

Chapter 76

After what seemed like hours, they finally ended, and I returned to my previous spot, where I saw that the sun dragon was sleeping, and the moon goddess was hoisted on her elbows, staring down at him with sorrowful eyes.

My brows furrowed as I stepped closer, trying to hear what she was mumbling under her breath.

"I'm sorry, my love. I'm so sorry," she cried as she stroked his hair. For a second, I was terrified, thinking that she might've killed him. But then, I saw that his chest rose and fell slowly, and I relaxed.

Their bodies were covered under the moon goddess's dress. But Helios seemed so peaceful—so calm and happy. And I had a feeling that I wouldn't like whatever the moon goddess was about to do.

And my feeling was right.

"I do believe that you love me," she whispered. "And I do believe that you would never try to take my power again. But I see how much you want this child, and I can't. . . I can't risk us ever making something that could ruin the beauty of the universe. I know that he would. My traits are not as much in the wolves because they are mortal. But an immortal with both our powers. . ." She shook her head as she heaved out a sob. "I'm sorry. I hope that one day. . . whatever era, no matter how long . . . you will forgive me."

"No," I whispered as I saw her glowing, much like I did at the barbecue. Then, he glowed, too, even in his sleeping state. "No! Don't do it!"

This was it. This was the moment that sparked the division between them. I didn't know Helios. But I could tell from the way he looked at her that he would never do anything to break her trust or cause her pain.

To an extent, I understood where she was coming from. She feared that their child would inherit more evil traits than good, and with that power of BOTH the sun and the moon, who knows what he'd be able to do? He'd be the most powerful, and perhaps he'd try to rule every planet in the solar system. And if he's evil . . . it didn't take a genius to guess what he could and would do.

So, I understood her fear and knew she wouldn't want to risk it. But why couldn't she trust that Helios wouldn't take her power to create this child? And even if he did, wouldn't they have to make love to create him? Would she have to carry the pregnancy and give birth? Or is it quite different here, and the child just . . . appears?

It didn't matter. The fact was that there would've been at least one point in time when she would have to get involved. But her fear and slight mistrust in his passionate nature caused her to do the unbelievable.

She stole his sun crystal. SHE stole it. It was never the other way around.

Tears welled in my eyes as my heart fell, and I watched as the crystal slipped from the sun and levitated all the way over to the moon goddess. As she held it, I got a better look. It was beautiful, and it was shaped like a star. It glowed the same colour as Helios' eyes. It shone just like my moon shard did, but it was bright—as bright as well, the sun.

Then, she did the same on her end. I watched in awe as she pulled the moon jewel from the core of the moon. It shone just as bright as the crystal, but it looked exactly like the one I saw in the river earlier. Except, there was something much more about this one. It was . . . more powerful—brighter and real. And unlike what I heard, it wasn't five shards at all. It was a single octagon jewel—like a diamond with multiple sides. So how did she break it into five parts? How did she—

Then it hit me. She didn't break up the moon jewel at all. It was the sun crystal that she broke into five pieces and sent to earth!

It made sense. Each shard was shaped like a kite. If we could add each piece together, it would make a . . . star, much like the sun crystal. And the dragons were connected to each shard on earth. They were compelled to protect it. Perhaps they have never even commuted with Helios before! But they were simply connected to it and felt drawn to protect it.

But that left me with more questions. Why was it blue? How did the story even play out?

I waited as I watched her, sobbing as she held the crystal close to her with her jewel in her hand. Then, what she did next was heartbreaking.

Somehow, she changed the colour of the crystal by using her power, but it dimmed the light of the jewel. Then, she wiped her tears and sent them back to the moon, leaving the sun with nothing.

For a minute, I was terrified. I thought the sun would collapse or something. But then I remembered that this was supposed to be hundreds of years ago, and the sun was still very much in its place. But from how Helios shuffled uncomfortably, I could tell that he felt the change.

And I couldn't imagine the pain he'd feel when he realised how much his lover had betrayed him. He had loved her for thousands of years, and this-the fear and determination of protecting mankind caused her to do this. To some, it was justifiable. And I didn't judge her. But I found myself spilling tears as I simply watched her cry on his shoulder, whispering a series of 'goodbye' and 'please forgive me someday'.

Then, I wasn't there anymore.

I woke up in the sand. My head was pounding as if I was carrying centuries' worth of information in my brain. But then I realised that I was. I realised that the moon goddess had done something utterly heartbreaking because of her own fears.

I searched the area. I was no longer on the mountain, but I didn't leave the place where the moon shard-or sun shard, rather-took me.

I glanced around, trying to see if the moon goddess was anywhere around. I didn't know how much time had passed since the incident. Then, it happened.

"AMARIS!"

Oh shit.

Oh.

Shit.

I scrambled to my feet as I glanced around, where Helios barged from the corner to which I always oddly felt drawn. He was steaming-literally. His body was almost in flames, and I now knew why he was called the sun dragon.

"Yes, my love?"

I yelped, realising that the moon goddess had now appeared behind me.

"Don't you dare 'my love' me!" Helios barked. "Where is it? Where is my crystal?"

The moon goddess' face fell in guilt before she instantly guarded it. "I don't know what you're talking about-"

"Don't lie to me, Amaris." My heart fell as his voice actually broke. "You seduced me and stole my crystal? But . . . why? Have I not proven to you over and over that I love-"

"I will never seduce you, Helios." She cut him off. "We make love all the time."

"And you know I love falling asleep with you in my arms. You knew it was the perfect time to-" he stopped to compose himself. "I am not angry anymore, Amaris. Just please, tell me why? Tell me why you took it."

"I didn't." She choked on her lie, and Helios could see right through it. "Perhaps you misplaced it."

"Misplaced-Amaris, I have had that crystal for thousands of years. Thousands. There was only one way to get to that crystal, and it was through my heart. You used my love for you to steal it? Why, my love? Why?"

I could see the tears threatening to spill from her eyes as she shook her head. "I have never used your love

for me for personal gain, Helios."

"Then tell me why. We can work through it . . ." His voice trailed as realisation lit his face. "Is this about . . ." His face did a lot of things.

It went from hurt to realisation, to guilt and sympathy, and finally, anger.

"Amaris, I told you over and over that I would never force you to do this. I tried to show you how this could be good for us, but-"

"See!" She cried. "You still want it."

"Of course I do, Amaris!" he shouted just as loud. "I want to start a family with you. I want to do EVERYTHING lovers do with you. But I would have never, ever, ever forced you to do this. We still have thousands of years to go for me to help you trust yourself again-to know that you aren't evil and anything we build together will be good, just like you. But . . ." He shook his head with a scoff. "Even after thousands of years, you still don't trust me, Amaris. You still don't think my love for you will make me patient or submissive enough to accept your wishes. You still think I'll use my power against you."

Her tears were back. And even after the evident hurt on Helios' face, she was still firm in what she believed.

"I can't produce anything good, Helios. I can't-"

"You have an entire species of loving, caring, wonderful werewolves, Amaris!" He screamed, almost rupturing my eardrums. "You ARE capable of making good things. Wonderful things! Just because a few werewolves are cold and evil, that means that the thousands who are pure-hearted don't matter? Isn't that a reflection of who you are too? You could have trusted me, Amaris. I thought we were a team. I thought-"

He paused as he dragged his hand over his face, seeming thoughtful.

"It's useless. I know that you are stubborn, and you won't ever believe in yourself or in me. Just . . . Just give me back my crystal, and we can go back to how things were when you just came here. Cold and silent."

"Helios."

"Give me back my crystal, Amaris!" he shouted, and the moon goddess actually flinched back. His eyes were extra fiery, and if it was me, I'd give him back the crystal right away.

But she didn't. She stood there, staring at him with rivers of regret streaming down her cheeks. Yet, there was a budding determination behind her eyes. Fear even. But it wasn't for Helios.

It was then that I realised that she wasn't only scared to create something evil. She was terrified-utterly petrified of the idea. So much that it caused her to give up the relationship she had so strong-so much that she spent years alone.

Was she really that determined to ensure that mankind is protected, that she'd hurt her one true love and put herself in misery? Why couldn't she just trust him?

But I had a feeling that it wasn't Helios who she didn't trust. It was herself.

Deep down, she knew that one day, she'd break, and they'd have that child. She loved him too much to not want to build a family because it was evident that she did want to. Really badly. So doing this was stopping it before it could happen.

Oh wow.

I never thought I'd ever, ever see the day. But I pitied two of the most powerful beings in the universe.

"I won't ask you again, Amaris," Helios growled as the fire on his body burned again.

Suddenly, the ground shook, and I screamed at the top of my lungs as a huge, monstrous dragon emerged from the other side of the mountain.

Was he going to hurt her? No. He wouldn't.

Even though they couldn't see me, I scrambled away from the dragon and hid behind the moon goddess.

It was almost like the ones I saw on earth. Except, like Helios, the dragon's skin was literally fire, and its wings were like blazing trees with white, deep eyes. It made a loud shriek as it perched itself on the mountain. Yet, the moon goddess didn't flinch.

"I won't hurt you, Amaris," Helios said. "You know I won't. But I will have my dragon search this entire place over if that's what it takes.

"By all means, let him."

I screamed in horror as the ground shook again, and from the ocean emerged another creature, just as large as the dragon, but it was shaped like a Lycan. I couldn't quite decipher its colour, but it was somewhere in the midst of blue and purple.

I was left in awe. I had never seen anything like it, but then again, how could I?

I was on earth, where nothing exciting ever happened. But here-in this realm-this was magical.

I scurried behind a rock as the Lycan came closer and stood behind the moon goddess.

Helios didn't seem pleased, but he was determined. And by the looks of it, so was her.

"So this is how it will be?" Helios asked, almost sounding hurt as his dragon came to stand behind him too.

But it was behind my rock, hiding like the invisible idiot I am, that I noticed something. Their stances seemed as if they were ready to pounce at each other. As if they were going to fight.

Except, little did I know that they were going to. Not the two lovers, of course, but their creatures.

The Great War of Ouránios. It was real. And it was going to happen right in front of me.



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