

Replacement Bride for the Alpha of the North

- Chapter 74 - Chapter 74: DESOLATION

Chapter 74: DESOLATION

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

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Dawn's POV

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This was the first time Dawn met with the beta. Beta Axel had this stern look on his face when he saw Dawn approach him. She felt rejected by him even before she could say anything.

At this point, Dawn really needed to admit that her social skills really sucked. How could someone dislike you from the very first moment they saw you? That was really ridiculous, right?

Currently, Beta Axel was in the training ground, training a lot of scary warriors, which made Dawn halt in her tracks. She found them really scary. People from the north were really built differently.

"I told you, right? He is busy. You should have waited."

"I will wait here," Dawn said, she sat down on the top of the tribune, so the beta could see her. "Tell him, I want to talk to him once he is done with the training."

Fern took a deep breath, she didn't even hide that she was annoyed by Dawn's order, but thankfully, she still had common sense and knew her place, as she did what Dawn told her to do. She left to approach Beta Axel, interrupting his training with the warriors.

"Beta, I am sorry for the interruption," Fern said. She knew that these warriors hated it when their training was interrupted for something that was not urgent.

"What is it?" Axel frowned, thinking there was a message from the alpha or something.

"Dawn wanted to see you right now." Fern nodded in Dawn's direction, but because she was too far away, the latter couldn't hear their conversation. Dawn nodded at Beta Axel politely when he looked in her direction. "She insisted that you meet her right away."

"I will see her after the training," Axel said, slightly annoyed by the demand.

"You can't, Beta, please." Fern held back the beta.

"No. I will see her after the training," Axel said sternly.

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"She will give us a hard time if you delay. She wanted to see you right away. She has been very upset because the Alpha left without saying anything to her and screamed at Pyllo and Kynes a lot."

"She was the one who didn't want to see Zenith, why would she be upset?"

Fern shook her head helplessly. "I don't know. I have never met someone as flippant as her." Fern begged the beta with her eyes. The old woman looked pitiful. "Apparently, even when she doesn't want to see Alpha Zenith, he has to be always available for her."

"That's ridiculous!"

In the end, Axel left the training ground and asked another warrior to take over. He approached Dawn in a bad mood and it surprised her because he came right away.

However, Dawn didn't seem to feel anything fishy about it, because she really needed to talk with him.

"Thank you for coming to see me right away," Dawn said politely.

"Just tell me what you want."

"Can I talk to you alone?" Dawn looked at Fern, who was still within earshot.

Axel looked impatient, but then told Fern to go somewhere else. "What do you want to talk about?"

"I want to know what my role is here." Dawn could see that she needed to talk straight to the point with this man, thus she didn't beat around the bush. "I assume I am here as a replacement for Emily. Am I... Alpha Zenith's chosen mate now?"

"You can say so."

"I only wanted to know my place in this pack." Dawn nodded. "May I know when he will return?"

"He will come back in three months."

"I see." So, he would return in three months and she would be the luna of the pack once the ceremony was held.

“Anything else?”

Dawn shook her head, slightly taken aback by his cold demeanor. “Can I look for you again if I have something to ask?”

“Fine, but not in the training ground.”

Dawn assumed his coldness was because he was annoyed at her for interrupting the training. “Okay. I am sorry for the interruption.”

There was a flicker of surprise in Axel’s eyes, but he didn’t say anything and left immediately. He had something else to do.

After that, Dawn didn’t have any interaction with Axel anymore. But, Zenith didn’t return even after three months had passed.

Six months and then one year passed just like that.

Dawn waited for him in this dull life. This pack felt like a prison for her. She found it hard to even breathe in this pack. She was literally isolated. She didn’t know what was happening out there. She heard no news about what happened outside of the north, nor did she get any letters from anyone.

It felt like her existence had been forgotten. It took a toll on Dawn and after a year, she barely recognized herself.

She had no one and her dull life was the only thing she had.

She lived only because she didn’t die. After being isolated for so long, she didn’t know how to interact with people. Even meeting the members of the pack gave her anxiety now.

People in this pack didn’t even care about her existence and after spending so much time alone, Dawn only had herself. She spent her time in her room, staring at the changing seasons from her window.

She had long forgotten her desire to meet her father for some kind of explanation and closure.

Dawn didn’t even know what she wanted, or what she had to do with her life. She only waited for Zenith to return, in hopes she could have some kind of bond with him.

She still remembered how people said that a mate bond was the most beautiful thing that you could experience, as if having someone who knew you very well, until the silence between you turned into a solace.

Dawn craved such a connection. She was desperate to feel something, anything, because this numbness haunted her and she was afraid of it.

She even wrote a letter to Zenith every month and gave it to Fern. "Please, make sure Alpha Zenith receives it."

"I will."

That was what Fern said every time, but there was no reply from Zenith even after the twelfth letter, after that, Dawn stopped writing to him.

And then, after more than a year and half, finally Dawn heard some news about Zenith. He would return to the pack within a week or two.

This was the first time Dawn felt something, an anticipation.

The day came and Dawn went out of the bedroom, anxious, because she could feel a lot of eyes staring at her, full of judgment and she felt very small.

However, Dawn forced herself to endure it, because she wanted to be part of the people, who greeted Zenith when he returned to the pack house.

"You don't need to come, Dawn," Pyllo said.

"You will only make yourself uncomfortable," Kynes chimed in.

"The Alpha will not even recognize you among these many people."

"No. I want to be here." Dawn was really desperate to be part of something. She bit her lips and picked on her nails, waiting for Zenith.

"Oh, the Alpha has returned with the luna!"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 75: YEARS OF PAIN

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

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Dawn's POV

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"The Luna?" Dawn looked around. She didn't understand what they were talking about. If she was here as Zenith's chosen mate, then why was there someone else that was

called as the luna? "What are they talking about?" Dawn looked at Pyllo and Kynes for explanation.

"Dawn, the Alpha had a ceremony a month ago. He returned with his chosen mate, the Luna." Kynes looked at her with pitiful eyes. "That's why, we told you don't need to come."

Dawn felt so stupid when she heard that, but even more when the question just slipped her lips.

"But, aren't I his chosen mate?" That was what Dawn believed, that was what Fern told her. She needed to be patient in the face of Alpha Zenith's ignorance, as he was very busy, because at the end of the day, she was his chosen mate.

"You should listen to us." Pyllo tugged her elbow. "Let's go back."

"You never said anything about this."

Dawn watched how people greeted the alpha, welcoming their new luna. She was a beautiful girl with long black hair, wearing a white dress, which made her look fresh and innocent, but at the same time, it gave off a regal aura.

People were awed by her beauty and they were dumbstruck when that woman smiled. And with the way she wore her dress, people could see the mark on her neck, she had been marked.

People gushed and she blushed, it was a beautiful sight to see and everyone looked very excited for them. Despite the alpha's coldness, they were too happy to be scared of their alpha like usual.

Behind the alpha and the luna, Aurel stepped out of one of the carriages, there was a smile on her lips, but it was a forced one. She was the girl with green eyes that Dawn saw the first time she woke up in this pack.

Dawn stared at the warm welcome that the pack members gave to their luna and she felt devastated. She hadn't been introduced when she came here the first time.

And when Dawn stared at that beautiful woman they called luna, her eyes met with Zenith's blue ones. He stared at her expressionlessly, until Kynes and Pyllo managed to pull her away from there.

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From what Dawn learned, the ceremony between Zenith and Alia happened in the palace; this woman was a granddaughter of one of the king's advisors. The ceremony itself was held in private. There was no royal ceremony for the brother of the king.

Dawn got this information with so much difficulty, since the only people around her were her two personal servants and Fern.

Ever since then, Dawn stopped talking. She didn't go out of her room and days went by just like that, until two years later, when she heard of the unexpected death of the luna.

The luna died during one of the monster attacks and her body was buried the next day because of how bad her condition was.

During all this time, Aurel would stay by Zenith's side. She would be seen whenever the alpha was around.

So many years had passed by now and when Zenith finally gave her the visit that had long been overdue, four years had already passed. People had gone through mourning for the loss of their beautiful luna.

"Dawn," Zenith called her name.

Dawn just returned from a short walk in the greenhouse that she could access whenever she wanted. She found solace in taking care of the plants there, because no one cared about it and started to relearn what Lyra had taught her years ago.

She was surprised to see Zenith inside her bedroom, waiting for her.

However, she didn't have any expectations of him. She was only curious about why he came to visit her now when he didn't give a fuck about her usually.

He refused all of her requests to meet and the people around him seemed to hate her.

"As you know, you came here because you will be my chosen mate." Zenith then proceeded to tell her about their upcoming ceremony, not even once did he mention his dead mate, even though he just lost her two months ago.

Shouldn't he still be sad about her?

"Be ready for the ceremony, you can do whatever you please about the preparations."

Dawn didn't say anything, she let Zenith do the talking. She remained silent until he was done, but when he was about to leave, she finally spoke.

"That's it? You only came here to tell me that you finally wanted to claim me?" Dawn stared at Zenith's back, he turned around and faced her. "Don't you think it's four years too late for this?"

"You are my chosen mate in the first place, there is nothing too late about this." Zenith talked as if Alia had never existed.

People said the alpha was quite unhappy because the luna failed to get pregnant, not giving him an heir that the people had been waiting for.

Did he want to be with her now, claim her as his mate because he was in a hurry to have an heir? Dawn couldn't stop considering this reason.

"Why now?"

Zenith didn't answer her right away. He seemed to choose his words carefully. "The right time is now."

Dawn didn't understand what he was talking about at all. She was tired of waiting and didn't want to get her hopes up for no reason.

"Let's have breakfast together in the dining hall. This time, don't refuse again."

And after saying that, Zenith walked away from her bedroom, leaving Dawn alone with her own thoughts after this weird and short conversation.

After four years, this was all she got.

But, Dawn failed to notice Zenith's parting words...

Dawn indeed had never had her meal in the dining hall, it was because Fern always brought her food to her room. No one had invited her to come and join the meal in the dining hall, so how could she refuse it 'again'?

The next day, true to his word, Zenith came to Dawn's bedroom and fetched her to have breakfast together.

Dawn sat beside him, on the chair that was supposed to belong to the luna of this pack. On this platform, she sat with Zenith, his beta and his gamma.

There were around five hundred people there, eating together in the dining hall.

And after four years, finally Dawn was being introduced, but their response was lukewarm at best. There was one person that stood out among the warriors in this dining hall. It was that woman with green eyes.

She didn't take her eyes off Dawn and those green eyes were filled with hatred.

"Eat more," Zenith said. He put meat on Dawn's plate after he cut it into small pieces. This gesture only confused Dawn further. "Do you want to have a walk with me after your meal?"

“Okay,” Dawn said. She didn’t talk more and focused on her food instead, but she didn’t eat much either.

After that, they walked together near the forest for two hours, only the conversation between them did not exist.

They simply walked side by side, until Aurel came and informed the alpha he should leave.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 76: LOST TRACK OF TIME

***** Zenith’s first life *****

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Dawn’s POV

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“Zen, Axel has been looking for you, you need to see him. There is something urgent from the capital city,” Aurel said hurriedly.

“Okay, you can leave.” Zenith nodded.

“But, you need to come now.”

“You can leave.” Zenith emphasized his answer.

Aurel looked like she wanted to retort, but knowing Zenith, she knew it would only annoy him, thus she nodded and left, but not before she threw a nasty look at Dawn.

Dawn didn’t understand why Aurel hated her so much when the interaction between them could be counted with only one hand.

And from the way she talked to Zenith, it seemed, the two of them were close. Obviously, the healer was close with beta Axel and gamma Darius too.

“I will walk you back to your bedroom.”

That was it. Zenith walked her back to her bedroom and after that, he didn’t come to take her to the dining hall again.

Dawn took the initiative to get her breakfast in the dining hall, but Zenith was not there. From what Pyllo said, the alpha was very rarely seen eating together with the other people.

It was not common to see the alpha in the dining hall.

Therefore, Dawn could draw a conclusion, he only did it when he introduced her. With this thought, she didn't feel really bad to think Zenith had never asked her to eat in the dining hall, since he was not there either.

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However, Zenith didn't see her again until a day before their ceremony, he came to her because they would need to greet the king.

This was the first time for Dawn to see the king. She heard rumor about him and his golden mask, but she had never seen him in person.

Even though you couldn't see his face, but the aura around him was very intimidating. Dawn found herself cowered behind Zenith's back.

"So, this is her?"

"Yes."

And that was it. That was the only interaction Dawn got from the king, because after that, she returned to her bedroom and was busy for the ceremony the next day.

"If only you gained a little bit more weight, you will look pretty," Fern said. "I mean, you already look beautiful."

"Yes, her skin looked paler. You need to exercise more, Dawn," Pyllo chimed in.

"This white dress will look good on miss Aurel," Kynes said. "I didn't mean this dress doesn't suit you, but miss Aurel has a pair of beautiful green eyes."

Dawn didn't understand what she meant with that, sometime, her mind would go blank and she couldn't grasp the hidden meaning behind their passive aggressive comment.

Dawn fiddled with her fingers. She wanted the ceremony to end quickly. She didn't want to hear their comment anymore or to be surrounded by people. She wanted to curl herself on the bed and close her eyes.

Thankfully, the ceremony went well without any hiccups. Dawn smiled to all the people, who congratulated her, but it felt very fake, because she could see how they disliked the fact that she was the luna of the pack.

They would flock around Aurel, talking about something while glancing at her direction. Of course, they did it subtly without the alpha noticing it, because he was busy talking with the king. From the look on their faces, it seemed something serious.

But, Dawn was grateful because after that, the alpha came to her and get her out of the party, going straight to the alpha's bedroom.

"You are going to stay in this room. If you don't like it, you can décor this place as you like," Zenith said. He took off his cloak and looked a little bit annoyed. "I will clean up first."

After that, Zenith went to the bathroom.

Meanwhile, Dawn looked around her, this room looked rather dull, but she found all of her clothes there. He must have asked someone to move all of her belongings here.

Dawn waited for Zenith to come out, so she could clean herself too. Tonight would be a long night. She had prepared herself for what would happen after.

But when she waited for Zenith, someone knocked on the door. No one should bother them now.

"Yes?" Dawn went to the door and immediately know that it was Aurel. She could smell her scent. "Do you need something?"

Dawn caught Aurel's surprise expression, she must have expected Zenith to open the door.

"I..." She was hesitated, but then she gave Dawn a genuine smile. "I know that this is not the right timing, but I want you to know that I am truly sorry for the way I treated you all this time. I hope we can be a good friend in the future."

"Okay." Dawn didn't expect anything from her and her curt answer put Aurel in an awkward situation. She talked something else more, but Dawn didn't really hear it. She was not even sure what she was talking about until she left and she closed the door to find Zenith was done with his bath.

"You don't need to talk to her if you don't want to."

"Okay."

Dawn then went to the bathroom, her mind was not in the right place and she didn't even realize the way Zenith stared at her.

The alpha deep blue eyes darkened a little bit.

Meanwhile, Dawn was lost track of time in her own mind when she dipped herself inside the bath up, until she heard someone opened the door and saw the alpha stood in front of her.

“How long do you want to dip in?”

“What?” Dawn was confused.

“Do you want to avoid the next procession?”

Dawn didn't understand what he was talking about. “I need to clean myself.”

“For three hours?”

“Three hours?”

Dawn furrowed her brows, but Zenith had left her there alone with her confusion. She didn't think that she had been here for three hours, but when she checked, Zenith was right. She didn't realize three hours had passed.

“I am sorry, alpha.”

Dawn approached Zenith, she stood in front of him with only her robe. There were going to do it after all, there was no need to put on dress.

For a moment, Zenith only stared at her and she lost herself in those deep blue eyes.

“You don't want to do it.”

“I want it.”

If in the past Dawn would chase after him to ask about her father, Dawn right now didn't even know what she wanted or what the purpose of her life. She walked, ate, drank and talked without feeling anything.

“Come here.”

Dawn approached Zenith and stood in front of him. He was very tall and muscular and when he put his hand on her nape, she was sure he could snap her neck. Somehow, there was this intrusive thought where she imagined the alpha did it. So, she could stop feeling this numbness.

Slowly, Zenith lowered his head and he pressed his lips against hers.

How long it had been since the last time someone held her like this? How long it had been since the last time someone kissed her or paid any attention to her?

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 77: MATE AND MARK

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

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Dawn's POV

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Zenith's lips were cold, just like what Dawn expected. They were as cold as his personality, but his touch was tender. Somehow, the rough alpha could hold her in the gentlest way possible.

Zenith ended the kiss, but Dawn still could feel it. She stared at him and for the first time, her eyes lit up with the anticipation, as he took off her robe and left her naked, standing in front of him.

Dawn breathed deeply, she lowered her head and tried to cover her nakedness with her hair, but Zenith was having none of it, as he pulled down her hand and kissed her again.

This time, his kiss was not as gentle as before, he pushed her toward the bed and when the back of her knees touched the edge of the bed, Zenith laid her down, he breathed raggedly and Dawn blushed when she felt how hard he was.

"There is no going back from this," Zenith growled against her lips.

"The past is not a place I want to visit."

Four years.

Dawn didn't even know how she could go through those four years, everything was blurry. She didn't remember she did something that worth to remember. Her memories about her former pack started fading away too.

Her life there and all the pain that she felt because of what Blake and Emily had done to her was only a fraction in her mind.

Nothing was important. She had lived in this numbness for so long, she forgot how to feel and this bond was her last hope to feel something...

"Ah!" Dawn cried when she felt Zenith positioned himself between her legs and started to move his body. She could feel him down there, warm and hard.

"It will be hurt," Zenith warned her.

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However, Dawn couldn't care less about the pain. She needed to feel it, she wanted to feel it. She wanted him to hurt her, so she could get rid of this numbness.

Dawn didn't want to admit it, but she was alone for so long, she craved this connection, the bond or whatever Zenith could offer to her.

"Do it," Dawn said breathlessly and she could feel the growl that thundered in his chest when he started to thrust her deeper and harder.

Dawn bit her lips, she felt her body was being torn apart, but she still didn't tell him to stop.

But thankfully, the pain didn't last for long, because not long after, the pain subsided significantly and it was replaced by this unfamiliar tension in her lower body, her stomach knot and her ragged breath turned into moans.

Zenith kissed the sweet spot on her neck and cup her breast, he pinched her nipple, which made Dawn's toes curled in delight and when Dawn was no longer able to hold back this building tension within her and her climax was very near, her body shuddered, as she got her release.

The pleasure racked her body.

However, it didn't last long because a moment later, a sharp pain burned her skin when Zenith sunk his teeth on her neck, marked her as his.

The pain was almost unbearable, Dawn thrashed her body and tried to push him away, but once it started, Zenith couldn't stop, or else it would put her life in danger.

The pain and the pleasure were very overwhelming, tears streamed down her face, as Dawn wailed in pain.

Out there, the night was very quiet, while inside the room, it filled with the sound of her cries and the bond was formed.

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It took Dawn two weeks to finally wake up after their mating and marking ceremony, by that time, the king and his entourage had left the north.

But, it took Dawn another week to be able to regain her strength, as her body still adjusted to her mark and it was two more week to nourish her body before Dawn was completely healthy.

Right now, she stared at her reflection on the mirror, the mark on her neck had healed and it looked beautiful on her skin.

All this time, Dawn rarely met with Zenith, because he used to come so late and go very early.

“Here, your tonic. You need to drink this so you can feel better faster,” Aurel said. She handed her the cup and waited for her to finish it up.

Ever since Dawn woke up, Aurel would be by her side, helping her to nourish her body. There was nothing wrong with it, because she was a healer. More so, she started to warm up with her. There was no more nasty look, or so Dawn thought...

“How is it? Feeling better?” Aurel asked.

“Yes.” Dawn nodded. She would feel this warm and fuzzy feeling after drinking the tonic.

“What are you planning for today?” Aurel asked, she looked excited.

“Zenith asked me to come with him to the training ground.”

“Oh, he must be wanted to introduce you to his warriors. You need to make a good impression.” Aurel then proceeded to tell Dawn that she had to familiar herself to the warriors. She needed to smile often and chat with them.

“Should I do that?”

“Of course. You need to befriend them all.”

And when Zenith took her to the training ground, Dawn tried, but the alpha didn't look happy with her attempt to know these warriors better.

“You are being too friendly with them.”

That was what Darius told Dawn when she asked, why Zenith looked annoyed. Apparently, she was here to be introduced to the warriors, as their luna, not for her to warm up with them.

“You need to know your position,” Axel said sharply.

Dawn felt bad, but when she told Aurel about this, the healer said that she was being ridiculous to think that way.

“The alpha is jealous. That's a good thing.” Aurel looked excited. “It meant, he cared for you.”

Dawn frowned. She was not sure which one was right, because she couldn't trust her own judgement. Her mind would go blank every now and then and the way she lost track of time was getting worse.

One day, she spent staring at her plate for two hours straight. She didn't touch her food and was only snapped when Zenith came to her, he looked furious.

"What do you want?"

"What?" Dawn couldn't understand why he was suddenly angry with her.

"Do you want to starve yourself?"

"No. I don't."

Her answer only made Zenith became even more furious. He literally growled at her. "I will take you back to your pack, now eat your food and don't make a ruckus."

After saying that, Zenith went out of the room, he looked very livid than usual.

"Why I want to go to my pack?" Dawn immediately stood up and looked for Zenith, but she couldn't find him. She tried to track him down, but no one could tell her where he was.

People looked at her with this sinister look, as if Dawn had committed a grave crime, but right now, she only wanted to meet with Zenith.

Finally, she found him. The alpha was in an empty room with Aurel.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 78: THE TURMOIL IN THEIR BOND

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

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Dawn's POV

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Dawn met Fern and she told her the alpha's whereabouts, the old woman even took her to the room, where it supposed to be empty, but apparently Zenith and Aurel were inside.

"I told you not to bother them," Fern said, as she stood next to Dawn. Both of them watched how Zenith took off his clothes in front of Aurel, through the gap at the door.

Zenith had his back against them, but there was no doubt it was the alpha, Dawn knew his body well enough to say that.

“You should see this coming. Even after a year of the ceremony, you are still not with a child. What did you expect?”

A year? A year had passed?

Dawn staggered back. Where all those times went? She didn't remember a year had passed, but then she couldn't tell exactly how much time had passed.

“Don't see it if you couldn't handle it.”

Dawn stared at the gap between the door and watched Aurel come closer to Zenith. That was all she needed to see. She turned around and rushed away like a coward.

The next day, Aurel would come to her like usual. She would give her a cup of tonic to nourish her body, she said, it would be easier for her to get pregnant if her body was in a good condition.

However, Dawn didn't drink it. She stared at the cup, there was nothing off with the smell. It was the same liquid that she had consumed for the last year.

“I will drink it later.”

“No, you should drink it now.”

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“I said; later.” Dawn's voice sounded very stern, as she put the cup down. “You can leave now.”

Aurel's green eyes flickered. “Are you mad?”

“I am not. I want to be alone.”

“Don't you...”

“Leave.”

Dawn wanted to be left alone. She didn't want to drink this liquid anymore. Something was off. Her mind didn't work properly. She needed to think hard about all of those lessons that she learned from Lyra.

It was even harder because years had passed and her memories about that time was really clouded.

But a few months later, Dawn managed to figure out what was the tonic that Aurel had been giving her. It was not poisonous, but surely, it contained with Iluptic Mushroom.

“The mushroom will give you an illusion,” Dawn said, she tried to explain this to Zenith, but he looked annoyed with her. “Zenith, you need to believe me!”

“You make a fuss to go to your pack and agreed to your request, but then you make another ruckus about not wanting to go, I don’t mind that, but now you slandered someone else, for what?”

“I didn’t slander her name! She did give me Illuptic Mushroom! You need to ask someone to check on it!”

Dawn was very upset when Zenith ignored her, but what made her scared was the way Axel and Darius looked at her, they looked disappointed and disgusted.

“Enough, luna.” Darius stopped Dawn from coming to Zenith, while the beta followed behind the alpha, walking out of the room. “You can’t talk bad about Aurel when all she has done all this time is help you.”

At that point, Dawn knew there was no win in this argumentation. But, she insisted not to drink the tonic anymore. She didn’t want Aurel to be around her and refused to eat anything that she didn’t make herself.

Until this time, Dawn didn’t talk about what she saw in that room. She didn’t have anywhere else to go. If she was being chased out from this pack, it was the same like death, so she endured it.

They had sex a handful of time after Dawn stopped drinking the tonic and marked on the two years of their ceremony, Aurel left the pack to return to the capital city.

Dawn didn’t know what happened, but Zenith started to warm up with her again.

“I don’t like eating alone, can you come early? At least, having dinner with me?” Dawn asked him one day.

Their relationship improved greatly after three months Aurel was gone to the point Dawn could gather a courage to ask him this.

Zenith looked surprised, but he agreed to come and have dinner with her. He kept his word.

At the time when he was very busy, he would still have dinner with Dawn, even if he had to come back again to finish his work.

At this point, Dawn couldn’t see why people called Zenith as the cruel alpha. She knew that he could be very cold and heartless, but he was not as cruel as people portrayed him to be.

“You are pregnant,” Zenith said casually one night during their dinner.

Dawn almost choked on her meat when she heard that. She just told him about her day and talked about trivial things.

Dawn determined to start a new with Zenith, she wanted to forget what she saw in that room. After all, Aurel had gone. There was nothing for her to be worried about.

“How do you know?”

“I know.”

Dawn didn't believe that and when the day came, the first thing she did was to look for a healer, but this new healer in the pack told her that she was not.

Feeling disappointed, Dawn told Zenith that he must be mistaken and mentioned what the healer told her.

“I know what I said,” Zenith said, he hugged her from behind and caressed her flat stomach. “Take care of yourself.”

“How do you know this for sure?”

“I just know.”

And just like what Zenith said, a month later, Dawn started to show the symptom and she could even feel it without even asking for the healer to confirm it, nonetheless, she still went to the healer and get the confirmation that she needed.

“I told you,” Zenith said, he put down the report in his hand and caressed her cheek when she rushed toward his study room to inform him about this.

Dawn was happy, very happy. This must be the happiest time for her after so many years of suffering.

But then, she started to feel it again. The side effect of the Iluptic Mushroom. She started to lose track of time again and her mind would go blank, staring at one point for a long time.

It worried Fern and Dawn's two personal servants.

And on the seventh month of Dawn's pregnancy, Aurel stepped into the pack again. Dawn felt this chill crept in her skin when she heard about this news from Kynes and Pyllo, who looked very excited to have the healer again.

Dawn became very defensive. She had tried to communicate this with Zenith, but even she herself could tell that her mind was not in the right place and her words didn't make any sense at all. She couldn't choose the right words and it sounded awfully wrong.

"She tried to poison me! How couldn't you see that?!" Dawn was angry. She literally shouted at Zenith. "You want to kill me! She wanted to kill me!"

"Dawn! Enough!" Zenith finally snapped. Dawn had been acting awful again since her early pregnancy and the alpha tried to tolerate it.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 79: THE BIRTH OF HER SON

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

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Dawn's POV

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"You are unbearable!" Zenith had enough of her. She had been acting very weird lately. He had checked everything and it was good. Aurel even left the pack and she was still acting crazy. He didn't know what to do with her anymore. "It's enough!"

Everything was bottled up in within him.

"Zenith..." Dawn staggered back, she fought back her tears, her whole body was trembling. She thought they were fine. She thought they finally were in the right track. But, what was going on now?

Dawn couldn't remember most of her time and during those fuzzy memories, she felt time slipped through her fingers. She couldn't tell what she was doing for a whole day.

She felt like she woke up in the morning, but then it was already morning again the next day.

Dawn checked her food and everything, she remembered her lesson with Lyra about poison, thinking it must be Illuptic mushroom again, since Aurel had returned. But, that was not the case.

She prepared her own food, checked what she drank, but she found nothing.

Dawn felt like she was going insane. She refused to eat and drink anything one day, but this only enraged Zenith.

“Are you going to kill yourself and the baby?!” Zenith snarled at her. “If you wanted to die so badly, go and die alone!”

Dawn was nine months pregnant, she was waiting for her delivery, but she felt even more awful. She refused to eat and drink. She was still adamant that they poisoned her.

“Zenith, please... please believe me... they poisoned me.” Dawn was very weak. She wouldn’t be able to push the baby if she kept this way. She was going to die during the labor with her baby.

“You have checked everything yourself! You prepared your meal and checked your drink, what else do you want!?” Zenith grabbed her arms. He shook her weak body. “I sent Aurel away because you said she poisoned you, but you still like this even without her presence!”

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Dawn couldn’t find any justification for her action, because she couldn’t find the resource of the poison either. She couldn’t accuse Aurel too, since they had never encountered each other ever since she returned.

“Please, believe me, Zenith... please, believe me...” Tears streamed down her cheeks, she didn’t even have the energy to cry. “If you don’t believe me, I don’t want to see you again... leave. Leave me alone...”

“Fern! Force her to eat!” Zenith said sternly, he stood up and left the room, while Dawn laid on her bed lifelessly. The life left her eyes. She looked like she was ready to die with her child.

However, Zenith would never allow that to happen.

The next few days, Dawn still refused to eat and her condition was worsening, it forced Zenith to come and see her again.

“I don’t want to eat, they poisoned my food...” Dawn whimpered weakly. If it was not for the healer, she and the baby would have died by now.

“EAT!” Zenith was frustrated, he forcefully shoved down the food down her throat, but Dawn retaliated, which caused her to vomit.

Aurel was called, but Dawn didn’t want her to touch her, thus another healer came into the room. Zenith knew about the bad blood between Dawn and Aurel, thus he prepared five more healers in the pack.

The healers took care of Dawn, while Kynes and Pyllo cleaned her up, once she was already clean and had a little bit energy to stay alive, they left Dawn with the alpha.

Zenith didn't say anything for a long time and Dawn refused to even see him.

"What do you want, Dawn?" Zenith finally cracked the silent between them. "What do you want me to do?"

But, there was only silence that answered his question and Dawn condition became even more concerning on the day of her labor.

Aurel and five more healers were there to keep her and the baby alive, since Dawn didn't have any strength to push the baby out of her body.

She seemed to determine to die with her baby.

It was a bright day and at first, there was no sign of her was going to give birth, but later at night, she started to feel the pain and everything went so fast when Kynes notified the healers.

"Where is Zenith?" Dawn asked amidst this excruciating pain. "Where is he? I want him..." She was afraid, she was scared, she wanted her mate to be there, but Fern and the other ignored her request. They didn't even care about her, their main focus was on the baby. How to keep the baby alive.

Dawn could die for all they cared.

"Please... where is Zenith? I want him... ah!" Dawn cried, the pain was unbearable and she was having a hard time to breath, she was going on and out of her consciousness, she heard what they were saying and thinking this was it.

She thought, she was not going to see her baby.

"Leave her! Focus on the baby only!" Aurel snapped at one of the healers, but she retorted.

"We need to keep her awake! The baby could die too!"

Aurel clicked her tongue, annoyed. But, she was thrill that Zenith was not here.

It was the most grueling four hours for Dawn, the pain and the suffocation were unbearable. She felt like she was being under the water and when she just found her peace, she was brought back to reality and the pain was the first thing that hit her. This anguish feeling was more terrifying than anything else Dawn had endured.

In the end, she couldn't keep calling for Zenith, she didn't have the strength and also because she accepted the fact that he wouldn't come for her.

After hours, finally they heard the cry from the baby. It was weak, you could tell that the baby needed more attention, since he didn't sound healthy at all.

"My baby..." Dawn blinked her eyes, she tried to gain her consciousness, but the darkness came and this time, no one pulled her from under the water. She was drowning. The pain subsided and the light faded away.

Dawn didn't know how long she had been unconscious, but when she woke up, everything was still the same, except for her stomach. It was flat now.

"My baby..."

That was the last and the first word Dawn said before and after she fell unconscious and then woke up.

Pyllo came to her bedside and tend to her. She looked haggard and didn't dare to look at Dawn in the eyes.

"Where is my baby?" Dawn asked, she ate her food. She couldn't care less if she was being poisoned now her baby was no longer relied on her. More so, she couldn't find the poison in her food.

"Your baby is being taken care of," Pyllo then told her what had happened when she fell unconscious for two months.

Apparently, the alpha got a wet nurse to take care of the baby and the healers would come constantly to keep her alive.

"I want to see my baby..."

"I need to ask for the alpha's permission first."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

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