

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 103

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Chapter 103

13. A Transformation

YILEYNA

It had been so much to take in, and although I was told to rest on it, I was unable to. Being underwater was daunting in itself, despite the fact that I was getting used to it.

Not to mention the dark-haired distraction that now stood in my room. His dangerously handsome looks did not help my nerves, he was staring at me with intrigue, and something more. Aquarius, that was his name. One of Deliana's guards. I had been mortified when she had said he would take care of me, and how our guards were meant to satisfy us if we wanted. A

I had gotten embarrassed, however none of the other sirens had even batted an eyelid.

I was given some clothing if you could call it that... it simply consisted of sheer fabrics or tiny jewelled pieces of metal for my breasts, and a sheer piece of cloth to wrap around my waist. I sat on the bed, swinging my legs as I watched the ripples in the water.

I felt frustrated. There was so much to take in, I first thought being the heart was stressful enough. Now throw in the seven seas!

I sighed, lying down on the bed, and stared at the glowing light around the edge of the ceiling, only for Aquarius to come over.

"Are you restless?" He asked.

"Umm, not entirely." I replied, feeling very naked right now.

He nodded, his eyes raking over me as they lingered on my legs.

"You are beautiful... If you want to relax, I can help." He whispered seductively, his dark navy shimmery tail whipping as he closed the gap between us. 5

Despite the coldness of the water, I was certain my cheeks burned at his words.

“1—I think I’m ok!” I mumbled, embarrassed as his fingers grazed up my inner thigh making me gasp. I quickly pulled away and tucked my legs under me, but my curiosity had piqued.

Sex with a merman... Imagine telling Charlene about that! 2

Theon’s face came to mind and my spirits were dampened.

I did not want to let him get in the way, all he brought was pain, but I couldn’t deny my heart still belonged to him. Or whatever was left of it.

“Well, I actually have a question.” I said, staring at Aquarius’s perfect abs.

He crossed his arms, raising one of those dark arched eyebrows.

“Ask away.”

Well, I have always been a curious girl...

“Where is your... penis?” I asked confidently, ready for him to get embarrassed or think I’m crazy, but hey! am a weird—legged thing anyway. 4

He smirked instead.

“You are a strange one. Isn’t that obvious, or is it that you wish to see what I have to offer first?”

I pouted and gave him a look.

“No, I’m just curious.” I think I did want to see it... “I want to see if it’s like those above water.”

I shrugged haughtily.

Was I really asking a male to show me his manhood? Yes. Yes I was. 1

He smirked, then I saw where there was a slight curve to the front of his tail. The scales rippled before they moved aside, and out sprang a long hard dick.

I couldn’t help but giggle, making him frown slightly, but I didn’t care, I was far too intrigued to bother. I crawled closer, looking at the smooth cock. It was a bit darker in colour compared to his abdomen, with the scales blending around it. There was not one hair in sight. The tip was sharper, and it was rather long too, maybe twelve or eleven inches... Although it got thinner towards the tip. 1

“What do you find so funny?” He asked, as I smirked and moved back.

“Nothing, I just never thought I’d ever see a merman’s cock.” I said bluntly.

He raised an eyebrow, smirking slightly.

“So, how is it?” He asked in a lower, huskier voice.

I looked down at the merman’s penis, blushing once more.

“It’s nice and big.” I complimented, “You can put it away now.” 2

He seemed satisfied with my compliment, before slowly letting the sheath of his scales hide it away once more. He didn’t seem too impressed I didn’t want more, as he backed away and took his place by the door.

Yes, I actually asked a merman to see his dick, I think I am losing my mind. 4

The moment’s distraction vanished, and I became lost in my thoughts once more.

It had been a while since Deliana and Lavina had begun to prepare the spell to remove the final seal. I was getting impatient.

Deep down I was scared... Would I become a monster? Would I start killing people?

A light knock came and the veil on the door lifted. Aquarius bowed his head to Deliana, and I wondered if he had slept with her too, since he was her guard.

Goddess, that would have been gross if I had accepted!

I looked up at Deliana once he had left the room. Her powerful gaze was on me, I tried to act normal but it was obvious she could see right through me.

“What troubles you?” She asked.

I looked down at my legs before I mustered the courage to speak the rather insulting question.

“I know sirens hate our kind... but when I shift, when the seal is lifted, will I too get the urge to enchant and kill men mercilessly?” I asked, flinching internally at how that sounded,

She raised a perfect eyebrow.

“If you hate them, yes, just as a werewolf would kill those they hate. I think you don’t realise the damage your kind has done to us, we are sworn enemies and the death of

the other pleases us. Do you know the only men that died at sea long ago were the ones who we fell in love with? Without realising the risk of our desires upon man, they drowned in our arms... So to answer your question; no, your desire to kill will not be stronger..." She replied, crossing her arms, "However, your sexual desire may be far stronger."

Great... That was all I needed.

Now it made sense why they said to use Aquarius... 1

She smiled at my obvious worry and coming over, ran her fingers through my hair.

For a moment I tensed at the intimate move of tender care, seeing her eyes soften.

"You are so young and innocent. I feared you would become a monster, just like him." She mused quietly.

I looked away, trying not to stare at her magnificent tail as she sat beside me.

It was interesting how both sides saw the other as the monsters...

"He didn't raise me. When my parents were killed and framed, he cast me aside... He only acknowledged me when he realised I was the heart." I found myself telling her.

She frowned.

"Good. You didn't need him in your life, I am glad he didn't get to spend that time as a father with you." She spat, her eyes flashing angrily.

It was obvious the hurt she felt was still extremely painful, far more than she would ever let on.

"I don't know if it helps, but the woman he thought was his chosen mate, had a spell put upon him to think she was his chosen mate." I said quietly. 1

I saw the flash of anguish in her eyes, before she tilted her head haughtily.

"I care not." She said with a coldness to her voice, despite the fact that I could hear the denial in it." Yileyna... when I chose your name, I chose it for its uniqueness and strength. In the old language of the oceans, your name stands for light. In my darkest hours, you were the one keeping me from losing my mind, the temptation to end myself had grown stronger, but I was unable to, knowing I had you within me. "She ran her fingers through my hair once more.

I furrowed my brows and looked at her curiously.

"If you chose my name... Does that mean Ariella told my parents it, or did you leave a note?"

"We left a note." She said, smiling slightly. "They are the only two werewolves that I may actually like, Ariella made the right choice."

"Did they know what I was?" I asked, my heart skipping a beat with worry at what the answer may be.

She tilted her head once more, looking up at the glowing ceiling of the room.

"The note told them that you were the illegitimate daughter of the king and to keep you safe. However, when we needed to strengthen the spells, we sent Ariella to get you. We managed to take you, however, when she was on the way to return you, your father saw Ariella as she stepped out of the ocean. Although she was in her legged form, he would have surely known what you were. But he simply took you and told her that if she wanted to see you, she needed to be more careful, if anyone was to find out that it would put you in danger. You were still so young at that time..." 1

She sighed but I couldn't stop the smile that graced my lips.

My parents knew who I was, and they loved me. 2

Goddess, they loved me for me.

The tear that perhaps if they had found out and that they may have hated me, had been something I dared not face, but now hearing that they most likely knew... Remembering how Mom told me my voice was just for her, to sing only for her... I covered my face as the tears of relief and sorrow flooded my eyes.

Could you even cry in water?

"What's wrong, my little tempest?" She asked, placing a hand on my back.

I don't know why, but I leaned into her, allowing her to hug me tightly. I couldn't explain it; yes, she was a siren, yes it was the first time I was meeting her, but somehow there was something about her gentle loving touch that reminded me of my mom, Hana.

"Hush, all will be well, you can see them soon." She whispered soothingly.

I pulled away, my eyes full of pain. I realised she didn't know that they were gone. I shook my head.

"No... they were killed a while ago." I whispered.

Her eyes saddened as she stroked my hair.

"I am sorry, I owe them a lot for taking care of you. Every time I sent Ariella to shore to observe, she said you were loved and well taken care of. I often thought she was lying to make me feel better, but they raised you well." 1

"They did." Then Theon took them from me. "Why do you call me Tempest? Even Ariella did when we were travelling by ship."

A small smile crossed her lips, and she stroked my hair.

"It was my name for you. My little Tempest."

Little Tempest...

Little Storm...

I smiled softly. "I like it."

A knock at the entrance made us both turn, to see Lavina standing there.

"The preparations are done." She said, motioning for us to come.

Deliana stood, taking my hand as she swam to the door, pulling me along with her.

The fact that the King had tried to kill her in her sleep... just imagine the person you love the most doing that... My heart squeezed painfully at the thought. I had been betrayed by my beloved too...

Stepping out into the room, there were several things set up on the ground, along with some colouring on the floor. I wonder how they got it to stay, rather than washing away... probably magic.

"Swim into the centre, Yileyna, this may hurt a little, but remember to stay calm."

I had been in enough pain, I'm sure I could handle this. I nodded before swimming into the centre of the spell markings. I glanced at Deliana, who was watching sharply, before she raised her hand and a trident appeared in it.

"One of the seven tridents of the sea, they hold immense power and can only be yielded by the rulers of the seven seas." Deliana explained..

I nodded in understanding.

Taking a deep breath, Lavina began chanting something in a hissing voice, whilst Deliana simply raised her trident and pointed it towards the circle around me.

Her eyes turned darker as I felt the surge of power that enveloped me. I closed my eyes, feeling a sudden intense coldness encase me. It got tighter and tighter, until I felt like I wouldn't be able to breathe anymore,

'Stay calm.' Deliana's voice came into my head.

Calm...

I remembered the fields that Dad took me to as a child, the buttercups and daisies I used to pick... The calmness I felt... His embrace, his laughs... Mom's kisses and cuddles... Her stories as she made me go to sleep...

Tears streamed down my cheeks as a sudden surge of emotions filled me, a wracking sob left my lips at the intensity of the emotions I was feeling. I missed them, I missed them so, so much.

'She is in a lot of internal pain, yet she hid it so well...' Lavina's murmur came.

There was no way I was able to stop the sorrow that enveloped me.

Theon tickling me playfully... Him making me coffee... Him leaving me in the snow as I tried to give him the key to the cabin... Oh how naïve I was...

Suddenly the crushing pain of the cold that seemed to encase me vanished, and I gasped as I felt an odd heaviness wash over my lower limbs. Then to my surprise, right before my eyes, I saw a beautiful tail in the place where my legs were moments ago.

Lavina gasped in awe and I had to admit my tail truly was a sight, low on my hips was where it began, in a dangerous V that dipped right to my pelvis. Blended into a shimmering pearlescent silvery blue, that dazzled and glittered like a thousand crystals, was a darker stunning blue where my knees would be, and then it went into shades of stunning purples, blues and silvers, spreading across the pair of magnificent fins at the end. Instantly I realised my tail was longer than even Deliana's. 1

I could breathe perfectly too, before it felt a bit stuffy, now it was like fresh air was surrounding me.

"A true royal." Deliana murmured with pride as she motioned to the mirror that hung on the wall. "She has the three fins at the back... Father will not be able to deny her..."

"And her eyes." Lavina added with awe.

I approached the mirror, the swimming coming a little easier than I thought it would be, and stared into it. My waist looked narrower, and my breasts were slightly larger. My skin shimmered with a pearlescent sheen... I turned and saw the three little frilly fins at

the back of my butt. My hair was much longer, it was blonde from the top, which bled into an icy blue, with the tips a stunning purple that matched the purple in my tail. 2

I looked into my eyes, framed by those lush long lashes, and saw the magical iridescent irises that stared back at me.

“... I can’t believe that’s me.” I whispered in a voice far more alluring and melodious than it used to be, turned back towards Lavina and Deliana.

“With your final seal broken. You will now be able to shift at will, to control the elements as you please, and become the queen you were born to be.” Deliana said with approval and confidence.

Somehow, those words no longer worried me, they didn’t scare me... because I was ready to be the queen I was destined to be. 2

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Chapter 104

Two days had passed, and when Deliana had said I’d feel far more desires, she had not been wrong. When I slept, I dreamt of Theon fucking me, and when I awoke, the thought irritated me, but I couldn’t deny that I often had the most explicit images in my head of him. I just felt so horny, to the point I often was tempted to invite Aquarius over for some fun, but I refrained.

I tried to focus on other things instead, learning more about the sea and the issues here. Deliana, Lavina and Ariella trained me a little, giving me tips on how to use my abilities, the way it rippled through me was so natural and felt so right.

Swimming with my tail had become easy, and it was almost as if I had been born with a tail. Deliana told me that once I went ashore, I would be able to shift into any form I wished by simply thinking it.

We were now travelling towards the Obsidian Ocean, this was where the Sea Emperor resided, the supreme ruler of the seven seas. It blew my mind how fast one could travel in siren form, our strong tails never tiring. A few days ago, I never would have thought that I would be at the bottom of the ocean, swimming with the sirens.

A tale to tell one day...

From my time with Deliana and Lavina it was obvious they did not want this war, and they had hopes I would be the one to be able to change the Sea Emperor's mind.

The closer we got, the more restless and snappy Deliana got. I knew it was because she wasn't looking forward to seeing Queseidon, knowing the truth that I was her daughter was going to be revealed and his wrath would follow.

It was several hours later when we finally reached the magnificent golden undersea castle of the imperial ruler. It was breath-taking, with several turrets and towers, jewel-encrusted doors and it oozed wealth and elegance.

We were led inside, hundreds of guards armed with spears flanked the glittering magical halls as we swam through them towards the Emperor's throne room.

King Andres... a man who had been unfair, selfish and thoughtless... Then we have Thedeon, the man who overtook us and took the position as king, but was a true tyrant... and now I was to meet a third king... one who is also hell-bent on power and revenge.

Was this why a female was chosen? I didn't know, but I hoped the ruler of the oceans was different. 1

"Her royal majesty Queen Deliana of the Aethirian Ocean, the Sea Witch Lavina, Princess Ariella and..." The merman looked at us, and Deliana stepped into the grand hall.

"Allow me." She stated haughtily as we all entered behind her, my eyes falling upon the Emperor..

He looked far younger than I had imagined he would be, with a muscular upper body and a big thick tail, which was in hues of shimmering greens and copper. His shoulder-length hair was a few shades darker than mine, with a beard.

He wore a necklace, with gold arm cuffs, and in his hand he held a trident far bigger than Deliana's. It dazzled brightly with a silvery staff, and the three-speared head was of a pearlescent silver that seemed to glow. Upon his head was a gold band. It may not be the most extravagant, but he didn't need a huge headpiece to let all know he held immense power. That trident alone was enough proof of that.

They all bowed their heads to him, and I followed suit. The door slammed shut behind us and I could feel

Queseidon's gaze upon me.

“To what do I owe the pleasure of this meeting?” His voice was as cold as his pale grey eyes as he looked upon us from his magnificent dais, where he had sat upon his huge throne.

“Father, we all do ask for your forgiveness, but there is someone I wish for you to meet.” Deliana announced gracefully.

“And you brought her.” He said with contempt, glaring at Lavina.

She smiled gracefully at the Emperor.

“It is always a pleasure to accompany my granddaughters.” She replied, taking me by surprise.

So that meant... her daughter was the mother of Deliana, Lavina was my great grandmother! And it meant that Deliana and Ariella were not half-sisters as I had begun to assume. I had learned that the king had all his children from countless sirens, the most powerful being given titles and oceans to call their own.

The emperor didn't reply, turning his gaze upon me.

“Your majesty, allow me to introduce to you the heir to the Aethirian Ocean, the Alpha of the Silver Storm Pack, and Queen of the kingdom of Astalion by right. This is Yileyna, the heart of Kaeladia itself, and the first ever triform shifter as mentioned in the prophecy of the ancient Sea Witch Olaphena.” Deliana said clearly

His frown deepened as he stared at me. It felt like his eyes were going to burn two holes into me, but I steadily held his gaze, my face calm and with no hint of challenge or disrespect in my eyes, my only aim was to show him I wasn't afraid of him.

A light seemed to radiate from around him, it became blinding but I refused to look away, the heaviness in the air was growing, and I saw Lavina, Deliana and Ariella lower their heads, shielding their faces from the sheer brightness of the glow.

“The goddess Oshera's trident itself will show you who you are facing.” His voice seemed to echo from every corner of the hall, the sea was becoming darker too, he raised his silver trident and I saw the four pale blue jewels that were decorating the trident, only adding to its beauty.

When he swung it towards me, sending a huge wave of power at me, I raised my hand in a flash, creating a barrier of ice.

A glimmer of amusement was all I saw before the blinding wave of power hit the ice, just as Deliana summoned her own trident, but then the light vanished at the same time the ice shattered.

Queseidon's face seemed to pale as the sea water became lighter once more, his trident shook in his hold and I felt an odd pull to it.

"She holds immense power." He remarked quietly, now clearly intrigued, his knuckles white, his hold incredibly tight.

"She does." Deliana responded.

He looked between us and I knew he had made the connection.

"So back then you birthed a child." It was a statement, and one that held a menacing undertone.

"Because of the prophecy, you were not told." Lavina intervened but the emperor's rage was not going to be quelled.

He looked at her murderously.

"I am the ruler of the seven seas, do you think that I want anything of land down here?" He seethed.

"She is of us too." Deliana reminded him of the obvious that he seemed to be forgetting.

"Then she must prove it by swimming with our army to land! Let's see how she is ready to kill them all." He hissed.

"I don't wish to kill anyone. What I want, and what I'm sure is the reason I am on Kaeladia, is to end this war between our kind. Why must the innocent suffer for the crimes of a few?" I asked.

He shook his head, slamming the bottom of his trident into the ground, making it tremble.

"There is no talk of negotiations here! You are not the one sitting on the throne of Astalion to be making talks of peace! You are a mere speck in a much bigger picture. Do you know how many of our kind are killed daily?! Do you know how many poachers take my people for their scales and blood? Tell me how many werewolves die per season!" He thundered.

I didn't know...

"I'll tell you! Not even a tenth in comparison to those sirens!" He raged, his eyes darkening as he rose from his seat.

"Then allow me to fix this." I countered defiantly. Deliana stepped forward.

“Father, the prophecy was made for a reason... One born from land and sea! To unite us.”

“Do not disobey me, Deliana! You committed sin by copulating with a werewolf! You should be imprisoned for your crime.”

“Please consider this your majesty. Will you sacrifice your children for something that can be prevented?” Deliana asked icily, her gaze steady as she stared at her father.

He frowned, slamming his trident on the floor once more.

Goddess, this Emperor had such a temper...

“We may manage to kill many of them, but we will also lose many in the process, your majesty.” Lavina said quietly. “Shaylena would not have wanted this.”

The emperor tensely looked down at the ground, as if suddenly remembering something, making him hesitate.

“Father, mother always wished for peace... I know she is no longer here, but she would want us to at least. Is her tail not proof of her royal blood?” Deliana said quietly, taking my hand and making me do a full turn.

I didn't understand what exactly they were looking at but I remained silent.

“You will still be punished.” He glared at her.

“Then punish her, but can you not trust in the one sent to us? We can try to make amends, I'm tired of not being able to sit on shore and enjoy the attention of the pretty legged men.” Ariella added, twisting a strand of her hair around her finger,

That sounded rather fun...

“Please, at least give me a chance. When I regain the city of Westerfell, I will put new laws in place and make sure they are enforced. It's time that we do not live in fear of one another, but cohabit in peace and without the constant threat that we may be killed. I promise I will make things better for your people and those upon land as well.” I added with determination, and I planned to.

“Very well then. I will challenge you, the triform shifter. If you fulfil the quest I bestow upon you, we will hold off our attack and give you a chance to fix things. Do you accept?”

“What is the challenge?” I asked keenly.

“Do you accept or not?” He asked dangerously, clearly wanting me to agree blindly.

Deliana frowned, giving me the slightest shake of her head.

A warning not to.

“I accept.”

I knew that he wasn't going to trust me easily, let's see what he wanted from me.

He smirked in victory.

“Then so be it. Retrieve the Pearl of the Enchanted Waves and I will give you a chance to prove your control over those animals. Fail and we attack two moons from now.”

My heart thudded at the thought that he was only giving us two months. Only two months before an army of imperial sirens stepped ashore with the aim to kill us all...

“The pearl?” Deliana looked shocked. “Father that pearl is lost..”

He shook his head.

“No, centuries ago the Naga King of the Naran Empire stole it from us, and it is said to be in his possession until this day, passing it down to his successors. I can feel it, it hasn't been moved in years. Retrieve it and I will give you the chance you want.” 2

The Naran Empire was a dry area with little to no sea or ocean in it, with dense forestry. Was it hard for the sirens to retain human form for long? Why did he want me to retrieve it? Aside from the dangers of

course.

“Only a siren can hold that pearl... if anyone else tries, they will die. What if her being a triform risks her—” Ariella was cut off when Queseidon's burning gaze turned upon her.

“Then she is not worthy to even be an heir to the Aethirian Ocean! If she is truly a siren, then this will be the proof I need.” He replied. “Remember Deliana, if your child is not strong enough, I can give the title to someone else.

“She is far more powerful than us all!” Deliana hissed, her eyes flashing.

“What is this pearl?” I asked quietly, trying to calm the tension between the daughter and father.

“You need not know.” Queseidon responded coldly.

“She must know to understand.” Deliana retorted.

Silence fell upon the room and the emperor sat down once more, before Deliana sighed and pointed towards Queseidon's trident.

"The trident of our goddess Oshera... Can you see where the head joins the staff? The pearl is meant to stay there. It had the power of healing... a power that if we had had it in our possession, my mother and the first queen of his majesty would still be alive..." She said quietly, "A pearl that can heal the deadliest of injuries and illnesses." 2

"The pearl is in the driest place in Kaeladia, a place that sirens cannot venture." Lavina explained, confirming my thoughts.

"I'm sorry about her loss... I will do this, and I will retrieve it." I promised, making up my mind despite the fact it was spinning with the high risk of this quest and the time limit I had.

"Then may Oshera be with you." The king said with a cold smile, before he looked at me with a challenge in his eyes. "Time's ticking, you should really be going. I don't trust you, no matter how much power you hold... This will prove if all you want is power, or if you truly wish to help."

His grip tightened on his trident. I realised that he didn't trust me, and if I wanted to win him over, then I needed to hurry up and retrieve the pearl to prove that I could do this.

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Chapter 105

1. A Union

CHARLENE

The day of the wedding had arrived, and I had never felt so alone. Hunter had been nothing but pleasant whenever I saw him, but it hadn't been as often as I had wanted. Being the Alpha, he was extremely busy. He had already begun to work on the team that would travel with us, sending scouts and messengers out in secrecy to our allies.

Although I had only attended one or two meetings, I realised Hunter was a man who was admirable. He was a little arrogant at times, a little teasing, quite handsome and undeniably sexy... I had seen him with his shirt open two days ago and my stomach did

not settle. Of course I wasn't ready to be intimate with him yet, but I couldn't deny that the idea was beginning to entertain my mind quite often.

I was now dressed in the lace dress that Hunter had asked the pack dressmaker to create for me, with my taste in mind. It had turned out far more beautiful than I had ever imagined it would.

My hair was left open, styled in loose waves with a braid around the crown, a few strands framed my face on either side, and my make-up was soft and elegant.

I looked pretty, but I was missing Yileyna. I always imagined her being by my side at *my* wedding, as I would be at hers.

Oh how innocent we were. Back then we would giggle and talk of marrying a handsome man, of having a magical wedding with dancing and many glasses of wine and ale.

I smiled sadly, wishing she was here. I could just picture her, bubbling with excitement and naughty words, with her arms around my shoulder telling me I looked amazing. She would whisper and tell me she wanted all the details of the wedding night and how she was happy for me...

"Luna, are you alright?" The Beta's mate, Polly, asked with concern. I blinked, realising I had tears in my eyes.

I smiled and nodded reassuringly.

"I was missing my sister." I explained gently, giving her hands a comforting squeeze.

From the moment everyone realised that I was to marry Hunter, they were already addressing me as Luna.

I did notice that there were a few who seemed irritated with this engagement, but I couldn't really blame them. Alpha Hunter was an ideal man to have by your side. Not only because I know many women would love an Alpha, but because he was handsome, strong and charming.

And he chose me.

"I'm sure when things are calm once more, we could perhaps throw an additional party." Polly suggested comfortingly.

"Thank you, Polly." I said, smiling at the woman who was only slightly shorter than me.

Her stunning brown hair was in an elegant bun, and she wore a light mint dress.

A gentle knock on the door made me turn, and I saw Gamma Grayson standing there, dressed in a smart tunic and pants.

My heart skipped a beat when I realised that I would be walked out by none other than my biological father.

“You look beautiful, Charlene.”

“Thank you, Gramma Grayson.” I replied. For a moment I wanted to tell him that he was my father, but I knew I couldn’t do that.

I had always imagined a wedding in the castle of Westerfell... full of high officials and nobles. A wedding where Dad would lead me to my groom chosen by him.

I was nervous, yet I wasn’t doubting my decision, something told me that it was all going to be perfect.

“It’s time.” He said and I nodded as he held his hand out to me. I took it, allowing him to lead me from my room.

My strapless ivory lace gown flowed around me, the flower motifs covering the entire bodice. Stopping at my hips before scattered lace flowers covered the tulle skirts. A row of button fastenings were on the back and the trail spread on the ground behind me, as I allowed Gamma Grayson to lead me down the hall towards the backyard.

“I know your father would have been proud of you. You’ve made a decision that will not only benefit this kingdom, but one chosen wisely. Alpha Hunter will also make a good partner, however rest assured we will always be there for you if you ever need us.” He said, making me smile.

I looked into his brown eyes and nodded.

“Thank you.” I whispered before I turned to the front, ready to do this...

We stepped into the open grounds, which had been decorated in garlands of flowers with a sprinkle of lanterns, the setting sun casting a radiant red glow upon the entire area.

OWS

Everyone from the pack was here, sitting upon the rows of chairs. Soft music was playing, and a bed of rose petals ran down the centre, leading to the archway where none other than Hunter stood, looking like a god. My heart thudded seeing him in a white shirt that was tucked into black pants, his hair was sleeked back, and although he was dressed smartly, it was still casual, only adding to how extremely handsome he looked

I watched as his eyes trail up my form, noticing them flash silver. My chest was heaving, and when our eyes met, I almost stopped moving at the look in his.

I didn't understand it... I didn't know why he chose me when there were so many beautiful women in his pack.

I was forced to look away from his gaze, the moment that small teasing smirk crossed his lips.

I knew everyone could hear my pounding heart, as we passed Ryan, Rhys and Raiden. The Bolton brothers gave me the thumbs up, whilst Raiden gave me a smile.

"You look beautiful, and it's obvious the Alpha is head over heels with our princess." He said through the link

I smiled slightly, and then we were stopping before Hunter.

"Please take care of the light of our pack." Gamma Grayson said to Hunter, who was now staring at me intensely, holding his hand out to me. 1

Was it my hair? I know in the sunlight it always looks like it's on fire. Yileyna said it was beautiful, but I wasn't sure, it was Hunter who had chosen the time for the wedding to take place.

"I'm afraid she is no longer the light of yours, but the light of mine." He replied the moment I placed my hand in his, making my stomach flutter nervously as he tugged me away from Gamma Grayson. 3

I looked into his eyes, trying to calm the storm of emotions within me.

"You even make the sunset fade in comparison to how beautiful you look, my Luna." He said, making a

few of his men whistle and hoot. 5

I blushed.

"Thank you... You look very handsome too." | managed to reply.

His response was that teasing smirk of his, before he kissed my hand softly, making my core knot at the way his lips grazed my hand, sending a ripple of pleasure through me.

Every time he saw me over the last few days, he would bid me farewell with a kiss on the cheek, and each time it left me a hot mess.

"I was right... sunset was the perfect time." He murmured, taking my other hand and placing both against his chest. He forced his attention away from me and looked at the huge gathering. "As everyone knows, have chosen for myself a woman to become my Luna, my mate, and my wife. Today we bear witness to this. Elder Lorenzo, proceed."

The Elder stepped forward, holding a velvet-encased plate that held two small knives.

It was time.

"Do you, Charlene Aphelion, daughter of the late king of Astalion, take Alpha Hunter Slade Carson as your husband?"

"I do." I replied softly, as Hunter placed another kiss on my knuckles.

"And do you, Alpha Hunter Slade Carson, take Charlene Aphelion as your bride?"

"Of course. Yes, I do." His confident reply came.

"Then by the gods, we witness this moment. Alpha, please proceed with the pack oath." Elder Lorenzo advised.

"Do you, Charlene Aphelion, vow to love and cherish the Iron Claw Pack, and take me Alpha Hunter Slade Carson as your Mate and Alpha?"

"I, Charlene Aphelion, vow to love and cherish the Iron Claw Pack as my own. I vow to take Alpha Hunter Slade Carson as my Mate and Alpha."

We both reached for the knives and sliced our hands, before we shook hands, binding our oath. I felt the jolt of the pack link being created, and with it, I felt the bond to my old pack break away.

A bittersweet moment, I'm sure Yileyna would have felt it too. 9

"You may mark the bride." Alpha Lorenzo said, making my heart skip a beat. 2

The marking

Hunter's eyes met mine and I forced a small smile, but he simply glanced toward the pack.

"Due to the upcoming war, I've decided that my Luna will not be marked by me, in case of my unexpected death." He proclaimed clearly, with a small smirk on his face. 1

A murmur spread through the crowd, and even Gamma Grayson looked shocked too.

My stomach plummeted and I stared at him, the thought of him dying at war...

“Don’t say that.” I said quietly.

He raised an eyebrow.

“We are barely married, and you are already going to command me?” He teased, making me blush. 1

“N—no, I just meant don’t talk about dying at war.” I murmured softly.

He cupped my face, giving me a wink.

“I will try not to. No man with a woman as beautiful as you would wish to die.”

Goddess, he was so flirty now.

I tried not paying attention to the awes and compliments that ran through the crowd.

“Mark me, My Luna.” He commanded quietly, serious once more.

He was giving me the time I had asked for, but to mark him...

I glanced at the crowds, knowing that many were going to disapprove. He was the Alpha, and an Alpha always marked his mate...

“Alpha...” Someone began, but one dangerous cold look from Hunter cut him off, and to my surprise, he grabbed me by my waist, lifting me up. I gasped, holding onto his shoulders as he smirked, slowly tilting his head to the side. He wrapped one arm around the back of *my* thighs, and my heart thumped as I looked into those taupe-coloured eyes.

“Mark me.”

“Are you sure?” I whispered.

“From the moment I laid eyes on you.” 13

I heard a few chuckles, but his words gave me confidence.

“The Alpha is head over heels.” Someone teased. But I ignored them all, bending down slightly. I brought my canines out, before I bit into his neck, hearing his heart race as I felt the bond strengthening. I slowly extracted my teeth from his skin, licking the wound slowly. My core clenched at the intimate move, and I softly placed a kiss on his neck, hearing him suck in a breath.

‘Thank you.’ I whispered through our newly formed bond.

His hand gripped the back of my head before he pulled me down, placing a peck on my cheek before lowering me to my feet.

“Applaud your Luna.” He commanded, making the crowds burst into cheers and howls.

I had never thought that I would ever be the Luna of the Pack on the borders of the Naran Empire, but here I was, and I was excited about the future. I looked at Hunter and smiled softly. Something told me he was going to be the perfect mate...

“Congratulations, Alpha Hunter, Luna Charlene.” Elder Lorenzo said as we finished our vows.

“Thank you.” I responded.

Hunter turned to the people, and taking my hand, raised it..

“Tonight we celebrate our Luna, we drink and we feast, and tomorrow... tomorrow we prepare for a battle.”

Everyone cheered, and although his words held the ominous reminder of what was to come, everyone was still very happy.

I stared into the eyes of the man who had made a bond with me, the pleasant sparks of that bond which was now partially formed. They may not be as strong as those of a fated mate, but it was a bond that had been made. His scent was slightly stronger, I had the urge to lean into him and take a long whiff. He smelled very good.

He now placed his hand on my waist as several people came to congratulate us, starting with Gamma Grayson and the boys.

“Congratulations.” Ryan said, giving me a hug before Raiden and Rhys hugged me too.

“Drinks for the bride and groom!” Someone shouted.

“Do you drink, My Luna?” Hunter asked as I was about to reach out to take a glass from the tray.

“A little, yes.” I replied, pausing,

Hunter smirked, taking two glasses.

“Then let’s keep it to a little...” He said quietly. Because I want My Luna to be in her right mind tonight.’ He added through the mind link. 1

My heart thudded, and my eyes widened as I looked at him, he simply smirked.

'Don't worry, I won't touch you, not unless you want me to.' His husky voice came through the link as his eyes skimmed over my heaving chest, leaving me a giddy mess...