

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 41

Chapter 41 Perfect Gem

Aken and Micah stood in Alexis' room staring at Alexis. Levi had left hours ago to go back to Rhea and it was now late. Everyone had returned to normal except for the paper bag situation Aken was still dealing with.

The group was now getting ready to turn in for the night. Micah insisted on staying in the room with Alexis. The extra bed was still in her room and Aken agreed it would be an extra level of protection. However, Alexis was not amused and was pouting about it. She was hoping to make Aken give into temptation and give her a steamy treat before bed. But all of that was ruined if Micah stayed in there overnight.

"Micah it isn't necessary. Aken will be right here watching over me." Alexis listened to Micah snort.

"Aken said he doesn't plan to touch you now, so I don't see why me staying in here is a problem." Micah looked over at the paper bag on Aken's head searching for his eyes in the peephole. "Right?" The paper bag nodded its head.

"Well, that's what Aken says now. But he would be singing a different story if I stripped off my clothes in the middle of the night and —" Alexis heard Aken coughing and Micah slapped his hand to his forehead.

"See? I told you, man. She is trouble you can't trust her. Yep, best I stay in here and protect your virtue." Micah teased and Alexis snorted.

"Too late Micah. I've already tasted him, and I want another helping." Alexis grinned as she listened to the sharp breath from Aken.

"Lex, why do you have to be so perfect for me." Aken shook his head. There was no way he wouldn't be able to give into temptation. It was definitely for the best to have Micah with them. "Micah, put the blindfold on her. You are staying with us tonight." He listened to the pouting protest as Micah put the sleep mask over Alexis's eyes. The moment her eyes were covered Aken promptly removed the paper bag. "I can breathe." He inhaled the fresh air.

Aken walked over to Alexis and scooped her up into his arms. He walked her over to the bed and eased her down. He brushed his hand through her

strands and leaned down to kiss her forehead. “My love right now your safety is the most important thing and Micah has a unique ability when it comes to sensing presences. But I love how open you are about your feelings.”

“Well, will you at least hold me?” Alexis sulked and listened to him chuckle. “Of course my love.” He turned to look at Micah. “Do you have some clean clothes I can change into?”

“I don’t know. My shirts might be too big for you.” Micah smirked as Aken chuckled.

“Are you really trying to compare chest sizes?” Aken tugged his shirt off over his head and flexed his muscles. “I’m a deity Micah... this isn’t a challenge here. The expression body of a god— there is a reason for that.”

“Well, I must be a god then.” Micah grinned as he ripped his shirt off over his head.

“You guys aren’t doing what I think you are doing?” Alexis had a feeling she was missing an interesting show. She couldn’t care less about Micah’s body. She sees him shirtless all the time. But watching Aken flexing his muscles was mouthwatering. Especially in the spicy mood, she was in.

“We are comparing penis sizes.” Micah teased. “Mine is bigger.” He grinned widely as Aken scoffed. “Do you want to compare that next?”

“Don’t be ridiculous little bear cub. My arms clearly have more diameter than yours do. And I don’t think that is the only thing with more diameter...” Aken rolled his arm out with a smug victorious smile.

“Not by much.” Micah walked over and held his arm out. “I think they are about equal...”

“You guys!” Alexis whined. She was left to her impure thoughts now about exactly what was going on in the room. Pretty soon she was going to take the mask off. A woman could only take so much.

“We are bro bonding Alexis. This is what men do. It’s like how you girls grab each other’s chest in the shower.” Micah listened to Alexis’s snort.

“What movies are you watching? We don’t do that. You must be watching a show about Candy and Buttons that airs at x rated o’clock. Spanktravision?”

Alexis mocked. She was hating the restricting eye cover more and more. All joking aside— she missed Aken’s face, and it had only been a day.

“You watch your shows and I watch mine.” Micah shrugged and Aken turned his head to look at Alexis.

“Your shows?” Aken looked at her with amusement as she giggled.

“Not the same as Micah’s shows. And Brian and Micah watch them too.” Alexis shrugged her shoulders. She watched series shows and reality tv. It was not the same thing that she was insinuating that Micah was watching.

“Well, I have to know who the bachelor chooses now,” Micah said clicking his tongue in fake exasperation. He chuckled and threw a shirt over to Aken. “Sorry if it’s too big for you.”

Alexis felt her eyes burning. At first, it was both eyes and then it shifted to one. With the fiery sensation, the sounds around her began to muffle.

Aken rolled his eyes and put the shirt on. He walked over to the bed and sat down next to Alexis. Micah turned his head sharply towards the bed.

“Alexis!” Micah yelled running over.

Aken looked down at her noticing her hands squeezing so tight her knuckles were turning white. Once again Micah was able to sense a difference in Alexis before he was.

‘I’m there with you, my treasure. Can’t you feel me? I’m right beside you.’

Alexis sat up and held her hand over her eye. She grabbed the mask ripping it off ignoring the two men beside her. She jumped off of the bed and headed to her dresser where there was a mirror. She looked at herself and her mouth gaped in shock. Her one eye was glowing red, not unlike the red-eyed man from her premonition. What is this?

“Alexis!”

Alexis heard Micah’s concerned voice. She closed her eyes and took in deep relaxing breaths. She wouldn’t let Micah know she was distressed. She had to keep him calm. She was pretty sure he hadn’t seen her eye. So, she covered it with her hand and began to rub it lightly.

“I’m fine. It is just burning a little bit. I think I will take a shower before bed.” Alexis forced a smile as she held her composure.

“Something felt weird—” Micah studied her as he stepped closer to look at her. Aken was behind Alexis trying to stay out of her view.

“Micah look at me I am fine. It was just burning but it’s stopped.” Alexis grabbed some clothes out of her drawer and smiled at Micah. “I’ll be back.”

“I’m coming—” Micah started as Alexis laughed.

“Are you going to join me in the shower? I think Aken may have issues with that. Right my love?” Alexis listened to his hum in acknowledgment.

“I can join you though,” Aken added.

“I don’t want to interrupt bro bonding time. Besides you have some more measuring to do right?” Alexis smiled biting her bottom lip. She could feel his heat behind her and honestly, she would love to watch water droplets propel down his rock-hard chest.

“Lex,” Micah said in an accusing tone.

“What Micah? You can’t expect me not to feel a bit self-conscious, right? I’m going to be cuddling with my mate all night long. I’d want to make sure I am fresh and clean. Excuse me and my feminine habits.” Alexis smiled and shook her head at Micah and then turned on her heels. “I’ll be back boys.” She emphasized the boys part as she opened the door to her room.

“Leave it open, Lex,” Micah said as he narrowed his eyes at her.

“My door?” She asked and she listened to his snort.

“Both doors. I’m sitting outside the bathroom door.” Micah watched her shrug her shoulders.

“Suit yourself. I’ll leave it cracked.” Alexis said indifferently as she made her way to the shower. She could feel the two presences following behind her as she continued to hold her composure. She pushed the door shut to a crack and turned on the shower. The steam soon began to fill up the room and Alexis removed her hand from her eye.

She stared in the mirror as she studied herself. The eye looked normal again. Until the voice started again. With its hissing whisper, her eye began to glow red.

‘You aren’t interested in your mate. You want someone else in your life.’

Alexis scoffed. ‘The power of suggestion? Really? Who the hell do you think I am? I can’t be manipulated. What trick is this? You can’t win a woman’s heart the normal way so you try to brain wash one? That won’t work on me.’

‘Really? You don’t think it will work? I wonder how long it will take. I—’

An inner force encircled the voice strangling the sound out of it.

‘What is this...’ Erebus’ voice choked out.

‘This is the strength of the fairy princess. You cannot exist in my head. But thanks for extending me a connection... This is just what I needed.’ Alexis smirked and focused on the string connecting them. Meanwhile, she froze the door making sure no one could break it open easily. She made sure the ice stayed on the inside as she created a thick inner barrier.

Alexis mentally gripped onto the string and felt her beasts growl in approval. They pushed their strength into her mind, and she sent out a devastating blast of power through the mental connection. She smirked as she felt the explosion connect and the link was severed.

An instant later the door busted open, and pieces of ice shattered everywhere. Alexis gaped at Micah as she raised a towel up. “What are you doing Micah?” She hissed.

“I felt a disturbance in here,” Micah growled as Aken stepped inside with his bag over his head.

“Yeah, just me putting up an ice barrier in case your male urges got the better of you.” Alexis listened to Micah’s unconvinced growl.

“Cut the crap, Alexis. Since when have I ever tried to look at you?!” Micah growled.

“You just did. Look I’m trying to help you here. What if you end up taking a mate? I don’t want her body to suffer by comparison. If you see me naked you

may never be able to view her as a real woman.” Alexis listened as Aken snickered behind his paper bag. While Micah’s eyes continued to drill into hers.

“I don’t know what your game is but I know you. You aren’t shaking me off the trail so easily. Tell me what is going on?” Micah watched as Alexis looked at him like he was crazy.

“You are about to see a lot more than you bargained for that’s what is going on.” Alexis sat the towel down and began to lift up her shirt. Micah immediately turned away while Aken stood there admiring the view. She slipped out of her clothes and winked at Aken before stepping into the shower.

Micah growled and shook his head. “You haven’t pulled anything over on me Alexis. Something is going on. I know it.”

“Fine Micah, you got me.” Alexis hissed in irritation as the hot water cascaded over her. She had to feed him something otherwise he wasn’t going to give up. And she knew exactly what to say to throw him off the trail. “I haven’t been marked yet and my mate is around. I am having a power struggle trying to prevent my beasts from going into heat. There?! Happy Micah? Thank you for making me air this embarrassing moment. Now if you don’t mind... GET OUT!”

Micah turned completely red and cleared his throat. “Oh. Uhm. Sh.it. Sorry, Lex. I... we will just be... yeah.”

Aken stood there as Micah put pressure on his shoulder trying to usher him out of the room. Everything inside of him raged for him to join his mate in the shower. But his da.mn face— he was going to need a shower now. An ice cold one. He finally allowed Micah to push him out and the door shut behind them.

Alexis sighed out in relief and leaned against the shower wall.

‘We hit him hard.’ Yuki panted happily with smug satisfaction. ‘He won’t be able to use that again on us. We severed the mental connection with the glass.’

‘Good. This must be a new trick or Dad and Aken would have known about it.’ Alexis sighed as she let the hot water run over her. For now, she had taken care of part of the problem on her own. And she did it without Micah getting

upset over it. She was going to do her best in the future to protect Micah. He was always protecting her and now she needed to protect him.

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Erebus held his head with his hands. Red drops dripped from his ears, eyes, nose, and mouth onto the stone floor beneath him. He spit out a pool of crimson liquid as some of his blood clung to his teeth. His breath was ragged as he hunched lower to the ground.

He had underestimated her. The wave he was hit with was going to take him days to recover from. He looked down at the blood beneath him and a red smile spread over his lips.

He began to chuckle maniacally and then his laughter echoed off of the stone walls. He staggered over to a chair as he continued to cackle to himself. He looked down at his hands and played with the sticky liquid between his fingers. She had hurt him. She had made him bleed. His eyes were wide with excitement from the challenge she presented before him. It was better when they put up a fight. He liked it.

“Yes,” Erebus whispered out as he snickered to himself. “She is the perfect gem.”

Note:

I have added a book called Oh For Mates Sake. This is a spinoff of the doctor series. It has the first chapter up and will begin updating after this book completes.

Marion and I have made a FB group called Alpha Island Arc. It is for the AI series and discussions.

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 42

Chapter 42 Feelings Show

Brian leaned against the cool wall staring at the door in front of him. He was waiting for Bella to be done with Grandpa Sage. He couldn't stand not being around her and wanted to see her as soon as she was finished. Finally, when it was late at night the door creaked open. Bella walked out cautiously, and her grey eyes immediately met with the hazel eyes across from her.

“Thank you for waiting for me.” Bella stepped out with more confidence after seeing his familiar face. She wasn’t sure why, but she felt better seeing him. She only managed to take a couple of steps before Brian reached out and plucked her into his arms. His head came down to rest in the crook of her neck where she could feel his hot breath beating against her skin. Unlike before, this time she felt her body shudder slightly. Her beast stirred uncomfortably seeking Brian’s heat. Subconsciously she leaned into his embrace.

“Are you alright? Are you hungry? You must be tired? I’ve been so anxious out here waiting for you.” Brian suddenly felt a calming warmth wash over him and a faint smile spread over his lips. He leaned his head into her shoulder and sighed with her calming comfort. “Thank you for that.”

Bella had her eyes closed as she felt her own beast relax next to Brian. Maybe this was the start of her recognizing the mate pull? Whatever it was she was enjoying his heat and being close to him. Where she lived before it was also cold. But it felt like Brian was the perfect temperature for her. She was disappointed when he stepped away from her. The warm cocoon of his embrace was instantly missed.

Bella watched him, keeping her expression neutral. She took in his dark silky hair, his finely sculpted well-conditioned physique, and his captivating hazel eyes. Eyes that she now noticed were studying her curiously. She had been eyeing him openly but didn’t look guiltily away. She held her gaze with his, knowing that her blank expression gave nothing away.

Bella could feel her body reacting oddly. She could feel something deep inside of her responding to the lack of his touch. Like she was a flower twisting and seeking out the sunlight. Her slim hands curled into little balls as she rubbed her thumb over her fingers. She felt a bit scared of the feelings that were building up inside of her. She didn’t understand the sensual excitement that was now making her heart beat faster. She felt like she was struggling for her breath as her body shudder slightly.

Brian stood there watching her curiously. Her silver eyes gave away nothing but they were glued to him. She had no idea what she was doing to him. Just her looking his way made his beast squirm and beat against him. He wanted to claim his mate who was looking so vulnerable in front of him. There was a powerful need to protect her and hold her tight. But he didn’t want to scare her off. These emotions were intense, even for the mate pull which she wasn’t feeling. He watched as she shivered slightly, and he stepped towards her.

“Are you cold?” He wrapped his arm around her bringing his body temperature up as he did. He felt her body lean into his and listened to her content small sigh. “There, is that better?”

Bella closed her eyes as she tried to control her own emotions. The mere sound of his voice was submerging her into so many boiling needs and feelings that she didn't understand. She felt lost with no hope of sorting them out. She was told Brian is her mate, but she wasn't sure what she was sensing. Maybe her mind was playing tricks on her making her think she feels something. And Brian was an attractive man, so she didn't trust herself.

She kept her eyes closed as she felt her insides clench. Her fingers began to tingle, and she bit her inner bottom lip. She never admitted this out loud before but deep down she was terrified of having a mate. For reasons that haunted her mind since she was young.

“Bella?”

She listened to the slight concern in his voice, and she realized that she had been quiet this whole time. “I'm sorry. I guess I am tired.” She listened to his agitated sigh, and she glanced up from his chest as his eyes were fixated on the door.

“Are they pushing you too hard? Bella you—”

“No, they aren't. It's just been a lot for one day is all. A lot of firsts. A lot of excitement. And then preparing to remove the glass from Alexis' eye... It's a lot for one day.” Bella's lips curled upwards as she tried to give him a reassuring smile.

“I'll walk you to your room.” Brian looked at her with a bit of uncertainty before he gently corralled her down the hall. He kept her tucked in his arm allowing his warmth to wash over her. Her body was still leaning into his in a more familiar fashion than she had before. His beast was growling in contentment as he tried to manage his flame that burned for her.

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Alexis pushed open the door from the bathroom. Aken and Micah were both standing right outside the door. She chuckled and stepped into Aken's side and glanced up at his paper bag head. He was looking at her through the slits and her insides ached to see him. But she knew under that bag she wouldn't

see her Aken. Instead, she turned her head into his side and closed her eyes allowing herself to breathe in his scent and visualize his face.

“Has... uh everything settled down...” Micah asked as he cleared his throat. He glanced over at Alexis who turned her head to look at him.

Before Alexis could answer she heard the door up and Brian and Bella emerged from the stairs. The moment Alexis saw Bella’s face she knew something was wrong. Alexis left Aken’s side and walked over to them. Brian was looking down at Bella in confusion and then glanced up at Alexis.

“She said she is just tired but—” Brian started, and Alexis grabbed onto Bella’s hand.

“I’ll go and get her a change of clothes.” Alexis tucked Bella’s hand in her arm and smiled over at her. “You are tinier than I am, but I think I have some things that will fit. And tomorrow we will have to go clothes shopping for you. I’m surprised you didn’t pack anything to bring with you.”

“I really never had much to bring,” Bella whispered out. “I didn’t go anywhere anyways.”

Alexis ushered Bella into her room and shut the door. She turned and looked at Bella curiously. “Okay, talk to me. What happened?” She watched as the grey eyes widened as she shook her head slowly.

“I’m just tired is all,” Bella whispered out and Alexis giggled and reached out to put her hand on her shoulder.

“That might work with Brian, but you’ll need to do better than that with me. Trust me I use those excuses myself. You can talk to me.” Alexis gave Bella a reassuring smile.

“How did you know...” Bella whispered and watched as Alexis shrugged.

“Your eyes... they look scared, I guess. You don’t look like your normal self. Not that I am an expert on what your normal self looks like... I could just tell.” Alexis laughed and shrugged. “Maybe because I am an expert at trying to hide things. Anyways. You can talk to me. What is bothering you? Is it the stuff you are training to do for me? Is it really scary?”

“Oh no no no. It’s nothing like that.” Bella tucked her lip in as her emotions swirled inside of her. She glanced up at the door.

“Don’t worry. They can’t hear us.” Alexis smiled as Bella’s shoulder dropped slightly.

“It’s just that...I started feeling things that I have never felt before. I don’t know if it is in my head or what it is. But I’m— I’m afraid.” Bella breathed out and clutched her chest as she took ragged breaths. “I don’t know if I want... one. I don’t know if—” Her bottom lip quivered, and she slammed her eyes shut.

“Bella,” Alexis whispered and walked up to her. She wrapped her arms around her and hugged her gently. “Brian is a great guy. There is nothing to be afraid of. It sounds like you are suppressing the mate pull. You are willingly blocking your beast, aren’t you?”

“You don’t understand.” Bella sobbed quietly in Alexis’ chest as tears glistened at the corner of her eyes. “The real truth about why I am with Shiva.” Her breath shuddered as she gripped onto Alexis. Her emotions began to run out of her as her body trembled and the tears fell. “My mother was ripped away from me. She was taken because she was a crystal dragon. And my father was killed trying to save her. Then they came for me. Shiva saved me and took me in. She went looking for my mother, but it was too late. I was young but not so young that I don’t remember.”

“Oh, Bella I am so sorry. Thank goodness Shiva found you. But Bella, what does that have to do with Brian?” Alexis listened as Bella sniffled, she pulled away to look up at Alexis’ eyes.

“Don’t you see? My father was strong, and my mother was still taken from him. He was killed trying to protect my mother.” Bella could see the look of understanding on Alexis’ face.

“Because he loved your mother. Bella, don’t let fear stop you from being happy. Don’t live your life like that. You are safe here. And even if you don’t take a mate, we would all fight to protect you. Do you think by not accepting your mate you are protecting them?” Alexis watched as Bella shook her head.

“I don’t want—I don’t want for my children to go through what I did,” Bella said in a strangled voice that hiccupped between her breaths.

“I understand your fears. I understand why you are so timid of other people. But that isn’t fair Bella. It isn’t fair to do to yourself. Listen, take your time if you need to with the mate pull. Just because you feel it doesn’t mean you have to jump into Brian’s bed—”

“But I want to!” Bella said in an almost hysterical cry. She closed her eyes and tears glistened down her cheeks. “And that terrifies me even more. I feel like I don’t have any control of my body. Like these actions aren’t my own. I’ve never had this before. It is so powerful, and I don’t understand it.”

“I know. It is like this powerful wave consumes you and takes over your thoughts. It is a bit scary, but it is also wonderful. You have this amazing connection that you don’t share with anyone else. Just being near them infuses you with a calm comfort you didn’t even know you needed. It’s safe. It’s exhilarating. It’s—” Alexis reached her fingers up touching her necklace. Brushing the tips over the warm gem. “It’s a love that promises to never leave you. That will stay with you no matter what. It’s the other half that you are missing, and you can never be complete without. It’s everything Bella. I can’t imagine not taking this gift out of fear. Because having your mate is... it is something that I would never toss aside. Bella, it’s amazing.”

Alexis smiled and reached her hand out to grab onto Bella’s. “I have known Brian my whole life. You were both blessed to get each other as mates. You are his equal and partner that was made just for him. And he is everything that you don’t even know you need.”

“I wish we didn’t have the mate pull.” Bella sighed out and looked up at Alexis. “Don’t you ever wonder about it? Don’t you ever feel like the mate pull forces two people together? I mean... without the mate pull do you end up with the same person? Look at humans. They get to pick their partner and fall in love. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could fall in love and then the mate pull connects to the one we love?”

“But I do love Aken. I loved Aken before I met him. I felt him inside right here.” Alexis tapped her chest. “Bella the mate pull is there to bring you together faster. But you still love each other. It is more deeply and more connected than on a human level. And when we mark each other we bare our souls to one another.”

“What if he didn’t want a crystal dragon as his mate?!” Bella bit her bottom lip finally saying what was bothering her. “What if he didn’t want this target on his

back? On his kingdom's back? But because of the mate pull, he has to accept me?!"

"You are overthinking everything. For one, you can reject your mate. But Brian doesn't want to. He wants you, Bella. So, what if the mate pull is what brings you together? It isn't the reason you stay together."

"If he knows I can feel this... will he let me go at my own pace?" Bella whispered out quietly.

Alexis smiled and nodded her head. "Of course, he will. But don't be surprised if you are the one who can't hold back. Just from experience, my beasts demanded my mate more. Aken was the one with the willpower, not me."

"Yeah." Bella let out a quiet chuckle. "I think I might have the same problem."

"So, talk to him, Bella. He is your mate, not your enemy. He is the one person in the whole world who will move the stars to make you happy. He will be the one to understand you and want to comfort you." Alexis watched as Bella slowly nodded her head.

"I will. Thank you." Bella smiled at her genuinely. "I needed this talk."

"Ready to go back out there?"

"Yes, I'm still a bit nervous but I think I am ready."

"You are still nervous?" Alexis asked with a frown.

"Yeah, I am nervous I'm not going to be able to control myself."

"Oh... sorry I can't help you there. I still struggle with that." Alexis laughed.

"Honestly, I'm not sure I want to anymore." Bella took in a confident breath. Alexis was right. And maybe Brian was exactly what she needed in her life. Especially with all the pain she had gone through maybe Brian was the one to help her forget about it. She held on to that resolve as she reached out for the door handle. She wasn't exactly sure how things were going to go. But Alexis was right, she needed to talk this over with Brian. And then afterwards... she would worry about afterwards later. It was time to unblock her beast and see if she heard that fated word. A word that would change the course of her life—forever.

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 43

Chapter 43 Bella's Choice

Bella stepped out of Alexis' room and her beast immediately confirmed that Brian was her mate. Had she been suppressing her dragon all this time? That couldn't have been the case. It was more likely that the longer she was around Brian the natural pull began to work. And that was when the urges began to show up while she was suppressing the truth. All dragons have the ability to suppress their beasts to a certain extent. Since it is like suppressing your urges. However, Bella has more control over this as it is a skill she had worked on. Deep down she had trained herself to suppress the mate pull.

'Mate!' Bella's inner beast stirred as she met with the concerned hazel eyes.

"Bella, are you alright? You didn't change?" Brian studied her face. Her eyes were slightly red as if she had been crying. His eyes darted up to see that Alexis had a faint smile on her lips. She nodded to him that everything was okay. And his gaze went back to his mate.

Bella intertwined her fingers tightly together as she bit her inner lip hard drawing little droplets in her mouth. The force pulling her to Brian was almost suffocating. Her breath strangled in her throat and her heartbeat accelerated. She felt like she was almost gasping for breath as the sensation rolled over her in waves. His scent washed over her swamping her senses giving her an oddly mingled panic and longing feeling. The desire was so strong it scared her.

Bella could see he was still staring at her waiting for her to say something. But her mouth suddenly felt too dry to speak. She tried to swallow the spit that wasn't there making her throat stick together. She felt Alexis' hand land on her shoulder. She turned her head to see an encouraging smile on her face.

"Remember what we talked about."

Bella nodded her head slowly as she listened to Alexis' voice. She remembered but she felt much braver a moment ago behind the closed doors. It was different now that she was allowing her beast out of suppression. But she could see the concern in Brian's eyes, and she felt a pang in her chest. Something that made her feel like she needed to protect him.

“Brian,” Bella murmured as she tried to ignore the liquid desire that was flooding through her. “Can we go somewhere and talk?” She watched as a warm smile spread on his face. He nodded his head and reached his hand out to her.

“Sure, come on. I’ll show you my office. How does that sound?” Brian watched her curiously as she stared at his hand as if it was a deadly creature. Then she slowly reached her hand out placing just her fingertips in his hands. He watched as her lips pursed together tightly and she looked like she was in pain. He glanced up at Alexis again worried, but she only nodded her head at him to go on.

Brian felt slightly annoyed that Alexis was dismissing Bella’s issues so casually. But he admitted if it was anything serious, she wouldn’t be so relaxed about it. He held her fingers gently and led her back down the stairs where they had come from. Bella stayed quiet the whole way. He led her into his office and then stopped to shut his door.

Bella took a few steps away from Brian as she tried to focus on the room around her. She was trying to ignore how every breath she was inhaling the aphrodisiac of Brian’s sweet male scent. She turned to look at him. She caught his golden gaze wandering over her before his eyes returned back to their hazel coloring. It looked like he was also struggling to reign in his beast. This reassured her and gave her the courage she needed to finally try to speak.

“Brian, I—I can feel the mate pull.” She chewed on her inner lip as she watched his eyes flashing in color. “But I’m—I’m scared of it.” The moment she mentioned she was scared his hazel coloring took over. He stepped towards her and wrapped his arms around her. Immediately, sweet sparks erupted over her body as the tingles threatened to fuse them together. She felt like all her strength had been drained from her in that moment. She let her body lie against him while she rested her head on his chest, inhaling the smell that was made just for her.

“You don’t have to be afraid Bella. You don’t have to do anything you aren’t ready for. We can take our time and get to know each other if that is what worries you? I’m here for you Bella. Tell me how I can help.” Brian leaned his head on top of hers. He smiled as he felt his beast calm having her in his arms.

“Are you sure you want me as your mate? Because having a crystal dragon as a mate can be—” Bella explained everything that she had to Alexis. She appreciated how Brian let her say everything that was on her mind. He just quietly held her and sifted his hand through her hair. When she was finally done, she waited in silence for what he was going to say.

“I want you, Bella. I don’t care if having you puts a target on my back. It is one that I would gladly bear. A fated mate is a blessing, Bella. You are looking at it the wrong way. This isn’t someone you are forced to have. It is the primitive cry of your beast telling you this is the person compatible with your soul. It is the person that we can share a beautiful trust with.” Brian ran his nose in her hair as he breathed in her scent. “You are everything Bella. You are everything that I have ever wanted and everything I didn’t even know I needed.”

Bella pulled back as her fingers began to tremble. She looked up at his face and then her eyes settled on his lips. Maybe if she could at least taste them, she would calm down. And as if Brian was sensing that she watched as his head lowered, his mouth closing on hers.

Bella was surprised by the gentle quality of his searing hot kiss. Her lips parted easily under his gentle persuasive pressure and his tongue moved into her mouth. He made a rough sound in his throat as he adjusted her body fully in his arms. He pressed her to him, his hand sliding down her back to her hips. He applied pressure to her, arching her into the power of his loins and thighs.

Instinctively, Bella’s fingers gripped into Brian’s shirt. She was responding to the heated pleasure that began to flare deeply within her. There was an almost primitive call beckoning her and she became aware of his male attraction. Her beast was straining to answer the call and respond to her mate. His lips forcefully parted from hers as he took in a shuddering breath.

“Maybe I should get you to your room...”

Bella was panting in ragged breaths as she looked at him in confusion. Had she done something wrong? She felt his fingers trembling on her as he closed his eyes.

“I don’t think... I’m not going to be able to control myself. I want you too badly, Bella.” Brian said roughly, his voice was shaking with the force of his desire. “I think it is best to remove the temptation from me.” A dark chuckle escaped his

lips. "I think you should probably slap me. If you only knew of the thoughts going through my mind... you would be within your rights to slap me."

Bella smiled and reached her hand out allowing her fingers to rub over his chest. The beckoning tingles erupted as a purr of pleasure echoed from his throat. "Maybe I want you to show me the thoughts in your mind."

"No," Brian had his eyes closed as he enjoyed her touch. "You aren't ready for all of this Bella."

Bella could feel his body tense as it trembled with need. He was doing everything in his power to hold himself off for her. She could feel the mate pull but because she had voiced she wasn't ready he was holding back... for her. It was like a light switched on in her head. She wasn't confused anymore and she knew exactly what she wanted.

"Brian," Bella watched as his eyes fluttered open looked down at her. "Take me to your room tonight."

"Bells," Brian whispered out in a ragged breath.

"Brian, I'm not asking you. I'm telling you. I want my mate. Mark me, Brian."

The last bit of restraint from Brian was gone. His lips came and crashed down on hers. He lifted her body into his as he took control of her. He parted her lips for the invasion of his tongue as he moved them from his office.

Bella felt delirious with the pleasure of his kisses and at that moment, she felt like she could die of contentment. His lava tongue entangled with her own bringing a warm sensation over her whole body. During his feverish kisses, she listened to the clicking sound of a door. She opened her eyes as he slid her body down his front. She looked around to see somehow they had managed to make it to another room, Brian's room she guessed. She turned her gaze back to his to see him standing there with clenched fists.

"Bells, are you sure? After this point... I won't be able to stop." Brian's eyes were fixated on her as she smiled at him. She crisscrossed her hands in front of her and grabbed the bottom hem of her shirt pulling it over her head. An inarticulate sound of hunger ripped through his throat as he hastily discarded his own shirt. He kicked his pants off next as she did the same. He stepped towards her his eyes trailing over her body.

He stretched his hand to her back unsnapping her bra, baring her breasts and freeing them. He wrapped a strong arm around her and lowered his head to the soft flesh. His tongue snaked out to capture her taunt bud and he drew it into his searing moist mouth. A strangled cry from surprise and exhilarating pleasure escaped Bella's throat. Brian lifted her body and carried her to his bed. All the while he continued to devour her and trace his tongue over her bud.

He came on top of her as they reached the bed. His hand then made the reverse journey downwards. He hooked his fingers around her panties and tugged them off of her. Then his hand traced back over her leg making the journey back to her moist center. She arched into him as his hand slipped between her inner thighs.

Bella lifted her hips again as she felt an aching desire for him. He slipped two fingers inside of her as electric pleasure shuddered throughout her body. His fingers moved against her wetness easily as her body readily accepted him. She arched into his fingers as his head moved over to take in her other bud. She moaned from the heated pleasure as she bucked against his hand. She let out a cry as her body gripped his fingers and her body shook with her c****x.

Brian kicked off his bottoms and moved up to brush his lips over Bella's. "My Bells." His hot breath whispered as he moved his lips to her neck. He licked over her skin which was throbbing with the pounding of her pulse. His lips moved over the frantic rhythm that continued to increase with the anticipation of what was coming. He began to suck on her neck as he singed her with the heat of his beast. At the same time, he moved himself between her legs. The probing of his maleness found her moist and surrendering, she arched into him readily and he took her easily.

Bella felt surging electric pleasure flowing all through her body. The hot ember pushing into her neck and the jolting pleasure from her center was madness. He slowly moved against her as she took ragged breaths. She arched into him finding a rhythm of their passionate dance. She had never experienced anything like this. There were so many electrifying sensations rippling through her body. It wasn't long until the wildly surging pleasure began to peak again. And soon it swept through her as she gripped her fingers tightly into him. Pushing him down to her. Only moments later she felt his body tighten as he too surrendered to pleasure. A hoarse cry came from him as he relaxed his body against her.

After a long minute, he stirred lifting up on his elbows to look at her. He kissed her mouth and feathered her face with soft intimate kisses. He then tilted his head to admire the mark he left on her neck. A tired smile reached his lips as he proudly looked at it. He had marked his mate.

“Brian,” Bella smiled as his gaze returned to hers. “I feel you.” She tapped her chest lightly. “I feel our connection.”

“And it will never leave you. Just like I won’t.” Brian leaned down and captured her lips gently moving against them. “My sweet Bells.” He moved his nose into her cheek as he gave her a soft kiss before rolling over beside her. He pulled her into his arms and curled his body into her.

He felt a strong sense of possessiveness wash over him as their connection fastened tightly together. Brian smiled and kissed the top of her head. He felt her slightly stir into his touch. Her sweet quiet rhythm of breathing showed she had already drifted off to sleep.

Brian closed his eyes as he breathed in her comforting scent. This feeling was greater than anything he could have ever imagined. He had his mate. She was marked. And she was his.

Then his eyes opened widely. Oh sh.it. He had forgotten during the heat of everything that he still had a role to play. He still had to pretend to be Alexis’ mate. Though he reasoned he could still do it. And now that Bella was marked it would keep other dragons away from her. Until everything is sorted out with Erebus, they could stay upstairs in the spare room Bella was going to stay in. They would still be able to put on their charade. Alexis had her mate, and he had his.

He closed his eyes again as he let himself be lulled to sleep by the soothing scent of his mate.

Note: Are we happy?

Don’t forget to join Alpha Island Arc group on Facebook. After the group gets going we are going to have some fun things planned you won’t want to miss.

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 44

Chapter 44 Nembrant Glass

Micah turned and looked at Alexis as he arched a brow. “You mind telling us what that was all about?”

Alexis shrugged and a wry grin spread over her lips. “Oh nothing much. Just Bella feeling the mate pull for Brian. She is a bit anxious. I think she honestly doesn’t know a lot about having a mate. The only mates she saw were her parents and she watched them get pulled apart. But she will be alright. Brian is a great guy and will be good for her. He will be able to help her understand what having a mate is really like.”

“So, what will that mean now? Is he planning to claim her?” Micah watched as Alexis lifted her shoulders slightly.

“Does it matter? Whether he claims her now or not we will figure it out. I could never ask him not to mark his mate. This is important for both Brian and Bella. They don’t have to wait – no one should have to wait for something so important.” Alexis lifted her gaze to stare at the slits in the paper bag Aken was wearing.

Aken moved towards her and reached his hand out claspng it around her wrist. “Micah, if you’ll excuse us for a moment.” There was a gruff roughness in his tone as he didn’t even stop to wait for Micah’s response. He pulled Alexis to her room and shut the door. He turned around to look at her keeping his grip on her wrist. He stepped up into her and wrapped his arms around her tightly pulling her into his chest.

Alexis was curious about his actions, but the sweet tingles and electric sparks made her lean into his embrace. She inhaled his scent and listened to the pounding of his heart.

“Lex.” Aken moved his hand to cup her cheek. He pulled away from her to tilt her head up to him. “Is everything alright? I mean what happened before...with your eye—”

Alexis glanced back to look at the door making sure it was shut. She let out a sigh and nodded her head. “Everything is okay now. I didn’t want Micah to know—” She said the last part in a barely audible breath.

“What happened?” Aken was studying her face as he felt his veins begin to bulge in anger.

“Is it possible that the Nembrant glass can connect with someone mentally too? Because Erebus was able to communicate with me from wherever he is. The i***t thought his power of suggestion would work on me.”

“He is communicating with you through the glass?” Aken felt the blood rise through his face as he tried to control his temper. Erebus could communicate mentally if he was close but communicating through the glass would be different. It could have more of a mental impact. He felt a sense of uneasiness as he tried to think of what Erebus was up to.

“Was,” Alexis smirked and shrugged. “But those sort of tricks don’t work on me. But since he has been so kind to me lately, I made sure I sent him a gift of my own. Even for a deity I imagine after the blast I hit him with he will still be feeling the effects.”

Aken took in a steady breath as he tried to think about what Alexis had told him. Communicating with the Nembrant glass... no good can come from this news. The power of suggestion was something certain species had. They would get in your head and eventually they could convince the mind of things. But this is the first time he ever heard of something like this from the Nembrant glass. Erebus was working on something. There was more to the glass now, he was sure of it. Alexis was part of an experiment. An experiment that wasn’t over.

“Are you sure he can’t communicate with you anymore? This is nothing to mess around with.” Aken watched as she gave him a reassuring smile.

“Yes, I am sure.”

“It’s just... I am wondering if the connection is really broken or if it is just Erebus is out of commission which is why you don’t feel it. As long as the glass is there, I think there is a risk.” Aken could feel his heart pounding as he began to fill with worry and rage.

“Well, if he tries again I’ll send him flat on his back again.”

“He will be prepared for it next time. No... I don’t want there to be a next time. We need to see what can be done to get this removed.” Aken shook his head as the paper bag crinkled with the movement.

“Aken, just so you know I always planned on telling you what happened. I just didn’t want to do it in front of Micah. I don’t want to be the reason—” Alexis

shook her head slowly. "I can't lose Micah. I know it is his job to protect me, but I have to protect him as well."

Aken smiled and brushed his thumb over her cheek. "I'm glad you weren't going to keep this secret from me. I understand. I'll be inconspicuous about the urgency of rushing to have the glass removed so as not to upset him." His thumb moved over her lips as his gaze fixated on the soft plump skin. "I can't wait to taste this again."

"Taste them." Alexis pulled on his shirt beckoning him closer. "I'll close my eyes."

"Honestly, Lex. I'm a little concerned about the Nembrant glass. It seems like this one is laced with something else. I wouldn't put it past Erebus to combine some weird curse with it. Let's not risk anything. We will get it taken care of fast." Aken sighed as his shoulders sagged.

"What is wrong?" Alexis asked.

"I need to find Terra. I sent her to the demon world. First thing in the morning I will leave to find her. I hate leaving you right now and I feel conflicted—"

"Aken, you have to find her. You can't leave her down there. I'll be right here waiting for you." Alexis felt how his chest was still tense and she wrapped her arms around him leaning into him. "I'll be fine."

"How did I ever manage to stay away from you? Being away from you for hours sounds like torture now. Everything in my body is screaming against it. And I can't even believe I am saying this. I've never..." Aken smiled behind his paper bag. "I have existed for a very long time. You can not imagine how shocking it is to have a feeling this strong, my love. I began to think that I was becoming numb to the world as it became a boring place. It is part of the reason I started getting myself into trouble. When you have eternity, you begin to do anything to make life bearable. The emotions I have when I am with you though... It is like I am experiencing life fresh."

Alexis stepped back and looked at him. She bit her bottom lip as she gazed up at him trying to see his eyes. "Will being with me be a problem? It was a problem for my father to be with my mother."

"You are a demi-god. It isn't the same as your mother. Even if you weren't though I am not a lap dog. The other deities know they can't control me like

they tried to control your father. Your father is a respected member of their made-up idiotic council. I don't play their games. Their made-up rules." Aken chuckled. "I guess that is why I was cursed to the sea. Bunch of uptight ass.holes."

Alexis giggled and tilted her head putting on a stern act. "And one of them is my father."

Aken chuckled. "I think your father is pretty much over them now too. You don't forget when someone locks you away. Especially in your father's case where they kept him from his mate." He ran his fingers down Alexis' arm as a smile spread over his face. Tiny sparks and tingles erupted from his fingertips making his desire burn for her. "I want to bring you back to my home... our home."

"Where is your home? Is that the place where we—" Alexis listened as Aken inhaled slowly no doubt remembering exactly what she was talking about.

"No, that is just where I am staying now. I have a home of my own."

"So where is it at? Like is it at Mount Olympus?" Alexis giggled as she teased him. She listened to his warm tenor chuckle.

"I see. Mount Olympus...that's cute. So does that mean you come from a kingdom that lives in flowers?" Aken wanted nothing more than to lay siege to her adorable lips and taste her over and over again. Soon he would have her again. "I actually have a very modern home in the countryside. I want to share it with you, Alexis."

"How far is it from here?" Alexis watched as he shrugged.

"I guess that depends. For us? Instant travel. One of the perks of you having me. Your father can travel like that too, but he is limited when traveling with others. I can teleport you with me with ease. But if you are asking for a dragon... then I guess it would be a few hours by flight." Aken suddenly felt a bit insecure, and he cleared his throat. "I mean this is of course if that is what you want. I'll be happy as long as I have you, my love."

"It sounds like this home means something to you. If it is important to you then it is to me as well. Keep in mind I will have to live in Elysium when it is my time to reign... Um..." Alexis chewed on her bottom lip. "What will you do then? Would you rule with me? I don't want to burden you with it. But—"

“Are you asking me to be your fairy king?” Aken asked in a low seductive voice that sent chilling exciting tingles down Alexis’ back. “Is this like a proposal? Do I get a ring or something?”

“How about a mark?” Alexis listened to his sharp inhale as he quietly muttered under his breath.

“You are really testing my self-control aren’t you? I need to get Micah back in here.” Aken groaned.

Alexis widened her eyes. “We should. We have left him out there for a long time and it is late. Do you think he might be suspicious?”

“My love, he knows we are mates. I think he understands me wanting to have you to myself for a moment. But you are right it is getting late, and I need Micah to keep me from acting on these urges.” Aken took a couple of steps and reached for the door. It opened and Micah was there sitting right by the door.

“Rumpus time over?” Micah asked with a smirk as he jumped to his feet.

Aken chuckled. “That’s why I’m bringing you in to make sure that doesn’t get started. Will you blindfold my mate?”

“Are we going to try this sleep thing again?” Micah grinned as he put the sleep mask over Alexis’ eyes.

Aken removed the paper bag and breathed in the fresh air. “These bags are not going to work. I wonder if we can see if we can accelerate having the glass taken out.”

Micah turned and looked at Aken curiously as a wry grin spread over Aken’s lips.

“I can only hold off the temptation for so long. And Alexis doesn’t make it easy on me. We are going to need to get this taken care of as soon as possible.”

“We can be bros Aken but not bros when it comes to Lex if you know what I am saying.” Micah walked over to his bed and plopped down on it. “And I swear if I hear any huffing and puffing, I’m calling Levi in here for the show. So, keep that in mind.”

Aken snorted as he walked over to Alexis, lifting her up into his chest. "Tomorrow I have to leave for a little bit to find Terra." He stopped and turned his head to look at Micah.

"I'll keep her safe," Micah said as Aken nodded his head.

"I know you will." Aken turned and eased Alexis onto the bed. He then laid down next to her and spooned in beside her. She immediately snuggled up into his chest as he cocooned his warm arms around her. "Sleep well, my princess."

"Sleep well, my beast," Alexis whispered out as she inhaled his steely scent. She relaxed in the comfort of his embrace as she felt the heaviness sink in. She didn't realize how exhausted she was until then. But only moments later she was fast asleep in the arms of the man she loved.

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 45

Chapter 45 Sword Brand

Alexis woke up from the best night's sleep of her life. Unfortunately, her stomach sank knowing that Aken would be leaving her today. She wasn't sure what time it was, but her internal clock was telling her it was morning. She moved slightly and felt Aken's hand rubbing over her shoulders.

"Good morning, my love." Aken crooned to her as his lips brushed over the top of her head. He felt her body shiver into him and he smiled, loving how she responded to him.

"Morning? Are you sure? It all looks dark to me." Alexis couldn't see a thing with her sleep mask on. Maybe she could just pretend it was still night. She listened to his chuckle and the loud snort from Micah.

"It's way past morning. It is almost afternoon, princess. Aken should have left hours ago but he wouldn't leave until you woke up." Micah clicked his tongue. "You do realize that if you keep spoiling her, you'll create a monster."

Aken smiled and brushed his fingers through Alexis' hair. "I fully intend to spoil her. Lex, I shouldn't be gone long. If Terra is waiting where I sent her, I should be able to be back by tonight." He was leaning up on his elbow looking down at her longingly. He wanted to sink his mouth into her lips allowing for his tongue to wander through her mouth. But there were just too many risks with

the unknowns of the Nembrant glass. He lifted her up and held her close in his arms.

"I'll be back before you know it. Stay with Micah and be good for him." Aken listened to the airy laugh Micah made and he turned his head to look at the man. Their eyes met and Micah smiled at him and nodded his head.

"I've been keeping her safe all this time. Go do what you need to."

"Aken," Alexis whispered as she felt his chest move slightly. She couldn't see him but could still feel his gaze on her. "Be safe."

"You aren't worried about me now, are you?" Low vibrating tones rippled through Aken's chest as he brought strands of her hair up to his lips. "Don't worry my love." He felt Alexis' fingers tug at his shirt as her hands clenched the fabric. "Nothing can keep me from you."

"The same goes for me to you. Nothing will keep me from you. If you don't return I will come for you. I don't care if I have to freeze hell in order to find you." Alexis heard a low growl from Aken's chest.

"Lex, no matter what happens I want you to wait here for me. I don't ever want you going into the demon realm. Someone like you should never step foot in that place. Just trust in me. I will come back to you. If I am late don't worry. It just means I still haven't found Terra. She is a smart girl and would move around if she needed to." Aken turned and glared at Micah. "Don't you dare let her come looking for me either."

"As if I would." Micah scoffed.

"You see... you saying things like that makes me think you anticipate problems," Alexis whispered out. She wished she could go with him.

"I don't. But at the same time, I don't want you worrying. If I am not back tonight it doesn't mean anything, okay my love?" Aken sighed and gave her one more longing embracing. "I love you. I'll see you soon."

"I love you too." Alexis felt the body disappear around her. The moment his presence vanished she flipped the sleep mask off of her eyes. She looked around and her eyes landed on Micah's.

“Don’t worry. He will be fine.” Micah stood up and stretched. “I’m starving. Let’s go and rustle up some grub.”

Alexis nodded her head and stood up. She needed to try to keep herself busy so that the day would go by faster.

“I wonder how things went with Brian and Bella.” Alexis suddenly felt energized thinking about the topic. She grabbed some clothes and beat Micah to the door. “Get dressed and hurry up.” She teased.

Yes, it would be best for Alexis to think about everything and anything. She needed to keep her mind occupied. She raced to the bathroom and quickly got ready. Soon both she and Micah were down the stairs and heading into the dining area.

Nicolai and Anna were sitting at the table and across from them were Ryker and Raine. They all seemed to be busy eating their food that was spread out on the table. Alexis and Micah walked up to the table each taking a seat as they greedily eyed the food.

“Where is everyone else?” Alexis asked as she reached for some food placing it on her plate. Breakfast and lunch were a casual affair. And since everyone had different schedules, it was constantly ready throughout the day.

“Let’s see... Troy and Nia are with Misty and Cole. They were supposed to be chaperoning a children’s event. And we haven’t seen Brian yet today.” Raine said thoughtfully.

A wry smile spread over Alexis’ face after hearing that. “So we haven’t gotten to talk much Raine. I know you were filled in about everything but you haven’t talked to me about your news.” Alexis leaned her head down to look at Ryker.

Raine smiled and shrugged. “I marked him last night.” She boldly stated and the clanking sound of silverware was heard across the table.

“You marked him? How?” Nick asked as he glanced up at Ryker. “I don’t see a mark.”

Ryker chuckled and pulled his shirt down. Right above his peck was a red long mark that resembled a sword. “It was a very nice night last night.” He chuckled with a wink.

“Yeah, Destiny was right. The urge just sort of takes over. I didn’t have to know what to do because my body already did. It was like instinct. It seems like my mark is similar to how dragon’s mark. It branded his skin.” Raine looked over at Alexis. “But did you see the shape it made? Destiny said her mark on Harley is also in the shape of a sword.”

“Anna, you want to put a mark on me?” Nick wiggled his brows at her playfully.

“So how are things with you two? Usually, you two are always fighting. But now that you are mates...” Micah looked between the two as Anna smiled shyly.

“I always liked Nick. His flirting with others infuriated me though. Whenever I saw him, I felt aggravated thinking about how he was with other women...” Anna admitted quietly.

“I wanted Anna the most, so I tried to make her jealous by flirting with other women. I guess it backfired. In our case, we are lucky we are mates. We were able to be with the person we really wanted to and move past the misunderstandings.” Nick smiled over at Anna and snaked his arm around her waist. “There is no one out there that is a better fit for me than her.”

“I’m uh finished eating...” Anna stood up and Nick immediately followed suit. There was fire in their eyes as they quickly left the room.

“They must have an upset stomach.” Micah chuckled. Everyone knew exactly where they were going. Mates had a strong sexual desire and for new mates it was almost uncontrollable. Suddenly Ryker stood up and Micah arched his brow over at him. “What you too?”

“Brian needs to talk with Alexis.” Ryker turned his head. “Alexis, will you meet Brian in his room?”

Micah stood him and groaned. “I just want to eat.” He pouted as he stacked a couple pastries in his hand.

“Micah, you can stay here.” Alexis smiled as she stood up.

“Ha! And let the squid berate me later? Not a chance.” Micah snorted as he bit into his food. “Well? Let’s go.” He said in a muffled tone as crumbs fell from his mouth.

“Tell Brian if he needs me to let me know soon before I start second breakfast.” Ryker winked down at Raine who covered her scarlet face.

Alexis laughed. “I’ll tell him.” She walked out of the room with Micah, and she grinned up at him. “You know what this means...”

“Yeah, there is about to be a surplus of babies running around.” Micah chuckled as Alexis rolled her eyes. “I still think this complicates things.” He frowned as they walked down the hall.

Alexis and Micah walked down the long restricted corridor. When they finally reached Brian’s room Alexis reached up and knocked. A moment later Brian opened the door and quickly motioned for them to come in. Alexis saw Bella standing a few feet away with a fresh new mark on her neck.

“Oh, Bella! I’m so happy for you.” Alexis chirped and hugged her.

Bella smiled and reached up to rub her neck. “Thank you. It just all felt right. And I’m happy.”

“Lex, I’m sorry I went ahead and marked her. I completely forgot—” Brian started but Alexis shot a wave of snow in his face shutting him up.

“Don’t be silly Brian. Of course, you should mark her. It’s fine. We can still work around this and now with Bella being marked you won’t have to worry about unmated dragons.” Alexis watched as he melted the snow off of him and he smiled at her in appreciation. “Can you temporarily move upstairs? That way you and Bella can share a room without suspicion. It’s that or Aken will have to play teleport switcheroo.”

“Actually, I was thinking the same thing. That I could temporarily move upstairs until things are settled with Erebus.” Brian looked over at Bella. “That is if this is okay with you?”

Bella giggled and wrapped her arm around Brian’s. “Of course, this is okay with me. But what isn’t okay is I am going to be late. I am supposed to meet Grandpa Sage.”

Brian nodded his head. “Right, which is why we needed you two to come. We didn’t want to risk her being seen with just me with a fresh mark on her neck. Speaking of mark... how long will yours stay like that?” He nodded his head over to Alexis’ neck.

“I’m not sure. This is the first mark I ever gave myself.” Alexis giggled and shrugged her shoulders. “But I will check it every morning to make sure it doesn’t look faded. I am purposely not healing it.”

Brian nodded his head and then looked a bit confused. “Where is Aken at? Did he go hunting for Erebus?”

Alexis shook her head. “No, he went to go find Terra. Hopefully, he won’t be gone for too long. Anyways, let’s get you to Gramps. Otherwise, he will take his wrath out on Brian.” She giggled as Brian snorted in agreement.

“Gramps is always rough on me. But nothing is too good for Lex. Gramps favors the girls.” Brian pouted as he grabbed the door handle. He stopped and turned around to place a soft kiss on Bella’s lips. “While we are out in the public eye, I’ll be keeping my distance from you. More so now that you have a mark on your neck. But know I’ll be thinking of you the entire time.” He watched as she nodded her head, and he lifted his gaze up to Alexis. “Alright, showtime.”

Alexis walked back down the corridor tucked in Brian’s side while Bella and Micah followed behind them. Neither Alexis or Brian were in the arms of who they wanted to be with but it was a necessary evil.

Alexis couldn’t help but think about Aken. She wondered if he was close to finding Terra. Already she was too used to his presence. The world felt foreign without his heavy scent around her. She missed the sweet tingles his closeness brought her. There was no way she would ever be able to manage to be separated from him for long again. She needed him more now. Almost as much as she needed air.

Alexis reached up and touched her necklace with her free arm. She felt the warmth of the gem kiss her fingers. And she tried to pretend it was Aken himself, kissing her and telling her he would be there soon.

Note:

We have had several calm chapters. Warning tomorrow’s chapter will not be this way.