

The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter, Chapter 66

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"I have to let you go if you act out again." Cane cherished the woman before him, but their objectives were completely different.

He couldn't risk having her creating an internal conflict at will with the power he gave her. She was smart, but he didn't appreciate her using it to drift the people apart.

Cane had noticed her jealousy, but he didn't do anything about it because that was not something important to him.

However, after realizing how she could influence a mass of people to take her side and how smoothly she made people sway to her tune, he knew she could be troublesome for him one day if he didn't stop her immediately.

Even though he didn't want it to be like this, he needed to let her go if she didn't listen to him going forward. He had a grand plan in his mind and he needed to get rid of any disturbance and if she turned out to be one of them, he didn't have any other choice.

Aria staggered when she heard what Cane said, especially when she knew how serious he was with every warning that he delivered. "Wh- what do you mean you want to let me go?" A tear escaped her eyes, her vision was blurry while her heart ached so badly.

"I want you to stand down, Aria," Cane said firmly. "Enjoy your life, you are no longer a slave now. Buy clothes that you want and also jewelry, go to places that you want to visit. Live your life." Cane

that you are not."

approached her and caressed her head. "Don't turn into a monster

Aria was stunned when Cane touched her gently. The way he caressed her head showed how much he cared for her, but not in the way Aria was thinking or wanted him to.

“That’s the only way for me to repay what you have done for me in the past, since I can’t give myself to you, because there is nothing left of me.” Cane put down his hand and looked at her, exhausted. “There are already so many monsters out there, I don’t want you to be one of them.”

The flowers kept coming even after two weeks of Iris being unconscious. Grace and Ardand, the former head healer, had done everything within their power. Even after they got her the rarest herbs, she was still unconscious.

Her room right now smelled of roses and fresh flowers. Hanna made sure to take care of everything there and give Iris’ medicine on time. Sometimes, Amee and Grilla would come to see Iris, yet there was nothing significant that had happened.

During the third week after the event, the tents in the front yard were taken down because all the people had healed and those who needed extra care could get it in their respective houses, since their lives were no longer in danger.

They had buried the dead already and the houses that had been destroyed during the attack had been rebuilt as well. Everything went smoothly without any hiccups because the pack could fund it without any problems with the treasury that they found with the help of Iris.

Things would be perfect if she could just wake up now, considering how many people wanted to

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express their gratitude to her and how they regretted what they had done to her.

Some people were still skeptical, especially those, who were not there to hear Hanna’s outburst, but the number of those people was nothing compared to the others who kept praying and sending flowers, asking about Iris’ wellbeing.

They kept saying their prayers fervently when they were told that Iris was still unconscious while Hanna refused to step out of the bedroom if it was not

necessary. She was afraid to leave her missy alone. She didn't believe those people and for a while, she didn't even believe Amee and Grilla to be left with Iris alone.

The two of them were there and did nothing to help when the incident happened, regardless of what they believed about Iris. How could they watch someone be stoned to death callously? So was the case with Grace, but Hanna couldn't help but trust her, since she was a healer and there was Ardand

too.

"Ah... I forgot..." Hanna muttered to herself how clumsy she was for forgetting to get a jar of honey. Amee was here a few hours ago and she should have gone to fetch it from the kitchen, but she forgot because both of them chatted lightly and once again, Amee apologized to her and the unconscious Iris. "I have been so forgetful recently..."

Hanna clicked her tongue and went out of the bedroom, she was half running when she turned at the corner and almost ran into Will who just exited the alpha's study room.

"Are you okay?" Will was surprised to see Hanna's face up close, this was their first encounter after that unfortunate event befell on Iris.

"Oh, yes. I am fine." Hanna immediately steadied herself, she looked a little bit embarrassed. "I am sorry, I shouldn't be running around like that."

"No harm has been done. Don't worry." Will looked at her slightly pale face. She must have not slept well during these few weeks since her missy was still unconscious. "Where are you going? You seem to be in a hurry."

"I am going to the kitchen to get a jar of honey. I am running out of it. It has to be mixed with the other medicines."

Hanna was about to bid him goodbye and continue to go to the kitchen, but then she realized Will was following her.

She turned her head and looked at him.

"I will help you to carry the honey." That was what he said and Hanna muttered a small 'thank you, while they walked toward the kitchen together

and Will ended up taking four jars of honey with him, so Hanna wouldn't need to run back and forth for it.

At this point, Hanna was allowed to take anything from the kitchen per the alpha's permission. She even got meals with larger chunks of meat than she usually got, which she was grateful for.

On their way back, both of them didn't talk much, though they were slowing down their steps and seemingly wanted to start a conversation, yet they didn't know what to say.

In the end, even until they reached Iris' bedroom, not a single word left their lips.

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"It still surprises me that she had done all of those things at such a young age," Will said, as he looked at Hanna, who was starting to grind the herbs because it was time for Iris to take her medicine. "Why didn't you speak up sooner?"

Hanna wanted to tell Grace that the medicine didn't work, because Iris had not yet woken up. but then she didn't know any better.

"She actually didn't want me to say anything about it," Hanna replied, as she looked at Iris warmly.

"But, why?"

"Because according to her, it will not help with the situation and it will not change anything," Hanna muttered and recalled what Iris said. "One of the reasons is because she was afraid that no one would want to eat the food if they knew it came from her. In that case, all her efforts will be in vain."

What Iris was afraid of was not baseless, because Will also thought the same, with the hatred that they had for alpha Gerald and his son, receiving food and help from Iris could be misinterpreted and even though they accepted it, they

wouldn't eat it with an easy mind. It would only add to their complicated thoughts.

They wouldn't feel the pure joy and gratitude as they felt whenever Hanna and her friends came sneaking in some food and medicine.

"Why didn't you say anything after? You could have saved her if the alpha knew about it."

"Will you believe it?" Hanna asked point blank. "Before what happened, I have told everyone about Miss Iris, that she is not like her father, but not a single soul believed me."

Even if they had the slightest faith in Iris or Hanna's words, they wouldn't have done the thing that they did to her.

"Even now, there are still people who question my story and intentions, right?" Hanna smiled at Will sadly.

Meanwhile, Will understood why Iris didn't want to be exposed and what her concern was.

"I am not an angel like you said, that entire 'angel' image actually belongs to her." Hanna shifted her attention toward Iris, smiling warmly. "She is an angel. Her heart was so pure, but she suffered so much. In fact, I only knew about your condition because she witnessed you being tortured."

There was silence between them after that statement, until Will cleared his throat awkwardly and then looked at Hanna.

"Yes, I am very grateful for what she has done, she is kind and... different from her father." Hearing that admission, Hanna turned toward him and looked at the man with gratitude. "But, it doesn't mean that you don't deserve to receive our gratitude. You played a huge role and for me, you are like an angel. My view of you didn't change at all." And he hastily added before it became more awkward. "So was the case with everyone else."

A month passed and things went uneventfully. The fortress had been strengthened, houses had been

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rebuilt and people started to trade again, while Iris was still unconscious.

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There were a few problems here and there, but everything was still under control, especially since they had the funds.

An urgent problem that Cane had to face right now was; the orphans. Those children, whose parents died during the attack and had their house destroyed. He didn't have any idea what he needed to do with them. If they were a little bit older, he would send the boys to training and the girls to help with the other omegas in the pack house.

However, there was nothing that had been settled yet.

And another important problem was; the monster hunting. After the attack, it was proven that the monsters had grown significantly in number.

After a few long discussions, it was decided that the monster hunt would be held within four days from now and they would send the Blue Moon pack's former warriors to venture deeper into the mountain.

In order to make sure that they did their job, none of them would be allowed to return without killing ten monsters each, which, of course, ensued an uproar for them.

But, it was easily suppressed when Stone reminded them that they had done the same thing for the past ten years and mocked them about how incompetent they were for whining over such a thing.

Redmond was the leader of the warriors and he looked agitated beyond words when, as a slave, he couldn't change their impending fate to face the monsters.

"I know you are frustrated, but you will get used to being a slave at one point," Stone mocked him openly and this almost caused a ruckus if it was not for Cane stopping them in time.

But, the day before that would be so tense, since they wouldn't be given the Rottingbane tea, which meant they would be able to shift into their beasts and entertain the funny idea of attacking them instead.

Thankfully, nothing like that happened after Cane gave a serious warning to Redmond that he wouldn't hesitate to toss them all out of the fortress after cutting off their limbs.

And just like any other day, he went to visit Iris.

He didn't do anything and just stood by the bedside and stared at her for ten minutes and then left again without saying anything.

But, this ten minutes tonight happened to be the time when Iris finally opened her eyes, after being unconscious for a month long.

Cane's jaw ticked when he saw Iris groggily open her eyes. She took her surroundings in and met his

eyes.

"How are you feeling?"

"I... I am in pain..." Iris replied absentmindedly.

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Erin sighed, taking a look at herself through the mirror. The day had finally come, and today she would officially become the Luna and Derrick's mate. Amelia and Vanessa had spent the early part of the morning helping her get ready, and by the early part, she meant mid-afternoon since the ceremony was scheduled for the evening.

There was just an hour left for the ceremony. Her omega was nervous and excited at the same time. It felt different this time, a good kind of excitement. The last time she was in this position, about to get mated officially, she had been scared and filled with uncertainty and tears. How would he treat her? Would he like her? Her omega had been very nervous, and we all know how that ended.

Erin shook her head, jolting herself out of those thoughts. Today was a good day, and she would treat it as such. A good day. An amazing day, in fact.

“How are you holding up? Dylan and Alex are making me do all sorts of things,” Derrick whined through the mind link. Erin giggled, expecting his voice for a while and surprised it didn’t come sooner.

“Things like?” she asked just as the door squeaked behind her, indicating someone had stepped into the room.

“Amelia will skin me alive if she catches me speaking to you. She’s forbidden me,” Erin quickly replied, just as Amelia’s scent filled her nostrils.

“Why the hell would she do that? Does she have any idea how tormenting it is to not speak to you for hours? I don’t understand this weird fucking tradition,” Derrick groaned out, frustration filling his voice.

“Don’t tell me you’re speaking to Derrick, Erin? You both can do without each other for four hours,” Amelia’s voice reached her ear, and she quickly activated the mind block, leaving Derrick frustrated.

Erin looked up at Amelia, smiling sheepishly. “Do you know how difficult this is? Not speaking for hours because of something you came up with?” she pouted.

Amelia rolled her eyes. “This is supposed to help both of you want each other crazily after spending hours apart, but I see it’s not working. I give up,” she rolled her eyes, smiling fondly at her.

“Oh, you’re so pretty. Derrick got himself such a beautiful mate,” she said, bending just a bit. “If he didn’t snag you, I probably would’ve.” She winked at Erin, who playfully slapped her on the arm.

Erin looked back at the mirror, her lips still pulled into a smile. She was wearing a long royal blue dress, her hair was let down and curled, her lips glossy, and her cheeks rosy. She felt pretty too.

“How many minutes left?” she asked, and Amelia smiled widely.

“Now. I only came to get you,” she replied. Erin looked at her, eyes wide.

“Now? I was just speaking to...”

“Derrick, I know. He’s being silly, but I promise you he is out there waiting to get hitched

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as quickly as possible and have you crowned Luna,” Amelia replied again.

Erin swallowed harshly. She would be crowned Luna once again, and this time it would be different from the first time it happened.

She stood up, turning fully to face Amelia. Amelia stepped closer to her, her eyes blurry with unshed tears. “You’ve done so well, Erin. You deserve every bit of happiness,” she said, and Erin nodded, holding onto Amelia’s hand tightly.

“Look after Ana for me, will you? I won’t be able to take care of her today and…” She doesn’t get to complete her words. Amelia smiles, clasping her hand over Erin’s.

“You don’t have to tell me twice. I’ll look after her for you. Don’t worry,” she says. Erin smiles and nods, taking a deep breath and nodding again. She’s ready.

They both step outside the room only to find Agatha standing right outside the door. Her eyes were blazing red, her hair scattered and unkempt. Her eyes were filled with eye bags, and her lips were chapped and rough. She looked every bit exhausted. Her gaze falls on Erin, and her eyes harden.

“You,” she mutters lowly, her eyes filled with disdain, hatred, and anger—anger directed at Erin.

“You’re happy, aren’t you? You’re getting mated to Derrick, becoming Luna, and what’s not. You stole my daughter’s life! All of this belongs to my daughter. It all belongs to Samantha, and here you are, boldly stealing everything that belongs to her. Do you think the moon goddess will forgive you for this? You will never be forgiven!” She yells at the top of her voice, the veins in her neck popping as she screams at Erin. Two maids rush out of Agatha’s room on the far end of the hall, trembling out of fear as they bow.

“Forgive us, Your Highness. She left while we were cleaning,” one of them speaks up.

Amelia sighs, looking back at the woman who had been under medical care since the banishment. “Aunt Agatha, you’re ill. You shouldn’t be out here,”

Amelia replies, holding Erin by the shoulders. Agatha looks at Amelia and scoffs.

“You too. You all betrayed Samantha! You all are responsible for what happened to her,” she screams again, clearly unstable.

“What are you waiting for? Take her back to her room!” Amelia yells at the maids. They immediately rush towards her, grabbing her by the arms, trying to drag her away, but the woman doesn’t make it easy for them.

“I curse you! You stole my daughter’s life. I curse the day you came into this pack. I curse. you, Erin! I curse you!” she yells as she’s dragged away.

Erin exhales shakily, her throat constricting with air. Amelia holds her shoulders tightly. “Those are just words. She’s sick and delusional. You shouldn’t think about it,” Amelia says in an attempt to pacify Erin.

Erin nods, a shaky sigh leaving her once again. She looks at the woman’s door at the far end of the hall. It’s funny how Samantha was banished because of what she did to Vanessa, but Erin is the one taking the blame.

“Come on, there can’t be a mating ceremony without you,” she urges.

The pack had been decorated beautifully for today. Word has been spread around about

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the mating ceremony. The entire kingdom was painted and decorated beautifully.

Erin smiles as she reached the garden where the ceremony would be taking place. Derrick was sitting on the throne on the podium. Beside it was a smaller yet significant throne where Erin would be sitting in some hours. Derrick says it’s a historical throne and it isn’t used except for days like today and other important days which affirms the position of the Alpha king and his Luna, the queen.

He stands up as soon as he laid his eyes on Erin. Everyone else followed suit, all standing up too.

Erin walks towards him, the procession beginning. She stops right beside him, glancing at him only to see his eyes already on her. He had a white mixed with tiny streaks of gold regalia, just like his ancestors would wear, he had told her.

A man Erin hasn't seen before stepped forward, clearing his throat for a bit. He opens a rather large book, he looks back at the both of them, and nods after getting his confirmation from Derrick. He begins.

After five minutes of reading through the book, Erin now understands, it's a book passed down to every Luna of the dark moon kingdom and now it's being read to her because it will be given to her.

"I do."

A woman steps forward, in her hand was a tray with a gold cup covered elegantly. She walks towards Erin, lifting the veil of the cup. Erin glances at Derrick who nods, she steps forward, takes the cup, and drinks every of its content. She's not sure what to expect but she definitely doesn't expect something sweet and sour. She opens her mouth to speak but the pain is instant. Her leg buckles and she staggers just a bit, eyes widening. It felt like her head was expanding, the veins in her head were being pulled terribly. Different thoughts and voices ran and settled in her head. It takes a minute and it all goes down, like the pain wasn't there, she didn't hear different voices in her head. She opens her eyes. and the man's lips curl upward just a bit.

"Kneel." The man says again.

Erin does as he says, closing her eyes briefly, she holds her breath for a minute just as the crown was placed on her head. It's heavy.

"Erin, Mate of Alpha Derrick of the Dark Moon pack has officially been crowned the Luna of the Dark Moon pack." The man announces.

Erin stands up straight, the crown sitting on her head prettily. Everyone bows, showing their respect.

The ceremony has officially come to an end and now it's just left for the after-party. Zach stood, arms crossed against his chest as he watched Ana. He had been watching the party from back here when she ran to him, giggly and excited to try new sweets which is what she is doing now.

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He smiles affectionately, watching the pup stick her fingers into the melted sweet. “Ana, don’t do that.” He cautions but she doesn’t listen as usual.

opens

He his mouth but is cut off. “Leave her, she’s a pup and needs it.” The voice tells him. He straightened stiffly, already knowing who it is.

Amelia walks closer to him, eyes on the pup who was playing. “I need to speak to you.” She says, lifting her gaze to Zach.

“I’m busy watching Ana. We can talk some other time.” He replied, focusing on the pup like he had nothing else to do.

“Zach. We really need to talk.” Amelia says tiredly, running her hands through her hair. She looks back at the party still going on. Erin and Derrick were dancing while being cheered.

“I just told you I am-”

“Yeah, watching Ana. I know. She’s my niece.” She shot back at him, rolling her eyes, she looks around and sees Vanessa sitting alone, watching the fun happen.

“Ana,” she calls the pup who answers on hearing Amelia’s voice. Wide Doe eyes stared back at her, hands filled with sweets.

“Go meet Auntie Vanessa over there, will you, sweetie? I want to speak to Zach for a second.” She tells the pup, pointing in Vanessa’s direction. Ana looks at the direction she’s pointing at and nods.

“Kay..” the pup mutters, licking her fingers for a bit before running off.

Amelia sighs, grabbing Zach by the arm and dragging him away.

Erin giggled, holding Derrick by the arm, they were all gathered in the living room, waiting on Amelia and Ana then Vanessa and Alex. It’s like the couples all disappeared. Now it’s just Maxwell, Dylan, and Uncle Mikhail there with them.

“What are you thinking about?” Derrick asks, smiling at her. She shrugs, leaning against his shoulder.

There was a large cake Erin wanted to share with every one of them. It doesn't take time though, exactly two minutes later, Amelia and Zach walk into the living room, they seemed different, a good kind of different. Erin sighed in relief. Well, that's a good change.

“Took you forever to get here.” She rolls her eyes affectionately, then pauses slightly “Where is Ana?” She asks, not seeing her pup with them.

Amelia furrows her eyebrows, looking around the room. “She's with Vanessa. Aren't they here? I could've sworn...” she doesn't get to complete her words as Alex and Vanessa both walk into the living room too.

“She's with Vanessa,” Amelia mutters.

Vanessa halts, confusion clouding her eyes on hearing her name. “Who is with me?” She asks.

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“Ana, She's with you. I saw her running to meet you back at the party,” Arnelia says.

“Isn't she with you, Vanessa?” Erin asks, already feeling hot.

“Umm, no. She didn't come to meet me. What are you talking about?” Vanessa counters, looking confused as fuck.

Erin swallows hard. “Okay, she's maybe hiding somewhere or something. She can't be far from here,” Derrick injects, holding Erin's hand tightly. He could already feel the panic waves emitting from her.

“B—but we are just coming from the garden. No one is there. Everything is cleared,” Vanessa says slowly.

Erin's knees grow weak, and her chest suddenly tightens, almost making it impossible for her to breathe. She clutches her chest tightly, eyes squeezed closed. She tries to connect to Ana, being her mother, she can sense and connect to her daughter even though she doesn't have her wolf.

“Erin, are you okay? What’s wrong?” Derrick rushes out, concern clouding his voice.

“Get water!” He yells. Erin can hear everyone moving and hurrying. She slowly opens her eyes, her hand dropping from her chest. Derrick’s face is right in front of her.

A tear falls to her cheeks. “Ana isn’t here. She’s not in the pack.”

Author’s note; Hi guys, you can follow me on Instagram for more updates about this book (Lauretta_writes)

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Erin’s panic intensifies as the realization sinks in that her daughter, Ana, is missing. The room spins around her, and her heart races in her chest. She feels a surge of fear and helplessness, engulfs her completely. She clings tightly to Derrick’s hand, eyes blurring, her throat constricting with air.

“No, no, no, not my daughter. Not Ana.” She cries out.

“Ana has to be around here somewhere. She’s a fucking pup. She couldn’t have wandered far. I want everyone searching for her. I need everyone’s hands on deck.” Derrick’s voice resonated with authority, his own wolf almost going crazy at the mere thought of something happening to Ana.

“We need to find Ana immediately, spread out and search every corner of the pack. Ana has to be somewhere close by.” He declares, voice filled with determination.

Erin trembled helplessly, everything in her crumbling with every second that passed. She should’ve been there. She should’ve had her eye on her baby and now. Who knows where Ana is? What she’s doing? She has tried to connect to the pup severally all to no avail. She’s out of reach. That has never happened with her.

The room erupts into action, people scrambling about to search for Ana. Erin hadn’t. realized when everyone had gathered there, she could only shake uncontrollably. Their once joyous and excited occasion now tainted. She has to find Ana by all means.

Derrick bends down to her level, his thumb wiping a stray tear off her cheek. He holds her face “I’ll find Ana. Trust me, I will. She’s not far from here. I will find her.” He says, determinedly.

“I’ll go with you. I can find her. I need to find her.” She says, hurriedly wiping her tears.

“Please don’t. You can wait here in case she comes back.” He tells her, they both hoped she would but knew there’s a greater chance she might not. If she’s truly out of the pack, it will not be easy.

Erin watches as he leaves with the others, all going to search for Ana. How is it possible everything has gone so sour and now? Her baby? Her pup? Ana has been in this pack for the past three years and has never wandered out so why would she now?

Erin breaks down in tears, her chest hurting badly. As Erin’s sobs echo through the room, Amelia approaches her, her own eyes brimming with tears. She wraps her arms around Erin, offering a shaky but comforting embrace. “I’m so sorry, Erin. I should have been more careful. It’s all my fault,” she whispers, voice shaky.

“I should’ve been more careful. I shouldn’t have allowed her out of my sight. It’s all my fault you’re suffering the way you are right now. Please forgive me.” Amelia cries out, sobbing loudly. Erin clings to Amelia’s arm, “No, it’s not your fault. It’s not your fault. You did your best. We will find her. We have to find her.” Erin manages to say between her

sobs.

“Yes, exactly what you’ve said. Ana is a brave girl, she will come back home. She’ll be back soon.” Vanessa says, attempting to calm Erin but it only causes even more tears. Erin’s mind races with a whirlwind of fear, different the thoughts passing through her head. She closes her eyes, praying to the moon goddess.

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The minutes crawl by, intensifying Erin’s grief. She’s not heard from anyone yet. The ache in her heart was overwhelming. Erin paced around the living room, eyes stuck on the wall clock. It’s been an hour. A whole hour and yet no news about Ana. She’s consumed with worry.

“Erin, you’ll worry yourself to death at this rate.” Vanessa’s voice jolts her out of her thoughts. She looks at the woman standing beside her.

“Ana is my pup, Vanessa. She’s the only child that I have and she’s missing. You want me to be calm? You want me not to worry?” She swallows hard, eyes blurring with tears again.

“Today was supposed to be one of the happiest days of my life but this.. this happened. Ana has been in this pack for three years, Vanessa. She’s been staying here and we haven’t had an issue like this before but now. She’s suddenly disappeared that too, right under my nose. Oh my goodness. What kind of mother am I?” She cries out, almost tearing herself apart at the anguish.

“Erin.” Vanessa trails off pathetically, seeing the other teetering on the brink of insanity.

“She’s not in the pack, Vanessa. She’s out of the pack. I have no idea where Ana is. How could she go all out by herself? No one saw her?” She rushes out, tears streaming down her face freely.

“Erin, you have to calm down. Ana will be found.” Vanessa says with determination in her voice. It does nothing to help Erin though.

She can feel it, deep inside her she can feel it. Her daughter isn’t in the dark moon pack.

anymore.

Liam runs his hand through his hair, gulping down another glass of alcohol. He feels. useless, his mate is now mated to Derrick and here he is, unable to do a thing to stop it. He should’ve dragged her out of there when he had the chance. He should’ve done. something but he didn’t. He didn’t and now.. she’s mated to Derrick. His alpha has. refused to speak to him for the past few days now. He’s literally living like a fucking dead.

He pours himself another drink, groaning when he hears the knock on his door. He furrows his eyebrows.

“Leave me alone! Didn’t you hear me say I want to be left alone?” He growls weakly, the alcohol making him slightly tipsy. Liam grunts, gulping the rest of

the drink, he stands up, staggering forward just a bit. An alpha shouldn't be this drunk but he's allowed to. Especially today of all days.

He walks to the door and pulls it open, "WHAT?" He yells just as Peter's steps forward, a sly grin tugging on his lips.

"Uncle? What are you doing here?" Liam asks, confused.

Peter smirks, stepping into the office and shuts the door behind him.

"You won't believe what I just heard."

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69 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?

The last time Iris saw Redmond was a week before the Blue Moon pack lost the battle against the Howling Wolf pack led by Cane.

Redmond had told her father that they needed to evacuate and ask for more help from the king, but her father was too arrogant to listen to him. He didn't actually think a former slave like Cane could gather so much power within half a year to take down his pack.

But then, reality hit him hard as he turned out to be hopelessly wrong while his arrogance only made him pay a huge price.

Iris tried to think of a reason for Redmond wanting to pledge his loyalty to her when they didn't even know each other so well. It would be less complicated if he bowed to Cane and acknowledged him as the new alpha.

However, from the looks of it, Iris realized this was his final and only resort to preserve the last shred of dignity he had as the leader of the warriors, as if trying to imply, even until his last, he didn't bow down to the alpha. He was aiming to rub this in Cane's face by actually pledging his loyalty to his mate instead.

It was actually not common for a warrior to pledge his loyalty to the luna, unless when the alpha was inept and unable to lead the pack, probably that was the message that he wanted Cane to receive.

But then, Cane couldn't care less about that, since his goal was way bigger than minding such a petty

revenge.

"Miss Iris," Redmond called her name gently, as if they had known each other for a long time. He knelt on one knee and lowered his head, offering her the utmost respectful gesture. "I am glad you are well after the huge ordeal that you have to suffer. You don't deserve to go through that, especially after what you have done for them."

He must have heard about what those people had done to her, along with the things she did for them in the past. Though his voice sounded humble and pleasant, there was also mockery, which he directed at the alpha for not being able to tame his people.

Ethan gritted his teeth, while the four guards were having a hard time trying not to scowl at his statement. They had been feeling bad enough without his reminder.

Meanwhile, Cane and Jace said nothing, it seemed both of them shared the same personalities at one point.

"A misunderstanding can be scary." Iris played down what happened to her. "You may rise," she said softly.

"Indeed." Redmond stood up, he made sure that he didn't pay any mind to the alpha at all. Yet, he still ended up being the one to be upset because Cane didn't care about his childish behavior at all.

"Let's wrap this up quickly," Jace said in a dismissive tone, as he nodded to the other four guards that came with Ethan.

One of them walked out of the room and returned a few minutes later with a bowl, made of stone and engraved with intricate words along the rim.

69 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?

Rewards

This was a vessel bond, where two people would offer blood to bind them in a pact. This was commonly used by those who would pledge their loyalty.

The vessel bond held magical power and if the person pledging their loyalty committed any act of treason, it would bring them pain.

The vessel bond was like a small basin with a croak in the middle of it. Despite how shabby this vessel looked, the intricate words that were written in gold along its rim gave this device an impression of something antique in nature.

Ethan gave a small dagger to Redmond for him to use and draw blood from his hand.

Radmond received the small dagger and raised his hand above the bonding vessel. He sliced the blade against his palm until a droplet of blood fell into the bowl.

“I will protect you and not bring harm upon you. Follow you and will not question you and this is my oath for you.”

”

The intricate words around the rim of the stone vessel gleamed following what Redmond said. The droplet of blood couldn't be seen anymore, as if the vessel had absorbed it completely.

“Luna, your turn.” Jace handed another dagger to Iris, which made her grimace. She didn't like to hurt herself, but this time, it was something that should be done.

With uncertainty, Iris took the dagger and took a deep breath. She did what Redmond had done and once a droplet of her blood dropped into the bowl, it got absorbed too and the gleam of the intricate words grew brighter.

“I take your oath and may you have faith in me.” Iris felt a warm feeling inside her chest when the pact had been formed between the two of them.

Redmond would never betray Iris and so would the people under him. He wouldn't bring any harm on her and that was enough for her.

After the oath was made, Ethan gave a handkerchief to Iris. Then he told the four guards to escort Redmond out of this library. They would send him back to the mines, where the monster hunt was being held.

“Thank you,” Iris muttered, as she received the handkerchief and wrapped it around her hand to stop the bleeding.

“You need to see Grace, she must be able to stop your bleeding in an instant,” Ethan suggested enthusiastically, which left Iris bewildered about how the gamma treated her very differently now, as if someone just pressed a switch in his personality.

However, the alpha had another idea. “Leave,” Cane said firmly.

“But, she is bleeding, we need to call Grace, at least.” Ethan tried to retort the order, but Jace dragged him out of the library to leave Cane and Iris alone. Thankfully, the beta was wise enough to read the situation and get rid of the gamma before the alpha did it himself.

Once it was only the two of them, Cane beckoned Iris to follow him. He led her to one of the bookshelves, where she noticed the books about ancient curses and whatnot.

you think you can find a specific stone?” Cane gave a book to her and flipped to a specific page,

“Do you

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69 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?

Rewards

“Huh?” Iris was taken aback, staring at the book. “I don’t know how.” She lifted her head and looked at Cane dejectedly. “I would love to help, but I truly don’t know how to find a specific stone.”

“Come here.” Cane walked toward one of the four tables and sat down, while Iris followed and sat across from him. From his pocket, he took out three magic stones. Iris immediately realized those were the three stones that she had found. “These are different stones.”

Before this, Iris had learned a few things about the magic stone, each stone held a different power. There were four elements of magic stones, which then further branched according to more specific characters.

The most common magic stones were earth magic stones and water magic stones. The fire magic stones could be found in specific locations. However, the air magic stone, which happened to be also the one that Cane showed to her, was the rarest among all magic stones.

“From what I learnt, these two are earth magic stones, while this one is a water magic stone.” Iris pointed at the stones one by one.

“Yes, you are right.”

“But, why do you want me to find this magic stone?” Iris tilted her head. “Even if I can sense the difference, this is the rarest stone that exists.”

Cane didn’t answer that, which didn’t surprise Iris. Maybe one day, he could be more open with her.

“Try to practice with these.” Cane pushed the three stones toward her and told her that he would look forward to seeing her progress. He stood up and left her alone in the library.

“Wait, did he just give me homework?” Iris couldn’t figure out what kind of situation she was in.

Cane didn’t say an exact time when she needed to find the magic stone, but from the looks of it, this was something important.

“Why does he want this?” Iris slipped the three stones into her pocket and then spent the rest of the day holed up inside the library to read more books on the magic stones and their variations, also the difference in power that each stone held.

However, no matter how powerful a magic stone was, it was useless for the shifters, as their power was so different from those healers or sorcerers.

“What does he actually want?”

When the sun almost set, Iris lit up the candles inside the library to continue reading. But soon Hanna came to her, looking miffed because she didn’t immediately return to her bedroom.

“I thought you were still with the alpha, but I met sir Ethan and he said that the meeting had ended hours ago. Why didn’t you return? You need to drink your

medicine,” Hanna nagged, as she strode into the library and looked at Iris morosely. “You need to drink your medicine, you know.”

“I am sorry,” Iris said gently to see how Hanna was so concerned about her.

After that day, Iris didn’t leave her room again for another week, until the monster hunt had finished. That was the most peaceful week she had in her life and from what Iris heard from Hanna, Aria was still trying to visit the alpha, but Cane was always very busy, especially since they were preparing to

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69 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?

move back to the pack house of the Howling Moon pack.

“We will leave this place...” Hanna said sadly. She looked a little bit somber.

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Iris knew, while this place didn’t hold good memories for a lot of people, including her, they had lived here for years. Iris only knew this place since she was born. To know that they had to leave soon, made them a little bit sentimental.

However, it also meant they didn’t have a lot of time to be here and there was still something that Iris needed Cane to see.

“Hanna, can you ask Jace or Ethan if they can ask the alpha to make time for me? Tell them that I want to show him something that I had promised him before.”

“What do you want to show him?” Hanna got curious.

“I want to show him ‘that“.

Hanna looked at Iris for a moment, before something clicked in her mind. “You really want to show him that? Do you think it’s a good idea?”

“I don’t know, but he needs to know.”

Hanna didn’t ask further about it and just followed what Iris wanted her to do.

And when Hanna returned, she told her that the alpha would see her in three days, since he needed to wrap up the monster hunt first and there were a few urgent things that he had to take care of first.

Iris could see what Cane dedicated his life to and how he poured his soul into what he was doing. It surprised her that what her father had done didn't completely break him. Or so what she thought...

On the third day, Cane came to her bedroom at noon after lunch. He looked stoic as usual and didn't say much, but his mood seemed to be a little bad from what Iris sensed. Would it be a good decision to let him know about this? Iris couldn't stop having second thoughts about her decision.

"What do you want to show me?"

"Can you come with me to the hill on the east side of this pack?" Iris approached him, she was dressed simply with her hair braided behind her back.

Cane didn't know what she wanted to do, but he had cleared his agenda for this afternoon, thus he agreed with her.

Cane tapped her shoulder to get her attention. "How about your progress?"

Iris grimaced and Cane got the answer he needed.

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The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Chapter 70

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"How about your progress?" Cane asked her about the stones.

But, Iris grimaced because she still couldn't figure out how to distinguish the difference while feeling the two types of stones she had with her. Yes, there was a subtle yet peculiar sense unique to each type, but she still couldn't fully grasp the difference between the two.

Seeing the troubled expression on Iris' face, Cane got his answer and didn't ask further.

“Why do you want to get the air magic stone? Does that have anything to do with your curse?” Iris tried to ask about this again, but Cane didn’t seem interested in answering that question. He opened the carriage door and let Iris get inside first as he sat across from her.

The alpha looked out the window and from his demeanor, it was clear he didn’t want to be bothered, thus Iris didn’t say anything. She kept quiet during their entire trip to the east side of the pack, where there was a big tree on top of the hill.

Iris had been there thrice before. On very rare occasions, when her father was in an extremely good mood, he would allow her to roam around the village and town.

And when she was ten years old, a month after the fall of the Howling Wolf pack, her father was over the moon and allowed her to go out of the pack house.

That was the time when Iris went to the hill again, the place that she knew from Hanna. Her personal maid had taken her there for the first time when she was seven.

Iris was staring at the garden when the carriage passed the gate. There, she saw two villagers carrying bouquets of flowers and talking to the guards.

They chatted happily and when the carriage passed them, she could read a little bit of their

conversation.

“....She is recovering. She looked healthy.”

“Heavens! I am so happy to hear that.”

Somehow, it brought tears to Iris’ eyes. Hanna had been telling her the truth, the villagers and the town people were genuine with their feelings toward her.

Iris felt like her heart was a little bit lighter, as if a huge burden had been lifted from her shoulders. Probably she was too sentimental about this, but the warmth in her heart was so real.

On the other hand, Cane saw her wipe tears from her eyes, but he said nothing.

Unbeknownst to them, there was someone watching the carriage move away, her eyes were so gloomy and her jaw was clenched. She balled her hands into fists until her nails stabbed her palms.

“Where are they going?” Aria asked Dalia, who was following her.

After her last conversation with Cane in the restroom at the training ground, Aria decided to stay away from him, in hopes the alpha would realize the void that was being filled with her presence, but from the looks of it, he was too busy with a lot of things to even remember to eat or rest properly.

However, he still made time to visit Iris for five to ten minutes every day, just to check on her.

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70 YOU WILL BE WITH A CHILD

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Still, Aria hoped Cane would realize her absence sooner or later. Wise people said that absence might make the heart grow fonder.

Yet when she heard that Iris finally woke up, she couldn't help seething. More so, when the alpha asked her to have a private meeting in the library where Redmond pledged his loyalty to her.

Things seemed to progress in Iris' favor now while she was being pushed aside. The people loved her because of the sob story that Hanna told them.

So, what if she helped them?! Would they forget completely about what her father and brother had done to them?!

“They are going to the east side of the village from what I heard,” Dalia told Aria. She was standing next to her, while holding a small box filled with many new accessories.

Cane didn't lie when he said that she could do whatever she wanted. He gave her a lot of money to indulge herself in the activities she didn't think she would be able to experience at all as a lowborn.

However, what Aria really wanted was Cane. She didn't want anything else.

“Why are they going there?!” Aria hissed viciously, as she turned around and looked at Dalia

menacingly, as if she had done something so wrong that offended her.

“I don't know...” Dalia immediately shook her head. “I only heard about it from the guards.” Aria was not satisfied with that answer and then turned around to go. “Where are you going?”

Aria was furious. She was mad that not only did Cane not care about her anymore, but he actually went out with Iris. He literally made time for her and this boiled her blood with anger.

Why did all of them care so much about what Iris had done and glossed over the fact that they had been through hell for a decade because of her father and brother?! How could they accept her readily?!

Aria couldn't help but feel so bitter about this one fact. She felt like everyone left her alone, she was alone in this darkness and her feelings turned even worse when she saw how they paid so much

attention to Iris.

“Are those flowers for Iris?” Aria asked a guard, who brought a bouquet of flowers with him.

“Yes, the villagers want to give this to Miss Iris,” he said.

Aria scoffed to hear the way they addressed her differently, “Give it to me.”

The guard looked conflicted, but he ended up giving the flowers to the mistress, knowing her rank was way higher than his. After all, he didn't want to get on her bad side.

“Where will you bring the flowers?” The guard asked because Aria didn’t walk toward Iris’ bedroom. and instead headed in the opposite direction.

She went to the back yard, where she threw the flowers on the ground and stepped on them after she made sure no one was nearby. She imagined it was Iris instead. She hated that woman to the core and wished she would die!

She should have killed her when she had gotten the chance! Cane would understand if she killed her

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70 YOU WILL BE WITH A CHILD

out of rage. After all, they didn’t need the runt! She was useless!

Rewards

“I must kill you!” Aria said through her gritted teeth, she was very angry at this point and the flowers that she stepped on had been crushed, they didn’t look like flowers anymore. “I should have killed you a long time ago!”

Tears of rage started to stream down her face. Aside from anger, she felt fear. She feared losing Cane. She didn’t want to lose him at all. He was everything that she had. If she was not his mistress, she didn’t know what she was.

The thought of being abandoned scared her so much.

In her twisted mind, she dreamed of having a family with the alpha, surrounded by children of their own, so she could soothe his pain of losing his firstborn, but recently, he barely spent any time with her and now, he got so close to that runt!

She felt abandoned.

In the end, Aria crouched down and cried. She bawled her eyes out, sobbing to her heart's content, but then she sensed someone else nearby and immediately stopped crying. She wiped her eyes furiously.

"Who is there?!" She quickly stood up and looked around her, her eyes were bloodshot from crying too

much.

She didn't like it that someone else saw her in a vulnerable state like she was now. She felt so pathetic.

And from behind the tree, Aria could see Dalia walk toward her sheepishly. "It is me, mistress," she said in a small voice.

Aria glared at her. "How long have you been there?" She was furious, she really wanted to slap her.

"I followed you here, mistress," she said carefully and then raised her head to see how mad Aria was. She was about to raise her hand, but she hastily spoke. "I heard what you said, I know how your heart grew uneasy because of that runt. I have an idea. I really want to help you..."

Aria looked at her doubtfully, but then she lowered her hand. "Speak." There was no harm in listening to her.

"Mistress, to win the alpha over, you need to be with a child."

Aria blinked her eyes. She thought about that, but Cane had never talked about having children with her, thus she always drank her dragonheart earnestly.

Seeing that Aria was silent, Dalia immediately scooted over, she talked in a low, but excited voice. "Mistress, an heir is very important for the alpha. You know that, right? Mason can't be an alpha because they cut his manhood, rendering him unable to impregnate any woman, but if you are with a child, the alpha can't ignore you." She then pulled out something from her pocket. "Drink this and stop taking that dragon heart tea, you will be with a child in no time."