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Aurora: 1

Most of the people had left the ground. The scent of wet soil was still there in the air, and the cement was still damp where Jai lay buried.

I turned my head when Sebastian touched my shoulder before leaving, "You sure you don't want me to stay?" he asked me softly.

Forcing a small smile, I gave a small nod to my head, "I'll be fine. Just need a few minutes with him."

He hesitated, studying my face as if he didn't trust anyone around me. But then nodded once and walked off towards the car.

I was sure he must have instructed his men to keep an eye on me.

Upon my request, they had paid Jai a proper tribute. The royal army gave him a proper farewell upon Sebastian's order.

His reasoning was, "None of them knows what he did. He saved the queen of the Velmora Kingdom. He deserves this much respect, love."

And now I was standing here with Alpha Blake. He stood a few steps away, his hands clasped behind his back. We both were busy staring at

the grave.

I crossed my arms and exhaled, "When are you going back to your pack?" I asked him without even looking at him.

"Right after this," he gestured towards the grave, "I already overstayed," he said with a chuckle. The irony was, he lost two of his betas because of me.

"And his head warrior too," Aria reminded me of Kiara, "And a Luna too," she finished with a pout, making me smile.

Nice try, Aria! I was aware she was trying to cheer me up.

"Give my love to Asher and Ashwin," I told him, and a soft smile crossed his face at the mention of his kids.

"Sure."

We stood there for a few more minutes in awkward silence until I remembered about the watch and took it out from the pocket of my black skirt, "Here. It belongs to Jai. But I guess he wanted me to have it. As an Alpha, I think... you should know," I shrugged.

He shook his head with a nonchalant smile, "If he wanted you to have it, then there is no point arguing about it. We all knew that he'd want you to keep this watch someday."

I raised the lady's watch to my eye level and smirked, "Yeah. I'm sure. However, I still don't understand why he always wore it."

Alpha Blake gave me a blank look, as if trying to say, *You've got to be kidding me.*

"What?" I asked him in confusion.

"He never told you?"

When I didn't answer him, he exhaled and chewed his inner cheek like he was deciding if he should tell me or not.

"What is it, Alpha Blake?" I had to ask when he didn't speak.

"This watch... it belonged to his sister Giana..."

"Giana. Yes, I remember her name from our last discussion." As Jai's ex-friend, I didn't know much about his family, nor did he try to offer me any details.

On the other hand, Jai knew everything about me and my past.

Alpha Blake took a step closer, "Phoenix, he wasn't a bad man... just..."

I started shaking my head with a smirk, "Stop siding with him, Alpha Blake," I said in an even tone, "I know he was your friend, but just stop..." I finished with a chuckle.



Alpha Blake nodded in understanding, "You cared for him more than you admit, Phoenix..."

I wanted to flinch at the mention of my name. The name that had my back for two years... I didn't want to be called by this name anymore.

I turned away towards the grave, brushing away a strand of hair, "You should go, Alpha Blake."

He sighed and gave a last look to Jai's grave, "Take care, Phoenix," he gave me a tight-lipped smile and walked away.

After coming back from the graveyard, while walking to Sebastian's Wing, I could feel my heart sinking.

I felt like my chest could burst any moment. I took out the wristwatch from my pocket and looked at it carefully.

In my heart, I knew Jai wanted me to have it. But why?

If he wanted, he would have given it to me.

Why would he choose to give it to me right before his death?

I pulled out my phone and called Beta Hunter.

"Yes, head warrior," his voice came from the phone, and the way he called me head warrior

sounded funny.

The way he kneeled in the hospital ... it was so embarrassing.

"Can I ask you a favor, Beta?"

"Sure, Aurora. Go ahead."

"I need information on someone," I said without taking a pause, "Giana Chris... I hope this is her name. Jai Chris's sister. Everything you can find on her. You need to check if she is alive or dead. No assumptions. Just confirmation."

There was a brief pause on his end, and then he said finally, "Yes, ma'am. You'll have it by tonight."

That was when I realized that the way I just spoke to him was in no way a head warrior's tone. I commanded him like a queen.

He must've sensed it too, because I heard a small hint of amusement in his voice when he added, "Understood, your highness."

I stopped dead in my tracks and closed my eyes, picturing his smirk.

"I'm... I'm sorry if..." My lips curved slightly.

"No apologies, please," he said, laughing softly, "I think this is the first proper favor you are asking me as a queen."

"N...no... I didn't mean to..." I stuttered badly, but

his next statement dismissed my nervousness.

"Hey, it's fine. Nothing to be embarrassed about."

"I'm not embarrassed," I started walking slowly, but my voice didn't sound too convincing.

Hunter's chuckle came through the line, "Sure, my queen."

I rolled my eyes even though he couldn't see me, "Shut up, Hunter."

"See! Only a queen or a king can ask me to shut up. You are taking your role seriously now."

Before I could argue, he had ended the call.

Queen?

A shiver ran through me, and to ignore it, I moved my attention to Jai's watch.

