



## 52 The Intruder Worries (Ch.52)

"Will you not stay for the banquet?" Laila asked Neveah as she strode out of the throne room. 1

Neveah shook her head slowly, she did not see any reason why she had to attend Alessio's banquet, the last banquet in honor of Alessio had not been kind to her.

"It is late noon already, I am exhausted, I should like a warm bath and a rest. You do not need to accompany me." Neveah said without glancing back.

"As you wish." Laila replied with a bow.

Neveah strode away, heading out of the Eclipse Palace, she did not go back to her room this time, instead she headed straight into the woods.

The sun was already dipping down below the horizon, after standing erect with a forced smile for hours as each Eclipse Alpha came forward to swear fealty to their future King,

Neveah was positively exhausted and all she wanted was a rest and a breath of fresh air in a place where she could feel at peace.

As Neveah strolled through the woods at a slow pace, the towering trees blanketed the sky,



casting a much darker shade over the woods but Neveah loved it just this way.

Neveah did not go in too far as she usually did, her father had forbidden her from venturing into the woods and at least she could still think up a way to get away with coming in this far.

Any further and it would be difficult to explain her disregard of her father's orders and the last thing Neveah wanted to do at this moment was get on her father's bad side.

She was finally getting what she wanted, she could finally leave Eclipse Fang Pack without fearing she would be hunted down and although she was granted leave only to return upon her father's orders,

Neveah knew she would find her own way to fully break away from the Eclipse Fang Pack in time.

What the world was like outside the wall of this palace, what life was like beyond the reach of her father and the Eclipse royals... Neveah wanted to know, she was desperate to know.

Would the air be much warmer? Would this icy feeling that gripped her heart finally fade away? Would she finally be able to smile a true and genuine smile?

Would she learn to trust? Would she finally know

what it meant to truly live? Live free and unrestrained? 2

Neveah stretched her arms out, her eyes fluttering closed as she tilted her head back and just basked in this moment of peace and serenity.

"What freedom truly feels like... perhaps I will finally get to know it this time..." Neveah murmured with a small sigh.

Focused on this moment of peace, Neveah did not notice the presence of anyone behind her, not until a low, guttural growl reached her. 1

Neveah froze up as she slowly turned, her eyes widening alarm as she was met with a face she never thought she would see again.

"Sssstrrrong Wooollf..." He drawled out in his deep, guttural baritone, his black orbs glinting as he pushed off the tree he was leaned against.

The figure standing before her eyes was none else than the Black Dragon whom Neveah had battled in her previous lifetime. 2

'Why was he here? Had he come for revenge? Was she going to die by his hands this time?' Neveah wondered as she took a shaky step backwards, a chilling cold feeling of terror running down her spine.



A low growl escaped his lips as he watched Neveah retreat from him and wheels turned in Neveah's head as she tried to seek an escape route.

"Sssstaaayyy..." The Dragon Shifter said when Neveah took another shaky step away from him.

Neveah's eyes widened slightly as the Dragon Shifter took another step forward, his pitch black orbs fixed on her and Neveah found herself frozen in place, unable to take another step back.

The Dragon Shifter wanted her to stay in place and Neveah wondered exactly why she was complying with his request. 3

Neveah tried to keep herself from trembling as he took another step forward and then another till he was standing right before her, towering over her height of 5ft8 with at least an entire foot. 2

"I... I... what do you want...? This is Eclipse Fang...they will come after you again..." Neveah stuttered out as she clenched her trembling hands into fists.

The Dragon Shifter hummed in response, Neveah was certain he could understand her words but clearly, he did not care in the slightest.



Just like he had done before, the Dragon Shifter leaned forward, dipping his head down, he buried his face into Neveah's hair and took in a deep breath. 1

Neveah stood in place, not daring to move till he pulled away and then he lifted a hand and rested it on Neveah's waist.

Neveah's heart shriveled up as she felt his claws rest against the sheer fabric that covered her skin.

"I...are you going to kill me?" Neveah stuttered out and the Dragon Shifter released a low growl, shaking his head slowly.

"You...huuurrrt..." He drawled out, seeming unsure of how to convey his message.

Neveah frowned slightly before she had been dealt a fatal injury right at that exact spot the Dragon Shifter's hand was rested over and the injury had been dealt by his spiked tail.

Neveah could not believe the Dragon Shifter recalled the exact spot he had hurt her during their battle and had even come to check on her.

"You...you came to check on my injury?" Neveah asked uncertainly, falling into shock when the Dragon Shifter nodded in response.

"I... have you been waiting for me to come out





into the woods?" Neveah asked again and once again, he nodded.

Neveah's heart trembled as she blinked in astonishment, she was not certain how to react and it took her a while of just staring dazedly into his black orbs before she finally spoke.

"I'm fine... I heal fast, I am already fully recovered...you don't need to worry about me." Neveah said in a shaky tone, uncertain why she was so shaken by this Dragon Shifter's words.

"W...wwworryyy...." The Dragon Shifter drawled out as though the word was unfamiliar to him, tilting his head to the side in confusion.

Despite the situation, Neveah could not help the quiet laughter that slipped out of her lips.

"Yes Black Scaled, worry... it's a thing... what you're doing now." Neveah replied with a small smile on her lips.

"Black Scaled... I'll call you that...it suits you." Neveah decided, her smile widening when the Dragon Shifter tilted his head to the side again, looking confused. 1

She suddenly felt that he was not so scary anymore, perhaps it was because she had died once before and had completely lost her senses but she felt... this Dragon Shifter was rather cute.



"Y...ouuu..." The Dragon Shifter began to speak again but cut himself off.

"Someone's coming." Neveah said in panic, she had also picked up the approaching presence.

Neveah glanced around, she couldn't let the Dragon Shifter get caught, her father was still stuck on what had happened the last time and greatly detested the Dragon Shifters.

If Black Scaled was caught, Neveah was certain her father would pull out every last one of his scales to enrich his treasury... every single part of a dragon was rare and precious. 1

"We can't let them catch you... come on." Neveah said urgently as she grabbed his hand and pulled him along with her, dashing into the woods.

Neveah let her wolf rise to the surface, running as fast as she could and the Dragon Shifter kept up with her pace easily, letting Neveah pull him along till they arrived at a cascading waterfall.

"There's a cave behind it, they won't search there. We can hide there till they leave." Neveah said quickly, pulling him along with her till they crossed the water fall and headed into the dimly lit cave behind it.

Neveah hid behind a corner, pulling the Dragon Shifter so he was hidden right beside her.

Her heart rate accelerated as she heard footsteps approaching the waterfall, whoever had been coming had certainly chased after them.

"Shhh...be quiet." Neveah said as she caught sight of a shadow on the other side of the water fall,

She turned so she was shielding the Dragon Shifter with her body, his back was pressed against the wall and she was leaned against him, lifting a hand to rest over his lips to prevent him from making any sounds.

The shadow prowled about and Neveah bit her lip, her heart beating anxiously as she pondered over what could be done if they were discovered.

The last thing she wanted was to watch her father do to Black Scaled what he did to every other intruder to make an example.

"Black Scaled...if he comes through, hold me hostage... make sure to draw blood as well." 1

"My father will have to let you go to save face before the Eclipse Alphas. Once you're beyond our borders, they won't dare give chase." Neveah said urgently as the shadow drew closer.