

1017 SIDE STORY (ETHAN): ALIANA'S PLAN

The ceremony between Ethan and Aliana went smoothly, it was a beautiful day, a perfect day to commemorate this perfect union.

Zander and Zenith played with Lil Thing, Rye and Lucia joined them with Joel looked after the children, while the adult was busy to prepare for the ceremony.

"You look beautiful, Aliana," Iris complimented her, there was a tear in her eyes when she stared at Aliana. She loved this woman so much, she was like a big sister that she had never had. Hannah was also there, she was currently pregnant that would be due in two months.

"The queen is right, you look so fabulous!" Hannah smiled so wide, as if today was her

own ceremony. She had it with Will once the war had ended, but there was no celebration for it, because at that time the situation was still in disarray and it would be inconsiderate for them to have a celebration, even though Iris then insisted to have one, once the situation in the continent was stable.

"Thank you," Aliana said.

Sofia and Nala were also there, since their men were part of this ceremony, and despite their past, they got along well.

And when Sofia walked out from the small tent where she was getting ready, Jace had been waiting there. He looked handsome in his formal attire.

"I can't believe that jerk got my beautiful sister."

"Jace," Aliana called him in a warning tone. "He is my mate now."

Jace groaned. "You already took his side even before the ceremony."

"Don't be ridiculous."

"Just tell him that I am going to skin him alive if he hurts you."

"Oh, please. I am more than capable to do so," Aliana chuckled. "Moreover, we don't need more violence. We had enough of that already." Aliana hugged Jace and kissed his cheek. "You are the best brother that one could ever ask for."

"I know."

"I take that back."

The ceremony went smoothly, everyone was happy for Ethan and Aliana, the food was delicious and Grilla cooked a lot of it with the other omegas.

Life was beautiful.

Even for Carla.

She liked Ethan, but she liked it even more when he was happy even though he was not with her. She knew her position and who she was. There was no way she could be compared to Aliana. More so, she had so much respect for her.

She was happy for the two of them.

After that day, there was so much happiness that followed, life started to be kind to them and the people around them.

However, there was only one thing that kept bothering Aliana's mind. Even after five years, she was still not pregnant yet.

She started to worry about this fact. Even though Ethan had never pressured her into anything or he insinuated that he wanted a child, but Aliana knew that he really wanted to be a father.

He was good with children.

Every time he came to the orphanage, the little ones would rush toward him and hug him, play with him. Aliana could see how much Ethan enjoyed this moment with them.

Therefore, it started to bother her when they reached seven years mark, but there was no sign from her womb and Iris could tell that.

"Do you want me to check your body?" Iris asked one day when they were walking around the orphanage, in one of the queen's visits.

"Check what?" Aliana stammered. She looked at Iris with confusion, but she seemed to already know what she was going to say.

"You don't need to hide anything from me, Aliana." Iris clasped her hand.

Aliana went silent and then nodded. "Yes, please..."

But the result was not something that Aliana looked forward to. Iris called Penny as well when she checked on Aliana.

In short, because of what happened during

the war and how Aliana was exposed to a poisonous miasma a few times, it had a side effect on her body. They only discovered this after so many years, thus the damage had been so bad.

"I can heal Cane, I think I can do it with you too," Iris said to cheer Aliana up, Penny also chimed in that she would help to find the right concoction for her.

If only Grace was still with them, they would know what kind of concoction that she made with the water magic stone, since Iris didn't have any idea about that and Penny couldn't find her note.

With that, Iris would treat Aliana every now and then, but after a year passed, there was no change. No matter how powerful Iris was, there was still something, a few things that she couldn't heal with her divine power.

Aliana

"I need we need to stop this, my queen," Aliana said one day when Iris tugged her to an empty room in the orphanage like usual to get her treated. "I am glad for all the effort that you have done for me, but I think I have to accept this."

"Aliana..." Iris was sad, she was disappointed in herself because she couldn't help. "I am so sorry..."

"Don't worry, I don't think this is because you are not helping, but the time is simply not right for me." Aliana smiled at Iris. "I am in my early forties, I don't think it will be safe for me to have a child. Instead of living in endless hope, I want to accept it."

"Aliana, let's try again... I will look for..."

"No," Aliana cut it short and clasped her hands, she hugged her. "I want to stop. I want to accept this."

And that was it, Aliana still couldn't bring herself to accept it now, but she knew that she eventually would make peace with her situation and condition.

However, if there was still one thing that she couldn't let go it must be

Ethan.

After her heartfelt conversation with Iris and she felt slightly better, she walked out of the room and found Ethan was playing with three little children.

They were chasing after him and laughed mirthfully. It was a beautiful sight to see and Aliana could only imagine if those children were his.

She was really curious to see how Ethan's eyes would light up when she told him if she was pregnant, or how his reaction would be when he felt the first kick of their

baby, or maybe how he would be panicked during her labor.

Aliana was curious of that.

She was sad because she couldn't experience it with him. She was sad because she couldn't give him that kind of happiness.

Ethan was still very young. He was younger than her and he could find another young woman to be with him. Someone that could make him happier than her.

"What happened, Aliana?" Carla approached her. She followed her line of sight and giggled when Ethan made a silly face to tease one of the children. "Are you okay?"

Aliana stared at Carla for a while and smiled. "Yes, I am fine."

"You look tired, why don't you take a rest?" Carla suggested. She was always be this sweet girl, ever since she followed Aliana around to take care of the orphanage. She had known her for years and needless to say she could read her like an open book.

"I still need to prepare a dinner, why don't you come with me and help? If you don't have another thing to take care of, I would love to have dinner with you."

Carla was surprised, she didn't answer her immediately.

"I need help to prepare dinner. Can you come?" Aliana asked again.

This time, Carla nodded hesitantly and then came with Aliana to her and Ethan's house. They didn't live in the pack house anymore

after the ceremony.

Ethan returned a little bit late and found his beautiful mate was preparing dinner. He immediately went to her and hugged her from behind, peppering kisses on her nape.

"I miss you! I miss you!" Ethan said in his childish voice. Even after years had passed, this side of him didn't change at all.

"Stop it, there is someone else here," Aliana said, as she separated herself from him.

"Carla?" With the mention of it, Ethan sniffed the air and realized that Carla was there.

"She will have dinner with us," Aliana said cheerfully.

And after that, the three of them had

dinner together. It was a little bit awkward at first, because Carla had never had dinner with them, but Ethan was a very easygoing person, he managed to lift the mood.

However, it was not the first and the last time Carla was having dinner with them, because in a week, Aliana would invite her to come at least three to four times.

"My Aliana," Ethan said, he always called her that way when he wanted to say something important, but didn't want to make the situation feel very serious. "I noticed Carla came here very often."

"Yes. I like her company."

Ethan narrowed his eyes at her, but he couldn't read her expression. She looked so light and casual, but this didn't settle well with him.

Currently, they were on their bed, enjoying each other's company after making love to each other. He liked her sweet scent and her gentleness, but there was something wrong.

"What plan do you have in your mind?" Ethan suddenly asked.

"What plan?" Aliana asked, feigning innocence, but instead Ethan flipped her over and hovered above her.

"I am not dumb, Aliana. I know you." Ethan's eyes were so sharp, they stared deeply into her soul.