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If there was a word greater than fear and confusion, Chaska would've sure used it on herself at that

moment.

Her eyes dimmed and grew lustreless; all eyes were already turning at her.

"What?" Alpha Frosty couldn't hold down his amusement.

"This is unbelievable" Nosheba scoffed, loud enough to her hearing. Shilah was just shockingly quiet; and Dakota – as his eyes stared at Chaska, she could see the shock and disappointment in them. His silence screamed so many words. "Why would you want to do this to me?" Amina suddenly said, holding the necklace tightly to her chest with both hands like her life depended on it.

Tears were still streaking her cheeks. "Tell me, Queen Chaska; why would you want to punish me this way? Aside this visit, we've never met before; I've never.... wronged you in anyway. So tell me – why would you want to end my life?!!" Chaska lowered her gaze to her empty bag on the floor and shook her head. "This is not.... This is not possible" her voice was nearly inaudible.

"It's not possible. I didn't do it...."

"But it was in your bag!" Amina yelled tearfully. The fear of losing her life was still flashing in her memory. "From the moment you stepped foot here, I knew you were dubious, wicked! You even had to mock your co-wife simply because she came from a poor background. You're just so evil!"

Shilah swallowed heavily.

"Listen" Amina sniffled.

"I know you're wicked and bittered, but trying to kill me Was it really necessary?". "I didn't try to kill you" Chaska looked up at her, her blotchy eyes trying so hard to hold back the tears. "I didn't do anything! I don't know what's going on...." "Are you sure about this, Chaska? Because the necklace was found in your bag". Nosheba chipped in. "I..... I don't know how it got in" Chaska stuttered fearfully. Her eyes turned to Shilah.

That witch! What has she done??? What did she do??? She could remember vividly – she had gone into her room, placed the necklace in her bag and left afterwards. How did it possibly get into her own bag??? How??? She looked at Bay next. She

was the only one that knew about it. But, Bay was looking both terrified and shocked.

The hall had already become noisy as all the maids whispered amongst themselves. Chaska didn't need anyone to tell her how far and fast this news was going to spread.

"Uh.... "Alpha Frosty cleared his throat.

"A... Amina, I think the important thing here is, you've gotten the ring. So, you should...." "But, if we hadn't searched her bag, I'd still be crying by now and probably be dead in two days time!" She cried out.

"Forgive me, Alpha King" she bowed to Dakota. "But this woman over here doesn't deserve to be your Queen. You're too pure and kind to have such a beast beside you for a wife!" a

And with that, she ran away in tears. Bay followed. Chaska couldn't even feel her feet touching the floor anymore. Her heart kept summersaulting in her chest repeatedly as she took her teary gaze to the floor. No; This moment.... everything – it should be happening to Shilah, not her. This was exactly what she had planned out for Shilah!

She felt Dakota's cold, admonitory gaze on her, but the panic in her heart wouldn't dare her to look at him. And in that silent mode, he turned around and walked out of the hall. Not walk, but storm.

He stormed out in anger.

That was the moment Chaska lifter her teary eyes to look at him, staring at his back as his long robe swept the floor in swift steps. That anger ...she knew how dangerous Dakota could get when he's angry. Good Spirits; he was going to hate her forever.

Alpha Frosty ran after him, the guards following up as well. They had to run because mere walking steps wouldn't be able to get to him with the pace he was using.

"Tsk tsk" Nosheba clicked her tongue, moving some steps from her spot.

"This is so disappointing, Chaska. I can't believe you just embarrassed the King this way. I can imagine the headline: *King Dakota's first wife, involved in a theft".

She shook her head scornfully and walked away.

Chaska was already breathing heavily, her breath coming quick and short. While the maids packed up the Queen's bags, Shilah remained standing and wondering if she could perhaps, go to console the Queen. But, Why would she be involved in a theft? It just didn't make any sense. "What're you staring at???" Chaska suddenly yelled at her, and Shilah was shaken due to the vibration from her voice.

Blessed Spirits...It echoed with so much.... venom, anger, hate.

Immediately, Chaska scurried away, packing her big dress from the tip.

By the time she got outside, The King was already on his horse. And he shot her a deadly glare before pulling the collar-rope of the horse and getting it on its hooves. The rest of the guards rode after him immediately. And as Chaska climbed onto her own horse, she could feel all eyes on her. It felt more like.... the entire world was staring at her at that moment.

And shamefully, she got her horse on its way.

They rode for hours. And at some point, Chaska had to let out a tear from her eye since she wasn't being watched. Her whole life, she's never felt this insulted, this humiliated. How did this even happen? 14 Her mind wouldn't stop pondering over the King. He was going to hate her for this. She didn't even need anyone to tell her about it for the anger in his eyes said it all. How does she make him understand what happened? How does she get out of this mess? Oh! Shilah; she couldn't believe she had gotten humiliated because of that lady! There was noway she could've known the ring was planted in her bag. So, what in the name of Selene happened? Her head was banging so hard; she needed to get this. Needed to understand what was happening. 6

After what seemed like forever, they finally arrived at the palace when it was dark. Dakota climbed down from his horse even before the guards and started walking in immediately. Everyone stopped and bowed as he walked pass them and could all tell something was wrong with the King. He was looking so angry. The guards – including Raksha – was hovering around him. And as soon as Chaska got down from her own horse, she started running after him. "My King! My King!" She had to run faster and was only able to catch up with him in the hallway. "Please, you have to listen to me! I don't know anything about that; it was obviously a setup. Someone set me up so I'd look bad in front of everyone" she said from behind with hastened steps. She didn't even mind the quards around, or Nosheba and Shilah who were behind as well. "Please, you have to listen to me. You know me, My King, I'm not a thief..." And swiftly, Dakota whirled around to look at her, eyes so furious, she could barely stand it. "Can you swear by the moon that you don't have a hand in what happened?" He asked coldly, making sure Chaska was staring into his eyes as well. 3 "Of course, I...,' she wanted saying something, something defensive – to tell him she didn't put the ring in her bag and had no plans of taking it home

But that wasn't the question and the realization dawned on her,

She had a hand in it – but this wasn't her plan!

Oh! Dear Selene; she couldn't swear by the goddess. She'd be lying and the consequences would be immense; she might even lose her life. So, completely losing her defense, she lowered her rueful gaze to the floor as she was unable to stare into the King's eyes any more. A tear slipped her eye.

Dakota shook his head, realizing she couldn't swear, which only meant she was guilty. Stunned silence ran across the hall. "You're worst than a disgrace, Chaska" he snorted. & "You rubbed my face in the mud right in front of my minions; made me look like a fool and a careless man". His hands were fisted beside him and..Oh; it was taking him so much not to use them.

Angrily, he turned around to leave.

"Please..!" Chaska called back.

"It's not what you think...."

"Stay away from me, Chaska" his voice was rasped. "I do not wish to see you for many weeks". . His last words ripped Chaska's heart apart and as she watched him walk away, she knew she was doomed.

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Chaska's heart wrenched in her chest as she saw the King walking away. The shame, the guilt, the fear – they all made her legs freeze and unable to move, *I do not wish to see your for weeks" the King's words replayed in her head. Did he just.... Did he just say that? In front of the guards? The maids? Nosheba and Shilah?

Another tear came dropping from her eye and she followed it up with a sniff. Then finally, deciding to swallow the shame, she turned around and ran away – ran past Nosheba who had a scrawl on her face, and Shilah who was looking dumb. All the maids paved way as she ran pass them, not wanting to get involved in anyway as they knew she could kill someone at that moment.

She ran down the hallway in tears and took a long time before getting to her room which she entered angrily and banged the door. Alone and dejected, she slid herself to the floor and bursted into uncontrollable tears. For the first time in over ten years, she cried – cried like a child.

She's never been so embarrassed before; so insulted and disgraced in public. How could this happen?. & All she wanted was to fix Shilah in her place. Instead, she ended up being insulted all the way from the Red Moon Pack. Oh, no!

She continued crying, her head on the floor as she laid sideways on it.

A knock came upon the door, but she didn't bother answering. It was Gina.

"My Queen! Please, can you open the door?" The worried voice asked.

"GET AWAY FROM ME!!" Chaska yelled in her peril. "I don't want to see anyone! Just go!!!" She laid back on the floor and resumed crying.

Shilah had been really surprised at what happened. And the King's words... telling Queen Chaska he didn't want to see her for weeks – that was really harsh. Before getting to her room, she decided to check up on Dyani and her child and hope she was fine; and thankfully, she was.

Afterwards, she didn't hesitate to tell Dyani what had happened as that was her only friend. And Dyani, of course, was shocked. She never thought Chaska could do such a thing. "I only know Queen Chaska to be wicked and selfish, I never thought she could be a thief as well" Dyani had remarked.

The two ladies went on chit-chatting about every other thing.

TWO DAYS LATER

Chaska had been in her room the whole time, trying to get over it; trying to heal.

It's been two days already and the full moon was that very night. For the past two days, she hadn't left her room or let the sunlight touch her skin; it's just indoors. Eating – indoors, bathing – indoors. Only her maid and daughters were coming in to see her. And aside them, no one else.

Although, for the past two days, she fervently prayed to the Moon goddess to touch the King's heart and make him forgive her, even if that was so impossible. She knew the King too well, and she knew he was doing her a favor by not giving her a severe punishment after what she did.

But Bay – she thought.

Bay must've been the one that set her up. Well, it only made sense because she was the only one that knew about it. But, why would she do such to her? She trusted her! 3

Well, either ways, She was going to have her revenge and make her pay! s

Chaska was just standing in front of the window – gazing out at the people moving about. She's missed doing that – moving about. But how would she able

to when everyone would probably treat her with so much disrespect? Staring at her with eyes of a thief? How was she possibly going to gain her respect and walk freely like she used to? She shook her head pitifully, and just then, a knock was heard on her door.

"Who's it?" She asked without turning, and the next thing that followed was the sound of the door going

open.

She still didn't bother to know who it was, but not until she heard that annoying voice:

"Hello Chaska". She turned quickly and her eyes darkened when she found Nosheba standing in her room. The hell!! It was her??? She had no idea! "What're you doing here?" She snapped, feeling so irritated with the satisfying smile she had on her face. "Calm down, will you?" Nosheba chuckled.

"I don't mean any harm anyway- just came to check up on my co-wife who hasn't been out of her room for days".

Cold blood ran through Chaska's head as her words stung at her.

"Anyway, how're you doing?" Nosheba asked, taking a step closer. "How I'm doing should be none of my business. Just say it to my face – Nosheba. You're here to laugh at me. Well, sorry I'm not crying". Chaska said. Nosheba looked at her face and noticed how pale it looked. It it was obvious being indoors like a prisoner was doing no good to her.

"Your face is horrible, Chaska. Please don't ask me to look again" she sniggered.

"Oh!! Get out of my room, Nosheba! I don't want to see you here!!" Chaska yelled, the vein lines on her forehead deepening. One thing she hated was letting her enemies see her defeat. Urgh! She hated it so much!

"Don't bite yourself, Chaska, I'll be leaving soon" Nosheba rolled her eyes "But first, I just have a question: What did it feel like, watching the King embarrass you in front of everyone? What it did feel like.... hearing him say those words to you? Telling you he didn't want to see you for weeks?"

Chaska said nothing, and Nosheba took another step closer. "What did it feel like.... watching what you planned out for another, happening to her?" She added in a whisper and Chaska's lips parted open in a light gasp. Her jaws dropped helplessly as her nerves grew cold. What? Nosheba's tiny lips stretched in a smirky smile and instantly, the reality dawned on Chaska. Nosheba.... she had seen her coming out of Shilah's room...! Oh, no. Shock ran through her.

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"It was you" the shocked words came as a whisper.

"It was It was you". "Yes dearest, it was me" Nosheba scoffed. "I saw when you had entered Shilah's room and knew how long you spent. I also knew Shilah wasn't in the room as I had seen her going into the King's room. And when you came out and looked all nervous, I knew something was wrong.

"So, I went in myself and something in my guts told me you did something in that room. Then, I thought to myself: where else could you plant aside her bag which was the only thing she came with? So, I digged and emptied the bag. And guess what I found? The Queen's precious necklace" Nosheba paused and laughed. "I knew your plans, Chaska; knew you'd want to do something fishy. And so, I was at alert" she continued.

"Tell you what; I wouldn't had stopped you or interfered in your plans. I mean, I hate Shilah as much as you do, but.... recall that day we were hunting in the woods, and you mocked me with the death of my mother? I told you were going to pay and fortunately, I found a perfect way to do it. Trust me, it was so much fun watching you cry in front of the King..." "You snake!" Chaska yelled, fisting her hands tight.

Her eyes were already threatening tears. "I promise you, you'll pay for this! I'll make you pay!" Nosheba only laughed scornfully, throwing her head backwards. "That's what you get for messing with me, Chaska": she grinned. "So next time, you leave my family out of your wretchedness". And with that, she turned around and started walking to the door, leaving Chaska who was already boiling with anger "How would you also feel if I told you I'd seen Prince Raksha, sneaking out of your room late at night?"

Chaska asked and Nosheba stopped walking immediately, she could her heart stop beating. Her face grew pale as a crumpled look crept in. What? Slowly, she turned around to look at Chaska, trying so hard to look defensive. "I don't know what you're talking about" she said. . "Really?" Chaska scoffed.

"I saw him, Nosheba; and I think you have some explaining today. Perhaps, I'm not the only one who has something to hide". "I'm not hiding anything! Raksha wasn't in my room, you have no prove. And even if he was in my room, it must've been a matter of urgency". Nosheba snapped. Her fear was making her angry.

"You think so?" Chaska smirked. "You should know me, Nosheba – when I put my mind to digging things, I'd know everything I want". 3 "Yet, you couldn't know I was the one who planted the ring in your bag" Nosheba chipped in immediately. "Just get over your own misery Chaska and stop trying to drag others with you" she added and walked away.

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Nosheba felt so bittered as she returned to her room with heavy steps. Her baby was just there on the bed- sleeping. But she didn't even pay attention to her as she had more troubles on her mind. Chaska! She couldn't believe the witch had seen Raksha leaving the room. Oh! Raksha! That was the reason she had been scared of him coming over at that time.

What does she do? She couldn't afford getting caught or exposed – not at all.

She bit her nail and plonked herself on the bed, covering her face with her palms.

Raksha; she could remember how they met.

When she was still single, she had met him at the market place and was so rude to him when he accidentally stepped on her toes. She didn't even mind the fact that he was a Prince and also the King's beta; she just poured out her heart and walked away. Days later, they met again at a riverbank and instead of being vengeful, Raksha was playful with her and told her he liked her boldness.

They got to be friends that day, but after that, they never saw again for a year. Well, not until she met the King and had to marry him. Then, met with Raksha again at the palace.

She sighed and lifted her face from her palms. She just needed one thing from him, and that was a male child. And she couldn't let Chaska or anyone else ruin it.

Perhaps, she needed to be more careful.

The full moon.

It was coming – approaching with it intensity. As the evening drew near, jackals that already had control over their wolf didn't have a problem and were moving around like nothing was even happening. But talking about people like Dakota – their heart was already filled with fear and rage.

The fear was there – of course, as he detested the things the full moon does to him. And the rage was there as part of it's attributes. He couldn't even imagine how he'd get so violent; so angry, so destructive... he hated it! As he sat in front of his table and wrote on his scrolls, he kept condemning and tearing off so many pages due to the countless mistakes he was making. His head just wasn't right; everything just wasn't right.

The door went open when he was trying to write on the fifth scroll and he knee instantly it was Pishan. His head still bowed and focused on the scroll, he listened to his steps as he walked in.

"Greetings My King" Pishan bowed as he stood in front of him.

Dakota said nothing – not being in the mood for the good behaviours. And Pishan understood. "How're you feeling, My King?" He asked, even if he already knew the answer. "You shouldn't be asking that, Pishan" Dakota grumbled.

"You know how I feel already. It's one of my worst days – a day where I become a monster".

Pishan's strict face melted. The King's words on every full moon usually breaks him. "My King.." he took a step closer.

"Everything will be fine..."

"Fine?' Dakota cut him off, looking up at him,

"Over ten years now and you still believe everything will be fine? The full moon turns me into a monster to my own people. The last two Moon, I killed three people and nearly killed you as well. Tonight, who knows what's going to happen? Who I'd be killing this time around?" a

"You'll kill no one...." 1 "A night that makes me lose control of the King I am" Dakota cut him off, acting like he didn't even notice him. "A night that breaks me and brings out my destructive jackal, turning me into an uncontrollable monster where I thirst for blood and crave to watch people die, Chains can't even hold me back. How can it possibly be fine, Pishan?",

Pishan's heart twitched in his chest. "Mato said he has new chains he'd be using today. They can hold you back". "Oh, please! That was what he said the last time" Dakota snorted. "Just leave me, Pishan, and stop trying to defend my curse. Don't worry, I'll get over it" he picked up his inked feather and tried resuming * "My King...." "I need some quiet time, Pishan" Dakota cut him off.

"Perhaps, when it's time to take me to the cave, you can return". Pishan could decipher the anger echoing in his voice already. At this point, he could get really violent if he was being argued with, So..not wanting to get on his baddest side, Pishan bowed and left.

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It was towards evening.

Shilah stood nervously in front of the King's room and awaited the guard to return with feedback. Hopefully, he'd return with better news this time around. 2

Shortly, he did return. "The King is ready to see you" he gave a positive reply which brightened Shilah's heart. "Thank you" she bowed gratefully and went in. She had been trying so hard to see the King for days and felt so thankful she was finally able to do so. She was worried about him and kid wanted to know if there was something she could do to help – maybe, make him some tea or.... something else.

She walked into the quiet room and found the King standing next to the window, his hands crossed at his back, looking like a calm Alpha. For the first time, Shilah's didn't find him reading, or writing. Instead, he was just facing the window quietly, looking like someone deep in thoughts. The room was quiet and calm, perhaps because the owner was calm as well. And as Dakota faced the window, he could tell Shilah was the one in the room.

"Greetings, My King" Shilah bowed, her both hands clasped in front of her. Dakota said nothing, just continued staring quietly from the window. And Shilah decided to say something else. "Um.... My King; I was just wondering if you'd want me to do anything for you. You haven't called for my attention for some days now" she counted her words, trying so hard not to say anything off point as she wouldn't want to get him more upset than he already looked.

It took Dakota what seemed like forever to finally breathe some words. "Thank you, Shilah; but I don't need anything from you for now" he replied, still backing her with his gaze fixed on the window. Shilah swallowed hard and tried keeping her pounding heart calm. The pain in his voice was just too obvious; something was definitely wrong with him.

Shilah turned around to leave since there was nothing left for her to do, but her guts were stopping. Then, she turned to face the King again.

"M.... My King, are you alright?" She let it out – that exact question she's been meaning to ask him for a long time now. Her eyes were beaming bright as they stared at him when he cocked his head to the side.

"Have I ever been alright?" He scoffed, making Shilah flinch. He exhaled deeply and turned his face completely back to the window. "I'll get over it, Shilah" he said. "I've been getting over it for the past ten years and know I would this time around. The pain might only last for a couple of days or so, but I'll be fine".

Shilah could feel her heart summersaulting in her chest as the words left his lips. For someone as strong and ruthless as the King to have broken down in such manner, she knew it was extreme... Tears built up at her brink, but of course, she wasn't ready to let it out. She wanted to say something – anything at all – but was unfortunately out of words.

"I need to be alone, Shilah" he finally said, dispelling any thoughts Shilah had in mind.

Completely speechless and still confused, she swallowed hard, turned around and left.

Two Hours Later, and the moon was already making it's way to the sky. Dakota could be seen on the bed with his head in his palms, his heart racing so fast. His head was burning as he could feel the heat of the moon already.... that cruelty.

The door went open and he could perceive the scent of Pishan and the Physician.

"My King, it's time" Pishan spoke hastily and Dakota lifted his head from his palms to look at them.

They could see his eyes getting sore already. "The horses ready? The chains?" He asked fraily. "Yes. Everything, My King" the Physician replied and taking a deep breath, King Dakota stood up. "When you're done chaining me, you should leave the cave" he said grumpily without looking at their faces.

Pishan and the Physician glanced at each other; no matter what, they weren't ready to abandon their King in a dark cage, left in chains. Was never going to happen – especially for someone like Pishan. "Let's go" Dakota said and led the way.

Shilah stood in front of the window, just facing out as the full moon crept slowly into the dark sky. The night was special and wasn't just like every other night. Of course, the night of the full moon has always been too unique for every mountain Lion. Too bad, Shilah has never experienced it before.

She watched as the palace would be void with people walking around, and then the next minute, three people would just run by. They were already feeling the heat and didn't know how to control it. Shortly, she heard a knock on your door. That gentle knock-only Dyani could act that way. She went for the door and on opening it, confirmed it was really Dyani.

"Hello, Shilah Dyani beamed. "H-hi. Good evening" Shilah smiled and stepped away for her to walk in. Obviously, Dyani was one of those that could control her wolf as she wasn't reacting yet. "How're you doing?" Dyani asked, going to the window where Shilah had been standing. Since it was opened, it looked attractive for a view.

"I'm.... I'm fine. And you?" Shilah replied.

Her conversation with the King was just getting into her head and making her act cranky. "Well, I'm good" Dyani shurgged. Meeting with the fresh air from the window, Dyani exhaled deeply, loving it. And Shilah went closer to stand with her.

"The full moon doesn't affect you, does it?' Shilah asked. "Not at all" Dyani shook her head with a smile. "I was trained real hard to overcome that".

Shilah nodded and for the next few minutes, they were both silent.

"The King has gone to the cave already" Dyani broke the silence, making Shllah look at her with muddled eyes.

Huh?

"Cave? What cave?" She asked, sounding really oblivious and Dyant spared her a glance, "Don't you have any idea?" She asked. "Every full moon, there's a particular cave he goes to where he gets chained to prevent his wolf from escaping. But, I heard it's always futile as his wolf was always stronger than the chains", Shilah was getting more confused. His wolf? "Are you trying to say....The King doesn't have control over his wolf?"

She asked in shock and Dyani bobbed her head. "My goodness! So, you actually don't know?" She asked, amused. "The King is cursed. The curse makes it difficult for him to eat, sleep act calm.... Every full moon, it's always worst as the curse makes his wolf destructive. He could kill anyone around him at that point as he becomes a beast. The King hates it so much, but unfortunately, there's nothing he can do" Dyani enthused.

Shilah could feel her head spinning heavily; spinning so bad. Her eyes were nearly rolling out of it's sockets. The King was under a curse? Suddenly, his words came flashing back into her head: *I've been getting over it for the past ten years and know I would this time around. The pain might only last for a couple of days or so, but I'll be fine*.

Oh, no! This was the reason he has been in so much pains, the reason he's been sad and scared. The Moon was going to turn him into a beast tonight. She gasped and sat back on the bed, looking weary.

Dyani turned to look at her.. "Hey, are you alright?" She asked, but Shilah could say nothing as she cogitated. The King was in pains and the realization dawned on her. He didn't want to be what he was; didn't want to be a beast.

That was the reason he kept acting strangely for the past few days, shutting everyone out. It was because of the King

Dyani guessed she was being affected by the King's condition and sat next to her. "I feel bad for him too, you know?" She began. "The King, since I know him, has always been a sad man with mundane responsibilities. If he wasn't writing, he was reading; if he wasn't reading, he was checking out some vital things in the pack.

If he wasn't doing that, he was going on visitations or meetings. He's just. .." She paused and sighed. "He's just been a burdened King with no fun and despite the fact that I'm not close to him, I still feel really bad for him". Her words seemed to affect Shilah the more as she sniffled in some tears.

The King was hurting so bad – his grumpiness and everything – they were all a result of the unfortunate circumstances around him. Unfortunate King.... She bent her head and sniffled.

"I wish there was something I could do to help": She muttered ruefully. And as soon as the words left her lips, an idea struck into her head. Her eyes beamed as she gasped and looked at Dyani. Oh, no! Maybe there was something she could really do to help!!!

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"What is it?" Dyani asked, staring at Shilah's bemused face.

"Nothing; I just ... I just have an idea" Shilah smiled.

What if she makes some tea for him? But this time around, she wouldn't just pray for him to fall asleep, she'd pray for his wolf to become calm and feel relaxed. Yes! That might work since her prayers has always been answered by the Moon goddess. "Do you know the cave he's being taken to? (This novel will be daily updated at www.novelheart.com)" She aaked, standing up already.

"Of course. But why are you asking?"

"Can you take me there?" Shilah asked and Dyani sprang on her feet. 1 "I don't understand. Why would you want to go there?" She asked, looking surprised and confused. "I just have an idea. I.....I plan on making something for the King that would make him calm. I'm not definite it'd work or not, I just want to give it a try. So please, can you take me there?" Shilah sounded enthusiastic. "Sorry, but this sounds crazy" Dyani shook her head.

"It's dark already, Shilah and the King might've probably turned by now. You can't go there...." "Please, can I just give it a try? Please.... I just want to do something". Her eyes were pleading and her desperation to help stunned Dyani. She shook her head and stared downwards. "Fine. But, I won't go with you to the cave. I'd only point it out for..." "Yes: yes. I'm fine with that. Thank you. I'll go make the tea now" Shilah beamed and ran out of the room.

The cave was dark and quiet, and after they'd arrived, the Physician had to set up a fireplace to lot the place up. 0 Dakota could be seen standing against the wall with Pishan and the Physician in front of him, preparing the chains. It hurt him so much to know they were getting it ready for him – to chain him like a worthless animal, an animal that'd definitely go out of control soon enough. "This chain was made from one of the strongest metals, My King" Mato, the Physician said like he had been reading the King's fear.

"I just have this belief it'd be strong enough to hold you down into the full moon has passed".

But Dakota said nothing as those lines sounded so familiar to him over the past few years.

His heart was heavy; heavy because he was about to become something he didn't want to be. A strong wave of head ache hit hard at him and he grunted and held his head. "My King...!" Pishan tried going closer to him, but Dakota signaled him to stop. "Just hurry up with the chains" he gritted. Pishan glanced at the Physician, then returned his eyes back to the chains and tried being fast.

Finally, he was done and walked closer to the King, fear and resentment written on his face. He hated the fact that he had to be the one to carry out such tasks. 3

"Just get on it" Dakota urged when he noticed he was stalling and Pishan went ahead with it. (This novel will be daily updated at www.novelheart.com) The Physician had to come over for assistance and together, they chained the King's hands to both sides of the wall.

His legs were chained as well – now looking like a man who was indeed, about turning into a beast.

Dakota let out a muffled grunt as he felt another strong wave of head ache hit hard at him and the Physician could tell, the Full moon was up in the sky already.

"You two should leave" The King gruffed.

"I want to be left alone". "You should know that's not...." Before Pishan could get the words out of his mouth, Dakota let out a deep growl as his knees gave out and hit the hard floor. The chains rattled but didn't breake lose. And although, the view was already a normalcy to Pishan, it still broke his heart to see the King passing through such. "You should leave" Dakota said in deep breaths but Pishan shook his head stubbornly. "You should know me already, King. I'm going nowhere". He replied, ignoring the voices in his head that tried reminding him of what happened the last time.

"Argh!" Another roar left Dakota's lips as this time around, veins crawled up to his neck. "LEAVE!!" He growled angrily, his tone beginning to change already. Pishan said nothing but swallowed hard. And right there in his eyes, the King began breaking. Mato was already taking some steps back as he noticed the chains were becoming weak.

Bones cracking, grunts and snorts and fabrics ripping off from skin could be heard as the King shifted rapidly. He roared repeatedly, exposing the sharp fangs which had replaced his canine teeth. Furs grew out of his skin and his eyes glowed red. He was experiencing both pains and anger. Pishan tried not to be startled as he watched him, and in a few seconds, a big, white, red-eyed wolf stood at the position where the King had been standing.

This time around, it was evident enough – that wasn't Dakota, but the bad cursed wolf who was only hungry for blood. He stared at Pishan with those bloody eyes and let a growl. The Physician couldn't take it anymore, and in fear, he started running for the exit. But, it was too late to run; too late for him and Pishan.

Shilah and Dyani had seen a lot of wolves on their way through the woods, but fortunately, they didn't hurt them.

They didn't need a lantern or anything as the big full moon up in the sky made the entire place so bright. Dyani told Shilah a story of how her father would tell she and her siblings scary stories on every full moon. He'd call them out and make them sir out in the open, under the blueish atmosphere and tell them fabricated stories. They usually called it *tales by the full moon*

Shilah, on the other hand, didn't have a story to tell as she had never turned and didn't know what the full moon felt like.

"I think this is where I need to stop" Dyani suddenly stopped walking, and so did Shilah. 2

Looking around, Shilah could only see more bushes and nothing else. "The cave is that way" Dyani pointed out. "Just walk straight and you'll find it. I'm really sorry Shilah, but I can't go farther than this". "It's fine; it's fine, and I perfectly understand. Really, I'm grateful" Shilah said with a bow.

The well covered tea was properly held in her hands "Alright, then. I wish you luck" Dyani tapped her arm and walked away, while Shilah took in a deep breath and proceeded.

The Red-eyed wolf let out a deep roar as he charged towards Pishan who had started running for the exit already. Just four leaps and the wolf had gotten out to where Pishan was, close to the exit. He got hold of his leg and swept him off the ground. "Urgh!" Pishan grunted irresistibly as he pushed the wolf off and managed to make it to the exit, but he knew Dakota's wolf was undefeatable.

Before he could take three steps away from the exit, the wolf had already attacked him and pushed him roughly to the ground, and he groaned painfully. He ran it's claws across his face and twice on his right leg, it hurt Pishan so bad. "Dakota!!!" He yelled out the name, trying to see if he could get to him, but it was impossible as the angry wolf hit him hard in the jaw until passed out.

The Physician was ahead and trying to run as fast as possible, but the angry wolf left Pishan's unconscious body on the floor and went after him. . In a split second, he caught up with the old man and dragged him off his feet. "No! No! Please!" Mato cried out as he stared into the red glowing eyes of the wolf, but the Wolf was a friend to no one as it scratched it's claws around his neck and made him pass out.

A deep roar left it's mouth as it lifted it's head and looked up to the sky, and fearfully, the tea cup fell off from Shilah's hands. She gasped with a flinch, her

eyes dimming at the horrible sight in front of her – the big white wolf standing in front of the bleeding unconscious body.

Her fear had attracted the attention of the wolf who turned and looked at her. Finding a young lady in front of him, all it could feel was that thirst of blood.

Shilah was already shaking at the spot as her eyes got locked with that of the deadly wolf. Dyani's words came flashing into her head in echoes, but it was already too late to make amends as she was already in the lion's den. The wolf barked at her and moved it's dew claw. It increased Shilah's fears. No; this was beyond her control. She never thought of this. And letting out a loud scream, she turned around and started running away, but the wolf went after her.