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OMINOUS FEELING

There was not a single bone of violence in her body, thus 'kill' was not a word Iris was familiar with, neither she was comfortable to say it.

Therefore, she phrased it that way, which made her looked looked adorable when she wanted a violence.

Saying the word felt like a sin, but Iris still wanted it anyway.

"Do you want to kill him?"

"I..." She tugged her hair nervously. "I don't mind if you are the one, who will do it," she said with a murmur.

While Ethan wanted to kill Alan by himself, Iris didn't think she would be able to carry on to the final blow, thus as long as he died, she didn't mind, who had done the job.

"I will have a lot of royal family on my list now, I will need a lot of help." Cane caressed her earlobe and she caught his hand to make him stop.

"I will help you," Iris said eagerly. Not only because Cane was his mate and the matter was related to her, but also because she had made a promise when they visit the Howling Wolf pack's tomb. "What should I do?"

"I don't know that you are so eager for some violence?"

Iris lowered her head, as she mumbled. "Can't help it, being close to such a dark influence, blackens me too."

Cane pinched her chin and lifted her head. "What?"

Iris startled, realizing her mind slipped out her tongue. She immediately scrambled away from Cane. "I am hungry," she said hastily.

Cane watched how she got off the bed and went to the bathroom. For a moment, the alpha was stunned after hearing what Iris just said, but then a small smile appeared on the corner of his lips.

Wasn't she too comfortable with him to be able to talk that way right in front of him?

Cane had long known Iris was quite a chatter whenever she felt comfortable with the person, but he didn't know she could be mischievous as well.

For the next five days, Iris's mood was not stable. Some time, she would look fine, but another time, she would look so down and didn't even want to talk, as she spaced out near the window, she didn't even want to read and only stare at the distance, but then she would look fine again and the circle continued.

On the third day, Cane found her was trying to harm herself again, but he managed to find her in time before something more fatal could happen. Therefore, he gave Hanna strict order not to leave Iris by herself.

Iris was trying to cope up, as she could no longer force herself to forget the thing that had happened. Her night became a torture for her because she would visit her deepest memories, as her dream became more vivid and detail.

In the empty hall, she would be able to see the five symbol that intricated on the five swords, but when she dreamed of what happened with prince Kellan, she was shown what the prince had ordered her to do, how his expression and the way he caressed her.

Most of the time, Iris would wake up and scream, and Cane would hold her until she fell asleep again. She would wake up with more depression.

On the sixth day, seeing how Iris became even more and more detached from reality, Cane took her out of the palace to meet with Haco.

"Come with me," Cane said in one bleak afternoon when Iris stared at the melting ground, as she perched on the window.

Iris blinked her eyes and then nodded. "Okay." It didn't matter where they would go, because Iris would come with him regardless.

Cane helped Iris to put on her cloak and wrapped his arm around her waist, as he noticed how she had lost so much weight. Hanna told him how Iris would start vomiting after eating. She would even vomit when she didn't eat anything.

Her condition put Hanna in a great concern, as she reported every single detail of what happened with Iris to Cane, hoping the alpha could help.

Yet, what Cane could do was limited. This wasn't something he could reach, but before Iris would sink deeper, he tried to hold onto her.

"What happened with you? You look horrible!" Redmond commented. This was the first time he saw Iris again, as far as he knew, Iris was sick, but he was clueless with another detail that entailed with that.

Therefore, like usual, he ran his mouth recklessly, while Ethan hit his head from the back and glared at him viciously.

"WHAT?" Redmond snapped. He was still irritated with the last encounter between him and the alpha, more so, he had not yet told Cane his guess about how he thought Iris was pregnant. This dumb alpha must have no idea about it!

"Shut up!" Ethan hissed.

"What? She can't hear me!" Redmond growled. He was right, Iris didn't even look at his direction when he said those words, thus he thought it was safe for him to blurt it out.

On the other hand, Cane ignored the two of them, as he helped Iris to get into the carriage and sat next to her. "We will go now," he said to Trion, who sat on the front, as a coachman.

Seeing how the carriage started moving without them, Ethan and Redmond stopped bickering and immediately mounted their horses, as they followed them.

This time, Cane didn't go to a jewelry shop, which was a secret way to reach the lodge, the secret place, where the other stayed.

They went to an armour shop, where Iris could see a few swords and daggers there. This was the only armour shop in this capital city, since shifter didn't use weapon when they went to battle, since they themselves was the lethal weapon.

Iris couldn't understand why they were here, she looked around her surroundings, while following Cane toward the corner door, which he opened and led them to a long, dark corridor.

Meanwhile, Ethan and Redmond didn't follow them, as their interests were piqued to see these swords. They didn't know there were so many variations of swords.

Behind the door, there were two doors on her left and two doors on her right, in which Cane entered one of those and inside, Iris could see Haco.

It had been a while, since the last time she met with the old sorcerer, he was as grumpy as she remembered.

"You are late!" Haco grumbled. "I don't like to be here!" This place didn't have any windows and the only light came from the luminous pearls. This small room almost felt like a dungeon instead.

"Sit down," Cane said, as he nodded at the table with four chairs in the middle of the room.

Whining, Haco sat down, while Iris and Cane sat across from him.

"Can you feel that?" Cane asked Iris, he looked at her closely.

Iris was surprised when Cane could tell. That was right, she had felt this feeling ever since they entered the shop. This was the same ominous feeling like when he was being inflicted by dark magic.

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A PURPOSE FOR IRIS

This ominous feeling was the same like when she felt the magic stone, which had suffused by dark magic and was used to harm Cane, though there was something slightly different, but she was sure it was dark magic inside a magic stone.

"You have a magic stone, which had contaminated with dark magic?" Iris frowned at Haco and the sorcerer was stunned because Iris could tell about that.

"How could she know?!" Haco fished out something from his pocket and put the earth magic stone in the middle of the table.

Iris could differentiate it was an earth magic stone easily now.

"Are you still trying to tell me she is not a magic user?!" Haco was still thrilled to witness what this runt could do. No, he didn't think she was a runt at all, but from what Cane told him, her parent was shifters. It didn't make sense if a magic user was born from shifter parent. "I will not buy it!"

"You can sense it?" Cane tucked her hair behind her ear. He knew Iris could sense it, he only wanted to make sure of what she could do and also to prove it to Haco what he had told him.

The sorcerer was so adamant, dark magic was hard to be noticed, unless it inflicted the person and it showed the trace of the curse on them, just like what happened to princess Osana. Magic stone that was suffused by dark magic would be hard to be recognized, you need to be an exceptional magic user to do so or having divine power.

But the last option was not most likely, since it was only a Serafim, who had a divine power. It was a power that differed from any magic in this realm.

"Who are you?" Haco looked at Iris closely, he even stood up, as if her figure was an obscure object in his eyes, so he needed to pay close attention to her, but Cane shut his antic down.

He knew there was something unusual with Iris, but this was not the time to dig deeper. The situation in the palace became even more and more complicated and the tension between the royal and the Red Claw pack became even more palpable. It was not even a surprise, if something big would happen, since the alpha of the Red Claw pack had ordered his warriors to march to the border of the city.

The number of the warrior was not many, but it would be enough to resuscitate the fear and tension inside the capital city. Right now, the situation in the capital city was way more conducive, thanked to prince Kellan and Cane, who worked together to calm the people.

Although the lycan had not yet been caught and the fourth king was still missing, also the curse on prince Osana was not yet resolved.

"When did you feel it the first time?" Cane asked Iris, ignoring Haco completely.

Iris thought about that for a while. "Since we entered the shop," she said. "Since we got off the carriage..."

"Hm." Cane thought about it and calculated the detail.

While Haco didn't care much about the nuts and bolts, he was way more interested to study this runt. How she could do that?

"Can you sense it in a bigger area?" Cane knew about another thing of what Iris could do. He heard in detail how she managed to get the dark magic stone out of his body, which Aria had put on him.

Therefore, whether Iris could find the dark magic stone, was the critical point of this plan.

"I think it depends on how many of the dark magic stone..." Iris contemplated about it for a while. "In your case, the dark magic stone inside you was so small, but because I stayed in the room next to you, I could sense it pretty easily, while this..."

The size of the dark magic stone in front of them was only as big as a pebble, the size of a half knuckle.

"Understood. I will need your ability soon."

Iris's eyes lit up slightly when she heard that, she straightened her back, as she looked at him expectantly. "What should I do?"

Cane brushed her bangs lightly. He knew giving a task to her would be a better idea rather than to leave her on her own device and let her wallowed continuously.

Some time what you needed was a purpose. She needed a reason to survive, just like he did. Even if the reason was malignant and for Cane's case it was a revenge.

"I will tell you when the time comes."

Like usual, Cane didn't explain many things to Iris, but she knew what she should do, only lacked of the time when she should do it.

But at the very least, she was waiting for it. She became less depressed, because there was something she looked forward too, though her nightmare would come every now and then, and she would feel under the weather seldomly, but she ate better now.

Four days later the situation in the court became even worse. The tension suffocated all the people and the pressure on Cane to find the fourth prince became more immense, even so, the alpha still kept the dead body of the prince in secret and had not yet revealed him.

All of the people, who knew about the truth couldn't fathom what the alpha's grand plan was, since he could tell them where the body and be done with the king's pressure.

The more alpha Dristan from the Red Claw pack pressured the king, the more king Aeon reminded Cane of his duty as the king's envoy.

But, all Cane said to him was; he still had four months before summer, which was the time limit the king gave to him and king Aeon couldn't press him any further.

This morning, Iris went out with Hanna, she wanted to go to the garden and enjoy the sunlight, because the snow had melted and the weather was not so cold, she felt comfortable to walk around.

More so, this king palace was far away from the palace where prince Kellan lived, thus it was a very small chance for them to encounter with each other.

However, when Iris and Hanna walked out of the room, they met with Nala, who was about to approach the bedroom.

She looked a little bit taken aback and couldn't turn around, because it would be seen as her avoiding Iris, since the chamber Iris and Cane occupied was the only chamber in this part of the building.

"Luna Iris," Nala greeted politely, having no other choice. She learned her mistake when she visited the orphanage and Cane humiliated her, thus she didn't try to pull the same trick on Iris again.

On the other hand, the smile on Iris's face fell when she saw Nala. She was not happy to see her, especially around her and Cane's quarter.

"Why are you here?" Iris's voice was cold.

"I need to see alpha Cane, is he inside the room?" Nala asked brazenly.

Iris squinted her eyes dangerously. "Why are you always looking for my mate?"

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BE GOOD

Iris's emotions had been very low, she was always in the mood ever since what happened and even though she appeared a little bit calmer recently, it didn't vanquish the turmoil inside of her, there was still this raging storm within her.

Therefore, when something ticked her off, she tended to be more contentious than usual.

"Why are you always looking for my mate?"

On the other hand, Hanna was stunned to hear the way Iris spoke, because she usually would be so timid, yet the way she heard it, her sweet missy somehow sounded more aggressive.

Not only Hanna, Nala was also taken aback to hear the way Iris voiced out her question. This luna was not even shy to show her dislike.

"This is the king's order, luna Iris," Nala said, trying to explain herself. "This is not me, who is looking for the alpha."

Iris narrowed her eyes, she took a step forward, which made Nala flustered and out of instinct she backed away. She became defensive, as if she was about to be attacked. Probably, Iris vented out her frustration to her, or maybe she simply showed Nala what actually she felt about her, but nonetheless, this side of the luna was a little bit daunting.

"Why the king sent irrelevant person to relay his message? There are countless royal warriors and proper messenger to deliver the message."

Nala couldn't answer that, since she got this news from her father and like before, she volunteered herself to deliver it to the alpha.

Because she failed to execute the plan in the orphanage with the witch, since the alpha spent all his time to take care of his mate and not allowed anyone to bother him, she didn't have a chance to even come closer to him.

And the repercussion of that was; the king kept her for days in his bed. He vented out his anger because the plan failed and his frustration because of what happened in his court and Nala couldn't complain, since she had to make the old king happy, or else, it would be her family that took the brunt of his wrath.

She still felt so sore and her heart was a wreak.

Nala couldn't understand how could there was a man like King Aeon, who didn't have any scrupulous to take pleasure from woman and saw them as an object to please them, while there was a man like alpha Cane, who would stay a whole night and day just to make sure their mate was fine.

If it was king Aeon, the man wouldn't even care whether you were sick or not, what he cared the most was how to get pleasure from you in the way that he liked.

Nala felt bitter. What was so good about the runt before her eyes?

"Get someone proper to deliver the message to the alpha," Iris said sharply, she was annoyed beyond words. Everything annoyed and frustrated her, even when she made a simple mistake like spiling her drink, she would get all worked up.

However, for her stubbornness, Nala should get a credit, as she couldn't tell when to stop. "I am already here, Luna, it will be better for me to deliver the massage for the alpha right away, rather than waiting for someone else to come. The king will appreciate it if the alpha comes to him immediately."

Nala still assumed Cane was inside the chamber and Iris was only giving her a hard time.

However, before Iris could retort, she saw the person that she would never be sick of to see, but right now, he was the last person she wanted to meet with Nala was here.

Behind Nala, Cane came from the opposite direction with Ethan and Trion. The alpha frowned, he marveled the look Iris gave to him. Why she looked so hostile toward him? Cane didn't remember he did something wrong. They were still fine this morning.

The alpha didn't even consider Nala into possibility, since the woman didn't enter his eyes.

Meanwhile, Nala immediately caught the scent of the alpha and noticed his presence. She turned her head and saw him.

Cane walked slightly ahead of Ethan and Trion. Warm afternoon sunlight fell on his figure and he looked so majestic, walking down this humble corridor with his dark purple cloak fluttered by the winter wind.

"Going for a walk?" Cane asked, as he came closer to Iris and kiss her forehead. He didn't have any idea why she looked so angry, but a kiss on her forehead softened her edge slightly.

"Alpha Cane," Nala greeted Cane with her sweet voice, she looked extremely polite and the look of her made the luna wanted to step on her feet.

Somehow, Iris was surprised by how she could be this mean when Nala only delivered the message, but the sight of this young and beautiful woman, vexed her.

"She comes here to tell you that the king wants to see you," Iris said quickly, didn't allow Nala to have conversation with Cane. "Why are you here? Did you forget something?"

Cane noticed the way Iris clutched his cloak, as if she demanded his full attention, something she had never done before and when he took a note of Nala's presence, he knew why his mate became so intense with him.

"I want to take you for lunch, but it seems, I need to go and meet the king."

"Oh." Iris was a little bit dejected to know that.

"Alpha Cane, it's not polite to make the king waits, why don't we go now?" Nala interrupted them. She was smiling at Cane, even though the alpha didn't look at her way.

"Let's have dinner instead." Cane brushed her bangs and was about to leave, but Iris pulled his hand out of instinct to make him stopped.

"I want to tell you something," Iris said abruptly. She didn't have anything to say to Cane and she pulled his hand because of her impulse, but now, she needed to come up with something.

"Hm?" Cane didn't seem in hurry, as he entertained Iris's antic.

Biting her lips, Iris glanced at Nala and then tiptoed, while he pulled Cane down, so she could whisper it to him instead. The way Iris glanced at Nala as if saying; this was a secret and someone like her shouldn't hear it.

Because of the height difference, Cane bent down his body to accommodate Iris, he put his hand instinctively on her waist, so she wouldn't stumble.

"Hm. Go on," Cane mumbled, listening to what Iris said. "Okay. Understood."

Actually, Iris didn't say anything! She only blew his ear, while pretending she was telling him something important, as she glanced at Nala a few times provocatively, making the girl uncomfortable.

However, despite how silly it was, Cane played along with her. It took a while when Iris was finally done and she smiled at her mate.

"Anything else?" Cane asked, staring at Iris's satisfied smile. Her blue eyes lit up mischievously, shaking her head.

"No."

"Be good." Cane caressed her cheek and told Nala she could leave, because he didn't need assistance to find the throne room.

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CANE'S HIDDEN AGENDA

Iris was happy with the way Cane responded to her, especially the part when he told Nala not to follow him. She would always remember the look on Nala's face.

But then, it was not only her, who watched everything unfolded. There were Hanna, Ethan and Trion on the background. Their jaw dropped to witness what just happened.

The gamma tapped Iris's shoulder to get her attention. "You are jealous," he stated without preamble.

"I am not." Iris shook her head, became a little bit defensive.

"Yes, you are."

"No, I am not." Iris immediately hastened her steps, as she half- running toward the garden. She couldn't hear them, but she was sure, the three of them were laughing right now. How dare they laughed at her?!

Yet, Iris didn't dare to confront them, neither she stopped to wait for them.

And just like what Iris thought, the three of them were laughing right now. Hanna told them to stop, but she herself was laughing, while running to chase after her missy with the two men behind her. This was the first time she laughed heartily after those dark days when Iris looked like she would lose her sanity any time.

However, Hanna still felt this suffocation for not knowing anything about Will. It had been more than a month and not a single letter she received from him.

No one knew why he didn't respond to Hanna's letter, all they could say was; Will didn't look so good, as if there was always a dark cloud surrounded him. He stopped talking, if it was not necessary...

What happened with him?

That night, Cane returned to have a dinner together with Iris, just like what he promised her. They had it in their room because Iris still didn't want to meet with those royal people and Cane didn't have any objection. He shared the same sentiment.

But after that, he needed to go because a lot of things happened in these past few days and the Red Claw pack became even more aggravated, since Lori, their representative didn't get involved in the meeting with the king, more so, the supply for the magic stone had been stopped and this incurred the king's wrath for their audacity. Yet, king Aeon still refused to exert more effort to find the fourth prince.

Laluna was miserable because her due was getting closer and with all that happened between her pack and the royal family, made the poor princess became very stressful. Lady Ayla, Vemion's mother, would be always by her side to give her strength, while Koda had prepared everything if the situation turned for the worse.

He had done what Cane told him to do and every time he glanced at Laluna's swollen belly, conflicted feeling flitted his eyes before it turned into a determination.

Two days later, Cane took Iris out of the palace to meet with Haco again, this time, they walked leisurely among the people with Ethan, Redmond, Trion and Hanna.

The weather was no longer so cold and the afternoon sunlight was warm enough for Iris to drop her thick cloak.

"What is that?" Iris asked Hanna. Her mood was very good ever since Cane told them they would go out, this was the first time the six of them went out together.

"I don't have any idea," Hanna said, as she stared at the strange fruit on of the street stalls.

All the people on the street stared at Iris because of her auburn hair and was in awed with her beauty, though she looked slightly pale, but there was something in her that made people wanted to be close to her.

"This is Golden Seed fruit. This must be the first time you are here," the woman said, as she approached the two of them, she handed the small yellow fruit for them to taste it.

On the other hand, Redmond couldn't help, but grumbled along the way. He knew what the alpha was up to, to get them walked like this among the people.

"He really knows how to use people," Redmond grumbled, while Trion could only sigh, since that comment would cause another argumentation between him and Ethan again.

"The luna is happy, everyone is happy, no one is hurt. Can't you stop complaining?" Trion hissed. Thankfully, Ethan was interested to try as many food streets as he could and paid no mind to his surroundings. "The luna has been feeling down for days, it's good for the alpha to take her out. She looks happy, can't you see?"

Redmond scoffed. He knew better why Cane took Iris out to walk on the street and meet with people, because he wanted to make Iris close to them, this was the same intention that Cane had been doing with prince Kellan in order to calm people down and be the figure they could trust.

The reason why Iris, initially, would take care of a few things in the orphanage about the children, so she could familiarize herself with the people there and the citizen would see her in different light from the other loyal family.

However, because Iris was sick for so long, this trip was to fill her absence.

"Can't he do something for her genuinely for once? There is always be a hidden agenda and secret motive for whatever he did." Redmond frowned. "At least, he can count his mate out of his scheme."

Trion threw his hands up. He chose to join Ethan to hunt down all the street food they couldn't find in their pack.

On the other hand, Cane walked behind Iris and Hanna, while the two women were having fun to try many things and were in awed to see things they had never seen before.

Occasionally, Iris would rush toward Cane and let him tried the food she thought was delicious. She looked happier and this made the alpha relieved as well.

Only before the sun set they finally went to the secret lodge, but they didn't go through the jewelry store, they chose different route this time.

One of the reasons why Cane took them in circle throughout the street in this city was because he wanted to deceive the people, who had been following them. He didn't know who had sent those people, it was either the king, people from the Red Claw pack or probably prince Kellan.

Once they arrived at the lodge, Cane took Iris to the second floor to meet with Haco, while Hanna immediately asked Aderan to meet with Will. She had

been waiting for this moment and was very nervous to finally meet with him in person after a month.

Inside the room, Haco was sitting behind a large table, while on top of there were around ten dark magic stones, Iris had felt this ominous feeling from afar, especially with this many stones gathered in one place.

"What do you want to do with these dark magic stones?" Iris asked, she frowned. She knew Cane had planned something, but she didn't know the detail of it.

Iris came closer to the table and out of curiosity she picked one stone and something unexpected happened...

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THE EXTENT OF HER ABILITY

The stone let out black wisp, the same wisp that she had seen exuded from Cane's body. If the black wisp was the dark magic, then why it emanated from the stone when she touched it?

And as if answering the question, Haco squeaked to see that. "You purified the stone! You purified the dark magic! How can you do that?!"

On the other hand, Cane didn't expect something like this to happen. He remembered the dark wisp appeared after what Aria had done to him. She inflicted him with dark magic and that was how it started.

But then, Iris managed to get rid of the dark wisp only by her touch. Was that what happened? That was how it worked? She purified it?

"How can you purify the dark magic?!" Haco grabbed Iris's hand and looked at her closely, as she winced because he hurt her. "How can you do that? It's impossible..." he mumbled to himself. "Who are you? There is no way a runt can do magic."

Iris was way more confused than the sorcerer, since she didn't know how to answer the question.

"This didn't make any sense at all..." Haco muttered to himself.

Cane stepped forward dan swatted Haco's hand from Iris, her bruises had just healed, he didn't want to see her wrist swollen again. "What do you mean she purified it?"

Haco was mumbling, talking to himself and then explained how magic worked for the magic user. There were three kinds of magic; normal magic for the magic user, it only required the magic stone as the fuel for their power, black magic for those magic users, who usually used sacrifices, aside from magic stone to get more powerful effect and divine power, which only a Serafim, who could use it, as they were born with it.

That's why what Iris did was unheard of. The dark magic could be neutralized by another sorcerer, if they were on the same level in term of power, or a Serafim could purify it, but aside from using her divine power, a ritual was a necessary for the Serafim to be able to do that, not only by a single touch!

The dark magic stone that was embedded on Cane, they didn't know whether it was purified or not, since Iris was the one, who took it out. They didn't have a way to confirm it, because they didn't have a sorcerer in the pack.

And for these dark magic stones, Haco used the death of prince Vemion to create the dark magic.

"Try it again," Cane said, as he picked one of the stones from the table. He wanted to make sure what happened earlier was not a coincidence.

On the other hand, Haco took a pain to create those dark magic stone as per Cane's request, but right now, he couldn't care less about it, since he wanted to know more about how Iris could do it.

Cane put the dark magic stone on his palm and brought it closer to Iris, so she could take it.

For a while, Iris looked doubtful, but then she took the stone and the same thing happened. There was dark wisp came out of the magic stone and Haco was dumbstruck.

"She really purified the black magic..."

There was silence that ensued inside the room, on the table, there were eight more magic stone with black magic, while the other two had been purified and couldn't be used anymore. Finally, Cane broke the silence.

"How can you explain this?" Iris's ability wouldn't hinder his plan, he could wing his plan with this new finding, but it would be better if he knew more. The unknown could make him take the wrong move.

"Well, I want to know how too." Haco frowned, thinking deeply about a few ancient script he had not read for ages, ever since he was kicked out of the Holy Kingdom, but his memories failed him.

Hanna immediately looked for Will when Aderan told her where she was. Apparently, Will had been spending his time to chop off firewood, though they had enough.

He didn't do much and most of the time he would stay in the lodge. The alpha must know something because he didn't give him many tasks aside from compiling all the information and summarized it for him whenever he visited, so it would save time for Cane.

Will would spend his time in the woods, shifting in his wolf and only returned when the sun had set, or chopping firewood like what he was doing right now.

"Will?" Hanna called his name and she could see how his body was stiffened upon hearing her voice. He didn't turn around and continued what he was doing, but he chopped it sloppily, until he decided to stop and walk away.

Not even once, he glanced or turned his back to see Hanna.

"Did I do something wrong?" Hanna asked, she approached Will, her heart ached so bad to see how he ignored her blatantly like this. "I don't know what I have done wrong, but at least, can you tell me?"

Will stopped walking and Hanna put a respective distance between them, she didn't want to crowd him or give him pressure, she only wanted a little bit of explanation.

"You did nothing wrong, Hanna." There was nothing would be seen wrong in his eyes if it was about her, everything about her was beautiful and right. The fault was in him. "But, I can't see you now."

"Why?" Hanna took a step closer. She still remembered how jumpy Will was whenever he was being touched unanticipatedly, thus she didn't try to reach him. "You can't see me or you don't want to see me?"

Will didn't answer that, instead, he shifted into his beast and rushed into the woods, yet Hanna couldn't take it anymore and shifted into her beast and followed him. If he didn't want to see her, he needed to tell her straightforwardly instead of running away like this.

Iris stared at the dark magic stones that Leros took away. The plan was set and it would be in motion in time, but that was not what Iris had in mind.

Same like Haco and Cane, she couldn't wrap her head around the fact she could purify the curse on the magic stone. It was a dark magic after all.

"Are you sure, you are your daughter of your parent?" Haco asked with questioning look.

They had this conversation for hours, until Cane stopped it, because they only ran in circle with lack of information, there was no question could be answered.

After that, Cane talked with Haco about another thing, while Iris looked around this room, which had become the sorcerer's bedroom.

"Don't touch that!" Haco said, but because Iris couldn't hear him, Cane immediately took a little thing in her hand, which looked like a candy.

"What is that?" Iris blinked her eyes, confused, because all of sudden Cane snatched it away from her.

"That is poison," Haco replied, as he took it away from Cane's hand, but immediately explained when the alpha glared at him. "You will be fine, as long as you don't eat it."

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EXCITEMENT IN HER INNOCENT EYES

"Why do you make poison, which looks like a candy? What if someone else ate it?" Iris frowned. She wouldn't eat it, but someone like Ethan and Redmond, who tended to put anything into their mouth, would surely be tempted.

Yet, Haco only shrugged his shoulder nonchalantly. "Just to passing times. I am so bored here."

The frown on Iris's forehead deepened. Who would make poison in their free time? But then, this man had his own antic.

"What if I ate that?" Somehow, Iris was curios. For her, magic was fascinated, but poison was something she was not familiar with, thus it piqued her curiosity.

"What? Do you want to poison someone? Poison is a better suit for woman," Haco teased, but his expression looked so eerie. "You will be sneezing nonstop if you ate it."

"Is that even a poison?" From what little information Iris knew about poison, wouldn't the end result be fatal?

"You will sneeze and cough up blood and then die."

Iris grimaced, this sorcerer indeed knew how to keep the best for the rest. "Are these poisons too?" Iris waved her hands on top of the table and watched Haco nodded proudly.

"My new hobby," he said, as if he was talking about his proud child.

Iris glanced at a few weird things on the table, at least there were fifty items on there. In less than three months, he managed to create that much variations of poison.

She couldn't fathom what another weird thing he would do if he was left on his own device.

"Hey, don't you want to know more about magic?" Haco asked Iris excitedly.

Meanwhile, Cane listened to their conversation from the side. His bottomless black eyes seemed deep in thought, as he stared at his mate.

"I am not a magic user."

"Who knows?" Haco shrugged his shoulders.

For his question, Iris gave him indefinite answer, as Cane let her decided on her own what she wanted to do with the offer.

They didn't stay for long in the lodge and when Cane had done with his business there, he took Iris back to the orphanage, but before that, he made sure prince Kellan was not there and Iris was fine with it.

It was not the orphanage itself that she feared of. Actually, she was quite enjoying her time to play with small children there. They would ask her politely to touch her hair and she would happily oblige.

"Your hair is so soft!" a little girl around the age of eight squealed in delight when she touched Iris's hair. She was fascinated, as she touched her own hair, which was very disappointed, because hers was so rough and was not fluffy. "The color looks like the sky before sunset!"

The other three children chimed in, complimenting Iris's hair, while Hanna stood by her missy, but from her expression, it was very clear, something was bothering her. She was smiling, but it didn't reach her eyes and she was less enthusiastic.

On the other hand, Cane was talking to Avid, he was in charge for all the warriors he put here, as the warrior gave him a thorough report, but occasionally, his eyes would find his mate, as she looked so radiant, smiling to the children and talking to them with passion.

It had been a while since the last time he saw her smiling like that and it was a refreshing sight to see.

"I will go to the palace next month!" Joyce said happily. "Can you please tell me how big the palace is? My sister said the palace is veeeerrry biiiig!" she flapped her arms to show how big it was. She had round face and freckles on her nose, which looked so cute.

Meanwhile the other three children urged Iris to tell them. They became so comfortable with her so fast, as they didn't shy away from her and one of the little girls in the age of three, even climbed on top of Iris's laps and sat down, while playing with her hair.

Right now, they were sitting on a bench, while the grass started to sprout on the ground since the snow had melted, thought the wind was still a little bit chilly.

"Yes, the palace is so big and beautiful," Iris said, smiling. "Who will take you to the palace?"

"Prince Kellan!" Joyce said, her eyes lit up with excitement when she talked about him. "He is my favorite prince!"

Reading what she said, Iris felt like she was having a heart attack, all of sudden, she was having a hard time to breath, while Joyce continued to talk, unaware of what happened with her.

"My sister is already in the palace, since two years ago when she turned eight and prince Kellan said, he will take me to stay in his palace too with my big sis once I turn eight!" Joyce couldn't stop grinning, while swinging her legs, showing her enthusiasm. "I am so happy to be with my big sis and prince Kellan is so nice! He said I can eat whatever I want and I can dress prettily!"

Iris stopped reading what Joyce was talking about, as she had a flashback. She shuddered and the toddler on her laps squirmed and frowned because Iris held her tightly without her realizing it.

"Hurt..." the baby said, as she tugged Iris's hair to get her attention. "Hurt..."

It was Hanna, who stood behind Iris that finally realized what happened, as she shook Iris's shoulder. "Miss, are you okay?"

It took a while for Hanna to get Iris snapped out of whatever dark thought she was thinking at that moment.

"Take her..." Iris said breathlessly, she clutched her chest, indicating for Hanna to take the baby on her laps from her, while the other three children looked at her with confusion.

"Are you, okay?" Joyce asked, she was smart for a kid in her age, as she sensed something was wrong with Iris. "Did I say something wrong?"

Iris shook her head, she stared at her, wanting to say something, but there was no word that came out of her lips. She opened her mouth, but there was no voice, her mind was reeling, but she kept shaking her head.

Don't go!

That was the word she wanted to say, but she couldn't tell her why she shouldn't go. She was so little and she looked up to prince Kellan so much, she was very excited to finally have a chance to wear nice things and eat delicious meal.

The elation in her innocent eyes and how she talked passionately about how nice and great person prince Kellan was, crushed Iris's heart.

Everything was a haze, as she kept shaking her head, until Cane tapped her shoulder.

"Go and play somewhere," Cane said to the other children, he ruffled the three years old baby's hair in Hanna's arms and told them to leave with her.

"Cane..." Iris whimpered when it was only the two of them. She couldn't cry, but she was having a hard time to breath, her body turned so cold.

"Breath, Iris. Breath." Cane held her hands and looked at her in the eyes.

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I AM SURE SHE IS PREGNANT!

Iris emptied her stomach near a river. In order to calm her down, he took her for a walk to this side of the orphanage. She didn't have time to explore this place when she went here for the first time.

Right now, Cane was holding her hair, while waiting for Iris, until she felt better and helped to rinse her mouth.

Meanwhile, Redmond was standing behind them, holding a glass of warm honey in his hand, as he talked again and again.

"She is pregnant! I am sure of it! She has all the sign!" What he meant with all the sign was the fact Iris kept vomiting. "You need to get her checked to the healer! She is carrying an heir for the two packs!" he said excitedly, but almost noisily.

He happened to see Iris and Cane went to this direction, while she looked so ill, thus he followed them here and saw Iris was vomiting again.

Seeing that, of course, Redmond immediately blurted out what he had been holding back. He thought, he wanted to wait and find the perfect time to tell Cane about this, but it seemed, there was no such thing, as they were so busy nowadays.

However, Cane dismissed him annoyingly and told him to bring warm honey. Redmond did that begrudgingly and didn't stop nagging when he returned with a glass of warm honey.

"You must believe me! I have seen women's pregnant more than you do. I know the sign!" Redmond was anxiously. "You need to confirm it with the healer and don't ask her to do any labor work!"

Cane finally glared at him because he wouldn't stop. The last word irritated him, it sounded like he had forced Iris into some kind of heavy physical work.

Seeing the anger in the alpha's eyes, Redmond finally shut his mouth, but still grumbled within. He only said what he needed to say! Cane should be thankful for his warning, after all, he needed to get an heir before the two years time limit that king Aeon gave to him.

Fortunately, Iris couldn't hear any of Redmond's nagging words.

Once Iris had rinsed her mouth, Cane beckoned Redmond to come closer and take the glass from him to give it to Iris. She looked pale, but a little bit calm now.

Cane then carried Iris to the same room, where they stayed the last time and called the healer to check on her condition.

The healer came with Hanna, who looked so worried, she stayed by Iris's side, while Cane leaned his body against one of the bedposts.

Redmond was impatient when he waited. It would be great if Iris could secure the first heir for the packs. Her position would be more solid, even if something happened to Cane, she would have her son to support her.

"She will be fine. She is only tired," the healer said. "I will make a concoction for her." She had checked Iris's condition before, thus she was pretty familiar with her body.

"What about the baby?" Redmond blurted out, which made Hanna and the healer frowned, while Iris was mortified, she knew what he meant.

On the other hand, Cane looked unbothered. He called the healer here not for her to check such thing, but he couldn't refuse when Redmond was adamant to know, in the end, it would shut him down, so he could stop.

"Baby?" the healer frowned.

Hanna looked at Iris and squealed. "Are you pregnant, missy?"

"No," Iris said immediately. She really wanted to kick Redmond right now. She threw a dagger look at the warrior, but he simply ignored her. How could this man be so annoying like this?

"I don't think she is pregnant," the healer said doubtfully.

"Check on her again carefully," Redmond said. "She has been vomiting recently, that's a sign of a pregnancy, right?"

The healer still looked hesitant, but there was no harm to check on Iris once again, so she did that, but after a while, she confirmed Iris was fine, she was only exhausted and there was no sign of pregnancy.

"Are you sure?" Redmond was slightly agitated.

"Vomiting is not only a sign of pregnancy," the healer educated Redmond a little bit. "...there are women, who don't."

Redmond furrowed his brows. He was still in disbelieve, not because Iris was not pregnant, but the fact there were women, who were not constantly vomiting in their early stage of pregnancy.

"Can you make the concoction now?" Cane finally spoke.

Out of awkwardness, Hanna cleared her throat and volunteered to go with the healer, while she kept nudging Redmond to go out with her, but the warrior didn't bother.

On the other hand, Iris was seething, she still felt weak, but she was enraged. This anger was a little bit unreasonable, it almost like the feeling was the accumulation of her frustration she had pressed down all this time.

"How dare you!" Iris roared. This was the first time for her to be so angry like this, she got off the bed once Hanna and the healer left the room.

"Hey, at least we know that you are not pregnant! We need to take precaution, right?!" Redmond was being defensive, he raised his hand and accepted it when Iris hit him.

Of course, he didn't fight back, he barely felt any pain from the way she hit her.

Meanwhile, Cane watched everything unfolded, didn't have any intention to stop his mate. She had been suppressing her feelings for so long, it would be good for her to express her feeling and vent out her anger, instead of hiding it away. Perhaps, that was the reason how Iris managed to force herself to forget some dreadful memories in her past, because she couldn't let it out and it was buried deep down with her negative emotions.

"I told you I am not pregnant!" Iris said, hitting Redmond with her fists. It was not sure, who she imagined she was hitting right now.

"It's better safe than sorry, right?!" Redmond retorted. "Hey, alpha! Why don't you control your luna here!" he talked to Cane, who looked nonchalant.

Hearing that Cane stood up from the bed, which made Redmond think he would help him, but instead, he went to the fireplace and took a stoker. "Here, use this. You will hurt your hand."

Of course, there was not even in his dream, Cane would help Redmond instead of Iris, even if his mate was in the wrong.

He handed the stoker to Iris and advise her to use it.

"Are you crazy!?" Redmond shrieked, this time he stopped bickering with Iris and rushed out of the room, seeing how Iris was considering Cane's suggestion.

After Redmond left, Iris panted. She was sweating and Cane took back the stoker from her hand.

"It's hurt?" He held her hands and saw her nodded. "Feeling better?" Iris nodded again.

Cane was right. She felt a little bit better now after she vented out her anger at Redmond.

"Cane..." Iris called his name with grievance. "He wanted to take the little girl to the palace... Cane no, he can't take her..." she whimpered.

The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Novel Online Free, Chapter 320: IRIS CAME UP WITH SOMETHING

IRIS CAME UP WITH SOMETHING

Iris didn't want Kellan to take Joyce with him, because she knew what kind of fate he would make the girl to succumb.

"Cane, please. Don't make him take her away to the palace," Iris cried.

But Cane said nothing, until she was calm enough. "I can't promise you anything. There is no definite plan to make him not to take the girl."

Right now, there were a lot of things going on, Cane was in the middle of his plot and he had to tread his plan carefully. If he did something to prevent Kellan to take the girl from his own orphanage, something he used to do, it would get to his attention and the last thing Cane wanted when he was in the middle of the eye of the storm was to startle the snake in the bushes.

The risk was too high and there were a lot at stake if he made Kellan aware he was against him, since he had a long plan ahead of him for that prince.

"I Can't promise you for this." Cane didn't sugarcoat his words, he explained it to her the risk and what was on stake. He didn't mean to say the girl's innocent was not important, but they were talking about a whole pack, a whole plot, even their own lives.

Iris bit her lips so hard, she couldn't believe there was nothing they could do to save the girl. But, on the other hand, she understood why Cane's hands were tied in this matter.

"This is so wrong..." Iris muttered, she felt like she was unable to save herself again and the girl would live through the nightmare that had hunted her down every night.

"I know." Cane lifted her head and looked at her in the eyes, those blue eyes looked so devastated and this bothered him to see how upset she was. "This will not be the last difficult situation you should make if you choose to stay with me."

Iris knew the meaning behind his words.

The next three days, Iris had been thinking of a way how to help without being a hindrance to Cane's plan, but she was not a mastermind like Cane, she knew nothing how to make a scheme or even create a great plot.

Therefore, in these three days, she looked so down and Hanna, who usually was the cheerful one, she didn't look so well either, thus their days inside the bedroom would be very quiet, without Hanna initiating the conversation.

"Hanna, do children in the orphanage can read?" Iris asked all of sudden in one fine afternoon, after they had their lunch.

"I am not sure, I don't think so. There are no teachers, who will teach them how to read." Hanna tried to remember, as she spent a little bit more time around the orphanage than Iris. "No, I don't think they can read. The big sisters can't read too because they are lowborn." And because prince Kellan didn't call for the teacher, there was no way for them to be able to read, unless they learned it somewhere else.

Iris lowered her head, she was deep in her own thought. She remembered how Aderan was illiterate as well and every time he sent a report, in a very rare occasion, because mostly it would be those spies, who would send the report by secret missive, and the report from Aderan would be contained with symbols. Iris would immediately realize it came from him.

Some warriors also illiterate.

Hanna could read because she taught her how. Jace and Ethan could write and read because they were a highborn in the Howling Wolf pack, while Will came from a prestigious family, back in the day when Cane's father was still the alpha.

But, Trion, Avid and the rest of the warriors... she didn't think they could read.

"Hanna, do you know where is Cane right now?" Iris asked. She looked a little bit more energetic when she got something in her mind and wanted to talk about this with Cane. This definitely wouldn't be a problem with his plan.

"Wait, I will ask," Hanna said and she stood up, but Iris held her hand.

"Let's go together." Iris had been locked herself inside this bedroom for days, she needed to go out to get some fresh air.

Iris decided it would be better for her to find Cane by herself, because it would save them time, but when they were about to go to the strategy room, where Cane was there with the king, Iris met with Laluna instead. She seemed to be heading to the throne room.

"Luna Iris!" Laluna called for her, while four maidservants walked with her. She was heavily pregnant and would due within two weeks.

"Princess Laluna," Iris greeted her back, as she nodded at her politely and Hanna stepped back, lowering her head.

"It's so nice to see you!" Laluna said and went for a hug to Iris. She could feel her swollen belly. "I heard you have been sick for days, I am sorry I don't have time to see you. Everything is very chaotic," she said with sad expression.

"Thank you, princess. I am fine now, you shouldn't be worried about me." Iris sure she was not worried in the slightest about her condition and her thought was proven right.

"Don't be like that, I enjoyed our time together, that's why I come here to see you," she said smoothly and eventually took Iris's hand to walk her back to the king palace, toward different direction Iris was heading. "Will you walk with me for a while?"

"Of course, my princess." There was no way she would turn it down.

At first, Laluna would talk about trivial matters, as they walked in the hallway, where they watched the snow had completely melted and the grass started sprouting again, as if the nature back to live.

But then, Iris realized where this conversation was going and what Laluna's intention to come over.

"Alpha Cane must be busy nowadays," Laluna said, once again, their conversation ended up with talking about her mate.

Currently, Laluna was sitting on the stone bench, while staring at the vast garden in front of them.

"Yes, my mate is very busy," Iris replied.

"I come here to tell him something important from Sir Dwan," Laluna said, lowering her voice. Koda Dwan was the former beta of the Red Claw pack and also prince Vemion's grandfather. "Can I see him? Because this is very important."

Laluna was talking in roundabout manner, if this was really important, she wouldn't take a leisure to walk and sit here comfortably.

Why would these women turn into a personal messenger for men around them? Iris was irritated, first it was Nala and now Laluna joined in the fray as well.

Iris was not familiar with this kind of things, but she was sure, Koda wouldn't send his pregnant granddaughter in law to deliver the message.

"I will make sure my mate knows about this. Actually, I was about to meet with him." Iris then added with concern in her look. "If this is very important, I will take my leave now."