

Chapter 51

The Truth from the Past

Julia was mortified when she heard what Emily said. They had never talked about this. Nobody should know about this.

With a shocked look on her face, Julia looked at Tony, the alpha was also flabbergasted.

"No! I have never said anything about it! I have never told her about us! I don't know where she found out about that!" Julia was in complete denial, until she forgot that her strong reaction was the same as her admitting what Emily just said.

Meanwhile, Alpha Tony stood there, like a statue, he opened his mouth, but there was no word that they could hear. The silence was deafening and one could cut the tension in the air with a knife.

"Did I say something wrong?" Emily gave Alpha Tony a derisive look. "What do you think Dawn will think about you if she learned about this?"

Do you think she will be able to forgive you for everything you have put her through? Think about that first before you slap me."

After saying that, Emily stood up, she dusted off her dress and walked away. She glanced over her shoulder and watched how her mother was crying and Alpha Tony didn't even have the decency to comfort her. He was too stunned to comprehend what just happened.

Pathetic. They were a bunch of pathetic people.

=====

Dawn woke up the next day with a very bad hangover, she groaned when the light of the sun that filtered through the window hurt her eyes.

"Good morning, drunken girl?"

Dawn frowned, the endearment was not pleasant at all. Yet, when she tried to speak, her throat was very dry, as if she had just consumed sand.

"Drink this first, you will feel better." Zenith helped her to sit down and brought the cup to her lips. "Next time, stick to tea."

Dawn groaned, but she kept gulping the fresh water to moisten her aching throat.

"I am not that bad." Dawn put down the empty cup and was about to fall asleep again, but Zenith put his arm behind her back to prevent her from lying down and this annoyed her. " No. I want to sleep."

"No. You need to eat first."

Dawn gave him a disapproving look and pursed her lips.

"Be good." Zenith caressed her cheek gently, which made Dawn lean her head into his touch.

And when she realized that, she immediately straightened her body. Thankfully, Zenith didn't tease her for that.

She must still be drunk!

"I didn't say anything weird last night, right?" Dawn didn't remember what she said, but she remembered she talked a lot. She was afraid if she said something inappropriate.

Zenith touched her hair and played with it, before he answered her. "No. You were so cute when you were drunk."

Dawn was surprised, she didn't think Zenith would call her 'cute', but she was happy nonetheless. She ate her food with a big smile on her lips, it felt great to have someone, who would take care of you.

After that day, Zenith was busy and sometimes Dawn didn't even see him for a whole day.

However, she knew where he was. There was a day or two, where Zenith would 'play King'.

Somehow, Dawn would always know when it happened.

As for the problem with the poison, the king didn't reach out to her to help deal with it, so Dawn just focused all of her energy on the preparations of her ceremony. She had been so busy learning all the etiquette to be concerned about anything else.

This etiquette lesson was a real pain in the ass. Because she would be part of the royal family, it couldn't be helped that she needed to learn all of this.

But that day, Lance approached her.

"You are here? I thought you were going to attend that man's trial, did you even know about that?" Lance then drew a conclusion. "I think Zenith has never mentioned anything about it?"

With the mention of 'that man' Dawn immediately knew who the royal gamma was referring to.

"I don't need to attend his trial," Dawn said. "I have nothing to do with him."

It was Blake's own stupidity for coming to the palace, she didn't have any obligation to cater to him. Good thing Zenith had never mentioned about it.

Lance shrugged his shoulders. "Poor guy, he is definitely going to die." He then added. "Today your mate is the King again."

And the trial was attended by the king, which meant, for the better or worse, Zenith could give Blake death punishment without being implicated at all.

"Wait, did the King know about this?" Dawn grabbed Lance's sleeve to stop him from leaving.

"No." Lance gave her an innocent look. "The King has been out for two days ago and will only return two days from now." He lowered his voice when he mentioned this, because he couldn't let anyone learn about the king's whereabouts. "More so, Zenith advanced the trial schedule, that man should have a trial two days from now, when the King is here, but as you know..." Lance shrugged his shoulders. "He will be the judge."

This didn't sit well with Dawn. "Where is the trial room?"

Lance smiled. "Come, follow me."

The royal gamma actually felt tired to be a middleman between Zander and Zenith.

Zenith used this moment to give that man a harsher punishment, which was; a death sentence, when he acted as the king, because with this, Zenith wouldn't get a backlash and be implicated in any form, since no one would relate this matter to him.

However, Zander had read his movement and he told Lance to let Dawn know about the trial just in case Zenith advanced the date.

After knowing Dawn, if there was someone who could stop Zenith, it would be her.

Both of them then went to the trial room, where Dawn saw her father, Julia, Emily, Beta Jason and Ava.

She hesitated for a while.

Chapter 52

The Day of the Trial

They were shocked because the trial moved up two days and this made Ava breakdown. She was crying so hard because she was panicking. This would be the first time for her to see her son again in weeks, especially when they heard the king would personally come to oversee the situation.

"What should we do? What should we do?" She cried to Jason. "Why is the King here? Why should the King be here?"

It would be harder for them to get Blake away from the punishment, even more with Blake's case, because he stood accused of coveting the chosen mate of a royal family member.

"Calm down, Ava, calm down. We will get our son out of there," Jason said, though he didn't know what he was actually talking about. He looked at Alpha Tony, but the alpha didn't look like he could help either.

Beta Jason really wanted to curse him out for ruining his chance to reconcile with Dawn. Maybe then, Dawn could have agreed to help them save Blake from this predicament, but Tony chose to be very stupid and brought Julia and Emily with him, which further upset Dawn.

Now, Jason didn't know what else could help Blake.

When Ava was crying so hard, as they waited for the trial to begin, she spotted someone and before her mind could comprehend, she had dashed toward her.

"Ava!" Jason was startled because Ava moved very suddenly, but when he saw the person, she was clamoring to approach, he breathed sharply.

It was Dawn. She came here for the trial!

A glimmer of hope appeared in his eyes! Jason had known Dawn from when she was little. He knew that if she was here, she was absolutely going to help them!

Jason wanted to talk to her at first, but he didn't know how, since Tony ruined his meeting with his daughter.

Ava reached Dawn first and started crying, begging, pleading, kneeling down in front of her, which drew all of the attention from the people inside the room.

"Please! Please! Please, Dawn! Please, save Blake! Please, save him..." Ava cried, she didn't even try to lower her voice. "Please, talk to the King and ask him to pardon Blake. Dawn, Blake really loves you, he loves you

so much, he braced himself to come here and ask for you, he is on the verge of going insane because he couldn't lose you!"

Dawn widened her eyes when she heard that. She tried to make Ava stop talking nonsense, because Zenith could hear her and that man definitely would take offense.

Every word that Ava said would only bring her son closer to the gallows!

Dawn felt dreadful, she could see malice flicker in Zenith's blue eyes. It seemed if it was possible, he would be the one to drag Blake to the gallows and tighten the rope around his neck.

Meanwhile, Tony tried to approach Dawn, he knew this was not the right time, but he needed to clarify something with her. He wanted to talk to her in private and apologize sincerely for what he had done.

But surely, his timing was very bad...

"Blake Michael Gillian enters the room!"

The guard announced Blake's presence and Ava stopped crying, she turned her head and started wailing again. Her cries started to irritate Dawn.

However, when Dawn saw Blake for the first time in six months after she left her former pack, she was shocked too.

Blake looked skinnier, his eyes sunk into their sockets, his lips chapped and his clothes... you couldn't call them clothes, because a sack might look fancier compared to the fabric that covered Blake now.

Dawn started wondering if he received torture inside the dungeon. He had only been there for two weeks, but he looked like he had lost half of his soul.

But probably Dawn underestimated Blake's determination, because the moment he saw her, the emptiness in his eyes disappeared, his eyes lit up. His mouth moved, as he called her name under his breath.

Of course, this sight infuriated Zenith even more. He caught sight of Lance, who had brought Dawn here, but the royal beta avoided his eyes. He knew he was in trouble and prayed Zander would return before Zenith got his hands on him.

"This way!" A guard snapped at Blake when he tried to approach Dawn.

This room was akin to a mini stadium, with a capacity that could reach a hundred people. There were these seats circled around the room, where the back row was higher than the front one.

But, in front of them, there was this high platform, where the king and his three advisors, also two elders, sat behind the sovereign to watch how the whole trial unfolded.

They would advise the king what the right punishment for the crime was. This council was formed ten years ago. And all this time, Zander had never been on good terms with the three advisors and the two elders.

"Mr. Gillian! This way!" The guard grabbed his shoulder and dragged him to the spot, where he should stand, but Blake fought back.

He insisted on going to Dawn. "D- Dawn! Dawn please!" Blake was crying now. "I am sorry! I am so sorry! I didn't mean to hurt you! Let's go back home! Let's go back home together! I can fix this! I can fix us!"

Jason and Ava took a sharp breath when they both heard this. Their intention was to deny the accusation that Blake was still infatuated with Dawn, but what his son did right now left them with nothing to help him.

"Dawn!" Blake fought back. What happened right now to Blake must be the next step of insanity. The room filled with Blake's voice, expressing his regrets and wanting Dawn back with him.

Zenith stood up from his seat, you could tell how furious he was. His voice boomed inside the trial room.

"Drag him out to the gallows!" The king hollered. His wrath was palpable.

Chapter 53

Dawn's Suggestion and Her Way to Smooth Things Out

After what Blake had done to her, of course, Dawn hated Blake, she despised the man and his guts to betray her in the worst possible way.

But then, giving him a death sentence was simply going too far. No matter how much Dawn hated Blake, she wouldn't feel good to know that she had some involvement when he met his demise.

Yet, these people didn't help at all!

"Drag him out to the gallows!" The king hollered. His wrath was palpable.

Ava immediately started wailing again when she heard the king's order, while Beta Jason immediately jumped in to protest with this decision because the trial had not even happened. Alpha Tony helped to smooth the situation by trying to approach the king to plead Blake's case, but he was being stopped by the royal guards.

However, they were not the only people who protested because the three advisors and the two elders also asked for the king to reconsider his decision.

Meanwhile, Blake didn't seem to realize his predicament as he kept begging Dawn to go back home with him. Blake kept apologizing to her and begging her to come back to him, which infuriated Zenith even more.

"Dawn! I am sorry! I love you! You are my destined mate! You are my everything! Don't throw away our time together because of this one mistake!" Blake hollered desperately when the guards dragged him out. "Dawn! Please! I know you still care about me! You came here because you care about me! I know that!"

Dawn felt sick to her stomach when she heard that, she couldn't help second guessing her idea to help him now. Just because she didn't want to have his blood on her hands, it didn't mean she still had feelings for him.

Now Dawn realized she didn't have an ounce of love for him. The rejection and the severed mate bond worked well on her part, but from the looks of it, she couldn't say the same thing about Blake.

The trial room was in chaos; many people shouted their pleas and the advisors and the elders kept telling the king this was not how the trial worked.

"Look here, My King!" Jason grabbed Emily, who had been very quiet during this whole mess. "She is pregnant! She is pregnant with my son's

baby! Please, at least for this baby's sake, spare him! Don't let the baby be born without a father!"

Emily hated it whenever her pregnancy was mentioned, but she could only endure the humiliation. Her face turned red because of the rage she felt within, while Julia couldn't do anything.

Ever since that night, she was so scared to confront her daughter, or even to talk to her in private.

However, the king didn't budge. He wanted to get rid of Blake once and for all! This man was an eyesore to him!

Lance, who was watching everything unfold, could only pull his hair in frustration. How could one clean up this mess? The elders would give Zander more trouble in the future.

Right at that time, Dawn finally approached the king's platform, which meant she had to walk past Blake.

Misunderstanding Dawn's intention, Blake beamed with happiness, he fought the guards and was about to approach her when Dawn snapped at him, the hatred in her eyes stopped him.

"Don't you dare come closer to me!" Her voice rang inside the trial room and everyone quietened down, wondering what Dawn was going to do.

"What do you want?" The king asked. He waved his hand at the royal guard, who wanted to stop Dawn from approaching the platform he was sitting on.

"My King, can I suggest a solution for this matter?" Dawn stopped right in front of the king's platform, she faced Zenith, while everyone else was behind her.

"Death sentence suits his crime the best." The answer was curt and Dawn grimaced, how could no one notice that the person behind the mask was Zenith and not Zander?

"My King, just as you can see, there is a woman, who is pregnant with his child. It will be heartbreaking for the baby to be born without the father." Dawn chose to echo the same sentiment as the advisors and the elders, which calmed them down and made them listen to what she said. "More so, there was no harm done."

Zenith didn't like this, but at the same time, he didn't stop Dawn. He wouldn't embarrass his woman and give trouble to her and Dawn knew this, thus she took advantage of this fact.

Zenith sat down again, he crossed his arms in front of his chest, completely upset, but still entertained Dawn.

"My King, I am the victim here, can I at least give my opinion on this matter?"

"So, what is your suggestion?"

Dawn smiled, she knew she got him. "Since the two of them will have a baby soon, they are practically mates now."

"I am not her mate!" Blake refused that directly.

Emily gritted her teeth, she felt very embarrassed! Tears streamed down her cheeks; she hated Dawn even more!

"Shut him up!" Zenith roared because Blake intervened when Dawn was speaking. The guard immediately stuffed a rag into his mouth.

Dawn continued. "They should be mates now with the baby on the way."

"Your suggestion?"

"Let him mark her to make it official. In that way, the mate bond will bind them together for life."

For some people, it sounded rational, but Dawn knew it would be a punishment for Blake and Emily. Looking at the tense relationship between them, probably, they would annoy each other to death sooner or later.

More so, this punishment could calm down the advisors and the elders, as they thought it was more acceptable.

"Death is a mercy, My King." Dawn added, which made Zenith's eyes flicker. Years ago, someone said the same thing to him. "My ceremony is around the corner, I don't feel good to have someone in the gallows only a few weeks before my happy day."

Lance was astounded. "This woman is a smooth talker..."

Chapter 54

Still Keeping His Guard Up

Zander laughed out loud when he heard what happened in the trial room. It had been a long time since he got a good laugh like this.

He knew Dawn was his final solution to face his brother's impulsiveness, but he didn't expect the woman would handle him so well, she did not only suggest a reasonable punishment, but she also appeased the elders and the advisors.

At the same time, Zander knew that tying Blake and Emily together and having him mark her, instead of sending him to the gallows, would successfully get the man out of Dawn's hair while giving a lifetime punishment for both of them.

"How many birds did she kill with one stone?" Zander still chuckled, as he tilted his head at Lance. Pyro was sitting next to the king, as he listened to the story, while rearranging the reports about the activity in the harbor. "She is really good."

"Are you taking down your guard against her now?"

"No." Zander's expression changed, as it turned serious all of a sudden. "Keep your eyes on her still."

"Do you still believe in the prophecy?" Pyro stopped what he was doing and looked at the king. "I thought you had let it go?"

Zander put on his golden mask again, even though there were only the three of them in the room. "Better safe than sorry."

Pyro and Lance looked at each other and could only shake their heads.

"Oh, I forgot to tell you that Zenith pissed off the elders and the advisors." Lance walked toward a chair and sat down casually.

"How?" Zander took off the mask again and stared at his gamma. "I thought Dawn had settled everything down and appeased those old hags."

Lance shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly. "I think Zenith is pissed because you involved his woman in the trial, so he got his petty revenge on you."

"What has he done?" Zander scrunched his nose. "He is so petty."

Pyro and Lance looked at him. Talking about pettiness, both of them were on the same level.

"Zenith said; all of you have become too old to worry about the state affairs, so as a good gesture from me, I will build a retirement home in the east city for your happy retreat which you could occupy in a few months." Lance changed his manner of speaking to mimic Zenith. "He also has confirmed the building that the five of them will occupy."

Zenith talked like that when he acted as him, thus it would be Zander, who had to deal with the aftermath.

Zander closed his eyes to control his anger. He was pissed at Zenith now.

"I think it's time to let go of the elders and advisors," Pyro suggested. "Ten years have passed, we no longer need their service."

"Not yet," Zander said calmly. "It's not the right time."

Lance and Pyro simply couldn't understand what was in Zander's mind to keep those old hags, whose existence annoyed him so much.

Meanwhile, the culprit, who pushed his own brother into trouble was having his time with his woman, he pinned Dawn on the bed and demanded an explanation from her as to why she saved that useless man.

With how smart Zenith was, he should have guessed what the answer could be, but he still wanted to hear it directly from Dawn.

"You can ask me while we are eating or walking around, right? You don't need to pin me down like this, I will still answer you," Dawn said helplessly. She could see the jealousy in his eyes and it was very clear, though he wouldn't admit that.

"This is your punishment for taking another man's side."

Dawn laughed and Zenith kissed her to stop her from laughing. "Okay, okay!" Dawn chuckled. "Like I said before, I don't want to have someone die before our ceremony, it will be a bad omen, more so, letting them have each other will be the greatest punishment for him and that woman, what is funnier than having two people, who hated each other, tied down with the mate bond? I only feel sorry for their baby, but I am sure Ava will take good care of the baby."

"Hm." Zenith rested his forehead against her. "Can I kiss you?"

"I thought you have kissed me before without even asking for my permission."

"My bad..." Zenith lowered his head and started to kiss her again. "I am terrible at asking for permission," he said against her lips.

"I figured." Dawn reciprocated his kiss and wriggled her hands, this time, he let go of her and held her body, while she wrapped her arms around his neck.

The kiss started innocently, as Zenith nibbled on her lips, but then he trailed her jaw with his lips and kissed her neck, down to her collarbones, which made Dawn's breathing turn sharp when she could feel his hand caressing her waist, down to her thigh.

"I really want to mark you, Dawn..." Zenith said breathlessly.

"Our ceremony is in less than two weeks," Dawn replied, she closed her eyes to feel his touch. Her body trembled.

"I really want you..." Zenith kissed her again and this time, his fingers traced up to her intimate part and Dawn moaned against his lips when she felt his fingers caressing her wetness.

The room was quiet, except for Dawn's cries to get her release, it was a torture when he did it so slowly. But Zenith loved to hear her voice.

"Zen, please..." Dawn moaned when she felt the tension that built inside her started to be very unbearable.

Zenith groaned, he buried his face in her neck, he was so close to marking her right there and then, but gave up the idea, as Dawn came undone, her body was trembling and she hugged him tightly.

After the waves of pleasure stopped, they stayed like that for a while.

"Feeling good?" Zenith asked with a teasing smile on his lips, while Dawn flushed red.

Chapter 55

The Day of the Ceremony

"I don't want her! I will not mark her!"

A harsh slap landed on Blake's face after what he said. His father was livid because he still talked about Dawn when he was only a step away from the gallows, while his mate could only cry to see the fight between their son and himself.

"If I had another son, I wouldn't even hesitate to kill you with my own hands for the embarrassment and everything else you put our family through!" Jason then roared at Ava. "Shut up! Stop crying!"

The sound of her endless sobbing irritated him, because she had been crying for hours now and he was very pissed, since that was all, she could do!

"If you hadn't spoiled him, this would not have happened! If you told me what happened back then and hadn't allowed him to leave, we would not be in this situation! This is your fault too!" Jason roared angrily at his mate. "And you!" He focused on his son again. "You are going to go back to the Moonlight pack with me tomorrow and after she gives birth, you are going to mark her! There is no excuse for this!"

Because of Emily's pregnancy, it was not a good timing to mark her, since it could cause a few complications. She could end up suffering a miscarriage and the act would threaten her life as well.

Therefore, the marking process would happen after she gave birth, but they were going to have a ceremony back in the Moonlight pack first.

"That woman is not my mate!"

"That woman has been your mate since you stuck your dick in her!" Jason hollered, he didn't even try to find a better choice of words when he hurled the reality in his son's face.

"We are going to leave tomorrow!" Jason approached Ava. "You better keep your eyes on that stupid son of yours! Or else, I will be the one who killed him!"

Ava stifled her cries, and then nodded. She had never seen Jason so upset. He didn't think of his words at all.

All of them were going to leave the capital city, since it was very clear they were not welcomed for the royal ceremony with Tony's invitation being rescinded. There was nothing they could even achieve by prolonging their stay.

Alpha Tony was depressed. He didn't have a chance to talk with Dawn after the trial, because she left immediately, while he couldn't go near her at all.

And now, Emily knew the darkest and the most embarrassing secret between him and Julia, he wanted to get her as far away as possible from his daughter, because he would be doomed if Dawn learned about the truth.

She would never forgive him for what he had done to her and her mother...

"Is there something I can help with?" Julia asked, as she approached Tony. Their relationship was very tense lately and she wanted them to work on it. "It's not your fault that you are not being invited. Dawn is very ungrateful; we are better off without her."

Tony couldn't believe what he heard, he shoved Julia away from him so hard, she stumbled on her feet and almost fell if she didn't catch the edge of the table to support herself in time.

"Talk bad about my daughter again and I will make you step down from your role as the luna."

Julia gasped in surprise to hear that and the seriousness in his voice. "You can't do that."

"I can. Don't push me to prove my words."

After saying that, Tony walked away from the room. Julia's presence was very suffocating and this was a glimpse of what Emily and Blake would have in the future, two people, who hated each other, but bound by the mate bond.

The next day, all they went back to the Moonlight pack, except for Tony who decided to stay in the capital city for a while, just in case Dawn changed her mind and he would have an opportunity to explain himself to her.

However, sadly for him, Dawn was determined with her decision. There was no messenger that came to the inn to summon Tony for another evening tea.

That was the last chance for him to mend his relationship with his daughter, but he ruined it spectacularly.

=====

The day of the ceremony finally came. Everyone was very excited, they waited for this day expectantly and no soul was not busy during this time, as they tried to keep up with the strict schedule of the day.

Meanwhile, inside her room, Dawn was a ball of nerves. She couldn't sit straight and kept moving her hands, legs or anything that she could touch.

"Lady Dawn, please stop. You will ruin your headpiece if you keep touching it."

"Sorry," Dawn murmured. She didn't know why she kept touching it either.

And then, there was this commotion that came from the door. "You are not allowed to be here!" A maid screeched when she saw Gamma Darius was right in front of the door, holding a bottle of drink.

"This is the Alpha's order, if you want to complain, go and complain to him," Darius replied, which shut her up and then walked into the room. "Wow, you look so beautiful." He complimented Dawn.

"Thank you," Dawn said, she chuckled a bit to see how dressed up the gamma was, even though he used to look very casual.

"I know why you are laughing, but I hope you don't have any regrets being mated to the grumpy alpha."

A maid chided the gamma for his inconsiderate words, but actually, all of them felt bad for Dawn, because they believed Zenith to be nothing different from what people talked about him, a cruel alpha from the north.

Dawn wondered who started the rumors.

"What is that?" Dawn pointed to the bottle.

"Zenith made me deliver this for you."

"He wanted me to get drunk during the ceremony?" Dawn furrowed her brows.