99 Devilry (Ch.99)

Davina, Neveah learned from the conversation that this was the name of the attendant who had come into her space, she equally learned that this indeed was the room granted to her in the dragon's keep. 1

It seemed a room had already been set aside for her before her arrival, Neveah could not tell for how long the dragon shifters had already planned to kidnap her away from her home.

"This room of yours is located on the fourth level the keep, it is considered quite an unnatural placement since your title has not been made certain...if any at all." Davina said as she moved further into Neveah's room, inspecting the space.

"An unnatural placement?" Neveah asked with a raised brow.

"Indeed, the fourth level is the abode of high nobility who reside within the keep and see to affairs of the stronghold and this hall is granted to ladies of noble titles." Davina explained.

Neveah was about responding when a few of the other attendants who had come in with Davina walked over to her and began pulling

away her beddings.

"Uhmmm... Davina, what is this about?" Neveah asked when they placed arms on either side of Neveah to hoist her up without even saying a word.

Other than Davina herself, the rest of them had not said a single word and seemed to have no plans to speak, Neveah could not help but think their King's bad habits was rubbing off on them too.

"As I have said, you are to be bathed and dressed, your appearance altered and body measurements taken." Davina said in a casual tone as though she could not see the point behind Neveah's question.

"I got that, I mean to say...why am I being lifted off my bed?" Neveah asked and Davina passed a glance over her shoulder.

"To be bathed." Davina replied blankly.

"I can very well see to my bathing affairs myself, thank you... there will be no need..." Neveah began to protest but was cut off.

"Nonsense... Today alone, you are accorded this regard and not another day after. Do not play modest princess, you must already be used to

more luxurious considerations." Davina began with a scoff.

"Besides, I must note what alterations need to be made exactly." Davina said as she gestured towards the washroom.

"Alterations..." Neveah murmured, wrapping her arms around herself in horror, she was beginning to dislike the word.

"Oh do not be silly, we are not sorcerers who mar our skin with runes and blessings..."

"But we must ensure you do not bring with you such untoward adornments. In which case, it must certainly be seen to."

"This is Our Liege's abode and the seat of Asvar's power, no ridiculousness or mysteries are permitted." Davina said, her gaze fixing a cross glare on the arms Neveah had wrapped around herself. 1

"Especially not amongst the women folk...it would not be the first time our Lord dragons are coveted to the extent of dabbling in such devilry." Davina added, her eyes narrowed in suspicion.

"Unbelievable." Neveah's wolf thought to her.

Neveah scoffed at Davina's implications of

using sorcery for seduction, she was realizing it more with each passing moment that there were many absurd affairs in this dragon's keep and it had only been a day since she arrived. 2

"Or...do you perhaps have something you wish to hide on your person?" Davina asked again, her eyes narrowing even more.

Seeing as Davina's suspicious glare did not drop, Neveah let her arms fall away from her body, she did not have any devilry to hide... she didn't even know a thing about sorcery.

"Where I come from, there is no such thing as sorcery and my kind have little to no interactions with witches, there is nothing to hide." Neveah said with a blank tone.

"Very well then... I shall make my own judgement, I have seen to the ladies of the court many a time, I know well of these affairs." Davina said with a knowledgeable glint in her eyes.

Neveah pursed her lips as she pulled her hands away from the attendants, heading into the adjoining room with an aggrieved expression on her face.

"Now, now...we do not wash with clothing on here in Asvar, shall we help you to it? Or will

you proceed? We have no time to waste... the day is young, yet there is much to be taught." Davina said expectantly.

Neveah reached to the straps of her clothing and undid it, her leather dress had already been removed and this was just her inner dress and so the moment it fell away, she was left standing bare.

With a raised brow, Neveah turned around for good measure, pulling her hair to her front so her back was shown clearly.

"Satisfied...?" Neveah asked, she was not certain why Davina seemed momentarily taken aback, perhaps she had thought Neveah would be shy about her nudity and shamed by having to stand nude before the eyes of four strange women.

Nudity? It was the last thing a werewolf would be burdened with... although Neveah always lectured Lado for it back at the Eclipse Palace, she knew it was true.

"Yes...well then, there is no sign of suspicious mark..." Davina began but paused when her eyes settled on the Creator's mark over Neveah's heart, right at the rise of her bosom.

"Oh, gods." Neveah murmured to herself just as

her wolf thought the same, both parties knowing what would come next. 1

"Devilry!" Davina exclaimed immediately, the other attendants gasping in horror.

"And what manner of devilry is it to be? I had this engraved long before I was brought here without my own choice, would I know to make plans of enticing your Lord dragons?" Neveah asked in a blank tone, she really could not believe this was happening.

Davina frowned slightly as she moved closer to Neveah to inspect the engraved mark, it had no particular form,

Unlike Alessio's mark which display an eclipsing moon, Neveah had no idea what her mark was supposed to be and she had never bothered to know more of it too. 2

"It does not appear to be a ruin of any kind, of what significance is it to you?" Davina asked uncertainly. 1

Neveah did not respond immediately, she was not certain how to respond to that question or if she even wanted to respond at all.

The Creator's mark...of what significance was it? To he engraved on a scorned bastard? Only the Creator himself would know of it. 1

"It is something I should not have...yet my people would call it a blessing." Neveah replied with a quiet scoff.

"It is no sorcery then?" Davina asked again and Neveah shook her head.

"Not that I know of." Neveah replied, smirking when Davina's eyes widened.

"I will let this slide as it is the only suspicious marking, but should any unlucky thing happen in these coming days, trust that I shall know where to look." Davina promised before she gestured towards the bath tub.

"I see superstition lives here." Neveah murmured, shaking her head as she stepped into the bath pool and it was then Neveah recalled what she had been meaning to ask Davina.

"The ladies of the Asvarian Stronghold bear noble titles?" Neveah asked in surprise, among the pack rankings, there were some ranks that were never given to women.

Neveah did not know the dragon keep of all places would be the one place that was open minded regarding delegation of duties based on gender.

"Certainly, the King's guard has a revered female division, as does every army or military division in the Asvarian Stronghold. Asvarian women, both human and other races are considered as equal to their male counterparts." Davina said with a casual tone.

"That is... surprising." Neveah murmured in a low tone.

"I see you must be accustomed to a setting were women are treated as pampered and cherished treasures. If you expect such treatment here, you will be sorely disappointed." 2

"The Asvarian women must earn their keep much like the men, the Asvarian women are entangled in all works of the stronghold and every possible affair from craft, to building guilds... everything..."

"Asvarian women, especially the prestigious dragon riders even bear titles in the royal court and command flight patrols." Davina said with a nod.

"Dragon riders..." Neveah murmured, recalling her flight on Xenon's back with a small frown.

"The bonded of our Lord Dragons, their lifetime companion, a soul mate... they are as highly

respected as the Lord Dragons themselves." Davina explained.

"These riders...they are only female?" Neveah asked with a raised brow.

"Certainly not, fate decides these bonds, again there is nothing limited by gender in Asvar." Davina replied. 1

As Davina spoke, Neveah washed herself, listening to her words in silence, though Davina seemed to dislike Neveah, she did not withhold any information from her... or Neveah guessed all that she asked was what could be easily answered.

"Ancient texts say you werewolves have a bond of your own... what is it you call it?" Davina asked.

"Mate...not a bonded but a mate." Neveah replied in a quiet murmur.