

704 BLACK RAIN AND DARK SKY (46)

The south and the west of the continent were controlled by Cane and alpha Colter, while the capital city had three packs under their control; Celestial Moon pack in the north and Winter Moon and Moon Dew pack in the east.

Even though Golden Light pack had lost their base, because their pack had been conquered by Red Claw pack, but those warriors, who survived took shelter in the Winter Moon pack, which didn't make alpha Nolan happy.

"Why alpha Nolan will think the Golden Light pack's warriors' troublesome? Isn't it good to have a lot of warriors at time like this?" Iris asked, while Cane dried her hair. She just finished taking a bath.

Well, actually, Cane just finished bathing her, because she became a little bit lazy to take a bath during this winter. Mostly, Cane would wash her hair and wipe her body, especially when she couldn't bend her body

now her stomach was getting big.

Iris was flustered in the beginning and asked for a maid to help her, since she didn't feel comfortable to ask Della. She was a former queen after all, despite she was no longer holding the title, it didn't feel right. ①

However, Cane was adamant, he would be the one, who took care of her need.

And now, Iris felt good whenever Cane took care of her. This pregnancy was rather exhausting, she would sleep and eat, sleep and eat, Iris felt like she became another version of Lil Thing. ④

"Yes, it's good for the upcoming battle, but we are in winter season now. The main problem for all of us is grain, food. Without the ships from the Karam, we will not be able to survive too. Food is very critical at this moment." Cane finished drying her hair and now, he combed her curls attentively. Her hair was very long, it reached her bottom, but Cane loved it. It looked like cotton candy.

"Oh!" Iris blinked her eyes when she realized what Cane meant. "Alpha Nolan will have a hard time to feed all the warriors from the Golden Light pack, because he must not count them when he stockpiled food for winter, right?!"

Cane chuckled to see how Iris was excited with her own answer. "You are smart." He praised her and rewarded her with a kiss on both of her cheeks.

"They also can't get any grain from the Black Market because it had been destroyed." Iris added. She felt like, she just got an epiphany to see the bigger picture of Cane's plan.

No wonder Ethan was always complaining about how Cane barely explained his plan and they only knew once everything was done and witnessed how their assignments could be compiled and create a grand scheme in Cane's plot. ①

Things only made sense once it was done and their enemy would be very late to realize any of his simple move.

"Cane! You have planned everything like this since the beginning?!" Iris turned her head and Cane accidentally pulled her hair, because he was combing it. "Auch!" ①

"Stay still." Cane rubbed her head and chuckled. "Are you proud of me?"

"Very!" Iris replied childishly. "You are very genius! My man is very genius!" she stared at his reflection through the mirror and somehow she blushed, as she bit her lip. She couldn't sit still. ①

"No, you are very tired already," Cane said, as he kissed her shoulder. "Not tonight."

"What?" Iris's face turned even more red. "I didn't say anything!" ①

"Hm." Cane mumbled against her skin and whispered to her ear. "I can still smell you, you know." ①

"You must be wrong." Iris averted her eyes from Cane's reflection on the mirror, she cleared her throat, trying to change the topic, so her imagination wouldn't go wild. "So, what about with the people from the Karam? Have they learned about the death

of the merchants?"

"Currently Ethan and Aliana are taking care of it. They are in the Chrystal Moon pack's harbor with Jace too."

Iris was glad Aliana, Joel and Celia were fine, but the news about Haco's condition made her sad, because apparently, he was barely having lucid mind and kept calling for her, mistaking anyone, who took care of him with her.

Iris didn't have any idea, why he desperately wanted to see her, but she couldn't go there right away. Lou was not up for the task, since he had exhausted himself after he saved them all. He was literally bedridden, that was what Ethan wrote in his letter.

"Are they... fine?" Iris knew the four merchants' death would bring trouble for them and it would be more complicated if they refused to hand them the grain.

Not only alpha Nolan, they got additional twenty thousand of holy knights, though it had decreased to around sixteen thousand of them. but this number was pretty

significant.

Money was not the problem here, since Cane and Red Claw pack could buy anything, but it would be useless if there was nothing to buy.

"I can say Aliana and Ethan are very great with negotiation, despite the fact they used to go overboard, but Jace is there too to keep them in check."

"I thought Jace will take Aliana back to the pack house."

"You can say Aliana won the argument." ②

Iris chuckled. She could imagine that. Aliana was firm and stubborn.

For now, Cane and alpha Colter planned to clear the Aggeverya road. This was a long road that stretched from west, east to the south, if they could clear this road, they could join their strength with the warriors and knights from the south.

Secured their path from the east packs and once they joined each other, they could take down the remaining two packs there. Once it happened, the only thing left was

the capital city and the Celestial Moon pack. 1

Of course, when you planned something, it wouldn't go as smooth as you imagine.

"It sounds easy..." Iris murmured. She munched on her meat, while Cane made tea for her. He had another meeting with alpha Colter and Koda to finalize their plan, but before that, he wanted to spend his time to pamper his pregnant mate and their child. "But I guessed in reality, it will not that easy."

"You are right, there are a lot of unpredictable elements that could happen." Cane poured hot tea for Iris, because she couldn't drink or eat chocolate.

Iris teased Cane that their baby had his taste, because he disliked something sweet. 1

"There are this strange movement from the monsters." Cane shared a few information with Iris, after she complained a lot, since he put her in the dark and said the unknown only stressed her out.

"Shouldn't the monster lay dormant during winter?"

"Yes, but apparently, a lot of warriors spotted large or small groups of monsters transmigrated to the north. This is also the reason why it will hard to clear Aggeverya road, because it became the route that the monsters took."

"It's strange..."

"There are a few warriors and Knights fell sick because of the rain." Cane glanced at the window and white snow fell lightly from the gloomy sky. "Even though the black rain had stopped, but the after effect just showed now."

Iris followed Cane's line of sight. "Yes, I feel this ominous feeling, but I can't feel there is an involvement of the black magic."

"At first, I thought the Serafim will be able to fix whatever it is, but apparently, just like what the rumor said, she is the weakest Serafim in the history." Cane glanced at Iris.

"Maybe if I tried, I can heal those people,

who is sick..."

"I am sure you can." Cane took her hand toward the bed and both of them cuddled, while Iris wrapped herself inside the blanket. "But, I don't want you too."

The number of the sick people had reached a thousand by now, even when Iris said she was fine when she used her power, but who could guarantee she would still be fine to treat such large number of people when she was pregnant?

"But, you don't want me to?" Iris lifted her head and stared at Cane's expression, as if she could read what was in his mind.

"Yes, I don't want you to."

A few days later when they were only two days away from clearing the Aggeverya road, there were two people came from Winter Moon pack and requested to meet with Cane.

Alpha Nolan made his move to save his son from the enemy's hand, but this meeting was a secret and Cane got the small letter from Dean, who got it from a strange

"I am going with you," Iris said after she heard the word 'woman'.

"You need to rest, this can be dangerous." Cane kissed her cheeks, as she shallowed her meat hurriedly.

"No, I am going with you. You don't think that I can't protect myself, right?" Iris widened her eyes, trying her hardest to look intimidating.

Dean and Pax looked at each other, they didn't have any idea how Iris would protect herself when she was the one, who needed heavily protected.

"I know you can be dangerous some time."

Iris pouted her lips when Cane teased her. "I am going with you."

And with the power of her stubbornness, Iris managed to squeeze herself inside the carriage that would bring Cane to the meeting point with that woman.

They left the pack house secretly with only Dean and Pax with the alibi Iris wanted to

see the children that came with them from the Black Market.