



## 183 STILL ALIVE

Xaden watched in horror as she dropped down to the ground. 1

He just looked down at her in horror, unable to even utter a single word.

And then it hit him.

It was like everywhere became faint, like he wasn't hearing anything at all.

It became a daze all in slow motion, and yet it was all happening too fast.

He set Aurora's body aside and went to Jasmine.

By the time he grabbed her and set her on his thighs, it was like it all hit him, and everything came flashing hard on him.

"Jasmine." He said. "Jasmine, wake up."

He rubbed her cheek and held her close up to him.

Her eyelids were dropping in half.

They were blinking open and then closing.

"Yes, stay with him." He said. "Stay with me."

She was just looking up at him, and then they started to close back.



"No, no," he said, shaking her. "Stay with me, Jasmine. Stay with me."

His entire being was shaking it was like every fiber in him was going.

It was now like he was so overcome with grief and fear of losing her.

And no, it was not because they were tethered together but because he cared about losing her.

He did not want her to die.

For the first time since he was a child, he was terrified; he was scared.

It was like he was back in that awful place when he had hidden in the closet as a child.

"Jasmine, please." He begged as he cradled her to him.

But her beautiful eyes were not fluttering anymore; instead, they were now

Close.

He did not see the men gather around him from behind.

"Xaden." Someone said.

But he was not hearing anything. All he could think of was Jasmine in his arms.

Then, there were some hurried footsteps that



went down over Xaden.

It was Loren.

Loren reached out to her, quickly put his hands through his little box, and pulled out a leaf.

He quickly pulled out the dagger and then he put a leaf over it.

It completely clasped her bleeding chest and stayed still.

Loren felt her pulse. "She is still alive. But she is dying."

Xaden looked at Loren, his eyes already a bloodshot red.

"You must save her," Xaden said.

Loren's face was solemn and weak. "I will do the best I can."

"You will save her!" Xaden commanded him.

"I can understand your grief, but we are wasting time discussing this," Loren advised him. "We have to take her up to my quarters while she is still alive."

But Xaden did not move. Instead, he was still holding onto her so firmly.

He started to shiver.

His wolf began to wake up, and he just went on



howling.

His eyes went to flames, and then he started to growl, and the ground trembled.

He was about to transform in his grief to his beast.

The beast that he had created when he has used Marie's dark magic was taking advantage of his weakness and then

And then he felt a hand on his shoulder.

He looked up sharply and saw that it was Erik who had touched him.

He relaxed when he saw it was him.

"They are not taking her away from me," Xaden said, his eyes red.

Erik nodded. "I know, and no one will. I promise. But we need to take her up to Loren's quarters so we can see how we can revive her."

Xaden went quiet as he firmly held onto her.

Then Erik squatted down beside him on the ground.

"You want her to live, do you not?" Erik asked.

Xaden tilted his head and nodded very gently.

"Good," Erik said. "Then we have to return back to the castle. She needs to be healed. And do not



worry. No one will take her from you. You can carry her up yourself. Would that be okay? Are you strong enough for that?"

Then Xaden nodded like a child slowly trying to process things, and his features began to relax slowly.

His large wolf teeth closed up, and then his breathing eased.

His eyes went back to a standard color but still remained bloodshot.

Then he was back to his human self, and his almost bestial transformation ended.

They all heaved a sigh of relief.

Then Xaden slowly rose to the ground with Jasmine in his arms and walked up the path that led out of her server garden.

She scented like lovely flowers.

Then her friend Fiona, who was being helped up by some wolves, came back to consciousness.

She rested her fingers against her throbbing head and felt the blood.

And then it hit her.

"Where is Jasmine?" She demanded as she ran up to them. "Where is my friend?"



"Relax, you have to take it easy. You hit your head hard." The wolf told her. "If you do not slow things down, you could increase your

Head injury. You are quite lucky to even be alive."

"Where is Jasmine?" She demanded without listening to him.

The wolf sighed and pointed to the crowd of wolves returning back to the castle.

She got up regardless of the protests and rushed up to the crowd.

Fiona saw Aurora's body being carried along by a wolf.

And then she became terrified.

She began to run helter skelter looking for Jasmine.

And then she found her in Xaden arms.

She hurried up to him and tried to look at Jasmine.

Xaden did not stop for her to take a look, so she kept on walking alongside.

"Is she going to be okay?" Fiona asked once she saw her friend lifeless in his arms.

Xaden said nothing.


On his face, the only expression was complete

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angst and sorrow, nothing more.

Then Loren touched her shoulder. "We can only hope that she will be fine."

Then It hit Fiona. "Where is the little girl that had been us?" 

Erik frowned. "What little girl?" 

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