

## Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North –

Chapter 51: THE TRUTH FROM THE PAST

Julia was mortified when she heard what Emily said. They had never talked about this. Nobody should know about this.

With a shocked look on her face, Julia looked at Tony, the alpha was also flabbergasted.

“No! I have never said anything about it! I have never told her about us! I don’t know where she found out about that!” Julia was in complete denial, until she forgot that her strong reaction was the same as her admitting what Emily just said.

Meanwhile, Alpha Tony stood there, like a statue, he opened his mouth, but there was no word that they could hear. The silence was deafening and one could cut the tension in the air with a knife.

“Did I say something wrong?” Emily gave Alpha Tony a derisive look. “What do you think Dawn will think about you if she learned about this? Do you think she will be able to forgive you for everything you have put her through? Think about that first before you slap me.”

After saying that, Emily stood up, she dusted off her dress and walked away. She glanced over her shoulder and watched how her mother was crying and Alpha Tony didn’t even have the decency to comfort her. He was too stunned to comprehend what just happened.

Pathetic. They were a bunch of pathetic people.

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Dawn woke up the next day with a very bad hangover, she groaned when the light of the sun that filtered through the window hurt her eyes.

“Good morning, drunken girl?”

Dawn frowned, the endearment was not pleasant at all. Yet, when she tried to speak, her throat was very dry, as if she had just consumed sand.

“Drink this first, you will feel better.” Zenith helped her to sit down and brought the cup to her lips. “Next time, stick to tea.”

Dawn groaned, but she kept gulping the fresh water to moisten her aching throat.

"I am not that bad." Dawn put down the empty cup and was about to fall asleep again, but Zenith put his arm behind her back to prevent her from lying down and this annoyed her. "No. I want to sleep."

"No. You need to eat first."

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Dawn gave him a disapproving look and pursed her lips.

"Be good." Zenith caressed her cheek gently, which made Dawn lean her head into his touch.

And when she realized that, she immediately straightened her body. Thankfully, Zenith didn't tease her for that.

She must still be drunk!

"I didn't say anything weird last night, right?" Dawn didn't remember what she said, but she remembered she talked a lot. She was afraid if she said something inappropriate.

Zenith touched her hair and played with it, before he answered her. "No. You were so cute when you were drunk."

Dawn was surprised, she didn't think Zenith would call her 'cute', but she was happy nonetheless. She ate her food with a big smile on her lips, it felt great to have someone, who would take care of you.

After that day, Zenith was busy and sometimes Dawn didn't even see him for a whole day.

However, she knew where he was. There was a day or two, where Zenith would 'play King'.

Somehow, Dawn would always know when it happened.

As for the problem with the poison, the king didn't reach out to her to help deal with it, so Dawn just focused all of her energy on the preparations of her ceremony. She had been so busy learning all the etiquette to be concerned about anything else.

This etiquette lesson was a real pain in the ass. Because she would be part of the royal family, it couldn't be helped that she needed to learn all of this.

But that day, Lance approached her.

“You are here? I thought you were going to attend that man’s trial, did you even know about that?” Lance then drew a conclusion. “I think Zenith has never mentioned anything about it?”

With the mention of ‘that man’ Dawn immediately knew who the royal gamma was referring to.

“I don’t need to attend his trial,” Dawn said. “I have nothing to do with him.”

It was Blake’s own stupidity for coming to the palace, she didn’t have any obligation to cater to him. Good thing Zenith had never mentioned about it.

Lance shrugged his shoulders. “Poor guy, he is definitely going to die.” He then added. “Today your mate is the King again.”

And the trial was attended by the king, which meant, for the better or worse, Zenith could give Blake death punishment without being implicated at all.

“Wait, did the King know about this?” Dawn grabbed Lance’s sleeve to stop him from leaving.

“No.” Lance gave her an innocent look. “The King has been out since two days ago and will only return two days from now.” He lowered his voice when he mentioned this, because he couldn’t let anyone learn about the king’s whereabouts. “More so, Zenith advanced the trial schedule, that man should have a trial two days from now, when the King is here, but as you know...” Lance shrugged his shoulders. “He will be the judge.”

This didn’t sit well with Dawn. “Where is the trial room?”

Lance smiled. “Come, follow me.”

The royal gamma actually felt tired to be a middleman between Zander and Zenith.

Zenith used this moment to give that man a harsher punishment, which was; a death sentence, when he acted as the king, because with this, Zenith wouldn’t get a backlash and be implicated in any form, since no one would relate this matter to him.

However, Zander had read his movement and he told Lance to let Dawn know about the trial just in case Zenith advanced the date.

After knowing Dawn, if there was someone who could stop Zenith, it would be her.

Both of them then went to the trial room, where Dawn saw her father, Julia, Emily, Beta Jason and Ava.

She hesitated for a while.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

#### Chapter 52: THE DAY OF THE TRIAL

They were shocked because the trial moved up two days and this made Ava breakdown. She was crying so hard because she was panicking. This would be the first time for her to see her son again in weeks, especially when they heard the king would personally come to oversee the situation.

“What should we do? What should we do?” She cried to Jason. “Why is the King here? Why should the King be here?”

It would be harder for them to get Blake away from the punishment, even more with Blake’s case, because he stood accused of coveting the chosen mate of a royal family member.

“Calm down, Ava, calm down. We will get our son out of there,” Jason said, though he didn’t know what he was actually talking about. He looked at Alpha Tony, but the alpha didn’t look like he could help either.

Beta Jason really wanted to curse him out for ruining his chance to reconcile with Dawn. Maybe then, Dawn could have agreed to help them save Blake from this predicament, but Tony chose to be very stupid and brought Julia and Emily with him, which further upset Dawn.

Now, Jason didn’t know what else could help Blake.

When Ava was crying so hard, as they waited for the trial to begin, she spotted someone and before her mind could comprehend, she had dashed toward her.

“Ava!” Jason was startled because Ava moved very suddenly, but when he saw the person she was clamoring to approach, he breathed sharply.

It was Dawn. She came here for the trial!

A glimmer of hope appeared in his eyes! Jason had known Dawn from when she was little. He knew that if she was here, she was absolutely going to help them!

Jason wanted to talk to her at first, but he didn’t know how, since Tony ruined his meeting with his daughter.

Ava reached Dawn first and started crying, begging, pleading, kneeling down in front of her, which drew all of the attention from the people inside the room.

“Please! Please! Please, Dawn! Please, save Blake! Please, save him...” Ava cried, she didn’t even try to lower her voice. “Please, talk to the King and ask him to pardon Blake.

Dawn, Blake really loves you, he loves you so much, he braced himself to come here and ask for you, he is on the verge of going insane because he couldn't lose you!"

Dawn widened her eyes when she heard that. She tried to make Ava stop talking nonsense, because Zenith could hear her and that man definitely would take offense.

Every word that Ava said would only bring her son closer to the gallows!

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Dawn felt dreadful, she could see malice flicker in Zenith's blue eyes. It seemed if it was possible, he would be the one to drag Blake to the gallows and tighten the rope around his neck.

Meanwhile, Tony tried to approach Dawn, he knew this was not the right time, but he needed to clarify something with her. He wanted to talk to her in private and apologize sincerely for what he had done.

But, surely, his timing was very bad...

"Blake Michael Gillian enters the room!"

The guard announced Blake's presence and Ava stopped crying, she turned her head and started wailing again. Her cries started to irritate Dawn.

However, when Dawn saw Blake for the first time in six months after she left her former pack, she was shocked too.

Blake looked skinnier, his eyes sunk into their sockets, his lips chapped and his clothes... you couldn't call them clothes, because a sack might look fancier compared to the fabric that covered Blake now.

Dawn started wondering if he received torture inside the dungeon. He had only been there for two weeks, but he looked like he had lost half of his soul.

But, probably Dawn underestimated Blake's determination, because the moment he saw her, the emptiness in his eyes disappeared, his eyes lit up. His mouth moved, as he called her name under his breath.

Of course, this sight infuriated Zenith even more. He caught sight of Lance, who had brought Dawn here, but the royal beta avoided his eyes. He knew he was in trouble and prayed Zander would return before Zenith got his hands on him.

"This way!" A guard snapped at Blake when he tried to approach Dawn.

This room was akin to a mini stadium, with a capacity that could reach a hundred people. There were these seats circled around the room, where the back row was higher than the front one.

But, in front of them, there was this high platform, where the king and his three advisors, also two elders, sat behind the sovereign to watch how the whole trial unfolded.

They would advise the king what the right punishment for the crime was. This council was formed ten years ago. And all this time, Zander had never been on good terms with the three advisors and the two elders.

“Mr. Gillian! This way!” The guard grabbed his shoulder and dragged him to the spot, where he should stand, but Blake fought back.

He insisted on going to Dawn. “D- Dawn! Dawn please!” Blake was crying now. “I am sorry! I am so sorry! I didn’t mean to hurt you! Let’s go back home! Let’s go back home together! I can fix this! I can fix us!”

Jason and Ava took a sharp breath when they both heard this. Their intention was to deny the accusation that Blake was still infatuated with Dawn, but what his son did right now left them with nothing to help him.

“Dawn!” Blake fought back. What happened right now to Blake must be the next step of insanity. The room filled with Blake’s voice, expressing his regrets and wanting Dawn back with him.

Zenith stood up from his seat, you could tell how furious he was. His voice boomed inside the trial room.

“Drag him out to the gallows!” The king hollered. His wrath was palpable.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 53: DAWN’S SUGGESTION AND HER WAY TO SMOOTH THINGS OUT  
After what Blake had done to her, of course, Dawn hated Blake, she despised the man and his guts to betray her in the worst possible way.

But then, giving him a death sentence was simply going too far. No matter how much Dawn hated Blake, she wouldn’t feel good to know that she had some involvement when he met his demise.

Yet, these people didn’t help at all!

“Drag him out to the gallows!” The king hollered. His wrath was palpable.

Ava immediately started wailing again when she heard the king's order, while Beta Jason immediately jumped in to protest with this decision because the trial had not even happened. Alpha Tony helped to smooth the situation by trying to approach the king to plead Blake's case, but he was being stopped by the royal guards.

However, they were not the only people who protested because the three advisors and the two elders also asked for the king to reconsider his decision.

Meanwhile, Blake didn't seem to realize his predicament as he kept begging Dawn to go back home with him. Blake kept apologizing to her and begging her to come back to him, which infuriated Zenith even more.

"Dawn! I am sorry! I love you! You are my destined mate! You are my everything! Don't throw away our time together because of this one mistake!" Blake hollered desperately when the guards dragged him out. "Dawn! Please! I know you still care about me! You came here because you care about me! I know that!"

Dawn felt sick to her stomach when she heard that, she couldn't help second guessing her idea to help him now. Just because she didn't want to have his blood on her hands, it didn't mean she still had feelings for him.

Now Dawn realized she didn't have an ounce of love for him. The rejection and the severed mate bond worked well on her part, but from the looks of it, she couldn't say the same thing about Blake.

The trial room was in chaos, many people shouted their pleas and the advisors and the elders kept telling the king this was not how the trial worked.

"Look here, My King!" Jason grabbed Emily, who had been very quiet during this whole mess. "She is pregnant! She is pregnant with my son's baby! Please, at least for this baby's sake, spare him! Don't let the baby be born without a father!"

Emily hated it whenever her pregnancy was mentioned, but she could only endure the humiliation. Her face turned red because of the rage she felt within, while Julia couldn't do anything.

Ever since that night, she was so scared to confront her daughter, or even to talk to her in private.

However, the king didn't budge. He wanted to get rid of Blake once and for all! This man was an eyesore to him!

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Lance, who was watching everything unfold, could only pull his hair in frustration. How could one clean up this mess? The elders would give Zander more trouble in the future.

Right at that time, Dawn finally approached the king's platform, which meant she had to walk past Blake.

Misunderstanding Dawn's intention, Blake beamed with happiness, he fought the guards and was about to approach her when Dawn snapped at him, the hatred in her eyes stopped him.

"Don't you dare come closer to me!" Her voice rang inside the trial room and everyone quietened down, wondering what Dawn was going to do.

"What do you want?" The king asked. He waved his hand at the royal guard, who wanted to stop Dawn from approaching the platform he was sitting on.

"My King, can I suggest a solution for this matter?" Dawn stopped right in front of the king's platform, she faced Zenith, while everyone else was behind her.

"Death sentence suits his crime the best." The answer was curt and Dawn grimaced, how could no one notice that the person behind the mask was Zenith and not Zander?

"My King, just as you can see, there is a woman, who is pregnant with his child. It will be heartbreaking for the baby to be born without the father." Dawn chose to echo the same sentiment as the advisors and the elders, which calmed them down and made them listen to what she said. "More so, there was no harm done."

Zenith didn't like this, but at the same time, he didn't stop Dawn. He wouldn't embarrass his woman and give trouble to her and Dawn knew this, thus she took advantage of this fact.

Zenith sat down again, he crossed his arms in front of his chest, completely upset, but still entertained Dawn.

"My King, I am the victim here, can I at least give my opinion on this matter?"

"So, what is your suggestion?"

Dawn smiled, she knew she got him. "Since the two of them will have a baby soon, they are practically mates now."

"I am not her mate!" Blake refused that directly.

Emily gritted her teeth, she felt very embarrassed! Tears streamed down her cheeks, she hated Dawn even more!

"Shut him up!" Zenith roared because Blake intervened when Dawn was speaking. The guard immediately stuffed a rag into his mouth.



Dawn continued. "They should be mates now with the baby on the way."

"Your suggestion?"

"Let him mark her to make it official. In that way, the mate bond will bind them together for life."

For some people, it sounded rational, but Dawn knew it would be a punishment for Blake and Emily. Looking at the tense relationship between them, probably, they would annoy each other to death sooner or later.

More so, this punishment could calm down the advisors and the elders, as they thought it was more acceptable.

"Death is a mercy, My King." Dawn added, which made Zenith's eyes flicker. Years ago, someone said the same thing to him. "My ceremony is around the corner, I don't feel good to have someone in the gallows only a few weeks before my happy day."

Lance was astounded. "This woman is a smooth talker..."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

#### Chapter 54: STILL, KEEPING HIS GUARD UP

Zander laughed out loud when he heard what happened in the trial room. It had been a long time since he got a good laugh like this.

He knew Dawn was his final solution to face his brother's impulsiveness, but he didn't expect the woman would handle him so well, she did not only suggest a reasonable punishment, but she also appeased the elders and the advisors.

At the same time, Zander knew that tying Blake and Emily together and having him mark her, instead of sending him to the gallows, would successfully get the man out of Dawn's hair while giving a lifetime punishment for both of them.

"How many birds did she kill with one stone?" Zander still chuckled, as he tilted his head at Lance. Pyro was sitting next to the king, as he listened to the story, while rearranging the reports about the activity in the harbor. "She is really good."

"Are you taking down your guard against her now?"

"No." Zander's expression changed, as it turned serious all of a sudden. "Keep your eyes on her still."

"Do you still believe in the prophecy?" Pyro stopped what he was doing and looked at the king. "I thought you had let it go?"

Zander put on his golden mask again, even though there were only the three of them in the room. "Better safe than sorry."

Pyro and Lance looked at each other and could only shake their heads.

"Oh, I forgot to tell you that Zenith pissed off the elders and the advisors." Lance walked toward a chair and sat down casually.

"How?" Zander took off the mask again and stared at his gamma. "I thought Dawn had settled everything down and appeased those old hags."

Lance shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly. "I think Zenith is pissed because you involved his woman in the trial, so he got his petty revenge on you."

"What has he done?" Zander scrunched his nose. "He is so petty."

Pyro and Lance looked at him. Talking about pettiness, both of them were on the same level.

"Zenith said; all of you have become too old to worry about the state affairs, so as a good gesture from me, I will build a retirement home in the east city for your happy retreat which you could occupy in a few months." Lance changed his manner of speaking to mimic Zenith. "He also has confirmed the building that the five of them will occupy."

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Zenith talked like that when he acted as him, thus it would be Zander, who had to deal with the aftermath.

Zander closed his eyes to control his anger. He was pissed at Zenith now.

"I think it's time to let go of the elders and advisors," Pyro suggested. "Ten years have passed, we no longer need their service."

"Not yet," Zander said calmly. "It's not the right time."

Lance and Pyro simply couldn't understand what was in Zander's mind to keep those old hags, whose existence annoyed him so much.

Meanwhile, the culprit, who pushed his own brother into trouble was having his time with his woman, he pinned Dawn on the bed and demanded an explanation from her as to why she saved that useless man.

With how smart Zenith was, he should have guessed what the answer could be, but he still wanted to hear it directly from Dawn.

“You can ask me while we are eating or walking around, right? You don’t need to pin me down like this, I will still answer you,” Dawn said helplessly. She could see the jealousy in his eyes and it was very clear, though he wouldn’t admit that.

“This is your punishment for taking another man’s side.”

Dawn laughed and Zenith kissed her to stop her from laughing. “Okay, okay!” Dawn chuckled. “Like I said before, I don’t want to have someone die before our ceremony, it will be a bad omen, more so, letting them have each other will be the greatest punishment for him and that woman, what is funnier than having two people, who hated each other, tied down with the mate bond? I only feel sorry for their baby, but I am sure Ava will take good care of the baby.”

“Hm.” Zenith rested his forehead against her. “Can I kiss you?”

“I thought you have kissed me before without even asking for my permission.”

“My bad...” Zenith lowered his head and started to kiss her again. “I am terrible at asking for permission,” he said against her lips.

“I figured.” Dawn reciprocated his kiss and wriggled her hands, this time, he let go of her and held her body, while she wrapped her arms around his neck.

The kiss started innocently, as Zenith nibbled on her lips, but then he trailed her jaw with his lips and kissed her neck, down to her collarbones, which made Dawn’s breathing turn sharp when she could feel his hand caressing her waist, down to her thigh.

“I really want to mark you, Dawn...” Zenith said breathlessly.

“Our ceremony is in less than two weeks,” Dawn replied, she closed her eyes to feel his touch. Her body trembled.

“I really want you...” Zenith kissed her again and this time, his fingers traced up to her intimate part and Dawn moaned against his lips when she felt his fingers caressing her wetness.

The room was quiet, except for Dawn’s cries to get her release, it was a torture when he did it so slowly. But, Zenith loved to hear her voice.

“Zen, please...” Dawn moaned when she felt the tension that built inside her started to be very unbearable.

Zenith groaned, he buried his face in her neck, he was so close to marking her right there and then, but gave up the idea, as Dawn came undone, her body was trembling and she hugged him tightly.

After the waves of pleasure stopped, they stayed like that for a while.

“Feeling good?” Zenith asked with a teasing smile on his lips, while Dawn flushed red.

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#### Chapter 55: THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY

“I don’t want her! I will not mark her!”

A harsh slap landed on Blake’s face after what he said. His father was livid because he still talked about Dawn when he was only a step away from the gallows, while his mate could only cry to see the fight between their son and himself.

“If I had another son, I wouldn’t even hesitate to kill you with my own hands for the embarrassment and everything else you put our family through!” Jason then roared at Ava. “Shut up! Stop crying!”

The sound of her endless sobbing irritated him, because she had been crying for hours now and he was very pissed, since that was all she could do!

“If you hadn’t spoiled him, this would not have happened! If you told me what happened back then and hadn’t allowed him to leave, we would not be in this situation! This is your fault too!” Jason roared angrily at his mate. “And you!” He focused on his son again. “You are going to go back to the Moonlight pack with me tomorrow and after she gives birth, you are going to mark her! There is no excuse for this!”

Because of Emily’s pregnancy, it was not a good timing to mark her, since it could cause a few complications. She could end up suffering a miscarriage and the act would threaten her life as well.

Therefore, the marking process would happen after she gave birth, but they were going to have a ceremony back in the Moonlight pack first.

“That woman is not my mate!”

“That woman has been your mate since you stuck your dick in her!” Jason hollered, he didn’t even try to find a better choice of words when he hurled the reality in his son’s face.

“We are going to leave tomorrow!” Jason approached Ava. “You better keep your eyes on that stupid son of yours! Or else, I will be the one who killed him!”

Ava stifled her cries, and then nodded. She had never seen Jason so upset. He didn’t think of his words at all.

All of them were going to leave the capital city, since it was very clear they were not welcomed for the royal ceremony with Tony's invitation being rescinded. There was nothing they could even achieve by prolonging their stay.

Alpha Tony was depressed. He didn't have a chance to talk with Dawn after the trial, because she left immediately, while he couldn't go near her at all.

And now, Emily knew the darkest and the most embarrassing secret between him and Julia, he wanted to get her as far away as possible from his daughter, because he would be doomed if Dawn learned about the truth.

She would never forgive him for what he had done to her and her mother...

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"Is there something I can help with?" Julia asked, as she approached Tony. Their relationship was very tense lately and she wanted them to work on it. "It's not your fault that you are not being invited. Dawn is very ungrateful, we are better off without her."

Tony couldn't believe what he heard, he shoved Julia away from him so hard, she stumbled on her feet and almost fell if she didn't catch the edge of the table to support herself in time.

"Talk bad about my daughter again and I will make you step down from your role as the luna."

Julia gasped in surprise to hear that and the seriousness in his voice. "You can't do that."

"I can. Don't push me to prove my words."

After saying that, Tony walked away from the room. Julia's presence was very suffocating and this was a glimpse of what Emily and Blake would have in the future, two people, who hated each other, but bound by the mate bond.

The next day, all they went back to the Moonlight pack, except for Tony who decided to stay in the capital city for a while, just in case Dawn changed her mind and he would have an opportunity to explain himself to her.

However, sadly for him, Dawn was determined with her decision. There was no messenger that came to the inn to summon Tony for another evening tea.

That was the last chance for him to mend his relationship with his daughter, but he ruined it spectacularly.

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The day of the ceremony finally came. Everyone was very excited, they waited for this day expectantly and no soul was not busy during this time, as they tried to keep up with the strict schedule of the day.

Meanwhile, inside her room, Dawn was a ball of nerves. She couldn't sit straight and kept moving her hands, legs or anything that she could touch.

"Lady Dawn, please stop. You will ruin your headpiece if you keep touching it."

"Sorry," Dawn murmured. She didn't know why she kept touching it either.

And then, there was this commotion that came from the door. "You are not allowed to be here!" A maid screeched when she saw Gamma Darius was right in front of the door, holding a bottle of drink.

"This is the Alpha's order, if you want to complain, go and complain to him," Darius replied, which shut her up and then walked into the room. "Wow, you look so beautiful." He complimented Dawn.

"Thank you," Dawn said, she chuckled a bit to see how dressed up the gamma was, even though he used to look very casual.

"I know why you are laughing, but I hope you don't have any regrets being mated to the grumpy alpha."

A maid chided the gamma for his inconsiderate words, but actually, all of them felt bad for Dawn, because they believed Zenith to be nothing different from what people talked about him, a cruel alpha from the north.

Dawn wondered who started the rumors.

"What is that?" Dawn pointed to the bottle.

"Zenith made me deliver this for you."

"He wanted me to get drunk during the ceremony?" Dawn furrowed her brows.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 56: THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (2)

Darius laughed. "No. This is not alcohol. He asked a healer to make this potion so you'll feel less nervous during the ceremony, it will help calm your nerves." He tilted his head to observe Dawn. "I think he is right, you look so awful."

Dawn squinted her eyes. "Just earlier you said that I am beautiful." She glanced at the bottle. "A healer? You meant Aurel?"

She swore she wouldn't eat anything that came from her, even if the potion was not poisonous, who knew if she spat in it?

"Of course not, knowing the bad blood between you two, there is no way Zenith will order her to make this potion," Darius replied. "He asked a healer from our pack to make it. It was just delivered this morning, it should have been here last night, but there was a delay."

Dawn stared at the bottle. "Thank you."

"Oh, one thing..." Darius talked in a low voice. "Don't tell Zenith that I just gave you the bottle this morning, okay? I lied to him last night saying I have already given you the potion."

"Don't tell me that the delay is because of you?" Dawn gave him a look and the gamma scratched his head, ruining his perfectly neat hair.

"Well... I was busy, you know, so I forgot to send a letter to the healer at the pack."

Dawn chuckled. As long as this bottle didn't come from Aurel, she was fine. "You owe me one, then."

Darius grinned. "You are the best! Happy to have you as my luna!" He patted Dawn's shoulder, but was chided by the maid again, because he was not even supposed to be here, let alone touch the bride!

"You are happy because there will be a lot of food."

Darius widened his eyes, he feigned being offended. "I am not a foodie... I am truly happy for your union." Dawn squinted her eyes. The gamma couldn't care less about the union; that was the reason why he insisted on going with them to the capital city. "Well, to be fair, many people waited for this ceremony."

"If you are done with your business, get out now, we still have a lot of things to do!" All the maids were anxious.

"Geez, I am the Gamma, but I am being shooed away. Royal maids are something else..." Darius got up and waved at Dawn, while she laughed.

Actually, with his presence and talking a bit with him, it helped her to calm her nerves. But, she still drank the potion after she was sure there was nothing worrying about the liquid inside this bottle.

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It was thoughtful of Zenith to know that she would be very nervous and send this potion to her.

And he was right, this drink did help her to calm down a bit, she felt warm inside and her mood improved. She would ask what drink was this later.

There was one thing that Dawn felt slightly down about was the fact that her father was not here to see the ceremony, but at the end of the day, this was her decision.

“My lady, it is time,” one of the ladies said. She helped Dawn to stand up because the dress that she was wearing would make it difficult for her to walk, even so, she was expected to walk as gracefully as the princess she would be.

Today was not only a ceremony for the union between her and Zenith, but also a mark of the day, where she would be bestowed the title of the princess. Therefore, the procession would be long and tiring...

“Come, I will help you.”

“Thank you.”

“Don’t worry, my lady. I will remind you if you forget any steps of the procession.”

Dawn smiled. “That’s very comforting.”

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Ever since that day when the king was poisoned and Aurel didn’t have the ability to find a cure for him, she had been locking herself inside her bedroom.

She was waiting for that time, she was waiting for him to come looking for her, but even when the time came, he still didn’t find her and ask for her help like usual, thus the only way for her to know the reason was to look for him directly.

“Who allowed you to enter the room?” Zenith growled viciously when he saw Aurel was inside the bedroom. He was going to punish those incompetent guards who let her in.

Of course, Aurel used her status as the royal healer and a little bit of lies to be able to go through those guards.

“Why didn’t you come to me? Why didn’t you look for me?” Aurel asked directly, because she knew Zenith hated it when someone talked in a roundabout manner.

“Get out of this room. I don’t need your service anymore.” Zenith’s eyes turned darker when Aurel tried to approach him. Thankfully, the healer stopped her advances seeing how viciously the alpha glared at her.



“How?” Aurel couldn’t understand. “There is no way you didn’t need that anymore.” She shook her head. “Come here. I will alleviate your pain. I will...”

“Guards!” Zenith had enough of her.

“Zen, don’t be difficult, you will be hurting yourself if you refuse!” Aurel became a little bit panicked when the guards entered the room to escort her out. She wanted to stay, but she wanted to keep her dignity too. It wouldn’t look good if she was seen dragged out of the room. “You know how important this is for you! You know that it’s only me who can help you!”

Aurel was desperate.

“What are you waiting for?!” Zenith wanted to drag Aurel out himself, but he didn’t want to touch her. He was not willing to touch another woman right before the ceremony between him and Dawn.

“I care for you!”

“Then tell me what the concoction is.”

Aurel didn’t answer that.

“I see.”

“You will not look for me if I tell you.” Aurel looked miserable.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 57: THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (3)

“Zenith, why is it so hard for you to understand how much I care for you?” Aurel was desperate. For almost a decade, she helped him with this, but not even once Zenith glanced her way willingly.

“If you really care about me, tell me what the concoction is made of.” This was the second time Zenith repeated the same thing and Aurel should have known better not to push her luck too far, yet the healer was too emotional.

“No. You will stop looking for me if I do.” Aurel then shook her head. “I will let you know with one condition. If you stop this ceremony and this union, I will tell you about it.”

Zenith was not willing to spend another second breathing the same air as her. He was done. Nobody could stop him from having Dawn. He couldn’t care less about the whole ceremony, but Dawn would be his.

The guards then grabbed Aurel by arms to escort her out of the room, but the healer snapped at them.

“Don’t touch me! I can walk out on my own!” She screamed in their faces and then stormed off, feeling humiliated because she was outright rejected in front of these lowly guards.

Once the room fell quiet, Zenith walked toward the window, he stared at the bright sky. Today was the union between him and Dawn, and he hoped... he could make it right for her.

“What are you thinking now?” Zander entered the room through a secret door, so no one would know that he came to meet his brother before the ceremony. “Are you thinking of running away? Having second thoughts about killing the woman that has potential to kill you?”

Zenith threw him a vicious glare, as if to warn his brother not to touch a strand of her hair, yet Zander looked immune to his brother’s rage. He walked toward a chair and sat down leisurely.

“Get out.”

“What is it? You developed a habit of chasing people out now?” Zander saw what happened with Aurel. “How can you survive this long without her help?”

Zenith didn’t want to answer that. He changed the topic. “Elder Max approached me with the same intention.”

“For you to take the throne? The same old song from the old people.” Zander chuckled. “Actually, if you want the throne, I will give it to you for free. Just kidding.” He changed his tune quickly when he received a nasty look from Zenith. “Being a king is a lonely job with too much power and responsibilities.” He sighed and stared at the ceiling.

“Have you figured out who the people that used poison on the warriors were?”

“I have a few suspects, but I need to be sure and lure them out first.”

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“Just kill them all.”

“Killing some of them will only startle them and make them more aware, but if I let them think that they led the game, they will be reckless enough to expose themselves.”

This was why, in public, Zander and Zenith played opposite parties. People who wanted to take Zander down from the throne, would seek Zenith and campaign in his name to put him on the throne.

This was the best solution that they could come up with ten years ago, when everything started to go downhill.

“Smoke the snake out,” Zenith said. That was what Zander usually did. His twin sibling was a meticulous planner, he thought every move he made, unlike him. Zenith didn’t have the patience for a long game.

That was why Zenith believed if Zander really wanted to kill Dawn and disregard his opinion, he would have her dead already.

“Exactly.” Zander chuckled childishly, he tilted his head. “You look awesome! Very handsome! I love your face! Congratulations on your union!”

Zenith glanced at Zander’s cheerfulness and there was a complicated feeling that flickered in his blue eyes.

“I know what you are thinking. Please, don’t. I don’t need your pity.” In a second, Zander’s voice turned stern. He looked serious, though the face behind the golden mask was hidden.

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Dawn took a deep breath, she bit her lip and started to walk out of her room. There were around twelve royal maids, who followed behind her while four walked in front of her. Meanwhile, the royal warriors stood apart every few meters on both sides of the corridors.

The palace had been decorated in purple and black, the royal colors. Everything looked beautiful and ethereal. People would talk about this royal ceremony for ages, probably until the next royal ceremony that would occur in the future.

The trail of her dress was so long, the ten royal maids had to help her with it so it wouldn’t tangle when she walked, but then with every step she took, Dawn felt like she was exercising. She was panting slightly.

Damn it. It seemed what Zenith said about her needing more exercise was right. She was already very tired when she finally arrived at the main hall, where the ceremony would take place.

This dress was quite heavy and her legs were tired from dragging the trail of her dress, while walking gracefully. Her hair was styled in such a way that would make it easier for the king to put the crown on her head. She wondered how heavy the crown would be.

Dawn's mind was thinking trivial and unimportant things to help herself avoid breaking down from nervousness and anxiety.

Especially when the guard announced her presence and they opened the doors. All eyes immediately fell on her. These were the people she had never seen before, but they were important figures for this kingdom. Merchants from Karam continent, people from Andelus Continent, Marca El continent and many more.

She would be doomed if she made a mistake here. She would not only embarrass herself, but also Zenith.

Dawn felt quite overwhelmed, until she found a familiar figure standing at the end of this long red carpet. Zenith looked at her, his eyes met hers.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

#### Chapter 58: THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (4)

Dawn felt overwhelmed with the attention that she got from all the people inside the main hall. How many were there? Five hundred? Seven hundred people? The room was dead silent. She could hear her own heart beating so fast in her ears.

The dress that she was wearing felt heavier than before, as if someone sewed additional fabric to the trail of her dress. She didn't think she could take another step.

Her hands were clammy and she was having this imagination that the small bouquet of daisy flowers that she was holding started withering in her hands.

[I think she is going to cry.] Zander said through the mind link, he was standing on the highest platform, ready to bless this union and crown Dawn as a princess, but after a minute, he realized that woman couldn't take another step under the pressure.

Zander was not the only one, who realized that, of course, Zenith could also tell.

[Hey! You are not allowed to go get her!] Zander frowned behind his golden mask when he saw his brother walk toward Dawn to get her instead.

However, Zenith closed the mindlink and Zander couldn't complain when that was what he did.

Zenith came to get Dawn, she indeed looked like she was going to cry. The expression she made looked more like she would go to the gallows, instead of the ceremony of their union.

Dawn's eyes widened to see Zenith walk toward her, he did it with ease, even under so many eyes, as people wondered what he was going to do.

Zenith was wearing a cloak in purple and black color, he was already wearing a crown that suited his status as the prince of this kingdom. He looked regal and this must be the first time it clicked in Dawn's mind that she would have a union with a royal family member. It was finally happening.

"It's okay. I got you." Zenith took her hand and walked beside her slowly and this made all the audience gasp, because this was not how it should be done, but the women smiled secretly, they thought it was very thoughtful for someone, who was infamous as a cruel alpha to be this considerate toward his future mate.

"I am sorry," Dawn said under her breath, she knew she ruined the process.

"No need to feel sorry. Let's get it done quickly, these people annoy me."

Dawn almost laughed at that comment and tilted her head to look at him, at the same time, Zenith was staring at her too, making sure she did not stumble because of her complicated gown.

"That looks uncomfortable," Zenith said.

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"It is."

For some reason, Dawn found comfort in his deep blue eyes. People saw him as a monster from the north, but she would give up everything she had to be with this monster.

Probably, this was the best thing that had ever happened to her after enduring all those years of negligence from her family. She should thank Emily for taking Blake away from her life, because evidently, Zenith was a thousand times better than her cheater ex mate.

"I feel like my legs are going to be broken. This dress is heavy as hell."

They were talking in very low voices. Even though people couldn't tell what they were talking about, they could tell they were having a hush- hush conversation.

"Do you want me to carry you?"

Dawn widened her eyes, which could be translated as; don't you dare.

Finally, they reached the king, but even so, Zenith was still holding her hand tightly. Zander was still wearing his golden mask and he was wearing this magnificent cloak in the color of purple and black, but it was more vibrant than the one Zenith was wearing, emphasizing his status as the king.

“Here, we will witness the union between...” Pyro’s voice echoed inside the main hall, as he stood behind Zander, on his right side, while Lance was holding a tiara on the king’s left side.

Dawn didn’t follow what Pyro was saying, she kept reminding herself about the next step she should follow and not to mess things up again.

Zenith could feel her nervousness and squeezed her hand, to remind her that she was not alone. He was there with her.

‘You look beautiful.’ Zenith mouthed, which made Dawn blush and Zander cleared his throat to make his brother focus on the event and stop talking.

Usually this brother of his was very taciturn, but on this occasion, he was exceptionally talkative.

Zenith gave him a nasty look, in response to which Zander glared at him.

Meanwhile, those people who were close to them and were privileged enough to see this silent squabbling between the siblings could only frown.

“You need to get down on your knees,” Zenith said in a low voice after Pyro finished with his speech.

Dawn then knelt down so Zander could put the crown on her head.

And after that, Dawn actually didn’t need to remember what she should do next, because Zenith would guide her every step of the way.

Dawn really wanted to kiss this man!

There she was, thinking Zenith didn’t care about the ceremony and she had suffered alone because of that exhausting preparation, but actually, even after all the lessons of the royal etiquette along with every step of the ceremony that she had to obey, Dawn didn’t think it would go well if it was not for Zenith’s help.

He saved her from embarrassing herself in front of so many people. Dawn didn’t even remember that her father was not there with her.

Meanwhile, outside of the palace, the four bells rang at the same time, indicating that the procession had been done and they had a new princess in this kingdom.

Everyone cheered and sang together, as the sky had turned bright red, welcoming the evening.

Among the people, Alpha Tony stared at the majestic palace, he felt this emptiness in his heart. He waited, but Dawn never reached out to him.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

#### Chapter 59: THE CONSEQUENCES

“She is going to be your chosen mate. I need you to keep your act together,” Jason said sternly once they arrived at their house.

No matter how tired they were during this journey back, Jason still wanted to address the problem with his son before anything.

“I told you that I am not going to mark her. I am going back to the capital city.” Blake’s eyes dimmed, he was going through another phase of insanity now and if he kept rejecting Emily as his mate, he would become a mad man in no time.

This was not the end that Jason wished for his only son.

“Insolent!” Jason smashed the table in front of him and Ava was startled, she was listening from behind the door, trying so hard not to rush in and save her son from his father’s wrath. “Do you know what kind of trouble that I have to go through to get your ass away from the gallows!? Did you really decide to die?!”

Meanwhile, Blake didn’t even flinch. He looked his father straight in the eyes when he spoke. “I didn’t ask you to do that.”

Jason was so mad, he grabbed a small box and was about to smash it against his son’s head, so he could gain some clarity in order to see the whole thing, but then, he stopped himself in time. His hand was trembling, the box still in his tight grip.

“Get out of my sight. Get out!” Jason was so exasperated. “You are not allowed to leave the house! You are not allowed to step out of your bedroom until that fucking woman gave birth to your child and you mark her!”

That was not even a warning. That was an ultimatum.

“I am not going to mark her. She is not my mate. Dawn is my mate. She is the one that I want.”

Unexpectedly, Jason laughed out loud when he heard that, which made Blake furrow his brows. “Too bad, son. Tonight, Dawn will be marked by the Alpha of the north.”

Tonight was the mating ceremony, where Alpha Zenith would mark his mate.

Blake was visibly shaking, not because he didn’t know about this, but because he didn’t want to believe it.

"I am going to kill that fucking alpha and take my mate back."

A harsh punch landed on Blake's face, which sent him stumbling down from the chair he was sitting on. Blood splattered on the floor and table before staining the carpet.

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"If there is someone to be blamed here, it's you and your dick! You should have kept your dick inside your pants!" Jason was furious. He was breathing heavily. His vision was blurry because of how enraged he was. "You shouldn't have touched her in the first place! Have I fed you with shit so you couldn't use your head properly?!"

Ava was crying from behind the door, she didn't dare to intervene, knowing really well that she would only anger Jason further.

"You need to grow up! This is the consequence of your own actions!"

"I don't love her!"

"Who cares whether you love her or not?! The moment you fucked her sister, you lost her! Are you that dumb not to realize that?!" Jason then called two warriors to drag his son out of the room. "Give him Rottingbane! I don't want him to cause trouble until the day of the ceremony!"

It would be less than two months from now. Within less than two months, Emily would give birth to the baby and the ceremony would happen.

After that, Blake would mark her and someone from the capital city would confirm that, only then Blake would be free from the gallows, the noose around his neck.

Blake didn't fight back, but the hateful and disgusted look that he gave to his father was enough to make anyone feel dread in their hearts.

Jason was taken aback for a while and then saw the disapproving look from his mate, who followed their son to his bedroom.

"Damn my life!" Jason growled, he punched the wall and left a huge crack there.

At the same time, Julia wanted to have the same conversation with Emily. She wanted her to be patient with Blake. He would eventually come around.

"What? Just like when you were patient with Alpha Tony and waited for him to come around?" Emily raised her brows.

This was still a sensitive topic and Julia was not ready to have a conversation about this, but since she kept pestering her, Emily wouldn't make it easy for her mother either.



“Tell me mother, is he my real father?” Emily’s eyes turned very cold.

“Where did you learn about this?”

“It doesn’t matter where I learnt about this, now answer me, is he my real father?” Emily stood up from her chair, they were having this conversation in the kitchen. “Fine, let me change the question. How long has your affair been going on?”

Julia was visibly upset with the question, but she couldn’t answer that. She gritted her teeth.

“So, he is my father?” Emily emphasized this, but Julia didn’t want to say anything. “You made me feel grateful for what he has done to me, to us, when in reality that’s his responsibility from the beginning.” And then Emily seemed to remember something, the crucial question. “Did he know that I am his daughter? When did he learn that I am his daughter?”

Emily looked at her mother closely. She gritted her teeth, her body was shaking in anger and she hated it when this fucking baby kicked her. It hurts!

What the fuck did this baby want with her!?

“So, he knew? All this time he knew?” Emily laughed derisively. “Every time he chose us over his own daughter, when I thought I won, we won his heart, was it actually because he wanted to compensate us?”

Emily felt sick to her stomach when she finally put two and two together.

“Fuck you mother! And fuck him!”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 60: EXECUTE THE PLAN

Today was the second day of the seven day long celebration and Dawn felt like she was done already.

“I can’t move my body...” Dawn didn’t even feel like she wanted to smile anymore for the rest of the month.

She had met with a lot of people, a lot more than she had ever met in her entire twenty one years of life, in just two days. She was fed up, she didn’t want to meet anymore people.

“Come, I will help you clean up.” Zenith bent his body and carried Dawn in his arms, but this time, she didn’t protest, she couldn’t care less about those guards, warriors and guests, who stared at them.

“Should I pretend to faint, so I don’t need to attend tomorrow’s event?” Dawn suggested it quietly.

“Good idea.” Zenith kissed her forehead. “I can arrange that.”

Dawn chuckled. She wrapped her arms around his neck and actually fell asleep even before they reached their bedroom.

Therefore, it was up to Zenith to clean her up. The alpha could ask someone to do that, but he didn’t want anyone to touch her. He was going to do it. He liked taking care of his woman. His mate.

Carefully, Zenith took off her dress, so he wouldn’t wake her up and then wiped her body clean.

The hard part was not taking care of her, but to keep his head leveled even after looking at the beauty before him. Heavens knew how much effort he had to exert to keep himself calm in front of her when his instinct bothered him, urging him to mark her, she was the woman he wanted since forever.

No one could say otherwise, not even his king brother.

Dawn woke up when Zenith dressed her in a comfortable nightgown, but he kissed her forehead and lulled her back to sleep. Dawn was completely exhausted.

[I am outside.]

Zenith stopped himself from growling in annoyance when Zander mindlinked him. His brother was just right outside of the door, he could smell his annoying scent from here.

[Scram.]

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[Go out or I will go in.]

[I dare you to do it.]

[Do you want to wake your sleeping beauty?]

Zander had seen how spent Dawn was, therefore he handled all the guests and cut tonight’s events short.

But, there was something that he really needed to speak with Zenith about. And he knew how to get on his brother’s nerves.

“What do you want?” Zenith closed the door behind him.

“Walk with me.”

“Let’s talk here.”

“Can’t we agree on one thing.”

“People will see.”

Zander frowned. “Why do I feel like we are having an affair or something? Can’t I walk with my own brother?”

“That’s not how it works.”

Unless Zander was ready to make a move and wipe those old hags from his court, they had to keep up with their charade, so that they could gather the names of the people in the court, who had done a dirty job and vied for the fall of the king.

“What do you want to talk about, Zan?”

“Tomorrow is the mating ceremony. Are you sure you want to mark her? You can mate her, then not mark her.”

“I am going to mark her.”

Zander took off his golden mask, he looked frustrated. “The prophecy!” He hissed viciously.

“I don’t care, Zan.”

“She will not complain even if you didn’t mark her.”

“And let her bear the humiliation because I didn’t mark her?”

“You could die!” Zander didn’t know how he could get to his brother’s thick skull.

It wasn’t like he didn’t know about this. He was also well aware of his predicament, he himself said he was going to kill his mate. But, from the looks of it, there was no way Zenith would wish any harm on her.

“I will…”

But, before Zander could finish his sentence, Zenith had cut him off first. “You swore that you will not harm her no matter what. A life for a life, remember?”

Zander gritted his teeth. He closed his eyes in frustration and to control his rage.

“Have you not yet seen Aurel, what are you planning?” Zander learned about this because Aurel told him herself. “You know your condition will get worse without her concoction.”

“I know the concoction.”

“You know?” Zander frowned. “How? How did you know?” There was no way Aurel told him about this, because this was only her leverage to get to see Zenith and the only time he gave a fuck about her.

“You don’t need to know about that. Don’t ever bring the prophecy up again. None of that is right.” Zenith turned around, but when Zander was about to stop him, he gave him one last word. “Don’t stand between me and her, Zan. I have chosen you for the last ten years, I am going to choose her now.”

“Are you telling me that you are going to rebel if I try to harm her?”

“I only want you to know that I hold as much power as you do.”

And after saying that, Zenith entered the room and closed the door behind him to lie down beside his woman. Dawn was sleeping soundly, she was not aware of her surroundings or the storm that was brewing in the capital city with the eye of the storm being the palace.

“I love you, Dawn.” Zenith kissed Dawn’s forehead. “I hope when the time comes, you are going to forgive me.”

Zenith pulled her closer against his chest and closed his eyes. He would savor this moment while it lasted, before the storm would shake the entire continent.

Zander had said that he only needed one more year and everything would be over. Zenith hoped he would stick to his plan without bothering about his decision to choose Dawn.

That night, Zander gathered his royal beta and royal gamma.

“Execute the plan.” Zander stared into the distance, his eyes filled with hatred when he stared at the golden mask that was sitting on the table.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .