The Ivory Queen Chapter 101

*** Aurora's POV***

I'm stunned. "What?"

"I don't know the details," Wesley explains. "Javier just said to prepare for a fight. I brought as many soldiers as I could. We should be enough to fight off a Lluvia Blanca and Amethyst Lake army and I've already sent a civilian warning to Jade Crescent and Blood Moon."

Carter's eyes fog over as he starts mind linking orders.

"I've alerted the guards, especially those stationed at the Lluvia Blanca border and the northern border. My advice is we send a distress call for more guards from our allies. We know how Lluvia Blanca fights but we know nothing about Amethyst Lake and their war tactics. We are running in blind and we need to be ready," Carter says.

I agree with him. "Send the signal. We need all the help we can get. I want every non-warrior in the safe house while we go to the ceremony-"

"You're still planning to go?" Celina snaps.

"Nah-uh. This trip is cancelled," Evan steps in, shaking his head at me. "The circumstances have changed and you're no longer safe. You can't go there knowing there will be an attack."

"We're going," I command. "That's an order. Miguel wants war, not Javier. He warned us which means he's still on our side. He can turn this whole thing around."

"That could be a trap," Evan warns. "Javier is not exactly trustworthy."

"Perhaps not," I shrug. "But I know one thing for certain," I say stepping over to Celina. "Javier would never hurt his Luna."

Celina blushes and scowls at me. "I am not his Luna."

"You are his mate, Cel. It's time to stop pretending like you don't want him. Moon Goddess gifted you this bond for a reason," I say, softening my face. "Javier will not hurt you," I murmur, holding one of her hands. "I've seen it in

his eyes. He's deeply in love with you." I sigh and turn to Wesley and his soldiers. "We will go and present the treaty to Javier. Once he takes the oath, he is Alpha and thus decides the future of his pack. He can stop the fight. As Lluvia Blanca's future allies, we need our soldiers on standby, ready to fight alongside them because Goddess knows Amethyst lake will be furious with Javier's betrayal. In the meantime, I want my pack members in the safe-house and I want the Allies alerted."

Evan shakes his head disapprovingly at me and I frown.

"We will take every precaution but I will not give up the chance to fix things with Lluvia Blanca. We are going, Ev and I need you by my side. Can you do that for me? Can you be my warrior?"

His face turns serious. "Without question, Luna. I serve you."

"Good."

I bring everyone to the dining room and we start our plan.

"There's an old tree by my house back at Lluvia Blanca. It's quiet and secluded. I'll have Mia meet us there after Javier takes the oath and we'll make our way to the Lluvia Blanca amphitheater together. Now we need to discuss how to protect River Moon's borders if an attack happens."

"Well our weakest points are the northern border. There are no packs there so Amethyst Lake could easily try to sneak in through there," Carter explains. "There's also the Maple Moon border and the Desert sky border down south."

"I highly doubt Amethyst Lake would try to trespass neutral pack territories," Wesley interjects. "If they plan on unifying the region, they wouldn't blatantly disrespect potential allies."

"Perhaps that's more reason to worry," I interject. "Like you guys said, we don't know anything about Amethyst Lake and their tactics. We don't know if they actually want to unify the region peacefully. What's to stop them from taking over forcefully?" I ask. "I think for now, we need to assume the entire Western and northern borders are potential attack points. Send an alarm to Maple Moon and Desert sky as well. I don't want our potential allies getting hurt in the aftermath and perhaps they can even offer help."

“I’ll triple security along the north just in case,” Carter says before mind-linking his orders. “So how many soldiers do you want accompanying you to the ceremony?”

I think for a minute. Bringing too many would be a sign of hostility but not enough could leave us open to attack and while I am strong, my powers were still underdeveloped.

“20 total,” I respond. “10 from River Moon and 10 from Cerulean Sea. You and the rest of the soldiers protect the pack.”

“You want me to stay behind?” Carter snaps. “I am the Beta!”

“Which is why I need you here overseeing the preparations for an attack,” I reply sternly. “You are the only person I trust right now with this responsibility. I need you to watch over my pack should things get ugly. If something happens to me, you and Rosalie are next in line to command-“

“Don’t even say that. I am not meant to be alpha,” he hisses at me. “This is Oliver’s pack. It’s not mine to lead.”

“Then help me protect this pack.”

He scowls at me but I will not back down. I need him here.

“Fine,” he says.

After discussing a few more details, I call Mia and we wait patiently for her signal. I have the witch brought in.

“I finished the barrier spell,” she announces, pleased with her work. “This house is officially protected. Tais and Ira won’t be getting in without my knowledge.

“How good is your fighting?” I ask and Carter snaps at me.

“You want her to go with you but not me?”

“No,” I sigh. “I want her to help protect my pack should the Amethyst Lake wolves break into our territory.”

Carter rolls his eyes but does not argue with me.

“Unfortunately, I’m not as strong as Tais and Ira and I’ve already used quite a bit of energy cleansing your house and casting the barrier spell. I’m afraid my hand to hand combat is also quite pathetic,” Gwen laughs sheepishly. “I’ll try my best to be useful though.”

“Thank you,” I say. “That’s all I can ask for.”

“Perhaps I can work on deciphering Tais and Ira’s plans while you negotiate with those wolves. Can I see the letter again? There’s a chance I may have missed some clues.”

I once again hand her the letter and she starts to read it carefully, mumbling every word to herself whilst pacing back and forth. As she reads, her brows furrow in thought and she nibbles nervously on a gold chain hanging from her neck.

I ask Valentina, Diego and Danny to join my soldiers in protecting the safe house from attack and they readily leave to join the team.

My phone rings. The time has come to face Lluvia Blanca

“You ready Luna?” Wesley asks, holding up the treaty in his hand.

“Let’s go.”

Wesley nods and I proceed to open a portal to the Lluvia Blanca courtyard. I take a deep breath to calm my nerves.

There’s no going back now.

Carter’s POV

I watch Aurora and the gang disappear into her portal, anxious for this whole ordeal to be over. I did not like that she went to the ceremony without me, but Aurora was as stubborn as they come and I had no right to question her. I could only hope things to turn out alright at the ceremony.

From the corner of my eye, I see Rosalie run her hands over her belly nervously and panic rises in my chest. I rush to her side, hoping to comfort her and the baby.

“You okay, Rosie?” I ask, wrapping my arms around her swollen belly from behind. “Just relax. Everything is going to be fine,” I murmur in her ears.

Rosalie giggles as I kiss her neck before grabbing my hand and placing it on a very active spot on her stomach. I feel the kicking and my heart flutters with a flurry of emotions.

“They like it when you hold me,” Rosalie smiles contently. “I like it too.”

“How far along are you?” Gwen asks, looking up from the letter she’s been studying intensely.

“9 weeks,” Rosalie chirps.

Gwen smiles warmly at us. “You’re half way done, then. Do you know the s*x?”

Rosalie shakes her heads. “No, we want to be surprised,” she replies, nuzzling her head under my chin.

The witch hums quietly and stares intensely at her belly. I grow uneasy and push Rosalie behind me, snarling at the witch.

The witch looks amused by my reaction and peers back at Rosalie. “Is he always this tense?” She chuckles.

“Don’t test me, witch. Aurora trusts you. I don’t. Stay away from my wife and my baby,” I snarl.

The witch rolls her eyes and turns back to the letter. “I gain nothing from hurting your mate or the child. Trust me, if I wanted to hurt them, I would have done so already and with ease.”

I’m about to argue when William’s mind-link interrupts my thoughts

“Beta, we hear some activity along the northern border. What do we do?”

“What’s the ETA on the ally soldiers?” I ask.

“Ten minutes away, sir.”

My mind swirls in a frenzy. Our allies have yet to arrive and the Ivory Twins are not in the vicinity. If it’s the Amethyst Lake wolves though, we need to move quickly. We can’t wait for back up.

“Take a team and investigate. Alert me as soon as possible as to what it is, even if it’s just a f*****g squirrel,” I order.

“Yes sir.”

“Carter, what’s wrong?” Rosalie asks.

“Something’s up at the northern border. I don’t know what it is, but I’m not taking any chances. I need you to go to the safe house now-“

“Oh no!” Gwen gasps, her hands trembling as she stares blankly at the letter. “The Soul of Insanity…Why didn’t I think of that?”

“What the hell are you muttering about?” I snap.

The witch turns to me, her face pale and fear swimming in her eyes.

I don’t like this one bit, my wolf, Darren says.

“They have the Soul of Insanity! Oh gods, this can’t be happening!”

The Soul of Insanity? Why did that sound so familiar…?

“What’s the Soul of Insanity?” Rosalie asks, clearly lost and the witch begins to explain.

“The Soul of Insanity is an ancient evil, a sword cast by War God. It is said to give its wielder the power to summon and command an army of creatures created by Moon Goddess.”

“So Tais and Ira want to raise an army? What for?”

Gwen shrugs. “Why else but to have unbelievable power? Imagine commanding an army of werewolves, elves, faes, witches, vampires, and demons or any of creature of the Moon. You would be unstoppable! You could rule the entire mortal world with that kind power!”

I rack my brain until I finally remember where I’ve heard the name. “But the blade is just a myth!” I cry out, recalling the gruesome tales my grandfather used to tell me of the deadly sword. “People have searched for centuries but no one has ever even seen it! It’s not real.”

Gwen laughs bitterly. “Oh it’s no myth, wolf. That sword exists alright.”

“How do you know?” I snap. “What are you hiding?”

“I’m not hiding anything you stupid wolf. The Sword exists because We exist. War God thrives off of the pain in war and conflict and what better way to create that than to start a race for absolute power?” Gwen snarls. “As you said, many have searched and in the pursuit for power, thousands have been slaughtered… and many more will perish when Tais and Ira unleash its curse.”

That sword is a myth, I think to myself. It can’t be real.

“What do you mean ‘when they unleash it’s curse’,” Rosalie whimpers, wrapping her arms around her round belly protectively.

“Its sinful blade craves souls to fuel its power. It’s why it called the Soul of Insanity. In order to keep command of their army, the wielder must constantly feed the sword with the souls of those it kills,” Gwen shutters. “The wielder is said to lose their mind trying to satisfy the sword’s hunger and sustain its power.”

Rosalie trembles in fear at the thought of all the bloodshed and I pull her into my arms.

“It’s just a myth, Rosie. A tall tale to keep us up at night. Nothing more,” I hum, rubbing her arms and kissing her forehead. “That’s enough from you,” I glare at the witch and she shakes her head in disbelief.

“For the last time, its not a myth and your Queen is in danger!”

My ears perk up instantly. “What do you mean?”

“Beta, we need back up! Its rogues!” William shouts.

I raise my hand at Gwen to stop her from spewing more nonsense so I can think on who to send. I check in with the guards at the gates. It seems our allies are now just arriving but it will take a few minutes for them to reach the northern border.

I need to act now!

I mind-link Eric and he comes running in.

Rosalie tenses up in my arms. “Carter, what-“

“You need to get to the safe house. There are rogues at the northern border. I need to go help. The allies are a few minutes out and there’s no time to waste,” I turn to Eric. “Take Ro to the safehouse and make sure she stays there.”

“What about Gwen and her spell?” Rosalie snaps. “This house is probably safer-

“Do not argue with me over this,” I mind link her. “I do not trust this witch and her spells! Our wolves will protect you!”

Rosalie frowns at me, mulling over my words. “Fine,” she huffs. “Gwen come with me.”

“Gwen stays here.”

“We can’t leave her here!” Rosalie protests.

No way a witch is going to the safe house.

“The safe house is for River Moon members only!” I snap.

The witch purses her lips in indignation while Rosalie stomps her feet and pushes me away.

“Gwen come with me,” she huffs, grabbing hold of Gwen’s hand.

“Rosie-“

“She’s coming with me. We brought her here. We protect her too!”

There’s no time to waste so I pull Rosalie into my arms and kiss her square on the lips. She fights me but within seconds melts into the kiss and wraps her arms around me.

“Fine, you win,” I mutter, kissing her one last time. “Take the witch and go.”

Rosalie smiles triumphantly. “Please be safe. Our baby needs their father,” she says, peeling herself away from me and pulling Gwen along with her.

I mind-link a few more guards to meet me at the door.

“Beta… the rouges!” William shouts, his voice ringing in my head.

“What about them?”

“Sir… it’s Oliver who’s leading them.”

The Ivory Queen Chapter 102

Javier’s POV

As I approach the stage, my father and mother beam proudly at me. This was the most important night of my life but I could not share my parents enthusiasm.

My mate hated me and my father wanted to start a war with one of my closest friends. To top off this grand night, my best friend was being forced into a position he did not want.

I stand at the front of the stage with Salvador and Pablo at my side as my father gives a short speech.

“Chava?” I mind-link him, leaning over to him.

“What?” He hisses, forcing a smile for the crowd.

“I’m sorry about this,” I sigh. “This isn’t how I wanted my gamma to take his title.”

“Don’t worry about it,” he shrugs. “When Celina gets off her high horse and realizes you’re a good man, she’ll come to you. I’ll step down from the title and you’ll get your Luna,” he says quietly.

“Chava that’s not gonna happen!”

“Alright, Javier are you ready?” My father interrupts.

I take a deep breath, shoving my conversation with Salvador to the back of my mind. This is it. There’s no going back.

“Yes father,” I respond mechanically.

My father motions for the elders to step forward and they set the pack tablet on a table before me. The white marble tablet is engraved with two wolves and a crescent moon. Between the two peeks of the moon is a small bowl like

indentation with runes along the edges and intricate carvings leading to the wolves.

Elder Juan turns to me and speaks with confidence. “Javier, repeat after me:

I, Javier Noe Salazar, do solemnly swear to preserve, to protect and to serve the members of Lluvia Blanca, to put the needs of my pack before my own. I swear to uphold the values of this pack and lead with strength and courage to the best of my abilities.

I swear to lead my pack by example, to stand with my fellow wolves in times of hardship and to guard the lives of every member of this pack.

I swear so to do, until my final breath.”

Elder Juan takes the vial of my venom and injects it into the small basin. I watch as the green venom fills the bowl and flows through the runes and into the wolf carvings. A dagger is handed to my father and he presses it to his palm.

The reality of the situation hits me. I’m about to become an Alpha.

“I love you, Javier,” my father says, setting the dagger down and turning to me. “But you will not be Alpha just yet.”

Before I can respond, someone grabs hold of my shoulders and forces me onto my knees. I feel a burning sensation tingle around my bare flesh as silver shackles lock my wrists behind my back and a gag is shoved into my mouth. I turn to see Chava manifest a colorful hummingbird behind some trees before one of the guards hits him over the side of the head with a baton, knocking him out instantly. I watch the hummingbird zoom away unnoticed by the guards, giving me hope there was still a chance Aurora could prepare for war.

I glare at my father, demanding an explanation for his sudden betrayal and he shakes his head disapprovingly at me.

“I had you followed…” he says with disappointment. “You thought I wouldn’t find out about your little agreement with Aurora and the Allies?” He snarls at me, the vein on his forehead pulsating so violently, I think it might actually burst. “I told you to get your act together, but instead you betray your pack and side with the enemy.” He shakes his head in disbelief. “Now I have to fix

your little mistake before Amethyst Lake gets here, but don't worry, you'll be Alpha once River Moon falls."

I'm seething with rage. This was all a trap and I brought Aurora right to him. Goddess, I'm such an i***t. I should have been more careful.

"Miguel, what is the meaning of this?" My mother asks as several guards collect Chava and Pablo off the stage to an undisclosed location.

"Nada, mi amor (Nothing, my love).You and the pack get to the safe house. I'll take care of everything else," my father orders, kissing my mothers forehead and turning to the crowd.

"Lluvia Blanca. Moon Goddess is smiling upon us tonight. River Moon has no Alpha and it's time we showed those mutts who they're dealing with. By the end of the night, River Moon will be no more and we will rule the region!"

A few wolves howl in excitement but many look concerned or frightened. For 50 years, River Moon had been our allies. We have fought alongside each other, mated with one another, respected each other. Going to war with them was extreme.

"Miguel-"

My father gives my mom a warning growl and she frowns at him, but drops the subject.

"This isn't right and you know it," she mutters but her warning falls on deaf ears.

My father was as stubborn as Alphas come. I watch in anguish as women and children are taken to the safe house while the number of warriors increases. A single soldier walks up to my father and whispers something in his ear.

"Find her immediately. I have don't need Mia running around with her gift."

A ray of hope illuminates my mind. They don't have Mia. I can still warn Aurora and Wesley!

My father catches a glimpse of me, however, and comes to the same conclusion.

I frantically open up my mind link. "Mia!"

Dad nods to someone behind me and before I can finish my warning, the world goes dark.

Aurora's POV

We find Mia waiting anxiously at the base of the tree, her vigilant eyes darting around in search of any potential threats. Her breath hitches when she catches sight of Evan and I hold back a giggle as my dear Evan blushes furiously when he sees her.

Mia is dressed in a pale blue off the shoulder gown with embroidered flowers on the skirt. Her long brown curls flow past her shoulder and she has a pretty flower crown on her head. She looks like a little princess sneaking off to meet her prince.

"No time for games, lovebirds. We're here on business," Celina hisses, making both Evan and Mia turn crimson.

"Mia, has he taken the oath yet?" I ask, praying to Moon Goddess I wouldn't have to deal with a war tonight. "Is Javier the Alpha?"

She shakes her head and the worry on her face terrifies me.

"I don't know what's happening. He was supposed to mind link me when the ceremony was completed but he was cut off mid sentence."

"I don't like this, Luna," Evan's mutters. "Something's not right about this."

Suddenly, Santos the hummingbird emerges from the trees, a note tied to his little foot. I hold out my hand for the little bird and he happily perches on my finger.

The note reads "TRAP"

Trap? What trap?

I kiss the little bird's head and thank him for the warning, still not fully understanding. Having completed his mission, Santos disappears into a cloud of smoke.

"Tell me everything about this so called plan with Amethyst lake," I demand from Mia.

“The Amethyst Lake wolves are supposed to position themselves along the Northern Border and Alpha Nikolai should arrive after the pack run is completed. We should go. We’re running out of time!” She hisses, taking off in the direction of the pack house.

Dread settles in the pit of my stomach as we approach the house where I survived countless nightmares. Six guards stand in the circular drive way, three in their wolf forms and three in their human forms.

I recognize the three guards in their human forms as Isaac, Jorge, and Cesar. They used to tie me to a tree and use me as target practice with their BB guns and if they were feeling especially sadistic, they would chase me through the forest like prey as they practiced their hunting skills. César was also one of the wolves that held me down the day Chava branded me.

On any other day, I would have be frightened by them, but not tonight. I had to get to Javier and Chava and they were the only thing standing in my way of that.

The guards growl as they advance towards us but stop abruptly when they were within 20 feet of us, bowing awkwardly to me. I secretly enjoy the bewildered looks on their faces as they straighten back up.

“What the f**k…” Jorge mutters as his gaze shifts between Celina and I. “T-there’s two of them?”

From the corner of my eye, I see Cesar’s eyes fog over as he mind links someone.

Oh no. Can’t have that… Reyna chuckles.

I concentrate on Cesar’s throat and before I know it, he starts clawing desperately at his neck. His bulging eyes look around frantically for its attacker. With his mind-link disrupted, I turn my attention to the guards who stare at their comrade as he struggles to breathe.

“César, cut it out!” Jorge snarls.

I can see Evan and Celina smirk beside me.

“He can’t,” I reply, my voice smooth. “I’m crushing his windpipe,” I chirp.

Isaac and Jorge turn back to me.

“And if any of you alert Miguel of my arrival,” I add with a cool smile, “I’ll crush yours too.”

Jorge growls at me. “Who the hell do you think you are to give us orders?”

We don’t have time to be dealing with these idiots! Reyna growls.

I release César from my grasp and he falls to his knees, clutching his throat and erratically inhaling huge gulps of air.

With a swift flick of my wrist, I send César, Jorge and Isaac flying in the air until they collide with some trees nearby. A few vines sprout from the ground, wrapping around their bodies and trapping them against the trees.

“W-witch!” Isaac whimpers.

His trembling voice brings a smile to my face as I remember all the times I cried because of him as he hurt me mercilessly.

“Not a witch,” I shrug. “An Ivory twin.”

Jorge opens his mouth to scream but a vine wraps around his jaw and clamps it shut tight. I turn to the remaining three wolves who stare at me in shock at what I’ve done to their fellow soldiers. They exchange glances and hesitantly charge at us.

“Sit!” I command in my Royal voice.

All three wolves sit obediently on their hind legs, whining pathetically and lowering their gazes to the ground. I turn back to Cesar, pinching his chin between my fingers and forcing him to look at me.

“W-what are you? What do you want?” He whimpers.

“Silence!” I snarl, clenching my jaw in anger. “I want you three to escort me to the ceremony. You will not speak, you will not move an inch without my permission and you will do as I say without so much as a complaint,” I hiss, squeezing his jaw harder. “Ya no soy tu maldito juguete. Yo soy tu Reina y me vas a repestar, me entendiste? Ahora dime, quien soy? {I’m not your f*****g toy anymore. I’m your Queen and you will respect me, understand? Now tell me, who am I?”

He stares at me wide eyed and I lose my patience so I slap him hard across the face. “Quien soy, imbecil? {Who am I, imbecile?}”

“La reina!{the Queen}” He cries. “Ya por favor. Eres mi reina, {Enough, please. You’re my Queen.}”

I feel tears well up in my eyes but I refuse to shed any for this a*****e and his friends.

“I spent years fearing you,” I sneer coldly, the sheer terror In his eyes reminding of me of my own all those years. “And now look at you, cowering in fear before me.” He whimpers pathetically and I take a breathe to remind myself of who I am. “I’m not like you. I don’t prey on the weak like you do. But if you so much as look at me the wrong way, you’ll find out exactly what I’m capable of. So tell me,” I snarl, my hand threatening to burst into flames. “Is there a trap waiting for me?”

Cesar gulps, hesitating to speak. I lift my index finger to his face, a single flame dancing at the tip.

“One….” I count, bringing the flame closer to his face. “Two…”

“It’s an ambush!” Caesar answers, his eyes wide in fear. “It’s an ambush,” he whimpers. “Please, just don’t hurt us.”

“How many?” I ask, releasing Caesar from my grip and realizing I had dug my finger nails into his flesh. A few drops of blood slide down his chin and he sighs in relief as a steady flow of air fills his lungs.

I blink hard, ashamed I had once again almost lost control of my anger. I push the emotion away, however, remembering I had a job to do and these guards had the answers I needed.

Jorge answers. “About 200,” he replies, his voice trembling. “The women and children were sent to the safe house and a couple of guards were sent to look for Mia,” he adds, nodding his head in her direction.

Evan snarls menacingly at the threat made towards his mate and it pleases me. Mia now had someone who would protect her with his life.

“What about Javier and Salvador? Where are they?” I ask.

“Miguel had them locked away in the dungeons so they wouldn’t interfere.”

“So Javier didn’t take the oath yet?”

Its Isaac who answers next. “He did but Miguel didn’t transfer his power to him. He still needs to seal the oath in blood.”

My gaze shifts to the wolves sitting quietly, waiting patiently for my instructions. “You three take Wesley and his guards to find Javier and Chava and release them from their prison. If you give anyone a heads up, you won’t live long enough to regret it,” I threaten, their eyes widening in fear. “I’ll handle Miguel and the ambush.”

“Aurora-“

I lift a hand to silence Evan. He shakes his head in disapproval but I don’t care. I want Javier to finish his ceremony and I want to go home. The guards take Wesley and his men off to the dungeons and we agree to meet back at the amphitheater to complete the ceremony.

I release the remaining three idiots from my vines and they quickly scramble to their feet.

“Lead the way,” I command.

We make our way to the pack house, through the courtyard and out towards the amphitheater where we find over 200 soldiers glaring at us.

“Aurora… we’ve been expecting you,” Miguel smiles.

The Ivory Queen Chapter 103

Aurora’s POV

“Aurora… we’ve been expecting you,” Miguel smiles.

As I approach the stage with Celina, however, his smile fades and I notice the fear that flickers in his eyes. His soldiers, much to their own bewilderment, bow as I walk past them, sensing my wolf’s strength. Their eyes shift between Celina and I, at a loss at what to do next.

“W-What … What is the meaning of this?” Miguel snaps as he points at Celina. “Who- Who is she?”

I ignore him, climbing the steps of the stage until I stand only a feet away from him. I watch in amusement as he struggles to control the urge to bow. His fists clench at his side and his teeth grind against each other before he ultimately succumbs to the his natural urges and bends at a 45 degree angle.

For the first time since shifting, I’m actually grateful of my royal presence. After our last interaction, it was satisfying to have him bow before me.

“Alpha Miguel,” I smile coldly. “It’s nice to see you again.”

He glares at me and Celina before turning to Mia. “Is this an illusion… or some kind of trick you’re playing on me?”

“Stop talking,” I snap, looking around aimlessly at the crowd. “I’d like to speak with Javier.”

“Who are are you to demand things from me?” He snarls but I remain perfectly still. “This is no longer your pack and you are Trespassing!”

“Oh just like how you and Amethyst lake were planning on trespassing onto River Moon territory?” I smile innocently.

Anger flickers in his eyes for a split second but he doesn’t seem shocked that I know if his plan.

“Who is she?” he repeats, eyeing Celina.

Growing annoyed with this meaningless back and forth, I stomp my foot on the ground, a ripple shaking the earth violently. Everyone drops low to the ground to regain their balance. Fear lingers in the faces of all the Lluvia Blanca wolves as they stare at me.

Was I still a monster in their eyes?

“What the hell-“

“On you knees, Alpha,” I command.

Miguel drops to his knees instantly, staring at me with a look of horror and confusion.

“All of you, on your knees,” I demand, looking out into the crowd of wolves

The wolves do as I command and I smirk back at them.

“Look around you, Miguel. I’m not the same scared little girl who used to cower in your presence anymore,” I snarl, stepping closer to him and leaning close to his face. “I’m not afraid of you anymore,” I whisper in his ear before wrapping my fingers around his throat. “And I never will be again.”

His face reddens as he desperately tries to free himself from my grasp. Several of his men growl and attempt to rush the stage but Celina is quick to create several wind blades that knock them back.

“Call off the attack on my pack,” I snarl, desperately trying to restrain the flames aching to reach my fingertips.

Miguel just glares at me so I tighten my grip on on his neck

“F-f**k y-you,” he says before spitting at me.

My hands burst into flames instantly and he yelps as one of my burning hands latches on to his wrist for a few seconds. I release him and he drops the ground, whimpering in pain as blisters form along the burn.

“Monster!” he cries as he soothes his wounds. ‘You’re still a monster”

Before I can respond, Wesley and the guards return with Javier and Salvador. I let out a sigh of relief that they are both unharmed. Mia runs to Chava, hugging him tightly and thanking Moon Goddess that he’s safe. Javier stands off the side, his eyes zeroed in on Celina. She crosses her arms over her chest and rolls her eyes at him, but I see right through her farce. She’s aching to be with him.

“Go to him,” I urge her but she shakes her head.

I decide not to press, focusing instead on the Alpha still whimpering in pain. Small vines burst through the crust of the earth and climb up the stage, wrapping around Miguel’s legs. I step back as a cocoon of vines forms around him, trapping him in place so that only his face is visible. He tries to scream but I focus on his vocal chords and he falls mute, the terror only prevalent on his face.

Javier and Chava bow respectfully as they climb up the stage and stand before me.

“I’m sorry, Aurora,” Javier explains. “I tried to warn you before you got here but-“

“It’s alright,” I say, raising a hand to stop him.

He nods quietly. “So what now? Amethyst lake is supposed to move after the pack run and I have yet to complete the ceremony. I’m not Alpha and we’re running out of time!”

“That shouldn’t be to hard,” I smirk, turning to Miguel. I grip his face between my thumb and forefinger, yanking his face up to look at me. “You can finish the ceremony now.”

Miguel opens his mouth to speak but not a sound can be heard and I smile at him.

“What’s the matter? Wolf’s got your tongue?” I laugh, releasing his chin and walking towards the table on the stage. The black dagger still sits neatly on top of the pack tablet and I grip its handle firmly.

Slowly, I receded some of the vines wrapped around Miguel, exposing his palm and keeping it in place. I wave over Javier and he obediently stands beside me.

“You just need to seal the oath in blood right?”

He confirms with a simple nod and I press the blade down on Miguel’s palm, slicing vertically while Miguel silently screams and protests.

“Your turn,” I say, handing Javier the blade.

He takes the dagger but hesitates to cut his palm.

“It’s now or never, Javi,” I urge. “We don’t have much time.”

He presses his lips together firmly and slices his hand, blood pooling in his cupped hand. Wesley brings the pack tablet and I forcefully squeeze Miguel’s hand so his blood spills onto the tablet and then press palm down onto one of the wolf carvings. I only need his blood so when he tries to yank his hand back, I let go.

“You ready?” I ask Javier, reaching for his hand.

He takes a deep breath. “As I’ll ever be.”

I guide his hand over the little basin, letting a few drops spill in with the venom before pressing his bloodied palm on the tablet and letting it rest there for a moment. The pack falls silent, even Miguel goes still.

Javier reaches a hand to his temple, wincing in pain before shaking his head and groaning. His eyes briefly turn baby blue and then return to their reddish brown color.

“Damas y caballeros de Lluvia Blanca {Ladies and gentlemen of Lluvia Blanca},” I announce to the crowd of warriors watching us. “Les presento a su nuevo Alpha, Javier Noel Salazar {I present to you your new Alpha}.”

The wolves bow their head in reverence for their new leader while Evan hands me the treaty. I spread out it on the table and Wesley gives Javier a pen, placing a congratulatory hand on his shoulder and offering him a smile.

Javier signs his name and turns to his pack. “From this day forward, Lluvia Blanca is once again an Ally.”

“Congratulations, Alpha,” I say, lowering my head in a graceful bow. “And welcome back into the Alliance.”

Miguel silently wails and I decide he’s had enough of a punishment and give him his voice back

“You’ve just sentenced my pack to death,” he growls.

“No, we’ve just save your pack from certain death,” I reply, shrugging my shoulders. “Be grateful I managed to convince the other Alpha’s to let Lluvia Blanca return.”

“Ha! You help us?” He laughs in a mocking tone.

Just then, a large group of wolves emerges from the surrounding forest led by a tall man with platinum blonde hair and the bluest eyes I’d ever seen.

“Luna Aurora,” he smiles. “It’s a pleasure to finally me you, your majesty. I’m Nikolai Kovalenko, Alpha of the Amethyst Lake pack.“

Carter's POV

My team and I race to the Northern Border, William giving me updates as I run. By the time I arrive, the border is a war-zone with nearly 300 rogues attacking our pack.

I feel the blood drain from my face when I realize William wasn't lying. Oliver really was leading the rogues, his signature white spot unmistakable. But how? I've known Oliver my whole life and I know he would never attack his own pack! This can't be possible.

Even more concerning is the fact that Karina is riding his wolf, wielding a black sword. White runes are carved into the jet black blade and the gold hilt has a black gem near the top.

That sword… No it can't be!

My mind switches completely when I witness Oliver attack one of the guards, sinking his teeth into his throat. Several guards freeze, clearing struggling to bring themselves to attack their own alpha.

"Oliver?" I try to mind-link him, hoping to get some answers or at least understand why he was doing this.

He locks eyes with me, his wolf's eyes red with fury. This is not my Alpha.

"Oliver what are you doing? Stop this now! These are your men," I snap, gesturing to the guards with my snout.

But it seems my words mean nothing to him. Oliver drops the guard in his mouth, his focus now entirely on me. The young guard writhes in pain and I know his bite is laced with poison. Those blood red eyes of his terrify me to my core as he stalks over to me, ready to pounce. He leans on his hind legs and snarls at me.

"Alpha-"

Before I get another word in, Oliver launches himself in the air, knocking me to the ground and landing on top of me. I use my paws and try to push him off, but Oliver was an Alpha. No matter how hard I trained, he would always be stronger.

Just as he's about to snap his jaws at me, a black blur knocks him and Karina off with a powerful blow to his side. I sigh in relief when I realize it's Alpha Patrick as he helps me up.

Alpha Jonathan, Alpha Jared, Alpha Malik and their soldiers follow in suit, jumping into the war zone and attacking the rogues.

Thank Moon Goddess they're here!

Oliver's gets back on his feet and charges at Alpha Patrick, knocking him several feet away. I rush to help when Oliver sinks his teeth into one of Patrick's front paws.

The Alpha yelps, a red river spewing from the wound. Within seconds, he starts to trembling uncontrollably, the pain evident in his brown eyes.

I react quickly, grabbing onto Oliver's hind paw and dragging him down to the ground. He rolls over and attempts to bite my shoulder but I manage to dodge his attack.

"Oliver stop! Please!" I beg, hoping to get through to him.

But he doesn't hear me, an inconsolable anger coursing through him as he continues to struggle against me. I press down on his chest with my front paws, praying I have the strength to hold him down long enough for me to mind-link Aurora.

Oliver, however, manages to inch his neck close enough to my front legs and bites into my flesh. The pain is instant, weakening me with little effort.

My veins feel as if they were being set on fire, every cell in my body slowly being consumed by unspeakable agony. In my weakened state, Oliver manages to push me off of him before clamping his jaws on my hind legs. I start convulsing, the pain increasing with every ripple.

He drags me away from the fighting into a nearby clearing. Karina finds us, a black Owl gently perched on her bloodied sword. The owls eyes glow red and much to my surprise it begins to speak.

This must be the Tais and Ira's messenger owl.

"Beta," it chuckles innocently. "Are you hurt?"

I can't keep myself from whimpering as another wave of pain washes over me.

"I warned Aurora and Celina not to mess with us, but they didn't listen," the owl snarls, extending out its wings. "You can blame them for what's to come next," it says before taking flight.

It's wing seems to cut into the fabric of the universe, create a small portal before the bird disappears into it. I recognize where the portal leads to and I desperately try to get up but my weakened body protests against my efforts. Oliver runs through the portal, leaving Karina and I alone.

Karina strolls over to my side, her wild eyes flickering with joy at my predicament. I try to get up again but to no avail.

"Don't worry, " Karina smiles wickedly, raising the blade over her head. "It's not you we're after."

Pain pulsates up my temples and my vision begins to blur, the pounding of my heart drowning out the noise of the ongoing battle

"It's the baby we need," she laughs before bringing the hilt down to the side of me head. Within seconds, my vision fades to black.

The Ivory Queen Chapter 104

Rosalie's POV

We sense rogues in the area the second we walk out of the pack house and it sends me into panic mode.

"Get on my back. I'll shift and carry you to the safe house," Eric offers.

I rub my belly anxiously and shake my head. "No, I can't. I could fall off and hurt the baby. It's just too dangerous!"

"Ro, we'll be exposed if we stay on foot! We have to move quickly!" Eric's snaps.

Just then we hear some snarling in the distance.

"Come on!"

Eric leads us through a heavily wooded area and has Gwen and I duck amongst the brush.

“Stay here,” he says before rushing off behind a tree.

He returns moments later in his wolf form and lowers himself.

“I’m not asking twice, Ro. Get on my back.”

“It’s okay little wolf. You and your baby will be fine,” Gwen soothes, grabbing hold of my hand. “I’ll be right behind you making sure you two are safe.”

Taking a deep breath, I climb onto Eric’s back, gripping tufts of his fur firmly in my hands. Gwen climbs on after me and Eric takes off in a fast but gentle trot.

No matter how fast we move though, the snarling only grows closer until we find ourselves surrounded. Eric’s stops running as six rogues emerge from the trees, baring nasty teeth at us. Eric returns their snarls but it’s clear we’re dangerously outnumbered as we’re backed into a tree.

Gwen chants a few words and suddenly a wall of sharp thorny shrubs begins to rise from the ground surrounding us. Unfortunately, the wolves manage to jump over the shrubs before they grow to full size and land in front of us. They encircle us, pacing back and forth wearing menacing grins on their faces.

“I’ll hold them off!” Gwen says, jumping off of Eric and standing in front of us in a protective stance. “You two get to the safe house.”

“Wait Gwen-“

“You are with child, wolf,” the witch replies. “You have to go.”

She opens a small portion of the hedge beside us just big enough for Eric to squeeze through.

“Be safe,” she whispers, keeping her full attention on the rogues in front of her.

I give her one last glance before Eric runs through the thicket. He rushes through the forest, more snarling at our heels but I refuse to look around and shut my eyes tightly for a while.

“We’re almost there Ro. Just hang on!” Eric tries to comfort me, making me slowly regain the confidence to open my eyes again.

As we approach one of the secret entrances to the safe house hidden within a large oak tree, a black blur rushes past us, causing Eric to come to a screeching halt. I nearly fall off of his back but manage to dig my knees into his sides and keep myself up. A large black wolf blocks our only way to safety and when I catch a glimpse of the white spot on its tail, I nearly burst into tears.

“Oliver?” I whimper. “Oliver, is it really you?”

He responds with a low growl, leaning back on his hind legs as if ready to attack.

“Why is he not responding to you, Ro?” Eric asks, slowly backing away from the black wolf as he inches closer to us.

“Oliver, what are you doing?” I snap. “You’re really starting to freak me out!”

It’s as if he doesn’t hear me, instead moving closer and closer. Just as he stands mere inches from us, Diego and Valentina emerge from the safe house in their human forms.

Thank Moon Goddess for m ate bonds! Diego must have sensed something was wrong.

Diego is the first to rush at Oliver, but he anticipates the attack and dodges it. Diego slides across the ground but quickly manages to scramble back to his feet and charges once more, this time successfully grabbing Oliver’s massive head in a choke hold. Oliver attempts to bite down on Diego’s shoulder but Diego’s arm phases through his jaws.

As Oliver and Diego continue their fight, Valentina sneaks over to me and helps me off of Eric’s back.

“Come on, mija. Let’s get you inside,” she says after carefully inspecting me for injuries.

I’m shaking like a leaf, the past 20 minutes being the most difficult to bare. I just hope Carter and Gwen are okay.

“Where’s the witch?” Valentina asks as she takes my hands and pulls me towards the oak tree.

“Ay Valentina,” a sinister voice calls from behind us. “Siempre metiendo tus narises donde no te han llamado. {Always sticking your nose in someone else’s business}.”

Valentina stiffens, her grip on my hand growing tighter.

“Que haces aqui? {What are you doing here?}” Valentina snarls before turning to Karina as she appears from behind the woods, a black sword in her hand.

“Haciendo lo que tuvimos que haber hecho hace todos esos años! {Doing what we should have done all those years ago}. Sofia was too weak to be Queen and she damned us all. Aurora and Celina should have never been born and you know it,” she spits back. “I’m here to finish what I started 5 years ago!”

“Eres una cobarde y una maldición! {You’re a coward and curse}” Valentina screams. “You killed the only person who could ever have the heart to love a b***h like you!”

Karina winces at the jab, pain flickering in her eyes before her face goes blank and she draws her sword. Eric stands in front of us, barking at Karina in warning but it seems to have little effect on her.

“I didn’t kill him,” she says quietly before a grin stretches across her lips. “But I will kill you.”

Eric lunges at her and in a swift movement, Karina leans back and slices her sword across his chest. He cries out in pain and staggers back as blood spills from his wound onto his grey fur. I freeze in place as I watch in horror what she does next, unable to get my legs to react or move. It seems Valentina is shocked too, remaining still beside me. Karina then takes the hilt of the sword and bashes it over his head until he goes limp. “Eric!” Diego cries, turning to look at his injured mate slumped on the floor.

It’s enough of a distraction for Oliver to sink his teeth into his abdomen and launch him into the air. Diego collides with a near by tree and is out cold instantly.

“Diego!” Valentina screams, crashing onto her knees. A clone manifests behind her and runs to aid her son, crying and whimpering for him to wake up.

Karina stares at Michael in approval. “Go. He is waiting for you. I’ll take it from here.”

Without hesitation, Oliver heads west, quickly disappearing into the shadows of the woods.

My legs finally reacting, I run to Eric’s side, pressing my hands onto his still bleeding wounds. “You’re a f*****g monster,” I whimper.

I hear Valentina growl, getting back on her feet and seething in rage. Without a moment to waste, she charges at Karina, canines at the ready to tear her apart. With her free hand, Karina throws a punch at Valentina’s chest, getting her off balance. Valentina staggers slightly but proceeds to attack once more, swinging her arms at her, but landing no blows. Karina dodges them all. Valentina stumbles back and forth, panting in rage. She throws another punch and Karina is able to catch it with her free hand, twist it behind her back and kick her behind her knees and onto the floor.

Karina bursts into laughter as Valentina wobbles back onto her feet.

“Oh Vale, you were always too emotional of a fighter. It’s pathetic,” she sneers, pointing the blade at Valentina’s throat.

Valentina stares at her opponent from the other end of the sword, tears spilling down her cheeks.

“It’s a shame you’ll see Emiliano before I do-“

Valentina pushes the blade slightly to the side with her forearm and grabs a hold of Karina’s wrist, taking the sword from her hand. She twists her wrist harder until Karina is down on one knee. Karina, however, shifts her weight and gets back on her feet, turning on her heel as Valentina swings the blade at her. I scream when Karina catches the blade with her bare hand and punches Valentina in the throat, making her drop the sword and stumble back a few paces.

It’s enough to infuriate Valentina, her chocolate brown eyes now glowing turquoise. Her breaths come in short spurts ands she growls viciously at Karina before launching herself forward and shifting in mid air. She pounces

on Karina, sinking her teeth into her shoulder and she screams bloody murder. Her hands frantically search and find the hilt of her blade.

“Look out!” I cry to Valentina but its too late.

Karina drives the sword through Valentina’s ribcage, a small gasp escaping her lips and her eyes stilling. Valentina’s gaze travels along Karina’s arm to the blade now piercing her body.

“No!” I scream. “Oh Goddess no!”

Valentina’s body slumps off to the side, her breath coming in ragged and sharp. Karina crawls out from under her body and leans into her ear.

“Tell Emiliano I miss him,” she whispers before looking up at me.

I try to get up on my feet but in my panic, only manage to keep slipping and falling on my a*s. Karina pulls the sword from Valentina’s body, dragging the bloody blade across the earth,

“Now, now, Rosita, calm down. Be a good girl and I won’t hurt you,” Karina coos, her face softening as she approaches me.

I shake my head as I whimper. “Please don’t hurt me.”

“It’s okay,” Karina soothes, getting on her knees and stroking my hair. “You’re just going to go to sleep for me,” she adds, pulling out a small syringe.

I cry, pushing at her arms but its pointless. I feel the needle prick my skin and my visions starts to blur.

“You’re going to be just fine,” she hums quietly. “Just go to sleep. It’ll all be over soon.”

The Ivory Queen Chapter 105

Aurora’s POV

“It’s a pleasure to finally meet you, your Majesty. I’m Nikolai Kovalenko, Alpha of the Amethyst Lake pack.“

His ice blue eyes inspect me from head to toe, a perfect smile stretched across his lips. I feel a shiver run down my spine as I watch wolf after wolf emerge behind him.

There have to be at least 100 from the looks of it, Reyna observes.

“Your Majesty?” Miguel questions, looking over at me in confusion. “What the hell is he talking about?”

I choose to ignore him, not wanting to take my eyes off the notorious Alpha approaching the stage with quick, determined strides.

“I’ve waited many years to finally meet you,” he says as he climbs up the steps.

Meet me? How does he know who I am?

Before I can question him, Evan grabs my wrist and pulls me behind him, snarling at the Alpha.

Nikolai smirks at him. “And you are?”

“Not someone you want to mess with,” Evan spits back.

Alpha Nikolai smiles in amusement, humming quietly to himself before turning to Celina.

“Oh and your highness, I didn’t forget about you. I see you’ve finally come out of hiding and graced us with your presence,” he chuckles, resting his chin on his knuckles and tilting his head innocently to the side.

“You know… How do you know?” I ask.

He shrugs smugly, his eyes darting all around, taking in every detail of the situation. “Tais and Ira explained it all many years ago when I took over as Alpha.”

“You work for them-“

He laughs again. “How else do you think those rogues got into Lluvia Blanca without being noticed that night?”

That night…?

I rack my brain for a second before realizing what he means. My eyes widen in realization and a little mist glazes over them.

“You helped kill him…” I whisper to myself

He smiles, a chuckle bubbling in his chest. “I helped orchestrate a lot of things…”

“Will someone explain to me what the hell is going on?” Miguel snaps.

Nikolai climbs up the steps, his attention on Celina and I.

“Allow me to enlighten you,” he sighs. “Aurora Montenegro or should I say Aurora Altamirano Reyes, is the daughter of a gold and silver wolf, the fallen King and Queen of a long forgotten kingdom and the Fated Pair of the Moon and Sun.” Miguel still looks confused much to Nikolai’s annoyance. “Aurora and Celina are the Ivory twins, hybrids of a silver and gold wolf and very gifted wolves… isn’t that right your Majesty?” he asks.

I glare at him. “What game are you playing here, Alpha? What is it you want?”

“I think my intentions are quite clear, Luna.”

“T-this was not part of the plan, Alpha Nikolai! Sh-she’s just a nobody! You never- why did you keep this from me? Allies don’t lie to each other. Your men should be at River Moon, not here!” Miguel snaps.

“Oh come on, Miguel,” Alpha Nikolai sighs. “You and I both knew your son would betray you one way or another. His heart wasn’t in this alliance, even I sensed that. All I needed from you was to know how the Allies moved and you gifted me all that information.”

Miguel’s face hardens. “You son of a b***h! You lied to me!”

Alpha Nikolai smirks at the alpha. “No, I really do want River Moon.”

I growl at him. “It’s not yours to take.”

“Is it not?” He asks, looking around once more. “I don’t see your Alpha beside you. Or do you plan to take your sister’s mate as your own now that Oliver is gone? I’m sure Javier wouldn’t mind,” he laughs again.

“What the hell is he talking about?” Miguel snarls at his son. “Who is your mate?”

Javier ignores him, instead standing in front of Celina protectively as his wolf threatens to come out. The Lluvia Blanca wolves stare in shock at Javier, utterly confused.

“Oh you don’t know?” Nikolai laughs, silencing the growing murmurs amongst the crowd. “Why Miguel, it’s so simple. Javier’s mate is none other than your enemy’s twin sister, her Highness, Celina.”

The crowd gasps and the blood visibly drains from Miguel’s face as the information registers. Javier does not shy away from the truth, however, keeping his cold stare on Nikolai.

“Celina rej-“

“Javier is Alpha of Lluvia Blanca,” Celina interrupts. “Any deal you made with Miguel is void. Javier has signed the treaty with the Allies and is no longer your ally. You know what we are and we out number you,” she snarls. “You can’t be stupid enough to start a fight you know you can’t win.”

Nikolai smiles smugly at Celina but does not answer.

“You will not take River Moon,” I command. “Stand down, Alpha.”

Alpha Nikolai stares blankly at me, the silence in the amphitheater deafening. I wait expectantly for him to obey the command when he suddenly doubles over, bursting into uncontrollable laughter.

The command didn’t work… How is that possible?

When he looks back up, his eyes glow red. “Tais and Ira may have whipped up a little something for me to use on this occasion. You know for a seemingly powerful wolf, you sure do have a lot of weaknesses,” he laughs. “Let me explain something to you, Luna. I don’t take orders. I give them.”

His eyes fog over and I watch in horror as more rogues and wolves alike appear from the surrounding woods, enclosing the Lluvia Blanca pack house.

“I said ‘STAND DOWN’,” I command, my voice faltering slightly, fearing Nikolai might not react. “You won’t win this fight.”

He shakes his head, a knowing smirk still hanging on his lips. My mind is reeling.

“Are you sure about that?”

Almost as if on cue, I’m bombarded with several mind-links from my warriors at the northern border.

“Luna, we’ve been attacked!” One cried

“They used the poison!” Another said. “We need a healer!”

“Alpha Patrick is down!”

“Carter is down!”

“Luna! Help!”

Oh goddess….

“Get everyone you can to the pack hospital,” I respond, fearing I might not be able to make it to them in time. “I’ll be there as soon as I can.”

I have to cut off my mind-link as more of their pleas bombard me. Evan must have gotten the same messages because he turns to me, a look of shock on his face.

To make matters worse, Celina suddenly collapses on her knees, a mix of anguish and fury swimming in her eyes.

“Celina? What’s wrong?”

She ignores me, her rage directed at Nikolai. A cool mist radiates from her palms and her breaths come in quick and shallow. “What did you do to my mother?” She pants.

When Nikolai just answers with a shrug, frost radiates on the stage floor surrounding Celina and a wind storm swirls around the stage. She lifts a hand, ready to aim ice crystals at him when his voice stops her.

“Careful, your Highness. I have my wolves watching your family as we speak. You hurt me in any way and they have orders to kill them too. Diego is quite weak and your father isn’t doing any better…” Nikolai threatens. “I would

suggest you hurry to find them instead of coming for me. They don't have much time left."

"I'll take my chances," Celina growls back, shooting ice crystals at him.

I create a force shield around Nikolai, protecting him from the deadly rays of ice racing towards him. Nikolai smiles in amusement while Celina glares at me.

"What are you-"

"I'm not taking any chances, not when your family's lives are on the line!" I scold her. "Go to them. I'll figure this out on my own."

She growls in frustration and gets to her feet again. "Don't think this is over Nikolai. If they die, I'm coming for you. There won't be a witch alive capable of protecting you from me."

She turns to leave when Javier catches her arm. "Where are you going?"

"Let go unless you want to lose that arm of yours!" She snaps, yanking herself free from his grip.

"I'm coming with you then," he says. "You're not going out there on your own!"

"I don't need an escort. I can take care of myself just fine. You have a pack to lead, so lead it," she growls.

"Take me then," Mia offers herself.

Evan and Chava growl in unison. "Not a chance!"

Knowing we are wasting precious time, I snarl at them all. "ENOUGH. ALL OF YOU. Mia and Celina go. And that's final."

"I don't need Mia!" Celina snaps.

"I don't care. Now go!"

Mia forces a smile as Celina she pushes past her and jumps off the stage.

"Let's go!" Celina orders and Mia runs after her. Celina wraps a hand around Mia's wrist and the two vanish into thin air.

“So Aurora, what will it be?” Nikolai asks, his voice drawing my attention. “Hand over River Moon and the Allies, or take your chances with what little army you have left?”

“You can have River Moon over my dead body,” I hiss through gritted teeth.

“I was afraid you would say that,” he sighs. “So be it. ATTACK!”

His wolves close in on us, charging at Lluvia Blanca’s warriors. Javier is quick to deliver orders and he and his soldiers begin shifting and fighting back. Wesley and his wolves jump off the stage, eager to help our new allies.

I hear the tearing of clothes as Evan shifts beside me, his wolf snarling at Nikolai. Miguel struggles against the vines still keeping him in place, catching all of our attention.

“Let me go!” Miguel cries. “Please! My pack!”

I watch Miguel struggle some more, his eyes darting across the battle field looking for someone. I don’t trust him though. Just a few minutes ago, this man was hell bent on hurting me and my pack. What would he do if I let him go?

Instead I focus my attention on Nikolai. Several of his wolves manage to get to the stage and Salvador is the first to respond, projecting a number of daggers in his hand and throwing them expertly at the oncoming wolves. Two more come racing towards the stage and Salvador bolts towards them, shifting mid air and tearing into them.

Evan pushes me behind him as Nikolai stalks towards us.

“This should be fun,” Nikolai laughs as Evan rushes towards him.

Nikolai jump-shifts, colliding into Evan in midair and both of them crash onto the stage floor. I look out into the battle scene unfolding in front of me and get to work.

In the distance, I see four wolves piling onto Javier’s back, sinking their teeth into his flesh. I lift my hand in a swift motion, a tremor rippling through the earth as roots burst through the soil. They wrap around the wolves, pulling them back. I squeeze my fist and the wolves are crushed, whining and

whimpering until they fall silent. All around me, wolves are fighting and I do my best to help, aiming lightning bolts and rays of fire at the enemy.

When I see a group of rogues and Amethyst wolves corner a lone Lluvia soldier, I focus my thoughts on their nerves, activating every pain receptor I could in their bodies. They writhe in pain, allowing the young soldier to tear into their throats and end their agony.

Evan's whimper draws my attention and I look up just in time to see Nikolai pin him down. I open a portal underneath Nikolai's feet, causing him to loose his balance and sink into the portal. Evan takes advantage and manages to push Nikolai off of him.

I open another portal beneath Nikolai just before he lands and he slips right into it. A second portal opens 20 feet above us and he comes falling through the air, crashing with a groan.

He shifts back into his human form, spitting blood and rolling onto his side. He laughs, a blood stained smile stretched across his face.

Evan storms over to him, sinking his canines into his side and holding him down as I climb back onto the stage

"You think you've won?" Nikolai snarls as Evan bites down harder. "Oh, your Majesty, if only you knew how much you've already lost!"

Several roots break the surface of the earth, slithering their way up on the stage and wrapping around his arms and legs. He winces as the plants dig into his skin, his fate practically sealed but his smile never faltering.

Suddenly, the smell of green apples and honey hits my nostrils, sending Reyna into a frenzy.

"Look behind you, your Majesty."

Evan looks up and his eyes become clouded in confusion. I hear a sickly snarling just behind me and I turn around, coming face to face with the most gorgeous black wolf, a white spot on its tail.

"Michael?"