

Taming Her Beastly Mate by JM Snap

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Aflame

Alexis woke up from her nap with Micah sitting next to her. He was leaning back against the headboard with his eyes closed but she could tell he wasn't asleep.

"Where is Brian?" Alexis asked as she sat up.

"Grayson and Ruby arrived with Troy and Misty. Brian is probably still with Misty since Troy and Nia are visiting with her parents." Troy found out that Nia was his mate a few months ago. Naturally, Nia moved to the East Dragon Kingdom to be with her mate. Her father, Reese, and his mate missed her terribly, especially since she is the only child. It was an

adjustment but one that was quite common.

Alexis perked up and grinned widely. "You should have woken me. I can't wait to see them I've missed them so much. Especially Misty!" She was really close with Misty, just like she was with all the princes and princesses from all the dragon kingdoms.

"You needed to rest. They are going to be here for a good while. There was no reason to wake you up." Micah rolled lazily off the bed, then turned and scooped Alexis up onto

her feet.

Alexis grinned, looking up at Micah, but as she searched his worried eyes her smile soon fell. "Micah? What's wrong?"

He placed his hand on top of her head as a faint smile reached his lips. "There seems to be a lot going on, Lex. I'm feeling apprehensive and I guess a bit overwhelmed." He reached up and tapped his chest lightly. "My feral beast is raging and I'm afraid I won't be able

to control him. There are so many people here. What if I hurt someone?"

"Micah, you are surrounded by strong dragons. It's going to be okay. Besides, we have been over this before, right? You are the one in control here. You are no longer a primitive beast. You can control yourself. Even if it is difficult, you can do it." Alexis gave him an encouraging smile. "We are a team, Micah. If you need my help, I can cool you off." She winked at him as she demonstrated little ice sparkles around her fingertips. She watched a weak smile reach his lips but his eyes looked defeated.

"I don't know Lex. I'll try. But you know my emotions are connected to you. I don't like having all these extra people here. Not after what just happened with Erebus." Micah's lips curved down as a small sigh escaped his lips.

"Micah, I know you have a strong sense of duty to me. But you know, I want our relationship to be beyond that. That also means trusting others. You don't have to shoulder the burden of protecting me alone. My father is also here. And soon Aken will be here too."

felt under her fingertips and the sweet tingles that erupted from touching him. His heavenly scent that was so strong it smothered her in heavenly goodness. God, what was this new feeling she was having? She reached her hand up, brushing her fingers over her necklace.

There was a hollow feeling inside of her and a sense of longing. It was worse than it had been before. This must be what it feels like when you have felt the mate pull. She wondered if Aken had been feeling it all this time and yet was fighting it off. If this is the case, she couldn't be as mad at him because this feeling was torture. She felt like there was somewhere she needed to be but couldn't.

The warm sensation of the gem kissed her fingers gently. It soothed her as she felt his presence within the jewel. Maybe this was another reason he gave it to her because he knew it would help while he was away. In either case, she was grateful for this little connection

she had.

"Lex?"

The sound of Micah's voice brought her focus back to him. She noticed a sly grin forming across his face and she scrunched her nose up at him.

"You disappeared on me for a moment. Having lecherous thoughts about your mate?"

"Oh hush!" She swatted at him, which he successfully dodged. "I miss him. It's weird to miss him, but it also isn't. I feel like I should be missing him. And that I have a void in here." She reached up, touching her chest.

"You can always feast your eyes on my build if you want." Micah teased and flexed

his muscles.

"Sorry, Micah. But you just can't compare. He is my mate and a deity. I don't think anyone can ever get me to turn my head towards them but him."

“So um yeah um Misty is here and would be the more appropriate girl chat partner you desire.” Micah chuckled as he nodded towards the door.

“You are doing a great job, Micah. I think we should schedule girl talk more often.”

“Let’s not and say we did.” Micah snorted as he reached for the door, opening it for

her.

“But Micah, you are the one who saw him without his shirt on. I want all the details.” She listened to his scoff and looked up to see his heavy eye roll.

commotion flooded down the hallway. The sound of booming voices and a high-pitched

scream bounced off the walls. Alexis and Micah both sprinted to the open foyer.

They arrived at the room to see a young man laying down on the ground with flames dancing on his legs. There were several people beside him trying to help diminish the fire. At the other end of the room were Brian and Misty. Brian had flames dancing in his eyes as he stared at the man on the ground. While Misty had her hands on Brian’s arm, trying to hold him

back.

“Micah, control Brian,” Alexis ordered and quickly dropped a snowy ice powder over the flames, extinguishing them instantly. She took a couple of steps closer to examine the man. His wounds were nothing serious and he should heal on his own just fine. But what was shocking was how the flames ignited on the dragon. Most dragons have a high resistance to fire. Some were even thought to be immune to it.

Alexis spun around and headed over towards Brian. Micah had his hands on Brian’s

shoulders, holding him firmly in place. Misty was standing beside them but holding her hands

peculiarly.

“Misty, are you okay? Let me see?” Alexis reached out, grasping the girl’s hands. She could see the redness from a slight burn on her skin. She sent a cooling frost over them, giving Misty instant relief. And by the time the frost melted, she was already healed. Luckily, Misty was a tier-one dragon just like her parents and was a fast healer. Plus, the royal dragons were all naturally stronger than regular dragons.

Alexis watched the flames dancing in Brian's eyes as they continued to be fixated on the man that was now being helped up off the floor. She stepped into Brian and wrapped her

arms around his waist. Embracing him with a frosty chill that trickled over his body, cooling his flame. She could feel his body relax and Micah released his grip and took a small step back.

"Hey." Alexis cooed to Brian. "Calm down. I'm here. Tell me what happened." She commanded gently.

Brian looked down at her. His eyes flickered as they returned to his hazel color. He leaned his head down and into the crook of Alexis' neck, immediately playing his public role as her chosen mate. He breathed in her scent as his arms wrapped around her.

"He called Raine a dirty mate that was most suited to a deserter dragon." Brian's shoulders began to rise and fall as he took deep breaths.

and listened to the low growl from Micah. No one wanted anyone saying anything bad about Raine and Ryker. However, Brian was on the verge of burning the dragon alive. Maybe a bit over the top in this situation. "That merited being reprimanded. I don't think this is a burn them to ashes situation though...do you?" She pushed back to look at him giving him a wide grin.

Brian nodded his head. "I didn't... I didn't mean for that to happen. I didn't even launch flames at him."

"Yeah, the guy just suddenly caught on fire while Brian was looking at him. Brian never touched him though." Misty chimed in at his defense. She was shocked to see the flames but immediately switched her focus to holding Brian back. His aura increased to a level that began to burn her. It was the first time she had ever been burned by the aura of another dragon.

"Well, he is going to be just fine. I think he got a good scare and let's hope he learns something from the incident." Alexis giggled and bumped Brian's side. "Don't let it get in your head. There is no problem here, okay?"

"What if you wouldn't have come when you did? I don't-"

"Brian. Let's not play the what if game. Okay?" Alexis watched him slowly nod his head but could see the worry that now rested on his face. "Hey, I am here Brian. I've got your six." She smiled as she bit her bottom lip hoping to see him crack a smile.

Brian nodded his head as he stared off in the distance. "I'm a bit tired. I think I'm going to go lay down for a bit."

"Oh no, you're not." Alexis wrapped her arm around his. She knew he was depressed and wasn't about to let him have a self-pity party. "You are staying with me." She sent a frosty wave over his body and grinned up at him devilishly.

"Do you want to play hot and cold? Let's see who wins. Your hot verse my cold."

Brian finally chuckled and looked down at her. "I guess I should have napped when you napped earlier. You are full of spunk now, aren't you?"

"Yeah she is and there is no way that you are leaving me on my own to babysit her." Micah folded his arms over his chest and raised his eyes at Brian.

A genuine smile spread over Brian's face as he looked at the three people in front of

him. "Alright, you guys win."

"Oh, Brian... that's sweet. You really thought you had a choice, didn't you?" Misty teased with a quiet giggle.

talking in a funny childish voice to Brian.

"Brian filled me in on the juicy stuff but I'm going to need to hear it all from you. Maybe if we end up seeing Raine tonight we can have a slumber party." Misty listened to Micah grunt in objection.

"Veto. I am sleeping with Alexis for the time being. So you'll have to get your gossip

time in before bedtime."

"I'm so jealous. Lex has all the men wanting a piece of her." Misty teased with a drawn-out fake sigh. She knew that Brian was just pretending to be Alexis' mate and that Micah was just being protective. Still, she wouldn't mind having all the male attention too. The four of them walked towards the recreational room and Misty inwardly sighed with longing. Maybe she would meet her mate or at the very least get some male attention all of her own.

Alexis walked next to Brian as the four of them headed to the recreation room. She reached her hand up and touched her necklace, feeling its familiar warmth. She wondered how Aken was and what he was doing right now.

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Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Coincidence

It had been a couple of days since Aken had visited her. She couldn't help but think about him. Was he alright? Her fingers unconsciously brushed over the warm gem resting on her neck. What if he needed her? She had no way to go to him. She wasn't a deity but she was a demi-god and still strong. She wanted to be with him. She didn't care if she was fighting by his side or curled up on a couch. As long as she was near him, she would be happy.

Alexis sat on the couch with her feet tucked under Brian and her head on Micah's shoulders. Nick and Misty sat on bean bags in front of them as the movie played. Nia and Troy sat cuddled up together on the single chair. Their arms were wrapped around each other and they could care less about the movie. Jared had left to go get snacks for everyone mid-movie. Which meant he couldn't take the upcoming scenes. Jared was always squeamish when it came to ghost movies.

She hadn't seen Raine and Ryker since they found out they were mates. Her Aunt Kelsie was happy for her but her Uncle Cody was pouting about his baby girl finding her mate. Though he was happy she would be remaining in the West Dragon Kingdom.

"Lex, your feet are ice cold," Brian grunted and squirmed his body trying to edge away from her feet.

"Hey, do your job and keep my feet warm. Or I'll show you what cold really feels like." Alexis gave him a devilish smile and listened to him chuckle.

Brian grabbed her ankle with his hand and sent a warm sensation over towards her

feet. He winked at her as a cocky smirk spread across his lips.

Misty and Nick both suddenly tensed in front of them. They both looked around in

confusion as they lifted their noses up taking in small whiffs.

"What is it?" Brian asked, straightening up to look around. He turned his head to see his cousins from the North Dragon Kingdom walk in, Anna and Cole (Dex and Ciana's children). They both halted strangely and stared into the room with an intense look upon their

faces.

Nick and Misty both turned around and their eyes met with Anna and Cole. "Mate." This was the simultaneous word heard by all four of them.

Alexis watched in shock as Misty ended up in Cole's arms. And then there were Nick and Anna. The two who used to always pick on each other. They stood apart

just staring at the other before Nick walked slowly towards her. He reached her and took her into his arms.

"So you are the reason I exist." Nick smiled as he leaned his forehead against hers. stop the movie. "This is some weird crazy coincidence though." He turned to look back at the new mates. All royal mates from different kingdoms.

"I'll go and let the parents know." Troy got up pulling Nia along with him, leaving.

Alexis watched the two new couples each leave to get acquainted as mates. It was shocking but in a good way. They were all so close and now would be even closer. She turned

her head to look over at Brian and that is when her heart broke. He sat there staring off into

space. There was an emptiness on his face that she had never seen before. Everyone was finding their mates around them. But even if Brian found his mate, he may not be able to have

her.

She bit her inner lip and glanced over to Micah. Her eyes were filled with concern for Brian. No matter what he said, this would be a painful moment for him. The realization of the weight of his reality would be hitting him full force.

Brian turned his head to look over at Alexis and Micah. A forced smile pulled up on his lips as he cleared his throat. "Well, that was unexpected. I guess we won't be hanging out as much as I thought. We will be lucky to see them now." He let out a dry chuckle.

Alexis didn't know what to say. It was obvious he was hurting but he was trying to hide it. What could she say to him? There wasn't anything that she hadn't already said. They won't give up. They will keep trying. There had to be a solution out there. He knew them all. But

nothing was guaranteed. The only thing she could guarantee is that she would never give up. She would hunt Shiva down herself. She hated seeing Brian get put through something like

this. He didn't deserve it.

"Hey, where did everyone go?" Jared asked as he walked back in with a tray of food.

"We won't be seeing everyone... they all found their mates." Brian said with almost a dry tone.

"Really?! That's crazy. Who?" Jared asked as he sat his tray down. He grabbed one of the empty bean bags and plopped onto it shoving a handful of popcorn in his mouth.

"Anna and Nick are mates. And Cole and Misty are mates." Alexis said as she continued to watch Brian.

"That's amazing. So Anna will be the South's new queen? That's wonderful. What a freakish way for everything to work out. I mean what are the odds of them all being mates?"

Jared went on enthusiastically. Brian still was adjusting to the whole mate shock. He had been hit with everything at once and it was a tough blow to him.

*Lex."

The sound of Brian's voice interrupted her thoughts and she lifted her eyes up to meet with his.

"I'm fine Lex. Don't."

She could see a bit of agitation on his face as he stared at her. It was a look she had

never seen from him before. He looked like he was annoyed with her. His eyes suddenly softened and a faint smile rested on his lips. She searched his hazel eyes as his hand reached out to grab onto hers.

"I'm not going to break Alexis. You don't have to worry. I'm not glass." He tilted his

head to her and raised his eyes up.

Alexis scooted over and wrapped her arms around him. She didn't need to say anything. There was nothing to be said. But she wanted to show him she was here for him. There was something that was concerning her though.

"Brian," Alexis looked up into his eyes as she shook her head slightly in confusion."

Dragon mates are different than wolves. The moon goddess has a hand in manipulating werewolves and their mates. And my father doesn't mess with setting up mates. He lets the natural mate pull happen for those who are compatible. But this..."

"I agree. Too much coincidence." Brian glanced up at Micah then down to Jared.

"You don't think they are real mates?" Jared asked in confusion.

"They are real mates. That isn't what they are saying." Micah spoke up and then rose to his feet. He reached his hand down to Alexis. "And I think right now your fathers are

"Right we need to be there for this conversation. Jared, go have some fun at the party. We will catch up with you later." Brian could see Jared didn't quite grasp the situation but he nodded his head.

"Alright. I'll catch you guys later." Jared said as they parted ways.

"A coincidence?" Grandpa Sage said as he shook his head. "None of this is just a coincidence." He looked at Titus. "You were mated to the princess of the North. Weston, the

"And I, the Dragon King of the North have a rare light dragon as my mate." Dex said

and turned his head to Grayson.

"And my mate was a princess from the Southern Dragon Kingdom." Grayson, the King of the East, said as he pulled Ruby closer to his side.

"And now most of your children are mated to the next generation of royals. This is..." Grandpa Sage looked down in deep thought.

"It's unheard of." Levi said in a terse voice. His lips were pursed tight and his forehead was scrunched up slightly with worry.

"Why would this be? You don't practice pairing up mates." Alexis said as she walked into the room followed by Brian and Micah.

Levi looked up at his daughter and shook his head. "I don't pair dragons together." "But you were paired and Aken was paired..." Titus watched Lee nod his head.

"Selene can use the wolves to manipulate the mate senses. But with Aken, it was a soul mate bond. She didn't do that on her own." Rhea pressed herself into Lee's side and he

wrapped his arm around her.

"She must be using all the resources she can to pull off something like this. Of course with Endymion back she has a lot of means to do what she thinks is needed." Lee held on to Rhea tightly. What future did Selene see? She is creating powerful soldiers once again for

something but what?

“Lucy mentioned seeing a premonition of a strange future before where the world looked to be in ruins. Is this maybe what she is trying to prevent?” Alexis asked and noticed her mother’s eyes twitched slightly.

only adjusted. This must be some adjustment. Just like her pairing you with Aken while I was pregnant in order to guide me from the black hole. We can only guess what Selene’s reasonings are. Her power of seeing the future is far greater than ours.” Rhea spoke in a calm breath and smiled up at Lee. “These pairings are not a bad thing. We shouldn’t act like they are. Let’s embrace this as a strong moment for dragons. It looks like you’ll be busy with a lot of mate blessings.”

“You know they’ll be expecting Brian to mark his mate too.” Dex glanced over at Levi and Titus. The four kings discussed Brian and his aura before. And Lila, being his sister, kept him informed on everything that was going on. Including the fake chosen mate setup with

“They will, but there are ways around that for now. And hopefully, before the dragon party is over, Aken will be able to be here to claim Alexis. What Brian is doing now is just like a level of protection. Just like what Titus did for Rhea and me before.” Levi looked over at Titus

and smiled at him.

“Tonight kicks off the first official day of the party. We will make an announcement of all the new mates and prepare for the acceptance kiss for each mated pair. And we can say that, since this is Brian’s home, he will be the last acceptance kiss performed.” The Great Sage nodded his head as he wobbled through the room. “Now back to my studies. I need to learn how to suppress a powerful aura.” He winked at Brian as he passed him and walked out of the

room.

Alexis listened as everyone chatted amongst themselves. They were all great friends and family. Her mother looked so happy to see everyone again. But there was a look in her mother’s eye. What vision had she seen? What future would ultimately come to pass?

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Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Chosen Mate

Brian had his arm wrapped around Alexis’ waist as they walked outside and towards the large white tents that were put up for the dinner parties. It was customary for the dragons to come together for dinner in the evenings. This is when the acceptance kisses usually took place. Under the very public eyes of all

the dragons from around the kingdom. Micah suddenly reached out and gripped Alexis' arm tightly, causing Brian to also stop

abruptly.

Micah stood frozen as he stared off into the distance. His eyes flickered towards the

dark woods.

"Micah, what is it?" Brian asked as he searched for the hidden danger.

"Something is out there. Can't you sense it? Can you not smell the blood in the air?"

Micah didn't take his eyes off of the tree line.

Alexis furrowed her brows as she tried to concentrate. Unfortunately, her dragon and wolf were still recovering. Because of that, her senses weren't as sharp as they usually were. But why couldn't Brian sense anything? No one else around seemed to notice it either.

"I don't sense anything." Brian glanced down at Alexis and squeezed tighter around

her waist. "Maybe I should take you inside."

"Yes."

"No!"

Alexis turned and stared at Micah. She pulled herself away from Brian and Micah's

grip. "Let's go see what it is. All three of us."

"That isn't a good idea." Micah shook his head completely against it.

"Well, if you are afraid to go I will check it out on my own." Alexis grinned, biting her bottom lip. She received two unamused glances from the men in front of her. They were both shaking their heads no at her. "Well, what exactly can you two do about it? It isn't like you can stop me. Unless you want to run and get my daddy."

"Alexis quit acting like a child and stay here!" Micah growled angrily.

Alexis let out a dry laugh and then nodded her head as she clicked her tongue. "I see. I am acting like a child..." An idea popped into her head as she met their gazes with confidence. "Well, I wasn't acting like a child but if I am going to get accused of it..." She shrugged slightly as her lips twitched upwards.

Alexis suddenly shot out a blast of ice towards Brian and Micah, creating a thick solid barrier around them, momentarily holding them in place. Then she sprinted using her ice

of thudding behind her let her know that Micah had shifted. And then there was a dark shadow above her as Brian's dragon took to the skies. She smirked and rolled her eyes. Even without shifting, she could still evade them for a short time and that was all she needed.

She created a blinding thick mist using it as cover as she finally reached the woods. She heard the sound of Brian's dragon crashing into the trees. He would now continue to follow her on foot. The sound of Micah's bear was getting closer though. He was the hardest to

escape from because he was naturally drawn to her.

The wind swirled around her, bringing the scent of iron suddenly beating against her face. There was also the smell of rotting flesh burning. The sound of grunts and fighting pricked at her ears as she ran deeper into the woods. What was going on?

Alexis abruptly stopped. Brian and Micah were at her side instantly staring at the sight in front of them. There were dozens of voidless laying dead on the ground. A young woman with dark brown hair, caramel skin, and hazel eyes shot a red streak from her hand killing three more voidless instantly. The young woman looked up in shock seeing the three

people standing there.

"Alexis! You shouldn't be out here! Why did you let her come out here?! Do your job!" The woman growled angrily.

Alexis glanced at Micah and Brian. Micah growled lowly and shifted back into his human form. He wasn't threatened by whatever this woman was and felt confident in his raw strength if the need arose.

"Do we know you?" Alexis asked, gripping onto Micah's shirt to stop him from engaging with the woman.

"Oh. Um... yeah..." The woman looked down at herself. She was covered in blood and was a sight to behold. She kept her gaze on the ground and poked at the dirt with her foot. "Don't look at me. I'm..." She tucked her hands behind her back trying to hide the blood staining them.

Alexis tilted her head at the young woman curiously. "It's okay. We aren't bothered by blood. What's your name? How do you know us?" She listened to the low growl from Micah and she bumped her elbow into him.

Behave! Let's see who she is.

"My name is Terra. I... I'm sorry. You weren't supposed to see me. I had this area masked. Damn... Aken is going to be so mad."

Alexis' ears perked up and she stepped closer towards the girl.

"Aken? Do you know Aken? Who are you?" Alexis asked, feeling Micah and Brian both stepping next to her in a protective stance. Clearly, neither one of them trusted Terra.

"I'm not... just so you know... He and I...we aren't anything. He took care of me after I lost my parents. And I serve him now. I watch over you when he can't." Terra chewed on her bottom lip nervously as she glanced between the three people in front of her.

Alexis stood there quietly taking this information in. Aken made sure she was always being watched and protected. She couldn't believe there were times she doubted if he

wanted her.

"Aken took you in? What about your own kind?" Brian raised his brows at her questionably.

"My own kind..." Terra whispered out and shook her head. "No one wants me. I don't belong to any kind. I am a demonic hybrid crossed with a pure-blooded vampire. A dhampir... I'm a vamon." She squeezed her eyes shut and squeezed her fists together. "My parents... they fought on the other side of the war. I'm sorry. It probably makes you uncomfortable to know I am around. I didn't mean to-"

"Terra." Alexis smiled at the beautiful woman. Even with her hair messed up and dripping in blood, you couldn't argue her beauty. "If Aken trusts you then I trust you. I don't care what your parents did. That isn't what you did."

Terra's hazel eyes met with the sapphire eyes of Alexis. She was in shock and didn't know what to say. There was no way she felt okay about her, right? Because she had convinced herself that she was a creature that everyone would hate. No one could ever see her as anything but vermin. A wet liquid crystal streamed down her cheek.

Aloud grunting noise was heard again as several more voidless appeared from the

brush. This time they fixated on Alexis and charged towards her. Terra immediately

intercepted burning them instantly with her powers. All but one. One of them kept moving

forward.

Micah stepped forward, pushing Alexis back to confront the voidless. But the creature stopped. A light came from its body and it collapsed to the ground. The dark light circled in the air before charging towards Alexis. It enveloped all four people and a voice came

“Alexis.”

Alexis watched a strange glow envelope them as the familiar deep voice of Erebus echoed around them. Terra quickly stood in front of her while Brian wrapped her in his arms. Micah looked around, shaking his head.

“He isn’t here.” Micah growled, moving closer to Alexis. This was just his voice, but his presence was nowhere to be felt.

“I wanted to send you a little message because I know you probably miss me.” He chuckled darkly. “Listen, I can wait for you. A dragon won’t live forever. You and I will. Aken needs to feel pain and I refuse to allow him to have you. You don’t know what he is like. I’ll be watching you. Make sure your chosen mate marks you tonight. Otherwise, I’m afraid your grandfather isn’t going to make it. Or maybe one of your cousins will have a horrible accident. So many possibilities. You know what to do, don’t you? Until next time my treasure.”

The message ended and the air cleared, leaving the four of them standing there quietly. Alexis felt her heart beating out of control. Erebus was watching her and if she didn’t

let Brian mark her, he would kill someone in her family. This man was a monster. All of this

was just to hurt Aken. What choice did she have here? She had to protect her family.

Of course, Erebus didn’t care if Brian took her as his mate because of the curse he put on her. He knows soon Brian won’t be able to touch her anyways. What he didn’t know was

that she would be purifying the curse before it took effect.

“I need to find Aken,” Terra finally said.

“You know how to find him?” Alexis asked as she watched Terra shrug her shoulders shaking her head.

“No, but I know he is in the demon realm.” Terra looked at Alexis and pursed her lips together. “I’ll try to find him before... but do what you must. Protect your family. Maybe there is a way to reverse a mark. But we can’t reverse death. Well, a necromancer can but it’s not the same.” She shook her head. “I’ll do my best.”

Alexis watched as the girl flashed away, leaving her alone with Brian and Micah. They were all quiet as they stood there letting their brains process the moment.

"What do we do now?" Brian asked in almost a whisper.

"Do you guys even have a choice?" Micah rubbed his forehead as a scowl formed over his lips.

change? Unless he found Erebus and killed him before tonight, there was no other option. She would have to let Brian mark her as his mate and have to hope there was a way to reverse it. She needed to talk with Brian and what this would mean. The trickling ramifications from the acceptance kiss.

"We need to find our parents." Brian squeezed Alexis' shoulder. "We have a lot to discuss before tonight."

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Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Acceptance Kiss

The sound of a pin drop could be heard in the room. Leviathan's surging aura was suffocating everyone around him. Its intensity was at a level that they had rarely seen before. The kings had to lower their gaze from him and look away. Alexis had never felt this much

anger from her father before.

"My family won't be intimidated to do Erebus' bidding!" Levi roared out as he paced the room.

"Lee." Rhea walked up to him and wrapped her arms around his waist. (This novel will be daily updated at) She leaned her head on her chest and held onto him tightly. They were both feeling emotional and needed each other for support.

Alexis watched her parents in amazement. Instantly, her mother could calm her father's rage. As if her touch was a sedative, he immediately calmed down. She watched as he leaned his head down into her mother's neck, breathing in her scent. Her parents had an amazing connection. All her life growing up she only ever saw the adoration in each other's eyes. This was what she wanted too. She wanted to have a connection like they have.

"It isn't like I want to give in to Erebus. That isn't who I am. But..." Alexis shook her head, pursing her lips together. "If something happens to one of them... How can I live with myself? I would never forgive myself if they were killed if it could have been prevented." Erebus could be anywhere. It would be impossible to protect her whole family.

"But Alexis... being marked isn't something you can ignore. That mark will form a connection with you and bind you." Rhea was desperately trying to think of a solution. "Lee is there a way to undo a mark?"

"If it was something simple to get rid of, it wouldn't be so sacred. I don't know. And I don't know what the cost would be if there is." Lee shook his head and looked up at his daughter. "This is not the answer."

"Brian and I have already discussed this fully. There isn't another solution unless Erebus is dead." Alexis felt Brian's arm wrap around her shoulder.

"We are not here to seek anyone's permission. We are both adults and have made up our own minds. We are here as a courtesy to inform you of our decision and the reasoning behind it. This is personal for me too. Lucy's family is like family to me too. We protect our family no matter what the cost. (This novel will be daily updated at)" Brian squeezed Alexis' shoulder and looked around the room. "We want you to trust us. Have faith in our decisions."

*Unless he is here to tell me Erebus is dead, I must protect my family." Alexis

squeezed her fingers together, holding them in front of her.

"Lex." Rhea whispered, biting her bottom lip.

*If you don't mind Brian and I would like to spend some time together alone before the marking." Alexis looked up at Brian and he nodded down at her. With his arm around her, the two of them walked out of the room with Micah right behind them shutting the door.

They walked down the restricted hall until they reached Brian's room. They came inside locking the door behind them. Alexis distanced herself from the men and leaned her head on the opposite wall. They made the announcement and now just had the public acceptance kiss left. She tried to swallow down the lump in her throat. She could feel her palms getting moist as they touched the cool wall.

"Alexis." Micah walked up behind her stopping just before touching her. "I wish I could do something."

"Help calm me down." She whispered out in a breath. She felt Micah's arms come around her, holding her firmly against him. She tried to control her breathing and stop her mind from racing. She hated to admit it but she felt terrified at this moment.

“Lex. It will all work out. I promise. We will get through this together. I would never keep you from Aken. I mean we already discussed all of that but I just wanted to make that part clear once more.”

“What if this is all for nothing? What if we go through all of this only for his demands to continue to increase? He knows my weakness. I will do anything to keep my family safe.” Alexis breathed in a shaky breath. Erebus knew her weakness and knew exactly where to find her. Sure, they would catch Erebus eventually, but how long would that be? At the same time, she didn’t have a choice. Not one she was willing to gamble with.

She wasn’t afraid of this bastard. She clenched her teeth and inhaled sharply. How she would love to plunge an ice shard in his chest and freeze the blood that flowed in his veins. It would be tricky but not impossible. The only chance she would have against Erebus would be to catch him off guard. And she wasn’t exactly willing to play along with his fantasies in order to achieve that moment.

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Later that evening, Brian escorted Alexis out of the castle. They were both dressed to reflect the royalty that they were. Alexis had on a floor length light blue gown which caught the light on the sleeves. There was a thigh-high slit on the right side, allowing her gorgeous long slender legs to glide. Her blonde hair was tossed around by the slight breeze that swirled by. Micah was walking right behind Alexis making sure he didn’t travel far from her.

As they entered the tent, the crowd hushed, and all eyes were on them as Brian escorted her. Alexis’ eyes wandered over everyone. She could see her parents sitting near the front along with all the other royals. She caught sight of Raine and Ryker who she hadn’t seen since they discovered they were mates.(This novel will be daily updtaed at) She could see Raine’s eyes were on her curiously, but this wasn’t the place to discuss everything. She would have to explain everything that had happened later.

Brian walked her through the tables and made their way to the front. He looked at

his father and nodded his head for him to continue.

Titus stood to his feet along with Levi and the two of them made their way to the center of the tent.

“Tonight, we will be kicking off the dragon party with several royal acceptance kisses. The first one of the night will be with my son, Brian, the future king of the West. He is taking Alexis, our deity’s daughter, as his chosen mate.” Titus listened to the quiet murmurs of the crowd. Brian had insisted on having their acceptance kiss done first now because of Erebus. He looked at his son and forced a proud smile for the kingdom. “All four kingdoms have agreed to this union, and all are supportive of it. We hope this will further strengthen dragons and create a brighter future for all of us.” The crowd clapped in approval and Titus nodded his head for his son to come to the front.

Brian looked down at Alexis and gave her a nervous smile. "I guess it's time."

Alexis nodded her head as she anxiously gnawed on her inner lip. She could feel her heart racing rapidly and she had to remind herself to breathe. Brian led her to the center of the

room and turned her so that the two of them were facing. Micah walked over to the side and leaned against the front table. He gripped onto the bottom of the table tightly, using it for his

own support during this moment.

The dragons hushed in anticipation as they all watched for this historical event to unfold before their eyes. They watched as Brian leaned his head down to rest upon hers. To them were trying to give each other the strength needed to continue.

"Alexis... Brian whispered and searched her eyes. He nodded his head slightly and kissed her forehead. He moved his head down slowly until he reached her neck. He closed his eyes as he breathed against her skin knowing what he needed to do now. Holding her body in place he slowly lowered his lips to her neck, bringing his dragon forward to place his mark

upon her skin.

The moment Brian's lips touched her neck, Levi closed his eyes, unable to watch the act. He had to bless many dragon unions. Too many to count. But this was not a joyous union. This was his daughter, and he couldn't bear to watch it happen to her.

Alexis winced as she felt the heat against her neck. There was a volcanic intensity that burned her skin. (This novel will be daily updated at)She bit her inner lip and slammed her eyes shut. Brian's lips upon her skin was not erotic for her. It was wrong. It felt inappropriate. Her body screamed at her angrily lashing out against this unwanted invasion. She kept her eyes closed, concentrating and steadying her breathing. And though she didn't mean to, a single tear trickled down her cheek.

Brian lifted away from her neck and looked down at her neck. A fresh bright red mark now appeared over her skin. He pulled Alexis into his arms holding her close as the crowd erupted with cheers of joy for the new dragon couple. Everyone seemed thrilled and overjoyed except for the few who knew better. He pulled back and rubbed his thumb over the wet streak on her face.

"Let's get out of here. We don't need to stay." Brian whispered against her forehead as he kissed her gently.

Alexis nodded with her eyes closed. She just wanted to get out of there. She did

what Erebus asked. He would know that Brian had marked her. She felt Micah's presence right behind her as Brian led her away from the tent and back to the

castle. It was when they were almost there that Alexis suddenly froze in place. She lifted her head up and turned to look out in the distance.

It felt like an invisible rope was wrapped around her and pulling her.

"Alexis, what is it?" Brian asked softly turning his head to look in the direction she was staring

"It's time to find Bella." In a way, Alexis was glad for this timing. It was a perfect

distraction to get her mind off of what had just happened. She wondered if Terra had found

She shook her head slightly, trying to push everything from her mind. She couldn't think about all of that right now. It was time to focus on the feeling inside of her that was leading her away from the dragon kingdom.

"Well, this is probably the best time to sneak away with everyone distracted from the acceptance kisses.(This novel will be daily updtaed at)" Micah shrugged slightly and looked at Alexis. "Let's get a change of clothes and then get out of here."