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Aurora: 1

Giana wasn't ready to let him near her. She was repeatedly removing his hands from her shoulders, trying to get closer to me.

"It's... okay..." I told her softly, "It's okay, Giana... He is not hurting me..."

With a woman-child or child-woman, I couldn't pollute her little mind with more trauma. I was not a fool to not understand that she had been ra*ped.

She hugged me while crying and kept complaining about something in her muffled voice. Lucien was still crying, but now he wasn't making eye contact with me.

"Mom!" Jia came sleepily and stopped near the door, "What..." Her eyes darted between her father, who was wearing nothing except a boxer.

Then, to my hair that was disheveled.

"She... she never left her room..." Jia whispered, "My mom never left her room...whenever we tried to take her outside her room, she always screamed and ran back."

Chewing my lower lip, I hugged Giana to me. She smelled of Jai, or maybe my mind was playing

tricks.

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The healer injected some medicine that made Giana lazy. She was clutching me tightly while sitting on her bed.

"These are the meds," The healer started placing a few tablets on the small ceramic tray, "If possible, give them to her now."

Giana was already shaking her head, "I don't want it... it tastes awful."

I sighed softly and looked for the glass of water. Picking it from the nightstand, I brought it near her lips, "You will feel better, silly. It's nothing... just a teeny tiny tab... see?" I showed her the red pill that was the smallest.

"But... but I'm... I'm fine... see. I also eat my greens now... Right, Lucy?"

Lucien didn't speak. He still seemed to be in shock.

I brushed a few strands of her hair from her forehead, "Come on, sweetie pie. Don't make me beg. Pleaseee...."

I made a face and held out my tongue, which made her giggle. With a sleepy pout, she obeyed and swallowed the tablets with the water.

"Good girl!" I patted her cheek lightly, "Now go to sleep, or I'm giving you more medicines."

Like a good kid, she immediately closed her eyes.

Lucien was leaning against the wall, and worry was evident on his face.

"Didn't I ask you to do whatever she says?" The healer asked Lucien and then started packing her medical kit, "I also warned you not to let her see any of your violent side, and still you..." She trailed off, maybe realizing that she was talking to the rogue king.

Lucien didn't say anything. His eyes were on Giana's face, whose eyes were closed now, and she still wasn't letting me go.

"I know it's too much to ask, dear," The elderly healer placed her hand on my shoulder, "Can you stay with her for a while. Soon she will go to sleep."

I nodded at her and bent my head to look at Giana, who was watching me through half-opened lids.

"Don't go anywhere?" She asked me in a small voice, and I shook my head.

"I won't go anywhere, Giana," I told her softly. She was still shaking, but now her voice was

turning into a whisper.

"For... forgive him... please?" She murmured, trying to keep her eyes open.

I didn't want to look at Lucien's face.

Beast!

"I will forgive him," I said through gritted teeth, "Your mate was just trying to... become an... animal."

I said jokingly, trying to flare Lucien, but Giana bobbed her head, "I'm... I'm not talking about Lucy. I'm talking about Jai. Forgive him."

That made me go still.

How did she know...

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She was now sleeping peacefully, but even in her sleep, she didn't want to leave my hand. While settling my ass on the edge of the bed, I lifted off my feet and folded my knees.

"I..." Lucien ran a hand through his hair, "I think I should go... you said that you have healing power...." He gestured towards the innocent woman, snoring lightly, "Why don't you heal her?"

Wow. Just wow.

The audacity.

Without an apology, he expected me to heal his mate.

"No!" I shook my head, "The offer was before you attacked me. Sorry. But no respect means no healing."

"Even when she is your friend's sister?" his eyes were wandering over my face.

"Even when she is my friend's sister. And please..." I whispered, not wanting to disturb Giana, "Don't call him my friend."

He raised his brows but remained quiet.

"Fine! I'll pay you... and I know... you don't need any kind of payment. You are married to Sebastian and you are already a queen, but..."

My brows furrowed in reaction, "What do you.... How do you know this..." Was he there when I was talking to Jia?

He shook his head and smiled, "We know a lot about you," His focus then went back to the woman who hiccupped in her sleep, "She was not always like that. She was the soon-to-be Beta, a cheerful girl who was full of life once. Then everything changed."

I, at last, looked up when he didn't get any response from me.

"You want healing?" I gave him a questioning

look, "So here is the deal. Tell me everything."

He tilted back his head, "Everything?"

"Yeah. Everything about Giana. You. Jai. Everything about the past. I know nothing about Jai. And no one else is willing to tell me anything about him," I let out a chuckle that lacked humor. 1

He at last pushed against the wall, "And why are you under the impression that I'll tell you everything?" His lips twitched into a forced grin, "Why would I do something, your friend never did when he was alive?"

I narrowed my eyes and freed my hand gently from Giana's grip, "Why? Don't you want me to heal her?" I batted my lashes dramatically, making him sigh. 1

"Alright," He whispered as if giving up and walked to the edge where I was sitting. However, instead of sitting near me, he preferred to sit on the carpeted floor.

"Alright, Aurora. From where should I start?" He sat cross-legged.

I rolled my lips between my teeth before answering him, "From the start... When everything didn't even start."