

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North –

Chapter 61: MATING AND MARKING CEREMONY

On the third day of the ceremony, there were not many activities that Zenith and Dawn had to attend, since they had to prepare for the mating ceremony later.

“Are you nervous?” Carla asked, as she smiled softly at her.

She was an old woman, who was responsible for all the palace’s maids, servants and the omegas. She came here to meet Dawn directly and help soothe her anxiety.

“A little bit,” Dawn said, glancing at the sky out there, the night would be here and the ceremony would be held in less than an hour. “They say it will hurt badly.”

“If you relax, it will not hurt as much.”

Dawn blushed. “No... I meant, the marking... the marking process.” She then added a rumor that she heard from the people in her pack. “People could die during the process.”

Carla chuckled. “Don’t worry, I am sure Alpha Zenith will be extremely careful and gentle with you. Yes. It will hurt, but Alpha Zenith would know how to ease the pain.”

Dawn chewed on her lower lip, but Carla pinched her chin. “Don’t ruin your make up. The Alpha will be here soon.”

Dawn was not wearing anything extravagant. It was safe to say that she was not wearing much instead, because this thin nightdress looked almost transparent, she felt naked.

Her body became very hot when she heard the door open and Carla excused herself. The old woman greeted Zenith and then resigned herself, she took all the guards around this area with her, to give the two of them the privacy that they needed.

“You look beautiful,” Zenith said, as he approached her and kissed her lips.

“Am I?”

“What changed? You always say ‘I know’ to a compliment.”

Dawn grinned. “Maybe I lost a little bit of confidence.” The mating process wouldn’t be different from the intimate encounters that they had had before this, it was only a step further from that. It was not the first time Zenith touched her either.

He had shown her a glimpse of what would happen during the mating process.

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"Nonsense." Zenith nibbled on her jaw. "Not comfortable?"

"I- I am fine. Only a little bit nervous." Dawn then told him one of her fears. "People said we could die during the marking process."

"I will not let something like that happen to you, Dawn. It will hurt, but I promise, I will ease the pain as much as possible." Zenith kissed her collarbones. "Trust me."

Dawn nodded. "I trust you..."

Zenith kissed her neck and massaged her nape to help her relax, as he walked her back to the bed and laid her down.

"Don't think of anything, just focus on me, okay?" Zenith said softly and Dawn nodded, her eyes brimming with anticipation. He could hear her racing heart and how shallow her breathing was. "Tell me to stop if you feel uncomfortable, okay?"

"Okay." Dawn cleared her throat because suddenly she felt her mouth was so dry. Her voice sounded more hoarse than usual.

"Good..." Zenith kissed both of her eyes and started with the familiar routine, which helped Dawn to feel more relaxed. Since she knew what he would do next, she was not flustered with the unfamiliarity of his touch.

His fingers entered her and he moved very slowly, which was kind of a torture for her, he stared at her intensely, watching his woman writhe in pleasure and then come undone.

Dawn was panting, she felt a little bit lightheaded with the orgasm that washed over her body, but she knew this was not the end of it, the night was still long.

"Okay?"

"Yes..."

Zenith helped her to take off her dress, he did it very slowly, as he kissed every inch of her skin and Dawn felt like her body was on fire. She could feel his love in his every kiss and how safe she felt when she was with him. This feeling was addicting. She wanted him to touch her more...

Both of them moaned when Zenith placed himself between Dawn's legs and when he started to move, Dawn gasped.

“St- stop, stop please...” Dawn whimpered, it was painful. She felt like something big intruded her body. She didn’t see it, but she could feel how big he was... would he tear her up?

Zenith stopped, he didn’t move, even though it pained him too to be in this position. He helped her to relax. He kissed her forehead and caressed her inner thigh to soothe the pain.

Only when Dawn felt better, did she nod for him to continue.

Zenith moved slowly at first, to let her adjust to him and when Dawn felt comfortable, he picked up his pace, filling her in.

This feeling was so strange for Dawn, but not in a bad way, she could feel the tension in her stomach and the feeling was so overwhelming. She didn’t know what to do, the knot in her stomach was getting tighter, it felt like it was going to snap at any moment.

Dawn wrapped her arms around Zenith’s neck and her legs around his waist, as he thrust into her harder and faster... she had never felt this feeling before, the intensity of this was more than she could handle.

“Zen...” Dawn whimpered, she bit his shoulder and this made Zenith lose it, he wanted to be with her, to have her for himself. The beast inside him reared its ugly head, wanting to mark his mate.

But, it was not the time yet...

“Let it go, Dawn...” Zenith whispered by her ear, he licked the sweet spot on her neck, where he would mark her. “Let it go, love...”

This was the first time Dawn felt her body shatter, as waves of pleasure hit her so hard, she couldn’t breath, but then the pain came when Zenith sunk his teeth into her neck, marking her as she rode out her orgasm.

The pleasure and the pain coursed through her veins.

But, at the same time, it revealed the truth of Zenith’s first life...

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 62: THE ARRIVAL OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE NORTH

*****Author note: For readers, who confused with the new volume. This is Zenith’s first life. As you can see it’s about rebirth. The reason why Zenith felt this strong regret for Dawn and why he seemed to know her even when they just met, it’s because the previous volume is his second chance life, he turned back time to correct all the mistakes he had made.

But in this volume, it's about his first life from Dawn's perspective. Dawn got to see what actually happened in his first life after Zenith marked her after the royal ceremony.

Hope it helps.*****

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***** Zenith's first life *****

"Father, what happened? What are they doing here?" Dawn was terrified when she saw there were a lot of foreign faces entering their pack.

"It's okay, Dawn. Stay inside your bedroom and don't come out no matter what." Tony reassured his fifteen years old daughter. "Everything will be alright."

"Why? What are they doing here? Is that the Alpha from the north?" Dawn asked, she had never seen Alpha Zenith, but his cruelty was a horror story that people talked about during their free time.

"Yes, you need to greet him, okay? After that, go to your bedroom and don't come out, Blake will accompany you."

Dawn wanted to protest, but the look on her father's face stopped her. Not long after, Beta Jason came with Blake, his son. The two of them had been good friends since they were little and it was not weird to let the two of them play together.

"What do you think will happen here?" Dawn asked, her face looked very worried. Based on how notorious Alpha Zenith was, it was not a good sign if he came to your pack with a bunch of warriors.

"I will tell you later," Blake whispered back to her.

Alpha Tony, Beta Jason and Gamma Alex greeted the alpha from the north in front of the main gates. Then they introduced Dawn and Blake, who stood in the back.

This was the first time for Dawn to see Alpha Zenith and her first impression of this man was not really good. He looked very aloof and vicious. Even though he was only twenty three years old, he looked like he had gone through a brutal war for decades and the peaceful time couldn't even shield the killing intent in his eyes.

Dawn lowered her head because she was too scared to look at the alpha for too long.

After this tension at the main gates to welcome the alpha, they finally moved to the pack house and while the high ranking shifters were having an important discussion, Dawn and Blake escaped to her bedroom.

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“From what I heard, your father borrowed a thousand warriors from Alpha Zenith and because of Alpha Tony’s mistake, all the warriors died during the battle in the western part of the kingdom.”

Blake only recalled what he remembered from what he heard from his father.

The western part of the kingdom had been in conflict ever since the previous king stepped down from the throne and people thought the new king was too young to lead the kingdom, but the hardest protest came from the west.

Two years ago there was a coup which was thwarted, but this made the rebels more aggressive and Alpha Tony volunteered to eradicate these criminals, for this he received ten thousand soldiers from the kingdom, but unfortunately, one year later his efforts turned out to be fruitless while the rebels became stronger.

Instead of taking a step back, Alpha Tony actually borrowed a thousand more soldiers from Alpha Zenith, where he had to pay compensation for every life lost, but because all the soldiers died and the mission failed, now Alpha Tony had to pay for everything.

“Alpha Tony was too proud to stop when he should have taken a step back and now he was facing the consequences.”

Dawn hit Blake’s shoulder. “You are talking about my father.”

“I am sorry, but father said, Alpha Tony didn’t want to listen to my father’s advice.” Blake was also upset because his father was implicated by this.

Dawn looked worried. “What would they do to my father?”

“I don’t know. I think they will take him to the capital city and try him there.”

Dawn looked morose. And for the next three days, when she couldn’t see her father, she would alternate to go to Blake’s house or to the healer’s room. She used to spend her time with Lyra, the healer of the pack.

“What else do you want to learn now, dear?” Lyra asked, she was a beautiful woman with long hair that reached her waist and she always smelled like peppermint.

“I don’t want to learn anything, I want to see my father.” Dawn couldn’t see her father because Gamma Alex told her it would put her father in a difficult situation, but he reassured her that he would be fine. Dawn didn’t believe him.

Only a week after Alpha Zenith arrived, Dawn finally could see her father again, but it was only for a brief moment.

During this time, Dawn would avoid Alpha Zenith because she was scared of him. The people around him looked very scary too.

“Father will go to the capital city for a while, you need to be a good girl, okay? You need to follow whatever Beta Jason says.” Alpha Tony caressed Dawn’s head. “He will be in charge of the pack and you starting from tomorrow.”

“Why?” Dawn was scared, she remembered what Blake said to her. “Will the King punish you? When will you return?”

“I don’t know, Dawn, but I will return as soon as possible.” Alpha Tony kissed her cheek.

The next day, early in the morning, Dawn watched her father be taken away. He left with Alpha Zenith and his vicious warriors.

Despite her fear, Dawn approached Alpha Zenith, she wanted to beg him to forgive her father. “Can you not take my father away? My father fought in the battle. It’s not his fault if he lost the battle. He had tried his best.”

This alpha from the north had those piercing blue eyes that could remind you of the deep blue sky, filled with mystery and untouched.

How could someone have such an imposing aura?

However, the alpha didn’t even spare the young girl a glance. “Take her away.”

Alpha Zenith’s gamma approached Dawn and gave her a candy. “Here, take this and run along.”

“I am not a child!” Dawn was mad.

And that morning was the last time for Dawn to see her father, as they took him to the capital city.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 63: THE SACRED MATE BOND

***** Zenith’s first life *****

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Dawn’s POV

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“Don’t make such a sad face,” Lyra said, she caressed her head and put a small cake in front of Dawn. “Happy birthday.”

Today was Dawn’s sixteenth birthday, but she didn’t feel like celebrating it. Her mood had been ruined ever since she woke up, because Emily had entered her room again and messed with her mother’s precious belongings. She hated her with passion.

“Thank you, Lyra. Only you remember my birthday.” Dawn smiled at the healer. She felt like a second mother to her.

“Don’t be silly, Blake also remembers your birthday. He will come to celebrate it with us after his training.” Lyra cheered her up.

Ever since her father had been taken away to the capital city seven months ago, Beta Jason had been in charge of the pack. That scary alpha would come down here twice every month to check everything.

Dawn didn’t like that alpha either. She tried to ask him, but the protection around him was incredibly tight. She threw a tantrum one time and was immediately escorted out, but then Jason locked her inside her room until Alpha Zenith left the pack.

Usually, Alpha Zenith would stay for two or three days, it meant, those couple of days, Dawn would be locked inside her room.

But, that was not it. Dawn’s life became even more miserable when Beta Jason decided that Julia and Emily should move into the main pack house, the area where the alpha and his family lived, since Dawn had been living alone there.

Despite her protest, Beta Jason said he knew the best. He was in charge of the pack, which made him Dawn’s guardian as well.

Two months and there was not a single day that went by without a fight between Dawn and that mother and daughter duo.

“Don’t be sad, your father will return soon.”

“When?” Dawn gritted her teeth, she fought back her tears, but it was so hard to be tough when she was only a sixteen year old girl, whose life turned upside down in a matter of a few months.

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Dawn stared at the bright sky out there. She wished there would be a storm, so at the very least, the sky would match her mood. She had been restless and anxious, she thought it must be because of Emily, but as it turned out, it was something else entirely...

Not long after, someone entered the room and it was Blake. He was panting, his eyes were misty, as sweat trickled down from his forehead. He stared at Dawn, as if he had never seen her before and his lips formed a sacred word.

“Mate.”

Now it all made sense to Dawn, because it answered why she had been uncomfortable with herself since this morning. She thought it was because Emily messed with her again, but as it turned out, this was a different thing entirely.

“No way...” Dawn was breathless, her heart was pounding against her chest and she saw Blake in a new light.

People always said that finding your mate was the best feeling that you would be able to experience and Dawn thought they must have played down the feeling, because right now, the sensation was more than anything that she had ever felt before.

“Wow... congratulations...” Lyra was surprised, but she was also thrilled because she witnessed this firsthand.

Meanwhile, Blake and Dawn only had eyes for each other. As Blake moved closer, Dawn stood up and this tickling feeling crept on her skin when Blake touched her and leaned over to capture her lips.

Dawn felt like her breath was being taken away, but she didn't mind it. This was her first kiss and she did it with the person that she would spend the rest of her life with.

She had known Blake for almost her entire life and their fathers happened to tease them once or twice in the past, saying it would be great if they were mates and today it happened.

“My mate...” Blake said as he stared at his beautiful mate with adoration in his eyes. He looked like he was going to worship the ground she was walking in.

Dawn chuckled and hugged him.

This was the best sixteenth birthday present she could get.

The rumor about this spread around, after all, Dawn was still the alpha's daughter, people congratulated the young couple for their newly found soulmate, the sacred bond that a pair of shifters could have.

People treated Dawn nicely for the first time ever since Emily spread nasty rumors about her. Dawn was not a social person, while Emily befriended almost all the people in the pack, Julia was also a well-known beauty in the pack, unfortunately, Emily was not as beautiful as her mother...

Safe to say, when the news about Blake and Dawn getting together became the attention of the people in the pack, Emily was not happy. She had her eyes on the man ever since she was little, but didn't have a chance to be close to Blake due to her status as a mere omega.

Two weeks after her birthday were pure bliss for Dawn, because she found new happiness with Blake, not just waiting for news from the capital city about her father every single day.

But, she should know that Emily wouldn't be quiet about this.

One day, after Dawn went out with Blake, she found her room had been thrashed when she returned. It didn't take a genius to guess, who had done this and Dawn saw red.

Emily's room was across from hers and she could smell her nasty scent from where she was standing.

"What? What do you want?!" Emily glowered at Dawn when she saw she entered her room and glared at her viciously. "What? Are you mad because I messed up your bedroom a little bit? Don't even think of doing anything, because I will tell my mother."

However, Dawn had shifted into her beast and charged toward her.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 64: JUST LIKE HIS FATHER

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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"You are a murderer! Just like how you killed your mother, you tried to kill my daughter too!" Julia lost it, she was yelling, cursing and trying to hit Dawn if it was not for Beta Jason, who held her back.

Meanwhile, Ava and Blake tried to shield Dawn from Julia's wrath.

"I am going to kill you! I am going to kill you! You will pay for this!"

"Julia! Enough!" Jason held her back, he used his beta's voice to subdue her, so she wouldn't shift into her beast. "Ava, Blake, take her back to the pack house!"

On the other hand, Dawn didn't show any expression, there was no remorse or whatever on her face. She looked stoic, even though she knew that she almost killed Emily.

In her rage, Dawn had shifted into her beast and attacked her brutally. Women in this pack didn't receive any combat training, but you could tell that Dawn had the alpha's blood in her veins, she was vicious in her attack and Emily was defenseless.

Emily shifted into her beast too, but it didn't help much with her case, since her beast was so weak, she was an omega after all and she was not used to her beast form.

Needless to say, Emily's injuries were very severe, Lyra had to pay close attention to her for the next few days, until she was able to go through her critical condition. Because of how harsh her wounds were, her healing ability couldn't keep up with it.

"I am going to kill you! You are a murderer! Just like how you murdered your mother!"

Unexpectedly, it was Ava, who had enough of Julia's rambling. She could understand that Julia was angry because of what Dawn had done, no matter what, such a violent act couldn't be justified, but then it was actually Emily, who had been looking for trouble and pushing Dawn to her limit.

"That's enough!" Ava slapped Julia's face so hard, all of them were stunned. "You are being disrespectful to the late luna! One more word from you about that incident, I will slap you again!"

Ava was being protective of Dawn, because ever since the late luna died, she and Lyra literally raised her, as Dawn did not socialize with many people.

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"Shut your mouth and stop spitting nonsense!" Ava growled at Julia and this made her stop her tantrum. "Let's go." She put her arm around her shoulders and took her away from this vicious woman.

Blake followed the two of them. They took Dawn to their house and gave her food to eat, but she didn't touch it at all.

"Dawn..." Ava called her gently. "Why don't you move here? I will help you pack, okay?"

Dawn looked at Ava, she didn't say much ever since they left the pack house. "I want to go back. That's my place. If there is anyone who has to move out, it should be them, not me."

Ava tried to persuade her because it would only make her feel more uncomfortable if she still stayed there, but at the same time, she understood why Dawn didn't want to leave the place. That was her home after all.

In the end, Ava promised to help her clean up her room only if she ate her food. Dawn could only eat half of it and shook her head. She didn't want to eat anymore and wanted to return to her room.

"I will talk to Jason to move them out, okay?" Ava reassured her that she would help and Dawn was very grateful, especially with Blake's presence. The mate bond between them was the her only solace at times like this.

In the end, with Ava and Blake accompanying her, Dawn returned to the alpha's quarters.

Dawn's room was still a mess, just like how she saw it the first time. Ava gasped to see how vicious Emily was. She destroyed everything in this room and it would take them a long time to clean this up.

Dawn didn't complain, she started to clean everything up silently, Ava and Blake helped her. It was two hours of complete silence, as they worked without saying anything.

However, Dawn broke down crying when she saw there was a huge dent on her mother's locket. Emily touched her mother's belongings again.

"Ssh... Ssh... don't cry. Don't cry, Dawn. We will find a way to fix it, okay?" Ava hugged Dawn, who was crying so hard.

It almost felt like all the bottled up emotions came rushing out and she didn't even know how to handle it. It was very devastating to see her crying like this.

Blake could feel her pain as well, because they shared the bond as mates.

Later on, Dawn fell asleep in Ava's arms.

"Take her to the bed," Ava said to her son, hearing which Blake tucked her in and they continued to clean up the mess.

"You need to take good care of her, understand? She has gone through a lot."

"Understood, mother." Blake was determined to make her happy. "I will never hurt her. I will treat her well."

Ava smiled proudly at her son. "You're just like your father. Both of you treat your mates really well."

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“We shouldn’t have done this,” Jason said, as he pulled away from Julia. He wiped his lips with the back of his hand, his brows furrowed.

Julia looked very beautiful when she was crying like this. Her face turned very red and her misty eyes were alluring.

“I am sorry, I am sorry. I wasn’t thinking straight.” Julia kept apologizing to Jason and this made the beta feel sorry for her. “I am so worried about my daughter.”

“I know.” Jason took her to sit down, while he knelt in front of her and wiped the tears from her cheeks. “I am sorry on behalf of my mate. It’s wrong of her to slap you.”

“You are very kind, Jason. Thank you.”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 65: THE CHANGE OF THE SITUATION

***** Zenith’s first life *****

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Dawn’s POV

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Ever since what happened between Dawn and Emily, Beta Jason finally decided to move Julia and her daughter from the alpha’s quarters, it was also because Ava insisted for him to do so.

“This wouldn’t have happened if you hadn’t moved them to the Alpha’s quarter in the first place. You know that Dawn and Emily don’t get along well.”

“They should be friends. They are also of the same age.”

“That’s nonsense. Just because you are of the same age, it doesn’t mean you can instantly befriend someone.”

After that argumentation, Beta Jason had to relent and move the mother and daughter, but they still stayed in the pack house, instead of going back to their small house.

Even though Dawn was not happy about this and Ava also couldn’t understand why her mate sided with them, this was the middle ground that they had to agree on.

“You will pay for this.” Emily glared at Dawn when she moved out of her comfortable room.

“Don’t make me ruin your face again, omega.” Dawn looked her dead in the eyes and Julia immediately came to take her daughter away, as if Dawn was a feral animal that would hurt her precious baby.

However, that was not the end of it, because ever since that incident, Emily started spreading a nasty rumor about Dawn and how she almost unalived her out of jealousy, because Beta Jason was being kind to her and her mother by giving them a proper place to live in.

But, Dawn wanted to kill her.

Meanwhile, Dawn couldn’t care less about that, she only waited for the arrival of Alpha Zenith, so she could ask him about her father. She was relentless. The alpha had not come for three months and she had been asking Beta Jason when he would come.

“Dawn, you will stay in your room when he comes. I don’t want you to make a ruckus again like before.”

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“Are you going to lock me in?” Dawn pressed her lips, her eyes turned sharp. She was the alpha’s daughter and she shouldn’t be treated this way.

“I don’t want to, but if you force me, I have to do what is right.”

“By locking the daughter of the Alpha?”

“You make it sound very bad.” Beta Jason shook his head. “You don’t understand this, Dawn, but you will only complicate things and put yourself in a difficult situation.”

“You are not going to lock me in, Beta Jason.” Dawn lifted her chin. “I will turn eighteen next year and I will take over this pack. You are still a beta and I hope you’ll act accordingly.”

“Is this a warning, Dawn?” Jason was in disbelief that he was being threatened by a girl who was still wet behind her ears.

“Yes, I will choose my own beta once I become the Alpha of this pack.”

There was this flicker of malice in Beta Jason’s eyes, something that Dawn had never seen before. “Be careful with what you are saying, Dawn.” His voice was cold. “Look around. Do you really think you can be the Alpha just because you are born as Alpha Tony’s first child? Haven’t you realized that the whole pack looks at you with disgust for

what you have done to Emily and her mother? Do you really think they will be willing to have an unstable teenage girl, as their alpha? Wake up and stop day-dreaming.”

After saying that, Beta Jason walked away. He couldn't care less about Dawn.

And as the words sunk in, Dawn trembled in fear, realizing that she was all alone. Beta Jason was not the warm beta Dawn remembered. He... changed.

But, since when had he changed?

Now that Dawn thought about it, she realized that Beta Jason had never thought or talked about her father. He didn't seem to try to get any news on him or help him in any way to get him out of the capital city either.

Dawn felt a warm tear fall down her cheek, which she wiped away stubbornly.

Later when Alpha Zenith and his small entourage arrived and stayed for the night, she wanted to sneak into the guest bedroom where the alpha stayed, but Jason locked her inside her bedroom, just like he promised her.

“Dawn, are you inside?” Blake came to see her later at night. The moment he learned his father did this again to her, he rushed to her room.

“Blake!” Dawn jumped from her bed and went to the door. “Blake, is that you? Can you open the door, please? I want to get out. I need to see Alpha Zenith.”

“Dawn, please don't make trouble. You will put my father in trouble too.”

Dawn was a little bit disappointed with Blake's reaction and he could feel it, thus he tried to cajole her.

“I will ask Father to ask Alpha Zenith about your father's case, okay? So, stay inside your room and don't do anything reckless.”

However, Dawn had enough. She went to the balcony and looked down at the ground. Her bedroom was on the third floor and she could survive if she jumped from here, well... she wouldn't die, but of course, she would sustain a few injuries.

And Dawn took a bet when Blake kept talking nonsense about how sensible Beta Jason was and how she was being ridiculous.

“Dawn? Are you listening? Dawn?” Blake knocked softly because there was no reaction from inside her room. “I know you are upset, but try to sleep, okay?” He shook his head and then walked away.

Meanwhile, Dawn already made her jump, she shifted back into her human form and bit her tongue to prevent herself from screaming in pain. She felt like she had twisted her ankle.

Dawn touched her leg and was grateful she didn't break any bones, but she still needed to wait until the pain subsided. She crawled to the bushes, so no one could hear her, and masked her scent with the smell of the grass.

Yet, she heard two familiar voices, which became increasingly clearer. They were approaching the place she was hiding in.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 66: THE FRUSTRATION IN HER VOICE

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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Their voices sounded very familiar and Dawn knew that she had heard them somewhere, but amidst her pain, she couldn't figure out who they were quick enough.

But when they moved closer and their conversation became a little bit clearer and their scents hit her, Dawn gasped in surprise to realize the two people, who were seemingly having an argument, were actually Beta Jason and Julia.

"...I told you not to be so rash!" Beta Jason hissed. He sounded very pissed about something. "This is not the right time!"

"When? When is the right time? It has been more than a year and there is no sign that Tony will return!" Julia was furious, her pretty face turned red. "How much longer will my daughter and I have to wait? That's our right, as much as Dawn's!"

"People will give you a hard time if you let them know about this! They will condemn you!"

"Why not? People in the past used to have a lot of women! What's so despicable about what I have done?"

"The rules have changed. You will be punished for that."

After that, the two of them walked away. Dawn didn't understand what they were talking about, but it seemed the relationship between the two of them was closer than what people thought.

However, she couldn't worry about that matter when she had to be somewhere else. These past few months when Alpha Zenith didn't come, she had practiced how to sneak into the guest room. He made it easy for her because the alpha used the same room all the time.

Yet, practice and the real thing was not the same. Dawn was caught by one of his warriors in no time.

Thean.

Dawn believed this bulky man with brown eyes was the alpha's personal warrior.

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"You again?" He sounded more tired than angry. "Give it up, girl. You can't get anything from him."

"I want to see him." Dawn could be very stubborn when she wanted.

"You will get nothing even if you see him." Thean tried to chase her away. "Go back to your room and sleep well."

"Tell me where my father is, or else..." Dawn gritted her teeth. She didn't budge.

Amusement flickered in Thean's eyes. "Or else?" He prodded.

"Or else, I will scream until he comes out."

Thean rolled his eyes dramatically. "Look. If you really want to know what happened to your father, go and ask that beta of yours. He knew all the details."

"No. He didn't." Dawn frowned. "If he knew something about my father, he would have told me already."

"Really?" Thean raised his brows, he leaned over and talked in a voice low enough, until only Dawn could hear. "Do you know that that beta is the one, who was standing against your father in trial? He is literally the reason why you couldn't see your father."

Dawn looked shocked and Thean felt bad for the young girl, but this was what Zenith told him to do, since he knew that Dawn would come looking for him again.

And when the poor girl left, that was what Thean told Zenith.

“I feel bad for her situation.”

However, Zenith didn't say anything about that, he looked aloof as usual. There must be a reason why he let Dawn know about it.

“Have Aurel prepared everything?”

“Yes. That's what she said in the letter.” The gamma waved the letter. “Are we going back to the capital tomorrow?” Darius asked.

“We will go tomorrow.”

Dawn was upset that Alpha Zenith left the pack already, he only stayed for one night. But, when she decided to confront him directly and not leave until she was allowed to meet him, he had never come.

Her birthday went by without a single update about her father and any indication that Alpha Zenith would visit their pack again, all she heard about was his victorious battle against the rogues in the west. The very task that landed her father in trouble.

And today was her nineteenth birthday, the day where she could be considered old enough to take over the pack, because of her father's absence, but their people were very fond of Beta Jason and Dawn could feel their rejection toward her already.

“It's your fault that you didn't even try to interact with them,” Blake said. He looked a bit upset for an unknown reason, even though today was Dawn's birthday. If anything, even his smiles looked forced.

“I tried,” Dawn said, staring at the candles on her birthday cake. It was already weird to have a woman as the leader of a pack, it was unheard of, but now she had no one to rely on or anyone to guide her about what to do.

She couldn't get the title, even if she could, it didn't feel right.

“How can I try to warm up to them when Emily has been poisoning their ears all these years? I know what they say about me. They call me a bad luck bringer.”

“Maybe you are,” Blake said, but he immediately corrected himself when he realized how wrong it was. “No. I am sorry, that's not what I meant.” He tried to hug her, but Dawn pushed him away.

“What's wrong with you!?” Dawn stood up. She glowered at her mate. “Do you really think I am a bad luck bringer too?!”

“No. Of course, not!”

“Then why have you been sulking the whole day?!”

Blake tried to say that it was nothing, that it was only in her mind, but Dawn didn't buy it. She pressed this matter until he admitted it.

“You keep refusing to mate with me! I want to mate and mark you, but all you talk about is that cruel alpha from the north! What? Do you fancy him?”

Dawn narrowed her eyes. “Did Emily get into your head too? That's something she will say.” She was in disbelief. “I know that you have been talking to her lately.”

“See? You are being ridiculous again!”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 67: THE REVELATION OF THE SECRET AFFAIR

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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“I don't know what's wrong with her, she has been like this ever since Alpha Tony was taken away to the capital city.” Blake sighed deeply. He threw pebbles in the lake, while Emily stood next to him, listening to his ramblings. “I think you are right, she just wants to get closer to Alpha Zenith. She has been asking when that alpha will come visit this pack again.”

If Blake knew how many times Dawn asked about Alpha Zenith, he should also have known how many times she asked Jason about her father, but it seemed, Blake only heard what he wanted to hear...

“I know, right?” Emily sighed, sympathizing with him, making Blake feel heard. “I didn't mean to badmouth her, I only told the truth, but she always says that I don't like her. I know, I did something bad in the past, but it's because I was too young and didn't know any better.”

Well, Emily was literally a year older than Dawn...

They talked about a few more things and Blake started to feel how great it would be if Dawn could be as compassionate as Emily. He stared at her, watching the way she smiled, laughed and how her eyes would light up when she heard his story.

Emily looked so alive and without him realizing it, he had leaned over to kiss her lips. Her lips were so cold, they tasted sweet, but also wrong. These were not the pair of soft lips of Dawn and he didn't feel the exciting spark that he felt when he touched his mate.

But, Emily had wrapped her arms around his neck and reciprocated his kiss. Blake was caught in the middle of shock and thrill.

He felt like he had no other choice, but to continue. Despite knowing how wrong it was, he couldn't find the strength to push this delicate woman away from him.

Emily and Dawn were very different. Dawn was stubborn and had this strong determination. Sometimes, she could be so hard to handle, probably because she had the alpha blood running in her veins, while Emily was demure and delicate, a real woman...

But, the spark was not there.

"No." Blake finally pushed himself away from Emily and only then he realized how far the two of them had gone.

Emily had her dress lifted up and her breasts were exposed, but thankfully, Blake stopped before the deed was done.

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Tonight was still Dawn's birthday and after he stormed off amidst his argumentation with Dawn, he looked for Emily for comfort.

"I am sorry, I am sorry..." Emily sobbed, she immediately sat down and covered herself, she looked embarrassed and pitiful, which made Blake's heart melt.

"No, it's my fault. I am at fault here. I was the one who kissed you first," Blake admitted to it. He approached Emily cautiously, but he needed to comfort her upon seeing how sad she was. "I am sorry, Em. I am really sorry." Blake hugged her and patted her back to calm her down.

After all, it was really his fault, so he needed to take responsibility for his actions.

And that was the last time Blake met with Emily in private. What happened between them at the lake became a secret between the two of them and Blake was very grateful to Emily because she didn't tell anyone about this.

That night after the incident at the lake, Dawn was the first person to go and apologize to Blake, because she realized that she had indeed been neglecting him. Feeling guilty, Blake also apologized, only for a completely different reason, which Dawn was not aware of.

In the next two years, Blake tried to connect with Dawn again and they seemed happy together.

Everything seemed fine and Dawn started to accept the fact that she wouldn't meet her father in the near future, until a decree from the king came to their doorstep.

It said that Emily would be bestowed to Alpha Zenith.

This news shocked everyone and people started talking. They said, it was a punishment for the alpha because he vied for the throne, therefore, the king decreed an omega to be his mate.

But, there was another shocking revelation that followed.

Emily was Alpha Tony's secret daughter. The alpha just confessed this and this revelation was made public.

"This is really a humiliation to Alpha Zenith."

"Yes, not only will he have an omega as his mate, but also one born out of an affair."

"I feel bad for the previous king and queen, they tried so hard to eradicate this kind of activity."

"Alpha Zenith is very scornful for vying for the crown with his king brother."

"I heard he is notorious for his cruelty, I feel bad for Emily, she is such a sweet girl."

People talked about this, they condemned Alpha Tony for his affair with Julia and having Emily as his secret daughter that he had never revealed in public until now.

While people were busy cursing the alpha and Julia, and Emily basked in their pity and sympathy, Dawn felt her world crumbling down.

"She is a year older than me, Lyra," Dawn said to the healer, her voice shaking. Her whole body trembled uncontrollably. "He has actually been with that woman when my mother was still alive..."

"I am really sorry, Dawn..." Lyra didn't know how to comfort her, she was too wounded for her to heal, there was no healer in this realm who could mend her wounds at this point.

"He is trash, my father is trash for what he has done and here I am, thinking of him for the last five years, trying to find a way to get to him. I feel so stupid, Lyra... he betrayed my mother."

Dawn felt very stupid right now, especially when she felt this strong urge to see him. She wanted to scream in his face and ask if it was true.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 68: DEPRESSING REALITY

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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Dawn was inconsolable for a few days. She refused to eat and drink. She felt so ashamed for what her father had done and now the people in this pack looked down on her even more for a sin she didn't even commit.

On the other hand, while Julia was being cursed to death by the pack members, Emily actually came out of this whole ordeal unscathed. She gained people's sympathy and appeared as a delicate girl, who kept apologizing for what her mother had done.

But people said it was not her fault.

If it was not Emily's fault, how could they think it was Dawn's fault? She was as innocent as her too! The hypocrisy there was appalling.

Ava and Lyra came to check on her occasionally, while Blake had stayed with her the whole time, but eventually, it took a toll on him, as he felt unhappy with this situation and even more with Dawn. She had been feeling down for weeks.

Blake could understand if she was sad for a week or two, but it was almost two months and she barely got off the bed. She was literally a living corpse.

"I don't want it, Blake," Dawn said, pushing Blake away from her when his kiss implied other intentions. He had been making a fuss about mating and marking her, though he knew Dawn didn't want to do that without a ceremony. But, Beta Jason didn't want to give them one, saying they were too young.

That was bullshit.

"You can't punish me for what my father did, Dawn," Blake growled in frustration. "You won't let me mate and mark you, what kind of mates are we?"

"Not now Blake, I am not in the right mind."

However, Blake didn't listen, he literally pinned her down and tried to mark her forcefully, but Dawn snapped at him.

"Get away from me!" Dawn roared, she used her alpha's voice to get him off her.

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Blake was startled and then stopped. He stormed out of the room and it made Dawn feel so bad for what she had done to him.

"Dawn, it has been two months, you should get over it," Blake said one day, because he was tired of taking care of her. He wanted the happy and cheerful Dawn back.

Dawn sat down and looked at Blake. She knew that he started being impatient with her. She could feel it, but she couldn't bring herself to act like everything had returned to normal, especially when Beta Jason decided it was a good idea for Emily and Julia to return to the alpha's quarters and every time Dawn opened her door, she would be reminded of her father's infidelity.

She looked up to her father so much, his betrayal broke her in a way she couldn't describe, she felt like she was hurt on behalf of her mother as well.

"You can leave, Blake. I thank you for always being here with me, but you can go out and do whatever you want. I need a bit more time."

"It has been two months, Dawn." Blake was frustrated. "Emily also has her own problems, but she is not drowning herself in misery."

Dawn didn't even have the energy to fight him. "Don't compare me with her," she said, as she laid down on the bed again. It upset her especially when he also mentioned her name.

Blake was pissed. "I am in a hard position too. Do you think I can just walk away from you? What will people say? Do you want me to look bad?"

"I want you to leave my room," Dawn said firmly, she opened her eyes and Blake felt flustered with the hatred that he could see there.

"Fine, I will do whatever I please!"

After that, Blake didn't return for the next three days, after that, he would come occasionally. Sometimes, he would treat her gently, but other times, he would look sad and often, he would look like he was uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, time went by in a flash and Alpha Zenith's entourage was due to arrive in three days. It had been years since the last time he was here.

Dawn had been waiting for this moment and when she heard the alpha would come, she found the strength to get up from the bed and prepared herself. It had been ages since she came out of her shell and the pack house looked lively, but at the same time, the atmosphere was very depressing.

The reason for this was; they had to let go of their sweet Emily, since she would leave with Alpha Zenith to be his chosen mate.

All of them felt bad for her and Emily played her part as a pitiful girl very well, garnering a lot of compassion.

But, unlike them, Dawn was waiting for Alpha Zenith's arrival. She really wanted to get closure about her father. She wanted to hear Emily was his father's daughter with Julia herself, that he had betrayed her mother all this time.

She wanted to stop thinking about 'what ifs'... if she had to hate her father for what he had done, she didn't want to have second thoughts about whether or not her father was innocent in this matter.

"You dolled up because Alpha Zenith is coming?" Blake asked, as he entered the room, looking upset. It must be one of the days where he was in a very bad mood.

"Don't start it, Blake." Dawn was already very tired, she didn't want to spend her energy on fighting with him. "You know exactly the reason why I am waiting for him. Stop your nasty thoughts."

Blake glared at Dawn, but she ignored him. She didn't doll up like he accused her, she simply looked more presentable than her 'living corpse' state.

When Blake left, Dawn took a deep breath, she knew that she had been awful to Blake, she would make it up to him later.

"Alpha Zenith is here," Lyra said, as she entered Dawn's room.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 69: STORM

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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Alpha Zenith's entourage was here because they were going to fetch Emily to the north. As his chosen mate, she would go to his pack.

The moment Dawn stepped out of her bedroom, she was able to hear how Emily cried her heart out pitifully, wailing that she didn't want to go to the north.

The alpha from the north was notorious for his cruelty. He showed no mercy. He was the epitome of brutality. That was what people said about him.

It was understandable that Emily would cry her heart out when she had to spend the rest of her life with such an alpha.

For a second, Dawn felt pity for her, but the feeling didn't last long when she noticed Blake's scent.

"Where are you going? You don't need to confront them," Lyra said, stopping Dawn from approaching Emily's bedroom. She thought Dawn wanted to give them a piece of her mind, which would only lead to a fight.

"Blake is inside."

"Blake?" Lyra furrowed her brows. "What is Blake doing inside?"

Dawn was not in her right mind to begin with, thus when she decided to enter the room, she didn't even think twice about it.

But, her eyes turned cold when she saw her mate was really there, comforting Emily. He didn't even realize when Dawn went inside.

Actually, it was Emily, who noticed her first.

"This is all your fault! Your fault! You should have been the one who became his mate! You should be the one who should go with him!" Emily hollered, she hugged Blake, who was half hugging her, preventing the man from chasing after Dawn when she walked out of the room.

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Lyra looked mortified when she saw Emily hug Blake and the man didn't even have the heart to push her away and run after his own mate.

This must be the last straw that broke Dawn completely. Life had not been so kind to her lately and watching Blake comfort Emily must be a sight that shattered her whole world.

The healer immediately went looking for Dawn, but she couldn't find her anywhere. She then went to her favorite spot by the lake, but she was not there either.

Meanwhile, the sky turned gloomy and right after Alpha Zenith's entourage arrived, rain poured down hard.

Dawn's absence became another thing to talk about among the pack members. It was very disrespectful for the alpha's daughter to disappear during this time.

"What else did she want to be jealous about? Emily is leaving the pack, but she is still throwing a tantrum."

"They are actually half siblings. Why can't she forgive her sister when Emily is the victim here?"

"Right? I hope it is her who has to go."

"She is a bad luck bringer. Her mother died because of her and her father is facing a great punishment."

People kept talking, even if they didn't have anything worth talking about, they kept running their mouths mindlessly.

However, Dawn actually met with Alpha Zenith. After so many years, she finally managed to have a conversation with him.

As usual, he occupied the same room again.

"What are you doing here? Come. I will escort you out." Gamma Darius approached Dawn, but she threw him a dagger look.

The way she glared at the gamma was pure murderous, as if saying that if he dared to touch her, she was going to kill him and for a moment, he believed that.

You could imagine how imposing Dawn's presence was to be able to leave a battle hardened shifter like Darius feeling flustered.

"Leave us alone," Zenith finally said. He looked at Dawn and knew that this girl still had the same request, only this time, it was for a different purpose.

"You said we are going to leave right away."

"Leave."

Darius raised both of his arms and then walked out of the room.

Zenith knew Dawn would come to see him again, especially after what she learned about her father. Therefore, instead of taking Emily right away and then leaving, he came to this room.

This time, Zenith intended to let her in, but as it turned out, she stepped up her game and actually managed to sneak inside his room.

“What do you want?” Zenith asked. He glanced at the storm out there.

Emily would cry out loud and break her delicate image if she had to go through this storm to head north.

“I want to see my father,” Dawn said straight to the point.

Zenith paid attention to her for the first time. He didn’t remember her much, because he didn’t see her much before.

But, he remembered the sadness and confusion in her eyes when he took her father away all those years ago, yet those eyes had turned into angry ones now.

“The King is the one who held him captive. You need to go to the capital city and ask him instead.”

“Why did you take my father?”

Zenith tilted his head. “I thought you would look into it when I gave you a clue about your beta, but as it turned out, you are very gullible.”

Of course, Dawn remembered what Thean said that day about Beta Jason, but Beta Jason said that he had been helping her father to get the justice he deserved.

‘So, you trust that notorious alpha more than the father of your mate? The beta of your father?’

That was how Jason responded to her and it shut her up completely.

“You didn’t feel suspicious at all.”

“I believe him.”

“Just like how you believed your father?”

Dawn pressed her lips thin. She held back her tears. She couldn’t find a word to retort, since that was true.

But, before they could continue this conversation, there was a knock on the door and Thean appeared.

“Zen, this is not good.” Thean frowned, he glanced at Dawn uncomfortably. “I think you need to come and see it for yourself.”

Thean couldn't say it out loud, thus he mindlinked Zenith to let him know what happened.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .

Chapter 70: CAUGHT THEM IN THE ACT

***** Zenith's first life *****

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Dawn's POV

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“Blake, I am really scared. I don't want to go.” Emily cried against his chest and hugged him tightly, so he couldn't go after Dawn.

She felt a little bit better to see the hurt in Dawn's eyes, at the very least, it could compensate for what she had to go through because of her a little.

“I know. I know. I will do everything I can to keep you here, Emily.” Blake hugged her back to comfort her. He wished Dawn would be vulnerable like this with him.

Dawn always appeared tough and did not want any help. She was too dominant and independent. She wouldn't cry like this in front of him and would try to solve her problems on her own instead.

Blake wanted Dawn to need him, just like how Emily openly said that she needed him. It made Blake feel like he mattered.

“Blake, please, stay with me. I don't want to see that notorious alpha just yet. I am not ready.” Emily pushed him slightly, as the two of them laid down on the bed.

Blake told himself that they were only lying down, there was nothing wrong with it and that he only chose to stay because Emily needed him more. Dawn would understand his explanation, she wouldn't be that selfish.

No matter what, she and Emily shared the same blood. She was still her half sister.

However, things were not as innocent as Blake intended them to be, because the same thing at the lake happened and this time, they didn't stop. Emily refused for Blake to stop.

"We can't do this... we need to stop..." Blake said, panting mid thrust. But, how could Blake escape from this when he himself wanted it so badly?

"No, don't stop, please... don't stop..." Emily was panting too, her face turned very red, as tension built in her stomach. She was so close. "Mark me, Blake..."

"N- no..." Blake stammered, but he couldn't think straight. It had been his biggest desire to mark Dawn, to have her for himself. To go dirty with her. He wanted to do this with Dawn. "I can't... I have a mate."

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Blake had already gone too far for him to stop now. He couldn't stop even if he wanted to.

"Mark me, please... Blake, mark me." Gently, Emily pulled him closer and pressed his face against her neck, so he could find her sweet spot, where he would be able to mark her.

Emily wrapped her arms and legs around his body tightly, preventing him from leaving. She moaned with every movement and whimpered when his thrusts became faster and harder. He filled her in and when the two of them couldn't hold it back any longer, their cries intertwined in the air.

Emily screamed when Blake finally gave in to the temptation and sunk his teeth in her neck. The sensation of it was unbearable, waves of pleasure washed over them and they moaned loudly.

But then, they heard Ava scream.

Blake's mother caught her son in the act and upon hearing her scream, Blake immediately scrambled to cover himself and Emily up, because she was spent.

Emily just got marked and was unable to lift even a finger, as her body tried to adjust to this new change.

Meanwhile, Blake cried to his mother and apologized. "I didn't mean it, mother! I didn't mean it!"

But it was too late, Ava's scream had gathered unwanted attention.

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“I don’t think it is a good idea for you to tag alone,” Darius said to Dawn. He glanced at the girl beside him and felt so bad for her. Only the said girl didn’t seem to care. She looked very aloof to her surroundings, as if there was nothing that could shake her cool.

Actually, her nonchalant attitude was rather scary.

Earlier, they received shocking news from one of the warriors, who caught wind of what happened in the alpha’s quarter, where Dawn, Emily and Julia lived.

Dawn thought she would be fine, that she had gone through a lot, she had suffered, been beaten up and numbed her feelings, she was prepared for more heartache.

However, no one could prepare her for this.

The first thing that Dawn saw was Ava, who cried her heart out, full of fury, while hitting her son’s chest, asking why he did that.

What had Blake done?

And the moment Ava saw Dawn, she immediately rushed to hug her and kept apologizing, talking something incoherently.

“What happened?” Dawn was confused.

Everyone was here. This was the first time the living room of the alpha’s quarters was filled with so many people.

Beta Jason was there, too, he stood next to Blake, while Julia sat alone on a chair, looking so distressed. She had her head hanging so low, her chin touched her chest. Lyra was also present and then there was Gamma Alex.

It was a rare occasion that Gamma Alex visited the pack house. Ever since Alpha Tony left, he was taking care of external matters, traveling a lot instead.

“I am sorry, Dawn, I am sorry...”

Dawn was annoyed. She wanted an answer, but Ava just kept apologizing to her, while she didn’t understand what she was apologizing for.

“Can someone explain what happened here?!” Dawn’s voice carried dominance when she demanded an explanation.

“He marked that woman.” Darius finally had enough because these people didn’t have any intention to take responsibility and explain things to Dawn. “He marked your half sibling. She caught them in the act.” The gamma nodded at Ava, who was still crying and asking for forgiveness.

No wonder Emily was not here, because after the mating and the marking process, she wouldn't be able to leave the bed for a few days, as her body needed to heal and familiarize with the fresh mark.

"You did what?" Dawn pushed Ava away from her and approached Blake. "You did what?"

Blake didn't even dare to look Dawn in the eyes. "I am sorry, Dawn. I can fix this," he said weakly.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone! .