

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North

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They didn't have any idea what the Brettel flowers were, more so that the plant was actually a poisonous plant.

"Poisonous plant? Are you sure?" Lance's face turned serious and Pyro glared at Dawn, asking for explanation in this matter, while Darius was alerted seeing how the situation escalated. He moved closer to Zenith and Dawn, just in case things went south.

"Yes!" Aurel nodded, her green eyes blasted with confidence. "Tell me if that's not a poisonous plant. Do you dare to lie?"

Zenith glanced at Dawn, but he didn't budge from his position, shielding his woman, but Dawn's next statement surprised all of them.

"I have never said that the Brettel flower is not poisonous. Yes, it's a poisonous plant," Dawn admitted lightly.

"See?!" Aurel pointed her accusatory finger at Dawn. Her eyes widened in disbelief. "She tried to poison the King! This is an act of treason! She tried to kill the King!"

The accusation was very heavy. Admitting that the Brettel flower was a poisonous plant was one thing, but being accused of attempting to kill the king was a serious matter.

"You heard what she said! You need to capture her and throw her in the dungeon!" Aurel was livid.

Dawn didn't understand where her hostility came from when they had never been entangled in any altercation before this.

"Lady Dawn, please provide your explanation," Pyro said. He didn't immediately do what Aurel told him to do. After all, he was the royal beta, he didn't take any orders other than the ones from the king.

"You should catch her immediately! Why do you need an explanation from her?!" Aurel was being vicious and loud.

"Can you be quiet? You are in the presence of the King," Lance said sternly, he crossed his arms in front of his chest. He didn't know what was going on, but Aurel became very

vile recently, precisely since she learned that Zenith came back with a woman that would be his chosen mate.

“Be quiet, Aurel,” Pyro emphasized his words when he saw Aurel was about to retort Lance’s words. This time, the healer clamped her mouth shut, though unhappily. “Explain to us, why did you want to give the King a poisonous plant?”

“I am not going to kill him, okay.” Dawn started with this, she needed to make it clear that it was not her intention at all before she explained about the Brettel flowers.

Aurel was right to say the Brettel flower was a poisonous plant, but her knowledge was not enough to tell that a poisonous plant could be used as an antidote too, just like how medicine could be a poison with the wrong dose, the same sense applied to poison as well.

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Dawn explained that to the healer. But, while the others seemed to grasp the analogy, Aurel was still obstinate with her own understanding.

“There is no way something like that could happen!” Aurel hissed. “Do you really believe her? Will you let your brother be treated with poison by her?” This time she talked directly to Zenith. “Zen, I know that you are worried about your brother, but it’s a big mistake to entrust his life to her.”

Dawn was upset, she was only here to help. Couldn’t anyone understand it would be very stupid of her if she really wanted to kill the king by using a method so obvious like this?

“So, you think I am going to kill the King?” Dawn stood up, she stepped forward from behind Zenith and faced Aurel directly. “How stupid I am to make it very obvious.”

Aurel smirked when Dawn said ‘stupid’, as if the latter admitted that she was not that smart, which annoyed Dawn.

“You are the one who said it,” Aurel sneered. She glared at Dawn because she was standing too close to Zenith and she didn’t like the sight.

“Yeah, why don’t I stab him directly if I want it to be so obvious?” Dawn wondered if Aurel and Emily met, would they be best friends? “Since you are suspicious of me, you can take care of this matter yourself.” Dawn raised both of her arms. “I am here because Zenith brought me here.”

With that, Dawn walked away, she didn’t want to spend another second inside this room with this weird healer, who thought she knew everything.

And if they didn't want her help, that was fine with her. She wouldn't beg to help someone, who didn't want to be helped.

However, Aurel grabbed Dawn's elbow when she walked past her to stop her. "Where do you think you are going?! Are you trying to run away after attempting to kill the King?"

"Let me go or I will claw your face," Dawn said. She felt deja vu, the same thing happened to her back in her old pack.

"Don't you want to help Dawn? You need to stop them, right?" The gamma looked nervous to know what was going to happen.

"Why do I need to stop them?" Zenith crossed his arms and watched how everything unfolded and Darius frowned when he saw the indulgent smile on the corner of the alpha's lips, as if he was enjoying a show.

"Do you dare?!" Aurel growled, her grip on her elbow tightened and this made Dawn mad, her claws elongated from the tips of her fingers, she was ready to claw her face when Lance stopped her in time.

The royal gamma held her wrist when she raised her hand, ready to claw Aurel's face.

However, Zenith moved very quickly, as he held Lance's hand, which held Dawn's.

"Let go of her!" Zenith growled. He was serious, his grip on Lance's hand tightened and you could hear the sound of his bones breaking and the royal gamma grimaced. He was forced to let go of Dawn's wrist.

Once he did that, Zenith swatted Aurel's hand from Dawn. He did it harshly, which made the healer yelp in pain, but it was unfortunate for her that the alpha didn't care about her pain, as he took his woman and walked out of the room.

Darius immediately followed Zenith and Dawn out of the room as well. He glanced over his shoulder and watched how Lance tried to console Aurel.

"So? What now?" Zander asked, he finally opened his mouth when his twin brother had left the room with his people. He pushed himself to sit down and Pyro immediately came to help him. "Can you cure me?"

Zander's voice was impassive, he didn't seem to pity Aurel at all when she was clearly in pain. She was not a shifter, thus if Zenith broke her bones when he swatted her hand, she would need to ask another healer to cure her.

“You dared to chase her out, I assume you have come up with something to cure the poison in me?” Zander probed Aurel. His happy- go- lucky demeanor disappeared and he looked almost as cold as Zenith.

“My King, I have been trying to find out a way to cure the poison, just give me some time...” Aurel said, as she lowered her head and stopped herself from crying in pain.

She was the first person who learned about the king’s condition, but because she was not familiar with poison, she didn’t have any idea what to do. She thought the poison could be cured with medicine, no illness couldn’t be cured with the right medicine. Curing poison shouldn’t be a problem, right?

“The plant that the woman wanted to give you is poisonous, My King, I can vouch for that.”

“Didn’t she say it can be a cure too with the right dose?” Zander narrowed his eyes. He listened to what Dawn explained earlier and to him that made sense.

“No. That can’t be. I don’t know what her motive is, but how could she cure your poison with another poison?” Aurel insisted with her theory.

Right now, Zander looked so pale, but his clear blue eyes were so cold. He didn’t want to talk about this matter anymore and waved his hand.

“For your understanding, Aurel, if I have to be buried because of this poison, you will be buried next to me.”

Aurel gasped. She visibly trembled in fear when she heard that and what made it worse was the fact she knew the king would go through with his words.

People out there might see the alpha from the north as the cruel one and the king as the sunshine after the rain, the warm light on a winter night, but you would be surprised to know that the two of them were equally cruel in their own way.

“Yes, My King.”

After that, Lance took Aurel out of the room, while Pyro stayed and talked to the king. “How do you feel?”

“Awful.” Zander felt so much pain, he felt like every movement was torturous, but he didn’t show it. Normal people would have wailed in pain and lost their temper, but Zander endured it well. “Did you get any information from the harbor?”

“Not really.” Pyro scrunched his nose. “But, now we know there is a spy inside the palace.”

“Well, that’s not a surprise.”

Zander expected a spy or two within his people, but the involvement of a dark magic user was the last thing among his considerations.

On the other hand, Zenith had put his mask on, but he was still holding Dawn’s hand when he walked, which made all the guards there glance at them.

“I think you need to let go of my hand, this is weird,” Dawn said in a low voice.

But, instead of letting her go, Zenith pulled her into an empty room.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 39: THE KING’S CONDITION GOT WORSE

The memories came trickling down in Zenith’s mind. At first, it was only a sad face of Dawn that he saw, the resentment and pain in her eyes haunted him before the strong feeling of remorse hit him, without him knowing what actually he had done to feel such regret.

However, as days went by and the closer he got to her, it was almost like the barrier that clouded his mind finally lifted and the memories came rushing back.

After that night, more awful memories hit him.

No one knew about this.

No one could understand his dreams.

“Zenith, I don’t think it is appropriate for you to bring me here,” Dawn said, her expression worried. She glanced at the closed door.

For other people, Zenith was the king and for him to pull her into an empty room when all the people knew she was here with Zenith to have their ceremony, would create a rumor. Dawn didn’t want that.

However, Dawn didn’t understand what was in Zenith’s mind right now. He looked distraught. But then, she couldn’t look at his face with this stupid golden mask in her way.

“What happened?” Dawn’s voice softened when Zenith just stood there, staring at her. He pressed her against the door, but he didn’t do anything else, or say something to explain his actions. “Zenith, I don’t understand you.” Dawn shook her head. “I can’t read your mind and if you want me to be your mate, I don’t want to deal with this confusion.”

Dawn was willing to give their relationship a try, once she learned this alpha from the north was not as bad as people portrayed him. In fact, he was rather overprotective, but then, Dawn couldn't understand his erratic behavior and his weird dreams.

She had put up with his brother's attempt to murder her, but Zenith's actions made it more difficult.

"What's going on? That dream again?" Dawn tilted her head. She wanted to scream at him to stop hanging onto those dreams, but she didn't have a heart to say so when Zenith was very serious about it. "What did you dream about this time?"

Dawn stretched out her hands to take off his mask and just like before, he didn't avoid her and let her take it off.

"Can I kiss you?"

Dawn raised her brows. Well, the question came out of nowhere.

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She wanted an explanation alright, but why did she end up with this request? And now, he even asked for permission when before he claimed he didn't need one to do whatever he wanted.

Could you call that an improvement?

"Only if you explain to me what's going on with your weird behavior." Dawn didn't want to be taken advantage of without getting any benefit in return. She was still upset with him because of how scary it was to be held down by him.

"You told me to leave you alone."

The answer was very simple.

Dawn was speechless. "Do you know how scary it was for me when you held me down and I can't do anything to fight you back?"

"I am sorry. That will never happen again."

The apology sounded genuine, though it was very short and this actually made Dawn feel bad. Was Zenith out of his mind for a moment that night? He indeed snapped out of it in time and did what she told him to do.

"Do the dreams still come?"

“Yes.” Zenith rested his forehead against hers, he looked lethargic. “More vivid than ever.”

Dawn still couldn't grasp the reasoning behind these dreams, but from the looks of it, it bothered Zenith immensely.

“Am I forgiven?”

Dawn thought about it for a while. “For now, yes. But, if you do that again, I can only remind you that I have rejected my destined mate and I don't have any qualms to reject you too.”

Dawn felt so bold to even give the alpha a warning. If it was weeks ago, when she knew him for the first time, she wouldn't have the courage to talk back to him.

“Okay.” Zenith nodded and then tilted his head to look her straight in the eyes. “Can I have my kiss now?”

“Are you really that cruel alpha from the north?” Dawn narrowed her eyes, but she tiptoed and kissed him on the lips, it was only a peck, as if she was teasing him, but when Zenith leaned over to get more, Dawn stopped him. “No.”

This time, he obliged and stopped.

Wow. Dawn was truly amazed. She felt like this cruel alpha had turned into a big puppy now.

Days passed and Zenith still played the role of the king. He was occupied with the matters in the palace and Dawn didn't have anything better to do aside from preparing her ceremony.

Since that day, she had not met with Zander again and she didn't know how his condition was right now. More so, she had not yet discussed the matter about the poison in the warriors' quarters.

Zenith said she could discuss it with Zander later. He wouldn't take care of that matter and it was enough for him to sit on the throne and pretend to be him, he was not going to do more than that.

“Don't you worry about your brother's condition?” Dawn asked, she was in the king's study room. Darius sneaked her in after she met with the seamstress to make her gown for the ceremony. “He looked so bad the last time I saw him.”

“He is still alive,” Zenith replied.

Dawn couldn't understand the essence of her being there when Zenith had a lot of reports that he had to read and Dawn couldn't stop asking a thing or two out of boredom.

But, even so, Zenith would answer all of her questions, though he had buried his face in the parchment.

"Good to hear that." Dawn shrugged her shoulders. "Don't you worry about him?"

"He chose to believe in that healer." Zenith put down the parchment and then looked at Dawn. "If he died, it's on him. You said it yourself that he had a week or two. He still has plenty of time."

Dawn had explained about what kind of poison that Zander came in contact with and based on the examination that she did the last time they met, he had limited time before the poison flared and it could kill him.

"You can't help someone who refuses to be helped."

"Hey, that's what I always thought."

Zenith smiled. "I know." He stretched out his hand and caressed her hair. "You said it all the time."

Dawn frowned. "I did?" She didn't remember she had ever mentioned anything like that before, but maybe she just remembered it incorrectly.

Zenith pulled her to sit on his lap, as he explained a few important reports in his hands, some of them even carried secrets that no one should know.

"Is it okay for me to read all of this?"

"I want you to understand this, you never know when it will be useful to you."

And another day passed.

And today was the sixth day when Darius knocked on her door very early in the morning, he woke her up anxiously and this startled Dawn. Thankfully, he didn't walk into the room directly.

"What is it?" Dawn asked hoarsely when she finally opened the door and saw Darius' worried expression.

"Zander is unconscious, you need to see him," he said in a low voice, so no one would hear this, since all the people still thought that Zenith was the king.

"A minute," Dawn said. She needed to change her dress because she couldn't go out in her nightgown.

A minute later, Dawn went out with Darius, she had her hair tied into a simple bun on top of her head, she didn't wear any accessories and her bareface was beautiful, though it was laced with anxiety.

If Zander fell unconscious it meant the poison had spread too far in his body. It shouldn't be that bad, since it was only the sixth day since the last time Dawn saw him.

"What happened?" Dawn asked when she entered the room and made a beeline toward the bed. Zenith was also there, standing next to his unconscious brother, while Aurel looked pale, as she checked on Zander's condition.

"What is she doing here?!" Aurel freaked out when she saw Dawn.

"The Alpha called her to come here," Darius explained briefly and Aurel was not happy about it.

"I told you I can handle this!" Aurel looked at Pyro, who was standing on the other side of the bed. "Take her out, her presence only hinders my thought process."

"I don't take an order from you, Aurel." The royal beta reminded her again and then approached Dawn. "Are you sure you know what to do about this poison?"

Dawn was certain. "Yes."

"No way." Aurel hissed.

"Shut up, Aurel!" Pyro snapped at her. "This is not the right time for your petty jealousy! Get up and let her check the king!"

Aurel wanted to retort, but Lance shook his head. "Get up now, Aurel," the royal gamma said darkly.

Left with no other choice, Aurel stood up, but she warned Dawn before she started to check on the king.

"I just want to warn you that you could be punished with the death sentence if the King's condition gets worse." The hostility was very thick in Aurel's voice.

Dawn scoffed. "Shouldn't you get the death sentence now, since the King's condition got worse under your care?"

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Chapter 40: ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL THE KING?!

If it was any other day, Darius would laugh to see how Aurel got humbled very quickly, but not in this situation. They were too tense to know the king's condition.

Zenith could replace him for a week or two, or even more than that, but obviously, he couldn't play the role for the rest of his life if something really happened to his brother.

More so, the death of the king would push the kingdom into utter chaos, it would jeopardize a lot of things.

But even more, Zenith wouldn't be able to leave unscathed.

People who wanted to take him down would attribute the king's death with the fact Zenith was there. It would implicate him in the long run.

There was a reason why Zander and Zenith created an image that the two of them didn't get along well with each other, when in truth, behind the shadows, the twins often worked together and this was not the first time for Zenith to take the role as the king when Zander had to leave the palace incognito.

"Is that a threat?" Aurel gritted her teeth.

"That's a reminder." Dawn pushed Aurel out of her way and sat down on the edge of the bed. "Can you be quiet? You have talked too much already, don't you think?"

Dawn couldn't understand the blind hatred that Aurel harbored toward her. Yes, she did know that this healer had a crush on Zenith or something, but did she think by hating her, Zenith would like her instead?

Lance took the initiative to get to Aurel's side and talk in a low voice to her, he looked stern when he handled this healer.

It took Dawn a while when she checked on Zander. Her brows furrowed and she tried to remember the lesson that she learned from the healer in her pack. It was not easy since she was not born as a healer, there was this healing power that only someone born as a healer could use.

"What did you give to the king?" Dawn frowned, she looked at Aurel sharply. "What did you feed him?"

"Of course, I fed him medicine! What do you think I gave him?"

Dawn rolled her eyes. "Be specific."

Aurel looked annoyed, but thankfully Zenith took the matter into his own hands and asked Pyro to give him Zander's health record.

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"You can't show it to her."

"Do you have any objections?" Zenith literally growled at the healer, which turned her into a meek woman.

Pyro couldn't ignore the order, thus he immediately fetched the king's health record and gave it to Zenith, which he gave to Dawn.

The royal beta didn't like this, because the king's health record was not something that you could see casually and not everyone was allowed to read that, but he couldn't say anything.

Dawn immediately skimmed the record and was surprised to see the last medicine that Aurel gave to Zander.

"Are you stupid?!" Dawn snapped at the healer fiercely. "Why did you give him Agonalia powder?!"

"What? What happened?" Lance immediately looked at Aurel. All of them were startled with Dawn's sudden anger.

"Th- that's because the King has been in so much pain, I gave it to him to alleviate the pain!" Aurel screamed back at Dawn. She knew what she was doing.

"How could you be the royal healer?" Dawn said sharply, which made Aurel visibly flinch.

"What is wrong?" Zenith asked, to see Dawn distraught like this, it was not a good sign.

Dawn then explained that while Agonalia powder could alleviate the pain, it would also have a calming effect, which meant, Zander didn't realize that his body was starting to get worse. In some cases, you couldn't not feel any pain at all, while the pain could be an indicator whether the medicine that was given had an effect or not.

In this case, even when the medicine didn't work and originally Zander would be in so much pain because of that, he was not able to know because Aurel gave Agonalia powder to numb his ability to feel his own body.

"But... but the King was in so much pain... And that's the right procedure," Aurel said. In a different case, she was right, but they were facing a slow acting poison right now.

"You really need to get down from your high horse and learn about poison," Darius commented and he got a dagger look from the healer, but unfortunately for her, the gamma stood by his alpha's woman. He didn't care much about her.

Pyro immediately got something from the cabinet and handed it to Dawn. It was the Brettel flower that she requested a few days ago.

“Can you save him?” His expression was very serious. Aurel had proven that she couldn’t and this matter was very far beyond her capabilities.

“This is not enough,” Dawn said, she shook her head.

“What else do you need? Tell me.” Pyro was usually a calm and level headed person, but even Dawn could tell how anxious he was. “Tell me and I will get it for you.”

“First, you need to extract the effect of Agonalia powder from his body.” Dawn looked at Aurel. She needed to do it by using her healing power, since there was no way Dawn could do it.

“But, he will be in so much pain.” Aurel was not happy to receive an order from Dawn.

“Didn’t you listen to my explanation earlier?”

“What is it?” Lance asked, preventing this unnecessary argumentation. “What else do you need?”

Dawn ignored Aurel’s outburst and focused on the matter at hand. “There are these two things that I need to make a concoction with.” She mentioned Treann Birch and the skin of Elbrone fish.

“What is that?” Darius had never heard the things that Dawn mentioned. “Where can we get that?”

“We have Treann Birch,” Aurel said begrudgingly. “But, you will not be able to find the skin of Elbrone fish. Most people in this continent don’t eat fish.”

“No. I didn’t say it’s a literal fish.” Dawn explained that it was a plant that generally grew in swamps.

Aurel was too ashamed to say that she didn’t know anything about that, thus she shut her mouth.

“For the meantime, you can expel the effect of Agonalia powder from the King’s body. I will try to prevent the poison from getting worse,” Dawn said. She then took the Brettel flowers and asked Zenith to show her where the kitchen was. She was going to make a concoction.

It wouldn’t dispel all the poison, since it had spread to Zander’s vital organs, but it was enough to prevent it from flaring up.

“Wait, I will show you...” Darius was about to go with Dawn, but Zenith stopped him.

“Come with me,” Zenith said, he guided her out of the room and the two of them went to the south part of the palace.

“He shouldn’t go with her so casually like that.” Darius was concerned that this would give rise to a rumor between the king and Dawn. People then would come after Zenith so hard and use this opportunity to create trouble again.

But then, Darius could only sigh deeply.

“What are you waiting for?” Pyro asked Aurel. “Do as she said.” He frowned at Aurel, who didn’t do anything and only stood there quietly.

“Do you really believe her?”

“Do you have another option?” Pyro narrowed his eyes. “You might be useful for Zenith, but misdiagnosing the King and causing his demise is the highest crime that you need to think about.”

Aurel didn’t say anything anymore and went to do what Dawn told her. She was not happy. But at the same time, she wondered how could Dawn be very knowledgeable about poison when she was not even a healer?

On the other hand, all the omegas in the kitchen trembled in fear when they saw the king. They immediately knelt down and were too afraid to even breathe a little louder, especially with the aloof and cold aura that emanated from the sovereign.

“M- my King... do you need something?” The head of the kitchen asked in fear. Even though they lived in the palace, it didn’t mean they were privileged to see the king all the time.

“All of you can leave,” Zenith said. He waved his hand and all of them immediately left the kitchen.

“You don’t need to look so scary, you know.” Dawn felt bad for those people, but she started to prepare the things that she needed.

Meanwhile, Zenith sat down on the chair, he didn’t take off his golden mask, but Dawn was able to see that he had closed his eyes.

“You don’t need to accompany me here,” Dawn said, thinking Zenith might be tired with a lot of things that he had to handle.

However, when Dawn saw him not budging from his position, she could only sigh and continue with her task.

Zenith woke up around an hour later and watched Dawn from behind, he asked a few questions about the concoction.

This concoction was not easy to make, because she needed to make sure the heat was stable and she had to stir it without stopping for three hours straight.

“Three hours?” Zenith immediately stood up. “You should tell someone else to do it.”

Dawn couldn’t see his expression, but she could hear how pissed he was.

“No, can’t. It’s too complicated.”

“How long have you been standing here for?”

“An hour.”

It left her with two more hours.

**Come back and read more tomorrow,
everyone! .**