My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 91

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Chapter 91

1. A Fact to Hide

MY ALPHA'S RETRIBUTION: Rising from the Ashes of his Vengeance.

YILEYNA

Numb... It was how I felt.

I was bound in silver with some sort of spell upon me, down in the cells. My eyes were covered with a piece of cloth whilst my mouth and neck were bound with rope. I could barely breathe with how tight the rope was wrapped around my neck.

It was somehow... over.

The future looked dark, but despite the agony within me, I refused to give up. Theon was my mate.

My fated mate... How had the Goddess paired us? What was I being punished for? The moment I had realised it, something had struck the back of my head, I remembered the white hot pain erupting in my head, then I woke up and I was here. 1 How things had changed overnight...

The mind link, no one knew I had it, and even the silver didn't stop the voices pouring into my head, but I kept silent.

For now, I didn't want anyone to know I had the link, and I could hear some of the pack members through it. They were mostly of women, or those who weren't warriors. The Silver Storm warriors were all in the cells around me, I had heard them earlier when I first came to. My sense of smell and hearing was far more sensitive than before as well. I don't know how I acquired the mind link without shifting... did this mean I had no wolf? No... That couldn't be true.

I felt a faint presence within my mind, like an extra set of emotions... But it made no sense that I was able to feel the mate bond or get the link before a shift. Was it because I was a hybrid? Either way, I wouldn't complain, I would use this mind link to my benefit. I needed to think of a way to protect our pack, this pack was my responsibility now. Who had we lost already? Was Charlene ok? Fear enveloped me at the very thought of something happening to my queen. The guards seemed to have signalled they had gotten away and I hadn't seen them being brought back or even smelt them, so I hoped they had gotten far away. Wait! What if Raiden and the others were in range of the mind link? My heart skipped a beat when the thought crossed my mind. 'Raiden... Charlene?' I tried calling through the bond.

'What the... Yileyna?' Raiden's voice came, it sounded weak and hoarse. My stomach did a somersault in relief. 'Thank the goddess...! 'You shifted?' He asked softly. 'No, but I broke the seal on my abilities. How are Charlene, Ryan, Gamma Grayson and Rhys?" I asked quickly 'Charlene and Ryan are still unconscious, Gamma

Grayson is fine and Rhys is ok too, but how are you?'

My heart squeezed at the concern in his voice, but I was extremely happy to hear they were ok. I didn't want to worry them... I needed to make a plan.

'I'm fine, just in the cells, but completely fine, they won't hurt me... When Charlene awakens, tell her to link me, she will fill you all in on everything. Are you all safe?' 'Yes, we are at-'

'Don't tell me, it's not safe, just take care of yourselves. The Obsidian Shadow Pack killed the Alpha and Luna… let Charlene know.'

Silence followed before Raiden spoke once more. 'I will... Theon... he betrayed us.' A flare of anger and pain rushed through me.

'Yes he did, this is all wrong. He may have thought the Obsidian Shadow Pack are innocent in all this, but that's far from true. He saw what his father did out there... Theoden Hale is a monster.' I shuddered remembering how he devoured the King's heart... 'Yes, he is...!

'Theon asked me to join him the night of our engagement…'I began before I quickly filled Raiden in on everything Theon had told me.

'That's... he fucking pushed you.' I could feel the anger in his voice. The fact he was Theoden's son, how did the king not realise?'

'Before Theoden killed the King, he said a simple charm was used on Theon... This man has access to some powerful magic Raiden, Theon's aura... you should have felt it... the power that he's suppressed...' 'We need to get you out of there. You and our pack members.'

'No Raiden, we cannot let Astalion fall into the hands of that monster... We need to derive-' The sound of footsteps echoing reached my ears and the delicious intoxicating scent that belonged to Theon approaching filled my nose. 'I got to go.' I cut the link, not waiting for a reply as I tried to calm my thundering heartbeat. I heard the scrape of metal against metal before the door was opened, the hinges screeching before he walked in.

I could feel the heat from his body as he stopped in front of me, was it just me or was his heart beating faster than it should? I felt him reach behind me and undo the rope that had been

shoved into my mouth and wrapped around my neck. I gasped for air despite not wanting to show any sign of weakness in his presence. I could feel his anger radiating off him, but I remained silent. If he was angry at me, I didn't care. If he was here to speak, he could, but it didn't mean I'd reply.

I felt his fingers ghost along my stinging skin where the ropes had cut into my cheeks and the corner of my mouth. Letting off intense sparks in his wake.

I didn't respond, the pain in my chest was too much. The agony, the bitterness and the despair I was beginning to feel, was overwhelming. I didn't want him anywhere near me. "Yileyna."

It hurt... the fact that he was also my mate...

I didn't respond and he exhaled in frustration.

"Dad wants to speak to you, I'm advising you to stay silent." His voice was so quiet I just about heard him.

I smirked bitterly, glad he hadn't removed the blindfold, I don't know how I'd cope looking into those eyes.

"Why? Not like you care if he kills me right." I scoffed, feeling the sting in my eyes. "He will make your life worse than death, don't push him, Yileyna." His voice was cold and hard.

"Yet you still see him as the innocent party in all of this. If he was a good person, why would you need to warn me to behave." I cocked a brow.

"I already told you the truth, yet you didn't care to listen." He said coldly, yanking the blindfold from my eyes.

My eyes met his cold amber ones and I wondered how such a warm colour even managed to look so cold.

"I listened, I just refused to become a traitor. I asked the king for his version too, did your father ever tell you that Andres protected your mother in battle against the Dark Ones? I'm not saying the king was right, but there's always more than one version of a story, but it doesn't matter right? Anyway, congratulations Theon Hale, I hope you're proud of your accomplishment." I replied bitterly.

His eyes flashed but he simply looked away. "Andres is dead, his word doesn't really count anymore, now does it?"

We simply stared at each other. I hoped he saw the anger and hatred for him in my eyes.

He unhooked me from the wall, my wrists still bound in silver chains. I almost fell forward, he caught me around the waist and I gasped, jerking away from his touch at the sparks that coursed through me. If I thought touching Theon before was mind-blowing... these sparks...

I looked up at him, but there was no change in him at all. How could he feel this yet not even react? He took hold of my wrist, looking at the marks the silver was making. "Silver doesn't affect you as badly as it does werewolves..." He muttered. I pulled free, giving him a contemptuous glare. Whatever they had done to me was weighing down on me, even if silver didn't have the effect they wanted

"Are my powers sealed?" I asked coldly as he took me by my arm, leading me from the cell.

"No, we don't have magic that strong.".

Hmm, so if I tried, I could break whatever this was?

He held on to me as we made our way through the dungeons, I almost laughed at the fact the ice still coated the walls and floor. "Nice castle, don't feel too cold do you?" I remarked, making him glare at me. "You spared nothing." "Neither did you." I replied coldly. "What did you do with Andrea, Zoe and Gamma Henry?"

"You don't need to worry about them."

I clenched my jaw but said nothing, I'd try to mind link them later... but I had a feeling they would be bound in silver if they were alive. I hoped they were...

"Dad does not have patience, Yileyna... For your own sake, don't anger him." He warned me again, before he pushed open the doors to the courtroom. Like you care anyway.

There he was, Theoden Hale sitting upon the King's throne, one leg draped over the arm, a cigar in hand and a young woman was leaning at his feet holding a bowl of fruit. His amber eyes turned upon us as we entered, and he watched like a predator would

watch its prey. His eyes didn't move until we stopped before him. "So, this is the heart of our world." He said, motioning for the omega woman to move aside.

Our eyes met but I refused to look down in respect, glaring coldly at him. "She's a feisty one, and clearly she doesn't know how to submit. I can feel her aura, but you said she has not shifted yet?"

"Yeah." Theon said emotionlessly.

"Make sure she doesn't shift, keep her filled with wolfsbane. I wouldn't trust it, even with her being a hybrid, there's still a chance she could shift." Theoden said, his deep cold voice echoing in the silent room. "And we don't know what type of hybrid she is either, do we?" 1 Theoden stood up and my heart thudded as he closed the gap between us. "No, Andres never mentioned it." Theon replied curtly.

It took my all not to look at him in surprise.

Why didn't he tell his father I was part siren?

Despite the confusion that settled within me, I remained indifferent, keeping my gaze on the approaching man.

He grabbed hold of my face, turning it sharply to the left and then to the right. "Maybe Fae... She'll need training, before we put her to use... You know it's never said anywhere how the heart will benefit us, but she needs to learn to control them regardless. Arabella will know how to keep her under control." For the first time, he looked down and spoke directly at me. "Listen here, you may be the heart of Kaeladia, but you are still the bastard's child. One wrong move and I will kill you and the rest of the Silver Storm pack, one by one. Remember that."

"You said Alpha Andres was a bad person... but can you guarantee you will be a better king and leader?" I asked challengingly. "You are already threatening the lives of innocent people."

I was suddenly backhanded across the face, so hard I fell to the floor, my head bursting with pain and my vision blackening at the force behind that swing.

I could feel blood trickle down my forehead where his ring had split open my skin. I took a deep breath, trying to let the pain ease up, when I felt a flutter of electrifying sparks go through my back.

I turned to Theon, who was looking up at his father, despite the emotionless expression on his face, his eyes were hard.

"I'll take her if you're done." He said tersely.

Theoden eyes flashed and he raised an eyebrow.

"I will initiate you back into the Pack tomorrow." He said dangerously.

I don't know what that was about, but Theoden was angry.

"Get up." Theon commanded me emotionlessly and I got to my feet. "Take her to the room prepared for her." He hissed. We left the hall and I saw groups of werewolves walking, carrying large barrels and chests. So the Obsidian Shadow Pack were moving in already. Neither I nor Theon spoke as he held me by my arm and guided me down the hall. I frowned, realising we were walking towards the old Beta quarters. A place I once called home ... Oh how times have changed... To my dismay, Theon stopped outside the very door to those quarters and unlocked it. Instantly I could feel the magic in here, whatever they had done was powerful and it was weaved through every inch of this place. 1

OS

"Why here?" I asked icily, as memories flooded me.

He didn't reply, stepping inside and shutting the door behind him. I saw him lock it and noticed how his aura seemed to lessen drastically.

"Does it matter?"

I just gave him a cold glare in reply as I turned away from him. I gasped when he took hold of my arm once again, letting a storm of electrifying sparks rush through me. I needed to learn to get used to these... I saw him frown slightly at my reaction, how was it he didn't even seem bothered? 3

I guess he really didn't have any emotions left...

I looked away from him as he brushed my hair up and examined what I knew was a bruise forming from Theoden's hit.

"I told you not to piss him off." He said quietly, his voice devoid of emotions. 1 "I said one sentence. If the monster can't take the truth, that is not my problem." His eyes narrowed at my words, but I raised an eyebrow. "You don't want him catching you saying that." "Tell me Theon, am I not right? What happened out there... was that not enough to show that he is a monster? Oh and one more question..." I stepped closer, despite not wanting to touch him again. "If you truly think I'm wrong... then why didn't you tell him I'm part siren?" He tensed, clearly not expecting me to ask him that. His cold eyes met mine before he stepped closer, so we were only inches apart. But it was his words that truly shocked me... "Because my mother and sister were killed by a siren... He won't care if you are the heart or not. So unless you want to lose your head, you might want to keep that little piece of information a secret."

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2. A Broken Promise

YILEYNAKilled by a siren... I was unable to ignore the pang of pain that washed through me. No matter what he had done, his mother and sister were not a part of it, and my heart broke for them.

So, this was why Theon held so much hatred towards the sirens. This war between our species had gone on for far too long, how long would the two species carry on like this? What started this? Was there a way to end it all?

I didn't let my emotions show and instead I raised my eyebrow challengingly, trying not to be drowned by his scent. "Well, I'm sure you will at least be pleased when I lose my head." I replied icily, turning away from him.

Deep down I was unable to shake off the fact he had warned me about his father and was telling me to keep my heritage a secret from him... Was there a part of Theon that knew his father was wrong? Was there anything in him that I could justify?

"I'm warning you. From tomorrow I will take you to train as Dad wishes, be on your best

behaviour Yileyna, because no one is here to play." "No promises." I muttered, wanting him to just leave. I could no longer feel my abilities in here, almost as if whatever was in the air was sucking it away.

I heard him walk towards the door, when he paused.

"You could have tried to run when I took you to Dad... Why didn't you?" He asked quietly.

I frowned, confusion hitting me at his question, and I turned to look at him.

I hadn't even considered it. After all, how could I when there were so many of our people here? This wasn't just about me.

"I won't abandon my people, I'm Alpha now, remember?" I replied coldly.

"You are no use as an Alpha if you don't take the hard path and make sacrifices. Sometimes you have to let those beneath you suffer the consequences of an action that would ultimately favour the rest.... Dad assumed the same, he didn't think you would risk running away when he has those you care for hidden away. One wrong move and he will kill them, remember that..."

I frowned, hating how he was talking as if this was just a light conversation.

"Oh and one more thing... It's funny that not once did you ask about Charlene? How did you know she's not here?"

My heart skipped a beat, but I simply glared coldly at him.

"Because I made sure they were taken away." I shot back.

"Yet they didn't take you."

"As I said, I'm the Alpha." I replied, clenching my jaw.

That may have seemed like a distant statement at one point, but now the meaning of it was embedded into me, weighing down on me with the sheer truth that I was indeed in charge of The Silver Storm Pack and that it was my duty to protect them. To find a solution for all of this. "You're crazy." He said before he opened the door and stepped out, leaving me alone. I sighed heavily, looking around the empty place. It was stripped of everything, it had been cleaned up but there was no furnishing left here... At least I wasn't bound to one spot. If Theoden thought I would be this meek, obedient doll for him to use, then he had another thing coming. But for now, I needed to think of a plan properly. This didn't just involve me but everyone... Was I enough? Was I doing the right thing? Will I manage to do something?

Ok, breathe...

I took a deep breath, slumping down against the wall and staring at the ice-covered floors. A plan...

'Raiden? Charlene? Ryan?' I called through the link.

Nothing

So this room blocked my mind link.

Fine, I'll think of a plan and then when I'm out of this room, I'll contact them. If they were still close enough to mind link... It was risky for them to be so close as well, but I did need to communicate, we needed to think it over.

What do I do... What do I do...

Should I try to kill Theoden Hale? Was this endless cycle of killing for revenge and victory the right thing? No, it wasn't. I needed to get through to Theon... Something told me that I needed him on my side to stop this cycle, for him to realise that his father may not be who he portrayed to be. 3

I rested my head against the wall, trying to think over everything that had happened. My heart squeezed at Theon's words on the balcony.

'Please...'

Theon never said please. I wanted to say he cared somewhat, even if everything he had done was unforgivable.

This wasn't about me and him, that was long over, even if he was my mate.

I sat forward, crossing my legs as I tapped the icy floor with my nails, wondering why no one had de-iced the castle, or at least some of the rooms.

I shook my head pushing the unnecessary thought away. Theon was behind everything that happened to my parents... and I could never forgive him for it. However, I needed to follow my instincts and prove to him that Theoden was a monster, otherwise this cycle of hatred would never end.

I had to put an end to this game of power over a title and throne, and I would do it the right way, even if it was going to be extremely difficult. For that, I needed to try to get through to Theon, something that was going to be almost impossible. As well as extremely painful for me, knowing that he was my mate who had ruined everything I never thought I'd ever find my mate, but the moon goddess had other plans...

I stood up, pacing the room as I pondered over everything I had learned, from what Andres said, to Theoden's version... Someone was in the wrong, or there was a misunderstanding.

One thing was clear – Theon was vital in this plan, he was the Alpha of the Obsidian Shadow Pack after his father... I refused to believe that there was no part of Theon that didn't care... In his own way he had looked out for me, and I had no choice but to hold on to that, I needed to show him the truth of his father's wrongs but the most important question was; how do I do that?

I ran my hand through my hair, glancing around the room as if it would give me the answers.

Something told me if I wanted, I'd be able to break out of here as well. Didn't Théoden say to Theon to keep me full of wolfsbane and silver? Theon wasn't careless, I just wished I knew what exactly was going through his mind...

Do I pretend to be on his side? Or was it too late to do so? Or more importantly, would I be able to pretend to when my heart had been crushed by him?

Goddess, what do I do?

THEON

Nothing went the way I had wanted it to... Nothing.

As I walked through the iced halls, ice that no mage or fae had been able to get rid of, I sighed inwardly.

Seeing her bound so roughly in the cells had angered me, but how do I tell her without making it obvious that she needed to leave from here?

Things weren't as I thought... Dad was hell-bent on his revenge, and it was justified, but seeing the way Yileyna – who is innocent in all of this – was treated, didn't sit right with me.

It fucking hurt and I wished I had managed to get her away, but there had been no way for me to do that. Seeing Hunter in Westerfell had thrown me, although I had been raised in secrecy since our Pack was already considered a rogue or criminal pack, there were still a few who knew who I was. Not even the enchantment on me would blind those who knew who I truly was. 1

Hunter and I weren't exactly on good terms... but he hadn't said anything.

After I had knocked Yileyna unconscious and the party had come to an end due to the staged attack, I had met up with him. His words still niggled at the back of my mind, and I know Dad wouldn't approve, but I needed to see him again. "Theon."

Fuck, I didn't hear him again. "Dad." I said turning, indifferently.

"You seem far more distracted than you once used to be... tell me, has being under Andres's command lessened your sense of vigilance? Moments of distraction can cause you to lose your

head or heart." He said, his hard eyes on me. "I was thinking about the ice." I lied, not wanting him to push me further.

He seemed to have bought it.

"Powerful magic." He said knocking against the ice wall, even with his strength it didn't crack or chip. "Imagine shields or armour of such calibre..."

"Yeah." I responded. "What is your plan from here? We have Westerfell, the city and the kingdom have been notified that we have taken over. Now what?"

"You seem in a rush. You know it's not that easy, we need the other Packs to accept me as the King, and for that, we need the heart."

"Do we really need her? We are strong enough without her."

"The marriage still needs to take place, you need to mark her, train her, and then we will reveal the prophecy to the world. When people know that we have the prophesied one by our side, they will bow to us."

I wouldn't mark her. Ever.

I nodded.

"I see, so you want me to train and mark her so we can use her.... efficiently?" "Yes, exactly."

"She's the heart, I don't think she's made to be controlled."

Our eyes met but I didn't look away, I hated how he was observing me as if he was looking into my soul. He looked away after a moment and nodded, once again examining the iced-over walls.

"You are right, we need her to obey. Arabella has already said her powers are far too strong to contain... If she wanted to, she could break out of those quarters, but she seems naïve, otherwise I don't think she'd still be here."

Maybe, but in this case, she's too fucking concerned for others.

"Hmm, most likely."

"But we can't have her chained... it may just trigger her... We need to do this wisely, as long as you keep her heavily dosed on silver and wolfsbane, she will be weakened to an extent. You seem to care for her anyway. Perhaps you can use that to seduce her to our side?" He suggested so nonchalantly, as if we were discussing the weather. But I didn't miss the subtle remark about caring for her. "I did as you said, however, the attack that took place took away the chance for me to mark her ... and then of course, everything went down." I reminded him emotionlessly. "Ah yes, that... attack..." He turned to me, running his fingers through his beard. "It was a rather interesting one, wouldn't you agree? I wonder what the assailant's attempt was... knocking the Alpha princess out instead of killing her." I nodded, not giving away anything. I wasn't stupid, I knew Dad wasn't the type to buy just any story. I frowned, placing a slightly thoughtful expression on my face.

"Hunter was there." I said, making Dad freeze.

His heart skipped a beat and he turned to me sharply. Perfect.

"Hunter..." His eyes blazed and he punched the wall, yet despite the cracking sound of his knuckles, the ice didn't move or break. 1

"I'm not certain if it was him, but it could have been, he knows of the prophecy after all." "That bastard..." Dad thundered with rage. "He has done nothing but thwart my plans!" "He's never liked Andres either, I think he's neutral." I reminded him. "No, but it does not mean he isn't a bastard! No matter what I attempt, he doesn't fucking die. Attempt? My head snapped towards him, my eyes flashing with surprise. "Have you tried to get rid of him?" I asked sharply. "Of course, he knows far too much." He spat. It took my all to contain the emotions that wreaked havoc inside of me. Gold eyes met orange and I was unable to stop the burning anger that accompanied the statement that left my lips. "You promised Mom you would never touch him."

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Chapter 93

3. Grasping onto Hope

THEON

He's anger was obvious as he glared at me with complete rage. "So now you care what happens to him?" He hissed.

"No, I don't. But he is still her son." I shot back coldly. 6

"She's dead, she doesn't know what's happening here." His cold reply came, his chest heaving as he fought his anger. 2

"It's about being loyal to her and honouring your word. You know when it comes to Mom, I won't let it slide. You are not to touch him. No matter how much he becomes a thorn in our side, he will not be touched. Understood?"

His features began morphing as he fought himself from shifting, lunging to grab hold of me but I raised my arm, my own eyes flashing in warning.

"I told you; I will obey you and I am... but when it comes to an oath given to Mom... I won't tolerate it."

I had mentioned Hunter, to divert the conversation for me, but I hadn't expected him to want him out of the picture.

"Then you better obey me properly, because I'm beginning to see a change in the man that I sent on this mission... You drugging so many of Andres's closest as if you did not want them to lose their lives..."

I didn't react but I knew why I kept them alive... because Yileyna needed someone.

That bastard Raiden.... Ryan... and of course Charlene, who was like a part of her soul. Annoying.

I couldn't deny that I had fallen for the one woman I shouldn't have... but I had, and no matter what I did, I couldn't stop myself from worrying about her. 5

Even the poison I was giving her was such a low dose. I wanted her to break away, to get far away from here, but she was far too stupid and stubborn to do that.

"You confuse me, you said you need this city and the packs to accept us. By killing everyone, how would that win you points? Care to explain? I thought it was a smart move to keep those who were once in power, alive. However, if you want me to go behead Henry and the two Gamma females, I will willingly do so." I said, ready to walk off when Dad raised his hand.

"No.You are correct. I'm sorry son, but we have spent a lot of time apart... You seem to have more... emotion than you did two years ago when Iyara died –" 5

"Was killed." I corrected, remembering it was an attack by Andres... seeing her body lying there... her heart ripped from it. She had been missing her leg and her neck had a chunk bitten right out. The stinging pain when I remembered it was still there... 6

"Yes, by Andres, however you didn't seem to care, only wanting revenge... I fear this woman may change you." "How? I was ready to burn her? How exactly did I show compassion?" I asked, my eyes

flashing

I hated how it fucking got to me that he seemed to see right through me. I was fucking hiding how I felt, the urge to knock some sense into her dumb blonde head and drag her from here was so fucking compelling... and the way she reacted since everything went down, she would jerk and pull away from me as if my touch burnt her. I guess I should have expected it, I betrayed her, was the reason her parents were dead and more... I had tried to burn her...

I threw that match knowing I had to prove to him that I didn't care, and I hoped that it was enough to be the final trigger to break her seal. I had relied on the power of her love for me and broke her faith entirely to unleash her powers. Those moments had been some of the hardest moments of my life. 3

"True... true... Perhaps I am just on edge. We may have this city, but we are not acknowledged yet... If the packs rally upon us, we are in the centre—"

"And we can be cornered from all sides, but you killed Andres and there were witnesses to show you are the new Alpha. As long as everyone learns the truth of what Andres did years ago, people will see we weren't in the wrong." 2 He didn't reply and I frowned slightly, turning my head as I watched him. Was it just me, or did I sense a flicker of unease from him? 2

"Of course. But still, we need to be careful. Win her over and make sure she is ours." He commanded before he turned and walked away.

There was no chance for that anymore... No matter how much I may want it... I chose vengeance and justice for my pack and family, and the price... the price was the most fucking precious thing of all; Yileyna's heart. 4

Deep down, a selfish question arose, but I refused to acknowledge it. This is the path that I have walked for over a decade, and no matter if I strayed, I was now back on it. All who caused my family and pack injustice would pay.

YILEYNA

"Get up." my heart thundered, and my eyes flew open to realise I had fallen asleep on the floor.

I looked around as Theon pulled me upright, his touch bringing me back to reality.

The fire I had been dreaming about was fresh on my mind. I looked around, realising it was still dark outside, before I turned my attention to Theon who was looking at me intensely, his heart seemingly thudding loudly. "What are you staring at?" I asked coldly, pulling free from his hold that was making my mind go blank. 1

"Nothing."

It was something, but he looked away, standing up from where he had been crouched by my side.

"Come, I brought you food, clothes and toiletries. You can bathe, change, and then we'll go train." He turned the light on and I looked at him.

My heart skipped a beat when I realise he had just showered, his skin still glistened with water which meant he had come here straight after. His white T-shirt with a V-neck showed his toned defined collar bones, and when he swallowed his Adam's apple bopped. Ilyilevna." He growled, i blinked realising I was staring. I turned away, grabbing the bag that was on the floor. Without another word, I walked into the bathroom.

Looking in the mirror, I stared at the grime on my face and the stains in my hair.

He said we were to train, I had a list to relay to Raiden and the other when I was out of these quarters.

I showered swiftly, organising my thoughts before I brushed my teeth and stepped out of the shower, towelling myself dry. I rummaged in the bag and realised Theon had gotten my clothes...

So he had gone down to the inn? 1

I pulled on the red lingerie before putting on the black pants, tunic, and a black corset, before I ran a comb through my wet hair and stepped out into the living area.

Theon was staring out the window but turned when I approached.

He motioned to the brown bag that sat on one of the empty boxes to the side with a jerk of his head.

"Eat, then we'll go." I wanted to deny him, but I was ravenous. I sat down on the icy floor, intrigued as to why it was not melting, was it the intense cold outside? It must be... I opened the bag and took out a wrapped toasty and bit into it. Chicken from Madam Marigold's, did that mean everyone was allowed to get back to work? "Is the city carrying on as normal?" I asked coldly. "They have been given the command to, aside from the warriors who are imprisoned, the city will carry on under a new Alpha." Some Alpha Theoden was.

"Then... why not simply remove everyone from the Silver Storm pack from the city? Let them relocate?"

"After Andres forced the Obsidian Shadow Pack into hiding? Why should we be merciful?" He replied coldly, not even looking at me. "So by acting just like him, how are you any better? Let them go." 1

He turned to me, crossing his arms as his eyes bore into mine. "Stand by my side, and we can combine the packs under one law, one pack" There was a time, long ago, where perhaps a younger Yileyna would have become giddy at the thought of running a pack by Theon's side. A dream of a happily ever after, but there was no happily ever after in reality.

"I'm afraid it's too late for that... because this isn't about you and I. It's about your betrayal,

and the one who is using you as his puppet." I turned away, only for him to grab me by the arm, yanking me back around. His eyes flashed as he glared at me. "I am not a puppet."

"Aren't you?" I replied coldly, ignoring the delicious currents that rippled through me. He clenched his jaw and I pulled free. "And... don't touch me without my consent." Our eyes met, his anger rising before he brushed past, picking up some chains of silver that I had not noticed before and shackling me before opening the door.

"Let's go." He hissed, his voice dripping murderously, but it didn't affect me.

The moment I stepped out into the hall, I felt the link open. I closed myself off, focusing on Raiden, Charlene, Gamma Grayson and Ryan.

'Hello?'

'Yileyna!'Gamma Grayson's voice came. 'Yileyna! Oh, my goddess!' I almost smiled at Charlene's voice, trying to hide the emotions from my face as I kept my gaze on the ground and followed Theon., 'Hey...? Ryan's voice. 'Yileyna, you vanished yesterday.'

'I'm ok, I was kept in a secluded room that cuts off my mind link. They don't realise silver isn't working on me. I don't have long, from what I know Gamma Henry, Andrea and Zoe are safe, but they are held and bound by silver.'

Thank the gods. Grayson murmured. 'Charlene filled us in on how you are the heart, I knew of that prophecy, well parts of it. Yileyna you can do this, you are the heart and this is your duty.' 'Well good luck, while you're at it, kick your ex—boyfriend's fucking dick. Hard.' Ryan growled, clearly not happy with the turn of events. 3

Charlene and Raiden chuckled, and I suppressed my smile.

'I'll try, if I get the chance. They want to train me to use my powers, I'm going to try to pretend that I'm giving in but we need to gather our allies... Gamma Grayson, will you be able to go to our most trusted allies? Also, I know it's risky, but is there a chance any of you can get in touch with Zarian?'

'Your wish is my command, Alpha, I will reach out to them. We will travel carefully. As for Zarian... we can try, can he be trusted?' 'I think he can. It's worth a try... I will try to ask Theon if I can get in touch with him, but I'm not sure they will allow me.'

'Fear not, we will try our best. After turning to our allies, what do you wish to do?

First, I need to know the numbers. I will be honest, Andres was not a good king, but Theoden gives me a darker vibe... He seems far more dangerous... Tell our allies about the heart of Kaeladia, I want them to know of the prophecy that has been hidden for so long. If they know

there's hope, they will willingly help us. Or our true allies will at least.' 'Yileyna... if we leave from here... it means we won't get to mind link...' Raiden's concerned voice came.

My stomach sank but there was no other choice...

'I know. But I'll be ok. Just... stay safe.' 1

A silence fell before Ryan spoke once more. 'Well we'll try to get in touch with the Fae first, get in touch with you either way, and then move on to finding our allies.' 'Perfect... Raiden, from this day forth you are my Beta... Ryan and Gamma Grayson, you are both Gamma's.' 1

'You need to stop saying Gamma.' Grayson's voice came. We were already leaving the palace grounds, walking through the snow, but every step I took I realised the snow was spreading away, letting my feet touch the stone ground beneath.

'I can't change old habits. Charlene... My queen, you will always be my queen, stay safe ok?'

'I will, my Angel, you take care too, you are in the lion's den right now.'.

'I'll manage.' I replied before I blocked everyone off, hoping I was focusing only on Charlene.' Who can hear me?'

'I can.' Charlene replied. 'Yileyna, no one else can.'

'Good... I wasn't sure if I was doing this right, it comes pretty easily, doesn't it?'

'Yeah, it does. 'Tell him the truth, Charlene... Gamma Grayson is a good man... and although it might trouble him a little... he deserves to know and you deserve to talk about this.' Silence followed as Theon watched me, frowning. I simply ignored him, following emotionlessly.

'I... I'll think about it. Thank you, Yileyna.' She replied quietly.

Take care. Theon's watching.'

We ended the link, and Theon's gaze bore into me.

"For a moment there it was almost like you were mind linking." His calm sinister words made my heart skip a beat, as our eyes met... 2

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Chapter 94

4. Breaking my Limits

YILEYNA

I raised an eyebrow.

"I wish I could. If you forgot, I don't have a wolf, nor is it possible when I'm bound in silver." I raised my shackled wrists, giving him a dirty look.

"But silver hasn't brought you to your knees as it should now, has it?" He remarked.

I couldn't let him know the truth and I simply shrugged.

"Think whatever you want."

He didn't respond as he watched me calculatingly, clenching his jaw. I knew Theon, and sadly he knew me... He had been around us for so long, and he often knew what I would be up to... For the first time, I wished he didn't know me as well as he did.

To my surprise, he didn't bother me any further, glancing to the left fleetingly before we continued on.

"Don't you think it's foolish to have me only bound by a little silver and a few suppression spells?" I asked instead, hoping to divert the conversation from any suspicion he may have.

"No, because the moment you try to escape, I will give the signal and they will kill the Gamma females."

My blood ran cold at his words and I frowned.

"So then, why were you surprised that I didn't run?" I spat angrily. "Because you didn't know of the consequences, so I expected you to." He said and I saw him glance to the left once again.

Was someone there?

"Fear not I know I won't get far, I know Theoden has enchanters on his side."

I wanted to say a lot more, but I wasn't going to risk anyone becoming an example to teach me a lesson.

"Good." He replied before we finally reached a large area within the walls of Westerfell. So, he was not going to take me out beyond these walls... That made sense, they had only secured this city...

"Zarian was a good teacher; can you not summon him?" "No. I'm teaching you." He said curtly. "Come at me... let's see what you are capable of." "So I can attack without anyone getting killed because of my actions, correct?" I asked. "Yeah, do your worst." Oh, I will...

He unchained me and stepped back, his eyes on me.

I jumped forward, feeling the blazing power rippling through me, but deep down something

told me to not show the true extent of my abilities, I kept it pulled back as I sent a wave of ice shards at him.

He ducked, before he lunged. In a flash, he was in front of me.

All those emotions that I felt were raging inside of me, and I wanted to hurt him... I wanted him to feel what I felt. I threw a punch at him, a blast of wind throwing him back. His eyes flashed as he grabbed the metal cuffs and chain, using it as a weapon as he swung it at me. I blocked with a wall of ice before I broke through it, kicking him straight in the stomach. The impact felt satisfying as he was thrown to the ground, the snow beneath him cushioning his fall. He was up in a flash, his aura raging around him and I could see the faint glow around him.

What was that?

"Nice kick. Let's see how much more you get in." with those words, he grabbed me by the arm, flipping me over and tossing me over his shoulder. Twisting, I landed on my feet, the snow erupting in a cloud around me, and our eyes met before we both ran at one another at the same time.

Years of fighting and trying my best was ingrained into me, but now with the speed, strength and agility that I now possessed, I felt far more powerful than I ever had before. At the last moment, I flipped, sending a blinding flash of lightning at him, forcing him to step back, but he didn't back down. To my surprise, he raised his forearm, that amber glow weaving around him like a fire as the lightning struck the fire—like shield that encased his arm.

What the....

"Surprised?"

"No." I lied as I back away, watching him.

He smirked as he lowered his arm.

"You don't know me as well as you thought." He said as I felt a wave of energy roll off him.

"No, I don't know you at all." I said quietly, the stinging pain of his betrayal returning with full force. "Let's train."

I felt the dark power in the shadows and I knew it was strong magic... Was it the one behind these spells that helped Theoden? 1

Not another word was spoken between us as we began exchanging blow after blow...

I had held back, knowing that Theon and those who were watching from the shadows had their eyes on me.

For the next two weeks, Theon pushed me to my limits. The training would continue in three steps and the first part was always in the open ground at the edge of Westerfell, before we would return to the training barracks of the warriors. A place that now teemed with Obsidian Shadow Pack warriors. However, the moment Theon and I would enter, they would clear out. This was the only place I never felt eyes upon me,

The ice castle remained covered in ice, and I heard whispers of the unrest that was passing through the kingdom. Questions of the magic that enveloped the castle arose, and although Theon didn't know, the ice became my sense. I was slowly able to sense where everyone was. Only when I was in our old Beta quarters did this diminish. I often

wondered if there was a way to break those warriors free, but I didn't because, until now, Gamma Henry, Andrea, and Zoe were not accounted for. I had heard fleetingly from Raiden and the others, saying Zarian was nowhere in sight and . they had not managed to locate him, so they had left. They would gather whatever help they could. With the Obsidian Shadow not really venturing from the city, I knew they would be ok. With their departure, I lost the last remaining contact I had with anyone who truly cared.

I did reach out to a few of the pack members I recognised through the link but so far they were under full lockdown as well.

I saw Theoden thrice, and each time my anger only rose. The first time he was beating a man and I had felt the bond snap, realising it was one of my men that he had killed, but Theon had dragged me away before I could even speak.

The second time he had lit ablaze a small clothing store, but I had no idea why and Theon refused to tell me.

The third time he had been walking through the city of Westerfell with a crown upon his head, as if he was king. 1

Theon remained cold, indifferent and passive. Every day he pushed me to my limits, and it was a struggle knowing I had to hold back. At times I felt like he knew that I was doing that, but he didn't question it, simply criticising my weaker points.

Every day doing as he asked became easier, and although we were enemies, he was an impressive teacher, even though it was painful to see him daily. Every time we'd touch, that bond tugged at my heart and I was unable to stop the pain from tearing me up inside. After the first part of our hand—to—hand combat, combined with our abilities, we would come to the indoor training areas.

That's where we were today, and as usual, it was eerily empty. Like usual we spent thirty minutes of weapon training before Theon now tossed his sword to the ground. My top had several slashes and his shirt was half hanging off him from the intense session. He now pinned my wrists to the ground, straddling me. Our hearts thundered at the proximity we were at.

Our eyes met and the moment his eyes flickered gold, I pushed him off. Moving away quickly, he backed away, his gaze as cold as ever, yet his breathing was heavy. We were both sweating, and I was exhausted. "Not too shabby." He said emotionlessly, before reaching for the hem of his shirt and pulling it up and over his head, making my heart thunder. His inked skin was glistening with sweat, and every breath he took made his muscles ripple. I forced my gaze away, frowning deeply as he tossed the shirt aside. He had lied and betrayed me. Every time I saw him it was all I could think of. I hated how the mate bond pulled us together and the urge to reject him was niggling at me...

It wasn't like the bond mattered to him, not once had he acknowledged it. He walked to the far end of the training hall, returning with two bottles of water. He held one out to me before taking the lid of the other and chugging it down.

"Now for the main training... Your abilities."

I took a few thirsty gulps of the cold water before looking up at him icily. "I still think someone with elemental power will be better." I remarked remember that hot flame—like energy that had surrounded him whenever we sparred. "What is that ability you have?" I couldn't help but ask.

He seemed to hesitate as if considering whether he should answer me or not.

"It's none of your concern." He remarked coldly. "Get up, how about we start with you melting the layer of ice you have coated the entire castle in?" "I like the ice." I remarked. "And besides, I told you, I don't know how." "Well right now it's not about what you like, it's been long enough, remove the ice." I frowned, Theon was in his father's pack once again and I hated the fact that all conversations between him and others when I was around were through the link. "Ask nicely." I almost spat. "I don't do nice." He replied with equal venom. The moment back on the balcony when he had said 'please' returned to me, and our eyes met. Do I try to get close to him, get answers and try to show him the truth? The risk of getting hurt tore me up inside, but I needed to make allies from within... I needed to remove the mask from his eyes, but how do I do it without getting hurt in the process?

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Chapter 95

5. Unleashing It All

YILEYNA

Then. If I manage to remove the ice, will that count as a lesson taught and accomplished?" I asked, standing up.

He narrowed his eyes at my softer tone.

"Maybe." He tossed the empty bottle aside.

"Can I ask a question regarding something you mentioned?" I asked, stepping closer despite the pain that threatened to suffocate me.

"What is it?" He asked quietly, his voice deeper as he looked down at me.

"Will you tell me everything? From how you were forced into hiding, to how your mother and sister died?" I pushed gently. Put aside your own pain, Yileyna, try to reach the man deep inside, a man who showed he did care...

"It's a little late for that, don't you think?" He replied coldly, turning his back on me.

I stared at his broad chiselled back, ignoring the pull of the mate bond, and placed a hand on his back. Was it wrong that I wanted to use the mate bond to get him to listen? "Please?"

He tensed, and I could feel the anger radiating off him.

"Double standards don't you think?" He spat, stepping away from my touch and glaring coldly at me over his shoulder. "I don't need to tell you anything, it changes nothing. We're done for the day."

I guess I was the only one who seemed to be affected by the mate bond. He strode toward the doors, before pausing mid–way and turning his head slightly. "There is something I do want to tell you..." My heart skipped a beat and I wondered what it could be. "What is it?"

"That night of the rogue attack that the Obsidian Shadow Pack staged, it was preplanned, every little detail of it right down to the specific target..."

"Target?" I asked hoarsely, remembering the massacre of that night and the bloodied bodies that littered the ground. "So many died that night."

The pain of that night would never leave me... now accompanied by another similar one. I was beginning to hate fire. Every time I saw it, it brought those painful memories to the forefront of my mind.

"Yeah, they did, but there were only two main targets, the rest were just caught in the attack... I made sure these two targets would be there at the forefront."

Two...

My stomach churned sickeningly as a dreaded thought came to me... My heart clenched as his words echoed in my mind. Guaranteed to be there... What was he telling me? What did it have to do with me?

"Who were they?" I asked quietly.

"Who else? None other than William and Hana De'Lacor."

I closed my eyes, refusing to allow the emotions to show as a single tear escaped down my cheek

"I knew where you and Charlene would be... I knew of your visits to the White Dove, I knew you'd investigate and the love your parents had for you... I knew they'd follow you and when they did, they would be the first in the line of fire. With their deaths, I removed Andres'. closest confidant from his side, and instead stepped into the place that William De'Lacor left empty."

My chest was heaving as I stared at his back. That storm of emotions inside of me was screaming to come out.

How could he?

How could he speak as if it was no big deal?

How many more secrets and lies was he going to kill me with?

I couldn't hold back.

"Not only did you frame them and plan that attack... YOU MURDERED THEM!" I screamed as the pulsing in my head heightened. Theon turned as the entire ground erupted, the soil moving in waves as a violent wind whipped around me, my aura surging and blasting the roof above us right off. The weather was chaos. Bolts of lightning flashed in the darkening sky, striking down on Theon, who was forced back, a shield of that amber glow energy shielding him, but nothing could stop me.

I wanted him dead. "Yileyna..."

His eyes met mine and I saw a flash of an emotion I couldn't place as I advanced on him. Thin long shards of ice rained down on him as I felt the darkness of Theoden's enchanter approaching. But I didn't care, all I could think of was how Theon should die. "I hate you!" I hissed, seeing the long claw nails on my hands. They were not the thick claws of a werewolf, but the thin long claws of a siren... My skin seemed to have changed, a faint hue of silvery blue covering it. I lunged at him, digging my claws into his chest. He grabbed my wrist, but I refused to remove my hand from his chest, not caring as blood spilt down my hand and his body. He was looking at me as if it was the first time he had seen me. The sharp, scissor—like teeth in my mouth were cutting into my own lips. My heart was thumping too loudly. The sky was almost pitch black and the hurricane was only growing far

more powerful. The thunder roared deafeningly as I fought against Theon's grip on me, dragging my nails down his chest, painstakingly slow as he held me at arm's length. One hand was around my throat but for some reason it didn't hurt at all, his other hand still gripping my wrist.

"I HATE YOU!" I screamed, punching him with my other hand.

I felt that same darkness, a darkness that I knew belonged to Theoden's enchantress, approach. I could feel her touching the earth I now controlled and I sent a blast of stone and earth her way. Whatever she had begun to mutter was cut off, I felt the stone and earth encase her in a tomb, then felt her anguish and anger, but I didn't need her to interfere.

More wolves were approaching, but I didn't care. They wouldn't get close enough. Blood filled the air as they were cut to pieces by the violent winds, but that was on them. My only aim was to kill the man before me.

"You were right! Revenge! I want revenge too! For my parents!" I cried. *My* hot tears stung my cheeks as they streamed down my face. No longer was I able to hold those painful tears back

Locks of purple and blue hair whipped around me, but all I could think of was their dead bodies lying on the ground in the aftermath of that attack... Lies... All lies!

"How could you?! How could you think you could ever have a relationship with me after what you did!?" I screamed as we both went tumbling to the ground. "How dare you even touch me after killing my parents!" 1

"It was never meant to be more than one night." His words were faint and distant, and his grip was growing weaker. With a burst of energy, I dug my claws deep into him and down his chest to the side of his waist, feeling a flare of satisfaction at the three long wounds that painted his chest. He fell back, his face ashy.

I was suddenly violently pulled back, feeling something being stabbed into the back of my neck The heavy darkness of the spells in the air were weighing down upon me as I fought against the four wolves that were shackling me in silver, and the power of the enchantress.

"I hate you, Theon!" I screamed, staring at the man who was half sitting, half lying propped on one elbow, one hand trying to stem the blood that was flowing out of him faster than normal.

I hated this, these sparks, this attraction, and above all, his betrayal. I knew what I needed to do. Despite the heaviness and the pain that was slowly spreading through my body, I glared at the man with all the hatred that I felt for him and took a deep, shuddering breath.

Rage was overwhelming me as I channelled every ounce of my emotions into my words. "I, Yileyna De'Lacor, Alpha of the Silver Storm Pack, reject you, Theon Alexander Hale, as my mate!" I shrieked, feeling the violent ripping in my chest as Theon stared at me in shock, pain and confusion, his heart thundering loudly. 10 "Go to hell, Theon." I spat, before I finally succumbed to the darkness... 12

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Chapter 96

6. A New Perspective THEON

My mate?

I could hear my heart beating violently in my ears. Her words and the pain that ripped me apart internally shocked me to the core.

She was mine...

But with the mate bond sealed, 1 had never realised. Now the jerking away and the struggle I often saw her in made sense. It wasn't her hatred, although I knew that was there, it was the bond.

The night when she released her powers she must have realised. I remember the look of pure shock in her eyes before she had been knocked out.

What kind of game are you playing Selene?

I saw Arabella approach her, knowing she was about to do something to her limp body, I forced myself to sit up. Although I was in enough agony to pass out, there was something about these cuts that were burning me up, the pain spreading through me and up my neck They made my head squeeze in agony. 1

"Don't do anything! Bring her to me." I growled, unable to move with the intense pain. Arabella paused. With her long black hair, dark eyes, and ashy skin, she gave me the same unnerving feeling that I always felt around her. 1 The men obeyed me, bringing her body to me. I pulled her into my arms, feeling her heart thudding faster than it should be, her hair was its usual blonde once more. She had transformed, even if not fully, but her teeth... her hair... her claws.... I'm sure they had seen it, but I knew even if no one else saw it properly, Arabella would have and she would make the link knowing she was a siren.

The warmth of her body made me want to hold her tightly, but I was unable to, not with so many watching, my own body was becoming heavier.

Her rejection still rang in my mind, the pain that had been on her face and in her voice

pulled viciously at my heart. I did this, I broke her in ways worse than I could have ever imagined.

"Alpha Theon, you are injured." Arabella murmured. "Remove the seal upon me. Now." I growled, ignoring her statement.

"Alpha Theoden has not given me the-"

My eyes blazed as I looked up at her, my gaze full of hatred. "I'm the one who agreed for him to have those seals placed on me, and if I say I fucking want them gone, I mean gone!" I growled murderously.

The mate bond seal was one I did not hold the key to. Just as Dad had given me the tool to

remove the one on my powers a week before the attack on Westerfell, this was one I hadn't bothered about. But now I wanted to feel it. The storm was still raging, the rain and hail beating down on us through the roof that she had blown off.

I looked down at her... wishing I didn't know just how we had come to this point... She was meant for me...... Even though she severed the bond from her side, these feelings didn't stop, feelings I had to hide even if Yileyna was mine... 2

They were talking to me, but I was no longer able to hear; the pain, these emotions, the guilt... I had told her the truth about her parents because I had been unable to keep it from her, it was something I had carried for far too long and she had the right to know. They were calling me, saying something but I was losing consciousness. Arabella stepped forward, murmuring a spell before she let a few drops of her own blood join the stream of blood that was running from my body. I felt the final seal on me snap, then the sudden sparks and her scent fill my senses... Goddess, if it was gorgeous before, this was fucking heaven... Even if she had weakened it by rejection, she was still bound to me... "...eon..."

They were saying something, but everything was getting dark. "...blood... faster!" "... son!"

"...on... hold on..."

I couldn't... For the first time in my life, I wanted it all gone, everything that I kept inside of me.

I was far too tired...

Voices. I could hear them faintly, but I felt too tired to open my eyes.

"...won't heal, no matter what we try." "Why not?" Dad's growl, they weren't in the same room, but they were close. What happened? Was Yileyna ok? Surely Dad wouldn't hurt her, she was the heart after all.... right?

I need to get up... "I'm afraid it was the touch of death, Master." Arabella's whispery voice came. • Master? Why was she calling Dad, master? "Are you certain that's what she is?" "Certain... these wounds, her appearance before she fell unconscious. She is a siren." Arabella's quiet reply held no hesitation. I couldn't even move or react, my heart was beating slowly and my body was far too heavy to even lift a finger.

"So Andres even copulated with a stren, disgusting. Do not tell Theon of this, we will make sure he doesn't find out." "Yes, Master... but what about them being mated?" "He knows..."

"Yes, he commanded me." Athud and a gasp followed. Although I couldn't see, I knew he had hit her. That was the second time he'd hit a woman for simply speaking... "You only obey my command, no one else's." He hissed.

I frowned, trying to open my eyes but I couldn't, almost as if my body was no longer

The seal on my mate bond was encouraged by Dad, but I had agreed. If I wanted it removed that was my fucking choice.

Once again Hunter's words from the night of my engagement returned to me. (FLASHBACK)

"When word went around that Andres had a Theon who was found on the coast, as his closest man, I found it intriguing, but not once did I think it would be you, until I stopped at a little Island called Bellmead..."

My eyes flashed and he raised an eyebrow. "I heard some pretty interesting stories, stories that told me this Theon of Westerfell may just be someone more. What are you doing here, Theon? The man is a bastard and a liar, yet despite your engagement to the pretty blonde, I know that you are not here for romantic reasons alone. That attack earlier was proof of that. Or staged attack anyway..." "Why I'm here is none of your concern, Hunter, so leave without causing an issue."

He smirked as he took a drag on his cigar. "Leave? Oh I'm leaving... but I wanted to warn you, Theon, I've heard and seen things... Dark things. Whilst you've been here undercover, your father has been moving around" "He is only working on overtaking what is rightfully his, nothing more. Those are simply rumours going around, you are a fool if you believe them." He looked at me, sighing slightly as he shook his head. "I fear they are far more than rumours, brother."

"Don't call me that." I growled.

mine to control

A smirk curled the end of his lips, and he nodded.

"Of course, we are simply born from the same mother..." His smirk faded and he frowned." Then for her, and you know I loved her, take heed of my words. Your father is dealing his hands in a pool of darkness that should never be touched. Do not follow him blindly or you will regret it. Keep your eyes open Theon, I know the saying goes 'keep your friends close and enemies closer...' but right now I'm uncertain who the real enemy is." 2

I know he meant Dad.

"He isn't like that, he's doing what's necessary. Andres sent people after us, to kill us all, not just me and Dad. He even attacked our women and children, who were defenceless years ago. I've lost far too many at the hands of Andres."

"I heard... but I also heard that it may not have been Andres' doing." I glared at him, feeling my anger rising. "You weren't there." I growled. "Nay, I wasn't... but my mother was, and I dug deep for answers. Why else do you think I've been scouring the fucking seas? I'm trying to find the ones who killed her, including the ones who forced her aboard that ship. What I've discovered is questionable." 2

We both fell silent, hearing faint voices approaching.

"I should go, but if ever you want the truth, you know where to find me... and remember... The heart of Kaeladia belongs to all. She's the true Alpha Queen, Theon. Not you, not Andres, and not Theoden." 1

With those words, he walked away, casting one final glance back at me.

(END OF FLASHBACK)

Hunter...

I never really knew him since he was raised by his father, a man Mom was mated to before she and Dad discovered they were fated mates and Dad claimed her. He was three years older than me, and although Mom was unable to keep him with her, she always missed him. The bond of fated mates was powerful, and she was unable to refuse Dad when he wanted her to come with

ne situation of the Obsidian Shadow Pack being forced into hiding, she couldn't visit him as much, but she loved him as much as me and my sisters.

His words didn't leave me. What had he discovered?

I wish I had found out...

The sound of footsteps approached, and I knew it was Dad by his scent.

He exhaled with obvious irritation, and I could feel the anger radiating off him.

"Fool." He muttered before he retreated.

I finally managed to force my eyes open, staring at the ceiling, the word 'fool' echoing in my mind.

Fool. 1

No one could call me that, even if it was Dad. I think it's time I found my own answers and stopped listening blindly like a fucking fool. 6 I forced myself to sit up, I needed to go find out where Yileyna was. Was she safe, or had they done something to her? Dad's temper was not something I could ignore and deep down, if I really believed he was good, then why was I so worried? 3

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Chapter 97

7. Hard Choices

YILEYNA

The three-headed whip with spikes dragged on the floor as I did my best not to lash out in anger. The man wielding it looked at me coldly. His eyes hard and devoid of emotion or compassion. Right in front of me, Andrea and Zoe were kneeling on the floor, beaten and bloody because I had hurt Theon. They were being punished to hurt me.

They had both lost so much weight since the last time I had seen them. Both were covered in burns from the silver they had been bound in.

I had awoken to find myself tied in this empty room, drugged and poisoned. The spells and chains that shackled me were powerful, yet the moment I had created a barrier around me, they had brought Andrea and Zoe, forcing me to lower it.

I had been whipped and beaten for hours, there were moments I would black out and others when it was taking my all not to unleash hell upon them all.

But even though I was remaining calm for the two women before me, my anger was rising.

I needed to get out of here, the only person who I didn't know the location of was Gamma Henry... The urge to break free and get my pack out of here was tempting. As he lashed me continuously, my mind was working on a plan, refusing to give in to the pain.

"I told you not to shield yourself!" He hissed, bringing the whip down on my back with a violent lash.

"I'm not." I hissed back, but the pain wasn't as severe as it was moments ago.

"Then tell me, why you aren't bleeding?" He growled, yanking me back by my hair. I didn't scream, even when he snapped my head far back, hearing something crack "Monsters don't bleed." I spat resentfully. "Yes, and we both know you are nothing more than a filthy monster." He slapped me across the face, and I clenched my jaw.

I didn't regret what I did to Theon, even if it hurt me too, because he deserved it... But the look of confusion on his face when I rejected him niggled at my mind. What did he expect? That I would forgive him and join sides with them?

"Fine, then I'll teach these women a lesson instead." He moved away from me, his dirty blonde hair sticky with sweat and his pale eyes full of hatred.

He grabbed Zoe by the hair, yanking her to her feet before running his hands down her waist. She tried to pull free, but she was too weak to even put up a fight.

"I think this will be better if you strip." He said, his eyes raking over her, before he tore her shirt from her body leaving her in her bra. My eyes flashed at the fear in Zoe's eyes. All three of us knew his intentions were far worse than a beating. "Don't touch her." I warned quietly, trying to remain calm, despite the heaving in my chest. My anger was increasing and the pain in my back was fading with each passing minute,

despite the fact I had been bound and beaten all day. "Why not? She is a beauty..." His gaze went to her breasts as Zoe covered her chest, only for him to slam her into the wall and yank her arms away. "Do not disobey me!"

Andrea looked at me, her eyes calculating, as if trying to devise a plan herself. I had tried to mind link them all throughout the time they were here, but the silver in their bodies was stopping me. 'Andrea!' I tried again, but once more I hit a wall. Andrea stumbled to her feet, trying to pull the man who was trailing his filthy hands up Zoe's leg, but she was far too weak and he kicked her to the floor. My own anger was pulsing within me, and my eyes flashed.

"I said, do not touch her." I growled, feeling my alpha command ripple through me and into my voice.

The man instantly turned, his hands pausing from the band of her pants where he had been trying to one-handed to remove her belt.

"You bitch!" He growled, angry at my interruption, but it was obvious I had an effect on him.

I could hear it all; the blood rushing through our veins, our erratic heartbeats. The temptation to free myself and punish him rising. I could feel the presence of my wolf come to the forefront of my mind, as if wanting to break free. 3

It was different, this feeling... it wasn't like when I was screaming at Theon, it was so intense, full of light and strength with the urge to protect. "Yiley..." Andrea trailed off, but my eyes were on the man whose hands remained on Zoe. "You will lose the hands that commit sin." I whispered. My voice was deeper and more eloquent. Then I felt it, the shift within me as I almost felt like I was pushed into the back of my own mind.

A true growl left my lips as I used all my power to break free from the bindings that held me. Feeling the intense pain as my bones snapped and reformed, it was a feeling I had never experienced before, and I realised what was happening. Pearly shimmering white fur now covered me. I launched myself at the man, without a second thought I bit a chunk out of him, crushing one of his hands at the same time as he fell to the floor unconscious. My eyes blazed as I tossed the chunk I had taken out of him aside, breathing heavily. 4

Any pain I had felt was gone, I looked at Zoe and Andrea, both who were staring at me in awe, I knew I was larger than most wolves.

"You are an Alpha." Zoe said hoarsely, clearly in awe, as if my wolf was the proof of that, which I guess it was. I looked down at my body. Aside from the pale lilac in my tail, which looked a lot fluffier than the usual wolf tail, the rest of me was a pearlescent white. 1 'Thank you' I said in my mind to my wolf as I felt her step back and return control to me once more,

It took me a few moments to force myself to shift back. I turned to the body on the floor. He was bleeding out fast.

Before he dies and Theoden realises the bond's broke, we needed to get out of here. That's if he hadn't managed to warn him already. I was done, we needed to get out of here.

"We don't have much time, where is Henry kept?" I asked, pulling the shirt off the man and slipping it on. Although I didn't want to touch anything of his, I had no other choice.

"He is not in the palace, but there's a room under the stables. That's where we were kent." Andrea said quickly. "We'll get him, it's time to get out of here." I replied quietly. "We can get the women and children to make their way to the western side-" Andrea placed a hand on my arm and shook her head.

"We can't, if we take them, they will be caught. The Obsidian Shadow pack is huge and the majority of their people are warriors. If we leave them here, they will get to carry on as usual, but if we take them."

"They may get killed..." My heart crumpled at the thought that I was about to abandon my people. "She's right, Alpha, you need to get out of here so we can fight against them, to gather an army. There's also no place where we can hide them all, we'd be caught instantly." Zoe added, squeezing my hand I pressed my lips together. The thought of leaving them here, would they really be safe?

"What if he kills them in anger?" I asked fearfully. "If he wanted to kill us, we would have been dead by now, let's have faith in Selene. It would only make him look worse if he does so." "Then what of the warriors.... If we took them, they would kill their women..." "Then... You are the only one who needs to get out of here." Zoe said quietly.

"I'm not leaving you two, and Gamma Henry."

"Listen to me Yileyna- no, Alpha Yileyna. You can only truly help us if you go out there and seek the help that only you can gather." Andrea said firmly. "It's wrong."

I could hear shouting coming closer.

"No, it's a sacrifice you need to make for your people." "Theon said that Theoden would kill you all." "Then we will die martyrs." Zoe said firmly.

What was the right thing to do? I ran my hand through my hair, looking at the two women, it was obvious their minds were made up.

"Ok, what about the three of us, we can at least go together?" I asked, glancing towards the door.

"Then we will all be caught and killed. You need to go alone Alpha, now." Andrea refused

firmly. I looked at them, torn between the choice before me. "Gamma Grayson, Raiden, Rhys and Ryan are all alright. I've been in touch." I added quickly, wanting to give them something to hold onto, taking their hands before giving them a quick hug The relief was clear in their eyes, and pulling away, I closed my eyes.

Sensing the presence of every being that was touching the ice that encased the entire castle through it.

My heart skipped a beat, feeling Theoden and Arabella not too far. If he gave Arabella the command to find me, we may have some trouble. She was disturbingly powerful, and for a fleeting moment, I wondered how she had come to be on Theoden's side.

"May Selena be with you." Zoe said. 1 I looked at them, they were weak, and despite not wanting to leave them... I had no choice...

If we stayed here, we would die.

"Take care." Andrea added.

I nodded before taking a deep breath. Pushing open the door, I glanced back at the two brave women, giving them a smile of promise.

I will be back

I ran out of the room and through the dark halls. "Get her! She's gone that way!" "There's nowhere for her to run to!"

I could feel several heavy footsteps closing in on me as I ran up the only stairs ahead. My heart thundered when I realised I was in a simple circular room. I looked around, spotting the small window right ahead. This room was in one of the towers of the castle and that was the only one way out.

My heart was pumping, I knew this was a risky idea, but it was the only one I had... Taking a deep breath, I ran to the tight window, slamming my fist into it, shattering the glass just as several men came through the door behind me.

"There she is!"

One foot on the windowsill, I turned quickly, creating a huge wall of ice stopping them in their tracks before I turned and looked down at the ground far far below.

Here goes nothing. Closing my eyes, I jumped, willing myself to shift. I felt the power roll through me, using the wind to slow my fall. I landed on my paws and broke into a run, get to the wall and get out of Westerfell... Once I was out, I would be safe. The wind and snow were swirling around me as many wolves followed me, yet I was faster, using the wind to slow them down greatly. 'To everyone, if you can hear me, then I just want

to say that I promise I will fix everything. I don't know how, but I will. Stay strong and protect each other. I will return for you all.'

Murmurs of good luck and we will await your return followed me, but I was unable to reply, feeling the deadly darkness of Arabella approaching. I wasn't strong enough to fight her and an army of wolves right now. The beating and poisoning had still weakened me to an extent. I changed direction, heading towards the White Dove, the narrow path that only someone small could fit through would be my way out. I had left the blizzard behind, and I hoped Arabella became confused. I squeezed between the fence, trying to calm my beating heart as I squeezed my way behind it right to the end, ignoring the way my chest and behind were being scraped, it was too tight here....

I finally reached the end and climbed out, remembering that night I had tried to alert everyone about the attack.

I kept running, my paws barely hitting the ground. My wolf was confident and headstrong and she didn't stop even when I felt pained at the thought of the people I was leaving behind... While staying there, I had not been able to do anything. A sudden sharp pain wrapped around my left leg, and I went crashing into the snow. I growled looking down to see the silver that was wrapped around my leg. So in wolf form, silver hurt me "Congratulations on your shift."

My heart thumped as I looked up at the one who had stopped me.

He stood there, with the wind wreaking havoc behind him. The entire city was covered with a blinding hurricane that loomed above the city walls behind him, yet he stood unmoving despite how pale he was, bandages that were already staining red covered his torso and I was forced to shift when the silver became too much.

"What do you want from me?" I asked icily, moving away from him and the silver. Inching towards the raging waters behind me.

He closed the gap between us and I looked into his pale amber eyes, that were half lifeless.

"This wasn't how things were meant to be." He said quietly, his eyes skimming my body. I saw the slight frown on his forehead, and was that anger in his eyes? Before he looked away, almost as if trying to stop himself from looking at my naked body.

Why hadn't Arabella come by now? She would be here soon, I had to go.

"You did this, when you betrayed us, if there is an ounce of compassion within you at least keep the people of Westerfell safe." "Until you return?" He asked emotionlessly, looking back into my eyes. I didn't respond and he advanced closer. I stepped back, not wanting him near me. Until he accepted the rejection, this bond would continue to sizzle between us.

He stopped in front of me, and the water was already lapping at my ankles.

"Go away, Theon." I said, not hiding the hatred in my voice. "Is that your final wish?" He asked quietly. I frowned.

Final wish?

I raised an eyebrow. "Do you really think you can defeat me? Right now I'm a lot strong than you. Go run to your precious father." I spat, turning away. I had no idea where I was going but anywhere away from him. I didn't have much time, I needed to leave.

He grabbed my arm, stopping me from leaving. The tingles were still there, stronger than before the bond but weaker since my rejection. "Tell me, is that what you want from me?" "Yes! What else did you expect? I rejected you! I hate you, I want you far away! I want you to accept this rejection and just let me go!" I snapped in exasperation, the pain of my parent's death killing me.

He had hurt me far too many times.

He nodded slowly, before he let go of my arm and I let out a breath of relief, turning my back on him. But to my surprise and irritation, he wrapped his arms around me from behind, making my eyes widen in shock, my breasts resting against his arms. My stomach fluttered and my body disobeyed me, reacting to his touch. What was he doing?

Our hearts thundered as one and I felt the sting of agony within me, accompanied by the prickling of tears wanting to fall. Why was this love so painful? Why didn't it just go away? His arms squeezed around me, and for a moment it felt like it was just him and me. Every sound from the crashing waves, the roaring wind and the howls of the wolves faded away... He buried his face in my neck, when I suddenly tensed thinking he was about to mark me, ready to jerk away, but instead he spoke, his voice low and thick. "I, Theon Alexander Hale, accept your rejection. Goodbye, Little Storm." 31