

Charmed and Dangerous

There was a lot of people here. More than I had expected. I was a bit uneasy at first, but Thea looked so excited that at once it melted away. The festival was wildly decorated and there were so many activities around that she couldn't help but point out them all. "Wow look at that! Woah look over there! That's so cool!" she exclaimed as she dragged me alongside her. She looked back at me and I couldn't help but smile back. "I'm sorry, I get excited," she smiled shyly. "No, no! it's okay!" I exclaimed. "I like that you're happy, I like your smile," I blushed. Her grey eyes shrunk as her smile widened, "Awesome, well if that's the case. There's this spot I've heard about that has the best view at midnight. Want to search for it with me?" I pondered it for a moment. I wasn't sure it was such a good idea to be wandering around the woods so late at night. Normally, I wouldn't have hesitated. It's not like we could get lost, with my power over the elements I could navigate the earth like the back of my hand. But there was something... off. Something that was nagging at me. I brushed it off. I was just nervous, "Sure Thea, let's go on an adventure."

We had been walking in the woods for what seemed like a long time. It was dark, damp, and cold. However, Thea didn't seem to notice or mind. She walked thru the woods with her same confidence, kind of like she knew where she was going. "I hope this place is everything I'd heard about," she said, breaking the silence that we had been walking in. I noticed that the closer we got, the weirder Thea got. I chalked it up to nerves as well, "I hope so too, we've come so far to be disappointed." "Disappointed," she whispered to herself in an exasperated tone. I stopped in my tracks, "Hey, if you're having second thoughts about the date we can always go back. I don't mind. I don't want to make you uncomfortable." She looked at me with sad grey eyes, "No that's not it...." she trailed off staring at me and growing sadder. "Look, we're here," she pointed

north. We walked thru a few more trees and came upon a clearing. I immediately could see why she had been so intent on finding this place. It was beautiful. Like something out of a story book, large weeping trees, bunches of beautiful purple flowers, and above, the moon graced the clearing with light. “Wow Thea, this place is beautiful,” I breathed out, turning around to meet her gaze. I met her tear-filled eyes and was broken from my illusion. I placed my hands on either side of her, “What’s wrong?” I asked concerned. “Seth, I’m so sorry,” she cried. “Sorry? Sorry for what?” confusion clearly coloring my voice. She inhaled slowly and opened her eyes. I jumped as I saw her grey irises consume her entire eyes and darken to make one solid storm cloud color. She exhaled purple smoke and it rushed to meet my face immediately. The last thing I heard was Thea weeping, “She made me.” Everything went black.

I woke up chained to a tree in the clearing. It was much less beautiful holding me hostage. I coughed and choked trying to catch my breath. I willed the air to come to me and the wind cleared my airway, soothing it. “What is going on?!” I demanded. “Thea!” I shouted, still more concerned than anything. “That’s quite some power you have, Seth,” the voice came from the woods. I searched for the exact place it came from when the figure entered the clearing. “Doctor Selene??” What was going on here?? “Hello Seth, it’s good to see you again,” she smiled kindly. That smile sent chills down my spine and the feeling I had earlier at the entrance of the festival returned. “What do you want? Where’s Thea?” panic rising in my voice. “Ah yes, my star, Thea!” she called. Shadows began to gather next to Selene and out from them stepped Thea. “I believe a proper introduction is in order. Seth, meet Thea. Daughter of Asmodeus,” Selene sounded proud. I had to rack my brain a bit, trying to recall myths and legends. It hit me. “Asmodeus, as in, one of the seven kings of hell??” I was astonished. I had always known magic was too vast for only witches and warlocks to exist. This though, not what I had expected. “Ah!

Precisely,” Selene beamed like all the pieces were coming together. I looked at Thea, she was sobbing, “I’m sorry Seth, I didn’t want to! She made a deal with my dad. I had to fulfill his side of it,” her voice broke. “So, it’s true? You’re a demon?” I asked in a pain filled voice that was hard to hide. “Half,” she whispered. “Enough! We must proceed!” Selene shouted.

I’d decided I’d had enough. I mustered all my strength and channeled the elements around me. Nothing happened. I pushed again, harder, and started seeing black spots. Still nothing. “Why isn’t my magic working?” I wondered aloud. “That would be another gift from Thea’s father. Hexed chains, your magic may work in small bits. But not enough to save you,” Selene sneered. Fear. Real fear coursed thru me now. I had never been completely defenseless. It was a sinking feeling. “As the moon reaches its highest peak and the solstice begins, I will kill you. And your magic will be mine,” she beamed. “No! Thea! Please! Help me!” I screamed. Thea reacted stepping towards me and at the same time the shadows that she had stepped out of wrapped around her arms and legs, restricting her. “A sweet sentiment but Thea has no choice. A deal is a deal,” Selene mused as she pulled a dagger from her coat. I struggled and fought against the chains. Willing any element at all to come to me. I felt nothing. No magic. Only fear. Selene approached, dagger drawn. “I will take what is owed to me,” she said, raising the dagger and aiming for my heart. “Mine!” she screamed as she brought the dagger down. “Thea!” I yelled, making my final words the most beautiful I had ever heard. Everything went black again.

I was sure I was dead. Until I opened my eyes and immediately met a dark grey gaze. It was Thea. She smiled once and it was immediately replaced by a whimper as a trickle of blood dripped from her mouth. “Stupid half-breed! We had a deal!” Selene screamed. As I broke away from Thea’s gaze I could see the dagger embedded in her back. “Thea! No!” I reached for her as blood saturated her clothes. The chains still holding me fast, Thea’s body still protecting mine.

“I’ll kill you both if I have to!” bellowed Selene. Thea, unable to support herself any longer, fell to the ground. Blood saturating the ground. At once, the chains that held me dissolved. I lunged to Thea’s side taking her into my arms. “Thea, I thought you physically couldn’t break the deal?” I began to cry as I held her in my arms. “Magic...” she gasped, “Magic always has loopholes,” she smiled weakly. “The deal was to bring you to her, to trap you, I did not break it,” she continued to smile. “She broke a part of the deal,” Thea weakly pointed at Selene. “I did no such thing!” Selene screamed in rage. “I wasn’t to be harmed,” Thea coughed. I could feel the change in the air. The fear that suddenly fumed in the air, not from me, but from Selene. I could feel my power coursing thru me again, it was my turn. Selene saw the flames in my eyes and ran. I threw my hands out and turned them over, the earth responded. Forming around Selene until only her torso was free. She struggled and fought, but I was the most powerful now. I sucked the air from her lungs and watched her struggled to catch her breath. I approached her, slowly, wanting her to panic. As I came eye to eye with her I let her breath again. She gasped, gulping in the air around her. “I like honesty Selene, and I don’t like when people hurt those I care about,” I said calmly. “So, let me be honest, I’m going to kill you slowly. I’m going to hurt you. Like you hurt Thea,” my voice cracked as I said her name. “You won’t! You’re a good guy! You won’t hurt me!” she screamed and I couldn’t tell if she was trying to convince herself or me. I smiled. “Even good people have their breaking points,” I said fire flaming from my fingertips as I touched them to her bare skin. She howled in pain and the smell of burning flesh made me woozy. “*She is not yours to kill,*” I paused as the voice came from within my own head. Selene’s eyes widened and the color drained from her face, “Asmodeus,” she whispered. “*The deal has been broken. Now you are mine,*” the voice was dark and low. “No! No!” Selene screamed and fought with all her might. As I look at the base of the earth that held her I saw them. The dark tendrils that rose from

hell. They engulfed her slowly, consuming her and stifling her screams. The last thing I saw, was her hand. As she grasped for something, anything to save her. The tendrils, dragging her to hell. “Seth?” a small voice said.

“Thea!” I channeled the wind and flew to her. She lay still and pale in a pool of her own blood. “Is she gone?” She asked weakly. Tears filled my eyes, “Yes, yes she’s gone.” “Good, I’m glad you’re safe,” she smiled and her eyes began to flutter. “Thea, please, what can I do!” I begged. “Can you hug me as I go?” she asked. I pulled her into my arms choking back sobs. As I held her to my chest I could feel her spirit fading. My eyes widened as the realization hit me! “Thea!” I screamed scaring her. “Earlier, you said ‘half’, HALF what Thea??” I questioned her excitedly. “Half-human, that’s why I’m dying,” she whispered dazed from blood loss. “This is great!” I exclaimed. She looked pained and I realized that she thought I was glad she was dying. “Wait! No! Thea, I can save you,” I turned her with her back towards me. I placed both hands over her stab wound and the blood poured thru my fingers. I focused. Channeling spirit and all its healing properties. Willing her soul to stay within her. It fought against me, wanting desperately to leave it’s dying host. “No! Come on!” I begged and pushed harder. She couldn’t die. She saved me. I needed her. Still, her spirit weakened and I couldn’t find a way to pull it back. I pushed harder than I ever have before. Breathing heavy and sweating. I screamed, giving every last ounce of power into this endeavor. Something happened inside me. I felt weaker and colder. Thea’s eyes fluttered open and she gasped, jolting upright. Her eyes flashed into their full dark grey color and her stab wound healed. I smiled as she came to. Then I hit the ground.

I woke up moments later in Thea’s arms. I opened my eyes, meeting hers. “Seth! Are you okay?” she pleaded. “I feel, weird, but I’m okay,” I said assuring her. “Weird is an understatement, you did a crazy thing!” she exclaimed. “What are you-” I looked into her eyes

and lost all words. Her eyes were back to their human form but there was one huge difference. “One of your eyes is green!” I shouted confused. She pulled her hair behind her ear, embarrassed. “Yeah, it represents the part of you that you gifted me.” It took me a moment but I realized what had happened. “I gave you a part of my soul. That’s how I saved you.” I stated. She nodded gratefully. “Looks like you’re stuck with me for a while longer, if that’s okay,” I said jokingly. She threw herself into my arms and kissed me, this time, literal electricity danced around us. “I’m glad the sparks still fly,” I said breathlessly. She smiled at me and everything felt right. Finally, a real happily ever after. “*She’s not yours,*” Asmodeus’ voice whispered in my head. Crap.