

Chapter 46

The Deepest Regret

"Why did he put him in the dungeon?" Zander was shocked upon hearing the report from Lance about what Zenith had done. He put Blake inside a jail. "For what crime?"

"Coveting the woman of a royal family member."

Zander clicked his tongue. "He only uses his status when it's convenient for him."

"So, what are we going to do now?" Lance then told him about Alpha Tony and Beta Jason, who came the other day.

"Put him on trial." Zander didn't seem to care.

"Alpha Tony is the alpha of the Moonlight pack, Zan, he can do something with the harbor there." Lance reminded him. "We are still investigating the harbor and we will need his cooperation in the future."

Zander glanced at him. "Well, too bad. If he doesn't want to cooperate, I can put him down and replace him with someone who has no problem cooperating with the King."

Lance threw his hands in the air, giving up. "Okay, okay." For Zander, if the gentle way didn't work, then he would take the harsh way.

"What about the preparations for the ceremony?"

"We sent out the invitations yesterday."

A month from now, the first royal ceremony in three decades would be held, therefore, people were very excited. You could feel how different the atmosphere was when you walked in the streets and all the people talked about the new princess of the kingdom.

However, the more Emily listened to it, the more furious she was. She couldn't stand still and was drowning in jealousy.

It should have been her! It should be her that people were talking about!

Currently, she was sitting on the windowsill, staring into the distance and hating herself for listening to her mother. She glanced at her bulging stomach and hated it even more, because this was a reminder of Blake.

What a coward! And now she was pregnant with his child!

Six months! She was currently six months pregnant and when she attended the royal ceremony, she would be seven months along. Her body would get bigger and she wouldn't look pleasant. She hated it.

"Get out!" Emily hit her stomach. She wanted this baby to get out of her body quickly.

"Emily! What are you doing!?" Tony caught her hand and scolded her for trying to harm herself and the baby.

"I don't want to birth that bastard's baby!" Emily shouted back at the alpha.

They were in the living room of the inn and Tony was having a conversation with Jason about what to do, while Julia and Ava were in the other room.

"Lower your voice! Don't be stupid!"

"Why? Why do you care? You are not even my father!"

Tony felt like he wanted to slap her across the face, so she could get back to her senses. The regret he felt toward Dawn deepened. How could he trade his own daughter, his own flesh and blood, for this ungrateful bitch?!

Hearing the commotion, Jason, Ava and Julia came to check, as they watched the screaming match between Tony and Emily.

"You don't care about me! You only wanted me to replace Dawn to be with Alpha Zenith! But you know what?! I would rather have Alpha Zenith as my mate than that coward of a man! It is very disgusting to think I am pregnant with his child!"

And before anyone could react and discern what Emily was saying, Ava had rushed forward and slapped her so hard, Emily fell to the floor and wailed in pain.

"How dare you badmouth my son?!" Ava growled, she was only a step away from shifting into her beast and mauling this bitch! "You were the one who seduced my son! You were the one, who brought chaos to his life! You were the one, who was very shameless to throw yourself at him! You are nothing, but a useless bitch!"

Ava screamed at the top of her lungs, until the people from the next room could hear her.

"Dawn is a thousand times better than you! You are not even worth holding a candle to her! It's bad luck for my son to even know you!"

Julia was furious to hear the insults hurled at Emily. And her heart ached to watch her precious daughter wail in pain.

"How dare you talk down to my daughter!?" Julia jumped in. She shifted into her beast and was ready to attack Ava.

With this, the situation escalated very quickly, Tony and Jason were on alert, they tried to calm the women down before blood was spilled.

"Shift back!" Tony used his alpha's voice, which made the beast back off, but she was still not willing to shift back. "SHIFT BACK!"

The alpha's voice boomed inside the room and this caused pain to anyone who heard it. Unable to bear the alpha's wrath, Julia shifted back into her human form, she glared dagger at Ava, who was being held back by Jason.

"She hit our daughter! Don't you want to do anything?! Will you stand there like a coward when you see your daughter being hit?!" Julia was on the verge of crying because Tony didn't stand by her side.

However, Tony's answer silenced her. "Didn't she say it herself that she didn't see me as a father? I am not a father to her."

Emily was stunned.

And then, there was a knock on the door. It was a royal messenger. He was here to deliver the invitation for the ceremony that would be held within a month.

Because they were spotted in the capital city, thus it was not hard to find where they were staying.

"Lady Dawn also invited you for an afternoon tea tomorrow. Will you give the answer right away?"

Tony was surprised that Dawn wanted to see him privately, of course, he wouldn't miss this chance. "Yes. I will go to the palace and meet with her."

Tony felt anxious about their meeting tomorrow. He would take her away if that was what Dawn wanted.

Chapter 47

But I Don't Feel Sorry

"You are very tense," Zenith pointed out, and held her hand. It was very cold. He remembered how her hands used to feel so cold. "Do you want to cancel this meeting?"

Dawn shook her head. "No. I want to see him."

"Okay."

Currently. Zenith was accompanying Dawn to drink tea in the backyard garden, while waiting for her father to arrive. She looked very nervous and kept fidgeting.

"I thought you were busy." Dawn recalled Zenith had been spending his time away from the palace quite often, but she didn't know what he had been doing, since she was also busy preparing for the ceremony.

Zenith didn't give much of an input, because he always said 'just do what makes you feel comfortable and happy.' He would be fine with anything.

True to his word, he would nod to everything that Dawn decided. But at the same time, Dawn felt like he didn't care about it, despite his confession the other day.

"They are here," Zenith said. He saw a guard come toward them and inform Dawn that her father had arrived. "I will take my leave, see you at dinner."

However, the guard then added. "But Alpha Tony is not alone, he is with Luna Julia and their daughter."

Hearing that, Dawn felt like crying, not out of helplessness and sadness, but anger. She was very mad, she clenched her tea cup tightly, but Zenith took it away from her.

"You will hurt yourself if you do this." Zenith put the tea cup on the table. "You can refuse them."

Yes, she could refuse them, but... "No. Let them in," Dawn said through gritted teeth. It took everything in her to compose herself.

The guard then went away to get the guests, but unexpectedly, Zenith sat down again.

"I thought, you are going to leave."

"No." Zenith poured a cup of tea for himself. "I am here to even the score."

At first, Dawn didn't understand what he meant, but then it clicked in her mind that Zenith welcomed himself just like Julia and Emily did.

On the other hand, Emily and Julia cheered when they heard they were allowed to get inside the back garden. This was a private place for the royal family, not anyone could come and go to this part of the palace.

"See? I told you that Dawn is not holding a grudge." Julia had been pestering Tony to take them with him, because she wanted to apologize to her for everything that she had done all this time. It would also help them to heal and move on as a family.

Their deal was; if Dawn rejected them, they wouldn't make a fuss and leave the perimeter.

This also came as a surprise for Tony, because he didn't think Dawn would allow Julia and Emily to come, knowing the bad blood between them in the past.

"I know Dawn is not a petty person," Emily chimed in. She looked better after her outburst yesterday, though what she said was very unforgivable and Ava was still very mad at her. She didn't really care about that.

The guard announced their presence and when they stepped into the garden, Emily froze in her tracks when she saw Zenith was there.

The last time the alpha came to their pack, he didn't stay for long. No, he didn't even go to the pack house nor did he rest in the room they had prepared for him. Emily also only saw a glimpse of him when Alpha Zenith fought Blake and the latter lost the fight embarrassingly and needed to be dragged out.

But now, when she saw him clearly, her heart started beating so fast. He was very handsome! He was very attractive with this dangerous aura around him, but more important was the fact that he looked regal when he was simply sitting in that moderate chair.

"What are you doing?" Julia nudged Emily, because her daughter didn't move from where she was standing like a statue.

"Oh." Emily immediately followed her mother and Alpha Tony.

Alpha Tony was also surprised to see Alpha Zenith there. He was a little bit disappointed, because he thought this would be a family conversation, but he curbed his disappointment and approached Dawn with a light step.

"Dawn, I missed you." Alpha Tony approached his daughter and was about to hug her, but Dawn still continued to sit, thus he could only bend his body and awkwardly hug his daughter. "Thank you for giving me a chance to meet you."

Dawn's body turned stiff, her father's hug felt very foreign to her, because it had been a while since she had seen him.

"You can sit now, father," Dawn said, nodding at the only empty chair there.

After her father, it was Julia and Emily, who came to approach her, but Dawn raised her hand to stop them from getting closer to her.

She even felt awkward to be hugged by her father, let alone these two.

"I remembered that I didn't extend the invitation for them two. I wonder why you think it is a good idea to bring them here to see me after all these months we had not met?"

Tony was caught off guard with the question, but Emily rubbed her belly and started to talk pitifully.

"Dawn, I know that you hate me for what I have done. I know how awful I am..." Emily shed the non-existent tears from her eyes. "I fell for Blake's ruse. He wanted to tear us apart. I am also a victim in this."

Alpha Tony felt his blood boil when he heard this. How could he be very obtuse not to see this coming? Was this what they called asking for an apology?

"Alpha Zenith." Emily shifted her attention to Zenith. She fluttered her eyelashes and looked like a pitiful doe. "I am sorry the arranged marriage between us couldn't happen."

"But I don't feel sorry," Zenith replied bluntly.

Chapter 48

The Truth was in the Open

Dawn could see that Emily started again with her pity party and tried to find a way to stop her without giving her the opportunity to paint herself as the victim here and villainize her sister as usual.

But she forgot that she was not alone and Zenith could be very brutal with his actions and words.

"But I don't feel sorry."

Dawn almost choked on her tea when she heard that, it took everything in her not to laugh out loud because of how funny it was and how quickly Zenith humbled Emily down, without even trying.

She was not sure what Emily tried to aim when she acted so pitiful like this.

Tony cleared his throat to intervene with this embarrassing moment. He then looked at the guard nearby and asked him. "Can you get two chairs for them?"

Yet, the guard didn't accept that order from him. Without the alpha's permission, none of them would budge from their place.

This situation only became more and more awkward and even Dawn felt uncomfortable, but when she saw Zenith sipping his tea like nothing happened, she wondered how he could escalate the situation to the point it was suffocating, while it appeared he didn't care at all.

You could call this talent, right?

"Dawn, can you ask someone to bring chairs for your sister and mother? Emily is pregnant and your mother can't stand for too long."

Emily clenched her jaw, she hated it when Tony brought up her pregnancy and pointed out the obvious, especially now in front of Alpha Zenith.

Yet, no matter how upset Emily was, it couldn't compare to what Dawn felt. She stood up, her expression turned stern. Her eyes filled with rage and even her father felt taken aback with how much hatred she had for him.

"You know what? I am done here." Dawn gritted her teeth. She was not a violent person, but she really wanted to hurl this tea cup at her father's head so he would get some of his sense back. "How many times do I have to tell you that they are not my sister and mother? I had a mother but she died years ago. No one, not even your chosen mate can replace her."

Dawn didn't raise her voice, but every word that left her lips was very clear and filled with so much rage.

"You have never listened to me and even now, you brought them both with you." Dawn narrowed her eyes because her father avoided her gaze. "What? You can't look at me because I am so much like my mother? Did you actually blame me for her death?"

Dawn had been suspicious about this. Deep down, she knew that her father loved her, he cared for her, but there was something that made him take a step back from getting close to her. He said it himself that Dawn grew up to be like her mother and she resembled her so much that was why he couldn't see her, but there was more to it.

"Do you resent me?" It just clicked in Dawn's mind that her father blamed her for her mother's death. "Are you serious?" Dawn scoffed. "I can't believe it."

Tony lowered his head, he looked very ashamed and Dawn didn't need his answer to know what he was thinking.

"Dawn, you are being too harsh to your father..."

"Shut up!" Dawn growled at Julia and this made her glare at her as well. If it was not a public area and there were only the two of them here, she would have slapped her.

But Julia felt this chill down her spine. She felt like she was in danger and when she glanced toward the source of this feeling of fear, she saw Alpha Zenith staring down at her with his bright blue eyes. His eyes flickered into golden color and this made Julia take a step back.

Emily saw this too and she found this man even more fascinating. He demanded respect and fear at the same time; he looked so regal and ethereal.

People always said that he was a cruel alpha, but as it turned out, he treated Dawn very well. He was even giving her the grandest ceremony seen in decades.

How stupid of her mother to think she didn't want to be his bride? His mate, someone, who would be by his side forever.

Comparing Alpha Zenith and Blake was the most ridiculous thing. Blake wouldn't even be qualified to hold the clothes Alpha Zenith was wearing.

On the other hand, without any intervention, Dawn continued to talk to her father.

"If there was someone, who should be blamed for that, it would be you."

Dawn didn't want to say this, because she knew it would hurt her father greatly, but then her father had hurt her so badly all these years. This pain now was nothing, especially when compared to hers.

"You should blame yourself for not coming in time to save your mate. You should blame yourself for my mother's death. You failed to protect your mate and your daughter and then instead of owning your mistake, you neglected me and put the blame on me because you need someone else to blame, to make yourself feel good." Dawn talked very calmly, but you could see the storm brewing in her eyes. "You punished me when you played 'A happy family' with them. Because in your sick mind, you are thinking that you are punishing the one, who was responsible for your mate's death."

Tony's body was trembling. He didn't want to hear that. He didn't come here for this, but Dawn was merciless when she laid all the truth before him.

"Don't you feel ashamed that you blamed a five-year-old child for the death of her mother? You let them mistreat me all these years while you turned a blind eye to everything happily."

Dawn didn't see the father that she loved. All she could see was this pathetic man.

"I prefer you don't attend the ceremony."

Chapter 49

A Bad Luck Bringer

Dawn thought being apart from her would open her father's eyes and he would finally realize what he had done to her all this time.

And for the first time after such a long time, he finally put her first.

However, Dawn couldn't be more wrong. The moment his father decided it was a good idea to bring Julia and Emily, she knew that her father was far gone.

She was more disappointed in him than angry as she walked away from him. It was not a mature thing to do, but then, hating a child for his own mistake was far from being mature.

Her father didn't really hurt her, but he didn't do anything when these people mistreated her. He allowed them to do whatever they pleased, hurting her without facing real consequences for their actions.

When Dawn walked away, Tony was about to follow her, but Zenith waved his hand to make the guards stop him before they escorted them out of the palace.

After that, the alpha from the north followed his woman. He gave her space to calm down. Dawn didn't even notice that he had been following her, until she finally stopped realizing that she had reached the palace gates.

"Do you want to go out?" Zenith asked, as he bent his body and talked near her ear, which startled her.

"Have you been following me?"

"No. I have just been walking in the same direction as you."

"If you want to lie, you need to try harder than that."

Zenith kissed her lips, which made Dawn widen her eyes, because there were so many guards and warriors around them.

"Do you want to go out?" Zenith asked the same question again.

"I don't have money."

"You are with a prince, Dawn. Do you think I will let you starve?"

It felt so foreign for Zenith to call himself a prince, but then he was indeed a prince. Dawn gave some thought to the offer and then nodded. "Let's go!"

"For a while."

"What?"

Zenith was mind linking someone to bring them two cloaks to hide their faces.

"People know you, but they didn't know about me, why should I wear this cloak?" Dawn was sure that she was not that famous to gain attention from the people, even though from what she heard, they had been talking about the ceremony a lot.

Zenith didn't answer that question, he pulled down the hoodie to hide her face and took her hand.

That day, Zenith spoiled her by buying everything that she wanted and Dawn had never known that she had the ability to spend a lot of money.

At first, they went to an antique shop, where she bought three beautiful daggers. The cost of these three daggers was enough to buy a huge piece of land. Dawn was worried, but Zenith simply paid for that.

"You don't have to buy that for me, I only admired it, it's not like I will use it." Dawn was panicking, she tried to stop the transaction, but Zenith pushed her face against his chest to stop her from rambling.

The next shop was a drug store, where she bought a few toxic ingredients, which Zenith didn't understand, yet he paid for them anyway.

"For what purpose did you buy those things?"

"If someone tries to bully me again in the future, I am going to poison them." Dawn was still upset because of her meeting with her father, though she was rather calm now.

"You need to continue your training."

"Zenith, I am sure you will be able to tell that I am not gifted with combat power," Dawn groaned. She needed to find a believable excuse to avoid training with him in the future.

And when it was time for dinner, they chose a tavern near the jewelry shop.

"Why don't you eat?" Dawn asked, as she gobbled up her food, she was hungry and by this time, she had forgotten about what happened this afternoon.

"I am not hungry." Zenith stared at Dawn's food, the look on his face told Dawn what she needed to know.

"You are a picky eater," Dawn said in an accusatory tone.

"That's not a bad thing."

Zenith didn't even deny that, which left Dawn speechless, in the end, she couldn't care less about that and continued to eat.

"Are you happy now?" Zenith asked when he saw her sigh, satisfied.

"Very!" Dawn exclaimed.

Zenith smiled to see her beaming. He only wanted to see her smiling like this. It upset him whenever she was uncomfortable.

"Please, remember this." Zenith caressed her cheek and kissed the tip of her nose. "I will never hurt you. Never."

Dawn didn't understand what he was talking about, but it wouldn't be long until she learned the truth behind Zenith's weird behavior and how he knew about her even though they only met for a few months now...

Zenith only hoped by the time she learned about all of that, she wouldn't despise him.

"Well, if you hurt me, I will poison you, too." Dawn was fed up with being hurt. She was also not serious about what she said.

"Okay."

"I have one request, will you allow me?"

"What is it?" Zenith narrowed his eyes, because he sensed this was not a good thing.

"I want to try that."

=====

Zenith learned his lesson. He shouldn't have allowed Dawn to drink because she was a mess when she was drunk.

"I am going to beat her up! I am going to slap Julia and Emily and kick both of them and... what else should I do to them?" The drunk Dawn turned her head to look at Zenith. "Do you have any suggestions on how to torture someone?"

Currently, they were inside the carriage.

"Skin them alive?"

"Yes! Yes!" Dawn was happy. "You know what? Julia kept saying to me that I was the cause of my mother's death and my father didn't love me! She said that I am a bad luck bringer. I am not one, right?"

"No, you are not."

Chapter 50

Atone for His Sin

"Zenith, they are so mean to me..." Dawn wailed, while Zenith carried her in his arms. She had been complaining a lot about the mistreatment she had to endure in the last few years. "They destroyed my mother's mementos and my father didn't even stand up for me... hiks, hiks."

The corridor echoed with the sounds of her sobs, while the guards there tried so hard to appear not affected by this strange sight. Yet, the alpha's focus was only on the woman in his arms. He nuzzled her nose and hugged her tighter.

"What have you done to the lady until she is crying so badly like that?" Zander appeared from the opposite direction and Zenith chose to turn to his left, taking the furthest path to his quarter, just to avoid his brother.

"Hey!" Zander immediately rushed toward Zenith and walked beside him.

"You shouldn't be seen with me," Zenith said, grumbling because Zander took a closer look at Dawn.

"She is drunk," Zander pointed out the obvious. "How can you let a lady drink until she is like this? You are not a good man."

"I have never said I am." Zenith hastened his steps, but his brother annoyingly kept up with him. "You shouldn't be seen with me."

Zander ignored that too. "What should I do to her mate?"

"He is not her mate."

"His ex-mate." Zander corrected himself, but Zenith glared at him. "To that man."

"Do whatever you please, I want him to stay away from my mate." This time Zenith quickened his pace, but Zander didn't follow him.

The expression behind the mask was hidden, thus no one could tell what was inside his mind when he stared at his brother's retreating back.

After some time, Zander turned around and left.

Meanwhile, Zenith laid Dawn on the bed, she looked exhausted from all the crying and rage that she felt inside.

"Sleep, my sweet Dawn. I hope you have a good dream." Zenith watched how a tear slid down her cheek and then kissed it. "I love you, please, don't forget that."

Zenith kissed the tip of her nose and then her lips. He loved her scent that was reeked of alcohol, it made him groan and want to devour her for himself, but in the end, he only rested his head against hers and hugged her in his sleep, while Dawn would occasionally wake up and sob, Zenith would pat her back to alleviate her pain.

Words wouldn't be able to describe how much he wanted to give her everything and stop her pain.

This was his regret; this was his remorse and he had to atone for his sin now...

=====

Alpha Tony was furious with Julia and Emily, words couldn't describe how he felt about it.

"You should shut your mouth!" Alpha Tony raised his voice, people could hear him from the other room, but he couldn't care less about his image anymore. Dawn rescinded the invitation and he was not only able to fix his relationship with his daughter, but he actually ruined it even further. "I shouldn't have listened to you! I shouldn't have let you come with me and angered her even more!"

"Please, lower your voice..." Julia begged him. She was crying now, she felt embarrassed more than anything else.

On the other hand, Emily didn't say anything, she watched how everything unfolded, but there was no remorse on her face, because there was nothing for her to regret.

"And you!" Alpha Tony pointed his finger at Emily's face, which made her frown. "Stop throwing yourself like a whore at Dawn's man!"

"Tony!" Julia screeched, the word was too vulgar and rude. "How can you say that to your daughter?!"

"She is not my daughter!" Tony roared back.

But, with this, the pieces finally fell into the right place, it dawned on him how his daughter felt whenever he mentioned Julia and Emily as her mother and sister.

Now he knew how it felt when your words and feelings were being ignored. He was standing in Dawn's shoes now when Julia kept insisting on himself addressing Emily as his daughter, when that ungrateful thing had made it more than clear that she didn't see him as a father.

Tony wanted to scream, he wanted to fight someone to let out the steam. He needed to leave, or else, he was going to hurt someone here.

However, as usual, Emily didn't know when to open her mouth, because when Tony was about to leave, she decided it was wise for her to hurl the facts to his face. In her mind, this was her revenge for his degrading words earlier.

"Dawn is right about you, father." Emily watched how her mother tried to stop her from talking, but she didn't care about that and continued. "You have never admitted to your wrongdoings and instead of owning up to your mess, you keep blaming just anyone around you."

"Emily!" Julia was mortified when Tony stopped walking and turned around, his eyes overflowing with wrath. The alpha's anger was something else entirely.

"You can refuse to bring us and stand your ground not to allow us to follow you, yet you were the one, who decided it was the best idea for us to reconcile with each other and start to be a family again." Emily gritted her

teeth. "But now, when your decision didn't work, you turned around to blame us."

Tony couldn't believe what he was hearing. Emily and Julia literally begged him, pleaded with him to take them, they haunted him until he gave in, but now they blamed him for his decision?

Tony didn't know what came over him, but he was seeing red and when he realized, he had slapped Emily so hard across her face.

"Tony!" Julia scrambled to get to her daughter, who fell to the ground.

"You are just like your mother, a whore." Tony grinded out the words.

But Emily had lost her mind when she chuckled. "You call my mother a whore, is it because you failed to save your mate busy sleeping with her?"