

Chapter 107

Avalynn POV

It has been three excruciatingly long months since the siblings tried to take over and failed. I closed my eyes and thought back about the battle. As I tore through the last of their minions, a bigger explosion happened. When I looked back, it was like a human nuclear bomb went off. I watched as buildings crumbled and burned all around. "Miranda..." I could hear myself speak but my voice cracked. She was over there. What happened? Was it the siblings' power? I can feel the fear now like I did then.

I remember rushing over and not being able to get through because of all the fire. Fear creeping up and creating knots, making it hard to breathe, or was that the smoke? We had to put the fire out around her before we could even get to her. Twenty-seven minutes later, we, Everest and myself, were by her side. She was badly burned, but how? I was so confused as to how her magic was used against her. I felt tears sting my eyes and threaten to spill over. I looked up at Everest and he shook his head.

"She is not dead." I told him.

"I can't hear her heartbeat though," his voice sounded sad. I wouldn't accept it though and knew she must be alive.

I remember ordering everyone for complete silence as I leaned closer, unable to accept that she was in fact dead.

Even the cackling sounds of the fire didn't dare disobey my order and for a moment, the world was silent. I listened closely as I heard Everest hold his breath. Her heartbeat was faint and I glanced up at my mate, I knew he could hear it too. "I can hear it, it's faint but it's there. We need to get her to the hospital now!"

Everest didn't waste any time as he lifted her. "Oh! Her skin is roasting still." He winced.

I raised my brow and placed a hand on hers and it was still hot to the touch. Not burning to the touch, but it would have been when she released the fire. Now it was just an unwelcome feeling, but Everest pushed through it as he ran. We rushed her to the hospital and made our way inside. It was chaos, so many injured people all around us. Our people, their people scattered around. But when we walked through those double doors of the hospital carrying the Queen of the Southern Territories, everything went silent. Everyone dropped down, from standing to kneeling, if able to do so. If not, they just bow their heads out of respect. People parted for us to come through.

Doctors and nurses rushed to us with a gurny and got ready to work on her. We stood and watched as they hurried her back. When we turned around together to walk back out, another doctor came to greet us.

"Hello your majesties." He bowed his head to us.

"Hello, Dr. Collins," Everest said.

"Hello." I greeted him as well.

"I would like to give you both an update on King Brent's status." Dr. Collins said to us.

"Is he going to make it?" I asked him.

His face contorted for just a moment before he spoke, "He is stable but critical. It seems his Lycan attempted to shield him from most of the damage but it is unsure how much. His Lycan side is severely injured and his healing process is slow. Almost comparable to that of a human. He hit his head pretty badly and had a brain bleed. We will know more about his condition once he wakes up. Until then, it is up to fate."

"It is that bad?" Everest asked him.

"Yes, your Grace, he may be out of it for days, weeks, or even months." Dr. Collins said sadly.

"Thank you, please send an update our way when you have one to give us." Everest dismissed Dr. Collins and I watched the man bow and leave.

"You know what we must do. We must combine the kingdoms, for now, until all is well with one or preferably both of them." I told Everest.

"I know, we need to gather everyone within the hour." Everest sighed and kissed my mouth.

Back to the present day..

I blinked when I heard my name being called again. His voice took me out of my thoughts and back to what was going on around me.

"Yes, my love?" I looked over at Everest, who had a concerned look.

"You need to get out of here. Out of this room, out of this hospital, please my love. Let Charlotte out, stretch your legs. Go be with the kids. They're asking about you, you know." He was standing next to me, his hand resting lightly upon my shoulder.

"What did you tell them?" I glanced up for a brief second and looked back down at Miranda. I couldn't understand how they were both still in comas.

"I told them that you are very busy helping run both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, trying to keep peace between all magic beings, and fighting fiercely to get back Miranda and Brent." I nodded and sat there in silence for a moment.

I closed my eyes and tried to make contact with Seraphine. I wanted to check one last time before I left. With zero success, I let out a heavy sigh. "I guess a nice hot bath sounds refreshing and relaxing. Can you send someone to make sure all of the kids are ready? I would like to take them all out for a picnic and a walk around the lake. Maybe tonight we can let our beasts out for a run together?" I stood up and turned to move into Everest's open arms. His hugs always seemed to make me feel better.

He walked me up to our room, he held the door open for me and allowed me to pass him only after he kissed my mouth softly. "Have fun, relax, enjoy your time with the kids. Please know that we will be doing everything that we can in your absence. I have Melissa and a few others working on finding a solution to get them both back." Both of his hands were resting on either side of my face before he leaned down and kissed me once more before he left.

I took a bath and soaked my body for almost an hour. Once I finally felt relaxed, I got out and showered. I washed away the rest of my worries as I scrubbed my body clean. I got out and hurriedly got myself ready. I put on a pair of dark-washed flared jeans, a soft brown belt went around my waste with a light blue button down blouse. I put on a pair of light brown loafers that had a silver chain going across the toe. I wore make-up that not only hid the dark circles from my lack of sleep over the last few weeks, but was light enough to not look as if it was caked on. My hair was straightened and pulled halfway up by a clip. When I felt like I was presentable enough, I left the comfort of our bedroom in search of all four of the kids.

I took the elevator up to their floor. When it dinged I was nearly trampled by all four of them rushing me. They were all ready to go and spend the day with me. I felt guilty at that moment that I had neglected them, especially Cassie, during this difficult time. I couldn't bring myself to think about when she came to the hospital. It was two weeks after the fact, and her little heart just broke into a million pieces.

"We have missed you. I tried to explain to them all of the duties and pressure you have been under." Trevor was talking louder than the rest who were calling my name.

I smiled at him and really looked at him. It had only been a short time since I last saw him, but today I realized how much he had grown. He carried himself with the most confidence one could. His head was always being held high and I could tell that the training he had been receiving was bringing out the best in him.

"Aunt Ava!" Cassie screeched at me and I looked down at her. When I kneeled, all three knocked me on the floor and we all fell in a fit of laughter.

As we walked outside, I looked out ahead of us as an instant smile came across my face. It was Amber and Claire standing, both carrying babies. "Oh my goodness!" I exclaimed, excited at seeing my best friends and their sweet babies. They were swarmed by the four of us. I hugged them both and greeted their babies with small kisses on their heads. "Congratulations, to the two of you!" I smiled between them both.

"Thank you!" Claire smiled at me.

"Yes, thank you. We have both missed you all very much." Amber said to me.

"You didn't miss us! We just left your side!" Bryan spoke up, causing Amber to chuckle.

"I still missed you!" She ruffled the top of Bryan's hair. He let out a yell and took off running towards the lake, Cassie hot on his trail.

I watched as Trevor and his brother took off running after them. "Don't worry, I'll look after them!" He called out to us.

I watched as they both put their babies into their strollers and we began to walk. I chatted with Claire and Amber about everything that has been going on the last few months. How the rebuilding of the different wolf territories was going. We discussed the situation of Miranda and Brent. How Everest and myself have been stretching ourselves thin between the two areas. They listened to me venting without interrupting. It felt like everything that I had been keeping in, was sitting heavily on my shoulders, was suddenly lifted. I was able to breathe and think more clearly.

"I'm sorry for rambling on like this you guys." I apologized and watched as they shook their heads.

"Nonsense. There has been a lot that has been going on this past year and a half. Everything is going to get better. Just give it time." Claire told me.

"I hope so." I commented.

"It will. It has to. Otherwise, what was all of this for?" Amber smiled warmly at me.

We reached the lake and unpacked the large basket. We ate, watched the kids play together, and enjoyed this moment. I was thankful for Everest and his sneaky plans. He was the best. I took a sip of my strawberry lemonade before taking turns holding the sweet babies. Amber ended up having a little boy, who would no doubt be as strong as his parents, and Claire and my brother ended up having a little girl.

"Wouldn't it be pretty neat if they grew up to be mated to one another. It could be possible, seeing how they're almost the same age." I thought out loud. I glanced over at Amber and Claire, who were both smiling.

"That would be nice," Claire agreed.

"Can you imagine the bond they would share?" Amber mused.

"It would be a strong one. They would already know one another, know each others parents. And what's best, the parents are all friends." I made kissy faces at my niece. "I think she likes that idea." I smiled and looked over at Amber's son. "What do you think of that little warrior?" He just cooed.

"It's settled then!" Amber declared and we all laughed.

Trevor came over and sat down beside me. "Hey, can I ask a question?"

"Sure." We all said in unison.

He lightly chuckled. "So how long did everyone take to find their mate?"

Claire spoke first, "I was eighteen and was so very close to rejecting him if he didn't change how he acted. It worked." She softly laughed.

"I found my mate when I was nineteen." Amber smiled.

"Okay." Trevor paused. "So don't feel bad yet, is what you're telling me?"

"Trev, you will find your mate. She will be perfect for you. Don't rush it. When we visit the packs, you are more than welcome to come with us." I pat him on the shoulder.

"Are you sure? Won't you be doing official business?" Trevor asked.

"We will be, but it is no big deal. There will be all kinds of fun activities and dances the packs will have planned upon our arrival." I told him.

"Okay. Thank you." Trevor smiled and let out a sigh.

"We had best get back. It's almost time for dinner." I let them know.

We rounded up the kids and made our way back. It had been a wonderful day of distraction that was much needed. I was able to spend some much needed time with the kids and my friends. After dinner we all sat around and talked. We discussed what was going on around the packs, if there were any other threats that anyone knew about. For once, it seemed as though the only thing we had to worry about was, if Brent and Miranda would survive this. I enjoyed the company I shared today, because tomorrow will start a new day of worries.

"Ready for that run?" Everest smiled at me. I knew he could tell I was getting lost in my thoughts again.

"We are ready." I felt Charlotte push forward. She was ready and excited. Not only to be out and able to stretch her legs, but to run with her mate. She deserved this and I felt guilty for keeping her inside so long.

"Don't be sorry, I understand." She told me.

With that, we both shifted and took off into the night, heading for the forest.