

Sirius, Book II

Legacy of the Letai

Comments or Questions?

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Chapter 4

"Shadowfall!" went the familiar cry, from the black-furred lupine. There was a flash of light, and Alps' entire body ached from it. He felt suddenly like he was falling. This was different. Somehow, he knew something was different about it, even as bizarre as everything else had been. It felt like he was falling forever, and then nothing. No motion. No noise. Just dark silence. There was no hot, no cold... nothing. He could not see himself, he could not hear himself, he could only think, and his thoughts were like the screams of tortured souls, as his mind fumbled its way through the darkness. Finally, he saw, off in the distance, a white light. He willed himself to run to it, but he could feel nothing. However, as he willed it, the light got closer, slowly, but surely. He was not sure how he knew what "feeling" would get him closer to the light, but he just knew.

As he got closer, he saw a lady lupine, solid white, with one green eye, one violet eye. He felt he recognized her. Alps reached her side, and looked at her. She had not noticed him, but of course, how could she. All was silent. She was on her knees, crying. The wolf knelt down, or at least, willed that he could. He reached for her, but there was nothing of his body there at all.

"You're Luna..." Alps said softly, but his voice was nothing. He began to feel that he was not really there. Or was it her that was not real? It was difficult to tell. He thought back. How did he know her? What was all this? He was scared, and yet, did not fear death now. He only had one thing of interest. The only thing in his universe was this female. She wore the robes of a priestess, just as he remembered her, but from where? Her lips moved, but Alps, unable to read lips, could not make out what she was weeping out.

He then, finally, remembered something. In the wasteland. That priestess. She brought life with her hand to the barren earth. Alps willed himself to kneel, and place his hands at her feet. The darkness was too much. There was no land to answer to him, no sound to carry a spell, even if he truly believed he could. Alps cried out and thought, just a little, that he could hear his own voice, and then he listened. It seemed to echo, and then he could just faintly hear Luna's sobbing. He looked to her, and then, perking his ears anxiously, listening to hear everything, he heard other voices out in the darkness, fainter... weaker... and he could see lights, like stars, all around him. Up, down, to any side... They were all in the darkness, crying, screaming, all terrified, hurting, and

forlorn, and then, he felt a sharp tug, and there was a bright light, and he was standing alone in a field, with lovely lush grass, and a long, sobbing voice, carried in the wind.

"Take me with you!" and then, nothing. There was nothing but the wind rushing over the fertile, living grass. He was alive, able to seek his happiness in the world, and they were not. All of those lights in the darkness were alone in that darkness, maybe not even able to see the other lights as he was. And they were alone forever.

"Alps, get up, we're gonna have to make a late start if you don't hurry, and Lady Azia shall be angry!" came Tia's voice. Alps sat straight up. A dream. It had been a dream again. It was different this time though. It was worse, somehow. He rubbed his eyes.

"Sorry... I was dreaming..." Alps said slowly, trying to reconnect with reality. Those were always such vivid dreams.

"Yeah... I gather that. Why did you keep calling for Luna?" Tia asked. "Is everything okay with you?" Alps felt suddenly rather embarrassed. He didn't mean to make a scene like that in front of his friend. He wondered if he sounded weak and pitiful. He remembered screaming in the dream. Surely he had not really cried out so loudly. Had he whimpered? He sat up, and started gathering his clothing, and getting dressed. He went downstairs as the younger female carried a backpack to the front of the inn. Alps took care to relieve himself, unsure when he'd get the chance out on the road. He walked to the front of the inn, and looked around. He could not see Tia or Azia anywhere. Had they left without him? He suddenly had a feeling of dread. Abandonment... the thing he feared most of all! He called out loudly.

"T... Tia! Azia? I'm coming too!" he waited, and then, as he turned to walk back into the inn, he heard Azia's voice.

"We're in here, stupid!" He turned around and focused on the direction of the noise. Finally, he saw a hand wave to him. Tia's. From the window of an expensive looking carriage. Alps sprang over to the door of it and looked in. It was a luxury carriage; similar to the one Nidaja brought him to Diera in.

"Did you think we left you, Alpsie?" Tia asked, wagging her tail, and looking bright and cheerful. Alps blushed. Why wouldn't she look bright and cheerful? She had a very nice night, after all. Alps had nearly forgotten it, in the mist of that distressing dream.

"No... No, I just thought you went back inside." he said, scratching his ear. "Ahhh... who's... carriage is this?" he asked softly.

"It's mine..." came Azia's voice. She was sitting very comfortably in a crushed velvet seat, looking very much removed from her element, with her fighter's attire on.

"You can afford something like this?" he asked softly, looking suspiciously over at the slinks that were drawing it, the hexapodal minks beginning to bound in that odd, comical fluid gait they were known for.

"It was a gift from a town that we saved from the brink of destruction last year..." she said. "The slinks were from another town, for the same reason. We don't charge taxes, but we accept the occasional gift, if it truly helps our cause. We did not need something so lavish, but it helps when we try to generate funding, and meet with wealthy merchants and the like. I do enjoy traveling in style too. Hop in, Alps." Azia said. She seemed more serious again. The white lupine slave climbed in carefully, and sat beside Azia, since she was across from the door, and it was where his position ended up as the carriage lurched forward a little faster. The slinks were exceptionally strong and quick. Alps didn't even take the time to get a look at the driver. He flicked his ears, and looked at Azia.

"Is it far?" He could not, for the life of him, remember just how far it was to where he was going. He'd been to Kishu Valley once before, and knew it was north and west, considerably north, of Luca. It was between Seravi and Jalana, to the north.

"It's over the ocean Alps. We will be catching a ride on a merchant vessel to get there. It's about three days over the sea, even on a light water skipper. You may want to get comfortable. Don't worry. The assault on Jalana is not ready yet. There are still two more detachments of orcs to arrive yet... five days out, the location he's amassing his troops is well hidden and no one goes there, but as it happens, one of our scouts lives in those mountains. We knew at the first sign of trouble."

"I understand..." Alps said softly, settling in the seat a bit, as the carriage tore rapidly through the city streets, heading toward the harbor.

"No ma'am... I do know we had a mountain gray in here... Might be the Tia one you spoke of, but I can't be sure." said the innkeeper. Nita fumbled with her cape, trying to make it fit right over her clothing. She had left the castle in haste,

wanting to catch Alps before he could get out of town.

"And the white male... he wasn't with her?" Nidaja asked, seeming irritated.

"No... Not unless he got here after closing." the innkeeper replied.

"Which he would have..." Nidaja sighed. "Misty said he didn't get done with her till almost 10:30, 11 o'clock. That puts him here around midnight..." The general wiped her forehead.

"How could this be happening, Nidaja?" Nita said, choking back tears. "I gave him so much, and he gave me so much... We were best friends, if I dare say... He was yours too. I thought he really love-"

"Nita!" Nidaja snapped. "The letter didn't say he was leaving for good, and I am sure he is doing, as he said, what he feels in his heart is the best thing for you. That's a sign of love, understand? Not abandonment." Nidaja had been trying to keep Nita from panicking all morning, and it was wearing thin on her.

"I'm sorry. I know, Nidaja. I just... I got so used to having him around... I didn't think I would ever be without him." Nidaja nodded softly, and consolingly.

"Ni... Nidaja and Nita... Oh *my*!" The innkeeper suddenly bowed, a youthful and slender tan male lupine, barely old enough to work.

"Right... Speak not a word of our conversation to another living soul, understand?" Nidaja barked commandingly. The innkeeper bowed and backed away.

"Of course! Yes! No problem!" he continued bobbing and bowing. Nita and Nidaja sighed softly.

"Well... no more information to be had here..." the queen said softly. "We should go. Let's try to ask around in surrounding villages, maybe also Jalana itself, and get a feel for what direction they might have gone. I seriously doubt they would take the poor thing to the battlefield itself. That would be... that would be... foolish." There was *deep* anger in Nita's voice as she said that, and padded out of the inn, with Nidaja close behind. Outside, it was a very lovely day, and there was a bit of hustle and bustle about the streets. Nita looked up one lane, and down the other, and then moved slowly toward her carriage, when, from behind, there came a girl's voice.

"Are you looking for Alps?" came the voice. Nita stopped and froze solid. Nidaja, beside her, also did not move. "I know where he is. I can tell you... for a price..." Nidaja bared her fangs and turned around, feeling hatred for someone as callous as to put a price on such a thing, but her jaw dropped, as did Nita's, when

they turned.

"You!" the general exclaimed, bristling.

Alps looked at the bedroom in the hollow of this small ship. There was not a lot of room, and it paled in comparison to the splendor of the ship he had been on with Nidaja and Misha and Uri. There was only one bed, and while fairly large, it would not sleep three comfortably. He would be pressed close if they were actually all going to be in it. He thought it ill advised to even ask about the sleeping arrangements, but he decided it would come up sooner or later.

"Are we all to sleep on this one?" Alps asked meekly, putting down Tia's backpack. Tia nodded softly.

"Azia and I have slept in a smaller one before. I think it will be okay." she chimed. Tia was still rather lightly cheerful.

"What's wrong Alps?" Azia churred softly, and mischievously. "Afraid you might break to begging too soon?" She cackled softly. Alps looked to Tia. One could almost paint a question mark above her head for the expression she wore. Alps blushed and chuckled.

"Ahh... No... No, I'm fine with it. Just want you both to know I don't have fleas or anything, so you don't... have anything to worry about."

"Good to know." Azia said softly. "You'll be getting them soon enough." Alps swallowed softly. As a slave, he had them quite a bit. He hated fleas. Good grooming in the castle had made him free of them for almost a year. He sat on the bed, and smiled at Azia rather happily.

"The ship's moving now..." came Tia's voice, as she sat on the bed too. Azia moved over to one side of the room, still wearing her coat and gloves and everything. The boat didn't move much, but enough to tell it was moving, and picking up to a nice speed. Alps watched Azia for a moment, curiously. She just looked at him and Tia.

"L... Lady Azia." Tia said softly, looking at her as well. "Ahh... Do you need... something? From the galley maybe?" Alps nodded and got on his knees on the bed, looking ready to move on her command.

"No... No, I think you are forgetting something though, Tia.." she said

softly, adjusting her gloves, and seeming very dark and serious. Alps gritted his teeth a little. Forgetting something? Was she supposed to do something and forgot?

"I am forgetting something?" Tia asked softly. Azia narrowed her eyes, looking at Alps and Tia intently. The two were white and gray lupine, sitting together on their knees, on the bed, looking at her curiously like two children about to be told a story. Azia held her hand out in front of her, inspecting her glove nonchalantly, and said, in slow, dark monotone.

"You are still to be punished for acting without my permission in Diera. You knew you were not to approach the queen. You could have given away my presence there, and caused a lot of harm, you know..." Tia looked at Azia, her eyes a little wide, her lips turned back in a frown. The girl's eyes were watering. Her slave friend shrunk away a bit, and slicked his ears back. He didn't want to see Tia get a beating. Was that what was coming? Alps spoke softly, wanting to prevent it.

"General Castalia..." he bowed before her. "She merely wished to help your dreams come true... She never intended to cause any harm. I know she wouldn't." Alps shrunk back as Azia shot him a hard glance. Tia said softly,

"Alps don't. I knew what I was doing. You can't protect me." The gray female hung her head.

"This is the first time you ever disobeyed me like that, Tia. I am not sure what would be the fitting punishment..." Azia said smoothly. Alps hung his head. He could not watch this. He wanted to leave, but he could not. He would do anything to keep from having to watch Tia get punished. Even if she deserved it, and Alps knew it, he didn't want to see it.

"Punish me in her place..." Alps said softly. "I... I'm a slave... I have scars all over my body from the mistakes I have made. I would offer myself, to keep a mark from ever showing on her unscathed body." The white male said. There was a long silence. Tia said nothing, and Azia said nothing. Alps remained bowed, prostrate before Azia on the bed, waiting for her words, or her attack.

"Are you serious... you would take Tia's punishment for her?" Azia said softly.

"Yes... very sure." Alps said sternly. Azia sat there, in her chair, for a while, saying nothing. The slave finally looked up at her, and saw her lip turned up at one side, as if she were hiding a smile. She chased it away as soon as Alps looked up. He flicked his ear softly, curious.

"Tia, you know from experience what my punishments consist of. You

have seen me punish someone before, haven't you? While you yourself have never had it, you know what I will do?" she said softly. Alps gritted his teeth. He hated it when his mistress would tell him what they were going to do.

"Yes, ma'am..." Tia said softly. "You... hit both sides of their rump with those handspikes." Alps cringed. He would not be able to sit for a while after this, it would seem.

"Alps has volunteered to take this punishment for you... will you allow him to take it?" Azia said softly.

"I... I can't say. It's not my choice. I don't want to be punished... but I don't want to see Alps hurt either." Tia said, sniffing. Alps choked up a bit. He looked at Azia, who gazed emotionlessly at Tia for a moment, and then turned her gaze to Alps.

"What would you do for me... to keep me from punishing Alps? Alps would throw himself in the way of my spikes, evidently, to keep me from punishing you. Would you promise never to disobey me again, Tia?" There was a short pause, and Tia got on her hands and knees, looking to Azia.

"Yes... I promise. I will never disregard one of your orders again. I promise..." She was crying. Alps looked to Azia, and she frowned, swallowing hard. The slave gritted his teeth. Of course. Azia loved Tia. The idea of punishing her was worse than any punishment she could deliver anyway. Alps looked back and forth. His interference had given Azia the chance not to have to do it.

"Well then... that is a big promise. Anything else, Tia?" the white-furred general asked slowly, her voice seeming less hard. Tia nodded briskly, her ponytail bouncing.

"Yes, yes!" she chimed. "Umm... I won't borrow your, umm, things without asking anymore." Azia blushed softly, and looked to Alps, the general cracking, uncontrollably, a smile. She nodded, hiding her face a moment.

"Oh... Yes... that would be nice too. Can't have you borrowing my things without asking first." she said. "But Tia... what if... there were something I really wanted in exchange for Alps and you not being punished... If you grant my request, he won't be punished, and neither will you... If you choose not to grant my request, well, I will just see to it that you don't have very much free time on the trip over the ocean. Does that sound reasonable?" Azia crossed her legs, holding her knee with both hands, looking rather demure. The slave and the grey female both perched on the edge of the bed, looking very interested in what Azia had to say. Alps' friend nodded slowly.

"What would you request, Lady Azia?" Alps asked softly. He felt a tingle through his body. He felt he already had an idea the direction this was going, and his heart was speeding up.

"Well, Tia... this may seem a strange request... but I want you to take off your clothes, and get back on the bed, exactly as you are now." Alps swallowed, and he looked over to Tia. Her expression was that of someone who had just been handed a pineapple, and been told to paint the house. She then lowered her head, blushing deeply.

"Oh... M - M'lady.. You don't want to see... I mean, I'm not very..." She fidgeted a bit. Alps blinked softly. Tia did not have nearly this much trouble when she bared herself to him.

"On the contrary, young lady, I do..." Azia said dryly. "You are a very pretty girl. But aside from that, you need to do something to prove your loyalty, right? I know how shy you are. If you can overcome that, I will believe you are completely loyal to me again." Alps flicked his ears, and looked at Azia curiously. She was right, of course, it was a good way to prove Tia was loyal... having her face one of her fears, but what about Tia's feelings? Did Azia not realize that Tia loved her too? Alps sat on the edge of the bed, and nodded.

"It's okay, Tia. She's right. You are very pretty. It'll be okay..." He smiled at her, and the young girl looked at Alps, blushing hotly.

"B - But Alps, Azia is so gorgeous... I would - I would disappoint." she stammered.

"Nonsense." Azia said. "I take it that you decline the offer then? I hope you like barnacles." Alps slicked his ears back. Seeing Tia naked would be much better than having to scrape the barnacles off the boat. He didn't want to push Tia into it though. He knew she was shy about it, with Azia at least.

"N... No... I don't... Ummm... I will do it. But what is Alps' punishment... he offered." Tia said softly, getting up, and starting to unbutton her oversized white shirt.

"He will be performing a task for me, Tia... But since it was your punishment, you go first... Would you prefer I left the room, so I didn't watch you undress, and came back down when you were done?" Azia asked. Tia nodded slowly. "Very well. Alps, if you will, please come up with me, and give her some privacy." Alps nodded, and hopped up, guessing he would be given the task of leaving Azia alone while she spent some time with the naked Tia. He didn't mind though. He thought it was sweet. He followed the general up to the deck of the ship. He inhaled deeply, the scent of salty sea air. His experience with Nidaja made him love it.

"What do you need me to do, Lady Azia?" Alps asked, very utilitarian.

"Oh man, what am I doing?" Azia asked, holding her cheeks and bumping her head into the mast.

"You are handing out alternative punishment." he answered quickly. His mistress often asked him what she was doing when she punished him. It was not uncommon.

"No, no..." she said, seeming frustrated and overheated. "I mean with Tia? Am I going to ruin it? I mean... I'll be honest... I want her... I want her more than even the end of the Uruk armies!" Azia hugged her chest, obviously feeling her heart beat rapidly. The slave looked at her curiously. She was acting completely different again. She was very much unlike that general from a moment ago, or that tease the previous night. "What do I do Alps? I mean... You've been with her. What did she like about it? How did you get her to do it? How did you make her want it?" She flicked her ears softly, irritated, and seeming nervous. Alps suddenly realized what he was needed for now.

"If you worry that Tia does not love you the same way you love her, you shouldn't." Alps said softly. He felt a glow in his body, warm and soft, as he started to play the role of match-maker. This was better than a punishment, any day.

"Wh... Why do you say that?" Azia asked, blushing. She held her cheeks and smiled. "Did she... say anything about me?" Alps blinked. She was acting very much like a little girl in love now. He smiled and nodded.

"Yeah... kinda. Did you think she was asleep last night, when you had your fun?" Alps asked. Azia stopped, and blushed, looking into Alps' violet eyes, shocked.

"Sh... She watched me?" Azia asked softly.

"Yeah... and enjoyed it as much as you enjoyed watching her when I was under the covers. General, she loves you. Drop the punishment act. It's not necessary. She wants to undress for you anyway... She wants to be with you. She's just nervous, because she thinks she's not as pretty as you." Azia thought for a moment, and then shook her head, blushing deeply.

"B - But Alps, I... I have never... I mean, I don't know how to make her... You know... comfortable." Azia stammered. Alps chuckled softly. It was deeply entertaining to him, seeing her as flustered as all this with the strength that she had shown so much before. He was starting to understand, whether it was Nidaja, the queen, or Neit, everyone seemed to have an "act" that they

performed and a character they played which might not be their actual self. Alps had always been a slave, hadn't he? Or was it the act that life thrust upon him? He shook the thought out of his head.

"If you want Tia, then all you have to do..." Alps started.

"Yes? Yes?" Azia said, peering into his eyes. Alps felt suddenly put on the spot.

"Ahh... well... Hey... Umm... How about... I go down there with you, and kind of mediate between you, so you can't possibly misunderstand each other?" Alps offered. He wanted time to think about what would help the situation, and he could not do it with Azia staring him down on the deck of the ship. "I don't have to be at all involved, I don't even have to remove a stitch of clothing. Two of my female friends in Diera were lovers. I know how their relationship worked. I can kind of... coach." The general brightened.

"Ohh! Ohh yes! That's a good idea! You know more about this stuff... you were trained for it!" she chimed. Alps gritted his teeth. Had he really given the impression to Azia that he was a trained sex-servant, and love-slave? That was not the case, was it? He nodded softly. Azia jerked his hand, and pulled him downstairs.

As they entered the room, it had changed a bit. It was darkened, mostly. There were candles on either side of the bed, burning with vanilla scented flames. Azia and Alps froze in their tracks. Alps looked around, his eyes adjusting to the darkness. On her hands and knees, her head down, submissively, was Tia. She was wearing nothing at all, as she spoke softly.

"I apologize for the other candles... They... blew out when I was undressing." Azia's jaw was slack. She could not see anything completely intimate about Tia just yet... only her shoulders and back and tail, which was wagging slowly, betraying her humility for nervous excitement. Tia looked up, and gasped, blushing a bit more. "Oh... you brought Alps back with you... I thought... Umm... what is his errand?" Tia asked. Azia's jaw was still slack. The slave looked to the white female with that dark black hair, and realized that she'd kind of frozen up. While she might be able to tear apart a battlefield, matters of love were out of her element. Alps answered.

"She wanted me to do something very important... which I shall do now..." Alps said softly, holding Azia by the shoulders, and moving her, albeit stiffly, over to the edge of the bed. Tia sat up on her knees, hugging her breasts, to hide them a little, her legs closed, concealing her sex. Alps found her very enchanting in that position.

"W... Whaa?" Azia asked, blinking, and looking at Alps. Alps leaned in

and whispered into her ear.

"Trust me... you want Tia, right?" he churred, far too low for the other girl to hear. Azia nodded slowly.

"Are you okay, Lady Azia? I... I didn't disappoint you... did I?" Tia asked, finally moving her hands away from her chest, hesitantly. Her firm, youthful breasts were tinted pink with her blushing, velvety soft, her nipples already a little turgid from the cool air, and perhaps a touch of excitement.

"Huh? Oh no... No, you didn't disappoint me at all, Tia..." Azia said. "You... umm... You are very brave to do as I asked. I know... how shy you are." Tia smiled weakly, seeming to feel a little better. Her ears perked, however, as Alps drew Azia's coat off of her. The general's eyes widened a bit, and she looked back at Alps, as he hung the coat up.

"Right..." Alps said softly. "Tia is very shy. Almost as shy as Azia... but, if Tia is brave enough to stand unclothed before her leader, then surely her leader must have the strength to do the same, right?" Alps said. He reached for Azia's hands, and began to remove a glove.

"Whoa... wait... Alps I-" Azia started, as Tia's ears flushed again.

"Oh no... It's only fair... Besides, I have to complete the errand I was supposed to do, remember?" Alps said. Azia looked at Alps blankly for a moment, and then blushed and smiled, perhaps getting the idea. She turned and looked to Tia, nodding.

"Y - Yeah... If you are... umm... willing to do this for me, your loyalty has to be rewarded, right?" Azia said softly. Tia inhaled deeply, and her nipples tightened to pebbles on her young breasts.

"Right, yes of course, if it is m'lady's desire." Tia said breathlessly.

"Would you be disappointed to see Lady Azia wearing nothing?" Alps asked softly, as he helped her carefully out of her boots. Tia shook her head softly, as Azia just blushed deeply, and fidgeted.

"No... I would not mind it at all." She said, and gasped a little, having realized how excited she sounded in how she had just said that. Azia's eyes widened and she stood still a moment. Alps felt suddenly very coy and controlling. These two... would they have come together like this naturally? Was the fact that Azia knew he had made love to Tia what started this? He didn't know, but he couldn't bail out now. The slave pulled that elastic, tight shirt off of Azia, and Tia licked her lips a bit, seeing her general's large, firm breasts bounce into view, no undergarment to contain them. Azia watched the young mountain

grey, and she watched the white female, in silence. The younger girl hugged her breasts a bit, and Azia did the same, both rather displaying their assets, boosted from below their crossed arms nervously.

Azia was better built in the chest than Tia, by quite a bit, but Azia was also quite a bit taller. Tia looked down at her own for a moment, and then parted her thighs a bit, letting Azia look, for the very first time, at her dark, glistening folds. Already, the scent of arousal rose from her hips. Alps began to untie Azia's leather pants, and slid them slowly down. His tail wagged softly, back and forth, as he savored the moment. He was bringing these two together. He felt very nice about it. As he got them all the way down, Azia stepped out of the short black pants, and moved over to the bed. She got on her knees, and faced Tia as she had been facing her. Neither would say a word. They looked at one another.

The slave watched them in a long silence. He was highly aroused too, but still dressed and just... watching this silent pair, wondering if they would move. He then sighed softly. He had begun to take for granted that everyone was as loving as the queen's family and friends. But they had all been together for a lifetime, and were already in love before. This was very different. These two didn't even know if they really liked girls. It was sometimes a tough thing to accept, when you wanted to eventually have a normal sort of family and place in the world. Alps finally spoke, wanting to help move things along for the two lovers, and feeling they very much deserved one another.

"Tia... is she as beautiful as you had imagined her?" the slave asked softly. Tia did not move her eyes at all, tears welling in them. She continued to gaze at Azia, up and down her body. Those strong, warrior's thighs, her smooth, white tummy... her large, milky breasts, they were all absolutely beautiful. Even Alps felt that she had a bit more to offer in the lines of physical beauty than Nidaja did.

"Y... Yes... more so really. She's... the light's essence to me." Tia said, shakily, her heart feeling like it was going a hundred miles a second. Alps looked at Azia's backpack and thought a moment, as he tried to figure this out, and then smiles, continuing to talk.

"Azia?" he asked softly. Azia nodded. "How about Tia... What do you think of her? I know you wanted to see her like this yesterday... was it worth the wait?" Alps looked at Tia, who blushed deeply from that. Tia was a lot plainer than Azia, but her body was youthful and lovely. Her solid gray fur was thin over her breasts, and she had the build of a runner. She looked very agile, young, and healthy.

"Oh Alps..." Azia said softly. "I don't know what you are wanting me to say, but Tia knows she's beautiful, why else would I keep trying to catch her with

her clothes off?" Alps chuckled, and nodded. He reached down and rummaged in Azia's backpack. Neither of the girls looked at him. They were very much enchanted in one another. Alps finally moved to the bed, and held up the object he had been searching for. It was a perfectly shaped and sized crystal phallus, which, from all the talk, both of them were very familiar with.

"Alps... you got into my backpack." The general said, aloofly.

"Yes... I did... Tia, do you remember last night? What you saw?" Tia and Azia both blushed hotly and looked away from each other. Tia hugged her chest again.

"Alps... p – please..." The younger girl said, fighting the embarrassment. Now Azia knew she watched! Alps smiled and then asked softly.

"Be honest, Tia... You have absolutely nothing to hide now... Did you like it?" he asked.

"L... Like what?" Tia asked softly. Alps inwardly rolled his eyes. It could not possibly have been this difficult for Misha and Uri, could it?

"Did you like watching Lady Azia play with this?" Alps asked more thoroughly. The mountain grey inhaled deeply, quivering. She finally looked up and answered.

"Yes... I... I did." Tia said, half whispering. Azia looked at her again, the white female's nipples, pink and hard, easy to see now. She was becoming aroused as well. Alps smiled. This was going pretty well.

"Azia... would you like to see Tia play with your toy some time too?" the slave asked softly, knowing full well what the answer would be.

"Yes..." Azia said, with surprisingly little hesitation. A soft whine came from the grey, and she lowered her hips a bit. Alps could smell the humid rise of her arousal, the strongest in the room. He looked down at her thighs, her fur already matted down along one inner thigh, as her nectar had already started to run. She was sitting here, fur to fur, nude before her also unclad object of worship. Alps held up the toy, and brought it to Tia's muzzle.

"Can you smell the scent of your general, Tia?" Alps asked softly. The girl's eyes fluttered shut as she inhaled, and she bucked her hips a little, biting her lip, and trembling. Azia's eyes widened and she licked her own lips a bit, looking to Alps, deep blush in her ears and over her muzzle. The slave nodded softly. "Touch it with your tongue, Tia... Taste her..." he said slowly. Tia, seemingly without a single thought or care in the world, did as prompted, her tongue snaking out to caress along one side of the crystal cock. "Can you taste

her?" Alps asked softly. Tia nodded and whimpered again softly.

Azia watched intently. The younger female kept her eyes shut, inhaling deeply now. Her heart was obviously racing. "Is that the first time you have ever tasted Azia?" Alps asked softly. Tia shook her head. No, it was not. Azia's eyes widened again, and this time, she released the soft whine, and lowered her hips a bit, spreading her legs a little more. Alps got a good look at her swollen pinkish labia, which were steaming with her scent now. They were glistening, as she fairly drooled her nectar as much as Tia. He felt almost cruel, getting these two worked up so much, but he felt it was the only way to get them to open up to one another. The one way to break down their inhibitions. "Do you like her taste? Do you want to taste her again?" Alps asked Tia.

"Ahh... Y... Yes..." came the grey-furred female's reply. The white male looked to Azia and smiled at her, and Azia smiled back, faintly, looking as if she might pass out. Alps pulled Azia back a bit, and got around behind her, letting her rest against his chest, as he remained on his knees, fully clothed, behind her. He let her half lay against him, her legs still spread, her knees still on the bed, displaying her very intimately to Tia. The girl opened her eyes, and hugged her breasts again, this time, not concealing, but just squeezing them from pleasure. Alps handed the crystal toy to Tia, and smiled to her.

"Tia... touch the tip to her, touch it gently, but get some of her taste... her scent... on it. Then, taste her again." the slave said softly. He suddenly felt as if he were teaching, and that, although odd, made him feel useful. Tia swallowed, and blushed deeply, looking into Azia's eyes.

"Is... it okay?" Azia's subordinate asked, seeming to be in disbelief. Azia nodded softly, looking to be on the verge of tears of joy.

"Mmm... Yes... Yes, It's okay. But only you... Alps can't touch, okay?" the general stated clearly. Alps nodded softly, in understanding. This was a very special moment. He was here to facilitate, not to participate or interfere. Tia moved closer, and smiled at Alps... a kind of smile that let Alps know she was thanking him. She lowered the toy and guided it, so very slowly, to Azia's sex. The white-furred general gasped, and crooned very softly, her strong body flexing in Alps' grip. The white male lupine held her by her shoulders only, not touching Azia any more intimately than he had to in order to hold her still. Tia rolled the tip of the toy around a bit, giving it a good coating, and the general arched her back with strained pleasure and cooed very sweetly, obviously enjoying it. Tia then moved it away, and the older female watched, breathless, as the gray female brought the toy to her lips, then engulfed the tip with her muzzle, rolling her tongue on it softly.

Azia looked back at Alps, and smiled at him the same way Tia had. The slave wondered if it were a better idea to leave them be and let them take it from

there, but then decided they both were now looking at him to guide them, as odd as it was. How had he managed to get in control here? He looked to Tia and said softly,

"Okay, sweetie... this is about sharing, you understand... you should let Azia taste too, if she says she wants to..." the slave stated. Tia looked to Azia, and the white warrior nodded shyly. The girl blushed again, and then leaned back, holding her calf while she spread her legs, and dipped the toy about an inch or so into her, and swirled it a bit, coating it, and whimpering loudly, seeming to get a lot of pleasure from that, as turned on as she was. Her copious nectar rolled down the gleaming clear shaft of the crystal cock as she teased herself internally with it, however shallow. She then brought it up to Azia's lips, and her superior wasted no time in licking it eagerly clean. Tia groaned at the sight of this. The slave then reached out, and took the toy from the younger grey female, who was reluctant to give it up. She looked at Alps, as did Azia.

"Hey... we were... ahh... havin' fun with that." Tia said, blushing hotly. Azia blushed as well, and nodded. Alps could not help thinking what a transformation it was when these two were intimate. He nodded to them both.

"Yes, I know... but there is something else you two might have fun with too." he stated. "Tia... I want you to move over to Azia, and give her a hug, okay?" Alps said softly. He really didn't know a whole lot about how females interacted sexual except from what he learned watching Misha and Uri, and they loved letting him watch. Most of their sexual encounters started while hugging, however, so he felt this was the natural way to go. He released Azia, and moved to sit in the chair Azia had been in. He winced, and stifled a yelp of agony. He reached under him, and pulled Azia's left glove off the seat, and tossed it over against the wall.

"Like this?" Tia asked, bringing herself in close, and embracing Azia. The general trilled softly, and closed her eyes, seeming to just drift into heaven that very second. "Azia you are so warm." Her subordinate said, hugging tighter. Alps said nothing. He felt he would not have to. For a while, in silence, Tia and Azia held one another, but eventually, as Alps expected, the general's hand began to drift up and down along Tia's body. The younger girl arched her back a little, to look, nose to nose, with Azia. Their eyes said perhaps a thousand things back and forth between one another, none of which Alps could hear, but he had said those things, every single one, to Nita in his own eyes.

Both of their eyes began to drift closed, and Alps smiled warmly, knowing full well that look... those slowly closing eyes. Both of their heads tilted, just a little in opposite directions, and Azia pulled Tia into a kiss, tight to lips first, but soon, tongue explored muzzle, back and forth between them. The wolf felt his own arousal screaming within him, but he held back. This was not his moment. This was theirs, and he felt blessed to get to watch this. Tia suddenly gasped,

and pulled from the kiss, laying her head over Azia's shoulder, panting. Alps looked down, having been watching the kiss, he didn't notice. The general's hand was cupped over Tia's sex, and she had two long, strong fingers buried inside her.

"It's okay... I'll not hurt you." Azia whispered.

"Ahh... I know... Mm... Azia I..." Tia started, and then shuddered, rolling her hips against her mistress' touch. Azia slowed down a little, letting the girl speak. The gray lupine female, panting heavily now, brought her hands to Azia's breasts, giving them a squeeze, before slowly beginning to massage them, making the older female squeal in soft delight. Her subordinate continued to roll her hips against those probing fingers.

"Lay down... Ohh... On your back Tia..." Azia said softly. Tia looked longingly at Azia a moment, and then complied. Alps leaned forward, panting softly, his body feeling so hot. This was it. This would be their final step into intimacy together. Tia moved to the center of the bed, and lay on her back, spreading her legs for her lover, welcoming her completely with loving eyes as hot, tangy nectar just spilled over the base of her slowly wagging tail. Azia sighed happily, and moved over to her on all fours. She lowered her body, her chest to the bed, and looked over Tia's heaving body, her breasts moving up and down with her erratic panting.

"Ahh... I... I haven't... felt so hot... in my life..." Tia said, panting.

"It's okay, Tia... I feel the same way, to be honest..." Azia stated. "Are you... ready?" the general asked.

"Yeah... I was ready... months ago..." Tia said, pulling a gasp out of Azia in the process. Slowly, Azia lowered her head, smiling, tears suddenly flowing down her muzzle. She licked her lips, and then, her muzzle parted, pressed her tongue into Tia's dewy, glistening folds. In only a couple seconds of having that tongue in her, Tia wailed, and Azia's face was soaked, that grey female perhaps being the most copiously climaxing female Alps had ever know. This startled Azia a little, causing her to pull back, sputtering slightly. The younger girl whimpered and rolled her hips helplessly, as a sudden, unstoppable climax already wracked her body.

Azia looked stunned for just a moment, her eyes wide. finally, realizing what happened, she lowered her head again, and stated licking frantically, taking Tia's taste from her, and finally, as she calmed down, and stop jumping from being so sensitive, Azia slipped her tongue back into those tangy muscular folds, letting her clamp around that ribbon of lupine silk like a fleshy vice. Alps groaned softly, wanting so much to feel that around his own tongue, but knowing his place he stayed. Azia began to nuzzle at her lover's clit slowly, and loll her tongue

deep inside her, getting the girl worked up again in very little time at all, so overjoyed was she at getting to be with Azia. The lady lupine looked up from Tia's sex to Alps finally, and, blushing, said softly,

"Alps... Ahh... umm... Heh... What was the thing you did that she liked yesterday? Can you show me?" she asked, trembling. Alps found it to be very sweet that she wanted to know how to pleasure Tia more, and the younger female just groaned lustfully, seeming to have lost any thread of shyness now. Alps nodded, and moved over, close by, and pointed to Tia's clit.

"Right here... Do this..." Alps brought his finger to his lips, and slipped his tongue out. Then, he slipped his tongue rapidly back and forth over the tip of his finger. Azia watched a moment, and then nodded, lowering her head. The white male got a very good view then, as the general spread Tia's sex wide open with her hands carefully, gently, and used her tongue as Alps instructed. Tia whimpered louder and louder, as Azia relentlessly attacked, her tongue flitting and darting. From time to time, to rest her tongue, Azia would move her fingers in place of it, stroking the same way, from side to side. Alps' young friend did not seem aware of the switch, and continued to writhe and beg desperately, without any real words, for the release she knew her lover would bring.

Alps watched the pure art of Azia's tongue on that glistening sex as the older female became almost obsessed with her task. Finally, when it seemed that Azia's tongue was getting tired, Tia arched her back high and gave Azia's muzzle a second glistening coat of feminine cum. The general then reared back, laughing happily, her eyes half closed, her heart hammering, and her mind spinning. She had not been the one to climax, but hearing Tia pop had made her just as cum-drunk as her subordinate now was. Tia sat up and just pushed Azia onto her back. The larger female toppled with ease, squeaking like a child losing her balance.

"Oh Tia!" she cried happily, as the younger female very zealously buried her muzzle between her mistress' thighs. Azia released one long and plaintive moan after another as her lover used her tongue and her fingers as eagerly as she could. The slave watched, panting heavily, his heart pounding, as the two became further and further involved. Very little time went by before Azia was rolling her hips as helplessly as Tia had been, whimpering anxiously. The grey female held her down, very eager in her lovemaking with Azia, as the strong white female drew her legs around the younger girl's shoulders. Alps watched the heated wrapping of arms and legs, body rolling against body, and all manner of sexual sounds between the two, helplessly.

He wanted so badly just to be able to remove his pants, and pleasure himself at the very least. He was allowed to with Uri and Misha, since they liked him to just watch sometimes, but knew how hard it was for him. Here, he didn't have that option. He didn't want to detract from the special moment these two

were having. He watched as Tia held her head back a little and her long, agile, pink tongue zipped in and out like a slender cock, pumping into her object of affection. With each plunge of that hot length of silky flesh, Azia's body jerked. She was getting very close, and was going to cum fast. Alps leaned forward to watch, but could see little as Tia suddenly opened her muzzle, cupping Azia's mound tightly, plunging her tongue deep inside lustfully! Finally, with a loud, uncharacteristically high-pitched squeal of release, Azia threw her head back, shaking, and Alps heard a wet *galumph* of Tia getting more than she bargained for. The girl managed not to choke as she licked the heavily climaxing Azia clean as fast as her nectar erupted from her.

After a very long and wet orgasm, Tia slid slowly up Azia's body, with the look of a very sated lover, licking her soaking muzzle as Alps, still clothed but shaking, watched. Azia's subordinate giggled softly, looking over to her male friend, as she pressed her breasts to her lover's. She looked back into her lover's eyes, kissing her ardently, as her hips still burned and tingled letting her drift slowly into afterglow.

"Now..." Alps said, trying to catch his breath. "You both have something very important to say to one another." he churred, trying to hide his terribly aroused state.

"Yes... You are right." Azia said, seeming serious again, her eyes going back to that almost warrior's state, narrow and cunning. Tia looked into them, canting her head.

"Yes... L... Lady Azia?" Tia asked, shakily. The climax had taken a lot out of her.

"Tia... I... I am in love with you." came the general's clear and determined words. There was a lot of will and power behind them. She now had no trouble at all saying them. Tia's breath caught in her throat, and she looked down into her beloved leader's eyes, tears spilling suddenly down the sides of her muzzle. The young female spoke, her voice broken by tears.

"Essence of the light, Azia I love you too!" and with that, all was merely a jumble of crying and petting and loving before the ear-flicking slave. For about ten minutes, they held each other, the release they felt in telling one another about their hidden love being far more powerful and mind-wracking than the most powerful of climax they could share. The male held his arms folded over his lap as he happily watched them. It was beautiful, Alps thought. One of the most beautiful things he'd ever seen, even though they both looked like drowned rats from the crying and the cum-soaked fur.

The slave leaned back, and adjusted his pants, to let him sit more comfortably. He would be riled up for some time.

"Awww... Poor Alps." came Tia's voice, as she stroked her lover's face, holding herself on top of her.

"Well... I'm impressed Alps... You kept your hands to yourself... You didn't even paint the sheets from watching us." Azia said, still panting softly.

The slave smirked a bit, still feeling good from what he's witnessed, regardless. He decided not to risk them thinking he was turned off by the display, and murmured, "It was far from easy to manage. I can hardly move right now." The general grinned at that coyly, and murmured,

"I suppose I should reward you, shouldn't I?" Tia giggled, and licked Azia's cheek.

"I bet he would like that." she said playfully.

"You know you are still not allowed to do anything to me unless I give you permission, right Alps?" Azia asked, caressing Tia's bottom slowly.

"Yes, m'lady..." Alps said softly. "As I said... you would have to command me to."

"Even now, you won't beg?" Azia asked, seeming rather stunned. Tia looked up and giggled a bit.

"Oh no, Azia... No you don't... Alps is nice, don't play that game with him." She winked, snuggling against Azia, who hugged her back. She seemed utterly thrilled to get to do that openly now.

"What game? I just think he should be willing to beg, yes? I am worth begging for, aren't I?" Azia asked, tickling Tia. She giggled softly, and nodded, squealing happily. She seemed so much more the little girl in Azia's embrace. The general looked back up to Alps. "So... do I still have to order you to?" she asked.

"I will faithfully follow your orders, m'lady.." Alps churred softly, secretly hoping he could hold out. He was very heated through and through by what he'd just witnessed.

"Very well, Alps... I will give an order... Take your clothes off. Let me and my sweet Tia see you..." she churred. Tia embraced her love again, enjoying getting called that. The slave nodded, thankful for the dismissal of his constrictive clothing, and very casually stood and undressed. He was rock hard, glistening pink and wet, his cock aching with need. He had made love three times in the past two days, and was not the least bit tired. He knew it would

catch up to him eventually though. He stood there, his hands behind his back, smiling softly at Azia and Tia. The general looked at Alps for a little while, and giggled. The younger girl looked to her lover, and wagged her tail slowly, their nude forms still together.

"Just as you requested, m'lady. I stand nude before you." Alps stated clearly, and then gritted his teeth, having looked down in time to see a long, drooling ribbon of pre pour down from his twitching tip to the sheets of the bed. Alps lowered his head, chuckling. "Heh... sorry... that was very intense to watch, I'll admit." he churred, his hands still behind his back. Azia looked to Tia and smiled mischievously.

"Could you take it?" Azia asked. The girl blushed and then nodded.

"Would you enjoy letting me do that?" Tia asked.

"As long as we never have to stop holding each other..." the general's answer came. She licked her lips. "Could you... Turn... so my head is between your thighs?" the white female asked. Tia blushed, and then smiled, almost wickedly. She slowly turned around, and Alps just stood there, a little bit confused. Did they want him to do something? What were these two up to? Tia situated herself down over Azia's face, and then squealed happily as the buxom general evidently fed her sex a length of tongue. Tia then looked over her shoulder at Alps, and said softly, rather longingly,

"Alpsie... Come over here... We aren't just gonna let you go to bed like that... You won't be able to roll over on your tummy, and you'll snore..." she said, seeming very serious. The girl then squeaked again, and wriggled her hips.

"I... can't touch unless ordered to." Alps stated calmly, not wanting to lose Azia's trust by showing a lack of control.

"Get between my hips on your knees, Alps, in front of Tia." Azia said, muffled between her lover's thighs. Tia shuddered a bit from the vibrations of the general's voice. The gray lupine female picked up the crystal toy that Alps had put down on the bed.

"I know what she is playing at..." Tia said, giggling sweetly. "It's okay Alps, get on your knees... right there." She patted the bed between Azia's thighs, as the general seemed to double her efforts, licking Tia deeply. Tia's breath was feathery and panting already. Alps did as he was told, his body quaking with need as he leaned back a little, on his knees in front of Tia. The girl looked under herself, at Azia, and churred softly.

"Mmmph... okay... Tia, yeah... there it is. Use that toy on me... you watched me, so you know how I like it I think, but... get Alps off at the... same

time." The white-furred female panted, her arousal peaking again. The younger girl nodded, and licked the shiny length of crystal a few times, getting it wet. It was about 11 inches long, which made it two more than Alps, but about two inches stayed out, as the girls had to hold onto it. After she got it wet, she placed it at the entrance to Azia's sex.

Alps had a really good look now at that perfect mound, pink lips, spreading like rose petals with need as Tia placed that toy upon them. Azia arched her hips and Tia, with tenderness and love, pressed it slowly in, working it back and forth, filling her lover's sex with it. It spread her open, and her labia hugged the toy, suckling on it as she slipped it in and out. Alps found himself almost ready to beg just from watching that, but fought the urge. Tia was given that task already. The male lupine groaned loudly as he felt Tia's hand wrap around his cock firmly. He huffed softly, shivering,

"Mmm... Ohh, Tia! You won't have to work hard for this one..." He felt odd speaking so candidly about it, but he'd really grown used to sex practically as a way of life. Perhaps he really was a sex slave at this point? He didn't know, and with a sweet, loving female caressing his length like Tia was, he was not inclined to care. He caressed her face as he looked down, and watched her begin to strum the toy into her lover's sex. He whimpered loudly, and tightened the muscles in his legs. Tia began to quake softly, whimpering a bit, as her hand sped up. She was mimicking the speed, it seemed, that Azia was licking her.

Alps could hear that tongue, working that wet, turgid flesh. He leaned back to give Tia more room, and found that it invited her to try something else. He winced and moaned loudly as his friend's muzzle closed around his length. Her tongue drew back hard, as hard as Tia possibly could to suckle heavily on that turgid length, and she jerked her head back softly, again and again, tugging at Alps' throbbing flesh. The male whined loudly, the feel of her sucking him so hard like that almost spilling his seed right then and there, but he didn't want to pop too soon before the two girls. He wanted to hold on and be a part of their fun now that he was invited.

Tia seemed to be glad to include him, especially since she felt thankful that he, in part, caused it to happen. Faster, and more intently she stroked that crystal dildo in her beloved Azia. Azia's hips began to jump softly, back and forth, and raising up, rolling against the toy. Her desperate whines of longing carried joyfully into the air.

"Yes... Tia... Oh stars on the night, how long I have wanted... you to be the one moving that in me..." he whimpered. Tia whimpered, as she felt that tongue scooping and scraping her inner walls, her nethers jerking tight around it, resisting, but welcoming at the same time.

"Ohhh, Azia... I... heard you call my name last night... I knew... Oh love, I knew. I was scared though... oh yes... deep... like that... I'll cum!" she

whimpered, her self restraint completely gone. Tia's muzzle came back down on Alps' cock. Her hand hammered that toy in and out of Azia. The white lupine female, muscles flexing, rolled her hips harder. If Tia was fucking her, she was fucking back, as far as she was concerned. Alps got the feeling that toy would be shared between them a *long* time. He felt his sack welling up, drawing close to his body. It was gonna be a strong one when it came. He whimpered a little, and listened to Azia's voice again.

"Ahh... Tia... Yes... Make Alps cum on your chest, sweetie... I wanna see it when we are done." she whimpered, rolling her hips eagerly. "Nnnngg... Oh Tia! Close! I'm getting close... faster... move it faster... hit me with your knuckles... Nnnnf! yes!" she cried out, as Tia balled her knuckles a little, and let them tap Azia's clit as she punched the toy in and out faster. Azia raised her hips.

"Gonna cum!" Tia whined loudly. "So close, Azia! Yes! Yes!!" She encouraged. Alps' head was spinning. He couldn't hold back anymore. As Tia ran her hand up and down his length, calling out to Azia, The white male released. He felt the hot surge of energy sear through him, and then pulse after pulse leaving his body. Tia squealed in rapture, as she took the full force of it all over her chest, and climaxed at the same time. Her hand continued to pump the toy for Azia, who was lagging only a little bit behind. Azia called out, her face obviously soaked again,

"Yefth Thia! Oh yefth!!" Alps arched his back, whimpering as Tia slowed her hand on his cock, slick with his seed. A little late, as if it was just dawning on her, Tia cried out,

"Oh Azia! He's popped! Oh gods yes... all over me, love!" she cried, as an aftershock of her orgasm shook her body. Alps felt a spatter of wetness on his knees, as Azia's sex convulsed around the toy, and the female, wrenching on her back helplessly, howled right into Tia's sex, sending the girl wailing with another weaker, but still potent orgasm from the shock of the sound vibrations alone! Alps caught Tia as she fell forward, letting go of the toy, which slipped out of her lover, and the room went silent, save for heavy panting.

The slave looked at Tia, tears in her eyes from release and happiness. He could not see Azia, who was still breathing, muffled between her lover's thighs. He wondered how long this moment had been building. How long had these two been waiting for the dam to burst? Would he no longer be needed now that they had each other? Even if that were the case, he'd still happily serve at their side. Seeing the blossoming of love between them gave Alps a personal attachment to them. He'd protect them just as he had Nita, until he was done with this personal quest.

After a while, Alps pulled Tia to her side, to lay alongside Azia, who, while still awake, was in a stupor. Alps sat beside them, the bed kind of full with those two on it. He would gladly sleep at the foot of the bed, to give them the room

they'd need. He smiled at the general softly.

"She passes out a lot..." Alps observed softly. Azia chuckled and nodded softly.

"You are... a very odd slave, Alps." Azia said softly.

"Hmm?" Alps looked at her curiously.

"Well... I just... feel like I can expect great things from you... even though you were just a slave. I will be honest." She inhaled deeply. "I had originally intended to use you as a bargaining tool with Nita, to force her hand in other matters than the Jalana thing... smaller matters, yes, but enough to give me more leverage with some of the regional matriarchs. Now, however... I am beginning to feel that your presence in this... story... might be something completely different." Alps looked at Azia curiously as she panted softly. He was going to be used... against Nita? He felt guilty that he had nearly put her in such a predicament. But here, through just being himself, he had changed that. What would Azia expect from him now? Even if he was unusual, he was still just a slave.

"Azia?" Alps said softly.

"Yes?" she replied, hugging up close to Tia, who shifted a bit, and held Azia too in her slumber. Her breasts were still streaked with wet, white streamers of Alps' release, and Azia did not seem to mind, this time, getting it all into her fur.

"Would Nita be proud of me... or angry with me?" he asked.

"If I were Nita," Azia said softly, "I think I should be very worried. Maybe scared, if I lost someone like you... Do you wish to return to her, Alps?" Azia asked, making it obvious that, for all he'd done for Tia, he could turn back now with her blessing. Alps thought a little while, and then looked into Azia's eyes.

"I cannot return to Nita until I am sure I have done what I can to prevent her sadness." he half-whispered.

"Her sadness?" Azia asked.

"I do not wish her to blame herself for Jalana's loss. I will do everything in my power, even cast away my life, to prevent her from falling prey to the tragedy of another town she could have protected." he said softly, looking into the general's eyes.

"Alps... if the war ever comes to a contest of the strength of the hordes...

and the strength of your spirit, I think we'd have nothing to fear." Azia said, caressing Tia's head.

"Th... thank you." Alps said, a little taken aback by the compliments of his honest words.

"When I look into your eyes, Alps... I feel like... I am looking into those of a knight... a hero, but you are a slave, aren't you? I wonder... is that what you were really supposed to be?" The white-furred female looked into slave's eyes, and for the first time in his life, he found himself wondering if he really was a slave anymore... or had his love for Nita driven him to become... something more?