

Chapter 73

The explosion made me dizzy and I felt sick to my stomach. I figured the sickness was from morning sickness. I felt as if I would pass out and lightheaded. I felt cold, almost numbingly cold. I swear I can now see my breath. I looked down at the row of people who were sitting up on the council. Bodies were scattered everywhere and I could tell that they were still alive. Thank the Goddess. I saw movement as Miranda and Brent came out from under the table. I swallowed hard, doing my best to power through this wave of sickness.

"What the f**k was that?!" Brent shouted over at us.

"A witch, I think," Everest answered.

"It was definitely a witch," Miranda said as she struggled to stand. "Keep your eyes open and be aware of your surroundings." She warned us all.

"Oh my goddess!" I looked out at the people who were scattered around. I could smell their blood as it tainted the air. I looked over at the cell, as Dexter would not shut up. He was laughing and looked very pleased. I heard someone growl and he laughed louder. Bastard.

I walked over to him and he had a sadistic smile on his face. "I know you had something to do with this!" I yelled at him, my anger taking over. I felt my body trying to shift and I tried to suppress the shifting. I did not want to give in to my anger.

He stepped closer to the cells and had a sadistic smile on his face. "I did have something to do with this." He confessed.

Everest growled and stepped forward. Brent growled at his brother, moving forward as well. They were standing on either side of me now, Miranda stood behind Brent, using him as a shield for her own protection.

"Explain yourself, brother!" Brent demanded through gritted teeth.

"Why should I explain anything to you? You are weak. You should not hold the crown upon your head! You and that traitorous b**h!" He spat.

Brent was fuming as fur began to come out of his skin. He was dangerously close to shifting. He slammed his hand against the silver cell and let out a deathly growl, ignoring the blistering feeling on his hand from the silver. Miranda wrapped her arms around him and he began to calm down, not much, but some.

"Everest, you are not fit to rule. You do not deserve her. What was the Moon Goddess thinking? You are not worthy of her, her love, and her powers." Everest growled when suddenly Dexter reached between the bars and snatched Everest by the shirt collar.

They fought one another for control, the burning sound of Dexters skin against the cell sounded sickening. Brent tried helping by pulling Everest by the waist. Pulling him back and away from the silver. When his arms were far enough out from the bars, I slashed Dexter's arm with a knife. He made a hissing sound and pulled his arms back.

I attempted to use my abilities to freeze Dexter's movements but something was wrong. My magic was not working against him. I couldn't figure out why as I continued to try to use it. I heard a crashing sound as the men fell backwards onto the floor. Dexter tilted his head back laughing. I walked over with Miranda, helping them up. Everest had a burn line going across his face where his face had touched the silver bars in the beginning.

I whispered to Miranda "My magic is not working. Something is wrong."

She nodded her head, "Same, I am as useless as a human right now. I didn't want to alarm you, but there is some dark stuff going on right now. There is a blocker of some sort up right now."

Everest sighed "Leave him here. He can't escape without this key. We need to get our people out of this building now!"

"Agreed, let us get to it. Miranda, I need you to go to the Castle and bring back anyone who can help us." Brent told her and she nodded her head.

We started moving everyone out of the building, one by one. We had to separate the living from the dead and the critical and noncritical. Groups of our people showed up, offering their help. Sobs were heard as people came to claim family members. An hour passed by as the last member was taken to the Kingdoms hospital. I walked back into the room and frowned at the cell. Dexter was leaning against the silver bars with a grin. I knew that he should not be able to do that.

"I have a secret, my pretty girl." He grinned at me.

"What? How are you...?" I stepped closer to see if my eyes were deceiving me. They were not, he was in fact leaning on the bars.

"I am not Dexter." He whispered.

"What do you mean?" I took a step away from him. I was too close, I needed to get out of the room.

Suddenly, an arm was wrapped around me and a hand covered my mouth. Instinctively I opened my mouth and bit hard against the hand. Not this time, not today. I struggled and fought against whoever was behind me. "You smell like him, Princess. I will have to fix that." His hand rested against my stomach.

"You smell like you are pregnant, too. How unfortunate, that should be my pup." He moved to have a silver blade pressed against my neck as I stilled. The silver burning against my skin. His tongue traced my ear as he pulled me tight against him. Feeling him on me made me want to vomit. He was revolting.

"Dexter." I breathed, hearing his voice, his breath hot against my neck.

"It is me, Princess." He moved us towards the opposite direction.

Someone came up next to him and whispered to him "We need to leave here. Now. They will be in here to retrieve you and move you to the prison cells."

"Thank you for taking my place, Gresh. Now get us all out of here." He commanded him and he began chanting.

The silver knife was at my throat. I had waited long enough and as the knife moved away from me I pushed with all the strength I could muster and shoved the arm into the one he called Gresh. The silver knife sliced through the shoulder of the man and he screamed in pain.

"You b**h!" He yelled at me.

I took off running and linked to Everest "Help! Back in the trial ro-"

I was tackled from behind as we fell against the corner side of the table, all of their weight on me. I let out a painful cry as I was slung to the floor, falling onto the ground onto a sharp piece of the crumbled wall. I screamed as pain shot through my entire body, being impaled by something metal. I rolled over onto my back as Dexter moved to stand over to me.

Gresh stood next to him and blew something over me. "That will slow it down." He told Dexter as he nodded.

"Oh you're bleeding." Dexter said to me with a sinister smile upon his face. "How unfortunate."

Everest busted through the door at the opposite side of the room, then with a deadly growl. Dexter stood back and grinned at him. Gresh walked over, placed a hand on him, and they were gone. I held my hands at my stomach as blood poured out of my wound.

Everest rushed to my side and lifted me up from the ground. I could smell the rusty scent of my blood as it coated Everest. I felt weak and small. I couldn't feel Charlotte anymore either.

I tried calling her to heal us, but she was gone. Why was she gone? I put my hand on my blood-drenched stomach and weeped. My eyes felt heavy as Everest seemed to be running with me. He had shifted. When did he do that? My eyes closed and I heard him. It was as if he was begging me to stay awake. I tried. I really did. Sleep just felt more comforting, more relaxing. I couldn't fight it any longer and drifted into unconsciousness as bright warm-looking lights welcomed me.

Everest POV

I could smell her blood before I entered the room. I felt her pain, her panic as she called out to me. I rushed to her as quickly as I could. Dexter was somehow out of his cell, standing over her body that was soaked in her own blood. Another was next to him smiling evilly at me. I let out a deep, deadly growl. I made eye contact with Dexter and he smirked at me. I began stalking towards him as the weird looking fellow waved and in an instant they were both gone. I didn't have time to worry about where they had gone.

I rushed to get to Avalynn who was shaking, crying out in pain, and lying in her own pool of blood. As I had feared before entering the room, she was indeed bleeding out. Why wasn't she healing? I lifted her up into my arms and began running. I shifted mid stride and ran as fast as my beast could go. When her body went limp, I growled at her to wake her. Her eyes fluttered open again as we reached the Kingdoms hospital. Her eyes locked onto my own and I could see her barely hanging on. I busted right through the door and everyone parted to make room for me to move to where I needed to take her. Her eyes closed again as I sat her down where the doctor directed me to. I shifted back to my human form and looked at Avalynn.

"Please, King Everest, step back and allow us to work." The doctor spoke to me and I growled.

He spoke to me again, "I understand you are worried about your mate, but I need you to step away from her and allow us to do our jobs."

I growled and stepped away. I knew he was right. I looked down at her one last time before leaving the room, walking out the doors, and leaving the hospital behind me. I felt like I couldn't breathe, my anger and rage was too much, almost suffocating me. When I stepped outside, I let out a sad howl and took off running to the woods. I saw red as I shifted and ran deep into the woods, giving my beast full control. I was afraid, worried, and upset that I had left her alone again. I didn't think. I never do. It is all my fault. She may die because of my stupidity.

I felt some others following close to me, but still keeping their distance. It was Brent and Jameson. They were coming to check on me, trying to take me back to the hospital. I knew I needed to, I just needed to run off some steam. My anger was boiling over in a blinding fit of rage.

"She needs you." Jameson's voice crossed through me.

"He is right, she needs you now more than ever. Come back, let me handle hunting my brother. I have already ordered his immediate capture, dead or alive." Brent told me through the link. This caused me to stop running. I was angry and this was the final push for me to be in a blind rage.

I turned on him and linked Brent back. "You should have allowed us to kill the bastard on sight the first f****g time. My mate would not be battling for her life right now!" I yelled, lunging, and snapping at him. I needed someone else to blame and he was the perfect one to blame at that very moment. Even though I understood then, I shifted my blame to him now.

He didn't fight me back as Jameson got in between us, trying to push me away. My beast let out a growl, slashing violently around Jameson, connecting and opening up a wound on Brent.

"Stop Everest! You don't want to do this. Stop!" Jameson linked me and I stopped looking at him.

"You are siding with him?" My beast growled out in warning.

"No, I am siding with Avalynn." He told me in the most calming voice.

I turned and walked away from them both. I had slashed Brent with my claws when I lunged at him. As I walked back in the direction of the hospital, thunder sounded above and the rain began to pour down on me. I had shifted back into my human form as I approached the hospital. I walked inside and saw the lobby was full of people. Miranda was leaning against the wall with her arms crossed, standing next to Amber. Both of their heads shot up to look at me. Amber had a glare on her face, I knew she knew what had happened out in the woods.

I looked at Miranda. "I am sorry. Will you please tell Brent I am sorry too? Amber, will you fill her in? I know you know."

She gave me a curt nod. I walked through the double doors going to be with my mate. I could feel she was still extremely weak as I followed her scent. She was lying in the bed, with a large bandage wrapped around her abdomen and hooked up to machines.

I could feel the doctor coming my way. When he stopped behind me, he waited for me to acknowledge him. I didn't want to ask, I didn't want to know. I needed to know though, that she would be okay, once she healed. How was the baby? Did she lose the baby? There was so much blood. Where was her beast?

I let out a long sigh and the doctor's hand rested on my shoulder. "My King, should we go somewhere to talk? There is a lot of information we need to discuss."

"Very well. Just tell me one thing first. Will she be okay?" I asked him and turned to look at him.

"We are hopeful she will be just fine, once she fully heals." He answered me.

He led me to his office and motioned for me to have a seat. I sat down and looked across the desk at him. "Give it to me." I told him and he sighed, hanging his head down. I knew there was some difficult news coming my way.

