

Chapter 96

No Mercy

FIRST LIFE

ZENITH'S POV

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The funeral for their little one came and went just like that. Zenith was not sure what happened after that, because everything was a blur to him.

He didn't even remember how many hours he spent just sitting at his desk, staring at the reports before his eyes without understanding a word written in them, because all he could see was the mangled body of his son.

The beast inside him was on a rampage, he felt like he was going crazy.

And when he checked on Dawn, the only thing she said was; 'why didn't you believe me when I said our son had gone missing? If only you had believed me, my son would still be here with me.'

Dawn only said that single sentence, but he never knew that Dawn came to him for a second time just to make him go looking for Rex.

"What's all that about?" Zenith finally asked Axel. Because he would never put a meeting above the safety of his son.

Dawn didn't need to come to him for a second time to tell him about Rex going missing for Zenith to go looking for their son.

Darius glanced at Axel. He knew what happened, but he also knew what would happen next if Axel admitted his error.

"Zen..." Darius tried his best to deescalate the situation, it had been a stressful week and the gloominess had been hanging above their heads, but Axel beat him to it and knelt down.

"I am sorry." Axel took full responsibility for his mistake. He was the one who turned Dawn away and didn't take the matter seriously. He was racked with guilt when he realized his mistake had cost his alpha's son's life.

"What have you done?"

Zenith looked calm and collected, but one could see it was only a matter of time before his feral side showed its ugly side.

"I am sorry, Zen. I am truly sorry." Axel then explained what actually happened.

He asked for forgiveness, but he was well aware that he didn't deserve any. No amount of apologizing or feeling repentant could compensate for his mistake.

However, after hearing everything his beta said, Zenith still remained exceptionally calm. He approached Axel, who was still kneeling down.

There was one thing that not many people knew about him. Not even his beta and gamma. It was the fact that he could see a person's full memory when he killed them.

Their life would flash before his eyes when Zenith took their life. He would own all the information and thoughts of the person that he killed.

Only Zander knew about this apart from himself.

"What else have you done?" Zenith asked when he finally stopped in front of a kneeling Axel.

"I am sorry, Zen. I didn't mean to..."

"I don't believe you," Zenith said. He then grabbed Axel's hair and in one swift movement, he ripped his head apart from his body.

It happened very fast; Darius didn't even have time to discern what he just saw when Zenith came to him and plunged his sharp claws into his chest and crushed his heart. There was no retaliation whatsoever from the gamma when his body fell to the ground lifelessly.

Both their memories came flooding in Zenith's mind. He saw through their memories and learned what Fern had fed them about Dawn to the point they hated his mate.

Fern talked so badly about Dawn, pictured her as an annoying person saying how she demanded all ridiculous things they couldn't afford and how Dawn would throw a tantrum if she didn't get her way.

This was ridiculous and from Darius and Axel's memories, Zenith learned something very disturbing; the whole pack had been talking about his mate. False rumors had spread around like a wildfire, and people believed them blindly. Even those who had never met Dawn personally.

Who had started this? Was this the truth?

His beast took over his consciousness. The only thing that Zenith wanted was to find the truth. The whole truth. He wanted to know what people had seen, what people had heard and what people were thinking about his mate.

And without him knowing it, Zenith had let loose his beast. He didn't even try to control it, as it killed everyone that he knew, everyone that he saw. It was a bloody night, where so many people died.

Dead bodies littered the ground, the floor, the corridor, each room of the pack house and beyond that.

The whole pack was slaughtered.

This was the first time Zenith let his beast loose and he didn't have any intention to reign in his rage and as a result, the whole pack was slaughtered within a night.

And now, Zenith knew the whole truth. All the lies.

When he had been scheming against those people, who tried to bring calamity to this kingdom, his people had been fabricating lies, painting his mate in a bad light, feeding her with poison to mess up her mind, but when she reacted, she was the villain.

Fern had always lied to him when she said that Dawn didn't want to see him. She had lied to him when she said Dawn hated their baby and there were so many lies that Zenith didn't realize and did not bother to check with Dawn himself.

Fern worked with Aurel. The healer was the one who provided her with the poison even when she was not here.

Dawn's two personal servants also knew about this and they were all in it together.

The alpha had been fed with lies by his own people and now, these were the consequences.

Zenith learned the whole truth, but those people, who were responsible for everything, had already died. And now, there was nothing left for him.

Everything was very quiet, eerily quiet when the beast headed toward the sweetness of his mate. It was almost impossible to pick her scent amidst the thick smell of blood, but the beast was able to do it.

Through the crack of the door, he watched his mate sitting on the bed, unperturbed with everything that had been going on, as if nothing could bother her. She was at a loss. She was in a world that he couldn't reach.

Blood dripped from the thick fur of the black beast, the blood of his pack members. His mind was heavy with guilt and the memories of the whole pack. The people he had killed.

And when the morning came and the rage of his beast had ceased, Zenith shifted into his human form. He walked into the room and approached his mate.

Dawn stared at him with her lifeless eyes. She didn't even flinch when she saw how much blood Zenith had on him.

"I am sorry, Dawn. I am really sorry..." Zenith said. He knelt down and reached out his hand to grab hers, but she pulled away.

"You killed my son..." Dawn said in a small voice, but her expression didn't change at all, as if she had been chanting this word for so many times. "You killed my son... monster. Monster..."

Zenith knew that his wretched life was beyond salvation. There was no mercy for him...

Chapter 97

Death Sentence

First Life

Zenith's first life

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The Ogregon continent was in utter chaos again, but this time the eye of the storm was the north. Alpha Zenith massacred all the people in his pack and only left his mate untouched after the death of his son.

People talked about this and the rumors that spread around only went farther and farther from the truth.

They were mortified with the fall of the northern pack, but at the same time, they wanted to hear more about what happened to the alpha, who went insane in grief.

This would be recorded in history and there wouldn't be any justification for what Zenith had done.

However, after that night, the alpha was nowhere to be found. He vanished. No one knew about his whereabouts. A lot of the royal warriors had gathered in the north, but they couldn't find him at all. There was no sign of him and there was no clue about where he had gone.

People were scared, because they believed the alpha had gone crazy and would start his killing spree again.

Everyone demanded for the king to give a death sentence to his own brother. Despite the revelation and the fact that they had been working together all this time, people didn't trust Zenith anymore. They wanted him to be dead.

There were so many conspiracy theories that circled around among the people.

The tension and the demands didn't cease at all ever since they learned about what happened in the north.

Three months later, the king finally issued his verdict to kill Alpha Zenith.

"I have told you so many times not to make me issue a death sentence to my own brother," Zander said grimly, as he stood in front of Zenith.

The wind from the harbor blew coldly and in the distance, they could see the ship that was approaching.

"How did you end up like this?" Zander couldn't understand.

Zenith didn't need to kill his whole pack; he only needed to kill those who were responsible for the death of his son.

Apparently, it was his own warriors that had done it. They didn't know the result would be like this, because in their minds, they were helping Fern save their future alpha from the clutches of his abusive mother.

Yes, people thought Dawn was abusive because Fern had spread the rumors.

Apparently, two of the warriors took Rex near the forest when he played hide and seek with his mother and told him to hide there, while they waited for Fern, so the old lady could come play with Rex, but they didn't realize when Rex wandered off and entered the forest grounds alone.

Fern did show up, albeit very late, because Dawn made a big ruckus when she figured Rex was nowhere to be found and after that, the situation just escalated out of control.

"Dawn?" Zenith asked.

His face was hidden under the hoodie of the thick cloak that he was wearing. His ship was already here and probably this was the last time he would be in this continent.

"She is in good hands. Someone from her pack took her in." Zander glared at Zenith, he didn't know whether he had to hate his brother for his impulsive actions, or he had to remind him about the prophecy.

Yes, he was not literally dead, like what was mentioned in the prophecy, but it seemed death would sound more merciful for him right now.

"Don't you have anything to say?" Zander asked when Zenith turned around to leave.

But he got nothing. Zenith didn't want to say anything. He only had one goal in his mind; to find Aurel. That wench was the main reason for all these misunderstandings and all the unnecessary pain that he and Dawn had to endure.

The healer returned to the Andelus continent the moment she learned that Zenith had killed the whole pack within one night.

Probably, she could sense his wrath from afar and no matter how much she loved him, there was no way she would wait for him to hunt herself down.

Call this an intuition, but Aurel seemed to know that Zenith would come after her.

The reason Zenith had to leave this continent was not only because he needed to avoid Zander's death sentence, but also because he needed to get his hands on her.

"I guess not." Zander clicked his tongue, as he watched Zenith's retreating back. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

Tonight was a full moon and the reflection of the moon could be seen on the surface of the dark sea. Once again, Zander lost one of his people...

"Am I cursed to be alone?" The king wondered.

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It took seven days for Zenith to reach the Andelus continent. Thankfully, he paid close attention to his lessons on the Andel language when he was little, therefore, there was no problem for him to be here on his own.

This continent had changed since the last time he was here... was it twenty years ago? Twenty-two years ago? Zenith couldn't remember, but it didn't seem like it would matter anymore.

Zenith sat in a restaurant in his inn and chose a table close to the window, where he sat waiting for someone.

It had been so long since the last time he met her or even wrote to her.

And there, someone entered the restaurant, her scent reached him first and when he turned his head, he saw a young woman, with bright blue eyes and curly, auburn hair that reached her waist, breeze in.

She looked regal, calm and composed, as if there was nothing in this whole world that could disturb her peace.

Her scent felt very familiar and he sensed this feeling of longing. It was so weird, since he had not felt anything ever since that bloody night.

However, instead of a warm hug or anything like that, that woman actually kicked his leg when she finally reached him. She looked so mad, but worried at the same time.

"What have you done, Zen?!" She hissed in a low voice and scooted over to sit next to him, so she could pinch or punch him as she pleased, showing how mad she was.

"Long time no see, Zaya."

"Long time no see, my ass, you just annihilated your whole pack! How could you do that?!" Zaya gritted her teeth, but when Zenith didn't say anything, she took a deep breath to calm her emotions and then gave her big brother a brief once-over. "Are you okay?" Concern laced her voice.

No. He was anything, but fine.

"Tell me where Aurel is. She returned around three weeks ago."

Zaya narrowed her eyes, her blue eyes looked very sharp and despite how docile she appeared, one should know better than to mess with her.

"What? Do you want to kill her?"

Zenith looked her dead in the eyes and replied. "Yes."

"Reason?"

Zenith didn't want to recall what happened, but Zaya wouldn't budge with a simple explanation and currently, she was his best bet.

"You are so stupid, Zen. I have told you that you are very trusting. People have their own minds. You are just like Father."

Chapter 98

The End of Beginning

First Life

Zenith's POV

Their father was a good king, but there was a time when his judgment was clouded, because he was too trusting of his own people.

It was not like they would mean harm to their father intentionally, but people had their own minds and they had no control over the way they thought.

They might think what they had done was in their king or alpha's best interests when as it turned out, it only brought more calamity than good. After all, every individual interpreted loyalty differently.

Their father also made the same mistake in the past once. Too trusting of his subjects...

"Zaya, where are we going?" Aurel asked, she was close to Zaya and every time she returned to the Andelus Continent, she would come visit her and chat with her.

After all, Zaya was Zenith and Zander's sister and Aurel just wanted to get close to her, thinking of her as her own sister.

"There is someone who wants to see you," Zaya said calmly, as she led Aurel in the direction of the forest, where the Great Shrine was located.

For years, this place had never been visited. They didn't dare to get into this forest without a map, because one could get lost for eternity there. This forest held so much magic, and it wouldn't allow just anyone to enter.

"Zaya, we are going too close to the forbidden forest," Aurel said, as she crept closer to Zaya. As a healer, she didn't hold any magic power, she would be in great trouble if she were to get lost here.

"Don't worry, we are almost there," Zaya replied, her expression didn't change at all.

"Who wants to see me?" Aurel asked. She was actually terrified about getting stuck in this forest after the sunset, but because it was Zaya's request, she couldn't turn her down.

"There." Zaya nodded to the darkness before them. "That was the person who wanted to see you." They stopped walking and aside from rows after rows of big trees on their left and right, Aurel couldn't see anything.

"Who?" Aurel narrowed her eyes, trying to place the person that Zaya had pointed out through the thick darkness.

At first, it was only a silhouette, but then his figure could be seen, but before this person could be seen clearly under the moonlight, Aurel could already guess who that was.

She shrieked and was about to run away when Zaya created a protection rune around her, trapping the healer with her magic.

"Zaya! What is the meaning of this?!"

Zaya shrugged. "I thought you would be happy to see my brother." She looked at Aurel innocently. "I wanted to surprise you; don't you want to thank me?"

Aurel became frantic. She tried to get away from Zaya's magic, but she couldn't. She was only a healer after all.

"Zaya! I thought we were friends..."

"I thought you liked my brother."

Aurel was crying at this point, she blabbered nonsense, or probably, she tried to beg for mercy, but seeing the coldness in Zenith's eyes, she knew right away there was no mercy for her.

"He is going to kill me..." Aurel then turned to look at Zaya. "He is going to kill me... how can you help him kill me? We are in the Holy Kingdom... you can't do this to me..."

"Well, he is my brother," Zaya stated simply. But then she approached the barrier and her voice turned cold. "You should have thought thrice before messing with my brother's mate."

After saying that, Zaya turned to look at Zenith and warned him that she didn't want to get involved in this.

"Don't give me more trouble, okay?" She approached Zenith and kissed his cheek. She hugged him tightly. "I am sorry about what happened."

Zenith hugged Zaya back briefly. "Take care, Za."

And with that, the two siblings parted ways and once Zaya disappeared, the barrier around Aurel vanished as well.

The healer immediately tried to run away. This must be the first time for her to turn in the other direction from Zenith.

However, Zenith didn't have time to play with her, as his claws elongated and they pierced through her chest. He literally crushed her heart.

Aurel kept apologizing, but Zenith couldn't hear her voice, because all of Aurel's memories started flooding his mind and now he learned everything that she had done.

He wanted to kill her over and over if that was possible, but he knew the only person that should be blamed was him.

However, the moment Aurel's blood dropped to the ground and death claimed her life, something happened. Zenith's surroundings shifted and the wind became very harsh.

This was sacred land, the forest where the great shrine was. There shouldn't be a murder here, there shouldn't be blood that was spilled.

Zaya certainly didn't know about this, because she wouldn't have brought Aurel here and let Zenith kill her, knowing it would put her brother in danger.

Zenith stared at his hands that were covered in blood, while Aurel's lifeless body fell to the ground. The wind howled so loudly and that was the last time for Zaya to see him.

Zenith disappeared. No one had ever seen him again, the same was the case with Aurel's body.

Zaya didn't think much about it, because she thought her brother had probably gone into hiding, but years passed and there was no sign of him.

Zander tried to figure out whether Zenith had returned to the Ogregon continent, but it didn't seem so. Neither of them could find anything about their other sibling.

Meanwhile, Zenith was being punished for the murder he had committed in the sacred land. The torture and pain never stopped. He was not sure whether it was day or night. He couldn't breathe, it was suffocating, as if he was under the water, but he couldn't die either...

His agony continued for so long, until a hand grabbed him and pulled him out of this misery and the first thing he saw when he opened his eyes was a pair of beautiful blue eyes.

For a moment, Zenith was stunned, because it had been so long since the last time he saw her.

"Mother..." he muttered, utterly exhausted.

The woman smiled and kissed the tip of his nose and once she did that, his pain subsided significantly. For the first time after such a long time, Zenith could finally breathe.

The pain became more bearable.

And the moment Zenith opened his eyes; he was standing in front of a small house. The night was so quiet.

But nothing mattered because right at this moment, her sweet scent was the only thing that mattered to him.

Zenith entered the house. He expected to see her and there she was... she looked different, a little bit older and haggard, her beauty was hidden beneath the pain in her eyes.

"I came back. I promise to fix this."

Dawn had been waiting for him, but she had more for him. A silver dagger in her hand found its way into Zenith's chest.

However, after the endless torture, this pain was nothing.

Zenith pressed the dagger deeper into his own chest, so he could hug her a little closer.

Chapter 99

Present Time

Zenith was supposed to be dead, but he wasn't. The divine power protected him and he woke up with vague memories of what had happened in his first life.

All the memories of his previous life did not return at the same time, though. The memories came piece by piece as the time went by.

It felt like a bad dream that would wake you up in the middle of the night, but actually when you opened your eyes, you would forget about it.

Zenith decided not to take Alpha Tony to the capital city for losing a thousand of his warriors, but instead he asked for his daughter.

At that time, he didn't know why he had this strong urge to have that teenage girl, which was not appropriate.

Obviously, it was not lust. He would smash his head for lusting after a fifteen-year-old girl, but he had this strong feeling for her... not desire, but sadness...

Only at that point of time, he didn't know why.

And when the time came for him to take her with him, he felt this strong feeling of regret, only when he touched her that the memories of past life trickled back into his mind.

He let Fern take care of Dawn, because he didn't remember what she had done in his previous life, yet he felt this urge not to trust her and to ask Dawn himself.

And after asking her, something switched in his mind and as if it were forgotten memories, he started to remember what happened in his previous life, hence, the severe punishment for Fern for a crime that was not very vicious.

However, Zenith knew how damaging it could be if he let it slide.

And just like that, slowly but surely, his memories from his first life returned, and so did the regret he had for her. The more he remembered, the stronger his guilt turned.

Zenith felt like he wanted to rip his heart apart every time he saw Dawn and offer it to her, but even if he did that, it wouldn't be enough.

"Dawn..." Zenith called her name softly, he caressed her cheeks and held her hand.

It had been two weeks since the royal ceremony and he marked her, but there was no sign of her waking up. It worried him. He didn't allow Aurel near her and chose another healer to check on his mate.

There was no way he would let that woman be around Dawn when she was one of the reasons why he had to go through so much agony and regret in his first life.

Zenith couldn't do anything to Aurel right now because in this life, she had not done anything that crossed the line.

It would cause trouble for him and Zander if he harmed her, which was very upsetting.

"There is no sign of her waking up?" Zander asked, he approached Zenith, who had been sitting in the same position for who knew how long.

The king took off his golden mask and stood behind his twin brother.
"How do you know?"

"I just know."

Zander gritted his teeth, he really wanted to shake Zenith's body to get the explanation out of his mouth, because it was so hard for him to make his twin elaborate how he knew there would be a coup during the wedding ceremony.

"Mind to elaborate, please? Sometimes, I feel like you came from the future, because you can predict most of our enemy's movements." Zander crossed his arms in front of his chest. "Spare me a headache and explain, please."

Zander pulled a chair and sat down in front of Zenith. He hated looking at his face, because they looked alike, but not because he hated his brother. He simply hated his own face.

"Tell me." If Zenith could be stubborn, he could be headstrong too. After all, they were cut from the same cloth. "I am not going anywhere until I get what I want."

"It's a long story."

"I can have my entire life dedicated to listening to your explanation."

Zenith glanced in disdain at Zander's exaggeration.

The night he mated and marked Dawn, that was the same night when Zander executed their plan. They could accomplish their plan faster than they predicted because Zenith knew everything beforehand.

Though because of the different choices that Zenith made in this lifetime there were a few things that didn't happen and there were a few changes here and there, the gist of it didn't change.

Zenith managed to concoct a plan and Zander was amazed by how his brother knew what would happen next or what step that their enemy would take.

Or the exact people, who they had to be wary about, the spies within Zander's people and so on.

How precise Zenith was with his decision made it impossible for Zander to believe that he only used his intuition. He couldn't get lucky every time and point to the right person, who turned out to be their enemy, right?

"You turned back time? How can you do that?"

Zander was in shock when he heard everything. Zenith was right. It was complicated. He didn't even know such power existed in the first place.

"Air magic stone."

"You met father?"

"No, I met mother."

Zander rubbed his face roughly. He didn't say anything for a while, because he was in so much shock and he needed more time to discern this mind- boggling information.

"I think we should let Zaya know about this." Zander glanced at Dawn, who was still unconscious. Her neck was bandaged because the mark was healing very slowly. "This is the right time for her to come back home."

Zander grimaced at the thought that Zenith would go extra lengths to rectify his mistake for a woman, but then, deep down he knew it was something that his brother would do.

"Yes, and send Aurel back there."

"That's how you knew about the concoction? By killing her?"

"Yes." Zenith squeezed Dawn's hand.

Chapter 100

She was Awake

"Thank heavens, you killed her in your previous life." Zander didn't really like Aurel. He only hated her more when she started showing interest in Zenith, because she had crossed so many lines by doing so.

However, because her role was crucial in taming Zenith's beast, the two of them couldn't do anything about it.

"Why only now? We could have gotten rid of Aurel quickly if you don't need her."

They could use another healer for the healing power that Zenith needed alongside the concoction, thus without Aurel around they would be fine.

Their problem was; Aurel had been withholding the ingredients for the concoction, because she knew, without it, she was useless to Zenith.

"I only remembered it now," Zenith replied. He only remembered the ingredients for the concoction when he almost forced a mark on Dawn two weeks ago.

"Are there more memories that you still couldn't remember?"

"I am not sure."

Zenith didn't have any desire to remember anything at this point; he only wanted to make sure that his mate would wake up soon. That was all he was concerned about now.

"Zen, do you think there will be a consequence for this?"

Zenith glanced at him. "I don't know." He didn't even think about the consequences. Everything was fine with him as long as he could obtain her forgiveness.

Yet, how could he ask for her forgiveness? By telling her about their first life? Would that help? Or let her be in the dark, because this kind of story was not something that you would be fond of.

He didn't need to cause her heartache by telling her about the life she didn't experience in this lifetime.

"We really need to write for Zaya to return."

Zenith didn't say anything.

And when Zander stood up from his chair, the sky had turned so bright. They spent the entire night discussing this matter.

"What about the councilors and the elders? What are you going to do about them?"

"What did I do in your first lifetime?"

"You killed them all."

"Well, that's what I am going to do now." Zander stretched his body. "They had been a pain in the ass for so long. It's time to put the gallows for good use."

With that, Zander left the room and issued an order to kill all the people who got involved in the coup. The investigation about it was still going on and there were many people being captured every day.

There were around a hundred people, who would be hanged a week from now and it would be done in public, so people could see what kind of punishment they would get for committing treason.

Three days later, Dawn finally opened her eyes. She looked pale and lethargic.

"I will call a healer," Zenith said.

Despite the uproar out there, the alpha couldn't care less about anything. His role to help Zander was done. They reached their goal.

As for the mess in the palace, he burdened Zander with it fully, since he was the king.

Right now, Zenith only wanted to focus on his mate.

"How is she?" Zenith asked Celine, she was Lance's mate, but as a healer, her power was not really remarkable compared to Aurel, but she was the only healer available right now aside from Aurel.

"She will be fine," Celine said, she smiled at Zenith and resigned herself. She was going to make a concoction for her.

"How do you feel?" Zenith sat down on the edge of the bed, holding her hand gently, as if she were so fragile and a little bit of pressure would break her.

He was not exaggerating, because right now, Dawn looked really weak.

"Thirsty..." she said in a hoarse voice.

Zenith immediately went to pour a cup of water for her and helped her to sit down, so she wouldn't choke when she drank.

"I had a nightmare."

The cup stilled midair, Zenith felt his heart stop beating for a second. "What nightmare?" He resumed helping her to drink.

Dawn drank the whole cup of water and when Zenith offered to get more for her, she rejected it softly and continued with her statement about the nightmare.

"It's very sad... I feel like my heart will burst with sadness..."

Zenith gritted his teeth. He put down the empty cup and held her hands again. "What made you sad?"

He was still unsure about telling her about their first lifetime, but now, Dawn saw it on her own. She lived in those memories during her unconscious state after being marked? Was that how it worked?

Zenith couldn't say for sure.

Zander was right, they really needed Zaya to return. Their little sister had spent almost all her life in the Holy Kingdom. She was more knowledgeable about magic than anyone else here.

"I feel like I lost something... something precious to me, something so dear to me..." Dawn frowned. "But I can't remember what it was."

Suddenly a tear fell down her cheek and she chuckled awkwardly, as she wiped her face.

"Oh, why am I crying?" Dawn looked surprised with her own reaction, but all she knew was her heart was in so much pain. "I don't even remember what I dreamt about, but I feel so sad."

Carefully, Zenith hugged her, as Dawn cried for an hour straight about something that she couldn't remember clearly.

"I am sorry, I am really sorry..."

Dawn didn't know why Zenith kept apologizing to her, but she felt his apology was really comforting, somehow, it resonated so well with the weird sadness that she was feeling right now.

Once Dawn had calmed down, Zenith tucked her in and Celine came in with a concoction for her.

"You don't think she will poison me, right?" Dawn asked, after crying for so long, she felt her heart was a little bit lighter.

She teased Zenith when she saw him taking a sip of her concoction.

"Do you even know whether it's poisoned or not?"

Dawn was right. Zenith didn't know.