

## Chapter 216

Rûe

"Rue?" Ares called out as his foot falls near me until he crouches down beside me. My palms are still on the earth, collecting the last of any magic.

My mind is a foggy mess as I try to control my new found power. "Love, are you alright?" Ares tries to get through the mind link.

I clench my eyes tightly, grunting. The wind spikes up and more trees began to fall. I distinctly hear a piercing scream who I presume was from Stefan or Gorjon but my mind was on the latter.

"Blast!" I hear Ares hissed, shaking my shoulders. I can definitely feel the tingles that came from his touch but my mind and body was locked in the form of a vessel as I collected the magic.

"Come on Rue. I know we can do it. Do not let it consume us." Ayla shouts, pushing through to give me the strength. You see, taking one's power is not easy as one portrays it to be. It comes with difficulty to control something foreign in one's body that was never there before. In my case my body was fighting off Corlette's magic.

"Rue, love, I do not know what is going on with you but please whatever it is, fight it, for us." He whispered as the earth shook with rage. I let out a hiss of pain as the magic began burning within me.

"Sir! Milady! The trees are falling! We must move before one falls atop our heads!" Stefan squeaks.

"Calm down elf! I am trying to get to her." Ares shouts over the loud whistling of the wind. I feel my hair being swept over my shoulder and the wind hits my face like slaps.

"Rue please, you are stronger than this." Ayla pleads. "We are stronger than this." Her voice has now gone to a pitch with determination. A determination that rubs off on me. She was right. I was not known as the most deviously beautiful witch alive for nothing.

Calming my heart and mind I began to slowly but surely guide the magic through my veins, coaxing it to co-operate with my own. Its fire began to subside as they blend, mix and merge as one. I sucked in a breath, my palms tingling on the earth as I chanted.

Soon the raging power finally unites with my own until my entire stiff body relaxes with a sigh. The power I now felt was like no other. It was strange yet felt normal, as if it was meant for me.

Ayla lets out a sigh as the wind calms down and the earth stops it rumbling. "God you had me worried there for a second." She admits. If she was not only part of my consciousness, I would imagine her wiping off a drop of sweat off her forehead.

"I am not the most deviously beautiful witch for nothing." I said out of ego. She laughs but agrees.

I peeled my eyes open and was not shocked to see red eyes connected to my own. Ares. "Were you always this handsome?" I tilted my head as I flashed him a teasing grin.

His lips quirked into a small smile, white teeth flashing as his normal blue eye color reemerge. "You scared me you know?" His expression then sobers into one of disapproval.

"I thought I was losing you Rue. I did not know what was happening or why you were in pain. I was about to demand the witch Corlette to come back so I can behead her for putting you through this." He admits, with brows drawn down in a frown.

I lift my hand and palm his stubble cheek. "You cannot get rid of me this easily Ares." His head unknowingly leans more into my touch. His warmth soaking into my skin and making me feel balanced.

I then smile, teasing him. "Besides there would be no use in calling Corlette back since she is a ghost and cannot be beheaded when she is already dead."

His eyes that were dipped down and glued to my lips tear away to look at me in confusion until they lightened with understanding as if my words had just clicked. "Ah but I would find a way to inflict pain onto her like she has done to you." He boasted. I had no doubt he would have actually found a way to do just that. But what I went through was not Corlette's fault.

"There is no need for your hostility towards her Ares. She is not to be blamed. It is normal for one to go through this when taking someone else's power. Especially one of a dark witch who lived for centuries." I said and stood up.

I had been going to where my mother's soul lay to take some of her power when I needed it. But I usually never took too much to feel this sort of pain. But this time I took way past my limit since Corlette had more magic than I expected.

Ares rises to his feet, looking over my frame as if looking for injuries. "Are you sure you are alright?" He asked for what felt like the hundredth time. I nodded and turned to the passage where Corlette instructed me to go. "I have never felt better." I told him as the power thrummed through my entire being.

It felt amazing to free Corlette's soul and give her the chance to be with her mate in the afterlife. Even though she was certainly a dark witch she did not deserve what Mericel had done to her. I could only hope that I will avenge her.

"We should go now. I can already feel the power surrounding the barrier." I whispered, staring at the dark path. Before I could not feel it but now, oh now, I could feel all the power it possesses. Power that she took from innocent beings.

I turn to Stefan and Gorjon who stayed away from Ares and I as if afraid to be in a certain footing away from us. "After we have gone through this way, we will not be back. It is either you come with us or you stay here." I told them as I pointed at the path.

They took one look at it and nodded. "Wherever you go milady we will follow. We are now indebted to you for eternity." Stefan spoke.

I could feel Ares' irritation or perhaps I should say his jealousy. "Such a suck up." He grumbles through the mind link. I laughed, turning to him and slapping his cheek lightly. "Be nice." I mocked his earlier words.

"Now boys what do you say we get there a little bit quicker?" I drawled out as I stared at my nails. I had no plans to walk through this ugly place any longer, especially since Cylester's life was in great danger.

"How can we get there quicker milady?" Stefan asked. I lift my eyes to the two and noticed the knowing look Gorjon's face.

Ares sighs already knowing what I was referring to. "Oh with just a snap of my fingers." I smiled wickedly and giggled when I snapped my fingers. In a quick second we were somewhere else.

"Bloody hell next time warn me before you do that again. I feel that my insides have turned." Ares whined.

I rolled my eyes taking a step forward to the visible barrier. It was a replica of the northern lights, so clear, so beautiful. "Oh stop whining you dog." I whispered until I was but an inch from the barrier.

"Can you see it?" I asked in a hushed tone amazed by how it circled around the place. Amazing. It must have taken Mericel years to create this. Especially with so much innocent blood spilt to create such a place. I frown by the mere thought.

"See what?" Ares asked, coming towards me. He so happens to brush his hand against the barrier and he jumps back with a pained grunt. "What the bloody fuck?" He asked, confused.

I hmm. So he cannot see it. "It is the barrier." I said then turned to the elves. "Do you two see it?" I asked the elves who again stayed a few feet away from us. They shook their heads no.

I nodded and turned to face the barrier. "Step back. You might want to be a little away from this one." I instructed Ares and lift my hands slowly towards the barrier. Ares follows my instructions and does as I say.

Suddenly there is a small black creature behind the barrier, moving through the trees until it stops on a branch overlooking me. My eyes connect with its own and it cries. I smirked. Hmm, must be the crow Corlette was speaking of.

Smiling wickedly I closed my eyes and began to chant. My fingers barely touched the barrier when the sound of lightning disturbs the area. Still I continued as the feeling of the barrier touching my fingers burned.

I spoke louder, little by little feeling its defenses cracking. I opened my eyes and watch the crow caw, wings flapping in anger. It must suck for him. I thought as I continued to crack the barrier. Never had I felt such power coursing through my veins. It felt out of this world as I cracked the barrier without even having to use all my magic.

Until everything goes, silent. The wind dies and calmness sets in. With one look towards the crow, I said one last word and felt the barrier crumble down. The innocent souls of humans freeing as I do so. Now there was no barrier. There was no enchanted forest.

The crow, even though animal, looked shocked and afraid. Grinning, I lift my hand towards it and chant. Its body without a mind of its own teleports into my awaiting hand. I wrapped my fingers around its neck tightly.

"Tell her I am coming." I smirked as it caws. With one final squeeze I hear the satisfying sound of its neck breaking. Dropping it to the ground, dead and unmoving I walked ahead not before kicking it away. "I am back." I said wickedly as Ares and the two elves followed close behind.