

# Dr. Luna

## #The Vampires Promised Bride Prologue

### The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 2

A tall lanky young man with dark green hair and eyes jogged up to Aiden and Lucy. He had a lopsided grin on his face and he folded his arms in front of him. "I have been looking for you two... well specifically Aiden. No offense Luce but you are a babe killer."

Lucy giggled and shook her head at her cousin Justice. Justice was only 10 months younger than they were. He was her Uncle Jason and Aunt Jin's son and Destiny's younger brother. Aiden and Justice were naturally close. In fact, Justice had taken on his unofficial role to be Aiden's guardian. Guardians were only for fairy royalty. It was a long story about their lineage, and she often just left it out because people didn't understand. But they were descendants of fairy royalty. In fact, her father was the fairy prince before he became the king of the werewolves. With fairies, it is the queen and princess who hold all the power. And it is their children that get the royal titles. Since their father was the fairy prince both her and Aiden would not be considered fairy royalty. Her cousin Alexis was though. She was the fairy princess and one of her best friends.

Justice's dad, Jason, is also her father Wyatt's guardian. This is where Justice got the idea of making himself an honorary guardian of Aiden's. Lucy looked at her awkward cousin. He was always a character to have around. But if a fight broke out you would want him on your side. Both him and his sister Destiny were part werebear and part demon. But what was remarkable was how close their powers were. It was almost as if they had become their own species. Neither one could shift but they had a very unique power. In fact, special swords were made for the both of them that could harness their powers. They could materialize their swords from thin air when they needed them.

This wasn't just true for them but their other cousin Raine was the same way. She was part kelpie and part werebear but her powers were similar to Destiny and Justice. Her parents and relatives always insinuated it was the work of the moon goddess. And they believed this was planned for the future. But who really knows?

Lucy and Aiden were part werewolf, fairy, witch, and vampire. But because of their father being the werewolf king their wolves reigned supreme. They just had extra abilities but were basically just very dangerous werewolves... in a sense. Aiden and Lucy were a bit different from other werewolves...

She smiled as she watched Justice animatedly talk about these 'hotties' that came from another pack. He was getting Aiden all amped up and begging him to help fix him up for the night. Ugh. Men. Or boys? She couldn't decide what they were. Man-boys? They were somewhere in between.

"Hey, by the way, Dessy is leaving the pack TONIGHT! She decided she was ready for Harley to claim her and he doesn't want to wait another night." Justice grinned. "Momma is excited for her and is of course a blubbering jumping excited mess. But dad took Harley to the side and is having a nice little chat with him. I'm guessing it is along the lines of 'I killed two hellhounds during the war and if you mistreat my daughter, I have no problem adding you to that list.' Blah blah. Though according to Uncle Tristan dad only killed one hellhound." Justice chuckled. An ongoing discrepancy in the family is how many hellhounds his dad and two uncles had killed. Cody and his dad claim two, but their Uncle Tristan took the finishing kill so added it to his list of four hell hounds killed. "Uncle Jason is only saying that in good fun and even Harley knows it. We all know how much your dad respects and depends on Harley." Lucy shook her head smiling. "But you males always have to put on a show. Which I think is really your inner insecurity crying out."

"Inner insecurity?" Aiden let a crooked smile raise on his lips and turned to look at his sister.

"Is that what she said?" Justice smirked at Lucy as both man-boys faced off against her.

"I didn't stutter." Lucy planted her hands on her hips tilting her head to the side. A side smile spread over her face as she waited for them to make a move.

"Hmmm, I think I need to show you my poor insecure strength." Aiden said as he pumped his chest out with an exaggerated fake manly laugh. Maybe they were just boys?

Justice fake pounded his fist in his hand. "I say we make her beg for mercy."

"Touch my future princess and you'll be the ones begging for mercy." A soft baritone voice sounded as a blur planted at Lucy's side.

"Jasper, whose side are you on?" Aiden furrowed his eyebrows at the vampire. "She told us that us males are insecure."

Jasper quirked an eyebrow down to Lucy. "Is that right Luce?" He said taking a step away from her and standing next to Aiden's side. "Well, then I do think a punishment is in order." Lucy rolled her eyes. They were like a couple of yappy little dogs. All bark but no bite. At least when it came to her.

Jasper was vampire nobility. His father was the vampire king's brother. In other places, he would be considered a duke, but vampires didn't use those titles. He was just

considered higher up among the vampires. Jasper was fun, goofy, and considerate. And with his pale skin, blonde hair, and brown eyes he was quite the lady's man, and he knew it.

His parents were close with her family and always tried to make it for special events. Plus it was their way of staying in close contact with Lucy since she was to be their princess. And Lucy was glad to be so close to Jasper since she wouldn't feel as homesick having a good friend like him around.

"As much as I love punishing Lucy... there are a few ladies back at the party who were looking a bit lonely. And with Jasper as our wingman, I think we have an in." Justice said.

"Hey, what about me?" Aiden huffed out.

"Jasper is way smoother with the ladies." Justice chuckled. "Well, you in Jasp?"

"I don't know... I came here to hang with Luce." Jasper looked over at Lucy with a guilty hopeful look.

Lucy giggled, "Get out of here you morons. And let's hope those girls don't have any brains otherwise you are all out of luck."

"Ouch. Luce. My heart." Aiden pouted clutching his chest.

"Eh, I hope they are shallow because that's our in. Between looks and title chasers we have an in." Justice shrugged. He didn't care. An in was an in. He graduated and he was ready to celebrate.

Jasper winked at Lucy and then the three boys strolled off together. They were laughing and pumping up their egos. Like she said... insecure. Lucy smiled and shook her head. Ah well, she loved them and their obnoxious ways. And there was a small part that was jealous of them too. They could all go off and flirt with random girls. None of them had mates and were free to enjoy their youth. Where everyone knew that Lucy was spoken for.

She walked towards the packhouse and toward the party in the back. Destiny would be attached to Harley somewhere and that is who she usually hung out with. But maybe Raine and Alexis would show up. Their families had these unique pearls that would let them teleport to the location of the other pearl. There were a total of four of them and one piece would be going with Lucy when she left the Diamond pack. But she wasn't sure if they were coming since they had come to visit just the day before for a smaller family celebration. Today was more of a big formality for the other packs to feel involved.

She saw her father, Wyatt, immediately when she walked around the corner of the house. He was always busy taking turns talking with all the different pack members present. Most alphas didn't miss the opportunity to meet with their king and so when there was a party they knew a lot of different packs would attend. This meant her dad didn't have a lot of extra time during the party.

"Sorry. I need to steal my husband for a bit."

Lucy watched as her mother, Freya, saved her father from whatever boring conversation was going on. Her mother was an amazing person. Not only was she wise but she was incredibly strong. Once upon a time, she was called the huntress. She was a well-known demon hunter, but was now an amazing queen to the werewolves.

Lucy watched as her parents made their way over to her. "Lucy, my baby girl. Where is your brother at?" Wyatt asked, wrapping his spare arm around Lucy hugging her into his side.

"I think Aiden right now is with Jasper and Justice. They are trying their luck with some of the fresh meat available." Lucy rolled her eyes with a laugh.

Wyatt sighed. "He really needs to start getting more involved in these political talks."

"You can barely stay awake during them. Don't torture our son with them already." Freya elbowed him slightly and smiled up at him.

"Is grandma and pap pap coming?" Lucy asked.

"You already missed mom and dad. They stopped by for only a short while but couldn't stay. There is some flower blooming ceremony that your grandma has to bless. Especially since your aunt Rhea hasn't taken over her full responsibilities as the fairy queen yet. They plan to come back tomorrow." Wyatt watched as his beta Sam walked over towards them. "No no Sam. No more..."

Freya giggled as she listened to her mate whining over his duties. "And you wanted to burden your son with this. Look at you."

Sam chuckled. "Sorry alpha. There are two packs disputing territory lines and it is starting to get heated."

Wyatt rubbed his forehead and sighed. He grinned and looked over at Freya. "This one sounds like a job for my queen."

"You don't want me to handle it. If I start handling these entitled alpha pack problems we are going to have less and less packs to worry about." Freya gave him a crooked grin.

"Hmmm." Wyatt pretended to consider what she was offering.

"I'll go with you and give you a hand. For some reason, they seem to behave better when I am around."

"That is because your deadly reputation precedes you, my dear." Wyatt kissed the top of Freya's head. "Alright Sam, lead us to them."

"Lucy." Freya looked over at her daughter. "Go and enjoy yourself. You don't always have to act like the perfect princess." She winked at her daughter as she walked off with Wyatt. Lucy always behaved as expected. But she wanted her daughter to have a bit of fun and experience life. If only they could blend Lucy and Aiden's personalities together, they would be perfect. Aiden was always more wild and had a tendency to get himself in trouble. But soon he would be burdened with a lot of responsibility, so she was fine with him enjoying himself for now.

Lucy walked over to an isolated bench away from the party commotion and sat down. Enjoy herself? Hard to do when everyone was afraid to approach her. Between her family and already being promised to another, most people politely avoided her. Well... most men did.

"I see I am not the only one looking for a quiet place to escape?"

Lucy turned her head up to see a set of baby blue eyes looking down at her. The man had a dazzling white smile with cute dimples. And he didn't hide the fact that he was openly eyeing her up. Her cheeks flushed slightly. No one had ever been this bold with her. He must not know who she is.

"It's Lucy, right?" He asked, keeping his grin wide.

Lucy smiled and nodded her head. Okay so maybe this party would be a bit more fun.

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 3**

"I'm Kyle, my father is the beta of the Slate pack. He is always dragging me along with him on these things which no offense is usually pretty boring. I know this is supposed to be a celebration but..." Kyle looked around with his eyes raised. "This is more like a "Just what a bunch of puffed-up wolves need is alcohol to fuel their egos." Lucy sighed and inwardly rolled her eyes. This guy was cute but so far that was all he had going for him.

retirement party than a school graduation party. I mean where is the alcohol?"

Kyle chuckled. "You are not at all how I imagined the werewolf princess. I expected someone more quiet and reserved."

"Of course you did. I bet your idea of a good woman is one who stays at home with the pups. She keeps the house clean and has a hot meal waiting for you when you come home from patrol." Lucy smirked over at him. "You see that isn't me. I would be the one leading the patrol and keeping your a\*s safe."

"Ho ho ho." Kyle grinned and sat closely next to Lucy. He side faced her a bit as he grinned. "The other stuff might be ideal, but I don't know. There is something attractive about having a strong female by your side." He openly looked her over.

For once she was getting openly noticed but she didn't feel good about it. Instead, it actually annoyed her. It felt disrespectful in a sense. She turned her sharp eyes up to him and set a fierce gaze upon his blue eyes. "I'm not sure if I need to mention this... I mean it is common knowledge, but I can't detect if you have any intellect or not. The thing is you are looking at me like I am someone obtainable. I am already promised to another. While I am flattered, a paper bag with hot air is attracted to me, it really is bad form to be so open about it." She watched his grin widen.

Kyle leaned a bit closer so that she could feel his hot breath on her skin. "Aren't you a bit curious? I bet your lips have never been touched." His eyes wandered to her soft pink lips. "Don't you want to know what it feels like? Aren't you a bit curious to feel real intense passion? I'm not going to cross the line with you princess. But I think you are beautiful. I know you are being handed over to the vampires." Kyle's face looked annoyed and he frowned. "Our precious princess is being given to those bloodsuckers." He looked into her green eyes. "You deserve more than that. You deserve to have a real choice and a chance at passion. I don't have any delusions. I know we can't be a thing. But if you want, I can show you what a real kiss feels like."

Lucy started busting out laughing. She couldn't help it. She raised her hand over her mouth and giggled uncontrollably. "You are good. And any other soft-minded female would have gone weak at the knees for your speech I am sure." She then shot him an icy gaze and narrowed her eyes at him. "Those 'blood suckers' are our allies and my friends. And soon to be my family. It is also a part of me and my mother... you know, YOUR queen. I don't like your tone when you talk about them. And I don't appreciate your wording. Your 'precious' princess has CHOSEN this life in order to keep the packs safe. In order to ensure peace. And YOU want to show me what a REAL kiss feels like?" Lucy scoffed. "There would be nothing real about it. This is you trying to put another mark on your checklist. I don't need your pretentious words." She stood up and started walking away. She just made it to a well-beaten path in the woods when she heard the sound of feet running up behind her.

Kyle laughed as he slowed near her side. "Okay, you win. You win. I won't underestimate you again. I'll just be me and hey if you like that then my offer is still on

the table." He winked at her. "And being completely transparent... yes I would absolutely love to taste your lips. It is one for my bucket list."

Lucy smiled and shook her head. "I appreciate your newfound honesty, Kyle. You know you will probably get a lot farther with one of the other ladies here. Go and use your flirtatious talents on someone it will work on."

Kylee grinned and flashed her his white toothy smile. "And give up my dream of kissing your lips at least once? Never. I have time. I'll wear you down." He winked at her and looked around the trail they were walking down. "So where are we heading?" "Away from the retirement home party." Lucy smiled. "That party is centered for the adults. Which is why you didn't see anyone our age there but me. Which made me your prime target. There were no other females around." She led him through some thick brush to see a large bonfire. Around the bonfire was the younger generation laughing and having a good time. Lucy spotted her brother, Justice, and Jasper near a large group of girls. They were practically fawning over the men... it was gross.

"Welcome to the real party." Lucy tilted her head up to Kyle and smiled. She nodded her head towards her brother and the other guys. "And right there is your competition with the other women."

"I told you. I am after you tonight Lucy." Kyle looked at her and placed his arm around her shoulders. "There are so many people here and I feel a bit scared being away from you," He teased. "Please protect me."

Lucy shook her head and laughed. "You are wasting your time with me, Kyle. Seriously go and find another target. You reek of overconfidence and arrogance anyways."

"Then humble me."

Lucy laughed and led Kyle closer to the bonfire. Little did she know several sets of sharp eyes were now following her and the man who was acting too familiar with her.

"Oh, Lucy... who is this tasty-looking man next to you?"

"Kyle, meet the female version of yourself, Gia." Lucy smiled at her cousin. Gia was not promiscuous but enjoyed being flirtatious with the men. She was the daughter of Adam and Susan. Adam was the son of Avery who was her grandfather Tyler's cousin. She was also stunningly beautiful with her blonde hair, fair skin, and blue eyes. If it wasn't for her being a relative Aiden and Justice would have already made their move on her.

"Hey, Kyle. Do you want to come and spend some time with me? I can show you a quiet spot I love." Gia winked at him as she bit her bottom lip seductively.

Kyle grinned and shook his head no. At the same time and pulled Lucy closer to his side. "No, I am spending the evening with this amazing woman tonight." "Oooohhh Luce

Luce. Nice. Well, don't get pregnant." Gia winked at her cousin before she strolled over to another lone wolf.

Lucy sighed and rubbed her head. Her cousin had no shame.

"Don't worry Luce Luce I won't get you pregnant." Kyle chuckled.

Lucy shot him an unamused look. "Funny. But seriously you shouldn't say such things." Gia was bold and this was her pack. But Kyle saying something like that even as a joke could cause trouble. Especially around young pups wanting to bump chests. "What? I have you to protect me, right?" Kyle winked down at her as she led him over to a spot near the fire.

Lucy enjoyed Kyle once he started acting like himself. And to be completely honest with herself it was nice. It was nice having a guy be openly interested in her. Despite who she was, despite the fact that she was engaged he still gave her attention as a woman. And... it was nice. She enjoyed the casual flirting. And when he scooted closer to her she didn't object.

They actually had normal conversations around the fire. They talked about random things about their lives. Things they were interested in. Things they hated.

"Are you really okay making this choice Lucy? You seem like such a fun and lively person. I'm afraid you will lose that flame inside of you." Kyle looked over at her with a serious expression.

She gave him a small smile and looked at the fire dancing in front of her. "What is one or two people's happiness in exchange for the lives of two species?" She looked over at Kyle and shrugged. "My parents adore each other. The way they look at one another... yeah... I wish I could have that. I wish I had someone who would look at me like my father does with my mother. But as much as I want that... I also know that solidifying a peace between our species is important." She shrugged. "It's not like I am sacrificing my life." "No, but you are sacrificing your heart." Kyle frowned as he stared at her sparkling eyes. He could see the fire dancing in them. She really was beautiful but more than that she was also clever. He was flirting with her before because she was stunning, and he was intrigued if he could get the princess. But now... he was attracted to her attitude. He liked the way she easily saw through him and her strong personality. "You are a strong person, Lucy. And not just strong for a woman but for a person."

She smiled at him. "Thank you." "What is he like?"

Lucy looked over at Kyle for a moment. "He is nice, kind, and considerate. But he acts like he can't really be bothered with me. After our mandatory meetings, he vanishes. He doesn't even join us for the family dinners. I don't really blame him. I'm sure he isn't thrilled about this idea either." She looked over to see Kyle looking angry.



"He isn't even taking the time to get to know what kind of person you are. No matter what you are both going through this. He owes it to you to get to know you." Kyle growled lowly and clenched his fingers together tightly. "He better not mistreat you or keep a mistress on the side."

Lucy giggled. "As if I would stand for that."

Kyle laughed. "I guess I forgot you don't need to be protected."

"If he plans to keep a mistress, he better keep body bags at the ready." Lucy bit her bottom lip and smiled.

"What does your wolf think about all of this?" Kyle asked a seemingly harmless question.

Lucy stared at his eyes and shrugged. It was a normal question for most werewolves. But not for her and not for Aiden. Unlike all the other werewolves' things were different with the two of them. Their werewolves were not separate from them. It is something they have kept secret for now. But the two of them were actually different from werewolves. They were similar to how werebears were. They were one with their wolves. They were the same person. This was unheard of for werewolves. But it was not unheard of for lycans. Lycans were different from werewolves since they were stronger and more powerful. But they also were one with their wolves.

Her parents have both already discussed everything in detail and even consulted their other close family and friends over the issue. All came to the same conclusion that somehow Lucy and Aiden were lycans. Because they were not separate from their wolves, they were naturally even stronger. This was something else the clever moon goddess bestowed upon them. She was obviously making sure their family continued to be stronger.

"My wolf agrees with whatever choices I make." Lucy said quietly. Which wasn't a lie because her wolf was her.

"You deserve more." His voice was soft and drawing. She stared into his blue eyes that were holding with hers. She could feel the atmosphere changing around them as he slowly moved his head forward. A million thoughts raced through her mind at that moment. Does she let him continue? Does she stop him? One part of her really didn't want to stop him. But her more sensible self knew she couldn't kiss him. It would be wrong. She was already taken... so even though she wasn't married yet she was engaged. But before she could react...

In a blur, she was pulled away from Kyle and into a firm chest. A loud growl ripped from his throat as two others came and sat down on either side of Kyle.

Lucy looked down at Aiden and Justice who were sitting on either side of Kyle. An intimidating aura was flowing from them. She then tilted her head up to look at Jasper. He was practically baring his fangs at Kyle as a low growl-like sound came from his throat. What in the actual hell? As if she couldn't take care of herself. And then there was the fact they didn't trust in her to do the right thing. And lastly, this was none of their business. This was hers. Her choice. She could change her mind if she wanted, and no one had the right to challenge her for it. Who did they think they were?

Lucy felt her blood boiling as her anger climbed upwards. Watch it, men, you just pissed off the wrong werewolf princess.

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 4**

Lucy elbowed Jasper in the stomach making him make this 'oof' sound and then she stomped on Aiden's foot right in front of her. "What is wrong with you?" Lucy growled lowly.

"What is wrong with me?" Aiden rose to his feet and faced in front of Lucy. "What is wrong with you? What are you doing?"

The flames danced in Lucy's eyes as an inferno raged inside of her. "What is WRONG with ME?! What am I doing?" She scoffed and stepped towards her brother pointing her finger in his chest. "How dare you? Where is your faith and trust in me? And my choices are just that. MY choices. You don't see me over there protecting you from playing guess my STD's, do you? No. Because it's your life Aiden. And your mistakes you can make. And your crabs you'll have to take care of later." She then looked past him at Justice. "And why are you so concerned about me?" She whipped her head back to look at Jasper who was still glaring at Kyle. "Why are you watching me as if I am some weak-hearted and fragile girl who needs protection?"

She gritted her teeth together and pinned her icy gaze on her brother. "You guys wanted to go and mingle with the ladies so why are you watching me? What? I can't talk to anyone else? I'm supposed to just sit down and stare at the campfire alone like I normally do, right? Or stay close to mom and dad's side, joining them in their political talks because you are out enjoying yourself."

"Lucy, I didn't mean to-" Aiden started.

"What Aiden? What didn't you mean? You didn't mean not to trust me? You didn't mean not to let me make my own decisions? Or you thought that your weak little sister was getting taken advantage of... is that it?" Lucy raised her eyes, challenging her brother who growled at her. She was provoking his alpha blood, and this was only going to end badly.

"It's my job to look out for you." Aiden growled baring his teeth slightly.

"Oh? It is? That's what your job is? I guess mom and dad will be thrilled if you actually take on the responsibilities for a job." Lucy said in a condescending tone as she poked her finger into his chest.

The party went silent and the yells of the prince and princess carried in the air. But Aiden surprised everyone. He lowered his shoulders and placed his hand on Lucy. "I'm sorry. I was wrong. I wasn't used to seeing someone else close to you."

Lucy took in a deep breath and lowered her hand down. She looked up at her brother sadly and frowned. "I'm sorry too. I didn't mean what I said." The truth is she and her brother rarely fought. They were more like best friends. So this was very uncharacteristic of them. "It's just if you really think I have a choice then let me make my choices. All of them."

"You do have a choice, Lucy." Aiden looked over at Kyle with a low growl. "But find another one other than him. His reputation precedes him even here. We overheard the girls talking about him, so we were immediately alerted and watching his every move." Lucy giggled and tilted her head to the side looking at her brother like he was crazy. "I know what type of person Kyle is. Do you really think I am that naïve? He tried to come on to me at first with his usual game." She looked over at Kyle who gave her a sheepish grin. "But we got past that point real quick and he has been nice to talk to."

"Um, he was getting ready to do more than talk to you." Jasper glared at Kyle with daggers in his eyes.

Lucy turned and looked at Jasper. "But he was about to strike out again. I was about to stop it myself except some puffed-up macho men decided to strip my honors away."

Kyle chuckled. "I figured you would probably reject me again. That's okay. You deserve better than me. But I also think you deserve better than the vampire prince." His eyes lifted up to Jasper in a cold stare.

"What do you even know about my prince? He is a great guy!" Jasper growled lowly.

"He might be a great guy. But it doesn't sound like he is being a good mate."

Lucy watched as Jasper looked down at the ground angrily. She could see that he was struggling with himself on what to say. His eyes flashed back to Kyle with an intimidating glare. "You don't know ANYTHING!" He shook his head and pursed his lips together tightly. "He is really busy..." He looked over and met with Lucy's eyes. "He is one of the best guys I know. He really is Luce. You'll see."

Aiden snorted through his nose and crossed his arms over his chest. "I still say she would be better off with you than him."

Jasper looked up at Aiden with amusement and chuckled. "Taking the prince's mate would be a crime. You must want me dead."

"I'm serious. Why can't the treaty work if you take Lucy? That is close to the same thing." Aiden shrugged and looked between Lucy and Jasper. Lucy looked at him mortified.

"It isn't the same thing. I am not the prince." Jasper shrugged.

"And let's not forget the fact that Jasper is like a brother to me." Lucy shook her head with exasperated eyes. How could her brother say something like that in front of Jasper? Not to mention she was not interested in Jasper in that way at all. And he wasn't interested in her that way.

"I promise I will always be there for her though. You can rest easy knowing that I will be watching out for her." Jasper nudged Lucy playfully. "I really need one of those child leashes for her." Then he started laughing. "Get it though. You are a werewolf so if I put a leash on you it will be like you are my pet dog."

Lucy watched Jasper laughing and looked back at Aiden. "Really... him?"

Aiden shook his head and grinned. "We can only work with what we've got."

Lucy looked at Jasper. "Go ahead and put a leash on me, Jasper. Let's see how it turns out for you."

Jasper grinned widely. "See that's why Luce and I can't be mates. She isn't into b\*\*\*\*\*e and the fun stuff." He winked at her and watched her roll her eyes.

"The thing is Jasper. If there is going to be tying up involved, it won't be my arms being tied down."

"La la la la. Don't need to hear about your closet dominatrix personality." Aiden said, holding his hands up to his ears.

"I wouldn't mind listening to it." Kyle said with a smirk which caused the three other men to glare at him again. Kyle chuckled. "I guess I am not making friends here." He rose to his feet and winked over at Lucy. "It was great getting to know you a little bit. Maybe I will see you around sometime."

Lucy watched as he walked away and was immediately attacked by a hoard of girls. They surrounded him and giggled up at him. "It looks like you guys lost your harem."

"That's alright with me. I'm sticking by your side the rest of the night." Jasper patted Lucy's head and grinned down at her.

Lucy swatted his hand away and listened to his chuckle. "You three boys get. You are cramping my style."

Jasper looked up at Aiden and Justice giving them a small nod of acknowledgment. "Go enjoy your party Justice."

"Wait, I don't need watched over?!" Lucy said as Aiden and Justice chuckled while walking away. She looked up at Jasper who grinned down at her.

"I came here to hang out with you anyways. And I'm not interested in any of the ladies."

"Are you spying on me for your prince?" Lucy raised her eyebrows up at him and watched a crooked grin spread over his face.

"I wouldn't call it spying. And I won't tell you that he asked for me to check on you to see how you were doing." Jasper winked at Lucy who looked at him in confusion.

Derek asked for him to come and check on her? But he always acted like he couldn't be bothered with her lately. She remembered the change soon after he hit puberty. They used to play together all the time. Then when she was ten and he was fifteen he was different. Everything about him was different. His voice was now deeper, and he grew so much. And he started distancing himself from her. When her brother turned fifteen, he also went through growing changes. He shot up and filled out. His voice grew deeper, but his personality was still fun and goofy. She thought at first that Derek just didn't want to hang out with a ten-year-old but that he would change as she aged as well.

She was nineteen now and he was twenty-four. Yet, when they met up last, he was still fairly distant with her. Sure, he was considerate, but it was like he wasn't trying to be friends with her. Or that he felt bothered having to be friends with her. She wanted to blame it on him being a vampire except Jasper was never like that. So, there was only one logical conclusion... he didn't want her. And yet now she hears that he was having Jasper check in on her. Which made her wonder...

"Are you always reporting back to Derek about me?" Lucy could see the guilt in his eyes and her mouth dropped. "So, are you legit my friend, or are you Derek's spy?"

Jasper chuckled. "You aren't doubting my friendship, are you? Come on. I can hardly refuse my prince and the future king now, can I? That doesn't mean I am any less your friend. I am both of your friends." He then smiled softly and looked at Lucy. "He just likes to hear how you are doing and what you have been up to."

"Then why doesn't he ever ask me himself? Why doesn't he ever visit me? He stopped visiting me here when he was a kid. And at the same time, he acts like it is a chore to have lunch together with me when I visit. If he cares, then why doesn't he show it then?" Lucy could see Jasper's eyes sadden as a frown formed on his lips.

"He has his reasons, Lucy. And that is all I can really say. Trust me he is a great guy."

"Well, I guess all I can do is trust you on that since he doesn't talk with me." Lucy looked down at her feet and frowned. Jasper was certainly singing Derek's praises. At least Derek seemed to be good to Jasper. But she honestly did not really know who Derek was. "I take it you have told him I have a very outgoing personality, right?"

"I think I have used the term passionate personality." Jasper chuckled. "Yes, I have told him how spirited you can be. I think your personality excited him."

Lucy shook her head and laughed. "Now I know you are lying. Derek doesn't get excited about anything. I think watching paint dry is his idea of a good time." She watched as Jasper threw his head back laughing loudly.

Jasper laughed so hard that tears formed in his eyes. "I can't wait to tell him you said that." He wiped the tears at the corners of his eyes.

An ear-piercing scream was heard near the packhouse. Lucy's eyes widened and her feet moved on their own. Aiden was racing in front of her while Jasper was staying right at Lucy's side. When they got near the packhouse there was a large crowd surrounding a woman that was covered in blood.

Lucy listened to the people murmuring and overheard one of the alpha's talking.

"It's another one. Another attack just like before. They are becoming more frequent. Is it the vampires?"

Lucy felt a strong arm pull her tight into his side. She looked up to see Jasper staring angrily. She turned her head away slightly and towards Jasper to shield her face. The scene in front of them was almost stomach-turning even for someone used to blood and gore. Whatever had attacked the woman had been vicious in its assault.

"Alright everyone back up." Lucy heard her father's commanding tone.

She looked back to see her mother, Freya, examining the woman and the wounds. Freya looked back at Wyatt and shook her head slightly. "We lost her."

"Great. So now she can't even tell us which bloodsucker attacked her." One of the alphas growled.

"ENOUGH." Wyatt roared quieting the murmuring voices instantly. "We are going to get to the bottom of this. My queen and I will look over the body and determine the cause of these wounds. In the meantime... I think it is best to put the packs on alert. After years of peace, we seem to have an enemy emerging. Could be a disgruntled demon from the past. But until we know who our target is it is best to be cautious. No one leave their pack territories by themselves. And double your guards on patrol."

Lucy felt Jasper tighten his grip on her pulling her deeper in his chest. His fun nature was gone, and he had the eyes of a killer. She could feel not only his tension but everyone's around them. She looked over at her parents who were staring at one another quietly. They were having their own silent conversation about this.

Jasper's parents Jester and Irene came closer to also examine the body. Lucy could tell by their eyes they were worried about the culprit. Lucy felt her breath being squeezed from her lungs. Did they suspect a vampire?

Jasper walked a few steps forward keeping Lucy tucked into his side. He looked at both of their parents. "I think we should take Lucy with us now."

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 5**

"I think we should take Lucy with us now."

Lucy looked up at Jasper in shock and then back at her parents. She could tell by her father's eyes that wasn't going to happen. But she wasn't the only one who noticed...

"Lucy will be joining us at the end of the summer. These next couple of months will be her last months in her pack. Not only does she need this time but her parents do too. Don't worry Jasper. She is well protected here. You think that overgrown pup she has as a father will let anyone touch her? And even scarier is her mother." Jester winked over at Freya and Wyatt. They were all good friends and were comfortable teasing each other.

"Then may I ask permission to stay here and watch over her?" Jasper asked, keeping his eyes on Wyatt. "I will need to go back and consult with Derek but I think he will want me to keep her safe as well."

Wyatt nodded his head. "Of course you are welcome here Jasper. Your presence will be nice to have. And I don't mind having another strong warrior around, especially one looking after my little girl." "I don't exactly need to be looked after."

"Forget it, Lucy. I don't need to be looked after either but your father still watches over my every move." Freya smiled at her daughter knowingly. She understood both sides. And while Lucy was an excellent fighter, she knew first hand since she trained her in hand- to-hand combat too, she was still very important.

Aiden walked up closer and looked down at the body on the ground. At the same time Harley, Destiny, and her parents, Jin and Jason, came closer.

"Who is it? I don't recognize her." Aiden said looking up to his father.

"She was found in the woods by patrol. We are not sure who she is." Wyatt said, shaking his head. "I don't know if she was visiting us or if she just happened to be near our territory." He then turned to look at the man beside Destiny.

"What do you think, Harley? Is this the work of a demon?" Wyatt asked, looking at him. Harley was the son of an original demon. If anyone could recognize the handy work of a demon it was him.

"Not one that I know of right off hand. But these wounds seem very peculiar. The bites look like a vampires... but this isn't how vampires attack. Unless this is some new sport." Harley stared at the body with a frown. "And honestly, the body is so mutilated that it is hard to tell. I think that is what they were going for. Unless whatever did this is actually out of control and savage. I'll put some of my men on this. See if they can turn anything up."

"We will also talk with our king and queen. My brother will want to investigate this. Especially if someone is trying to pin the blame on vampires on purpose." Jester said with a frown. "Derek will want to know about this too. Especially with this happening so close to his future bride." He looked up at Lucy and then back to Wyatt and Freya.

Jason sighed and looked over at Harley. He was feeling apprehensive knowing his daughter would be leaving his side tonight and he wouldn't be there to protect her.

Harley could easily read his mind and smiled over at Jason. "You know she is actually safer with me than she is among this whole pack, right? And I won't be letting her out of my sight for a second." He looked down at Destiny who was frowning. "Maybe I should stay. The pack may need my help." Destiny said quietly.

"No."

"No."

Jason and Harley said simultaneously.

"On second thought I think it is a good idea to get her out of here. If she is here, she will be out trying to fight." Jason said, shaking his head. "You are right Harley, it is best for her to be safe with you."

Wyatt listened to their conversation quietly and looked over at Lucy. If he sent Lucy to the vampires, she would not have the opportunity to get involved. She would be safe there while they figured this threat out.

"Don't even think about it." Lucy lifted her eyes to her father's silver ones. "I'm not leaving my pack right now."

"I'm just thinking-"



"I know what you are thinking, dad. And the answer is no. I'm staying here." She folded her arms over her chest. "And I am helping."

"Lucy-" Wyatt started but she immediately interrupted him.

"Are you letting Aiden help?" Lucy could see it in her father's eyes. He would be having Aiden help with patrols. "Right. Exactly. And how many in this pack are stronger than me?" "That's not the point, Lucy." Wyatt rubbed his forehead.

"Lucy is an asset to our pack. She has been well trained and there is no reason she can't help." Freya winked over at her daughter. "Whatever is doing this isn't stronger than her."

"We don't know what we are dealing with yet to be able to claim something like that." Wyatt frowned looking over at Freya.

"No, we don't. All the more reason to keep Lucy safe and near us." Freya smiled at Wyatt and raised her eyebrow challenging him. When he didn't say anything she turned her attention back to Lucy. "Tomorrow we will get the daggers out and work more on your up- close combat training."

"And another huntress is born." Jester chuckled and looked up to Jasper. "Let's head back. Get the things you need to be staying here with her until either this is sorted out or it is time for her to move."

Jasper, who had been keeping a protective arm on Lucy looked down at her. "Look. I'm coming right back tomorrow so just stay safe here in the pack territory until then. Please."

Lucy smiled up at him. "You are all acting like an army has attacked our pack. This is a random attack that happened to an isolated individual. I'm not in danger here. I am fine. Not to mention I am not easy prey. I am the predator." Her eyes changed to the color of her wolf briefly and then she nudged into his side with her shoulder. "You don't have to move here to watch over me."

Jasper smiled. "I know I don't have to, but I want to. And I know Derek will feel better with me here as well."

"You can bunk up with me Jasper!" Aiden said grinning. "With Destiny leaving the tide is turning. The men are overtaking the women in the packhouse."

"Sorry about your luck there Jasper, Aiden snores." Lucy giggled, biting her bottom lip with her teeth.

Jasper chuckled and then glanced over at the body being covered on the ground. "I think you need to be very cautious, Lucy. I personally think there is more to this." His

eyes then looked to Wyatt and his father, Jester. "To me, it seems like someone is trying to make these attacks look like vampire attacks. Someone is trying to put a wedge between our species' relationship. I think... someone doesn't want this union to happen."

Wyatt nodded his head. "Freya and I are already suspicious of this as well. Even more reason we need to get to the bottom of these mysterious attacks."

Jasper sighed. "If this really is the case..."

"I know Jasper." Wyatt quickly cut him off. "We already know."

"We will need to discuss this with the vampire king and queen as well as Derek. But I think we are all starting to turn to the same page." Jester said looking at Freya and Wyatt who both nodded their heads sadly.

"Hi, what book are you reading so I can follow along?" Lucy teased but then noticed their serious expressions land on her. She looked over at Aiden. Well, he looked to be just as lost as she was. Which didn't put her in good company.

"We are thinking it may be a good idea to move the wedding date up. Maybe even plan for it to be in a couple of weeks. The sooner we form your union the better. These attacks may even stop on their own." Freya looked into her daughter's eyes.

"Oh." Lucy's voice was quiet. She kept telling herself the wedding was still far away. She still had until the end of the summer. But now she felt like she was being hit with the reality of it. Something she always knew and talked about was now very real. But being the true leader she was she quickly buried her inner feelings deep inside of herself. She looked ahead towards her parents confidently. "If there is a chance that moving the marriage ahead will benefit our two species then do whatever is necessary."

Aiden scoffed loudly making everyone look over at him. "If we have an enemy, I'd like to see who it is. Instead of just making them give up and fade away to come and attack another day. Moving the marriage up may stop the attacks for now but not in the long run. I don't like such tactics. I say we set up a trap for our enemies and flush them out."

Freya smiled and tilted her head up to Wyatt. She preferred just jumping in and getting her hands dirty too. Find the enemy, slit their throats and move on. It has been years since she put her huntress clothes to good use, and she wouldn't mind hunting a new target once again.

Wyatt nodded his head to his son. "I understand how you feel but I think something like this needs to be discussed among our allies. Your grandparents will be here tomorrow, and we may need to meet with the vampires as well. You must understand son that we have allies. The choices we make affect them as well. We may need to reach out to the dragons as well if this continues." Wyatt rubbed his forehead. "I don't want to make a

big deal out of something that may possibly be small. We could be dealing with just one person doing these attacks. I think we should start by trying to gather evidence. Freya and I will go to the area where the attack took place and look for clues."

"Jester let me know what your brother thinks about this as well. You can send word back through Jasper when he returns. Let's not make any major decisions until we feel we must." Wyatt looked at Lucy and gave her a small smile. He had been getting reports about these strange attacks which seemed to be happening more often. So, while he was on high alert there was no evidence it was anything large-scale. It could be nothing more than a rogue vampire.

"Why don't you have Aiden and me do a perimeter run?" Justice asked. After this, the party was basically over.

Jason chuckled. "For now, just stay put. I'll be going out with Wyatt and Freya to check things out. You stay here and keep your mother company."

"Hey!" Jin protested. "Who here is Wyatt's summon? Yep, that would be me. I'm coming too." Jin giggled and shook her head. All these years together and he was still extremely protective over her. She was a wind demon and years and years ago she gifted Wyatt with her wind abilities. That was back during the demon war. Almost seemed like a lifetime ago.

"Justice, you are staying here with Aiden and Lucy. Destiny, you make sure you call me once you make it there okay. And you better keep in contact." Jin waved her finger at her daughter.

"Don't worry I will." Destiny looked up at Harley who smiled down at her. "Ready to head home?"

Harley grinned widely. "Let's go home."

"Lucy, I'll call you tomorrow so we can have some girl chat." Destiny waved goodbye to her cousin. It wasn't a real goodbye since she could visit whenever she wanted. But it was just the Diamond pack was no longer going to be her home.

Lucy waved goodbye to her cousin and watched her leave with Harley. The two of them looked so happy together. Harley's eyes were always following Destiny as if she was his center. She knew her duty and would go through with it. But deep inside she wondered what it felt like to have a fated mate. She couldn't imagine what it felt like, but she could see what it looked like. And she wanted it.

"Lucy."

Jasper's voice snapped her out of her thoughts and she looked up at him. He placed his hand on her head and smiled down at her.

"I will be back for you tomorrow. I'll bring back the answer on how long it takes for paint to dry too." Jasper winked at her and chuckled slightly.

"Safe travels."

Jasper and his parents disappeared in a blur. They were incredibly fast and could cover great distances quickly. Of course, if she shifted in her werewolf form, she would be just as fast. She still wasn't sure how it would be living among vampires as a werewolf. His parents tested her blood once because it was hard to detect her vampire side. They told her that her blood was almost silent. When her blood was spilled though there was no mistaking the pure scent from it. It was still a very pure type of vampire blood (oddly enough). Her mother Freya had original vampire blood in her. It was very strong even in Freya and apparently still in her children. One of the reasons Lucy was wanted to be the mate of the vampire prince was because of her blood. They wanted to strengthen the vampire's bloodlines. A child from her union with the prince would create an even stronger vampire.

Aiden walked over to Lucy with Justice at his side. "Well, mom and dad left. What sort of trouble do you want to get into?"

"Oh, you guys didn't hear?" Gia said as she skipped up to them from a distance.

"Hear what?" Justice asked.

"Oh just that a group of werewolves snuck outside the border to try to catch the apparent killer on the loose."

Aiden swore under his breath. "Damnit who all went?"

"Some classmates of Justice's and some of his juniors."

"Alright, let's bring them back." Aiden growled looking at Justice. "Gia stay with Lucy."

Gia smirked as the boys ran off in the distance she turned and looked at Lucy. "Well, he told me to stay with you so wherever you lead, I'll follow."

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 6**

Lucy and Gia headed towards the edge of pack territory. The sun had set and even the moon was not "You know how much trouble I am going to get in right? I am going to be shackled to my bed for the re "Well, we can always go back to the house and wait for everyone else to come back." Gia smiled knowi "Let's get tracking Gia." Lucy watched as Gia grinned widely and headed over the borders. She couldn' her father's gamma and delta. She knew she was going to get reamed over this but too late now. Gia was

fast as she ran over through the woods. She was also an excellent tracker. It was where she ex She was also trained how to do this silently. Her mother had taught her from the time she was little o Lucy had never been in a real fight, but she was well trained. She often sparred against her stronger b After running for several hours Lucy was getting concerned about not running into anyone yet. She ra carrying a couple of bodies back with them.

Gia, wait. Lucy called out through their mind link. What is it?

I see something strange up ahead. Stay here I am going to check it out. Lucy swiftly and silently closed "We have a couple of vampires, but I'd like to bring a werewolf back too. I know she would like to test A werewolf? Lucy looked at the two other bodies that were covered in a black sack. Those must be the "Yes, I agree. It will be beneficial when she goes after the Diamond pack." Another voice said.

Wait, the Diamond pack? Her pack? Who was going after her pack? Lucy squeezed her hands together jumped down to the ground and then ran. She jumped through the brush and feigned surprise as she "Ask and you shall receive." The raspy-voiced male said with a chuckle.

Lucy felt a presence come up behind her and put a cloth over her mouth and nose. She could tell it w "Put the scent blocker on her and cover her. We don't need her pack trying to follow us."

them light tonight. The crickets and tree frogs sang their songs as they battled for the lead. The wind hissed around the two girls as they stood at the border. he summer." Lucy looked at Gia who shrugged her shoulders.

by would never do that.

it there knowing a bunch of kids went across the boundary. She probably should have notified Sam, her father's beta, or at the very least Winston and Adam,

Lucy jumped near the next tree and quickly raced through the branches jumping from limb to limb. This was something her mother had taught her to do.

to be a silent assassin. She taught her how to use her werewolf strength in her human form since there were times you couldn't shift. which only helped prepare her. She felt confident that if they ran into any trouble she would be able to neutralize the problem.

the top of the trees so that she could see farther. But what she saw in the distance confused her. She could see several silhouettes in a clearing that were

theistance. She wanted to listen to them. She halted a few trees away and took in shallow quiet breaths. on one." A raspy-voiced man said.

es of the vampires. What were these people doing?

en made a rash decision. She didn't put thought into it. She just decided. She would allow herself to be taken. She would discover who was after them. She to the people on the ground.

ug to make you drowsy, so she quickly held her breath. She faked going limp and felt the man behind her catch her body.

Lucy felt them spray her down with a strange liquid and then she was covered in a dark blanket of sorts. She had to fight herself to remain limp even as her body was hoisted over the man's shoulder. Soon she felt the man carrying her take off running. She had to let her head bob around as if she didn't have control which was a bit painful. In the moment she forgot to mind link to Gia. And now she was afraid to because she didn't want to give herself away.

They ran for hours, all night in fact. She could tell by the change in sounds that morning had come when the men slowed down. Birds were now singing, and the night chorus had ended. The fresh scent of the morning dissipated, and the smell of dampness hit her nose. She could feel the chill around her as they headed into something.

"Put her in there and bind her with silver. She won't be waking up anytime soon but even if she does she won't be able to leave her silver cell." The raspy voice called out.

"I'll notify Beryl of the new test subjects we have available. We will be back this evening. Can you handle things until then? It isn't like they can go anywhere anyways." The raspy voice chuckled.

Beryl... She knew that name. That was the name of the witch Meryl's granddaughter that was never found. They just assumed she was living a normal life somewhere. She wasn't sure what her plans were, but it involved the Diamond pack. No doubt seeking revenge for her grandmother who her parents killed before she was even born. This would be enough knowledge for her though. Knowing this alone was enough. She just needed to get this information back to her parents.

Lucy landed on the ground with a thud as she was dropped from the air. It was hard but she continued to play her part. The blanket over her was removed and she felt cold metal clink around her wrists and then her ankles. Then she heard the sound of a metal door shut.

"I've got it under control. I'm just going to go and take a nap." The guy yawned loudly. "Running all night is exhausting."

The sound of footsteps walking away and then a door shutting was heard. Silence. Lucy continued to lay there motionlessly as she waited to make sure the coast was clear.

"Looks like they captured a wolf from the smell of her. Poor thing. I wonder how long she will last? The last one didn't make it more than a day."

"We are the unfortunate ones who continue to survive her damn tests. How long are we going to be stuck as her prisoners?"

Lucy listened to two voices talking and decided the coast must be clear. She opened her eyes as she laid on the stone-cold floor. She looked around from the ground first. She could see a torch in the distance that was hanging on a stone wall on the outside of the metal bars she was behind. She slowly moved so that she was in a sitting position.

"How the hell are you awake already?" A male voice asked from her side.

Lucy turned to see a man and a woman inside a cell next to her. And beyond them were the two other bodies she assumed were brought in with her. She stared at the other bodies on the floor in confusion. Her eyes then widened. "They're dead?!" Lucy looked up at the other two.

"They were halflings, that's why... not full vampires. The dose they injected them with was too much for their bodies to handle. Not a big loss on their part since they still have us here." The guy said motioning to him and the woman. He stared at her suspiciously and furrowed his brows. "How is it you are awake?"

Lucy shrugged. "I didn't breathe it in. I let them capture me so I could figure out what was going on."

"You let them take you?" The man scoffed. "\*\*\*\*t. Now, look at yourself?" He pointed to the silver chains.

Lucy smirked and looked at the cuffs. Silver. Everyone knows that silver is the enemy of werewolves. It makes them weak and vulnerable. But not to Lucy. Aiden, Lucy, and Freya were all immune to the effects of silver. She looked up to the two in the other cell. "Are you two vampires?" Lucy asked as she took in their scent. She slowly rose to her feet so that she could take a few steps closer to them.

"Yes, we are. We actually also came here for information but found out escape isn't that easy." The woman said, rubbing her wrists. There was some odd band over them. She raised it up slightly. "Some weird witch magic that prevents us from using our strength." Lucy looked at them. She couldn't leave them there. She shook her wrists a bit and smiled. "I guess that is the purpose of these too? So what are your names?"

"I'm Tonya and he is my mate Zach."

"I'm Lucy." She smiled at them. "Well, Tonya and Zach... ready to get out of here? I have the information I needed."

Zach laughed. "We aren't getting out of here." He rested his back against the wall and sighed.

"Oh well if you want to stay then that's up to you." Lucy jerked her wrist and the chains snapped in half. She kicked her foot out breaking the lower chains as well. She then pulled a dagger from her back that she had hidden and picked the chains off her wrists and feet. "How did you do that?" Zach asked as he suddenly became very interested in what Lucy was doing.

"That doesn't really matter does it?" Lucy smiled at him and Tonya. She then set her gaze on the silver door in front of her. With commanding strides, she marched towards it and kicked the door in. The loud sound of metal hitting the stone floor echoed in the air. "Hey! What's going on out there?!"

Lucy walked out of her cell and watched as a dark-complected man with pointed ears came into view. She set her jaw in anger as she stared at him. A dark elf. A traitor to the fairies.

"How the hell did you get out of your cell?" The man yelled. He grabbed something off the wall and lunged towards Lucy.

Lucy narrowed her eyes on the elf and raised up her dagger. She pushed her wolf strength forward and sprinted into the man. She spun at the last second and pressed her knife into his side. Red liquid splashed onto the stone ground and trickled over her hand. She then brought her other hand forward and extended her claws deep into his chest. Blood splattered from his mouth as he began to fall to the ground. As he fell, he pushed a sharp object out and cut Lucy's leg.

A sudden intense burning pain shot down her leg. She looked down to see that she was cut with liquid silver that was laced with something else. The silver itself wasn't making her skin burn. From the scent, she could pick up traces of vervain. This was a vampire's weakness. She wasn't sure the reason it bothered her more than the silver...maybe because she had pure vampire blood in her? But in either case, it was preventing her from healing.

She limped over to the other cell and punched the door down using her werewolf strength. She then used her dagger to cut the bands off of both vampires.

"Come on. There are others here who will be alerted because of the commotion." Tonya said and looked at Lucy's leg. "Can you run?"

Lucy nodded her head. Sure, it hurt but she was going to run out of here on her own two feet. She ignored the pain and followed the two vampires who sprinted down a tunnel. The tunnel led to the ground above and she welcomed the fresh air. "Quickly this way so we don't run into their guards." Zach said and motioned his head to the tree line.



Lucy followed behind them, having to push her werewolf strength forward to keep up with them. She glanced back for a moment. She was running in the wrong direction. Home was the other way. But she could sort that out later. Right now escaping was the most important. "They went that way! Quick!"

Lucy could hear the sounds of footsteps closing in on them. With her wounded leg she didn't have a chance at outrunning them she was going to have to turn and fight.

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 7**

Lucy didn't know what type of people the vampires in front of her were. But she didn't want them to risk getting caught on her behalf. The footsteps were getting closer and whoever was chasing them would soon be upon them.

"I'll hold them off. You two keep running." Lucy yelled to the two vampires running just in front of her.

"No, just keep running. We will meet up with our comrades soon. They will be waiting for us. They can help." Tonya glanced back at Lucy.

"At this rate, they will catch us before we meet up with anyone. Don't worry. I won't go down without a fight." Lucy suddenly stopped running, dust lifted in the air as she turned to face her pursuers. She might have a hurt foot but that would only prevent her from running. Now fighting? That is something else entirely. She glanced back to see Zach and Tonya also stopped running. "Hurry you two don't stop too." Zach and Tonya both jogged back to Lucy's side.

"We can't let you risk your neck for us. I mean what will everyone say if they find out a puppy fought on our behalf?" Zach said as he took his battle stance. He gave Lucy a crooked grin and winked at her.

Lucy shook her head. "You two should have kept running."

"Don't worry. We are close to our friends. They are on their way." Tonya said as the footsteps racing towards them slowed.

Lucy watched as several dark figures stepped closer. There were a couple of dark elves and a couple of demons. She stretched her hands above her head. Tonya and Zach looked at her curiously.

"Always best to limber up." Lucy smiled. "Looks like we have some sore losers still around after the war. Ah well, guess there is only one way to remedy that."

"I like this wolf." Tonya said with a smile.

Lucy looked at the dark elves and demons. She was sure they had more tricks up their sleeves like the liquid silver and vervain. However, she had a trick up her sleeve as well. She wasn't a normal werewolf. She was a lycan and a princess at that. Her wolf was bigger and stronger. A low growl ripped from her throat as her body began to change. Her large paws curled into the ground as she straightened her wolf up to its full stature. Her light fawn color shone in the night. She bared her fangs and growled threateningly towards her opponents.

"Have you ever seen a werewolf that large before?" Tonya whispered to Zach who shook his head no in awe.

Lucy took a step forward and waited as she watched the elves and demons in front of her. She was looking over their bodies carefully. She was trying to see if they had anything on them that could be a weapon against her. She had always wondered how it felt to face off against a real threat. She wondered how she would react and if she would rise to the occasion. Now that the moment was here it was as if instinct just took over. She played through her memories of all her sparring sessions and all her lessons. They were all for this moment.

The two demons had an intense focus on Lucy while the elves shifted their attention to the two vampires. Lucy watched as the two dark-skinned creatures moved in her direction. The two demons were large and bulky. They had black claws and yellow fangs with obsidian orbs as eyes. Demons were strong but these were just regular demons. Creatures her mother easily took out in seconds. Her father fought toe to toe against the son of an original demon and won. So, they should not be a problem for her. At least not their own strengths. It was the hidden tactics she was worried about.

At the same time, they all attacked. The elves raced towards the vampires and the demons lunged after Lucy. Lucy swung her body and collided with the side of one of the demons as she sank her fangs in the other. She latched on around his throat and clamped down forcefully. His blood dripped down from her jaw and pooled onto the ground. It was the first time she had someone else's blood in her mouth. But she didn't have time to sort her feelings out on it. A sharp pain hit her from her side, and she yelped, dropping the lifeless demon from her mouth.

She moved back to see she had been stabbed by another one of those objects with silver and vervain. She growled and lunged into the other demon. She dug her claws in his side, gashing him open as she grabbed his neck in her mouth. She shook the body until a loud snap was heard and his body went limp. Then she heard another sound of a twig breaking. She lifted her head to see more bodies coming into view.

Her eyes widened as she took a step back. She looked over at Zach and Tonya who had killed the dark elves that were after them. They were sacrificing them on purpose to see what they were up against. They didn't have the element of surprise on them since they watched them fight already. Lucy scoffed internally. There was more to her than

what they had seen. You don't get mixed with so many magical creatures and not end up with special abilities and skills.

Out of the corner of her eye, she saw an ogre leap towards Tonya. She planted her feet and pushed off, intercepting the ogre's attack. Her shoulder was slashed open, and she yelped from the pain before she dove into him. She was honestly shocked to see an ogre. Most of those creatures disappeared after the demon war. She honestly had never seen one in person before but had studied about all of the creatures before. They even had samples of their scents so that the wolves would be able to recognize them. Lucy was slammed backwards by the ogre's monstrous strength. She quickly hopped back to her feet and bared her teeth at him. Her fawn coat was now covered in blood. Her own blood oozed down her fur and dripped on the ground below. Her wounds were not healing because of the vervain and this was starting to become a problem. She didn't want to have to do this but she was running out of time. She was going to lose consciousness soon at this point. She backed up and took a protective stance in front of Tonya and Zach.

She inhaled deeply through her nose and shifted her claws in the ground below her. She stared off at the various adversaries in front of her. She only had enough strength to do this once but once should be all she needed. She dug her back feet into the ground deeper to support her as she took one more deep breath in through her nose. She then pushed out a blast of energy, like a sonic boom, that beat into the creature around them. The powerful wave shattered the bodies of the enemies in front of them. She felt her strength fading as she shifted back into her human form. She was soaked in her own blood as were her clothes (because of some troll nail clippings she was able to shift back into her clothes). Her hands trembled on the ground as her vision began to darken.

"We've got to get her out of here before more show up." Zach reached down and lifted Lucy's body up in his arms.

"She isn't healing. Is it because of the liquid silver? We need to get her back and treated." Tonya said as they raced away.

Lucy closed her eyelids as exhaustion began to take over. A strange, sweet smell hit her nose and started getting stronger. The scent was getting closer and closer. She felt them come to an abrupt stop.

"Ryan! We've got to get her back immediately. Her wounds aren't healing. She saved our lives. She is unlike any werewolf we have ever seen." Zach said as a man walked closer.

"Give her to me. I'll carry her." A baritone voice said.

Lucy felt herself being shifted into another chest. Sparks of electricity shot through her body. The strong scent hit her nose as the body that carried her blanketed her in it. She

felt a deep pull in her chest, and she whimpered slightly. She squirmed a bit in his touch, shifting more into his warmth. She was being pulled into him by an invisible thread. She knew what this was immediately... this was the pull and the scent of her mate.

"You're going to be okay." His soft baritone voice cooed to her.

Tonya and Zach looked at Ryan strangely. He was acting overly concerned about this stranger.

"We think she isn't healing because of the liquid silver." Zach said pointing to her wounds.

Ryan scoffed. "Can't you smell her blood? Look at those wounds. This isn't from the silver. She is reacting to the vervain. Get a good whiff of that blood." Zach's eyes widened as he took in her scent. "How does she have pure blood in her?"

"Looks like this wolf is really special. Makes sense from what we have seen from her." Tonya said, looking around the area. "We need to get out of here."

Ryan cradled Lucy gently in his arms. Her eyes were closed but he smiled as she nuzzled into him. He leaned his head down and lightly kissed her temple. "I'm going to protect you from now on." He whispered and then quickly sprinted off with her.

The voices were muffled as her consciousness drifted in and out. Did she feel him kiss her? She wasn't sure. But she felt his arms as he gently cradled her deeper into his chest. His scent was like a relaxing drug, and she felt her breathing level out in his arms. She felt like her body was flying as he raced away with her. The jolts of electricity continued to spark through her body from their contact. Her mind cursed at the fact she found her mate. It was what she wanted more than anything, but she couldn't have. She hated that she would have to deny herself of her fated mate. But for now, she would enjoy his touch and she would relish in this feeling. She finally faded into unconsciousness in the arms of the stranger, the arms of her mate. -Family Tree-

Some previous family history:

-You do not have to read my previous books even though some names are mentioned. If you are curious about the family tree here it is. Reading the other books adds more depth but it is not necessary. -Family Tree for those who need a refresher or are curious-

Diamond Pack

Previous

Alpha & Luna: Tyler and Lilly (Tristan is her Guardian)

They adopted twin werebears Cody and Jason. And they had biological twins Wyatt and Rhea.

-Wyatt (Guardian: Jason)

-Rhea (Guardian: Cody)

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Beta Kade & Rosa

-Sam

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-Susan

Gamma Caleb & Avery (Tyler's cousin)

-Adam

-Winston

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Cedric & Merida

-Renee

.

Diamond Pack

Current

Alpha King & Luna Queen: Wyatt & Freya:

-Aiden

-Lucy

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Beta: Sam & Renee:

-(Not mentioned yet)

Gamma: Winston x (Not mentioned)

-(Not mention)

.

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Delta: Adam & Susan

- Gia

Jason (Wyatt's adopted brother and Guardian) x Jin (Wyatt's demon summon & guardian) -Destiny (x Harley)

-Justice

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Cody (Rhea's Guardian and adopted brother) x Kelsie (Rhea's guardian)

-Raine

-

Dragon Kingdoms:

.

Deity: Leviathan x Rhea (Fairy queen):

-Alexis (Guardian Micah)

-

West: Titus & Lila:

-Not mentioned

.

East: Grayson & Ruby

-not mentioned

.

South-Weston x Jade

-Not mentioned

.

North Dex x Ciana:

-not mentioned

## The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 8

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE IS NO TRACE OF HER?!" Wyatt roared loudly at his exhausted trackers. "She didn't vanish! I want her back now!" The pack of wolves yelped from the aura of their king. And quickly went back out searching.

Freya hopped down from the trees and wiped her forehead. "They were well trained. Not only did they hide her scent but they covered their tracks well. If I can't find a trail there is no way they can. Wyatt!" Freya raised her voice, snapping his attention to her. "Call them off. Send them back to the pack to rest. They can't do anything more than ruin the trail at this point." She reached up and cupped his cheeks in her hands and stared into his grey eyes.

"This is what I used to do remember? We will find her. There is no one who can escape me. Have faith in our daughter. She is strong."

Wyatt sighed loudly and nodded his head. "I'll send them back. And we will regroup."

"I'll bring her back." A deep voice snapped in agitation as he came up from behind.

Wyatt and Freya looked up to see Jasper storming towards them. "Don't worry. I will find her and bring her back. We have a group of the prince's men about a day's run from here. They are skilled trackers. The best around. We will find her." "Whoever has taken her seems to be skilled in abductions. They covered their scent and tracks." Freya said as she leaned into Wyatt.

"We have a couple of trackers among us that are the deadliest we have ever seen. They can track the wind that blows and knows where it has traveled. They will find her, I have no doubt." He looked at their tired eyes and gave them a small smile. "I promise I'll bring her back. I know you don't want to hear this but go get some rest. Give me a few days... please. We don't need to run in with your wolves and cause any other problems."

"I'll call off the pack. But Freya and I will continue to search on our end. Aiden will have to watch over the pack for a couple days... I can't rest until I have word that my daughter is safe."

Freya raised her eyes and looked at Jasper. "The moment you find her, have her send a messenger fairy to us. That way we know she is safe."

Jasper smiled and nodded. "Don't worry." He then looked out in the distance with a determined look. He was angry at himself for leaving Lucy's side. He had a strange feeling last night that he should have stayed with her. He gritted his teeth and sprinted ahead. He would find her. Not only was he a mess but Derek would be beside himself if he heard she had been taken. Honestly, he didn't know what Derek would do. But to find Lucy he would send out the whole might of the vampires after her. He knew that as far as Derek was concerned, she was already his and nobody touched what belonged to the future king of the vampires.

Lucy first noticed the scent as it hit her nose. Then the stabbing pains all over her body started becoming more clear. She turned her head slightly and moaned from the aches from her body. She furrowed her brows with her eyes closed. She was laying on something soft and then she tensed. Someone was lying beside her. She felt a warm body shift more into her and the scent hit her in a blasting wave. She popped her eyes open and turned her head.

Her gaze met with a pair of amber eyes. A smile spread across the man's face as she stared at him in confusion. She felt a small shudder go through her body as good sparks ignited over her body. He had silky looking brown locks of hair that she was craving to run her fingers through. His face was gorgeous and his abs... OH. MY. GOSH. He was shirtless. And laying right next to her. Is this a trial to test her faith? Get a grip Lucy!

Lucy blinked hard and pushed her body away from him slightly. She whimpered from the pain that shot through her body.

"Easy there Lucy. It's going to take a couple of days for those wounds to fully heal."

She looked up at him in confusion and watched his heart-stopping white smile spread across his face. "Zach and Tonya told me about you... my little mate."

"Why are you laying beside me?" Lucy forced herself to sound agitated even though she wanted to cuddle deeper into his chest.

"You were clinging onto me so tight. I didn't have the heart to separate from you." He grinned and winked at her.

Lucy groaned and raised her hand to her forehead. "How unbecoming..."

"Why? I'm your mate. It is natural you would seek my comfort."



"I'm sorry but I can't be your mate." Lucy said and leaned up on her arms very slowly. She felt his hands come up to her shoulders and she looked over at him as he helped her into a sitting position. "Well, you can be because you are." The man chuckled looking at her with amusement.

"Hey, Ryan... Oh Lucy you are up. How are you feeling?" Tonya asked as she came into the room more.

"Ryan?" Lucy looked at the man beside her who smiled. She then looked back at Tonya. "I feel like I have open wounds all over me that aren't healing." Lucy looked over her body and smirked. "Well would you look at that, I do have open wounds that aren't healing." Tonya chuckled. "I like you. We are going to be good friends. It will be nice to have another girl amongst us."

Lucy opened her mouth and then bit her lower lip. She shook her head side to side slowly. "I can't stay here." She then looked over at Ryan. "I'm sorry. I am engaged already." She expected him to look angry but instead, his eyes flickered over at her in amusement. "But Ryan here said you two are mates?" Tonya said with a frown.

"It appears that we are. And nothing against you Ryan. But I can't." Lucy frowned and bit her bottom lip.

"Do you love your fiancé that much?" Tonya asked quietly. She was disappointed because she really liked Lucy.

"Well... no... I guess. I mean I don't really know him that well." Lucy could see the strange look Tonya was giving her and she didn't dare make eye contact with Ryan.

"I don't understand. If you don't have feelings for him and you have found your mate then what is stopping you?" Tonya looked at Lucy like she was crazy. Who wouldn't pick their fated mate?

"Well, it is a long story but my father....OH MY... my father is going to burn the world down trying to find me. I have to get back." Lucy went to move but felt a set of strong hands land on her shoulders. She felt electricity shoot down her spine from his touch. Gosh, she wanted him. She turned to meet with his amber eyes.

"You can't go anywhere in your condition. Not to mention we can't disclose our location. We can't risk going out right now because it is too dangerous." Ryan said, rubbing her shoulders gently.

"You don't understand. My parents are not your typical parents. He is going to be so hard on the pack. Ugh." Lucy said, rubbing her forehead. "Oh! I know." She started looking around the room searching for a sign. "Is there a room where things get moved or go missing?"

Tonya quirked an eyebrow. This girl was a weird one. "Actually, out in the main room. But I think it is just the men being forgetful."

"Perfect. I need to go there." Lucy started to sit up but was once again confined by arms.

Ryan chuckled. "You are such an eager one wanting to make those wounds worse." He slid over and scooped Lucy into his chest. She squirmed a bit in protest but she quickly stopped when he raised his eyes to her. "I'll take you out there... but you are not walking." Lucy blushed as she was held against his bare sculpted chest. His sweet scent made her heart beat faster and she felt her body pulling itself into him. The mate pull was so intense in a wonderful way. Well, it would be wonderful if she could actually enjoy it. She hadn't done anything wrong but felt like she was being unfaithful to Derek. Well, her body was definitely being unfaithful. It desired this man and her heart rate was cheating on him.

Her eyes widened as she looked out into the open room. It was like a well-decorated cave. The stone walls had pictures hanging and even had lights. The only thing the place lacked was windows.

"What is this place?" Lucy mumbled out loud as she took in the sights. A large brown fuzzy rug rested in the middle of the room surrounded by long couches. A television hung on the wall where a couple of guys were playing a video game while they sat on bean bags. Her eyes lit up in amusement looking at them. They reminded her of her brother and Justice playing games. She frowned slightly thinking of Aiden. He must be so worried.

"This is our hideout... in a manner of speaking. This all is in a modernized cave underground." Ryan said as he stared down at her face. She went from awe to smiling to frowning. He was curious about her emotions and what was going through her mind. "It has a barrier in front of it to keep it undetectable and hidden. Plus, there is a strong illusion making the cave look like a dead end."

Lucy nodded slowly as she looked around the room. It was amazing that this was all created in a cave.

"Are you kidding me? You just happened to get a seeker shell on the last lap?!" One of the guys growled near the television. A glass of water tipped over next to the other guy spilling over them both. "Now look what you did?" "What I did? You tipped it over!"

"Don't you dare, stop right there!" Lucy narrowed her eyes and pointed her finger in the direction of the two guys. They both lifted their fingers and pointed to themselves. Lucy giggled and shook her head. "I figured you had a cave brownie in here. Lower me down please." She looked up at Ryan who was staring down at her with fascination. The way he was looking at her made her feel a bit self-conscious. It was like he was staring into

her soul. Slowly he lowered her to the ground but leaned down behind her to support her body.

Lucy swallowed hard and shook her mind of her impure thoughts. She reached her hand out. "Well... come here." She smiled as she watched the small furry creature bounce over to her. It climbed into her hand, and she giggled down at it. "Are you having fun in here causing trouble?" She reached her other hand out and stroked its back. "I need you to do me a favor, little friend. Can you find me a messenger and direct them here? I need to send a message out to my parents." The furry creature spun around in her hand and jumped off. It ran to the stone wall and disappeared into it. Brownies were cute but troublesome. Especially for those who can't see them.

"What were you doing?" Tonya asked moving more in front of Lucy to look at her.

"You had a cave brownie in here. That is why your things get moved and go missing. Or why water gets mysteriously tipped over." Lucy giggled and looked at the two guys near the television. "But I asked him to bring back a messenger fairy so I can get a message to my parents."

"A cave brownie? I didn't see anything." One of the guys near the television said.

"You can't see them unless you have fairy vision." Lucy smiled and bit her bottom lip.

"You have fairy vision?" Tonya asked, surprised.

"Um... yes. I have fairy blood in me." Lucy watched as Tonya looked at Ryan in confusion.

"How can you be part werewolf, part fairy, and have pure vampire blood in your veins?" Tonya marveled down at this mysterious girl.

"Part witch too..." Lucy said quietly.

"Who are you exactly?" Tonya looked down at the interesting girl.

Lucy opened her mouth to answer but that quickly the messenger fairy arrived. "Oh perfect. That was fast." She said redirecting her attention to the little speedster. "You know who I am?" She watched the fairy nod its head as it hovered on hummingbird-like wings. "Tell my parents that I am safe. And that I will come back to them soon but that I am hiding until it is safe." She wasn't about to let her parents know she was injured. "Also, it is important to let them know that Meryl's granddaughter Beryl is up to something. They will want to alert the covens and maybe even Aunt Rhea. Okay now be quick little friend." She watched how the fairy zipped out in a blur. They could travel fast and would get to her parents within the hour. She sighed at least they wouldn't have to worry about if she was okay or not.

A low grumbling sound came from Lucy's stomach and her cheeks heated in embarrassment. She listened as Ryan chuckled behind her. She felt him lifting her up once again.

"Let's get you something to eat. By the way... you are adorable." Ryan smiled as he cradled her into his chest.

"Please don't think like that about me... I told you I am engaged." Lucy had to choke the words out. She didn't want to have to deny her mate. And already she found herself thinking about him instead of her as Derek's promised bride.

Ryan chuckled as he carried her. She was his. The one who was made for him, and he knew she knew it too. Still... it was cute watching her try to fight it.

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 9**

"I'm surprised you have a cook here." Lucy said as she stared towards the kitchen where the chef had disappeared after asking how she wanted her eggs.

"Really? Well, I guess it would seem odd if we were just a bunch of vagabond vampires." Tonya said and flashed a bright smile as Zach walked into the room, taking a seat next to her at the long table. "I bet you thought we were just a small band of rogue vampires, huh?" Zach chuckled as he kissed Tonya's temple.

"Hey, I wasn't going to judge." Lucy smiled sheepishly. She definitely thought they were just a random band of rogues. She could tell from their scent they were vampires. And it wasn't unusual to have vampires band up together as their own group. So naturally this is what she assumed.

"Nope. Not us. We are the prince's men." Zach said, causing Lucy to spit up her drink.

"You are Derek's men?!" Lucy coughed out. She looked over at Ryan and he tilted his head smiling at her.

"You know our prince?" Zach said and then flashed his eyes up to Ryan then back to her. "And why are you speaking his name so casually?"

"Well..." Lucy squirmed a bit in her chair uncomfortably. She wasn't going to say anything about who she was but maybe it was best. After all, if Ryan knew she was his prince's fiancé then he would understand why she couldn't be his mate. She fiddled with her fingers as she stared at them. "I'm Derek's fiancé." She looked up to see Zach and Tonya's jaws drop. Out of the corner of her eye, she looked at Ryan. She noticed his eyes flickered slightly but his expression didn't change.

"Wait. You are the prince's fiancé? Then that means you are the werewolf princess?" Zach asked, watching her slowly nod her head. "Bloody hell how the hell did you end up captured?"

"That is what I want to know too." Ryan's eyes darkened as his voice crept low.

His changed demeanor made Lucy look at him for a moment. She didn't know exactly why, maybe because he was her mate but hearing him upset made her feel upset.

"I allowed myself to get taken. I wanted to know what they were up to. I heard them mention my pack's name... so I thought I would get answers."

"So you willingly let them take you?" Ryan growled, turning his full attention to Lucy. His amber eyes seemed to glow as anger radiated from him. "You could have been killed."

He was her mate and that made her want to be upset that he was angry with her. But she was also a princess, a natural leader. And THAT made her want to lash back. "For my people, I will risk my life. How many of my people could be killed? What is my one life compared to the masses?" Lucy smiled and shrugged. "If they want to kill me then they can try. I'll take as many of them down with me as I can."

Ryan continued to lock his eyes on hers. "You should be more careful because of who you are. Do you think you can easily be replaced? We all need our leaders. What happens with the treaty if you die? What about the masses then?"

Lucy smirked and sipped her coffee. She held it in front of her and looked at Ryan. "Well, I have to marry the prince for there to be a treaty. So are you relinquishing the bond?"

Ryan chuckled darkly. "Not. A. Chance."

"But Ryan... she is the prince's girl." Zach said mortified.

"She is mine." Ryan said, challenging Lucy with his intense stare.

"Do you think that someone who was willing to die for her people wouldn't sacrifice this much for them as well? I am sticking to the treaty" Lucy felt bile rise in her throat even saying the words. She watched the amusement shine in Ryan's eyes as he stared at her. "You are very loyal to the prince. You two must be close." Tonya said innocently.

Lucy looked over at Tonya and felt her stomach drop. She wasn't close with Derek. She honestly barely knew him. He acted like he didn't want bothered by her. They could have been better friends if he wouldn't have gotten weird with her. Around puberty... hmmm. She wondered if maybe he had gotten a girlfriend. Maybe this was why he started distancing himself from her. Though according to Jasper, he still kept tabs on her. Derek confused her. She didn't know him. Her face was giving her away as it

became crestfallen. Her eyes dropped to look at her hands in front of her. She was going to be marrying a man who has only looked at her as an obligation. He never looked at her like she was precious, not how Ryan already looked at her.

"Oh look, the food is done." Tonya said happy to distract Lucy from whatever she was thinking about. Her pained face was obvious to everyone in the room. She looked up at Ryan whose eyes looked to reflect Lucy's pain. She wondered what he was really going to do about this situation. He couldn't go against the prince. Would he try to plead his case to the prince? Surely, he wouldn't try anything stupid...

"These are scrambled eggs, Lucy. We use this metal object called a fork to eat with. Or would you prefer a dog bowl so that you can lap it up?" Zach chuckled at his own joke.

Lucy snapped out of her inner turmoil and looked over at the unamusing jokester.

"As you can see, having a mate isn't everything." Tonya teased and flicked Zach on his forearm.

"Ouch!" Zach pouted, rubbing his arm.

Lucy smiled. Tonya could say that playfully, but it was obvious by the way the two of them looked at each other that they were very much into one another. From the side, the two men playing games earlier walked in together.

"Lucy, this is Enzo and Lenny. Guys this is my mate, Lucy." Ryan said, giving Lucy a cocky smile.

"Yeah, she is also Prince Derek's fiancé so we may be getting a new leader soon." Zach laughed with a mouth full of food.

Enzo laughed. "You like to live on the dangerous side don't you Ryan." He grabbed a seat at the far end of the table and Lenny followed suit.

Lucy quietly ate her food. The whole time she could feel Ryan's gaze burning a hole into her. Her every move was being watched by him. The caring and possessive way he looked at her actually gave her a small thrill. At least she was able to see it. At least for once, she was able to be looked at like that. It would be something she would secretly hold close to her heart. She would keep the memory of her mate close and dear so that she could remember that at least to someone she was their world at one point. "You are going to have to give me your full name so that I can reject you properly." Lucy said, glancing up to Ryan. He tilted his head to her and grinned.

"You are not rejecting me."

"Wow. For being their 'leader' you are not very smart. I have a fiancé. Remember?" Lucy sat her fork down and looked into his amber eyes.

"I am your fiancé. You are mine. And I am yours. You are the one who is not listening to me. I am keeping you. From now on... you are mine. My mate." Ryan leaned his face on his hand as he smiled at her. His eyes wandered over her slowly as he took her in. He wanted to hold her closer. He wanted to mark her as his. Her body was still healing so he would wait. But she was his. His eyes trailed up to look at her lips. He wanted to taste them too. He then looked up to her green pooling eyes. He could see the pain in them. "Lucy..."

It wasn't like she wanted to do this. Didn't he think she wanted her mate? Of course, she wanted to be with her mate. It was natural. Your mate was the one person that was made just for you, the other half of your soul. No, she didn't want to be separated from him. No, she didn't want to go to another man who seemed hardly interested in her. But she had to. She was going to do this for their two species. And more than sacrificing her life in death this was actually the greater sacrifice. It was forfeiting her heart. "I think the prince has a woman anyways. I don't see why you two can't work it out." Lenny said as he ate a biscuit that was on the table.

Lucy shot her head up to Lenny. "What do you mean?"

"The last time I was there I saw the prince at a distance. He was walking in the garden hand in hand with a dark-haired woman." Lenny shrugged. "Maybe it can just be a diplomatic marriage where you both get to keep the person you really want." "You don't know that was the prince you were seeing. You have never seen the prince up close. We were hand picked by the king to be the princes' men." Enzo gave Lenny an annoyed look for spreading gossip about their prince.

Lucy stayed quiet. She wasn't sure if she believed he had someone or not. But she couldn't deny that it made sense. It could very well be the reason for his personality change with her. Okay, he had his person. But this still presented a problem. She had to produce his heir. There was no faking that part of the relationship. On another level hearing this gossip about Derek bothered her. This was his prince. She wouldn't want her people to misspeak about her over rumors or unproven facts. She looked up at Lenny. "I think it is best not to say such things without proof. You do not wish to tarnish your prince's name. He has done a lot of good for your kind and even sacrifices his happiness for his people as well. He has to take me as his bride and not his mate. Those sacrifices should be remembered when you casually speak about your prince." Lucy's eyes gleamed with a hint of sharpness as she looked at Lenny.

Tonya smiled and looked up at Lucy. "Already defending your future husband even in his absence. You have good qualities." She looked across the table at Ryan who studied her with a frown on his face. Did he not like her coming to their prince's defense or was it something else?

"You are right. I misspoke." Lenny said quietly.

"It's okay." Lucy smiled. "So you guys like to play racing games?" She watched the two men grin.

"Yes, we do."

"Any good at it?" Lucy quirked her eyebrow at them and gave them a side smile.

Enzo laughed loudly. "Are you challenging us?"

"Well, I thought I would show you how to really race. Unless you are content staying on the kiddie track." Lucy smiled and bit her bottom lip.

"Haha, game on." Lenny said as he pumped his fist in his hand.

"I'm in on this game too." Ryan said as he continued to look at Lucy peculiarly.

Lucy smiled and shrugged. "Well if you don't mind looking bad in front of your people." A wide grin rose on Ryan's face as he stood up. He walked over to Lucy and she was back in his arms again. He cradled her into his chest and leaned his head down so that his lips were near her ear.

"Show me what you've got... princess." His hot breath beat against her ear making her body shudder. She felt her treacherous heart begin to pound in excitement. It was hard enough being near him like this. The least he could do was put a shirt on. Her resolve was being chipped away as her body begged her to give into him.

No. Now was not the time. She needed to focus on the battle at hand. Racing karts was not for the weak at heart. People have lost friendships over games like this. She needed to focus and bring her A game. She would show them her power. She spent years playing against Aiden and Justice. And now she would see if her years of training would pay off.

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 10**

It was the last lap and Lucy was slightly trailing behind first place. But she knew what she was doing. seeker shell hissed through the television speakers. She made sure she kept her distance away from f "Who threw the blue shell?!" Ryan growled as he glanced over at Enzo and Lenny. Lenny let out an airy The blue shell collided with Ryan's cart halting his speed and sending him flying into the air. Through in a fury. Sweet sweet victory! Aiden would be so proud of her right now. She sat there with a satisfied "You did it Lucy! I admit it I didn't think you stood a chance against these man boys-" Tonya started b Lucy raised her eyes. "You use man-boys too?!" She said excitedly. This is exactly how she described Aden "Haha yes it is the perfect term."



"I know right?!" Lucy liked Tonya. She had a comforting personality. Plus, there was a certain genuineness "I see you are well trained in the art of driving kart." Lenny said with a crooked smile.

"Don't take it personally. I have played against the best and won. I always play against my brother, cou "Oh, he is your best friend? Like best friend or... you know?" Enzo raised his eyebrows as he insinuated Lucy could see his amber eyes darkening. His lips were slightly pulled up as his eyes stared her down Lucy shrugged. "I don't see how my exact relationship with Jasper is anyone's business. Plus, I don't w "Oh Lucy... you'll have to tell me later. Jasper is a cutie." Tonya said and then grinned as she listened to that she could gently peck at his lips.

VER want to be in first place on the last lap unless you know you can win by a significant amount. She smiled as the all too familiar whistling sound of a blue ce, Ryan, so that she didn't get caught in the crossfire.

oke of the collision Lucy sped through. She had saved her speed boost just for this moment. With the finish line in her sight, she released her speed boosts on her face and gently sat the controller down. This was her mic drop. interrupted by an enthusiastic Lucy.

and Justice.

at emitted from her. This was someone she could be friends with. It would be nice to have another friend in the vampire kingdom.

nd also my best friend Jasper." Lucy looked at them. "Maybe you know Jasper? He is Jester and Irene's son." thing more. Ryan growled lowly and glared at Lucy from the side of her.

g for the answer.

self-incriminate myself." She could see Ryan squeeze his fist tightly.

s unamused sound. "Oh Zachie you think he is cute too. But don't worry no one is cuter than you." She said as she ruffled his hair, she tugged him down so

Lucy started thinking she didn't want a rumor to insinuate her either. It wouldn't be fair to tarnish her perfect record. "Jasper is just a friend. He is more like a close brother to me. Well at least I think of him that way, but I don't really know how close our friendship is..." She frowned as she trailed off. The truth was that Jasper's friendship seemed to teeter on Derek. orted back to him yet never reported to her on Derek. "He is Derek's cousin first before he is my friend." Lucy could feel she was bringing down the room. She didn't want to be that person. It was time to shif . "Don't worry guys with a bit of practice, maybe one day you can beat me." She looked up at the screen that still showed her character driving the victory lap around the course.

"Well we have time for that." Ryan said with a small smirk. "It isn't like you'll be leaving my side anyway. You know I think you are just a flirt. You can't really be thinking of going against Derek? That is crazy." Lucy furrowed her brows down and gave him a half smile. There was no way he was really serious. He was just enjoying the feeling of the mate bond. "Lucy." Ryan's face drew serious as he met with her green emeralds. "You are my mate. I am not going to relinquish you to anyone. This isn't a joke. You are mine... And I'll be your best friend. You'll never have to question where my loyalty lies. It is already with you and will forever be with you."

"Ryan! They will kill you over something like this." Enzo said wide eyed. He knew Ryan good enough by now to know when he was being serious.

Ryan continued to stare at Lucy. "You are mine, Lucy. Don't think of anything else but that. And start getting used to the idea of being with me."

Okay, so deep down a sick side of her liked his possessiveness over her. It was thrilling in a way to see his gaze set upon her like she was his prize. There was a fire ignited behind his eyes and she wanted him to burn her with it. All of her. She wanted to feel his heat on her body. It wasn't always about what she wanted though. She promised herself that even if she found her mate, she would choose her people. A small smile spread across her face, and she shook her head no.

"I won't ignore the treaty. I was born a leader to my species and my union is something that both species are depending on. It doesn't matter what I want... I have to do what is right. This is the promise my parents made to the vampire king and queen when they united to join forces in the war." She took in a deep breath, closing her eyes for a moment. "Who am I to destroy their plan? How could I possibly go against their wisdom for myself?"

"Have you ever asked Derek what he wanted?" Zach asked in a whisper. The whole room was quiet and drawn in to Lucy's strength and determination.

"I don't think... I don't think he wants me. But no... we have never talked about it. Honestly, we don't talk much anymore. We used to play a lot as children, but he changed as he got older. I guess when he started understanding what he was really giving up maybe made him bitter? I'm not sure." Lucy searched through her memories of her times with Derek. Her most recent visit they sat at a table drinking tea for an hour. Derek was cold and quiet, barely even glancing at her. He seemed a bit preoccupied and looking back it seemed like he couldn't wait for the mandatory hour to be up. She had to blink back the burn she felt in her eyes and nose. She wouldn't cry in front of them. And she didn't want to talk bad about their prince.

"Anyways he has never been mean to me. I'm sure we can manage a clumsy friendship." Lucy forced a smile out as she looked up. Ryan's amber eyes never left her face as he remained fixated on her. It was a type of predatory gaze that she wasn't sure

she wanted to understand further. But she imagined it had to do with the idea of his mate being discarded.

"I think it is interesting that they chose you to be their son's mate. Couldn't they have come up with another plan to solidify the treaty?" Tonya asked as her eyes watered. Her chest hurt for Lucy and what she would be sacrificing.

"I think there are a couple reasons. One reason is that a child between our two species would form a lasting bond. The other is I think they want my grandfather Gilbert's bloodline. I guess he was sort of special since he had original vampire blood. And for some reason my mother and I have also maintained its purity. I think they looked at me having an heir would be an asset to the vampires. In a sense they want me for breeding." Lucy didn't need to really mince words there, that is exactly why they wanted her. It was to produce a stronger heir for the vampires.

Tonya frowned. "Well I don't want to give her to them. Let's hide her." She looked down at Lucy and pursed her lips together tightly. "You deserve better than our prince."

Lucy smiled and shook her head. "I don't think that is fair to say. After all, none of us really know him. And Jasper has told me he is a good guy. I'm sure he has his own reasons and feelings he is trying to sort out before we get married. His parents are good people, so I have to have faith that Derek is too."

"You are a very loyal person, Lucy." Ryan said quietly as his eyes shined on her. He looked at her face and the hurt she tried to hide. But deep down he could feel it and sometimes she even showed her pain.

She felt herself being pulled into his amber eyes. The more she was with him the more connected she felt to him. She needed to change the topic. She cleared her throat, "So, what are you guys doing out here? Does it have to do with the witch Beryl?"

"The prince has ordered us to figure out what type of experiments are going on here. It took us a long time to hunt Beryl down. To be honest at first we didn't understand the order. But..." Zach got quiet and looked at Lucy. "But he said that Beryl was a danger to the Diamond pack and he wanted the problem taken care of."

Lucy felt as if her chest ran out of air. Derek had ordered them out here? And it was to protect the Diamond pack... her pack. Someone wouldn't order his men to risk their lives like that unless he cared, right? Maybe he was always preoccupied when they were together and busy. She felt bad how she was just talking about him. They were honest observations to her but maybe there was more to it.

"Have you found out anything interesting? Besides the weird mixture of vervain and silver?"

"There is something else she is working on. We aren't exactly sure what it is but the last werewolf she injected it into died in their cell. It appeared to be very painful, whatever it was. And then there was something else..." Tonya looked down at Ryan unsure if she should continue or not. He nodded his head to her slowly and she took in a breath. "We saw weird creatures in there. They were like some types of undead army we call them the voidless. They have an extreme bloodlust that seems to only be quenched by drinking werewolves' blood. These attacks make it look like a savage vampire is killing the wolves. Which is probably the intention."

Lucy shook her head slowly. Her parents needed to know about this. What was Beryl thinking she could accomplish? The werewolves had allies everywhere. With one call the army of the dragons, vampires, fairies and witches would come to their aid. Maybe this wasn't a mission about taking over. It must be a suicidal mission. Beryl most likely didn't care about dying as long as she got revenge on the Diamond pack.

"I guess I'm going to need to go witch hunting." Lucy sighed in frustration looking at her wounds. It would still be a couple more days before she was ready to fight.

Ryan laughed and shook his head. "I don't think so. I'm not letting you anywhere near that crazy witch. It is your pack she is after. She is after you. Like I would let you walk right into her hands."

"You can't tell me what to do. I am going to protect my people."

Ryan sighed in agitation. "Which is it Lucy? Huh? Are you going to risk your life looking for a witch who wants to kill you? And then if she does the treaty is ruined. Or are you going to protect your people by staying safe so you can solidify the treaty? You can't have it both ways. Your people are important. I get that. Then choose the path that makes the most sense. We will take care of Beryl that is why we are here."

Lucy scoffed and folded her arms over her chest. "Well according to you I won't be solidifying the treaty anyways, right?" Her blood was boiling. She didn't know what the right decision was. Did anyone in these situations? You just did what you felt was best. She was strong so shouldn't she fight? Or would it be better for her to stay hidden while others did? What if her being there made less people die though? And yes, there was also the possibility of her own death. But to be honest everyone faced death daily in various shapes and forms. Though she could be honest and know it was more dangerous than simply waiting around.

What would her mother do? She didn't even need to ask that question. Her mother would be in the battle with her daggers drawn. That was who she was. Her aunt Rhea, the fairy queen, would also be right in front fighting. So would her cousins Alexis, Raine and Destiny. Heck even her grandma Lilly would fight. They were all strong and important. Without Alexis there would be no next generation fairy princess. Unless that role somehow shifted to her.

In the end it was all about balancing your choices. She needed to think about this situation. And what it is that she should really be doing. She looked at Ryan in annoyance. How did she want to strangle and kiss someone so badly? She wanted to punch him but was also craving to feel his lips on her own. Ugh, having a mate was frustrating.