

# Chapter Nineteen\_Branthor

In Chapter Nineteen of the story, Branthor finds himself in a critical condition due to gunshot wounds. His brothers, Teal, Maren, and Nova rush him home, where they set him up on the couch with pillows and blankets for comfort. Sava and Varna, two elderly grendel females, are called for their expertise in plant medicine, but they lack the means to extract the bullets from Branthor's body. Meanwhile, Nova goes to fetch Gwen, a human doctor married to a grendel, to assist in the procedure.

Gwen arrives with a first aid kit and expertly works alongside Nova to extract the bullets while administering painkillers. Although Branthor initially hesitates to take them, the pain leads him to request their use, and Gwen injects him for quicker relief. The extraction prolongs into the night, leaving him exhausted and nauseous. Despite his insistence that Teal take care of herself, she stays by his side, showing care and devotion.

For the following two days, Branthor recovers, feeling embarrassed about his weakness. However, amidst recovery, Teal moves into his room, and they develop their connection without the distractions of physical intimacy. Branthor appreciates this time to bond with Teal, experiencing a deeper form of love. On the third day, he feels rejuvenated enough to cook breakfast and goes outside to watch the sunrise, despite Teal's worries.

Later, Branthor's brother, Kairos, arrives, preoccupied and agitated. He reveals that a delegate from the Temple is scheduled to visit for a marital check-up on Teal, a condition set for them to officially take her in. Branthor is surprisingly pleased by this and decides to embrace the situation enthusiastically. Teal, excited by the news, begins to prepare for the meeting, hinting at the importance of the day as she considers which dress to wear.

When the delegate arrives, Teal looks stunning in her chosen white dress, reflecting the warmth of their union. As they make small talk over lunch, the Temple delegate inquires about Teal's adaptation and Branthor's treatment of her. Through the laughter and light-hearted banter, Branthor presents the delayed marriage contract, explaining that he wishes to sign it in the presence of the delegate. The moment solidifies their commitment, and as Branthor signs the contract, Teal expresses her joy, capturing the happiness they have found in each other .