

Chapter 61

Mating and Marking Ceremony

On the third day of the ceremony, there were not many activities that Zenith and Dawn had to attend, since they had to prepare for the mating ceremony later.

"Are you nervous?" Carla asked, as she smiled softly at her.

She was an old woman, who was responsible for all the palace's maids, servants and the omegas. She came here to meet Dawn directly and help soothe her anxiety.

"A little bit," Dawn said, glancing at the sky out there, the night would be here and the ceremony would be held in less than an hour. "They say it will hurt badly."

"If you relax, it will not hurt as much."

Dawn blushed. "No... I meant, the marking... the marking process." She then added a rumor that she heard from the people in her pack. "People could die during the process."

Carla chuckled. "Don't worry, I am sure Alpha Zenith will be extremely careful and gentle with you. Yes. It will hurt, but Alpha Zenith would know how to ease the pain."

Dawn chewed on her lower lip, but Carla pinched her chin. "Don't ruin your make up. The Alpha will be here soon."

Dawn was not wearing anything extravagant. It was safe to say that she was not wearing much instead, because this thin nightdress looked almost transparent, she felt naked.

Her body became very hot when she heard the door open and Carla excused herself. The old woman greeted Zenith and then resigned herself, she took all the guards around this area with her, to give the two of them the privacy that they needed.

"You look beautiful," Zenith said, as he approached her and kissed her lips.

"Am I?"

"What changed? You always say 'I know' to a compliment."

Dawn grinned. "Maybe I lost a little bit of confidence." The mating process wouldn't be different from the intimate encounters that they had had before this, it was only a step further from that. It was not the first time Zenith touched her either.

He had shown her a glimpse of what would happen during the mating process.

"Nonsense." Zenith nibbled on her jaw. "Not comfortable?"

"I- I am fine. Only a little bit nervous." Dawn then told him one of her fears. "People said we could die during the marking process."

"I will not let something like that happen to you, Dawn. It will hurt, but I promise, I will ease the pain as much as possible." Zenith kissed her collarbones. "Trust me."

Dawn nodded. "I trust you..."

Zenith kissed her neck and massaged her nape to help her relax, as he walked her back to the bed and laid her down.

"Don't think of anything, just focus on me, okay?" Zenith said softly and Dawn nodded, her eyes brimming with anticipation. He could hear her racing heart and how shallow her breathing was. "Tell me to stop if you feel uncomfortable, okay?"

"Okay." Dawn cleared her throat because suddenly she felt her mouth was so dry. Her voice sounded more hoarse than usual.

"Good..." Zenith kissed both of her eyes and started with the familiar routine, which helped Dawn to feel more relaxed. Since she knew what he would do next, she was not flustered with the unfamiliarity of his touch.

His fingers entered her and he moved very slowly, which was kind of a torture for her, he stared at her intensely, watching his woman writhe in pleasure and then come undone.

Dawn was panting, she felt a little bit lightheaded with the orgasm that washed over her body, but she knew this was not the end of it, the night was still long.

"Okay?"

"Yes..."

Zenith helped her to take off her dress, he did it very slowly, as he kissed every inch of her skin and Dawn felt like her body was on fire. She could feel his love in his every kiss and how safe she felt when she was with him. This feeling was addicting. She wanted him to touch her more...

Both of them moaned when Zenith placed himself between Dawn's legs and when he started to move, Dawn gasped.

"St- stop, stop please..." Dawn whimpered, it was painful. She felt like something big intruded her body. She didn't see it, but she could feel how big he was... would he tear her up?

Zenith stopped, he didn't move, even though it pained him too to be in this position. He helped her to relax. He kissed her forehead and caressed her inner thigh to soothe the pain.

Only when Dawn felt better, did she nod for him to continue.

Zenith moved slowly at first, to let her adjust to him and when Dawn felt comfortable, he picked up his pace, filling her in.

This feeling was so strange for Dawn, but not in a bad way, she could feel the tension in her stomach and the feeling was so overwhelming. She didn't know what to do, the knot in her stomach was getting tighter, it felt like it was going to snap at any moment.

Dawn wrapped her arms around Zenith's neck and her legs around his waist, as he thrust into her harder and faster... she had never felt this feeling before, the intensity of this was more than she could handle.

"Zen..." Dawn whimpered, she bit his shoulder and this made Zenith lose it, he wanted to be with her, to have her for himself. The beast inside him reared its ugly head, wanting to mark his mate.

But it was not the time yet...

"Let it go, Dawn..." Zenith whispered by her ear, he licked the sweet spot on her neck, where he would mark her. "Let it go, love..."

This was the first time Dawn felt her body shatter, as waves of pleasure hit her so hard, she couldn't breathe, but then the pain came when Zenith sunk his teeth into her neck, marking her as she rode out her orgasm.

The pleasure and the pain coursed through her veins.

But, at the same time, it revealed the truth of Zenith's first life...

Chapter 62

The Arrival of the People of the North

*****Author note: For readers, who confused with the new volume. This is Zenith's first life. As you can see it's about rebirth. The reason why Zenith felt this strong regret for Dawn and why he seemed to know her even when they just met, it's because the previous volume is his second chance life, he turned back time to correct all the mistakes he had made.

But in this volume, it's about his first life from Dawn's perspective. Dawn got to see what actually happened in his first life after Zenith marked her after the royal ceremony.

Hope it helps.*****

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***** Zenith's first life *****

"Father, what happened? What are they doing here?" Dawn was terrified when she saw there were a lot of foreign faces entering their pack.

"It's okay, Dawn. Stay inside your bedroom and don't come out no matter what." Tony reassured his fifteen years old daughter. "Everything will be alright."

"Why? What are they doing here? Is that the Alpha from the north?" Dawn asked, she had never seen Alpha Zenith, but his cruelty was a horror story that people talked about during their free time.

"Yes, you need to greet him, okay? After that, go to your bedroom and don't come out, Blake will accompany you."

Dawn wanted to protest, but the look on her father's face stopped her. Not long after, Beta Jason came with Blake, his son. The two of them had been good friends since they were little and it was not weird to let the two of them play together.

"What do you think will happen here?" Dawn asked, her face looked very worried. Based on how notorious Alpha Zenith was, it was not a good sign if he came to your pack with a bunch of warriors.

"I will tell you later," Blake whispered back to her.

Alpha Tony, Beta Jason and Gamma Alex greeted the alpha from the north in front of the main gates. Then they introduced Dawn and Blake, who stood in the back.

This was the first time for Dawn to see Alpha Zenith and her first impression of this man was not really good. He looked very aloof and vicious. Even though he was only twenty-three years old, he looked like he had gone through a brutal war for decades and the peaceful time couldn't even shield the killing intent in his eyes.

Dawn lowered her head because she was too scared to look at the alpha for too long.

After this tension at the main gates to welcome the alpha, they finally moved to the pack house and while the high-ranking shifters were having an important discussion, Dawn and Blake escaped to her bedroom.

"From what I heard, your father borrowed a thousand warriors from Alpha Zenith and because of Alpha Tony's mistake, all the warriors died during the battle in the western part of the kingdom."

Blake only recalled what he remembered from what he heard from his father.

The western part of the kingdom had been in conflict ever since the previous king stepped down from the throne and people thought the new king was too young to lead the kingdom, but the hardest protest came from the west.

Two years ago, there was a coup which was thwarted, but this made the rebels more aggressive and Alpha Tony volunteered to eradicate these criminals, for this he received ten thousand soldiers from the kingdom, but unfortunately, one year later his efforts turned out to be fruitless while the rebels became stronger.

Instead of taking a step back, Alpha Tony actually borrowed a thousand more soldiers from Alpha Zenith, where he had to pay compensation for every life lost, but because all the soldiers died and the mission failed, now Alpha Tony had to pay for everything.

"Alpha Tony was too proud to stop when he should have taken a step back and now, he was facing the consequences."

Dawn hit Blake's shoulder. "You are talking about my father."

"I am sorry, but father said, Alpha Tony didn't want to listen to my father's advice." Blake was also upset because his father was implicated by this.

Dawn looked worried. "What would they do to my father?"

"I don't know. I think they will take him to the capital city and try him there."

Dawn looked morose. And for the next three days, when she couldn't see her father, she would alternate to go to Blake's house or to the healer's room. She used to spend her time with Lyra, the healer of the pack.

"What else do you want to learn now, dear?" Lyra asked, she was a beautiful woman with long hair that reached her waist and she always smelled like peppermint.

"I don't want to learn anything, I want to see my father." Dawn couldn't see her father because Gamma Alex told her it would put her father in a difficult situation, but he reassured her that he would be fine. Dawn didn't believe him.

Only a week after Alpha Zenith arrived, Dawn finally could see her father again, but it was only for a brief moment.

During this time, Dawn would avoid Alpha Zenith because she was scared of him. The people around him looked very scary too.

"Father will go to the capital city for a while, you need to be a good girl, okay? You need to follow whatever Beta Jason says." Alpha Tony caressed Dawn's head. "He will be in charge of the pack and you starting from tomorrow."

"Why?" Dawn was scared, she remembered what Blake said to her. "Will the King punish you? When will you return?"

"I don't know, Dawn, but I will return as soon as possible." Alpha Tony kissed her cheek.

The next day, early in the morning, Dawn watched her father be taken away. He left with Alpha Zenith and his vicious warriors.

Despite her fear, Dawn approached Alpha Zenith, she wanted to beg him to forgive her father. "Can you not take my father away? My father fought in the battle. It's not his fault if he lost the battle. He had tried his best."

This alpha from the north had those piercing blue eyes that could remind you of the deep blue sky, filled with mystery and untouched.

How could someone have such an imposing aura?

However, the alpha didn't even spare the young girl a glance. "Take her away."

Alpha Zenith's gamma approached Dawn and gave her a candy. "Here, take this and run along."

"I am not a child!" Dawn was mad.

And that morning was the last time for Dawn to see her father, as they took him to the capital city.

Chapter 63

The Sacred Mate Bond

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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"Don't make such a sad face," Lyra said, she caressed her head and put a small cake in front of Dawn. "Happy birthday."

Today was Dawn's sixteenth birthday, but she didn't feel like celebrating it. Her mood had been ruined ever since she woke up, because Emily had entered her room again and messed with her mother's precious belongings. She hated her with passion.

"Thank you, Lyra. Only you remember my birthday." Dawn smiled at the healer. She felt like a second mother to her.

"Don't be silly, Blake also remembers your birthday. He will come to celebrate it with us after his training." Lyra cheered her up.

Ever since her father had been taken away to the capital city seven months ago, Beta Jason had been in charge of the pack. That scary alpha would come down here twice every month to check everything.

Dawn didn't like that alpha either. She tried to ask him, but the protection around him was incredibly tight. She threw a tantrum one time and was immediately escorted out, but then Jason locked her inside her room until Alpha Zenith left the pack.

Usually, Alpha Zenith would stay for two or three days, it meant, those couple of days, Dawn would be locked inside her room.

But that was not it. Dawn's life became even more miserable when Beta Jason decided that Julia and Emily should move into the main pack house, the area where the alpha and his family lived, since Dawn had been living alone there.

Despite her protest, Beta Jason said he knew the best. He was in charge of the pack, which made him Dawn's guardian as well.

Two months and there was not a single day that went by without a fight between Dawn and that mother and daughter duo.

"Don't be sad, your father will return soon."

"When?" Dawn gritted her teeth, she fought back her tears, but it was so hard to be tough when she was only a sixteen-year-old girl, whose life turned upside down in a matter of a few months.

Dawn stared at the bright sky out there. She wished there would be a storm, so at the very least, the sky would match her mood. She had been restless and anxious, she thought it must be because of Emily, but as it turned out, it was something else entirely...

Not long after, someone entered the room and it was Blake. He was panting, his eyes were misty, as sweat trickled down from his forehead. He stared at Dawn, as if he had never seen her before and his lips formed a sacred word.

"Mate."

Now it all made sense to Dawn, because it answered why she had been uncomfortable with herself since this morning. She thought it was because Emily messed with her again, but as it turned out, this was a different thing entirely.

"No way..." Dawn was breathless, her heart was pounding against her chest and she saw Blake in a new light.

People always said that finding your mate was the best feeling that you would be able to experience and Dawn thought they must have played down the feeling, because right now, the sensation was more than anything that she had ever felt before.

"Wow... congratulations..." Lyra was surprised, but she was also thrilled because she witnessed this firsthand.

Meanwhile, Blake and Dawn only had eyes for each other. As Blake moved closer, Dawn stood up and this tickling feeling crept on her skin when Blake touched her and leaned over to capture her lips.

Dawn felt like her breath was being taken away, but she didn't mind it. This was her first kiss and she did it with the person that she would spend the rest of her life with.

She had known Blake for almost her entire life and their fathers happened to tease them once or twice in the past, saying it would be great if they were mates and today it happened.

"My mate..." Blake said as he stared at his beautiful mate with adoration in his eyes. He looked like he was going to worship the ground she was walking in.

Dawn chuckled and hugged him.

This was the best sixteenth birthday present she could get.

The rumor about this spread around, after all, Dawn was still the alpha's daughter, people congratulated the young couple for their newly found soulmate, the sacred bond that a pair of shifters could have.

People treated Dawn nicely for the first time ever since Emily spread nasty rumors about her. Dawn was not a social person, while Emily befriended almost all the people in the pack, Julia was also a well-known beauty in the pack, unfortunately, Emily was not as beautiful as her mother...

Safe to say, when the news about Blake and Dawn getting together became the attention of the people in the pack, Emily was not happy. She had her eyes on the man ever since she was little, but didn't have a chance to be close to Blake due to her status as a mere omega.

Two weeks after her birthday were pure bliss for Dawn, because she found new happiness with Blake, not just waiting for news from the capital city about her father every single day.

But she should know that Emily wouldn't be quiet about this.

One day, after Dawn went out with Blake, she found her room had been thrashed when she returned. It didn't take a genius to guess, who had done this and Dawn saw red.

Emily's room was across from hers and she could smell her nasty scent from where she was standing.

"What? What do you want?!" Emily glowered at Dawn when she saw she entered her room and glared at her viciously. "What? Are you mad because I messed up your bedroom a little bit? Don't even think of doing anything, because I will tell my mother."

However, Dawn had shifted into her beast and charged toward her.

Chapter 64

Just Like His Father

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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"You are a murderer! Just like how you killed your mother, you tried to kill my daughter too!" Julia lost it, she was yelling, cursing and trying to hit Dawn if it was not for Beta Jason, who held her back.

Meanwhile, Ava and Blake tried to shield Dawn from Julia's wrath.

"I am going to kill you! I am going to kill you! You will pay for this!"

"Julia! Enough!" Jason held her back, he used his beta's voice to subdue her, so she wouldn't shift into her beast. "Ava, Blake, take her back to the pack house!"

On the other hand, Dawn didn't show any expression, there was no remorse or whatever on her face. She looked stoic, even though she knew that she almost killed Emily.

In her rage, Dawn had shifted into her beast and attacked her brutally. Women in this pack didn't receive any combat training, but you could tell that Dawn had the alpha's blood in her veins, she was vicious in her attack and Emily was defenseless.

Emily shifted into her beast too, but it didn't help much with her case, since her beast was so weak, she was an omega after all and she was not used to her beast form.

Needless to say, Emily's injuries were very severe, Lyra had to pay close attention to her for the next few days, until she was able to go through her critical condition. Because of how harsh her wounds were, her healing ability couldn't keep up with it.

"I am going to kill you! You are a murderer! Just like how you murdered your mother!"

Unexpectedly, it was Ava, who had enough of Julia's rambling. She could understand that Julia was angry because of what Dawn had done, no matter what, such a violent act couldn't be justified, but then it was

actually Emily, who had been looking for trouble and pushing Dawn to her limit.

"That's enough!" Ava slapped Julia's face so hard, all of them were stunned. "You are being disrespectful to the late luna! One more word from you about that incident, I will slap you again!"

Ava was being protective of Dawn, because ever since the late luna died, she and Lyra literally raised her, as Dawn did not socialize with many people.

"Shut your mouth and stop spitting nonsense!" Ava growled at Julia and this made her stop her tantrum. "Let's go." She put her arm around her shoulders and took her away from this vicious woman.

Blake followed the two of them. They took Dawn to their house and gave her food to eat, but she didn't touch it at all.

"Dawn..." Ava called her gently. "Why don't you move here? I will help you pack, okay?"

Dawn looked at Ava, she didn't say much ever since they left the pack house. "I want to go back. That's my place. If there is anyone who has to move out, it should be them, not me."

Ava tried to persuade her because it would only make her feel more uncomfortable if she still stayed there, but at the same time, she understood why Dawn didn't want to leave the place. That was her home after all.

In the end, Ava promised to help her clean up her room only if she ate her food. Dawn could only eat half of it and shook her head. She didn't want to eat anymore and wanted to return to her room.

"I will talk to Jason to move them out, okay?" Ava reassured her that she would help and Dawn was very grateful, especially with Blake's presence. The mate bond between them was the her only solace at times like this.

In the end, with Ava and Blake accompanying her, Dawn returned to the alpha's quarters.

Dawn's room was still a mess, just like how she saw it the first time. Ava gasped to see how vicious Emily was. She destroyed everything in this room and it would take them a long time to clean this up.

Dawn didn't complain, she started to clean everything up silently, Ava and Blake helped her. It was two hours of complete silence, as they worked without saying anything.

However, Dawn broke down crying when she saw there was a huge dent on her mother's locket. Emily touched her mother's belongings again.

"Ssh... Ssh... don't cry. Don't cry, Dawn. We will find a way to fix it, okay?" Ava hugged Dawn, who was crying so hard.

It almost felt like all the bottled-up emotions came rushing out and she didn't even know how to handle it. It was very devastating to see her crying like this.

Blake could feel her pain as well, because they shared the bond as mates.

Later on, Dawn fell asleep in Ava's arms.

"Take her to the bed," Ava said to her son, hearing which Blake tucked her in and they continued to clean up the mess.

"You need to take good care of her, understand? She has gone through a lot."

"Understood, mother." Blake was determined to make her happy. "I will never hurt her. I will treat her well."

Ava smiled proudly at her son. "You're just like your father. Both of you treat your mates really well."

"We shouldn't have done this," Jason said, as he pulled away from Julia. He wiped his lips with the back of his hand, his brows furrowed.

Julia looked very beautiful when she was crying like this. Her face turned very red and her misty eyes were alluring.

"I am sorry, I am sorry. I wasn't thinking straight." Julia kept apologizing to Jason and this made the beta feel sorry for her. "I am so worried about my daughter."

"I know." Jason took her to sit down, while he knelt in front of her and wiped the tears from her cheeks. "I am sorry on behalf of my mate. It's wrong of her to slap you."

"You are very kind, Jason. Thank you."

Chapter 65

The Change of the Situation

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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Ever since what happened between Dawn and Emily, Beta Jason finally decided to move Julia and her daughter from the alpha's quarters, it was also because Ava insisted for him to do so.

"This wouldn't have happened if you hadn't moved them to the Alpha's quarter in the first place. You know that Dawn and Emily don't get along well."

"They should be friends. They are also of the same age."

"That's nonsense. Just because you are of the same age, it doesn't mean you can instantly befriend someone."

After that argumentation, Beta Jason had to relent and move the mother and daughter, but they still stayed in the pack house, instead of going back to their small house.

Even though Dawn was not happy about this and Ava also couldn't understand why her mate sided with them, this was the middle ground that they had to agree on.

"You will pay for this." Emily glared at Dawn when she moved out of her comfortable room.

"Don't make me ruin your face again, omega." Dawn looked her dead in the eyes and Julia immediately came to take her daughter away, as if Dawn was a feral animal that would hurt her precious baby.

However, that was not the end of it, because ever since that incident, Emily started spreading a nasty rumor about Dawn and how she almost unlive her out of jealousy, because Beta Jason was being kind to her and her mother by giving them a proper place to live in.

But Dawn wanted to kill her.

Meanwhile, Dawn couldn't care less about that, she only waited for the arrival of Alpha Zenith, so she could ask him about her father. She was relentless. The alpha had not come for three months and she had been asking Beta Jason when he would come.

"Dawn, you will stay in your room when he comes. I don't want you to make a ruckus again like before."

"Are you going to lock me in?" Dawn pressed her lips, her eyes turned sharp. She was the alpha's daughter and she shouldn't be treated this way.

"I don't want to, but if you force me, I have to do what is right."

"By locking the daughter of the Alpha?"

"You make it sound very bad." Beta Jason shook his head. "You don't understand this, Dawn, but you will only complicate things and put yourself in a difficult situation."

"You are not going to lock me in, Beta Jason." Dawn lifted her chin. "I will turn eighteen next year and I will take over this pack. You are still a beta and I hope you'll act accordingly."

"Is this a warning, Dawn?" Jason was in disbelief that he was being threatened by a girl who was still wet behind her ears.

"Yes, I will choose my own beta once I become the Alpha of this pack."

There was this flicker of malice in Beta Jason's eyes, something that Dawn had never seen before. "Be careful with what you are saying, Dawn." His voice was cold. "Look around. Do you really think you can be the Alpha just because you are born as Alpha Tony's first child? Haven't you realized that the whole pack looks at you with disgust for what you have done to Emily and her mother? Do you really think they will be willing to have an unstable teenage girl, as their alpha? Wake up and stop day-dreaming."

After saying that, Beta Jason walked away. He couldn't care less about Dawn.

And as the words sunk in, Dawn trembled in fear, realizing that she was all alone. Beta Jason was not the warm beta Dawn remembered. He... changed.

But, since when had he changed?

Now that Dawn thought about it, she realized that Beta Jason had never thought or talked about her father. He didn't seem to try to get any news on him or help him in any way to get him out of the capital city either.

Dawn felt a warm tear fall down her cheek, which she wiped away stubbornly.

Later when Alpha Zenith and his small entourage arrived and stayed for the night, she wanted to sneak into the guest bedroom where the alpha stayed, but Jason locked her inside her bedroom, just like he promised her.

"Dawn, are you inside?" Blake came to see her later at night. The moment he learned his father did this again to her, he rushed to her room.

"Blake!" Dawn jumped from her bed and went to the door. "Blake, is that you? Can you open the door, please? I want to get out. I need to see Alpha Zenith."

"Dawn, please don't make trouble. You will put my father in trouble too."

Dawn was a little bit disappointed with Blake's reaction and he could feel it, thus he tried to cajole her.

"I will ask Father to ask Alpha Zenith about your father's case, okay? So, stay inside your room and don't do anything reckless."

However, Dawn had enough. She went to the balcony and looked down at the ground. Her bedroom was on the third floor and she could survive

if she jumped from here, well... she wouldn't die, but of course, she would sustain a few injuries.

And Dawn took a bet when Blake kept talking nonsense about how sensible Beta Jason was and how she was being ridiculous.

"Dawn? Are you listening? Dawn?" Blake knocked softly because there was no reaction from inside her room. "I know you are upset, but try to sleep, okay?" He shook his head and then walked away.

Meanwhile, Dawn already made her jump, she shifted back into her human form and bit her tongue to prevent herself from screaming in pain. She felt like she had twisted her ankle.

Dawn touched her leg and was grateful she didn't break any bones, but she still needed to wait until the pain subsided. She crawled to the bushes, so no one could hear her, and masked her scent with the smell of the grass.

Yet, she heard two familiar voices, which became increasingly clearer. They were approaching the place she was hiding in.