

## Chapter 110

It was quiet, other than the sounds of our breathing and our hearts beating. Miranda was holding onto Brent's hand tightly and refused to leave his side. She needed to get up and walk again, make her way around the floor, but she flat out refused to leave his side. She had threatened to cut off anyone's hand who touched her in an attempt to make her leave the room. I understood where she was coming from, of course. If I was her, I wouldn't want to leave Everest's side either. I would honestly be lashing out at everyone, my temper naturally getting the best of me as I demanded someone fix him. I would tear everyone's arms off before I would ever leave his side.

I let out a soft sigh as I looked over at Everest. He was sitting in the corner of the room, slumped in the chair. His eyes were closed, but I knew that he wasn't asleep, just resting his eyes. I looked back over to Miranda, she had sat up in her chair. My eyes then moved to Brent, who at that moment had turned his head slightly and was gazing up at Miranda. His eyes softened as he looked up at his beloved mate. It was easy to see the love he held for her.

"Everest." I whispered and heard him sit up.

"I will be right back." He left the room quickly in search of a doctor.

I moved to stand up behind Miranda and placed a hand on her shoulder, giving her my quiet support. I felt her relax a little under my touch. I looked over her shoulder and down to Brent. He had a smile on his face as he gazed up at Miranda.

"Hi." She breathed, choking up at the simple word.

"Hi." His smile widened. "It is so nice to see your beautiful face again."

Miranda let out a little chuckle as she sat up, moving closer to Brent. She leaned down to him, her hands going on either side of his face. She placed her forehead against his for just a moment, speaking before her lips grazed his in a gentle kiss. "It is so nice to see your handsome face too, my love."

I smiled and when she pulled back, Brent looked up at me. "Well, hey there stranger."

"Hello." I smiled. "It's nice to have you back."

He looked around the room. "It is nice to be back. Where is Everest?"

"He went to go get a doctor. They'll need to go over everything with you." I turned my focus to Miranda then. "While they're doing that would you like to go for a little walk?"

"I, well, I am not sure. I don't really want to leave his side. What if something happens?" She looked up at me.

"Nothing will happen to me. I will be fine. Go for a walk. I will, hopefully, be walking soon. And eating." Brent's stomach growled.

The door to their room opened and in walked Everest with a doctor trailing right behind him and a nurse hot on both of their heels.

"Oh! Good, good!" The doctor bowed to us. "I am Doctor Willington and this is Nurse Jessica. We will be checking you out and running a few tests on you. It is our goal to get you up and walking immediately. Then we will get you some food. I promise." He smiled down and turned to look at us. "I have heard that you are refusing to go walk." He peered down at Miranda over his glasses at her.

"It's true. I did do one lap around the floor. I just did not want to leave his side. I wanted to be here when he woke up." She squeezed her mate's hand.

"I would have done the same thing if I were in your shoes." I told Miranda honestly and smiled at her. "But, let us leave them to it? Perhaps you can do two laps? One with me and then one with Brent?"

"Oh, yeah sure thing." Miranda nodded her head. She then leaned over the bed rail and placed a kiss on Brent's mouth. "I will see you soon." She told him.

"I will see you soon." He smiled.

We walked around the hallway talking and catching up. Her movements were slow and steady. She was doing well, especially because of not being able to use her muscles for the last few months. I looked ahead and looked back, we had made it to the end of her hallway. It came to a T, then circled the entire floor. Whichever way she chose didn't really matter to me.

"Which way? Would you like to go left or right?" I asked her.

"Uh, left?" She looked down both ways before we both turned down the hallway. "So, what happened exactly?" She asked me.

"Well, you burned yourself from the inside out along with an enormous explosion. I was so worried that it was the twins who were responsible for what happened. We had just slayed the last one and had a difficult time getting back to you." I began before she interrupted.

"Explosion?" She looked over at me.

I nodded my head. "Yes, it was huge, bright and terrifying. It burned you and everything around you. We had to put flames out in order to get to you. Your flesh was still hot to the touch."

"That's saying something considering we are pretty warm and can handle heat so well," She said as we rounded the first corner. We walked in silence the next couple of minutes before she asked me, "So why was Brent out for so long?"

"From my understanding, you were linked to him. When the siblings cast that massive orb that crashed into him, it, we have assumed, automatically linked to his mate. Your magic just so happened to not bring you down as quickly as they had anticipated. Before you had collapsed on that battlefield, your magic, in a last desperate chance to save everyone, over powered you. It made you give into it's power to save you. Not to destroy everything or everyone in your path, except those damned siblings. To do this, you did have to make a personal sacrifice at the time. I know that you said that it didn't matter what the sacrifice would be, even if that meant giving up your own life. This I now need to tell you." I told her as we walked, approaching our destination.

I had timed our walk perfectly, so that we made it to a quiet area of the hospital. I had the staff create a spot set up similar in either direction she decided to take when we came to the turn. I knew I had told her that I would wait until she was ready. I knew she thought that when I said those words to her it meant that she would tell me she was ready. Unfortunately, what I really meant was when Brent was awake. I could not keep this secret from either of them. They both needed to know the truth. I couldn't let, really allow them to go on this journey together and wonder why they were not able to have children. I could not be the knowing party while I watched their hopes and dreams be crushed slowly over the years. I knew if I did not tell Miranda, she would not ask if this was the sacrifice she had committed to, but deep down I knew that she would know.

"Please, Avalynn, not now. Let me concentrate on walking. I will let you know when I am ready." She sighed, annoyed at me.

"Here, let's sit. Take a break." I told her and directed her to the chair.

She raised her brow, hesitating to go sit but did so eventually. A nurse saw us sit down and brought Miranda a small plastic cup of ice chips and a bottle of water. "Thank you." She whispered to her.

"So, I don't want you to speak. I want you to sit there, drink your water and listen to me." I paused and she nodded her head in agreement, so I continued, "I know you assumed that I would wait until you wanted to know what it would be. I agreed to wait until you were ready. You are ready, Brent is awake and stable. You are walking around the hospital floor. You are both getting stronger by each passing minute. I am also willing to bet that you can feel your beast awakening inside?" She nodded her head slowly. "Then you are ready. It is time for you to know."

Miranda took a deep breath, looking at the floor for a moment before looking back at me. I could see the uncertainty that her eyes held. She shook her head slowly, "What if it's something I can't handle, or Brent for that matter?" She frowned. "What if he can't stand to look at me anymore? I can not handle being a disappointment to him." The tears were now flowing freely across her face.

I reached out and placed a hand on hers. "Miranda, we are never given cards that we can't handle. The Moon Goddess knew that you and Brent are strong enough to take this on."

"But I never was able to ask him if he was willing to sacrifice anything?" She countered.

"I am sure he would sacrifice his own life, just like you, to help our people go on."

"That's true." She smiled now, wiping the tears away from her face. "Maybe you're right. We can handle whatever life throws our way."

"Okay. So.." I began but she cut me off.

"Wait though. I would like you to tell us together. Can we do that? Would you mind waiting?" She asked and I nodded. I figured that she had an idea, but I knew that it would not be real until it was said out loud and in the open. Only then would it be real.

I had not expected that she would want me to wait though. I figured that I would tell her and she would have figured out a way to tell him in private. "Of course, not a problem. Would you like to have a moment to tell him what is going on before I tell you both? Let him know of the details that led up to what was agreed upon? See if he would have done the same if he were in your shoes?"

"Yeah, that would be wonderful. Thank you." She took a sip of her water and looked down the hall. "Let's make our way back to our room. I honestly, with each passing moment, am feeling more like my old self." She smiled at me.

"That makes me happy to hear it. Yes, let's make our way back to your room. I am sure Brent should be back soon. He may already be back by now. That first walk should be a short one and we've been gone for almost an hour. That should have been plenty of time to get done what needed to be done." I stood with her and we began walking together in a comfortable silence, making our way back to her room.

"Thank you." She told me as we approached her room. "For never giving up on us." She hugged me before walking into her room.