

Chapter 117

We were all sitting at the table eating. For some reason, no one outside of Vale and I seemed absolutely flabbergasted at the display. Logan, Bryan, Týr, AJ and Jax all hadn't seen it and didn't even mention it. They should have known we didn't have a table that looked like this. All the kids made it seem like it was perfectly normal too. Was it normal for them? Was Auri just able to work fey magic like it was nothing? I knew we had seen the markings on her back when she was at the club but to actually be able to use magic like she was; she seemed a whole other level.

"Mom, are we going to be able to swim today?"

One of Auri's kids asked and she smiled. "I'm not sure. Your dad and I need to be in a meeting for a little while. After that, we should have enough adults around to help everyone swim."

She looked around the table and there were enough smiles that she nodded. The kids cheered, including ours and I rolled my eyes. As though they weren't in the sea every single day. Hector tapped his fork on the plate, his eyebrows pinched together.

"Maybe we should send the kids to Uriel for a couple hours."

"Uriel as in, the Fey King?" Logan's voice hitched a bit.

Auri didn't even acknowledge him. "We could. It would mean we wouldn't have to worry about them running

around. I'm not sure if Vale and Zeke feel comfortable with that though. They might feel left out."

"Come on, Mom! Please." One of her girls thinned.

"Yeah! Reagan and Rowan can come with us! That would be alright, right Mr. Everfell?"

I bit my lip as one of the other girls looked at Vale, pleading. I tried not to laugh, unsure if I had ever heard someone call him Mr. Everfell. Next to her, one of the older boys jabbed her with an elbow.

"That's Alpha Everfell."

"Alpha? He's not my Alpha. I'm not even part werewolf."

My lips slammed together as I tried not to laugh but Auri had a hand over her mouth and Hector was looking away.

"Yeah, but that's rude not to acknowledge someone by their rank. It's like if someone called Mom, Mrs. Storm."

"She is Mrs. Storm. And Dad is Mr. Storm. What are you on about Gale?"

I couldn't do it. I couldn't hold it in. I snorted and let out a roaring laugh. It seemed to allow others to also laugh or snicker. Hector looked like he was about to cry but Auri slapped him across the chest. He made an 'oomph' sound before clearing his throat.

"Actually, it would be polite to call him Alpha King Vale. That would be his correct title. While you might not be of that race, it is still important to acknowledge each other. Just

like when when we are in company with others, we call Uncle Uriel, King Uriel.”

The two kids looked a Hector, their heads titled to the side. “Then why aren’t they calling Mom by her title?”

We all had a look of confusion as we looked at Auri. A blush was gracing her cheeks.

“Because that isn’t her title. That’s a nickname and not a very good one at that. So let’s leave that one there.” Hector was a little harder, the edge in his voice was very much a Dad telling his kids to shut the hell up.

“So...Uncle Uriel?”

Auri chuckled. “Alright. I’ll message him.” She looked over at us. “Are you okay with Uriel watching your kids? He’s used to watching all mine and they get transported to the Fey forest. So you they will be safe.”

I looked at Vale but his mouth was tight. ‘Vale?’

‘Would it sour our relationship with the Fey King if I said no?’ His mind link sounded frustrated.

‘I wouldn’t think so. This is personal, not business.’

Vale sighed. ‘What do you think?’

‘I think if Auri trusts him with all her kids, that we should too. Plus, her kids can look out for Rowan and Reagan. They have other twins to be with them too. I think we should trust their judgement.’

He hummed, rubbing his chin for a moment. “Can we trust

him?"

"Yes, you can. He's a wonder when it comes to children. It's sad that he will have to raise his own his own." Morgan sighed. "If anything he gets his practice in."

Auri sighed. "He would protect them with his life, even as a King. That's not just a personal feeling but Fey are very specific on their laws for protecting children. If it weren't for ..." Her eyes fell for a moment before she looked up, smiling at the table. "I would have loved to live in the Fey realm if it was allowed."

"Uncle Uriel said he could make it happen." The smallest one, and I was pretty sure a fey, spoke up.

"Yes, well, it would create a lot of opposition against him. That's not something I want to do. Uncle Uriel has done a lot for us. Let's not make his life even more complicated, alright?"

The little girl huffed and I smiled.

"Alright. So he comes and watches the kids? Or...?"

Hector answered since Auri had stepped back and was on her phone. "He'll portal them to the Fey Realm. They will spend the time in the forests."

"One time, Uncle Uriel managed to call a unicorn and we got to feed it! It was so cool!" One of the girls, who I knew was Sammy, took Reagan's hands in hers.

"Unicorns don't exist." Reagan looked at me for confirmation but I just shrugged.

The girl, Sammy, laughed. "Oh, we are going to expand your understanding of magical creature today! It's going to be so fun. Dad?"

"Yeah, give your mom a second. She has to check that Uriel doesn't have a..."

The sound like the wind was howling during a rough storm filled the area but not even a blade of grass moved. Vale stood up, his eyes bright with the power of the Alpha King were staring at the now blue and green mass that was flowing like liquid mirror. My eyes widened as a Fey stepped out of the portal.

He was tall, taller than anyone I had ever seen. I was well acquainted with a few fey but the power that this fey gave off was astounding. He was wearing a tradition robe but it was in a beautiful sea foam green with what I assumed was real gold braiding and accents. His blonde hair flowed down his back but it was only broken up by the thin silver crown on his head.

"Uncle Uriel!"

All nine of her kids were running and tackling him as if they didn't even care the power that rolled off of him. As though he was just part of the family.

"Well, my little munchkins. It's good to see you. I'm glad we get to hang out today. I was missing you."

Auri walked up to him and he kissed her cheek. "Darling, thank you reaching out."

She smiled. "You're allowing us to talk. I should be thanking you."

The Fey King chuckled. "You're getting me out of some stuffy meetings. So this is perfect." He looked over at us and bowed his head slightly. "Alpha King Vale, it is good to see you again."

Vale nodded to him as well. "Yes, of course. You as well."

"I will be taking care of your pups as well, is that correct?"

I nodded. "Yes, please protect them."

He smiled brightly. "Of course, Alpha Ezekiel. They will be safe with me."

"Uncle Uriel, can we show Reagan and Rowan the unicorn?"

Humming, King Uriel tapped finger to his chin. "Well, I'm not sure. We will need to check if they are alright with meeting with us. One must always ask, not demand."

Reagan and Rowan were still sitting at the table and looked back at us with pleading looks. I laughed and I could hear Vale next to me chortle.

"Go ahead. Be safe, be good, and listen to Uncle Uriel. Understand."

"Yes, Dad!" The two of them slipped out of their seats and ran over to the other kids.

"Anything else you need?"

Auri shook her head. "No. Thank you, Uriel. It should only be

a few hours. I'm not sure I could talk more than that."

He chuckled and nodded. "Alright kids, hold hands. No one gets lost in the portal."

Everyone held hands and I smiled as the two little twins that Auri had took hold of my pups. They all smiled brightly as they walked into the portal and disappeared. It was weird but seeing and feeling how much power the Fey King had, I now felt like we had a very overpowered babysitter.

Auri turned when the portal disappeared and looked at us. "Is everyone done with breakfast?"

Looking around, I didn't see anyone with food still on their plate. It had been a really good breakfast.

"I think we are good." I smiled at her.

"Good!"

Her hands spread wide and she brought them together. What I was expecting was it to sound like a clap. What I wasn't expecting was it sounding like a drum and being able to see the sound waves reverberate from her hands. Closing my eyes, I turned away, expecting them to hit me. Apparently, Vale had the same idea but he turned and grabbed me, covering me. But after a couple of seconds, I didn't feel anything. Turning my head and peeling my eyes open, my mouth dropped open.

'I don't think we are in Kansas anymore, Faris.'

Chapter 118

*** Vale's POV ***

I looked around the room, if you could even call it that. We were inside a tree. I'd see my mother use magic but when she slammed her hands together, it looked like a wave was going to crash into us. However, when I blinked, suddenly we were here.

It was like a tree had been carved out. There were branches and leaves above us but it had to be a hundred or so feet up, at least. The circumference of the tree we were inside was nothing I had ever seen. The walls were made up of bark and it was darker than the floor and the round table in the center.

"Sorry, I should have warned you." My mother giggled like a child and I heard Hector snort.

"You are the worst."

Zeke wiggled out from my grasp when I had covered him against the onslaught of power that I felt. Pure shock and wonder came through our bond and I smiled. Sometimes, he couldn't keep in his emotions, no matter how hard he tried. It really was a sight to behold. The air was clear and the sun's rays were shining through the cracks in the bark, lighting up the whole area.

"Please, sit. We have much to discuss and this will ensure that we aren't interrupted."

Auri sat down in a chair that was made of the same wood as the table and what looked like the inside of the tree. However, as soon as she sat, vines crept up and wove their way around the chair, blossoming in beautiful light pink and white flowers that I had never even seen before. She didn't even seem to take notice of it as she waited for all of us to move.

"Did you...transport us here?" Dad asked, pulling out a chair and sitting down.

"Yes and no. It's not quite as easy as that. Come, sit. We can talk about it."

I waited to see if anything grew from his chair but there was nothing. AJ, Jax, Hector, Zeke, myself, Bryan, Morgan, and Týr all sat down in the different seats. I looked around but no one had anything change in their chair. I looked back at my mother, but she smiled and winked at me.

"Now, shall we start with business or did we sleep on the questions you wanted to ask me?"

I chuckled as no one was able to be quicker than Zeke.

"You can use magic! You used it...healing, and then the tree table and this. How?"

She smiled and took a deep breath. "I'm going to say this before I answer you. Where we are now is like a sliver of the fey realm. What you should know about the fey realm is that you cannot lie. It's built into the magic of their realm and so I will not be able to lie to you, just as you won't be able to lie

as well. It will feel as though your tongue is tied and you'll be unable to speak."

Mother looked at all of us before continuing. "I can do magic. I am now part fey, specifically, my eyes. Oran captured a fey whose power was channeled through her eyes and he transplanted her eyes into my own. It's why I am able to see as well, because they aren't actually my eyes. Though, the color of her eyes were different, so my body, in accepting the eyes, changed their color to what I can only guess was my original color."

She looked at me and smiled. I knew she was looking at my eye color. I was the only one out of my family that had this color. Dad did say that even when he met her, her eyes were grey unless her wolf was using her eyes.

"You said this morning that you were experimented on. How?"

I spoke up this time. Zeke was right. This was my time to get answers. I didn't think anything she could say would fix her making me feel like she abandoned me but at the very least, I needed to know why. I needed the facts of what happened to her. Hector, who had sat next to her, reached out and grabbed her hand that was on top of the table.

"They have been waiting for this, love. Tell them."

Mother closed her eyes for a moment before opening them slowly, determination sparkling. "Oran was looking to build his ultimate weapon. I'm sure you all are aware of Micah and my history with him."

Dad growled and I saw his hands ball up into fists and Bryan looked like he was about to shift just from the name. I had the information about him but because it came second hand, I filed it away with most history I read about.

"Micah broke down the mind. His goal was to build up someone to do his bidding; to be his puppet." She took a breath. "Well, Micah was Oran's pupal, apprentice, whatever you want to call it. Micah dealt with the mind while Oran dealt with the body. He wanted to build the perfect weapon who could do anything, be anything, and no one would stand in their way." ①

I cocked my head to the side. "So he was combining supernaturals?"

She nodded. "Yes. He realized that each race has its own strengths. However, their weaknesses are usually exploited by each other as well. So his goal was to create a singular entity. Then, to use Micah and be able to bend their mind to do their bidding."

"Micah is dead though. You made sure of that." Dad was grinding his teeth.

Her eyes cast down, and I could see her hands were tightly clasped together. I felt Zeke shift next to me and I could see the look on his face meant that he put it together, whatever it was.

"But Auri is still alive. Auri was his last successful experiment. Micah's crowning achievement was you. So Oran...always wanted you. You were already the base of his

experiments.”

My mother had a tear fall and I shook my head. “No, it didn’t work. The story you guys told me was that Dad was able to pull her back. She was his but between Maximillion and Dad, Mom was able to break his hold on her.”

“Fundamentally, though, I am forever scared by Micah. Oran felt that while he had lost his pupal that his work still was alive and well in me. That my choices will always be based off of my situation and dealings with Micah. Which...he’s not wrong.”

“Auri.” Hector growled. “We aren’t having this argument again.”

She sighed and nodded, taking his hand and kissing it. “I know. I’m sorry.” Wiping away the tear and taking a breath, she let a soft smile grace her face again. “I also happened to be the only person who could possibly survive all his experiments.”

“You mean as the Luna Queen?” Týr asked, looking around the table for confirmation.

Hector laughed. “No. Though, that is the reason why he broke the connection between Logan and Auri to begin with. Well, he had High Councilor Mark break it, since he was the one who had the power to do so.”

My eyes widened. “Wait, what? I thought only the Alpha King could do that.”

“Some people are born with the ability to do that. It’s rare,

but it happens. Mark was an oddity that Oran had recruited when he was just a pup. Dude was an asshole.”

My eyes widened as I turned to look at who was speaking. Pipsqueak was bounding around the tree until she plopped down in a seat next to Auri. Her seat also flowered, just like my mother’s had. I wondered if it was a fey thing. Which would prove the theory that she was now part fey.

“Pipsqueak! You saucy bitch! How many times did we try to get into contact with you and you just ignored us?!” Bryan growled and slammed his hands down on the table.

“I don’t work for you, mutt. Settle down.”

Bryan growled but I shot him a look and he settled down a bit.

“It’s good to see you, Pipsqueak. I didn’t realize we would have you in the meeting.”

“Well, I am the one with all the information. Why wouldn’t I be here?”

Zeke chuckled and I smiled. “Alright, so why break the bond? I mean, aren’t fated mates supposed to make each other stronger?” I reached out and squeezed Zeke’s hand.

“Not in your mother’s case.” Hector wasn’t saying it to be smug. You could see the pain in his face. “According to Oran, being Luna Queen was holding her back. Basically, because Auri was Luna Queen first, it throttled her power as Alpha King.”

“Alpha King? But that got passed to Vale.” Týr looked at me

and smiled. "It gets passed onto the next generation when the Alpha King dies, right?"

My mother rubbed her eyes. "Yes and no. My theory is that transfer of power is not when the Alpha King dies. Instead, a pup is already born with the power of the Alpha King and it actually marks the death of the Old Alpha King, not the other way around."

"That's ridiculous." This time Dad answered.

"Is it though? You were born with the Alpha King power. Vale was already showing signs of being the Alpha King and he was born with the mark. It didn't get there after I died. I was supposed to die, but I didn't. I shouldn't have lived and it's how I retained my Alpha King power."

I growled and stood, my hands on the table. "I am the Alpha King."

"Only because Auri lets you be. You aren't even as powerful as her. She just can't be bothered." Pipsqueak crossed her arms over her chest.

Mother put her hand on Pipsqueak's head and rubbed. "Don't be rude. You know better. You've been holed up too long. Remember your social norms."

Pipsqueak grumbled. "It's true though."

"We got off topic." Hector chuckled and I slowly sat back down but felt myself on edge.

"So when the bond broke between Logan and Auri, that means that she no longer was Luna Queen. She was only

Alpha King?" AJ cocked his head to the side. "If I'm understanding that right?"

My mother nodded. "Yes, and Oran need the power of the Alpha King, the power that I had, in order for me to even survive all the things he decided to do to me. Which, was swapping out organs, swapping out body parts, and turning me into what I am now."

"He also used me in order to get her to comply. If she didn't survive, if she didn't use her power, then I wouldn't have died right next to her. He used me, our friendship and our bond." Hector sounded sad and angry.

My mother reached over and took his hand. "He used us because he knew it would work. You know I wouldn't allow anything to happen to you. But that besides the point. We survived. That's the point."

"You survived but you managed to get away, right? That's what Hector said."

"Yes, we did. But I don't think Oran had anything further to experiment bodily with me. I think all he wanted to do was test me. Maybe retry more of Micah's methods and bring me to his heel."

Dad snorted. "So you're saying, he succeeded in creating the ultimate weapon? That you are this ultimate weapon that he wanted to create?"

"I spent the first year after being free just trying to get my power under control. Uriel helped me with that. Then, I had Bast and Osiris within that time as well."

★ +20 BONUS

The whole table went quiet, everyone in different states of shock. Týr leaned forward, looking at mother. "I'm sorry, did you say you had Bast and Osiris? Those cute little twins?"

She nodded, looking at all of us with confusion on her face. "Couldn't you tell? They're your half-siblings. You should have been able to tell."

I threw up my hands and shook my head, leaning against the back of the chair. "For fucks sake."

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