

Dark and Light

Chapter 6 – Dark

Lily

“So,” Lily said, lifting a baked pastry to her lips. “What now?”

Flavour erupted in her mouth as soon as she took a bite. Thin layers of pastry crumbled and dissolved, sweet and savoury, followed by a barrage of spices. Juicy meat and vegetables that Lily was certain she’d never tasted before.

She let out a satisfied groan, wiped away a trickle of hot juice that was running down from the corner of her mouth.

“After you’re done eating,” Kiera’s musical voice chimed, “we’ll explore a little. See the sights, buy a few supplies, rest for a bit. Then, come nightfall, we fly.”

“Fly?” Lily asked before taking another bite.

“We could hike, if you want,” Kiera said. “It’ll take a few months of scaling icy rock walls and jagged terrain, where death will be a strong breeze away at all times and avalanches and blizzards can happen at any time, with few – if any – opportunities to rest along the way. Or, we could fly and be there in two or three hours. Your call.”

“Well,” Lily gulped, cleared her throat with a little cough. “When you put it like that...”

Kiera’s giggle sent tingles of pure joy coursing through her.

She took another bite of the pastry, glanced around.

This new city was the complete opposite of the last one. Instead of obnoxiously bright colours, everything looked drab and grey. Dull. The buildings were all old and worn out, several crumbling, others seeming like they might collapse any moment. The people, clad in thick furs and lifeless brown robes, blended in with the surroundings almost too well. Save for the bright blue sky overhead, it was like colour itself had been drained from the world.

The Guildhall they’d just come from hadn’t been much better. Small and cosy compared to the last one, with barely an adventurer to be found. She and Kiera had delivered their letter, been given a single coin as pay – a coppery disk that’d looked about as aged and tired as the city itself.

“What’s the deal with this place?” Lily whispered, looking to her lover. “Everything seems so...” Poor? Bland? Grey? *Different.*

Kiera, who was leaning against the same crumbled wall that Lily was perched on, shrugged and glanced around.

“Humans being humans,” the succubus said softly.

“What do you mean?”

“Nothing,” Kiera said, shaking her head. “Eat up, flower. Don’t want your food to get cold, do you?”

Kiera’s tail slid around Lily’s waist, coiled itself along her legs. Snug, but not tight. A firm, reassuring hold. When Kiera wrapped her arms around Lily’s shoulders and back, pulled her in close, Lily couldn’t help but blush. Her face came just above Kiera’s chest, Lily’s chin pressing against two firm breasts.

“Ready?” The succubus asked.

Heart pounding, eyes wide, Lily nodded her head.

A moment later, they were airborne. Launched up above grey and brown buildings, soaring into the darkness of night. If anybody saw them, Lily couldn’t tell. No screams or shouts reached her, and no alarm bells rang.

Up and up they went, the city below becoming nothing more than dots in the endless darkness.

Then a *rush*. Wind in her ears, her hair, her clothes.

It wasn't cold. With Kiera's heat, her body so closely intertwined with Lily's, feeling anything but gentle warmth was impossible.

Still, it was a terrifying experience. Exhilarating, for sure.

But *terrifying*.

Besides Kiera's glowing red pupils, the only thing Lily could see were the stars. Twinkling white lights that seemed to start far too high on the horizon, the black silhouette of a colossal mountain range blocked out so many.

The air whistled as Kiera glided through the blackness. Her huge wings spread wide, flapping now and again.

Lily's insides churned at every new movement. Every time Kiera rolled or rose, every time she darted between endless black voids. Lily shut her eyes tight, focused as hard as she could on keeping the contents of her stomach *in* her stomach.

Vomiting on Kiera's naked boobs mid-flight?

Just the *idea* was mortifying enough to motivate Lily against the possibility.

One moment, a feeling of weightlessness as Kiera dipped. The next, nauseating vertigo. The movements were so disorienting, Lily wasn't sure she knew which way was up or down anymore.

Worst of all; the longer they flew, the more Lily felt an odd sensation. Like she and Kiera were being watched through the darkness. A pair of eyes following their every move.

After what felt like a lifetime, Lily heard a crunch.

Feet planting themselves in snow.

Gently, Kiera released her.

And Lily immediately tumbled to the floor. Legs feeling like they were made of jelly, muscles in full rebellion against her, she flopped around lamely in the snow.

"Are you..." Kiera said, sounding concerned. "Are you okay?"

"Never again," Lily whispered, cheek pressed to the snow. "Never, never again."

Kiera's laughter echoed into the void, loud and bright.

Lily slumped, let out a contented sigh.

The chilly air and her bed of snow, after being bathed with Kiera's heat for so long, felt *refreshing*.

She closed her eyes, let sleep take her.

Kiera

A dawning, cloudless sky. Barely a hint of wind. A view that few others could compare to.

All around her, snowy mountains spread out in all directions, as far as the eye could see. Paired with the misty and icy valleys between the mountains, it was like staring out over a cloudy-white infinity.

She turned around, gazed up at the towering mountain peak.

If she didn't know any better, she'd have thought she was looking up at a white mountain from its base. The pyramid of snow and stone towered over her as much as she towered over all the other mountains. A mother mountain standing tall over a brood of lesser mountains.

And there, just below its peak, in a dark cave at the top of the world, she could *feel* it.

Power.

And, as she sensed it, *it* sensed her.

It *watched* her.

Just as it'd been watching her and Lily ever since they'd passed over the first of many mountains. Since they'd entered its domain.

"I'll explain," Kiera promised, glancing at the little burrow she'd carved out of the mountainside – the place Lily was currently sleeping. "Just... A little privacy, please? I don't want you spooking her, and I'm fairly certain she can sense you."

The mountain seemed to thrum. A silent vibration.

And then the feeling was gone.

The sensation of being observed disappeared.

If she reached out with her senses, Kiera knew she'd be able to feel the huge power above her. It hadn't gone away. It'd simply stopped paying attention.

"Thank you," she whispered. Though she knew it wouldn't hear her this time.

She let out a little sigh, examined the nearby area.

There.

The perfect spot.

Lily

The first thought she had upon waking was that Kiera wasn't with her. The warmth she'd gotten so used to, was beginning to take for granted, was missing.

Her eyes flicked open, strained against a bright light.

She looked away, saw smooth-cut stone and fur and cloth.

It took her a little while. Long moments spent waking up, putting the pieces together, remembering where she was.

A small hole carved into rock, large enough for Lily to lay in, high enough that she could sit up and still have good headroom. The floor covered in warm furs and blankets. Lily herself was wrapped up in a cocoon of fur and wool.

It took more than a little struggling to free herself from the cocoon Kiera had tucked her into.

She crawled towards the light. The entrance of the tiny cave.

The light was blinding at first but, as her eyes adjusted to the sun and snow, she began to see her surroundings properly.

Blurs of white became mountain peaks. A blanket of pale blue became a flawless sky. And, high above, a sun that shone so brightly that Lily had to turn away from it. Not that turning away helped very much – the snow all around her shone brightly, reflecting the brightness of the sun with blinding intensity.

Her eyes felt like they were burning, even as the rest of her shivered and trembled at the insane cold around her.

Sunglasses. She needed sunglasses. And sunscreen.

And clothes. Definitely more clothes.

She was already decked out from head to toes in thick furs and heavy wool clothes. So much so, it was actually difficult for her to move. And yet, even in the few moments since climbing out of her cubby, the warmth her wintery garments provided was dissipating. Icy air tickled her exposed cheeks, turning them pink in an instant. Her nose too. The big, fur cap she wore seemed to do nothing to keep her head warm. As she breathed, the air in front of her froze into a sharp, white mist.

The urge to climb back into her tiny cave was strong. But not quite as strong as another compulsion she felt.

Where was Kiera?

An instant of panic, fear of being abandoned and forgotten, quickly smothered. Kiera wouldn't leave her. Not a chance.

She glanced around, immediately knew where Kiera was.

A pillar of steam rising up from behind an icy outcrop.

Lily's legs were moving before her brain could catch up, struggling to walk through a

knee-high layer of snow in her heavy, restrictive clothing. She rounded the icy outcrop, felt her jaw drop open at the sight awaiting her there.

Kiera, in her true form, lounging in a small pool of steaming water like she was in a hot tub!

Lily gawked at her.

A horned succubus, head tilted back blissfully, red skin glistening with moisture, distorted only slightly by the steam and heat haze surrounding her. Her tail swirling slowly around the pool of water, stirring it. Her large wings acting as hot tub walls, creating a big circle to hold back the snow and ice.

A hot tub. At the top of a *mountain*. Miles and miles away from civilisation. A *hot tub*.

"Gonna stand there all day?" The succubus said, voice filled with amusement. "Or are you going to join me?"

Kiera

Lily flushed. It was, quite possibly, the most adorable sight Kiera had ever seen. The small, petite girl wrapped up in enough furs to clothe an entire family. Hair hidden behind a fur cap that made her pouty face seem so tiny and cute, body completely hidden under layers and layers of thick wool and fur. Her coat must've been made for a man twice as tall as her, because it reached down past her knees, shoulders protruding out far broader than Lily's slight build.

Her face was rosy, scrunched up against the cold. Nose and cheeks bright red, lips trembling at the cold.

She took a step – more of a waddle, really – towards Kiera and the pool of Kiera-heated water. A ball of fluff and fur with a pretty face and misty breath.

Another step through the snow had Lily stumbling, flailing her mitten-covered hands to keep balance. For a moment, it looked like she might fall – Kiera was already tensing, ready to leap out of the pool and catch the girl before she hit the snow – but Lily managed to right herself, keep from toppling over.

Too bad, Kiera thought wistfully.

Kiera pushed her wings out a little, widening the pool. It was already more than big enough for two, but a little extra space never hurt anyone. Fresh snow tumbled into the water, quickly dissolved and disappeared in the swirling tide.

She looked to Lily as the girl stepped close to the pool.

"Come on in," she purred, sweeping a taloned hand under the surface of the water. "You'll love it, I promise."

Lily nodded her head.

This close to the pool, the warmth from the steam would be enough to stave off the worst of the mountain cold. She wouldn't freeze, at the very least.

Lily raised her arms, reached for her fur cap. Kiera watched intently, the naughtiness inside her perking up at the opportunity to watch Lily undressing. A tingling excitement of anticipation.

Except the cap didn't come off. Not right away, anyway.

Lily struggled with it, unable to bend her arms properly with her thick layers of clothing. She managed to touch the cap with one hand when tilting her head, but the mitten she had on just slid uselessly over the cap, unable to find purchase to grab hold of.

"Need a hand?"

Lily froze, looked at Kiera. Her rose red cheeks seemed to blush even brighter. She glanced down, shook her head quickly, continued to struggle until – finally – the cap came off.

She made sure to pull off her mittens next.

And, one by one, the many layers of clothing began to come away. The ball of fur and fluff began taking on the shape of an actual human, then the shape of a slender one. By the time she was done, the pile of clothes at her feet was practically a hill in its own right.

Lily shuddered, clad only in a pair of damp, woollen socks.

All over her pale body, goosebumps sprang up. Her teeth chattered as she stood there trembling, hugging herself with dainty arms.

"Come on," Kiera urged, waving her hand forward. "It's okay. The water is perfect, you'll see."

Slowly, as if she were struggling against some unseen force, Lily lowered herself to her knees at the pool's edge. She winced as her bare skin touched the ice and snow, but she didn't complain. Didn't whine or cry or anything close.

Rather than climbing in the water right away, the girl took a moment to tug off each sock – the effort of which seemed to be far greater than removing socks had any right to. And, only when she was completely naked, Lily lowered herself into the small pool. Feet first, toes tapping the surface of the water with trepidation until the last of her doubts evaporated.

She slid into the pool, a little splash of water spraying out in all directions.

"Oh my *gosh*," Lily breathed, eyes wide. "It's... It's..."

"Too cold?" Kiera asked quickly, ready to alter the water's temperature at a moment's notice. "Too hot?"

"It's *perfect!*," Lily sighed, submerging herself in the water until everything beneath her nose was under. Her hair splayed out in the water around her cheeks, half-floating and half-sinking, following the slowly spinning current.

Relief washed over Kiera. A deep, glowing pride.

"Glad you like it," she smiled, eyes looking over Lily's shoulder at the peaks of several mountains beyond. "But this is just the start. Come here."

She tapped her chest, waved the petite girl closer.

Lily blushed, lowered herself a little more into the water, blowing bubbles with her nose. Slowly, she moved closer.

Kiera reached out, gently guided Lily until the girl's head was resting on Kiera's chest. Until they were looking out at the same, steam-hazed view. She swept an arm in the air, created a vortex in the steam. A tunnel. A window for Lily to look through.

"Look at that," she said, waving her taloned hand, gesturing at the mountains beyond. Endless and enormous. Like white ocean waves, frozen in time. "The first time I came here, I sat on a cliff for three days straight."

"Three days?" Lily asked in an awed whisper. "Without moving?"

"Yup," Kiera said softly, allowing her little tunnel in the steam to close. "Here, on this mountain, was the first time I ever saw sunlight. The first time I left the Abyss deep below, came up here to explore the world. It was..." Beyond description. An event that'd *changed* her. Made her who she was now. "Magical."

She caressed Lily's cheek, smiled as the girl struggled with herself. Shyness compelling Lily to pull away, but a much stronger feelings keeping her in place. Lily tilted her head a little, leaned into the caress.

"That," Kiera continued gently, "looking at this view for three days, was one of the two most important events in my life."

"What's the other?" Lily whispered.

"Meeting you."

Lily

She turned around, met Kiera's gaze.

A heartbeat later, they were kissing. Lily's arms wrapped around Kiera's head, Kiera's talons on Lily's butt. Despite the sharpness of those claws, they didn't break skin. Didn't hurt in the slightest. Lily's tongue slid into Kiera's mouth and Kiera's much, *much* longer tongue danced with it.

The water sloshed and swirled. Steam and snow painted the world a dull white. The only thing that existed inside that white oblivion was *her*. Kiera. Them together.

"Lily," Kiera purred the moment their lips parted. "Flower."

Panting, Lily slid her arms out from behind Kiera's head. She placed her hands on Kiera's shoulder, felt the firm, leathery skin. Inhuman skin. Tough and strong and *hot*. Hotter than the water they were in, hot enough that the palms of her hands tickled and tingled at the heat.

Ever so slowly, Lily began lowering her hands. Brushing them down past Kiera's collarbone, down over those huge, red globes. A shudder, a tremble of pure ecstasy, shot through Lily as she hefted up her lover's breasts, squeezed them. Firm and strong, but with plenty of bounce to them. Lily bit her lip, suppressed a moan.

"Like them?" Kiera giggled.

Lily blushed, lowered herself until her shoulders were ducking under the water. She kept her hands on Kiera's bust, though. Kept on fondling them.

"I do," Lily said, face hot. "When I was younger, one of the guys got their hands on a nudie magazine. A picture book thingy of naked women. And the women, they all had big..."

She couldn't finish the sentence. Blushing brightly, she sank further into the water. Submerged herself to her nose.

Flipping through that magazine, seeing all those beautiful, topless women. She'd found out a lot about herself that day. And that evening, back in her bedroom, alone, her thoughts and imagination filled with hott, busty women.

She shut her eyes tight, fought down the memory before her face melted from the embarrassment.

"Big, hmm?" Kiera teased. Somehow, Lily's face grew even hotter. "You know, if you want, I could make mine bigger..."

Lily's eyes shot wide open in an instant, staring up at the smiling Kiera through a valley of red cleavage.

"Any shape and size you want," Kiera purred. "I can make myself into whatever you'd like me to be."

Lily shook her head quickly, pushed herself up until her whole torso was out of the water. She leaned forward, gave Kiera a little peck on the lips, hugged her tight.

"I don't want you to change anything," she told Kiera. "Not a single thing. You're already perfect."

Lily squeezed her thighs around Kiera's face, wrapped her legs around the woman's head. Gripping two, curved horns, she held on for dear life as Kiera's too-long tongue explored her deepest parts. Swirling around inside her, licking and teasing pleasure points that Lily hadn't known existed.

For the first minute, she'd been waiting for Kiera to pull away, resurface for air. But, over ten minutes in, the succubus hadn't pulled away or even paused, not for a moment.

Kiera's tongue flicked something deep inside her, sending jolts of electricity rocking up Lily's spine.

She gasped, let out a loud moan.

Kiera's tongue pushed deeper.

The water splashed around her as Lily jerked and spasmed, as another orgasm rocked every inch of her. Just when she thought she might be able to gain control of

herself, Kiera did something new with her tongue, sent Lily trembling and shaking and moaning again.

"Kiera!" Lily gasped, her voice echoing over the mountain. "Holy crap, Kiera! Don't stop! Please don't-"

Another orgasm vibrated through Lily's core.

"Aah!"

Another shockwave of pleasure.

"Ohh *God*, I can't-"

Another jolt of electrical energy.

Tingles erupted from her core, spreading out in pulsing waves, to her fingertips and toes, rattling her brain and pushing all thoughts aside.

When Kiera finally stopped, pulled away from her, Lily slumped. Her legs were limp, slack on Kiera's shoulders. Her arms were noodles. When she opened her mouth for one last moan, the sound came out rough and raw; her throat sore and dry despite the water and steam around her.

The only thing that kept Lily from falling back completely, sliding down the hot pool's edge and ending up underwater, was Kiera's tail. Wrapped around her waist, extending up to act as a headrest.

Kiera's horned head emerged from the water in front of her, a wicked smile on her lips.

Lily tried speaking, but no words came. Only a piteous groan, a shaky mumble. The sound of which had Kiera tilting her head back and laughing freely.

"Meanie," Lily managed to croak out, a little pout on her face. "Makin' fun of me..."

Kiera laughed louder, the sound filling Lily with a warmth unlike any other. She had to fight herself to keep from smiling at that laugh, had to focus all her remaining strength to keep her pouty expression in place.

"You're too cute," Kiera smiled, her laughter fading. Eyes filled with the same longing Lily felt, Kiera gestured her forward. "Come here, flower. Rest with me."

Even if she'd wanted to resist, keep up the pouty act, Kiera gave her no choice. The tail holding Lily moved, guided her into Kiera's outstretched arms. The next thing Lily knew, her head was resting on firm, warm breasts. A sensation so wonderful, Lily had to fight off the urge to close her eyes, fall asleep right there and then.

Kiera

"This is one of my favourite places in the whole world," Kiera said softly, soothingly. "I wanted to share it with you."

"Thank you," Lily whispered sleepily.

"The first time I was here," Kiera continued, happy to help her flower towards sleep. "I gave the mountains names. Not all of 'em. Just the biggest. The one we're on now? It's called 'Mother'. And over there," she pointed through the steamy haze. "That's 'Big White Hill'. And next to it is 'Slightly Smaller Big White Hill'. That one's 'Fat Shiny Tooth'. And that's 'Snow Covered Giant Turd'. And all the way over there-"

"You," Lily said, scrunching up her nose, "are *terrible* at naming mountains."

Kiera chuckled. Not too loudly – she didn't want to snap Lily out of her sleepiness – but deep and happy, filled with a contentedness that was entirely new to her.

"In my defence," Kiera said, "I was only a few weeks old."

She hugged Lily, closed her eyes and listened to the girl's heartbeat. Slow, rhythmic, relaxed. Awake, but only barely.

"Except for you," Kiera said, "no human has ever been here. You're the first. You might well be the last. People have tried, of course. Big expeditions and grand quests. But

none have ever made it this close to 'Mother', not by a long shot..."

She felt it. Heard it.

The soft, shallow breathing. The not-quite snores of gentle slumber.

Lily was asleep.

Kiera opened her eyes, looked up at the sky, smiled wide.

Lily

And she'd thought *walking* in all these furs had been difficult.

"Why can't we fly again?" Lily grunted, climbing up a rocky, snowy ledge as best she could – which basically involved her rolling against it and praying she didn't stumble. "Flying is underrated. All the cool kids fly places..."

"I distinctly remember you saying 'never again'. Don't worry, it's not much further. Just one more little ledge and around a corner, then the cave entrance is right there."

It's not much further.

Like Kiera hadn't been saying *that* for the last two hours.

Sure, Lily hadn't travelled more than a couple dozen meters in that time, but *still*.

She heaved herself up onto the ledge, stumbled.

A lance of panic, blood-chilling dread. Her body tilting back, about to fall over the ledge. Lily shut her eyes tight, held her breath.

She didn't fall.

The succubus tail around her waist prevented it.

When Lily opened her eyes again, saw Kiera standing there grinning, she huffed. Looked away. Blushed.

"Alright," Kiera laughed. "Alright! I'll help."

Lily rose up into the air, held by Kiera's tail. A moment later, she was on the uppermost ledge. On solid ground. Safe.

She let out a sigh of relief.

"This way," Kiera chuckled. "It's just around here."

Lily followed as quickly as her many layers of clothing would allow. Practically hopping from one foot to another.

Around the corner was a large, open clearing. And, beyond that, a cave of gargantuan proportions. Several houses tall and even more houses wide. And yet, for as large as the entrance was, it was also completely dark. A shadowed void into nothingness.

"So," Lily began to say, unable to keep the excitement from her voice. "What's so important about-"

The ground shook.

A loud, heavy *thump*.

Another shake. Another *thump*.

The earth-quaking footfalls of some impossibly huge *thing* approaching from behind that veil of shadows.

"Kiera?" Lily gulped. "What... What's..."

One last, loud *bang*. Right behind the black shroud.

Lily caught a brief glimpse of it before it stepped out into the sunlight, red scales glistening. Each of its many claws looking about as big as Lily's entire body. It's smouldering eyes gazing down at her from dozens of feet in the air, huge and hungry. Its wings, so similar to Kiera's, were furled against its colossally huge body.

A dragon.

A huge, red, massive *dragon*.