

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Defend Yourself

A spiraling wave of heat circled Brian as Micah held it in place. It was like he put a clear barrier around Brian holding the deadly aura in lockdown.

“How are you doing that?” Shiva asked as she leaned forward resting her elbows on her knees. “What I guess I really mean is how did you know how to do that...?”

Micah turned his head to look at her like she had said something insane. “How does an elementalist know what to do? How does a shifter know how to shift?” He lowered his shield around Brian as the aura pushed back inside of the dragon.

Shiva clicked her tongue and glared at Micah. “Instinct. The answer you are looking for would be instinct.” She stood up and walked over to him. “Do it again. But around me.”

“I can’t just-” Micah interjected but Shiva shot a surge of ice at him making him react naturally.

Shiva reached her hand out to touch the invisible sphere around her. She let it brush through her fingers as she closed her eyes. The energy was not what she had expected. What she was almost certain of before suddenly clouded her mind with doubt. She parted her lips as a new realization hit her.

“Take it down.” Shiva whispered out. She studied Micah’s green eyes as he withdrew the barrier. “Can you tell me about anything before the dark elves? In certainty.”

Micah furrowed his brows and shook his head. “No. It’s all a blur. I only remember my life with the dark elves.”

“Who told you your parents were killed in the demon war?” Shiva pinned her eyes on him and watched him shrug his shoulders.

“The dark elves...” Micah shook his head. “I’m not sure what the point of this is.”

“Brian...” Shiva said in a quiet voice. “Go stand next to Bella please.” Her eyes flipped up to Micah as Brian eagerly agreed to this request.

“Defend yourself!” Shiva ordered and began launching frozen bursts at Micah.

Micah didn’t hesitate, effortlessly blocking and evading the attacks of the goddess. Her attacks hit with a force he had never experienced before. He was finding it harder and harder to successfully evade her. This is when he decided to switch tactics and go on the attack.

Shiva shot an icy blast and Micah reacted pressing into it sending it back to her. He followed the attack in a blurring speed reaching Shiva. He grabbed her wrist and spun her body into him immobilizing her.

“I see...” Shiva muttered as her brows furrowed. “Well? What are you still holding onto me for?” She snapped and stomped her foot sending a crashing wave of snow over Micah. She then walked away with her lips pursed together. She glanced up at Brian and snorted. “Well? Get back to practicing.”

“Well, she is certainly in a mood.” Brian chuckled winking at Bella before he made his way back over to Micah.

“Alexis has been gone a long time.” Micah sighed out as his lips pulled down.

“Relax she is with Aken. She is okay.” Brian patted Micah on the shoulder as he walked by him.

“She is probably tasting his beast right now.” Shiva laughed and then shuddered at the same time. “Oh, I just grossed myself out.”

Brian and Micah glared over at Shiva and then shook their heads. This was one of those topics that was off the table for them.

“Micah that was something else. I’ve never felt that much power from you.” Brian looked at Micah who only shrugged his shoulders.

“She was going easy on me. I just took advantage of that situation so I could end it quickly.” Micah listened to Shiva snort and a slight smirk reached his lips. It seemed the goddess didn’t like being beaten.

“Well? Get back to work!” Shiva hissed out as the smirk on Micah’s face grew.

The two men worked tirelessly under Shiva's watchful gaze. Each time Brian was adjusting quicker. He was becoming more and more familiar with his new power. It was finally beginning to feel like second nature now. He could call the power off instantly and even Shiva nodded her head in approval.

"Good." Shiva yawned. "The challenge will be you controlling it when your emotions are out of control. Like something happening to Bella. Be mindful of your triggers and constantly work to control yourself. Keep in mind this is no longer the fire you remember. One wrong move and ashes to dust..." She watched as his gaze continued to linger over Bella.

"Go! Talk to her. I can't stand the drooling any longer." Shiva clicked her tongue and sighed loudly.

Brian walked over to Bella as she licked her lips nervously. He reached his hand up and rubbed the back of his neck. "I just want to be close to you... if that's alright. I know you don't... feel this. And that's okay. I... I need to at least be close to you. And we can talk?"

"Ask her for her shirt to soothe your beast. That's what Aken gave Alexis." Micah grinned as Shiva snorted in a fit of giggles.

Bella looked over to Micah and then tilted her head at Brian. "Do you want me to give you my shirt?"

"Sweetie. I don't think him having your shirt will have the same effect it did with Alexis. I think it would only work him up not calm him down." Shiva chimed in. Brian turned his face away from Bella as a shade of red crept up his neck.

"I.." Bella started and then stepped forward to grab onto Brian's hand.

Brian felt a soothing wave wash through him and the tension he had vanished. The beast curled up inside of him in contentment and he turned his gaze to her grey eyes.

"Does this help?" Bella asked in a soft whisper.

"Yes. Thank you." Brian smiled at her and let out a breath he had been holding.

“Brian, why don’t you tell her more about the kingdom and the acceptance kiss? And about Alexis and you... Fill her in on the important details.” Micah watched Brian nod his head. He watched Brian walk to the other side of the room with Bella where he would have a bit more privacy.

“Alright. What do you know about me?” Micah turned and glared at Shiva as a wry grin spread over her face.

“Know something...me?” Shiva shrugged innocently.

“You know something. I am not stupid.” Micah growled and watched as the goddess narrowed her eyes at him.

“I need some more time. But I will come and visit soon. After I am able to confirm a few things.” Shiva chewed on her inner cheek as she began to mull over her thoughts. Micah had her guessing which was unusual. What she had thought not long ago about him was no longer the case. She was shocked to feel the foreign energy from Micah. It was not what she was expecting at all. But now it was making more sense why the fairy magic chose him.

“And you don’t feel the need to elaborate on this now?” Micah watched as her icy gaze met with his.

“I don’t feel the need to do anything I don’t want to do. And I don’t appreciate the tone in which you are speaking to me.” Shiva listened to the low chuckle from Micah as he shrugged his shoulders.

“I don’t really care what you appreciate and what you don’t. I am not beholding to you. Tell me. Don’t tell me. Whatever.” Micah turned his head as he detected the scent of Alexis. He watched as she manifested along with Aken just a few feet away.

“Lex!” Micah sighed with relief. She immediately ran up to him and hugged him tightly which is exactly what he needed. He smiled and leaned his head down on top of hers. “Are you okay?”

“I’m okay Micah. I’ll explain everything to you. I just needed a moment to calm down.” Alexis stepped away from him and was back in the arms of her mate.

“You deflowered her, didn’t you? You are a beast.” Shiva snorted as Aken shot daggers at her with his eyes. She grinned and shrugged. “Were you letting her sample your beast?”

“No.” Alexis said clearly as Shiva’s eyes came to meet with hers. “I was the one taming his beast.” She grinned and tilted her head up to see the crimson stains seize Aken’s neck and ears.

Micah cleared his throat and winced his eyes shut. “Remember Lex we don’t do girl talk. Please no details.”

Alexis giggled and shrugged. She wasn’t embarrassed about it. She was proud that she had been with her mate. It was about da.mn time actually. She looked around the room curiously looking for Bella and Brian. She found them at the far end of the room and they seemed like they didn’t even notice she had returned.

“Did I miss something?” Alexis asked looking over at Micah.

“No nothing at all. Shiva has only removed the barrier around Brian. And Brian has discovered Bella is his mate only she can’t sense he is her mate because she is young. So, no you didn’t miss anything.” Micah watched as Alexis’ eyes widened and a wide smile spread over her face.

“That’s perfect. Not that she doesn’t recognize him but him finding his mate and she is a strong dragon. This is wonderful news.” Alexis glanced up at Aken who leaned down and kissed her forehead.

“Aken, I’ll be coming to visit shortly. I just need to check on a few things and I’ll be popping by. Make sure Leviathan expects me.” Shiva watched as Aken slowly nodded his head.

“Well, the journey back can be a lot faster. I can project you back or-” Aken started but Micah interrupted him.

“No offense but let’s just fly back. We have two dragons that can get us back fast enough.” Micah listened as Shiva chuckled.

“Someone is afraid of the transporting.” Shiva grinned wickedly and brought her hands together.

“I’m not afraid,” Micah growled. “It feels weird.”

“Shall we let those two talk a bit longer? I don’t think Brian even knows I am here. And then we will head back... I wonder how badly I am going to get yelled at by my father?” Alexis gnawed on her bottom lip nervously.

Aken chuckled and nuzzled his nose in her neck. "Don't worry my love. I will be right by your side."

Micah grinned widely. "I think having Aken and Levi around will be quite entertaining."

"It's only for now," Aken said making both Micah and Alexis dart their eyes up at him. "After this situation is settled with Erebus, I'll be taking Alexis with me."

Micah stared at him for a moment and then looked back at Alexis' shocked face. It seems she was not aware of this or never thought about where she would live before. "Would you care to elaborate? What are your plans for me in those regards?"

"Honestly? I haven't completely decided yet. As of now, the plan will be for you to stay with us. But I guess time will tell the tale there. I just want to have Alexis to myself for a while. Away from... her father. My place is plenty big enough." Aken watched as Micah nodded his head slowly.

"Alexis, are you okay with this?" Micah asked noticing her stunned face.

"I guess I didn't think about any of that before." Alexis shook her head slightly and shrugged. "I have been so focused on finding my mate that I never thought about afterwards." She looked up at Aken to see his eyes studying her. She gave him a reassuring smile and nodded her head. "But I suppose it would make sense for me to go and live with you. As long as Micah comes with me, and we can visit as often as I want."

Aken's lips curled up in a wide smile. "Whatever you want."

"Lex you're back!" Brian said as he walked over with Bella by his side. She wasn't holding his hand but was walking next to him.

Alexis giggled. "I hear we have a lot to get caught up on. Gossip for the ride home?"

"Yes! Thank goodness we aren't walking." Brian sighed with relief. "When are we leaving?"

"Now," Shiva said as she shot a bright blinding light at the group.

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Chapter 32 Time to Explain

“Yes! Thank goodness we aren’t walking.” Brian sighed with relief. “When are we leaving?”

“Now,” Shiva said as she shot a bright blinding light at the group.

The group looked around taking in their new surroundings. In front of them was the castle that belonged to the West Dragon Kingdom. Micah growled lowly and shook his head.

“That frosty bitch.” Micah fumed.

“It’s just her sense of humor. You’ll get used to it.” Bella listened as Micah snorted looking unamused.

“Yeah well, her sense of humor didn’t bring me along for the ride I had to leech myself to Alexis. I owe her my sense of humor next.” Aken snorted as Alexis stepped away from him.

“Umm being that we are outside and all...” Alexis whispered as she made sure there was a gap between her and Aken. Aken nodded his head in understanding. They had to keep up appearances and she was still supposed to be Brian’s mate.

“We were only gone a day, right?” Brian looked up noticing the tents had been rearranged.

“Several days actually. Time travels differently in Shiva’s realm. What was a day there was several days here.” Aken looked around as the orange evening glow from the sun shone on them.

“Let’s go in through the back. We will head up to my floor so we can talk.” Alexis looked over at Brian who nodded his head in agreement.

“Yes, I need to speak with my parents as well...” Brian looked over at Bella. “We have a lot to talk about. I need to speak with Ryker too. I want him...” He trailed off since he had to be careful what he said. He wasn’t inside the castle walls where it would be safe. He wanted Ryker to watch over Bella when he couldn’t since he had to keep up pretenses for now. This would be one of his duties as his right hand man.

Brian led the way through the halls as Alexis hung back to stay by Bella's side. Micah and Aken both took to the back of the procession.

'You aren't telling me something.' Micah mind linked to Aken as he looked at him through the corner of his eyes.

Aken looked over at him and then slowly nodded his head returning his gaze to the front.

'Really? This isn't a way to start a relationship.' Micah smirked and watched a small smile reach Aken's face.

'I don't know anything for certain. I'll talk with you once I know what to tell you.' Aken looked forward watching Alexis happily talking with Bella. The truth was Micah was more complex than perhaps any of them realized. Shiva had mind linked him about something she had discovered about Micah's powers. If her suspicion was correct...

At first the 3 deities had decided that Micah was a demi god. But now with the revelation from Shiva, they weren't quite as convinced. Shiva was going to look for Kali for one of the issues involving Micah. And he needed to find the deity Gaia, the mother of werebears, werefoxes, and werecats. If Shiva was correct, Gaia knows exactly what Micah is.

Aken would need to speak to the flying reptile. He was on better terms with the other deities and liked to play council boy. It was likely going to be faster and easier for the Water Shooter to find and then chat to Gaia.

Aken was realizing that his past was coming back to haunt him. He never needed anyone up until now. Now he had Alexis and needed allies.

Aken walked up a never ending staircase until they finally reached the top. When they did his eyes darted over to meet with the cool blue eyes of the water salamander. He watched as Alexis' mother ran up to Alexis and wrapped her in her embrace.

"Lex." Rhea held her daughter closely. "I'm so glad you are safe."

Alexis smiled as she held her mother. Her eyes lifted up to see the daggers her father was shooting at her.

"I'm just going to go and... see my dad real quick. Micah can you-" Brian started but Micah immediately understood.

"Bella, let me show you to your room. There is a spare one up here you can stay at for now." Micah had seen this look before and it was best to gently get out of the way. He led Bella away from Levi's wrath. Usually, he would stay and defend Alexis... his lips tugged upwards as he glanced back at Aken. Someone else was going to be taking up that torch this time.

"Alexis... I don't even know where to begin." Levi growled lowly as Rhea returned to his side. "You vanished without a word, you didn't tell us about your plan..." He exhaled as his eyes narrowed on her. "I want some answers young lady!"

Alexis felt Aken's heat behind her. In an effortless motion, he wrapped his arm around her waist pulling her so that she was slightly behind him. "If you want to talk with MY mate, that is one thing. But if you are looking for a fight, then I'll be your opponent."

Levi glared at Aken. "Are you challenging me?"

"Lee!" Rhea scolded. "You'll have to excuse him. He has been worried sick over our daughter. Now like it or not you two men are family now. And we can't have our homes being destroyed every time you have a disagreement."

Alexis reached her hand up placing it on Aken's chest. She smiled up at him as his green eyes looked down at her. He gave her a crooked smile and shrugged his shoulders.

"Sorry, my love. I know it's your dad. It's just... you are mine. I can't see you upset." Aken placed his hand over top hers and gripped it lightly.

Rhea smiled and bumped her shoulder into Lee's side. 'See, look at him protecting her just like you protect me. He is her soul mate. You two need to get along.'

Lee snorted quietly and looked down at his sweet mate. 'Doesn't change the fact that she is my baby.'

'And I am my father's baby...'

'Yeah, and you should have seen the fit he had about keeping you in the dragon kingdom.' Levi chuckled and smiled down at Rhea. He adored her so much. It was like he only blinked while he has been with her. No amount of time was enough. His eyes wandered back over to his daughter. Aken was staring at her the same way he looked at Rhea. He always said he would be supportive of Aken but now that it was actually happening it was hard. It was nothing against Aken. It was just hard to let go of Alexis.

"Alright, Lex." Lee sighed and Rhea smiled, hearing him relent. "Please explain everything and your thought process."

"Well, let's see. Brian and I came up with the marking solution at the last minute. We were testing out my ice and his heat. I needed to see what a mark would look like and if I could replicate the look with my powers. We spent all the way up leading to dinner working on it. There wasn't time to explain to everyone. I planned to right after but then... Oh yeah." Alexis scrunched up her nose. "The vision I had earlier when I was in the dream world... that's Bella, by the way. She is the dream jumper and is also Brian's mate but she doesn't feel the bond yet. Sorry, I am getting off topic. Anyways, Erebus put a curse on me and I needed to see Bella to remove it. I didn't tell you about it because I knew how you would react."

"Alexis, Erebus is after you. You need me to protect you." Levi tried to control his temper as he spoke slowly and enunciated his words.

"I have Brian and Micah with me." Alexis watched as her father glanced up at Aken. His eye color changed to a cloudy color. She looked up to see Aken's also looked the same. They were mind linking. She watched her father nod his head, but he seemed to be deep in thought.

"At least you had them with you. Perhaps we should have some practice drills on how to deal with wrathens in the future." Levi watched as Alexis snapped her head up to Aken with a knitted forehead.

"You didn't have to mention that part." She hissed and kicked at his foot.

"Sorry, my love. I am new to this communicating thing. You'll have to educate me on what exactly I am allowed to say to your father." Aken smirked down at her with his mildly sarcastic tone making her purse her lips together.

"So Bella is Brian's mate?" Rhea said, changing the topic.

“Yes, she is a crystal dragon and can do everything. She lived with Shiva all this time. She is really incredible.” Alexis talked animatedly about her new friend.

“How will that affect things with you and Brian?” Rhea asked and watched as her daughter shook her head.

“It won’t. We are still going to put on the act for now.” Alexis watched as her mother frowned.

“I mean I appreciate that, but it isn’t fair to Brian. He doesn’t need another dragon trying to move in on his mate with her not feeling the mate bond.” Rhea glanced up at Lee.

“I’ll have Ryker with her to make sure that doesn’t happen,” Brian said with a smile as he came back up the stairs with his parents. Lucky for him, his parents were at the bottom of the stairs on their way up to meet with Levi and Rhea. “Don’t worry. I want to protect Alexis. Then dad and Levi can handle the public aftermath afterwards.”

Titus chuckled. “Thanks for that. So? Where is she? I want to meet the new princess.”

“Micah took her to the room to protect her from daddy’s wrath.” Alexis giggled as a sheepish smile reached her father’s lips.

“Well smart move. We all know how oversensitive Levi can be.” Titus teased grinning widely at the deity.

Levi chuckled and shook his head. “You grow up and become a father and suddenly you think you are full of wisdom.” He watched Titus gaze shift to the side to look at Aken. “Titus, Lila, I would like to officially introduce you to the Kraken, Alexis’ mate.”

“It’s about time I can put a face with a name.” Titus let his voice drip with sarcasm with a slight chuckle. Since he had only seen Aken for a moment during the demon war. He looked around and nodded his head to Aken. “I think we are going to need to expand the castle with all of these growing families.”

“Actually, after Erebus is taken care of, I’ll be taking Alexis with me,” Aken said innocently, not realizing the reaction he would get. The room stilled and an earth shattering silence filled the room.

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Chapter 33 Family Pow Wow

After being shown her room, Bella and Micah returned and looked over the tense situation in front of them. “Aaannnnnd we came out too soon. Hey, I like my squid deep-fried and battered just so you know.” He chuckled lightly and then swallowed and looked over at Bella. “Tough crowd.”

“There is plenty of room here. We can even have a separate living quarter prepared. I don’t see any reason why you need to leave.” Titus knitted his brows together and pursed his lips.

“Indeed. As much as you change your mind on things maybe you should give things more than a day before you decide on something like that.” There was a low lethal threat in Levi’s voice that wasn’t missed by anyone in the room. But Aken took hold of his stare confidently and gripped Alexis tighter.

“Everything I have done has been for her protection. I’m not ever changing my mind. She is mine.” He looked down at Alexis and smiled. “And I am hers.”

“You don’t have to decide on anything right now. And of course, that decision is for the two of you to make.” Rhea quickly decided to speak up knowing how possessive the males were in her life. She felt Lee’s body tense and she gently nudged him with her elbow. She knew he didn’t like this news. It was bad enough Alexis belonged to someone else now but it was even worse to know she would be leaving them. However, there was nothing strange about this. She left her family at Alexis’ age. And Lucy and Destiny had already left their parents as well. This was part of finding your mate in life.

Levi looked at Aken as his gaze gave a threatening promise.

Aken looked at Levi’s serious eyes and couldn’t help the small smirk that spread over his lips. He wanted to laugh. Seriously? Did the wet muppet think he was going to live in the room next door? He wasn’t sure if these walls

would be soundproof enough for how he wanted to spend their time. Plus, if they stayed locked away for days how would he really feel about it. Every time they slept in late everyone would know why. When he brought ice cream and chocolate syrup to the room, they would know he was having fairy a la mode.

There was also the selfish part of Aken that didn't want to share her for a while. He wanted it to be just them. Sure, Micah and Terra would be there too but they weren't the type to pull Alexis away from him. The dragon kingdom was too busy of a place. There was always something going on like the party right now.

But this was only what he was thinking. If Alexis wanted to stay, then he would oblige her. Her opinion was the only one that mattered. Aken looked down at his beautiful mate. She was looking at her parents as she leaned deeper into his side.

"Whatever we decide it won't be until after Erebus is taken care of. And at this rate..." Alexis looked up at Aken and smirked, "We won't ever be leaving."

Aken chuckled and shook his head. "Are you taking a jab at my skills?"

Micah snorted. "If she isn't I will." He shrugged his shoulders as Aken turned his head to look at him. "I'm not pointing fingers... okay actually I am. You still haven't caught him. Who knows if you will be able to catch him at this rate."

"I'll catch him. And when I do, I'm going to make him pay." Aken frowned slightly. "I am sorry that his grudge against me ended up involving you and your family."

Alexis looked up at Aken as her lips parted slightly. "Do you think we blame you? No one in my family blames you."

"She is right. Erebus isn't your fault, Aken." Levi gave Aken a slight smile showing him he didn't bear him any hard feelings. And he didn't. Erebus has all but separated himself from the other deities. It was now a massive headhunt for him. Erebus would either be imprisoned by the council, or he would be killed. It just depended on who caught him first.

Brian looked over at Bella and motioned for her to come over to him. He watched as she walked cautiously past everyone until she reached his side. "Dad. Mom. This is Bella, my mate." He smiled as he looked down at his mate's grey eyes that looked up at his parents.

“Nice to meet you. I don’t feel the mate pull so I just wanted to make sure you knew that.” Bella’s voice was timid as she glanced at the king and queen nervously.

Lila reached her hand out to take Bella’s into hers. “It’s okay my dear. I met my mate, Titus here so many times. We saw each other at least once a year. And it wasn’t until I was twenty that I recognized him as my mate. Just because you don’t feel the mate pull now doesn’t mean anything.”

“Really? You never felt the attraction to your mate?” Bella asked innocently and Micah snorted in laughter. She looked up to see the small wince on Brian’s face and her eyes widened in shock at the realization of what she had said.

“Oh gosh... I don’t mean that. I meant I didn’t feel the pull. I don’t mean... It’s not that I’m not attracted to you. You are very good looking-” Bella stopped as her face heated up. She quickly looked down at the floor and bit her bottom lip. She was completely embarrassed. She felt a warm hand brush under her chin and tilted her gaze up to meet with hazel eyes. Under his loving stare, she felt herself blushing even more if that was possible.

“It’s okay Bella. I know what you meant. I haven’t said it to you yet, but I find you incredibly beautiful.” Brian smiled down at her innocent face as her lips pursed together. Her silver hair only made the crimson stains on her cheek look darker. Before he even felt the mate pull he found he attractive. But now with it she was irresistible to him. And her innocence made his beast stir in overprotectiveness.

“Goodness Brian!” Lila reached out and pulled Bella in her side. “You’re embarrassing her. Yes, sweetheart. I used to fight with Titus or ignore him. All that changed once my dragon claimed him as my mate.”

“How about we have a small dinner together, the four of us? So that we can all get to know each other better.” Titus looked over as Lila nodded her head in agreement. Titus looked up and smirked slightly. “Besides it looks like the rest of the family has finally emerged, so you’ll need your own family bonding time.” Titus nodded his head at Cody and Kelsie who emerged from their bedroom. He chuckled and motioned for his family to follow him down the stairs. It was clear from Cody’s tussled hair that he was having a late snack.

“So... what did we miss.” Cody tried to walk in unaffected. His gaze landed on Aken and he raised his brow at him. “So... I see your mate has finally shown himself.”

“Uncle Cody... officially...this is my Aken.” Alexis smiled biting her bottom lip. She felt Aken’s fingers squeeze into her lightly.

“Hmmm Aken, huh?” Cody studied the man and then looked over at Levi. “It’s kind of funny, isn’t it?”

“What is funny?” Levi asked knitting his brows together.

“Well Rhea has a water deity; I have a kelpie and the Kraken is also associated with water.” Cody shrugged his shoulders. “Seems like more than a coincidence don’t you think? All this waterpower in a dragon fire kingdom.”

Levi looked at Cody in shock and then his eyes raised up to Aken. Both men had their brows furrowed as they mulled over what Cody had said. Alexis had ice powers too.

“That seems like more than a coincidence...” Micah snorted and walked over to plop on the couch. “Though it doesn’t make sense unless the whole world is going to burn or something...” He turned his head and studied Alexis. “Does it? Is that what you saw?”

“Saw what? Lex?” Rhea turned her gaze to her daughter. “Did you have a premonition?”

“Yeah...” Alexis whispered out as the chilling images flashed through her mind. The man with the red eye now terrified her on a level she couldn’t understand. But as his face flipped through her mind her body shuddered. She felt Aken adjust her body deeper into his as his arms came around her holding her protectively.

“How far in the future have you seen?” Rhea asked as Alexis turned her head to look at her mother. “Far?” She hesitated for a moment. “Did the world look like it was in ruins?” She watched her daughter’s eyes widen as she slowly nodded her head. “So, you have seen him too?”

“You’ve also seen him? The man with the red eye!” Alexis watched her mother nod her head.

“We all have. I have as well as Lucy and my mother and grandmother. There are different versions and variations from what we can tell. But we don’t know yet if they are different times or just different perspectives of the same time. But we have all seen this.” Rhea looked at her daughter’s troubled blue eyes.

“But for something like that to happen...” Alexis whispered out as she chewed on her bottom lip nervously.

“A war the gods can not fight in. And if this vision comes to pass Elysium would have been sealed.” Rhea watched as Alexis shook her head.

“But not everyone went into the seal. I saw sword wielders like Raine. And I saw a lycan. Did we all just leave them to their fate? Because I would never-” Alexis started but her mother swiftly interrupted her.

“You would. Because staying here would cause you pain. It would cause me pain. Our mates wouldn’t be able to stand by seeing us hurting like that. In order to protect them, we would enter Elysium.” Rhea smiled at her daughter. “We don’t know anything about this future other than our visions. But this future isn’t going to be our fight.”

Alexis leaned into Aken and turned her head into his chest. She felt his soothing motions on her back as she inhaled his scent. Her mother was right. As much as she would want to stay and fight, she would need to protect Aken. If it was a problem for him to get involved, she would have to remove him from the situation. And his next words proved that this is what she had to do.

“Lex, don’t think about it.” Aken cooed down to her. “I’ll do whatever it is you want me to. You know I don’t give a damn about the deity council.”

“No,” Alexis whispered into his chest. “I won’t risk losing you. You already made me wait so long for you. I’m not going without you now.” She tilted her head up and gave him a soft smile followed by a yawn.

“You are tired. You haven’t slept since you left.” Aken reached down and brushed his thumb over her cheek. He then looked back up at her family. “Family pow wow will have to wait. Alexis needs to rest.”

“Aken I’m-”

“Going to sleep,” Aken smirked at her and raised his brows at her with a crooked smile.

“Alexis, go and get some rest. We can all talk afterwards.” Rhea motioned with her head for her daughter to go. “Your mate is right.”

Alexis smiled in appreciation and walked with Aken to her room. Micah didn't have to accompany her since Aken was by her side. He finally had some time off of babysitting duty. The moment she shut her door she wrapped her arms around Aken's neck bringing his lips down into hers. She pushed her tongue into his mouth, and he moaned into her as his hands traveled down her sides. She put pressure into him as she backed him up towards her bed. Suddenly he pulled back and chuckled shaking his head.

“I don't think so my little siren. Not this time. Rest first.” Aken listened to her whine in protest, and he leaned his head down to her ear. “Sleep first and then I'll pleasure every inch of your body until you squirm from the overstimulation... And then I'll send you over the edge again.”

Alexis smiled up at him and traced her finger up his chest. “Is that a promise?”

“I promise.” Aken leaned his head down and brushed his lips over hers gently. He then lifted her body up bridal style and carried her the few steps to the bed. He laid her down gently and then scooted in beside her curling her body into his. “Sleep well, my love. I am not going anywhere.”

Alexis turned her head, so it was laying on his chest. She closed her eyes as she listened to the gentle rhythm of his heart that slowly lulled her to sleep.

Alexis knitted her brows together as her heart began to race. Her breathing picked up and her beasts stirred in agitation. Something was wrong. She opened her eyes to a dark room that was not her own. She looked out in confusion and focused on a flash of light in the distance. There, standing under a cruel false moonlight, was a figure. She gripped her fingers together her knuckles turning white as a heavy pressure of dread came over her.

“Hello, Alexis.”

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Cruel Message

“Hello, Alexis.”

Alexis knew that voice. She could see how the light caught his white hair that was neatly tied back. This wasn't real, right? Or fallen asleep in the arms of her mate. She glanced around as she thought of Aken. She was alone here. She could feel the cool silk sheets as it hugged her body. She felt the cold air as it tickled her nose. This felt too real to be a nightmare.

Alexis reached up to feel for her necklace but it wasn't there. However, she was dressed in a silk nightgown that didn't belong to her. It was low cut revealing more of her cleavage to the cool air around her. Suddenly, lights around the room lit up around the walls. She looked around as she tried to take in the room she was in.

The room had dark polished marble walls that had small lights staggered on the wall. She was laying on black silk sheets on a king size bed with a canopy that had sheer black drapes pulled to the side. She glanced down to notice the black silk gown that hugged her body tightly. Maybe she was dream jumping and was in Erebus's dream? She looked up at the deity and watched as a smile tugged on his lips.

"You look confused?" Erebus walked away from the window and towards the bed. When he reached it, he sat down at the edge and watched as Alexis pulled up the sheet to cover herself more. He frowned at this movement as he turned his body to face her more.

"I see you found a way to remove my... gift I left you. It was for your own good. I was trying to prevent anyone from touching you. This way, I didn't have to kill them or your family. Even marked by the dragon, he wouldn't be able to share your bed. Am I going to have to kill him now?" Erebus's brows knitted together as he watched Alexis' eyes ripple with emotions.

"You are the one who said to let the dragon mark me," Alexis said through gritted teeth. "And gift? Really? This is how you show your affection to someone? You curse them?!" She watched as his lips tugged into a smirk and he slightly moved his shoulders. "What is going on?"

"You fell asleep. The first time you have slept since the curse was removed, right? That's how the counter curse works. If it is removed the counter curse automatically activates. Of course, this is just a one time thing... this." Erebus motioned around with his hands.

"This is a dream?" Alexis asked and watched as his lips tugged upwards.

“No. In a dream, I couldn’t make you pregnant. But in this hybrid one I can. If I leave a mark on you it will show up when you wake up.” Erebus frowned. “Unfortunately, I can’t keep you here. Eventually, you will wake up. But it’s a nice place to talk without getting interrupted by anyone.” He said with a low growl thinking of Aken.

“What do you want?” Alexis looked at him coldly.

“I want you,” Erebus said plainly.

“No, you don’t want me. You just want to hurt Aken. You don’t care about me at all.” Alexis snorted, crossing her arms over her chest.

“I want him to hurt. But I do want you and I intend to have you.” Erebus moved his hand towards Alexis, who flinched back from his touch. His brows knotted together as his jaw clenched. “Why is it him? Is it the damn mate pull? Huh? I see it in your eyes that you still want him even though you were marked by another.” He watched as her lips tightened together. Her blue eyes were piercing against his.

“You want to play games with me? Do you think I won’t do what I have promised? I will kill your family members. You... you are still seeing him, aren’t you?” Erebus snarled as his eyes looked at her wildly.

“I accepted the dragon’s mark like you said. I-“

“I AM NOT A FOOL!” Erebus roared and ripped the sheet away from her body. His eyes wandered over her greedily as his nostrils flared.

Alexis lifted her chin in defiance. She wasn’t afraid of him. She might be wearing a skimpy nightgown, but she would hold her dignity. He moved closer towards her making the bed dip next to her. His eyes wandered over her and he traced his tongue over his lips.

“You should feel privileged that you can elicit such thoughts from me...”

She felt his hot breath beat against her cheek as his face inched closer towards her. She moved her body back turning her head to avoid his advances. She tried to send an icy wave at him but couldn’t use her elements. And while she could feel herself connected to her beasts, she couldn’t shift either. She was helpless. She felt his nose trace over her neck, and she raised her hand to slap him.

Whack

The sound echoed off the marble walls as the reddening mark appeared over his face. Erebus only smirked and grabbed her hand with his own.

“I’ve anticipated as much...” Erebus whispered as he moved closer to her neck once again. “Maybe I should leave you with something to think of me by... until we meet again.” He flicked his tongue over her skin as she fought to be free of his grip. He chuckled and pushed his lips into her skin kissing her gently. “I’m afraid you are much weaker here.”

“I don’t care if I am weaker here or not. I’ll fight you anyways.” Alexis growled as she tried to squirm out of his embrace.

“Now now. I’m not going to fo.rce anything on you.” Erebus let go of her and his lips frowned. “I won’t fo.rce you. Alexis, I’m going to do right by you.”

“The best way to a woman’s heart is threatening to kill her family.” Alexis snorted angrily as she backed up on the bed.

“That is just to protect you from Aken. My fiery treasure, Aken is dangerous. You think I am threatening, but you have no idea what kind of beast he really is. Until I can kill that mate of yours, I need to ensure that you stay away from him. I don’t want to hurt you of course...”

“You didn’t mind hurting my cousin Lucy.” Alexis spat out at him.

“That is before I knew you. I want to be better for you. Change me, Alexis. Stay by my side and show me your light.” He moved his hand over the silk sheets towards her.

Alexis shook her head and sighed. “You are like a spoiled child who gets everything they want. If they see another child has something they want, they think they can simply take it. Even though the spoiled child has everything he isn’t as happy as the other child with their toy. I won’t be the toy you take to try to fill your void. You don’t want me. You don’t know me. You want me because someone else wants me.”

“I’m not good enough for you is that it?” Erebus growled and listened to Alexis’ airy chuckle.

“You have ears, use them. Did you not just hear what I said?! It’s a competition for you. I am not going to be the prize you are competing for. It isn’t one for me. Aken is my mate. No one could ever complete me like he can.” Alexis listened to the low deadly snarl from Erebus as he snatched her hand and tugged her next to him.

“I’ll save you from yourself, Alexis. I won’t let him ruin you. You are blinded by the mate pull. You’ll see clearer after he is dead.” Erebus frantically tried to reason with her as his hand sifted through her strands.

“You think I’ll forgive you if you kill him? If you kill him, you better kill me because I will make it my life mission to destroy you.” Alexis snapped at him coldly as she was pulled backwards. His hands entangled in her hair holding her in place as a dark chuckle escaped from his throat.

“You see my treasure? We aren’t so different after all.” A cruel grin spread over Erebus’s face as he tugged her head towards his lips. She tried to pull back and winced from the pain of the grip he had on her hair.

“Stop it! Let go of me.” Alexis pleaded as his lips inched towards hers.

“Just let me taste you. Be a good girl and hold still.”

She felt his hot breath on her lips as she struggled against him. She felt the water build up at the corner of her eyes as a small whimper escaped her lips. His hand held her captive with a fist full of her hair as his other hand gripped her arms. Her heart was racing as panic began to set in. She didn’t want this man’s lips on hers. She didn’t want to be so close to him.

‘Please... someone... anyone... help me.’ Alexis inwardly begged.

The room suddenly began to shake violently, and Erebus looked up and growled loudly.

“That bastard. He is always interrupting us.” Erebus turned and glared at Alexis. “You want him to come and save you, don’t you? You want to see his face.” His eyes widened and he bared his teeth at her in a vicious grin.

“Yes... that’s what I’ll do. I’ll send you back to your mate who is desperately trying to wake you up.” Erebus pushed off and pinned Alexis down on the bed. “But first... I’ll leave a message for the Kraken.” His eyes were wild as his face inched closer to hers.

The silent room was then filled with an ear piercing scream as crimson drops began to soak into the silk sheets.

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 35

Chapter 35 Heart's Desire

Aken woke up as he felt the body shiver next to him. Alexis' breathing was erratic, and her heart rate was racing. His first thought was that she was having a bad dream probably from being so exhausted. She was safely next to his side so nothing else could have happened to her. His aura would be keeping her protected...

"My love." He called to her gently as he rubbed her arm. Her body continued to shudder and a quiet whimper left her throat. "Alexis." He spoke loudly as he lifted her body upright.

Her body was unresponsive to Aken trying to wake her up. Her body squirmed as her face contorted. He squeezed her tightly in his arms and leaned his head into hers. He realized that this was not just a normal nightmare. Impossible.

Aken could hear the faintest of whispers in his head.

'Please...someone...anyone...help me.'

Aken felt desperate and tried to mind link with her. Yet he was met with a solid mental barrier. He beat against it with his mental link with all his godly might. The barrier still held him out. It couldn't keep him out for long. But he was desperate for any extra help he could get. Alexis needed help.

'Micah! Something is wrong with-' Aken didn't even finish the thought when Micah burst into the room.

Micah had been resting right outside of Alexis' door. He didn't know why but he started to feel uneasy. His princess was with the Kraken she was fine. But he needed to be close to her room. The moment he heard Aken's voice in his mind he catapulted into Alexis' room. His gaze darted to Alexis and at Aken's troubled face.

“Can you reach her? I’m going to keep trying. I will breakthrough. But we need to get to her now. There is no time to explain.” Aken watched as Micah stormed over his eyes growing feral as he grabbed onto Alexis’ hand.

Alexis suddenly screamed out in pain and then blood began to seep from her eyes trickling down her face. Aken’s eyes grew dark. He knew what could cause something like this. And he would be foolish enough to do it.

Micah and Aken’s aura’s projected out in a ferocious clash as they pushed it against the mental barrier holding Alexis hostage.

“Shh it is over my treasure. It’s over. I’m so sorry that I had to hurt you. It’ll be okay. It’s all over now.” Erebus cooed to Alexis as his thumbs wiped away the blood from her temple.

Alexis lay there panting with her eyes clenched. It felt like a red hot iron was shoved into her eyes as something sharp was implanted in both of them. They were stinging and burning with so much intensity that she was afraid to open her eyes.

When Alexis saw his hand moving towards her eye she squeezed them shut and tried to avoid him. But she was no match for him. He shoved something sharp through her eyelid and into her eye. Even though she couldn’t shift she could still feel her body healing itself. But what evil did he do to her?

“What have you done to me?” Alexis whispered out.

“You are perfectly fine. Go ahead and open your eyes. The pain will start subsiding soon.” Erebus watched as her eyes slowly fluttered open.

“What have you done to me?” Alexis glared at Erebus with a new found dark contempt for him. She already hated him but now it was becoming even more personal.

“It’s just a small present. You can thank me later.”

“WHAT DID YOU DO?!” Alexis shot up on her feet as she staggered backwards. Her brows were furrowed as her chest heaved angrily.

A cruel smirk rose on Erebus's lips. "When you look at your heart's desire you will instead see your nightmares." A sinister cackle left his throat. "I wonder if you'll be able to be near 'HIM' now."

The whole room shook violently as pieces of the world began shattering around them.

"What the fu.ck is this?" Erebus stood up as he looked around nervously. A ferocious growl shook the room as the illusion began to rip from both sides. There were two strong energies breaking into the area. One he recognized but the other he wasn't sure. He snorted and shrugged his shoulders. "No mind. We are done here for now. I'll see you again soon my gem."

Erebus walked towards her. His eyes wandered over her body as she stood there facing him angrily. He reached his hand out towards her...

—

Alexis gasped and shot up. She shook herself free and jumped to her feet. Where was she? What were these surroundings? She felt her ice at her fingertips and she shot out the icy energy.

"Lex. My love, it is okay. It's us." She heard a voice that sounded like Aken.

"Lex. Deep breaths." This one was Micah's voice.

Alexis inhaled slowly recognizing their scents as her blurry vision began to come into focus. She felt a set of arms cocooning her as his scent rushed to calm her. She looked down at the ground and was trying to prepare herself for what she might see.

Alexis glanced over at Micah and was relieved to see his blue eyes staring back at her. She slowly tilted her head up to look at Aken as he was lowering his head closer to her face. It was Aken's voice, it was his scent, but this was not his face. She gasped and jumped backwards.

"Hey, you're okay." Aken went to move towards Alexis, but she shook her head slightly and held up her hand for him to stop.

Alexis backed away a couple of steps until she reached the wall. She felt the cold stone on her back, and she leaned into it as she slid her body down to the ground. Her hands came up to cover her face as they trembled slightly.

She knew it was Aken, but he now looked like the cruel deity with white pulled back hair. Erebus was her worst nightmare...

"What happened?!" Rhea ran in hearing the commotion as she came up the stairs. The door was left open, so it was no longer soundproof. She looked down at the crumpled mess of her daughter on the floor. "Alexis..." She knelt at her side and rubbed her back.

"Lee," Rhea called out and his body instantly manifested next to her.

"Alexis? What happened?" Levi turned his head and glared at Aken.

"Is this blood?" Rhea asked as she looked at the red streaks on her temples.

"Lex," Aken whispered out and watched as she tightened her fingers together.

"She was trapped in her dream somehow. I don't know. It was different than when she was in the dream world with Bella." Micah watched as Levi looked over at him.

"He..." Alexis whispered out and touched her eyes. She grit her teeth and began to tremble with anger. "He shoved something into my eyes. He pulled me into some type of dream world that was real. He said it was a counter curse."

"He... you mean..." Rhea whispered, and Alexis spat out angrily.

"Erebus, the deity who is now so obsessed with me that he shows me he loves me by hurting me. He pushed something into my eyes and said that when I look at my heart's desire, I will instead see my nightmares." Alexis steadied her breathing and turned her head to look at Aken.

"I know you are Aken. I can smell you. I know your touch. But I see Erebus now." Alexis felt her heart sink as she glanced between Aken and her parents. "Is this permanent? I don't know how I am supposed to deal with this. I won't be separated from you again. I'll learn to adjust." Alexis focused on Aken she wanted him to know she had no intentions of staying away from him.

"Damn... this is what he wants. He is trying to condition you. He is like the scent changers. The ones that can mock your mate's scent. Eventually, in a half awake state, the body gives in to what it naturally knows." Aken balled his

hand in a fist. “He felt confident that you would see his face. He wants you to get used to seeing him.”

Levi’s eyes grew to a dark blue that almost looked black. “He touched my daughter... again?! Enough is enough. I’m going looking for him.”

“Stay here and take care of your family. I’ll go.” Aken watched as Levi snapped his head over at him.

“And a lot of good that has done!” Levi snarled as his rage began to boil.

“We aren’t going to find him. He is hiding himself too well. We need to follow the bread crumbs. We need to find the original demon he is working with and wait for him. But first thing is first. We need to help Alexis.” Aken’s gaze softened. “Lex, I can leave the room if that will be easier.”

“Please... don’t leave me.” Alexis bit her bottom lip as she looked at the face of Erebus. It was torture for the man she loved the most to look like the man she hated the most.

Micah knelt down in front of Alexis and cupped her cheeks in his hands. He stared at her eyes as Rhea did as well. He needed to focus on Alexis before he destroyed the room. His rage was slipping into a dangerous area. He took in a calming breath as he tried to look for the foreign object that was shoved into his princess’ eyes.

“If he shoved it in, we can remove it right?” Rhea leaned closer, pushing her fairy vision forward.

“He injected it in the dream world. It will need to be removed the same way.” Aken grit his teeth and huffed out a breath through them.

“Do you know what it is?” Micah asked and listened to the low snarl from Levi.

“Yes, we know what it is.” Levi turned his face away in disgust. “It is something that demons have used to... to take a woman of their choosing. Nembrant glass can make the person see either their heart’s desire or their worst nightmare. Depending on what effect the owner gives it. Usually, it is used by the person so that they look like the one you love. Making seduction easier. Erebus twisted it. Of course, he would. Making it that when you see your heart’s desire you would see your worst nightmare instead.”

Aken growled. “The truth is he likely planned to use it the other way. He was going to make himself look like me. I think he had other plans in mind before Micah and I destroyed the barrier he was keeping you in. Honestly... that’s very impressive, Micah, and we should have a discussion about it later.”

“If you know what it is you know how to reverse its effects, right?” Rhea said with a bit of edge in her tone. Her wolf Lumi was growling angrily at someone touching her pup. Rhea was fighting for her own control this time. She wanted to rip out Erebus’ black heart.

Aken looked up at Levi.

‘Kali isn’t here anymore. Our next best chance is Bella.’ Levi listened as Aken let out a low growl.

‘The dream world is dangerous. Shiva is looking for Kali now.’ Aken watched as Levi’s sharp blue eyes pinned against his.

‘I know it is dangerous. Don’t tell me what is dangerous and what isn’t. Don’t for one second think that it doesn’t terrify me to even suggest it. That’s MY daughter! I have been there through it all. I’ve been by her bed through every fever. I was there helping her when she first shifted. AND I WAS THERE WHEN SHE CRIED BECAUSE YOU WEREN’T.’ Levi’s mental voice boomed in Aken’s head.

Aken inhaled sharply as he winced. He then returned his own icy glare towards Levi. ‘When it comes to these things we both know I know better. Having said that... Bella will need to be trained on what to do. The longer they are in the dream world...’ Aken watched as Levi nodded his head.

‘The Great Sage should be able to give her lessons on what to do.’ Levi then turned to look at his mate and daughter.

“There isn’t an immediate fix. I’m afraid preparations will need to be made first. And it isn’t without risks.” Levi looked at Alexis who shook her head.

“I don’t care what the risks are. I can’t live like this.” Alexis tucked in her bottom lip as she glanced up at her mate. She needed him now more than ever. But at the same time, her body screamed at her to get away from him.

“Okay don’t tell me I am the only one who has a temporary solution?” Micah chuckled and watched as Alexis glanced up at him. “Ever heard of the saying... put a paper bag over it?”