

190 190- Second Spot

Aurora: 1

I felt my breath stuck in my throat, "This... this is mine..." My gaze was glued to the necklace, reminding myself mentally that he couldn't hear me.

"I know," he whispered.

My eyes snapped up to his face in stunned silence, "Y... you..."

"Yeah," his eyes softened, "I can hear you." 2

I was sitting there like a dumb statue, not knowing how to react.

"Who are you, Jai Chris?" I asked him.

He kept looking at me silently and then suddenly cracked up, taking me by surprise.

And for the first time.

For the first time, I felt like he was not my Jai. He was someone else. Someone evil. 1

"Here!" he held the locket and leaned forward to clasp it around my neck, "Let me go outside before you use it."

He ruffled my hair before getting up.

I saw him leaving the cell without looking back.

The guard was back, and he was about to lock the door, when I quickly held the small pendant and said, "Stop!"

The air around me seemed to shift as I found the guard before me standing still.

"Amora?" I went out of the cell.

"I'm here, Aurora. Don't worry. Just get to that spot."

Searching my way back to the hallway, I reached there and waited. Within a minute, I found fog around me.

The same smoke that helped me reach here was now getting intense.

"Step forward, Aurora," Amora instructed me. I must have taken one or two steps when I saw the familiar surroundings.

The same hut that I left a few hours back. Oh, sorry. My bad. The hut that I left a few minutes back.

"Welcome back, dear!" Amora hugged me and patted my back, "Good job."

I slipped my hand into my pocket and pulled out the Emerald.

"Wow!" she breathed, raising it to her eye level and holding it there, her fingers trembling as the

faint glow shimmered against her face.

"Amora, we don't have time," I quickly grabbed the stone back from her hand, "Let's go and treat Jai," I held her hand to walk out of the hut, but she pulled me back.

"Hey, girl," she said softly, but her grip wasn't gentle, "Don't you want to go back to the past and make things right for yourself?"

I shook my head wildly with a frown, "No. First, we need to treat Jai. His life is in danger. He is fighting for his life on that hospital bed."

For the first time, I saw Amora's face hardening as she shoved me lightly as if she was trying to snap me out of my stubbornness, "You must be crazy. Aurora. If you don't go back now, there won't be any chance in the future. This one moment is all you've got..."

My eyes stayed on her, unsure what she meant.

"Why?" I asked her gently, "Why now?"

"It's a cycle. You can't break it. All three spots were meant to happen one after the other," When she saw me not moving, she closed her eyes and sighed, "Nothing is happening to Jai. He's safe right now. But if you waste this... this chance will be gone forever."

I didn't know what to do. My friend needed me,

but Amora wanted me to go back and make things right. Wasn't it selfishness?

"Okay. Let me explain," her voice turned gentler as if I was a child, "Let me send one of my girls with this stone and have her place it on his forehead. The healing will begin. In the meantime, you can go back into the past and do what you wanted to do," she rested her hand lightly on my shoulder and gave it a little squeeze, "Once you return, we'll take you straight to the hospital, and then you can use your healing along with that stone's energy. That way, Jai will be healthy and your wishes will also come true."

I closed my eyes; my mind was a mess.

"Aurora. Think what Jai would have wanted you to do!" Amora stated.

What Jai had wanted me to do?

Hey Phoe. Go back and do it. I trust you. I'm not going anywhere!

No idea if this was really Jai's voice in my head or if I was imagining it.

You'd better stay alive, Jai.

I was still confused but then I went back to the same small table and took my place.

Amora sat in front of me. She seemed happy with my decision.

"Now I'm sending you to the palace," she said and moved the green shell towards her, "Once you reach there, my assistant will take the stone straight to Jai. You need to trust me in this, Aurora," she reached across the table and held my hand.

I nodded and closed my eyes. Sure. I trusted her, that was why I decided to take the step.

When I reopened my eyes, she had started mumbling the chants.

My heart missed a beat. Returning to this palace as a warrior was one thing, but going back to the time when I was abused was another.

"This time, don't let this locket go," she reminded me, and then resumed her chanting.

With a nod, I waited patiently for the smoke. This time, I was ready and knew what was to come.

The smoke slowly started coming out of the shell, just like last time. It grew and wrapped around us like a blanket.

I checked my locket again and started practicing my breathing exercise, waiting for Amora's voice.

After a few minutes, she said through the fog,
"Stand up. And walk!"

I slowly got up and took a few steps. The smoke
got lighter and then vanished.

I was standing in the training ground of the
palace, but right now it seemed deserted.

Where was everyone?

Thinking to myself, I started walking to the Luna
Quarters. This was evening time.

Once I reached near them, I heard someone
behind me, "Luna. What are you doing here?" 1

I froze and then, gathering all the courage, and
turned around. Beta Hunter was heading
towards me, "If Luna Tamia finds out, she will be
angry."

He told me as if I were a child.

"... I just wanted fresh air," I said, following him.

Uh huh. He didn't hear me.