

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North

- Chapter 80 – 100

Chapter 80: THANK YOU, ZENITH -

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***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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It irritated Dawn that she had to ask for permission to see her own son, but there was nothing she could do at this point. She neither had strength nor power to go against what Zenith wanted.

“Okay.”

Dawn waited for Pyllo to return with her baby, but after hours, her maid servant had not yet returned and instead, it was Fern, who came to inform her that the baby was currently sleeping.

“The baby is very weak, because you don’t take care of yourself,” Fern said sternly. Her eyes were icy cold. She didn’t need to say it, but she obviously blamed Dawn for what she had done to herself and the baby during her pregnancy. “It’s better you don’t see the baby for the meantime.”

“When can I see my baby?” Dawn asked. She knew that she was at fault. During that time, she really thought to die with her baby. There was nothing she could look forward in this world, but now her baby was alive, of course, she was not going to leave him behind.

“It depended on what alpha Zenith said when you deem to be safe to see the baby.”

Dawn scoffed it was ridiculous. “Safe? What do you mean with safe? Do you really think that I am going to hurt my baby?”

“You already did, Dawn. You hurt the baby and now the alpha’s firstborn is suffering because of your action.”

Dawn bit her lip. She knew she was at fault here. "Please, tell Zenith that I want to see my baby."

Fern nodded and then left the room.

But, Dawn should have expected this, because after hours of waiting, she still couldn't see her baby, even when weeks and months passed, the alpha still didn't give her any permission.

"Rex..." Dawn murmured her baby's name, because she still couldn't see her baby. She tried to go see him, but apparently Zenith was away from the pack and to her annoyance, it was actually Aurel, who took care of her baby.

Dawn could stomach if it was someone else, but Aurel... it was akin to a slap in the face when she only could see her baby from afar, while that wicked healer played with him.

Rex was already able to walk when he was only ten months old. He had his father's blue eyes and also his curls. Probably only his nose and lips that resembled Dawn.

Every time she tried to approach him, warriors would stop her and Dawn didn't want to cause a ruckus, since she was afraid it would aggravate Zenith and he kept not allowing her to meet her son.

Therefore, she could only satisfy her desire to be with her child by staring at him from afar.

There was a day when her son stared back at her and he smiled, waving his little hand at his mother and this kept Dawn's heart warmed for days.

However, lately Aurel didn't take her son out. She kept her inside the room and Dawn couldn't find a way to see him.

Thankfully, three days later Zenith returned to the pack and Dawn sneak out of her bedroom to see him. This was not the first for Dawn to do this and she already knew this pack like the back of her hand.

Dawn ambushed Zenith on his way to his study room. By this time, her baby was already one year old and she missed all of his milestone because of him, she would never forgive him for this.

"I want to see my baby!" Dawn said, her eyes were ablaze with anger.

"I will take her back to her room," Axel said, he was about to step forward and grab Dawn's hand, but she swatted his hand.

"Let her be." Zenith stopped his beta before he tried to drag her away again. "Let's talk inside." He walked into the study room and Dawn followed behind him.

This place and the owner were still the same like how Dawn remembered.

"Only now you asked to see your baby?" Zenith narrowed his eyes.

"Only now?" Dawn was livid. "I have been asking to see my baby for months! You keep ignoring me!"

"Are your mind clouded again?" Zenith looked tired. He seemed so done to face her. "Is the time still slipping through your mind?"

"I don't know what are you talking about, but I have been asking for my baby for months, but you didn't give me any chance to see him."

Zenith didn't say anything, he stared at her for a while, but then someone knocked on the door and Dawn was distracted with this sweet scent that seeped through the room.

Aurel stepped in with a little boy in her arms. She didn't look happy to see Dawn, but she kept his opinion for herself in front of the alpha.

Dawn burst into cry when she saw Rex. He blinked his eyes at Dawn curiously.

"What are you doing?" Aurel stepped back when Dawn wanted to get her baby.

"Give Rex to her."

"But, alpha..." Aurel retorted, which made Dawn wanted to claw her face, but she restrained herself. "Rex will be scared of her, he has never seen her before."

"She is his mother." Zenith gave the healer a stern look. "Give Rex to her."

This time, Aurel couldn't refuse anymore and put Rex down. The little boy looked at Dawn curiously. "He is going to cry," Aurel said through her gritted teeth when Dawn came closer and picked him up.

Dawn hugged her son carefully for the first time, she buried her face on his neck and breathed in his scent. His scent gave her calmness, as tears started to fell on her cheek.

"My son... my son..." She kept saying the same thing over and over again.

"He is going to cry," Aurel said again.

However, when they thought Rex would cry, the baby boy actually laughed. The little one chuckled and hugged Dawn back, as if he had known her for long time, as if Dawn had never absence from his life.

Seeing this, Aurel balled her fists, she gritted her teeth angrily and stormed off the room.

She was the one, who took care of him all this time! She was the one, who formed the bond with him, to be a mother figure for him when Dawn was not around, but this little brat actually forgot about her entirely and readily accepted Dawn?!

What a piece of shit!

No wonder this child was suck, you should see who had given birth to him.

Meanwhile, Dawn couldn't care less with what Aurel felt right now. For now, the most important thing for her was to be with her son.

Later on, Zenith let her to stay longer with Rex, he even allowed her to bring her son to sleep in her room. This was the happiest moment she felt ever since she woke up.

"Thank you, Zenith," Dawn said when she took Rex with her.

And three days later, Aurel was back to the capital city and Dawn could spend her time with Rex as much as she wanted, making up to the time she lost.

Everything seemed well for now...

Chapter 81: RETURN TO MOONLIGHT PACK

*****Author note: For readers, who confused with the new volume. This is Zenith's first life. As you can see it's about rebirth. The reason why Zenith felt this strong regret for Dawn and why he seemed to know her even when they just met, it's because the previous volume is his second chance life, he turned back time to correct all the mistakes he had made.

But in this volume, it's about his first life from Dawn's perspective. Dawn got to see what actually happened in his first life after Zenith marked her after the royal ceremony.

Hope it helps.*****

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Dawn spent most of her time with her son. Her relationship with Zenith didn't get better, but it didn't get worse either. They simply lived in two different worlds.

Aurel would come every now and then, but they had never really encountered each other and it seemed, Rex didn't remember her once she had gone to the capital city for a long time. It was a relief for Dawn because she didn't think she wanted that woman to be around her son anymore.

Her mind would occasionally clouded with confusion, but it was not as often as before, though there was time when she felt the time slipped through her fingers again.

This 'losing time' worried her the most, especially when she was with Rex. One time, she played with Rex, but everything turned fuzzy, her mind lost its focus and the next thing she knew, it was already dark and she lost Rex in the garden.

Her son had wandered somewhere, but she didn't even realize that.

Thankfully, Zenith was in the pack, he immediately deployed his warriors to search for the three years old baby, while Dawn kept apologizing and crying.

Fortunately, they managed to find Rex two hours later, he was fine and was crying for his mother. People started to argue and make demand for the alpha to separate Rex from Dawn, because she was not fit to be a mother and take care of his firstborn.

However, Zenith didn't say anything and let Dawn to spend her time with Rex like usual, even though right now there would be a few warriors patrolled around to prevent the same thing happened again.

And for that, Dawn was very grateful.

"Thank you for let me spending my time with Rex," Dawn said one night when she met Zenith after she put Rex to sleep.

"You are his mother."

That was all Zenith told her. He seemed to want to say something more, but he held himself back and only patted her head.

"Go back to your room. It's cold out here."

That was all. Dawn couldn't even say that they were in relationship. The mate bond between them was getting weaker by day and the more she thought about it, it made her heart ached.

And one day, when Rex was four years old, Zenith came to her bedroom. He just returned from the capital city and informed her that her father had passed away.

"I am sorry." That was the only condolence that Zenith could give to her.

Dawn didn't know what to feel about this and she was not sure whether she had to cry for the death of her father. It had been so long, a very long time, she had mourned him long time ago and now her father was only a fuzzy memory in her mind.

However, Zenith still took her to Moonlight pack, where they would bury the former alpha Tony's dead body.

It had been nine years since the last time Dawn was here. There were so many things that had changed. She could no longer recognize this place anymore. The place where she grew up...

"Mama... are we going to meet with your father?" Rex asked, he sat on Zenith's lap, as Dawn fed him fruit.

"Yes."

People talked about the reason why they were heading to Moonlight pack, Rex must have heard that from them.

"How are you feeling?"

"I don't know." Dawn stared at the clear sky. "Confused. I don't feel sad anymore. Just... confused..."

Blake was the alpha of the pack now, he got the title after alpha Jason became the alpha not long after Dawn left the pack.

And it was not a surprise that Emily became the luna of the pack. She had three children with Blake. The older was only two years older than Rex.

At the entrance gates, Blake and Emily waited for them. This must be the first time for them to see Dawn again after almost a decade.

However, Dawn was not thrill to see them. If there was someone that she wanted to meet, it must be Lyra. The healer.

"Welcome back, Dawn," Emily said, while Blake stood next to her, staring at her with that unfathomable gaze.

"Luna Dawn." Zenith corrected her. "She is my mate. The luna of the pack."

Emily looked embarrassed when Zenith called her out. Thankfully, there was no more incident after that. Everything went well, the funeral was beautiful and the sky was bright. It was a perfect day for a reunion.

“Luna Dawn,” Lyra called her.

“Just Dawn, Lyra.” Dawn hugged the healer and introduced her son. “This is Rex, say hello to mama’s friend.”

Lyra gushed over the cute little boy and then they started to have a small talk about what had happened in the past few years.

“I am glad that everything turned out well for you and you didn’t need to go to the west and look for Rye and Lucia.”

Dawn completely forgot about their conversation related to that matter and only remembered it now.

“Are you living your life well?” Lyra asked with concern in her voice.

Dawn was silent for a while when she heard the question, but then she saw her son. Rex was sleeping on her lap. “Yes.”

Even after everything, her life was still well, because she had her son. Rex was the only amazing thing that happened to her after everything she went through.

“I am glad to hear that...”

Zenith didn’t want to stay for long in that pack, so did Dawn, thus they returned to the north the next day after the funeral.

From what Dawn learned, Ava exposed Jason’s affair with Julia, therefore to handle the situation and the backlash from the people, who had disliked Julia since her affair with the former alpha Tony, Jason stepped down from his position as the alpha and Blake could step up, even though the pack member did not really respect him since his affair with Emily.

It was true that the apple didn’t fall far from the tree...

“Dawn, can we talk?” Blake asked. He finally got a chance to meet with Dawn when Zenith was not around and gathered the courage to approach her before her departure.

“There is nothing to talk about.” Dawn turned him down. She didn’t want to be seen with him.

“Dawn please,” Blake pleaded, he grabbed her hand to stop her from going away.

However, he immediately let go of her hand when Rex came to bite him. “Don’t touch my mama!” The little boy glared at him.

Chapter 82: I WILL FIX THIS

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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Blake was stunned, but there was nothing he could do against a four years old little boy, who was glaring a dagger look at him. He looked like a mini version of Zenith and one could tell that he would grow up to be a fierce alpha one day.

Seeing that, Dawn immediately picked her son up and walked away from Blake. She didn't want to cause commotion and with that, Blake lost the only chance for him to talk with Dawn alone.

"Mama, Did that alpha bully you? Should I tell papa?" Rex cupped Dawn's face when he talked to her. His blue eyes looked concern for his mother.

"There is no need for that, honey." Dawn kissed his little hand. "Let's go home now."

Rex hugged his mother. He was a sweet boy, but he could be very fierce like his father.

With that, in the afternoon, Zenith and his little entourage departed from Moonlight pack.

Once they arrived at the north, they settled to their daily activity. Dawn rarely met with Zenith because he used to go to the capital city, but even when he was in the pack, he avoided Dawn.

She didn't know what she had done wrong, but it was very obvious that Zenith was upset about something. He was upset with her for the reason that she didn't know.

Since they had never really in a speaking term, Dawn didn't think much about it, until one day Rex disappeared.

He was playing with Dawn in the garden, but suddenly he disappeared and no one saw the little boy.

Today was a busy day because someone from Karam continent came to talk about a few businesses with Zenith, some people from the capital city also came. The alpha was very busy.

Still, Dawn sought for him. Their son had gone missing, there was no way Zenith would turn blind eye for that, but that was what he did.

Zenith turned her down. He chased her out from the meeting room.

With that, Dawn tried to search for her baby with the other warriors, but when she still couldn't find him even after a few hours, only then she went to see Zenith again.

Thankfully, this time took this matter seriously and postponed the meeting with the other people. He led the warriors to look for their son.

Dawn couldn't breathe properly during this time, she looked for her baby, she shifted into her beast and joined the search, but to their horror, the last sign of Rex told them that the little boy had entered the untouched land.

Dawn almost got a heart attack because of that. Untouched Land was a forbidden area, where monsters lived freely there. That area was populated by so many monsters and even a strong warrior wouldn't dare to venture too deep into the land.

"Enough! Stay here!" Zenith said angrily, as he held Dawn back. She couldn't hold her beast form because of how exhausted she was, but she still wanted to go to the Untouched Land, which was the same as suicide.

After that warning, Zenith led his warriors to enter the land.

It took him three days and the fallen of so many warriors for him to be able to retrieve their son's body.

Everything was a blur for Dawn, she couldn't even feel her own body when she realized her little boy, the light of her life was no longer with her.

She didn't cry, she didn't move, she didn't speak. She stayed like that for who knew how long. The funeral came and went by just like that.

Once again, Dawn felt like she was under the water. It was hard to breathe, it was a labor to even breath. The pain was too much. She didn't even remember what she did after that.

She only remembered that she said one thing to Zenith.

"Why didn't you believe me when I said our son had gone missing?" There was no tear in her dull eyes. "Only if you believed me, my son is still here with me now."

That was it, after that, Dawn shut herself down. No one could reach to her, it was anguish that she felt and she thought she was going to live like that for the rest of her life.

Until one night, Dawn heard people screamed, she heard the pleas of the people in the pack. The gruesome sound when you were on the verge of death. The gurgling sound when you were choked by your own blood.

And after that everything went quiet. It was eerily quiet.

Dawn didn't know, who had carried this massacre, but she was more than willing to wait for her turn. She waited in her bedroom. She could see the silhouette of that beast from the crack of her door. The black beast with blood dripped from its dark fur.

However, the beast didn't do anything.

The black beast stayed like that for a long time, licking his wound.

Dawn didn't know what happened next, everything was a blur, she only knew the light of the sun hurt her eyes and when she closed them, she was already inside the carriage, someone talked to her, but she didn't understand what they were saying and when the carriage door opened, she was in a new place, far away from the north.

Dawn didn't recognize anyone else, but Lyra.

Years later, she learned that alpha Zenith massacred the whole pack. In his rage, he only left Dawn untouched. He even killed his own beta and gamma.

It was crazy, the king had to give a verdict to kill his own brother.

The people, who supported Zenith scattered and turned their tune, as they pledged their loyalty again to the king and receive punishment.

Meanwhile, even after ten years, no one had ever seen the alpha from the north again.

A new stronghold was built in the north to prevent from the monsters to attack the nearby village and the story of the cruel alpha Zenith became the only topic that people talked about for years.

They were curios about where the alpha's whereabouts.

Some people said he went to the untouched land and die there, some said he fled the continent and had never returned.

But there was one thing that Dawn was certain about. One day, no matter if it was ten years or ten decades, Zenith would come to see her again.

She believed that, probably because of the mate bond that tied them together.

And she was right.

Fifteen years after the death of their son. She saw that black beast again. He shifted into his human form and under the dimly lit room, Dawn could see his blue eyes.

"I came back. I keep my promise to fix this."

Dawn looked at him. She walked toward him and stabbed him in the chest with the dagger that she had kept with her ever since Lyra took her away from the north.

Zenith didn't fight her back, instead, he grabbed her hand and pushed the dagger further to his chest, as he hugged her tightly.

The dagger made of silver. It could kill him.

"I will fix this..." he said.

Chapter 83: THE FIRST MURDER FIRST LIFE

((((ZENITH'S POV)))

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This was not the first time it happened to him. Zenith was tired. The world that he was seeing was not the same like what other people saw.

He had been made aware of his ability since such a young age, but recently he felt the turmoil in his ability and he was having a hard time to differentiate the spirit and the living being, normal people. Some of them looked the same in his eyes.

His mother helped him with his ability, since she had the same power, but it didn't help much because it was very obvious that their constitution was very different.

Zenith was having another burst of power and every time it happened, his world was spinning, he had this strong headache and his beast became more feral than usual.

People said it happened to him because when his mother was pregnant with him and his twin sibling, she was exposed to black magic and unfortunately, he absorbed some of it.

His twin was fine, it only happened to him and not many people knew about his unique condition.

Zenith would be more aggressive whenever he was having this episode and his mother was the only one, who could calm him down.

However, the queen was away for two days and Zenith couldn't risk other people's safety if he was nearby.

Therefore, before he completely lost it, he shifted into his beast and rushed away from the capital city. He didn't stop until he felt tired and his beast wouldn't be able to hurt anyone, but of course, it wouldn't last for long. He would quickly regain his strength in no time.

Zenith didn't know where he had gone, but when he gained a little bit of clarity, he realized that he had headed toward Moonlight pack.

Just in case, he needed to stay away from the pack and stay hidden in the forest, until his episode was done.

Zenith was only thirteen years old, a very young boy, but a mature one. He knew what he had to do and the gravity of his situation.

However, in the evening, his beast became even more unrestrained, he felt this anger and rage that he couldn't explain, he tried to keep calm, but it was hard.

All the intrusive thoughts flooded in his mind. He wanted to kill, torture someone. In the past, he could satisfy this thirst for blood and violent with hunting.

Hunting down the monsters were the only way for him to release his murderous intention, but there was no monster here, instead, he caught a smell of rogues. There were many of them.

Zenith tried to fight back his urge to approach those rogues, because he knew the result of it, but he couldn't. His instincts became very sharp and he couldn't get a control of his beast.

The next thing he knew, he had dashed toward this bunch of rogue and killed some of them, chased away the rest, but it was not enough.

The sound of their painful wails and breaking bones were a music to his ears. He wanted more. His beast wanted more.

The feeling of when he ripped their limbs from their body and when his claws sunk into their flesh was heavenly. This feeling was an addiction for Zenith. His beast not yet had enough.

Zenith was only thirteen, but his beast looked bigger than any young shifters around his age, and also stronger.

In no time, he managed to kill four of them and scare the rest to leave the area.

Still, Zenith's beast wanted more, but the only thing that left was this little girl, who was crying, asking for her mother.

She was around Zaya's age, his sister, or probably younger than her.

Her chubby cheeks turned red, as she cried so hard, calling for her mother that obviously had died during the rogue attack. The little girl was covered in blood, but from the look of it, it was not hers, but Zenith couldn't say for sure.

It took everything in him to calm down his beast and get rid of his intrusive thought to kill this little girl. He could forgive himself if he killed the rogue, but not an innocent child around the age of his sister.

Zenith suppressed his beast's murderous intention and shifted back into his human form. Bead of sweats covered his forehead, his body was trembling when he exerted so much control over himself.

That little girl was still crying, but this time she looked at Zenith. She looked terrified, as if she was unsure whether Zenith would harm her or not. Her eyes turned red like a rabbit. She clutched her mother's dress.

Zenith approached the little girl and looked at her mother's condition. He took a cloak from the ground and covered her dead body. It was too late for him to hide this sight from this little girl, but at the very least, this was the only thing that he could do, before he picked her up.

"Mama... mama..." The girl wrapped her arms around Zenith's neck and cried. Her small body was trembling in fear and this, in sickening way, helped Zenith to stay focus.

He couldn't let his intrusive thought wound and killed her. Because it was very easy to snap her neck and ripped her little body apart.

"Mama... Mama..." her cries were very pitiful and Zenith could only hold her, waited until someone came and saved her.

He waited until night fell and the little girl was tired of crying and fell asleep on his shoulder, while Zenith sat under a tree, leaned his back against it.

This was the first time he killed someone during an episode, no, in total he killed five rogues. Yet, Zenith didn't feel anything. He was not sure whether this was a good or a bad sign.

He patted the girl to sleep and thankfully, his beast had calmed down significantly when the night fell.

But, he was on alert again when he heard a few footsteps of beasts and there were many scents permeated in the air, it seemed, there were people came in a large number.

Zenith hugged the little girl and hid behind the tree. He needed to see whether this was this girl's pack member or this was another attack of the rogue.

A big wolf appeared first and then shifted into his human form. Zenith recognized him, he was alpha Tony from Moonlight pack. He fell to his knees when he saw the dead body of the woman that this little girl called as her mother.

Only then, Zenith was sure that this must be Dawn, alpha Tony's only daughter and the dead woman must be his mate.

Zenith happened to see alpha Tony a few times, but he had never met with his daughter, but due to how bad the attack of the rogue, he couldn't recognize the luna.

"Take care, little one," Zenith said, he put Dawn's body under the tree and made a noise to attract their attention.

Alpha Tony immediately went to check the noise and approached the tree, he then found his daughter, but Zenith had gone.

Chapter 84: A SMILE APPEARED ON HIS LIPS FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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Zenith didn't remember about that little girl anymore, because after he returned to the palace, he fell sick and he told his mother, Iris, about what happened.

The queen then told him that Dawn was safe and the funeral for the luna of the Moonlight pack would be held in two days. During that time, Zenith was in and out of consciousness, while his mother stayed by his side to neutralize his beast's aggressiveness.

Zenith forgot about Dawn and his life went like usual, until a big change happened in the capital city when his father fell sick and Zander didn't have any other choice, but to step in to take the throne and was crowned as the king in the age of sixteen.

At the same day after his coronation, their parents, the previous king and queen, also their younger sister went to Andelus continent to seek for a cure for their father's illness.

Thing started to take a drastic turn for them. The people, who worked for their father started to rebel because they couldn't accept the coronation.

Many people voiced out their displeasure.

Zander was too young. The previous king let go of his responsibility to his immature son too soon. Zenith was way more capable than Zander to take care of the state affair. Zander had so many flaws. Zenith should help more.

There were so many pressures, schemes and turmoil inside the palace and the court. It was too much for two sixteen years old to handle, despite the enormous help that they received from the people that still loyal to their father and mother.

Still, it was not enough.

Zenith had to endure his episodes when his beast ran rampant. Before the queen left, his mother had created a stone for him that could calm down his beast whenever he was having this episode.

However, something big happened when they Zenith and Zander turned eighteen. That was the time when Zander found his destined mate.

She was a young and beautiful magic user from Karam continent, but as it turned out, she was a spy.

Nobody really knew what happened that night when Zander's destined mate died. She was killed brutally and the prophecy about Zenith was sounded that same night. Not many people knew about the prophecy, but those who knew, believed that.

Zenith would be killed by his own mate. The woman that he marked. That was it.

After that night, Zander started to appear wearing golden mask and Zenith was sent to the north to handle the monster attack there.

The previous alpha of the north died during the monster attack and his sister couldn't fill the role as the alpha, as she found her mate and had to move to Karam Continent, because he was a merchant.

There was many conspiracy during the dead of alpha Cezi, because at the same time, there were so many movements of getting rid of Zander's supporter, to the point, nobody was safe by his side.

At that time, the only solution that Zenith could think of was only one.

"You put your life in danger, Zen," Zander said. He looked at his brother grimly. His expression was hidden under the golden mask, but Zenith didn't need to see his face to know how pissed he was. "You put yourself out there to be the target."

"To make it clear. You are the target, Zan. I am just a bait."

"This is crazy."

"You know another solution? People died out there while we are talking here." Zenith's expression hardened. "The people who followed you and pledged their loyalty to you blindly."

"I don't want to give a death punishment to my own brother."

Zenith rolled his eyes. "Do you think I will allow you to give me that verdict?" he sighed deeply. "I only buy you time to gather and strengthen your power, once you are able to do so, you can get rid of those rats from the court."

They realized the fact that no matter how strong their father was, they wouldn't be able to achieve the same feat as him, the loyalty and respect from their father's followers couldn't be handed as easily as when their father gave the crown to Zander.

"If you feel sorry for me, find a solution to get rid of those pests quickly." Zenith walked toward the door. "Once I stepped out, people would know that we are standing at the opposite side. Don't pester me anymore."

That night, Zenith went to the north as per decree of the king. People saw this as a punishment from the king for whatever that happened that night when Zander's destined mate died.

People thought, Zenith had something to do with the death of the future queen, but no one would be able to know for sure, aside from the two of them.

Those people, who opposed Zander would join Zenith, as they rallied behind him to put him on the throne, but with that, Zenith would be able to know, all the people, who opposed Zander. He was privileged to their schemes.

However, he couldn't be so blatant with this, because it would be very obvious Zenith played them if every plan that they hatched, failed.

Zenith and Zander played this excruciatingly painful and complicated game for so long, until the king had the real power to get rid of them to their roots in one movement, not allowed them to retaliate anymore.

Zenith completely forgot about his encountered with that little girl and his first murder, because after that, he killed so many people in the dark.

Until one day, alpha Tony came to borrow his warriors to help him to control the protest in the west. There was a coup there and alpha Tony volunteered to control the unrest.

By that time, people had known Zenith for his unforgiving and merciless nature, thus it was only right for him when he demanded a hefty compensation for the death of his warriors. None of them returned.

When Zenith finally came to Moonlight pack to collect the debt and take alpha Tony to the capital city for trial, that was when he met with Dawn again for the first time after so many years.

Eleven years had passed by this point when he saw her again. The little girl with red eyes, who hugged him tightly, while trembling in fear. She had grown up to be a beautiful young woman, a fierce one.

However, she didn't seem to remember him at all. It was understandable...

"Zen, I don't feel good about this plan. Alpha Tony has a young daughter. She has no one aside from her father," Darius said. He didn't feel good to separate the daughter and the father.

However, Zenith decided to keep going with the original plan and for years, Dawn would try to approach Zenith whenever he came to this pack. She tried so many way to get to him and to his amusement, he enjoyed to see her attempt.

Zenith would be there, standing behind the curtain, while watching Dawn climbed the wall before one of his warriors caught her, but she would do it again the next time.

A smile appeared on his lips.

Chapter 85: MATE WITH ALPHA TONY'S DAUGHTER FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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The only thing that Zenith looked forward when he visited the Moonlight pack was that girl's attempt to seek for him, to ask about her father.

Her naivety and her desperation were refreshing thing to see for Zenith, because her aim was very clear, not like those people, who talked one thing, but their action aimed for different thing.

He knew, it was bad for him to keep her from meeting her father, but the situation at the palace was more complicated than a seventeen years old Dawn could understand, more so, beta Jason had been adding more proof for Alpha Tony's wrong conduct during the unrest in the west.

The beta's intention was very clear. He didn't mean for the alpha to go out of the dungeon soon. That greedy beta aimed for the tittle of the alpha and his only obstacle was that young girl. She was the direct blood of alpha Tony.

She should be the next in line for the title.

However, from what Zenith heard, that girl had found her destined mate, who was no other than beta Jason's son, Blake.

"In one way or another, I think he is going to be the alpha, either he acted as the alpha until his son is ready for the role, or he will be the one, who controlled the pack behind his son's back," Axel reported to the alpha after he informed him that Dawn tried to sneak into his bedroom again to see him.

"I really don't like this beta," Darius groaned. "Poor girl, she doesn't know that her father's beta has been planning to betray her father."

Zenith didn't say anything, he stared at the dark night, deep in thought, but neither his beta nor his gamma could tell what was in his mind. It was still a mystery.

However, after that, even when Zenith was not around, he would occasionally ask for any news related to Moonlight pack. Therefore, he knew what was going on there.

And one day, after a few months he didn't return to Moonlight pack, he decided to go there, because there was something that he needed to do. Beta Jason was pressing alpha Tony so hard, he was going to get him hanged.

"Do you think letting her know can help with this plan?" Thean asked the alpha.

"Just tell her when she came."

"The time is tight for you, Zen. You need to meet with Aurel." Axel reminded Zenith. It was a regular meeting between Zenith and Aurel, the royal healer. People would be shocked to learn how often Zenith visited the palace.

However, nobody should know about this. It was a secret condition of Zenith that only a handful of people knew.

"Just do it."

"I can't understand with this plan," Darius groaned.

Zenith didn't mean for Dawn to help with anything, for him to order Theana to let her knew about beta Jason's intention was for her to be more careful with the beta. If Jason was willing to go extra length to hurt her father and put him down, there was no way, he wouldn't do anything to Dawn.

Just like what Zenith had predicted, Dawn came to see him again, but this time, Thean told her about beta Jason, as per Zenith's instruction.

"Are we going back to the capital city tomorrow?" Darius asked.

"We will go tomorrow."

The next day, very early in the morning, Zenith and his entourage left the pack, he didn't even meet with beta Jason, which upset the beta.

Once Zenith arrived at the capital city, he went through a secret tunnel to reach an area under the place, where Aurel had been waiting for him.

"Zen, you shouldn't have gone to Moonlight pack, you should come to me immediately!" Aurel cried to see Zenith's condition, she looked very sad.

Zenith truly didn't need her pity party. "Do it now."

Aurel was used to his cold demeanor, but still it was stung to be treated this way. Her only consolation was the fact, Zenith had never treated anyone warmly and she was the closest woman to him.

"Take off your clothes," Aurel said and she watched how graceful the way Zenith took off his clothes. His body was a perfect sculpture. The moon goddess must be in a good mood when she created this man.

Zenith took off his clothes and knelt down, while Aurel moved to his back.

On the other hand, Axel and Darius went away, closed the door behind them because they were not going to watch the whole process. It had been like this for years now.

Ever since that night when Zander's destined mate died, the stone that the previous queen gave to Zenith to calm his beast had shattered, it had turned into dust, which put Zenith's life at risk.

Because of that, Aurel came to help. She was from the Holy Kingdom and she was a brilliant healer. Though it was not the same like the stone that the previous queen gave to Zenith, but with her healing power and her concoction, she managed to calm Zenith's beast down significantly.

However, it required for Zenith to have this meeting with Aurel more often than he wanted.

"I will start now," Aurel said. She placed her palms on his back and a circle of rune appear on his hot skin.

Aurel held back the urge to caress his back and focus on her task.

After an hour, she was done. "I will get you the concoction," she said. She staggered to get a cup of yellow liquid that she had prepared and gave it to Zenith.

By this time, Zenith had put on his clothes again and gulped down the concoction without even flinched, though the smell was horrendous. He had done this countless times.

"You need to rest. I have prepared a room for you," Aurel said attentively, but like usual, Zenith would refuse.

With that, Aurel could only stare at his back when he walked away from her. They would meet again next month. That was her only consolation.

Days passed and the schemes in the palace only became worse. People wanted something from Moonlight pack because of its harbor. It was a crucial point to have the harbor, since it was the center of all transaction, where people from different continent came and gone.

"We need to get a hold of Moonlight pack," Zander said. "You need to be mate with alpha Tony's daughter."

Currently, Zander and Zenith had their secret meeting again, under the nose of the people that supported the two of them. They thought that they could pit the two brothers against each other.

"Dawn?" Zenith raised his brows. "She found her destined mate long time ago. The rule of this kingdom will not allow it."

It didn't feel right for him, to get Dawn from her own destined mate. Severing someone else's mate bond was not something that Zenith fond of to do.

"No. Not Dawn." Zander shook his head. "I managed to get a confession from alpha Tony that he had a daughter from his affair."

"Who?"

"Emily. I believe you know that girl."

Indeed. Zenith knew that girl had been bullying Dawn.

Chapter 86: THE CHANGE OF PLAN FIRST LIFE

((((ZENITH'S POV)))

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Zenith despised that girl named Emily because from the report that he got, she had been harassing Dawn.

He didn't really pay close attention to her, but because he kept tab on Dawn, her name was mentioned a few times. Needless to say, he didn't have a good impression on her.

However, it didn't matter. It was a good thing that it was not Dawn. Because the prophecy meant for his mate to be the one, who would kill him.

"About the prophecy..." Zander finally came to this topic. "We are going to kill her once everything settled."

"Good. I will arrange that." Zenith nodded.

Because of that prophecy, before his mate could kill him, he was going to kill her first. That was a good plan, only the thing that gross Zenith out was the fact he had to mate and mark Emily. That thought didn't settle well with him.

After that, Zander and Zenith engrossed in more deep conversation about the whole schemes around them and the plan to tackle those people, who grew very greedy and became more power hunger in each passing day.

About the Moonlight pack, at first, Zenith leaked the information about Emily's origin and then Zander came with the decree for Zenith to be mated with alpha Tony's daughter.

Zenith knew the truth about Emily's origin would hurt Dawn, but it was necessary. The plan that he and Zander made was more important. More so, they had hurt so many hearts, what the different of hurting hers?

Of course, just like what the brothers predicted, beta Jason jumped into the opportunity to hand over Emily, instead of Dawn, since the latter was the mate for his son and she was the legitimate daughter of alpha Tony.

However, Zenith couldn't come right away to Moonlight pack, there were a few things he had to handle.

On the surface, it appeared as if Zenith was being punished, humiliated by the king to be mated with alpha Tony's daughter, not the legitimate one, but the one that was a result of an affair.

Zenith's supporter was in rampant, they suggested a few plan to take down the king from his throne and rebel. An unrest almost occurred, but strangely enough, the key people for the coup disappeared mysteriously, which caused more turmoil in the capital city.

The king appeared unperturbed and no one could point their finger to their sovereign with that accusation without a solid proof.

With that, Zenith's supporter met a dead end and the alpha from the north didn't have other choice, but to succumb to the king's decree to take alpha Tony's daughter as his mate.

"It looks like there will be a storm." Thean noticed how gloomy the sky was.

"Yeah." Darius nodded.

But after ten minutes break, they continued their journey to Moonlight pack. It was a small entourage and all of them were in their beast form.

Once they arrived at the pack house, Zenith occupied the same room. This was the room where he stayed since the first time he was here.

He always requested the same room, because he knew someone would try to find a way to get to this room.

This time, Zenith wanted to let her in, but Dawn had stepped up her game and actually, she had been waiting for him inside the room.

"I want to see my father."

Zenith stared at Dawn. She looked skinnier. Her eyes sunk and there were these black eye bags under her eyes. The news about her father's infidelity must have hit her so hard.

Zenith remembered how she used to look determined, but this time there was only anger and confusion.

They talked and Zenith reminded her about the clue he gave her about beta Jason. Unfortunately, she trusted the beta more, which was not a surprise for him.

"If you wanted to see your father, you can go to the capital city and ask the king."

After that, the conversation between them was rather pointless. Zenith was only a little bit upset to see how hard Dawn took the news, but he wanted to go back as soon as possible after he took Emily with him.

But, in the middle of their conversation, Thean informed them to come with him because there was something unexpected that happened.

[Emily was caught in the act. She was sleeping with Blake.] Darius mindlinked the alpha.

Right now, they were heading to the alpha's quarters. Darius, Thean and Dawn came along too.

Zenith's eyes darkened when he heard the report from Darius through the mindlink. He glanced at Dawn. [Tell her to stay.]

"I don't think this is a good idea for you to tag along," Darius said to Dawn, but she insisted to go with them.

It bothered Zenith to see how calm and aloof Dawn was, because she wouldn't be able to ignore what was waiting for her later.

And Zenith was right when Dawn learned what actually happened between her own mate and Emily. That jerk kept apologizing to her and it took everything in Zenith not to smash his head against the wall.

"He marked that woman," Darius explained briefly, answering the unsaid question about Emily's whereabouts.

Zenith watched how Dawn broke down and he felt his blood was boiled with rage, but aside from how tight he balled his fists, no one would be able to tell what actually was in his mind right now. They would tremble in fear if they knew.

"I, Dawn Attiana Ash, reject you, Blake Michael Gillian, as my mate. May the bond between us be severed for good."

There was this small smile that curled on the corner of Zenith's lips when he heard her rejection, he loosened his fists.

But, the joy didn't last for long, because the next thing he watched how the rejection tortured her. Dawn staggered back, she was going to fall, but Darius caught her in time. Zenith shouted the order to him through mindlink, which honestly startled him.

"I will take her to her room," Lyra said and then she left with Dawn.

Everything didn't turn as they expected it and there was no way Zenith would take Emily, since she was already marked by Blake. This stupid young man ruined a lot of plans without him knowing it.

With that, Zenith had another talk with beta Jason, but this time, their gamma joined the conversation too.

If he couldn't take Emily, it meant, he was going to take Dawn with her and that was what he demanded. The demand that Jason couldn't turn down.

"This is unexpected, but in a way, we didn't need to make a big change in plan." Axel analyzed the situation, once it was only the three of them alone.

"Yeah, but it's a pity that Zen needs to kill Dawn instead of Emily," Darius chimed in.

That was the only change of plan. Darius and Axel knew about Dawn as much as Zenith did, therefore, in away, they were fond of that young woman.

"Are we going now?" Darius asked, staring at the window. "The storm is here."

"We will leave after the storm," Zenith replied and then walked away from the room. He headed toward Dawn's bedroom.

Chapter 87: THE CHANGE OF PLAN (2)
FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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“Alpha Zenith?” Lyra stood up when she saw the alpha entered the room. The healer had heard about how the plan had changed and now, he was going to take Dawn instead of Emily, which was understandable because Dawn had not been marked yet.

“How is she?” Zenith asked, he walked toward the bed and stared at her sleeping face. Tears still streamed down her cheek even when she was unconscious.

“She is not in a good condition,” Lyra replied honestly. “I don’t think she will be able to go through the storm.”

Zenith didn’t give any respond to that, but he asked her to leave the room, which made the healer felt uneasy.

“Leave.”

In the end, Lyra couldn’t deny his order and had no other choice, but to leave the room.

Being alone with Dawn, Zenith sat on the edge of her bed. This must be the closest he got with her after those so many years.

And here, Dawn was crying again. That little girl, who lost her mother more than a decade ago, was crying again because this time she lost her mate.

Zenith stretched out his hand and caressed her head, but he didn’t say anything. He wiped her tears and then he left the room.

The alpha ignored the request for letting Dawn to stay in the pack until she felt better, because once the storm passed, he requested the most comfortable carriage in this pack to bring her to the north.

She was still unconscious when Zenith carried her in his arms to the carriage and that stupid young man dared to block his way.

“If you didn’t step away from my face this instance, I am going to kill you.” Zenith didn’t raise his voice, but the threat was there. He was not playing when he warned him to get off his way.

Beta Jason immediately dragged his son, who tried to stop Zenith from taking his mate. He reminded Zenith that Dawn was his mate, as if it could help his case and made the alpha stopped taking her away.

This was one of the reasons why Zenith wanted to take Dawn away from her pack as soon as possible, because Blake would harass her. Beta Jason would scheme against her and no one could protect her here.

He needed to take her away for her own safety and so she could heal faster from the rejection. Out of sight, out of mind.

Dawn would wake up a few times, or Zenith would wake her up to eat something, but she was not in her right mind. He didn't think she realize where she was, because she didn't even ask why she was in a moving carriage and why Zenith was the one, who fed her.

Once Zenith arrived at the pack house in the north, Aurel had been waiting for him, she came for their monthly 'meeting' and also because she brought a letter from the king.

Zander had learned about the situation in the Moonlight pack, he only reminded him about the plan to kill his mate after he mated and marked Dawn.

Zenith threw the letter to the fireplace. "Go and see her condition first."

"Why should I?" Aurel was not happy because she had to check on that woman's condition, the woman that would be Zenith's mate.

However, one look from Zenith was enough to make her relent and went to check on that woman, while Zenith wrote a reply to his brother.

After that, Zenith called for Fern.

"I want you to prepare two girls for lady Dawn. They will be her personal maids." Zenith didn't want her to be alone, thus two girls would be enough to accompany her. "I want maids, who are cheerful and obedient."

"Yes, alpha." Fern nodded, but then she asked again. "Is she... our future luna?"

"Do what I said, Fern." Zenith didn't reply to that question. "Let me know when she is awake."

Fern nodded her head. She did what Zenith told her to do and looked for two servants with the criteria the alpha wanted. She did that and more...

"Lady Dawn was throwing a tantrum. She wanted to return to her pack and said that she was not willing to meet you, alpha..." Fern said.

"Really?" Darius asked. "She was throwing a tantrum?" As far as he remembered, Dawn had never done something like that. Since he knew about her from all the report that Zenith received.

"Yes. She also..."

"What?" Axel prodded.

“She cursed at the alpha. She hated you because you took her here.”

“Well... I think that’s not really wise decision to take her here without talking to her first.” Darius clicked his tongue. A little bit disappointed, but then he shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly. They were going to kill her after all.

“Maybe she is still shocked because of the rejection.” Axel tried to reason with that.

“Let her be,” Zenith said.

With that, Zenith didn’t come to see Dawn, because every time, Fern would say that Dawn didn’t want to see him and how much she hated him.

Because of that also, Zenith put distance between them.

That was his mistake for never checking on her directly, since they had never been in a speaking term. The only time they were having a conversation was when the time before she rejected Blake. That was all.

At the very least, in Zenith’s mind, he could give her some peace for not meeting her when she didn’t want to.

It was proven with how Dawn avoided the area that he visited frequently. Seeing this, his beta and gamma were not happy, but they didn’t voice it out. They were mostly annoyed with Dawn’s ‘tantrum’.

Moreover, there was another urgent matter that Zenith to handle. Zander had been sending more and more letters to him, asking about the ceremony for Dawn. He had to mate and mark her, only then they could kill her.

With that, they could stir their plan in Moonlight pack, using Dawn’s death as their footing stone to intervene with the matter in the harbor.

At the same time, they could avoid Zenith from the prophecy, since they had killed his mate before she could kill him.

“We are going to leave to the capital city tomorrow,” Zenith said one night to his gamma.

“Suddenly?”

Zenith didn’t answer that, he was not in a good mood because he saw Dawn avoided him again by walking away from his quarter.

With that, Zenith left for the capital city for three months.

However, three months became half a year and then it turned into one year. There was this main contention between Zander and Zenith, where the latter didn't want to compromise.

"Did you like her?" Zander narrowed his eyes when he noticed Zenith's unwillingness to mate and mark Dawn. "Do you take fancy of her?"

"I don't."

"But, your action said otherwise."

Zenith didn't answer that and Zander didn't need to be a genius to know what he said was right. "Damn it, Zen." He shook his head and took off his golden mask. He was speechless. "Now, you are in charge to think of how to get Moonlight pack under our control."

Chapter 88: HER LONELY BACK FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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Zander was frustrated when Zenith changed the whole plan about Dawn. They were supposed to use Dawn's death as a stepping stone to meddle with the problem in Moonlight pack, but because Zenith decided not to mate and mark her, the whole plan wouldn't work.

Thus, instead of going on with their original plan, Zenith mated and marked one of the council's daughters. Of course, this caused an uproar because people knew about the decree from the king and Zenith was supposed to mate with Dawn.

More so, the practice of having more than one woman had been eradicated since decades ago under the rule of king Cane, their father, but with what Zenith was doing, it was the same like he wanted to bring the old practice back.

It caused so much problem in the court. Some people elated, because they were still thinking it was ridiculous to only have one woman and what Zenith was doing was a fresh air for a better change. Not to mention he was part of the royal family, thus the impact was unthinkable.

Zenith's supporters cheered with his decision to take a mistress, but Zander's people cursed at him.

"You are so close to get me to kill you, Zen," Zander said grimly. He disagreed with Zenith's decision, but there was nothing much he could do at this point when he had mated and marked Alia.

Therefore, it was inevitable that they have the ceremony next.

For Alia's dissatisfaction, she didn't get the royal ceremony. It was only a small ceremony as a remark of their union, while from Zander's supporter, it was more than enough, because they couldn't flaunt Zenith's infidelity in public, but for Zenith himself, he couldn't care less with the ceremony.

"What are you going to do with Moonlight pack?" Zander asked. He put on his golden mask again, a sign that he was very pissed and he didn't want his brother to read his facial expression. "All the dirty deals are still happening in their harbor. We can't do much without hard proof."

"I got in contact with Alex, their gamma."

"You meant their beta?" Zander corrected him. "Jason became the alpha shortly after you left the pack with Dawn."

"He is still the gamma. Jason put his son as his beta," Zenith said, shot him a look because he was not update with the current situation.

"Hey, there are a lot of things that I have to handle, I simply forgot that little detail, okay?" He raised both of his arms. "Is he trustworthy?"

"Let's see."

After that, Zenith returned with his bride, the woman that he had mated and marked to the north. It had been a year and from the report he got, Dawn was still the same. She refused to go out and spend most of her time inside the room.

She still hated being there. There was no letter from her either for the last year.

Zenith didn't expect anything when he returned, because he learned that Dawn didn't care about him and even hated him, it was a surprise when he saw her among the other people, who were waiting for him.

She looked upset and... hurt, when she saw Alia. Why would she when she despised him? She was no longer asking about her father, neither she was pestering him for any news related to her father.

All the people in the pack cheered and gushed when they saw Alia's beauty, they were very happy to have her as their luna, but Zenith's eyes were on Dawn's retreating back. That back looked lonely...

After that, Zenith would sneak into her bedroom and watch her sleeping. She looked skinnier and there would always this furrow between her brows.

Some time, Zenith would stay for a few minutes, but in another time, he would stay until early morning, but he had never approached her during the day, thus no one knew about this, aside from all the warriors or the servants that happened saw him went out of her bedroom.

Yet, no one told Dawn about this. From what Zenith knew, people always said that she was a little bit off.

However, hearing this news, Alia was very upset.

"You didn't come to my room, but you went to that bitch's room every night?!" Alia screamed at Zenith, she stormed into Zenith's study room and yelled at him.

Zenith's eyes darkened, he waved his hand to gesture for his beta and gamma to leave them alone, which they gladly did.

"Watch what you said."

"What? Am I wrong?!" Alia was furious. "You didn't touch me ever since you mated and marked me! People asked about a baby, but how could I carry your child, if you have never visited me?!"

Alia was being hysteric right now and it was understandable because she was not getting the treatment that she deserved and now she exploded, she let out her grievances.

By this time, it had been a year and half since she came to the northern pack.

"Why are you doing this to me!?" Alia went to hug Zenith. "I love you and I accept you... but, why did you do this to me?"

"Love me?" Zenith felt like the word was so foreign in his ear. It was almost laughable. "By reporting my every movement?"

Zenith's supporter started to feel there was something wrong and suspected there was a grand scheme between Zander and Zenith. They started to get suspicious that the two brothers actually worked together and Alia was there to report everything.

"Are you telling them about our dead bedroom too?"

The arms that wrapped around his body stiffened. Zenith knew that he had said the right thing. “Wh- what do you mean?”

After that, Alia stayed in her bedroom. Zenith said that she was sick, but it was not usual for a shifter to get sick.

“If the luna is sick, why don’t let Aurel to check on her, alpha?” Fern suggested one day, but Zenith didn’t say anything, only when she left, he turned to see Darius.

“Aurel is still here?” Zenith thought she returned to the capital city after their ‘business’ was done.

Darius shook his head helplessly. “I see, she never entered your eyes, but it is very callous of you not to notice her all this time.”

Zenith paid no mind to that. He had another thing to take care of. He needed to get rid of Alia.

Two years after Alia entered the northern pack, she was found dead when she took a walk, because of the monster attack.

It was an accident, since there were so many monster attacks in the north, but not all people believe that easily, yet they didn’t have any proof to say otherwise.

Once again, there was a turmoil between the two parties, but this time, Zenith lost so many supporters and there were many people came to kill him, as they believed he had been deceiving them all this time.

On the day of Alia’s funeral, there were two attempts to kill Zenith, thankfully, Thean had prepared everything so well.

However, when they thought Zenith was in a great danger and couldn’t do anything, he actually held a ceremony for him and Dawn.

Chapter 89: THE CEREMONY FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH’S POV))

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This must be the first time, after such a long time for Zenith to meet with Dawn again, to talk to her during the day.

“Dawn,” Zenith called her and he liked the way his tongue rolled when he mentioned her name.

She just returned from her short walk in the greenhouse. Zenith knew she liked a few things. Greenhouse, learning about herbs, daggers and deer meat. He could tell a few things about her, though not all, but he knew her more than she knew him.

This time, whether she liked it or not, he was going to make her his mate.

The prophecy was fulfilled, right? He had mated and marked Alia. It was done. It wouldn't affect Dawn now... right?

“Be ready for the ceremony, you can do whatever you please with the preparation,” Zenith said. He could see how surprised Dawn was when she saw him inside her bedroom, but it was hard to tell whether it was a good thing or not.

“Don't you think it's four years too late?”

She was upset. Zenith wanted to reach her and hug her, but he didn't do it. She hated him. That's what he knew from the people that he put around her.

“You are my chosen mate in the first place, there is nothing too late about this.”

“Why now?”

Because he couldn't risk her life. Because if he chose to mark and mate her, it would be her who was being attacked by the monsters and it would be her funeral weeks ago. Her life would be in danger, not only from his supporter, but also Zander's.

The king would pressure him to kill Dawn right away because that was their original plan. Zenith knew if he delayed, Zander would take the matter to his own hand, once he knew Dawn had been mated and marked by Zenith.

Therefore, he took Alia and used her as the sacrifice. It was cruel, yes, but Alia was not that innocent too.

Things were too complicated for him to explain and he didn't try to do so.

“Because the right time is now.” Zenith walked toward Dawn, he wanted to caress her cheek and brush her hair, but he kept the desire to himself. “Let's have a breakfast together in the dining hall. This time, don't refuse again.”

Zenith had asked Dawn to have breakfast, lunch or dinner with him, but Fern always said that she refused all the request.

The next day Zenith came to Dawn's bedroom to fetch her, so she wouldn't be able to refuse. He needed to introduce her to the whole pack member, though it was very late, but he would do her right this time.

"Zander is furious," Axel said before Zenith left.

"Let him be furious." This was not the first time Zander was furious with him, because his decision changed the whole plan.

"What are you going to do with this dozen of letters?" Axel asked.

"It must be hard on you, buddy," Darius said, as he looked at the messenger hawk pitifully. Thankfully, the hawk couldn't speak, or else, it would have cursed at Zander.

The king literally sent a letter every hour, because Zenith refused to reply.

"Tell him that I have secured the harbor in the Moonlight pack." This would be enough to appease Zander and reassured his supporter into thinking that their dirty deals in the harbor was under Zenith's control.

With the harbor was under Zenith's control, he would know more about the illegal trades there and Zander would have more evidence to get rid of all the pests from his court.

"How did you do that?" Darius was surprise and then looked at Axel. "Did you know that?"

Axel shook his head. "No."

Even his beta was not aware of that.

"Did you know that?" Darius asked Thean.

"I know. You helped too." Thean looked at them casually and reminded them about the task that Zenith had assigned to them.

"How would we know the result is this?!" Darius was frustrated, because Zenith used to give them an assignment without explaining the whole thing, only when everything was done and they were able to see the bigger picture, they would realize what their alpha aimed all this time.

"I know," Thean said innocently, which rewarded him a glare from the beta and gamma.

Meanwhile, Zenith wouldn't stay to hear their bickering, he went to fetch Dawn and take her to the dining hall, where he introduced her to all the pack member, who were eating there. Most of them were the warriors.

“Eat more,” Zenith said when he noticed how little she was eating.

After that, they walked together near the forest, it was a safe area, or else, Zenith wouldn’t take Dawn here.

There was nothing much that they said, most of the time they just kept walking and somehow, this silence was very comforting.

They should talk more, he should find a topic to talk about, but Zenith thought they would have a lot of times to do so, a lifetime... or so he thought.

“Zen, Axel has been looking for you, you need to see him. There is something urgent from the capital city,” Aurel said hurriedly, disturbing the moment.

Zenith almost forgot about her existence. He was not even aware that she was still in the pack house.

“I will walk you back to your bedroom.” Zenith knew what kind of urgent matter from the capital city was, but he still wanted to spend a little bit more time with Dawn.

And with that, Zenith had to take care of his furious brother first, which caused him unable to see Dawn until the ceremony, where Zander insisted to come only to piss Zenith off, because the latter didn’t want him here.

Yet, for Zander this was a little bit payback for all the headache that Zenith had put him through.

Thankfully, aside from his annoying brother, the ceremony went smoothly. Zenith stared at Dawn the whole time, but she looked spacing out every now and then, he didn’t think much about it, assuming she was only nervous.

And once the ceremony was done, the only thing that left to mark their union was to mate and mark her.

He was not sure about this, he tried to look the hesitation in her eyes, but he couldn’t tell.

“You don’t need to talk to her if you didn’t want to,” Zenith said when he knew Aurel just came. He would have a stern talk with that healer to stay away from his mate.

“Okay.”

After that, Dawn went to clean herself, while Zenith thought about what he had to do. He didn’t want to hurt her, neither he wanted to force her to do something that she didn’t want to.

However, three hours passed when Dawn didn't get out of the bathroom and this made Zenith worried and when he went inside, Dawn was still inside the bathup.

Did she do it because she didn't want to go through the next procession? She was not willing to be marked by him?

"You don't want to do it."

"I want it."

Zenith was not sure whether she was telling the truth or not.

Chapter 90: HE LOVED HER FIRST LIFE

((((ZENITH'S POV)))

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"Come here," Zenith said. His voice was deep and hoarse, Dawn might not notice this, but there was something feral about the alpha.

He wanted her. His intrusive thought bothered him so much, because he wanted to fuck her. He wanted to leave his mark on every inch of her skin. He had been waiting for this moment.

Zenith gritted his teeth. It took all of his self control not to get her right there and then, he wanted it so bad to taste her sweetness, sunk his teeth on the sweet spot on her neck, left his mark on her, so people would know that she was his.

And when he kissed her lips it was heavenly. He wanted it rough. He wanted to claim her, break her and hear her scream.

Zenith fought with the devil in his head when he mated her.

She was so sweet, her skin was so tender and the way she moan drove him insane. He was going to lose it if she was being like this.

"There is no going back from this," Zenith growled against her lips. This was a warning, he would understand if he scared her and she wanted to back away, but her reply was not something that he expected.

"The past is not a place I want to visit."

She was willing to give herself up. Zenith must be insane, but he loved her. The bond that he created with Alia was not even as strong as the feeling that he had for her, even though he had not yet marked her.

He loved this woman.

"It will be hurt," Zenith warned her before he thrust himself into her, but she looked ready for him, which made him hiss with anticipation. He wanted to lose himself in her. He wanted to forget everything and right now, it was only her that mattered in his eyes.

"Do it," Dawn said breathlessly.

And with that permission, Zenith drove himself into her, he buried himself so deep inside. He wanted to be one with her and desperate for the bond between them. He loved her even before the bond was formed.

He didn't know when it happened, but he realized it, he had this deep feeling for her.

Zenith wanted this as painless as possible for her when he marked her, but this was a serious matter and he had to be careful.

He kissed the sweet spot on her neck and gave pleasure to alleviate the pain when he finally marked her.

Out there, the night was quiet, while inside their cries and moans echoed throughout the walls.

Once Zenith was done and he saw his mark was so fresh on her neck, he smiled in satisfaction, but not long because his heart was gripped with anxiety when he saw how weak Dawn was.

Zenith cleaned her up before he called for Aurel to look for her. The room was filled with the smell of their after sex scent, but the alpha couldn't care less about that, yet the healer looked so grim.

"She will be fine in a few days." Aurel avoided his eyes.

"Okay, you can leave." That's all he needed.

"Zenith," Aurel said, she didn't immediately leave. "I don't mind to be your mistress. I can do better than her." Aurel was desperate, she threw her dignity out of the window when she begged him to take her.

She could accept it when it was Alia, since she had a high position, but Dawn? She was nobody. She was no one. Aurel couldn't accept that she lost to a nobody like Dawn.

However, Zenith saw this as a disrespect when Aurel threw herself at him in front of his mate.

"Get out from here, Aurel, before I called the warrior to drag you." Zenith looked very grim, his body was trembling, holding back his anger. "I don't want hear such thing anymore."

Tears streamed down Aurel's cheeks and she rushed out of the room, even so, Zenith didn't care. He stayed by Dawn's side the whole time. He only left when it was necessary.

However, something came up in the harbor of Moonlight pack on the first week of their ceremony and he had to handle the matter, which caused him not being able to stay with her as much as he wanted.

But it took her two weeks to finally wake up and another week to be able to regain her strength.

When it happened, Zenith wanted to introduce her to all the warriors and let her to get used with them, but he was a little bit upset to see how friendly Dawn was. She looked happy, but he simply didn't like how she interacted with them.

Even so, he said nothing.

It was Darius, who noticed that and let Dawn knew that she was being inappropriate with the warriors. Axel chimed in too. Zenith didn't know about this.

The beta and the gamma had been feeling not so fond of her lately, because they heard about the way Dawn talked bad and cursed at the alpha from Fern before this, also they also knew that Zenith changed their original plan for her a few times.

To top it of, she didn't act like a proper luna. Probably, they were only being biased.

Their annoyance toward Dawn only grew when they heard how she sulked and refused to eat when Zenith was literally very busy. She demanded to see the alpha all the time, but she would have this blank face and ignored his presence when he came over.

"What actually she wanted?" Darius complained. He felt bad for Zenith. Even Axel voiced out his displeasure for the way Dawn had been acting lately.

And as if Dawn really wanted to test their patient, Fern came to tell the alpha that she refused to eat again, because she wanted to see him.

“Again?!” Darius had enough of that attitude.

“She wanted to go back to her pack, alpha,” Fern said.

“What?!” Darius stood up. He shook his head exasperated.

“She wanted to return to her pack now, right away.” Fern added.

“She is crazy.” Axel scowled.

“Or else, she didn’t want to eat.” Fern looked at the alpha sheepishly when she relayed this information.

This time, Zenith dropped everything and then went to see her. He looked furious because a week ago, Dawn starved herself and she fell sick. She just got better, but now she wanted to starve herself again?!

He had given her everything that she wanted, but it was not enough.

“Do you want to starve yourself?!” Zenith couldn’t help it, but raised his voice, probably it was because he was under so much pressure because of a lot of trouble that was going on at Zander’s end.

Therefore, he lashed out at Dawn when she tried to harm herself in the same way like before.

“No. I don’t...”

She even dare to lie when she kept staring at her food and didn’t even touch it!

Zenith took a deep breath, he lowered his voice, because he could see he scared her. “I will take you back to your pack, now eat your food and don’t make a ruckus.”

Chapter 91: WHETHER I NEED YOU OR NOT FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH’S POV))

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After Zenith promised to Dawn that he would take her back to her pack, he could feel that his wolf was acting up again.

It was not even a month before the last time he met with Aurel. From the look of it, that darn healer had lower the dosage of concoction that she gave him, so he would look for her more often.

Recently, she had been very aggressive with her advance, but every time, Zenith would put her in her place, which made her was not happy with that and this was her way to sulk.

Actually, there was a way to get the ingredients of the concoction she made for him, but he didn't want to resort to that extreme method... at least, not yet.

Zenith couldn't stay there for long. He needed to find Aurel. Therefore, before he could listen to Dawn's explanation and before she could explain herself, he left to find Aurel.

However, that woman had the audacity to reject him. She refused to meet with him, just like how Zenith didn't want to see her.

"Should I drag her here?" Darius suggested. He was annoyed by the way Dawn was acting out, but even more with Aurel's childish behavior. She actively put the alpha in danger.

Meanwhile, Axel didn't say anything, he glanced at Zenith, who then stood up and went to get the healer by himself.

"That Healer became more and more bold." Darius clicked his tongue. "Just because she knew how to tame Zenith's beast, she thought she is very important. Really, if there is a way to go on without her help, Zenith should have done it."

"There is a way," Axel said, he gave Darius a meaningful look and the gamma understood.

"Well, that will be the last resort. If she kept going on like this, I am sure, once Zenith was fed up, he was going to do it in that way eventually."

"Yeah. That day will come sooner than expected if she kept testing the alpha's patient." Axel agreed. His only worried was the aftermath of it, because it would be ugly.

Meanwhile, Zenith went to Aurel's bedroom. She refused to see Zenith and said if the alpha needed something from her, he would be the one, who came to look for her not the other way around.

Zenith entered her room. There was no knock on the door or anything, he simply opened the door and came inside to find Aurel was lounged on the sofa, she startled and immediately stood up.

No matter how cocky she was, it was still terrifying to see the look on Zenith's expression right now.

"Are you going to do it this way?" Zenith asked. He slammed the door behind him so hard, it creaked in protest and made Aurel jump in fear.

"Z- Zenith..."

"Do you want me to write to Holy Kingdom?" Zenith leaned his back against the door. He didn't want to enter this room further. This room was thick with her scent and this was really disgusting. "If you refused to do this when it's the only thing that you are useful for, then there is no need for you to be here. I expect you to leave this pack as soon as possible. Don't let me see you in the morning."

It was not every day Zenith would talk to Aurel this long, but this time, he put a little bit effort to make himself clear. Aurel was too stubborn to see what was right for her.

"Zenith..."

"I am an alpha, address me properly."

After saying that, he turned around. If Aurel thought her petty trick could make Zenith beg to her, there must be something completely wrong in her mind. Zenith would never lower himself to beg to someone.

He was not only an alpha, he was part of the royal family, even among the alphas, he had the higher status and only second to the king.

For Aurel to call him by only his name, because she thought she was on the same level like his beta and gamma, it already crossed so many lines, but then Zenith was not the one, who argued for such trivial thing.

"I- I will do it! I will do it! I am sorry..."

Zenith glanced at her and then went away. He waited for her in the empty room next to her room, while Aurel prepared for the concoction. He could feel his beast became very restless and he instructed to all the warriors to leave the area.

It took sometime for Aurel to prepare for the concoction and she was done, she came to the room.

"Take off your clothes," Aurel said. This was the same ritual that Zenith had grown sick of. His mind darted to kill this healer.

Zenith's back against the door, but because of how restless he was whenever he was in his episode, he didn't realize there was someone, who watched this....

The next few months, Aurel was well behaved, she was no longer pulling such petty tricks, which only upset Zenith. She was more likable than usual, at least for Darius and Axel.

However, the alpha remained unfazed like usual. The only thing that he noticed was the fact that Dawn spent her time more in the greenhouse, Fern said that she was doing idle things with the plants there and she still refused to see him.

Not only that, from Fern he also learned that she had been acting out lately. She slapped her two personal servants and tried to harm herself. Zenith didn't see it for himself because he was away when she tried to harm herself, but the news really pissed him off, especially when several servants vouched for what Fern said.

But then, one day she came to him with an accusation against Aurel that she had been poisoning her.

"The mushroom will give you an illusion, Zenith you need to believe me!"

Zenith could see the desperation in her eyes, but he was not sure how to believe her after so many things that she had done. She would be spacing out and then acted out, but then she would calm down again.

What now? Was she trying to frame someone now? Because acting out was not enough for her to get attention?

"I didn't slander her name! She did give me Illusory Mushroom! You need to ask someone to check on it!"

Darius and Axel looked so done with her. The two of them felt annoyed with the way Dawn behaved and how she didn't live up to her title as the Luna of the pack.

But, Zenith did exactly that, though he didn't let her know about it.

"So, her accusation is right?" Zenith asked coldly. He had Aurel's neck wrapped around his hand. It only took a little bit of pressure and he would be able to snap her neck.

"Alpha... please... you need me... you can't kill me."

Zenith smirked, but Aurel could feel a shiver run down her spine when she saw that smirk. This was not something that you wanted to see after all.

"Let's see, whether I need you or not." Zenith put more pressure on her neck.

Chapter 92: LITTLE LIGHT
FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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“Zen! Stop it!” Darius immediately rushed to save Aurel from Zenith’s clutch. The healer was going to die if the gamma was a tad late. “No! Zen! You can’t kill her!”

Zenith had investigated what Dawn said and the truth came to light and as it turned out, she was saying the truth. Aurel had been giving her Illuptic Mushroom, just like what she said. The luna didn’t accuse the healer, but she was saying the truth.

Learning about this, Zenith’s wrath reached the roof. He literally dragged Aurel to the dungeon and was going to kill her there after he tortured her. He couldn’t care less about the reason why she was here. He didn’t even think of the consequences for himself if he killed her.

The only thing that was in Zenith’s mind was the fact that Aurel had poisoned Dawn.

“Stop it Zen!” Axel joined Darius to push Zenith away and prevent him from crushing Aurel’s neck, while the healer looked like she was going to faint at any moment. “Enough Zen!”

“Damn! Why he is fucking strong?!” Darius groaned because he couldn’t make Zenith took even a step back, despite he used all of his strength.

Thankfully after joined attempt of Darius and Axel, they managed to save Aurel’s life. But, probably it was because Darius mentioned about Dawn and how Zenith had to focus on her and her health after she consumed the poison.

“Tell me now, what the side effect of the poison?” Zenith growled. He still needed her to live to answer this question.

Aurel didn’t answer immediately, she was coughing so hard, she saw black dot in her vision, while her throat was burning. It was so hard to breath at this point and she felt like she was going to die at any minute.

Aurel breathed greedily. She looked very pathetic, yet Zenith didn’t have a spec of pity for her.

“Nothing, there is no side effect. She will be a little bit confused, that’s all, but once she stopped consuming that, she will be fine...”

“Zen, I believed Dawn has stopped consuming that now, she is fine. So, there is no need for this.” Darius stood between Zenith and Aurel, not because he was fond of the healer, because what she had done was completely messed up.

However, if they harmed her more than this and if Zenith killed her, they would get more trouble than they could afford, especially when the Holy Kingdom started to get their nose into their business.

Zander would be enraged too. Zenith had been compromised with their plan a lot.

For a moment, Darius thought the alpha wouldn't listen, while Axel immediately dragged Aurel out of Zenith's sight, just in case seeing her would cloud his mind.

"Stay away from me," Zenith growled and then stormed away.

Anger was an understatement because right now what Zenith felt made his blood boiled and his beast enraged.

Once he was in the open area, he shifted into his beast and dashed toward the forest, where he went to the Untouched Land. This area was where the monsters lived.

They guarded the north because the monsters from the Untouched Land used to attack this part of the kingdom, therefore, the northern pack was the stronghold against the monsters in the Untouched Land.

No one dared to enter this area without a great preparation, not to mention, alone.

However, Zenith actually visited this area more often than people knew, because only in this place, he could let his beast lose whenever he was having an episode. He could tire his beast out until he could feel himself again.

And that was what he was doing right now.

He fought countless monsters from when the first light of the moon shone the ground, until the first ray of the sunlight filtered through the branches.

When he finally returned to the pack, his body covered in blood.

Zenith refused to meet with anyone for two days straight, which left Axel and Darius were in distressed because there were a few things that they needed their alpha's opinion, since they were not given a big picture of the plan and only assignment, thus they couldn't guess which direction they had to head for his plan.

Thankfully, on the third day, Zenith started to go out again, but the first thing he did was to go to Dawn's bedroom.

Axel and Darius couldn't even complain about that, since Zenith only looked like he got his composure whenever he was around that woman.

But actually, it was a good thing, because their relationship seemingly improved toward a better toward a better progress. They started to act like the alpha and the luna of the pack, not only because of the title. They seemed genuine to each other.

"I don't like eating alone, can you come early? At least, having dinner with me?"

Zenith was surprised with Dawn's sudden request. He could feel a small smile tugged on the corner of his lips when he saw the way she blushed and acted awkwardly.

By this time, Aurel had left the pack for three months. After that night in the dungeon, Axel sent her away.

"Okay." Zenith kept his promise.

She didn't like to eat alone, thus no matter how busy Zenith was, he would drop everything he was doing and go to have a lunch or dinner with her. At the very least, he would have one meal together with his mate if he was in the pack.

"You are spacing out again," Zenith stated, he stretched his hand and caressed her cheek. "Do you have something in mind?"

Dawn shook her head and smiled at him. "No. I am happy."

Zenith was taken aback with that sudden confession, his hand stilled and right now, there was nothing more important for him than this woman.

"Can I kiss you?"

"You don't have to ask for permission."

"I will not ask for your permission next time."

Zenith leaned over and captured her lips. She was very sweet and addicting. She was everything that he needed and wanted.

"I am happy too," Zenith said against her lips.

He hoped their happiness would last forever. And when Zenith thought he couldn't be happier than this, one day he saw it.

He saw that little light.

He couldn't believe that.

The concoction and the treatment from Aurel were supposed to not allow him to see this kind of thing anymore, aside from to calm his beast down, but somehow, he could see it.

Was it because this was his... child? His baby with her?

"You are pregnant," Zenith blurted it out when Dawn felt off with herself.

"What?"

Zenith could see the look of disbelief in her eyes, but somehow it only made her look adorable. He kissed the tip of her nose.

"How do you know that?"

"I know." He kissed her again. "Believe me, I know." He watched the little light twirled above her head. He chuckled, but Dawn took it as though he was messing around with her.

Especially when she checked on the pack healer and she said she was not with a baby yet.

However, what Zenith said was proven right a few days later.

Chapter 93: REGRESSION FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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"Zen! I am pregnant!" Dawn said, as she rushed toward Zenith, she hugged him so tightly, while the alpha chuckled.

"Be careful," Zenith said, holding her body close to him, she was being reckless. But, his heart melted when he saw her face flushed red with happiness, she giggled like a teenager.

"How do you know?"

It would be hard to explain. "I just know. You are my mate after all."

In this moment, Dawn was the happiest Zenith had seen ever since she was in this pack. Her eyes shone brighter and she was full of laugh. People started to notice this change too and warmed up to her as well.

“You will be a father.” Dawn blushed when she said that, which made the tip of her ears and her neck turned red too.

“Thank you for making me a father.” Originally, Zenith was not thrill with the idea of being a father. That was a huge responsibility, but then the thought of having a little child that resembled both of them was not a bad idea either.

Both of them thought this new happiness of having a new member in their little family would last forever, alas, there was nothing such as forever.

Because in the next few months, Dawn’s condition declined again. She started spacing out more often and refused to eat. This was the same sign like before.

But at the same time, Zenith also felt regression in control of his beast. Aurel would still send the concoction from the capital city for him, but it didn’t help much because he needed Aurel to use her healing power in order to maximize the effect of the concoction.

However, because Zenith refused to see that healer again, his control over his beast regressed badly.

“You really need get Aurel here. You are going to lost it.” Axel was concern with him, so did Darius.

“You are barely able to control your beast now even after you slaughtered the monsters in the Untouched Land. The warriors are happy because we didn’t need to go out there for ‘clean up’. Well, that’s nice actually, but still that’s not our main focus here,” Darius chimed in.

“More so, I can see that she has been acting up again. If the poison came from Aurel, she should be the one, who knew what happened with her, right?”

Because Aurel had been out of the picture for so long, there was no way Dawn was still having that episode. It was either the remaining effect of the poison acted up again, or maybe she only wanted an extra attention.

“If you kept like this, you are going to end up hurting her and your baby,” Darius added.

With the gamma’s last word, Zenith finally called her back when Dawn was seven months pregnant. He had told her about this, but when he had this conversation, she seemed not listening to what he said. She was spacing out again...

And it started going downhill from here. Dawn refused to eat and no matter what he did or said, she wouldn't listen.

At the same time, Zenith couldn't be as patient as he wanted with her, because his beast was out of control and every little thing upset him. His intrusive thought became more and more wild. His violent nature and his instinct as a beast overruled his common senses.

Dawn's situation didn't help at all. She kept screaming and throwing tantrum at Zenith and demanded him to listen to her.

"SHE TRIED TO POISON ME!" Dawn hollered, despite the fact she was heavily pregnant, she refused to eat and spiraled in her negative emotions.

"DAWN, ENOUGH!" Zenith finally snapped, which he regretted almost immediately. "You are unbearable!"

The pain in her eyes haunted him when she staggered back. Zenith wanted to reach to her and apologize, but his emotions were in turmoil as well. His beast went berserk in his mind and he felt like he was going to explode.

Therefore, instead of reaching to her, he kept his distance from her.

The rest of the pregnancy, Zenith kept tab on what Dawn was doing, but at the same time, he tried to investigate the poison that Dawn claimed, but he found nothing. There was nothing. Aurel didn't even stay in the same place with Dawn. They lived in the pack house, but had never encountered one another.

From Fern he learned that Dawn insisted on preparing her own meal.

"Let her do what she wanted," Zenith said to Fern. If by preparing her food it gave her comfort, it was not a big deal.

Zenith had been gathering a few healers to help with Dawn's condition and for her labor, because he still didn't want Aurel around Dawn, since he knew how upset she could be with the sight of her.

However, the situation was getting worse when Dawn finally refused to eat anything. She didn't want to prepare her own meal, nor she wanted to eat anything that other people prepared for her. She was spiraling down so fast.

One day, they had another fight again and Zenith lashed out to her, because he was getting very frustrated.

If she kept doing this, not only she would harm herself, but also the baby. Zenith could see how the wolf spirit of their baby was getting so weak. The sight of that little wolf spirit curled itself and barely moved, sent Zenith to the edge.

"If you don't believe me, I don't want to see you again... leave. Leave me alone..."

The little wolf spirit laid there, around Dawn's ankle and Zenith thought he was going to lose his baby. Dawn would be very devastated if she lost their baby because she had been very happy for the little one.

"Fern! Force her to eat!" Zenith said sternly, he stood up and left the room, he couldn't bear to see his mate and his future child anymore in this condition.

It almost felt like Dawn was ready to die with their baby. Zenith was not going to let that happened.

And what made matter worse was the fact that Zenith was having his own episode on the same time Dawn was going into labor.

Aurel only returned for two months and for the last year without her power made Zenith's body had to adjust with it again, thus he couldn't recover like he usually did even when Aurel was here again.

Hence, he missed the birth of his first son and when he learned that Dawn had gone into a deep coma, he didn't know what to do.

He asked a wet nurse to take care of his son, Fern, Pylo and Kynes were overjoyed with the presence of the baby, especially when he inherited the golden eyes, the symbol of the royal family.

Zenith missed what they were insinuating when they said they were glad that the baby was the alpha's because right now, Zenith's mind only focused on Dawn.

He spent countless night to be in her room, holding her hands and said the apology that he should have said earlier.

He didn't hold their baby, because he was afraid he would hurt him.

Chapter 94: REGRESSION (2)
FIRST LIFE

((((ZENITH'S POV)))

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Two months. Dawn had been unconscious for two months and there was nothing Zenith could do during those times.

He didn't hold his baby because he didn't feel safe to do so. His beast was still restless, but also because every time he saw the baby, he felt this extreme guilt that kept gnawing in his heart.

The wet nurse and all the servants took care of Rex, his son. He would provide the baby with everything that he needed, aside from the warmth of his mother and father.

The situation in the capital city escalated, because Zander was reaching the end of his plan, where he would start to get rid all of those pests, who had been giving them a headache. An unrest would ensue in the capital city soon.

And because of that also, Zenith was drowning himself in that matter, to help him cope up with the current situation in the pack.

He was a failure. Not only as a mate, but also as a father. He couldn't even see his son.

"She is awake?!" Zenith immediately stood up when he heard the news from Fern, but her next word stopped him from rushing toward Dawn.

"She didn't want to see you, alpha. She didn't even want to see Rex." Fern was crying, she knelt down and looked very pitiful. "Please, don't and see her right now. I am afraid she will spiral again and it will do her more harm."

Everyone knew how it looked like when Dawn spiraled, no one wanted to see that side of her.

"Zen," Axel said, he blocked Zenith when he didn't heed Fern's words and tried to go to Dawn. "She just woke up, why don't give her some time? Let her to calm down first."

Darius didn't say anything, he only frowned, while Fern begged the alpha to reconsider it again.

"This is for the luna's wellbeing too." The old woman said, which made Zenith relented.

The unrest in the capital city finally happened and it was a chaos there. Zenith had to play double roles in this mess, where he had to be careful not to alert the people that supported him, but at the same time not to let Zander had a reason to behead him.

The atmosphere in the capital is very tense at the moment, until all the traitors were caught and finally Zenith and Zander managed to take them down. People started to learn a very deliberate and meticulous schemes from both of the royal brothers.

It was a shocking news, because they were all used to knowing how the king and the alpha from the north were on each other's throat all the time.

Even though the capital city was in chaos, but it didn't reach the north, since this place was too far away from the chaotic event that was happening there.

And once Zenith finally returned to the north, the first thing that he noticed was the fact that his son had grown up. He was walking. That little baby grew up and now, he could see Dawn's resemblance whenever he was smiling.

He missed so much time. He missed all of his son's milestones. He didn't know where everything went so wrong. He used to have everything under his control, but not with Dawn.

When it came to her, everything was out of order.

And on the third day of his return, Dawn came to him. She looked haggard, but her eyes were ablaze with anger.

"I want to see my baby!" She demanded. She looked very livid.

The way Dawn came to him and make this demand made Zenith frown and he told Axel to back off when his beta wanted to take Dawn away.

"Let her be."

There was something wrong. The way Dawn wanted to see her baby was not what Zenith expected, because all this time, he was told that Dawn didn't want to see their baby.

Zenith never forbade her from seeing their child. This didn't make sense at all.

"Let's talk inside." Instead, Zenith took her to his study room. "Only now you asked to see your baby? Did your mind cloud again? Is the time still slipping through your mind?"

Zenith wanted to gauge her reaction and what actually had happened when he was not here.

And that was it, the answer that Zenith wanted to hear from her mouth. Dawn looked fed up. She was livid, because she thought, he had kept her away from her baby. She wanted to see her son and the people around her stopped her from doing so.

"Bring Rex here."

Zenith tried to compose himself. He couldn't let his anger get the best of him. Everything made sense in his mind right now, as if the puzzle finally fell into the right place.

His body was shaking because of the rage that he tried to hold back, it became more difficult because it was Aurel, who actually brought Rex here.

“Give Rex to her.” The alpha’s voice was eerily calm, none of them must have realized it. “She is his mother,” he said again. His voice was even.

And there, before his eyes, Zenith watched how Dawn cried her heart out when she was finally able to hug their son for the first time.

And here, Zenith was racked with guilt.

“My son... my son...” Dawn cried so hard, as their little boy looked at his mother with confusion, but he didn’t cry, as if he knew that she was his mother all this time.

“Thank you, Zenith.”

Seeing Dawn was being very grateful hit Zenith so hard. She shouldn’t have thanked him for letting her to see their son. What he had done?

After this, Zenith didn’t let anyone taking Rex from her.

Unfortunately, Zenith couldn’t kill Aurel. He could only send her back to the capital city, which meant, he had to endure taking crazy control over his beast.

Everything went well. His relationship with Dawn couldn’t be said had warmed up, but it was fine. Still, Zenith held a huge resentment on himself for letting her down.

He couldn’t bring himself to get close to her and even when they had to go to Moonlight pack for the funeral for alpha Tony, he couldn’t offer a proper condolence and be a shoulder to lean on.

It was so weird of how emotion worked, because instead of trying to get close to Dawn, Zenith’s guilty feeling made him distant himself from her.

And one day, that nightmare finally came.

Today was a busy day because someone from Karam continent came to talk about important things. This was a very important meeting, since a few people from capital city also came.

Knowing Dawn didn’t like this kind of gathering, Zenith didn’t involve her, but he let her knew that he couldn’t be disturbed, no matter what the reason.

Recently, Dawn was having an episode, even though was not as often, but Zenith could notice her peculiarity. Not only that, he also noticed how she would hallucinate in a few occasions.

However, despite his warning, Dawn still came to seek for him, telling him that their son had gone missing.

Chapter 95: THE GUT WRENCHING SIGHT FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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Axel took the matter into his hand, thinking that this was one of her episodes, where she was trying to get an attention from the alpha, despite had been told that Zenith couldn't be bothered at this moment.

The beta had observed Dawn all this time and he was a little bit irritated with the way she acted recently.

Therefore, instead of disturbing the meeting and telling Zenith what was going on, he went outside to meet with Dawn directly and told her that the alpha couldn't be bothered.

"He is in the middle of an important meeting. You need to leave now," Axel said.

"Have you told Zenith about this?" Dawn looked panic and Axel almost fell for it.

"I have." No. He didn't say a word to Zenith. "You need to leave now. He will dispatch a few warriors to come with you."

Axel indeed sent a few warriors to help Dawn to search for Rex, thinking the little boy only played hide and seek like usual, but Dawn made a big of deal out of it when she couldn't find him.

That was what the beta thought until the second report came from the warriors that informed him that they couldn't find Rex anywhere and not long after, Dawn came again to ask for Zenith.

Only then, Axel realized the gravity of the situation and immediately informed Zenith about this.

Once Zenith learned about what was going on, he didn't even have time to be angry with his beta as he immediately ensued orders to all the warriors, leaving the important meeting behind. Nothing was more important than this.

Zenith took the lead as he mobilized all the warriors in search of his son.

Later on, they found out that Rex had entered the forest, or to be specific, the untouched land, the nest of the monster in the north.

“I will find him,” Zenith said grimly when he watched how devastated Dawn was. She didn’t cry, but she had a hard time to breath. “Stay here...”

Zenith held her for a while, but he couldn’t stay for long because his son needed him. He had never been a proper father for him, neither he was a good mate for Dawn, but at the very least, he should be able to give them protection. Yet, he failed this too...

“No, I will go with you,” Dawn insisted.

“You can’t come with me, Dawn.”

“No. I will go with you.”

Zenith didn’t have time for this, he needed to leave soon, so in his frustration because Dawn was persistence, he raised his voice, which was not a solution at all.

“Enough! Stay here!”

Dawn stopped crying and looked at him, she was mortified, but Zenith had to leave. He would make it up to her later after he was sure that their son was safe.

More so, Dawn was barely able to hold her beast form, it would be the same as suicide if she came with him.

Therefore, after Zenith snapped at Dawn, he left her to head toward the untouched land.

However, it was not as easy to track down Rex, because it had been hours and there were so many scents in the air. It was so hard to get some clue about his whereabouts.

And the more time that passed without them knowing his whereabouts, the more slim the chance to find him alive.

Zenith was agitated, he could feel his beast was aggravated with the pressure of the situation and on the third day, the alpha couldn’t hold it anymore.

Zenith shifted into his black beast and ran rampant inside the untouched land. Not only he killed all the monsters that he could find, but he also killed the warriors that followed him there. He went crazy and didn’t know how to control this rage within him, until he felt it.

No. He saw it with his own eyes.

There was his son.

He was crouching down near a big tree, staring at Zenith with his blue eyes, hugging himself tightly. He looked so small.

However, there was something wrong with it. There was something not right. It felt different. His son felt different.

And the shock came after when the reality of the situation hit him so hard, his beast retreated to the back of his mind because the pain was unbearable. The agony was enough to suppress his beast's rage...

His son was dead, he was seeing his spirit.

It crushed him, where words couldn't describe.

Zenith approached his son's spirit. He was staggering. He had never been this scared for his entire life, but this new feeling gripped his heart so tight.

"Rex...?" His voice was exceptionally small, shaking, as if it was not him, who was talking. He walked toward his son and Rex lifted his head. He looked at his father with tearful eyes.

'Where is mommy? I want mommy.'

Zenith balled his fists, until his claws stabbed his palms and blood dripped from his hands, but there was no pain could be more painful than losing your own child.

"I will take you to mommy, okay?" Zenith knelt down in front of him, he reached out his hand to touch his son. It was very ironic when one thought about it.

When he could touch him, hold him and hug him, he never did, but now when he couldn't even feel the heat from his little body, he was so desperate to reach to him.

What a failure he was. He let them down again and again.

"Can you tell me, where are you?" Zenith asked again with the voice that didn't sound like him. He couldn't touch his son. His spirit was there, but all he could feel was an empty air.

Rex wiped his tears and then nodded. He stood up.

'I was in so much pain daddy,' Rex said. 'But, I am not in pain anymore...'

Zenith couldn't hold it back, he bent his body and hollered. His whole body was shaking, he wanted the ground to split and swallow him. This pain was too much and he couldn't bear it any longer.

His claws dug the ground and this anguish feeling racked his whole body. He felt his soul was crushed.

His son was in so much pain and he failed to protect him. How his son was crying in pain and begged someone to help him, but him as a father couldn't do it.

He saved this kingdom from those filthy people, who wanted to take it down, but he couldn't even save his own son.

How many times Rex cried for help? How much in pain he was when death came? And he was alone facing it.

Zenith failed. He was a failure...

Once he found his son's body, there was nothing much left of him. He had seen more gruesome scene than this and even part of the reason the other person met their mortifying demise, but there was nothing more gut wrenching than the sight before his eyes.

It took more than a few hours for Zenith to get his bearing and wrapped whatever remaining of his son in his cloak and took him back to the pack.

Back to his mother...

Chapter 96: NO MERCY
FIRST LIFE

((((ZENITH'S POV)))

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The funeral for their little one came and went by just like that. Zenith was not sure what happened after that, because everything was a blur for him.

He didn't even remember how many hours he spent by only sitting on his desk, staring at the report before his eyes without understanding a word of it, because all he could see was the gruesome body of his son.

The beast inside him was on rampage, he felt like he was going crazy.

And when he checked on Dawn, the only thing she said was; ‘why didn’t you believe me when I said our son had gone missing? Only if you believed me, my son is still here with me now.’

Dawn only said that single sentence, but he never knew that Dawn came to him to for the second time just for him to look for Rex.

“What’s all that about?” Zenith finally asked Axel. Because he would never put a meeting above the safety of his son.

Dawn didn’t need to come to him for the second time to tell him that Rex went missing for Zenith to look for their son.

Darius glanced at Axel. He knew what happened, but he also knew what would happen next if Axel admitted his error.

“Zen...” Darius tried his best to deescalate the situation, it had been a stressful week and the gloominess had been hanging above their head, but Axel knelt down.

“I am sorry.” Axel took full responsibility of his mistake. He was the one, who turned Dawn away and didn’t take the matter seriously. He was racked by guilt when he realized his mistake had cost his alpha’s son’s life.

“What have you done?”

Zenith looked calm and collected, but one could see it was only a matter of time before his feral side showed its ugly side.

“I am sorry, Zen. I am truly sorry.” Axel then explained what actually happened.

He asked for forgiveness, but he was well aware that he didn’t deserve one. No amount of apology or guilty feeling could compensate for his mistake.

However, after hearing what his beta said, Zenith was exceptionally calm. He approached Axel, who was still kneeling down.

There was one thing that not many people knew about him. Not even his beta and gamma. It was the fact that he could see someone’s else history when he killed them.

Their life would flash before his eyes when Zenith took their life. He would own all the information and thought from the person that he killed.

Only Zander, who knew about this.

“What else you have done?” Zenith asked when he stood in front of the kneeling Axel.

“I am sorry, Zen. I didn’t mean to...”

“I don’t believe you,” Zenith said, he grabbed Axel’s hair and in one swift movement, he ripped his head apart from his body.

It happened very fast, Darius didn’t even have time to discern what he just saw when Zenith came to him and pierced his chest with his sharp claws and crush his heart. There was no retaliation whatsoever from the gamma when his body fell to the ground lifelessly.

Both their memories came flooding in Zenith’s mind. He saw through their memories what Fern had fed them about Dawn to the point they hated his mate.

Fern talked so bad about Dawn, pictured her as an annoying personality and how she demanded all ridiculous thing that they couldn’t afford and how Dawn would throw a tantrum if she didn’t get her way.

This was ridiculous and from Darius and Axel’s memories, Zenith learned something very disturbing that the whole pack had been talking about his mate. The false rumor had spread around like a wildfire, where people believed it even those, who had never met with Dawn personally.

Who had started this? Was this the truth?

His beast took over his consciousness. The only thing that Zenith wanted was the truth. The whole truth of everything. He wanted to know what people had seen, what people had heard and what people was thinking about his mate.

And without him knowing it, Zenith had let loose his beast. He didn’t even try to control it, as it killed everyone that he knew, everyone that he saw. It was a bloody night, where so many people died.

Dead bodies littered on the ground, on the floor, in the corridor, in each room of the pack house or beyond that.

The whole pack was slaughtered.

This was the first time Zenith let loose of his beast and he didn’t have any intention to reign his rage and as the result, the whole pack was slaughtered within a night.

And now, Zenith knew the whole truth. The whole lied.

When he had been scheming those people, who tried to bring calamity to this kingdom, his people had been fabricating lies, putting his mate in a bad light, feeding her with poison to mess up with her mind, but when she reacted, she was the villain.

Fern had been lying to him when she said that Dawn didn't want to see him. She had been lying to him when she said Dawn hated their baby and there were so many lies that Zenith didn't realize and not to bother to check with Dawn herself.

Fern worked with Aurel. The healer was the one, who provided her with the poison even when she was not here.

Dawn's two personal servants also knew about this and they were on it together.

The alpha had been fed with lies by his own people and now, this was the consequences.

Zenith learned the whole truth, but those people, who were responsible for that had died. And now, there was nothing left for him.

Everything was very quiet, eerily quiet when the beast headed toward the sweetness of his mate. It was almost impossible to pick her scent amidst the thick smell of blood, but the beast was able to do it.

Through the crack of the door, he watched his mate was sitting on the bed, unperturbed with everything that had been going on, as if there was nothing could bother her. She was at lost. She was in the world that he couldn't reach.

Blood dripped from the thick fur of the black beast, the blood of his pack members. His mind was heavy with guilt and the memories of the whole pack. The people he had killed.

And when the morning came and the rage of his beast had ceased down, Zenith shifted into his human form. He walked into the room and approached his mate.

Dawn stared at him with her lifeless eyes. She didn't even flinch when she saw how much blood Zenith had on him.

"I am sorry, Dawn. I am really sorry..." Zenith said. He knelt down and reached out his hand to grab hers, but she pulled away.

"You killed my son..." Dawn said in small voice, but her expression didn't change at all, as if she had been chanting this word for so many times. "You killed my son... monster. Monster..."

Zenith knew that his wretched life was beyond salvation. There was no mercy for him...

Chapter 97: DEATH SENTENCE FIRST LIFE

((((ZENITH'S POV)))

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Oregon continent was in utter chaos again, but right now it came from the north. Alpha Zenith massacred the whole people in his pack and only left his mate untouched after the death of his son.

People talked about this and the rumor that spread around became more and more furthest from the truth.

They were mortified with the demise of the northern pack, but at the same time, they wanted to hear more about the story of the alpha, who went insane because of the grief.

This would be written in the history and there wouldn't be any justification for what Zenith had done.

However, after that night, the alpha had gone. He vanished. There was no one knew about his whereabouts. A lot of the royal warriors had gathered in the north, but they couldn't find him at all. There was no sign from him and there was no clue about where he had gone.

People were scared, because they believed the alpha had gone crazy and would start with his killing spree again.

Everyone demanded for the king to give a death sentence for his own brother. Despite the revelation and the fact that they had been working together all this time, people didn't trust Zenith anymore. They wanted him to be dead.

There were so many conspiracy theories that circle around among the people.

The tension and the demand didn't cease down at all ever since they learned about what happened in the north.

Three months later, the king finally issued his verdict to kill alpha Zenith.

"I have told you so many times not to let me issued a death sentence to my own brother," Zander said grimly, as he stood in front of Zenith.

The wind from the harbor blew coldly and in the distance, they could see the ship that was approaching.

“How could you end up like this?” Zander couldn’t understand.

Zenith didn’t need to kill his whole pack, he only needed to kill those, who took responsibility for the death of his son.

Apparently, it was his own warriors that had done it. They didn’t know that the result would be like this, because in their mind, they were helping Fern to save their future alpha from the clutch of his abusive mother.

Yes, people thought Dawn was abusive because Fern had spread the rumor.

Apparently, two of the warriors took Rex near the forest when he played hide and seek with his mother and told him to hide there, while they were waiting for Fern, so the old lady could play with Rex, but they didn’t realize when Rex wandered off and entered the forest ground alone.

Fern did show up very late, because Dawn made a big ruckus when she figured Rex was not around and after that, the situation escalated out of control.

“Dawn?” Zenith asked.

His face was covered under the hoodie of thick cloak that he was wearing. His ship was already here and probably this was the last time he would be in this continent.

“She is in a good hand. Someone from her pack took her back.” Zander glared at Zenith, he didn’t know whether he had to hate his brother for his impulsive action, or he had to remind him about the prophecy.

Yes, he was not literally dead, just like what it mentioned in the prophecy, but it seemed death would sound more merciful for him right now.

“Don’t you want to say something?” Zander asked when Zenith turned around to leave.

But, there was nothing. Zenith didn’t want to say anything. He only had one goal in his mind; to find Aurel. That wench was the main reason of all these misunderstandings and all the unnecessary pain that he and Dawn had to endure.

The healer returned to Andelus continent the moment she learned that Zenith had killed the whole pack in one night.

Probably, she could sense his wrath from afar and no matter how much she loved him, there was no way she would wait for him to kill her.

Called this an intuition, but Aurel seemed to know that Zenith would come after her.

The reason why Zenith had to leave this continent was because he needed to avoid Zander's death sentence and also because he needed to get his hand on her.

"I guess not." Zander clicked his tongue, as he watched Zenith's retreating back. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

Tonight was a full moon and the reflection of the moon could be seen on the surface of the dark sea. Once again, Zander lost his people...

"Am I cursed to be alone?" The king wondered.

=====

It took seven days for Zenith to reach Andelus continent. Thankfully, he paid close attention to his lesson about Andel language when he was little, therefore, there was no problem for him to be here on his own.

This continent had changed since the last time he was here... was it twenty years ago? Twenty two years ago? Zenith couldn't remember, but it didn't seem like it would be a matter.

Zenith sat in a restaurant in his inn and chose a table close to the window, where he was waiting for someone.

It had been so long since the last time he met with her and even wrote to her.

And there, someone entered the restaurant, her scent reached him and when he turned his head, he saw a young woman with bright blue eyes and curly, auburn hair that reached her waist breezed in.

She looked regal, calm and composed, as if there was nothing in this whole world could disturb her peace.

Her scent felt very familiar and he sensed this feeling of longing. It was so weird, since he had not felt anything ever since that bloody night.

However, instead of a warm hug or anything like that when she finally reached him, that woman actually kicked his leg, she looked so mad, but worried at the same time.

"What have you done, Zen?!" She hissed in low voice and scooted over to sit next to him, so she could pinch or punch him as she pleased, showing how mad she was.

"Long time no see, Zaya."

"Long time no see my ass, you just annihilated the whole pack! How could you do that?!" Zaya gritted her teeth, but when Zenith didn't say anything, she took a deep

breath to calm her emotions and then gave a brief checked up on her big brother. "Are you, okay?" Concern laced her voice.

No. He was anything, but fine.

"Tell me where is Aurel. She has returned around three weeks ago."

Zaya narrowed her eyes, her blue eyes looked very sharp and despite how docile she appeared, one should know not to mess with her.

"What? Do you want to kill her?"

Zenith looked at her dead in the eyes and replied. "Yes."

"Reason?"

Zenith didn't want to recall what happened, but Zaya wouldn't budge with a simple explanation and currently, she was his best bet.

"You are so stupid, Zen. I have told you that you are very trusting. People have their own mind. You are just like father."

Chapter 98: THE END OF BEGINNING FIRST LIFE

((ZENITH'S POV))

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Their father was a good king, but there was time when his judgement was clouded, because he was too trusting to his people.

It was not like they would do harm on their father intentionally, but people had their own mind and they had no control of the way they were thinking.

They might think what they had done was for their king or alpha's best interest when as it turned out, it only brought more calamity than good. After all, people interpreted loyalty in different way.

Their father also once made the same mistake in the past. Too trusting his subject...

"Zaya where are we going?" Aurel asked, she was close with Zaya and every time she returned to Andelus Continent, she would come to visit her and chat with her.

After all, Zaya was Zenith and Zander's sister and Aurel only wanted to get close to her, thinking of her as her own sister.

"There is someone, who wanted to see you," Zaya said calmly, as she took Aurel to the direction of the forest, where the Great Shrine located.

For years, this place had never been visited. They didn't dare to get into the forest without a map, because one could get lost for eternity there. This forest held so much magic, this place wouldn't allow just anyone to enter.

"Zaya we are going too close to forbidden forest," Aurel said, she crept closer to Zaya. As a healer, she didn't hold any magic power, she would be in a great trouble if she happened to get lose here.

"Don't worry, we are almost there," Zaya replied, her expression didn't change at all.

"Who wanted to see me?" Aurel asked, she was more terrified to be in this forest after the sun set, but because this was Zaya's request, he couldn't turn her down.

"There." Zaya pointed at the darkness before them. "That the person, who wanted to see you." They stopped walking and aside from lines of big trees on their left and right, Aurel couldn't see anything.

"Who?" Aurel narrowed her eyes, trying to gauge the person that Zaya had pointed out through the thick of the darkness.

At first, it was only a silhouette, but then his figure could be seen, but before this person could be seen clearly under the moonlight, Aurel could already guess who was that.

She shrieked and was about to run away when Zaya created a protection around her, trapped the healer in her magic.

"Zaya! What the meaning of this?!"

Zaya shrugged. "I thought you will be happy to see my brother." She looked at Aurel innocently. "I want to surprise you, don't you want to thank me?"

Aurel became frantic. She tried to get away from Zaya's magic, but she couldn't. She was only a healer after all.

"Zaya! I thought we are friend..."

"I thought you like my brother."

Aurel was crying at this point, she was blabbering nonsense, or probably she tried to beg for mercy, but seeing the coldness in Zenith's eyes, she knew right away there was no mercy for her.

"He is going to kill me..." Aurel then turned to look at Zaya. "He is going to kill me... how can you help him to kill me? We are in the Holy Kingdom... you can't do this to me..."

"Well, but he is my brother," Zaya stated simply. But then she approached the barrier and her voice turned cold. "You should think thrice before you messed with my brother's mate."

After saying that, Zaya turned to look at Zenith and warn him that she didn't want to get involved in this.

"Don't give me more trouble, okay?" She approached Zenith and kissed his cheeks. She hugged him tightly. "I am sorry for what happened."

Zenith hugged Zaya back briefly. "Take care, Za."

And with that, the two siblings parted way and once Zaya disappeared, the barrier around Aurel vanished as well.

The healer immediately tried to run away. This must be the first time for her to turn toward the other direction from Zenith.

However, Zenith didn't have time to play with her, as his claws elongated and they pierced through her chest. He literally crushed her heart.

Aurel kept apologizing, but Zenith couldn't hear her voice, because all of Aurel's memories started flooding his mind and now he learned everything that she had done.

He wanted to kill her over and over if that was possible, but he knew the only person that should be blamed was him.

However, the moment Aurel's blood dropped to the ground and death came to her, something happened. Zenith's surrounding shifted and the wind became turned very harsh.

This was the sacred land, the forest where the great shrine was, there shouldn't be a murder here, there shouldn't be a blood that was spilled.

Zaya certainly didn't know about this, because she wouldn't bring Aurel here and let Zenith killed her, because it would put her brother in danger.

Zenith stared at his hands that covered with blood, while Aurel's lifeless body fell to the ground. The wind howled so loud and that was the last time for Zaya to see him.

Zenith disappeared. No one had ever seen him again, so did Aurel.

Zaya didn't think much about it, because she thought her brother was only going to hide from the whole world, but years passed and there was no sign of him.

Zander tried to figure out whether Zenith had returned to Ogregon continent, but there was nothing. The two of them couldn't find anything about their other sibling.

Meanwhile, Zenith was being punished for the murder that he had committed in the sacred land. This torture and pain never stopped. He was no sure whether this was day or night. He couldn't breathe, it was suffocating, as if he was under the water, but he couldn't die...

His agony continued for so long, until a hand grabbed him and pulled him out from this misery and the first thing he saw when he opened his eyes was a pair of beautiful blue eyes.

For a moment Zenith was stunned, because it had been so long since the last time he saw her.

"Mother..." he muttered exhaustedly.

The woman smiled and kissed the tip of his nose and once he did that, the pain subsided significantly. For the first time after such a long time, Zenith finally could breathe.

The pain became more bearable.

And the moment Zenith opened his eyes, he was standing in front of a small house. The night was so quiet.

But there was nothing matter because right at this moment, her sweet scent was the only thing that matter for him.

Zenith entered the house. He expected to see her and there she was... she looked different, a little bit older and haggard, her beauty was hidden under the pain in her eyes.

"I came back. I keep my promise to fix this."

Dawn had been waiting for him, but she had more for him. A silver dagger in her hand found its way to Zenith's chest.

However, after the endless torture, this pain was nothing.

Zenith pressed the dagger, so he could be a little bit closer with her.

Chapter 99: PRESENT TIME

Zenith supposed to be dead, but he didn't. The divine power protected him and now he woke up with vague memories about what had happened in his first life.

His memories of his previous life did not return at the same time. It felt like a bad dream that could wake you up in the middle of the night, but actually when you opened your eyes, you would forget about it.

The memories came pieces by pieces as the time went by.

Zenith decided not to take alpha Tony to the capital city for losing a thousand of his warriors, but instead he wanted his daughter.

At that time, he didn't know why he had this strong urge to have that teenage girl, which was not appropriate.

Obviously, it was not lust. He would smash his head for lusting over a fifteen years old girl, but he had this strong feeling for her... not desire, but sadness...

By that time, he didn't know why.

And when the time came for him to take her with him, he felt this strong feeling of regret, only when he touched her that the memories trickled back in his mind about his previous life.

He let Fern to take care of Dawn, because he didn't remember what she had done in his previous life, yet he felt this urge not to trust her and ask Dawn himself.

At that time, it clicked in his mind and as if it was forgotten memories, he started remember again what happened in his previous life, hence, the severed punishment for Fern for the crime that was not very vicious.

However, Zenith knew how damaging it could be if he let it slide.

And just like that, slowly, but surely, his memories from his first life returned, so did the regret he had for her. The more he remembered, the stronger his guilt.

Zenith felt like he wanted to rip his heart apart, every time he saw Dawn and offered her his heart, but even if he did that, it wouldn't be enough.

"Dawn..." Zenith called her name softly, he caressed her cheeks and held her hand.

It had been two weeks since the royal ceremony and he marked her, but there was no sign of her waking up. It worried him. He didn't allow Aurel to get close to her and choose another healer to check on his mate.

There was no way he would let that woman to be around Dawn when she was one of the reasons why he had to go through so much agony and regret in his first life.

Zenith couldn't do anything to Aurel right now because in this life, she had not done anything that crossed the line.

It would cause trouble for him and Zander if he harmed her, which was very upsetting.

"There is no sign of her waking up?" Zander asked, he approached Zenith, who had been staying in the same position for who knew how long.

The king took off his golden mask and stood behind his twin brother. "How do you know?"

"I know."

Zander gritted his teeth, he really wanted to shake Zenith's body to get the explanation out of his mouth, because it was so hard for him to elaborate how did he know there would be a coup during the wedding ceremony.

"Mind to elaborate, please? Sometime, I feel like you came from the future, because you can predict most of the enemy's movement." Zander crossed his arms in front of his chest. "Spare me a headache and explain please."

Zander pulled a chair and sat down in front of Zenith. He hated to see his face, because they looked alike, not because he hated his brother, but he simply hated his face.

"Tell me." If Zenith could be stubborn, he could do the same too. After all, they cut from the same cloth. "I am not going anywhere until I got what I wanted."

"It's a long story."

"I have my entire life dedicated to listen to your explanation."

Zenith glanced in disdain at Zander's exaggeration.

The night where he mated and marked Dawn, that was the same night where Zander executed the plan. They could accomplish their plan faster than they predicted because Zenith knew everything beforehand.

Though because of the different choice that Zenith made in this lifetime there was a few things that didn't happen and there were a few changes here and there, but the gist of it didn't change.

Zenith managed to concoct a plan and Zander was amazed by how his brother knew what would happen next or what step that their enemy would take.

Or the exact people, who they had to be worry about, the spies within Zander's people and so on.

How precise Zenith was with his decision made it impossible for Zander to believe that he only used his intuition. He couldn't get lucky every time and pointed the right person, who turned out to be their enemy, right?

"You turned back time? How can you do that?"

Zander was in shock when he heard everything. Zenith was right. It was complicated. He didn't even know that such power existed in the first place.

"Air magic stone."

"You met father?"

"No. I met mother."

Zander rubbed his face roughly. He didn't say anything for a while, because he was in so much shock and he needed more time to discern this mind- blowing information.

"I think we should let Zaya know about this." Zander glanced at Dawn, who was still unconscious. Her neck was bandaged because the mark was healing very slow. "This is the right time for her to come back home."

Zander grimaced with the fact that Zenith would go extra length to rectify his mistake for a woman, but then, deep down he knew it was something that his brother would do.

"Yes and send Aurel back there."

"That's how you knew about the concoction? By killing her?"

"Yes." Zenith squeezed Dawn's hand.

Chapter 100: SHE WAS AWAKE

"Thank heaven, you killed her in your previous life." Zander didn't really like Aurel ever

since she showed her interest toward Zenith, because she had crossed so many lines by doing so.

However, because her role was crucial in order to tame Zenith's beast, the two of them couldn't do anything about it.

"Why only now? We can get rid of Aurel quickly if you didn't need her."

They could use another healer for the healing power that Zenith needed alongside the concoction, thus without Aurel around they would be fine.

Their problem was; Aurel had been withholding the ingredients of the concoction, because she knew without it, she was useless for Zenith.

"I only remembered it now," Zenith replied. He only remembered the ingredients of the concoction when he almost forced marked Dawn a few weeks ago.

"Is there more memory that you still couldn't remember?"

"I am not sure."

Zenith didn't have any desire to remember anything at this point, he only wanted to be sure that his mate was awake. That was all his concern now.

"Zen. Do you think there will be a consequence for this?"

Zenith glanced at him. "I don't know." He didn't even think about the consequence. Everything was fine with him, as long as he could obtain her forgiveness.

Yet, how he could ask for her forgiveness? Telling her about their first life? Would that help? Or let her be in the dark, because this kind of story was not something that you would fond of.

Dawn didn't need to be in a heartache by telling her the life that she didn't experience in this lifetime.

"We really need to call for Zaya to return."

Zenith didn't say anything.

And when Zander stood up from his chair, the sky had turned so bright, they spent the night by discussing this matter.

"What about the councils and the elders? What are you going to do with them?"

“What did I do in your first lifetime?”

“You killed them all.”

“Well, that’s what I am going to do now.” Zander stretched out his body. “They had been pain in the ass for so long. It’s time to use the gallows for good.”

With that, Zander left the room and issued an order to kill all the people, who got involved in the coup. The investigation about it was still going on and there were many people were being captured every day.

There were around a hundred people, who would be hanged a week from now and it would be done in public, so people could see what kind of punishment they would get for a treason.

Three days later, finally Dawn opened her eyes. She looked pale and lethargic.

“I will call a healer,” Zenith said.

Despite the uproar out there, the alpha couldn’t care less about it, since his role to help Zander was done. They reached their goal.

And for the mess in the palace, he burdened it on Zander fully, since he was the king.

Right now, Zenith only wanted to focus on his mate.

“How is she?” Zenith asked Celine, she was Lance’s mate, but as a healer, her power was not remarkable compared to Aurel, but she was the only healer available right now aside from Aurel.

“She will be fine,” Celine said, she smiled at Zenith and resigned herself. She was going to make a concoction for her.

“How do you feel?” Zenith sat down on the edge of the bed, holding her hand gently, as if she was so fragile and a little bit pressure would break her.

He was not exaggerating it, because right now, Dawn really looked like that.

“Thirsty...” she said in hoarse voice.

Zenith immediately went to pour a cup of water for her and helped her to sit down, so she wouldn’t choke when she drank.

“I have a nightmare.”

The cup stilled mid air, Zenith felt his heart stopped beating for a second. "What nightmare?" He resumed to help her to drink.

Dawn drank the whole cup of water and when Zenith offered to get more for her, she rejected it softly and continued with her statement about the nightmare.

"It's very sad... I feel like my heart will burst with sadness..."

Zenith gritted his teeth. He put down the empty cup and held her hands again. "What made you sad?"

He was still unsure about telling her about their first lifetime, but now, Dawn saw it on her own, she lived in those memories during her unconscious state after being marked? Did that how it worked?

Zenith couldn't say for sure.

Zander was right, they really needed Zaya to return. Their little sister had been spending almost her entire life in the Holy Kingdom. She was more knowledgeable about magic than anyone else here.

"I feel like I lost something... something precious to me, something so dear to me..." Dawn frowned. "But, I can't remember what was that."

Suddenly a tear fell on her cheek and she chuckled awkwardly, as she wiped her face.

"Oh, why am I crying?" Dawn looked surprised with her own reaction, but all she knew was her heart was in so much pain. "I don't even remember what I dreamt about, but I feel so sad."

Carefully, Zenith hugged her, as Dawn cried for an hour straight for something that she couldn't remember clearly.

"I am sorry, I am really sorry..."

Dawn didn't know why Zenith kept apologizing to her, but all she felt his apology was really comforting as if it resonated so well with the weird sadness that she was feeling right now.

Once Dawn was calm down, Zenith tucked her in and Celine came with a concoction for her.

"You don't think she will poison me, right?" Dawn asked, after crying for so long, she felt her heart was a little bit lighter.

She teased Zenith when she saw him taking a sip of her concoction.

“Do you even know whether it’s poisoned or not?”

Dawn was right. Zenith didn’t know.