



711 BLACK RAIN AND DARK SKY (53)

Cane's body was stiffened when he heard how surprised Grace was when she checked on Iris. His jaw clenched tightly, as all the negative thoughts invaded his mind.

He lost Leane and their baby when she was eight months pregnant and now, Iris was only seven months, somehow, he became very apprehensive the close she was to eight months. Of course, the two things couldn't be connected, since the situation was very different, yet he couldn't help, but felt restless, especially when he had to be away all the time.

Cane didn't want to think this was not the right time to have a child, because it would sound like he didn't want the baby. He wanted their baby, but he felt hopeless and guilty because he couldn't give a better environment for Iris and their future child.

"What is it, Grace? Is something happened to my baby?" Iris asked, she held Grace's hand. She also could feel Cane's hand on her waist tightened, as



his body became stiff. "Is there something wrong?"

Iris first thought was; Laluna managed to do something to the food she was eating. She couldn't help, but having a negative thought about her. Ever since she wanted Cane and learned about her pregnancy, that possibility was something that could happen.

Seeing how worried Iris was, Grace immediately cleared her throat and smiled reassuringly at the two of them. "I am sorry, I make you worried with my reaction. This is not something bad." She smiled even wider. "This is actually something great! Really great!"

"Talk," Cane said curtly, which made Grace didn't dare to put the tension and immediately let them knew.

"Congratulation, alpha! Luna! You have twin!"
Grace clapped her hands. "Luna Iris is having twin!"

However, before Cane and Iris could give any reaction upon hearing that news, they heard



someone had screamed, which startled them.

It was Aliana, she happened to enter the room because Iris said she wanted to eat something spicy and because she knew Grace was already inside, she didn't knock and entered the room right away only to hear this great news! This was indeed a great news amidst the depressing situation.

"Twin! The luna is having twin!" Aliana couldn't help, but announced it and they could hear the uproar from the outside when the warriors were freaking out with the news. "Congratulation, luna! Alpha!"

Aliana's step halted when she saw Cane's expression. It seemed, she had announced something that they wanted to enjoy for themselves for a while.

Sheepishly, Aliana backtracked. "I will put the food here, luna." She put the food on the table and scurried away from the room to celebrate it with the warriors outside.

"How are the babies?" Cane shifted his attention to



Grace. "Will Iris be fine?" After all, she was carrying two lives within her.

Grace checked on Iris again, more carefully this time and told them Iris was fine. "I think this explains why the luna is easily exhausted and how her appetite increased." Grace smiled softly. "She is literally eating for three people."

And after making sure there was nothing wrong and took a note of what Iris needed to do and what she couldn't, Grace left the room, leaving the two of them to savor this moment.

"Cane, we have twin..." Iris touched her belly and felt the movement of the babies. No wonder she and Cane thought their baby was very active, as it turned out, there were two babies.

Cane said nothing, he buried his face against Iris's nape and hugged her from behind. He said nothing, but a whisper of 'thank you'.

The news about Iris was having twins spread in the pack house, especially around Howling Wolf pack warriors, they were excited to see their alpha



and luna's future children and for the first time, their faces beamed with happiness despite the never ending gloomy sky above them.

"Twin!?" Laluna gritted her teeth, she glanced at her son, who was trying to flip his body. Vermion was healthy now and he became more active. The baby had started to babble a few words, but it didn't make Laluna happy. "They have twin?!"

Cane had twin sibling before and it was not common for shifter to have twin, thus for Iris to have twin, it felt like she was emphasizing the babies were really Cane's.

"How that can happen?!" Laluna immediately realized how stupid the question was. Of course, that could happen because she was having Cane's babies.

On the other hand, Koda watched Laluna was throwing a temper tantrum. He narrowed his eyes when he saw this woman was being restless upon hearing that news.

"Why are you so mad? You don't need to be



obsessed with their babies. It's none of your concern."

Laluna stopped herself and tried to compose her anger.

"Why do you care so much about their babies? Do you like Cane?" Koda tilted his head, his sharp eyes fixed on Laluna's expression, as she tried so hard to keep her calm.

Laluna picked baby Vemion from the bed and cradled him in her arms. "What do you mean I like him? I have my own son and he will be the future king. More so, alpha Cane already has his own mate."

"I don't know." Koda shrugged his shoulders and then stood up, he approached Laluna and pinched her chin, so their eyes met. "Maybe you wanted to be his mate instead and put him on the throne, since Cane came from royal bloodline."

Laluna's heart skipped a beat when she heard that. Did he know? Did Cane tell him about it? From what she knew, alpha Cane was not someone like



that, moreover, after that night, they didn't make any move on him. Alpha Cane wouldn't be that petty, right? He should have let it go about that matter.

Koda took a step back and waved his hand. "I will visit you tonight, put your baby in the nursery room."

And with that, Koda left, leaving Laluna dreaded with all the possibilities that could happen, but after calming herself down, she decided it was only a coincidence, because knowing Koda, if he really knew about that, he wouldn't let it slide.

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"Can you stop avoiding me? What the hell with you?!" Aliana blocked Ethan's path after he unloaded all the crates from the carriages that Cane brought with him. "You are being childish now, you know that?!"

The tip of Ethan's ears turned when he saw Aliana came closer, he was about to run away, but she already blocked his escape route, while the other



warriors walked away, as if giving them space to talk this matter through.

"This is what you will do for the rest of your life? Avoiding me?" Aliana crossed her arms in front of her chest, her sharp eyes fixed on Ethan, who refused to look back at him. "You kissed me so bravely the other day, but this is what you have been doing? Run away like a coward?"

Ethan knew it was his impulsiveness when he kissed Aliana. It was not even a kiss! It was only a peck on the lips! After he calmed down and realized what he had done, he simply couldn't face Aliana. He didn't know what to say or do at this point and now this woman cornered him.

"Can you tell me what happened with you? We will work together in the future and I don't want to be in this awkward situation with you."

"I want you to leave. I want you to go back to the pack house."

Aliana shook her head. "You know that's not possible. I don't want to go back. I want to be



here."

"You don't know how I felt when I saw you under the rubbles, you don't know how worried I am when I thought I was going to lose you, that you are going to die. You don't know how scared I am!"

Ethan wanted to drop the matter, but then he gathered his courage and faced it head on. He lifted his head and reciprocated her gaze. "You know how I feel about you, Aliana. I refused to believe someone as smart as you not realize how I feel about you all this time."

Aliana was slightly taken aback when Ethan was being blunt with his feeling, but then she composed herself. "I know, Ethan. But, I am sure, you also know how I feel about you."

Aliana only thought of Ethan as her little brother and sadly, Ethan knew about that too.

"You are always be a brother for me."

Ethan clenched his jaw. "You have Jace as your brother, I don't need you to be my sister."



"I know, but I am sorry, I can't think of you as a man. We grew up together Ethan. You know my deceased mate and you were also there when I lost my baby. You will always be an important person in my life, but I can't see you the same way you see me." Aliana stretched out her hand to touch his arm, which Ethan flinched by her touch, because he was very hurt by what she said. "If you need time, I can understand, but I hope we can return to the way we were someday."

Ethan hated it when Aliana gave him a sisterly look. "I want you to see me as a man." It happened so fast when he pulled Aliana and kissed her again for the second time.

"What do you think you are doing!?" Jace snarled.

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712 BLACK RAIN AND DARK SKY (54)

All the warriors present that witnessed Ethan kissed Aliana for the first time in front of them had this tacit understanding not to say anything about it to Jace because they could sense the tension between the three of them, since Aliana refused to go back to the pack house after she almost died not so long ago.

Meanwhile, Lou would never bring the topic, since he used all of his strength to purify his innocent eyes from such tainted scene.

However, their effort went to the drain when Jace witnessed it himself when Ethan kissed Aliana for the second time right before his eyes.

At first, he saw the two of them were in the heated argument. Jace didn't need to come closer to know what they were talking about, because he had the same problem with Aliana like Ethan did, he decided to leave the two of them alone, until he watched how Ethan pulled his sister into his arms and kissed her!



"Ethan! I am going to kill you!" Jace roared, as he marched toward the gamma.

Ethan and Aliana were startled and she pushed him away from her when she saw how livid her brother was.

"Jace! Stop this!" Aliana tried to stop him and shouted at Ethan. "Go!" she was already too tired to be the middleman if they were going to fight it off. If they were going to fight, it would be better they did it without her presence.

"No! Come back here, you traitor! How dare you kissed my sister!"

Aliana was not as embarrassed as when Ethan kissed her than when her own brother shouted it out loud. "Be quiet!" she hissed and looked around, afraid someone else would hear this. "Go! What are you doing there! Go!" Aliana shooed Ethan away impatiently.

Seeing how enraged the beta was and how Aliana chased him away with passion, Ethan didn't have any other choice, but to leave the scene. Jace



wouldn't be able to have a conversation with whenever he was so mad. His explanation wouldn't reach him.

"Don't you dare to turn your back on me! Get back here gamma Ethan!" Jace barked loudly and shifted into his beast when Ethan was about to leave, seeing this Ethan also shifted into his beast to get away from him.

"Ugh! What now?!" Aliana was frustrated to see the two men.

It was already late at night when Iris finally fell asleep, ever since she learned she was having twin, her excitement made her hard to fall asleep. She kept talking about how she should start to knit baby's clothes to the the imagination how their babies would look like.

She loved the idea if the babies looked like Cane, but he would like it if their babies would have her auburn hair and her blue eyes.

They fell into such calm and peaceful conversation about their future, as if they were not in the middle



of something vicious and dark. The future in their mind filled with happiness and laughter.

By in the end when Iris finally fell asleep, she had this smile on her face. She believed their babies would have Cane's intelligence and there was nothing that could convince her otherwise.

"Let this happiness last for long time..." Cane whispered his pray. He didn't know when he started to pray again, but if this could help to keep his mate and their children away from any harm, he would start to believe again.

After all, he had been praying for him and his people for years when they were in the slavery with no avail, so at the very least, whatever god there was, they should listen to this one.

"Be strong and be happy..." Cane kissed Iris's forehead, the tip of her nose, her pursed lips, her shoulders, down to her belly. He lingered a little bit longer there.

It almost like a routine for Cane to do this whenever he was with her. He did it when Iris had

12 BLACK RAIN AND DARK SKY (54) Rewards

fallen asleep and when he was done with this small ritual, Cane got off the bed and headed toward the door after he made sure his mate was not feeling cold.

Outside of the door, he saw Zale. He had noticed his presence, since an hour ago.

"I have asked him to leave, but he is very stubborn and wanted to wait for you to come out," Zephyr explained to Cane when his eyes fell on the young boy.

"I told you, right? He must have noticed me here!" Zale said sharply, his strong attitude still annoyed the other warriors.

"Tone down your voice, the luna is sleeping," Cane said sternly and Zale immediately clamped his mouth, though he looked at Cane unhappily.

"Come with me."

Cane walked away from the bedroom and Zale followed behind him, while the other warriors couldn't understand why the alpha wasted his time for this troubled kid.



"Where are we going?" Zale asked after they walked for almost ten minutes in silent.

Cane finally stopped and turned around to face the young boy. "So, have you sold the stone to that merchant? I have told you not to meet me before you did."

"Of course, I did! I have sold the stone!" Zale said proudly, but his smug expression flattened when Cane asked how much he had sold the stone.

"That..."

Zale didn't receive a penny after selling the stone to Lou, because it was not the money he received. He told Cane everything about how he managed to trick Lou.

"I didn't get a penny, but the gamma should be in debt with me, because I made a deal with Lou on his behalf! He was very reckless!" Zale seemed to remember something. "Oh, and that tacky merchant is actually a sorcerer!" Zale crossed his arms, he lifted his chin. "See? This information is more valuable than gold!"



Cane watched Zale's smug little face. "Yes, it is."

He agreed. "Only if I didn't know about it already."

Zale's smile fell. "You knew?"

This time, it was Cane, who crossed his arms and closed the distance between them, made Zale was a little bit scared with how big the alpha was in closer look like this. "You are pretty smart to come up with that idea and saw the opportunity, but... you felt satisfied too fast. In a battle, you will be the person, who died first."

Zale frowned. "I am not that weak!"

"Didn't want to admit your weakness is a weakness too." Cane bent his body slightly, so their eyes could meet. "You are thinking that you have done a great job and felt satisfied. You thought I am not so smart to give you such ridiculous task. That's what in your mind, right?"

Zale gulped down. "N- no I don't."

"Even when you lied, it's very obvious."

"|..."



"You are thinking; how he knows what I am thinking."

Zale gritted his teeth, he wanted to retort again, but the more he did that, the more he exposed himself that what Cane said was true, even he himself knew it.

"There is first rule that you have to learn, Zale."

Cane glanced at the ground. "You need to know how to mask what is in your mind. To let your enemy knows what is in your mind will be a death sentence for you."

Cane bent his body and picked a stone.

Seeing that, Zale groaned. "No! Not stone again! Why don't you teach me how to fight?! I need to protect the luna, not to play with stone! Why don't you teach me how to fight and kill the enemy?!"

Zale protested harshly.

Meanwhile, Cane waited until he had blurted out his complain before he explained what he meant.

Still, Zale was not satisfied.



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Iris woke up when she felt Cane kissed her cheeks, neck and shoulders. She giggled because she felt so good to be woken up like this and felt very spoiled.

"It's almost lunch. You need to wake up and eat something. People have been waiting for you."

Cane had told Iris that they were going to have a meeting with the Serafim this afternoon over lunch, but it seemed, she would come late.

"Oh, right!" Iris opened her eyes, but when she saw Cane's smile, she couldn't help it, but being a little bit clingy. "I want a kiss." Cane kissed her lips. "Here." Iris pointed her nose and Cane obliged, he kissed her there and a few more spot that Iris pointed it out.

And it was closed with a kiss on her belly.

"I am hungry."

"Of course, you skipped breakfast again." Cane took a plate from the table nearby, it filled with



snack. "Eat this before lunch."

Iris munched on her snack, while Cane chose a dress and warm cloak for her to wear when they met with the Serafim and the other.

"What do you think the Serafim is going to talk about?" Iris was still eating when Cane helped her to put on her dress, since her stomach had grown so big, she was having a hard time to move around.

"I think it is about Aria."

"Aria?" Iris stopped eating, her eyes turned sharp when she heard that name. "What do you mean."

"I have not yet told you about this, but more than a week ago, she appeared in the Aggeverya road." Cane told her about what happened and what Aria asked from him."

Iris looked a little bit upset and sad. "Do you still like her? Why didn't you kill her?"