

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 61

Chapter 61 Mark of the Beas

Aken stayed completely still as he controlled his breathing. He allowed her to touch his face that brought a sweet fire over his skin. Her touch was his. And it was the first time he had been able to experience being touched in his Kraken form. He expected to see the disgust in her eyes or even fear. But there was neither. In fact... she looked at him lovingly as if she was proud of him. He couldn't quite explain the way this made him feel.

But it wasn't just Alexis. Even the others looked at him without fear in their eyes. Micah and Jasper were even 'Kraken' jokes. They were lame but it was also nice. They weren't looking at him in disgust.

Alexis also is ready for him to mark her. He knew she was never against it, but he wasn't sure how much time she would need after everything. He was so full right now. He could almost die of contentment.

"Alright, I'm bored. If you've seen one monstrous beast you've seen them all." Micah shrugged as he walked towards the stairs with Jasper and Terra. "I'll be in the kitchen if you need me, Lex."

"Don't eat all the food." Alexis teased, and she listened to him chuckle.

"That's right. I need to harass our delivery druid more when she arrives with the next load of food." Micah flashed her a wide grin, winking before he left the training room.

Alexis turned back and ran her fingers over Aken's face. She watched as his body began to change and a moment later, he was back in his human form. He wrapped his arms around her waist and lifted her up in the air. Her feet were dangling above the ground as he slowly swayed her side to side.

"You are magnificent Aken," Alexis mumbled into his chest as her body slid down his until she reached the ground again. She looked up into his green eyes that were gazing lovingly back at her.

"Thank you."

"Thank you? For what?" Alexis giggled but his face remained serious.

“I know it may not have seemed like a big deal but that whole situation was for me. You have to understand that since the beginning of time my existence...”

“Aken.” Alexis lifted her hand up trailing her fingers over his chest. “You never had me in your existence before. I’m your soul mate.”

“And I never realized just how important that was before. I need you, Alexis. I’ve never needed anyone before... but I need you. I can’t imagine ever living without you. Lex, are you sure about what you said earlier? Because we don’t have to rush. We can wait until you are ready.”

“I am ready, Aken. I’ve been ready. I’m better now after the day I had yesterday. I felt like my mind was all over the place. But after spending time with my family everything just... everything settled down inside.” Alexis shrugged slightly and smiled. “Seeing all my family together with their mates—I have such a diverse family. I guess it helped put things in perspective too. I need your mark. I—” She squeezed her fingers into Aken’s chest as she glanced down at her feet. “I’m a strong woman. I like to do things on my own. I like to be self-reliant. It’s who I am.” She shook her head slightly and licked her lips. “But—” Her voice trailed to a whisper. “It’s different now with you. My existence is tied to yours. When I go through something I need the other half of my soul with me. Because now I know what it’s like to be whole. I want what they all have. I don’t want there to be anything separating us.”

Aken reached his hand down taking her chin between his fingers. He tilted her upwards to look up at him. “You won’t have what they have. Because each relationship is different. It is built upon their own experiences and lives. But ours will be better because it is ours. It will be perfect because it is us. I’m not going to lie. You terrify me. Your existence terrified me at first. Because I’ve never needed anyone ever. Instantly it was like I was connected to you by some invisible force I couldn’t control. I tried to fight it. I tried to fight it to protect you. But how can you fight what was meant to be together?” He leaned his head down to rest on her forehead. “I love you, Alexis. And with your consent...” He felt her head nod against his. “And with your consent, I am going to claim you now.”

Alexis felt a strange heat radiate over her body. Aken’s warmth was becoming her warmth... she could feel the same heat being transferred to her. He was doing something to her. Suddenly, there was a vibration between them. It was a low hum, but she could feel it between her ears. The heat grew hotter and more intense with each passing second. And then it was at its peak. Her eyes widened in surprise as she felt something warm trickle down her neck. She

lifted her hand to her throat and her fingers came away bloody. She glanced up at him and he smiled down at her. He never even touched her neck. She looked up at him with confusion as she touched his cheek. His brows rose as she brought her hand closer to his neck. Her eyes widened as she noticed blood trickling down his neck as well. She tilted her head to get a better look and soon she realized what she was looking at. She felt her neck again as she looked at his. It was an eight-pointed star. The same eight-pointed star mark was on both of their necks. A beautiful display of uniting marks between them. So, this is how he gives his mark to her. She would be giving him her mark in a different way...

She leaned her head to the side and met his eyes again. She could feel herself being intertwined with Aken. A rush of warmth embraced her as her body relaxed getting what it needed.

"I'm yours," Alexis whispered as she lifted her hand and reached up to touch the mark on Aken's neck. She felt her entire body heat up with the contact. She lifted up on her tiptoes and pressed her lips against his. "Mine." She whispered it again as their lips crashed together. Her hands lifted to wrap around his shoulders as she deepened the kiss. Her fingers dug into his flesh as she clawed at him. Her nails raked down over his body as her tongue tangled with his.

She didn't hold anything back. She poured every bit of her love, her passion, and her soul into it. She could feel his lips curve upwards into a smile as he kissed her back. He growled pleurably against her lips as they lost themselves in one another.

"Mine." He whispered, his voice was deep and husky. His free arm wrapped around her waist pulling her closer to him. He lifted her off the ground as he deepened the kiss.

The air around them shifted. Alexis looked for a second to see they were back in their bedroom from this morning. And the maddening kissing continued. He walked forward until they both tumbled onto the bed. He pulled away panting as he stared down at her. His hand came up to curl around her neck as he pushed up her shirt. She met his gaze as she pulled her shirt over her head tossing it to the side. Her lips parted as he started trailing kisses down her collarbone and down her neck. His lips sucked on the same spot she had been bleeding but was now a healed mark. He knew how their mark would release pleasurable tingles. And feeling her body arch into his he knew she was feeling it.

He then continued his path downwards. She tilted her head away giving him better access to her neck. His lips trailed from the neck down to her chest. He reached behind her back and slowly unclasped her bra. He threw the garment to the side and moved his lips over her now uncovered chest. She ran her fingers through his hair enjoying the electrifying surges of pleasure he was bringing her. The sensations shot through her body. Goosebumps broke out all over her skin.

His lips continued their downwards journey trailing kisses over her stomach. His hands moved to the hem of her pants, and he quickly unbuttoned them. He yanked them off her body as she lifted her hips to help him. Her cheeks flushed as she felt his hand slip to her inner thigh. "Mine." He whispered as he shifted his hand and began rubbing circles over her mound. There was a possessive urgency inside of him wanting to explore her. She now bore his mark. And he needed to pleasure her. He wanted to hear her sweet soft moans. She accepted him. She was his everything. And he wanted to show her that.

He lifted his eyes up to her as he left her chest. He continued his downward journey as he peppered her body with light kisses. Her heart started beating faster as she watched his lips trail further and further down her body.

He pushed her leg up towards her chest as he trailed kisses down past her stomach. Her head tilted back against the bed as she felt him flick his warm tongue over her skin in a lazy pattern. Her fingers curled into his hair as pleasure began to course through her body. It was like her nerves were on fire. In her lifetime she had never lost herself like this before. Aken took her to places she had never been before. But she had always known this is what she wanted. She always knew she wanted a man who could make her feel like this. She needed Aken. Her fingers reached down and squeezed his hair as she arched into his teasing tongue.

"Mmmm... Aken." She pleaded in a quiet moan. Her thighs trembled as she felt him blow a hot breath over her skin. He then began to hum against her as he rubbed the top of her mound in circles. She gasped as her body trembled as waves of pleasure washed over her. She tightened her body around him her thighs squeezed his head in place.

Her mind was still delirious with pleasure but there was something that she had to do. Something that was now her turn. She was going to place her own mark on Aken on the other side of his neck. She wasn't sure which mark

would come forward between her beasts... but she felt the drive stirring inside of her.

As Aken discarded his clothes she sat up to her knees. He knelt in front of her on the bed and she pressed his shoulders to lie down. She straddled over top of him and watched his dark eyes looking over her body. She slowly eased herself onto his erection and began to move against him.

He gripped her hips as she rocked up and down on him. His eyes closed as he enjoyed the rhythm she set. She leaned forward placing her hands on his shoulders as she increased her pace. Her breasts bounced as she picked up speed. She leaned forward and took his bottom lip into her mouth sucking on it as she moved. Aken lifted his hips to meet hers thrust for thrust. She could feel him growing harder inside of her. She gripped his shoulders tighter as her head tilted back. They were both getting close.

She leaned forward and moved her head to his neck. Her eyes flickered in color as her beasts struggled for the marking dominance. Her feral instincts raged for her to claim her mate. She pressed her lips against his neck and her fangs sank inside of him as she sucked on his skin. Her body was heating up from her o****m. Her inner muscles were beginning to spasm.

Aken let out a low growl of pleasure as Alexis pushed her fangs into him. A mixture of a sharp prick and a burning sensation was being pushed into his neck. That was all driving him closer to the edge. Aken moved his hand to her waist as he controlled their motions.

She felt him grow harder inside of her and suddenly she came apart. She cried out in pleasure as a wave of heat came over her. Her body twitched as she heard Aken let out his own hoarse cry as he stiffened against her.

She sagged against his chest leaning against his perspired body. She felt his hand rubbing over her body as she opened her eyes lazily to look at her mark. Her lips pulled up in a crooked smile as she closed her eyes. She felt Aken shift her body off of him and to the bed where he spooned in cocooning her in his arms.

On one side he had the star of their joint mark and on the other side of his neck was her own mark. The mark of both her wolf and her dragon.

"I love you, Aken," Alexis whispered out allowing exhaustion to blanket her.

“Mine...” He kissed her damp hair and buried his nose in her scent. “I’ll always love you. Forever and for always.”

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Chapter 62 The Hook Up

“Well, who do we have here? Looks like you were able to fit another trip into your busy schedule . . . or did you come back just to see me?” Micah smirked as the redhead walked up towards the backdoor to the kitchen.

“Have you been waiting out here all day just to tell me that? Cute. I’m glad I made a lasting impression. And it tells me the guardian job is easy mode.” Brandy rolled her eyes and listened as Micah chuckled. Okay, he was cute... in a cheeky sort of way.

“My princess is being well taken care of. It would be a problem for me to be around her right now if you know what I mean... Oh... well maybe you don’t.” Micah flashed her a white grin, to which she scoffed, shaking her head.

“Are you asking me if I know what s*x is?” Brandy laughed. “I’m a druid, not a monk. My temple has been entered into many times. But thanks for asking.” Brandy went to walk past him, but he blocked her path. She felt her heart rate pick up as she looked up at him.

“You might have had it but it hasn’t been very good.” Micah continued to look down at her with a crooked grin. He couldn’t help it. From the moment he saw her and her fiery temper he wanted to taste her. She was beautiful and she intrigued him.

“Oh gosh really? Are you eyeing me up trying to prepare for regionals?” Brandy watched the slight shrug of his muscular shoulders that she didn’t notice. Nope. She didn’t notice them at all. She also didn’t notice his breathtaking blue eyes or how incredibly attractive he was. And now she didn’t notice how she was gawking at him like an i***t. She bit her inner lip and looked up at his eyes that were laughing down at her.

“You are a guardian, right? What are you looking for?” Brandy cleared her throat and watched his lips curl upwards.

“I’m not looking for anything. At least nothing serious. I just thought maybe we could get to know each other. If you don’t have a mate or a boyfriend...

maybe, you want to get to know me better? Release some frustration? I wouldn't mind being the catalyst for that." Micah leaned his head down closer to her ear. "It's up to you." He whispered, letting his hot breath hit her skin.

"Let me get this straight... you are asking if I want to be your hook up? s*x friends?" Brandy couldn't help but feel her heart begin to speed up in excitement. This captivated her. The idea was very tempting... He was insanely hot. She found his confidence attractive. And for him to be that confident, she wondered if he was as good as he claimed. Probably better than the boring druids she had tried out...

Micah shrugged. "We don't have to be friends if you don't want to. I like your fire and I wouldn't mind trying the heat myself. I'm not looking for a relationship though. So, if you think you would confuse the two—"

"I'm not looking for a relationship either." Brandy finally smiled as she looked him over openly. Honestly, a non-complicated affair was the perfect fling she needed. She was tired of the pressure of choosing another druid man. It was her duty to carry on the druid line as a female. And the pressure from that was exhausting. Not to mention she wasn't interested in any of the men. Sure, she would have to take one as a mate eventually... but not today. And why not enjoy herself before she gets stuck with Mr. Boring in the bedroom.

Brandy brought her gaze back up to Micah's face. He seemed pleased with himself and confident in his abilities. She wondered if he could do more than just talk. "And I wouldn't mind seeing what all the fuss is about guardians. I wonder if you really do have a lot of stamina."

Micah chuckled. "I think I can manage enough to satisfy you."

"Really?" She said in a coquettish tone. "Prove it."

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"That's an order!" Erebus growled as his lips curled upwards in a snarl.

"I don't take orders from you." Meryl clicked her tongue and held her composure. "However, we can make an agreement. Release my granddaughter's soul and I will agree to your... plan." She watched as he scowled but finally, he nodded his head.

"I've about drained what I want from it anyways." Erebus snorted.

“Oh... and one more thing. I have found a way we can make the nembrant glass more powerful. Strong enough to completely control your demi-god.” Meryl watched as he eyed her suspiciously.

“I’m listening,” Erebus said tersely.

“We link your life to the glass. This will allow it to use your essence with unlimited potential.” Meryl watched his eye twitch slightly.

There was more to it than just linking him to the glass. Much more to it. “Are you trying to kill me and seal me inside of the glass?”

Meryl smiled at him poisonously. “I can hardly kill you. Of course, if you did die you would be sealed to the glass.”

“No. I will only agree to a fusion.” Erebus studied her face that revealed nothing. A fusion with the glass would mean his consciousness would remain tied to the glass. In the event of his death, he would be able to take over a body completely. He could claim the person’s body as his own. Of course... that would happen only if he died. And even then, he would wait for the perfect body to take control over.

“That is fine too.” Meryl shrugged as she reached under her cloak and held out a little violet bottle. “Beryl’s soul...”

Erebus sneered down at Meryl. “After you have done what I asked. Now I need to speak with the leaders of the unblessed. They will be key to all of this. So just be ready.”

“I’ll prepare the glass for your fusion as well.” Meryl watched as Erebus vanished. Her lips curled upwards in a sinister smile as she turned her head to the side.

“Let our lord know that everything is going according to plan.” Meryl’s voice rasped out as a shadow snake slithered into the ground, disappearing. Yes... everything was going according to plan.

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Alexis opened her eyes as she moved her hand over the chest she was laying on. Strong s****l urges began to fill her mind and an overwhelming pressure of undeniable love. She looked up to see Aken looking down at her. Their eyes

stayed connected as they both felt one another. She felt Aken's feelings and knew his thoughts. Just as he now knew hers. She felt how insecure he was about taking her as a mate before and how much pain he was in avoiding her.

Aken wrapped his arms around her tightly and held her head to his chest. The connection was intense but soothing. He could feel everything she felt. It made them even more bound together this way. And instantly they both could soothe the other with just their thoughts. It was really like they were the same person. Two halves finally connected.

Alexis lifted her head up to look at him again. Aken looked at her with the most endearing look. He kept his arms snugly around her and leaned down to kiss her. It was a very romantic moment and the most natural thing in the world. She kissed him back and felt his warm tongue sensually caress hers.

"I love you, Alexis," Aken mumbled into her mouth.

"I love you too Aken," she smiled against his lips. "This may take getting used to. I don't need to say it because you already know but—"

Aken chuckled. "It's amazing. Everything is." He reached up to rub the mark on his neck. "And incredibly satisfying."

"Oh yeah..." Alexis sat up and rubbed the star mark on her neck. "That was shocking. I didn't expect that. I thought you would have to put your lips on me or something." The sheet fell down exposing her chest fully. She felt the need and desire of her mate inside of her as she watched his eyes hungrily staring at her. She bit her bottom lip and smiled at him. "You promised you would give me a tour. I didn't just mean the Aken Express."

"You didn't enjoy the ride?" Aken smirked, already knowing the answer.

Alexis bit her bottom lip and shrugged. "Maybe I did... maybe I didn't. It isn't like you can read my mind." She giggled and listened to his gentle rumbling laugh.

"Well, maybe we should go for a walk outside. You'll need to test out those new powers." Aken watched as her eyes widened.

"I can really control the earth now?" Alexis smiled as she looked outside in excitement. "The next castle I make when I go all dark Xi is going to be wicked cool."

Aken hooked his hands around her waist and pulled her over top of his body. “That’s never going to happen again. Especially now that I have access up here.” He tapped her temple gently.

Alexis smiled and nodded. “I’m going to take a shower real quick and I want to test this out.”

“Oh perfect. I love water rides.” Aken grinned as he lifted her body up. She hooked her legs around his torso as he carried her to the bathroom. They both already knew they wouldn’t just be getting clean in there. And their lustful thoughts soon created a new sensual monster between them.

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Alexis pulled her hair up in a ponytail as she finished getting ready. Aken had already left. And because she knew his mind, she knew he was going to do a perimeter check as an extra precaution. She was going to meet him in the kitchen. She looked in the mirror and admired the mark on her neck. She reached her fingers up to touch it feeling the same warmth Aken’s necklace always gave her. A necklace she no longer had to wear but chose to because it was special to her. But now, because of her new connection, Aken could travel to her instantly if she just reached out to him.

Alexis bounded down the stairs and down the hall. Before she reached the kitchen, she ran into Jasper and Terra. Terra was leaning on one side of the wall while Jasper stood in front of her. She was laughing and he had a smile on his face. Things seemed to be going well for the two of them which she was relieved to see.

“Your ego is suffocating!”

Alexis turned her head to the loud voice coming from behind her. She could see the red hair bouncing angrily as a strong arm reached out and grabbed her making her stop. Alexis watched with her mouth slightly agape as a shirtless Micah pulled Brandy into his chest, whispering something into her ear. She watched as Micah was able to pull her back from the hall and the two disappeared together.

“Well, he wasted no time.” Jasper chuckled as him and Terra walked up behind Alexis.

“Is she his mate?” Terra asked and Alexis shook her head.

“Werebears don’t typically have fated mates. They have chosen mates.” Alexis watched Terra look up in confusion. “Micah is far from celibate. And I think he has a thing for redheads.” Alexis giggled.

“You don’t think he is serious?” Terra said with a frown.

“Don’t worry Terra. He would never lead anyone on. He always explains his intentions right away. I drilled him over this before after the first time he started hooking up. They are two consenting adults. To each their own.” Alexis shrugged. The casual hookup wasn’t her thing but, as Micah said, it was better than his hand. And he would be better than a vibrator for the woman.

“I see you have a new mark on your neck. You tamed the beast after all.” Jasper grinned and then turned to Terra. “I bet my mark would look stunning on your neck.”

Terra smiled and shrugged. “Maybe. But not today.” She said simply and walked down the hall.

Jasper grinned and looked over at Alexis. “She wants me.” He whispered cheekily before he trotted after her like a puppy would its owner.

Alexis turned to walk into the kitchen and walked right into a solid chest as warm arms encircled her. She looked up and grinned as she gazed into his beautiful green eyes. He was so damn attractive that it was hard for her to contain herself sometimes.

“I feel the same about you. I wouldn’t mind bolting the doors for a few days.” Aken watched a blush flush over her cheeks. There were no secrets between them anymore. No thoughts were secret either. He leaned his head down and captured her lips tenderly. “Ready?” He teased her bottom lip with his tongue.

Alexis reached her hands up around his neck and smiled into his lips.

“Yes.”

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Chapter 63 Choices We Make

It had been a few days since the marking of Aken and Alexis. When Alexis and Aken weren't locked away in the bedroom they were working on her summoning skills. Which she had well under control now. Jasper and Terra were very close these days. And while Terra still hasn't accepted the mark they are by all senses dating. And maybe a bit more. They are sharing a room now, so the marking is only a matter of time.

And then there was Micah and Brandy... Their trysts were a regular thing now. She would come and dropped off her order. Then Micah would pick a fight with her and get her all heated up. And then take that fire to the bedroom. Sometimes she would end up storming off or saying something snotty to him but secretly she loved it. She always came back for more.

Alexis was standing in the main room waiting for Aken to come back from a perimeter check when Brandy and Micah strolled down the stairs.

"What time will you be back tomorrow?" Micah asked with a crooked grin and Brandy turned around clicking her tongue.

"Does it matter? You act like this is what is supposed to happen every time I make a delivery." Brandy watched the amusement flicker in Micah's eyes as he smiled at her.

"And why shouldn't it? I think we are pretty good at it. Working on those regional qualifiers, right?" Micah chuckled as his eyes trailed over her lazily.

"Whatever. I suppose I will be around this time tomorrow." Brandy said with a small shrug.

"Oh wait. We are heading back to Elysium, aren't we?" Micah turned and looked at Alexis.

"Yes, but you can stay here if—" Alexis didn't get to finish as Micah snorted at her angrily.

"I might be gone for a few days." Micah turned to look at Brandy's green eyes. He stepped into her and leaned his head down to her ear. "When I come back, I'll make up for the lost time. Don't go pleasuring yourself. I want to give you your release."

“Don’t go fooling yourself. I may make some other appointments for myself.” Brandy lied and knew Micah could see right through her. The way his lips curled up as he looked down at her.

“You’ll wait for me.” Micah winked and listened as Brandy snorted loudly.

“You can believe what you want.” Brandy turned on her heels and walked out the door. She only made it a few feet before Micah wrapped his arms around her from behind. He pulled her back into his chest as his hand traveled down rubbing between her legs in circular motions.

“Tell me you’ll wait for me.” Micah raked his teeth over her neck, teasing her flesh with his tongue.

“Micah...” Brandy moaned quietly and closed her eyes. “Stop, we are outside.” She panted as he continued rubbing her. He pressed into her letting her feel his arousal, to which she let out a slight moan.

“Brandy... tell me.” He commanded as he bit onto her earlobe.

Brandy inhaled sharply and quickly spun around in his arms. She reached her hand out grabbing hold of his erection over his pants. A low growl escaped his lips as she squeezed him. She reached up on her tiptoes and licked his lips. “You. Tell. Me.” She ordered in a whisper.

Micah chuckled and crashed his lips against hers. He held her firmly by her hair, not allowing her to escape as his tongue invaded her mouth. “I’ll wait for you,” Micah mumbled into her mouth. “But you tell me now. Tell me how much you want me. I know you do. I just want to hear you admit it.” He held her head captive and wedged his free hand down her pants. He caressed her moist center and allowed one of his fingers to slip into her wetness. She gasped and he silenced her moan with his mouth.

“Micah...” She pleaded. “We are outside.” She was always pretending she had nothing better to do, so she was just passing the time with him. But he ignited something inside of her. And the connection between them was pure fire. The lustful volcano that erupted between them was like nothing she had felt before. And her body responded to him on its own. It wanted his touch out and writhed into him seeking him out.

“Tell me.” He ordered. “Or everyone will hear your screams.” He began pumping his fingers and moving his palm against her. The scent of her

arousal was driving him mad. He was ready to lead them both back upstairs again. He thrust his tongue into her mouth as he continued to stimulate her. Her quieted moans were drowned in the battle of their tongues. Damn he wanted her all over again. She drove him mad. And though he tried to push it away... possessive thoughts were starting to trickle into his mind.

"I want you." She admitted in a pant. Why not admit it? He already knew. Besides, her body was telling on her anyways. She fought for dominance against his mouth as his teeth pulled on her lips.

"Good." He whispered in a low husky voice. "Now let's go back upstairs." He traced his tongue over her bottom lip before he lifted his head up. Gazing down at her with lustful eyes.

"Why? What does this solve now?" Brandy sagged against his chest as he pushed himself into her hand. She felt his hardened length bulging against his pants.

"It solves a major problem of mine. And one of yours." He removed his hand from her pants and placed both hands on her waist. "Only if you want to..." He said in a low, gentle, seductive tone as his fingers played with her sides.

She looked into his blue eyes and smiled. Why wouldn't she want to? She couldn't argue that the chemistry between them in bed was amazing. It was like someone read her diary and created a man to please her. She never left his room unsatisfied. And it was getting harder and harder to leave his side. But she wouldn't think about the reasoning behind that.

"Brandy?"

A voice called out from behind her making her jump. She stepped away from Micah and turned. She already knew who it was. And her chest sank as she stared at the man walking up the path.

"Noah? What are you doing here?" Brandy took in a deep breath trying to regulate her heartbeat. She hoped the scent of her arousal wasn't heavy in the air. And that her swollen lips weren't overly noticeable.

"Uhm... the elders told me I could find you here. They suggested that I walk you home and escort you to the dinner party tonight."

Brandy looked at Noah and frowned slightly. Noah acted like a nice enough guy. He was only a few years older than her. He had blonde hair, brown eyes and was nicely put together. As far as looking at him goes. But when he started to talk... He was incredibly boring. And she was quite certain he was just as boring in the bedroom.

"I wasn't planning on going to the party tonight." Brandy answered honestly. She felt Micah shift behind her and could feel his heat upon her back.

"The elders want for us to be a match. We owe it to them to try, don't you think?" Noah rubbed his neck and glanced back at Micah. He could see the murderous glare this man was giving him and wasn't sure why. The man was bigger than him in all aspects. And while he could sense he was a werebear there was much more to him. A strong powerful force he wouldn't want to face. He averted his gaze from the man to not give a challenging impression.

"I told the elders I wasn't ready. I am not ready to settle down and do my part to procreate a druid baby. I am not livestock." Brandy folded her arms over her chest and watched the wave of surprise come over Noah's face.

"I don't think you are livestock, Brandy. You know I asked if I could be paired with you. I'm willing to wait. As long as there is a promise to be my intended. I don't want to wait for no reason." Noah straightened up a bit indignant on his behalf. There were plenty of druid women chasing after him. Why should he have to beg her? She should be thrilled he picked her. But he was determined he would have her. She was beautiful. Her body was voluptuous. Her large, rounded breasts, hourglass waist, flawless skin, and beautiful bewitching eyes were everything he wanted. Her hair was a dark shade of red that shined and beckoned for him. She was going to be his mate. He had decided it years ago and was finally ready to make sure it happened. She had to pick from the druid men and no man there would go up against his family. He was making it publicly known that Brandy was his. One way or another she would have to come to him.

"You should probably keep dating others. I don't plan on promising myself to anyone." Brandy could see the slight agitation in Noah's eyes. His lips form into a thin line as his eyes twitched slightly.

"The elders have asked for me to bring you to the party tonight. We can't ignore the elder's wishes. Going against them is unwise." Noah said as he tried to control his voice.

Micah finally snorted and placed his hand on Brandy's shoulder. "She isn't finished here today. We were just discussing that we need another delivery, and she has promised that it would be here."

Brandy rolled her shoulder and shrugged his hand off of her. "I can handle this myself." She glared at him for a moment and rubbed her forehead.

"She can bring it after the party then. She has an obligation to be there." Noah felt angry when he saw the man's hand on Brandy's shoulder. And even though she brushed his hand off he didn't like the look in the man's eyes. Noah glared at him in a slight challenge, but the man only smirked at him. The man looked at him with a condescending smile that was saying go ahead and try. And this infuriated Noah more.

"Perfect. I'll be expecting her tonight then." Micah's eyes met with Brandy's promising what their night together would bring. He then glanced back at Noah holding his gaze until the man looked away. That druid had no idea who he was playing with. The man didn't know it, but Micah was barely controlling his composure. He wanted to show that man the clear difference in their strength.

"Fine!" Brandy snapped and looked at Noah. "Wait for me at the end of the walkway. I have one more thing to do here." She watched Noah reluctantly walk away. She waited until she was certain he was well out of sight before she turned around angrily to confront Micah.

"What was that all about?!" Brandy snorted. "Why did you interfere? This is my life. I can handle it myself. I'm just your pleasure buddy remember?" She hissed and noticed the blue eyes darken looking at her.

"You are just going to do what the elders tell you? Get yourself bred so you can pop out a few puppies for them?" Micah growled out between clenched teeth.

"You don't know anything about the lives of druids. This is our responsibility. Druids have to reproduce other druids. I don't have a choice in the matter." She closed her eyes and shook her head. Why was he getting so angry over this anyways?

"To hell with your feelings then? You'll just take whatever chosen mate they give you?"

“I have a choice, Micah. I can choose from any of the male druids.”

“You don’t have a choice. You have a gene pool you have to choose from.”

“Why do you care Micah? You aren’t offering me anything else right?” Brandy raised her brows up at him and folded her arms over her chest. Why did she even say that? She could see the wounded look in his eyes but she didn’t break her stare.

“Brandy... I already talked to you about that—”

“Exactly, Micah! We already know where each other stands. You aren’t taking a mate. And I have to take one from my kind. This is where we both stand.” Brandy shrugged as she swallowed down the lump forming in her throat. Why? Why was she feeling pained inside? After hearing him begin to shut down the possibility of being together she felt like she was gutted. This was just for fun. She wasn’t serious about Micah. This was just to pass the time for now.

“I don’t like it,” Micah admitted quietly. “I don’t like you throwing away your chance at happiness.”

“Well, I don’t like you throwing away yours. You won’t take a family because of your duties. Even though the princess is well protected by her mate. Instead, you hide behind your duties and cling to it. You use it as an excuse. Convincing yourself that you don’t want a family. Convincing yourself that you CAN’T have a family. When in reality you are afraid to have one. Yes, I’ll be taking a mate out of duty. But at least I can admit it sucks. It’s hell. Do you think I want to be forced to be mated to a stiff my whole life? Forced to carry their child. Forced to share their bed with them? Hell no I don’t want that. It sounds horrible.” She squeezed her hands together in a ball and bit her inner lip. “But this is my duty. You have yours... and I have mine.”

Micah let out a sigh and nodded his head. “You’re right. I’m sorry.” He balled his one hand in a fist by his side. He couldn’t explain the emotions he was feeling right now. He wanted to rip Noah’s throat out for the possessive eyes he had on Brandy. The idea of her taking him or any man as a chosen mate was making him aggravated. He didn’t want her melting into another man in bed. Her legs shouldn’t wrap around another man’s body.

Why was he feeling this way?! It was wrong. She could take whoever she wanted or didn’t want as a mate. That was her choice. They were not in a

relationship. They weren't a couple. For all intended purposes, Micah was mated to his duties as a guardian. That was it for him. He wouldn't have a mate. He couldn't afford a mate. He wouldn't risk not being there for Alexis when she needed him. He rationalized he was just feeling his primal hormones fogging his mind. As an Apex predator, he didn't share. And sleeping with Brandy was making him feel like she was his. Or so he tried to reason. The problem was he never felt like that before with his flings. So why was it different this time?

"Micah it's alright." Brandy forced a smile and shrugged. "Anyways I have no intention of taking a mate right now. But if you'd rather us not hook up that is fine." She watched Micah's gaze snap up to her and a cocky smile reached his lips.

"Oh, I don't think so. You are spending the night with me tonight. Even if I have to collect you myself. I'll be gone for a few days so tonight we won't be sleeping. And I plan to punish your body for leaving me right now without taking care of my problem."

Brandy laughed and bit her bottom lip. "I'll look forward to it."

Micah watched as Brandy walked away. He always watched her when she left but this time, he felt a pain in his chest. He wanted to run up and hold her. He wanted to keep her by his side where no one else could touch her. But that was silly. It was a ridiculous notion that he wasn't going to explore further. He turned and walked back to the house. He grabbed the door and opened it revealing two angry blue orbs staring back at him.

Note-

I am traveling tomorrow for my sister's baby shower, so there won't be an update tomorrow. How are you guys feeling about Micah and Brandy?

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 64

Chapter 64 Mates and Decisions

"Well?" Alexis folded her arms in front of her and raised her chin up angrily at Micah.

“Well, what?” Micah asked as he shut the door behind him stepping to the side of Alexis. She immediately stepped in front of him and placed her hand on his chest to stop him.

“Micah...” Alexis took in a breath and tried to calm her anger. She loved Micah but he could be so stubborn. But she knew deep down it came from his love for her. She would respect his decision if it was what he really wanted. But she was certain that wasn't the case. Terra was right. Micah was hiding from it. Maybe he was afraid of having a family and losing it? But Micah had so much love to give, and she wanted him to have a full life. “What are you doing?” her voice was soft as she gave him a faint smile. “You said you would think about it.”

“Lex... you eavesdropping little fairy.” Micah prodded her nose and grinned. “This is my choice.”

“I think Brandy is right. I think you are hiding behind your duty. I think you are afraid to have a family. That is why you never wanted to be part of mine. Why you never wanted to be officially adopted. Well TOUGH! You are my family. We are family. And having a family isn't a bad thing.” Alexis listened as Micah chuckled. He reached out and patted her head.

“Easy killer. Brandy and I can't be a thing anyways. Even IF I did want it. Which I don't.” Micah watched as Alexis rolled her eyes.

“Are you really that dense? She wants you too. You both are in denial. Of course she will never voice it with you acting like you don't want her. Why would she put herself out there and risk rejection? That would make her feel vulnerable and weak. Use the common sense that I know is in that brain of yours.” Alexis' lips curled down as she stared up at him. “I want you to have someone Micah.”

“I have someone. It is you and me.” Micah smiled as Alexis nodded her head.

“It is always going to be us. But that doesn't mean it has to be only us. I already added Aken. Why don't you open yourself up to having something more?” Alexis was pulled into Micah's arms. He hugged her tight and leaned his chin on top of her head. “Micah...” Alexis whispered as she hugged him back.

“Lex, I appreciate you. You know I’m bonded to you on a deep level. I don’t want anything to ever ruin that bond. It’s how I protect you. It’s how I’ll always find you—”

“But Micah—”

“I know, Lex. I understand your point. But this is what you want. Don’t make your wants my wants. I appreciate it. I know you want me to be happy. But let me figure this out on my own. Okay?” Micah stepped back and noticed her frown. He chuckled and ruffled her hair with his hands. “I love you to death for this though. I know you are just worried about me. And while I will do just about anything for you, I am not about to take a mate to make you happy.”

“That’s the thing, Micah. This is about you not allowing your happiness. If I am pushing you it is because I know you. I know you need this push. Because for some reason you have locked the idea away. You are acting like it is some sort of forbidden fruit that you can’t have.” Alexis watched as he started to object. “I know what you are saying, Micah. It’s your choice blah blah blah. I get it! Your destiny... Okay, Skywalker. Just make sure it is really your choice. And not the pretend decision.” She smiled at him and shrugged. “If you change your mind that is okay. If you want it don’t lose it. Because you only have a certain window of opportunity here. Remember eventually, Brandy will take a mate... think about that. How would that make you feel? Just give this the consideration it deserves.”

“Alright master Yoda.” Micah grinned he glanced up behind Alexis and sighed. “It’s about time you got here...” He stared into Aken’s eyes as his arms slid around Alexis.

“She isn’t wrong you know,” Aken smirked as he listened to Micah chuckle. “I know from experience. I was an idiot.”

“Was?” Micah grinned as Aken arched a brow at him. “You still are.”

Aken chuckled. “I don’t care what I am. I have her. And that’s all that matters.” He kissed the side of Alexis’ head and inhaled her scent. “You know Micah... I can keep her safe just as easily as you can. And I can teleport to her instantly. There is no reason you can’t take a mate. I mean let’s be honest. Micah, I want you to think about this...” He lifted up his head and stared into his blue eye. “You aren’t celibate.” He watched as Micah shook his head with a laugh. “Well... why is there time for that but not a mate? That would be the most vulnerable time you would be away from Alexis. And most of those times she

will be with me.” He felt Alexis’ elated emotions in his mind. She liked where he was going with this. And normally he wouldn’t pry but he felt how important it was to her.

“The bond you have with Alexis will never change. Even if you take a mate. And this is different. It isn’t like before where the fairy princess only had the guardian’s strength. Alexis has me. If something can happen to her under my watch it can happen to her under yours. More so even.” Aken could see Micah looking down quietly taking in everything.

Micah took a couple of minutes to process the thoughts swirling through his mind. “I don’t know what I want to do. That is just how I feel right now.” He shrugged. “I appreciate your thoughts on this. But... who knows. I’m content the way everything is.” He forced a small smile. The thing was Micah didn’t know enough about himself to even consider taking a mate. He knew he had a sprite in him that he was constantly raging against. And while it was pretty clear he wouldn’t hurt Alexis that didn’t mean he wouldn’t hurt anyone else. Would he end up hurting a mate? This was something he couldn’t talk about.

If he didn’t take a mate, he wouldn’t have to worry about this. He could satisfy his urges without worrying about subjecting her to danger. The last thing he would ever want to do is to hurt Brandy. Her beautiful red hair, the way she swayed her hips when she was pretending to be mad . . . his mind began to drift—Why was he thinking about her? Why Brandy? He wasn’t thinking of taking her as his mate. No, right now he wasn’t taking a mate. Not until the sprite issue was solved. And there was still something else about him. Even without anyone saying it he could feel it. A power is swelling inside of him that he has yet to tap into. Partially because it was different than the guardian power he had. And he was not sure what this power meant. Maybe after he knew everything... maybe then he could decide what he wanted. But for now, he was fine leaving things the way they were.

—

Brandy walked up the path under the moonlight. She played with her fingers as she chewed on her inner lip. The evening was incredibly boring as expected. What she didn’t expect was to be bombarded by the elders. It seems Noah and his family are putting pressure on the elders to encourage her to take him as her chosen mate. Among the druids, Noah’s family was very prominent. They owned several businesses and took care of their community. On paper, he was a great catch. But as a person he was dull. He wanted things done a certain way. Even his forks and spoons had to lay on

the table a certain way. And she could only imagine how se.x would be. The same missionary style every night. Just the way he wanted it until death they part. Her mind wandered. How on earth could she go back to dull and boring now? After being with Micah... the s*x between them was anything but boring.

She sighed as she practically dragged her feet along. She felt like she was suffocating. Forced to play a part that she didn't want to play. Maybe she should take a mini-vacation and just go some place quiet. Where she could collect her thoughts.

She stopped walking as her hands trembled. She was so angry. How dare that ass.hole put her in that situation. Noah knew dam.n well what was going to happen tonight. He dragged her there knowing he had planted a trap for her. Then the elders told her that she should feel privileged that Noah had chosen her. That there was not a finer bachelor among the druids. Fu.ck them! She winced as she remembered how she went off on all of them. She rebuked them all and even told off the elders.

“UGH!” Brandy rubbed her forehead and shook her head. “You’ve got to control your temper, Brandy.” She couldn’t believe how her night had gone. Taking a deep breath, she tried to bury her anger and focus.

“No, it’s that fire that I find attractive.” Micah chuckled as she snapped her eyes up to his. “I saw you standing here and thought you might be changing your mind about joining me tonight.”

“No, I’m not. In fact, quite the opposite. I’ve had an interesting evening and I’ve been looking forward to seeing you, Micah. I had a frustrating evening and I need your assistance to let it all out.” Brandy watched as he eyed her taking a step towards her.

“Is everything okay?”

His voice was soothing and seeing him was already making her feel better. “It is... just druid stuff. I was being pressured to take Noah as my mate by the elders tonight. And I kind of told them all off and threatened to cut out my womb if they continued to pressure me...” She shrugged and watched a storm flash through his eyes. “I think I need to get away for a few days. Give them time to cool off too.”

“Stay here.” Micah watched her mouth part open in shock. “I won’t be here, but you can use my room. Stay here until I come back... and then even after I come back if you want. I don’t mind sharing a bed with you.”

“Really? You don’t think I would be imposing? It’ll just be for a few days...”

“When I return, you’ll need to stay at least another day—well for my proper payment. . .” Micah grinned as he reached out and pulled her into his chest. “So... you have a lot of frustration? Sounds like we have a sleepless night ahead. My favorite type of night.”

“I hope you can take the workout I am going to give your body.” Brandy listened to Micah growl as he began tugging her up the path.

“Da.mn you are making me excited.” Micah grinned down at her. He never reacted this way to other women before. But something about her drove him wild. He craved her on a level he couldn’t—wouldn’t allow himself to understand. He just knew he needed her. He needs to feel her against him... and now. “Of course, I owe you a punishment as well...”

“I hope it leaves me too exhausted to even think.” Brandy was glad she had Micah for tonight. No matter what it was or wasn’t between them she would enjoy their intimate time together. It was a great distraction, and he was incredibly satisfying. She let Micah lead her into the back door and up the stairs to his room. He guided her in and shut the door.

She watched as he began stripping his clothes as he stepped towards her. He had a predatory gaze on her as his hands reached for her.

“Show me what you’ve got,” Micah growled and crashed his lips against hers.

—

The morning light shined into the room as Micah got up to close the curtain. He turned and smiled at the redhead curled up on his bed fast asleep. They had barely slept at all last night and his body was protesting being awake. But the sensual storm between them last night was well worth the exhaustion. A content smile rested on his lips as he quietly showered. He glanced at her one last time watching her peaceful body sound asleep. A body he explored and tasted every inch of last night. For a brief second, he thought about if they could be more, but he quickly pushed that thought aside. There was too much going on for that to be a thought. He sighed and left his room.

Micah came down the stairs to see everyone was already standing in the main room. They agreed to head to Elysium first thing in the morning and spend a couple of days there. Though Aken was trying to convince Alexis to come back to his home to spend the night. Since there was more privacy for them as a newly mated couple without interruptions. Alexis said she would play it by ear. So, it wasn't a no and it wasn't a yes. Secretly Micah hoped they would. With Brandy staying there for a few days he wouldn't mind taking advantage of that situation.

"Alright, are we all ready to go?" Aken asked and Micah nodded his head. Jasper and Terra also nodded their heads.

"I told Brandy she could stay here for a few days." Micah watched Aken shrug and motion like it wasn't a problem. While Alexis grinned making him laugh. "Don't go thinking more of it than what it is."

"Whatever, Micah." Alexis teased sticking her tongue at him. "Let's go. We have to hurry before the bears eat all the breakfast."

Aken chuckled and nodded his head. "Alright let's go."

A moment later they were all standing in the castle in Elysium. Alexis looked up to see all of her family in the room, but something was wrong. Their faces looked worried and drained. "What happened?" She said looking at her mother.

"Alexis." Rhea walked over to her with Lee by her side. She reached out her hands taking her daughter's fingers lightly.

"It's Ryker. He's gone."

Note: Early Release!

Taming is in the knockouts! There are only two days of this round before it moves to the next and then Dr. Luna will be battling its own knockout. Thank you to everyone who is voting and supporting my books. You guys are the best!

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 65

Chapter 65 Dual Streams

“They won’t let me go look for him!” Raine cried in hysterics. “He needs me.” Kelsie wrapped her arms around her daughter and cooed to her gently trying to calm her down. She held her daughter’s head to her chest and looked up at Cody with her own tears in her eyes. They hated seeing their daughter in so much pain.

“What happened?” Alexis’ eyes watered up looking at her grief stricken cousin. She couldn’t imagine the pain she was feeling inside right now. Being parted from your mate was already hard enough without there being an unknown factor about it. Aken’s arm wrapped around her waist as he offered her his support. They knew what it was like to be separated and that pain was bad enough.

“After you guys left, he vanished. Raine went back to their room, and he was gone. We haven’t been able to find him. Your father and I have been looking for him. We can’t risk the whole family going out. Raine said he had been getting strange flashbacks of memories and it was bothering him. She thinks he went to find answers...” Rhea frowned and looked over at Cody. Cody was very quiet the last couple of days. He was having a hard time seeing his daughter in so much pain and not being able to do anything about it.

“I can go out searching.” Jasper looked over at Derek and Lucy. He was one of the best trackers in the Vampire Kingdom. It was what he did. However, Ryker was a dragon. So it would depend if he left a trail on the ground or not.

“Please Jasper. Do everything you can.” Lucy whispered quietly as Derek nodded his head in agreement.

“I’ll go with you.” Terra watched the small smile raise on Jasper’s lips as he nodded his head. She looked back at Aken who also nodded for her to go ahead. She still looked at him for permission even though he told her it wasn’t necessary.

“What about Brian? Have you contacted him?” Alexis asked and noticed the small frown on Rhea’s lips. “What is it?”

“We are not sure about Ryker’s past, Alexis. He might have been a traitor to the West Dragon kingdom... You know how they handle traitors...” Rhea whispered quietly.

“Ryker is Brian’s right hand man. He already pardoned Ryker’s past. And Ryker has promised on his flame to Brian. You should have already told Brian.” Alexis watched her Uncle Cody shake his head.

“Titus will need to know the conditions of what happened. It isn’t as easy as just forgiving. Especially depending on what we are talking about.” Cody’s lips were pursed tightly together as he stared at his daughter. He would do anything to take the pain away if he could.

“Dad... what do you think?” Alexis looked at her father who as the dragon deity should have some clout in the situation.

“Lex, you know I don’t interfere in their affairs. However, I am not convinced that Ryker is a traitor. We don’t know what his visions mean yet. There are other scenarios that could come to play...”

Alexis nodded her head at her father, and she already knew what she planned to do. Of course Aken knew as well through their connection. “I’m getting Brian. He needs to know about this. And I trust him. After we find Ryker, we have Aken here to assist with bringing him back. No matter what resistance we might encounter. Right dear?”

Aken chuckled. “I’ll try to only leave a couple of bumps.”

Rhea looked over her daughter and Aken and smiled. “You two have marked each other.” She thought back briefly to when she was first marked. She wasn’t even sure that is what happened at the time. That was a crazy moment in her life. She had no clue who her mate was, but her heart had chosen her Lee.

“Yes, and I now can control the earth element.” Alexis smiled but wasn’t as excited to share her news given the situation. How could she talk about her new mate relationship while Raine was hurting for hers?

Lee looked up at Aken. “Now, you really will be able to protect her better than me. You will be able to find her through your connection. Having said that... Alexis given the circumstances don’t you think you should stay here? We know that you are a primary focus of Erebus’.”

Aken squeezed his arm around Alexis’ waist as he listened to her immediate mental protest. “Don’t worry. She is safe with me.” He smiled up at an unconvinced Levi.

“We will go back out looking for a trail. He didn’t just disappear.” Rhea looked up at Cody who had Jason by his side now. “We are going to find him and find out what is going on.” She nodded at her brothers with a small smile. Harley also had his men searching for Ryker. Surely, they would find him soon. Ryker was probably just confused and looking for answers. He just needed guidance. When they found him they would bring him back. After all, Raine was his mate. He couldn’t want to be away from her... right?

Ryker knelt next to a stream and splashed cool water in his face. He had been wandering around through the heavy terrain almost aimlessly. The visions were scrambled in his head, and he was having a hard time understanding them. He wasn’t even sure of the timeline. He just knew he needed to go somewhere. Something was driving him in a certain direction. He hated to leave Raine without an explanation. But he knew she would insist on coming with him. He didn’t know where he was going or what he was walking into. He had to leave her behind for her safety. He now wished he would have left her a note telling her not to worry and that he would be back. He couldn’t be away from her for long... he missed her terribly already.

Ryker looked to the sky. The sun was just barely peeking over the treeline. He needed to head south. He would follow the next stream he came to. He wasn’t sure why but there was something ingrained in his head to do this. Like he had been programmed.

Ryker packed his gear and left the stream. He picked up his pace and realized he was running. He didn’t know why he just knew but he needed to be somewhere. He ran until he couldn’t anymore. He had to find a dual stream. His body ached and his clothes were soaked with sweat. He collapsed to his knees and tried to catch his breath. Images flashed in his mind as his head began to pound angrily.

He began to blink his eyes as things blurred in and out of focus. Then a large rock caught his attention. It was covered in blood. There was also a dual stream that was covered in blood. A small pool of red was running in the streams. His mind sounded like thunder as his head began to pound.

He collapsed to his knees and felt his breath escaping his lungs. His chest was heaving, and he was beginning to feel lightheaded. Images flashed in his mind of the stream, the rock, the blood. It was like lightning as the images flickered quickly in his mind. He shook his head and looked around. His

breathing was labored, and his heart was pounding in his chest. He was beginning to see black spots in his vision. His eyes were taking a long time to focus. He was running out of air.

He began to see Raine's face in his mind. Her face was able to give him clarity again. He grasped onto that and was able to bring his focus back to reality. "Follow the streams." He said as he felt the headache begin to subside. He blinked again and the blood was gone. The rock and dual streams were also gone. His head was pounding but it was more of a dull ache now. He let out a sigh and stood up.

He forced his feet forward and into the thick terrain. He was being driven by a strong pull beckoning and pleading for him to follow. He pushed through several bushes and listened as the sound of running water began to trickle in the distance. He followed the sound and through the trees saw two streams that ran parallel to each other.

He looked the stream up and down before following it southward. The pull felt stronger now as his steps began to quicken. This was familiar. This was... like home? The streams led through two thick trees that disappeared behind vines that revealed a hidden cavern. He stopped in front of the cave as he stared into it. He noticed movement and how someone was approaching out from the cave.

A woman with golden brown hair in a high ponytail walked over from the cavern. Her eyes relaxed when she saw him. "You've finally come home."

Ryker felt his body swaying. His vision blurred and he collapsed face first into the dirt.

—

Brian was sitting upstairs with Bella in Levi's private family wing. He had told them they could use his place while they were away. They were still keeping their relationship private from the kingdom. They didn't want it to appear as a scandal for Alexis to disappear right when he takes another woman as his mate. They would wait for everything to calm down so that they could address the kingdom together.

Bella and Brian looked up as Aken, Alexis and Micah were transported into the room.

“Alexis!” Brian jumped up and wrapped his arms around her. “Your father told us that everything was fine with you but I needed to see it for myself.” He stepped back and looked into her blue eyes. “What’s happened?”

“Sorry, Brian. I should have stopped by here... I wasn’t thinking after everything. But yes... there is something else going on now. It’s Ryker. He has disappeared. He started getting flashbacks of his memories. No one wanted to say anything to you because they are afraid, he might have been a traitor. But we know that isn’t who he is now. You most of all—”

“How long ago?” Brian asked with his brows furrowed.

“It’s been a few days... Brian... if he was a traitor—” Alexis started but Brian cut her off.

“Lex, Ryker is my right-hand man. I don’t care about who he was before. As long as he stays loyal to me now and in the future. Which I know he will be. He must be a mental mess right now to leave Raine like that.” Brian couldn’t imagine the desperation Ryker was feeling to leave Rain like that. It would practically kill him to be parted from Bella. “I’m sure he is just looking for answers. I’ll help you look for him. I am assuming that is why you are here?” Brian chuckled as Bella walked up next to him. Alexis was one of his best friends and often he knew what she wanted before she even spoke.

“Will this be a problem for your father?” Micah asked and Brian pursed his lips together.

“I guess that will depend on what Ryker has done. But in either case, I will protect him. I chose Ryker for a reason. We have a connection. And in the end, my father will respect my decision. He isn’t an unreasonable dragon.” Brian rubbed his head and groaned in frustration. “That da.mn i***t though. Ryker should have come and talked to me. How could he go off on his own like that?! We need to find him before he ends up in trouble...”

“Jasper is trying to follow the tracks. And my parents are also searching for him.” Alexis felt Aken rubbing her shoulders and caressing the mate bond. He was trying to comfort her knowing she was distressed.

“Let’s find Jasper and see what leads he might have.” Brian saw Alexis and Micah both nod their heads.

“That is the best place to start. He should be able to point us in the right direction even if he took to the skies.” Micah walked over and grabbed a bag of chips off of the stand. They all looked at him and he held it up. “Thinking food.”

“We will fly so we can scout on the way there,” Brian looked over at Bella who nodded her head in agreement.

“We can fly with you,” Alexis added and listened to Aken’s snort. “Afraid of heights?” She grinned as she teased him. You’ll get to ride on me this time...

Don’t get me worked up... Aken growled as he wrapped his arms around her. A small smirk rested on his lips as he pressed his nose in her hair.

Micah stuffed more food in a bag and then grabbed an apple off the table. “Alright let’s go!” He said taking a big bite of the fruit.

“You are going to get crumbs on Lex’s back.” Brian chuckled as Micah grinned with a small shrug.

“Naw, I’m getting crumbs on your back.” Micah took another bite of his apple letting the juices squirt around his mouth. And with a mouth full of food, he mumbled. “Giddy up Toothless.”

Note: Thank you all so much for voting for Taming. It means so much to have your support.