

Chapter 66

The Frustration in Her Voice

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

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Dawn's POV

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Their voices sounded very familiar and Dawn knew that she had heard them somewhere, but amidst her pain, she couldn't figure out who they were quick enough.

But when they moved closer and their conversation became a little bit clearer and their scents hit her, Dawn gasped in surprise to realize the two people, who were seemingly having an argument, were actually Beta Jason and Julia.

"...I told you not to be so rash!" Beta Jason hissed. He sounded very pissed about something. "This is not the right time!"

"When? When is the right time? It has been more than a year and there is no sign that Tony will return!" Julia was furious, her pretty face turned red. "How much longer will my daughter and I have to wait? That's our right, as much as Dawn's!"

"People will give you a hard time if you let them know about this! They will condemn you!"

"Why not? People in the past used to have a lot of women! What's so despicable about what I have done?"

"The rules have changed. You will be punished for that."

After that, the two of them walked away. Dawn didn't understand what they were talking about, but it seemed the relationship between the two of them was closer than what people thought.

However, she couldn't worry about that matter when she had to be somewhere else. These past few months when Alpha Zenith didn't come, she had practiced how to sneak into the guest room. He made it easy for her because the alpha used the same room all the time.

Yet, practice and the real thing was not the same. Dawn was caught by one of his warriors in no time.

Thean.

Dawn believed this bulky man with brown eyes was the alpha's personal warrior.

"You again?" He sounded more tired than angry. "Give it up, girl. You can't get anything from him."

"I want to see him." Dawn could be very stubborn when she wanted.

"You will get nothing even if you see him." Thean tried to chase her away. "Go back to your room and sleep well."

"Tell me where my father is, or else..." Dawn gritted her teeth. She didn't budge.

Amusement flickered in Thean's eyes. "Or else?" He prodded.

"Or else, I will scream until he comes out."

Thean rolled his eyes dramatically. "Look. If you really want to know what happened to your father, go and ask that beta of yours. He knew all the details."

"No. He didn't." Dawn frowned. "If he knew something about my father, he would have told me already."

"Really?" Thean raised his brows, he leaned over and talked in a voice low enough, until only Dawn could hear. "Do you know that that beta is the one, who was standing against your father in trial? He is literally the reason why you couldn't see your father."

Dawn looked shocked and Thean felt bad for the young girl, but this was what Zenith told him to do, since he knew that Dawn would come looking for him again.

And when the poor girl left, that was what Thean told Zenith.

"I feel bad for her situation."

However, Zenith didn't say anything about that, he looked aloof as usual. There must be a reason why he let Dawn know about it.

"Have Aurel prepared everything?"

"Yes. That's what she said in the letter." The gamma waved the letter. "Are we going back to the capital tomorrow?" Darius asked.

"We will go tomorrow."

Dawn was upset that Alpha Zenith left the pack already, he only stayed for one night. But, when she decided to confront him directly and not leave until she was allowed to meet him, he had never come.

Her birthday went by without a single update about her father and any indication that Alpha Zenith would visit their pack again, all she heard about was his victorious battle against the rogues in the west. The very task that landed her father in trouble.

And today was her nineteenth birthday, the day where she could be considered old enough to take over the pack, because of her father's absence, but their people were very fond of Beta Jason and Dawn could feel their rejection toward her already.

"It's your fault that you didn't even try to interact with them," Blake said. He looked a bit upset for an unknown reason, even though today was Dawn's birthday. If anything, even his smiles looked forced.

"I tried," Dawn said, staring at the candles on her birthday cake. It was already weird to have a woman as the leader of a pack, it was unheard of, but now she had no one to rely on or anyone to guide her about what to do.

She couldn't get the title, even if she could, it didn't feel right.

"How can I try to warm up to them when Emily has been poisoning their ears all these years? I know what they say about me. They call me a bad luck bringer."

"Maybe you are," Blake said, but he immediately corrected himself when he realized how wrong it was. "No. I am sorry, that's not what I meant." He tried to hug her, but Dawn pushed him away.

"What's wrong with you!?" Dawn stood up. She glowered at her mate. "Do you really think I am a bad luck bringer too?!"

"No. Of course, not!"

"Then why have you been sulking the whole day?!"

Blake tried to say that it was nothing, that it was only in her mind, but Dawn didn't buy it. She pressed this matter until he admitted it.

"You keep refusing to mate with me! I want to mate and mark you, but all you talk about is that cruel alpha from the north! What? Do you fancy him?"

Dawn narrowed her eyes. "Did Emily get into your head too? That's something she will say." She was in disbelief. "I know that you have been talking to her lately."

"See? You are being ridiculous again!"

Chapter 67

The Revelation of the Secret Affair

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

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Dawn's POV

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"I don't know what's wrong with her, she has been like this ever since Alpha Tony was taken away to the capital city." Blake sighed deeply. He threw pebbles in the lake, while Emily stood next to him, listening to his ramblings. "I think you are right, she just wants to get closer to Alpha Zenith. She has been asking when that alpha will come visit this pack again."

If Blake knew how many times Dawn asked about Alpha Zenith, he should also have known how many times she asked Jason about her father, but it seemed, Blake only heard what he wanted to hear...

"I know, right?" Emily sighed, sympathizing with him, making Blake feel heard. "I didn't mean to badmouth her, I only told the truth, but she always says that I don't like her. I know, I did something bad in the past, but it's because I was too young and didn't know any better."

Well, Emily was literally a year older than Dawn...

They talked about a few more things and Blake started to feel how great it would be if Dawn could be as compassionate as Emily. He stared at her, watching the way she smiled, laughed and how her eyes would light up when she heard his story.

Emily looked so alive and without him realizing it, he had leaned over to kiss her lips. Her lips were so cold, they tasted sweet, but also wrong. These were not the pair of soft lips of Dawn and he didn't feel the exciting spark that he felt when he touched his mate.

But Emily had wrapped her arms around his neck and reciprocated his kiss. Blake was caught in the middle of shock and thrill.

He felt like he had no other choice, but to continue. Despite knowing how wrong it was, he couldn't find the strength to push this delicate woman away from him.

Emily and Dawn were very different. Dawn was stubborn and had this strong determination. Sometimes, she could be so hard to handle,

probably because she had the alpha blood running in her veins, while Emily was demure and delicate, a real woman...

But the spark was not there.

"No." Blake finally pushed himself away from Emily and only then he realized how far the two of them had gone.

Emily had her dress lifted up and her breasts were exposed, but thankfully, Blake stopped before the deed was done.

Tonight was still Dawn's birthday and after he stormed off amidst his argumentation with Dawn, he looked for Emily for comfort.

"I am sorry, I am sorry..." Emily sobbed, she immediately sat down and covered herself, she looked embarrassed and pitiful, which made Blake's heart melt.

"No, it's my fault. I am at fault here. I was the one who kissed you first," Blake admitted to it. He approached Emily cautiously, but he needed to comfort her upon seeing how sad she was. "I am sorry, Em. I am really sorry." Blake hugged her and patted her back to calm her down.

After all, it was really his fault, so he needed to take responsibility for his actions.

And that was the last time Blake met with Emily in private. What happened between them at the lake became a secret between the two of them and Blake was very grateful to Emily because she didn't tell anyone about this.

That night after the incident at the lake, Dawn was the first person to go and apologize to Blake, because she realized that she had indeed been neglecting him. Feeling guilty, Blake also apologized, only for a completely different reason, which Dawn was not aware of.

In the next two years, Blake tried to connect with Dawn again and they seemed happy together.

Everything seemed fine and Dawn started to accept the fact that she wouldn't meet her father in the near future, until a decree from the king came to their doorstep.

It said that Emily would be bestowed to Alpha Zenith.

This news shocked everyone and people started talking. They said, it was a punishment for the alpha because he vied for the throne, therefore, the king decreed an omega to be his mate.

But there was another shocking revelation that followed.

Emily was Alpha Tony's secret daughter. The alpha just confessed this and this revelation was made public.

"This is really a humiliation to Alpha Zenith."

"Yes, not only will he have an omega as his mate, but also one born out of an affair."

"I feel bad for the previous king and queen, they tried so hard to eradicate this kind of activity."

"Alpha Zenith is very scornful for vying for the crown with his king brother."

"I heard he is notorious for his cruelty, I feel bad for Emily, she is such a sweet girl."

People talked about this; they condemned Alpha Tony for his affair with Julia and having Emily as his secret daughter that he had never revealed in public until now.

While people were busy cursing the alpha and Julia, and Emily basked in their pity and sympathy, Dawn felt her world crumbling down.

"She is a year older than me, Lyra," Dawn said to the healer, her voice shaking. Her whole body trembled uncontrollably. "He has actually been with that woman when my mother was still alive..."

"I am really sorry, Dawn..." Lyra didn't know how to comfort her, she was too wounded for her to heal, there was no healer in this realm who could mend her wounds at this point.

"He is trash, my father is trash for what he has done and here I am, thinking of him for the last five years, trying to find a way to get to him. I feel so stupid, Lyra... he betrayed my mother."

Dawn felt very stupid right now, especially when she felt this strong urge to see him. She wanted to scream in his face and ask if it was true.

Chapter 68

Depressing Reality

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

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Dawn's POV

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Dawn was inconsolable for a few days. She refused to eat and drink. She felt so ashamed for what her father had done and now the people in this pack looked down on her even more for a sin she didn't even commit.

On the other hand, while Julia was being cursed to death by the pack members, Emily actually came out of this whole ordeal unscathed. She gained people's sympathy and appeared as a delicate girl, who kept apologizing for what her mother had done.

But people said it was not her fault.

If it was not Emily's fault, how could they think it was Dawn's fault? She was as innocent as her too! The hypocrisy there was appalling.

Ava and Lyra came to check on her occasionally, while Blake had stayed with her the whole time, but eventually, it took a toll on him, as he felt unhappy with this situation and even more with Dawn. She had been feeling down for weeks.

Blake could understand if she was sad for a week or two, but it was almost two months and she barely got off the bed. She was literally a living corpse.

"I don't want it, Blake," Dawn said, pushing Blake away from her when his kiss implied other intentions. He had been making a fuss about mating and marking her, though he knew Dawn didn't want to do that without a ceremony. But Beta Jason didn't want to give them one, saying they were too young.

That was bullshit.

"You can't punish me for what my father did, Dawn," Blake growled in frustration. "You won't let me mate and mark you, what kind of mates are we?"

"Not now Blake, I am not in the right mind."

However, Blake didn't listen, he literally pinned her down and tried to mark her forcefully, but Dawn snapped at him.

"Get away from me!" Dawn roared, she used her alpha's voice to get him off her.

Blake was startled and then stopped. He stormed out of the room and it made Dawn feel so bad for what she had done to him.

"Dawn, it has been two months, you should get over it," Blake said one day, because he was tired of taking care of her. He wanted the happy and cheerful Dawn back.

Dawn sat down and looked at Blake. She knew that he started being impatient with her. She could feel it, but she couldn't bring herself to act like everything had returned to normal, especially when Beta Jason decided it was a good idea for Emily and Julia to return to the alpha's quarters and every time Dawn opened her door, she would be reminded of her father's infidelity.

She looked up to her father so much, his betrayal broke her in a way she couldn't describe, she felt like she was hurt on behalf of her mother as well.

"You can leave, Blake. I thank you for always being here with me, but you can go out and do whatever you want. I need a bit more time."

"It has been two months, Dawn." Blake was frustrated. "Emily also has her own problems, but she is not drowning herself in misery."

Dawn didn't even have the energy to fight him. "Don't compare me with her," she said, as she laid down on the bed again. It upset her especially when he also mentioned her name.

Blake was pissed. "I am in a hard position too. Do you think I can just walk away from you? What will people say? Do you want me to look bad?"

"I want you to leave my room," Dawn said firmly, she opened her eyes and Blake felt flustered with the hatred that he could see there.

"Fine, I will do whatever I please!"

After that, Blake didn't return for the next three days, after that, he would come occasionally. Sometimes, he would treat her gently, but other times, he would look sad and often, he would look like he was uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, time went by in a flash and Alpha Zenith's entourage was due to arrive in three days. It had been years since the last time he was here.

Dawn had been waiting for this moment and when she heard the alpha would come, she found the strength to get up from the bed and prepared herself. It had been ages since she came out of her shell and the pack house looked lively, but at the same time, the atmosphere was very depressing.

The reason for this was; they had to let go of their sweet Emily, since she would leave with Alpha Zenith to be his chosen mate.

All of them felt bad for her and Emily played her part as a pitiful girl very well, garnering a lot of compassion.

But, unlike them, Dawn was waiting for Alpha Zenith's arrival. She really wanted to get closure about her father. She wanted to hear Emily was his father's daughter with Julia herself, that he had betrayed her mother all this time.

She wanted to stop thinking about 'what ifs'... if she had to hate her father for what he had done, she didn't want to have second thoughts about whether or not her father was innocent in this matter.

"You dolled up because Alpha Zenith is coming?" Blake asked, as he entered the room, looking upset. It must be one of the days where he was in a very bad mood.

"Don't start it, Blake." Dawn was already very tired; she didn't want to spend her energy on fighting with him. "You know exactly the reason why I am waiting for him. Stop your nasty thoughts."

Blake glared at Dawn, but she ignored him. She didn't doll up like he accused her, she simply looked more presentable than her 'living corpse' state.

When Blake left, Dawn took a deep breath, she knew that she had been awful to Blake, she would make it up to him later.

"Alpha Zenith is here," Lyra said, as she entered Dawn's room.

Chapter 69

Storm

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

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Dawn's POV

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Alpha Zenith's entourage was here because they were going to fetch Emily to the north. As his chosen mate, she would go to his pack.

The moment Dawn stepped out of her bedroom, she was able to hear how Emily cried her heart out pitifully, wailing that she didn't want to go to the north.

The alpha from the north was notorious for his cruelty. He showed no mercy. He was the epitome of brutality. That was what people said about him.

It was understandable that Emily would cry her heart out when she had to spend the rest of her life with such an alpha.

For a second, Dawn felt pity for her, but the feeling didn't last long when she noticed Blake's scent.

"Where are you going? You don't need to confront them," Lyra said, stopping Dawn from approaching Emily's bedroom. She thought Dawn wanted to give them a piece of her mind, which would only lead to a fight.

"Blake is inside."

"Blake?" Lyra furrowed her brows. "What is Blake doing inside?"

Dawn was not in her right mind to begin with, thus when she decided to enter the room, she didn't even think twice about it.

But her eyes turned cold when she saw her mate was really there, comforting Emily. He didn't even realize when Dawn went inside.

Actually, it was Emily, who noticed her first.

"This is all your fault! Your fault! You should have been the one who became his mate! You should be the one who should go with him!" Emily hollered, she hugged Blake, who was half hugging her, preventing the man from chasing after Dawn when she walked out of the room.

Lyra looked mortified when she saw Emily hug Blake and the man didn't even have the heart to push her away and run after his own mate.

This must be the last straw that broke Dawn completely. Life had not been so kind to her lately and watching Blake comfort Emily must be a sight that shattered her whole world.

The healer immediately went looking for Dawn, but she couldn't find her anywhere. She then went to her favorite spot by the lake, but she was not there either.

Meanwhile, the sky turned gloomy and right after Alpha Zenith's entourage arrived, rain poured down hard.

Dawn's absence became another thing to talk about among the pack members. It was very disrespectful for the alpha's daughter to disappear during this time.

"What else did she want to be jealous about? Emily is leaving the pack, but she is still throwing a tantrum."

"They are actually half siblings. Why can't she forgive her sister when Emily is the victim here?"

"Right? I hope it is her who has to go."

"She is a bad luck bringer. Her mother died because of her and her father is facing a great punishment."

People kept talking, even if they didn't have anything worth talking about, they kept running their mouths mindlessly.

However, Dawn actually met with Alpha Zenith. After so many years, she finally managed to have a conversation with him.

As usual, he occupied the same room again.

"What are you doing here? Come. I will escort you out." Gamma Darius approached Dawn, but she threw him a dagger look.

The way she glared at the gamma was pure murderous, as if saying that if he dared to touch her, she was going to kill him and for a moment, he believed that.

You could imagine how imposing Dawn's presence was to be able to leave a battle-hardened shifter like Darius feeling flustered.

"Leave us alone," Zenith finally said. He looked at Dawn and knew that this girl still had the same request, only this time, it was for a different purpose.

"You said we are going to leave right away."

"Leave."

Darius raised both of his arms and then walked out of the room.

Zenith knew Dawn would come to see him again, especially after what she learned about her father. Therefore, instead of taking Emily right away and then leaving, he came to this room.

This time, Zenith intended to let her in, but as it turned out, she stepped up her game and actually managed to sneak inside his room.

"What do you want?" Zenith asked. He glanced at the storm out there.

Emily would cry out loud and break her delicate image if she had to go through this storm to head north.

"I want to see my father," Dawn said straight to the point.

Zenith paid attention to her for the first time. He didn't remember her much, because he didn't see her much before.

But he remembered the sadness and confusion in her eyes when he took her father away all those years ago, yet those eyes had turned into angry ones now.

"The King is the one who held him captive. You need to go to the capital city and ask him instead."

"Why did you take my father?"

Zenith tilted his head. "I thought you would look into it when I gave you a clue about your beta, but as it turned out, you are very gullible."

Of course, Dawn remembered what Thean said that day about Beta Jason, but Beta Jason said that he had been helping her father to get the justice he deserved.

'So, you trust that notorious alpha more than the father of your mate? The beta of your father?'

That was how Jason responded to her and it shut her up completely.

"You didn't feel suspicious at all."

"I believe him."

"Just like how you believed your father?"

Dawn pressed her lips thin. She held back her tears. She couldn't find a word to retort, since that was true.

But, before they could continue this conversation, there was a knock on the door and Thean appeared.

"Zen, this is not good." Thean frowned, he glanced at Dawn uncomfortably. "I think you need to come and see it for yourself."

Thean couldn't say it out loud, thus he mind linked Zenith to let him know what happened.

Chapter 70

Caught Them in the Act

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

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Dawn's POV

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"Blake, I am really scared. I don't want to go." Emily cried against his chest and hugged him tightly, so he couldn't go after Dawn.

She felt a little bit better to see the hurt in Dawn's eyes, at the very least, it could compensate for what she had to go through because of her a little.

"I know. I know. I will do everything I can to keep you here, Emily." Blake hugged her back to comfort her. He wished Dawn would be vulnerable like this with him.

Dawn always appeared tough and did not want any help. She was too dominant and independent. She wouldn't cry like this in front of him and would try to solve her problems on her own instead.

Blake wanted Dawn to need him, just like how Emily openly said that she needed him. It made Blake feel like he mattered.

"Blake, please, stay with me. I don't want to see that notorious alpha just yet. I am not ready." Emily pushed him slightly, as the two of them laid down on the bed.

Blake told himself that they were only lying down, there was nothing wrong with it and that he only chose to stay because Emily needed him more. Dawn would understand his explanation; she wouldn't be that selfish.

No matter what, she and Emily shared the same blood. She was still her half-sister.

However, things were not as innocent as Blake intended them to be, because the same thing at the lake happened and this time, they didn't stop. Emily refused for Blake to stop.

"We can't do this... we need to stop..." Blake said, panting mid thrust. But, how could Blake escape from this when he himself wanted it so badly?

"No, don't stop, please... don't stop..." Emily was panting too, her face turned very red, as tension built in her stomach. She was so close. "Mark me, Blake..."

"N- no..." Blake stammered, but he couldn't think straight. It had been his biggest desire to mark Dawn, to have her for himself. To go dirty with her. He wanted to do this with Dawn. "I can't... I have a mate."

Blake had already gone too far for him to stop now. He couldn't stop even if he wanted to.

"Mark me, please... Blake, mark me." Gently, Emily pulled him closer and pressed his face against her neck, so he could find her sweet spot, where he would be able to mark her.

Emily wrapped her arms and legs around his body tightly, preventing him from leaving. She moaned with every movement and whimpered when his thrusts became faster and harder. He filled her in and when the two of them couldn't hold it back any longer, their cries intertwined in the air.

Emily screamed when Blake finally gave in to the temptation and sunk his teeth in her neck. The sensation of it was unbearable, waves of pleasure washed over them and they moaned loudly.

But then, they heard Ava scream.

Blake's mother caught her son in the act and upon hearing her scream, Blake immediately scrambled to cover himself and Emily up, because she was spent.

Emily just got marked and was unable to lift even a finger, as her body tried to adjust to this new change.

Meanwhile, Blake cried to his mother and apologized. "I didn't mean it, mother! I didn't mean it!"

But it was too late, Ava's scream had gathered unwanted attention.

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"I don't think it is a good idea for you to tag alone," Darius said to Dawn. He glanced at the girl beside him and felt so bad for her. Only the said girl didn't seem to care. She looked very aloof to her surroundings, as if there was nothing that could shake her cool.

Actually, her nonchalant attitude was rather scary.

Earlier, they received shocking news from one of the warriors, who caught wind of what happened in the alpha's quarter, where Dawn, Emily and Julia lived.

Dawn thought she would be fine, that she had gone through a lot, she had suffered, been beaten up and numbed her feelings, she was prepared for more heartache.

However, no one could prepare her for this.

The first thing that Dawn saw was Ava, who cried her heart out, full of fury, while hitting her son's chest, asking why he did that.

What had Blake done?

And the moment Ava saw Dawn, she immediately rushed to hug her and kept apologizing, talking something incoherently.

"What happened?" Dawn was confused.

Everyone was here. This was the first time the living room of the alpha's quarters was filled with so many people.

Beta Jason was there, too, he stood next to Blake, while Julia sat alone on a chair, looking so distressed. She had her head hanging so low, her chin touched her chest. Lyra was also present and then there was Gamma Alex.

It was a rare occasion that Gamma Alex visited the pack house. Ever since Alpha Tony left, he was taking care of external matters, traveling a lot instead.

"I am sorry, Dawn, I am sorry..."

Dawn was annoyed. She wanted an answer, but Ava just kept apologizing to her, while she didn't understand what she was apologizing for.

"Can someone explain what happened here?!" Dawn's voice carried dominance when she demanded an explanation.

"He marked that woman." Darius finally had enough because these people didn't have any intention to take responsibility and explain things to Dawn. "He marked your half sibling. She caught them in the act." The gamma nodded at Ava, who was still crying and asking for forgiveness.

No wonder Emily was not here, because after the mating and the marking process, she wouldn't be able to leave the bed for a few days, as her body needed to heal and familiarize with the fresh mark.

"You did what?" Dawn pushed Ava away from her and approached Blake.
"You did what?"

Blake didn't even dare to look Dawn in the eyes. "I am sorry, Dawn. I can fix this," he said weakly.