

Chapter 41

The Alpha of the Moonlight Pack

Stirring this concoction was not as easy as it seemed, you have to know when you have to stir it slowly or fasten your movement, and to top it, you need to control the fire as well. It couldn't be too small, but couldn't be too big either, because it could spoil the concoction.

In other words, within those three hours, you need to focus on the concoction alone and must not get distracted. This was the most tiring part and when the healer in her pack taught her this concoction, Dawn felt like giving up and forgetting about it several times.

Thankfully, she didn't.

"You have to keep the color dark green like this, if the color changes into light green, you need to add salt and if it turns to a darker shade, you need to check the fire and slow down the stirring."

Dawn explained all of this to Zenith, when he insisted for her to let someone else do it.

"That's why, I can't let anyone else do it," Dawn said, she added a pinch of salt because the color changed.

Zenith was not happy with this, but there was nothing he could do when he knew nothing about the concoction while his brother's life was on the line.

And after three hours of boiling the concoction, finally it was done. She got only two bowls of it.

"Let's go," Dawn said, she massaged her hand, which felt so numb. She was tired and wanted to clean herself because she was sweating.

But, before Dawn could take the tray, on which she put the two bowls of concoction, Zenith stopped her. "Let someone else bring this."

Zenith then called one of the omegas to bring the tray to the king's bedroom, but she didn't enter the room, because Zenith took it from her hands and dismissed her.

The omegas, who worked in the kitchen, started talking about how the king was making something with the alpha's chosen mate. Speculation started and rumors spread slowly...

"You need to make him drink this every five hour." Dawn pointed to the two bowls. "I will make another batch later. He needed to drink this for three days at least, after that, let's see his condition."

"Every five hours?" Darius frowned. "And, after making this for three hours, you only got two bowls? How many times do you have to repeat the process?"

Dawn yawned, she stretched her body. Her hand was numb now. "As many as necessary." She then reminded them again to give the concoction every five hours. "I still have less than seven hours now to make the next concoction. I am going to rest, wake me up only if it's important and don't forget to find those two ingredients as soon as possible. This concoction will not be able to cure all the poison; he will get side effects too if he consumes this too much."

And after giving a few other pointers, Dawn left the room, she stopped Zenith from coming with her.

"No. I don't want rumors flying around." It was already bad enough for people to see her going inside the king's room very casually.

More so, as the alpha's daughter, she knew the decorum and she had to keep her image clean. She didn't want a scandal, okay? The problem with Blake was already scandalous enough.

With that, Dawn left them and went back to her bedroom, after she cleaned herself and changed her clothes, she went to bed and slept.

But, little did she know, when she was already fast asleep, Zenith entered the room and checked on her...

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Jason was extremely furious with Ava because of what his son had done.

"And only now you told me about this?!" Jason was so mad, he raised his voice, something that he had never done before.

"Please, understand our son..."

"You lied and then covered up for him! That's what I understand!" Jason roared and this made Ava clamp her mouth shut and lower her head. She was very afraid of her mate right now. Tears streamed down her face.

Blake told him that he was going to the harbor to take care of the problem there, but it didn't take long for Jason to get a report that he had never arrived, only then Ava confessed what their son was up to.

Livid was an understatement to describe what Jason felt right now.

"He went to the palace and there was no news from him for days?!" Jason growled angrily, while Ava kept crying and apologizing.

"What should we do now? Do you think the King punished him? What should we do now?"

Jason wanted to lash out again, but he held himself back. There was no point in screaming in his mate's face. Right now, he needed to figure out what happened to his son in the palace and the only person who could help him was the alpha.

Jason didn't say anything, as he stormed out of the house and went to the pack house to tell Alpha Tony what was actually going on.

At first, Jason thought the alpha would scold him, but as it turned out, he was very calm and agreed to go to the capital city.

"We will leave tomorrow."

"I will make the necessary preparations."

Actually, Tony had been wanting to go to the capital city since he heard about Dawn's whereabouts, but he didn't have the courage to face his daughter. The disappointment in her eyes still haunted his sleep.

Not only that, Julia also kept discouraging him from going. She kept blowing into his ear that Dawn would never forgive him for what he had done and now his relationship with Julia and Emily was very tense.

Later that night, when Julia learned about Tony's plan to go to the capital city to see Dawn, she made a fuss again.

"Do you really think she will agree to see you!?" Julia's voice was so harsh, it was heavy with anger. "There is no point in meeting her! She hates all of us!"

"She is my daughter! She will understand!"

"She is going to marry into the royal family! She is going to make our lives miserable!" Julia shouted back. "I am going with you too!"

The fight was so loud, a few pack members avoided the alpha's quarters altogether. They had been fighting a lot these days and they felt bad for their alpha.

Tony stormed off after this meaningless fight and didn't return that night, he chose to stay in Dawn's bedroom. He missed his daughter so badly.

"Mother." Emily entered the room; she looked visibly pregnant now. Not only her mother, she was also under so much stress because Blake had been treating her horribly. She couldn't believe that he was still hung up on Dawn even when she was pregnant with his firstborn. "Do you think it's a mistake?"

"What are you talking about?!" Julia snapped at her daughter. She didn't want to have another argument after her fight with Tony, but Emily talked nonsense.

"Alpha Zenith is part of the royal family, if I mated with him instead, wouldn't that have made me a princess?" Emily was not happy with this fact. Dawn's position right now was actually hers, but because of her mother's interference, Dawn would have a higher rank than her.

No. She would be the highest ranked female shifter in this continent after the ceremony, since the king had not yet found his queen.

The thought of that alone made her sick.

"We are talking about Alpha Zenith! Haven't you heard how cruel that man is?" Julia was frustrated. "Do you want to live in that pack full of monsters? Spending the rest of your life there?!"

Emily grimaced. That was the bad part of being Alpha Zenith's mate. "But, if I can be a princess, I don't mind living there."

"That alpha could kill you!"

"Dawn is still alive now." And she was going to have a big ceremony for her union with Alpha Zenith. She would be a princess. Emily felt her stomach churning. Anger and hatred boiled in her veins.

"It's not worth it. The Alpha from the north and the King don't have a good relationship."

Emily didn't seem to listen to what her mother said. "She is going to be part of the royal family. That position should be mine." Her brows furrowed deeply with the realization.

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As Dawn promised, she woke up after sleeping for three hours and then ate before she continued to make the next concoction for Zander. The process was exhausting, but thankfully, Zenith was not there to accompany her.

But, even on the next day, Dawn didn't see Zenith, she didn't see him during breakfast or dinner, but she didn't really mind it, because she was busy as well.

Only on the third day, Dawn finally saw him. He gave her a small box when she came to the king's bedroom to check on Zander.

The king was still unconscious, but he was not as pale as before.

"Is that what you are looking for?" Zenith asked, he gestured for her to open the box.

The small box was a little bit heavy and inside, Dawn could see the thing that she was looking for and she was rather surprised. "Yes! This is what I am looking for!"

"Great! You can make the concoction now, right?" Lance asked excitedly. The royal gamma started to warm up to Dawn and sometimes, he would even volunteer to accompany her in the kitchen.

"Absolutely."

But Pyro entered the room and informed Zenith that someone requested to meet with him. "Alpha Tony and his beta from the Moonlight pack."

Chapter 42

Dawn's Petty Revenge

Dawn expected to see her father, because she decided to invite him for the ceremony, but she didn't expect to see her father this soon.

Pyro looked at Dawn, as the royal beta, he knew how the relationship between Dawn and her father currently was. He was also well aware of what had gone down the last time Dawn was in her pack.

"Why are you all looking at me?" Dawn asked, she frowned. She could sense the atmosphere shift. "Alpha Tony requested a meeting with the King, it has nothing to do with me. If Beta Jason is also here, it means they wanted to ask about his son."

Dawn appeared nonchalant, as she waved the box in her hand.

"I am going to make a concoction." Dawn glanced at Darius and asked him to come with her to help. "Don't bother me for the next ten hours. I want to get done with this quickly. It's so tiring to deal with this and the preparation of the ceremony."

This matter wouldn't have dragged on for too long if Aurel didn't interfere and worsened Zander's condition.

After saying that, she walked away with Darius in tow.

But, once she was out of the king's bedroom, her aloofness disappeared. She lowered her head, deep in thought.

"Do you want to see your father?" Darius asked. The silence was very uncomfortable for him, but Dawn didn't respond to the question. "If you want to meet with him, you can just say so to Zenith."

Darius didn't think Zenith would let them meet easily though, knowing how he rejected all the letters that came from the Moonlight pack.

"If he wants to see me, he will ask for a meet up." Dawn hastened her steps. If her father really wanted to see her, he didn't need to bring Beta Jason with him. Since the beta was here, it meant, their main purpose to come was to ask about Blake.

Once again, her father let her down by putting her second.

Darius wanted to talk, but then he clamped his mouth shut and as he helped Dawn with the concoction, he felt like she got her sweet revenge on him by ordering him around, rendering him unable to talk.

"Focus on your task, if you mess this up, you will put the King's health at risk," Dawn said sternly, as she instructed Darius on how to stir the concoction.

The gamma felt like crying; his hand was numb.

On the other hand, Zenith graced Alpha Tony and Beta Jason with his presence. He was sitting on the throne, staring down at the two of them, who were still kneeling in front of him. They couldn't get up, because the king didn't say anything.

Therefore, Alpha Tony had to talk in his kneeling position.

And the first thing that came out of his mouth was; Blake. He asked to meet with Blake, because they heard his beta's son had visited the palace, but had never returned to his inn.

"I sent him to the dungeon." The way Zenith said it was very casual, as if he was talking about the weather and Pyro, who was standing next to him, gave him a look.

The royal beta had warned him that he shouldn't create trouble for the king, because it would be Zander, who had to clean up after his mess once he had regained his consciousness and resumed his position.

Yet, Zenith didn't even give him any acknowledgment of his existence

"What crime had he committed, My King?" Beta Jason was shocked to hear that. He knew that his son had come to the palace to seek Dawn, but what had he done until it caused him to be sent to the dungeon?

"What crime you say!" Zenith leaned his body forward. His eyes narrowed sharply. "Having desire for a woman who does not belong to him and acting on it, it's considered a crime in this continent," he said viciously. "Coveting a chosen mate of the royal family member and blatantly seeking the said woman is treason. Do you want me to continue?"

"T- treason?" Beta Jason was stuttering. He was shocked by the accusation. "There is no way... that's too far, My King! This is a huge misunderstanding!"

"He can be hanged anytime soon for his crimes after an investigation."

Pyro thought Zenith went too far, too. He took advantage of his position as the king. He wondered why he was going to such lengths just for that woman. Zenith had never been reckless like this before.

"I can explain!"

"Who told you to stand up?" Zenith asked lazily when he saw Beta Jason stand up from his kneeling position and was about to approach him, to give him this so-called explanation. "Talk from where you are beta. Comfortably."

Meanwhile, Alpha Tony was shocked. This must be the third time he met the king in person, but the aura that he gave off was very different.

The king lived up to the people's expectations, as a benevolent and kind sovereign, but the man before him was very different from the one he met twice in the past. He remembered the odd golden mask that he used to wear, but it almost felt like it was a different person behind the mask.

"His trial will be scheduled three days from now." Zenith stood up. He had wasted enough of his time by entertaining them. "You are dismissed."

"My King!" Beta Jason immediately stood up and wanted to approach the king. "Your Highness!"

However, royal guards immediately stopped him as royal warriors blocked his way from going closer to the king, while Pyro glanced over his shoulder and watched how the beta was mortified to hear his son would go into a trial.

"You went too far, Zen."

Zenith spared him a glance. "You judged me too fast. You know what it would have looked like if I went too far."

Pyro pressed his lips. He knew better than to provoke Zenith further, because he could really show him how far he could go.

The least he could do was to wait for Zander to regain his consciousness and let the king clean up after his brother's mess.

He wondered about the concoction that Dawn was making right now. He was still ill at ease with that woman and wondered how she, as a shifter, was very knowledgeable about poison.

More so...

Pyro stared at Zenith's back. He had never seen this side of Zenith before. He didn't know that he could be very caring about his future chosen mate when originally, he wanted to kill her off. What changed?

At the same time, Dawn got additional help when Lance curiously came to the kitchen and she took advantage of this royal gamma to help her as well.

"Ten hours?!" Lance and Darius exclaimed at the same time.

"Yes. Ten hours." Dawn emphasized her words clearly.

"No. I am just curious about what you are doing, so I came to see." Lance scrambled with his words; he wanted to get out of this kitchen. He couldn't imagine himself having to spend the next ten hours here, grinding the herbs.

"Don't stop," Dawn said when she saw Lance was about to put down the mortar and pestle. "If you do it wrong, the concoction will be spoiled and it will have a bad effect on the king."

Lance froze, he didn't dare to stop.

Dawn smirked. "Do you think I don't know that you came here to investigate me? You don't trust what I am doing, right?"

"No." The answer was too fast for it to sound believable. Lance then cleared his throat. "I only wondered what you were doing here..."

"Don't stop." Dawn warned the royal gamma again when he was about to stop, because he was in a hurry to give Dawn an explanation. "The toxicity of the ingredients is pretty high. You can accidentally make a poison instead of an antidote."

Lance felt like crying, while Darius was too scared to provoke her further.

The worst part was; they didn't even know whether Dawn was telling the truth or she was just bluffing them and they couldn't even call her out for it.

And after ten begrudging hours, the antidote was finally done and Dawn was very happy to see the outcome was as she expected, while Lance and Darius were too spent to even feel happy.

"Good job!" Dawn patted the two gammas. "This is what you call teamwork!"

"What teamwork?!" Lance grumbled. "It was us who got it done."

Dawn didn't heed with that comment and immediately put it into a jar. "Come on! Get up!" She said happily, because the past ten hours, she only needed to instruct these two gammas to get everything done. "Since you wanted to investigate me, do it properly. Here, take this."

Dawn shoved the jar into Lance's hands and then urged them to giddy up.

Cursing and complaining, Lance and Darius got up from the floor and followed Dawn to the king's bedroom.

"Where did your alpha get this woman from?" Lance asked Darius in a low voice, while the latter could only shake his head.

When they arrived at the bedroom, they found Zenith, Pyro and Aurel were there as well. The healer insisted on checking on the antidote first and Dawn didn't mind it at all.

Zenith took the cup from Dawn's hand when she was about to feed Zander. "I will do it." The alpha then took it upon himself to make his brother drink the entire cup.

"Can you do it gently? You look like you are going to choke him to death." Dawn grimaced.

Chapter 43

Exhausted Dawn

It irritated Dawn when she saw Aurel try to insert herself as she inspected the concoction she made. On a normal occasion, she might not have minded it at all, since she was the royal healer, but she was already annoyed by Lance.

More so, what Aurel was doing was not genuinely out of her duty as the healer, but because she had her own malice intention to prove herself right about Dawn.

Yet, she couldn't find any fault with the antidote. To be honest, she didn't even understand anything about it.

"When will he wake up?" Aurel asked. She crossed her arms in front of her chest and looked like a petulant child, trying to nitpick what Dawn was doing.

"Three days." Dawn then added. "More or less." She couldn't say the exact time; it depended on how his body would react to the antidote.

"You can't even say that for sure." Aurel then turned to Lance. "Do you really believe in her ability?"

Dawn shot her a glare. "It's rich coming from you to question my ability when you were the one who put the King's life at risk."

Lance stopped himself from smiling, but Darius chuckled a little because he could see how Aurel's smug expression changed drastically.

But Pyro cut them off before this argumentation could escalate. "What should we do now? Is there another concoction that Zander needed to drink?"

Dawn shook her head. "No. You only need to nourish his body. It will help him to absorb the antidote faster."

Zenith immediately took her hand. "You are done here." He then took her out of the bedroom. He didn't even need to ask for permission to take her away and left just like that.

Dawn could feel shivers down her spine when she turned around. She was sure Aurel was staring daggers at her right now, but the healer was too afraid of Zenith to complain.

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"What do you mean he is in the dungeon?!" Ava clutched her chest; she looked at her mate in disbelief when she learned about her precious son's situation. "How did he end up in the dungeon? What do you mean he was accused of treason?!"

Treason was not an ordinary accusation, because the only punishment for that was; death.

Ava staggered and thankfully Beta Jason caught her body before she could fall to the ground, while his mate started sobbing.

Beta Jason wanted to tell her that this was all because of her wrongdoings, by allowing Blake to request a meeting with the king, but he didn't have a heart to do so.

"What to do about our poor son? What should we do to save our baby?" Ava started to cry. Her heart ached to think her child was in that filthy dungeon.

"Don't cry. We will figure out a way to get him out of there." Jason hugged his mate. He had been thinking of a way, but to be honest, there was only one way to reverse the claim.

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"I don't need to sleep. I am not sleepy," Dawn said, she insisted that she was fine, but Zenith was having none of it.

"Lay down," Zenith ordered her sternly. He noticed Dawn's lack of sleep, because he counted the time, where she had to make those stupid three-hour concoctions and now, she had to stay up for ten hours straight.

Out there, the sky had turned dark and the wind rattled the branches on the tree, as they knocked on the window.

"Lie down, Dawn," Zenith said, his voice softened, as he coaxed her to lie down.

In the end, Dawn obliged and Zenith tucked her in. "I told you that I am not sleepy." She still protested, but then Zenith covered her eyes with his big, callous palm.

"Close your eyes for thirty seconds." Zenith asked Dawn to count and despite being reluctant, she did it, because his hand was very comfortable.

"Twenty-three... Twenty-four..." Dawn kept counting, but with each number, her voice softened and her breathing deepened, her count was lagging. "Fifty-one.... Fifty..."

And when Dawn finally stopped counting, Zenith lifted his hand that covered her eyes and found his sweet woman had fallen asleep, her lips were slightly ajar, as she snored softly.

"Goodnight, my Dawn." Zenith kissed her forehead gently. He didn't immediately leave, but stayed for a while, staring at her sleeping face.

It was hard to tell what was in his mind. His blue eyes darkened and his lips pressed tightly, as if staring at the woman before his eyes hurt him physically.

Dawn didn't realize how tired she was until Zenith coaxed her to sleep, because she only woke up the next day. She even skipped her breakfast.

But, when she woke up, she almost got a heart attack, because she found Zenith staring at her.

"Heavens! Zenith!" Dawn almost jumped out of her skin, she clutched her chest. Her heart was beating so fast. "What are you doing staring at me like that?"

"I am wondering whether I should wake you up, or not."

That was the weirdest answer that Dawn had ever heard. "What?"

"Zander has regained consciousness." Zenith poured a glass of water and helped her to sit down. He held her hair when she drank. This gesture was rather intimate, but he did it casually.

"Oh, really? We need to go see him."

"No." Zenith took the empty glass and put it aside. "You need to eat first. You skipped your breakfast."

Dawn was about to argue with him, yet she relented quickly, realizing that she was really hungry and the meal that Zenith prepared for her was very appetizing. It was deer meat.

While Dawn was eating, she felt a little bit weird because Zenith kept staring at her, thus she took a piece of the meat and shoved it into his mouth.

"Stop staring at me like that, you will give me indigestion." Dawn pursed her lips. "I know I am beautiful, no need to make it obvious."

Chapter 44

Big Revelation about the King

After Dawn was full and she had cleaned herself up, Zenith took her to the king's bedroom. She could feel the guards and warriors' eyes on her as they walked, as if they were going to dig a hole in her back.

"Zenith, you will create an unnecessary rumor if we walk together like this to the King's bedroom." Dawn frowned, she felt like a mistress.

People knew that she had been preparing for her ceremony with Zenith, but for her to walk back and forth to the king's bedroom freely, it would make people talk.

Dawn looked at Zenith, but she couldn't see what kind of expression he made behind that golden mask, he didn't say anything at all either, which caused her to keep her mouth shut.

Once they entered the room, there was only Pyro by the king's side, talking in a low voice, while Zander looked pale, but was alive nevertheless.

They stopped their conversation once they realized they were not alone and a bright smile appeared on the king's lips.

Dawn still couldn't get used to seeing Zenith's face smiling like that, very innocent and kind, even though in truth, this king was far from his angelic appearance.

"My savior!" Zander exclaimed exaggeratedly. "Come here! I will give you a hug!"

Zenith took off his mask and looked at his twin, his gaze was cold enough to freeze the hell. "Cut the crap." He threw the golden mask to Zander's lap.

"You are so mean, don't you feel happy to see your brother has made it alive?"

Zenith sat down on a chair next to the bed, while Dawn checked on Zander's condition. His vitals were great and actually, he recovered very fast, even for a shifter, who had healing ability, he healed quite quickly.

Pyro then filled her in about Zander's recovery and the royal beta actually was very thankful for what she had done.

"How should I reward you?" Zander tilted his head. His eyes softened when he stared at the woman before him. "After all, you have saved the King's life."

"There is one thing that I truly want." Dawn lifted her head and met with Zander's blue eyes. He was the exact copy of Zenith, but somehow was very different. "Promise me that you will not kill me, harm me or do anything bad to me."

"Are you still hung up over that? Are you still mad?" Zander raised his brows, he thought she wanted something extravagant, like an exorbitant reward or even the kingdom's treasure.

"You sent a bunch of rogues to the north and one of them even managed to enter my bedroom to assassinate me, don't you know how traumatized I am? I want a guarantee for my life." Dawn shrugged her shoulders. "I don't think I asked too much. A life for a life."

Dawn thought Zander would be offended, but she was wrong, the king actually smirked when he heard that.

"I have been thinking about what my brother saw in you. But now I got it." Zander tilted his head. "Fine. Now, let's talk about the poison that caused my warriors to be unable to shift."

Dawn had been wanting to talk about this matter, since Zenith didn't want to get involved in this.

"Basically, the poison that was used on you is similar to the poison used on the warriors, but the result is very different." Dawn furrowed her brows. "Maybe because your body is built differently?" She was not sure with her theory.

"What do you mean?" Pyro jumped into questioning.

Dawn then explained that for a shifter, there was this small bone on your jugular that connected to your wolf, which allowed you to shift into your beast and the poison attacked exactly that area, but only that area alone.

"You know that once our wolf spirit dies, our body would follow after, but in the normal process, the body would die slowly, it would take months or maybe years, but because of this poison, the effect is accelerated."

Dawn then told Zander he should have died after a few hours when he made contact with the poison, but weirdly enough he survived. She wondered why.

"Right. I didn't check it before." Dawn stretched out her hand to touch the said bone on Zander's jugular. However, before she could touch him, Zander and Zenith moved at the same time and caught her hand. "Huh? I

just want to check it, because it almost felt like he didn't have that bone."
Dawn explained herself.

"There is no need." Zander smiled, he let go of Dawn's hand, while Pyro was visibly tensed. "I don't have it."

Dawn blinked her eyes. She didn't think she heard him right. "What?"

But it was Zenith who explained to her briefly. "He can't shift into his beast."

Pyro was shocked when the two of them revealed this biggest secret. No one should know about Zander's condition and the fact he couldn't shift!

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"People are talking about the upcoming ceremony!" Emily roared angrily at her mother. She was very distraught with the fact that people were very excited about the royal ceremony, since it didn't happen often and they were very blessed to witness it. "She will be a princess! How can I accept that?! I should be the one people talked about!"

Julia was trying to calm her daughter down, but Emily was too furious to listen to her.

"How can you do this to me!" Emily cried so hard.

Currently, they were inside an inn in the capital city, they came with Tony, who was followed by Jason and Ava, under the excuse that Emily needed to see the father of her child.

"Emily, calm down!" Julia covered Emily's mouth. She didn't want Tony to see her like this. She had enough fights with him over Emily lately, but her daughter actually bit her hand. "Argh!"

"If it was not for you, I would have been the one that will have that royal ceremony! How can you do that to me, mother?!"

Chapter 45

I Love You

Julia was at a loss when she had to face her daughter's outburst. She was very furious and didn't want to listen to her explanation.

But what else Emily had to hear when she kept singing the same old tune?

"If you hadn't meddled in this matter, I would have been the one becoming a princess now! People would be talking about me! And the grand ceremony of the royal family?!! All of that would have been mine!" Emily was furious. "But now, what?! I have to be with a man, who didn't give a shit about me and my baby. He is not even going to be an alpha!"

"Blake will become the alpha, who else will take the position if it's not him?" Julia tried to talk sense to her daughter. "Your father was upset, that's why he said what he said. But, think about it, there is no way Dawn will take the role, she has her own pack in the north."

"She became part of the royal family!" Emily kept hanging onto that fact, it irked her.

"Emily..."

"What else do you want from me?! Did I say something wrong?!" Emily snapped. "He is not even my father!"

However, from outside of the door, they didn't realize that someone had been listening to their bickering and this was not a conversation he wished to hear.

Tony was standing there like a statue, his hand hovering over the door knob, but he clenched his fist and walked away.

This was the girl he treated like his own. Despite his intention to use her as a replacement for Dawn, he had never mistreated them at all. He had never even raised his voice and always provided them with everything they wanted, even at the expense of hurting his own daughter.

But this was what he got in return? They didn't even feel grateful for what he had done.

No. That ungrateful woman didn't even think of him as her father.

Tony gritted his teeth. The only thing that was in his mind was this question; what had he done? He pushed Dawn away to please those ungrateful people.

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Dawn was surprised when she learned that Zander couldn't shift into his beast. That was a huge matter and as a king, it could cause tumult within his court.

No wonder Pyro looked so upset when Zander and Zenith blurted this out before Dawn so recklessly.

"What happened?" Dawn furrowed her brows. "Is it because of black magic? Poison?" The only poison in her knowledge that could repress a shifter from shifting into their beast was the Rottingbane leaves.

"That's a long and wonderful story," Zander said with a grin, as if it was something casual. "I will tell you over some evening tea in my back garden. What do you think?"

Dawn narrowed her eyes. "No, thanks." She immediately declined. "I will just ask Zenith about it." She did not care enough to know more about Zander.

"Ah, you are the first woman who turned my offer down. I am quite hurt." Zander was being dramatic now.

Dawn then explained about the cause of why some of the royal warriors couldn't shift into their beasts and after some investigation, she came to a conclusion, but she was still not sure about this, thus she wanted to ask for their opinion.

"The kingdom's treasure?" Pyro slid his gaze to the king. "Yes, we use a certain spell to trace them."

"Do you want to say that the poison reacted to the magic, which made it lethal?" Zander concluded. "How do you know?"

Dawn pointed at the golden mask. "You put the same spell on this mask too, right?"

"You are right." Zander nodded. He was deep in thought and Pyro looked very much concerned about the whole thing. There was no doubt, someone within Zander's council was trying to get on their nerves.

"You need to check your treasury. I am sure there is something missing there."

Zander and Pyro were deep in thought, but the king suddenly grabbed Dawn's hand and kissed the back of it, smiling brilliantly all the while.

Zander did this all of sudden, which caught Dawn off guard. After all, she didn't expect him to make such a move.

"Thank you for your hard work," Zander said cheerfully. "You have solved half of my problem... ah!"

Zander writhed in pain when Zenith swatted his hand forcefully from Dawn, he was sure that his brother had broken his hand.

"Zen!" Zander roared, while Pyro could only grimace and Dawn was lost for words.

"Let's go," Zenith said, he took Dawn's hand and escorted her out of the bedroom. Since Dawn was done with her task, she didn't need to indulge Zander or his antics.

"Zander, I think you broke his hand," Dawn said in a small voice.

"Hm." Zenith couldn't care less about that and took her to the fountain to wash her hand, the one that Zander had kissed and this made Dawn laugh.

"Are you jealous?"

"No."

"You can't lie with a straight face."

Zenith wiped her hand dry and looked at her. "Jealousy is for something that you don't have, but you are mine."

Dawn blushed when she heard that, but she pursed her lips when she remembered something. "You don't even like me." Zenith said it himself.

"I don't like you, I love you."

Dawn was surprised to hear this confession, but before she could ask further, Zenith pressed his lips to hers, which forced her to swallow back her question. His kiss was so gentle and the way he touched her was very careful, as if she was made of glass.

However, Dawn was still unable to understand the sadness in his eyes and all of the dreams and prophecies that surrounded him. She knew Zenith and Zander took it seriously, though.

After Zenith had enough of her lips, he raised her hand and kissed the back of it as well, before he stood up and took her with him.

Dawn was speechless, this man could be very petty. "Hey, did you just say that you love me?"