100 Faster Than You Can Say 'Scales' (Ch.100)

"The bond between dragon and rider is much like that, perhaps even stronger. It is a highly revered and sacred bond." She said. 1

"I see..." Neveah murmured, whenever there was a mention of anything related to a fated bond, it always displeased her greatly and left a bitter feeling within her.

Neveah would give anything if it could be otherwise, but the truth remained the mate bond with Alessio still remained at the back of her mind and perhaps it always would.

But it was okay, she would never see Alessio again and so Neveah was certain as time passed, the occasional tugging of the mate bond would fade till it no longer existed. 1

This was a new life she had to live now, Neveah would not be burdened by affairs of the past.

"It is why the Lord Dragons do not allow just anyone mount their backs... here in Asvar, riding a dragon is considered an intimate affair." Davina revealed.

This was enough to pull Neveah out of her dark

thoughts, she coughed violently, choking on air as she lifted a hand to pat her chest whilst passing Davina a wide eyed look,

Neveah could not believe her ears had just heard what she thought they heard and so she had to clarify.

"Intimate affair... how?" Neveah asked slowly.

"Shall I spell it out for you?" Davina asked with a raised brow and Neveah's coughing fit intensified, there suddenly was not enough air in the spacious washroom and she lifted her head over the side of her bath tub.

"Intimate affair? What is that to mean?!" Neveah's wolf exclaimed furiously in her mind.

"I have no idea." Neveah thought back in a horrified tone.

Davina looked caught off guard by Neveah's reaction to her words and Neveah quickly calmed herself and kept a neutral expression, it seemed no one knew she rode Xenon.

Neveah would very much like to keep it that way, whatever method of travel they assumed she used, it was best they kept on believing that.

"So, no one but their riders fly with them? No

one at all?" Neveah asked after she was calm.

"It happens...but it is rare and for a worthy reason too." Davina replied with a shrug and Neveah sighed in relief, at least there were still exceptions.

She was one of such exceptions, it was a matter of necessity, Neveah would have to ride with one of the dragons one way or the other.

"Best not to seek such opportunity near a Lord dragon with a rider though...those riders are skilled with their swords and just as possessive as dragons."

"You will find yourself dead quicker than you can say scales." Davina warned with a shudder. 1

"Ah... the riders sound like quite the enigmas." Neveah said with a nod of understanding as she stepped out of the bath tub and dried herself.

"Indeed they are, you are yet to meet a rider, I see?" Davina asked and Neveah shook her head.

"You have travelled with our liege's company, of the five that make up the King's guard, there is only one who is bonded...Lord Imagor." Davina said.

Six dragons that had come to fetch Neveah from the Eclipse Domain, there was King Jian,

Xenon, Kirgan and Menarx known to Neveah... the other two, she had not interacted with at all.

"Lord Imagor?" Neveah asked uncertainly, wondering which amongst the two dragons she was unfamiliar with bore the name Imagor.

"His scales are of an ashen shade, he is Lord Imagor of argentine scales. Among our Liege's King's guard, there is Lord Xenon of Onyx Scales,"

"Lord Kirgan of Emerald Scales, Lord Mernax of Ruby Scales, Lord Imagor of Argentine scales and Lord Cassian of Sapphire scales." Davina listed.

"They are titled after...gems?" Neveah asked and Davina nodded.

"Only the King's guard are named as such, the other Lord Dragons only bear their title of Lord and are not named by the color of their scales." Davina replied.

"Intriguing." Neveah admitted as she put on the dress Davina had given her, it was a light and casual dress of a dark blue shade, with a silver sash around the waist.

It accentuated Neveah's form perfectly and

Neveah guessed it had been tailored according to the size of her riding dress,

It was also soft against her skin and not restricting in any way like the figure hugging dresses her father forced her into.

"I will take your measurements now and have more dresses tailored for you, if you have any specifications...you may go down to the dressmaker on the seventh level and give your specifications." Davina said.

"I understand." Neveah said with no arguments, it was already good enough that she was having dresses made for her.

"What's more, you will need to carry your hair in a braid like we attendants do, until your title is clarified. The noble ladies on this level...well some of them are not the kind you want to cross paths with."

"Your appearance is already much too eye catching, as is the shade of your hair and you are untitled but residing on this level, be careful not to offend anyone and get yourself in trouble." Davina advised.

In the beginning, Davina had approached Neveah in a cross manner but as the moments passed by, she was taking a liking to Neveah for

whatever reason and was revealing so much to her when she did not have to.

"I understand." Neveah replied with a nod.

"All of that can be done in time, we have wasted much too long. Lord Rodrick has ordered for you to be brought to him right after you are ready." Davina said as she gestured for another attendant to quickly take Neveah's body measurement. 2

"Lord Rodrick? Who is he?" Neveah asked.

"Our Liege's butler, but believe me when I say he is not someone you want to offend. He may be a butler but he is highly trusted by our liege and handles all affairs of the keep."

"When you meet him, ensure to be careful in your speech and actions. Again, you may have been Princess of the wolf shifters, but this is the Dragon's Keep...no one will regard your previous rank." Davina warned.

After they had taken Neveah's measurement, Davina nodded for the attendants to take their leave.

"There is a breakfast hall, I shall take you there for a meal right after we see Lord Rodrick. Also, the healer has asked for you to go over to his

hall every morning for a tonic... are you ill in health?" Davina asked as she lead the way out of Neveah's room.

From Davina's question, Neveah realized they had also kept the poisoning incident a secret and so she did not say anything of it. 1

Neveah only shook her head in response but did not give an answer and Davina looked over her for a moment before she shrugged and continued on ahead.

"This is already late into the morning hours, the attendants are already going about their duties. The noble ladies have also left for their respective academies where they study different crafts they find suited to them."

"The other nobilities residing on this level are at their respective point of duties as well."

"During these hours, the fourth level of the keep is at it's quietest, I do not reckon we shall encounter anyone just yet." Davina said as they walked down the quiet hallways. 1

As Davina said, only a few attendants passed by here or there, bowing in greeting to Davina.

"Why do they bow to you?" Neveah asked, she had long noticed Davina was well respected

amongst her peers and clearly more knowledgeable despite her young appearance.

"Oh...my family have tended to the domestic affairs of the keep for generations and I am considered a trainer for the attendants." Davina replied with a casual shrug.

"But you are so young, you would hardly be twenty five summers." Neveah guessed.

"Twenty six." Davina adjusted with a quiet chuckle and Neveah rolled her eyes.

"Not too far off." Neveah said and Davina hummed in response.

"Most senior attendants are around my age, the junior attendants are much younger. Attendants are brought into the keep as early as their tenth summer, though there is no set age." Davina replied.

"And how old where you when you came into the keep?" Neveah asked absentmindedly, her gaze moving over the hallway with the polished walls of a mysterious silver stone that gleamed even in daylight.

She wondered exactly what the walls of the keep was made of, she had never seen anything quite like it.

The keep itself was carved out of a mountain but the walls within did not seem to be made of just any rock.

"Oh me? I was born in this very keep." Davina replied with a small smile, her words attracting Neveah's attention.

"Right, you said your family has tended to affairs here for generations... that means, your parents are here also?" Neveah asked and Davina passed her a look.

"I'm taking you to meet my father now." Davina said, before she moved ahead.

"Ooohhh..." Neveah murmured to herself.

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