

# Dr. Luna

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## The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 71

Derek stormed back to his room and opened the door. The moment he saw Lucy though the anger con parted as she peacefully slept. His lips curled upwards at her adorableness. He wasn't angry now but more. Even if it was someone of influence... did they have to gossip about it? Even if it was out of pity how would that be any of their faults?

All he wanted was to live with his mate and their little family. He wanted to love them and enjoy life to happiness was all that mattered to him. More than the crown.

Jasper looked up at Derek and nodded for him to come over. He glanced down at Lucy who was still so She was pretty tired. She fell asleep almost instantly. How did it go?

How do you feel about being the crown prince? Derek gave Jasper a wry smile as he crept in front of th That bad huh?

He wants to wait before he makes any decision. He wants to speak to whoever spread the rumor first. I'm sure your father wants to see this person punished Derek. I'm with you but your dad has been doi Derek frowned and leaned back a bit on the couch. He couldn't think rationally when it came to Lucy. taken on an unhealthy obsession level. Lucy was always on his mind and he needed her. She was a dr have this bond.

Justice sat his controller to the side and looked over at Derek. As his guardian now he could mind link In about an hour.

I'm going to get something to eat then. Justice eased himself up quietly and placed a pillow over Lucy Jasper was trapped until Lucy woke up or Derek woke her up. If he moved she would wake for sure. Are you planning to take Lucy to the meeting? Jasper asked and noticed Derek's eyes turn black. No, I don't want her there. She doesn't need to hear this stuff.

So if she is still asleep...

I'll give you the cliff notes.

Isn't this one of those mandatory meetings? Jasper said with a smirk.

y flooded out of his body. She was curled up on the couch with her head on Jasper's lap and her feet wedged under Justice. Her little pink lips were slightly feeling the hurt. Seeing his sweet mate and after everything, she went through... Damn it hurt. He trusted his people so much which is why it hurt all the mpathy... they would know it would have been a horrible topic to talk about. One that would have been painful. Had his mate been r\*\*\*d and impregnated,

If he had to, he would take her away. He would live among the wolves or dragons... hell he would live anywhere if it kept her from being hurt. Her asleep.

th. He sat on the floor sideways in front of Lucy where he could watch her.

en decide what to do. Derek scowled. for a while now.

ked over her tracing her facial features with his eyes. All he wanted to do was protect her and keep her safe. He smiled looking at her. His love for her has he needed to constantly inject himself with. The feelings he had now made his love for her before seem shallow. Thank the gods she is his mate and they im too. When is the meeting?

to cover them. He quietly tiptoed out of the room easing the door shut.

Not for you. Your number one task at all times is protecting Lucy. Above everything. Let the kingdom fall as long as Lucy lives. She is my first priority. And I am tasking her as yours as well.

Jasper smiled and shook his head. She has always been my first priority over this place. You and Lucy are my priorities. If you leave the kingdom I am too. I don't care who takes over. I guess your father better not die or retire because I go with you. I think of us as a package deal. He then looked down at Lucy sleeping on his lap. She's my best friend... I also won't stand for her mistreatment. I will be watching how this is handled as well.

Both men stared at Lucy quietly after that. They had made a quiet agreement. They would take their group and leave if they had to. Alaric didn't have to hand the kingdom over to Derek any time soon if at all. As long as he was alive the vampires had their king. And in the worst case Jester was there too. Derek and Jasper would stay together no matter what. Whether it is here or somewhere else. It wasn't about this incident. It was about more than that. It was about not being controlled by others because of their position and standing. A wrong doing is a wrong doing that should be punished the same no matter who you are. This was something that should be punishable by death because the intent was to smear and place doubt over the future heir. This was done maliciously. Both Derek and Jasper needed to see this handled appropriately.

Lucy sat up frantically. Her heart was racing and she began gasping for air.

"Lucy, what is it?" Jasper asked looking at her startled face.

Derek reached out and grabbed onto her hand trying to make sense of her emotions and thoughts.

She blinked a couple times and furrowed her brow. Something was wrong... something was bothering her. She looked around the room and up at the door as it opened revealing Justice eating a sandwich.

"What did I miss?" Justice focused onto the worried green eyes and strode up to them.

Lucy clutched her chest as it was seared with a hot iron. She winced and doubled forward into Derek's arms.

"Aba... where is Aba." Lucy whimpered.

"Abaddon!" Derek ordered but nothing... "Mira!" He commanded. Neither of them appeared. He glanced up at Jasper as he rubbed Lucy's back trying to soothe her.

Justice sat beside Lucy and grabbed onto her hand to help ease her pain.

"It's disconnecting... His soul... his energy..." Lucy gasped out as tears trickled down her cheek. "Something has happened to him."

"Something has happened to both Mira and Aba..." Derek eased Lucy back on the couch and into Justice. "This is urgent. I need to speak with my father immediately..." He looked at Lucy and could feel the pain subsiding. "Baby I'll be right back." He watched her nod and blurred out of the room and down the hall.

His father and mother were still where he left them at.

"Mira and Abaddon aren't coming. Something has happened." Derek looked at his parent's faces but it looked as if they were already aware.

"We could feel the disconnect from Mira." Willa said softly.

"They found the target then." Derek glanced up at his father. "Are they dead?"

"If it is who I am suspecting then yes... they are probably dead. To not respond to our calls..." Alaric looked down and frowned. "Only someone very powerful could have defeated them. Someone skilled through the ages. Someone like Count Drake Basil." Derek shook his head. "But the blood oath he gave you..."

Alaric looked up at Derek in shock. "Blood oath? Count Basil gave me no such oath." "Shit..."

"Derek..." Alaric sighed and shook his head. "We should never make rash decisions and we need to think how our actions can affect our kingdom. However, having said that... I

am sentencing the culprit to death. Whoever started these malicious rumors needs to be eradicated. Whoever killed our bound servants must not be allowed to live."

Derek looked at his father and gave him a slight nod. He couldn't enjoy this news in light of knowing Abaddon and Mira had been killed.

"I'm going after him..." Derek said icily.

"Jester and Irene are already out scouting for his whereabouts. I'd rather you not... but I know that is pointless to say. Take Jasper and get rid of our enemy." Alaric knew his son was capable. Count Basil was strong but couldn't be stronger than the royal family. Having Jasper with him was extra insurance because he may not be working alone. And he knew Jester and Irene were incredible warriors. This wasn't an army matter. This was a situation that needed to be dealt with fast. Only the stealth and skill of the royal line could masterfully take down an aged vampire as Count Basil.

Derek nodded his head. "It will be handled." He abruptly turned and marched back to his room. His chest hurt and he knew Lucy was going to be upset as well. Mira and Aba were family to them. And the news was numbing but now it was settling inside of him. They were gone...

He opened the door to his chambers and amber met emeralds.

Lucy shook her head slowly. "No..." She breathed out. But his energy inside of her was gone now. She couldn't feel him at all. She felt Derek pull her up and into his arms.

"I'm so sorry Lucy..." Derek's eyes watered and he looked at Justice and Jasper. "Mira and Aba..." He shook his head. "I've been given permission to hunt and kill the culprit. Their deaths will be avenged."

Lucy shook her head and the liquid water pooled from her eyes. She could feel her connection to Aba was now severed and it hurt. Her nose and eyes were burning as her lungs constricted. Aba and Mira weren't servants, they were friends. And Aba was HERS! He was her servant and she felt responsible. He was finally showing himself to her and the person he truly should have been all along.

Aba protected her, laughed with her, and got angry for her. He even cried for her. She shook her head slowly. This was too much. She couldn't take this loss. Her anger began to bubble to the surface as she dug her fingers into Derek's shirt. She couldn't focus on the hurt. She wouldn't focus on the empty feeling inside of her. She was going to concentrate on revenge.

"Lucy..." Derek said in a whisper.

"I know Derek. But you aren't winning this one. Besides, I need to be close with you and who knows how long you could be gone on this hunt." Lucy stepped back and met with

his amber eyes. "Justice and I are coming with you and Jasper." "Hell yeah we are." Justice growled angrily. "We will hunt this bastard down. My sword would like to have a word with him."

"I don't like taking my pregnant mate with me... but given how you need my energy and with Aba..." He stopped and looked down. He had really come to depend on Aba as well too. "I can't see this as a subject I can win at anyways. Jasper... protect Lucy at all times. Above me."

Jasper nodded his head. "No one will touch Lucy. Not with me around let alone Justice."

"I sent Mira out to find the culprit..." Lucy said in a whisper.

"And I sent Aba out to stop the rumors in the palace... Mira must have sent out a distress signal to him and he went to her." Derek squeezed Lucy tightly. "This isn't anyone's fault baby. Don't blame yourself... We blame whoever did it and we kill them." Lucy stepped away from Derek and went into the bathroom. A few moments later she stepped out. She was dressed in her all black outfit, with black combat boots. She tucked her daggers in and then pulled her hair back.

"Let's go hunting." Lucy said in a low growl.

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Jasper led the way as he followed the trail of his parents. They were hoping they would have a lead of some sorts. Maybe they have picked up the trail that Mira had found. They ran through the field to the far treeline and into the dark forest. They sprinted under the canopy of dense woods getting further and further away from the kingdom and soon crossing out of the vampire territory. It was here they ran into Jester.

"Dad? Where's mom?" Jasper watched as his father nodded his head upwards. Which meant his mother was scouting above the tree line.

"Lucy you shouldn't be here." Jester scowled and looked at Derek disapprovingly.

"I should definitely be here. You act as if someone should have the authority to stop me?" Lucy arched her brow at Jester with a crooked grin which he returned.

"I just mean... in your condition you shouldn't be fighting." Jester could see from Derek's face that he wasn't a fan of her being there either. So he guessed Lucy was prepared to fight in order to come.

"This is really a family tradition." Lucy giggled. "My mother was pregnant with me when she fought and the same goes for my aunt and grandmother. I think it is our good luck

charm." She tilted her head to Jester. "I'll be fine. I can't sit around... not after... Mira and Aba gave their lives. And I can't even focus on that right now because when I think about it I feel like a hole is going to swallow me up. So I need to fight. I need to do something."

"They got Abaddon too?" Jester frowned and shook his head. "I'm sorry I know you were close. But..." His eyes met with Derek. "Something doesn't feel right about this. The trail is weird and..."

Irene landed gracefully on the ground in front of them. She looked at Jester and nodded her head. "He's joined up with them. That is the direction the trail has gone."

"Joined up with who?" Derek took a protective step closer to Lucy. He was beginning to regret not making her stay behind. He watched her give him a reproachful look which he could only slightly shrug to. It was how he felt and he couldn't stop himself from feeling protective over Lucy and his unborn child.

"Count Basil's trail meets up with the dark elves and ghouls. They are close to the Pyrite pack territory. A little too close. The pack must be alerted of their presence by now. Maybe even enough for them to send a distress signal to your parents." Irene looked at their small group of six.

"We must intercept them." Lucy said firmly. She pursed her lips together this is what Lucy was wondering about earlier. If there was a chance that whoever was causing issues had an arrangement with the witch. Derek was also thinking the same thing now. Yet it was Jasper who said it.

"Count Basil has joined with the witch."

"We believe so too." Jester looked at his son. "There are only six of us. We should call for reinforcements."

"There isn't time for that." Lucy quickly shot the idea down. She couldn't let anything happen to one of their packs. Especially if the plan was to lure her parents out. When it came to the packs, they would protect them. She couldn't risk anything happening to her parents. "The six of us are strong. Plus, the Pyrite pack is there for back up."

"Not to brag, but to brag you also have a kick-a\*s guardian on your side. I don't like the idea of Lucy fighting either... but I have also sparred with her my whole life. And she has been well trained by her mother. You wouldn't tell Freya as the huntress not to fight, would you?" Justice winked at Lucy and looked at Jester.

"It's Freya I am worried about when she finds out I let her pregnant baby girl fight." Jester chuckled and sighed. "If we do this, no holding back on your skills. Unleash your strength Jasper, this isn't a game."

"I understand." Jasper nodded.

Lucy looked over at Jasper and scrunched her forehead up. "Do you not like to use your skills?"

"Not if I can help it, Lucy... It is a bit cruel." Jasper listened to the protests from his parents and shook his head. "I know you don't like me thinking that way but it is what it is. When my skill hits it attacks shooting into their skin devouring them from the inside out." He looked at Lucy. "It's gruesome but it can hit the masses taking them down fast."

"Jasper it is not more gruesome than a wolf ripping out their opponent's jugular. Be proud of your power." Lucy could see Jasper's eyes light up in relief. And she could feel Derek's pride flow into her. This must be a weakness for Jasper but he looked now to be more at ease.

"I don't know where the count is. He may not be with the group but we need to be prepared. He will be alerted to our presence. We can't let him use this opportunity to get away." Irene knew Count Basil would use the opening to escape while they were all being distracted.

"I'll continue on the trail for Count Basil. I'll make sure he isn't able to run away while you are all fighting." Derek was an excellent tracker and a formidable opponent. He would be needed to fight against the count.

"I'll go with you. Justice, you assist in taking out the army near the Pyrite pack." Lucy looked at him and gave him a reassuring smile. "I know this goes against what you want to do. But they will need your strength." "Uncle Tristan wouldn't have left grandma." Justice scowled.

"Even Jason and Cody weren't able to fight by Aunt Rhea and my dad's side during the demon war. We have to use our strengths to our advantage... and stop Derek." Lucy turned and shot him an annoyed look. "I'm coming with you and that is final!" She was tired of hearing his mental pleas for her to stay with Justice. "There is fighting no matter what. I need to be by your side during this."

"Lucy..." Derek wrapped his arms around her and leaned his head onto hers. "I know. I can't help my worrying but I wasn't going to ask you to stay. I am just mentally panicking." He chuckled and exhaled loudly. "But I want you to stay back. Count Basil has nasty tricks and skills up his sleeves."

"We will go in first and create the diversion so that you two can slip through without having to fight." Jester said and Justice chuckled.

"They won't have to worry about anyone bothering them. I'll be sure to clear them a bright path." Justice reached his hand out and an orange glowing sword materialized in



his hand. "I've been waiting to put these new skills to use. Guess I am finally getting my chance."

"Wow, that sword is amazing. You can feel the power coming from it." Derek stared at it in awe. It was the first time he had really seen it.

"Yes, it has grown stronger and more powerful. It has a will of its own sometimes but we are getting along better now." Justice moved the sword to his side with a faint smile.

"You talk as if the sword is alive." Irene said in a perplexed tone.

Justice shrugged. "It is in a way. It has a will and I can feel it."

"Well, I hope it is in the mood to kill." Jasper smirked and watched as Justice grinned.

"That is something it is always in the mood for." Justice chuckled. He walked up to Lucy and stopped right before her and Derek. "Please be careful..."

Lucy stepped into him and wrapped her arms around him. He wrapped his free arm around her and leaned his head onto hers.

"You be careful too." Lucy whispered and stepped out from him.

"Luuuccce. I'm a guardian. I eat nails for breakfast and wash it down with gasoline." Justice said in a cheeky tone. He looked at Derek and gave him a small nod. "You two stay safe."

"Alright, we should go before they begin to move out." Jester said and looked at Jasper giving him a small nod. Irene and Jester silently vanished.

Jasper walked up and hugged Lucy and Derek. "You two be safe." His brown eyes lingered over the two of them for a second before he turned to Justice. "Alright, time to see this guardian strength of yours in full force."

Lucy and Derek were left alone as they waited for the fighting to start. He spun her body suddenly and crashed his lips against hers. The kiss was desperate and rough. He thrashed his tongue against hers in a fiery savage and passionate way.

"I love you, Lucy. No matter what, you stay safe and keep our baby safe. Promise me." Derek panted against her mouth as he held the back of her head.

"No matter what we will all be safe. I am not losing anyone else." Lucy met with his amber eyes and smiled. Those damn eyes of his that captured her from the first time she felt the mate pull. Back when she thought he was her forbidden fruit. She was fighting off the mate pull and how much she wanted him. He knew who she was the



whole time but he never had a private moment to explain things. To be fair she never really gave him a moment to explain things then.

She giggled and looked up at him. "I was mortified that time you were able to see my dream."

Derek chuckled. "Honestly I almost climbed on top of you right there. I barely had any self-control. But when I saw your tears... it was enough. You were being so devoted to me. Even with the mate pull you were determined to honor the treaty. Your loyalty to me really touched me and frustrated me." He chuckled and ran his fingers through her brown locks. "I am so thankful you are mine, Lucy. I still can't believe I got to fall in love with you first. The woman I love more than anything will always be by my side. And now you are carrying the proof of our love inside of you. You both are my treasure, Lucy." He reached down and rubbed her stomach gently.

"We need to think of names." Derek said with excitement.

"Well better start with girls. Fairy magic will make sure I am having a girl first."

"We will pick out one of each. You never know. You are a twin and so is your father." Derek raised his eyebrows up and down as she giggled at him. "You pick out the boy name, I'll pick out the girl name."

"Deal. But I need time to think." Lucy bit her bottom lip as she smiled up at him.

"Lenore. If it is a girl, let's call her Lenore since she is our little light."

"I love it." Lucy reached up and pecked at his lips lightly. "I love you, Derek. You and only you."

The sound of fighting rang out in the distance. This was their signal to go. Their eyes met and their minds reached out to one another instantly telling them all the words that were left unspoken. Derek grabbed onto her hand, intertwining their fingers together. Then they both sprinted towards the sound of the battle where their family was already fighting.

Lucy glanced up at the setting sun as night drew near. When the sun came back from hiding everything should finally be over. Because if the count was with the witch then she might be here too. If the witch was really here it was time to capture her as well.

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Jasper bit into his thumb and blew on the tip of his finger with force. A red cloud formed and swarmed over the ghouls. Their shrieks and cries filled the air as the red cloud pooled over the enemy.

A bright orange glow beamed down and burned a hole right through the ghouls and dark elves. Justice turned his sword slowly moving the beam. It disintegrated the enemies it touched instantly. From the corner of his eye he watched as Derek and Lucy ran behind them. He wanted to follow along with them and he would as soon as he cleared all the loose ends up.

Justice went to turn his head when his eyes widened. In front of Derek and Lucy another army was approaching... an army of the voidless. He turned his gaze to the new legion and pointed his sword in their direction shooting out a long beam. It was like his sword extended the full length and devoured the enemies in its path. The moment his sword's light reached the voidless they evaporated. It was like the light instantly melted their bodies. He watched as Derek nodded his head to him as he pulled Lucy along.

If this kept up Justice would be able to join them shortly. He watched Jester and Irene mercilessly kill the dark elves as Jasper's red cloud ate through the ghouls. Dark blobs began to move towards them from a distance. They looked like ogres only their skin was the color of ebony. They looked to be more tainted and the putrid smell of rotting flesh wafted in the air. A high pitched whinny was heard and a large black horse slowly moved forward. The creature walked through the red dust as if it was nothing. A tall dark shadow stepped out from the dust and set its gaze on Justice.

It looked like an all-black unicorn that had been dead for years. Its skin dripped off of its body showing the bones through its skin. Around the hooves dark, thick blood oozed down clinging to the hair and hooves. The eyes were black and sunken inside of its head. The horn had a black glow around it that seemed to pulsate in and out.

The ogres charged and the vampires were now having to fight for their lives against multiple strong opponents. Justice directed his light towards the dark unicorn but to his surprise, the creature blocked his beam. Unicorns were pure creatures of magic. They belonged to the fairy kingdom. They were creatures that couldn't be evil... not on their own accord.

Justice raised his sword defensively as the creature shot a black beam towards him. The orange light of his sword met with the darkness and he felt his whole body shake. It blocked it... but it took a lot of effort. He readied himself and gripped his sword tightly. He was going to have to give this everything he had.

Lucy ran behind Derek still holding his hand. He was superior in tracking than she was so she let him have full control over the direction they were going. The moon began to creep out giving its light in the darkness. Under the light of the moon, a dark figure was standing as if it was waiting for them. Derek slowed down, gripping Lucy's hand tighter.

Lucy recognized the man that had sneered at her at the ball the night she had been taken. But her eyes wandered past him to the pale woman with ivory hair laying on a strange stone. A peculiar light glowed around her like an energy prison. "Mira..." Lucy breathed out as she took a small step forward. She felt Derek pull her more to his back as his eyes darted to the shadows. His thoughts seemed scrambled and were going at lightning speed but Lucy was still able to follow him. She blinked several times as she looked at what Derek was looking at.

A man with dark hair and dark eyes stepped into the moonlight. Lucy tried to take another step but Derek was keeping her glued next to him. Derek's eyes were darting back and forth between the two men.

"Confused? I can see you are confused young prince." Count Basil said sneering at Derek.

"Aba, are you okay?!" Lucy called out ignoring Derek's insistence for her to stay quiet. He didn't want any attention being drawn to her. "Quite." Aba answered tersely.

"The banshee here is quite devoted to the royal family. She wouldn't accept me breaking the link. It really was quite rude. I was offering her her freedom. Those types of potions are not easy to come by, you know? But she wouldn't turn on the royal family... pity. So I figure I might as well collect her essence. Banshees are powerful creatures you know? And their life essence is worth a lot." Count Basil turned and looked at Abaddon. "Ahh, but a demon servant." He clicked his tongue and glowered at Derek. "Demons don't make good servants, you know why? Because they hold no loyalty. The moment he was offered his freedom he took it. I was quite surprised to see there is a djinn living inside of him too but I guess even a djinn is a demon."

"But the djinn is bound to Lucy..." Derek shook his head in confusion. A djinn would never abandon their master.

"I had to weaken him so that Abaddon's soul could devour the djinn. Now he is a free soul not bound to anyone and completely unleashed." Count Basil looked at Lucy. "So nice to have someone very familiar with you. As your servant, he knows your secrets. And I gave him his freedom in exchange for those secrets."

"How could you plot against the royal family!" Derek growled angrily. He wished he could get Lucy out of here. The situation was suddenly feeling more dangerous.

"I would never plot against the royal family. At least not when they are acting sane. But this whole taking a wolf as your mate is nonsense. You are weakening our line. I don't care what you think about her blood. She isn't pure. We need our strength. We don't need a treaty with the wolves. Look, everything will be fine, young prince. We will break your blood bond together and we can forget about this embarrassment." Count Basil held a hand out invitingly to Derek.

"You are the embarrassment. Having someone like you among our kind. Count Drake Basil for your crimes against the royal family and by the authority of my father you are condemned to death."

Count Basil chuckled and dropped his hand to his side. "Don't worry young prince. You've been corrupted. You don't even realize it but fairies are tricky like that. You've been put under their grotesque magic. We will get you all sorted out."

Lucy stared quietly at Abaddon, a tear trickled down the side of her face and she gave him a small smile. "I thought you both were dead... I thought you left me. Thank goodness you're alive." Lucy... Derek whispered into her mind.

Count Basil laughed loudly. "He doesn't work for you anymore. You aren't friends. You were his master."

"You have too much faith in me, princesssss." Abaddon's voice was crisp as his dark eyes met with hers coldly.

Lucy shook her head. "I wasn't just Aba's master. We are friends. And I do... I do trust you." She gave him a small smile and then her eyes moved to Mira. The banshee looked to be in pain but she was at least still alive. She was certain Aba hadn't betrayed them. He wouldn't have... right? She had to believe in him because after everything she had to believe it was more than a master and servant relationship. At least it was to her.

"Awe... such a pathetic creature. We really need to separate the prince from something so weak." Count Basil turned his head and looked expectantly towards the shadows.

A young woman walked out and handed a few vials to Count Drake. She then turned and looked at Lucy.

"We've never met but I am Beryl. Your family is the reason for my hell. Your mother killed my grandmother and destroyed everything. My grandmother was just trying to help. She was trying to prevent such an immoral creature from existing. After her death, I promised her I would avenge her. Of course, I never realized how cowardly your family was refusing to leave their pack and then enlisting the vampires to fight their battles." "You teamed up with the witch?!" Derek growled angrily. They had already assumed this but he felt even more infuriated knowing it was true.

"Werewolves and vampires shouldn't be in harmony together. The witch just wanted the Locke family but she had something interesting. Creatures that killed like vampires only more savagely. They were the perfect setup to create mistrust among the werewolves. I was hoping it would cause the treaty to fail. But I didn't take into account you leading an elite army out there in order to protect the mutt you are taking as a bride. The two species were supposed to end up at war with each other..." Count Basil sneered angrily. "All because of your meddling I had to get my hands dirty."

Derek's gaze shifted to what the man was holding in his hands. He had a bad feeling about it.

"Beryl... I can't forgive you for the evil experiments and meaningless attacks you have done to my people. But I also can't simply kill you. You know you could have lived a normal life. You could have stayed with your coven and they would have welcomed you. Instead, you went down the path of vengeance. So much you even promised your soul away for it." Lucy was fighting for composure so she didn't rip the witch apart. Her eyes flipped back to Aba who was still standing there quietly. She wondered what he was thinking right now. This was part of a plan. This was part of a plan. She continued to tell herself quietly.

She felt Derek rub his thumb over her hand gently. He was trying to give her support though she could feel his uneasiness rising. They both glanced at the vials and were wondering exactly what they would do. Lucy took in a deep breath and turned her complete focus on the witch.

I will take care of the witch. Just be careful with whatever he is holding. Lucy linked to Derek.

I can take care of them both Lucy. Please... Derek pleaded quietly. What was in those potions? He couldn't risk something happening to Lucy or his unborn baby. Together... Derek. We can do this together.

The black horn crashed into Justice's sword creating a loud ringing sound echoing in the air. The black unicorn shot several dark blasts towards Justice which he managed to deflect except for one that shot into his leg. Red liquid splattered over the ground and pooled down his leg. A strangled yell escaped his throat as he leaned on his good leg panting. The dark magic of the unicorn was strong. In fact, it was much stronger than he ever imagined. He looked up at dark elves and ogres who had the three vampires on the retreat. They couldn't hold them all off, he had to help them.

His dark green hair flowed in the wind as he gripped his sword tightly. He steadied himself on his good leg as his green eyes began to glow. His sword began to swirl in a similar green color as he connected to it. A part of him deep inside called out to the sword as if connecting to a part of his soul.

Justice raised his sword up in the air and a loud growl ripped through the blade of the sword. It was the sound of a bear's roar. With the roar, the green light grew brighter and illuminated the night sky. The sound of a beast raged from the light. A human form stood holding the sword but his shadow reflected that of a large werebear that was roaring in the air. His feral strength pushed forward and his green eyes landed on his target.

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"You've done your part demon. You are free to go and do whatever it is... souls do." Count Basil said as he looked at the demon still standing there.

Lucy's eyes lifted up to Abaddon. She gave him a small smile to show him that she still believed in him. The connection was broken but she refused to believe that changed him that much. His eyes lowered from hers and she watched him vanish. Count Basil smirked as he shifted the vials in his hands. "Don't worry prince. I don't wish to kill you." His eyes narrowed looking beyond the prince and setting his gaze on Lucy. "But killing her will bring the war we need. And will be the step we need to break the bond."

"You are no match for me. We both know that I am the superior fighter between the two of us." Derek didn't like how the man talked as if they were the ones who were weaker.

"Here." Count Basil tossed the vials back over to Beryl. "Take care of the mutt. I'll handle the prince. You should feel privileged wolf. That potion has been customized tailored to attack that vampire blood of yours... with some special help." A sinister smile curled over his lips. "What do you mean?" Derek asked nervously shifting himself more in front of Lucy.

"The potion you were seeing before had some extra enhancements added. Just to take care of this little one. Not only will they separate her wolf from her but it will also strip her vampire from her. A little over kill sure but kill is the keyword here." Count Basil chuckled at his lame joke. Lucy... Derek whimpered to her mind.

They still think I have a werewolf... Lucy thought back to Derek trying to reassure him.

A blur shot towards them and Derek shoved Lucy backwards as he quickly blocked the attack. He bit the tip of his finger and pulled his blood whip out lashing it back towards Basil. At the same time, the witch sent a forceful surge of magic towards Lucy making her dodge more to the side separating her and Derek further.

Lucy felt her body behind pulled to the ground and she glanced around her noticing oddly placed crystals surrounding her. She glanced up to see a sinister smile on Beryl's lips.

"I helped set something similar up a long time ago for my grandmother when she planned a trap for your mother. She ended up getting out... of course, the abomination would. But I don't need to hold you here forever... I just need to hold you still for this." Beryl grinned as she held the vial up.

Lucy glanced up to see a small band of voidless marching on Derek. This was how Count Basil planned to overthrow Derek. He couldn't do it on his own so he would use



numbers. She tried to move but couldn't... she could feel her energy pulsating from her body. It was pushing back on the crystals. Her fairy magic was repelling the crystals. They didn't account for her being a fairy princess. She just needed to hold out a little bit more until she could move the crystals and break the barrier that was set up. Then she could use the crystals to seal Beryl and then could help Derek.

Jasper, Irene, and Jester were overrun. Even with their abilities, the numbers were not on their side. On top of the dark elves and ogres, another legion came charging towards them. It was an army of imps, ghouls, and gremlins. This would be it. This was too much for them to handle. Suddenly a pack of wolves jumped in intercepting the incoming army. A mass entangle of wolves and demons collided together. The Pyrite pack had come out to attack the threat on their border. Now with a fighting chance, the vampires pushed through their fatigue.

Jasper elongated his nails that looked like five small blades and began slashing away at the enemies in front of him. He hoped Derek and Lucy were okay.

Justice lunged at the dark unicorn and his green sword roared as it collided with the beast's dark energy. The sword began to morph taking on the head of a bear. The green energy head sank its teeth into the horse's neck sending its power inside of its decaying body. With one last shrilling sound, the horse combusted sending dark shards of energy back at Justice.

He winced as they entered his body throwing him back to the ground. The blood pooled underneath him as he coughed up blood. He could feel himself getting weaker as the life force drained out of him. He stared up at the moon while red liquid trickled from the corner of his mouth. A movement caught his eye and he looked to see a dark elf raising his blade up to stab him. So this was it for him. This would be his end. He closed his eyes too tired to keep them open. He was okay with dying he just wished he knew Lucy and Derek were safe.

A loud commotion happened by his side and he forced himself to open one of his eyes. The dark elf was dead on the ground and Jasper was knelt by his side. "Justice!" Jasper cried out.

Justice quirked a slight smile and closed his eyes again. He just needed to rest.

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The red slicing blood whip wasn't enough to combat against Count Basil and the small army of voidless. He needed to take care of this quickly... Lucy needed him. Every time he tried to move in her direction Basil launched massive attacks in his direction. And while Derek was stronger, Basil was still a tough opponent on his own. Let alone with the small army that Derek was also having to fight off.



Derek could feel an energy surfacing from him. It was the same energy he felt back at his home earlier part of his fairy magic he had inherited from Lucy. The energy pushed around him and he felt it trickle up his hand. It poured into his blood whip that began to morph with the new energy. The blood whip shook slightly as red sparks jumped off of it. He waved the whip again and this time when it landed it sent a surge of red lightning through the voidless army.

Several of the voidless fell to the ground and for a moment there was fear in Count Basil's eyes. That quickly changed to a menacing smile as he looked over at Beryl.

"Do it!" He yelled out looking at the witch.

As if in slow motion Beryl threw the two potions at Lucy. They spiraled in the air and towards her captured body. Lucy couldn't move to evade the potions that were heading right towards her. As the potions passed through the crystal barrier a bright red cloud engulfed Lucy and nothing could be seen from the outside.

Derek cried out and tried to fight to get to her but stopped frozen when he looked at the disappearing cloud. Lucy was no longer there she was gone.

"Where is she?" Count Basil growled looking over at the confused witch.

"No place where you can touch her." A deep voice called out from behind them.

They turned around and all looked up to see a man with dark hair and dark eyes holding Lucy in his arms.

"What the hell are you doing? She isn't your master anymore?!" Count Basil's voice shrieked out angrily.

"She doesn't have to be my master for me to protect her." Aba smiled down at her. "She is my most important person and friend."

"It certainly took you long enough." Lucy spat out playfully.

"Sorry, princess. I had to get rid of the reinforcements they had coming. Oh yeah... by the way you won't be seeing the other army. They have been annihilated. I sent word to your father who quickly ordered the Pyrite pack to engage. And the army of goblins and orcs that were on their way... well they won't be making it either. The dragon's invited them over for a barbeque. So I was just a tad busy but I made it back in time." Aba chuckled as he slid Lucy down placing her back on her feet.

Derek sighed in relief. Thank goodness for Aba. His faith wasn't quite as strong as Lucy's for a moment there and he really did think he left them for good.

"Wait? What happened with the potions?" Beryl asked in exasperation.

"I switched them out on you back when you unbonded my servant relationship. It was actually quite easy. You two were so sure of yourselves you didn't pay attention to anything."

"So you are saying even with the severed bond you are still here protecting them?!" Count Basil shrieked out angrily.

Aba chuckled. "You cut the servant relationship and allowed me to absorb the djinn. Making me a stronger free version of myself...So thanks." He gave the count a smug smile. "But as I already said... Lucy is..." He turned and smiled at her. "She is the only person I have ever cried for. She is special to me."

"What a waste. Do you know how expensive those potions were to come by?!" Count Basil roared.

"Don't act like you were doing me a favor. You couldn't kill Mira and me. Which is why you are siphoning her magic now. It was easier to cut the bond and you just assumed that was the only thing that tied us. But you miscalculated. Because Mira and I are loyal to them willingly." Aba watched the heavy scowl form on the count's face.

"Is it possible to break the servant bond? I thought it was impossible..." Lucy asked looking up at Aba who smiled down at her.

"Mira and I can never seek out a way to break it ourselves. But an outsider could on their own accord. But something that strong..." Aba's eyes grew dark. Something that strong had special help.

Beryl clicked her tongue. She needed those potions. That was her revenge... the reason she sold her damn soul.

"Damn your family! One day you'll be consumed by the dark where no light can ever reach you!" Beryl spat out bitterly.

Aba rubbed his forehead and lifted his brows at the pathetic witch. "Honestly, I feel this whole end here is a bit anticlimactic for someone who has been brooding for so long." He looked at Lucy and raised his eyes. "It really is pathetic. Now, little witch... we just need that other crystal there so we can free Mira."

Beryl began to cackle as she held her sides. Desperate insane laughter echoed in the air. "I can't believe it has come down to this. I can't believe it. Well... I am not going down like this. If I am going to lose I would rather go down fighting. I am already dead... what is the difference?" She lifted up a black liquid and quickly downed the vial.

The moment she did her eyes turned black and her skin turned grey. She let out a feral scream and the voidless that had been killed raised from the dead. More voidless began creeping out of the woods all coming towards them.

"Shit..." Aba said in a low snarl. "Necromancy... She just traded her life for the power to control the undead..." He cursed under his breath where the hell did she get something like that... or from who?

"So what now?" Lucy asked licking her lips and flashing a nervous glance towards Derek.

"We have to kill the witch. Until she dies her undead minions will continue to live." Aba looked down at Lucy.

"So we have no choice but to feed Erebus soul here..." Lucy sighed and rubbed her forehead. "Well on the positive I really wanted to be able to kill her. I hated having to keep her alive." She looked up as Aba smirked down at her. "Is there no way to free Mira now?" She looked back at Mira who was still sealed to a stone on the ground.

"Not without the crystal she has or one like it. So killing the witch is the easiest way for everything. Freeing Mira and killing the undead minions." Aba looked up at Derek who was separated from them by a crowd of voidless.

"Aba you help Derek. I'll take care of the witch... or necromancer or whatever the hell she is now." Lucy felt Aba's hand land on her head.

"Be careful Lucy. And... thank you for believing in me... I wasn't sure if you would trust me without the bond."

"You are stuck with me now bond or no bond. You are my friend... and I will always trust you." Lucy smiled up at him and could see his watery eyes. She gripped onto her daggers and looked in the direction of Derek. "Just hold them off. I'll try to end her soon." She raised her daggers up and darted towards the witch as Aba flashed next to Derek. He shifted into his wolf and began attacking the voidless with Derek.

Lucy's green eyes met with pitch black as she swung her daggers at Beryl. Or what was once Beryl. Honestly, there was nothing human looking about her now. She was making weird screeching and screaming sounds and seemed to have lost the ability to speak. It was like she was just a mindless angry fighting zombie herself.

A black tar substance shot out of the witch's mouth and landed on Lucy's skin. The substance burned like acid and stuck to her flesh. Lucy used this moment to lodge her dagger deep inside of the witch. The witch glanced down at the object in her chest and then lifted her lifeless black orbs back up to Lucy completely unfazed.

Lucy hopped back in shock. The dagger had pierced right where her heart should have been. This could only mean one thing... she couldn't be killed with a mortal weapon. She squeezed her fist together and inhaled deeply. She knew fairy magic was finicky about how it showed itself and often came when you needed it. Well, right now she did need it. She called to the energy inside of her to come to her aid.

Her body began to feel warm as a gentle light caressed her body. And with this light, a new power of Lucy's was being born.

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Derek wiped the sweat from his forehead. He could see something strange happening to Lucy as weird continued to revive. All they could do was try to hold them off. Then he noticed from behind the voidl "Aba..." Derek called to the wolf and nodded in the direction of Count Basil. "Can you manage without Aba growled at him and it almost looked like the wolf was rolling his eyes. Derek would take that as a Count Basil's hands straight towards Derek who took his blood whip knocking them away. While he de Two bodies were seen blurring away from the battle. As much as Derek hated leaving Lucy he also had Suddenly the count stopped and threw an object at Derek. He hit it with his whip but that caused the It was like acid was eating at his skin as the substance burrowed into him. Red liquid dripped from his violently swung them while hissing at Derek.

Derek lifted his arm up to block the sudden attack as he was recovering from the potion that had spill backwards to give himself some distance but as he did something strange began to happen to his boo hot energy from before rising inside of him as the yellow powder merged into his body. His eyes chan

Speck of golden dust began swirling around Lucy as her eyes turned scarlett. Her fairy magic was mer in them. The clouds above her began to change into a dark blood red as they rolled in. A heavy cra.ck She felt her body pulsing and syncing with Derek. It was as if their bodies were combining and creatin Lucy looked at Beryl who was just a shell. She was a mindless resurrecting machine now. The person remain in t\*\*\*\*\*e until Erebus is killed.

sand-like substance swirled around her. He panted and glanced up as Aba lunged into more voidless. They couldn't do anything to the army that ithering snake trying to quietly escape.

rek leaped over the voidless and stepped on their heads as he dash to his target. He was not going to let this man escape. Several red bolts shot out from the counts attacks the man fled.

her and trusted her. And they needed to believe in one another now. They couldn't let the count escape to come back to attack them another day. ts to burst and splatter over his body.

onto the ground as he stopped to brace himself again. The count lunged into Derek attacking with his claws. The count's claws were laced in poison as he

him. The count's claws sank into Derek's arm gashing it open. He could feel the effects of the poison immediately as it hit his bloodstream. He dodged s like it was pulsing and syncing together with another power. Soon there was golden dust surrounding him similar to what he noticed with Lucy. He felt the ors and were now crimson with golden flecks in them.

th her elite vampire skill that she had never discovered. The golden dust swirled rapidly and merged back into her body. Her red eyes now had flecks of gold der was heard drowning out the sounds of fighting.

ttack together. The clouds swirled again and a red flash of lightning rippled through the sky. The sky answered the light with a chest-moving roar. s Beryl was sealed in her soul that would end up being devoured by Erebus. It was time to put this creature out of its misery. Though her soul would have to

She could feel Derek's warmth inside of her and knew his energy was reaching out to her. They were c from the sky. One reached down and swallowed up Beryl while the other light she could see in the dis Lucy watched as Beryl's eyes shifted in colors showing hints of her consciousness flooding back into h... She sighed with relief. Her eyes returned to their normal color and she turned her head in the direction of where Derek was fighting. She needed to go to him and make sure he was okay. And she wanted to go and check on the others as well. She heard a slight noise and looked back to see the witch's hand was trembling slightly. She was still alive. She took in a deep breath and walked up to her she would end this stage of her suffering.

or each other. This was all new so she let her instincts lead her. She envisioned their energy swirling together and as she did two laser red bolts shot down rom the corner of her eye. She knew this was where Derek was and his fight. The sky growled angrily as the crimson lightning ripped over their victims. red lightning disappeared and Beryl collapsed on the ground at the same time the voidless all disintegrated.

She was only a few feet away when the witch snapped her wrist towards Lucy using her dying strength. The witch took her last breath as a vial spiraled towards Lucy. Lucy watched in horror as Aba's wolf flashed in front of the vial while knocking Lucy backwards making sure none of the contents hit her. The sound of glass breaking was the loudest noise in the world next to Lucy's screams of horror.

"NOOOOO!" Lucy shrieked as Aba collapsed to the ground.

Derek felt his body becoming weak as the count's poison took hold. His hand began to have tremors and he felt disoriented. He wasn't sure what happened. Did Lucy help him? Did he help her? Or was it their souls helping each other? He took a staggering step closer to the count and looked down at his burnt body. The man looked up at Derek and coughed, "I was doing this for you."

"No, you were doing this for yourself." Derek rasped out angrily.

"You are a fool. You \*cough cough\* you will bring about the fall of the vampires." Count Basil wheezed out through labored breaths.

Derek watched the man unremorsefully as he took his last gulps of air. He sneered down at the body angrily and with disgust. He was ashamed someone like him was part of his kingdom. He decided he couldn't trust his people blindly with this betrayal. He would be seeking out and looking for anyone else who may have doubts about his future queen. This wouldn't happen again. Anyone who didn't completely support his queen would not be allowed to remain in the kingdom. He wouldn't risk it.

He took a few shallow breaths and turned his head to where Lucy was. He needed to get to her and make sure she was okay. The world around him began to blur and he blinked ferociously. He couldn't lose consciousness now. He needed to go to Lucy. That was when he heard a sound that made his chest drop. He heard the high pitch scream of his mate. He wasn't sure from where but somehow he found the strength to run to her.

He arrived to see Lucy and Mira kneeling next to Aba as the man had blood oozing from his eyes, nose, and mouth. He had a cloak half pulled up covering his lower torso.

"You can't die now. How am I going to punish you for leaving me in that energy drain for so long?" Mira said quietly. When Aba shifted back from his wolf form Lucy rushed over finding the crystal from the witch. She ran over to her releasing the barrier she was in. Her princess was pleading for her to help Aba... but there was nothing she could do for him.

"Why Aba... I'm not a wolf. Why?!" Lucy cried as she gripped the demon's hand.

"We don't know what effects it could have had on the baby," Aba said in an airy breath.

Lucy looked up at Derek. "Isn't there a way to contract his soul again?"

Derek knelt down next to Lucy. He watched her turn to look at him with worry.

"What about you? Will that be okay?" She bit her bottom lip and looked at his arm. Her liquid crystals were falling down her cheeks.

"Shh I'll be fine. This can't kill me Lucy..."

"He won't be able to stay conscious for long like that though..." Mira added and Derek shot her an annoyed look.

"Don't worry about me okay?" Derek pursed his lips together and looked at Aba shaking his head slowly. "There is no second contract for a soul. I'm sorry Lucy..."



Lucy shook her head. "No... there must be something. My aunt Rhea and Titus were about to save Kade. Maybe I can do something too... I-"

Aba squeezed Lucy's hand as he choked on his blood and more poured from his mouth. "Lucy... it's okay. It's an honor. It's my penance. I'm just happy you are safe."

"You can't leave us already Aba. You can't... please don't go." Lucy's bottom lip quivered as her nose stung. This hurt. Her chest was being constricted as the pain of this inevitable loss hit her.

"Hey, I already died once. There is nothing to it." Aba said with a crooked grin, blood stained his teeth.

"This potion is working faster than the others..." Derek could tell from the progression that this potion had been enhanced.

"It made him shift instantly," Lucy whispered out. She watched as Aba's face began to contort in pain as his breaths became more shallow.

"Thank you, Lucy. Because of you, I felt what it was like to have a family. Thank you... for showing me what real love is."

"Please Aba." Lucy sobbed. She watched him give her a strained smile.

"Tears don't suit you, princess. Don't cry for me..." Aba took a struggling breath with his fading life. His eyes stayed on Lucy and a faint smile rested on his lips. "I'm happy..."

Lucy watched as his chest stopped rising and his face froze. Just like that, he was gone. She lowered his hand placing it gently by his side. She then turned into Derek's chest and began to sob. She could feel Derek's body trembling and could feel how exhausted he was. The poison was wiping him out. She felt her energy caressing him and intertwining with his energy again. This time it was different though. A gentle white power entangled together with one of his own. She watched as the wounds on his arm healed and she felt him revitalize.

He looked at his arm and then back to Lucy. "Thank you I feel better now."

Lucy shook her head. "That wasn't me. I mean I didn't know what I was doing. I guess the magic is taking over on its own. And it is connecting because of our soul mate bond." She turned and looked down at Aba. "It's my fault. He is dead now because of me." Large wet crystals dripped down her face.

"Lucy... this isn't your fault. It's that damn witch's fault." Derek pulled Lucy back into his chest and leaned his head into her neck. He could actually really comfort her now that the poison was no longer an issue.



Derek listened to the sound of steps. He glanced up to see Jasper with Justice leaning on him for support. Well, that answered his other question of how they were doing. He saw their eyes look in shock to see Mira alive. Then immediately their gaze fell to the ground in front of him and Lucy.

"Count Basil is dead and so is the witch..." Derek's voice was solemn as he looked at Aba. "He sacrificed himself to protect Lucy. Even though he wasn't her servant anymore... He ended up becoming a true friend."

Lucy turned her head slightly and looked down at Aba. It was naïve to think there wouldn't be sacrifices. She just selfishly didn't want it to be anyone she was close to. She reached out and placed her hand over Aba's as wet streams soaked her face. In the distance, the sun slowly began to rise piercing the dark with the dawn. But for Lucy... this day was not a welcoming one.

"Thank you Aba... and goodbye... my friend."

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 76**

Lucy held onto his hand as it became transparent. Slowly his body became more and more see-through. It was never a real body since he was a soul. Finally, his whole body vanished and Lucy's hand closed in around the air. Derek wrapped her into his chest as she began sobbing uncontrollably. Deep down she was holding out for some sort of hope that was now gone. Aba no longer existed in physical or soul form. She turned her head into Derek's chest and buried her tears into him. None of this was fair. Aba's life was too "He knew how much you cared about him, Lucy. You showed him how much you trusted and believed in him. You made him happy." Derek sifted his hands through her hair.

sad and he deserved better.

"I feel horrible... when he first came from my distress call and they offered him to break the servant bond... I doubted him." Mira looked down at the ground sadly. "I misjudged him badly."

"Lucy had pure faith in him... I didn't even fully trust him like Lucy did. He deserved our trust completely. His life will be remembered. He protected Lucy and for that, he will be honored." Derek looked up at Jasper and Justice. "How did the fighting go?" "The werewolves came to our aid and Justice had to fight a dark unicorn. It was intense but we all managed to..." Jasper stopped talking. He was about to say they all managed to survive. But given what happened to Aba it didn't feel right to talk about. Lucy looked quietly at the empty ground. There was nothing to show his existence... only the memories she had.

"We will keep him alive through our memories, Lucy. And we will make sure our child knows about the man who risked his life to protect their mother and their life. Even without them being born they were still someone he was willing to give his life for." Derek frowned. Aba died because he wasn't sure how the potion would affect the unborn baby. Perhaps it wouldn't have hurt the baby at all. There was just no way of knowing. And the fact that Aba wouldn't take that chance... he knew that potion would kill him. Yet, he unselfishly threw his life away in order to protect Derek's two loves.

He kissed Lucy on the forehead and nuzzled his nose in her hair. He could feel her pain and wished he could comfort her.

"Baby... let's go home. My parents will be anxiously waiting for us." Derek stood up bringing Lucy up with him.

"Is everyone okay here?" Jester's voice rang out. Irene was by his side and there were three other men following behind him. Lucy recognized one of the men immediately it was Kyle the werewolf she met for the first time at Justice's graduation party. "Lucy?! Are you alright?" Kyle asked taking a couple of steps closer.

"I'm..." Lucy frowned she couldn't fake being okay right now.

"A dear friend died protecting her. She is shaken up over everything." Derek said quietly while keeping his arms around Lucy.

Kyle nodded his head. "I'm so sorry Lucy."

"What are you doing here?" Justice asked bringing Kyle's attention to him.

"I was here for a party. This wasn't my pack fighting but I had to join in anyways. Especially knowing our princess was out here somewhere." Kyle turned back to look at Lucy. "I'm sorry for... the things I said. Especially now I am sure my words against vampires were offensive. I just didn't think you could ever be happy among them... but I can see I was wrong." He met with Lucy's eyes and smiled.

Lucy gave him a faint smile and nodded her head. She wasn't in the mood for small talk and the normalization that was coming. It wasn't normal. Normal would be having Aba there and that couldn't happen anymore. Her chest ached and her eyes burned with fresh tears. She couldn't help but feel like this was all her fault.

"Lucy..." Derek rubbed her shoulders. He looked up at Kyle. "Thank you. She does appreciate your apology. I just need to get her home so she can rest."

"Take good care of her. She will always be our princess too." Kyle turned walking back to the other two werewolf men and the three of them walked away together. "Alright... Let's go home." Derek said quietly.

It had been a couple of weeks since the fight... since they lost a dear friend. The vampires were in shock over Count Basil and what he had done. Most of the vampires were not spreading rumors maliciously but in sympathy towards their prince and princess. One of those situations where they were talking about something that wasn't any of their business. The king came down on all of them and warned them that in the future any rumor should immediately be brought to their attention no matter who they hear it from. The elite soldiers were now back. They had all taken their rightful place as elite palace soldiers. Ryan had put the moves on Sabrina who was only too eager to accept. The two of them had been casually hooking up. Nothing serious but someone to pass the time with while they waited for their fated mates.

Kyle had stopped by to check on Lucy. He was worried about her seeing her in the state she was in. And guess what? Kyle found his mate... a vampire. How do you like that irony? And his mate just so happened to be Stella. The two are still working out the details of where they will live but they have accepted each other and both seem to be very happy.

With Derek's help, Lucy was healing though she was still sad. There wasn't a day that went by when she wasn't thinking about Aba. Honestly... she was still really heartbroken. But today wasn't a sad day. Today Lucy and Derek were going to pick out a guardian for their baby.

Lucy grabbed her black pearl piece and walked up to Justice, Jasper, and Derek. The four of them were heading to Elysium today. Her grandmother had been pestering and pestering. Finally, she sent a messenger fairy telling Lucy that if she didn't come today she was going to come and pick her up in person.

"Oh boy, I am excited. I get to be like the Uncle Tristan now." Justice said in excitement. "Oh Lucy, I forgot. I got a message from Destiny today. She is pregnant too. We are going to have two new babies in the family."

Lucy giggled. "I know she sent me one too and told me." She watched as Justice's face fell.

"She better have told me first." Justice said playfully.

"This is the first time I will be at Elysium." Derek said wrapping his arm around Lucy.

"Me too. This is kind of exciting. I feel like I am part of an elite club." Jasper grinned.

Lucy smiled. These guys always ended up putting a smile on her face. Maybe she would plan to visit Aiden and Diana soon. She hadn't been up to it after everything but she would intend to soon. Plus there was the dragon party they were all supposed to attend that was coming up.

"Alright... let's go to Elysium." Lucy opened up a portal and the four of them walked through. They ended up appearing right outside of the fairy castle. They stood on a neat and clean light tan cobblestone path. On both sides of the path were covered in flowers (very fairy-like).

Lucy watched Jasper and Derek looking around the place taking it all in.

"Ahhh! It is my Luce Luce! Come here Toots!" A high-pitched squeal was heard and Lucy felt arms come around her. She turned and grinned returning the hug. It was Avery (Tyler's cousin and Caleb's mate \*Winston's -Wyatt's gamma- and Adam's -Wyatt's delta- parents\*).

"I can't believe it. I can't believe you are having a baby. It won't be long before my own grandkids are having babies. Oh gosh, I'll be a great grandmother. I feel so old." Avery started going on.

"You are the hottest grandma I know." Caleb said coming up and wrapping his arms around Avery. "It is good to see you, Lucy. Your grandmother has been expecting you though." His eyes trailed over to give Derek a hard look.

"This is my mate Derek. Derek this is more of my family. Avery and Caleb."

"Pleasure to meet you both." Derek said politely.

"I haven't decided yet. For now, I'll withhold my judgment. But if you hurt Lucy-" Caleb started but Avery bumped his stomach with her elbow.

"Take good care of our Lucy." Avery smiled. "Lilly is up near the back garden."

"Thank you." Lucy giggled as she watched Caleb still giving Derek the once over. She gently tugged Derek along. "I'll see you guys later."

Avery gave Justice a quick hug and pushed him off to follow Lucy. They had just seen Justice not too long ago when he came to become a guardian. They would plan to meet up with them later. But right now Lilly was growing impatient so they needed to hurry. As they approached the garden Lucy could see her grandparents as well as several other familiar faces. Tristan of course was there. Cedric was there with Merida who were part of the pack when Tyler was the alpha (their daughter was Renee who was mated to Sam \*Wyatt's beta). Kade and Rosa were there too. Kade was Tyler's beta and his son was Sam Wyatt's current beta. Kade had also lost his wolf during the demon war. It took him some time but he had finally adjusted to life without shifting. Also sitting there were her great grandparents Alice and Ethan.

"Lucy! It is about time." Lilly said standing up and walking over to them.

"Hi grandma." Lucy gave her a small smile as Lilly gripped her hand.

"Look it's an old man retirement home." Justice chuckled looking at his family.

"This old man can still run circles around you." Tristan snorted with a smirk.

Kade stood up and walked over to see Lucy. "How are you doing... with everything? You know if you ever need to talk about the shifting thing I am here for you."

"Thank you. I'm okay with it. Honest. How about you? You sure you don't want dad to give you another wolf?" Lucy watched Kade chuckle and shake his head no.

"I had the best partner ever already. And even though it isn't replacing him I don't want to have to start over with that relationship. Maybe if I was a young pup but not now. Not in my retirement days, right Justice?" Kade listened to Justice chuckling. "Just calling it as I see it." Justice grinned widely.

"So this is your mate?" Kade said looking up at Derek.

"Yes, this is my Derek." Lucy smiled proudly leaning into Derek's side.

"Yes yes yes. We can have small talk later. Now Lucy... are you ready? This is such an exciting day... I remember when I picked out Cody and Jason. One of the best days of my life." Lilly smiled. "You will just feel it deep inside. Let the energy guide you. When you find the right cub you will know."

Tyler chuckled and walked up next to Lilly. "Take your time and don't force it. Lilly and I knew that Cody and Jason were ours."

"And if you don't find one from this bunch then we will keep looking. Your guardian is already matched we just need to find the one." Lilly turned in excitement. "Okay follow me. It is time to choose the next guardian."

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 77**

Lucy interlaced her fingers together with Derek as they followed behind her grandparents. For the first time since everything happened, she was feeling happy and excited. They were picking out the next generation's guardian. Derek lifted their joined hands up bringing Lucy's to his lips. She had been so depressed lately and it was good to feel the warmth inside of her again. This is just what they both needed. Someone to help them heal. Lucy tilted her head up at him and smiled. She knew this would help her too.

Lilly opened the door to a separate building and walked them into a large open room. There were children all over the open area. Some were on computers, some were

building blocks, a few were playing with playdough, while others colored. A few kids were running around playing some sort of game. The ages ranged all over.

"We also have a few babies and some other kids still adjusting. But why don't you see if you feel anything here before we head to the other rooms." Lilly watched as Lucy scanned over the room.

"Wow, that is a bunch of rowdy children." Justice chuckled and winced at the deafening screams as the children played.

Lucy went to step forward to greet the children but stopped. She felt a strange thudding in her chest and as if an invisible rope was pulling her. She turned her head and stared at a door near the opposite end. "What is through there?" Lucy asked. There was a magnetic pull in the direction that was compelling her to go there.

Lilly smiled widely and looked up at Tyler. "Why don't you go and see?"

Lucy looked at her grandparents curiously. The smiles on their faces were... odd. She squeezed Derek's hand and slowly walked around to the other side of the room. Her chest was resonating in pulses and pulling her. She began to feel a strange excited anticipation. She reached up and paused as her fingers landed on the handle. Her brows furrowed slightly as she turned and looked at Derek. He could feel what she was feeling. And the sensation in their chests was hard to explain.

She took a deep breath and pulled the door open. She took a step blinking into the sun. Derek followed at her side while Jasper and Justice were right behind them. Tyler and Lilly also followed them, keeping a peculiar smile on their faces.

Her eyes adjusted to the outdoor scenery. It was a fenced in playground where another group of children were playing. Her eyes immediately reached the far corner. A young boy who looked to be around the age of six was standing looking outside of the fence. She walked straight towards him, almost being pulled by an unknown force.

When she got closer her heart began to beat rapidly. She knew that this boy was the new guardian. It was as if he was connected to her soul. But there was something else. A familiar scent of smoked cedar. Her breath caught in her chest as the boy turned to face her. He had dark brown eyes and hair the color of ebony. A smile spread over his face.

"Did you miss me, princesssss."

Lucy began crying as she rushed over and wrapped the boy in her arms. How? How was this possible? What was going on? This was Aba, right? And he was now her daughter's guardian?

"How?! Oh gosh how?!" Lucy's tears pooled down her cheeks soaking her face.



"You missed me that much?" Aba patted Lucy's head. Which looked adorable a child comforting an adult.

Derek's eyes teared up as he knelt down beside Lucy and Aba.

"Don't expect me to call you mom and dad or anything. I am an adult trapped in a kid's body." Aba winked over at Derek.

"Do you remember everything?" Derek asked.

"No... I have my memories from the time I became a contracted soul for the vampires. But I don't remember anything before that. Sometimes... sometimes I have nightmares over it though..." Aba said quietly.

"I am sure you are curious how all of this happened..." Lilly and Tyler walked up with smug smiles on their faces.

"So that is Aba? And he is a werebear now?" Justice asked, pointing at the kid.

"Well half. He is half werebear and half demon. Which is why it was the perfect body for him." Lilly turned and looked at Lucy. "That body is that of a child who drowned in the ocean many years ago. It is a body that the merrow queen Olga had preserved and collected. As you know Olga has an interesting ability with being able to keep souls in exchange for another life. And fairy royalty has the ability to allow souls to reenter the life pool."

"Tyler and I agreed that Aba's soul should get another shot of life in the event of his death. This is something we could only do since Aba's soul had already been plucked out by the vampires. Honestly, the whole thing was quite complicated. But together with the help of Olga who had this body and the original heart of Abaddon we prepared a host. In the event he lost his life while protecting one of you his soul would be sucked into the new host body. This werebear cub has Aba's heart inside of him making him a hybrid. A demon werebear. Honestly we had just finished preparations only days before his soul entered. And it took over a week for his consciousness to revive. During that time we weren't sure if it was going to work or not." Lilly stopped to make sure everyone was still following what she was saying.

"We waited to tell you in case it didn't work. Then I wanted to surprise you after we brought Aba here. It finally took threatening you to get you here." Lilly gave Lucy a crooked smile. "Fairy magic is very unique. And I wasn't sure but I was very curious if this was all part of the plan for the next guardian. When you felt that strong of a pull from another room Tyler and I both knew he was meant to be the next guardian. After everything... I couldn't think of anything more perfect."

Lucy looked at Aba with watery eyes. "Aba you are free now. You have a life again."



"Looks like instead of you I am tasked to watch over your daughter now." Aba smiled and furrowed his eyes a bit. "I feel like I owe it to you and your family... but I can't remember why. But there is something..." He looked around and out through the fence. "There is something really satisfying about being here. Like being here is something sentimental to me."

"Aba you don't owe my family anything. You gave your life to protect my baby. I missed you so much. I've been so depressed without you." Lucy choked out quietly.

Aba gave her a crooked smile. "Silly princess. What are you doing being sad? Protecting you and your baby was one of my happiest memories. I was able to keep you both safe. I don't regret it and would have done it again."

"No more dying. No more sacrificing your life. You are just as important and these past couple of weeks have been so painful..." Lucy sniffled as Aba patted her head.

A soft smile was on Aba's lips. "Thank you, Lucy. You are important to me too."

"I'm glad you are back with us Aba." Jasper grinned happily and bumped into Justice. They were all concerned with how sad Lucy had been. And now they didn't need to be anymore.

"So can you shift into a bear?" Justice asked.

"We don't know yet what his powers will be. But as the next guardian, he will have guardian powers. He is still a bit young so time will tell." Tyler wrapped his arm around Lilly. The two of them worked in secret. They didn't want to get anyone's hopes up in case they couldn't accomplish what they were trying to. But Lilly did it. She always managed to surprise him and that hasn't stopped from the day he met her.

"Well Aba, I'll be your sensei. I'll teach you the ropes of being a guardian but we may need to visit with my dad if you are a shifter." Justice watched as Aba smirked up at him.

Aba walked up to Justice and looked him up and down. "Eh, I think I would rather ask your dad. I don't think you can teach me much. You are a cub yourself."

"Well look at this feisty little rascal." Justice reached down and ruffled Aba's hair. "Easy little buddy you don't want to hurt yourself."

"Just because I am in a child body doesn't mean I am a kid. Mentally I am far superior to you."

"Of course you are little tomcat. You just keep telling yourself that." Justice prodded at Aba's nose. "Don't let anyone tell you any different."

"I can see how this makes you feel better about yourself Justice. You go on ahead and poke at this little bear. Go ahead and stroke that ego of yours while you still can. I'm going to grow and so will my powers. Then we will really see." Jasper chuckled and looked up at Lucy and Derek. "Mom! Dad! The kids aren't getting along."

Both Aba and Justice turned and quirked their brow at Jasper.

"Well, at least we aren't this guy." Aba said with a smirk nodding at Jasper.

"Hey! What is that supposed to mean?!" The smile on Jasper's face vanished as he turned to the little cub.

Derek wrapped his arms around Lucy pulling her deep in his chest. The two of them smiled as they watched Aba, Justice, and Jasper squabbling with each other. Everything was finally right. No... everything right now was perfect. Today didn't turn out how they expected... it turned out even better. They now had a guardian for their child but they were more than that. They had their friend back and it was someone they already trusted dearly.

Erebus was still out there somewhere but they couldn't live their lives worrying about him. The other deities were looking for him and eventually, he would be taken care of.

Derek's hands slide around Lucy's waist to rest over her stomach. His head came down and rested on her shoulder where he placed a gentle kiss on her neck. He had everything he ever wanted right here. The woman he loved was his soul mate and she was carrying his child inside of her. Through everything they have been through they only grew stronger. Their bond had tightened into a solid knot that could never be separated.

Sometimes he liked to voice his words to her even though it wasn't necessary. Like right now. Their emotions and thoughts flowed freely between them. He could feel her love and happiness just as she could feel his. Their hearts were both full and bursting with love.

He held his little mate close while his hand rested over his little love. This is what life was all about. And no matter what would happen in the future they would overcome it... together.

## **The Vampires Promised Bride Epilogue**

Aba woke up drenched in sweat. He was panting heavily as he tried to blink the visions away. He sat u This time he dreamed about fighting as a werewolf. He watched as other wolves fought against a large flames at him that didn't burn him. He then turned his wolf's sights on the large black injured wolf. Ar fuzzy.

He was an adult in a child's body. And sometimes... he could feel his childish emotions. Like right now the room searching for the light. Then a small glimmer shined inside piercing the dark. He turned his "Aba? Are you alright?" Lucy opened his door slightly and peered into the darkroom.

Aba chuckled and let out a quiet sigh of relief. "I told you to quit treating me like a child. Just because Lucy giggled and walked into the room and over to his bed. "Are you having nightmares again?" "Do you randomly check on me every night princess? I'm going to have to let Derek know about this." Lucy smiled. It was funny to see a child trying to talk like the man he was mentally. "I was up for a late "Was... was I a bad person?" Aba looked up at Lucy with wide sad eyes. He already had a feeling but w "I will tell you about the Aba I know. The one who selflessly took a djinn in his body and became my s "I remember all that, Lucy. Who was I before? The past haunts my nights sometimes. And some of the "Don't Aba. Don't entertain those nightmares. That isn't the person you are. Try to just let those stay "So I was a bad guy."

Lucy could see the pain in his eyes and gave him a faint sad smile. "Aba... you had a rough past that w squeezed his hand gently. "You are our Aba who we love. And you are the new guardian of the future f "I promise I'll keep her safe. And you as well." Aba said with a firm conviction that sounded cute in his "And I will protect you as well." Lucy giggled with a wink. "Get some sleep Aba."

gripped the blankets around him as his hands slightly trembled. This happened sometimes. Sometimes memories from the past came to him in dreams. wolf and a light blonde colored wolf. The blonde-colored wolf's fur was soon soaked with crimson liquid. A fiery phoenix also joined the battle and shot is when he woke up. He knew it was a memory of his past life. He could remember the memory vividly at first but usually, by the next morning, it became

ad this overwhelming feeling of not wanting to be alone. He felt like any minute darkness might swallow him up. His mouth felt dry as his eyes scanned over nd looked in the direction of it.

stuck in this body doesn't mean I am a six-year-old little boy." Though inwardly he felt a calming wave wash over him.

irked.

snack and just felt like I needed to check on you... do you want to talk about it?" Lucy asked and noticed his frown. looking for confirmation. She really didn't even have to say anything he could see it in her eyes.

The one who worked tirelessly to try to find me and always protected me. And who gave his life protecting my unborn child." I see..."

et them die with the past life. Abaddon is dead. Aba is who exists now."

ly cruel and unfair. But that isn't who you are. I share a bond with you that is special. We are connected and you are my dear friend." She reached out and inces... our little Lenore."

kid voice.

lips as he relaxed on the bed. Her presence was comforting and soon he could feel sleep overtaking him.

"Well quit talking to me so I can sleep." Aba quipped and turned to roll on his side. A soft smile rested Lucy stayed with him until he fell back asleep. Even though he had an older mentality he was still in a child's body and it was hard to fight off being tired. She walked out of his room, shutting the door quietly behind her. She turned and was met with Derek's sweet smile.

"Still having nightmares?" Derek frowned as he read her thoughts. "If his memories return we will just have to make sure he knows that isn't him. We don't think of him like that at all. In a way, it is like they are two different people."

"I don't want him harboring that guilt again." Lucy walked into Derek's outstretched arms and sank into his warm embrace. His arms were the best place to be nothing else compared to him. His hands rubbed down her body and rested on her sides. He stayed there holding her gently against him.

"We will cross that bridge if the time comes. I think he will be okay Lucy. Especially after our little light is born. He is our light's guardian so he can never be in the dark."

Lucy reached down and rubbed her stomach. "You'll be a light in the dark, won't you? These men like to act like they are strong but it is our job to protect them."

Derek chuckled and scooped Lucy up in his arms walking her back to their room. "I won't argue with that. I would be lost without you, Lucy. I depended on your light long before you knew I did."

She leaned her head on his chest and smiled. She couldn't put into words how content she felt right now in his arms. At the beginning of this summer, she never imagined that she would end up loving Derek this deeply and irrevocably.

"I love you, Derek." Lucy lifted her arms around his neck and leaned her forehead into his.

"I love you too... my little mate." He gently took her lips, caressing them with his own.

He pulled away as a devilish grin appeared over his lips. "You know... I did just recently stock the refrigerator in our room..."

"Oh, were you expecting something?" Lucy giggled reading his lecherous thoughts.

"I was really hoping..."

Lucy bit her lip smiling up at him. "I don't know if it is proper. I should wait until after the wedding..." She teased him.

He chuckled down at her. "The wedding is a mere formality. You have been mine since the day you were born." His eyes gazed down at her possessively. His eyes trailed over her face and down to her chest. Where his mind began to promise everything he was planning to do to her. "We have so much to plan for. We don't have time to be locked away for days..." Lucy watched his eyes flicker up to hers.

"No Lucy. That is the one thing we do have time for. We have been dealing with nothing but challenges and enemies. Now we are taking a break from all of that because I am going to enjoy what is mine." He walked her into their room and hastily closed the door. He shifted her body so that her legs wrapped around his waist and he laid siege to her mouth. His hot lips pulled and nipped at her as he walked her to the bed. Her fingers entangled with his hair as he came on top of her on the bed.

He took his time savoring her lips and then moving down to her neck. He lapped at her skin before sinking his fangs into her. Her liquid ecstasy warmly pooled inside of him making an approving growl rip from his throat. As the madness began to overtake him he pulled his fangs out eliciting a moan from her. He came up to her lips and pushed his tongue deep into her mouth. The passion demanded he taste every area inside of her mouth.

Lucy tugged her fingers in his hair and arched into him. She bit at his lip nipping at him drawing a bit of blood that she gladly drank. There was an urgency to become one with him rising. She tore his shirt off of him and he leaned up responding by easing her out of the irritating cloth that separated them. He removed his own bottoms and then hovered over her.

He looked her over greedily eyeing the prize below him. Her round chest was rising and falling as she tried to catch her breath. He lowered himself down not able to hold himself from tasting her mounds. He flicked his tongue over her buds and took her completely into his mouth. He felt her arch her chest into him more as her hips rocked up into him. He lowered his hand and grabbed onto her bottom while he continued to drive her crazy teasing her moving to her next mound.

"Derek..." Lucy whimpered as she tugged on his brown locks.

He chuckled lifting his head up to look at her. "This was my idea princess. Don't go highjacking it." He winked and dove back into her softness. His hand trailed around to press between her legs making her buck into him needily. He listened to her sweet

pleading whimpers until he couldn't take it anymore. He lifted up and smashed his lips into hers at the same time tilting his hips to meet her own making them one.

He began moving his hips against her as their tongues battled for dominance. He lifted apart from her lips and bent his head back down to suckle on her chest. Meanwhile, he kept meeting her thrust for thrust as their passionate dance picked up speed. Her soft moans only encouraged him more until they both reached their highs. He laid his head on her chest and let out a rough sigh. He felt her chest heaving up and down as she also tried to catch her breath.

He slowly pulled himself out from her and came to lay at her side. He reached his arms around her pulling her deep into his embrace.

"Gods Lucy. I'll never get enough of you. Never." Derek panted against her damp forehead. He kissed her tasting the salt from her perspiration.

Lucy snuggled into his chest with a content smile on her face. "Mmmm I'll never get enough of you either."

"Hmmm, should I put that to the test?" He teased lazily.

"You might bring me to the brink of exhaustion but it will still never be enough."

"Mmm, that is what I want to hear. But maybe we shouldn't try that... I don't want-"

Lucy giggled as she read his thoughts. "Derek this isn't going to hurt the baby at all. It is actually very healthy."

Derek chuckled. "Not what I am thinking about."

"Even then it isn't a problem. Let's see what will be the factor. Exhaustion or running out of food." Lucy leaned up and watched an excited smile spread over Derek's face.

Over the next several days they continually reached for each other. Every inch of their bodies was touched by the other. And in the end, it wasn't exhaustion that won out... it was the empty fridge.

Derek looked down at Lucy sleeping peacefully. Divine exhaustion had her sleeping soundly. "I love you, my little mate." He kissed her forehead and laid his head down next to hers, closing his eyes. They would try this again in the future. Only next time... he would invest in a bigger refrigerator.