

The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Novel Online Free

Chapter 621

621 THE CALM BEFORE STORM (4)

Iris wanted to be close with her mate all the time, she had been miserable missing him all day and had little time when he finally returned late at night, because she was already very sleepy and often, Cane would have gone the moment she woke up.

Yes, both of them would wake up in the middle of the night, or it would rather be said that Iris was the one, who woke him up because she felt very needy... but still, that was not enough for her.

"Can I?" Iris nuzzled against his neck, trying to make him give in to her demand. The problem with Redmond was forgotten for a while, because she had something that she wanted from her mate. "I want to go with you, I promise I will not cause trouble. I will wait in the carriage if you don't want to take me to the same room. Please..."

Cane couldn't take it anymore. "Okay."

"Really?!" Iris pushed away from him slightly

and her bright blue eyes stared at him, rendering him speechless. "I love you!" She leaned over and kissed him on the lips.

"You must behave."

"I am always behave!" Iris hugged him tightly. "Thank you!"

"Careful," Cane said in low voice, as he caressed her back and secured her body on top of him, as the carriage started to move, she could fall if she moved recklessly like this.

However, soon Cane regretted it when he took Iris with him, because he failed to remember that Lou would attend this meeting too and the merchant looked so pleased to see his mate again.

"Iris! I am so happy to see you here!" Lou exclaimed and his screeching voice hurt her ears.

She hoped, she could turn deaf only for him.

"I heard you went out of the pack house that day I told you that I am going to take you out to see the town."

"Where did you go?"

"I know a great place, I will take you there, okay?"

"Why don't you talk to me?"

She clung onto Cane, as she stared at the merchant with expressionless face, while Cane ignored Lou, but when the merchant was being too close with his mate, he growled at him.

"Back off Lou. I will not tolerate this kind of behavior."

Lou clicked his tongue. He was getting bold right now, but he was not a threat in Cane's eyes, at least not yet. He could handle this merchant, since he was only being ridiculously annoying, but that certain man would always be a thorn under his skin.

"I didn't even talk with you, what's wrong with it?"

During the meeting with another four merchants from Karam, it was proven that Cane's decision to take Iris with him was right, because she could tell him every detail of the conversation, since they talked

in Kars, that was the language that they used in Karam continent.

Cane knew a few words and could tell what they were talking about, but he missed the de tail because that was not the language, he was fluent of, but Iris helped him with that.

In the past, he had asked her to teach him, but because there were a lot of things that was going on, the lesson stopped naturally.

Meanwhile, Lou tangled in a complex discussion with the other merchants, as he bid for lower price, pointing out how they were being very ridiculous and to re them a new one whenever they tried to argue back.

Iris had never seen Lou was being this serious before, he always looked very easy going and cheerful, almost like Ethan, but he was the insane version of the gamma.

"Cane, I want to serve them the alcohol tea, is it okay?" Iris had this idea to introduce the special tea from the Howling Wolf pack. She had asked Lou's help, but all the merchant cared about was to get a way to interact with her. He didn't really help.

"Okay." Cane watched his mate beamed, as she went outside of the room and asked one of the warriors to retrieve the tea leaves from the pack house.

It didn't take long and the tea was served for all of them.

At first, the four merchants frowned because they didn't really drink tea. Tea was not a thing in Karam continent.

"You need to try it, you will not find this tea anywhere else," Iris spoke in Kars, telling them to take a break for a while.

"Wait, is this the alcohol tea?" one of the merchants frowned the moment he tasted it. This kind of tea was popular in the past, but because the pack had fallen from its grace, they couldn't produce it anymore.

"Ah, right! You are from the Howling Wolfpack!"

Iris smiled when they recognized it. Aliana was right that the tea was very popular back then and she told her a few details about it, which helped her to explain it to the merchant.

This time, they chatted casually about the tea, it was so clear that they were interested to invest in this and Lou saw this as opportunity to make a new deal with them, while Cane stared at his mate proudly. She knew a lot of things about his pack and she was willing to learn that.

"Thank you," Cane said in whispery tone.

"Hm? For what?" Iris was confused, but he didn't elaborate what he was grateful for, because there were a lot.

The meeting lasted for four hours and Iris was getting tired to listen to them, in which Cane took her to the second floor, where he had booked a room for her, since he knew the meeting could be difficult and take a long time.

The meeting itself happened in the first floor, where it was a restaurant with a private room.

"But, how do you know about the details of their conversation if I am not there?" Iris asked, during those two hours, she whispered to Cane whenever she found an important detail about the discussion

between Lou and the other four merchants.

"I am not that clueless, Iris. I can get the gist of their conversation. Rest now," Cane said, he leaned over and kissed the tip of her nose. "I will ask Aliana to come here and accompany you."

"There is no need, I will go to sleep. I am a little bit sleepy," Iris yawned and Cane's eyes filled with complicated feeling. He stared at her for a long while before he went back to the meeting and spent another two hours in this heated argument.

However, his mind was elsewhere, thankfully, Lou held the meeting well and he didn't need to say much, since his point was very clear.

"Dang! You need to pay me double for this!" Lou grumbled, he complained as soon as the merchants left the room and he was left alone with Cane.

"If I have to pay you for this, you can deal with the royal by yourself," Cane replied.

Lou growled at him. "Now tell me what are

you going to do with the royal family? Will you rebel against them?" Lou didn't have any idea what Cane was going to do to get them out of the problem with the royal, but whatever it was, he couldn't care less, as long as he was alive. He knew that Alan would be crazy enough to demand his head once he stepped into the capital city. "Will you use that golden stamp to oppose the royal."

"Do you really think that golden stamp still effective?" Cane sipped the alcohol tea. Iris wanted to drink it before, but he was very stern to put it away from

her. This tea was special and the refreshing smell that came from it would make you hard to resist not to drink.

"Right. That stupid Alan will not care about that." Lou became even more frustrated.

"He is a king now."

Lou scoffed. "Oh, Cane. You know that you don't think of him as a king at all." He rolled his eyes. "I might sound crazy, but I like king Aeon more. At least, the late king played by the rule, while this retarded king is very erratic and is driven by impulse."

Lou fixed his eyes on Cane and his voice became more serious.

"Did lady Cyan really kill the king? Where do you think she is right now? Don't you think she is hiding in the palace? After all, her son becomes the king now."

Cane had the same thought like him, but all he said was; "I don't know."

"Damn it, Cane! At least, tell me how we can get out of this mess!" Lou had been very frustrated, he forgot to put on act to be nice with the alpha. Probably, because he already used to be around him by now. He dropped all the formalities.

"Just do what I said, I will tell you when the time is right."

Cane's answer drove the merchant crazy, because he really disliked this kind of game and after the alpha finished his tea, he left Lou alone to see his mate, who was sleeping peacefully, her lips were slightly open and she breathed evenly.

Cane knelt down beside the bed and

caressed her face, he stared at her for a long time with a lot of thoughts swirled in his mind. He wanted to call Grace over, but somehow, he dreaded the result if it was not up to his expectation. Maybe he read too deep into it.

Cane's eyes fell on her flat stomach...

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Chapter 622

622 THE CALM BEFORE STORM (5)

Cane spent hours staring at his sleeping mate, as a lot of things swirled in his mind. He caressed her hair, cheeks, nose, lips, her shoulders and her stomach... unsure what to expect.

And when he kissed her lips, Iris woke up, she opened her eyes sleepily.

"Did I wake you up?" Cane nibbled on her neck and Iris moaned in delight. She pulled him closer to her and mindlessly initiated the sex, like she used to do lately. She lusted after him even more in this past few days.

This time, Cane did it cautiously, it took so much effort for him not to lose his control even for a second and hurt her. There would be a moment when they were on the throes of passion that he couldn't hold himself back and unintentionally hurt her, though it didn't last long before he regained his self control back, but he couldn't afford it this time.

Because, what if...

Expectation, hope, could kill you more than you realized, therefore, he wanted to take precaution. Not only for her, but also for himself.

There was this gnawing fear inside him, what if he misinterpreted the sign and became delusional because he read things too deep.

On the other hand, Iris fell asleep after their passionate moment, she looked exhausted, but satisfied, as she curled herself on the bed, while Cane looked after her.

The alpha took it upon himself to clean her up, he wiped her body, but his eyes lingered on her flat stomach a little bit longer.

Iris only woke up when Cane fed her dinner and drank her concoction, after that, she literally passed out until the next morning, where she found Cane was still by her side.

Because of how busy he was, Iris used to wake up and see Aliana the first thing she opened her eyes, but to see her mate, it was a pleasant surprised.

"Cane..." Iris snuggled into his arms and rubbed her face against his chest happily with her eyes closed. She was about to fall asleep again, but Cane kept her awake.

"You need to wake up, you ate only little last night." Cane played with her curls between his fingers and kissed her forehead lightly. He liked her scent, because it brought peace to his mind.

As if on cue, Iris's stomach started to grumbling, she frowned and nuzzled him. "I am sleepy."

"But, you are hungry."

"Hm."

Cane rubbed her back and Iris mewled, she started to rub herself against him and this wouldn't do. It was a wonderful feeling for having your mate lusted after you, but the alpha was not going to tire herself out, especially when she was not thinking straight at this moment.

Iris whimpered when she didn't get what she wanted and Cane pulled away from her. She opened her eyes and frowned.

"Come on, you need to take a bath, after that we are going to have breakfast with the merchants."

Iris blinked her eyes when she heard that. "You are going to take me?" Her blue eyes lit up when Cane nodded.

However, he told her that she was going to stay in the room like yesterday, while he was having a meeting in the other room. She felt miserable whenever he was away, but even if she was not in the same room with him, knowing he was nearby, it helped to reduce her misery.

"Up." Iris raised both of her arms, asking Cane to pick her up. "I am tired..." she said sheepishly. She was not sure what happened with her, but she became annoyingly clingy to ward him. She tried to stop her impulsiveness, but she couldn't help it.

Thankfully, Cane was being extremely gentle and patient with her, as he obliged without even changing his expression. He picked her up and took her to the bathroom, where he spent extra effort to

wash her hair, while she fell asleep again.

"Why I can't open my eyes? I feel very sleepy..." Iris yawned. She had slept throughout the night and even earlier than her sleeping time, but even so, she still felt sleepy and exhausted.

"You can sleep again once you ate your breakfast." Cane dried her hair and after that styled it. It had been a while, since he did it and he enjoyed spoiling her like this.

Iris yawned as answer and Cane chuckled to see her rubbed her sleepy eyes.

Inside the carriage, Iris would sit on his lap and talked about a few random things that she learned from this pack, also suggested a few ideas about the alcohol tea, in which Cane listened to it carefully. He liked some of her idea and definitely would make Lou did exactly that.

Maybe it was not all about her random thoughts and the way she was thinking, but it was simply how he loved to hear her voice and watched how his timid mate could be a chatter person. She was rather snarky and emotional recently.

"Oh! It's so great to see you again!" Lou greeted Iris, being overly friendly with her, even though Nala was by his side. Seeing Cane took Iris to the meeting, he had this idea to take Nala with him also. It was indeed so great to see her.

Meanwhile, Nala stole a glance at Cane again. It had been a while, since she saw him the last time and she also heard about the baby. The alpha must be devastated that the baby was not his. If it was her, she must have given him a baby, an heir to the pack. Why would he keep that useless runt by his side?

Sensing the way Nala stared at her mate, Iris wrapped her arms around Cane's waist and lifted her chin, while staring at the other woman provocatively, which made Nala was seething and Lou was speechless, because he was being ignored again.

"Be good and eat your breakfast, okay?" Cane kissed the top of her head, as he watched her upset little face.

After that, Cane immediately directed Lou to the meeting room with the other merchant and reminded him that he was not going to help with the summons from the king, if Lou failed to secure the deal with the merchants regarding the grain for the packs in the south.

Begrudgingly, the merchant followed him, he cursed under his breath, seething with rage, but he needed to keep up with his façade and accepted the fact that Cane was the only way for him to survive the ridiculous accusation from the royal family.

Meanwhile, Aliana took Iris to her bedroom, while Nala stood there, didn't know what to do, because Lou didn't give her any instruction. She looked lonely and pitiful, as she stood next to Lou's tacky red carriage with Sabian.

"Why don't you come inside and try a few dishes in the restaurant?" Sabian suggested to her. He didn't think his master took liking on this woman, but at the very least, he could wish his master could reduce his obsession to ward another man's woman with Nala's presence, especially this alpha. His master was really playing with danger.

"Okay." Nala went inside after Iris's little encouragement. She stared at the seven warriors that followed her and a beautiful woman that tended to her. She didn't bring that stupid maid again this time. "Your name is Kian, right?" Nala greeted one of Iris's warriors, who walked slower than the other.

The warrior gave her an awkward smile. "Yes, is there something I can help with?"

Being with a lot of men, it gave Nala a great instinct whenever a man was taking interest in her, she knew this warrior had been checking on her whenever they met, ever since their first encounter in the Howling Wolf pack.

"I am not sure what to eat, but can you suggest something? This is the first time I am here," Nala said sheepishly.

However, before Kian could answer that, Eron immediately strode toward him and wrapped his arm around his shoulder.

"This is also the first time we are here, you better ask the local," Eron answered the question for Kian and dragged his fellow

warrior back to their group, leaving Nala alone.

Being treated like this didn't make Nala show her so unattractive expression, instead, she smiled and thanked Eron.

"What do you think you were doing?" Eron hissed at Kian once they were out of Nala's earshot.

"What?" Kian looked defensive right now. He pushed Eron away from him, as they stood guard around the corridor of Iris's bedroom, while Aliana went inside with her. "I didn't do anything, she only asked a simple question."

"Do you think I am blind? She is trying to flirt with you."

"Don't be ridiculous. Even though her family has fallen because of the death of her father, but she is still a highborn, there is no way she is taking interest in me," Kian replied annoyingly. He hated to be reminded of it.

Eron clicked his tongue. "Stay away from her. You know exactly that woman is a bad

news, don't tangle with her."

Kian said nothing and crossed his arms in front of his chest.

After that, the meeting happened for another three hours and when Cane returned to check on Iris, she was throwing up.

"What happened here?!" Cane asked darkly, as he approached his mate hastily.

"She wanted hot chocolate, but when she drank, suddenly she was throwing up."

Poison?

That was the first thought that came in Cane's mind.

"Call Grace!"

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Chapter 623

623 THE CALM BEFORE STORM (6)

Having witnessed all the horrendous things that could possibly happen, Cane's mind went straight to the worst when he saw Iris was vomiting.

He didn't think straight. Hell. He was not even able to think.

This was not the first time, he saw her vomiting like this. In truth, he had seen her having a mental breakdown and vomiting a handful of times, but because of his recent suspicion, he became extremely alerted when something went wrong with her.

His body tensed up and his veins bulged and he let out a dangerous aura, while negative thoughts plagued his mind.

"Kian has gone to call Grace," Aliana said, she gave a clean towel to Cane, which he used to wipe her mouth and sweat, once she stopped retching.

"Why nobody informed me?" Cane asked darkly, as he lifted Iris's body and walked

toward the bed, Aliana followed behind him.

"Don't worry alpha, I think she is only eating something wrong." She was not sure what the cause of this because Iris was fine a moment ago.

"Only?" Cane narrowed his eyes dangerously at Aliana, which made her realize her mistake and started to explain herself, but he was having none of it. "Leave, Aliana. I will take care of my mate," the alpha said sternly.

"But... yes, alpha." Aliana was about to retort, but thankfully, she was wise enough to read the situation and immediately left without being told twice.

"Don't be too harsh on her," Iris said, she looked a little bit pale and her body was cold. "I am fine."

Cane said nothing and simply gritted his teeth, trying to collect his scattered thoughts and keep his composure, while waiting for Grace to arrive.

"Cane, what happened?" Iris sat down and cupped his face. She frowned. "I am fine, I

was only vomiting. I think I eat something wrong... that's all."

In Iris's mind, Cane's reaction was over the top, she knew that he had been very protective of her lately, but this time, he took this matter into another level, as if he had witnessed her was being beaten up or something.

"Cane, you scared me," Iris said in small voice, she didn't like him like this. He was acting so weird and she could feel it.

With what she said, Cane closed his eyes and sighed deeply. "I am sorry." He kissed her palms to comfort her. He felt like Grace took forever to arrive, even though it was only a little bit over ten minutes ever since he found his mate was vomiting.

When Grace was there, Iris felt better. Actually, after throwing up, she didn't feel anything wrong with her body. She wanted to tell Cane that he didn't need to call Grace, but seeing how stormy his face was, she shut her mouth. He scared her and Iris meant it when she said that.

"Check on her," Cane commanded Grace

took forever to arrive, even though it was only a little bit over ten minutes ever since he found his mate was vomiting.

When Grace was there, Iris felt better. Actually, after throwing up, she didn't feel anything wrong with her body. She wanted to tell Cane that he didn't need to call Grace, but seeing how stormy his face was, she shut her mouth. He scared her and Iris meant it when she said that.

"Check on her," Cane commanded Grace sternly. He stood next to the bed, fixed his eyes on his mate, which made Iris flinched with the intense gaze that Cane gave to her. There was something wrong with the alpha and neither Iris nor Grace could put their finger on it.

Grace was actually afraid to see the alpha right now, because he seemed like someone, who was going into a war. He had this stern look on his face.

More so, it was a little bit tricky whenever she had to check on Iris because her constitution was so different and she didn't have normal reaction to healing power, thus she had to take her time to find out what

was wrong.

Iris gave her hand for the healer to check on her because she wanted this to be done as soon as possible, then she could ask Cane why he was reacting like this. He scared them all!

Grace took her hand and started to check on her pulse, she used her power to examine her body and sighed in relief when she didn't find anything weird, neither something dangerous. Actually, she was very healthy, only a little bit tired.

All this time, Cane fixed his eyes on Iris and then her without saying anything and the poor healer felt like the alpha was going to create a hole behind her back, because of the intensity of his gaze.

But then, she felt it. She felt this ticklish, fluttering feeling when she spread her healing power to check on Iris's body thoroughly. There was some change in her body and she didn't even believe it. She didn't even realize when she held her breath and her expression stiffed.

"What happened?" Iris asked, because she

faced her, thus she could see how Grace looked very shocked. "Something is wrong?" Iris frowned.

Hearing that, Cane came closer and watched Grace noticed something, slowly the healer looked at him, she opened her mouth to say something, but then she closed it again. She was visibly trembling.

"Grace, what happened?" Iris screeched because she acted so weird. She pulled back her hand from Grace's grip.

"Heaven..." Grace breathed, as she shook her head and this time, she stared at Iris. Her eyes filled with tears, which confused her even more with this reaction.

"What is it?" Iris became agitated with her reaction. Why would she react this way? She made her stomach churned.

"Say it, Grace." Cane's voice was so deep. He needed this clarification.

"You are pregnant, luna." Grace's voice was shaking. She didn't believe it. She didn't believe that one day she would announce this.

She indeed had worked hard on her medication to help with the alpha's infertility, but she was not as optimistic as she appeared, since she knew very well the chance for him to have his own heir was close to zero. She only tried her best, so she wouldn't regret to give up too soon on her alpha.

Yet, it happened.

The luna was pregnant. If she was pregnant, there would be only one man, who had done it. Iris had only been with Cane and all of them knew and was able to see how much they were being affectionate with each other.

Silence fell heavily inside the room after what Grace said.

Iris blinked her eyes and frowned. She was not sure that she heard her correctly, because she asked her again to repeat what she was saying.

"What did you say?" She was afraid to let her hope go high only to realize she got the information incorrectly.

"You are pregnant, luna... you are pregnant.

This must be an early pregnancy, probably the fetus is about a month or so..." Grace grabbed her hand again and checked on her pulse, while she spread her healing power around her body to have an accurate inspection. This time she did it even more careful than before. She asked a few questions to her. "Six to seven weeks. The fetus is six to seven weeks old."

Iris felt her ears rang with that statement, she felt there were butterflies fluttered their wings inside her stomach, as she touched her tummy with trembling hand. She was pregnant, there was a baby inside of her. Her first child, Cane's child.

Have you ever felt like your heart grew in size and you have been blind before, but now you could see things clearly, as if you saw the world differently. Everything look so beautiful and her heart was so warm and calm.

Like a soft moonlight that basked your entire being, like that beautiful, magical place, where she and Cane finally had their genuine moment together, as if her heart was big enough to feel everything at once.

"Cane?" Iris tilted her head and looked at Cane. Her mate was standing by the bed side without saying a single word. He didn't move, as if he had turned into a statue.

"Leave, Grace," Cane said in hoarse voice. "Don't say anything about this yet."

Grace nodded and immediately stood up, leaving the two of them alone inside the room. She knew they needed time alone and the alpha must be very overwhelmed, despite how stoic he appeared.

More so, this was a crucial news that she couldn't tell anyone easily without the alpha's permission. The luna was conceiving an heir for the pack and they were in the middle of dire situation against the royal, something like this needed to be treaded carefully.

"What happened inside? What happened to the luna?" Aliana immediately bombarded Grace with a lot of question, while the other seven warriors waited for her answer too. They didn't see it, but based on what Aliana told them, the alpha was very furious because they didn't inform him about Iris's

condition and they dreaded the punishment.

Grace shook her head. "Don't worry. The luna is fine."

All of them sighed in relief when they heard that, because if something happened to her and they failed to inform the alpha right away, probably hunting down monsters would be a joyous punishment than the actually punishment they would receive from their alpha.

"Why she was throwing up? Did she really eat something bad?" Aliana was still concern with that.

But, right at that time, Ethan rushed toward them. His expression was very gloomy, he looked like he was going to kill someone, which spike the tension again.

"Where is Cane?" he asked gloomily. "Is he inside?" The gamma was about to enter the room hastily.

"Wait! You can't go inside now!" Grace blocked his way, but Ethan growled at her in frustration.

"Move away, Grace. This is not the time for this!"

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Chapter 624

624 THE STORM WILL COME

Once Grace left the room, Cane came closer to Iris, he leaned over and rested his head against her shoulder without saying anything, which made her confused. He didn't put all of his weight on her and rested his arms on each side of her body.

"Cane..." Iris stretched out her hand and caressed his head. "Did you hear what Grace said? I am pregnant!" Iris said excitedly. She wanted to cry tears of joy when she heard what Grace told them. She felt her heart was swollen with happiness, but Cane responded to the news very weird. "Are you, okay? Are you not happy?"

Cane shook his head. "I am, Iris. Very much."

Iris put both of her hands on the side of his face and pushed him slightly away, so she could see his eyes and she found the most gentle eyes that she had ever seen. Cane stared at her with the way that was hard to describe. It almost felt like he could see her

soul and for the first time, Iris was sure that he loved her too, despite there was no words that were being said.

"Thank you," Cane said softly, he pulled her closer and rested his chin on the top of her head. "Thank you, Iris."

Dark wisp emanated from his body and Cane growled in low voice, sounded annoyed and Iris chuckled, understood what was going on. In the past, both of them would be panic whenever this dark wisp would appear, especially when they were in an important occasion and no one could know about it.

But right now, they knew how to handle it and what the reason this wisp would appear.

It didn't take long before the dark wisp disappeared and Cane regained his complete control back, while Iris nestled against his chest. He could hear her strong heartbeats and how peaceful she was breathing.

"Please, don't do anything recklessly. Staysafe." Cane caressed her long, curly hair. He

meant every word he said. He only wanted his mate and their baby to be safe. There was nothing else he wished for.

"Okay."

"Promise me that you will put yourself first."

"Okay."

Cane didn't convince with that. "Don't get hurt."

"Okay." Iris snuggled closer against him and sighed deeply, feeling protected and at peace.

However, before they could continue with this conversation and before they could savor this precious moment together, Ethan entered the room. He strode across the room hastily.

"I am sorry for the interruption," Ethan said in gloomy voice. "But this is an important news." He looked very serious, not like his usual self, which threw Iris on alert.

"I will come back," Cane said, but Iris clutched on his shirt. She wanted to know. If Ethan was like this, she wanted to know what was going on.

"No, please tell me too what happened?" The first thing that came into her mind was Redmond. She had been worried about him because he went alone to the Moon Dew pack, knowing something horrendous might happen to him.

However, Cane reassured her that was not going to happen, yet who could guarantee that?

"This..." Ethan looked a little bit awkward, he glanced at Cane and only after the alpha nodded, he finally spoke. "The royal family already took control over the Crescent Moon pack. Alpha Derick pledged his loyalty to the new king." Ethan felt his tongue would be burned if he addressed Alan as the king. He hated that man to the core.

More so, the gamma had warned Cane about this that if they didn't do anything Crescent Moon pack would fall into the royal territory and it was only a matter of time.

"But, that's not the only thing..." Ethan furrowed his brows deeply. "Alpha Derick will surrender without a fight and agreed to keep guarding the north kingdom from the monster if they pardoned prince Kellan."

Iris flinched with the mentioned of his name and Cane hugged her a little bit tighter. "Why?" This single word carried malice in his voice.

"Because prince Kellan mated with alpha Derick's youngest daughter."

"What?" Cane was caught out of guard. He didn't have any idea about this, neither he expected this twist. "Is she his destined mate?"

"I am not sure. Our spy couldn't get more information more than this." Ethan shook his head, he looked confused as well.

No wonder, alpha Derick didn't hand over Kellan. Not only he was fond of him, ever since he was still the crown prince, but because he was also the mate of his daughter. Whether they were mated because of destiny or it was by choice, no matter what was that, alpha Derick had never mentioned about it in his letters.

Thing didn't go as he planned.

"What the result?" Cane asked grimly.

"The problem is that's the last contact we have with our spy there. I think the situation there became even more dangerous, this the Nexus's letter after two months, maybe it will take longer for him to send us another report." Ethan then came up with another concerning news. "Our people spotted the border guard warriors gathered at the southern border."

After the death of the king and Sir Elijah, Cane mobbed the border guard warriors out of the southern area by using the golden stamp. They didn't have any power to reject that and left their post.

But for them to return and gather around the border again, which meant, someone had given them command and made a move. It didn't take a genius to guess, whose command that was.

"How many of them?" Cane's grip around Iris's body tightened. This news really spoiled their happiness.

"There are around ten thousand of them."

Ethan's expression turned ashen when he mentioned this. "They are only two days away from Diandem pack.

Diandem pack was the southernmost pack. If the royal warriors penetrated the southern area, they needed to take down this pack first.

"How many warriors we have here?"

"We bring around three hundred warriors, with the additional two hundred and fifty warriors from Bloody Wolf pack, three thousand warriors of Diandem pack and four hundred warriors of Winter Moon pack." Ethan calculated everything quickly. "Including the warrior from Winter Moon pack, we have only three thousand nine hundred and fifty warriors available."

That number didn't even reach half of the number of the border guard warrior.

Cane didn't talk for a moment. He fell into a deep silence and neither Iris nor Ethan was dare to interrupt his line of thought. Iris went still in his arms, trying to think of solution, maybe she could come up with an idea, but the more she was trying to think

of this matter, the more she only hurt her head. This kind of strategy was not her forte at all. Her mind simply went blank, she couldn't think of anything and felt bad because she couldn't help...

"Send letter to Clad in the Blue moon pack to prepare two thousand warriors and tell Jace to prepare one thousand warriors from our pack and let Clad led them here." Clad was one of the six spies, he was in charge for the Blue Moon pack after Lyle's betrayal to calm the situation there. "Tell Leros in the

Riverside pack to march with three thousand warriors and Arthur in the Crystal Moon pack to prepare two thousand warriors and Bloody Wolf pack to send another two thousand warriors."

"Yes, alpha," Ethan said solemnly. They wouldn't arrive right away, especially the warrior from their pack and Blue Moon pack, since they were the furthest pack from here, but warriors from the Bloody Wolf pack could arrive within two days or even faster than that.

Still, if those ten thousand border guard warriors received an order to attack, they

would need to hold on their stronghold, until the reinforcement came.

"Ethan." Cane stopped the gamma from leaving, where he stopped and immediately approached him again.

"Is there more?" Ethan had this seriousness on his expression, as he waited for Cane's next order, but what the alpha said next left him speechless.

"Iris is pregnant."

Ethan blinked his eyes, as if Cane was talking in different language. "Who?"

"Me." Iris smiled, she lifted her head slightly, waiting for Ethan to congratulate her. At the very least, they could share this joy with him, since Ethan was one of the closest people for both of them.

Ethan frowned even more. "How?"

This time, it was Iris, who was frowning. What kind of response was that? The gamma knew exactly that they were trying for the baby and Grace had been helping them.

As if he got back to his sense, Ethan widened his eyes in shock. "No, I meant...

Wow! You did it!" Ethan then looked at Cane. "You are serious, right? You are not joking, right? Wait. No. You don't do joke. Wow!"

Ethan's eyes fell into Iris's flat stomach and then he remembered Grace was here when he entered the room, which meant it had been confirmed.

"Wow!" Ethan kept repeating the words a few times, as he didn't know what to say. "Congratulations!" He exclaimed and approached Iris, in his impulsiveness, he attempted to hug her. He was extremely, genuinely happy for both of them. Especially when they were well aware that Cane's effort to treat his infertility was akin to a desperate attempt.

"If the letter is delayed and we are under attack, you will be responsible for every dead soul," Cane said coldly before Ethan could touch his mate.

The gamma immediately stopped, he grimaced. Cane's words were so cruel!

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Chapter 625

625 THE STORM WILL COME (2)

"Cane, you are the one, who asked me to stay!" Ethan protested. He was very sure that this alpha would give him more headache in the future with how possessive and overprotective he would be, but then he wouldn't complain so much, since he was very happy to finally see Cane get what he deserved and fate was not too cruel on him.

More so, he got a glimpse of how Cane would treat Iris, since he had witnessed firsthand how the alpha was with Leane when she was pregnant. Probably, his tendency to be overprotective could be worst, giving how dire the situation they were now and the history of Iris's health.

"A hug will not hurt her," Ethan grumbled.

On the other hand, Iris started laughing. She took the initiative to let go of Cane and approached Ethan. She gave the gamma a big hug so he could stop sulking. She felt like Ethan was more brother than the one

she had. She liked the gamma a lot.

"Thank you!" Iris said happily, as she wrapped her arms around his body.

"Hey! I am not the one, who is hugging, okay!" Ethan raised both of his arms in line of his shoulder, gesturing he didn't even touch Iris, but it was the other

way around, as his eyes met with his alpha's. "She is the one, who is hugging me."

Hearing that, Iris laughed even more, in which made the alpha a little bit tolerable to see his mate hugging another man, but only for this time and it was because of how great the relationship of the two of them.

Seeing the alpha said nothing, though his expression was still screaming danger, Ethan sighed and shifted his attention to Iris, who was still clinging on him. "I hope nothing, but happiness for both of you. You deserved it." Ethan then patted Iris's hair and hugged her briefly. "Okay, let me go now, or else your mate will eat me alive."

"Be safe, Ethan," Iris said. She didn't know what future held for them, but after hearing the news that Ethan brought, she was very

worried. She didn't want people she cared the most to get hurt, it would break her heart.

Ethan laughed. "I will only send a few letters to the other packs, the worst could happen I stain my pretty cloak." He wondered how Iris's reaction would be if she learned the alpha had tricked him to feel alpha Nolan and put him in danger.

But then, he swallowed back the temptation because he found himself still feared Cane the most. The alpha probably would kill him by giving him more assignments. At this point, he could die for overworking himself.

Iris released her hug on the gamma when Cane pulled her back.

"Congratulation, I can't wait to see the little one! I can be an uncle!" Ethan was excited with the prospect. He stretched out his hand and was about to ruffle her hair, but Cane had swatted his hand away.

"You left your scent on my mate," Cane stated when he sniffed his mate after she hugged her. It irked him to have another

male's scent on her.

"Hey! I am not smelly or anything, you make it sound so bad!"

"Go now," Cane said firmly, he was annoyed. "Call the other to get inside and don't talk about this matter yet."

"Okay!" Ethan grimaced, his hand was stinging. Cane was so mean!

"Sit, don't stand too long." Cane nudged Iristo sit down on the bed and Iris obliged him, though she was thinking, she didn't stand up for that long. "Hungry?"

Iris shook her head. she still felt a little bitter after she was vomiting earlier.

After that, all the seven warriors, Aliana and Grace entered the room, they looked confused because the alpha was calling them all, especially when Cane's expression looked ashen. Instinctively, they tried to think what mistake they had made, but they couldn't find any, aside from not informing him right away when the luna didn't feel well.

All of them dreaded what kind of

punishment for that. It was not like the luna was in danger, right? They had interrogated Grace and made sure of that. There was nothing wrong with Iris and they could sigh in relief for that fact.

But, no one prepared them for the news that Cane would give them, whether it was the good one or the bad one.

"The luna is pregnant," Cane said once they were already in front of him. He kept the announcement short and simple, straight to the point, just like how he used to speak.

There was silence, the same like when Cane let his gamma know about it and then all of their eyes fell on Iris and her stomach, while the luna was smiling sheepishly.

And after the silence, a roar erupted, as the eight of them had something to say, while expressing their shock with the news.

"Heaven! Is that true?!" Asher exclaimed.

"Do you think the alpha will joke around?" Otis chimed in.

"Dang! After our disappointment of what happened! This is a great news! Very very

great!" Reed couldn't help, but stared at Iris's flat stomach. "The baby is really there?"

"Heaven! We finally got a new member!" Kian blinked his eyes in disbelief.

"Congratulations alpha! Luna!" Eron and Dyne were being hyper, they were gushing and made a lot of noises, as they danced arm in arm.

"Congratulations!" Zephyr didn't say much, but he looked very happy for his alpha and Luna.

Meanwhile, Aliana immediately rushed toward Iris and hugged her, but Cane put his hand on her shoulder, while reminding her.

"Careful," he warned her.

Iris might not realize it now, but Cane treated her extremely carefully, as if she had turned into a fragile glass that could break with a little bit of pressure, though she was only being pregnant.

Aliana regained her composure and became more careful with her. "Congratulations,

Luna." She held back her tears, as she hugged her gently. She caressed her back and kissed her cheeks. "This is the best news ever!"

"Thank you," Iris said sheepishly, she also thanked the other warriors and Grace, who came to her and congratulated her again.

People from outside could hear the commotion inside, they thought there must be a celebration or something because of how happy the way they roared and screamed in happiness, even Lou and the merchants could hear that, so did Nala, who was still enjoying her meal in the restaurant. But, they couldn't figure out what the reason of this sudden uproar.

"Find out what happened there." Lou approached her with this mission. After all, he had been planning to use Nala to get closer to Iris, since it was so hard to get a hold of the Luna since the alpha was around.

"I have not yet set my target, okay? I need time to get closer to them." Nala frowned, but Lou didn't accept the answer.

"Use whatever method you can think of, I want to know what happened there." Lou was annoyed because he couldn't use his magic freely, as he didn't want people to know he was as a sorcerer, or else, he would do some trick and eavesdrop them from the next room. More so, without Cane, he was responsible for this deal with the other merchants. "Make yourself useful."

Cane was being very cunning. He even shamelessly refused to help with the royal, if he failed this deal. Damn that alpha! He knew how to play his card so well and he led Lou by his greediness to be part of his pawn in his chessboard and now he played him well.

"Fine!" Nala grunted. She felt her appetite had gone now and the food was no longer pleasant in her tongue. She hated it whenever Lou was being like this and scolded herself for being briefly mesmerized when he treated her well.

Inside the room, Cane gave some time for them to express their happiness when they heard the news and calmed down, because

whatever he was going to tell them later, would need their full attention and would definitely shift their mood right now.

Cane proceeded to inform them about the news that Ethan told him earlier and be more cautious with Iris's safety, even though he wanted them to keep Iris's pregnancy as a secret. It was very crucial moment and he didn't want their enemy put their attention on his mate. He had overexposed her.

He couldn't put them in the dark, because they were the people, who would be responsible of his mate, they needed to know her condition clearly to take all the precaution.

"Yes, alpha, we will make sure to protect the luna, even if it cost our life," Zephyr said solemnly.

Iris frowned when she heard that, she didn't want any of them died, but she didn't say anything, while Aliana was still hugging her.

After that, Cane joined the meeting with Lou and the merchants again, it lasted for

another hours and once they were done, the alpha needed to meet with alpha Nolan, since the latter asked his presence, it seemed he had heard of what

was going on with the Crescent Moon pack and the ten thousand warriors in the border, through his own spies.

"If we are going to go to Red Claws pack, we need to fight those warriors." Alpha Nolan looked very grim. "We should have left sooner."

Yet, Cane didn't agree with that. Those warriors would definitely attack the south without him there.

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Chapter 626

626 THE STORM WILL COME (3)

With his absence, there was no doubt, those warriors would cross the border and start to raze all the pack in the south.

Cane was thinking the other way around. This was not the right time for him to leave the south and now he had a solid reason for that. He was not really thrill with the opportunity to meet with the Serafim and because a lot had happened and his plan had a complete change, the Serafim was no longer an important chess piece on his chessboard.

If anything, knowing Iris was with their first child, he became even more unwilling to let her met with that woman. He felt like things would take a drastic change if they learned about this lycan, Serafim and the Decratic. It was akin to a pandora box and Cane didn't want to add more complication into his circumspection.

"Nolan, you can leave if you want, just incase the situation became out of control,"

Cane said.

There was only the two of them inside the room and the look on their faces were not really great, because of the possibility of onslaught that might happen.

"I am here to take the luna to meet with the Serafim. I am not going to leave without her," alpha Nolan said firmly. "Let her go with me, I will assure you, her safety."

Cane scoffed internally. He must be crazy if he let him to take away his mate, but he said nothing and only stared at the other alpha with this unreadable expression on his face.

"If things go wrong here, doesn't you want her to be safe?" Alpha Nolan narrowed his eyes. "I can see how much you are infatuated with her, despite my advice not to show it in public. You still can't keep your hands away from her."

Silence, Cane didn't even voice out his opinion for his twisted point of view, instead, he let him to talk. The more he talked, the more he could learn what was his real motive to cause a rift between him

and his mate.

"Red Claw pack is supported by the Holy Kingdom, the last letter that Koda sent me, he mentioned that the Serafim has called for reinforcement from the Holy Kingdom. It will be enough to take down Alan."

The real problem here was not Alan, but the people behind him. Alan was not even a threat, he was only a puppet, whether when his father was still on the throne or when he finally sat on the same throne, he was still a puppet.

"Think about it again. She will be safer and more useful there, having the Holy Kingdom's power behind you will give you a chance to win this battle, there is no disadvantage point for your mate to be close with the Serafim, if anything, you can get more support from the Holy Kingdom to help with the southern packs." Alpha Nolan almost ran out of his patience when Cane didn't say anything to discuss about this matter.

"You are not going anywhere with her Nolan." Cane stood up from his seat, a gesture that he wanted to end this futile conversation. This alpha only kept talking the same thing.

"You don't want to make an enemy out of the Holy Kingdom, Cane," Alpha Nolan's voice became darker when he stood up from his seat as well.

Cane turned around before he walked out of the room. The fire on the fireplace illuminated his face and made his shadow grow taller and bigger, as if the dark wisp crept in this room. The weather became cold again, as they welcomed fall.

"They should be the one, who don't want to make an enemy out of me."

The words sounded very dark, his body emanated his own coldness and it made the room become a little bit stuffy. He was serious with what he was saying, even the fire in the fireplace couldn't warm his edges.

"If you chose to stay, I suggest you to warn your warriors for the possibility of battle against the royal warriors. It will be great if you can get more reinforcement, because at

this point, you and me stand in the same position, neither of us is favored by Alan."

And what Cane didn't say, yet alpha Nolan understood was; they wouldn't survive if they fell into that king's hand. It was still weird to think of Alan as the king of this continent.

After saying that, Cane left the room and Ethan immediately approached him, while Jax entered the room to meet with his alpha.

The tension between Ethan and Jax were surreal, the warriors around them felt like they were going to fight it out again, especially when alpha Nolan didn't do anything to get a justice for his beta and accepted his apology just like that.

To say that was unfair and not satisfying at all for Jax was an understatement. Jax had been trying to force alpha Nolan to punish Ethan, but the alpha simply dismissed it.

"How is it?" Ethan asked once they were out of earshot from the people from the Winter Moon pack. He walked beside Cane, while a few warriors followed behind them.

"Pay close attention to him," Cane said grimly. His gut feeling told him there was something wrong with alpha Nolan and his decision to get involved in the war between the Red Claw pack and the royal.

Alpha Nolan was an opportunist. Normally, he would side with the royal, but the fact he chose Red Claw pack, there must be something that he wanted from that pack, or maybe the reason was not that at all...

"You are suspicious of him?" Ethan hastened his step again, because Cane walked in hurry.

"There is something not right."

"Everything is not right, Cane," Ethan grumbled and then informed him about another matter entirely. "Maria sent letter and herbs for Iris again. Don't you want to reply to her message?"

"No." The reply came very simple and was obvious enough. If the letter was addressed for Iris, it should be her, who replied it, the fact she didn't reply it, it meant she didn't want to and there was no way Cane would bring up such unnecessary topic when he

was with her, neither he wanted to tell her what to do.

"Okay, okay." Ethan quickened his pace again and when he realized the direction of where Cane was heading, he stopped and grumbled to himself, as he took different direction.

The alpha was heading toward his own bedroom to meet with his mate and Ethan stopped himself from pestering him before he was being kicked out. No wonder he walked very quick.

Saving himself from a heartache, the gamma left, even so the alpha didn't care about it, which meant, he didn't need his assistance in the first place.

But, there was this big grin on Ethan's lips. "I hope the baby is not as grumpy as the father," he prayed.

The seven warriors that was guarding the bedroom lowered their head respectfully when their alpha was there.

"Aliana is inside with the luna," Eron reported and Cane nodded, as he entered the room to find his mate was currently

sleeping. It was already late at night and it was past her sleeping time.

"Alpha," Aliana greeted her and then stood up from her seat. She was reading some random book from Iris's collection.

"Did she just fall asleep?" Cane put away his cloak and approached his mate on the bed.

"No, she fell asleep right after she had her dinner. She wanted to wait for you, but she couldn't hold back her sleepiness," Aliana chuckled. "She is very happy with the pregnancy."

"Hm." Cane nodded and the bed shifted under his weight. He stretched his hand and to caress Iris's cheek.

"She ate a lot and it seems, she loves eating meat more, but she developed a sudden dislike for milk." Aliana reported what she had observed about Iris.

Despite seemingly not listening, but actually Cane took a mental note to whatever Aliana reported about Iris, since she spent most of her time with his mate.

"If there was nothing else, I will take my

leave, goodnight, alpha."

"Aliana."

"Yes?"

"Always stay with her."

"I am planning to do so, alpha."

Even though she was a woman, Aliana was a great fighter, she was a natural and added more layer for Iris's protection was a necessary.

"Take that thing to sleep in front of the door."

Aliana frowned. "That thing?"

"The bear."

"Oh." Aliana was surprised, but then she giggled. "Okay. I guess you finally found how cute the bear is."

Cane didn't hold back his dislike whenever he saw Lil Thing, but right now he actually allowed the bear to finally close to his mate.

"Okay, I am leaving, I am leaving." Aliana was still giggling when Cane gave her a stern look and then left the room.

Yet, her happiness gradually died down when she walked in this empty corridor to retrieve Lil Thing in the warrior's quarter. She walked alone silently, her steps were so heavy and sadness clouded her entire being.

She touched her stomach and felt this emptiness.

Aliana thought she had moved on and accepted it, but the luna's pregnancy brought back the memory when she lost her own child.

The slavery was not only cost her, her mate's life, but also their firstborn.

Her child...

Her baby...

This pain didn't want to go away even after years had passed.

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Chapter 627

627 THE STORM WILL COME(4)

Cane stared at his sleeping mate, her lips were slightly apart and she snored softly, feeling content when she snuggled against his chest unconsciously, as if even in her sleep, she knew her mate was there and it helped her to become more comfortable and fell deeper into her sleep.

The alpha cradled his luna in his arms, he traced her spine gently, while her lips against his neck. Her soft and warm breath caressed his skin. She felt so soft and warm and everything he wished for, and she was pregnant... she would have their firstborn.

Cane still reeled with this news, he felt it was not real, especially when her body was still the same. His hand traced her waist, every curve on her body and rested on her flat stomach. His heart skipped a beat when he thought their baby was there. Nestled safely in their mother's womb.

"Please be safe and strong..." Cane said softly, as he kissed Iris's forehead and

caressed her stomach. "I will do anything for you..."

Logically speaking, this was not the right time to fall pregnant, having a baby at this crucial moment was not a wise decision, but Cane would never condemn the timing. The baby was a blessing, his mate was a blessing for everything that he had gone through.

As long as Iris was willing to go through this pregnancy and was excited about it, he would handle the rest.

Even though it came as a surprised even for him, since deep down, he believed, it was a futile attempt to cure his fertility. He only didn't want to give up and go along with the motion. At the very least, he tried with whatever he had, so he wouldn't regret anything.

But, as it turned, he got a pleasant surprised.

"Please don't get sick, don't get yourself into trouble or danger..." Cane whispered again. He held her very gently, afraid to

wake her up.

He stopped praying when he witnessed his pack members were being dissect and going through all the brutal things that you could imagine.

But right now, he started it again. He would do anything to ensure her safety, including ridiculous thing such as praying again.

"Please, be happy, even when I can't give you that..." Cane felt there was this turmoil in his chest.

Today happiness with the announcement of her pregnancy was spoiled because of the news from the border and the northern kingdom.

Cane released Iris's body from his arms, as she frowned slightly because the warmth from her mate disappeared, but the alpha didn't go anywhere, he only knelt down by her side and kissed her stomach.

Please, be well my child...

What they feared the most happened, the ten thousand warriors started to make a

move, as they marched closer toward Diadem pack.

Meanwhile, the first batch of reinforcement that reached Cane was from the Bloody Wolf pack, since they were closer, after that, warriors from Crystal Moon pack, which was led by Arthur arrived.

"If things get worse, bring my mate to the Crystal Moon pack, there will be a ship that will wait for her there, go to the Andelus continent, someone will wait for you there." Cane relayed this information to Aliana, so she could let the other seven warriors aware of this plan.

"Then, what will you do, alpha?" Aliana frowned. She didn't like the plan, neither she would like the alpha's plan for himself, but she could understand why he made this decision.

Currently, they were in the garden, while Iris and Celia were playing with Lil Thing. The bear still looked very lazy, as it let them to touch it. Actually, this creature looked like it enjoyed the attention, especially when it could be with Iris all the time. No matter what the bear was doing, it would

follow Iris wherever she would go, but Lil Thing would scamper away once the alpha glared at it, for being too clingy to his mate in his presence.

"Will you stay?" Aliana asked this again, but Cane didn't answer her question.

Because of the tension for the possibility of battle, things started to change around this pack, especially when there were a lot of warriors here and the

pack house couldn't accommodate all of them, thus they stayed in the inn in the town.

Cane stared at his mate, who was smiling and laughing freely. She started vomiting in the morning and hated a certain taste or smell, which he took a note and made sure those things were not around her.

Later that day when Cane was having a discussion with Lou related to the merchant, he got an unexpected guest...

"You know that this can get back to bite your ass, right?" Lou smirked, there was this malicious smile on the corner of his lips, at this point, the merchant had dropped all the formalities. He started to

show his true color, though he was still upset with the fact he couldn't meet with Iris, but then Cane kept him busy to deal with the merchants that consumed his time.

"They will not," Cane replied curtly, as he watched the joint training of the warriors. This place was packed. This must be the most crowded time of this pack and it would only get crowded even more.

They planned to build another training ground.

"What do you mean they will not?" Lou narrowed his eyes. "Do you really think the alcohol tea will close the deal?" The merchant moved closer to him. "Or do you have another plan?"

Cane shifted his attention from the warrior to Lou. "They will not go anywhere, until I get what I want."

Lou's mind worked so hard to interpret what Cane meant with that, but when an idea crossed his mind, he widened his eyes in surprise.

"Are you going to hold them as a captive

until they agreed to send the grain?!" Lou was shocked, even more when he realized that was exactly what Cane was going to do. "You are crazy."

"Once the warriors are here, we don't have any other option, but to fight." Cane looked so calm when he shared his plan with this merchant. "Neither of them

can go out anyway and their ships are stuck in the Winter Moon pack. There are only two options they have."

"What is it?" Lou felt like an idiot that he couldn't read what Cane's plan was, but he swallowed his pride to ask when his curiosity got the better of him.

"What plan do you have for them?"

"One, they can power through thousand of warriors to reach the Winter Moon pack, but their bet those warriors will show mercy on them and let them pass without any scrupulous."

Lou scoffed. "And what the second option?" That was not even a question, there was no way those royal warriors would let them pass after they learned they had been in

Diadem pack. Their chance to come out of that ordeal unscathed was on the same level of possibility if Lou could spend a whole day and night with Iris alone and this grumpy alpha would be fine with it.

"I can help them to send a letter to their respective ships and instruct their men to go back to Karam continent with grain that I want and they can go away from this messy situation through Crystal Moon pack."

Crystal Moon pack was the only pack in the south with harbor, more so the tunnel from the Riverside pack could be used now.

Lou gasped, he hated it, but he admired the way this alpha planned every detail of his plan. He didn't even think about that at all.

The merchant couldn't complain, after all, it was not Cane, who blocked their way back to the Winter Moon pack, the alpha didn't actually hold them back in this pack, but knowing those merchants and how they treated their shitty lives precious, they wouldn't take the risk to go through thousand of shifters, thus the first option

was not an option at all.

Cane took advantage of his disadvantage situation and this was not the first time he did this...

More so, it was a fair deal if Cane demanded something from them if they were going to use the harbor in his pack, after all, they didn't pay a small amount of money to dock their ship in the Winter Moon pack.

Currently, alpha Nolan was also furious because he was also trapped in this pack without a way to communicate with his own pack or to ask for help from Red Claw pack, since the royal warriors moved closer and surrounded the border. They were being locked down.

"Crazy, crazy." Lou clicked his tongue, but his eyes showed madness. "But I like it, in that case, they needed to be hurry because when the winter came and the sea froze, they will be stuck here for half a year," the merchant chuckled. He liked this madness.

He hated to admit it, but he liked to work with the alpha. 'With', not 'for' him.

"I want you to edge them to take the second option in the next meeting," Cane instructed Lou. He couldn't speak Kars fluently, but he could direct the conversation to get his deal through this merchant and begrudgingly, Lou needed to follow his instruction.

He cursed himself because he couldn't come up with the idea.

"Alpha Cane!"

A young boy shouted when he was being held back by the warrior when he tried to come closer to Cane.

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Chapter 628

628 THE STORM WILL COME (5)

"What is that?" Lou frowned because his conversation with Cane was cut short and then found a young boy tried to make his way toward Cane. "Did you owe money to that boy?" he blurted out nonsense.

Cane waved his hand to dismiss Lou, as he approached Zale, who was being held back by Dean and Pax, the two of them were his newly appointed personal warrior for the alpha, since Will and Aderan couldn't fill the role.

"Alpha, I am sorry, I will take him away." Dean looked apologetic, while trying to drag Zale away.

"No, I don't want to go back, I want to talk with him!" Zale protested.

"Show your respect to the alpha!" Pax reprimanded him.

Cane stared at the young boy, who was struggling and growling at the other two warriors. He was right when he told him

that he needed to control his anger, because right now, it would cause him a lot of trouble. This kind of act would get his ass to be punished.

"Let him go," Cane said when Zale was about to bite Dean's hand.

"Pardon me?" Dean and Pax looked at the alpha, thinking they misheard the order.

"Let him go. I am going to talk with him," Cane repeated it more clearly this time.

However, a certain merchant was not happy about it, because in his opinion, they were in the middle of discussing business when this silly young boy interrupted them. "Hey! What about me?!"

Cane didn't even spare Lou a glance when he spoke. "You know what to do, now do it."

Lou's jaw dropped, he couldn't believe with the amount of disrespect that Cane showed to him after what he had done for his pack. Well, he was getting paid for that, but at the very least, this alpha could be nicer with his business partner, after all he was not his pack member, who received an order from him!

him!

"This is an important matter and you dismissed me very casually?" Lou protested and this time, Cane turned his body around and faced him, there was no change on his expression, he was still the same, unreadable.

"Which part of our earlier discussion that you didn't get?" Cane asked, the way he spoke, as if he was telling him that he must be slow witted if he still couldn't get such clear instruction. "Are you still confused? Or I was talking too fast for you to follow my pace?"

Damn this alpha!

Lou wanted to scratch his scalp until it was bleeding because of how frustrated he was right now. Why it always ended up like this?!

It hurt his ego to admit that he needed clearer instruction, since he understood perfectly, but it vexed him to no end that their enjoyable discussion was stopped abruptly. There were a lot of things that Lou wanted to know and more so, he was

intrigued to know more the way Cane's mind was working. What kind of malicious schemes he had under his sleeves!

"Fine! Go ahead and play with that littleboy!" Lou waved his hand angrily, as he begrudgingly turned around and left. He was busy, okay? He had a lot of things to do! But then, he felt very annoyed because all he was going to do was instructed by Cane! He couldn't understand why he ended up in this position.

Maybe he had to listen to Sabian more because that old man had been warning him about Cane, but he simply didn't want to listen, as he thought he was cleverer than this alpha. There was no way he fell into his trick!

But the truth, not only he fell into his trick, he was buried too deep to even get up!

Ugh!

After Lou stormed out annoyingly with his red cloak fluttered in the air, which made him look very bright and eyes catching among the other warriors, who were covered in dust and dirt, Cane shifted his

attention to Zale, waving his hand to dismiss Dean and Pax.

"Why do you want to associate with that tacky man? He was trying to flirt with the luna!" Zale complained the first thing he said when he got the alpha's

attention. This young boy had big guts, which could be a blessing or a problem in the future.

"What do you want?" Cane asked, he crossed his arms in front of his chest, as he observed Zale closely. His physic had gotten better after good food, sleep and training, but his personality got even worst.

Cane wanted to know more about him. He would decide whether he could stay by his mate's side or not. The alpha even dismissed the fact he had been disrespected by this young boy.

However, he liked how he could tell that Lou had been trying to flirt with Iris right away. From what he knew, Zale only met with the merchant once and he already showed a strong disliked, which was a good point for Cane.

"You told me to look for you when you have

free time." Zale looked at Cane in the eyes without any fear.

"What made you think that I have free time now?" Cane was having a discussion with Lou earlier. His time was not free, even if he had it, he would rather spend it with Iris.

"You don't have free time for me, that's why I demanded it now," Zale blurted out and this made Dean and Pax gasped. They couldn't believe the alpha had not yet. kicked his little ass yet. "You promised to teach me!"

Zale's height only a little bit higher than Cane's elbow, he was only a head shorter than Iris, but the way he spoke, as if he was on the same position like the alpha.

"Are you going back on your promise?" Zale asked. His little face hardened.

Cane heard he had been trained by Zephyr and learned how to read and write from Iris. He was a fast learner and probably this was the right time to see how fast he could learn.

"Fine. Let's train you." Cane's voice was cold and this made Dean and Pax looked at each

other, wondering what the alpha was going to do with this young boy, because from the look on his face, this wouldn't end up good for Zale.

"Why haven't you slept yet?" Cane approached Iris on the bed, he kissed her lips gently, while Aliana excused herself.

After a long day, he only wanted to be with his mate and it was a pleasant surprise that she was still awake, though he would prefer her to be rested well.

"I am waiting for you," Iris said sheepishly, as she wrapped her arms round his neck and pulled him closer to her.

"Be careful," Cane said softly, as he put his arms on the side of her body, afraid his body weight would fall on her.

However, Iris couldn't care less about that, she looked very happy and energetic, Grace had done a great job to keep her health in check and now, the healer visited her every day. Still, the news about her pregnancy was a secret. It was not safe to announce it yet.

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yet.

Not even Jace knew about it.

"I want to show you something !" Iris said excitedly.

"Hm, what is it?" Cane felt relax when he saw her smile and looked happy. It was great if she was in a good mood.

Outside of their bedroom, Lil Thing became new favorite member of Iris's personal warrior, as they observed the bear closely and wondered how could this creature was able to sleep all day and night, but became extremely ferocious once in a fight mode.

"Take me there!" Iris chuckled, as she tightened her hug around his neck and wrapped her legs around his waist.

"Did you hurt your feet?"

"No. I am just tired."

She wanted him to pick her up, too lazy to walk. Well, she was only being overly clingy lately, since she didn't meet him as often as she wanted.

Cane chuckled as well and swooped her body. as he straightened up and walked

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toward the spot Iris pointed. He put both of his arms under her bums to support her.

Iris wanted him to go to near the window, where her lizard was still sleeping and now this lizard had grown in size, the color of its scale had turned into yellowish color.

Iris wriggled her body and Cane put her down. "Look!" She grabbed the lizard, which woke it up and then she fished out something from her pocket, let the lizard to sniff it for a while. After that, she threw the poor lizard into the fireplace. "Come with me!"

Iris grabbed Cane's hand this time to head out of their bedroom, but Cane picked her body up again, which made her squalled and looked at him in confusion.

"I thought, you are tired. Tell me where doyou want to go." Cane carried her in his arms this time and had the satisfaction to watch how she blushed.

"There are the warriors outside, there aremany people." Iris didn't mind to act clingy and childish when it was only the two of them, but she would be embarrassed if

Cane walked out of the bedroom, while carrying her.

"I am aware of that."

And with that was being said, Cane walked out of the room with Iris in his arms. His mate hid her face against his chest when she felt there were seven pair of eyes fixed on her and many more, as they walked in this corridor.

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Chapter 629

629 THE STORM IS COMING

Iris took Cane to the library, where he put her down in front of the fireplace and watched the lizard was actually there. Its yellowish scale glistened with the light of the fire.

"Cane, I know how to make the lizard appear in a certain place!" Iris said excitedly. She had been experimenting with the lizard and finally learned the pattern. She then proceeded to explain it to Cane.

"We need the ashes from the fireplace and let the lizard to sniff it, after that, it will appear in that exact same place!" Iris's blue eyes lit up with happiness to be able to discover this. "It's actually very simple, but I just figured it out now!"

Cane watched her excitement and it warmed his heart. "Good job." Cane patted her head lovingly. "So, how can the lizard be returned?"

Iris tossed the lizard into the fireplace

again. "The lizard will go back to the previous fireplace," she said lightly.

"You are very smart, Iris, I know you will figure this out eventually," Cane praised her again, which made Iris blush. She pulled her hair nervously because she didn't use to receive compliments like this.

"No, I was only thinking about it in a different way..." Iris rambled.

"You are smart, Iris," Cane emphasized that, despite her very reluctant to take credit for what she had discovered. Iris didn't use to receive such compliments and didn't know how to respond. "Let's go back to our bedroom. You need to rest. The weather has become cold lately." He adjusted the cloak around her shoulder and carried her in his arms again.

This time, Iris didn't protest and enjoyed her time with Cane, while the seven warriors grinned to see how loving the relationship between their alpha and luna. They created a great example for everyone to see that one right woman was enough, someone that you can call your soulmate.

Later that night, Cane held her until she fell asleep and, once she did, he did the same thing again. He knelt beside her and prayed. He kissed her stomach again and whispered telling their unborn child to be strong and well.

He had done everything he could to protect his mate and their baby, but the unknown still bothered him, especially when there was this impending danger ahead of them.

From what he learned, the ten thousand royal warriors had camped six hours away from Diandem pack, but they didn't make any move since yesterday. It was still unsure what the order they received from the king and what lady Cyan and her father were up to.

Meanwhile, in the warrior's quarter, Zale couldn't sleep because he had been thinking about the assignment alpha Cane gave to him. He thought, the alpha would ask him to show him how he fought the enemy, but as it turned out he was given a silly task.

"Why don't you sleep?" Haco asked the young boy, who hugged his legs and pressed them against his chest with a sour look on his face.

Zale glanced at the old sorcerer, who was coughing a few times. "I can't sleep."

"Why is it?" Haco scratched his head.

The three of them with Joel, slept in the same bedroom, while Celia slept with Aliana, but after a long day of training, especially knowing their current situation, the training became very intense and Joel was exhausted out of his mind. He didn't follow the conversation between the two of them.

"The alpha broke his promise to me." Zale gritted his teeth, he still couldn't accept the first assignment from the alpha.

Hearing that, Haco tilted his head, he coughed again and breathed heavily. It seemed, he was in one of his rare moments, where he was sober enough to hold a conversation.

"How?" Haco pushed himself from the bed and leaned against the wall behind him.

"He told me that he will teach me, but all he gave me was a stupid assignment."

"What is your assignment?" Haco asked again.

"He wanted me to sell this ugly stone to that tacky man," Zale grumbled. He couldn't understand why he was given this absurd task when he thought the alpha would teach him how to be strong and fight like the other warrior. He was going to be his mate's protector, he needed to train him for that if he really cared about his mate's safety.

Zale rambled about all of that to Haco, while the old sorcerer listened, trying to keep his mind sharp to follow the conversation.

"If he really cared about the luna, he should know better to give me a proper training." Zale furrowed his brows. He was only thirteen now, four years younger than Joel. Haco chuckled when he heard that and Zale glared at him. "Why are you laughing."

"If you can't tell how much the alpha cares about his mate, then you really need to see things differently, young boy."

Zale frowned. He couldn't understand that.

"You know what? Being a strong warrior is great, good in fight is great too, but you are nothing if you don't have this." Haco tapped his head. "A good fighter without brain and couldn't control their temperament is a good tool for the enemy to use them. People can control you the way they want."

"I can't be controlled easily!"

"Or, they can be a problem for people around them. You know there is a saying this; a stupid people close to you is more dangerous than your enemy."

Zale was fuming mad at this point because Haco straight up called him stupid.

"Physical strength is not always everything. You can get into a lot of trouble and drag down people around you if you are stupid enough not to be able to read the situation." Haco shrugged his shoulder and then narrowed his eyes at Zale. "What is your name?"

Zale growled in frustration. He had told him countless times about his name, but this old

sorcerer kept forgetting it.

Haco even forgot that he asked, as he yawned and fell asleep in sitting position.

The next day, Cane took the lizard and tried to do the same thing that Iris had done the previous night and showed it to Ethan, Arthur, Dean and Pax. They stared at the creature in amazement, as they were in disbelief something like this was actually possible to happen.

"We can send a secret letter to Nexus in the north!" Arthur exclaimed, voicing out what the others were thinking.

The communication with Nexus was cut off ever since alpha Derick surrendered to the royal, it was dangerous to send a letter with hawk, because they could spot it. More so, it was not a safe communication possible now, especially in this weather.

"Right!"

But, the problem was; they couldn't get ash from whatever thing that was burning near him, so the lizard could find him. This was another tricky situation.

After that, the deal about the grain was finalized. The merchant agreed with the price that the alpha gave to them, because they didn't want to involve themselves in this battle. In their eyes, once those ten thousand warriors attacked them, things would escalate very quickly and there was no one could guarantee it wouldn't be an all out war.

The shifting of power in the shifter land could be cruel and barbaric, and they were fully aware of that to not get tangled in the middle of it.

Begrudgingly, they agreed to send letter to their respective ships to go back to Karam continent and get the grain the alpha wanted.

It happened on the sixth day the royal warriors camped six hours away from them without any movement, as if they were waiting the final instruction to attack. The situation was very tense.

"You won. They agreed!" Lou smirked, as if the deal could finally be sealed because of him. Well, he indeed contributed.

"Hm." Cane nodded. He didn't slow down his steps, as he inspected the training of the warriors. They couldn't be slacked off now, especially when this was the first time for all the warriors in the south to have joint training like this. There were a few altercations here and there because they didn't use to work together.

"That was it? Only 'hm'?!" Lou was speechless. He wanted to kick Cane's ass to get more reaction from him, but of course, he could only imagine doing that.

Meanwhile, in the Red Claw pack, Abby stared at the gloomy sky. It had been raining for a few days now and she became even more anxious, since her meeting with the luna from the Howling Wolf pack got delayed again because of what happened in the border.

Within two weeks, the reinforcement from the Holy Kingdom would arrive and she became even more nervous with what would happen.

She was curious about this luna, especially after Koda told her that she had the same

blue eyes like her and she was a runt.

"Don't stay out without wearing warm clothes," Liam said, as he put a cloak over her shoulders and stood by her side. "What are you thinking?"

Abby stared at the sky. It seemed there would be a storm tonight.

"Do you remember about the prophecy of Decratic?" Abby asked. She bit her lips, unsure whether she was only reading things too deep or she read it wrongly.

"Yes. What about it?"

"Can't you see? It's happening. I can feel it."

"What do you mean?" Liam frowned, he followed Abby's line of sight and stared at the dark sky.

"The storm is coming," she said.

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Chapter 630

630 THE STORM IS HERE

"The storm is coming," Iris said, as she stared at the gloomy sky outside of her window. "Why he has not returned yet?" She frowned. She didn't like the fact that Cane was out there in this kind of weather. She felt anxious.

"Don't worry, luna, it's not good for your baby." Aliana tried to calm her down, she had been very fidgety the whole day and this put her in concern. "I have asked, the alpha is fine, he is in the meeting with alpha Nolan. Don't worry, once he is done, he will rush to you straight away," She teased her, but it didn't work. The luna was exceptionally in bad mood the whole day.

"Has he eaten?" Iris asked again. She knew that Cane had been very busy and usually he skipped his meal, which actually was not an issue, since it wouldn't ruin his health, but still, Iris didn't like that. Now, she could understand Cane's frustration every time she skipped her meal or ate very little.

"Ethan brought him something this

afternoon." Aliana couldn't lie to Iris, which made her frown even more. "Don't worry, luna. The alpha will still be able to fight ten shifters even when he skipped his dinner." Aliana caressed her back and tried to lighten her mood, but it didn't work either.

"I don't want him to fight," Iris said in small voice. She didn't like the thought of Cane was fighting, let alone if he was outnumbered by ten shifters.

"Okay, okay. No fight." Aliana didn't know what to do anymore and stayed with her, she took a cloak and draped it on her shoulders. "Let's close the window, okay. The wind is too cold for you."

Iris nodded and kept staring at the dark, gloomy sky.

"You are right... it seems there will be a storm tonight," Aliana mumbled to herself, she didn't like this weather the most. It felt very depressing and dark, as if the world would end or something.

With that, no matter how hard Aliana coaxed Iris to sleep and stop being anxious by telling her a few jokes she knew, none of

them helped. She couldn't pull her out from her somber mood.

The tension in the air and with a lot of warriors around the pack house, had affected Iris. She was well aware there would be inevitable battle if the royal warrior made a move and Cane had prepared an escape route for her if things didn't go as they had planned.

She would go with the other four merchants to the Crystal Moon pack, which was the idea that Iris very disagreed with. She didn't want to leave Cane. She wanted to stay with him, but the alpha was very adamant and didn't leave any room for discussion or negotiation. Iris was going to leave if the situation was not safe anymore here.

Despite Iris's protest that she could help them to kill the royal warriors with her newly found ability, Cane didn't budge.

This was another argumentation between the two of them currently, but this time, thankfully Cane didn't ignore her or avoid her.

It was not until late at night when Cane finally returned and thunder could be heard in the distance, while the light split the night sky every so often.

"Why are you not sleeping yet?" Cane was not happy when he saw Iris was still awake, but he kissed her cheeks tenderly and frowned even more when her skin was cold. "You are cold."

Hearing that comment, Aliana added more firewood into the fireplace. For her, this room was already very warm, so she thought it was enough to warm Iris up, but she forgot that her body was so different from the shifters.

"Aliana, if you don't mind, can you bring dinner for Cane?" Iris asked before Aliana left the room.

"Sure." Aliana smiled and then closed the door behind her.

"You have not yet eaten anything," Iris said in accusatory tone.

"I am fine." Cane took Iris to sit down on the bed, he glanced outside and creased his brows. The weather was so bad. It seemed

there would be storm and if it really happened, there were a lot of work to do tomorrow.

They had sent the letters from the merchants to their respective ships. It would take them a month or so to go back and forth to Karam Continent, but it was enough time before the sea froze over and they were stuck in the civil war among the shifters.

"No. You are not, you need to eat." Iris crunched her nose, unhappy and Cane compromised.

"Okay." Cane didn't want to upset her even more, he had heard that she had been in a bad mood all day from Ethan, who heard this from Eron, who got the news from Aliana.

Currently, Iris was ten weeks pregnant, but she had not yet showing. Therefore, Cane still kept it a secret and only a handful of people, who were aware of it. Probably, Lil Thing could be included, since the creature pestered Iris even more and occasionally would nudge her stomach.

"What happened, you look restless?" Cane cradled Iris in his arms, after he cleaned himself up and waited for Aliana to bring his meal. He made sure she was warm, though this room's temperature had risen up and became a little bit uncomfortable for him.

"I don't know..." Iris nuzzled against Cane's neck.

"Something is bothering you?"

Iris nodded. "But, I don't know what is that."

There was this nagging feeling that she couldn't describe kept gnawing in her heart and put her mind in bad space.

Iris snuggled closer against her mate, trying to look for comfort, she nuzzled his neck and breathed in his scent. If it was possible, she wanted to stay like this for a whole night and day.

"What can I do to make you feel better?" Cane asked, gently caressed her hair and ran his fingers on her spine.

Iris said sheepishly. "I want to be kissed." Her voice came out as a whisper and this

made Cane chuckle.

"I would love to do that," Cane said, as he started to kiss her hair, forehead, her cheeks, both of her eyes, the tip of her nose, her plump lips down to her throat and nibbled on her neck...

Thunder and lightning could be seen out there through the window, the night would grow cold when they could hear the pitter patter sound from the rain and the howling wind in the distance, like a sound of a wolf.

However inside, it was warm enough, especially when their body tangled together. The alpha and the luna couldn't care less about the storm out there, until Aliana rushed into the room and made Iris shriek, as she covered herself under the blanket and Cane frowned at his beta's younger sister.

Aliana supposed to knock first, more so when she was well aware Cane and Iris were inside.

Yet, before Cane could remind her of that, Aliana had stormed toward the window and opened it, letting rain come inside the room.

"Look at this!" Aliana screeched, her face was so red when she showed what she meant.

At first, Cane and Iris couldn't understand, but upon closer look, they knew what was wrong and Cane's eyes hardened, as he immediately got off the bed and went straight to find Haco, because he was the only person, who could explain this phenomenon.

"Stay with her!" Cane barked his order to Aliana and the seven warriors.

Dean and Pax ran behind him.

Cane prayed Haco was in his right mind now.

The sign was there and Abby could no longer ignore it. She thought, she was only imagining it, but then she knew that she didn't.

There were three archaic sculptures inside the sanctuary, in which she was explained those three sculptures were the sign of

Decratic.

Once she saw the three signs, which meant the day of the darkness would revive to its glory like the day when the first Serafim was still alive, was near.

The first one was a sculpture about a woman, who was dreaming about a sword. Not like the five sword that was inside the secret hall, but it was the sixth sword. It was a sculpture about a woman held a sword with five around her and dark smoke surrounded her.

Abby had never seen this.

The second one was a sculpture about a woman who called the lights, there was these white little marbles around the sculpture of the woman that people said it was her light, but she was still surrounded by this dark smoke still surrounded her.

And the last sculpture was when the woman knelt down and the white little marbles from the previous sculpture turned dark.

Some people said, it was her light that had been stained and turned dark, but some

people said it was black rain in a stormy night.

Abby inclined to believe to the latter. She heard story about black rain in a stormy night, where great storm happened and the water that fell from the sky was the color of black, as black as ink.

Not many people knew about this, because such information was only available for the Serafim.

Abby didn't know about the two, but somehow, she could feel it deep down in her heart ever since Koda mentioned about Decratic that the darkness from the past would happen during her time as the Serafim.

And now, black rain washed over the whole continent.

