

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North

- Chapter 161 – 180

Chapter 161: ZANDER PLAYED A LONG GAME

"I found the same scent from one of the knight's belongings," Darius reported. He had been asked by Dawn to check on the scent that attracted the monster and he found it.

"Are you sure?" Zander asked.

The seven of them were inside Zander's tent, discussing about this revelation.

"I am. I smelled it once in the first attack. I recognized it when I encountered it again."

Dawn then told them about her conversation with Lyra and the connection with the west people, who tried to topple down Zander's reign.

But, when Dawn mentioned Jason's name, aside from Zaya, they didn't seem to be surprised.

"You don't look surprised," Dawn noted.

"We have suspected Jason for long," Zenith said. "In fact, we have gotten in touch with gamma Alex."

Gamma Alex was her father's gamma, he used to be away and handled the trade, but Dawn was not surprised too, because in the first life, Zenith also got in touch with Alex for some business.

"Thank you for your help, little sister," Zander said, as he ruffled Dawn's hair, but Zenith caught his hand.

"What are you doing?" He swatted his hand away and combed Dawn's messy hair because of Zander. "I think we are done here," Zenith said and then took Dawn's hand to go back to their tent.

Darius followed his alpha and luna.

"He looked like he is going to kill me..." Zander sighed and turned to Zaya. "Don't you want to hug me?" He opened his arms widely.

"Don't be ridiculous," Zaya said. "I am going back to my tent."

“My siblings don’t love me anymore,” Zander said, he clicked his tongue, but Pyro could only roll his eyes.

Yet, once there was only the two of them, Zander took off his golden mask, his expression was serious and his blue eyes were sharp.

“Have you had everything prepared?” he asked, his voice was rather cold.

“Yes.” Pyro nodded. “There is another letter from the Holy Kingdom that demanded princess Zaya to return to Andel Continent, because she should have returned months ago. They also demanded for Aurel to be returned to them and also about the magic stone...”

Apparently, because the magic stone that they could get was only from the west, as they were the only distributor for the meantime, the price skyrocketed to the point it didn’t make any sense at all.

“Zan, don’t you think that this will be back fired at us?” Pyro had been worrying about this matter. “You helped them to get the money to build the new kingdom.”

“Yes, but not for long.” Zander crossed his arms.

Magic stone was essential for magic user because they couldn’t use their magic without it, no matter how powerful you were. The healer also used magic stone, but not all the time, thus they were not really relied on it.

However, the magic users couldn’t do anything without it and the only magic stones mines were in this continent, while the main consumer of the magic stone was people from Andel Continent. Therefore, the relationship between the two continents were rather complicated, especially with the merchant from Karam continent, who did the trade with magic stone, it complicated thing even more.

But, there was one thing that Vemion miscalculated.

While fire magic stones were more expensive than earth and water magic stone, this kind of magic stone was rare. If Vemion kept exhausted the source at this rate, he would be left without anything to dig for more than ten years from now.

“So, you waited until they ran out of the magic stone in their mines? But, for how long?” Pyro looked disagreed with Zander, but he had to admit, this plan would be effective in the long run, as the west relied so much on this fire magic stone mines.

“You heard it yourself that they raised the price to ridiculous amount,” Zander said. “It’s not because they wanted to get more benefit, but they started running out of it.”

The distribution of fire magic stone in the market started dwindling and Pyro had reported it himself.

“Let’s wait and see,” Zander said, as he caressed his golden mask. His eyes dimmed.

The next day, early in the morning after they had their breakfast, they continued their travel to the capital city and reached the palace before noon.

The entourage of the knights from Marca El caught everyone’s attention, since this was the first time for other people to see the knight from that continent, especially with this huge number.

They were fascinated by their armors and their war horses, little children hid behind their mother’s back when they saw the knights, because they looked very scary in their eyes.

Once they arrived at the palace, the maid servants tended to them. Their lunches would be sent to their room, while they would have dinner together later.

“You shouldn’t have stayed here for long, Zaya.” Elder Isaac approached Zaya before she entered her bedroom. “You shouldn’t have indulged your brother’s craziness and convince him to send Aurel back to Andel.”

“He is going to send her back, the only think that he wanted is justice, poisoning the king is a crime that’s worse than a treason and using black magic is a crime that granted a death punishment. Aurel did both and Holy Kingdom refused to take responsibility of it. What my brother did is justified.”

Elder Isaac’s face turned red when Zaya called him out on his bullshit.

“Zaya, you grew up in Holy Kingdom, you lived there for years, you know how vital magic stone is for our people, yet you did nothing to help us.” Elder Isaac changed his approached, but Zaya wouldn’t buy it.

“I grew up there, because you kept me there, telling me that I have to learn how to use magic, since I am a magic user and I can’t even return to my homeland because my father and mother trapped inside the Great Shrine.”

Chapter 162: AWFULLY FAMILIAR

“You kept me away against my wish, what do you think my brothers will do if they learned about this?”

Zaya was fifteen when the last time she met with her mother and father. She was too young to know what to do and the people around her kept telling her the thing that she should have done and she had to follow that.

She couldn't even ask for help to her brothers because they told her about the situation in Ogregon Kingdom and how her brothers were busy to deal with the traitors, who wanted to take the young king down from the throne and her plea would only distract them.

They told them that if Zander lost the battle against the traitor, it was most likely, they would kill him and Zenith, since that was how thing would turn out for the fallen sovereign.

Therefore, Zaya was afraid to add more trouble for her brothers.

It was not that they treated her poorly, but sure enough, they isolated her from everyone and forced her to study and learn magic. They were interested because she was her mother's daughter, the powerful magic user, who saved their continent from a powerful black magic user decades ago.

Zaya had to leave for years in Andel continent alone and not relied on anyone, but herself. She had to learn quickly how to read the room and how to protect herself.

Not like they were abusive or something, but sure enough they were really manipulative when it came to what they wanted her to do... or rather, to be...

"You and all the elders in the Holy Kingdom forced me to stay and even check on all the letter between me and my brothers..." Zaya said, she spoke very softly and clearly, but the look in her blue eyes could make your heart skipped a beat. "What do you think they will do to you?"

Elder Isaac was taken aback, he was trying to find a way to retort that but how could you deny the fact?

"I am tired. If you have something to complain about my brother's way to handle thing. You can complain directly to him." Zaya pointed at her left side. "You can go there, take turn to your left side and climb down the stair and on the right side, you can see the throne room, my brother usually will be there."

After saying that, Zaya didn't want to engage in conversation with Elder Isaac anymore and chose to enter her room. She didn't even wait for his reply when she closed the door in front of his face.

Two warriors approached Elder Isaac and told him to leave.

Meanwhile, inside the inn at the harbor, Blake once again met with his father. He reported everything that happened and how many of knights that came from Marca El.

He also reported their strength.

“I think they could fight against a shifter one on one. They are as strong as the rumor said.” Blake didn’t even exaggerate his words when he said this. He witnessed it with his own eyes of how they killed the trolls and Vermeyes.

Yes, it was him, who had put the scent of Asturi Stem on one of the knight’s belongings to attract the monster.

The funny scent that Dawn smelled came from that plant. Its smell could lure monsters.

“But how could monsters appear in that forest when that place usually free of monsters?” Blake was curios for this part.

Jason tapped his fingers on the table. “Someone in the west could use magic. They could create a portal to bring the monster to different places in a second.”

But of course, for being able to do so, you would require a lot of magic stones, which currently was a very valuable thing. The two monster attacks had made them lost a lot and they couldn’t afford more than that.

But, this piece information was what they needed.

“Who is this person that you have been in contact with?” Blake asked casually, he tried not to sound too impulsive.

“Later. This is not the right time for you to know,” Jason said, giving his son the same answer and Blake looked nonchalant, but inside, he was actually seething.

If he could get to contact this person from the west, he wouldn’t need his father anymore... he was still alive only because for the fact, he was still useful for him.

“So, what the west has offered to us?”

The Moonlight pack’s strong point was their harbor, it was a critical point for trading, various business and mobilization, therefore, they wanted Moonlight pack.

However, Jason was no use now and Blake could give the west more helping hand with his current position, only if he knew, who his father had been in contact with.

"I am very thankful for you, son. You are still with me despite what happened," Jason said. He looked very genuine when he said that. "How's your mother? Is she alright?"

Blake drank his wine and sighed deeply. "She still didn't talk much."

"Can I see her? I missed your mother."

Blake glanced at him, there was this disgusting look on his face, but he hid it quickly before Jason could notice that.

"We can't risk that father, she is still mad at you for what you have done and we can't guarantee she will not let alpha Tony knew about your whereabouts if you met with her. It will ruin everything..."

"I know... I know..." Jason missed his mate so much, despite what he had done, Ava was his destined mate and they spent more than two decades together. "She seduced me, I shouldn't have fallen into her sweet words."

Blake lowered his gaze. That sounded awfully familiar. He glanced at his father and wondered if he looked that pathetic when he said those words?

He was still upset because he couldn't get a chance to talk to Dawn. It would be great if the west invaded soon.

Chapter 163: SOMEONE FROM THE WEST

After the uneventful dinner and some entertainment here and there, the next day someone made a fuss in front of the palace gates, asking to meet with prince Zenith.

"I am here to get my money back."

He was a young man with red hair and had a messed up haircut, he was holding a box and was livid when he was not allowed to enter the palace.

"Are you trying to fool me?!" He raised his voice. "He owed me money, if you didn't believe me, ask him! Tell him to come here!"

Because he made a ruckus, the guard took him inside, but not to the palace, but the dungeon, as the other guard informed Zenith about what happened.

Currently, the alpha was with his mate, having their peaceful breakfast. It was not sure since when it became a habit, but Zenith would taste Dawn's food first before she ate it, though Dawn would find a way to figure out if it was safe to be eaten or not.

"That must be your old friend," Zenith said and the guard was surprised what that man said was right. He asked what they had to do with him.

"Where is he?" Dawn asked, as she chewed on her meat.

"Because he made a ruckus, we put him in the dungeon," the guard replied.

"Oh, no." Dawn immediately stood up. "Get him out of there!"

The guard was confused, so did Zenith with Dawn's strong reaction, but he immediately went away to let his comrade know about this.

"What happened?" Zenith followed Dawn, he frowned because she tried to walk quickly, but with her heavily pregnant belly, it was not easy for her. "Slow down." He put his arm behind her back.

"Hecate hated a dungeon." Dawn then told Zenith that he was born in the dungeon because his mother was thrown there after being caught stealing food, at that time, his mother was pregnant and he spent ten years there, until his mother died and they simply didn't care of him and released him.

"Ten years for stealing food?"

"They forced her mother to work in the mines because they needed to people to do a labor work to dig magic stone. He worked in the mine too since he was three years old."

Zenith was silent for a while, before he noted. "You knew a lot about him."

"I remembered that we were close. The memories returned in more detail when I saw him. Flashes of memories when we were together, came to me here and there."

They finally reached the dungeon, but Zenith stopped Dawn. "I will handle this." He was not going to let his pregnant mate to enter the filthy dungeon.

"No. I will go with you. He must have done something."

As if on cue, they could hear someone was freaking out from inside the dungeon and Dawn hastened her steps. She knew this would happen. They should have let the guards know to let him in beforehand, but because of what happened, they simply forgot, since she wouldn't have thought they would put him in the dungeon.

From inside, they could hear the commotion and Hecate's voice, screaming at the guards, who tried to get close to him.

“We can’t kill him! Prince Zenith wanted to see him!”

“The hell! He is poisoning us!”

With the mention of poison, Zenith was about to stop Dawn, but she reassured him it was not something lethal.

“Don’t worry, I know what it is.”

And just like what Dawn had predicted, she saw the guard was wailing on the ground, clutching to his stomach, while the other scratched his body relentlessly, until his skin broke and bled.

“Stop this, Hecate. Give them the antidote,” Dawn said.

All the guards immediately quieted down when they realized the alpha and the luna from the north were there. They lowered their heads politely.

“Gave them the antidote,” Dawn said again.

“No! They are going to lock me here!” Hecate was furious.

“I am here to get you out, but you need to give them the antidote,” Dawn said.

And after some back and forth between the two of them, Zenith’s patient ran very thin, as he snatched the small box in his hand and threatened to take it away until he gave the guards the antidote.

It was childish, but it worked.

Begrudgingly, Hecate gave the antidote and he followed Dawn and Zenith out of the dungeon.

“Swindler,” he said under his breath to Zenith. “You told me to get half of the money here, but you want to put me in the dungeon. Swindler.”

Dawn immediately grabbed Zenith’s hand to prevent him from doing something bad to Hecate.

“Come with me, you will get the money.” Dawn smiled meaningfully at him. “There is something we want to offer to you.”

And an hour later, they were in the king’s study room, along with Zaya and Celine as well.

"Is this the man that you recommend to fill Aurel's position?" Zander asked, he narrowed his eyes at Hecate. His appearance must have made him look unreliable. "Are you sure?"

"I am the greatest man in my field. I will only help you if you paid me. I only accept gold."

"Are you sure, he is the right person? What the greatest thing that he had done?" Zander looked at Zenith.

"Saving your ass," Zenith replied, technically he was right, since they got the last two items from Hecate.

"Well, I deem that important." Zander nodded. "Fine, I will give you gold, but tell me about the situation in the west, everything that you knew."

"Why should I? I am not a spy."

"I will give you gold for each information."

"Gold and all the rare herbs that you have."

"You can have them all since you have agreed to work here."

"So, the west is not in a good situation..." And with that Hecate blabbered out all the information that he knew willingly.

Chapter 164: YOU ARE NOT MY TYPE

"The alpha told me to introduce you to four warriors that will be your personal warriors, Dawn," Darius said, as he approached her when she was with Zaya and Celine.

Dawn was happy because she had Zaya and Celine as her friend and they got along well, though she was sad that Celine still didn't have any idea what happened to Lance, but Zaya reassured her that Celine had given up hope on him.

Therefore, when everything unfolded, she hoped, she wouldn't be too sad.

After what Lance put Celine through, Zaya felt less guilty, especially when she learned everything that happened that night. Celine didn't know the truth though.

"Who are they?" Dawn asked, Zenith had told her last night about this and Darius had been busy to find the four warriors. The requirement got very complicated because the alpha wanted the people, who could get along with Dawn too, but kept their distance from her.

How would Darius know, whether they would get along with Dawn or not?! Whenever it came to his mate, the alpha became more ridiculous each day.

“You have met them before,” Darius then reminded her about the incident when the warriors were having a hard time to sleep because of the smell that came from the area where they burned all of the traitor dead bodies after they hanged them. “You helped them and they expressed their gratitude to you.”

When Darius told them about this, they were so eager to fill the position and Darius deemed it was enough for them to be able to get along with Dawn.

More so, Dawn was not a complicated person to get along with, she simply loved her own company instead of roaming around to make friend with everyone.

“My brother indeed doted on you so much. He gave you four personal warriors, while he always assigned his own personal warrior away.” Zaya teased Dawn. She loved to see how her sister in law blushed with the mention of her brother’s name only.

Celine chuckled to see that. She had been guiding Hecate to adjust himself in the palace and tried to get along with him, but the man was rather... unique. So, probably it would take a while.

“Let me introduce you to them,” Darius said excitedly, he then called the four warriors.

All of them greeted Dawn, Zaya and Celine politely, bowing their bodies to show their utmost respect to the two princesses.

“Barrett, Burke, Denzel and Chase,” Darius introduced them quickly.

Barrett was the tallest among them all, but Burke was the bulkiest and while Denzel looked scary, Chase actually looked like a sweet boy. Dawn was sure that Chase only came to age and join the rank of warrior, thus for him to be chosen by Darius as her personal warriors, she believed her skill was great.

And now, Dawn only needed to wait for her due date, which could come any time. Therefore, Zenith had been spending his time with her, ditching all Zander’s effort to come with him in the meeting with king Rowan.

“You are the one, who called them here and got them involved, you handle him yourself.”

That was what Zenith said, which made Zander speechless. Even for the hunting game, Zenith excused himself, telling him that he couldn’t leave his pregnant mate.

On the other hand, king Rowan didn't mind it whether Zenith came or not, because he had his eyes on Zaya. He would be happy enough for the auburn princess to accompany them in this hunt.

His intention was very clear and this was something that Zander failed to predict when he involved the people from Marca El. Who would have thought this barbaric king would fancy his beautiful, delicate and witty little sister.

"I present them for you, princess," king Rowan said, as they hunted monster in Goffa mountain. The mountain stretched out along the capital city, where there would be some monsters here that you could find.

Every two months, they would do this hunt to kill the monsters, so they wouldn't reach the city, but this time, Zander made it more excited by inviting king Rowan and his knights, since they looked so eager to swing those huge swords of theirs.

"Thank you, king Rowan, I appreciated that." Zaya nodded gracefully.

Zander watched everything and the king every movement behind his golden mask. His blue eyes darkened, as he started disliking this situation.

He needed to make it clear that his sister was off limits, but the king verbalized his intention by asking Zaya's hand directly to him.

"Marriage alliance is the best way for our kingdoms, what do you think?" King Rowan asked, as they talked in the strategy room about the steels business. They needed steels as the main material to make sword and they figured out the best steels came from Ogregon continent.

As shifter, they didn't need to use weapon in their attack, since they themselves were a weapon, therefore, steels were not really popular here, but apparently, just like magic stone mines, Ogregon continent had the best steels among the other continents.

"Pardon me?" Zander lifted his head, his eyes were sharp when he looked at the other king, Pyro could feel the air shifted inside the room and the tension was so high.

"What do you think about marriage alliance between our kingdoms to mark our alliances?"

"I am sorry, but you are not my type, king Rowan," Zander replied sourly.

Pyro wanted to facepalm himself when he heard that. Of course, he knew that Zander was not that stupid to think King Rowan was asking him to marry him, but what kind of answer was that?

On the other hand, king Rowan guffawed when he heard that. He found this very hilarious, his laugh sounded like he was barking and Zander was not amused in the slightest, especially when the other king made himself clear who he wanted to.

“I need a queen, not another king and I am sure, princess Zaya is the best option.”

Chapter 165: A PEACEFUL NIGHT

With the way king Rowan verbalized his attention and how he made it very clear to the point Zander couldn't twist the word, it left the king with no other option, but to answer for that offer.

It was a tricky situation, since he had to answer this question carefully. He couldn't offend the other king, because Zander involved him with this whole mess for a reason, but there was no way in hell he was going to let this barbaric man to have his sweet Zaya.

Well, she was not particularly sweet and sometime her words could be sharper than any blades, but still.

“Zaya doesn't like man,” Zander blurted it out.

King Rowan raised his brows, he repeated the words. “Princess Zaya doesn't like man?”

“Yes. You don't need to ask her, she is a little bit iffy with the topic.” Zander's expression couldn't be seen behind his golden mask, but Pyro's was on full display. King Rowan knew it right away, as the royal beta was in disbelief with Zander's choice of words.

He knew that Zander could be shameless, but he felt so embarrassed for the princess right now.

“Probably because she doesn't have a good man in her life.”

Pyro wanted the ground split, as the tension heightened. The two kings didn't back down and they bit back with their words.

Zander chuckled with that statement. “That's the opposite actually. Zaya is very picky, because her expectation is very high, since she has a king and the alpha from the north as her standard.”

Pyro really wanted to leave the room at this point.

“Is that so?” king Rowan raised his brows with that statement.

“Don’t you agree?” Zander asked lightly. It would be seen as an insult if king Rowan disagreed with the statement, since Zander had made it clear to use his status as the king, instead his own name in the matter.

Therefore, it could be said as him brought the whole kingdom in this entire light conversation.

And thankfully, king Rowan was clever enough to see this tricky question. In fact, the more Zander tried to dissuade him not to pursue her, the more he became interest with her.

“I am glad that I am the king too,” he replied.

Pyro could see Zander spit fire when he heard that relentless answer.

“Such an interesting status,” Zander replied.

The royal beta felt the need to stop this before thing escalated further. He made a mental note not to leave these two alone.

“What is more interesting is the fact that magic stone could be used as the material for sword, our blacksmith had just confirmed that.” Pyro was very tactful.

Thankfully, the two kings dropped the topic and changed their discussion. This conversation about the sword that made of magic stone lasted for two hours and once they were done, they would make a short trip to the magic stone mines two days from now.

After that, king Rowan took his leave, leaving Zander and Pyro alone in the strategy room.

“Zaya is going to kill you if she found out what you said,” Pyro said.

“Zenith will kill me if he found out I brought a barbaric and let him fancied our sister.”

Pyro shook his head and clicked his tongue. “You are a dead man, Zan.”

Zander took off his golden mask, some time it was weird to see how identical the two of them, but with how different their personalities it made them very different in a way.

“Proceed with our plan. We will do it tonight,” Zander said. His eyes dimmed and he looked a little bit distraught.

Pyro knew what he had to do, because they had prepared this for some time now. He then left the room to carry the order.

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Dawn could feel something big would happen tonight, because Zenith let her know about all the detail of their plan and she felt bad for Celine.

It would break her heart.

They had become so close because Zaya was a good friend with the healer for years and she was very grateful that they could accept her, but it broke her heart to know that Celine would be in so much pain tonight. She cared about her friend.

“What are you thinking about?” Zenith approached her and kissed her cheek. He couldn’t get enough of her, as he gave her more kisses.

The alpha hugged her from behind and placed his hand under her belly, to support the baby in her womb and Dawn very much liked it when he did this, because their baby was getting heavier by the day.

“Nothing, I only felt bad for Celine. She will feel sad.”

“She will feel more sad if she knew what he did to her.”

“But, you said it yourself that he is under the influence.”

“The magic will not work if he didn’t have feeling for her in the first place. Lance didn’t even fight it. He chose to fight his own mate instead and justified it.”

Zander, Zenith and Pyro didn’t show how distraught they were for having to kill Lance, but no matter what, it was his own fault for ignoring the king’s warning. He succumbed too deep into Aurel’s influence, it would be hard to keep him around.

“Lance is an opening for the sect to attack Zander. Even if we managed to get rid Aurel, the sect will find a way to use him, since he will be a weak spot close to Zander.”

Zenith explained everything to Dawn, as they stared at the moonlight, it was as peaceful night, but a few hours later, it wouldn’t be as peaceful.

“So, Aurel is indeed involved with the sect?”

“Yes.” Zenith learned everything when he killed both of them. “The future has changed so much.”

Dawn nodded. She agreed with that and she wondered what would happen then. She also wondered how Zander lost his wolf spirit, but was still alive until now.

Chapter 166: DEATHS AT NIGHT

Most of the time, someone who lost their wolf spirit wouldn't be as lively as Zander right now. They would die eventually.

Your wolf spirit was akin to your life force, once it was gone, you wouldn't have any desire to live and eventually, your body would follow.

However, it was not the case with Zander and the only explanation that Dawn could get was; something happened ten years ago when they were eighteen, the moment where Zander met with his destined mate and she died. That was the same time when Zander lost his wolf spirit and was unable to shift.

Zenith didn't give her any detail about the event, but from the way he said this story, Dawn had a feeling that he didn't want her to pry. He was not ready to tell her about what happened in that eventful night and she stopped herself from asking.

"What is the little wolf doing?" Dawn asked, as she leaned her back against his chest, feeling good with his hand supported her swollen belly.

"Sleeping on the windowsill," Zenith replied. They were talking about their baby's wolf spirit.

Zaya loved to talk about it, she felt particularly happy to know that Zenith could see their baby's wolf spirit and it was cute in her opinion. She wished, she could see it too.

And as the night progressed, the peace inside the palace was disrupted when a chaos ensued in the west tower, this was a place, where Marca El knights stayed.

A big explosion could be heard and fire burned down the tower, while not too far from there, there were three bodies that they could find.

"Call the healer!" Pyro roared, giving an order to the warriors nearby and shouted more order for them to call for the king and let him knew what happened.

In less than half an hour, the two kings arrived. King Rowan was livid when he saw one of his knights were dead. He was almost unrecognizable if it was not for the armor that he was wearing, since he was burned so bad, you could smell his burning flesh.

"What the meaning of this?!" king Rowan hollered angrily, he faced Zander, demanding an explanation.

Zander was unfazed by the other king's rage, his blue eyes met with his black one and there was no fear that he could see there.

"Did your magic user kill my knight?!" King Rowan asked point blank. He accused Pyro of doing this.

"If you are still not aware yet, that's my gamma's body over there. He is dead too," Zander said, his voice was akin to a frozen lake. "Calm down and we will learn the truth."

Zander walked away from him and approached Lance's dead body. He checked on him briefly and then moved toward the other dead bodies. His eyes glinted with malice.

"Call Elder Isaac here! And all the representatives from the Holy Kingdom!" Zander issued the order. It was already so late at night, thus they must be sleeping on their comfortable bed, dreaming of something pleasant only to be hit by this reality.

There were three dead bodies there. It was Lance, the knight from Marca Ele and... Aurel.

"Tell me what happened here, Pyro," Zander asked his royal beta and now all of their eyes were on him.

He was the only witnessed, because when the explosion happened, he was already here, thus it was safe to assume that he somehow caused the explosion. He was a magic user after all.

"Aurel escaped the dungeon, Lance and I were about to capture her and the fight ensued..."

Pyro explained that Aurel used black magic and unfortunately for the knight, he heard the commotion and came over, but he was hit by Aurel's magic user. Not only that, Aurel also killed Lance in the process.

Hearing that, king Rowan's face turned dark. His knight had nothing to do with the dispute with the Holy Kingdom and he died for that stupid reason? The knight was the collateral damage here.

"There is no way Aurel could manage to use such powerful black magic to kill anyone!" Elder Isaac denied the accusation when he arrived there and heard the full story.

Zander smirked behind his golden mask. Kept denying that... and you would feel the wrath of the king from Marca El.

Of course, king Rowan was not happy with the way elder Isaac didn't take any responsibility in this matter, which was expected of him, since he had been doing this since the beginning.

"Magic left trace, I can check whether or not she used black magic before this," Zaya said, as she made her way there. "You can confirm that too, elder Isaac."

She came with Celine, who immediately went to see Lance. She dropped to her knees when she watched the royal gamma's condition. His body was bleeding and there was a huge hole in his chest.

From the look of it, a beast had clawed his heart out of his body and crushed it, later on, Pyro explained that Aurel controlled two warriors to fight Lance and they manage to get to him and kill him before Pyro could kill the two of them.

He pointed at the other two dead bodies, which in total, there were five people died tonight.

"Impossible! Aurel couldn't control people!" Elder Isaac roared angrily. "She is not a magic user, she is not a mind controller!"

"Then why don't you check it whether or not she used black magic!?" king Rowan was annoyed by this old hag and now he could feel Zander's frustration to face this man.

"I- I mean... I mean..." Elder Isaac stuttered. "She can use black magic... but she is not that powerful..." He tried to justify it.

"I thought Holy Kingdom forbade black magic." King Rowan narrowed his eyes. "Why did you keep her alive? I heard your Holy shit Kingdom refused to give her a proper punishment?" He asked coldly.

Chapter 167: THE LAST HONOR

Of course, king Rowan had his own way to obtain an information and Zander knew that. This was how nice to manipulate a smart people, because they could move on their own, so Zander didn't need to feed them information, because they knew what the necessary thing for them to know.

Zander would choose to manipulate people like this any day than the stupid one, because the latter only gave him headache and more task to do.

"Princess Zaya, could you please confirm that?" king Rowan asked, this time, he had a proper excuse to see Zaya performed her magic and she didn't turn down the request either.

Zaya walked toward Aurel's body, she looked a little bit sad for her to end up like this, but either in the first life or now, Aurel was someone, who would better off be dead.

Zaya would appear soft and kind, someone that you thought only had sunshine and rainbow in her life, but she had a tough time too when she lived far away from her homeland. She was being manipulated and did what she didn't want to do with no one to rely on.

"She used black magic," Zaya confirmed that after she checked on Aurel.

King Rowan was in awe when he watched how Zaya's body was glowing with the soft light from the rune that she created on Aurel's body to check the black magic. She looked so beautiful, soft, yet fierce, her blue eyes gleamed and her auburn hair made her look like she was on fire.

The look on his face didn't go unnoticed by Zander and the latter was not happy about it at all.

"Yes, she used black magic, but not as powerful to the point she could harm someone else!" Elder Isaac admitted that. "She was a healer!"

However, king Rowan didn't care about that, the truth was in the open, someone from the Holy Kingdom had used black magic and killed his knight and he was not going to let go of this fact.

The other knights looked as livid as their king to see their fellow knight died for stupid reason.

Now, the Holy Kingdom needed to answer to the two kings. They managed to offend them and it was not a good sign for them at all.

"I will write for the Holy Kingdom right away to discuss about this," Elder Isaac said grimly before he excused himself.

And when he asked for Aurel's body back, Zander disagreed with him.

"We will keep her body for further investigation."

Meanwhile, Zaya came to console Celine, she felt bad for her, but the secret would be buried with her. Her dear friend didn't need to know...

The next day, the funeral for the royal gamma was held and everyone attended. This was the last thing that Zander could do for Lance, gave him an honorable funeral for his years of service.

All the people involved and knew what actually happened, felt bad for things to be like this, but they just wiped out hundreds of people, who wanted to stage a coup against the king, the traitors, it wouldn't be wise for Zander to keep Lance around after what happened.

"How are you feeling?" Dawn asked Celine, she gave her a cup of warm tea, she found her in her bedroom after the funeral.

Celine tried to smile. "I am hurt, but it's not as painful as I thought it will be. I was in shock when I learned he was gone, but then... the pain is still bearable, probably because the bond between us has weakened, that's why I didn't feel it that hard... it almost felt like this is the death of a distant family of some sort." Celine lowered her head. "Actually, I feel a little bit ashamed that I don't mourn him more."

Dawn hugged her. Somehow, she could relate with her. "Don't feel bad, Celine. People grew apart..."

Zaya just left because she had to take care of something, but she would return, yet on her way back, king Rowan approached her in the hallway.

"Greeting, princess," king Rowan said. He towered above her, as he was very tall and bulkier than her brothers.

Zaya greeted him with the same fashion and offered her condolence. "I am sorry for the death of your knight, king Rowan. I didn't wish something like this will happen during your stay in our kingdom."

"Rowan, just call me by my name." He smiled. "And I accept your condolence." He didn't look very sad. After all, losing people was common for him. He had lost so many knights before this.

"Are you on your way to console your friend?" Rowan asked Zaya, he blocked her way shamelessly. "Was that the royal gamma was her mate?"

"Yes." Zaya nodded, she tried to step to the side, but he blocked her again. "Can you excuse me, please, I need to leave." She didn't even see his eyes and Rowan didn't like this.

Rowan tilted his head. "I think what your king brother said is true." He smiled when he finally piqued her interest and she looked at him in the eyes.

"What did my brother say exactly?" If it was Zenith, she didn't need to worry, but because it was Zander, that brother of hers could say some ridiculous thing.

“He said you don’t like man. I think you really hated man.” Rowan chuckled to see her facial expression. He knew it was a lie, but to see this princess made such face was so funny. “So? You like that friend of yours in romantic way?” He egged her.

Meanwhile, Zaya was speechless, she made a mental note to turn her brother into a frog once she met with him!

However, before Rowan could get the satisfaction to tease this princess, her other older brother approached them.

“What happened here?” Zenith asked, his cold expression could make anyone was alerted, as if you had to put your guard up around him.

Chapter 168: I DON’T NEED YOU ANYMORE

“Zen,” Zaya called him, relieved that he was here.

Zenith approached them and put his arm around his sister’s waist, as he looked at the king in the eyes. “I can see you two have a discussion, but I need my sister, I will take her now.”

That was not even nice neither polite to say the least and Zenith didn’t try to, because since the beginning, he didn’t agree with the fact Zander got people from Marca El involved, but he could see his reason and the benefit of it.

However, Zander would definitely get his butt kicked if Zenith learned Rowan’s recent intention.

Zenith didn’t wait for Rowan’s reaction, as he took his sister away from him. Zaya came with her brother, but she took a last glance at the king, he was staring at her and smiled.

“Don’t look,” Zenith said sternly and Zaya immediately looked ahead. Zenith was scary when he was pissed.

At this point, Zenith could tell there was something going on and he knew that he didn’t like it when he figured it out.

“What were you talking about with him?” Zenith let go of his grip on her waist when they were away from Rowan.

“Nothing, Zander talked about something ridiculous.”

“What ridiculous thing he said this time.” The two of them knew Zander and there was no point for Zaya to lie, thus she told him the truth and this cemented Zenith’s suspicion

about what King Rowan wanted. He could see the whole thing even before he confronted Zander. "I will take care of it," he said.

"Okay." But then Zaya added. "Don't be too harsh on him, he just lost his royal gamma. No matter what, Lance was someone close to him for years and they had gone through a lot of things together. The fact he had to kill him in the end, must not be easy, even though he didn't show it."

Zenith didn't promise anything about it and they arrived at Celine's bedroom. He came here to fetch his mate, because it was time for her to take rest. She was heavily pregnant and Zenith only wanted her to stay inside their bedroom until the day she had to give birth, lest something unpleasant happened to her.

Things had gone wild lately.

"I feel like a child," Dawn protested because it took Zenith to come and fetch her when Celine's room was only fifteen minutes walk away from their bedroom.

"There is no way I have lust for a child," Zenith replied, as they crossed the garden that led to the hallway toward their quarter.

"Zenith!" Dawn blushed upon hearing his crude remark.

"I am worried about you, Dawn."

"You don't need to." Dawn crept closer toward Zenith when he put his arms around her waist. "We are inside the palace, Burke and the other followed me wherever I went, there is nothing for you to be worried about."

Her four warriors followed her from the dark, they kept their distance, so she wouldn't feel uncomfortable, but they were close enough if something happened and they needed to take an action quickly.

Zenith nodded. "I am always worried about you. I can't help it."

Dawn hugged him and stopped walking. "Everything will be alright. We have changed our future and now we will have the happy ending that we deserved. This time, we will face all the problem together."

Zenith pressed his forehead against hers, he closed his eyes and breathed in her scent. The night was peaceful and they were still mourning the death of the royal gamma.

"I love you, Dawn," Zenith said it all of sudden. "Please, be safe and don't get hurt." That was all he needed.

“Don’t worry. I will take care of myself and the baby.”

Zenith shook his head. “I will take care of you and our baby.”

The night was a little bit cold, but they felt this warmth in their heart to know that they had one another to rely on, but at the same night when the whole continent learned about the death of the royal gamma, there was another death that occurred in the Moonlight pack.

In the harbor, inside the particular inn, Blake shifted back into his human form, while his father was bleeding to death...

Jason didn’t even stand a chance to fight him when he stabbed him on the back.

“Wh- what have you done...?” Jason breathed raggedly. He looked at his son with hatred and disbelief that he had done this to him. “Y- you... why did you do this?”

“I don’t need you anymore, father,” Blake said, he had gone insane and the only cure that he wanted was Dawn, but she was out of his reach. “You are nothing but a pest.”

Blake still remembered how Jason forced him to drink the Rottingbane in order for him to not be able to shift and insult him for wanting to get Dawn back.

“I get what I wanted now.”

Yesterday, Jason told him about his informant in the West and Blake had confirmed that, the informant was legit. That was the person that his father had been in contact with for years.

With that information, he didn’t need Jason anymore.

“You... imbecile... I should have killed you... when you were born...” Jason breathed his last, as Blake stepped on his neck. His injuries were too bad for him to be able to heal on his own, but then Blake wanted him to die.

And now, his father had died, his next aimed was the Moonlight pack. Alpha Tony would be next...

He only needed to get a ‘go ahead’ from the west and he was ready to turn Moonlight pack as the west’s ally.

Especially when he heard that Dawn gave birth to a baby boy two days later. He felt like he wanted to march toward the capital city to kill that baby along with the alpha from the north.

Dawn shouldn’t have been pregnant with his baby!

Chapter 169: THE TENSION IN THE AIR

It happened in the early morning when they were having their breakfast. All the important people were there, including the representative from the Holy Kingdom.

The tension was very high, you could cut the air with a knife. The funeral for the gamma still left everyone speechless, since the gamma was an important figure, who stayed by the king's side all this time.

Now, people talked who would be the royal gamma, since the position was vacant.

However, the real pressure was on elder Isaac because right now, king Rowan wanted the compensation from Holy Kingdom for killing one of his knights and he wanted ten magic users from them or a million gold. That was ridiculous request.

Right now, Elder Isaac was waiting for the answer from the Holy Kingdom about what he should proceed with this situation.

"Zenith..." Dawn called his name, she grabbed his arm when he talked to Zander and king Rowan. They kept their conversation light, about the new business of steel and the sword made of magic stone.

"Yes?" Zenith immediately turned to cater to his mate's need when he heard he called his name.

"I think my water broke..." Dawn said. She had been pregnant before and she remembered the moment when she was about to go to labor. She felt the contraction too, though it was still far. "The baby is coming."

Dawn only needed to say that and Zenith immediately sprung to his feet. His expression calm, as he scooped his mate in his arms, despite the fact that she was heavily pregnant. He held her delicately, because it was rather tricky to carry her with swollen belly.

"Call Celine, Dawn is going to give birth," Zenith said to Darius.

The meat that was about to enter his mouth stopped mid air when he heard that, he widened his eyes and immediately dropped the food.

"Right away!" The gamma then dashed out of the dining hall and immediately looked for Celine.

"Actually, I can walk," Dawn said sheepishly, the contraction was still far in between, she was still able to walk back to their bedroom, but Zenith wouldn't let her.

Meanwhile Zander and Zaya followed Zenith back to their bedroom. They couldn't wait to see the birth of their first nibling.

"Are you alright?" Zaya asked, she held Dawn's hand. She looked fine, though the contraction made her frown every now and then.

"I am fine," Dawn replied, she indeed looked amazing, she was ready for the birth of her first child, she had gone through this once and the second time didn't really scare her.

More so, she was in good hands right now. Zenith was here and also people, who truly cared about her. Compared to her first time, this moment was all she needed.

Celine came not long after with two healers to help. Zaya would be in the room and obviously Zenith too, but the king was kicked out.

"Why am I being kicked out?" Zander frowned at the closed door in front of him.

"You don't really think that you will be in the room and Zenith will allow you, right?" Sometime Pyro felt like he was babysitting the king, but the thing about Zander was, he could split his attitude in a mere second and became serious, just like what he did right now.

His tone of voice turned from sulking to be deadly serious, as he asked about the latest report about the movement in the Holy Kingdom.

"After they learned about the death of Aurel, the latest report said that they have an internal conflict among the elders there. The pressure from Marca El people was too much for them to handle and a fight against two kingdoms is something that they couldn't afford."

"They should have learned about that sooner," Zander said in mocking tone. It was hard to see what kind of expression he made behind his golden mask. "What about the sect? Did the Holy Kingdom know about it?"

"Not sure," Pyro said. The two of them walked away.

Zander opened the business with Marca El people not only for profit, but also to make an ally with them. Marca El was Zander's leverage against the Holy Kingdom if something went very wrong.

Obviously, the population of shifter was not many. Their number only reached thirty percent of the total people who lived in this continent with Andel Kingdom was forty five percent and the rest was people from Karam Continent.

And now, Holy Kingdom became a little bit shady for the past few years.

Most of Karam continent was merchant, they were not here to fight, but Marca El was different. Zander could use them, but if he couldn't use them for his own benefit, then sowing discord between Marca El people and Holy Kingdom would do.

"They could be completely innocent about the sect, but they could be part of it, I will not put it past them," Zander said, as he sat down on a bench. "Keep an eye on the harbor."

"Why?"

"If they wanted to start something, they would start from the Moonlight pack's harbor." Whether it was Holy Kingdom, the sect or Vemion.

Meanwhile, inside the room, Zenith looked even more nervous than Dawn, he clenched his jaw and held her hand.

"You will scare the baby if you make that expression," Dawn said, she kissed his knuckles. "I am fine. I have gone through this once before."

However, this was the first time for Zenith to witness the birth of his child, because in their first lifetime, he missed it, not only that, he missed the first few years of his son's life. He didn't witness his son's milestone at all, because he was too busy and the relationship between them was not the best.

"Everything will be all right," Dawn reassured him when it should be him, who was the one to do that.

Yet, Dawn didn't give birth until it was close to evening.

Chapter 170: IT'S A BOY!

The contraction was getting closer from one another, as the sun set. Sweat layered on her forehead and the grim look on the alpha became even more palpable with each passing time.

Zenith looked like he was ready to fight off the monsters in the Untouched Land right now to see his mate was in so much pain.

"Is this normal? How come the baby is not yet coming out?" Zenith glared at Celine.

"Zen..." Dawn appeased him, despite she was in pain, she didn't want him to pressure Celine, because she was still being very emotional after losing Lance, though she wrapped her mourn nicely under her calm façade.

“This is normal for most woman, alpha, you don’t need to worry.”

“My mate is in so much pain.” Trepidation look in his eyes.

“This is normal, Zen,” Zaya said, she helped to ease the situation.

But even when Dawn assured him that she was fine and this was still bearable, it still didn’t convince Zenith at all, but he tried his best to be there for Dawn and support her throughout this long contraction.

Even Dawn had to admit that this contraction was longer than the previous one, though Celine assured her this was still normal.

“There were some women, who have to go through this for days.”

“Days?!” Zenith snapped at Celine.

Thankfully, the baby decided to go out when it was close to midnight. Dawn was crowning and Celine told her to start pushing.

Zenith was mortified because the smell of blood was very thick in the air and the blood came from his mate.

He was not scared of blood by any means, but this time, he felt like his organs were being twisted. His mate was bleeding and this sickening scent of blood came from Dawn only. How much of blood lost she was going through right now.

She could die if she kept losing blood.

This could be the scariest thing in his life and he slightly regretted that he got her pregnant and had to endure this pain.

However, Dawn took it like a champion, as she asked for water in her mid push.

“I am thirsty...” Dawn said, she looked at Zenith, who immediately helped her to drink the water and she continued to push again after that.

It still amazed Zenith of how she could casually ask for water during this critical moment.

“You did a good job, Dawn! Keep pushing!” Zaya cheered for her.

Dawn's face had turned very red and sweat trickled from her hairlines. She held Zenith's hand tightly, her nails stabbed his, but the alpha couldn't care less about the small scratches.

And it didn't take long for the baby to come out and cry so loud, as if he wanted to announce to the world about his existence.

"It's a boy!" Celine said with relief, as she held the baby in her arms. "Congratulation! Alpha! Luna!"

Yara was there too, she helped with everything that she could and once the baby was here, she rushed out of the room to inform the gamma.

"Darius! Darius! It's a boy!" She said gleefully to the gamma, before she entered the room again and Darius was so excited, he dashed to find Zander to tell him about this.

Inside the room, Zenith felt like he had lost a few years of his life upon witnessing the childbirth. This was so wild. Wilder than he could imagine.

"This will be our only baby, no more baby," Zenith said, kissing Dawn's forehead, but she simply chuckled.

"Silly," she said tiredly.

Zaya was the one who cleaned the baby, later on, she would brag that she was the one, who held the baby first to mess with Zenith and Zander, while Yara helped to clean Dawn.

Celine gave a prescription to the two healers and told them to make a concoction for Dawn.

"Here, the baby," Zaya said, carrying a small bundle in her arms.

Zenith watched when Zaya put the baby on Dawn's chest, the little one wriggled its little body. His skin was clean, wrinkle and stubble of black hair on his tiny head. Everything about the baby was so tiny.

However, the baby was beautiful.

Dawn gasped when the baby latched on her and breastfed for the first time. The little one made a noisy sound, as if he was angry, but somehow, it sounded very endearing.

"I think the baby is hungry," Yara said to no one in particular, as she giggled to see the baby on Dawn's chest.

“Are you, okay?” Zenith asked, he remembered how Dawn fell unconscious for a few weeks after she gave birth to their son, but right now she looked more than fine.

“I am more than okay,” Dawn said, tears brimmed in her eyes, but this was tears of happiness, as she could hold her baby.

It felt surreal and she was hit with countless emotions from her both lives...

“He is beautiful,” Zenith said softly, he put his finger in his son’s palm and he grabbed it tightly.

“Yes, he is,” Dawn agreed without even need to think.

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It was a ritual to accept Blake as part of this.

His name was Archie. He was the person that Jason had been in contact to in the past years. The person, who connected him with the people from the west kingdom.

“What should I do here?” Blake asked, he squinted his eyes at a little boy, around the age of six on the stone slab. He was crying, asking for his mommy. All of his limbs were tied tightly, his body was in X position.

“This is a ritual to welcome you to be part of the west. This is also an oath for your loyalty to the only true king in this continent, king Vemion.”

“So?” Blake raised his brows. “What that boy is for?”

All of the people here wore black cloak with hoodie that covered their faces.

“The boy is the sacrifice.”

“Sacrifice?” Blake narrowed his eyes.

Chapter 171: THE SACRIFICE

“Sacrifice for what?” Blake didn’t have any idea about the ritual. Jason had never said anything about the ritual or something close to that.

But apparently, new king from the west had joined this sect, to gain power from them, in his attempt to leverage king Zander’s force.

They called themselves as Dragon Sect, where they believed the dragon was still alive and Vemion was dragon reincarnated, which sounded ridiculous for Blake.

However, what was in front of him was real.

The bloody scream from the little boy was real. He cried so hard, he would have ruined his vocal cord when they drew the blood from his little body and drank it.

Blake wanted to vomit when Archie offered a cup that filled with the boy's blood.

"Finish it and you will be one of us," Archie said.

Blake stared at his cup and then glanced at the boy, who was still alive and was sobbing silently, as his life left his eyes and here he was, he needed to drink his blood.

However, Blake realized there was no going back from this. All the people there stared at him from behind their hoodie, waiting for what he was going to do in this situation.

The cup in his hand felt very heavy, but he brought it to his lips and drank the thick liquid. It tasted... sweet.

But suddenly, Blake dropped to his knees and he felt like his organs were being burned. The pain was almost unbearable. He looked up and saw the figures with black cloak, chanted something in strange language, he didn't understand.

Archie then knelt down in front of him too, as he whispered to his ears.

"Don't worry my friend. This is only a little taste of what dark magic is."

And after Blake heard that, his vision was blank. He felt like he was on fire. Probably the dragon was real and he was being burned by its fire.

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The baby was asleep now after his little tummy was full and Zaya and Zander cooed on the little on on his crib.

The two of them were fascinated and argued whether his eyes would take after them or it would take after Dawn's.

All the royal bloodline would have golden eyes for the first seven days after they were being born, only after that, their real eyes color could be seen. In this case, the royal bloodline wouldn't be mistaken.

Meanwhile, Zenith stayed with Dawn. She had been cleaned and ate something and now, she was sleepy.

"Have you held the baby?" Dawn asked.

"Not yet," Zenith replied truthfully and this made Dawn frowned, but he reassured her it was not something like she might imagine. "The baby is very small, Dawn. I am afraid I will hurt him." He had never held a baby before. To be honest, he had never held a child before. He was not sure how to hold them.

"You need to practice." Dawn yawned, she was very tired and sleepy.

"I will." Zenith leaned over and kissed her forehead. "Sleep, Dawn. Thank you, you have done an amazing job. I will handle the rest."

Dawn closed her eyes and then fell asleep.

Only after Zenith was sure that his mate had fallen asleep, he told Yara to stay with her, while he went to the nursery room, which was right next to their room.

Zaya and Zander were still staring at the baby.

"My baby is not an entertainment," Zenith said, as he ushered the two of them out of the room, lest they woke the baby up.

"Do you think his lips looks like mine?" Zander contemplated. "No, I think his nose too."

"If there is something that baby took after, it must be from his father, not you," Zaya said, reminded Zander that they were twin.

They talked a little bit more before Zaya excused herself, as she wanted to see Dawn and Celine.

"Don't wake her up," Zenith warned her.

"Relax, I will not," Zaya replied and then went to the other room, leaving the two of them alone, but actually, he knew there was something that Zander wanted to talk about with Zenith. They had discussed this and the only solution that Zaya could give Zander was; he needed to talk directly to Zenith about this matter.

And that was what Zander talked about the moment Zaya was out of their earshot, as they walked in the hallway, toward the throne room.

"I want your son to be crowned as the crown prince."

If there was similarity between the two of them, it must be the fact that they hated it when someone talked in circle. They liked a direct conversation.

"Drop the idea, you are not infertile."

"No, I am serious," Zander replied, his tone proved that, since Zenith couldn't see his facial expression.

"You still can find a second mate, a chosen mate, or even a marriage of convenient. So, we will not discuss this anymore."

Zander had expected that this would be Zenith's reaction. "I am not going to take a queen, Zen."

Zenith stopped walking and now the two of them were facing each other. "Is it because what happened ten years ago?" he looked at his twin closely.

"That and many more."

"That's not your fault."

"I know."

"So, stop punishing yourself."

Zander didn't answer that, he simply stared at the distance and watched the first ray of the sunlight from behind the horizon.

"I wish I can turn back time too," he said in this gentle voice. "Think about this, Zen and think about this carefully."

Zenith crossed his arms. He didn't say much and the two of them resumed walking toward the throne room, where Zenith would announce the birth of his son to all the important figures, who had gathered there.

"Send that king back to his kingdom," Zenith said before he entered the room. "I couldn't care less about your steel business and your plan, Zan."

Chapter 172: THE MOVEMENT OF THE WEST AND THE HOLY KINGDOM

This was the different between Zenith and Zander. The former was too blunt, but the latter was being sneaky. Zander liked to do thing very subtly.

Zenith knew about king Rowan's intention on Zaya and he was not the least happy about it, thus his solution was to kick him out, because he saw him a nuisance for their little sister, but Zander couldn't do that. He had a reason and plan to get Marca El involved.

He needed to get them to their side before the people from Holy Kingdom did that, or else, they wouldn't stand a chance to fight against the Holy Kingdom if it came to that.

The movement and the relationship between Ogregon kingdom and Holy Kingdom had been very strain for as long as Zander could remember and now, his spies reported that the latter had been very shady and the last report said that they had been in contact with the west, to Vemion to be exact.

It was as clear as day what their intention was.

And now, not only that, there was this sect, in which one of the worshippers or it might be their leader, had the memories from the previous life. They used the poison that Dawn created.

No wonder Dawn knew the antidote of it, though she had not yet remembered fully, but probably deep down, in his subconscious level, she knew it.

"If you wanted a marriage alliance, you can do it with king Rowan's sister, I heard he had one."

"His sister is only ten." Zander gave Zenith a side look, which he only shrugged.

"You can wait for her to come to age," Zenith replied nonchalantly.

"Ridiculous."

The two of them then stepped inside the throne room, where all the people had been waiting for them and because Zenith still disagreed with Zander's idea to crown his son as the crown prince, they didn't announce anything aside from the birth of Zenith's firstborn.

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Blake woke up in a luxurious room that could only belong to a royalty. He groaned and a young girl came to him and offer him a cup of water, she looked skinny, her big doe eyes trembled. She was scared.

"Where is it?" Blake asked.

But, before the little girl could answer that, someone had stepped inside the room and greeted him. He was wearing purple cloak, looked fancy and was over the top, but he was not alone, there was a young man around the age of twenty, who walked beside him and also Archie.

"I am glad you are awake at the right time," Archie said, as if he praised Blake for being alive after what happened, he approached the bad.

“What happened?” Blake touched his forehead. He was still a little bit dizzy.

“Let me introduced you to king Vemion and his advisor, Jared, he is the head of the sect too.” Archie gestured for Blake to stand up and gave them a proper greeting.

Blake did what he was told. He could feel the chill ran in his spine when he saw the man named Jared. His instinct told him this was not someone that he could mess with.

However, king Vemion didn’t impose such a threat. His presence was a king was so weak, the alpha from the north imposed more dominant than him.

“Welcome to the Dragon Sect,” Jared said with his bubble voice, as if he was a harmless person. “You are part of us now.”

“And then what the benefit that I will get from being part of your sect?” His father had never mentioned anything about this sect, but then it did make sense if he was sworn secrecy for them.

Jared grinned. “It’s beyond your imagination. You can get anything. Is there something that you wanted?”

Blake’s eyes dimmed. “There are only two things that I wanted. I want my mate back and that alpha from the north died.”

King Vemion chuckled when he heard that. “Granted. You only need to wish for one thing, because I have my own plan for Zander and his two siblings that included them to be buried beneath the ground.”

Blake was not sure what they had done to his body, but he was satisfied enough that they had the same goal.

“Sounds great for me.”

=====

Tony had been paying close attention to Blake’s movement. He remembered what Dawn said to him and he started to become more involved in the pack’s affair and not threw it right away for Blake to handle like he did in the past few months.

He was a wreck after what happened and he kicked both Julia and Jason out of the pack. He couldn’t even look at Emily, because the thought of the possibility that she was not his daughter plagued his mind. He couldn’t see her the same.

Every day was a torture for him. He was alone. The pack house was empty and he didn’t have anyone to talk to.

This must be his punishment and when he heard that Dawn had given birth to a boy, he was devastated. He wanted to see her so bad.

Therefore, he packed his things and went to the capital city against his better judgment and gave Blake the authority for the pack.

"Hold him like this," Dawn said, she tried to help Zenith with the baby. It was the seventh day after she gave birth to Zade.

They named their first born Zade Cane Nortern, in honor for the previous king, the royal siblings' father.

"He looks like he is going to cry," Zenith said, he frowned when his baby was frowning too.

"Your arms are too stiff." Dawn looked at her mate helplessly.

"I think you need to take him, Dawn. I think I hurt him." And as if on cue, Zade cried because he felt uncomfortable. "Take him, Dawn, take him." His brows knitted deeply.

Right at that time, Yara entered the room and informed them that alpha Tony was here.

Chapter 173: THE HEAVY RAIN

Dawn laughed when she watched how Zenith and baby Zade looked uncomfortable with each other. The baby wriggled his little body in Zenith's arms, feeling uncomfortable and looked at Dawn, as if asking her to take him away, while the alpha looked under the pressure.

"I have never held a child, let alone a baby," Zenith said in his defense and Dawn took back Zade from his arms when the little one started to cry.

"You will get there," Dawn encouraged him and kissed his cheek. Zenith indeed tried to hold Zade.

"Yeah." Zenith looked at his son helplessly, the little one stopped crying the moment Dawn held him.

And that was when Yara entered the room and told them that the alpha from Moonlight pack came to see Dawn.

"I will see him," Dawn said and Zenith seemed to expect that.

"Do you want me to come with you?"

"I would love to, but I think I will handle this on my own this time," Dawn replied.

"Okay." Zenith contemplated a while. "Give me the baby."

"Are you sure?"

Dawn handed baby Zade to Zenith again, in which the baby knitted his brows again, as if saying; not again, mommy...

She chuckled to think about that and pecked Zenith's lips. "You can do it."

And after that, Dawn walked away, leaving Zenith and baby Zade alone.

"Work with me, okay?" Zenith said to his son, who pursed his lips. His golden eyes stared at him unhappily and then their color changed into blue. There was this small smile on the corner of his lips. "So, they are blue."

It was not unexpected for her father to come, Dawn thought he would show up eventually when he heard about the baby, but still, it was impulsive of him to leave the pack to Blake after her warning, or maybe, he simply didn't listen to her and didn't take what she said seriously.

That wouldn't be the first time, though.

"Good evening, alpha Tony," Dawn greeted her father. She kept her words when she said that she didn't see him as her father anymore and alpha Tony looked sad when he heard the way she addressed him, but said nothing.

"Dawn," Tony said her name, there was longing in his eyes. He wanted to hug her, but he stopped himself. "I heard you have given birth. I came here to see you and the baby."

"Thank you for coming all the way here." Dawn nodded. "It's already late. I will ask someone to prepare your room, you can see the baby in the morning."

This was already generous of Dawn to let Tony to see Zade.

"Dawn, what should I do to make it up to you?" Tony asked, he looked at his daughter with this look that showed how remorseful he was for everything that happened between them.

Dawn chose to stay and have this conversation with him. "I don't know." She shook her head. She didn't even take a seat, indicating that this conversation wouldn't be long. "I don't expect anything from you. there is no point of fixing this broken relationship,

because I don't want it anymore," she said calmly. "You have been checked out from my life for so long. You have never been by my side ever since you have that little perfect family of yours and I used to not have you."

Tony was devastated when he heard that. He couldn't help it. He felt remorseful. He felt this strong regret every time he saw Dawn, especially when she looked like her mother.

It was his guilt that stopped him to get close to Dawn, because every time he saw her, he remembered of what happened. His mate and his daughter were attacked, but he found comfort in another woman's arms.

The guilty feeling was too strong and he couldn't face it. He couldn't face Dawn and now, he lost everything.

"I will do everything for you, Dawn."

"I only need you to follow what the king ordered you to do. You must have known that there are a few conflicts in the harbor." Dawn could see hope in his eyes, but she shattered it. "But, it doesn't mean I can forgive you. It only means, I can stand you."

Called her vengeful, but she didn't see the reason for him to be part of her life anymore, not after what he had done.

"Okay. I understood." Tony looked defeated and then a maid approached Dawn to tell her that her room for alpha Tony was ready. "Dawn, do I hurt you that much?" To the point that she couldn't forgive him?

"You used to hurt me, but right now, I don't feel anything toward you." And that was the worse thing that could happen.

If Tony's action still hurt Dawn, it meant, she still cared into a certain level, because what he did still evoke her emotions, but right now, she felt nothing.

"I am sorry for what I have done to you, Dawn."

"Good night, alpha Tony." Dawn cut the conversation short and then returned to her bedroom.

That was a long night, out there, the sky was so dark and close to midnight, rain started pouring down. It felt like storm was coming.

However, that night also two ships docked in the harbor. With alpha Tony gave the authority to Blake, since he wanted to see his grandson, he didn't know about these two ships and because of the storm, the report about this came very late.

"They are..." Blake narrowed his eyes, the wind was so harsh and he was drenched in the heavy rain when he watched two ships docked, while Archie stood next to him. They were not alone, there were these two siblings behind them, Rye and Lucia, they were also part of the sect.

"Our sect brothers," Archie replied, grinning from ear to ear. "You are a great help, Blake. We have been waiting for this opportunity. Jared will know your contribution."

Chapter 174: WE SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME

The ships had been here for three days, they only waited a perfect opportunity to dock at the harbor and alpha Tony's impulsiveness handed that said opportunity in a silver platter.

"I only one woman."

"Dawn, isn't it?" Archie arched his brows at him. "You can have any woman, but you only wanted her."

"She is my destined mate. She is mine."

"You must have gone into insanity by now."

"Probably."

It was pathetic of Blake, because he was the epitome of someone, who only learned the value of something when they lost it and right now, Blake had to take a long, arduous journey to get back what initially belonged to him.

"Do you know that Dawn's mother hailed from the west?"

Blake turned his head, he had never heard this information before. "From the west?" The previous luna died when he was little and there were not many stories about her, more so, people were not really curious about her background, since she didn't interact much with the pack member, Dawn must have taken after her.

"The west?" Archie replied happily because Blake didn't know this information. "She was a spy, but turned out to be a traitor because she met her destined mate there." He guffawed loudly when he said the next word. "That must be her karma for betraying our sect that her mate that she loved so much, someone that she sacrificed everything for, betrayed her."

This was a shocking revelation for Blake.

Rye and Lucia's face were unreadable as they listened to their conversation and watched as the ships drew near.

"Do you believe in karma, Blake?" Archie asked, his eyes looked at him intently.

The storm made it hard for the ships to drop the anchor. It took them close to two hours for them to leave the ships and Archie welcomed them with opened arms.

Thankfully, the storm stopped in the morning and the sky was so clear, as if the heavy rains and thunder last night had never happened.

Baby Zade woke up so early, because he was hungry, thus Yara didn't have another choice, but to wake Dawn up and informed her.

Dawn woke up and found Zenith was still sleeping, she didn't know when he returned, because last night he had something to discuss with Zander, but from the look of it, he must have only slept for a few hours.

Thus, Dawn got off the bed carefully and then went to the room next to hers to find Zade was crying and saw his beautiful blue eyes.

"Oh, you have your father's eyes!" Dawn looked at her baby happily, as she caressed his chubby cheeks and started breastfeeding him, sitting down on the couch there.

Zade was sleeping when she returned and Zenith didn't say anything about their baby's eyes, thus only now she could see them.

"You are so beautiful, Zade," Dawn cooed.

The baby made noises as he latched onto her, as if he wanted to talk something to her. Sometime, he would stop and babble something incoherently and then continued again.

Dawn was not sure if another baby was like this, but Zade was very cute when he did that. She felt like she could stare at her son for a whole day.

Just like Zenith, she was not presence in the first year of her child's life too in her previous life. She was robbed from the opportunity to breastfeed him, to watch his first step and all the milestones, therefore, Dawn didn't want to miss this one.

Dawn didn't realize how long she had been there, until her stomach was growling. She was hungry. Breastfeeding caused her to eat more than usual.

But to her surprised, Zenith entered the nursery room with a few maids, who brought their breakfasts.

"I know you are hungry," Zenith said, as he kissed her forehead and took Zade from her arms.

"You got the hang of it already?" Dawn was surprised.

"I think he barely tolerates me," Zenith replied, because Zade pursed his lips when he was taken away from his mother's embrace. "Your mother needs to eat too," he said to his son, as if he could understand him and this made Dawn laughed.

Later that afternoon, Dawn finally let Tony to hold Zade. This must be the first time they met and the alpha's eyes turned red, he was holding back tears when the little baby settled in his arms.

"Hello, Zade. This is your grandfather..." Tony said, as the baby wriggled in his arms. "He has your lips and nose." He noted. "He is so small..."

Emily would cry if she saw this moment, because not not even once Tony would look at his son this way. It got even worse when he thought Emily was not his daughter.

"Your eyes are so beautiful..." Tony muttered to himself, he was mesmerized by the baby, especially when Zade started to make noises.

Once again, it hit him so hard what he had lost because of his impulsiveness.

Meanwhile, at the same time, Zaya faced her predicament. Zander and Zenith had tried their best to get rid all the possibility for king Rowan to encounter Zaya, but the king from Marca El was persistent. He found a way to find her in the infirmary, as she stayed there with Celine.

"Are you avoiding me?" King Rowan asked when Zaya walked out of the tent. They still had a few warriors, who was poisoned and was not able to shift, but thanked to Dawn, they could produce the antidote and this was no longer a pressing issue.

"I will not dare to do that," Zaya replied, but she hastened her steps to avoid him.

"So, you will not mind to have a lunch with me?" King Rowan smiled when Zaya gave him a look. "Did your king brother told you about my marriage proposal?"

"I will not be wed off to a stranger."

"We should spend time more, then." King Rowan concluded.

Chapter 175: HOW TO WOO A WOMAN

Zaya tried to get away from him, but unfortunately for her, the king had a long stride,

thus it was not a problem for him to catch up to her. The king had a shoulder length black hair that he tied behind his nape and his penetrating eyes made Zaya felt... exposed.

She had never seen anyone that looked very intimidating aside from her two brothers and this rather made her a little bit uneasy.

"What should I do to make you change your mind?" King Rowan asked, he matched her steps.

"I will not change my mind."

"As far as I know, you are not a shifter, so it's rather impossible for you to wait for that mate things. So, what are you waiting for?" King Rowan was very persistent and blunt with his approach.

"I am waiting for someone that I love." Zaya stopped walking when king Rowan stood in front of her and smiled confidently.

"He is here now."

"Obviously not you, king Rowan." Zaya gave him a harmless smile and then stepped aside to avoid him. This time, he didn't chase her, but what he said next made Zaya stopped walking on her own.

"Do you really think I don't know that your brother tried to pin me against the Holy Kingdom? So, I can help with the battle if it has to come to that?"

Zaya turned around. "What makes you think that way?" She narrowed her eyes.

"Just the truth of the situation. I know the relationship between the two kingdoms is not good. I learned that it has been strained ever since the very beginning." King Rowan's gaze softened. "I know that your brother will eventually reach to me to ask for help, especially when I resented the Holy Kingdom for not taking responsibility for the death of my knight."

Zaya was relief when she heard that. At the very least, king Rowan didn't know that the death of his knight was orchestrated by Zander.

"You get benefit from this situation too, king Rowan." Zaya reminder him. "Asking my hand will make you look greedy."

After saying that, Zaya walked away and one of his trusted knights approached him. "You should stop with that blunt approach. You need to have a plan to woo her. Women like that kind of thing."

King Rowan tilted his head. "What do you mean?"

Addie grinned from ear to ear. "Start with giving her flowers and take her out for sightseeing, while doing that, you need to compliment how beautiful she is. That's for the start."

King Rowan looked at him sceptically. He squinted his eyes and then walked away without saying anything.

"Did you even listen?" Addie was frustrated. "You are good when you swung your sword, but you are not good with woman at all."

"Do you want to see how good I am with my sword?" King Rowan stopped walking and looked at him dead in the eyes.

Addie pursed his lips. "Why are you angry?" he said in small voice, glancing at the sword at the king's waist worriedly.

Alpha Tony had an hour with Zade and he cherished this time so much, he had never felt this happy recently, but with the baby, he felt like he could forget all of his misery for a while.

However, when his times was up and Zade was taken away from him by Yara, the king called him to meet him in the strategy room because there were a few things that he wanted to ask.

Of course, alpha Tony gladly went there. Dawn said to do whatever the king told him to do and that was what he would do. He prayed Dawn would see this as his effort to mend things between them.

It's not like he could deny the king's order though...

But inside the strategy room, not only Zander, but Zenith was also there, along with Pyro and Darius. From the look of it, this must be something serious.

"Sit down, alpha Tony," Zander said, nodded at the chair in front of him. "There is something important that I couldn't do without your favor."

That was only a sweet way for Zander to address his request and with what Dawn said, alpha Tony was more than willing to fulfill whatever assignment that was given to him.

Obviously, Dawn knew about this plan, but currently, she was with her baby. Couldn't care less about what happened, because she was enjoying her time with him, Zaya came after that to join her.

“Oh! See! I told you that he will have blue eyes!” Zaya giggled when she saw Zade’s blue eyes. “Oh, he is so cute! Let me hold him!”

Zade giggled when Zaya carried him and kissed him, he babbled and played with her auburn hair.

“Do you know that Zander proposed to make Zade to be the crown prince?” Zaya asked.

“Yes, Zenith told me about that.” Dawn nudged, she nudged her baby’s chubby cheek. “But, I think that’s too early because it will be complicated if one day he decided to take a chosen mate.”

Zaya smiled sadly. “I don’t think he will do that.”

“What happened to him?” Dawn had been very curious about this, but Zenith always said that this was not his story to tell.

And Zaya said the same thing. “I am sorry, I can’t tell you. I was not there when it happened either, so I don’t know the detail of what happened.”

Dawn nodded, she respected that and they spent the day together with Celine. The healer looked a little bit better after a few weeks had passed, since the death of Lance. She still didn’t know the truth.

“Oh, right. Will you come to the battle hunt?” Zaya asked.

“Battle hunt?” Dawn was confused.

“Zenith must have not yet told you about this, but a month from now, there will be a battle hunt in Goffa mountain. It seems, the knights are mesmerized by the monsters.”

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Chapter 176: PEOPLE FROM HOLY KINGDOM WAS HERE

“That’s a little bit weird...” Dawn commented with the way they were attracted by the monsters.

The monster had been a constant problem in their continent, especially in the north, but these knights were fascinated by them.

“There is no monster in their continent, I guess. They used to fight against each other, that’s why they are still curious by this new creature that they found.” Celine tried to see from Marca El people’s perspective.

“Yes, it will be fun until they learned how terrifying the monsters could be,” Dawn said.

The battle hunt would happen within a month, where all the important figure could join. It was also the right time for the ‘clean up’.

It seemed the last hunt made them addicted to kill more monsters.

“It’s good if they stayed here for long, so we don’t need our warriors to go up to the mountain and do the clean up. They could do it for us for free,” Zaya said nonchalantly.

“You mean, so king Rowan could stay in this continent a little bit longer?” Dawn teased her.

“Seriously, I am not attractive to him. He is... scary.” Zaya pursed her lips.

Later that day, alpha Tony returned to his pack. From the look of it, there was nothing wrong. Everything was the same, exactly like when he left it to Blake.

But, when he saw Arren, he couldn’t see him the same like how he saw Zade. The baby was crying in his crib and Emily was nowhere to be found.

“Where is Emily?” Tony asked one of the pack members, he held the crying Arren in his arms.

“I saw her in beta Blake’s house.”

And Tony went there to look for her, but Blake said Emily just returned to the pack house. “Maybe you just chose different path and missed each other,” Blake replied. He took Arren from Tony’s arms. “I will take care of him.”

Arren was already big enough to eat solid food, thus Blake could take care of him for a while, since he had been crying.

Without a second thought, alpha Tony gave the baby to him, because he didn’t want to take care of the little one.

However, suddenly Ava dashed from her bedroom and took Arren from Blake. She glared at her son, but didn’t say anything and went into her room again to appease the baby.

"Is she still like that?" Alpha Tony asked, he knew Ava for so long and she used to be a bright woman, full of vigor, but right now, she was close to insanity.

"Yes. What happened hit her so hard."

Alpha Tony nodded. What happened hit him so hard too. He felt betrayed and when Jason and Julia stabbed him on the back, he felt like he was going to kill the two of them.

Even now, he didn't know where Julia had gone and Emily looked distraught for days, but he simply didn't care. His main focus was to fix his relationship with Dawn.

This was how he was, fixing one thing, while breaking the other. He did the same thing with Dawn in the past too.

"I will tell Emily that Arren is here when I saw her."

"Thank you, alpha Tony." Blake stopped him before he left. "I just got a report that a ship from Holy Kingdom will dock in our harbor within a week from now."

Alpha Tony nodded. The king had warned him about this and this was the sign for him to move. "Got it. Keep your eyes on the people from the Holy Kingdom, currently, the relationship between the two are not good."

"Yes, alpha." Blake looked obedient, a perfect beta for the pack.

After Tony left, he immediately informed Zander about this, which was not a surprising news for the king. The people from the Holy Kingdom came under the pretext that they would take responsibility for what Aurel had done, but sure enough, their motive would be more than that.

And when a week passed, the ship was finally here. With it, there were five hundred magic users, who came with Elder Rio.

There were no people to welcome them like what Zander did to Marca El people, but alpha Tony and Blake were there to assist.

The next day, they went to the capital city in a big entourage. They seemed to bring a lot of valuable things, probably they were gifts for the two kings to assuage their anger.

"They are really here," Dawn said, as she held Zade in her arms, staring through the window in the hallway. Her baby looked curious at the long entourage of carriages down there.

“Yes.” Zenith took Zade from Dawn’s arms, so he could see from higher vantage point. The alpha was good with his baby now and he could handle his little one just fine. “Don’t you want to return to the north? Thing will be complicated here.”

Dawn tilted her head, there was this amusement in her smile. “Have you found someone else, who is more knowledgeable with poison than I am?”

Zenith chuckled and leaned over to kiss her lips. “You are right. You are the best in your field.” He kissed her a little bit longer and Zade patted his cheek, because he blocked his view, so he had to let go. “I remembered that we need to continue with your training.”

“No...” Dawn grumbled. “I am good with my poison.”

“After the battle hunt, let’s start our training.”

Dawn groaned. She didn’t want to go on training, but Zenith insisted, because anxiety would creep in whenever he thought he would leave Dawn defenseless.

“You gave me four warriors for my protection, Zen. If the enemy could go through them, what chance do I stand?”

Dawn had the point there, but Zenith didn’t budge.

“Please, just ease my worry for this time.” Zenith looked at her gently, his blue eyes softened and Dawn couldn’t say ‘no’ when he was like this.

Chapter 177: PEOPLE FROM HOLY KINGDOM WAS HERE (2)

“So, you are saying, you wanted to compensate me with marriage alliance between two babies?” Zander didn’t know whether he wanted to laugh or insult these imbeciles before his eyes.

On the other hand, Elder Rio looked calm. There was no shred of embarrassment at all when he made the proposal.

He gestured to a woman to step forward, she was a wet nurse with a baby in her arms. A little girl, who was no older than a year old.

“This is Lady Gabriel’s granddaughter. She will be the future leader of the Holy Kingdom.”

“How many years of future we are talking about?” Zander scoffed disdainfully. This was something that he didn’t expect at all.

Meanwhile, king Rowan was sitting next to him, he looked amused with this whole situation. He wished they brought someone to ask for Zaya's hand instead, but from what he learned about Holy Kingdom, they didn't have a suitable candidate to be married of for Zaya, instead they stoop so low by proposing a marriage alliance between the baby.

Elder Rio brushed off Zander offhanded comment and then continued to introduce the baby girl, who looked confused. "Her name is Jasmine. She will stay here with her wet nurse until she came to age and is ready for the true ceremony."

"How do you think this compensate the death of my gamma, elder Rio? By giving a baby? Are you trying to insult me here?"

The elder shook his head. His voice was very polite when he spoke. "Of course not, my king. There is no way I will insult you. We offered you the future leader of the Holy Kingdom as a good gesture for a better future between the two kingdoms."

"Interesting. I want to see prince Zenith's reaction when he learned about this," king Rowan said, as he leaned his back against his chair. His voice was not loud, but it was enough for Zander and Pyro to hear him.

He seemed to enjoy everything that unfolded before his eyes. Of course, he demanded a compensation, but the knight that died during Aurel's attack was not someone significant. His wrath could be settled with gold, but it was not the same with Zander, since it was his royal gamma, who died that night.

"You do realize that we wait for our destined mate."

"Yes, I am well aware about that, but then you can take chosen mate as well, if I am not mistaken, just like what prince Zenith did. Correct me if I am wrong."

What he said was right. Zenith did take Dawn as his chosen mate.

"I don't accept this." The answer was blunt and simple. Elder Rio must be delusional if he thought Zander would agree readily for this idea.

"I will give you time to think about this matter over, king Zander." Elder Rio lowered his head solemnly. He didn't appear arrogance, but sure enough he was wicked.

"There is nothing to be discussed here. My demand is still the same. I want you to make announcement about what actually had happened and captured the real culprit."

Elder Rio shook his head. "We can't make an announcement for something that we didn't do, king Zander. Holy Kingdom didn't and will not involve with dark magic, we don't condone such act."

"It is laughable knowing your story," Zander replied sharply.

Once again, elder Rio brushed off Zander's crude comment.

Decades ago, there was an evil creature named Decratic, who ran rampant in this continent and as it turned out a few people from the Holy Kingdom had some involvement in that devilish creature and the previous king and queen were forced to fight them off, while the people from the Holy Kingdom was not much of help.

What happened that time caused a massive destruction in this continent, which led to how the population of the shifter dwindled significantly.

"This is a sensitive topic, king Zander, I can assure you that our leader is taking all the precaution about the Dragon Sect and we will get the bottom of it."

"Aurel had been in contact with the said sect. Apparently, the sect came from your continent. How could you explain that?"

"The knowledge is shocking, but I assured you that we are working on that."

"With no result even after this long? I wondered whether you, people from the Holy Kingdom, are not competent, or simply obtuse."

King Rowan laughed at that remark, he didn't even shy away from his blatant disrespect toward the elder from the Holy Kingdom.

If previously, he was not really interested in king Zander and only wanted to make a good deal for the steel, right now he liked him a little bit.

Elder Rio's face turned red, but he was an expert when it came to compose himself and was being very patient with the insult.

"My king, it will take time to handle such sect. We need to investigate more."

"Announce it so people will learn about this Dragon Sect." Zander tilted his head. "And I want to have a meeting with leader Gabriel and the king of Andel Kingdom."

As annoying as it sounded, Holy Kingdom still held power over anything related to magic. The impact of the announcement would be different if it came from the Holy Kingdom, instead of him.

"We can't announce that, it will cause unnecessary chaos among the people."

“Is that your only reason, or is it because you don’t want the image of the Holy Kingdom is tarnished even further?”

What happened with Decratic was a dark history for Holy Kingdom that they didn’t want to talk about. They had been trying to build their image back, thus by announcing another sect of magic user that came from Andel Continent, it would put their great effort into shambles.

Therefore, they used all method to appease Zander, namely; offering a baby for a marriage alliance.

“Speaking of witch,” king Rowan interrupted. “What will be my compensation?” he asked casually.

Chapter 178: DAWN WAS BEING MISCHIEVOUS

“Will I get a baby as my compensation too?” King Rowan asked, amused by how elder Rio’s face turned red again. “Or will you offer that baby to me for a marriage alliance since king Zander rejected the little one? Poor little girl, having her little heart broke by an old king.”

Zander gave him a side glance. His expression concealed under his golden mask.

“We have prepared something more valuable for you, king Rowan.”

“More valuable than the granddaughter of the Holy Kingdom’s leader and the future leader?” King Rowan smirked. “I am touched.” He didn’t try to hide his intention to insult the elder and like before, elder Rio took everything well, which only made king Rowan to push his boundaries further.

“We have three fire magic stones for you, I heard that you are going to make a sword by using magic stone.” Elder Rio then rambled about how fire magic stone was way better than earth and water magic stone that king Zander possessed, especially when the price in the market had been incredibly high and the magic stone became so rare right now.

Magic stone was the life for magic user, since they couldn’t use their magic without it. Therefore, it pissed them off when king Zander stopped selling them, but that was different matter.

“Let king Rowan see the stones,” Elder Rio said to his servant to give the stones to the king.

A young girl stepped forward and brought a tray in her hands, three fire magic stones sat there beautifully.

As someone, who didn't use magic, king Rowan didn't really know the valuable of the magic stone, but he did know that these stones were pricey.

"I hope this can appease your anger, king Rowan, even though in my assumption, your knight shouldn't have died in the first place."

It was subtle, but you could hear the double meaning behind his words, as he wanted to get king Rowan to his side.

"It's a very nice gesture of you," King Rowan said, smiling as he received the stones.

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"What did you say?" Dawn learned about elder Rio's proposal and she was not in the slightest happy to hear that, she was livid, as she held Zade closely to her.

Her protective instinct toward her baby turned her scary.

"Are they stupid or something? What made them think that was a great proposal?" Dawn was pissed. They were talking about babies here.

However, a simple kiss on her forehead softened his edges. "You don't need to worry about that." Zenith caressed her cheek with his nose. "It will never happen."

"I know you will not let that happened," Dawn said, her voice was only a tad bit angry. "But, I am still upset."

And Dawn made it sure those people from the Holy Kingdom knew how upset she was because the next two days, they got sick. They couldn't stop defecating, to the point they couldn't get out of the bed on the fifth day.

Even Celine didn't know how to heal that and could only say that they must have caught something on their way here from Andel Kingdom, because it was only them, who were sick, despite the ate the same thing in the dining hall.

"Dawn, you are scary..." Darius lamented.

"I didn't say anything," Dawn said, as she played with Zade nonchalantly.

"Are you going to kill them next?"

Dawn looked at him innocently. "What a scary thing you said?" But, she didn't look scary, which made the gamma shuddered.

"If one day I accidentally offended you in any way, lets have a nice chat, okay? I will correct my attitude."

Dawn laughed at that.

"Don't worry, Darius, you are so dear to my mate, I will not hurt you."

"Why it sounded like a threat?"

Zenith was busy lately because of the battle hunt and the weird sickness that only plagued the people from the Holy Kingdom, but he would always spare his time to be with his mate and their baby.

He wouldn't skip a dinner together, even though after that he had to leave again and Dawn really appreciated his effort.

Zander and Zenith must have known that it was her doing, but they didn't call her out, neither they asked for her help to cure them. It seemed, having those people from the Holy Kingdom couldn't do anything had lifted half of their trouble for the meantime, as they focused on another important matter.

Meanwhile, King Rowan spent his time more with Zaya. He asked her to take him around the city.

"Do we need to get you a carriage?" King Rowan asked when he approached her near the stable. She just visited her horse. It was quite a surprise for the king to know that she could ride one.

"There is no need," Zaya said, as she walked toward the stable again to get her horse. "I will get my horse." She didn't want to be trapped in a small space with him.

"Where will you take me, princess?" king Rowan asked.

"You will make the sword from the magic stone, right? I will take you to meet with the blacksmith."

"I will follow you everywhere you go."

Addie stepped forward and whispered to him when Zaya gave him a look, as she walked toward the stable. "My king, you sounded very creepy."

Zaya didn't know why she agreed with this, but she felt a sense of duty to take him to look the city and more so, she couldn't blatantly reject him, because no matter what, he was still the king.

He might be able to take one or two rejections, but if it hurt his ego, it would cause trouble for Zander. Zaya had caused trouble for them by not going back to Andel Kingdom and she knew Zander's plan with this king.

"Let's go," Zaya said, as he rode her horse. Her horse looked delicate when it stood next to the king's. Her white horse looked like a baby.

Chapter 179: A BLISSFUL LIFE

They went to the blacksmith together and Zaya gave the man the three fire magic stone to be blended with the steel.

"Do you think it will be the most powerful sword?" king Rowan asked, as he watched the stones and the steel blended in a blazing temperature.

"I don't know. I think it will be the same like the other sword, since you are not a magic user," Zaya said and the king smiled anyway though he could hear the sarcasm in there.

"Where will you take me after?" king Rowan asked.

"I am hungry. I want to eat," Zaya said simply and then turned around to smile at him. "I will introduce you to our continent's delicacy."

King Rowan watched her back and talked something to the blacksmith before he followed her. This woman was special. He could feel that. She was a perfect queen for his kingdom and he wouldn't let her go.

Not when he had a way to bargain with her brother.

And with that, the two of them went to the restaurant that Zaya chose. This was a nice restaurant and thankfully, they were wearing a simple clothing, which didn't let other people to know that they were someone important. They looked like a merchant woman and a very big male shifter.

Zaya wore her hoodie over her head of course, because her auburn hair would give away her identity very easily.

"Do you like the soup?" Zaya asked, as she watched how king Rowan knitted his brows.

Based on what Zaya knew, Marca El continent's delicacy was rather tasteless. The omegas in the kitchen would tone down their spices for them, thus there would be a lot of more dishes on the table right now.

However, the soup that Zaya ordered for the king, since he was the one, who asked her to do so, was nothing, but... strong. It had strong spices. If you were not used to it, it could make your tongue felt like it was burned.

It was a testament for his taste buds.

Yet, he kept his smile plastered on his lips. "Good. This is how you like your soup?"

"Yes," Zaya replied. She gave him the same harmless smile too.

"I will get used to it soon." King Rowan nodded and this was not how Zaya wanted it to be.

When they talked about trivial thing, Zaya's eyes flickered at four men, who were sitting two tables from her. She recognized two of them, but she was not sure with the other two.

"Someone that you knew?" king Rowan caught on her expression.

"Yes." Zaya nodded. "People from the Holy Kingdom, but I am not sure with the other two."

"Do you want to come over and ask?"

Zaya narrowed her eyes. "And then they will spill their conversation willingly?"

"We can ask them nicely." King Rowan winked at her and Zaya felt like she wanted to shove down the soup down his throat. "Or... we can tail them and figure out what they wanted."

"They may only catch up with someone that they knew here." Zaya sighed.

"But, the look on your face said otherwise. You are curious, right?"

Zaya stared at him. This king knew how to evoke your curiosity... this was not good, because she was a curious person to begin with and he was right... she felt something was off with the way they talked with each other.

With that, they followed the two people, who were talking to the other two people from the Holy Kingdom once they were done with the conversation and took different route.

"I am not sure we can tail them like this without them noticing us first."

"Why? You don't have confidence to do that?"

Zaya turned to look at the king. "You are very tall, big and bulky for anyone to not notice you, that's why king Rowan, you can go back to the palace first. I think I will accompany you to see the city later."

"You can do magic, right? Use it."

"I can turn you into a frog."

King Rowan smirked. "Will you hide me under your dress?"

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Dawn woke up because she felt the bed was empty and found Zenith was not there. She looked groggy, but she knew where Zenith was. This was not the first time.

Dawn got off the bed and took her cloak, she went to the nursery room and there he was. The alpha was standing next to the window, which the moonlight filtered into the room.

Zenith basked in the soft light of the moon, as he talked to his son. She couldn't hear what he was talking about, but Zade giggled.

Their son would wake up around this hour and somehow, Zenith would know, thus he sacrificed his sleeping time which was not much, to entertain their son.

'I rarely could see him at day, it's good enough he gave me some time at night.'

That was what Zenith said that he didn't need to wake up, because Dawn was worried, since he didn't have enough sleep.

"There you two," Dawn said, as she waltzed into the room and approached the two of them. Zenith smiled at her and showed the baby, who giggled to see his mother. "What are you two talking about?"

Dawn kissed Zade's ruddy cheeks and then the big bad alpha.

"A lot of things," Zenith replied. "Mostly talking about how lucky he is to be born from a beautiful woman like you."

"I don't know that you can say something so cheesy like that." Dawn rested her head against his arms and stared at their son.

Dawn felt blissful with her life right now and her previous life felt like a dream, something that she only remembered in passing, though the evidence that she knew about poison was the hard proof that it really happened.

She wished this happiness would last for long.

The next day, they learned new information about the west.

Chapter 180: HE WAS FINE

“So, you went out on a date and you captured the people from the west?” Zander pinned his sister down with his intense look, as if saying; what the hell were you doing with that barbaric king?

Zaya huffed, she put her hands on her hips to match his energy. “I was being polite, okay.”

“You don’t need to be polite.”

“A ‘thank you’ will be nice, since I captured them for you.”

“King Rowan did it, I will give him a bouquet of flowers to express my gratitude.”

Pyro closed his eyes, he was so done with their bickering. It had gone for long enough. “Excuse me,” Pyro cleared his throat. “Can we focus on the matter at hand now?”

“Do you want a marriage alliance with him?” Zander took off his golden mask and looked at his little sister, who glared at him defiantly.

“I never said that!” Zaya was frustrated. “I went out because I have been rejecting him over and over again and it’s not polite. Because you need him, at the very least that I could do to help you is not to piss him off when you already did, okay!?”

A guard came out of the room and talked about something to Pyro. The royal beta dismissed him and then stepped in between the two siblings.

“The two people didn’t want to say anything.”

“Torture them.” Zander glared at Pyro, directed his anger toward him.

“We already did. They are on the verge of dying right now.” If they were not shifters, they would have died by now.

“Call Zenith, he knew how to torture someone. I have a weak stomach whenever I saw blood.”

Pyro squinted his eyes at the king. “Please, be more believable if you wanted to lie.”

Zander only got Zenith involved because he wanted to keep his brother on the loop, since Zenith handed all the problem to him and only focus on his mate and son, more so, he was talking about returning back to the north lately. Living his happy ever after there.

Of course, Zander wouldn't allow that when he still needed his brother here.

Nevertheless, they called Zenith and tried his method to make the two of them talked, yet they were too stubborn, they even dared the alpha to kill them.

"Just kill them, they are lost cause." Zenith furrowed his brows. He praised them for their stubbornness, but Zander didn't agree with him.

"In that case, Zaya's effort will go to waste."

"Zaya?" Zenith turned his head to his sister, as if asking how she could be the one, who captured these two and Zander happily provided him with the story.

Zaya looked at Zander in disbelief. He tattled on her.

However, thankfully, Zenith's reaction was not like Zander. He actually didn't give any respond, only staring at her for a brief second before he continued the torture to make the two of them spilled the information.

Zander looked disappointed with the lack of response and Zaya gave another idea. "Should we take the two people from the Holy Kingdom and asked them instead?"

"The people from the Holy Kingdom will realize that, more so, they are being very agitated with us currently, because of that weird sickness."

Apparently, only the elders, who got the worse sickness, while the other people only got the mild one and Celine's medicine helped for a few hours, still, they needed to drink the medicine constantly.

Whatever poison that Dawn put on them, it was vicious enough to the point Celine couldn't figure it out.

"Why don't we ask Dawn?"

"What do you mean with asking the luna?" Pyro chimed in.

In front of them, the two shifters from the west looked battered, their life was hanging on the thread. They needed time to heal these wounds.

“Ask her to poison them.” Zaya looked cheerful when she suggested this idea. She explained that if Dawn could make those elders from the Holy Kingdom to get sick, to the point they couldn’t do anything, then she might have one or two poisons to make these people to talk.

“Good idea,” Zander said, he agreed readily with Zaya.

“No.” Zenith glared at his siblings. “Don’t get her involved in this.”

“Let her decided then.” Zaya smiled mischievously.

However, Zenith couldn’t do much when Zaya insisted and went straight to Dawn and tell her about the situation and an hour later, Dawn was there, in the damp dungeon and stared at the beaten up shifters. Their condition could make someone covered away, but Dawn looked them, unfazed.

This reminded Zander and Pyro of how Dawn looked the same when they brought a dead body of the warrior to the north. The gruesome sight didn’t bother her at all.

“I think I have one perfect poison to make them talk,” Dawn grinned.

“See? I told you she can help,” Dawn smiled proudly to herself.

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Blake was required to bring the sacrifice for tonight, since people from the Holy Kingdom had come and this was the requirement for them to join the sect.

A little boy would die tonight on the same stone slab and it was not hard for Blake to find the perfect sacrifice, since the Moonlight pack littered with the little shifters around that age.

But this time, Jared handed over the knife to Blake, letting him to do the honor to cut the little boy’s body opened, while the other people watched him bled to death.

Blake stared at the lifeless little boy, he knew ever since he just a babe and would greet him every morning, since he lived next to his house. He was a bubble little boy, an active and curious one to say the least.

Blake wondered would he miss that smile and looked deep into his heart whether he regretted his action, but he felt nothing. His heart was too dark now for him to find a sliver of his conscience.

He was fine with it.