

## 92 THE PLOT

BELLE'S POV 1

Belle watched in humiliation as Xaden attacked another Alpha over a mere slave.

First, he turned down her offer to be with him and went after the slave.

And just as she stood watching him leave with her, she felt ashamed.

She turned around and saw that all eyes were on her.

He had disgraced her, all because of that mere servant!

Alex groaned in pain as his men came to his assistance.

She had never liked her cousin Alexander, so she didn't feel so bad that he was hurt.

What she wanted was for Xaden to take someone's life for her.

The way he had done it for this slave!



She bent down towards Alex. "You're so weak and useless!"

"Better a weak Alpha than a jilted woman." Alexander said. "You would never have him." 4

Her face went ashen white.

"How dare you?" She started.

His men assisted in lifting him.

"Don't be stupid. Spoilt daddy's girl. You think everyone doesn't see it?" And his voice went louder.

She felt cold and ashamed.

"Everyone sees how the King's daughter and the future Queen parade themselves, chasing after a man who does not want her." He said.

There were murmurs in the crowd.

Belle instantly regretted pouring her anger on him. 2

"Be quiet, or I'll

"And even fighting in front of slaves," Alex said.



She pulsed and took a step back.

"Better a weak Alpha than a woman who, regardless of how many times she spreads her legs open," he said. "I would never attract a man."

There were gasps among the crowd.

No one in the royal family was there to support her.

Her parents had retired, and her mother and aunt were off somewhere.

She was glad they weren't because she couldn't stand this shame.

She went to the table, grabbed the goblet that Xaden had drunk from, and left.

As usual, she marched out of the ballroom in despair and humiliation and ran to where her mother could be.

She found her mother and aunt stirring a massive pot.

They turned to look at her.

"What's the matter with you?" Her mother asked.



"Something needs to be done about that slave."  
Belle said. "She is ruining everything."

"What happened?" Her aunt asked.

Belle narrated everything, and the women were both silent.

Belle looked at both women.

"She needs to go! He almost killed Alexander because of her! For her! What did she do to him?! I thought she was the enemy! I thought he hated her!" Belle wailed.

"He does hate her." Her aunt said. "It's just a little complicated." He must have had to have married and bonded with her to bring her from her home. He would not disobey the rules and force her here."

"B-bonded?" Belle stuttered. "So they are mates?"

"Of course not." Her mother said this as she stirred the pot further. Bonded doesn't mean mate. It's just a way of being tied to someone. She is pulled to him, and he, in turn, is pulled to her."





Belle wanted to throw up as she felt sick and overwhelmed by the news.

"But bonds can be broken like anything else." Her aunt said. "Wipe your tears. It's just temporary."

Temporary? Belle didn't feel it was temporary when he was fighting other Alphas over her.

"I just want to see her gone." Belle said. "He stood me up in front of everyone. He didn't even acknowledge that I was there."

"Did you bring the goblet?" Aunt Cherry asked.

Belle sighed and handed the goblet.

Aunt Cherry received it and smiled. "This is the most important thing to us. Did he drink from it? And did you?"

Belle nodded. "Yes."

She dropped the goblet inside the pot and resumed stirring.

The pot emitted green smoke and returned to the inside. 3

"So what exactly is this going to do?" Belle asked impatiently.



All she wanted to know was if it would get her Xaden.

She didn't care about how but wanted to know if it would work.

"The drink was tainted with one of my potions." Aunt Cherry said. "He had to drink it, which was why you had to drink it too. You both must taste the challenge for it to work. Now that the goblet you bought drunk off is here, the powers will manifest tomorrow."

Belle still didn't understand.

They had not entirely explained the spell and what it was for, but she had obeyed their instructions.

"How is this going to get me Xaden?" She asked uninterestedly, going straight to the matter at hand.

"Patience, my child." Aunt Cherry said as she continued stirring. Do you know what the last and final Halo festival is about?"

Belle shrugged. She slept off when her teachers and scholars taught her that part.



She hates learning about being a wolf. It was boring.

"Well, the sacrifice is the last and most important festival. The victor who won the hunt, who is also expected to be the pack's Alpha, is to perform this sacrifice. All the Alphas are to be present, as are other high-ranking wolves. The lower class would return to their homes. When it's time, the Victor will take in power from the halo moon, driving him insane. He is to find the maiden."

"M-maiden? What maiden?" Belle asked.

"What were you doing when your scholars were teaching you? A queen is supposed to be dull!" GrandAunt Cherry snapped.

Belle looked down at her feet.

"He will look for the maiden. The spirits would give him a maiden; even if she were a thousand miles away, he would find her in the blink of an eye. And when he does, he will mate with her. Release the power with the maiden, and then they release great and powerful magic that will sustain the wolves until the next halo festival." She explained.

"Who is this maiden going to be?" Belle asked quietly.

"We have no idea. But whoever she is, it's going to be reversed. This magic we've made will make you the maiden." Her mother said this to her as she took the stirring pot from Aunt Cherry. "And then Xaden will mate with you and have no choice but to marry you."

Belle smiled. 1

She couldn't wait for tomorrow night.



