

## 23 CHAPTER 23

Aella 1

A void. That's all I could see, an endless void. Did I say all I could see? I couldn't even see if I were to be honest.

I've been walking in this dark endless space for as long as I can remember. I could hear Eros' voice, his regrets, his promises, the guilt in his voice.

I've reached out to him, yelled his name, called, even cried but he can't seem to hear me, nothing is working. So yup, here I am, stuck in this wormhole or whatever it is, walking around aimlessly, no destination in plan.

Having walked for what seemed like hours, I decided to sit for a while, just sit and do nothing. Probably catching my breath, looking ahead, I saw a tiny light, so tiny but in this dark space it was hope.

Energized, I continued again, but this time with a destination in sight. The closer I got, the brighter the light shone, getting closer I was suddenly sucked into an entirely different space.

"Too bright" I winced, blinking repeatedly.

"Open your eyes Zorya," a coarse voice



called out.

"Huh" I furrowed my brows, I wasn't alone. At least some good news.

"The dragon" I called out, fully opening my eyes, to see it, curled up in one corner, looking at me.

"Hello, Zorya."

"You speak. How are you here? What's going on? Where am.."

"I will answer all the questions you have, one at a time, Zorya" it cut me off.

"Stop calling me that," I said.

"But it's your name"

"My name is Aella" I shot back.

"Well Zorya, I am Aragon, your guide dragon" it replied, ignoring my complaints on the name.

"Nicely done, where's Antares and Andrew? They can come out now. I'm not falling for this bullshit."

"It's not a joke Zorya, this is serious."

"Yeah, right" I chuckled, moving ahead to check for where they could be hidden, but all that greeted me was the deserted nature of this space I was sucked into. It looked like an



abandoned forest, tired of searching, I returned to meet it, still curled up, eyes closed.

"Are you ready to listen now Zorya?"

"So this is not a trick, point taken. Why do you call me that?"

"The name 'Aella' is only a font, your name is Zorya, you can tell from the necklace your mother left you and your sister..."

"Sister?" I interrupted.

"Patience Zorya, I was getting to that" it groaned.

"Try being patient next to a freaking huge dragon, after having walked in a void endlessly" I snapped.

"Yes, sorry about that. I was delayed by your annoying mate."

"You met Eros, how is he? Am I dead? Can you send me back?"

"Sigh, he's an annoying thwart for an Alpha, no you're not dead, and no I can't send you back, can I talk now?"

"Oh my moons, I'm stuck here, I can't return, my training, my dreams, my..."

"Humann!!!" it roared



"Don't scream at me" I shouted back.

"Let me talk and I won't"

"Fine." I huffed, "not like I stopped you from talking" I grumbled

"Sigh"

"I want to tell you a story Zorya, listen carefully"

### FLASHBACK

#### A 1000 Years Ago

In the Land of Goth, where dragons roamed free, witches giggled and made potions freely, wolves co-existed with all other species, elves, vampires, dwarves, ogres, trolls, you name it.

In the palace of the Alpha king, in the far east, a land of honey and peace, maids could be seen rushing up and down, orders sounded like songs.

"Bring more hot water!"

"Hurry!"

"We need a bowl"

"More hands are needed"

"Where are the midwives"

In a large room, at the west wing of the



Alpha king's mansion, something magical was happening, the queen, a dragon rider, was giving birth, the first fruit of its kind, a miracle between a dragon rider and a wolf, nothing like it had ever been seen.

Just beyond the room, outside, guards, men, the Alpha king, his council, the elders, all stood outside, with the king paving around, one look at him and one could tell he was nervous.

Hands sweating, a tight smile on his face, posture rigid, he wanted nothing more than to hold his mate in his arms, but it was forbidden. He could not enter.

"Kjan"

A voice called out, he turned, it was his beta  
"Darkin, where have you been"

"Sorry I am late, I got caught up in something" he replied, a flicker of light went past his eyes.

But caught up in his own thoughts, Kjan could barely think about why Darkin had been acting strange for the past few days, he would ask him later.

"A loud cry, sharp and babbling filled the air"  
Followed by a loud echo

"It's a boy"



"Congratulations your Highness"

"I see another head" a voice exclaimed.

"Twins,"

"Bring the bowl"

"Hot water"

"Your Highness push"

Kjan could feel the anxiety swell up in him even more, then he heard it, loud and unmistakable.

"Kjaannnnn" his mate roared, in pain, her roar shook the palace, followed by a loud rumble from her dragon.

Trying to head inside, Darkin held his hands, "you can't enter "

He clenched his fists, ignoring the unease clawing at his mind, he stayed back, pacing around. He couldn't break the age long tradition of his people, not now.

"Kjaannn...." This time, the roar was weaker, even her dragon had quietened, that was unusual, "I'm entering, don't touch me," he commanded, using his Alpha voice, the look of panic that crossed Darkin's face, didn't escape him.

Rushing in, he saw a scene he could have

never imagined, his mate, lying motionless, her heart beating weakly, in the hands of two infant witches. His children? Nowhere to be found.

A loud pained howl escaped from his lips, he saw red. And without thinking, he lunged.

### END OF FLASHBACK

"While your story is quite sad, it's not sounding very helpful at all"

"Patience Zorya," it growled, sounding irritated. "To continue my story and with ZERO INTERRUPTIONS"

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