

## Chapter 699

699 BLACK RAIN AND DARK SKY (41)

Just like what they had predicted, the hole was big enough to squeeze his body inside, for a while, it was like a narrow tunnel, where Zale had to crawl on his knees and elbows before he found a wider area like a cave. He was bringing luminous pearl with him, so he could see inside.

"Who... who is that?" Joel asked hoarsely, it had been three days, if it was not more, they were trapped inside. Thankfully, from the crack on the rocks, there was water dripping. It must be raining outside, but then what they drank was the black water from the strange rain.

Though it was questionable, but they didn't have many options if they wanted to survive.

"Joel, is that you?" Zale asked, he followed his voice and found Joel was leaning his back against the rock. He closed his eyes because the light from the luminous pearls

hurt his eyes.

"Drop it..." he said, he tried to avoid the bright light.

"Oh, sorry." Zale put the luminous pearl in the center, which enough to illuminate this small place like a cave, making the light was dim enough for Joel to open his eyes. "Are you okay? Where is the other?" He looked around, but he needed some time to adjust his sight.

"Celia is in that corner, please check on her and take her out of this place first." Joel then pointed his finger to his left. "Aliana... Aliana is there, please, check on her..."

Zale didn't waste his time and went to check on the little girl, who was barely breathing, her body was very hot and blood oozed out from her nose and mouth. She had been sick all this time and what happened now only worsened her condition.

Meanwhile, Aliana was in critical condition, her healing ability was able to let her survive, but it couldn't be said that she was

safe right now, so did Joel, though his condition was only slightly better than the other.

Zale had to think really hard because it was tricky to get her out from the small tunnel when she was unconscious like this.

"Wait, I will be back!" Zale said, as he crawled back outside.

"How is it? Are they inside?" Zephyr immediately asked and from the corner of Zale's eyes, he saw the tacky merchant joined them.

"Yes, the three of them inside," Zale said and all of them cheered because they finally found them, yet their excitement died down really quick when they were facing with another trouble.

Zale described in detail what happened to Aliana, Joel and Celia and how he didn't think he could get them out.

Celia was unconscious and Joel would have a hard time to fit in the tunnel.

"Joel maybe can fit in, but it will be hard, since he dislocated his shoulder. It will be

painful. I don't think Aliana will be able to go through the tunnel too..."

Joel dislocated his shoulder and because it healed before he could make it right, his shoulder looked a little bit weird and it was still painful.

Zale gave all the details about what happened inside, he left nothing unsaid. Zephyr was right, this young boy was the right person to go in.

"Our option is only to make the tunnel bigger, so we can get them out of there in time," Kian suggested.

"Yes, but it doesn't mean there are no consequences for that. What if the rocks collapsed and buried them instead?" Otis voice out the main concern of this option.

All of them were silent.

Eron glanced at Ethan, who had been silent all this time. It was so hard to see this easy-going gamma became very quiet like this. This was not like him at all. He looked like he was deep in thought and they were too afraid to bother him.

"Ethan, what do you think?" Eron braced himself to ask Ethan, while the other people looked at the gamma, waiting for his answer.

Ethan stood in front of the small entrance, staring at the dark tunnel, while the black rain started pouring down. The atmosphere was very heavy and cold, something white floating in the air fell on their head and shoulders.

"It's snow..." Zale said, as he looked up and watched white powder fall from the dark sky. "This is the first snow."

All of them lifted their head and watched snowflakes fall gently on them.

"Leave," Ethan finally spoke. "All of you, leave."

"Hm?" Zephyr frowned. "What do you mean?"

"I want all of you to leave this place."

"And why we have to leave? We need to think of a way to rescue them. There is no time for..."

"Leave!" Ethan roared, he turned around and faced all the warriors. There were only shifters here, the paladin had returned to their camp, helping the other knights to move all the pack members into within the Riverside gates.

"Ethan, please think..." Eron tried to persuade him.

"LEAVE!" Ethan snarled. His eyes looked crazy. "This is an order! DO YOU WANT TO REFUSE MY DIRECT ORDER?!"

Not even once Ethan acted like this, especially to use his status as the gamma of the pack to make them do what he wanted. This was the first time for them to sense the authority rolled off his voice and this startled them.

"Let's go," Zephyr said, as he ushered them to go away.

"What? But, we..." Otis wanted to protest, but Zephyr shut him up.

"Give him some space." Zephyr didn't know what was in Ethan's mind, but he knew the gamma would find a way to save the three

people inside.

"But..." Kian wanted to protest, but in the end, Zephyr ushered them away.

"Lou, Zale, I want you to stay," Ethan said in a dark voice, which made the two of them stand in their position and watched the other warriors leave.

"What do you want now?" Lou asked, he crossed his arms in front of his chest. "I only want you to know that I don't want to get involved in this."

Zale threw the merchant a nasty glare for what he was saying and Lou reciprocated the same energy to the young boy.

"What?!" Lou asked sharply when Ethan didn't say anything and only stare at him. "I have brought you here, remember? Don't you even dare to threaten me! You are the one, who owed me!" Lou scrunched his brows when Ethan came closer toward him. "I don't care about them, or you, or anyone else here and don't you dare to bring Iris in this matter again, your method is boring."

Zale really wanted to claw this merchant's face.

face, he swore, if Ethan attacked him, he would shift and help the gamma to kill this merchant, but what happened next was something that he couldn't even imagine.

Once Ethan was face to face with the merchant, he dropped to his knees and hung his head very low.

"Please, Lou... save them..." he said in a small voice, it was the contradiction of the way he forced the other warriors to leave. "I beg you."

Lou was taken aback, so did Zale, who didn't believe the sight before their eyes. The gamma actually knelt down in front of the merchant. He even begged him.

"Hey! Seriously, why don't you shout at me instead?! I am genuinely scared of you right now, damn it!" Lou cursed under his breath. Ugh. He loved confrontation better!

"It's snowing..." Iris said, as she opened the curtain and watched a snowflake fall from the dark sky, it looked beautiful, but eerie at the same time, the rain just stopped and it

was snowing now. "This must be the first snow."

Iris remembered the first snow last year, she was inside a carriage, on her way to the capital city with Cane and their relationship was not like this. At that time, they must not even imagine their life would turn out into such a complicated mess.

But then, Iris didn't even think she would be pregnant too a year later and how strong the bond between her and Cane now.

"Do you like snow?" Iris turned around and faced the white diamond tiger, who was growling at her all this time, but he stopped when he saw the snow through the window, he blinked his eyes, mesmerized. "I used not to like snow, because my health is not good and I will be very miserable whenever the weather became so cold. I fell sick often too."

Iris approached the cage and the white diamond tiger turned his head to look at her with caution, but this time, he didn't growl at her.

"I will open this cage, but you need to behave." Iris smiled reassuringly at him. "I will not hurt you."

The white diamond tiger stared at Iris, as if he was under the smile from that warm smile. He couldn't even remember when the last time, he saw such beautiful eyes. Those blue eyes filled with kindness and everything about this woman was very comforting.

It almost felt like it was okay to lay your head on her lap and close your eyes. Something he used to do when his mother was still alive. He was only an eight-year-old, the last creature from his kind.

"You know what? I like your hair. Your hair reminded me of clouds in a bright day. I hope we can see that day soon." Iris wrapped the lock with her palms and the steel melted, then she opened the door. "What do you think?"