121 CHAPTER 121

"His kind massacred an entire species, draining them of every last bit of blood in them. Not even the weakest among them survived, they hunted and killed every one of them" 1

"After Dragons colluded with them to massacre our new born and women, only so we wouldn't reproduce, you killed our parents. My sisters were just five when they lost their parents," Rich spat, not bothering to hide the hatred in his voice.

"Fucking liar, like the rest if your kind, we would never attack the innocent, no matter what. Your kind attacked first."

"No." I muttered, the memory of fire raining down from the air, "your kind attacked first, I was there. The lyths had provoked the attack," my brows furrowed, it was as clear as day in my head.

"Impossible." Aragon's eyes widened in disbelief, "They would never"

"Keep saying it until you believe it," Rich sneered.

"its a long story, but I was there on the day

of the massacre, the vampires only retaliated after being provoked. But they never wiped out the lyths," I shared my memories with Aragon through our bond.

That day, mother was murdered in cold blood, the scene of father dragging me and lily away was still stuck in my head. The lyths had colluded with demons, we barely escaped with our lives. Father died while we were escaping, we had only wanted to enjoy some family time.

Luckily, Rich wasn't there when it all happened.

I still remember nanny lu dragging us away, as we clung to our parents corpses, Aragon was right, a massacre happened that day, but it wasn't the vampires that did it.

"How?" he said in disbelief. He sat on the floor, his slit retreating and replaced with human-like eyes, Antares was back.

"We murdered innocent creatures" guilt was written all over his face, "No wonder dragons were wiped out. It was our karma," he laughed mockingly, "I didn't survive by luck, I survived because I was never a part of what happened then. I couldn't bring myself to do it, instead I opted for seclusion like a coward. And

now everything is in shambles" he sounded lost.

I had no idea on how to console him, frankly I held quite a grudge against their kind back then. If the witches hadn't wiped them out, I had sworn to kill every last one of them.

Which is quite laughable considering I was a rider now. Well, the past was the past, there was no need to hold onto something we couldn't change.

wait, something struck me,

"If the vampires didn't kill the Lyths and the dragons exiled the survivors of the vampire clan for wiping out an entire species, what then happened to the Lyths?" my words froze the air.

One look at Rich and Antares and I knew they had arrived at the same conclusion as me,

"Someone had planned all these" we all said simultaneously.

A pin drop of silence ensued between us, each person lost in their own thoughts. "It would take years to plot so carefully." Rich said quietly,

"Someone has been orchestrating all

these?" It was a scary guess, wild even. But it was a possibility nonetheless.

"I'm sorry. On behalf of my species i apologize"

"No worries. I do not blame you, the past should remain buried" Rich waved it off. "What do you say we start afresh, it'd be a shame to make an enemy of the last surviving dragon and one that belongs to my sister nonetheless"

"Sister?" Antares looked from him to me.

"Long story" I mouthed.

He nodded, "Let's start afresh then," he stretched out his hands, "friends?"

"Friends" Rich accepted the hand.

"What if this is what the master mind was trying to prevent?" I muttered. "inter friend species. Think of it, all species have been isolated and separated from each other till now, there was no way we could have known that the enmity was built on lies. Antares, do you remember how you guys came to the conclusion that vampires massacred the lyths?"

"No. I can't remember anything. My memory is fuzzy" he sounded surprised, "Weird."

"You have a good memory." I pointed out, "How can you remember anything?"

"My memory about the incident is blurry, all I can remember is that vampires were killed, we retaliated and exiled them. Later on I heard that several species retreated to the north. I can't seem to remember the details"

"Someone must have tampered with your memory." Rich said

His face paled, "Your training will continue later. Excuse me," then he faced Richard, "I can't wipe away the evil my kind committed against yours. But I am at your service if you ever need me. I sincerely apologize" he bowed.

"No need" rich shook his head, "Just keeping Aella safe is enough" he replied

"We will meet again. I must retire now."

"He's not taking it lightly huh?" Rich stood beside me, watching Antares' retreating figure.

Sigh.

"Tampering with a creature's memory is no easy feat. Especially one as powerful as dragons. Aside from the humiliation, it begs to wonder what else has been tampered with. He'll be in a pool of self doubt for quite a while"

Rich shook his head, something deep flashing across his eyes.

"How can I help him?"

"You can't. This is his battle baby sis, you have to trust him to handle this. It's good he knows something was tampered with, if he can't pass this hurdle on his own then maybe he was never meant to fight alongside you. This is his tribulation" he replied.

I felt a pang of pity for this father figure of mine, "he's pitiful"

"He'll rise again. And if he doesn't then it is for the best."

I sighed, "I'll let him figure things out, but I will help him if I have to. He's family and here, family don't carry their burdens alone"

"Mmmm'" he nodded "Their heart beat is quite strong for unborn kids"

"Dont snoop around my kids Richard." I stopped him instantly, "I've had enough of y'all predicting their strengths and weaknesses"

He laughed aloud, "It's hard to ignore lil sis. I can literally hear their vigorous heart, it's pumping so aggressively. They'll be quite the fighters"

"Richard" I called out, my voice carrying a hint of warning.

"Alright" he chuckled, raising his hands in a surrender, "I'll stop for now"

I rolled my eyes "better"

He wrapped his arms around me, like he always did when we were younger, "Don't die on me again, it was only the knowledge that you both might come back that kept me for so long. I really don't think I can keep on living if I lose either of you again" I could hear the vulnerability in his voice.

"You won't. I promise"

I said resolutely, I wasn't going to die and I'd make sure of that. By any means possible.