Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 66

Chapter 66 Cloaked

It had now been over a week of searching day and night. But they still had not found Ryker. Darkness was on the move and it was unraveling and moving closer towards them. Aken and Levi sensed this and were both on edge. Ryker was their friend and they would keep searching. They weren't going to give up on him.

Jasper had been tracking Ryker and managed to get to an area with connecting streams. This was where he lost the trail. There was something about the streams that removed the scent of anyone who stepped in it. It seemed to have magical abilities. There was more to these streams, and someone or something didn't want to be found.

Micah at times found himself thinking about Brandy and wondering if she was still waiting for him to return. He had sent a messenger fairy to her so that she would know why he was delayed. In the message, he told her to continue staying there if she wanted. He wasn't sure why, but he felt better knowing she was away from the other druids. He tried to convince himself that it was for Brandy's benefit... but he knew that wasn't it. He just wanted her away from other male prospects. He didn't want to admit it out loud but he wanted her. On a level, he didn't quite understand he felt like he was connected to her. But that didn't make sense. Werebears didn't have fated mates. So, what was the connection he was feeling? It was more than purely se.xual.

"Raine wasn't looking too well..." Alexis breathed out as she stared blankly in the woods. "I can't imagine how painful this is for her especially after being marked." She reached up rubbing her neck as two strong arms pulled her into his chest.

"Don't worry. We will find him. We are close." Aken kissed the top of her head and buried his nose in her hair, taking in hits of her scent.

Aken.

The sound of Levi's voice entered into Aken's mind. Levi, did you find something?

Shiva has found both Gaia and Kali. We are going to meet with them now. This should give us the answers we need about Micah. Alright. We will keep looking for Ryker. If you need Micah there let me know. Aken looked at Alexis, who already knew everything from their connection. They both decided to keep the news quiet for now and keep the focus on looking for Ryker.

Two large shadows swooped down from the sky. Brian and Bella both shifted into their human selves. Brian interlaced his fingers with Bella's and walked with her up to everyone else. They were searching from the skies again, hoping to find a new lead. They didn't see anything but managed to spot the search party below them.

"He is close. I can feel it. If Raine was here she could lead us right to him." Brian motioned his hands around the area. "It's like he vanished from here. There is something about this spot."

"I agree. Something here is messing with all of our senses." Jasper shook his head. "And I don't like it."

"There are shadows coming this way. We can't see what they are but something dark is coming." Bella looked back over her shoulder. "It feels ominous and seems to be heading for Elysium."

"How long do you think we have before the shadow shows itself?" Aken growled lowly looking at Brian.

"Three days? Maybe two?" Brian shook his head. "We looked but it is like there is nothing there. But we both can sense it."

"It's a cloaked army," Aken said between gritted teeth.

"The Nycrops..." Micah snarled as Terra nodded her head.

"This is one of the reasons Nycrops are so dangerous." Terra felt Jasper's hand rest around her shoulder, and she leaned into him. They still hadn't marked one another but they were together now. She trusted him and couldn't help the feelings that were overflowing for him. Once everything is solved with Ryker... she would ask for his mark. He was patient with her, gentle, sweet, and caring. He was everything that she needed. And he always could make her laugh.

She had made him wait and he graciously did so. He was the one meant for her. No matter where that would lead her. She knew Jasper wanted to stay in

the vampire kingdom and she respected that. Her place was with Jasper. As long as she was with him the 'where' didn't matter. Everyone needed a rock... and he was hers.

Alexis pursed her lips together. Was the nycrops working for Erebus? Was this a new plan of his? Was there an army marching towards Elysium? It isn't like they could enter the barrier anyways... right?

"Alright, let's keep moving we need to find Ryker, now." Micah looked up and down the stream. "We have been following it up. Let's go down now."

"The stream disappears in the south. It doesn't go much further." Bella looked up at Brian. "Of course there is no pool of water. The water must be going somewhere..."

"We are going to have to really focus. This place must be magically hidden. Otherwise, we would have found it." Jasper began to travel down the two streams.

Aken gripped Alexis firmly and she looked up at him smiling. "Aken, I'll be fine."

Micah growled. "I don't like her being here either." He was supposed to be keeping her safe. Not dragging her into an unknown danger. And with this cloaked army on the move, he felt anxious having his princess out and about.

"Well, you two can comfort each other because I am going." Alexis didn't even get to take a step before Aken wrapped his arms around her chuckling.

"You are glued to me my love." Aken grinned down at her prodding her nose playfully. He looked over at Micah as they followed the streams in front of them. "This all seems strange. Who would have connections to this type of magic?"

"Maybe hybrids? Or someone with witch connections. This isn't fairy magic... that much I can tell." Micah listened to Aken snort.

"A blind baby can tell it isn't fairy magic," Aken smirked over at Micah who rolled his eyes indignantly.

"How was I to know? I thought with a deity we would have found Ryker long ago. It turns out deities aren't all they are 'Kracked' up to be." Micah snickered at his joke.

"Alright children. Let's focus here." Alexis clicked her tongue as Aken tickled her side playfully. She giggled and squirmed elbowing him slightly in his side.

They followed the path through thick heavy trees. The air became heavy and distorted around them.

"There is something trying to throw us off..." Jasper said as he knelt on the ground. He kept his hand in the stream as he followed it to a seemingly dead end. He pushed past the vines where he found a stone wall in front of him. He focused and could hear the trickling noise of water continuing forward. He reached his hand out to touch the rock and his hand went through it. The rock was an illusion. He stood up and looked back at everyone. "We've found what we are looking for."

Jasper continued moving forward and beckoned for the others to follow him. They all stood there as they tried to take in their surroundings. There was a long tunnel in front of them that lead to more darkness. But they weren't alone. Multiple presences were also there but deeper in the cave.

"I can smell him," Brian said from the back.

"Me too. Ryker is just up ahead." Jasper moved forward quickly with Terra by his side. There was an agile quickness between the two of them as they sprinted ahead through the cave. They both froze. Ahead of them Ryker was chained up against a stone wall. He was hanging down, unable to stand with a strange device around his neck. There was a group of men around him as Ryker groaned unconsciously. As they stood there they could hear the conversations from the men in the room.

"We can't let him go like this."

"He took a mate. He can't have a mate... now what?"

"Should we erase his memory? And bring him back with us?"

"What if he remembers he has a mate? This has never happened before... now what?"

The group of men were all looking at a tall muscular man who had his gaze focused on Ryker. "He needs to stop fighting us so we can get through to him properly."

Brian took one look at the situation and felt the rage build up inside of him. Dragons. They were dragons! And they had Ryker. He couldn't contain his anger as he pushed past everyone, stepping out into the opening.

The men all turned their gaze to Brian. Their eyes widened and small gasps were heard. Some even immediately lowered their heads in reverence, knowing instantly who he was. "I don't know who the hell you all are but you are going to let him go! Or you'll be feasting on my flame."

"You shouldn't be out here. Where are your guards? Why are you alone?" The man in charge said looking past him at the small group that emerged behind him.

Brian sprinted forward reaching Ryker. He pushed out his royal blue flame and melted the bonds off of Ryker's wrists. He then grabbed the object around his neck and shattered it. Ryker collapsed and he caught him in his arms. "It's alright my friend. I'm here." He looked down at Ryker who seemed to be in and out of it. His eyes flickered open before he completely lost consciousness. It looked like he was drugged with something. The fire flickered in Brian's eyes as he glared at the dragons in front of him.

"You better start talking... NOW!" Brian's aura expanded and his roar echoed off the cave walls. At that moment, a woman walked out through the opposite door . . .

"I can explain everything."

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Chapter 67 His

"Rhea, it is nice to see you again. It's been a long time. I've been enjoying my quiet time... Of course Selene doesn't know the meaning of being hands off and she has dragged my brother into her escapades." Kali stared at Rhea and waved her hand to the side. "Anyways I was dragged here for a reason. You want to know what you should do about the sprite inside of the guardian."

"Yes, please..." Rhea looked at the priestess. The last time she met her was during a much different time in her life. Back when she was the same age as her daughter is now. Kali still had ivory skin and black hair but back then she had black eyes instead of her current dark green. But seeing her now almost felt like she was that young woman again.

Rhea glanced around the frozen room. The walls were layered with ice and the ground was like a fluffy snow carpet. Then just across from Kali were two other women sitting on frozen thrones that Rhea had never met before.

"The sprite inside of Micah was poisoned by demon blood. It was a sprite that belonged to the Unblessed." Kali watched as Rhea's lips parted and Levi rubbed her side pulling her closer. "It volunteered to become a catalyst of sorts. Of course, then they didn't know that the werebear would become a guardian. They wanted him because... because they knew what she did." Kali clicked her tongue and looked at the woman sitting quietly next to Shiva. The woman had warm brown hair, she was tall, slender, and had golden eyes. Though Kali had no clue how she managed to sit upright with the bouncing boulders she was blessed with.

"You should have taken responsibility for him until he was older. Instead, you played your game and vanished. You left the child to fend for himself, Gaia." Kali sneered at the goddess who glared back at her indignantly. What she did was more hands on than what it should have been. Selene and Kali had spent so much time trying to restore balance. And now the trickling effects of a tilt were starting to begin again.

"Kali get over yourself. Is Selene the only one allowed to aid her children? I saw potential in him. I helped him. I blessed him! I left him with his parents. I had no clue they would be killed. I'm not Selene. I don't see the future. I am too busy to watch over one cub." Gaia folded her hands over top of the other as she looked over at Levi.

Kali began snickering loudly. She raised her hand up to cover her mouth as she shook her head. "Try lying to someone else. Because I already know what you were really up to." She could read the goddess easily. This wasn't about potential. It was about guilt.

Gaia's eyes narrowed into slits as she glared at Kali. "You don't know anything." She hissed as Kali turned to face her fully. And the tension between the two women was being felt by all in the room. "Oh... but I do." Kali stopped laughing and narrowed her eyes at Gaia. "I'm not saying what you did was wrong... but that you should have been watching the cub after what you did. You should be watching him now. His powers matured many years ago. It is only a matter of time before he realizes what he can do and unleashes it." She stopped for a moment and her lips parted. "You regretted it. You are afraid of what you did..." Her green eyes bore into Gaia. She wanted her to admit it. That what she did to Micah was because of her own guilt.

"No..." Gaia's voice was barely a whisper. "I regret what I wasn't able to do."

Kali's eyes softened and her lips pulled down. Shiva reached over and patted Gaia's back offering her support.

"Can someone explain to me? I think we are the only two who don't know what happened." Levi looked over at Shiva who nodded her head.

"I'll take over from here. I've been quiet long enough. I know this is difficult for you." Shiva patted Gaia once more before she stood up and walked closer to Levi and Rhea.

"Talia, the primordial, had a child..." Shiva started quietly.

"Talia?" Rhea asked quietly quirking up her eyebrows in confusion.

"An original beast. She is as old as the earth." Levi answered her quietly.

Shiva nodded her head. "The demons wanted Talia to use as a pawn in the war. The beast fought back but against Mephisto... she lost. Talia was killed and her young child was severely injured. Left for dead in the woods. Gaia came upon the child and tried to nurse him back to health. A primordial child is rare. And this one came from the beast under Gaia's care. As one of her children Gaia took the child in but he didn't make it. After just a few weeks the young child died. It had lost the will to live after the death of his mother. Gaia carried the lifeless child to a final resting place and that is when she ran into a small family of werebears. The couple had a younger toddler with them that was unwell. He was suffering from a heart condition and growing weaker by the day."

"Gaia took the heart out of the lifeless child and blessed it. Then she gave that heart to the toddler... Micah. Of course not long after that was the demon war. Both of the werebears were killed and Micah was taken by the dark elves. The dark elves were part of the Unblessed. They knew what Gaia had done and they wanted him on their side. So, they placed a contaminated sprite inside of his body. In hopes that the darkness would take over and they would gain a powerful ally. But they never could have guessed Micah would be the next guardian. And with the princess' light the sprite has been held at bay."

Shiva looked at Rhea and tilted her head to the side. "You probably are not sure what all of this means? And why Micah is very special. Even on a terrifying level."

"Stop the theatrics, Shiva. It's quite annoying." Kali clicked her tongue. Da.mn that goddess loved to talk. "Micah is the first of his kind. And has a power inside of him that can possibly rival a tier one deity."

"It can rival it." Shiva interrupted. "I've felt it."

"Okay, so what does all this mean about Micah? And can we help him with the sprite?" Rhea asked and looked at the green eyes of Kali.

"You have no idea of the magnitude of all of this. Selene has taken a different approach to try to prepare for the inevitable. But I am not like Selene. There is a much simpler solution." Kali's green eyes bore into Rhea's. "A war is coming. One like we have never seen. The balance is shifted with Micah as the Fairy Princess's Guardian. We can let the war happen... keep in mind that it will be much more traumatic than the demon war. Or... we can stop it from happening."

"How?" Levi asked narrowing his eyes at Kali. He didn't like where this was going and he had a feeling about what she was going to say.

"We kill Micah," Kali said simply.

"No! That isn't an option." Levi growled angrily.

"Then this war is your family's burden to bear. And what will happen..." Kali shook her head. "You've seen the visions." She looked at Rhea. "Those will happen if Micah lives. There is no way around it." The scale had been tipped in the favor of the fairies already with Alexis. But now there is Micah. Kali inwardly rolled her eyes. The family had no idea about the connection between Alexis and Micah. Micah's heart is one of a primordial... a heart he shouldn't have been given. A direct interference from a goddess. Someone who shifts the balance in an unnatural way. "Micah lives," Rhea said firmly.

Kali nodded her head. "Selene said the same thing. Instead, she is preparing behind the scenes again..." She clicked her tongue. "Fine. I'll need Micah, but I need him away from the princess. I'll need to keep him for at least a week. I should be able to extract the sprite from him. He will just need to accept time away from his princess."

"Is there no other way?" Levi asked as his lips curled down. Micah was not going to like hearing this at all.

"There are other ways... but this is the best way. And you should be happy I am even offering my services. I am retired you know!" Kali hissed at the ungrateful deity.

"We will convince him," Rhea said quietly. "But about Micah... you didn't tell me what this new heart did to him."

Shiva smiled and leaned back on her heels. "Yes, so about Micah..."

A woman with golden-brown hair loosely pulled back walked out in front of the men.

"Wendy, you can't—" The man who acted like he was in charge began but with one sharp glance from the woman he shut up. It was clear she was the one in charge of this group.

"My prince." Wendy bowed her head slightly and looked up. "There is a lot that you don't know about. Ryker is a member of our group. We don't want to hurt him. We are trying to figure out what we must do with him now..." The woman paused for a moment. "You are not supposed to know about us. We are a group that doesn't have attachments and stays secret. We don't seek fame or sorrow. We act in secret and die without mourners." The woman sighed and looked at Brian. "I don't have any choice but to explain. We are called The Kings Thunder. We are a secret organization that has been in existence since the first Dragon King of the West. We are the invisible shields of the dragon kingdom. Our existence is kept secret. We often put ourselves in danger and go on suicide missions. We don't want our deaths to cause worry or trouble for the kings."

"We act independently from the kingdom. Our job is to protect the kingdom no matter what. We don't have family members. We don't take mates. We never risk attachments." The man behind Wendy spoke up and she nodded her head.

"Ryker was on a special mission. He was working with a group of dragons that were suspected of organizing a rebellion against your father. He infiltrated their group and was relaying what he found to us. He ended up getting caught and suffered an injury that caused his memory loss. We thought he had been killed and when we realized different... Well, we couldn't take him out of the kingdom after you found him. We have been watching and waiting for him to come back to us. His memories are finally returning. At least enough that he was able to find us. He belongs with the Thunder again. However, he can't have his mate." Wendy said firmly and Brian scoffed loudly.

Brian shifted Ryker over to Micah who took the unconscious man in his arms. "Let me start with this. Ryker belongs to me. He is no longer part of the Thunder. He swore upon his flame to serve me. I have taken him as my right hand man. His life belongs to me. You understand what that means to take what belongs to the dragon prince?" His voice dropped to a low growl as they lowered their heads in reverence. Taking from the dragon royals was a death sentence. Dragons were already possessive creatures. And no one took from a royal dragon ever... and lived. "I understand the purpose of your group. However, I disagree with the secretive nature of it. The king should be aware of your existence. You want to be able to act independently from the kingdom and do your job by any means necessary. But you are not invisible and shouldn't be treated as such. Your lives should be honored. And your burials should be recognized."

"What was that device you had on his neck?" Micah asked with a low growl noticing the slight red irritation on Ryker's throat.

"It was keeping him sedated. This has never happened before, and we were trying to figure out how to move forward. Ryker has a memory full of secrets. And with him having a mate he was fighting staying with us. We needed him to be... quiet while we analyzed the situation." Wendy shrugged unapologetically as she looked over at Ryker. "He is a very skilled warrior. And honestly, having him by your side... you couldn't have picked a better dragon." Wendy inwardly sighed. She didn't want to hand Ryker over but there wasn't anything she could do. If Ryker swore upon his flame to serve the prince there wasn't a thing anyone could do. That was a binding agreement. And this meant he belonged to the dragon prince. In all senses... Ryker was his.

Brian smiled and nodded his head. "Now on that... we agree completely."

"How were you able to find us? We had the whole area enchanted." Wendy asked.

"Well, you didn't make it easy on us." Jasper snorted. "Anyone else would have given up on the trail. But we weren't about to give up on Ryker. He is part of the family now. Besides we were running out of time with the shadow that is approaching." Jasper was curious if they would have information about this.

Wendy nodded and frowned slightly. "Our spies have reported a hidden army. We are not sure about all of the creatures, but we are certain there are several Unblessed fairies in the cloaked army."

"Are you sure?" Alexis said in mild alarm. Unblessed fairy's heading towards Elysium? They would be able to enter. This would be something they needed to be prepared for.

"Yes, we are certain. But there are other creatures there as well. We don't know the purpose and we are just keeping an eye on them. They weren't moving towards the dragon kingdom so they were just being observed. We have a scout keeping an eye on the shadow."

"Thank you, Wendy. In the future maybe we can set up a better arrangement?" Brian watched as Wendy shook her head.

"It's best that we remain a secret. We can work better this way." Wendy watched as Brian's lips curled down.

"You are protecting my kingdom. We can keep your organization secret, but we will honor your warriors. I'll reach out to you again another time and we can discuss this in greater detail." Brian looked up at Alexis. "Let's head to Elysium. We need to warn them about the threat."

Levi, better head back to Elysium. There is an army of Unblessed fairies heading towards Elysium. Aken reached out to Levi already knowing Alexis wanted her parents to know about this. Unblessed fairies were easy enough to deal with for Aken and Levi. The problem was what else was cloaked in that army.

We will meet you back there. We have information too. Levi's voice echoed into his mind.

"Are we flying or teleporting? Just wondering because Ryker is DRAGon his feet." Micah snickered and looked at the quiet room. "What? Come on that's funny." He looked over at Jasper who was chuckling quietly. "Thank you, Jasper. At least someone else here has a sense of humor."

Alexis smiled but her mind and thoughts were spinning. The Unblessed were still fairies. Were they really wanting to rage war with Elysium? She wondered if they could come to an agreement between them. She was still their princess, and she didn't want to kill them. And why were they with the nycrops? What was Erebus planning now? She glanced up at Aken who had his brows furrowed as he read her thoughts.

Erebus. It was always coming back to Erebus. A problem that they needed to deal with. The sooner... the better.

Note-

The next knockouts are starting and Dr. Luna is in this one. Thank you all for your support!

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 68

Chapter 68 Pool of Power

Micah shifted Ryker on his back as he carried him out of the cave. Brian was going to carry him back but told him he had him. He didn't voice anything, but something still wasn't sitting right about the whole situation. Why keep him sedated? Was it really to keep him quiet? Whose idea was it to sedate him? It didn't make much sense to him. He stepped into the clearing and watched as everyone gathered around. Aken was going to teleport them back to Elysium so they could strategize about the dark army heading towards Elysium.

"Put me down."

The muffled sound came from Micah's back as everyone stopped to look at him. Micah turned his head to the side. "Are you sure? Can you stand?" The guy was completely out of it a minute ago and now he is wanting down?

Ryker snorted. "Yes." His voice was a bit groggy but he was quickly coming to.

Micah slid Ryker to the ground who stood rubbing his head. "Da.mn those drugs."

"Ryker." Brian walked up to Ryker and grabbed the back of his head. He leaned his forehead against his and closed his eyes. "I was worried about you." The two men stay like that not speaking. It was a moment where silence was much more powerful than words. Brian lifted his head up and looked at him. "You look like shi.t man." He chuckled as a crooked smile curled on Ryker's lips. He patted the back of his head and then straightened up.

"I feel like it. They have been keeping me drugged up this whole time. Ever since I refused to renounce my mate. Like how I could ever leave Raine. I need her." Ryker smiled and rubbed the back of his neck. "But I understand their concern. But drugging me like that..." He looked over at Brian. I have my memories back now. Everything. But there is a problem. Let's walk farther away so I can talk.

Brian stared at him and nodded his head. There was a reason he was mind linking him now. And there was a reason he never told the Thunder he had fully regained his memories.

"We were going to head back to Elysium." Brian watched as Ryker shook his head.

Not yet.

Brian turned and looked at the others. "Let's walk for a bit first." His eyes met with Alexis' and Micah's who he knew would immediately understand.

When Ryker felt like they were far enough away he stopped. "Alright, this here is okay." He looked up at the others and glanced behind him.

"First, what happened? Why did they allow me to leave?" Ryker asked trying to put all the details together. There is no way they were willing to just let him leave. Especially if his hunch was right.

"They didn't have a choice. Either they let you go, or we were going to take you by force. I told Wendy you swore to serve me upon your flame. They knew they couldn't do anything about that. They claim the Thunder is loyal to the royal family... if that is the case, they wouldn't oppose me. And of course, even if they did... what could they do about it?" Brian shrugged and chuckled.

"Wendy would not have liked it." Ryker glanced back again with a perplexed look on his face. But there was someone else there who he was certain didn't like it.

"Is Wendy the leader there?" Micah asked.

"She is much older than she looks. She is actually a few hundred years old. When the old leader was killed, he passed the torch of the Thunders to her. She is very strict and takes the organization very seriously." Ryker paused. "But something has slipped under her nose." He looked up at the others. "Let me tell you about the night I lost my memories."

"I had infiltrated a group of dragons that were supposedly leading an uprising against the king. I was part of their group for several months and what I found out was shocking. They were working with demons. In fact, some of them were even part demons. I discovered they were working on a plan. The demons were planning to make a puppet army in the future using nembrant glass. But not just any army. They were summoning fierce creatures and were beginning to create a pool of power to attract them. They weren't from this world. This was as much as I discovered. I went to relay the information to another member of the Thunder. Right after that I was attacked by a half-demon half-dragon. I defeated him but ended up losing my memory after being severely wounded myself." Ryker squeezed his hands into a ball. "I think the Thunder member was actually a double agent for the demons. He should have told the Thunders everything. They would have found me then. Instead, I was left for dead."

"I think this is why I was drugged. I think this other member was trying to figure out what to do if I got my memories back." Ryker sighed and Micah snorted.

"I knew it! I knew that whole situation seemed shady." Micah turned and looked back. "Let's go break some bones."

"Wait. I have to check to see if this pool of power still exists. I need to check on it. If it has grown... I need to speak with Wendy. I will need to let her know that Mason is a traitor and it might not just be him— This is bad." Ryker needed to find the pool of power again and make certain it still exists. If it does it will prove Mason is a traitor.

A sudden realization hit Alexis and she gasped. She thought back to her premonition. The powerful creatures she had never seen before. And then the man with the red eye... just like the red eye she had with the nembrant glass. Her breathing grew ragged as Aken's arms wrapped around her. He put the puzzle piece together with her. The premonition was indeed connected to this.

Alexis leaned into Aken. Was there no way to prevent the vision she had seen? She was shown a vision that she was powerless to stop. Why show it to her? How could she even prepare for that? Maybe that wasn't the point. What if it wasn't to prepare for it but to know what was coming...

Aken rubbed her shoulders and looked up at the others. "Do you think you can find this pool of power?"

"If they didn't change the location then yes." Ryker looked up at Aken and Alexis who were looking at each other.

"It's probably dangerous. I should go with you... but first I need to get Alexis back to Elysium—" Aken could already hear Alexis' objections. She was determined to stay by Aken's side.

"I'll go with him. With the Unblessed army heading this way you shouldn't leave Alexis' side. You can wipe out the whole army instantly if necessary. I can go with Ryker to check on this energy pool." Micah inhaled deeply and smiled. Going in a different direction than Alexis was hard. But this was one of those situations where he knew it was better for Aken to not be away from her.

"Bella and I will also come with you," Brian added and patted Ryker's back.

"Same with Terra and I. Just in case the area is heavily guarded we can help." Jasper looked up at Alexis. "Let Derek know where I am please."

"I will." Alexis nodded.

"We will have to move on foot. If we hurry, we can get there before night falls." Ryker watched the others nod their heads. Micah walked over to Alexis who stepped away from Aken so he could tuck her in his arms. "My princess... I know you are safe with Aken. I won't be away from your side for long." He let out an airy laugh. "Gods, I didn't think leaving you was going to be so hard..."

"I'll come with you," Alexis whispered out.

"No. Go back to Elysium. Talk with your mother and grandmother. I'll come back to you soon." Micah leaned his cheek on the top of Alexis' head. "I love you, Lex." He squeezed her tight and glanced up at Aken. His silent stare spoke words he didn't need to voice. He didn't want to leave Alexis, but this pool of power was also something he needed to see for himself. It wasn't just about helping Ryker though that was a big part of it. He also wanted to analyze this himself. Micah straightened up and ruffled Alexis's hair. Leaving her right now was a tough moment for him. He felt his chest tighten and he couldn't say anything else. He swallowed and forced a smile looking at his princess one last time. He took a few receding steps before turning his back and walking away. He didn't look back. He couldn't.

Alexis watched as everyone sprinted away disappearing into the woods. She wasn't sure why, but she had a sense of dread deep inside of her.

"Lex…"

Alexis turned her head towards Aken and shrugged. "It's silly of me huh? He is supposed to be my protector, but I am the one worrying about him."

"He is very strong. Stronger than even he knows. Come on... we need to speak with your parents. They have news about Micah too." Aken rested his hands on her waist. And while Alexis kept her gaze in the distance where Micah had disappeared from he teleported them away.

The group sprinted through the thickly wooded area. The top of the trees was so full that it was almost completely black under the canopy. The dark green and rich brown blurred through their vision as they ran in silence. On occasion, a small patch of light would flicker through the leaves. The top of the trees swayed in the breeze and bent back and forth. Some of the older trees began to groan in protest as the wind picked up. They reached an area where the undergrowth and bushes were tall and thick making it more difficult to keep up their fast speeds. Ryker slowed down as they came upon a ravine. The gorge was narrow, and it had steep sides that were almost vertical. The bottom of the ravine was a pile of debris, where the plants in the area had been ravaged by natural forces.

"We go down. The ravine will split into three paths. The path on the far right will lead to an open area that leads to a swamp. It is in this area they were making this pool." Ryker moved to the edge and putting one foot in front of him slid to the bottom. Brian held onto Bella as they both followed suit. Jasper went to do the same to Terra, but she scoffed at him. With a smirk, she jumped down into the valley nimbly landing on her feet.

"Dam.n I love her." Jasper grinned as he and Micah jumped down as well.

The group gathered at the bottom of the ravine. The opening on the far right was surrounded on all sides by steep, high walls. It became narrow and they had to follow the path single file. They could hear the faint sound of water from up ahead. The wind blowing through the ravine amplified the sound making it louder. They could smell the swamp as they got closer. But that wasn't the only thing. A strong potent smell of brimstone wafted in the air as it became heavy with a suffocating aura.

Coming up alongside the swamp they all froze! The air was thick, and a dark energy swirled in the center of the swamp. The water was black and stagnant. The foul stench of the pool wafted in the air from the sinister power it was fed.

Ryker's lips parted in shock. "It's..." He shook his head in shock. "It was only the size of a puddle before."

"What are they summoning with this much dark energy?" Micah's eyes traveled over the corrupted water as his jaw tensed in anger. What type of army were they trying to bring here? Was it already too late to stop it?

Ryker shook his head. "Damn." He whispered out in a breath. He gazed over the dark energy and his hands curled up next to his sides. This was the last thing he warned Mason about before he lost his memories. "I know now for certain there is at least one traitor in the Thunders. I have to go and talk to Wendy. But we need to keep an eye on this location. We need to see who is still feeding this pool." Ryker looked up. "I'll stay. Brian and Bella can fly Jasper and Terra back to Elysium. You can fly to the Thunders. I'll wait here. Levi needs to see this." Micah looked up as Brian frowned.

"We can't leave you here alone." Brian listened as Micah chuckled quietly.

"I'll be fine. I'm a guardian. You guys should go before someone shows up. We need to find a way to shut this pool down. Levi and Aken are the best ones to handle this now." Micah watched as the angry energy swirled in a menacing circle. It was a beacon to bring something to it. Whatever it was calling, he didn't want it to come but it might already be too late for that. This could mean nothing good.

"I'll show Levi how to get here." Brian reached his hand out and grabbed onto Micah's. "Don't fight. Just hide yourself."

"Don't get all choked up on me. I'm not a damsel in distress here." Micah teased with a quiet laugh. He could see Brian's concerned eyes looking at him and he smiled. "Don't worry. I'll stay out of sight."

"It's almost nighttime. We have very little daylight left. I'll try to hurry Micah." Brian stared at Micah's green eyes and pursed his lips together. "Please be safe..." He turned and looked at Ryker. "I'll meet you at the Thunders after I bring Levi here." Ryker nodded his head and the group started to go back the way they came. Brian glanced back once more and looked at Micah's smiling face.

"You are really 'dragon' this out now." Micah teased with a white toothy grin.

Brian chuckled and nodded his head. "I'll see you soon." He then turned and left. Leaving Micah alone in the swamp.

Micah smiled and shook his head. He watched them until they disappeared. He then looked around the area and saw a spot that was thick with brush. He moved into the heavy dense area where he could sit and hide but still see clearly. He had been in this position for only an hour when he felt the shadows creeping in. The sounds of screeches and strange clicks drew closer. Then there was something else. A few strong suffocating auras began to approach.

But it wasn't just them. A woman with dull lifeless skin walked towards the pool. Her skin sagged slightly from her body as her all-white soulless eyes

peered into the darkness. She turned her head slightly to the side as her lips curled up in a sinister smile.

"Well well well... what do we have here."

Note:

Brace for the storm!

Dr. Luna is currently in the lead during this set of knockouts. Thank you all for your support!! Love you all bunches... even though I am getting sent to the timeout corner again after this chapter haha

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 69

Chapter 69 Sealing Elysium

Aken and Alexis appeared in the most center room of the castle in Elysium. Her whole family was already there including her parents. There was a lot to discuss but first she needed to put Raine's mind at ease.

Alexis looked at her cousin who was looking at her with wide worried eyes. "We found Ryker and he is okay. He had his memories back now and everything is okay with him. I think it is more appropriate for him to talk to you about it but just know he is fine. Right now, he is investigating a pool of power he had discovered back before he lost his memories. The others are with him." She turned and looked at Lucy and Derek as she said this. Letting them know where Jasper was.

Raine leaned back in her seat and bowed her face into her hands. "Thank the gods. I'm going to kill him." She whimpered as her mother comforted her.

Cody sighed with relief as he knelt next to Kelsie and their daughter. He placed his hand on his daughter's head and looked up at his mate. They were both so worried that Ryker wouldn't return to Raine. They were afraid that his new memories had taken him away from her. Whether it was to protect her or to pursue his old life. One problem was solved... but now there was more they had to deal with. He glanced over at Alexis as she continued to speak.

"Ryker mentioned that before he lost his memory, he had information that the demons were working on creating a puppet army with the nembrant glass. And this pool of energy is being used to summon some sort of powerful creatures. In my vision..." Alexis looked at her mother, grandmother, and Lucy. They had all seen variations of this vision. "There were powerful creatures fighting. Monsters I had never seen before."

"I wonder if there is a way to prevent this future..." Wyatt mumbled out quietly with his brows furrowed.

Rhea looked up at Lee but the two kept quiet. They had already decided that what they were told about Micah they would never mention. It wasn't an option and they never wanted him to find out about it. Instead, they should focus on the things that they could do.

We will wait for Micah before we tell his news. Levi mind linked to Rhea.

Yes, I think it is fair that he should hear about himself first. Rhea mentally linked back to him. This was about Micah, and it didn't seem right for the whole family to know about him before he himself did.

"How will we know if this is the future we still need to stop or if this future has been changed?" Freya asked looking at everyone.

"We never know. That is the problem with time. But there is one thing we can count on. No matter what the outcome is we will do our best to meet it head on!" Tyler smiled at everyone. He knew there was no way to look into the future to make sure everything would be okay for certain. But he also knew that no matter what, they could only do the best they could.

Lilly looked at everyone and smiled. "Our family has sacrificed so much. We have fought hard. Sometimes it is also best to know when to step back. We can create a safe place for our family. A new home to raise our children in safety."

"You're talking about sealing Elysium if that future comes..." Lucy watched her grandmother nodding her head. "But if you seal it that will mean forever, right? It is forming a parallel world away from this one."

A strange smile rested on Lilly's lips. "Forever is a long time. What might mean forever now might not mean forever then. Or even in a few years from now..." She felt Tyler's arm slide around her waist as he held her close. While some futures would come to pass there was also another light. She was able to see more of the future and the possibilities. They had come to her in

dreams that she was certain her mother was sending her. These dreams gave her hope.

"This fight isn't just about us. Sealing Elysium isn't just about protecting our family. It is about creating a safe place for magical creatures. They will all need our protection." Rhea listened as Wyatt snorted and she turned to look at him shaking his head.

"If we stay and fight we can protect the world that way too." Wyatt frowned. He didn't like the idea of running away.

"At what price?" Lilly asked quietly. "The price of your lineage? You could lose them all. Your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. All the way down the line. Would you risk losing them all? Wyatt... it is our job to protect magic. This must be our number one priority. If you are worried about the packs, we will take them in too. Some will choose to stay but anyone seeking refuge will be welcome. All shifters and creatures of magic will have a chance for refuge."

"How?" Kelsie asked in confusion. She thought when Elysium was sealed it was only for fairies.

"Just how this isn't the same fairy kingdom when my mother was queen. A fairy queen is now also part werewolf." Lilly looked up at Lucy and Alexis. "A mixture of vampire, witch, dragon, wolf, and deity. Elysium has evolved with its royalty. It isn't just a home for fairies anymore."

"But some will have to stay behind. Some need to stay back and fight. Even if it is just a small chance..." Justice whispered out.

"And that will be every person's choice when the time comes." Lilly cleared her throat. "But let's not dwell on this."

"Right, we have another threat we need to concentrate on now." Alexis watched as they all looked up at her. "A cloaked army is moving towards Elysium. We were informed that there is an army of the Unblessed cloaked there."

Tristan snorted. "Idiots. What do they think they can accomplish by marching on Elysium? The guardians alone can handle them."

"We don't know the purpose or what else is cloaked. But if Erebus is behind this... We need to think about what he is trying to do. Is this a diversion for something else? Or is he trying to draw the family outside of Elysium? The id.iot doesn't think things through. I wonder if he even realizes Levi and I will be here..." Aken rubbed the creases on his forehead.

"Tristan, have the defenses ready. Let the guardian at the barrier know to be on alert." Tyler looked over at Aken. "How much time do we have?" (Remember there is also a guardian that guards the barrier of Elysium. This is in Dr. Luna.)

"Two to three days." Aken watched as Tyler nodded his head.

"Then we can't afford to waste a single second. We need to make sure that our home is strengthened. I want the defenses to be ready by the time the army reaches the border." Tyler said looking up at Tristan. "We have a lot of work to do."

"I'll send word to the centaurs," Jason said as he stood up. "I'd rather we be over-prepared than under-prepared."

Preparations were being made and they were erring on the side of caution. They weren't sure what they were up against, but they wanted to be prepared. The sun had disappeared from the trees and there was only a faint blue hue left. That was when two large dragons descended from the skies.

"They're back," Alexis said but her brows furrowed as she noticed Micah wasn't with them. However, she realized Ryker wasn't either so he must be with him. Still her heart rate started to pick up as an anxious feeling washed over her. Jasper and Terra jumped off Bella and Brian's back before they shifted back to their human selves. She walked up to them with Aken by her side.

"Where is Ryker?!" Raine asked looking around frantically.

"I'm going to meet him soon. He needed to relay a message to a group of dragons." Brian looked up at Aken and Levi. "We found the pool of power. It..."

"It's like nothing I have ever seen or felt," Jasper whispered out looking up at Derek. "You should have felt the dread coming off of it."

"And it is huge. It takes up a massive area of a swamp." Brian added noticing the concern in both Levi and Aken's eyes.

"Wait... so where is Micah?" Alexis asked as her chest tightened and her heart raced.

"He stayed behind to see if he could see who was feeding the swamp. We told him we would bring Levi back to check it out." Brian watched Alexis look up at Aken. They seemed to be having a mental conversation from the look in their eyes.

Alexis no!

I'm going. Micah is there!

You stay here. I'll go.

Aken, I'm going, and no one is telling me differently. I am not a child. I am not weak. I am a powerful demi-god and my mate is a deity. Plus I am my own person and can make this decision on my own.

Then don't decide like a child. You have a responsibility to stay safe.

I have a responsibility to Micah!

The two quietly faced off as their emotions and thoughts poured through to each other. His worry for her safety and hers for Micah. Her determination and strength swarmed in Aken's head. And Aken felt his resolve crumble from her.

Aken growled lowly still unhappy over the situation. He turned to look at Brian. "We are coming too."

"No," Levi said simply.

"It doesn't work like that anymore dad – you can't keep me locked up and a prisoner here."

"You can become one real quick." Levi growled as his dark eyes flashed up at Aken.

"Pick your battles, right? Alexis has made up her mind. This isn't one I'm willing to challenge her over. I can teleport her away instantly if I have to." Aken turned and looked at Alexis. "And I will. Regardless of who is fighting. I will leave them to protect you. You are sure you are coming?"

Alexis snorted and walked a few steps away. She shifted into her dragon and roared into the air. She was going to Micah. There was a nauseating feeling swirling in her stomach and her chest was feeling uncomfortable. Micah was probably fine. She was just worried about him. She would feel better once she saw him...

The four dragons landed near the swamp. Levi's colossal dragon made the earth tremble as he landed. Aken hopped off of Alexis' back and she shifted back to her human self. Aken instantly took her hand. He was going to keep her within arms reach at all times.

Brian and Bella led them through the forest and down the ravine. Aken would have teleported there instantly if he only knew where the location was. Instead, he had to fly here on Alexis' back.

Aken looked up as they came to the swampy area. The dark energy swirled around menacingly. He looked over at Levi whose lips curled up in disgust. The foul power in front of them was overwhelming. Even as deities they had rarely seen something like this. This was the type of power you would find in the demon's lair. Not here.

"Where is Micah?" Alexis asked looking around. Her breathing was heavy as her heart raced. She felt her fingers trembling and she couldn't shake the suffocating feeling constricting her lungs.

"Micah!" Brian called out looking around. "This is where we left him."

"Micah!" Alexis felt hot tears stream down her face as her lung squeezed tightly. A pain in her chest sizzled through her. Her palms began to sweat as she whipped her head around frantically.

"Easy Lex." Aken wrapped her in his arms. Her distress was getting out of control now. She was getting desperate. "Shh. Shh. Shh." He glanced up at Levi who was looking around the edges of the swamp. Everyone was scanning for signs of Micah.

"These tracks are fresh," Levi whispered out as Brian knelt next to him.

"Those weren't here before." Brian frowned and looked around. There was no sign of Micah anywhere. The only lead they had was on the tracks in front of them. He looked up at Levi and mentally connected with him.

She can't come with us now. She is too emotional. Brian watched as Levi nodded his head.

The only way I can keep her from this is if I seal her temporarily. She will put up a fight. And I don't think Aken will allow for that... Levi frowned as he looked up at his daughter. Aken had his arms wrapped around her. She wasn't crying but her hands were trembling. Suddenly, she stepped away from Aken and looked around. Her face was taunt, and her lips were pursed into a thin line.

"If someone has hurt him... I will make them suffer whatever pain tenfold." Alexis took a couple of steps towards her father with Aken at her side. She could feel his concern for her, but she quickly blocked him out. She put up a mental wall pushing them all out. There was only one thing on her mind right now. Micah.

"Lex, you should go back to your mother and help Elysium prepare." Levi turned to face his daughter as her eyes looked up at him sharply.

"You can do that. You go back to Elysium. I'm going after Micah." Alexis squeezed her fingers in a tight ball as the wind began to swirl angrily. "Whoever has taken him... is going to pay."

Note-

The Vampires Promised Bride took 4th place in the competition contest it was in. Thank you all for your support!

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 70

Chapter 70 Let's Play

Aken grabbed onto Alexis' shoulders and spun her around to look at him. He stared into her eyes and in a firm but gentle tone he commanded, "Let me in. Please get rid of the mental barrier. You are blocking me from your thoughts." His eyes softened as he frowned. "Please Lex. Don't shut me out. I'm here

with you. I'll kill or destroy anyone you ask me to, but I need our connection. I know you have a large family filled with people you would die for. But I only have you when it comes to that. If you are going to plunge into darkness, again take me with you."

Alexis swallowed as she saw the raw pain in his eyes and heard it in his voice. "I'm sorry, Aken... I won't leave the barrier up. I'm not shutting you out. I'm not turning back into Xi." She gave him a weak smile. "But your thoughts are overwhelming and loud. And right now, I need to focus on my connection with Micah." She leaned into his chest as he wrapped his arms around her. "I'm not leaving you, Aken. I need you with me too. But don't fool yourself. We both know that you would risk your life to save Micah. You don't just have me... not anymore."

Aken pulled her in close and took her mouth with his. He kissed her hard and urgently. He lifted up barely from her lips and whispered against her mouth, "I love you, Lex. We are going to find him." He didn't care that her father was standing right there. He knew what it meant to have a mate.

"I'm coming with you," Levi said with a sigh. "We still have time before the cloaked army arrives and I'm going after my son." He watched him grow from the age of five. Rhea had always wanted Micah part of their family and he adopted the attitude as well. Micah was part of their family. He turned and looked up at Bella and Brian. "Brian, let your father know what is going on and to be on standby just in case. The fairies should be able to handle this on their own if it is just dark fairies. But we don't know what else there is."

"No," Aken said looking up at Levi. "If Erebus is behind this, he wouldn't be expecting the dragons to be there. Send the dragon army to Elysium. That way if we have to deal with Erebus there will be another powerful army there to help."

Levi nodded his head. "That isn't a bad idea. Yes, Brian see if Titus will go to Elysium with his army."

Brian chuckled. "Dad will go. There are no two ways about it."

"Brian, you go to Ryker, and I will go to your father. We can meet in Elysium." Bella could see Brian beginning to protest. "Ryker might need your help. You shouldn't delay getting to him." Brian sighed and nodded his head slowly. "I… I wish I could help look for Micah too. I guess I can't be everywhere at once." He had grown up with Micah also. He wasn't just another stranger but was more like a brother to him.

"We are going to find him," Aken said confidently. "Go do what you need to do."

Brian walked up to Alexis and hugged her. "He probably just followed whoever came here. Don't get too worked up. I'm sure he is fine. He is a guardian remember?" He let out an airy chuckle and forced a smile. "I'll see you soon. When we get back to Elysium, we will let everyone there know what is going on."

"Be safe." Alexis finally said and Brian winked at her with a cheeky grin.

"You be safe."

Alexis watched as Brian and Bella left. She closed her eyes and began to feel for Micah. He was alive. His light still was shining bright inside of her. She just needed to track it down. It was something that had never been done before but for Micah, she was going to try it. She was going to try to connect to the light inside of her and feel the pull for him. She was going to try to track him with it.

Micah and her had a special bond since he was her guardian. But there was more to it than that. He was her friend, confidant, and rock. She often understood his thought process and she was drawn to him. She could find him easily in the castle. It was like she was always led right to him. And she was hoping she could do that now.

The light and dark swirled simultaneously inside of Alexis. At first, she did have a fear that she would lose herself in her darkness. She was afraid she would become Xi again. But the light and dark twirled together harmoniously. It was almost like they both accepted their claim on her. Both powers wanted to get their guardian back.

Alexis had to get him back. She couldn't live without him. Gods, she didn't even want to think about that. She couldn't think about it because she knew something inside of her would break without him. She felt his light spinning inside of her and she pushed her own light into it. Entangling her two energies with his. She could feel it... it was faint, but she could feel it. She could feel his heart beating and his body ached. He was in pain. She blinked her tears away and embraced Micah's light. Who the hell dared to hurt her guardian?!

Aken and Levi watched as Alexis closed her eyes. She appeared to be meditating. It was all they could do to remain still and quiet. They knew she needed to focus, and they didn't want to be a distraction. Alexis was so focused on Micah that her shield lowered again. And Aken was able to feel her connecting energies. He was quickly trying to analyze the lights and see if he could get a grasp on the location. If they could just find Micah...

Micah gasped for air as he surfaced from a dream and back into reality. He was amazed at how vivid the dream had been. Even as he sat up, he could still see images of Alexis on the ground dying, her body covered in blood. The intensity of the dream was so real that a tear ran down his cheek. He let it flow as he tried to let go of the disturbing images. He had no doubt that it had been just a dream. Even though it felt like it had been a memory. So real. The images of her dying were too vivid and clear. His arms were shaking as he tried to gain his bearings and remember what had happened. Then he remembered...

He glanced up in the darkness and let out a low terrifying growl. "Quit messing with my mind you bit.ch!" He was in some sort of dungeon. There was no light. No windows. He was surrounded by solid stone and there was just an enchanted iron bar door in front of him. On the other side of the door, an old woman stood and quietly cackled to herself.

"I'm going to kill you when I get out of here." Micah growled as he approached the iron bars. The nycrops had known he was in the swamp. He didn't know how she knew but she did. And she was prepared. Some sort of dart was shot into his neck and it was instantly lights out. Whatever it was it was powerful enough to make him unconscious. Since then, the nycrops had been playing with his mind while he was in and out of consciousness.

The nycrops began to laugh and clap her hands. "You think you can kill me? Think again, guardian." The words dripped from her lips venomously. "You are still breathing only because I want you alive." "So, you are Meryl." Micah curled his lips up at the disgusting creature in front of him.

"Oh, I see the demigod told you about me. Such a shame you are stuck here instead of by her side protecting her. You know Erebus plans to chain her to his bedpost where he can take her anytime he pleases." Meryl's lips curled up poisonously as Micah attacked the bars in front of him shaking them forcefully.

"If anyone touches her-"

"You'll what? Those bars are magically reinforced. You aren't getting out of here."

"What do you want with me?!" Micah growled as the old woman laughed loudly.

"I'm. Going. To. Break. You." She hissed out each word through her curled lips. "I'm going to mentally break you down until...pop! You snap and let that darkness inside of you out." Meryl cackled quietly. "And you will break. I have all the time in the world to break you. This will be fun."

Micah glared at her as he paced back and forth in front of the bar doors. He wouldn't be kept in here. He was going to get out and rip her undead throat out. He suddenly slammed his body into the door making it groan and hiss in protest.

"Hmm... perhaps it is best to weaken you down some first. That will be quite fun in itself..." Meryl lifted up her bony finger and pointed it at Micah. A dark purple mist appeared around him and began to blacken his skin. Micah doubled over as his body began to shake violently. The purple smoke crept into his pores and created an excruciating burning pain in his skin. He clenched his jaw tightly and his face was taunt. He wasn't going to give in. He wouldn't give this bit.ch the satisfaction she was seeking.

"Shall we begin our mental breakdown? We start simple, but we will get more complex as your mind weakens. And for your mind to weaken we will weaken your body too."

Micah was a prisoner. Meryl was going to torture him until he broke. The pain was unbearable. He couldn't imagine what it would be like to be made to live in this excruciating pain for days. Weeks. Months. He wasn't sure how long he could out from this torture. But he was going to try... he couldn't let that crazy

bit.ch break him. But the darkness inside of him caressed him. As if it was beckoning for him to let go.

Suddenly a bright light erupted from Micah and smashed through the enchanting bars. It belted against Meryl sending the purple smoke back into her.

Meryl was slammed down to the ground. Her body trembled as drops of black blood pooled from her body onto the stone floor beneath her. Very few things shocked her but that did. She was not prepared for something like that. And she was fascinated by this connection. She wondered if it would work both ways. Perhaps she should send a message of her own... She slowly lifted her head up revealing an ugly grin at Micah.

"So, your princess likes to play rough?" Her white eyes glowed as they looked at Micah. Black droplets of blood dripped from her mouth. Had that magic not gone through the enchanted bars she wouldn't be standing right now. Luckily, it mitigated the effects of the attack. "Okay princess... let's play."

Note-

Please vote for Dr. Luna.