

983 A SOLEMN NIGHT

The aftermath of everything was very devastated. It could be said that they lost seventy percent of the population of the shifters. It was a massive lost for them and dangerous period of time if another continent tried to invade their land.

Even more when they didn't have a king, a leader to guide them through this whole ordeal, therefore a new reign had to be built immediately.

And at time like this, it went without question that Cane and Iris were the only people that suit the role. There was no discussion or debate about it. They acknowledged them naturally.

Cane was a royal family to begin with, he had royal bloodline that one couldn't dispute. During all this time, he had proved himself that the role as the sovereign was something that he was born with.

Meanwhile, Iris was a perfect mate for him, a queen with a strong magic ability, someone that you couldn't take lightly.

There was no one couldn't deny the two of them to take the throne. In the people's hearts, Cane and Iris were their true leaders, their king and queen.

Not to mention the birth of twins, there was no need to doubt the continuity of the royal bloodline.

However, Cane and Iris agreed to hold back the ceremony for a while, until everything was settled, but not too long, because it was not a good idea too to let the throne vacant for that long. They had to move quickly before there was an invasion from another kingdom and caused them more trouble than necessary. Because their population dwindled drastically, the safety of their continent was at risk. This was a critical moment, where they had to tread their steps carefully.

"A month for now will be a perfect time for the ceremony," Cane said to Jace.

They planned to move the capital city to Howling Wolf pack, so the capital city would be in the south now, since Howling Wolf pack and Blue Moon pack were the packs that had less impact from the war, they would merge the two packs and called it the capital city.

They wouldn't build the black market anymore and instead made Crystal Moon pack as the central of business, they had the harbor that would make transportation easier for the people from different continent. Black market was synonymous with something illegal and Cane didn't want to give a platform for the dirty deal.

Lou didn't agree with that though.

"You will not build the black market anymore?!" Lou wailed. "Where the fun of it?!" He looked very healthy now, too healthy for Cane liking, since this merchant tended to be very noisy.

Sometime, the alpha tempted to put him into a bedrest again.

However, when Iris said she didn't like the black market and told him that she met Rei for the first time in the black market and that gave her a bad memory, the merchant changed his tune completely. "Yes, you shouldn't start your reign with something bad. You have to lead with your conscience." Said someone, who two minutes ago wailed his disagreement.

"I should have left you in Lucent sand desert so the sun will burn your brain," Ethan commented.

Iris chuckled, there was the familiarity in the way they bickered with each other and somehow, this brought comfort to her.

Yes, they lost so many people. There were so many tears and blood that they had shed, so many heartbreaks that they had to endure, pain and agony that accompanied their journey.

But at the same time, you had to appreciate the people, who stayed with you, who was still with you until now, the people that saw the light in the end of their dark tunnel, and be grateful for that.

There was still hope for a better future.

"The preparation is ready, we need to leave now." Aliana entered the room and informed them. Her voice was somber and carried the heaviness of how sorrowful this matter was.

In an instant, the room fell quiet. Lou and Ethan stopped bickering. Their faces turned solemn.

Tonight, they would hold a funeral and a memorial for those who lost their lives during the war and the catastrophe that followed.

There were so many lives lost, they couldn't count it. They couldn't even find the body of their love one, almost all of them. Their graves would be empty with only their name on its gravestone.

Grace, Ameer, Eron, Dyne, Otis and many more, the list could go on for days.

Tonight, they would allow themselves to grieve, mourning the people that should be here with them and watched the new era of the shifters under the new sovereign, unfortunately, they didn't make it to the end of the tunnel and had to be left behind.

Iris was holding Zenith, while Cane held Zander, together they led the people to the shore, drifting small rafts filled with luminous pearls into the sea, this symbolized the souls who had left this realm and hopefully the light from the luminous pearls would take them to a better place. Zander looked around him curiously, while Zenith was sleeping peacefully in his mother's arms.

The night was very quiet and it coincided with new moon, as the light shone brightly in the night sky.

This would be the first new moon for Cane to be in his human form and was not forced into the lycan form.

However, it would be a lie, if they said they didn't miss the cursed creature. The lycan was not a pure joy to be around, but they had gotten used to his antics every now and then and didn't mind it.

With him gone, it left an irreplaceable void in Cane and Iris' heart.

Iris missed him already. She didn't even have a chance to say anything or even thank him for what he had done for them.

Iris leaned her head against Cane's arms, as they watched the rafts drifted away to the sea, while the gentle moonlight brightened their gloomy night.

So long my friends...

The preparation was done and tomorrow, they would head to Howling Wolf pack. The news about the coronation had spread and there was only positive reaction from all the people.

At time like this, they needed something for them to look forward and the coronation ceremony was a huge and an important event, a history for their kind. Especially when their future king and queen of this kingdom were the two people that they held dear in their hearts.

Everyone was excited and this could give them a little bit solace for their grief.

"Luna Iris, the Serafim wants to see you," Zephyr informed Iris from behind the door.

Abby felt a little bit off with the title, but she didn't correct it. In people's eyes, she was still the Serafim, but the name had less value now.

Iris let Abby to enter the room. She just finished breastfeeding Zenith and now Zander woke up and wanted her attention. She was currently alone with the babies.

After some pleasantries, Abby finally told Iris her intention for this visit.

"I decided to go back to Andelus continent," Abby said.