My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 98

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Chapter 98

98. The Aethirian Ocean

YILEYNA

My heart thundered as I felt the final severing of the bond, and the pain that came with it, unable to stop the tears from falling. 1

This was it...

Thank the gods for the rain... The whimper of my wolf and the ache in my chest only grew as Theon stepped away from me.

"You should go, I managed to direct them the other woy to give you some time, but it won't be long before they realise-" "I don't need your help. I was doing fine... without..." I managed to say, still thrown by his acceptance.

For the first time, it was as if he did something to make me happy... and not for his own selfish gains...

Suddenly, a huge wave reached the sky. Theon pulled me on instinct away from the sea, but to my horror, there within the wave were not one, but three sirens. Three terrifyingly beautiful sirens, and their eyes were on me.

"That's..." I heard Theon murmur.

"Tempest..."

With cold realisation, I looked at the blonde in the middle. With her deep red eyes and black and red tail, I recognised her.

"The Siren from the Abyss..." I whispered, my eyes falling to her body, sure enough the long scars that covered her confirmed it.

"Fuck, run!" Theon growled as he yanked at my arm, just as I felt the darkness approaching.

Arabella was near!

The sirens began singing and I felt Theon's hold loosen, although he was still trying to fight it.

"Run, Yileyna." He growled.

"We found you." The pale blonde whispered.

"Kill the man." I heard one of them command.

"No! Do not kill him!" I shouted.

I don't know why, but I couldn't see him dead. We may not be for one another... but I couldn't let him die. 4

I tried to fight against them but I couldn't, suddenly the water began swirling beneath me and it made me lose my balance. Theon grabbed my orm just as I sensed Arabella and an army of wolves approaching through the blazing storm.

"We cannot delay, we are on your side." The dark-haired siren said, looking at me.

I looked around, seeing Theon's blood spreading as he refused to let go of me.

I had no choice... if they wanted me dead. I'd be dead by now. This may just be the start of my answers.

"Let me go." I said quietly, looking into his eyes.

His eyes were a turmoil, and when the blonde Siren raised her hand ready to strike, the anger and hatred in her eyes already clear, I used all my energy to send a surge of waves at him, throwing him onto the shore.

"Yileyna!" He shouted, and then I was pulled under. 1

Goodbye. 1

I closed my eyes, trying to reserve the oxygen I had.

"Sleep little one... you are home." The ethereal voice of the red-headed siren came, and I felt a heaviness begin to spread from between my shoulder blades, and then darkness welcomed me into its folds...

I awoke with a gasp, to find myself lying on what appeared to be some sort of bed.

What on kaeladia...

I sat up, my eyes widening as my hair flowed around me.

I was in water! I was in

I froze, realising I could breathe. My heart was thumping as I looked around the odd room I was in. It was bathed in a deep aqua blue glow. There were stunning flowers and coral lining the side of the room, which seemed to be carved from some sort of sparkling stone. From the glowing purple vines that ran down one wall and the shimmering water-like veils that covered the windows, I knew I was in a place far from Westerfell. And I knew exactly where I was...

In a Siren Kingdom…

I tried to walk before I gave up and swam to one of the windows. I pulled the delicate iridescent cloth from it and wrapped it around myself before swimming to the archway, which was the only entrance into the room. The moment I swam out of it, I stopped, seeing that it was a huge room. It was equally magical and mesmerising, but what terrified me was the five sirens that lounged there, and to my horror, there were eight mermen as well.

These men were rumoured to be the slaves to the sirens. There for their protection and desire, yet they were just as dangerous as sirens... or so the old stories told. The only difference was, they did not venture to the surface.

They were all as beautiful as the next, with long hair, pale skin and long, strong tails. My gaze dipped to the deadly weapons that each male held. I'm dead, or I will be soon. Wait, what if I was dead already?

"She's awakened." Came the ethereal, powerful and beautiful voice of the eldest siren there, making my attention go to her. Her hair was pure white, braided into a long plait, her tail a deep steel grey which bled into a rich plum purple. She wore a thin sheer fabric wrapped around her breasts, several necklaces hung around her neck and her hands were adorned in bracelets and rings.

But what caught my attention was the huge crown adorned with jewels of several colours that sat upon her head.

This woman was powerful and of importance...

My heart pounded as I looked into her eyes, they looked almost black. She stared at me and I wondered if I should bow. Doing what I thought was best, I lowered my head politely.

"Raise your head." She commanded.

I did as I was told, looking at the other sirens. The three who had brought me were here, as well as one other that I didn't recognise.

"She looks a lot like her, she is hers without a doubt." The blonde with the scars down her chest said, as she swam towards me and grabbed my chin. The elder woman frowned as she rose from her seat and came toward me.

She didn't respond to the blonde, as she examined my face.

"Your father must not know, not until she arrives... Shall I lift the last of the spells from her? By Oshera, if anyone else finds out she is here, they will come for her." The elder siren turned and I couldn't help but wonder what they were talking about.

"How am I breathing underwater?" I asked, finding it weird that I was even able to talk without gargling bubbles.

"A spell, I am a sea witch and we have been waiting for this day since the day you were given away. My name is Lavina." 1

Given away?

What was she going on about?

"Nice to meet you... I'm Yileyna." I replied warily.

Sirens were monsters... right?

The women looked at each other.

'Shouldn't we hide her before she sees her?' The redhead spoke.

'We must explain to her that we have brought her here before she loses her temper.' The fifth siren said, her voice now in my mind.

'You are correct, Cailena, but there is not a chance that she does not know. She would have known the moment she touched the ocean water.' Lavina replied firmly.

My heart thudded as I remembered the young siren who had asked for help. A wave of guilt washed over me, and I realised how I had heard her, she had somehow felt or known what I was...

'Oh, I want her to come, because it's high time she realised that this is a fact we can't hide any longer.' The blonde with the scars replied.

Did they not realise I could hear? And who were they talking about?

'Calm down Ariella, let her come.'

I didn't say anything as Lavina motioned for me to take a seat and I obeyed. Right now these women may look effortlessly beautiful, and I could admire them all day... but I knew what they were capable of, and I wasn't sure me being a hybrid would guarantee me safety. 2

I felt the intense stare of one of the guards, turning and staring at him. With his angled jaw, slightly silvery skin, plump lips and sharp eyes, he was handsome, but unlike the sirens, he looked more like a predator.

I gave a hesitant smile, and he returned it with one of his own. My stomach sank at the sharp piranha-like teeth in his mouth, and I quickly turned away, my heart pounding.

Focus, Yileyna.

Ariella chuckled as she came over.

"Don't be too scared. If we wanted you dead, you'd be dead back on that insulting ship. We let you pass without incidence." She said, her tail swishing as she swam around me.

She seemed to be telling the truth, but... Was that why our journey had gone rather smoothly after that initial attack?

I looked around, realising I had no idea where I was. The worst thing was, what if they didn't let me go from here? What if I'm held captive forever? What will happen about The Obsidian Shadow pack?

"She's here." The redhead said, and I felt the sudden tension that spread from them.

Who was here? 'Stay calm. I will handle her.' Lavina's voice came in my mind, the other four sirens nodded and my heart pounded

Who had they called? Was she their leader? Did she hate werewolves? Well, all sirens did, what am I thinking

It was taking everything not to run from here.

The cloth I was wearing was ballooned with water, making it float around me. I pushed it down, trying to look presentable for whoever was coming.

I turned to the entrance to see two males enter, each one carrying a spear. They had their dark hair in ponytails and a silver band around their foreheads. Both had tails of

complete black glittering scales, and for a moment I wondered where their male parts were?

Did they magically grow? Or were they hidden behind those scales?

I shook my head, annoyed at my own random train of thoughts.

If the men in this room looked dangerous, then the two in front were absolutely lethal.

They flanked the door before a beautiful siren entered. Power oozed off her, her long pale blonde hair that was the same shade as mine was pinned back from her face, with an extravagant crown that put Lavina's to shame sat upon her head. Her breasts were barely covered with a small armour-like silver metal piece that came from behind, cupping them. Several chains of diamonds and pearls wrapped around her slender toned waist and stomach. Her wrists held jewelled cuffs, her upper arms had bands of silver around them and her ears glinted with jewels. 1

Her silver and blue tail sparkled magnificently, and it was clearly longer than the ones in this room. 1

I didn't need a statement to tell me this woman was far more important than any of the ones I had met so far. Everyone in the room bowed to her, I was about to lower my head to her when her deep blue eyes met mine, my heart thudding as I held her gaze.

Nervousness filled me as I watched her, she glanced at my legs before she frowned and her eyes snapped back to mine, a glimmer of recognition in them. Her heart began racing and my own emotion were a mess.

Not once did I ever think this would be possible... but it was...

Goddess...

I didn't need anyone to tell me who this was... How could I? When her face reminded me so much of mown.

"Ah Queen Deliana, thank you for gracing US with your presence."

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Chapter 99

9. Of Land & Sea

YILEYNA

Deliana...

She didn't respond as she watched me, her eyes growing darker, and I felt the anger spreading from her.

'What is the meaning of this, Lavina?' Her voice rang in my head, it held power and suppressed anger.

'Forgive me, but we had no other choice...' Lavina replied, her head still bowed to the queen.

My birth mother was a queen. 2

It felt strange to see her before me, it just... I would do anything to have my mom back. My real mom who raised and held me... But instead, I was finding royal parents who I didn't want or need.

'Do explain.' 'She was in danger, we've been watching the shore, they were ready to kill her!' Lavina exclaimed.

'She is not a child; she can look after herself. Bringing her here is a death-wish...' She trailed off, before glaring at all the guards and the other sirens. "Leave US."

They all listened, aside from Ariella, who raised an eyebrow.

"May I stay, sister?"

Sister?

Deliana pursed her lips before giving a small nod.

"Of course, since you were clearly a part of this. It seemed your last rendezvous with animal shifters wasn't a reminder enough." She said, looking at her sister's scars.

Ariella smirked.

"No, but fear not, the males tend to find them very sexy."

Deliana didn't seem impressed, her gaze turning back to me once it was just the four of US in the room. She waved her hand and a shimmering veil-like cloak covered the entrance.

"Explain." She said to Lavina before her gaze turned to me.

"It's the prophecy, Deliana." She began.

Prophecy?

"The heart of this world resides within the child born of the land and sea, she is the child born from land and sea." Lavina whispered. "We need to unlock the final seal. Your father-" "I do apologise, but can you please include me in this conversation instead of acting like I'm not even here?" I asked, looking between the two women.

Deep down, I wanted to ask Deliana why she abandoned me, but I couldn't complain because I had found the best parents.

"She has your spark." Ariella added amused.

She was an entirely different person than the monster who had attacked our ship....

"Then let US start at the beginning." Deliana said, going to the seat Lavina had sat in previously and sat down, her tail flicking as she did so.

We all sat down and Lavina smiled at Deliana.

"Tell her the truth."

"I know the king's version, I mean, Andres Apelion's version." I said.

Deliana's anger sent a wave through the room, her heart thundering. When she turned to me I could see her long nails and the sheer hatred on her face, her eyes shimmering with hues of purples, blues and silver.

"Never mention that liar's name in front of me ever again." She hissed.

I nodded.

"Understood... he's dead anyway." I said quietly.

"Good, he was too much of a coward to ever approach the sea... and father forbade me from ever setting foot on land again, or I would turn to sea foam." She scoffed, clenching her fist.

A silence fell and Lavina looked at her.

"Go on my queen, she deserves the truth."

Deliana closed her eyes and began telling her story. How she had saved Andres, spent the night watching him and had been greatly attracted to him. She sensed the bond was of a true mate, Andres seemed not to notice it but he was drawn to her. They began spending time together. Weeks became months and they got closer, until one day he said to her they had to end it. She had pleaded and begged for him to accept her, and he had given in.

"But I was fool... When I fell asleep that night, he tried to take my life." She opened her eyes, and I could see the pain in them. My own heart clenching at the story she was telling me. The pain in her eyes somehow told me she was telling the truth. "He said I was a monster, but I had done nothing to be called one. He forced me to the ocean, knowing fore well my father would kill me. He didn't care, and from that day forth, he had the sea and coasts scoured for sirens, killing them mercilessly in fear his truth of having a relationship with a siren would come to light. Yes, we have killed men at sea, but not as often as they killed US. Stealing even our young."

I felt... stunned, it was all too much to take in.

A true mate bond... 1

Andres had lied...

Deep down, I had a strong feeling that perhaps they had been mates, but Soleil had enchanted the king... If she hadn't, so much could have been prevented. 1 "But I too promised revenge and I followed up on it, taking an oath that I would kill every alphablooded male that set foot upon our seas. Something that father approved of, despite my sins. When I found out about my pregnancy, Lavina helped me hide it, and when you were born, we realised you were a hybrid. If you were a full siren I would have kept you here, but your lungs weren't made to live underwater constantly." Deliana continued. "It had been one of the more difficult decisions I had to make, but your health was vital, commanded Ariella to go on land to find a couple who could take care of you, and at the same time make sure you were close to that scum father of yours. Knowing he held power at least on land."

I could see she was trying to act indifferent, but this topic was still painful for her. Her eyes were boring into mine, as if she wanted to ask me something, but her pride refused her from doing so.

"I saw this couple, who loverheard discussing how they were unable to conceive, and so I decided to do a little more research upon them. It turned out they were close to the king too." Ariella added smugly."

Then I snuck you out of the water and left you there, since Deliana couldn't step foot on land. Our father is the ruler of the seven seas, and although he sees all, we managed to

hide this pregnancy." "Before Ariella took you, I and Deliana placed the barriers upon you, so no one ever found out what you were. Without realising, we suppressed all your abilities. It was only after you were given away did we realise what you truly were, but we couldn't let the power-hungry wolves use you, and so we approached you once again to strengthen those spells. We decided the barrier would weaken upon your eighteenth birthday and slowly, slowly you would come into power." Lavina said quietly.

So did my parents know what I was? My heart was thundering as I struggled to process it all.

"But still, whenever you touched the water, the sirens sensed it." Ariella remarked, running her fingers through her hair. 1 "When you began playing in the water, sirens were drawn to you for who you are, and knowledge of your existence reached him. Of the legged siren who lived on land. Our Emperor, my father: Queseidon." Deliana continued. 1

My heart skipped a beat as I took in everything they said.

"Does he know about me?"

"Yes he does, and he knows you are the child of prophecy. However, he does not know you are mine, but if he sees you he will." Deliana sighed with a tilt of her head.

Every move they made was full of grace and beauty, and I found myself enchanted by them.

"Which means you need to leave the waters soon, once we remove your final seal, you must fulfil your destiny." Deliana added. 1 "My destiny?" "Reunite the people of Kaeladia before we kill one another to the point of extinction." Lavina added quietly. "For if this continues, Kaeladia will not last long..." 1

Despite her soft melodious tone, her words held a sinister warning, and it was one that I knew held true.

"The Emperor has being building the imperial army for decades and the time has come for US to destroy the surface dwellers, or more specifically; the werewolves." Ariel la added. 1 "And as much as I hate them, especially those of Alpha blood... killing them all will cause havoc." Deliana added darkly.

I looked at her in surprise, trying to ignore the sliver of fear within me.

"But only the imperial sirens can walk upon land..." I said quietly. "There's not much they can do from just the coast."

Deliana scoffed lightly, as if what I had said was ignorant.

"Indeed we know that, but father has over two thousand children and each one can walk the land with ease." 1

My heart sank at just the thought of that happening. Didn't they say the imperial sirens were far and few?

"Many many years ago the werewolves drove another species to the brink of extinction, and now it's time that we dealt them the hand of fate." Ariella added, examining her nails.

"But it will not end well, that is why you are here. You must protect our people from being sent to war and from those who seek US out. You are the heart of Kaeladia and the future queen of the Aethirian Ocean." Lavina claimed, now taking my hand in hers.

For a moment I forgot that she was a dangerous siren, she reminded me of a wise grandmother.

"Queen?" I asked, realising what she said a moment late.

"Yes. Queen. I am the most-pure blooded of my siblings, and one of the rulers of the seven seas beneath our supreme ruler, my father. However, I only have one child. You." Deliana said quietly. "When I die, my title as queen of the Aethirian Ocean will pass to you."

Confusion and panic hit me. Yes, I loved the sea, but live as a siren? I couldn't do that!

"But you said I can't live underwater! That my lungs aren't built for it. Plus, I shifted into a wolf! I can't shift into a siren!" I tried not to argue, not wanting to anger her either, but I was unable to keep the panic from my voice.

She raised a perfect brow.

"Yes, as a child you were not fit for the sea, because you were born from land. We realised we may have to wait until you were older to become one of US and Lavina discovered that you may be... Let's just say you are not a hybrid Yileyna, you may have a wolf form, but you will certainly get your tail." Deliana said it with such conviction that somehow I felt she was telling the truth.

"I don't think-" I was cut off by Deliana, her eyes darkening.

"You will, because you are a triform shifter, a miracle among species, and in your hand, you will hold the power of both earth and sea. You are the light of this world, and it's high time you understood that." 3

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Chapter 100

10. The Iron Claw Pack

CHARLENE

I was terrified for Yileyna, with every passing day I wondered if she was ok. She was alone, and although I knew Theon loved her after his deceit, I didn't know what to think. I was trying to tell myself he wouldn't let anything happen to her, but I was terrified too.

She was brave, but she was all alone. It was hard for Gamma Grayson too, knowing that his mate was left behind, but there was no other choice.

I hadn't told him about who I was because I didn't want it to become an extra burden for him. I was ok with him not knowing.

Knowing that Mom and Dad were killed felt painful. Even if they weren't fully good people, I still loved them. Dad's death had hit me harder, I just wish I could have told him goodbye and that I loved him, even if he wasn't my biological father, he was the one who raised me and had always treated me better than Mom.

We had travelled to two packs, however Obsidian Shadow Pack guards stood at the entrances, and we were not able to even meet those Alphas. It was obvious they were either looking for us or keeping an eye on everyone.

Would no one stand up to Theoden? It seemed not, he was known for his ruthless ways. It was Raiden who had suddenly decided we should go to the one pack that was powerful and neutral to all.

The Iron Claw Pack, home to the infamous Alpha Hunter Slade Carson....

"This is going to be hard, Hunter doesn't deal his hands in political matters." Gamma Grayson said as we stared that the huge iron walls that surrounded the back, foot–long blades crowned the wall and every two metres apart I saw there were guards on watch duty. But as suspected by Gamma Grayson, there was not one Obsidian Shadow pack wolf here. 1

"What are those..." I murmured, seeing something move from around the walls.

"His moat, a moat full of serpents." Ryan added with a low whistle. "I thought it was a damn joke…"

"Oh it's very real, Hunter became an Alpha at the age of eleven, two years before he shifted, he is currently the youngest recorded shifter alive having gotten his wolf at the age of thirteen." Gamma Grayson commented. "He's powerful." 2

"That is so cool!" Rhys exclaimed.

It had been hard for him, having to travel like this, and often he spent his time with me when the men were more restless and angry.

"Well we have nothing to lose, Hunter is one Alpha who didn't bend to Andres, unlike many who yielded to him due to him being a king. Whereas Alpha Hunter does not." Gamma Grayson replied.

"Well then let's go ask for this badass shady—as—fuck Alpha's help. Oi Charlene, maybe you can use some charms on him?" 2

"Do not be disrespectful to the princess." Gamma Grayson warned him.

Ryan shrugged.

"She wasn't the king's real daughter." 2

That did hurt but I simply smiled as Gamma Grayson's irritation rose.

"It's ok, and I don't want to be called princess either, Gamma Grayson."

"Also, if you continue to be childish, Ryan, I'm sure our Alpha will remove you from the position of Gamma" Raiden added with a smirk.

"Well, let's go meet Alpha Hunter who will help us!" Rhys said confidently.

I.hoped, at least not to break his heart, he would agree to help us.

We left our hiding spot in human form and I held Rhys's hand tightly. Immediately we were spotted and several bows and arrows were turned upon us.

"We wish for an audience with Alpha Hunter Slade Carson." Raiden said loudly, raising his hand in surrender as he stepped forward.

I looked into the dark moat of water. Although we were still very far, I could see something move beneath the surface. My grip on Rhys tightened and I moved him

behind me. Although I knew we were a good few metres away, those things were huge and I knew they could come out of the water.

"State your business!" The man shouted, scanning us all.

"We are here on behalf of the Silver Storm Pack." Gamma Grayson said, placing a hand on his chest

The man frowned, exchanging a look with one of the other guards before he gave a curt nod. He seemed to be mind-linking as we all waited nervously. Raiden glanced over at Gamma Grayson, frowning slightly, and I knew they were mind linking.

'Do you think he'll agree to see us?' I asked nervously.

'I hope so.' Raiden replied.

"Names!" The man called.

"Beta Raiden Bolton, Princess Charlene Aphelion, Gamma Grayson Sanchez, with his son Gamma Ryan and my younger brother, Rhys." Raiden said clearly. "As you must have heard, Alpha King Andres is dead, Yileyna De'Lacor is our new Alpha and is currently in the hold of Theoden Hale."

The man nodded before we heard the grinding of the drawbridge being lowered. My heart lurched as I saw the crossing.

Goddess, it was so... narrow, and there were no supports on the sides. 1

| swallowed hard before giving Rhys a brave smile.

"Don't worry princess, I'll hold on to you tight." He whispered.

I nodded, giving him a cute smile. What a brave boy he was, without his parents, yet he was still acting so strong.

"Cross!" A man shouted.

"Thank you." I replied softly to Rhys, before Raiden led the way.

It wasn't big enough for more than two people to walk side by side Rhys followed Raiden, whilst Ryan stepped up behind me with Gamma Grayson at the back.

It's just a few metres... You got this Charlene.

I kept my gaze on the other side which was at least twenty metres away. Goddess this man had planned

this.

How dangerous to have such a moat!

I heard the hissing of a serpent at one point, seeing its long body under the moat.

"Keep going, if you scream, they will react!" The man shouted...

I nodded, although my heart was ringing in my ears. The moment we reached the other side, I let out a shaky breath, and Raiden smiled at me.

"You did well." He said as we waited for the huge gates to be opened.

Goddess, their security was better than that of Westerfell. We stepped inside to see the area was huge, it was a full village in here yet there were only warriors in sight. Most were well built, with scars that spoke of many battles fought.

I heard footsteps and that familiar seductive smell of none other than Alpha Hunter approaching. I suddenly felt very self-conscious, knowing I was covered in dirt and all I was wearing were worn-out leather pants and an oversized shirt 1

I don't know why it mattered but I was unable to stop myself from trying to smooth my shirt and tilt my chin up. 1

"Well, well, who would have thought anyone from the Silver Storm pack would be so kind as to visit a simple Alpha like me?" He said mockingly, clasping his hands in front of him as he tilted his head,

He looked as handsome, if not more, than the day I saw him at the ceremony... In a fitted shirt, pants, and boots, a few strands of his hair fell acros's his forehead, although most were messily tied back.

"You are no simple Alpha, Alpha Hunter, howe ver, we had no choice." Raiden said quietly, glancing at the guards.

"My men are loyal, speak." He commanded before his gaze fell on me. Our eyes met, and my heart skipped a beat as a small smirk crossed his lips. "On second thought, I don't think it's fitting to make such a pretty lady stand and wait when she looks... exhausted. Come, I will give you a place to rest." 4

We were led through the village, the houses were humble but they were strong and rigid. Shops and food stores were aplenty, and although I knew Alpha Hunter owned the lands around this fortress, it was obvious everyone stayed within the safety of these walls.

We stopped at what looked like barracks or a pack house, and he entered, leading the way to the left. After a flight of stairs, he stopped at a door and took the key that hung on a hook.

"I'm afraid we don't have many rooms, if the Beta is ok to share with his brother?" Hunter asked.

"Of course, thank you, Alpha." Raiden said with a nod, yet he didn't go in. Hunter smirked as he continued down the hall, he gave the next room to Gamma Grayson and Ryan, before he stopped at a third door further down.

"And the room for the lady." He smirked as Raiden opened the door, stepping inside. "I'll have one of my omegas bring you clean clothes. Rest, you are safe here." He added to me, his tone dropping an octave, making me nervous.

"Perfect, thank you Alpha Hunter. I do apologise for the quick check, but she is important to our kingdom and our Alpha."

"Ah, of course she is." Our eyes met before I mumbled an excuse me. I took the key from Raiden and entering the room quickly.

Goddess, he was such an intense man. I closed the door and looked around, it was modest yet clean. There was a wardrobe on the left side with a high chest of drawers, a mirror and a vanity table. When I saw the bed, I had an intense urge to run and jump onto it, but I needed to bathe first. I looked at the door across the room hoping it was a bathroom...

Half an hour later I stepped out of the bath, wrapping a towel around myself whilst I used another on my long hair, which was once again vibrant and clean.

That had been the best bath I had ever had. Never had I ever appreciated clean water as I did today. I stepped into the bedroom and almost jumped to see a middle—aged woman placing clothes into the wardrobe, she instantly stopped and bowed her head to me.

"I apologise for alarming you, my lady." She said politely.

"Not at all." I waved my hand, spotting the basket that sat on the bed.

"The Alpha sent clothing and some items for you." She said, gesturing to the basket.

"Thank you..." I said, not expecting this kind of hospitality from an Alpha rumoured to be so dangerous.

But did he have other motives?

My heart sank, remembering the way his eyes had raked over me at the ball.

"Thank the Alpha, my lady, not me. Would you like any assistance?"

"Not at all, thank you." I said, she nodded, closing the top drawer.

"Once you are dressed, please come and join us for dinner." She replied, before taking her leave.

I quickly locked the door and walked to the chest of drawers, taking out some panties. I slipped them on and walked over to the wardrobe to look at the clothes. To my dismay, they were all dresses.

I took out a dark green one which had long sleeves with a boat neck and a flared skirt that reached below my knees. Slipping it on, I added a black corset belt before I quickly got to work on my knotty hair...

Ten minutes later, I left my room to see Ryan and Raiden, both already dressed and standing there waiting for me.

"Well, let's get this over with." Ryan remarked as Rhys and Gamma Grayson joined us. We were then led by two guards.

I hoped he agreed to help us, because we truly needed his help...

Thirty minutes had passed, and I was a mess of nerves. We had entered the hall only for the Alpha to motion for me to take the seat to his right. Complimenting me that I looked beautiful, but it was how his gaze kept finding mine that made me nervous.

But to make up for it, the food was warm and tasty. We had not had a hot meal in days!

We had explained our full situation to him, including how Yileyna is the heart of our world. Although we weren't sure if he would believe us, he didn't argue about it, simply listening to us and let us speak as we put everything on the table. It was mostly Raiden and Gamma Grayson who did the talking, with Ryan and me inputting a little,

He seemed to have frowned at certain points but he said nothing, not until we were done, having no idea what he was thinking as his face remained emotionless.

"So... You are not even able to get in contact with your allies because of the Obsidian Shadow Pack guards... Andres was killed, and his daughter is held captive. Theon betrayed you all..." He ran his fingers through his short beard thoughtfully.

"Yes, we are being sought out, and on our way here we heard Theoden has commanded for us to be brought back to him, dead or alive didn't matter." Ryan added.

Hunter nodded before he sat back, placing his knife and fork down.

"Tell me, was your king any better than Theoden?" He asked. "Why do you think you should get Westerfell back?"

I frowned at his question as Gamma Grayson spoke up defensively.

"Of course, Alpha Andres was hardworking fair-"

"We cannot answer that, but what we can answer is right now there are innocent people being held captive, and this is not about father but Yileyna, the heir to that throne. Not because she was the king's real daughter, but because she is the heart, and therefore the rightful ruler. She is a person who stood up to the king countless times. Please, don't do this for father, but for the new Alpha, for Alpha Yileyna of the Silver Storm Pack. "I said softly yet clearly.

Hunter tilted his head, smirking slightly.

"Smart answer... however, why should I risk my men? What do I get in return?"

"What does the Alpha wish for? I am sure Alpha Yileyna would agree to your demands within reason." || replied.

"A hand in marriage." He replied, picking up his knife, shocking us all. 5

"We can't promise you that she'll agree." Raiden said sharply, I saw his eyes flash, possessiveness clear in them.

"How do you expect us to give our word to something that is not in our control to agree to?" Gamma Grayson asked, despite staying calm he was clearly worried.

We needed his help and the situation was tricky...

Hunter himself simply raised an eyebrow, that same tiny smirk playing on his lips.

"Then why don't I ask her myself?" He suggested before turning to me. "Tell me princess Charlene, is my army and support an offer fair enough for your hand in marriage?" 3

Rhys and I both gasped as I stared at him.

"M-Me?" I asked confused.

He leaned over, forcing me back in my seat, my heart thumping as that tantalising smirk crossed his lips.

"If I'm going to choose a woman, it will be one who is equally ravishing in looks as she is in character. I'm certain that you will make a fine Luna, so what will it be? My help is in your hands, princess." He asked huskily.

My heart thudded as his words rang in my mind. I had always been told that I should choose a man who would benefit this kingdom... Agreeing to an arranged marriage was not something so foreign, and if Alpha Hunter was willing to have me, then I would do this, for my people, my kingdom and my sister.

'You don't need to agree.' Raiden's quiet *v*oice came in my head, but I looked into the eyes of Alpha Hunter, my mind made up.

"I accept your offe*r*."