

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 101

Lily's POV

Floating. It felt like I was floating and I think a part of me knew that where ever I was, I was no longer conscious.

I found myself walking through a dark tunnel, the air heavy with an eerie stillness. The tunnel stretched out endlessly before me, its depths shrouded in thick blackness. My heart quickened its pace as I ventured further, each step echoing with something ominous and dark. Fear crept into my bones, whispering in my ear to turn back and flee this unknown path.

However, my curiosity held me captive, urging me to press on. And so, with hesitant steps, I continued my journey through the abyss. A glimmer of hope blossomed within me as a faint light emerged, piercing through the darkness. I quickened my pace, drawn towards the light.

As I emerged from the tunnel's grip, I found myself standing in an unfamiliar garden, a breathtaking sanctuary of life. Beautiful flowers of vibrant hues danced in the gentle breeze, their fragrance intoxicating my senses. Lush green plants adorned the landscape, their leaves whispering secrets in harmony with the swaying branches above. A bubbling brook flowed through the garden, its soothing melody filling the air, while the distant sound of a waterfall enticed my curiosity.

My eyes scanned the scene, taking in the splendor of nature's creation, until they fell upon an unexpected sight. There, amidst the grass, lay a giant black wolf. Its presence commanded attention, yet its demeanor exuded tranquility. What caught my eye was the silver circlet adorning the wolf's head, imbuing it with an air of regality.

Instinctively, my mind identified it as a feral creature, and a tinge of fear flickered within me. I prepared to retreat slowly, not wanting to disturb the creature. But before I could take a single step, a voice resonated within my head, freezing me in place.

"Do you like it?" the voice asked, echoing through my thoughts.

Startled, I hesitated to respond, unsure of the origins of this voice. Then, with a swift transformation that defied all logic, the wolf morphed into a breathtaking woman. Her hair, as dark as midnight, cascaded down her

graceful form, framing her sultry green eyes and dark red lips that curled into a knowing smirk.

She wore a revealing black dress that accentuated her allure, a plunging neckline showcased the valley between her full breasts, a gold belt complimented her tiny waist and lovely hips, she was barefoot and seemed to float as she walked around me, sizing me up.

The voice I had heard in my mind belonged to her, and as her gaze met mine, I felt a shiver run down my spine. A strange familiarity lingered between us, an unspoken connection that left me lost and searching for answers.

Her voice, smooth and captivating, cut through the air. "Do you find my prison beautiful, Lily?" she inquired, her words dripping with biting sarcasm.

My breath caught in my throat. The name she uttered was my own, and the resemblance we bore was uncanny. Confusion swirled within me, a whirlwind of questions demanding to be answered. What in the world was happening?

With a bemused expression, the enigmatic woman revealed her name to me. "I am Dahlia," she declared, her voice resonating with power. "And I am the being that resides within you, Lily. It is finally time for us to meet, my host."

I took an involuntary step back, suddenly feeling intimidated by this mysterious woman.

She seemed to emit a faint glow, her presence pulsating with an unfathomable energy. Her words held a hint of amusement, as if there was something amusing about the circumstances that led to our encounter.

Host? This powerful looking creature was inside me? An omega? If I was not already sure that I was dreaming, I would have shouted and asked to be locked up in a psychiatric facility for dreaming too big.

As if she could sense what I was thinking, she chuckled softly. "How intriguing it is that a near-death experience brought us together at last," she mused, her dark green eyes glimmering with mischief.

Confusion enveloped me like a veil, my mind struggling to comprehend what was going on.

Sensing my confusion, Dahlia rolled her eyes in exasperation and extended a hand to touch my forehead. A jolt surged through my body, and suddenly, memories long forgotten flooded back into my consciousness. The tap felt like a key to a door that had been locked for centuries and was now finally open, revealing secrets that might have otherwise been lost forever to me.

Visions of my infancy emerged, depicting a stormy night where lightning cracked and thunder rumbled. Tears streamed down my baby face as my mother desperately tried to soothe me. She looked so young and scared. A nurse loomed over me, holding a syringe with an ominous intent. Fear gripped my tiny form, amplifying as the nurse drew closer, her touch ushering darkness.

She may have just been an innocent nurse doing her job, but my infant self chucked her up to being a wicked witch out to hurt me with a pointy instrument.

Something inside of me reacted quickly and struck hard and fast and in an instant, the woman before me was lying motionless on the ground, blood trickling from her ears, eyes, nose, and mouth.

The memory shattered the foundation of my understanding, leaving me bewildered by the depths of my own power.

Was I the one that had done that?

Was there something that I was not understanding?

Another recollection emerged, this time from my toddler years.

I was in a playground with other children my age laughing and playing around me. No one dared to approach me. As the only daughter of the most powerful sorcerer in the pack, I was used to kids my age avoiding me.

But all that didn't matter because I had my beloved doll, Mrs O leary, with me and I played with her happily as I waited for my parents to come pick me up.

Suddenly, my beloved doll was snatched out of my tiny hands and I looked up and saw a larger boy with a bald head and chipped tooth sneering down at me. "My parents say that you're a witch! Just like your father. No wonder nobody would play with you. Go on! Cast a spell on me!"

“Stop! Give it back!” I demanded, standing on my tiptoes to grasp Mrs O Leary back from him. She was going to get sick and have a tummy ache with the way he kept tossing her this way and that.

“Why? Is this one of your voodoo dolls? She sort of looks like Mrs Kingsley.”

“Give her back to me!”

“I have a better idea,” he grinned wickedly. “Let’s share!” He said as he took Mrs O Leary and severed her head from her body.

I gasped as he tossed her on the dirt and stomped on her, laughing and walking away back to his friends.

I glared at him with murderous rage, something dark stirring in me and acting out before I could hold it back.

The boy collapsed, his life force escaping through his nose and mouth as his friends screamed and ran away from him. Children started screaming and running helter skelter as I wiped away my vengeful tears, gleaming in satisfaction for finally taking retribution.

I took what was left of Mrs O Leary so that I could give her a befitting burial in my backyard.

It felt like these mementoes were trying to communicate something to me, trying to tell me that I was a being of so much power but I was honestly beginning to doubt that these memories were mine because they could not be true, could they?

It wasn’t me. I wouldn’t kill just for sport or mindless retribution.

All my life I was an omega and now this?

The scenes shifted once again, revealing a glimpse into my parents’ troubled lives.

They had been arguing more and more and every one of their arguments had a common denominator. Me.

I peered through a cracked door, observing their heated argument.

“Edgar, you must be out of your mind if you think I’d let you perform a ritual that could very well maim our precious daughter!” She said vehemently, her voice filled with disapproval and indignation.

“Lily has claimed six lives within a single week, Hermione! Six! It’s only going to get worse the older she gets. How long will the people play dumb and assume it’s a coincidence that our daughter is at the front and center of every scene?”

“Edgar, please-” my mother begged.

“The council, they might mistake her powers for black magic and put our entire family to death. We need to contain her powers before she gets even more powerful.”

“No no no no no,” my mother cried, shaking her head as my father pulled her into a comforting embrace.

“It’s going to be fine. She’s going to be okay. I will do whatever it takes to make sure nothing goes wrong with the spell.”

“But why? Why our daughter? You’re just a sensory wolf and I am an omega. What kind of wolf does our daughter possess?”

“Lily is... Lily is special,” he said. “Her wolf is no ordinary beast but a vessel for a primordial god, a shape shifting deity with immense powers.”

“Like a host?” My mother asked, dark grey eyes expressing shock. “Lily is a divine host? I thought those were only told in tales.”

“Exactly why I didn’t want to voice this to the council. They’ll laugh it off as a very bad joke right before we’re torn to pieces by an executioner.”

My mother gasped and shook her head.

My father sighed. “I must say, Lily’s case is a nasty surprise, even more surprising than the royals princes. But records of divine hosts have only spelled impending doom in the foreseeable future. The royals are clearly protected but I fear that the dark ones may want to track her down for their own use.”

“This is just speculation. Edgar, please-“

My father shook his head. "Better safe than sorry. I am shocked- Honoured that our daughter was chosen to a host a primordial, but the occurrences of divine hosts have only been detected among the royal families, specifically because of their inexhaustible life force.

"History books say that the founding families that created Shadow Cove were all divine hosts with unrivaled powers and strength. Even then, there had been a reason for their appearance because our kind were being hunted and killed without reason. They were dark times to be a werewolf and since then, the appearance of divine hosts have always spelled doom for our kind."

"Does the council know about this?"

"They might suspect. But all these happened a long time ago and have been retold as folklore. The royals that possess the type of powers our dear Lily has will be praised and upheld as gifted by the goddess. But for an omega daughter like ours, I worry that they may be less reasonable."

My mother shook her head, tears running down her cheeks. "Is there no other way? We can leave, move away from that judgemental council and live among the humans?"

"And get hunted by the hunters? And what would happen if a poor human gets on Lily's bad side? What would we do then? This is our only choice, Hermione!"

"B... But you said that the fact she's a host means something bigger is going to happen to our community. Tampering with her is only going to mess up the future." She was grasping at straws now.

"I have sensed similar auras within the royal families and they're all formidable in their own right. That Vanderbilt prince has an aura that is most similar to Lily. Shadow Cove could do with one less primordial to worry about, Hermione, and that's the end of this discussion."

Amidst the torrent of memories, a final memory materialized.

"Stay in the circle, sweetheart and don't move, okay?" My mother said, kissing my forehead and giving me my doll.

"Mum?" I whispered hesitantly as she stepped back, her eyes brimming with tears, even as I clutched a sewn up Mrs O Leary to my chest. "I'm scared?"

“You’ll be fine. I promise nothing will happen to you, Lily. Just stay in the circle and close your eyes, honey?”

“Will I get chocolate?”

“You’ll have all the chocolate you can get, sweetie,” she whispered back as my father chanted a spell that made the candles around me suddenly explode with black flames.

The flames grew closer as I cried and clutched my doll, begging my father to stop what he was doing. I held my head and screamed in a voice that wasn’t even mine as excruciating pain suddenly took over my entire body.

A thousand curses I didn’t know that I had in my vocabulary left my lips as I crouched to the ground, screaming and shaking as consuming black fire closed in around me. Agonizing pain seared through my skull, causing me to collapse, darkness claiming me once more.

The memories faded into present and Dahlia’s gaze pierced through me, awaiting my response.

I stepped back, all the breath stolen from my lungs.

The truth of my existence was far more complex than I had ever imagined.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 102

Lily’s POV

I blinked my eyes, the memories of my past swirling in my mind like a freaking storm. As the echoes of my memories faded, I found myself back in the present, my gaze locking with the mysterious woman.

She folded her arms and regarded me with a piercing stare. The realization of who she truly was dawned upon me, and I couldn’t contain the accusation that escaped my lips.

“You... you killed innocent people!” I accused, my voice laced with disbelief and anger. “You killed a four year old boy.”

To my surprise, the woman before me appeared bored, as if my reaction was far from what she had anticipated.

“The audacity of mortals” she said, “saving their lives countless times, only to be met with ingratitude.”

I realized that I was probably talking to a sociopath with no distinct perception on right and wrong, only vengeance and justice.

She massaged her forehead and leveled me with an annoyed gaze. “Here’s how it works, sweetie, I’m your first line of defense. My job is to protect you at all times and my protection is involuntarily. The moment I sense a threat, I strike. It’s not rocket science. If you ask me, it sends a message so that everyone knows not to mess with you.”

“Why have you been silent all this time?” I demanded, instead. “If you were so oh-so-powerful, why did you never try to make contact with me?”

No wonder I always felt so hollow. As if a part of me was missing. As if a vital part of me had been wrenched from my grasp.

“And of all the times... Now?! You show up to reveal that I happened to be mated to the man that hates me the most. You’ve been there for years, watched me be bullied and harassed and you only chose to appear now?”

I was spiraling into madness.

Her gaze narrowed at my accusation, “your meddling father is the reason I couldn’t establish contact with you.”

“Wha-?”

Suddenly, it hit me. The memory... the ritual... it suddenly made sense why I had no memories of my thoughtless killings from that day... but that can’t be right...

“My father... H- He sealed you away.”

“A very stupid and unreasonable move, if you ask me.”

I glared at her. “He risked his life to stop you! He risked MY life!”

“No, I saved YOUR life. He was performing an ancient and forbidden ritual that could have taken both our lives. Sacrifices had to be made.”

My heart stopped, the wheels in my head turning.

No... NO No no!

I was around seven or eight in that memory, the timing was terribly convenient. Terribly coincidental.

My voice was tight. "What did you do?"

She pressed a hand to her chest, a smirk on her lips, "why, I did what I had to do to survive, honey."

I held my head.

Sacrifices had to be made.

The m*****e. People dropping dead like flies as if by black magic. The barriers that had never been let down since my father took over as a sorcerer suddenly stopped working. The hunters that raided all of Shadow Cove.

"Your fault!" I hissed.

"Now, child-

"My father was killed for a crime he didn't commit! Aiden's parents were murdered! And it was all your fault... All MY fault!"

I was going to be sick.

I deserved it. Every hurt, every pain. The person that didn't deserve any of this was my dad.

I went pale. Bile rose up my throat.

She grabbed my arm and forced me to look at her. "Listen to me, Lily. I love you, okay? Nobody in your life can ever love you the way I do because my life force is tied to yours and I will do whatever it takes to protect you. Because if you die, I die."

My heart pounded hard.

"I have been reincarnated into your body for a reason. Ten years ago, it was to use you to protect your kind but your father didn't understand that. He tampered with forbidden magic and paid the price. His ritual could have taken your life, OUR LIVES. I used what was left of my energy to protect us.

Therefore, it took the equivalent. A quarter of Shadow Cove's population was wiped out in a single instant because your father didn't know better."

I shook my head, tears trickling down my cheeks.

"He was completely drained after the ritual and the barriers that functioned with his powers failed for the first time. Hunters invaded your community. That was not my fault!"

My dad... Oh god...

"I've been completely useless for the past ten years watching you get treated like a common thief when you should rein over these dogs like a queen. Every hurt, every pain, I've been forced to bear it while I've been sealed away in your consciousness, unable to make contact with you. It hasn't exactly been a happy experience for me either, Lily."

I bit my trembling lip hard.

"And as for your mate..."

I swallowed, my heart sinking into my stomach.

"Your mate. Your equal and partner in all aspects. He was chosen by-"

"I know that. Your mate is chosen by the goddess yada yada-"

"Listen to me, child. I make my own choices. As my host, you do too. I am naturally drawn to life forces that rival mine in strength and power and that is not easy to come by. Do you know how hard it was to find not one but two mates that checked all the boxes?"

"Two?"

Cade...

"Sadly, my first choice was torn forcibly from me but this one, you have to make it work. Whether or not he is your worst enemy, he is my mate and yours."

Forcibly torn? The text? We never even rejected each other. How could I-

I caught myself immediately. No. Stop. I won't entertain that idea. Cade ruined me. He doesn't deserve my curiosity.

I changed the subject. "You said that I was allowed to choose."

"That you are. I am aware of the boys you fancy."

Boys. I blushed immediately, turning red and sweaty all of a sudden.

"Don't be shy!" She beamed, "it is perfectly normal for female hosts to have two or more mates. And I must say, you made excellent choices, even without my help. I approve of them. You couldn't have made better choices."

I shook my head, not wanting to entertain the thought of having both Ren and Zac and changed the topic right back. "I never felt the bond with Cade the way I felt it with Aiden."

"I couldn't make contact with you at the time, but I did what I could to let you know that he was the one for you."

I had always been drawn to Cade. Always looked him out in a crowd even when he never knew my name. His smile, whenever I watched him talk or laugh with his friends, my heart would skip beats.

I always thought it was a mindless crush.

"That was you."

She rolled her eyes in a 'duh' expression.

"Your father's seal was strong enough to hold me at the time, but it has been weakening drastically for years. I am glad that it didn't stop me from imprinting on Aiden. The timing also helped. I thought I would be dramatic for once and let you know on your birthday."

A disgusted grimace contorted my features as I looked at her. "The mere thought of being mated to someone like Aiden repulses me," I declared vehemently, hating myself for even feeling anything as physical as attraction to him. "If you knew better, you wouldn't have chosen somebody like that!"

A flicker of sadness flashed across Dahlia's gaze as she spoke softly. "I am sorry for the pain you have been through. It would be thoughtless of me to not acknowledge what hardship you were passing through. I hope that you can

find it in your heart to forgive Aiden for he likely did not understand the weight of his actions.”

I barked out an incredulous laugh, disbelief squeezing my heart. “Of course. Boys will be boys. Good, understanding little Lily should let it roll off her shoulders for the greater good. What I want, what I feel, what I experienced at his hands doesn’t matter, does it?” I asked sarcastically.

“Lily-“

I shook my head, “please stop. I don’t want to hear anything about him.”

“But you have to. Because he is the only one that can truly set me free.”

I froze. “What?”

“Like I said, your father’s seal has gradually weakened over the years. However, the only way to permanently shatter the seal that keeps me captive is to get claimed by Aiden. He’s the only one with enough power to break through your father’s seal.”

Claimed?

My heart dropped. Her words triggered Aiden’s threat.

“Run, and don’t stop running because if I catch you, nothing is going to stop me from claiming you. You are mine, no one else’s. And you will be mine. I’ll make sure of it.”

Fear gripped my heart as memories of Aiden’s threats to forcefully claim me resurfaced.

Suddenly, a vivid image painted itself in my memory; Tate, pushing my face against the cold wall of the convenience store bathroom. Rubbing his erection against me. Those nameless boys that nearly raped me in the school toilet under Aiden’s orders.

I imagined Aiden forcing himself on me. His hateful eyes, his livid sneer. His heavy weight on mine. His demanding hands. Taking and taking and taking. Not caring if I wanted it or not. The pain. The shame. The humiliation.

I squeezed my eyes shut and vehemently shook my head, refusing anything that would bind me to that boy. If it meant that I was going to be a weakling for the rest of my life, I would rather have that.

“You can’t be serious.”

“I am. It must be him. He is the strongest of the chosen-
I’m going to be sick.

“No, Dahlia, you don’t understand. I hate him.”

She huffed a frustrated breath. “Time is of the essence. Breaking the seal is just the beginning. I was hoping now that you’re eighteen, you might be more-
“

“No. No, I don’t want to hear it. I have managed just fine on my own and I have no desire to unlock my ‘true potential.’” I answered firmly, making sure that she saw that I was not joking.

Dahlia regarded me with an expression that clearly communicated, “Are you serious?”

When she saw that I was not going to budge, she frowned.

“Listen to me, child. You said so yourself. You will be a weakling all your life without me. I am the only one capable of keeping you safe, as my existence is inextricably linked to yours. The fact that I have been reincarnated suggests that powerful forces are at play, and that you and your kind are possibly in grave danger. Reincarnation does not occur without purpose. It would be foolish to not heed my words.”

My frustration mounting, I gripped my hair, I shook my head again.

I had zero desire to have any part in any of this. All I had ever yearned for was a quiet existence, free from the burdens of destiny. I wanted for everyone to just leave me alone.

But as I was about to say it, Dahlia seized my arm, her grip firm as she stared into my eyes. “You are meant for something greater, and believe me that running away from your destiny rather than embracing it and wallowing in self-pity will do more harm than good.”

And as if she was tired of speaking, her thoughts flowed into mine and I could feel her berating me for cowering in fear before those I should be stomping under my feet. Her gaze swept over my shoulder, envisioning the insignificant people who had tormented me. In her eyes, I was pathetic, a sorry reflection of my true potential.

I turned away, done with listening.

“Don’t you ever get exhausted?” She whispered and I squeezed my eyes shut.

She walked in front of me and tilted my chin up to look at her. “Always looking over your shoulder like prey at the bottom of the food chain when you can be ruling at the apex. You’re a sorry version of who you are supposed to be because you don’t know your true power. You would have been killed by the ferals if your mate hadn’t come to save you. Tell me Lily, don’t you ever dream of saving yourself?”

Her words resonated deep within me, stoking a dark ember of vengeful rage. I pictured Tate, Mauve, Paige, and Sebastian, and a surge of vindictiveness welled within me. The thought of them groveling at my feet, paying the price for their transgressions, ignited a dark, bitter and vengeful emotion, one that Dahlia smiled at with poisonous red lips and encouraged with bloodthirsty green eyes.

“You do, don’t you? You want to hurt them. You want to make them pay.”

Make them pay... but would I know when enough is enough?

I recoiled as images of the innocent nurse and the boy on the playground flashed before me. And those were only the victims she had let me see. What about the ones I didn’t even remember. The lives I don’t recall taking. I couldn’t bear the thought of causing harm to innocents. I couldn’t hand over the reins to a being that couldn’t temper justice with mercy. That couldn’t differentiate between an actual threat and a rude four year old with bad teeth. If Dahlia was as powerful as she claimed, I didn’t want her to hold such control over me.

“You said that breaking the seal is just the beginning. What will it take for me to reach my true potential as your host?” I asked, for curiosity sake.

Dahlia's gaze softened, her touch grazing my cheek gently. "Like I said, it is possible for female hosts to have as many mates as they want. Our powers cannot be contained to one mate alone. When there is a bond, fated or chosen, it must be completed by your mates claiming you as theirs. As soon as the bond is completed, there is a power exchange. We draw power from our mates and they in turn become more powerful in their own right. If you think I was powerful before, wait until you've bonded with all your mates."

I tried my hardest to swallow the lump in my throat. Is this what I want? Power? Vengeance?

"Lily!" My mother's voice suddenly echoed around us, snapping me out of my reverie.

"Come back to us, sweetheart." My stomach turned to jelly at Ren's voice and I started looking around, searching for him.

Dahlia sighed. "My time is almost up. Remember what you must do to set me free. To be bonded is a beautiful thing. Your power grows and you forge a unique and unbreakable connection. Embrace it. Don't be scared of it."

I started to feel weird. Like there was a rope tethered to me, pulling me back.

As the voices of my friends calling out to me grew louder, Dahlia gripped my arm. "Time is running out. I fear that there is still so much to tell you and so little time left. If you want to seize control of your life and stand a fighting chance, you need to break me free. Everything will be useless if you are not claimed specifically by the mate I have chosen for you. Aiden. It HAS to be Aiden."

Oh God.

Suddenly, I was yanked back to the present. I blinked severally as my vision cleared before me. And there, hovering over me and standing right in my face was the last person I wished to see.

Aiden f u c k i n g Vanderbilt.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 103

Aiden's pov

The minutes had turned to hours. And the hours had turned days and yet the only time I moved away from Lily's side was to shower after which I returned to stand watch over her.

The only thing that had given me solace in what had come to be the worst hours of my life after my parents passed was the steady rise and fall of her chest as the machines hooked to her made the same beeping sound that could drive someone insane.

The transfusion had worked and her skin corrosion had completely cleared but at what cost? What would become of her when she finally woke up? What price would she pay thanks to the hatred of those who sought to harm her?

I didn't even want to think of how Zac's blood would affect her. What it would mean for the mating bond between us. If he thinks this counts for anything in my books, he's about to find out how thoroughly mistaken he is.

Her mother and human friend were huddled close together, not making a sound as we all stared at her hopefully.

Ren and Zac entered the room quietly and as usual, Ren came to stand beside the head of the bed while Zac stood somewhere by the door.

Of the three of us, Ren looked the calmest and I could not blame him. He was Lily's knight in shining armour and the one she had chosen. Zac, on the other hand was probably on Lily's black book and would remain there once she woke up and found out what he had done to bring her back.

As I contemplated whether to send for a doctor again to check on Lily like I had been obsessively doing even though the only thing left was for her to wake up, I felt her breath cease, her chest rise up in a deep inhale and I froze.

"Lily?" Her mother gasped, scrambling over to her side, nearly knocking me off in the process.

"Come back to us, sweetheart," Ren said, his voice tight as we all stared at her.

Suddenly, her eyes fluttered open. Bright orbs of emerald green blinking up at me.

Days ago if anyone had told me that I would be staring at Lily's unconscious form, begging her to open her eyes, I would have called them a mad man. But here I was, eating my own words. A fool to fate.

I watched as Lily gaze met mine and when she did, it was like my heart stopped for a moment before it continued to beat again. Like I could finally breathe well. In that brief moment, I allowed a flicker of hope to ignite within me, believing that perhaps all could be well again, that I could mend the damage I had caused.

As her eyes adjusted to the sight of me, I found myself hoping that she would remember how I had saved her in the forest and at least that would count for something so that I could formally ask for her forgiveness but when her eyes finally registered who was sitting before her, her gaze hardened with blame and she screamed, instantly trying to move away from the bed.

"Why is he here?" She screamed, before turning a hard glare on me. "Why are you here? Did you come to finish the job? Are you so angry that I somehow managed to survive that you are here to kill me yourself?"

She was hyperventilating, her heart monitor, beeping out of control.

I opened my mouth to say something to calm her down but Ren beat me to it, moving close to her and pulling her into a hug that made my wolf snarl deep inside me, a broken howl for his mate.

That should be me, he thought and while I agreed with him and would in other circumstances have made sure that I exerted dominance, now was the worst time to show who was Alpha.

"It's okay, Lily. Aiden is not here to hurt you, I promise." Ren said softly in that voice that could calm a raging bull, rubbing her back as he placed a kiss on her forehead but her eyes still burned with fear and rage as she stared at me like she was prey and I was a predator.

The way I had longed for a moment like this in the past was not lost on me and I realized with sorrow that being seen as a ruthless predator by your own mate was one of the most bitter pills to swallow.

"He's not here to hurt me?" She scoffed in disbelief, "Did he tell you this before or after he threatened to rape me?"

The entire room fell into surprised silence and I saw Ren's jaw harden in disgust but it was Zac that acted on his rage, gripping my collar and shoving me back against the chair. "Are you actually f u c k i n g stupid?"

I glared at him, as the very words I had said, my own actions ripped me apart, adding to the pile of s**t I had to seek her forgiveness for.

"Why would you say something like that?" He shook roughly, letting me go with a scoff. "Then again, you never learn, do you? You never care that your words and actions have consequences. You crossed a line, Aiden!"

"Ask me if I give a s**t about your goddamn line." I growled at him, shoving him, my lungs burning.

"You will, when I draw that line with your f u c k i n g blood!"

"Zac! Aiden! Knock it off!" Ren chided, drawing my attention back to him and the sight of my mate so close to him made me want to rip his arms from his sockets

"You guys," Rhea complained. "Now is really not the time."

"I don't want him here. Please ask him to leave." She pleaded with Ren, not even bothering to acknowledge me.

Something in my chest cracked in two and Nyx cried out at her blatant rejection but my face was a stoic mask even though all sorts of emotions swirled in me; hurt and murderous rage at seeing her cling to Ren for comfort when that should have been me, regret because I knew that the only reason why I couldn't even fight that position was because I had been nothing but a monster to her and deep crushing sorrow that I was going to lose her.

As usual, my rage won and I stormed out the room and slammed the door on my way out, hating how I felt regret at my actions a split second later.

Then again, Zac was right. I never learned. I always acted first without caring about the consequences later.

Pacing around the hallway, I contemplated all of the available options to me. I could do what she asked and leave her the hell alone. That would make everyone in her room happy for sure or I could go back in there and force her to get used to the fact that I was not planning to go anywhere. And there was

the last resort, something that I didn't even want to think about was having to destroy my competition who happened to be my best friends and brothers, Zac and Ren.

Hating how powerless I felt, I fisted my hands, feeling my claws pierce into my flesh in desperation and I had just decided to finally leave when I heard footsteps approaching.

It was Rhea and my brows shot up in surprise.

Rhea and I had grown up like brother and sister and I had always looked out for her like one of my own but I could admit that unlike Ren and Zac who had stuck around even though I had tried to always push them away after my parents' deaths, Rhea and I had grown apart, her soft nature unable to handle my cruelty.

"Did you really threaten to do that to her?" She asked, a desperate gaze in her teal blue eyes as she stared up at me, begging to be wrong.

I avoided her gaze, gritting my teeth angrily.

"How could you-" she whispered, "when you know how-"

"If you're here to cuss me out, just do it and get it over with."

She growled and walked around to stand in front of me, preventing me from avoiding her gaze. "No, you're not going to do that! You're not going to do that thing where you push people away because you can't express yourself like a f u c k i n g human being."

"Rhea-"

"I know that you don't deserve this but I am still going to tell you this because like it or not, you are her mate and she is one of my best friends so I'm going to try to help you see things from Lily's perspective."

"I don't need this s h i t." I tried to step around her but she only blocked my path again, spreading her arms wide like that would stop me.

"You WILL listen to me because at the rate you're going, she's going to reject your stupid a*s. So if you have any braincells that haven't already been

corrupted by your stupidity, now is the time to use them and pay attention to what I have to say.”

Her words stung and any other person would have been reduced to a pile of blood, meat and bones in front of me but I stood still to hear what she had to say.

“After everything you have done to her, it is only right that you have to understand the depth of her feelings towards you. She’s terrified of you and hates you for a lot of things that happened to her at the academy. Things you don’t even have any knowledge about. You are not the first person to ever bully that sweet gentle soul and she had gone through the worst things back at her former school and now here, thanks to your influence in labeling her a moving target. Yet, she continued braving every single day with so much hope when her reality was a nightmare you orchestrated. While you blamed her for a crime she didn’t commit, she was fighting for her life in the hallways. Expecting her to accept you suddenly because you turned out to be her mate is insensitive, Aiden.”

My heart sunk. My knees buckled under the weight of her words and I collapsed to the floor, holding my head in my trembling hands.

A fool. I’m such a fool.

Rhea crouched in front of me, genuine warmth in those light blue eyes.

“I- I don’t know what to do.” I confessed. “I can’t lose her.”

“You need to be patient and gentle, Aiden. You’re only pushing her farther away the more you try to force yourself on her. Take a page out of my brother’s book for once and be patient with her. I know how Chosen bonds work and it’s already too late for you because Ren and Lily already have a strong connection. To be honest, I don’t see her ever leaving Ren for anyone else but Zac donating his blood to her complicates everything. At this point, you’ll have to be open to the idea of sharing her with them because the truth is that you stand a higher chance of losing her entirely if you refuse to embrace that possibility.”

Her words were a bitter pill lodged in my throat.

I rested my head against the wall, groaning in frustration.

“Why do you care so much about all of this? It can’t be because you like me either for Lily, right?”

In response, she simply shrugged, wheat blonde hair bouncing off her shoulders.

“I have experienced the pain of being rejected by my own mate, Aiden. I don’t want to witness my oldest friend endure that excruciating agony.”

With that, she rose to her feet and walked back into the room as I sat still, thinking over her words.

I had to face the reality that she was right. I had to lower my pride or I would lose my mate forever.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 104

Lily’s POV

The first face I saw when I opened my eyes again was the face that I wanted to see.

Ren Hawthorne. The boy I loved.

His brilliant smile when I opened my eyes made the world look brighter and when he reached forward to help me sit up on the bed, I noticed that Zac was in the room, even though he was standing so far away, leaning against the wall by the door.

That was when I realized that the hospital room would have been a luxury hotel room with the way it was bathed in soft, warm lighting , boasting a tasteful decor with soothing earth tones and plush furnishings. My bed was big enough to accommodate about two or even three people and it was much comfier than any bed I have ever slept in.

I knew that all of this comfort had to have been thanks to the princes, especially Ren.

I was in so much pain, it was difficult to even move but I realized that the pain had become nothing but a dull throb and from the intravenous fluids being pumped into me, I knew that I was probably under heavy medication.

“Sit with me.” I whispered to Ren, my voice hoarse from disuse and he obliged, carefully entering the bed and pulling me into his arms and I sighed contentedly, happy to be in his arms as he kissed my hair.

“I’m so sorry that I didn’t realize early that you were taken.” He whispered gravely, his voice so quiet that if I was not literally beside him, I would not have heard him.

“I was so terrified when we found out that you were in the forbidden forest of all places and I’m scared to imagine what could have happened if we had gotten here late. I don’t even want to think about how I could have lost you when I just got you.”

His voice shook and my eyes softened as I looked up at him, eyes brimming with gratitude.

“Thank you for saving me. For coming to my rescue in time.”

He shook his head, his smile still ever gentle.

“I wish I could take credit for that, Lily but it was not me that found you. It was Aiden. He found you and brought you out. “

Like a door opened, Ren’s words jeered my memory and even though I didn’t want to accept the fact that it was Aiden that saved me, I remembered him in his Lycan form, bigger than any creature I have ever seen and far more terrifying and how ruthless he had been as he tore the Ferals to pieces. That was exactly how I had always pictured Aiden Vanderbilt. Strong, dangerous, unforgiving and ruthless. But I also remembered how gentle he had been when he transformed back and carried me out of the forest, and how he had held me to his chest.

How his voice had managed to make me calm even though we had both known that I was losing too much blood.

But I didn’t want to feel anything but anger and hatred for Aiden. I needed to remember that he was responsible for all of this in the first place and even if he had not been directly involved in the recent assault that had led me to nearly lose my life, he was the one who had put a target on my back and made my life a living hell at the academy. I remembered how he had gazed at me when he found out we were mates and how my body had needed his approval, no matter that he was supposed to be the enemy.

“For what it’s worth, he already hates himself for everything that he allowed to happen to you.” Ren whispered and I remembered that he had the ability to read thoughts. An ability that unfortunately meant he could read mine too.

Frowning at me, I gently slapped his hand.

“Stay out of my mind.” I warned but my words didn’t have any actual power and I yawned, my stomach growling.

Ren grinned and I blushed, looking at my hands.

“I’ll go get you some food.” He answered, kissing my forehead and I saw that he paused where Zac, both of them communicating with what I was sure was their eyes since I didn’t hear any talking.

And when Ren left, I suddenly realized how anxious and restless I had become, knowing that I was in the room alone with Zac.

The last time we had spoken was when I rejected his feelings for me and I had no idea where that placed us, but when Zac came to sit beside me on the bed, placing a hand on my forehead, all of my restlessness vanished and when I looked at him, it felt like he was the first rain that I had seen in ages and I was a patch of dry land, desperate for moisture.

“Duchess,” He sighed, taking my hand and pressing a soft kiss to my pulse.

There was a warm feeling in my chest as he drew lazy circles around my palm and I rested my head against his shoulder.

“How do you feel?” He asked, his cheek in my hair. “Do you feel any different? Thirstier than usual? Feel funny?”

I shook my head and looked at him, realizing that he probably could not see my gesture.

“I’m perfectly fine.” I answered, then realized that I was not even lying. The pain that had felt like a dull throb seemed to ebb even further at his proximity.

Heaving a sigh, he turned and buried his face in my neck and I realized that I didn’t even feel uncomfortable by his closeness. Infact, all I could think about was how his face seemed to fit perfectly in the crook of my neck, like he was always meant to be here.

I gasped when he cupped the back of my neck and placed a kiss on the shell of my ear but the next words that he whispered made my entire body freeze in confusion because he sounded heartbroken.

“I’m so sorry , sweetheart.”

Thinking he was apologizing for not being able to find me in time, I nodded in his embrace.

“It’s fine, Zac, there was nothing you could have done. You did not know this was going to happen.”

His laugh was brief but filled with so much sorrow, it confused me.

“I need you to remember that everything I have done, Lily, all of it has been to save you because I’m a selfish bastard and I want you here with me, with us at any cost. Please remember this when the time comes that you need to forgive me.”

His words sounded really ominous and I began to wonder what he could have done that made his eyes wide with dread as he pulled back from me to stare into my eyes.

“What are you talking about?” I asked but he only gave me a smile and stroked my hair, reaching forward to kiss my forehead.

“Go to sleep, duchess,” He whispered and I was about to argue but I realized that to my surprise, I started feeling sleepy and the last face that I saw as I succumbed to unconsciousness was the face of another man that seemed to pull at my heartstrings too.

Zac Talaverra.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 105

Mauve’s POV

For the hundredth time since I walked into school this morning, I brought out my phone, opened my camera and checked my make up and hair to be sure that everything was perfect. And it was, which made me wonder why exactly people were staring at me.

I mean, duh, people always stared at me at school. It was one of the perks of being the most beautiful and popular girl at Shadow Cove Academy. Everyone wanted to be me. But there was something different about the way people were looking at me throughout today. Something off and almost accusatory. There was something to be said that instead of smiling or even having the freshmen and other girls secretly giggle to themselves about wanting to be like me, everyone else ignored my existence and the ones that did merely looked at me like I had stolen something.

Then again, I might have just been overthinking it, given that I felt the weird vibes start to happen just this morning when I got to the school and believed that it had something to do with the birthday party I had thrown for Lily which quickly escalated into the exact plans that I had for her.

But nah, that could not be the reason why I was sensing these weird vibes around me, could it? No one cared about that low life of a girl.

No one but the three princes of the school, but fortunately, they were going to forget about her in a couple of days. Okay, maybe weeks but time would pass and she would be nothing but a distant memory. It's not like she was mated to any of them. They'd move on to someone better and prettier (me). I'll make sure of it.

Perhaps I should have felt bad for what I did to Lily. Humiliating her and letting her get chased into the forbidden forest was probably too much. But she deserved this. If only she had stayed away from Ren like a good little girl and did not make my life miserable by allowing my mate who had never once spoken bad to me no matter what I did, to end our bond, perhaps I would have spared her.

That's on her, not me. For being a lying, greedy, boyfriend snatching w***e.

Her first mistake was messing with me and thinking that I would do nothing about it while she and my mate ran off into the sunset. Well, that was all in the past now and the competition had been taken care of. It was only a matter of time before Ren comes back running into my arms and I would be ever ready to comfort him and take him back, I thought with a smile as I walked into the cafeteria.

After thinking long and hard about it, I realized that I had done the right thing. Things only started changing between us when Lily showed up. All I had to do was take Lily out of the equation and everything will go back to normal. I'm his

mate. Me! Not a lowlife with a traitor for a father. I did him a favor. I did us all a favour and he will realize it sooner or later.

However, the smile vanished from my face when I got to my seat and saw that Sydney was sitting there.

The f u c k?

No one sat on my seat but me. And even though Sydney was my friend, no for the fact that she was my friend, more than anyone else, she knew that no one sat there but me. What was going on today? What was with all of the weird as hell vibes?

She looked up at me from her phone and didn't move, instead turning to converse with the girl beside her and I scoffed, folding my arms. Was she really expecting me to tell her to stand up?

Well then.

"Syd, you are in my seat and I want to believe that you are doing this as some kind of prank to see what I'm going to do but you can tell whoever is filming us to put away the camera now and you can stand up so that I can sit."

"Or what?" She asked with her brows raised, turning from her conversation to look at me and my eyes widened in shock because the last thing I was expecting from her was defiance. Everyone around us had quieted down, their attention on us.

"Or what, Mauve? You know what? You're all bark and no bite. Actually, you are bite, given the lengths you are willing to go to get what you want." She rose to her feet and smirked at me and I stood speechless, shocked by her audacity. My reaction seemed to make her feel even more excited because she chuckled.

"You'll find out soon enough that no one is scared of you anymore. You're like an evil witch that should have been exorcised a long time ago. Infact, let me give you a cleansing."

It was like I was stuck in slo mo as she took her drink and dumped it on my head and I gasped in shock, as cold cocktail dripped down my hair, neck and shoulders, stinging my skin. I watched as she giggled and everyone laughed with her.

I was about to go after her but as if there was an invisible signal, people started throwing things at me from their lunch trays. It was first as little as a fry from their trays until it got serious with actual food and *crack*... is that raw eggs?!

“What the f**k?” I screamed but it only seemed to make them laugh even harder.

“You got rejected by your mate, Mauve, and all of that power that you used to parade around did not belong to you. It never did so why act so surprised that you are now at the bottom where you belong? Why not enjoy the warm welcome that we are giving you?” Sydney taunted and the girls around her laughed and gave her a thumbs up that made me growl and I was about to march towards her and drag her by the hair but people began to mock me from all ends of the hall, still throwing stuff at me and I realized with horror that my worst nightmare was turning into a reality.

The accidental trips, getting robbed of all my lunch money, the name calling. Every single thing I had ran away from after I started dating Ren...

No.

I turned to run away and gasped when someone came up behind me and emptied an entire trash can on my head.

I shrieked in horror and disgust as the contents emptied on my body and I knew that if I kept staying here, this would only get worse, and as I turned to flee, my heels got stuck in dirt and I slipped and fell on my face.

My eyes brimming with unshed tears as I wiped my face with the back of my hand to get rid of the debris, I didn't realize that the hall had become silent and no one was laughing anymore and when I looked up to see Aiden walking toward me, my fear turned into horror.

Still looking like a majestic god that was only ever described in romance novels, he flexed his fingers and I froze, noticing that a black cloud hovered over the sun, plunging the entire school into darkness.

My blood ran cold, Ren's words echoing in my memory.

“And if you even think about going near Lily or touching one strand on her head, I will hand you over to Aiden to do whatever he wants with you.”

Oh no...

I had called his bluff and I was about to pay for it.

I heard a collective gasp but all of my eyes were focused on the ferocious dog creatures that were formed from actual shadows that flanked him on both ends. The hounds were big and ferocious, their shapes shifting from corporeal to nothing but smoke every few seconds.

Everyone moved to keep their distance and give him a wide berth, and when he walked past me, I released the breath that I didn't realize that I had been holding.

But my celebration was short lived because as he turned to face me, the wisps of the shadows wrapped my legs and I screamed as they dragged me on the floor like an rag.

I was doomed with a capital letter 'D' and not only did I know, but the entire school knew and one of my biggest nightmares had slowly become a reality.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 106

Mauve's POV

We were in an abandoned stadium in the far east corner of the school, away from the eyes of any school authority that could save me even if they wanted to grow a pair and go against a prince. The stadium was where the boys made a public show of dealing with people who had crossed them, the rest of the students would watch on for their own sick entertainment.

I used to be part of the crowd. Cheering the boys on. I never thought a day would come when I would be the one in the arena.

If I had been just a bit sensitive enough today, perhaps I could have realized that what I was feeling, that ominous feeling had been warning me that something terrible was about to happen.

And now as one of the boys that came with Aiden forced me to my knees in front of him, just a few feet from where he was sitting on a beat up sofa majestically like the king of the school which he rightly was, I opened my mouth to beg but didn't even know which of my crimes had made him bring me here.

It couldn't be Lily, could it? Aiden didn't care about anyone but himself and occasionally, his best friends. He HATES Lily, he approved of hurting her.

He didn't even look angry. Just numb and cold, like something had snapped in him and that terrified me even more because when Aiden got cold, people suffered. People broke.

When he got cold, his wrath doubled.

And Ren wasn't here to stop him like he usually does. To calm him down.

Where the f u c k is he?!

My entire body was covered in cuts and bruises from being dragged on the ground all the way here like a rug by his shadow hounds and I had realized after Ren broke our bond that I had gone back to healing slower than normal, which was normal for omega wolves, another reason why Lily had to pay for what she had done to me.

"Please, whatever I did, let me know and I'll make it right" I said, still trying to maintain an aura of calmness because a crowd had already formed to watch this and I was not ready to show them weakness.

If Aiden heard me, he didn't respond. Instead one of his minions brought out a clipper and looked at him for something which I realized with horror was him asking for approval.

Hands immediately going to my fiery red hair, I shook my head vigorously, my steel facade finally cracking.

"Please, just tell me what I did and I'll change it. Please, Aiden. You know me. I will do whatever you want but don't cut my hair. Please." I started screaming as the boy started advancing towards me, quickly trying to crawl back but two other boys grabbed me and forced me back on my knees. Aiden didn't even look one bit affected, just nodded at his boys to continue and I realized that the only reason I ever found his cruelty attractive was because I was never the victim.

"The council will hear about this. You are a prince but even you know that this is bullying and forceful use of your power and harming anyone mated to any of the royals is punishable by death!" I yelled, tears streaming down my face

and that seemed to get to him because he raised his hands and the boy with the clipper paused what he was about to do.

He grinned darkly, shadows dancing in his eyes.

“Well then, going by what you said, you should die today, Mauve for daring to touch my mate. You are no longer mated to Ren so I can do whatever I want with you, but on the other hand, Lily is very much my mate, one who I want very much and you touched her. Do you remember or do I need to remind you?”

All the colour drained from my face as shocked silence ensued around the abandoned stadium.

W- what did he just say?

Lily was... Lily was his mate? Did Paige know this? Sebastian?

My heart was a feral beast, knocking on its cage. I could hear my heartbeat pounding in my ears as I went pale in fear and shock.

I started to shake my head immediately. That could not be possible. Lily was Aiden's mate? The reality just kept getting worse.

“No, please, I didn't know she was your mate, Aiden. I thought Lily was just a w***e, trying to steal my boyfriend...” I could not finish because one of the boys punched me and I gasped at the blow.

“Don't talk when he's talking, b***h” He growled and I could only nod, watching as Aiden's smile vanished once again and his eyes moved away from me to the crowd.

“You were nothing, Mauve, a nobody without a penny to your name and a drug addict mother who serviced men for a living.”

As he spoke, clips of me being bullied, abused and picked on, with my ratty dull hair and tattered clothes were displayed on a giant screen for all to see, a screen that I had not even noticed until now, much to my horror and I was forced to watch how I had once lived.

From crying as somebody forced me down to lick the soda I spilled on his shoe, to me in a bathroom, begging a group of girls to not take my lunch from

me, to my mother stripping in a strip club. Every dark part of my former life was on display for all to see and everyone was snickering and laughing.

I let out a choked sob as the laughter increased. Humiliation and shame settled like a bag of bricks on my shoulder.

“When my best friend found out you were his mate, despite my warnings that you were nothing but trash and would only hurt him, he did his best to accept you and change everything about you and the best thing you could do in return was cheat, lie and take him for granted. I can forgive all of that, I can forgive you hurting him over and over again but I will never forgive you for daring to touch my mate. Shave it off. Every single thing on her head.”

I didn't even struggle, so weak and stunned as my hair was shaved and the strands fell to the ground around me and the background videos of me being bullied that Ren had done his best to get off the internet kept playing.

It felt like I was drowning and everyone above water was just watching and laughing at my demise and all I could do was watch, more tears trickling down my cheeks.

Crossing his legs, Aiden narrowed his eyes, playing with a tendril of shadow he had conjured with his fingers.

“I stayed up all night, wondering what punishment would be fitting for a has been queen like you. Someone that used to be prey and when she became predator chose to be even worse. I thought about breaking your legs over and over so that you would never ever experience what it felt like to be a werewolf again so that everytime you heralded, I would break it again. I thought about humiliating you in front of the entire school, whose validation you cherish so much and strip you of your queenship. I thought about having people beat you until you were within one inch of your life or sending you to the forbidden forest like you did to Lily. So many options. So many choices.”

He sighed and levelled a frigid gaze at me. “Because I could not decide, it seems I'll just have to do it all.”

And then he snapped his fingers and the boys pushed me to the ground, one of them, one of the boys on the hockey team that had been dying for my attention sneered in my ear, “no hard feelings, sweetheart. Aiden threatened to hurt me if I didn't comply.”

I would have laughed because once, I used to be one of the people these boys were scared of hurting but now the tables had turned and the scream that came out of my mouth when they began stomping on my left knee cap and beating me up was filled with agony.

I begged them to stop over and over but they didn't, not until Aiden raised a hand for them to stop, his shadow hounds forming from the shadows again.

"I'll give you a 30 seconds head start before I set my beasts on you, exactly like you did to Lily and you will run into the forbidden woods like you told her to do and you will spend the night there. If you survive the night, then I will forgive all the things you have done to her and to Ren, give you back your scholarship and give your mother her job back. Of course, I don't expect you to, since you're just an omega," he grinned maliciously. "But if you do survive, I expect you to return to school and continue attending classes because I want you to experience what it feels like to live in misery just like the old days. This is more mercy than you deserve but I will do this because you were mated to my best friend once. However, should you change course or try to come out of the woods before dawn, my hounds will tear you apart. Do you understand me?"

Goosebumps sprouted on my skin.

I nodded shakily, my head throbbing from sobbing and my body aching as it tried to repair itself and as I tried to rise to my feet on my right leg, he grabbed my chin and forced me to look at him. "One more thing."

Dark grey eyes like thunderstorms and rain clouds pierced into my skull before he leaned in to whisper. "The dark witch. I need their name."

"I... I don't know what you are..."

His hand tightened around my throat and I knew that if I didn't speak, all bets were off and he'd just kill me now.

"Don't even think about lying to me." He whispered and I cried as his claws dug into my neck. "Give me the name of the dark witch that helped you and Sebastian to scramble the minds of those students and thugs. Ren doesn't believe you were in on it but I know better. Now," he squeezed harder. "His name."

“Ammon. His name is Ammon and he lives in the human realm.” I answered, out of breath and he finally let me go.

“You have fifteen seconds left to start running, Mauve.”

Nobody told me to get the f**k out of there.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 107

Aiden’s pov:

It was almost midnight when I walked into the hospital.

I was tired, drained, hard knots in my shoulder and back muscles.

Nyx occasionally warns me that overusing my powers could have dire consequences but I never really pay him much attention. I let him live in my body rent free, the least he could do was let me be. Infact, I think I’d be doing everyone a damn favor if I disappear into smoke and shadows like he always warns about.

I ruin everything I touch, it’s just my luck that I ruined my mate too. She was something to fill the hole the death of my family had left in me. The one hope I had been hanging on to. The most important person in my life. At this point, what is there to live for again?

“Enough, child!” Nyx growled, reminding me that he was privy to my depressing inner thoughts. “If you die, who’s going to protect her?”

Oh... Of course. I can’t die, I have to keep her safe.

The reaffirmation sparked a fire to my numb heart but as soon as it came, it left.

Would she want that? She can’t even stand the sight of me. Besides, she has Ren and Zac who are powerful in their own might.

“You went easy on that red head.” Nyx cut off my train of thoughts. “You’re growing soft, Aiden. You should have let me handle her,” he said gruffly.

“Ren used to care for her once upon a time.”

“Lies. You’re hoping she would learn her lesson and turn a new leaf. And your friend would go back to her so that you can have your mate for yourself.”

It sounded even more delusional now that I think of it.

I shrugged. “It’s a possibility. Besides, she’d die in that forest anyway. And why do you care? You got your revenge on Sebastian and Paige, and that dark witch you’ve been obsessed about.”

I didn’t even want to think about what Nyx had done to Sebastian and Paige. I’d have hell to pay with the council, my uncle especially. In a way, I was anticipating my punishment. Night Shade was vicious with their punishments. Going against two children of the most powerful nobles in my pack would not go unpunished, even for a prince.

I never pay for my actions, now would be a good time to start. They might go easy on me and give me a quick death. Regardless of what happens to me, I would never regret avenging my mate.

It’s the least I can do after being a colossal failure to her.

“You must know that I would never let that happen to you.”

“For once, I’d have to ask you to stand down, Nyx.”

I sighed when I was met with startling silence. He had no intentions of heeding my words. “What’s your beef with the dark witch?”

He waited a few beats. “I had a score to settle with the witch. I’d recognize his powers anywhere. Mind scrambling seems to be his forte.”

“Half truths seem to be yours. There must be a reason you wanted him dead.”

“Why do you care, little prince? He’s not even a part of your community. You don’t have to worry about the repercussions.”

“Doesn’t make me any less curious.”

I was met with even more startling silence.

“It will all make sense with time.”

I shrugged, done with his beating about the bush as I focused on signing into the register.

I didn't know if I felt anything after dealing with Mauve, because even after punishing her, it didn't change that I was one of the people that had made her life a living hell. If she wanted to punish me, then I was ready to accept that, I would take anything but her silence and rejection.

More and more, I was starting to feel numb, dead inside, with occasional bouts of fear that I could never fix this, jealousy at who gets to have her in their arms and anger at myself for being a f u c k i n g fool. I'd deserve it if she rejects me, but I won't allow it.

It was quiet in the halls as I walked towards her room. I knocked once and reached for the door handle, my heart, skipping beats when my hand went through the handle it was nothing but smoke.

I tried again and my hand rested on the handle this time.

I must be losing it.

I opened the door and walked into Lily's room to find her human friend, Bia dozing in bed with her, the two of them cuddled up.

Jealousy was like a fist around my throat because I might never get to experience that with Lily.

Bia nodded off and opened my eyes, startled to see me standing in the shadows watching them and she narrowed her eyes at me, holding Lily protectively who was deep asleep, the rise and fall of her chest reassuring me that the nightmare had indeed passed and she was safe.

"What do you want?" she whispered fiercely and I had to give her credit because most people were afraid of me and it had nothing to do with the way I looked but the aura they felt. Ren said that my shadows seemed to darken my aura by just existing and made me look intimidating to whoever was in my presence.

"I would like a few moments with her. Alone."

Her face grew skeptical as she considered my offer and I could actually force her out of this place but that would change nothing and only push me further away from my mate.

“I’ll only be a few minutes.” I said in my nicest possible tone and when she sighed and stood gently, I mentally heaved a sigh of relief.

She was almost at the door and then she paused and turned around to frown at me. Specifically at the bouquet of lilies in my left hand.

It was sappy, but I thought Lily would appreciate the sentiment.

She had already walked past me when she sighed in frustration and turned around to look at me, “I don’t know why I’m doing this, but if you are trying to get on her good side, never bring her a lily bouquet again and actually try to find out what she likes. It’s terribly cliché and she hates lilies because they remind her of herself. And she hates herself. You’re one of the people that contributed greatly to that by the way. And oh, you have five minutes or I’m screaming for help.”

I was sure that if she had not been considering Lily, she would have slammed the door hard and even though her voice was low, her words stung hard.

I set my timer to five minutes and just stood at the foot of the bed, watching Lily sleep and wondering if I would ever get a chance to show her how sorry I was for hurting her. But one thing was certain. As long as I lived, nothing would ever hurt her again.

Zac’s POV

It had been over five minutes since I got to the restaurant opposite the hospital and I was still staring at the menu, confused about what to get for Lily.

I had come here with the intention of getting her a smoothie because I had overheard her saying she missed being able to go and get something as simple as a smoothie herself since she was confined to bed rest for a few days and I had taken it as an opportunity to do something for her.

Ren’s words had kept playing in my head, what he had told me on her birthday was on repeat since he said that I didn’t even know Lily well enough to decide that I was in love with her.

His words had been typical Ren; short, precise and at the same terribly blunt.

“You only want her because she reminds you of the girl you loved. I love Lily because of who she is. Do you even know her?”

It had infuriated me then, it still infuriates me now.

Maybe this was a bad idea coming here without even bothering to ask what flavor she liked to take but I wanted to surprise her and see her eyes light up. She needed some excitement in her life after what Mauve had done to her.

I had not been in school but I had heard what Aiden had done to Mauve and it surprised me that he had been able to hold himself back from strangling her to death.

“Are you planning to get something?” The boy behind the counter said politely and I realized that I had already started causing a queue to form behind me so I decided to make a wild guess.

Hoping I didn't terribly botch the whole 'surprise Lily with a smoothie' plan by buying something that she would not be able to take, I headed back into the hospital and when I entered her room, I saw her talking quietly to Ren who was in bed with her and they seemed to be sharing a very intimate moment as Ren pressed his forehead to hers, sighing contently, their eyes closed while he kissed her knuckles.

MINE! Azrael growled.

He has been a lot quieter these days, satisfied with just being close to her. Thoughts of her sweet, sweet blood and delicious scent had taken the back seat to wanting to protect and provide for her.

The only time Azrael threw a tantrum were moments like this, when I walked in on the two of them being intimate or passionate.

Jealousy reared its ugly head almost immediately at how perfect they looked for each other and Ren's words felt even heavier now because would Lily ever look at me like that?

I didn't want to know the answer to that so I dropped the smoothie on the table at the foot of her bed and turned around to leave but just as I did, she called

my name and I turned around to face her, my heart suddenly pounding erratically in my chest.

“Oh my God, is that strawberry smoothie? Just what I wanted!” She reached forward and took the cup, taking a large sip and sighing contentedly.

Her eyes lit up as she looked at me. “This is my absolute favorite. Thank you so much, Zac!”

My heart lighted up like a freaking lightbulb and at that moment, I knew that I was gone for this girl.

I nodded with a smile, feeling a lot lighter that I had guessed correctly and I made a mental note to learn everything there was to know about Lily because nothing made me feel better than seeing her happy. That would beyond any doubt prove to Ren and myself that he was wrong about my feelings for her.

“I’ll leave you two...” I trailed off, turning around to give them some privacy even I was jealous at the fact that I wanted it to be me with her, sharing that vulnerability felt like hot coal in my mouth.

“Wait. Where are you going?” Lily asked and I paused, turning around to see her give me an anxious look.

“Outside” I replied and her frown deepened.

“Why? I don’t mind that you’re here. I don’t want to see you go.”

This girl was bad for my health because my heart skipped beats.

“Really?” At this point, I knew how I sounded, desperate and pathetic, but I didn’t care. This was Lily we were talking about.

“Yes. Come and join us on the bed. It’s big enough for the three of us. I want you here.” She lifting up the corner of her blanket and patted the empty space to her left.

There was no trace of doubt, just certainty on her face and I nodded, hesitantly making it to the empty side of the bed and kicking off my shoes before joining them.

To my shock, Azrael was completely calm at the idea of being close to her, even if she had Ren on her other side.

“Don’t leave,” she warned, latching on to my arm and snuggling closer, and as I watched her sigh contently and slowly fall asleep, an idea started to form in my head.

My heart started racing as I considered the possibility of it all.

I had selfishly and stupidly wanted her to choose me. I must have been delusional because it was becoming clear as day that she would never leave Ren for anyone.

But what if she didn’t have to choose between any of us? What if we could all just have her at the same time?

She was sleeping soundly now and Azrael was sated in my consciousness, just happy to have his bond close to him.

He didn’t care that my best friend had his arm around her waist, spooning her from behind.

I glanced at Ren and he only nodded, a look of certainty in his golden brown eyes.

I realized that he had not only read my mind but seemed to agree with me and that was enough encouragement to let the idea take root in my heart as Lily clutched on to my hand a peaceful look on her face as she slept soundly.

The only problem would be trying to get Aiden aboard on this but as I stared at Lily’s sleeping form, I knew that I would do anything to have her and not lose my best friends in the process either.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 108

Lily’s pov

I don’t know if it was the contact Dahlia made with me, or the fact that I just turned eighteen, but I’ve been feeling her stirring in my consciousness, I’m more aware of her presence in me and I’ve been getting back pieces of my memory.

Sometimes, I couldn’t tell if they were memories or just very vivid bad dreams because most of them were of people trying to kill me.

I roused from my sleep in the comfortable arms of someone that I knew even before I opened my eyes. Zac Talaverra. Or just Zac. The boy who confused me and somehow made my heart flutter and still managed to make me feel safe at the same time.

“Shh, it’s okay, duchess, you don’t have to wake up just yet” he murmured groggily against my hair and I sighed, diving into his scent, wondering when his voice got so deep and soothing.

Maybe it had always been that way but something seemed to have changed about him or maybe it was me. Maybe something had changed with me.

“I swear, sleeping next to you does wonders for my insomnia.” He nuzzled my hair.

“I’m awake now,” I responded, snuggling even closer to him and swimming in his embrace, getting rid of the space between us. Even though I felt at ease in his presence, I was worried that if I slept, I would not be able to spend more time with him and I wanted to feel every moment.

I could have sworn that Ren had also been on my other side as I dozed off but his scent was fading away which meant he had left a while ago.

“He left early to go to school.” He said, practically reading my mind. “One of us has to be serious and it’s obvious that the person is not going to be me.” He said with a smile that seemed to make butterflies erupt in my stomachs and I managed to deflect by reminding myself that I was only acknowledging how attractive he was.

“I’m going to lose my scholarship at the academy at this rate. Doubt they are not tired of putting up with my a*s.” I joked but it fell flat because I was really scared that they would withdraw the scholarship from me.

Lifting my chin so that I could look dead into his eyes, I saw that all his humor had gone as he shook his head.

“Nobody will take anything from you, I promise. I won’t allow it. We won’t allow it.” He said and I nodded, noting that he had stopped being weird or hesitant around me like he used to before and it looked like something had changed while I slept because he did not seem to mind me bringing up Ren or Ren being with me.

Sinking into his embrace, I inhaled, loving how comforting it felt to be in his arms. A part of me reminded me that I should feel guilty for feeling so good in Zac's embrace when I had a boyfriend that I was very much in love with but this felt right.

And how could something that felt so right be wrong?

"Do you feel any different today, Lily? Does your throat feel dryer than usual? Any weird cravings you want me to know about?" He whispered against my head and I shook my head to answer his question, noting that this was not the first time that he had asked me this question and I wondered what exactly made him worried enough to keep asking, but I just chuckled it down to him being worried about me and felt glad that he cared enough to ask.

"I feel really good." I reassured him. "Infact, I've never felt better" And it was true. I felt very rejuvenated.

His brows creased when I looked up at him and he looked like he was going to say something but the door opened and my mother walked into the room.

Zac didn't release me, which I was grateful for but he sat up so that my back was resting against a part of his chest.

"Hello, Mrs Beauregard" Zac said.

"Just Hermione is fine." She said curtly to Zac but when she looked at me, she smiled her relief at seeing me hale and hearty. It was obvious that she was not comfortable around the royals. Yet.

I wondered if it was just because she didn't like how close I was with the princes or because she could not be comfortable with me hanging out with them after what my father had been gone through, thanks to the council, but I knew that she was more than grateful that I was being taken care of and that was why she had not said anything about it yet.

"I'll leave to give you two some privacy" Zac said but immediately he rose from the bed , I began to feel anxious again, like throwing a tantrum, not wanting to be away from him and he paused as if sensing my sudden discomfort and turned to kiss my forehead.

"I'll be right outside, okay? I'm not abandoning you." Nodding, I watched him leave, wondering what that was all about. Why did I feel that way?

But a meow quickly took my mind away and I finally noticed that one of the baskets that my mother was carrying contained my beautiful pet, Fiona.

“Look who I brought!” My mother squealed and I reached for my baby, removing the sunflower hat from her head and peppering her cheeks with kisses.

“Thank you for bringing her mum. I’ve missed her so much.” I said and my mother nodded, coming to sit on the chair beside the head of the bed and dropping another basket beside me.

“I brought some homemade food for you. And oh, the repairs at home have finally been completed and we can move back in. It’s thanks to those princes of yours.”

I paused. I didn’t know how to tell her that I wasn’t ready to go back home yet. I have a lot of bad memories in that house and I doubted I’d ever feel safe there again.

But my thoughts came to a halt the moment she cracked the plate open. My mouth watered and I chuckled remembering how the princes were trying to kill me with junk food, something I’m sure the nurses didn’t approve of, not that I was complaining at all since it was only my favorites they ever brought. I was grateful to them for everything and even though I didn’t want to admit it, I was also grateful to Aiden for saving me in time.

Dahlia was insistent that he had to be the one to break her free, something I would never even give a second thought.

Speaking of Dahlia...

“I can see you biting your lip, sweetheart. Tell me what it is that you want to ask.” My mother said, peering at me with those wise dark eyes of hers and I decided to just let it out.

“I know about Dahlia. I know about what you and dad did to to keep her contained.”

“W- How?”

“Almost dying did that. She told me everything.”

My mother's mouth opened in shock and when she tried to speak, it was obvious that she didn't know what to say so I relayed everything that Dahlia had told me about how she had killed a bunch of people and my father had sealed her away so that she would not be able to contact me but my mother immediately shook her head.

"She did more than that. Your wolf cannot be trusted. She derived joy in taking lives for simple mistakes that could have been overlooked. Depending on her mood, she controlled people and warped their minds so that they'd kill themselves while she watched. Please believe me. Your father would not have sealed her away if she was not so dangerous."

My eyes widened and my hands shook in fear as I remembered how powerful Dahlia had been and how her smile that had meant so many unspoken things. Dahlia had said many things and now that my mother had said this, what was the truth?

Taking my hand, my mother placed a small journal that she had taken out of her purse.

"This belonged to your father. I wanted to give this to you on your eighteenth birthday before everything happened. Your father documented every incident he experienced with Dahlia, her abilities and victims as well as what he had to learn to stop her."

I opened the book and glanced through hurried scribbles, spells and diagrams I didn't understand.

"There was dark witch that reached out to me, offering his help to get rid of her entirely--"

"What?" All the breath wheezed out of my lungs.

"He said that he wouldn't get rid of her per say, that he can transfer her essence from your consciousness to someone else--"

My heart raced erratically, Dahlia's practically throwing a tantrum as I remembered her words, a warning that she would try to be harnessed if I didn't act fast.

"Mum, I don't know..."

“I was entertaining the thought for a while but it seems that decision has been made for me.”

“What do you mean?”

“When I summoned the courage to visit him, I found out he had been torn to pieces by what the police suspect to be wild dogs. I didn’t know whether to be relieved that he was dead or not. It all seemed too coincidental. Too convenient. When I finally made up my mind to go see him, he was conveniently disposed of.”

“I don’t think that was a smart move, mum. How did he know about me? Why was he so interested in me? He was a random stranger-“

“All that won’t matter once we get rid of her. I know it’s against Shadow cove rules to go to a dark witch for help, but if there is ever a way I can rid you of this burden you bear, even if it means sacrificing my morals, I will do it in a heartbeat.”

I let her words sink into my chest, Dahlia strangely quiet in my consciousness. All my life, everyone have made choices for me, or put me in positions where I couldn’t make one.

I clutched my father’s journals to myself, ruminating on everything my mother had told me. I won’t let anyone choose for me anymore, whatever I decide to do with Dahlia will be my choice and no one else’s. I just hope I make the right one.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 109

Lily’s POV

“I am perfectly fine, Ren” I said for what I was sure was the hundredth time as we walked down the hallway in school. He held me carefully as if I was going to break and splatter all over the floor if he did not hold on to me.

He squinted his eyes at me and I knew that he was trying to decipher if I was lying or not, trying to cover up that I was still in pain or something and I thought that was so sweet that he kept fussing even though we both knew that I had completed my healing and the corrosion was gone.

He tried to smile at me when I made a funny face and I realized that the emotion that I saw in his eyes was worry. I might be okay now but he had come really close to losing me and it was still a lot to take in for me that I had somehow not died and had survived being in that dangerous forest.

My mind instantly went to Aiden and my heart squeezed with a funny feeling. I had not seen him for some days before I was discharged but Bia had told me how he had always come to see me every night and my heart stuttered at the mere thought of him.

Ren kept quiet and watched me, obviously sensing where my thoughts were heading and I felt horrible immediately.

“I’m s-“

“Don’t. Don’t apologize for anything.”

“But-“

“He’s your mate, you can’t help how you feel about him.”

“But, I have you. I should be content. I should feel lucky -“

“No, I am the lucky one. Lily, if you see yourself the way I see you... damn, I’m lucky to even be in your orbit. To even have you look at me.”

“Don’t say that!” I slapped his chest.

“I mean it,” he said, intensity swirling in his light brown eyes and I rolled my eyes playfully. “And I’ll keep saying it until you believe it.”

“Oh, come on. You’re so stubborn.”

“And you’re so beautiful.” He answered, getting me to laugh as he placed a light kiss on my lips and I felt a stirring in my heart and a lightness in my chest at his touch, his hands wrapped around my waist securely.

“I can’t believe that you’re here in my arms, Lily. That you want me. It feels like a dream, like it’s too good to be true. How did I get so lucky?” He whispered against my hair as he kissed my temple and I took his face in my hands.

“What can I do to make you believe that this is real? That this thing between you and I is real and that I’m not going anywhere? I’ll do anything. Just tell me.”

His hands around my waist tightened and I was sure that if we were not in a crowded hallway, I would have melted to the ground in pleasure as he pinned me against my locker, his eyes thick with want and gaze moving down to where I bit my bottom lip.

“Anything?” He asked, his eyes darkening and I nodded, breathless from the tension between us at this very moment. The heat in his eyes was a mirror that reflected my need for him and I had to fist my hands to stop myself from jumping him right there and then.

He took my lips in his, tugging lightly and when my hand slid down his chest, he moaned into my mouth, deepening the kiss. My senses suddenly went haywire, primal need suddenly taking control of me.

Our moment however quickly comes to an end at the sound of a familiar voice close to where we were standing. The person let out a devastated screech and we turned immediately to see that it was, Ren, using his body to shield mine.

I frowned at the girl in a bucket hat and thick dark shades, practically growling at us. She looked familiar and my heart stopped for a moment when I finally placed her face.

“Mauve?”

Her uniform looked like a mess, like she could not be bothered to even iron it and she was wearing thick shades and a bucket hat on what I realized was a shaved head because there was no presence of the fiery red hair that I had come to know her for.

She looked very enraged, not as enraged as I was starting to feel because this b***h had kidnapped me, had me beaten up and left me to die in a forest ridden with ferals.

“Get out of my way, bitch.” There was a crazed desperate glint in her eyes as she pushed me away from Ren and took his hand with both of hers before she fell to her knees in front of him.

My eyes twitched as jealous rage and possessiveness ignited in my blood, zeroing in on her hand on his.

“Ren! Ren, I’ll do anything, I’ll stop being such a selfish mate. I will stay away from everything that will harm you or us, I will do whatever you want me to do. Please, just take me back. Take me back and everything will be alright again. Take me back and my life will go back to normal. I can’t live without you.”

“Then don’t.”

She froze. Her face cracked with shock. “What?”

He shoved his hands in his pocket and bent to her level. “You said you can’t live without me. Then don’t. I really don’t care.”

“W... What?”

“I thought I made it clear when I rejected you. There is nothing left for us and our relationship was over before I even rejected you. You are still standing, so I’m going to believe that your threat to kill yourself was a lie. Just like everything about you. Just do us all a favour and get lost.”

Ren grabbed my hand and started leading us away but Mauve started laughing hysterically and I knew that laugh meant she was up to no good.

“You are not even worthy to be a royal, you a*****e!” She announced to the crowd. “You’re nothing! Your mother is a low life w***e, a common mistress and even she wanted nothing to do with you. Everyone should know how she left you to die.”

This freaking...

Even I knew that something like that was never supposed to be exposed to the common folk and that it was supposed to keep being a secret and she had just said it aloud like that?

My heart squeezed as Ren froze, his grip on my hand tightening and I watched him struggle, his entire body taut with pain that felt so real, so crippling, I nearly crumbled under the weight. It was like I was feeling it right with him, almost like a mate would.

How dare she?

She was still talking and yelling at the top of her voice about how she did Ren a favour by accepting to be his mate and I had enough of this bullshit.

Kissing Ren on his cheek, I turned around and headed to where she stood and before she could complete her last sentence, I slapped her hard across the face and she gasped at the impact of the hit, holding her cheek as she looked at me in shock.

“Don’t you ever get sick of spewing the same s**t over and over? It’s getting very annoying listening to you talk. And don’t you ever talk about Ren like that again. How dare you try to use his pain again to soothe your ego?”

Her hand cradled her left cheek as her shock quickly turned to rage.

“You f u c k i n g...” before she could finish, I did something I had always wanted to do.

I punched her right in the nose and she staggered back, clutching her now bleeding nose.

“That is for what you did on my birthday.”

“How dare you!” she spat and was about to raise her hand against me.

Well, at this point, i was practically f****d, because I can’t fight to save my life but suddenly she froze and I realized that Ren had come to stand behind me, his presence like a warm blanket surrounding me.

He placed his hand on my lower back, the act filled with possession and Mauve’s face contorted with so much envy, I could have laughed if it wouldn’t ruin the serious atmosphere.

It didn’t stop me from smiling mockingly at her.

She tried to speak and that was when I realized that she was not able to. She started hyperventilating, clutching at her neck, her eyes leaking with tears.

“Ren-” she tried to say, but it came out as harsh pants. “Please-“

It was easy to forget that my boyfriend was powerful enough to control every cell in her body, easy to take him for granted because he was the gentle one, the kind one, but he was still the son of a ruthless alpha with incredible powers.

“Do not raise a hand against my girlfriend again.” She screamed in pain, collapsing on the floor and clutching her arm. “If you value all your body parts intact.”

I felt warm all over. Ren hadn't even bothered to defend himself, he was defending me.

Ren took my hand gently in his and inspected my bursted knuckles, the pain only now registering in my brain.

He tsked and pressed a hand on my back, turning me around and leading me away, and the crowd parted for us to walk through.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 110

Lily's POV

Nothing looks hotter than how way Ren looks when he was caring for someone, I realized. Maybe that was why I had fallen for him so quickly because everytime he went into healer mode, his eyes seemed to brighten up, his entire aura seemed to change and radiate more warmth and his eyes, oh those beautiful orbs would be furrowed in concentration.

He had rolled up the sleeves of his shirt, his forearms toned and muscled and I watched him in awe, like a child watching her favorite TV show.

I could not help but stare at him as he helped me to clean up my bursted knuckles from punching Mauve in the nose and while I had heard a crack, I had hoped that it was her nose and not my hand but my knuckles that were bursted begged to differ. I didn't even wince as he dabbed the wound gently with a wet swab while I sat on an elevated examination bed in the private area of the infirmary, the door locked behind us.

“How do you feel?” He asked, raising his head to pin me with that gentle gaze of his that seemed to always make my problems fade away and I reached out with my free hand to run a hand through his white blond hair with a smile.

“I feel fantastic.” I answered excitedly and it was true. “It was about time I learned to stand up to my bullies and I've always wanted to deliver a good left hook. I was able to kill two birds with one stone today.”

It felt euphoric to finally be able to stand up to Mauve after everything and now that I had, she didn't even feel so fearsome anymore. I guessed that was a good start and I hoped to continue to be this confident.

His lips kicked up in a small smile and he nodded, reaching forward to place a kiss on my forehead that lingered and made my entire body feel like it was on fire before he pulled back to grin at me.

"You looked so hot defending my honour, sweetheart, but please try to do that with a few less broken bones next time, okay?"

"Only if you promise to teach me how to throw a good punch. I swear, the movies make it look so easy. It hurts a lot worse than I thought it would. But you'll always heal me, won't you?"

"Of course. I'll always heal you."

"Then why are you not healing me with your powers right now? There has to be some perks to being the sweet girlfriend of a hotshot healer like yourself, right?" I replied with a pout and he pecked my lips, his chuckle deep and sweet.

"What if I just want an excuse to touch you longer?" His tone was light but his eyes, those beautiful orbs were filled with sensual heat and my body suddenly felt very hot under his gaze.

I grabbed him by his shirt and pulled him closer, smiling up at him.

"You don't need an excuse to touch me. You will never need one." I whispered against his lips, sighing in relief when he cupped the back of my neck and deepened the kiss.

I gasped into his mouth as he easily took control, running his free hand up my legs, squeezing my thighs as he wrapped my legs around his waist.

I felt my panties become wet with need as his hard erection grinded against my core.

I let out a very embarrassing moan, needing more of him as I practically mauled him alive.

“Ren,” I gasped when he pushed me onto the bed, not breaking the kiss, our kisses wilder, our touches feral.

I moaned as he kissed my neck and I grabbed his face with both hands to see that his wolf was lurking right at the surface and it was the sexiest thing to see how much he wanted me because I wanted him too with that exact same vigor.

“Please touch me. Claim me. Bond with me.” I whispered against his kisses, a growing fire and restlessness from my need to be claimed by him sizzling in me and I could see that he wanted to so badly but instead he closed his eyes and when he opened them, he had reined his wolf in, his voice breathless as he spoke.

“I don’t...” He was panting heavily, a sheen of sweat had accumulated on his forehead, his eyes molten with desire. “I want to do this right with you, Lily.”

When he moved away, I sighed in protest but gasped as his hand reached between my legs to cup my wet throbbing p***y.

I let out a breathless moan, my entire body turning alive with warmth as he shifted my panties to the side to run a finger across my clit, his lips still against my ear as he kept talking in the most sensual tone ever.

“I want to take you to dinner and treat you like a queen. Like the most gorgeous person in the room that you are.” His fingers stroked my clit, playing me like an instrument and I bit back a scream of ecstasy, pushing myself upwards shamelessly to meet his touch.

“I don’t want it to be quick and hasty with you, Lily. I’m going to savour you and watch you all night at dinner even though everything in my blood will be screaming to take you there and then but I will be patient and I will take you to my room and make love to you in my bed, taking my time and making every moment count because to me, it is more than just mating. It is more than just two people having s*x. It’s my soul intertwining with yours.”

I was breathless and shaking as he slipped one finger into my p***y and I moaned at how wet I was, my eyes locked with him.

He kissed my lips as he slipped in another finger.

“So wet for me.” He whispered breathlessly against my lips, “you feel so good,” and then he started to move fast and hard, f*****g me with his fingers as he kissed and sucked on my neck and I held on to him tight, unable to get enough of him and pushing even closer to him, my hips moving to meet his thrusts.

“Watching you give in to your desire is the most erotic thing I’ve ever seen. You’re so beautiful, Lily.”

I had long since lost sight of my inhibitions as I gave myself over to the feeling of being wanted and pleased by the one I loved.

“When I make love to you, I’m going to worship every inch of your body because you deserve to be worshiped like a goddess, Lily. You deserve to be loved like one and I’ll be damned if I don’t prove that to you every day for as long as you’ll let me.” His pace increased and I cried out in pleasure as the o****m hit me fast and hard, my vision blurring as I climaxed, still holding on to him as he kissed me softly, stroking my hair out of my face.

“Lily Beauregard, can I take you out to dinner tonight?” He whispered in my ear and I let out an exhausted but very sated laugh, pulling him down to kiss me again.

I didn’t know how I got so lucky with Ren Hawthorne but I was not going to let him go. He was mine now for as long as he would have me and I hoped that it was for a very long time.