

## 194 CHERRY'S SPY

Uther watched in disbelief. 1

"B-but why are you going to the isle of lycanthrope?" Uther asked in horror. "No one has ever made it alive."

"You have heard of it." Xaden said with hope of more information in his eyes.

And then it occurred to him that Xaden knew perhaps nothing about this place he was going to and was going on a blind mission.

"Yes I know it. It is deadly." He said taking the opportunity to scare Xaden and make him change his mind. "There is an undead king and his army. You need to understand that if you leave you will not make it alive. No one ever has."

Xaden gave a weak smile. "I have heard of the legend. But what I need to retrieve is far more important."

"You are looking for the cup of life." Uther said to him. "No man has ever found it. Perhaps the story is just a myth."

"It is one risk I am willing to take." Xaden responded as he attempted to leave but Uther blocked his path.

"Then if that be it why do you not send your men



to go in this mission." Uther said smartly. "If you go and you die what will happen to this place?"

Xaden was quiet and then he took in a very deep breath.

"If I die then so be it." Xaden said. "I have made protocols as to who shall take over the pack. But I will die trying."

He tried to leave but his uncle stopped him again.

"To what end Xaden?" Uther said. "You are risking your life for a mere slave! For the daughter of your enemy! The very same person who had ripped the bellies of your parents open and killed your own sister! Left you for dead took everything from you! If not for her bloodline then you will still be with your family. This is an abomination."

Xaden breathed heavily again and then he said. "I will see you when I return uncle."

Then he walked off leaving Uther standing confused as hell.

He turned to Felix. "What the bloody hell was that all about? I thought you said the girl was dead!"

Felix looked at him as the other soldiers followed Xaden marching behind.



"She was not supposed to survive it." Felix said. 1

Uther kept his hands on his temple massaging it and trying to figure out what exactly to do.

Then Lily rushed after Xaden.

He was already at the garden grounds that would lead out of the pack.

"Xaden!" She said rushing up to him.

He turned around and then she bumped into him.

He looked at her over as held her by her waists to prevent her from falling.

"Careful." He said as he holsted her to her feet.

She blushed and nodded. "Thank you my lord."

He gently let go of her and she adjusted her wrinkled dress.

"I apologize for my absence." Xaden said. "You have not quite had the chance to see me or for us to discuss. Also you have not seen me in the best light and I am certain that you must hate me."

She swallowed. "These things happen."

She gently touched the side of his cheek. "I am your mate. Do you accept and feel that?"

He went quiet for a while and then he nodded. "I



do." 12

She smiled inwardly. "I will wish you journey mercies as you leave. I do not want you to die. We have much to know about each other."

"This was not what you envisioned was it?"

He asked her.

She shook her head. "I have to be honest myself no. But I am willing to be patient and try and see how it goes. You are my mate and I am yours that is all that matters. The gods brought us together for a reason and they kept me alive to be with you for a reason." 4

"I do not doubt the fact that we were meant to be together. That is why I trust you. Why I trust that you will do the right thing. I will pray to the goddess for your return so that we may be reunited." She said. "Promise me you will return safe."

Xaden was not quite sure how to respond so he simply picked her other free hand and kissed them.

"I promise you, I will return." He said.

And then he took his lips from her knuckles and then she turned to stand in the balcony as she watched him get ready to leave. 1

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A frustrated Uther rushed up the stairs to his room and slammed the door shut behind him.

He leaned his back against the door as he breathed heavy.

This was not going *how* it was supposed to.

He wanted to rip his head out.

He needed to tell her before she found out before him. 3

He hurried to his closet and then pulled out a box he kept hidden from everyone.

He set it against his dresser and then opened it wide.

He picked up the mirror and set it to stand.

He spoke some incantations and the mirror began to circle in a fog motion.

His heart raced until she appeared before him.

"Your majesty." He said as he bowed.

Cherry looked at him from the mirror. 2

"Give me good news Uther." She said. "I did not take myself over there for nothing."

He looked at her in shock. "It was you who possessed the woman to kill the slave?"

"Yes and I take full credit for it." She said. "Now tell me what is happening." 3



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Uther swallowed scared to be the one to tell her the bad news.

"I am afraid things are not going to plan." Uther said and then her browr crossed in a frown.

"Xaden is going to find a cure for her."

"That idiot." She said in rage. "Why? What do you mean cure? Is she not dead?!"

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