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Xaden gave her a strange look. 1

"To see the fire serpent there must be a code." She said. "And if the Queen finds out she is going to be very offended."

"And I quite frankly do not care." Xaden responded.

Miria looked at him and took his arm and forced him to walk with her.

"Walk with me." She said.

It was command and not a question.

He started walking down with her when his men started to follow them.

"Just you and me." She instructed.

He turned and nodded at his men signifying they stay back.

They walked down the hallway and towards a very open balcony that was free of poke nosers.

She turned and looked back at him.

"What do you want for me Xaden?" She asked.

He rose a brow.

"You're the red flame?" He asked. 2

"Big shocker." She gave in boring sarcasm and she folded her arms.

"Why reveal yourself to me?" He asked. "You've been anonymous since before I was even born."

"Good question." She pointed out. "That is because for me to help you. I need you to help me."

She pulled his arm and led him to the open archway across the dark night.

"I will help you with whatever you want," she started. "If only you would help me first."

He looked around.

"Don't worry." She said. "I warded this room. To anyone who is seeing us, we're just laughing and having some drinks and talking about regular wolf and mage conversations. But they can't actually hear our conversations."

He turned back to her and folded his arms. "What do you want?"

"I heard rumors.... We all heard rumors of a sea monster on your ship. Is it true?" She asked intensely.

"Yes." He answered.

She took in a very deep breath and started to pace. "And it just came out from the ocean, on its own accord and how did you stop it."

Xaden sighed heavily. "That is the thing. We didn't do either of those. It came out of nowhere and attacked the ship. I've never seen anything like it before. We didn't even have a chance against it. It would have destroyed the entire ship and when we finally expected it to, it simply retreated."

"It came up and simply left." She said.

"Yeah." He folded his arms. "Why are you interested in any of these."

"There are things you don't understand Xaden. Things you don't know. Things much much bigger than just pack wars. I'm not belittling your fight with Bale, but there are things bigger than that in the grand scheme of things."

She smiled at him. "You don't know what this means. This changes everything that we know or thought we even knew."

She was still deliberating when he turned back to her.

"Now can I ask for your own help?" He asked.

She nodded. "Yes you can go ahead."

"I lost someone and-

She held his hand and stopped him

Immediately.

"I need to go somewhere. Right now." She said. "I will return."

And with that she disappeared into the air.

Xaden was transfixed as he looked around for her.

He really didn't like mages.

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Jasmine was standing and talking to the other mages when a woman from nowhere appeared.

The other mages hurriedly bowed down.

"Elder sister." They said.

Jasmine who was confused quickly did the same.

She bowed down.

Anna was still hovering around with the ball in her mouth.

When the other mages rose their head Jasmine did the same.

"You sent for me." The strange woman who had
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appeared from thin air said.

Jasmine stood cautiously.

"We have someone we want you to see." Rashida said.

They stood back aside for Jasmine to properly look at her.

The strange woman who looked like she was in her early thirties waltzed towards Jasmine and before they could meet Anna hopped right up towards them.

The woman rose a brow at the other mages.

"We just took her mind to be a wolf to prove a point." They smiled back.

Then the woman walked to Jasmine and eyed her suspiciously.

"Why are you looking for me?" She asked.

Jasmine started to stutter. "I.... Uhhmmm.... Well...." Jasmine started to speak but for some weird reason or the other she couldn't speak.

"She doesn't speak?" The woman asked slightly annoyed.

"No I can". Jasmine interjected quickly.

This was her chance to figure out who she was.

She took in a deep breath.

"I found these." She said as she handed the old papers to the woman. "In my Urma's walking stick."

"Urma is dead?" The woman asked stunned showing a hint of emotion.

"Yes." Jasmine said. "Her death is suspicious. This is what we saw and she always spoke of the high flame. Hence why I came." 2

The woman fingered the papers.

When she opened it her eyes went a flash of red and she hid her emotions.

"I also came because I wanted to know what type of wolf I was. I have never shifted. But I learned from some people that there are rare situations where a wolf can be locked down. I want to know my fate."

"And you couldn't find out?" The woman asked.

Calline shook her head. "No we couldn't. We can't read her and for some reason or their other a hex or any sort of magic won't work on her."

"We suspect that even if we were not with her coming into the castle she would have still

found her way." Rashida expressed. "We tried everything but nothing works on her. I've never seen something like her in my entire life."

The woman's face now piqued interest.

She went and cupped Jasmine's face with both hands.

Then after a few seconds she withdrew.

"Where do you come from?" The woman asked.

"I'm from the moonlight pack." Jasmine said unsure whether to tell the truth or a lie.

She knew that her father had made so many enemies everywhere she couldn't trust anyone.

"I was a slave." She lied and she looked at Anna who was still in her animal stage.

Thank the goddess for that. If not Anna would have blurted out who she was.

"And who is she?" The woman pointed at Anna.

Jasmine swallowed.

JASMINE'S RETURN/ NEW B... ›