand, this is weird," Dawn said in a low voice.

But, instead of letting her go, Zenith pulled her into an empty room.

## Chapter 39

### The King's Condition got Worse

The memories came trickling down in Zenith's mind. At first, it was only a sad face of Dawn that he saw, the resentment and pain in her eyes haunted him before the strong feeling of remorse hit him, without him knowing what actually he had done to feel such regret.

However, as days went by and the closer he got to her, it was almost like the barrier that clouded his mind finally lifted and the memories came rushing back.

After that night, more awful memories hit him.

No one knew about this.

No one could understand his dreams.

"Zenith, I don't think it is appropriate for you to bring me here," Dawn said, her expression worried. She glanced at the closed door.

For other people, Zenith was the king and for him to pull her into an empty room when all the people knew she was here with Zenith to have their ceremony, would create a rumor. Dawn didn't want that.

However, Dawn didn't understand what was in Zenith's mind right now. He looked distraught. But then, she couldn't look at his face with this stupid golden mask in her way.

"What happened?" Dawn's voice softened when Zenith just stood there, staring at her. He pressed her against the door, but he didn't do anything else, or say something to explain his actions. "Zenith, I don't understand you." Dawn shook her head. "I can't read your mind and if you want me to be your mate, I don't want to deal with this confusion."

Dawn was willing to give their relationship a try, once she learned this alpha from the north was not as bad as people portrayed him. In fact, he was rather overprotective, but then, Dawn couldn't understand his erratic behavior and his weird dreams.

She had put up with his brother's attempt to murder her, but Zenith's actions made it more difficult.

"What's going on? That dream again?" Dawn tilted her head. She wanted to scream at him to stop hanging onto those dreams, but she didn't have a heart to say so when Zenith was very serious about it. "What did you dream about this time?"

Dawn stretched out her hands to take off his mask and just like before, he didn't avoid her and let her take it off.

"Can I kiss you?"

Dawn raised her brows. Well, the question came out of nowhere.

She wanted an explanation alright, but why did she end up with this request? And now, he even asked for permission when before he claimed he didn't need one to do whatever he wanted.

Could you call that an improvement?

"Only if you explain to me what's going on with your weird behavior." Dawn didn't want to be taken advantage of without getting any benefit in return. She was still upset with him because of how scary it was to be held down by him.

"You told me to leave you alone."

The answer was very simple.

Dawn was speechless. "Do you know how scary it was for me when you held me down and I can't do anything to fight you back?"

"I am sorry. That will never happen again."

The apology sounded genuine, though it was very short and this actually made Dawn feel bad. Was Zenith out of his mind for a moment that night? He indeed snapped out of it in time and did what she told him to do.

"Do the dreams still come?"

"Yes." Zenith rested his forehead against hers, he looked lethargic. "More vivid than ever."

Dawn still couldn't grasp the reasoning behind these dreams, but from the looks of it, it bothered Zenith immensely.

"Am I forgiven?"

Dawn thought about it for a while. "For now, yes. But, if you do that again, I can only remind you that I have rejected my destined mate and I don't have any qualms to reject you too."



Dawn felt so bold to even give the alpha a warning. If it was weeks ago, when she knew him for the first time, she wouldn't have the courage to talk back to him.

"Okay." Zenith nodded and then tilted his head to look her straight in the eyes. "Can I have my kiss now?"

"Are you really that cruel alpha from the north?" Dawn narrowed her eyes, but she tiptoed and kissed him on the lips, it was only a peck, as if she was teasing him, but when Zenith leaned over to get more, Dawn stopped him. "No."

This time, he obliged and stopped.

Wow. Dawn was truly amazed. She felt like this cruel alpha had turned into a big puppy now.

Days passed and Zenith still played the role of the king. He was occupied with the matters in the palace and Dawn didn't have anything better to do aside from preparing her ceremony.

Since that day, she had not met with Zander again and she didn't know how his condition was right now. More so, she had not yet discussed the matter about the poison in the warriors' quarters.

Zenith said she could discuss it with Zander later. He wouldn't take care of that matter and it was enough for him to sit on the throne and pretend to be him, he was not going to do more than that.

"Don't you worry about your brother's condition?" Dawn asked, she was in the king's study room. Darius sneaked her in after she met with the seamstress to make her gown for the ceremony. "He looked so bad the last time I saw him."

"He is still alive," Zenith replied.

Dawn couldn't understand the essence of her being there when Zenith had a lot of reports that he had to read and Dawn couldn't stop asking a thing or two out of boredom.

But, even so, Zenith would answer all of her questions, though he had buried his face in the parchment.

"Good to hear that." Dawn shrugged her shoulders. "Don't you worry about him?"

"He chose to believe in that healer." Zenith put down the parchment and then looked at Dawn. "If he died, it's on him. You said it yourself that he had a week or two. He still has plenty of time."

Dawn had explained about what kind of poison that Zander came in contact with and based on the examination that she did the last time they met, he had limited time before the poison flared and it could kill him.

"You can't help someone who refuses to be helped."

"Hey, that's what I always thought."

Zenith smiled. "I know." He stretched out his hand and caressed her hair. "You said it all the time."

Dawn frowned. "I did?" She didn't remember she had ever mentioned anything like that before, but maybe she just remembered it incorrectly.

Zenith pulled her to sit on his lap, as he explained a few important reports in his hands, some of them even carried secrets that no one should know.

"Is it okay for me to read all of this?"

"I want you to understand this, you never know when it will be useful to you."

And another day passed.

And today was the sixth day when Darius knocked on her door very early in the morning, he woke her up anxiously and this startled Dawn. Thankfully, he didn't walk into the room directly.

"What is it?" Dawn asked hoarsely when she finally opened the door and saw Darius' worried expression.

"Zander is unconscious, you need to see him," he said in a low voice, so no one would hear this, since all the people still thought that Zenith was the king.

"A minute," Dawn said. She needed to change her dress because she couldn't go out in her nightgown.

A minute later, Dawn went out with Darius, she had her hair tied into a simple bun on top of her head, she didn't wear any accessories and her bareface was beautiful, though it was laced with anxiety.

If Zander fell unconscious it meant the poison had spread too far in his body. It shouldn't be that bad, since it was only the sixth day since the last time Dawn saw him.

"What happened?" Dawn asked when she entered the room and made a beeline toward the bed. Zenith was also there, standing next to his unconscious brother, while Aurel looked pale, as she checked on Zander's condition.

"What is she doing here?!" Aurel freaked out when she saw Dawn.

"The Alpha called her to come here," Darius explained briefly and Aurel was not happy about it.

"I told you I can handle this!" Aurel looked at Pyro, who was standing on the other side of the bed. "Take her out, her presence only hinders my thought process."

"I don't take an order from you, Aurel." The royal beta reminded her again and then approached Dawn. "Are you sure you know what to do about this poison?"

Dawn was certain. "Yes."

"No way." Aurel hissed.

"Shut up, Aurel!" Pyro snapped at her. "This is not the right time for your petty jealousy! Get up and let her check the king!"

Aurel wanted to retort, but Lance shook his head. "Get up now, Aurel," the royal gamma said darkly.

Left with no other choice, Aurel stood up, but she warned Dawn before she started to check on the king.

"I just want to warn you that you could be punished with the death sentence if the King's condition gets worse." The hostility was very thick in Aurel's voice.

Dawn scoffed. "Shouldn't you get the death sentence now, since the King's condition got worse under your care?"

## Chapter 40

### Are You trying to Kill the King

If it was any other day, Darius would laugh to see how Aurel got humbled very quickly, but not in this situation. They were too tense to know the king's condition.

Zenith could replace him for a week or two, or even more than that, but obviously, he couldn't play the role for the rest of his life if something really happened to his brother.

More so, the death of the king would push the kingdom into utter chaos, it would jeopardize a lot of things.

But even more, Zenith wouldn't be able to leave unscathed.

People who wanted to take him down would attribute the king's death with the fact Zenith was there. It would implicate him in the long run.

There was a reason why Zander and Zenith created an image that the two of them didn't get along well with each other, when in truth, behind the shadows, the twins often worked together and this was not the first time

for Zenith to take the role as the king when Zander had to leave the palace incognito.

"Is that a threat?" Aurel gritted her teeth.

"That's a reminder." Dawn pushed Aurel out of her way and sat down on the edge of the bed. "Can you be quiet? You have talked too much already, don't you think?"

Dawn couldn't understand the blind hatred that Aurel harbored toward her. Yes, she did know that this healer had a crush on Zenith or something, but did she think by hating her, Zenith would like her instead?

Lance took the initiative to get to Aurel's side and talk in a low voice to her, he looked stern when he handled this healer.

It took Dawn a while when she checked on Zander. Her brows furrowed and she tried to remember the lesson that she learned from the healer in her pack. It was not easy since she was not born as a healer, there was this healing power that only someone born as a healer could use.

"What did you give to the king?" Dawn frowned, she looked at Aurel sharply. "What did you feed him?"

"Of course, I fed him medicine! What do you think I gave him?"



Dawn rolled her eyes. "Be specific."

Aurel looked annoyed, but thankfully Zenith took the matter into his own hands and asked Pyro to give him Zander's health record.

"You can't show it to her."

"Do you have any objections?" Zenith literally growled at the healer, which turned her into a meek woman.

Pyro couldn't ignore the order, thus he immediately fetched the king's health record and gave it to Zenith, which he gave to Dawn.

The royal beta didn't like this, because the king's health record was not something that you could see casually and not everyone was allowed to read that, but he couldn't say anything.

Dawn immediately skimmed the record and was surprised to see the last medicine that Aurel gave to Zander.

"Are you stupid?!" Dawn snapped at the healer fiercely. "Why did you give him Agonalia powder?!"

"What? What happened?" Lance immediately looked at Aurel. All of them were startled with Dawn's sudden anger.

"Th- that's because the King has been in so much pain, I gave it to him to alleviate the pain!" Aurel screamed back at Dawn. She knew what she was doing.

"How could you be the royal healer?" Dawn said sharply, which made Aurel visibly flinch.

"What is wrong?" Zenith asked, to see Dawn distraught like this, it was not a good sign.

Dawn then explained that while Agonalia powder could alleviate the pain, it would also have a calming effect, which meant, Zander didn't realize that his body was starting to get worse. In some cases, you couldn't not feel any pain at all, while the pain could be an indicator whether the medicine that was given had an effect or not.

In this case, even when the medicine didn't work and originally Zander would be in so much pain because of that, he was not able to know because Aurel gave Agonalia powder to numb his ability to feel his own body.

"But... but the King was in so much pain... And that's the right procedure," Aurel said. In a different case, she was right, but they were facing a slow acting poison right now.

"You really need to get down from your high horse and learn about poison," Darius commented and he got a dagger look from the healer, but unfortunately for her, the gamma stood by his alpha's woman. He didn't care much about her.

Pyro immediately got something from the cabinet and handed it to Dawn. It was the Brettel flower that she requested a few days ago.

"Can you save him?" His expression was very serious. Aurel had proven that she couldn't and this matter was very far beyond her capabilities.

"This is not enough," Dawn said, she shook her head.

"What else do you need? Tell me." Pyro was usually a calm and level headed person, but even Dawn could tell how anxious he was. "Tell me and I will get it for you."

"First, you need to extract the effect of Agonalia powder from his body." Dawn looked at Aurel. She needed to do it by using her healing power, since there was no way Dawn could do it.

"But, he will be in so much pain." Aurel was not happy to receive an order from Dawn.

"Didn't you listen to my explanation earlier?"

"What is it?" Lance asked, preventing this unnecessary argumentation.  
"What else do you need?"

Dawn ignored Aurel's outburst and focused on the matter at hand. "There are these two things that I need to make a concoction with." She mentioned Treann Birch and the skin of Elbrone fish.

"What is that?" Darius had never heard the things that Dawn mentioned.  
"Where can we get that?"

"We have Treann Birch," Aurel said begrudgingly. "But, you will not be able to find the skin of Elbrone fish. Most people in this continent don't eat fish."

"No. I didn't say it's a literal fish." Dawn explained that it was a plant that generally grew in swamps.

Aurel was too ashamed to say that she didn't know anything about that, thus she shut her mouth.

"For the meantime, you can expel the effect of Agonalia powder from the King's body. I will try to prevent the poison from getting worse," Dawn said. She then took the Brettel flowers and asked Zenith to show her where the kitchen was. She was going to make a concoction.

It wouldn't dispel all the poison, since it had spread to Zander's vital organs, but it was enough to prevent it from flaring up.

"Wait, I will show you..." Darius was about to go with Dawn, but Zenith stopped him.

"Come with me," Zenith said, he guided her out of the room and the two of them went to the south part of the palace.

"He shouldn't go with her so casually like that." Darius was concerned that this would give rise to a rumor between the king and Dawn. People then would come after Zenith so hard and use this opportunity to create trouble again.

But then, Darius could only sigh deeply.

"What are you waiting for?" Pyro asked Aurel. "Do as she said." He frowned at Aurel, who didn't do anything and only stood there quietly.

"Do you really believe her?"

"Do you have another option?" Pyro narrowed his eyes. "You might be useful for Zenith, but misdiagnosing the King and causing his demise is the highest crime that you need to think about."

Aurel didn't say anything anymore and went to do what Dawn told her. She was not happy. But at the same time, she wondered how could Dawn be very knowledgeable about poison when she was not even a healer?

On the other hand, all the omegas in the kitchen trembled in fear when they saw the king. They immediately knelt down and were too afraid to even breathe a little louder, especially with the aloof and cold aura that emanated from the sovereign.

"M- my King... do you need something?" The head of the kitchen asked in fear. Even though they lived in the palace, it didn't mean they were privileged to see the king all the time.

"All of you can leave," Zenith said. He waved his hand and all of them immediately left the kitchen.

"You don't need to look so scary, you know." Dawn felt bad for those people, but she started to prepare the things that she needed.

Meanwhile, Zenith sat down on the chair, he didn't take off his golden mask, but Dawn was able to see that he had closed his eyes.

"You don't need to accompany me here," Dawn said, thinking Zenith might be tired with a lot of things that he had to handle.

However, when Dawn saw him not budging from his position, she could only sigh and continue with her task.

Zenith woke up around an hour later and watched Dawn from behind, he asked a few questions about the concoction.

This concoction was not easy to make, because she needed to make sure the heat was stable and she had to stir it without stopping for three hours straight.

"Three hours?" Zenith immediately stood up. "You should tell someone else to do it."

Dawn couldn't see his expression, but she could hear how pissed he was.

"No, can't. It's too complicated."

"How long have you been standing here for?"

"An hour."

It left her with two more hours.