

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 131

Lily's pov

I didn't know how long I hid for but I knew that I stopped counting the lashes after a hundred, my hand around my mouth as I heard Aiden's grunts of pain slowly fade until they were nothing but whimpers.

I didn't even need to take a look to smell the blood that was his but I did anyway and more tears trickled down my cheeks to see Aiden lying on the floor on his chest, barely breathing as he trembled and growled weakly, the floor around him covered in his blood.

How could someone do this to anyone? His own flesh and blood? What sort of monstrosity was this?

I was trying and failing to stifle my tears and the pain in my chest made it almost difficult to breathe especially when I knew that Aiden was in much worse pain and that this was not the first time that he had gone through something like this...

Alone...

Victor merely looked down at Aiden, his face impassive as he studied his nephew like he was a project before he walked over to the sink that I didn't even realize was in the room to wash his hands. Removing a handkerchief from his pocket, he dried his hands and rolled down the sleeves of his shirt.

"I know that you think me wicked. That you think me a monster. I know that you hate me, Aiden but if there is one thing that you should know, it is that all I have done, everything I have done including this is for your good. I am the only family that you have left. More importantly, I am the only one that has never wanted to throw you away, that will always accept you and put up with your flaws, which are very many."

Squatting beside Aiden who didn't even look like he was breathing, he patted his hair gently like he really cared about him before rising to his feet and walking over to where his suit jacket rested to pick it up.

"Unfortunately I am not here to stay this time as I must leave immediately to complete finalizing my deal with the Corrigan's and humans. A new era is beginning, Aiden, one where Night Shade sits at the very top with full

monopoly over the resources in Shadow Cove. I want you to be at the forefront of the most recent movement that I am planning. I hope that you won't fuvk this one up like you do to everything that your hands touch. In the meantime, before I leave, I must appear before the council and attempt to plead to lessen the council's verdict for what you did to Sebastien and Paige."

He rose to his feet, adjusted his coat, tapped his cane on the marble floor as he let out a deep sigh. "Goodbye nephew."

And Without another word or even a glance, he left the room. The slamming of the door was what woke me up from my shocked trance and I rushed to Aiden's side, covering my mouth as I choked back a sob to see his beautiful face scrunched up in pain and his eyes shut.

"Aiden." I whispered. "Aiden, please open your eyes."

The scrunched up expression disappeared and when I felt his pulse, it was faint. He looked like he had fallen asleep but he was as still as a statue, his body unmoving and his chest not rising.

Was he dead?

Stifling a scream, I forced myself up my feet and ran to find help, only one thought on my mind.

I hoped that it was not too late.

Aiden's pov

There was a time that counting the lashes on my back used to keep me tethered to reality and help me remain focused even though the weight of the pain I felt was almost bone crushing, but today it felt like it was going to be the last time. It felt like it was going to be the end.

As I fell to the ground and hear my uncle speaking to me the only thing that came to my mind was Lily and how I needed to get back to her but was currently unable to. I would not be able to spend more time with her and show her that I could love her the way she deserved.

I didn't want her to see me like this.

As if I had conjured her up, I saw her face hovering over me and wondered if this was what heaven felt like. Because there was no other explanation than I was dead to see her lovely face right now staring down at me and cupping my face.

But contrary to how I imagined heaven would be, she was not smiling. Tears were running down her eyes and she was shaking me hard.

Her mouth moved and that was when I finally could hear what was being said.

“Aiden! Wake up!”

No, I wasn't dead, I realized, but I was barely alive and I was still lying on the ground of my uncles study, my body already numb to the pain.

Shame filled me that Lily was seeing me at my lowest point and I could not even move or hide from her. How was I going to be able to convince her to stay with someone like me who allowed himself to be abused? The thought that she knew some of my most shameful secrets, secrets that I would have never been able to say to her for fear that I would lose her made me feel not only embarrassment but agitation and frustration.

All I ever want is to look my best for her. She has already seen the horrible, most deplorable side of me, the part that loved to hurt people for his own amusement. The part that didn't care who gets hurt as long as I get what I want. I wanted to show her that I could be like Ren, that I could be perfect for her. I wanted to make sure that she never gets to see this low and pathetic side of me but now that she had, there was nothing I could even do. Speaking even hurt and when I tried to open my mouth, it felt like my entire body was on fire.

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When she rose from the ground and ran towards the exit, I tried to stop her, my heart breaking because it looked like my worst nightmare was slowly

coming to life and that she was leaving because she could not handle this side of me. Because she realized that I was more baggage than I was worth.

“Lily!” I croaked, straining against my bleeding back and stretching out a hand as if that would somehow make her turn around and look at me but she was long gone. She was leaving me, taking the opportunity to escape like I had always feared she would. It was even worse now because she had every justification to flee now that she had seen my darkest shame.

No, it didn't matter. I could not let her leave me. Even if it meant that I had to explain, I needed to do something. Heart twisting in pain, I let out an anguished groan as I tried to hoist myself up from the ground and failed, crashing back down, too weak to stand. Slowly, I started crawling towards the door, each step more tedious than the last but that was nothing compared to the agony of knowing that if I stopped I would lose Lily forever.

I was almost at the door when I realized that I was slowly losing consciousness and the last thought on my mind was the painful reality that I had lost Lily forever and that my uncle was right. No one would ever be able to love me.

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Aiden's pov

“Wake up, son”

“Wake up, nephew”

“WAKE UP, AIDEN!”

Groaning, I woke up to a melodious voice humming softly and soft slender hands stroking through the strands of my hair.

Mum?

Where was I?

Blinking slowly, I tried to raise my head to see the owner of the soft voice and when strands of dark hair fell over my face, I was certain that it had to be my mother. But it didn't make any sense because my mother had never been affectionate towards me, considering that she despised me for taking her life.

Except for the one time when I had nearly been poisoned to death and she had spent the entire night nursing me back to health which had given me some hope that perhaps she cared about me only for her to revert back to the person that she was when I was fully healed; cold and distant.

Was I dreaming?

Maybe that was what this was. A dream.

“Mum?” I whispered, desperate to see the face of the person that cared for me and the person’s fingers ceased their movement and at the same time, she stopped singing.

“Mother.” I whispered again, my vision clearing slowly when the person raised her head to finally lock eyes with me and I realized with surprise that it wasn’t my mother but Lily and she looked overjoyed to see that I was awake.

“Oh my God. You are awake! Maya, he’s awake. Come see!”

Lily? That was impossible because Lily had run away from me after seeing how my uncle had all but killed me and humiliated me.

I laughed but it was without mirth wondering how he goddess could be so cruel to joke with me about something like this. What kind of dream was this? Was it punishment for being such an a*****e over the years?

Or was I dead and this was my own eternal torment?

Perhaps I deserved this. Infact I thought it was fitting for me to go through this torture after all Lily would never love me even though I was alive. Perhaps death was the best.

My shock was palpable when Lily threw herself on me and I felt pain as she crushed me in a tight hug, a reminder that even though she was weaker than most, she was still a werewolf.

This wasn’t a dream?

As if she had heard my internal turmoil about what was happening, she kissed my cheek and burrowed her face in my neck, her tears dropping on my skin like rain as she sobbed hard.

“I thought you were going to die.” She cried and that was when I realized two things. Very important things that made the wound in my heart feel like it was already healed.

One, I was very much alive despite the beatings that I had thought I would not survive.

Two, Lily had not abandoned me like I had thought before passing out and it looked like when she had run out then, it had been to get help, seeing that I was back in my bedroom and no longer reeked of my own blood.

Ignoring the burn in my back as I raised my hand to pat her back, I completely melted at the fact that she was really here, that she had stayed by my side and looked after me even after how horrible I used to be to her, even though she had every right to leave me where I was to die.

Releasing me, she wiped twin tears rolling down her cheeks just as Maya came in and as the both of them jubilated, hugging each other, I admitted to myself that I had fallen even deeper in love with Lily, holding on to her hand tight and promising myself to try my hardest to make sure that I didn't ever hurt her or make her cry again. At this point, I didn't even have a right to hold on to someone so pure, but I would do everything to be what she deserved and even if she could never accept me as her mate, I wanted to never be cut off from her life.

The next twenty four hours had Lily feeding me, routinely changing my bandages and even reading to me since I couldn't move and because I was a werewolf plus the fact that my mate was the one caring for me, it took me no time at all to heal but I was scared to tell Lily that I was feeling better not only because I liked her attention and how she fussed over me but because I was scared that she would leave me once she found out.

However, my cover was quickly blown in the evening. She had stepped out to have her bath and change after feeding me dinner and I was just walking out of the shower, toweling my hair when she returned.

We both froze as we stared at each other, her eyes filled with surprise that turned to realization.

“You've been feeling better for a while haven't you?”

“Yes,” I said without thinking. “No,” I corrected, wincing when she gave me a ‘you think I’m stupid?’ look. “Don’t be mad,” I whispered, lowering my head in shame and afraid that I had messed up again.

“Alright then. Then I should probably go now.” She turned around to leave but I grabbed her hand and turned her around to face me, not realizing that my pull was strong because she bumped into me and we both fell on the bed, her on top of me.

We stared at each other for what felt like hours and then she laughed.

My apprehension lessened as she swatted my arm playfully.

“You jerk. Why did you pretend?”

I wanted to say something cheeky but settled for the truth.

“I didn’t want you to leave. I know that I don’t deserve you or your kindness but I’m a selfish bastard.” I whispered and saw her look flustered, her face reddening as she tried to look away and I held her to me and placed her gently on the bed beside me, leaning on my elbow to look at her.

“Did I make you uncomfortable?”

She shook her head and shivered as she was about to answer, so I quickly covered her with a duvet and got underneath it.

“Is this okay?” I whispered as I moved closer to her and she nodded again.

“I’m glad you’re okay, Aiden.”

My smile was small but relieved.

“I’m glad too. I thought I wouldn’t see you again.”

The room fell in to silence as we looked at each other and when her eyes dropped to my lips and back up to my face, I froze.

Was she thinking about kissing me like I was thinking about doing the same to her?

Forcing my wolf to remain calm since the last thing I wanted to do was scare her off, I opened my mouth to tell her that I could sleep on the couch if she

wasn't comfortable and before I could speak, she leaned forward and brushed her lips against mine. Once. Twice. Three times.

"I'm going to kiss you now." I breathed against her mouth, feeling tingles climb up my back as I gave her ample time to reject me and when she brushed her lips against my mouth one more time, I crashed my lips against hers, pulling her to me.

I fell, I crashed, I burned.

With her warm body molded into mine, desperately clinging to my hair and her nails digging into my back, I moved to hover over her and groaned as she wrapped her legs around my waist

Jesus. I growled helplessly, grinding into her. She gasped into the kiss and it traveled right to my d**k, making me completely aware of every inch of her as her perky t**s rubbed against my chest. It felt like I was being summoned, like I was under a spell as I kissed down her throat and found her breasts.

f**k, she wasn't even wearing a bra under the flimsy blouse and it was all I could to do to stop myself from driving into her when I pulled up her shirt and saw her full rounded breasts.

I bit back a starved growl as I stared at her naked chest for the first time. f*****g hell, nothing would have prepared me for this.

My heart was beating abnormally fast as I cupped her soft, luscious mounds, reverently, painfully aware of the breathlessness in my chest. She was perky, perfect, f u c k i n g pink. Of course she'd have such perfect breasts.

I dropped my head and ran my tongue around the swells of her b r e a s t s, teasing her, taking my time. The uncontrollable moans and whimpers she made only fueled the fire in me as I pressed kisses all along the valley between her breasts, f u c k i n g worshipping her like the goddess she is.

"Aiden," she whimpered and I soared.

Gone. I was gone for this girl. Just hearing my name on her lips and I wanted to give her the goddamn world.

Her fingers dug into my hair as she grabbed my head and practically positioned me right where she wanted. I groaned as I took her n****e in my

mouth, nothing... nothing on this earth could have prepared me for the taste of her, for the feel of her body, her hands clenching and unclenching in my hair, the sounds leaving her lips like a chant, a prayer.

Eyes locked on hers, I devoured her n****e with long, hard sucks and she bucked against me helplessly, pleading, begging, her hair sticking to her damp cheeks as I sucked and sucked and sucked. My arm moved to wrap around her waist to support her as she raised herself on her elbows while my other hand slowly made it's way down until it touched her thighs beneath her skirt.

I groaned at the slickness pooling between her legs. She was so goddamn wet, I could dive between her legs.

Desire and bloody lust pumped in my veins demanding I take her. Demanding I claime her.

No, this can't be how her first time with you should be, Aiden. Take only what she's ready to give. You need to wait.

Reigning in my stubborn wolf, I settled for making her c*m instead, my finger finding her clit and rubbing as I sucked, licked and bit her n****s.

She squirmed, her eyes hazy but filled with shock as I slipped one finger in and then two. Her breathing turned choppy, her fingers dug into my arm, delicious pain pumping in my veins.

"Aiden," she gasped, squeezing me hard as her hips grounded against my fingers, my thumb rubbing her clit and eliciting shudder after shudder from her.

Watching her was my greatest honour and it felt like I could do anything as she took over the pace, indirectly showing me what she liked and how she liked it and when she came, her voice was lost in a whisper and tears streamed down her cheeks.

She was still trembling, shuddering, as I pulled her into my arms. Holding her tight, I kissed her forehead and crawled under the duvet again.

She was panting, breathless, lost, still coming down from her high as I struggled to make the decision. To let her go.

It's now. It's now or never.

Taking her chin between my thumb and forefinger, I took her lips in mine, tasting every inch of her mouth like I needed to taste her soul.

I was breathless when I let her go.

"There's a car with a driver downstairs to take you anywhere you need to go." I rasped against her lips.

"I don't understand" she whispered and even though I smiled, my heart was breaking in two.

"I've kept you here against your will long enough, Lily and I know that if I love you, I have to let you go but, stay with me tonight. If by morning, you're still here when I wake up then I will take it as your answer that you want me too. You want to be with me."

There was a reassuring smile on my lips that was meant to lighten the situation but Lily merely nodded at me, her eyes heavy with exhaustion as she let me hug her while she promptly dozed off.

My last thought as I fell asleep was hope that after tonight, perhaps she would consider me but I was only met with the greatest heartbreak when I woke up the next morning and her side of the bed was empty.

Limping out of the room, I stumbled into Maya in the hallway and her face turned grim as she closed the distance between us.

"Where is she?" I asked her, my voice breaking and Maya shook her head as she told me what I already knew and dreaded.

"She's gone."

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Lily's POV

When Aiden had whispered that I was free to go in the morning and he'd take my absence as my choice, a huge part of me had wanted to tell him that I had already made my choice and my answer was that it was impossible to stay.

Not because I didn't have feelings for him but because I did... because I didn't even know when my feelings for him changed from hate to something lighter and deeper.

I didn't want to think about how he would feel when he woke up and found me gone, probably believing the worst; that even though I had cared for him and after that wonderful night that we shared, I could not be with him.

I had believed that despite my attraction to Aiden, which I blamed on the mating bond, there was no way I could care about him. But seeing him on that cold floor, thinking that he was dead as I ran out of that room in search of help, watching three guards work together to lift Aiden onto a bed and his hand dropping away lifelessly made me realize that somehow, these past few days had made me go from hating him to caring for him.

That was the only thing I knew for a fact as I left his bed yesterday morning.

I woke up this morning with a heavy heart and finally turned on my phone that Maya had given back to me when I was about to leave.

Today was going to be my first day back at school and I was back in my home, in my bedroom that had been refurbished thanks to Ren and Zac according to my mother. Even the exterior of the house was no longer looking shabby and I had tried to come up with a message that I felt would convey my appreciation for everything that they had done and it came up short because I didn't even know how to face either of them.

I was only certain about one thing; that I liked all three of them and I was bonded to each of them in three very beautiful but different ways.

"lily!" My mother yelled, "come down for breakfast!"

I let out an exasperated sigh, stopping my back and forth pacing and decided to pull on my big girl panties and get this over with.

I was partly excited and anxious to be going back to school, to face Aiden, Zac and most of all, Ren who I had been too terrified to text after I returned.

I didn't betray him, I told myself, I'm not betraying him, but my anxiety wouldn't stop gnawing at my stomach.

I sent him a message to come pick me up and immediately switched off my phone, expecting the worst. I felt like going back to bed and hiding away from the world.

I was going to have to tell him sooner or later, that I was going to accept all three of them.

Cue the anxiety currently throttling my neck.

“Hi mum” I said as I got downstairs and sat at the dining table across from her, taking another look round the house and remembering how this place held so many memories for me and how I was able to still be here thanks to Zac and Ren. I wouldn’t be surprised to hear that Aiden also had something to do with it.

“Are you okay?” She suddenly asked, startling me, “You don’t like the pancakes? The mix I was able to get at the supermarket was not the same as this one but I tried to make it the way you like it.”

“Huh?” I answered, raising my head to see my mother giving me a worried look.

“You look like you have a lot on your mind. Did something happen?”

Bia, bless her soul, had covered for me these past few days, telling my mother that I was still staying at her place when really, Aiden had abducted me.

Did something happen? She had asked.

Many things have happened in the course of these past few months, I didn’t know where to start from.

Was it how I seemed to be bonded to three of the richest and most influential bachelors in Shadow Cove.

They were the sons of the most powerful families in Shadow Cove and my mother was wary of the rich and powerful especially because my father had died after being accused of aiding a m*****e.

“I’m fine mum. Nothing big. I’ll just pack these and have them at school,” I answered with a faux smile that she didn’t call me out on, thankfully, leaning forward to give her a kiss on the cheek before rushing out of the house.

I had just shut the door and taken the first step out of my porch when I froze as my eyes collided with Ren's where he leaned against his car and my heart skipped.

He still looked as handsome as the last time I had seen him and his scent felt like it was ingrained into my memory. Being unable to talk to him telepathically had also been hindered by the wards around Aiden's home.

"You came," That was all I could breathe, my mouth slightly open.

"You thought I wouldn't?"

Taking my silence for an answer, he pushed off the car and walked towards me, stopping only a few feet away, his gentle brown eyes assessing me.

"You called. I'll always come when you call," he said simply, as if that was the natural order of things. I call for him and he comes running.

I had spent the entire night overthinking and could not believe that he would even want to even be with me if he knew that I had feelings for his best friends.

Why had I called ? To hurt him? Knowing fully well that he could read my thoughts made me lower my head in shame and I was about to take a step back but he reached for my arm, pulling me by the arm and getting rid of the space between us.

"Hey, it's okay , sweetheart" He whispered, pulling me in for a hug and I inhaled his scent, breaking down in a quiet sob.

"I'm sorry that I'm such a mess"

"I don't think you're a mess, Lily. I understand everything and I don't think differently of you. I missed you."

Pulling back to stare into his eyes with my blurry ones, he smiled and cupped my cheek.

"What do I do, Ren? This is so hard"

"Anything you want. Everything is up to you sweetheart and whatever decision you make, you will have my full support."

“You’re so perfect” I whispered as he led me to the passenger seat and he kissed me softly.

“Only for you,” he replied and I nodded with a smile as he drove out of my driveway, knowing that perhaps this was not as serious as I was making it and by the time the car rolled into the school’s private parking lot, Aiden and Zac were waiting for us, standing together.

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Lily’s pov

The entire garage was silent. Well what was I expecting when it was only the royals that parked here? An audience?

“You okay?” Ren asked and I tore my eyes away from where Aiden and Zac were standing just staring at the car, their poses intimidating to whoever looked at them to look at my mate. Not the one that fate gave to me but the one that I had chosen. Ren Hawthorne.

I remembered the first time he had smiled at me. I had felt butterflies in my belly as he saved my life. And today, I realized that whenever I looked at Zac and Aiden, I felt that wave of excitement and it had done nothing to reduce how much I loved Ren.

Maybe this would work.

Leaning forward, Ren cupped my chin gently and kissed me. Soft licks, a gentle tug with his teeth, his tongue slipping in to taste me, and when he leaned back, I was breathless but thoroughly distracted.

I wanted to ask how he knew what I wanted but his smirk already reminded me that he had those abilities and his plan to reduce my anxiety had worked.

When we got down, Ren walked ahead, his hand holding mine as we approached Zac and Aiden and I looked at their faces to try to gauge their reactions but they remained calm.

“Hi” I said in greeting and Ren stood beside them and faced me.

“Lily,”

“Hello, duchess,”

Zac and Aiden’s simultaneous greeting had them pausing to eye each other coldly and the parking lot fell into silence again, the three boys, an imposing force around me; Ren, gentle and kind, Zac, handsome and strong, Aiden, ruthless and proud as they waited for me to speak, for my verdict; how I was going to respond to their confessions and if I was going to have to make a choice between them.

They all stood tall and handsome, all three of them towering over me and I felt intimidated and a little bit terrified.

I had stayed up for most of the night thinking about what would be a perfect solution to this dilemma after admitting that I felt something for all three of them but I didn’t know if the request that I was about to make was going to be too demanding for either of them to accept or if it made me sound selfish but I could not keep stalling.

Suddenly I felt warmth radiate all over my body and looking at Ren, I realized that he was sending me love through our bond, a sign of encouragement, and it made me feel bold to speak my mind after all it was now or never.

“I’ll be honest with you because that is all I can do and I’m tired of running away from this thing between us.”

I swallowed a deep breath, my lungs threatening to collapse on me as I stared at all three of them.

Zac had his hands shoved in his pockets, a few buttons of his shirt unbuttoned to reveal his toned, lean chest. His eyes were whirlpools of darkness that I refused to look away from. He was grinning so hard, I could see his fanged canines.

“The truth is…” I’m stalling. Why am I stalling? “I’m attracted to you. To all three of you and I don’t want to have to choose. Ren,” my gaze found Ren’s golden brown ones, my eyes softening. “I had a crush on you from the first moment I saw you. You were kind to me when no one else was. You were my friend when I desperately needed one, you’re the one I chose.”

I swallowed, my gaze sliding to Zac’s, “I couldn’t resent you even if I tried. You made a home for yourself in my heart before I even realized what was going on. You have been there for me when I didn’t want to speak, ugly truths are

never ugly when they come from you. You saved my life when you owe me nothing, your blood flows through my veins and I know you think you thrive in chaos, but you give me so much peace and comfort, sometimes I can't see past it."

"Aiden..."

The past few days I had spent in Aiden's home, in his natural habitat, let me see a softer, more human version of him. But out here in the wild, he had taken up his mask of ruthlessness again, stone cold grey eyes bored into my skin.

"Aiden... You and I have known right from the first day we met that there was something that tied us together. I was attracted to you... at least until you opened your mouth."

"Lily -"

"Let me finish." I said calmly, "I'm sorry that we crossed paths so horribly, that tragedy is what tied us together at first. You were right in your grief but you were wrong to take it out on me. We are both victims of the same incident, so I understand you enough to give us a second chance. You acknowledged your actions and I don't want the burden of holding a grudge. You're my fated mate. Tearing myself from you is suicide on both our parts, I see that now.

"I can't live without any of you and I don't want to, so if you really want me, then there's no other way. You will have to share me, all three of you, you'll have to date me at the same time."

My heart was pounding so hard, I'm sure each of the boys could hear it. My cheeks were flushed, I wiped my sweaty, trembling palms on my skirt as I continued, wanting to get this out as soon as possible before I chicken out.

"No fighting and no pissing each other off. You have to be respectful and cordial with each other. I don't want your friendship going to s h i t because of me." I closed my eyes after a long exhale, not wanting to lock eyes with any of them as I summoned up courage to make my last demand.

I sighed as I opened my eyes, meeting their gazes again. "No other girls. You can't see other women. I will not accept it and if any of you choose to do so, that's the end of this relationship. I mean it."

I didn't realize that I was panting by the time I was done until Aiden stretched out a bottle of water which I accepted immediately with gratitude.

Zac was the first to respond, shrugging his shoulders with a playful smirk that I had come to associate and love about him.

He sauntered over to me, pulling me by the waist until our hips connected.

I was hotter than a thousand suns when he took my chin in his grasp. His tongue delved into my mouth without any hesitation. There was no teasing, no joke, none of his easy suaveness and nonchalance, just wet, hot need that seared my insides. One hand wrapped tighter around my waist, the other, sliding down my chin, to the back of my neck, gripping my hair and tilting my face to better receive him.

I was drunk and delirious by the time he released me, my cheeks burning, my ears ringing.

His lips brushed against the corner of my lips. "That's definitely not a problem, duchess."

I was hyperventilating by the time he released me and held me to his side, bringing my attention back to my other mates and reminding me that we had an audience.

Ren smiled and I could feel his agreement before he even spoke. "You're it for me, Lily. There will never be anyone else."

I would have fallen deeper in love with him if I wasn't already in that moment but my attention moved immediately to Aiden. Of the three of them, his answer was the one that worried me the most especially after everything that had happened between all three of us in the past few weeks.

His face remained cold and stoic, glaring at Zac's arm around my waist. The look was downright murderous, but to his credit, he reined in his rage. His handsomeness touched with an edge of ruthlessness but now that I knew him beyond the mask he wore around for everyone, I could see through his facade.

He stepped forward but didn't rip Zac's arm off of me, his gaze entirely on me as he gave me his word. "I've not touched another girl since I found out that

we were mates, Lily, and I never will. There's no one else for me. There never will be."

My lips parted in shock because Aiden was notorious for having endless flings and it felt like my heart was going to explode with joy that they had accepted to be with me however they could get me.

It was more than I had expected and for the first time since I woke up today, my heart was light and my smile was wide.

The rest of the first half of school day had passed uneventfully for everyone but me who had been trying to contain my excitement all morning and had spent most of the classes daydreaming.

As I walked into the cafeteria with Rhea and Chelsea during lunch break, all I could do was stare at my men where they were seated together, Zac and Ren in a discussion while Aiden was merely their audience. He noticed me first and my breath caught in my throat as his lips widened in a smile.

Rising to his feet as I approached the table, he leaned forward and stole my lips in a deep kiss that made everyone on the table except Ren and Zac gasp in shock.

I clutched his blazer, partly to hold on for dear life and partly to pull him closer to me. I don't think I'd ever get used to Aiden's kisses. He kisses me like he's been starving his whole life and finally has a feast thrown in his honour and when he let me go, my head was spinning.

Wrapping his arms around me, Aiden addressed the suddenly very silent cafeteria.

"I'm sure you've heard rumours and I am glad to shut it down today with the truth. Lily Beauregard is my mate and she is now under the protection of the royals. A disrespect to her is a disrespect to my name. If anyone dares to bully her or hurt a single hair on her head, you will have me to deal with. Now, as you were."

The silent cafeteria became very noisy as people kept trying to process what Aiden had just said, whispering to each other while others stared at me.

“Wow, you’re going to have quite an interesting future.” Chelsea whispered with a smirk and Rhea pinched her ear while kissing my cheek and I couldn’t help but laugh, my eyes locking with Aiden’s before moving to Zac and Ren.

I felt like I was home. For the first time in my life, I felt like I was finally in a place where I was wanted and respected. This was the best decision for me.

Rhea was about to say something the hall suddenly fell silent.

Eerie silence swept through the entire hall as the mood in the air shifted, everybody’s attention moving to one direction. And when I turned to see what suddenly had everyone’s attention, my heart stopped and dropped to my feet along with the fork in my hand. The sound of the silverware clattering to the ground was almost as loud as my heartbeat pounding out of my chest.

No.

No no no!

Not now, not when I’ve finally moved on from him.

Cade Corrigan, the only son of the fourth most powerful lycan family but more importantly, my ex boyfriend who had broken my heart was walking towards our table like it was just another school day.

I must be seeing things.

But I wasn’t, though. That stupid golden blonde hair, those stupid shocking blue eyes. He was wearing the academy’s uniform with that stupid letterman jacket like he used to back at Gold Crest, like playing on the football team was his entire personality.

My ears were ringing, but this time, for all the wrong reasons. My lungs were closing in on me as I felt an instant rush of emotions from confusion to disbelief to rage and finally fear, because why was he here? Was he here to continue from where he had stopped with humiliating me before I dropped out?

I turned around, trying to hide my face but to my shock, Aiden, Zac and Ren had risen to their feet, their faces holding no malice as they waited for him to arrive and when he did, they greeted him good naturedly and it felt like I was sitting on burning hot coals, immediately rising to my feet.

Cade's eyes finally met mine and softened like we didn't have a betrayal and two whole years of radio silence between us.

"Hello, sunflower."

It was a running joke between us.

It used to be a running joke between us.

I didn't find it f u c k i n g funny.

I swayed on my feet, the earth tilted on its axis as my food threatened to climb up my throat and wrap this afternoon up very nicely.

Looking away to see everyone including the boys at the table shocked, I opened my mouth to explain but it was already becoming a hassle breathing in oxygen, the entire room was spinning as I clutched the table for support, the walls of the cafeteria were closing in on me.

Swallowing in a breath, I did what I do best in a tricky situation.

I left.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 135

Cade's POV

(Two years ago)

Will you be hanging with the gang tonight or are you still p u s s y whipped for your new girlfriend?

Typical Tate, talking a lot of smack.

I ignored the message and was about to fling my phone on the dresser to go back to bed with said girlfriend, but my phone burped another text that made my heart sink. That made me remember who I was and why I was here in the first place.

Meet with me immediately.

I felt like an absolute bastard as I stared down at Lily's sleeping face, her entire body relaxed and filled with trust just because I was in the room, not knowing that the person she was sleeping beside was a horrible person that didn't even deserve to lick the sand underneath her shoes.

That horrible person was me and the message from my mother demanding that I returned home was evidence enough that I was going to be under her thumb forever. I would have loved to pretend that I didn't see her message and continue sleeping beside Lily but, I knew that I could not ignore her or disobey or there would be hell to pay later.

I knew what my mother wanted me to do, knew all about the role she had played in the m*****e of our own people and how she had remained silent and allowed another man take the blame.

I didn't know much about the so called powers that Lily supposedly possessed but I knew that my mother wanted to harness those powers for herself and that she wanted to take control and monopolize the government of Shadow Cove and sit at the head instead of continuing to be considered the least powerful and influential of the four families, always behind the other three, tighter, close knit families, even though our family was now considerably the richest and most influential in the human world.

My mother had asked me to manipulate Lily into killing herself because it was too risky to attempt to murder her and could trigger her dormant wolf. Her plan was that she and her cohorts would extract her powerful wolf upon her death for themselves to use in the incoming rebellion they planned on creating in Shadow cove.

My mother had planned everything down to the littlest details but what none of us, including her, could have anticipated was that I would fall in love with Lily and that my wolf would be in agreement with our potential pairing.

Other than the little things I had been able to pick from my mother's cold orders, I didn't know why they wanted Lily so badly but even I could tell that she was special, after all she was the daughter of the famous Edgar, right before he became an infamous criminal.

Placing a kiss on her forehead, I stared at her for a moment longer, accepting that I had failed my mother's mission and feeling no guilt whatsoever because I knew that I was making the right choice. I would do everything in my power to protect Lily.

She didn't know she was living on borrowed time, with a deadline set by my mother. I would give Lily anything she wanted. Peace, love, security from the bullies in cahoots with my mother. If Lily said she wanted something, even if it was just in passing, then it was as good as hers. I'd give her anything she wanted because she deserved it after losing nearly everything she loved. If I could bargain to get her life back from my mother, I would.

Quietly leaving the room and her house, I made up my mind to forfeit my mother's mission and inform my mother, after which I would return back to Lily and be rid of this guilt once and for all.

Remember, Caden, you must not go near Lily. Use others to accomplish this mission and stay out of harms way. Her wolf is very wise and anybody she detects as a threat means instant death for her victim.

Her wolf is a savage beast that knows no friend or foe, only lust for power. We must subdue her and train her into a weapon we can yield.

She is only attracted to wolves in the same caliber as her. You are nowhere near her league, so it would be easy for you to go under her radar as long as you never have physical contact with her.

The tasks were simple. Frustrate Lily until she tries to take her own life and never have contact with her.

I failed miserably.

Not only did I save her life when she tipped over the edge, I declared her as mine, keeping her under my protection. No one can touch her because she's attached to a Corrigan and my wolf was unnecessarily drawn to her. Mate, he had told me after I saved her life, but Lily hadn't felt the mating bond. Not the way I did. What if I just deluded myself into believing she was my mate. What if I was just drawn to a powerful wolf I could never have.

She didn't know all these. She had accepted me into her heart, into her home, the very person that was sent to make sure she dies.

I will never be worthy of her love and kindness. She wasn't what everyone said she was. She wasn't a freak, wasn't a savage, a loser or a monster. Lily didn't even look like she knew of the powers she possessed.

They were wrong about her. They are wrong about her. They don't know the kind of person she is. She's not dispensable, she's a human being like all of us. I'm sure my mother will see reason with me if I talk to her to abort this vile mission. Lily is more than a vessel for a powerful wolf.

I swiped my keycard through the slot and entered the penthouse suite in the skyscraper apartment building that was owned by my mother. I paused behind a pillar when the man speaking to her in the living room turned a bit and I saw his face.

It was Victor Vanderbilt, now interim Alpha of the pack that his brother had once been head of and all the hairs on the back of my neck immediately rose in discomfort. It had everything to do with what I knew about the man, a secret that I would have never imagined if I had not been at wrong place at the wrong time.

Victor had arranged to get his own family killed. He had taken a bad situation and made it even worse and had let down the wards surrounding Shadow Cove when Edgar was at his weakest. He liased with werewolf hunters to carry out the m*****e. Because of him, his own brother, niece, sister in law and thousands of people were killed and worse, he had let an innocent man take the fall for him, all because he wanted power and my mother had been in on the evil plan.

He reached out to touch my mother's hand resting on her lap and when she smiled, I narrowed my eyes wondering when they had gotten so close and horrified that something of the sort was even happening in the first place.

My mother, Cynthia Corrigan gave him a dazzling smile that reminded me of just how sly my mother could be as long as she got what she wanted. My mother was hyper aware of her beauty and feminity and never hesitated to use it to get what she wanted.

Unlike the other three families who had bore sons as heirs to their legacy, my late grandparents had given birth to my mother, a Lycan princess and an only child which automatically made her the heir to the Corrigan fortune. She had become the CEO of Gold crest, the most popular and successful software company in the state and had never married. My father had been a nobody, someone who was blindly in love with her and was ready to do her bidding, she always said whenever I misbehaved and she needed to remind me to be obedient.

Be more like your father, she always said. He never stood in my way. He never disobeyed me.

Yes, my father had allowed his blind love to ruin his life. He had never married my mother, choosing to be content with just being her lover and father to her heir, me. He happily took the alpha title but he was just a figurehead. My mother ran the whole thing. It was foolish of me to have even grown expecting warmth from such a woman who had not even blinked as they lowered my father's casket into the grave when I was six and had proceeded, business as usual right after the ceremony.

Kyle, my cousin appeared in the room holding a glass containing drinks and when my mother gave him a genuine smile, a part of me ached because she never seemed to have that smile for me. I was not yet 'perfect' enough, had too many flaws like my father she said.

After Kyle sat beside my mother, he started giving her a report like he did every week.

While Gold Crest was most famous for its gold mines and software company, our family also secretly mined Rhodium, an element that was even more lethal to werewolves than silver was. We also produced wolfsbane and feral blooms; a plant that made werewolves go feral if given just the right dose, it also made ferals even more volatile. Even worse, it made the ferals become obedient to the one who administers the dose to them.

The horrifying part of it all was that my mother allowed these dangerous weapons to be exported to werewolf hunters outside the borders and Kyle was in charge of its operations.

Weapons for favours, she calls it. I see a business opportunity, I take it. It's only a matter of time before the hunters catch up with our species. Why not give them a headstart and gain their favour while we're at it.

Unlike me, Kyle was eager to please and would even sell his soul to please mother and since his parents died in the m*****e he doesn't care that my mother orchestrated and he started to live with us, he had made it very clear that we were in a competition, always trying his hardest to make me look bad even though I couldn't give two f***s about him.

"Thank you Kyle. Pour me another drink?" My mother asked and I raised my brows worriedly because even though my mother was excellent at everything

else, she was a chronic alcoholic and it was sad to see that she was falling even deeper into the throes of addiction.

Victor reached for my mother's hand again and I frowned, hating that he was in our home, that he was beside my mother. I didn't even trust him one bit, especially after knowing what he did and I wondered how my mother could even trust someone that was capable of murdering his own brother.

Stepping out from behind the pillar, I entered the living room and my mother, about to say something stopped speaking, her face turning cold.

"Finally you're here. Well then, let me get down to it. You are to pull out of the mission I assigned to you immediately. We're terminating that assignment."

Relief enveloped and I was glad that my mother had finally come to her senses and not interested in committing such a vile act but she looked angrier after speaking that it made me wonder why she didn't look happy to have called off the mission.

Kyle's smirk was also not helping matters.

"What happened mother?"

"Well, you happened, son. The mission has been compromised by you. I sent you there to woo the girl and make her do whatever you want and instead, you fall in love with her?"

"Typical Cade." Kyle whispered and my face fell, my eyes widening in shock. How had she known? How did she even find out?

"Wondering how I found out? Did you think I would not keep tabs on you after sending you on such a mission? You might be foolish but I am not, Caden. I am not."

From the look on her face, I knew immediately that when she meant I was pulling out, it didn't mean she was aborting the mission, it meant that she was going to see it through without me.

I needed to think and fast.

"She's my mate." I blurted out, causing the entire room to go quiet and even my mother looked shocked, like she could not believe what was happening.

“She’s mine, mother. Hurting her will hurt me too. I want you to know that.” I answered with a triumphant look, glad that I had one upped her for the very first time.

“Cade...”

“No, mother, please listen.”

“NO! You will listen.” She screamed and rose to her feet, picking up the bottle of wine and throwing it directly at me. I knew better than to dodge it because it meant I would have hell to pay later if I did so I just stood and let the bottle collide with my head, shattering as the contents poured all over my body, even though we both knew that it wouldn’t hurt me.

Like all the other Lycan heirs I had supernatural abilities and mine was indestructibility and superhuman strength. I couldn’t be harmed, at least, not as easily as regular werewolves can. What would kill a typical werewolf would only sting me. The only thing tested and trusted to truly hurt me was rhodium, and that’s why it was the focus of my mother’s illegal exports. If Rhodium could hurt me, a small amount could ruin an entire pack.

I felt the pain as the bottle shattered on my skull, it was not enough to really hurt me. My heart however was not spared because I had really hoped that she would have reacted differently.

Kyle was all smiles as he watched the wine dribble down my hair to my shoulders but I couldn’t care less about him, my worry solely on how to quickly get out of here and get back to Lily. On how to protect her from my mother’s wrath.

“I won’t allow it, Cade. You will not be mated to another werewolf especially not that cursed child. I will not allow you to betray me for something as measly as love. Your loyalty is to me and the Corrigan family. I can’t allow it to happen. Not when I’m so close. You will not ruin this for me, do you hear me?” She roared and nodded at Kyle who rose immediately and walked up to me. I thought he was about to leave, to go to Lily’s and I blocked his path.

“This is between me and my mother. Go and sit the f**k down.”

He merely smirked, putting on brass knuckles coated in rhodium.

“No hard feelings between us, bro.”

And then he punched me hard in the face, knocking me out.

The next time I woke up, I was no longer in the living room and my head spun. I tried to move from the bed I was on but it felt like I was trying to lift a house.

What had happened?

Where was I?

I tried to remember what had led me to being here but I could only come up blank no matter how hard I tried.

From where I laid on the bed, all but paralyzed, I could hear my mother talking to another man.

“I have broken whatever ties him to the girl but you must not hurt her yet. Not until she successfully mates with another if you don’t want to harm your son in the process. As for your son, I have also effectively wiped his memories of everything concerning Lily.”

Lily?

I hanged on to the name. Why did I feel like I knew who that was? Why couldn’t I figure out the answer?

“How confident are you in your spell, Ammon?”

Ammon? I remembered him. He was the dark witch that did dirty jobs for my mother.

Why had he erased my memory?

Why?

“My lady, my spells are unbreakable and can only be undone if I die. And we both know how impossible that is. I cannot be harmed by mere dogs. No offence to you and your kind, my lady.”

They continued speaking as my mother offered to escort him out of the house but all I could feel was extreme agony in my heart and a void that felt like something had been there before but I couldn’t put a finger on what it was. Dorian was in severe pain and howled within me but I was so confused.

I tried to hang on to the thin golden thread that seemed to have snapped, tried to hold on for dear life, but all I felt was myself falling deeper and deeper into the void.

Looking to the table by my bed, I saw my phone and with great effort reached out for it.

Opening it, I saw a lot of unanswered calls and messages from a number that was registered with the name 'Lily.'

Cade? Are you okay? Did something happen?

Caden Corrigan, this isn't funny. You can stop playing now.

I can't believe you'd do this to me!

I never want to see you again.

I saw a breakup letter that I didn't even remember typing but had been sent by me.

More confused, I tried to make a call but it wasn't going through. When I texted her, I realized that I was blocked.

What in the hell was going on?

I was about to try ransacking my brain again but my mother walked in, a victorious smile on her face.

"You may have disappointed me some but thanks to the witch, I have been able to salvage the situation and put an end to your relationship with that girl."

She said that last phrase like she was speaking about something abominable. "Make no mistake, Caden, if I find out by some ridiculous way that you still remember and you went behind my back to get in contact with that girl, I will kill her myself, and I'll make you watch, so that you think twice before disobeying my orders again."

What girl? But even as I struggled to remember, I wondered if it was a good thing that I didn't remember after all.

My mother's threats are always always thinly veiled promises.

Grabbing my phone from my hand, she frowned at me, her azure eyes turning even darker as she glared at the screen before she turned around and headed towards the door.

“Get dressed and meet me in my office. You will be going with your cousin for the next wolfsbane deal with the hunters. At least, he’s less of a disappointment than you are.”

The door slammed and I forced myself up, still feeling dizzy as I headed into my closet but even after dressing up, I still could not even understand what was going on.

The name... Layla, laleh... or was it lilac?

I grabbed my hair, tugging at the roots to remember.

Remember remember remember!

Lily...

I gasped, scrambling to my desk to write the name down, along with the seven different variations currently floating in my head. I held my head as a migraine pierced through my skull, almost sending me to my knees.

Lily, Lily, Lily... i held on to that name like a lifeline, already forgetting the face that was attached to it.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 136

Aiden’s pov

“Wait, are you saying that your mother orchestrated the m a s s a c r e?” Ren whispered, unable to believe what he just heard, what Corrigan just told us and simultaneously voicing the question I’m sure I would have asked if I wasn’t currently spiraling into madness.

“No, she merely advised Edgar on the steps to take, knowing that it would weaken him enough to let Victor liaise with the hunters to infiltrate the pack.”

“Why?” Zac was suddenly furious. Livid. “Why will she cause the death of THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE for no real reason?!”

“Victor convinced my mother that Edgar knew of her plans. And she needed him out of the way to get to his daughter. It’s just power play for her. Victor killing your parents, Aiden, was something nobody saw coming.”

I couldn’t believe it. I could laugh at the absurdity of all of this.

In fact. Ha ha! Ha ha ha!! I can’t-

I clutched my chest, panting hard, suddenly finding it difficult to breathe.

Everything... everything had been a lie...

My head spun, my ears ringing as I tried to process all the information that Cade had just thrown at me.

When he first showed up, we had wanted to get Lily and find out why she left like that, but Rhea and Chelsea decided it was a better idea for them to go after her. While they had gone to find her, we, the boys and I had led Cade to our basement lounge to hear what he had to say and why Lily had reacted so badly to him.

I was sure at the back of my mind that for her to have reacted that way, he must have done something to her because the look in her eyes when she saw him was almost a replica of how she used to look at me before; in fear and disgust.

But this?

What Cade was saying was unbelievable. It couldn’t be true. It was some kind of joke!

We were well acquainted with Cade Corrigan and his family and met each other at social functions thanks to our parents but he had ended up having to go to Gold crest high, founded by his grandparents while Zac, Ren and I had come to the academy which was built jointly by our families.

He didn’t have any reason to have any sort of hatred towards me so how could he say that my uncle... my own uncle had been involved in the m*****e of my family, his own family?

How could he say something so abhorrent and expect me to take it as truth?

All my life, I had been told that it was Edgar, Lily's father and it was what had played a huge role in how I had treated Lily from the start; but this? And everything he had been saying was going on with Gold crest?

How could everything I ever knew be a lie?

Victor was many things, an abuser included but a mass murderer? The wards had been infiltrated with help from not just him but Cade's family? Rhodium, wolfsbane, silver... all those were a death sentence for our kind, and now this thing called feral blooms...

I had narrowly survived that incident thanks to the protective spells that had been casted on me due to the numerous murder attempts at the time but what if I hadn't?

I would be dead, like my parents who had trusted Victor with their life and my sister who idolized him.

No, this was not possible.

It couldn't be.

Cade had to be lying.

My hands shaking, I grabbed Cade by the shirt and pinned him against the wall, shaking him hard.

"You're lying! Tell me you're f*****g lying, man!"

"Aiden" Ren called but Zac held him back.

"Why should I believe you? Why should any of us? Why should we trust a word that comes out of your lying mouth? You already admitted to working for a traitor! The council will have your head for it!"

Cade shoved me off and dusted his jacket, casting me a miffed glare. "Why would I come all the way here to fabricate a lie about my own family? I know this because I overheard Victor telling my mother about it and her being complicit in the plan. It was my own cousin, Kyle who had sold Victor the feral blooms and if you remember correctly, the ferals had left the workers in the house alone that dreadful night because they were intent on finding the alpha,

luna, you and your sister, almost like they had been particularly instructed to do so.

“How many feral wolves do you know are that intelligent? Think, Aiden, think about it.” He answered calmly, even though I was seconds away from tearing him to pieces for destroying the peace of mind I once had.

My shoulders dropped, suddenly heavy like I was carrying a boulder on my back, my claws retracted as my spirit slumped, my entire body racking with revulsion as I remembered how confused the entire pack had been that ferals had left people alive in the halls as they passed through and only slaughtered my family.

Regular ferals were chaotic, wild and unable to manage but those ferals that night had been oddly specific. Too specific.

Bile rose in my throat and when I staggered back, Ren gripped my shoulder, and I realized that I felt dizzy as he led me to sit.

I dropped my face in my hands. How could I face Lily after learning all this? How could I even look her in the eye and tell her that her father was indeed innocent after everything that I had done to her?

She would never even be able to forgive me for what I had done if she knew that all this time, all my accusations had been false?

Even if she did, now more than ever, it was glaring that a scumbag like me did not even deserve a pure soul like hers. I felt like throwing up.

“Have some water.” Ren whispered gently, his hand on my back was the only thing that still kept me grounded despite the earth shattering news. He was a better man than I would ever be.

Zac frowned at Cade, his arms folded.

“How did you regain your memories? Because why are you just confessing now?”

“I always knew her name. Our texts were backed up, so it was easy to find her face. We texted a lot, she used to send me pictures...” he cleared his throat, his cheeks going red, before he continued, “but my memories only started coming back to me a few weeks ago. I remembered the witch telling my

mother that what he had done to me was only going to be reversed if he died. My guess is that he is dead now.”

The witch... Nyx? I asked.

Of course, Aiden. He is the same one I killed.

You didn't tell me that he was connected to Cade. How much do you know?

I told you, we had an old score to settle. That is all you need to know about the matter.

With that, I felt his presence leave, leaving me with a bunch of unanswered questions swirling in my head. Nyx was done talking and if I didn't want him to throw a tantrum, it was best to leave him as he is.

“As to why I'm here now,” Cade continued, “I've been keeping tabs on Lily since I started getting my memories back, all behind my mother's back, of course. I learned that Lily had found her mate in the process. While I don't think my mother or Victor know about it yet, it is only a matter of time before they do and restart their plans in earnest.”

I glanced at Ren and saw that he was staring at Cade earnestly, a telltale that he was searching his mind.

“Is he telling the truth, Ren?” I asked, hoping he'd call bullshit.

Ren looked away from him to nod, his jaw stiff and body taut with anger and disappointment and we both knew that he wanted so badly for the whole truth to be a lie.

“So what do we do now?” Zac asked and Cade shrugged.

“My loyalty is to Lily and Lily alone. I don't care if you believe me, all I care about is keeping my mate safe.”

Hearing that, something sparked to life in my chest, rage exploding in my veins as I glared at Cade.

“Your mate? Lily is mine! MY mate! Don't think for a second that because you came here and told this unbelievable as f u c k tale, you can just waltz back into her life and pick up where you left off.”

“Being her boyfriend is very different from being her mate, Cade, we can’t verify your claim since Lily never felt the bond. Choose your words carefully.” Ren said, and I realized that he had rested his hand on my shoulder again, perhaps to stop me from acting on impulse because my claws were out again.

Cade scoffed at me. “You really are so full of yourself, Aiden. She was mine first and I didn’t consent to having our bond broken which still makes her mine in my books. But unlike you, I’m not narcissistic enough to think I still have a chance with Lily after completely f*****g up what we had before. If I could go back, I would have never left Lily to herself, I’d have clawed my way back to her. But you, I heard about how you used to treat her and now you think you can wash all your misdoings away even with this recent information that has come to light? You’re even lucky to kiss the ground that she walks on and you’d do well to remember it.”

The fact that Cade was right enraged me so bad, I rose to my feet, ready to pummel his stupid f u c k i n g face when a loud explosion rocked the very foundation of the entire school, shaking the ground we were standing on. People started screaming and I heard the sound of scampering feet as they started running helter skelter. My eyes widened and I looked at the boys, as we all realized what was going on.

The wards surrounding Shadow Cove had been broken.

Again.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 137

Aiden’s pov

My first instinct was to find Lily immediately as I held on to one of the pillars for support, another earthquake, this time, coming from the east, ripping through the school.

The building shook, the ceiling trembled, debris falling on our heads but it held against the assault.

I had literally been thinking that the news I just got was the worst thing that could happen to Shadow cove but it didn’t look like it was. Not one bit.

Not when it seemed my uncle and Cade’s mother were already putting their plans into action.

I needed to get to Lily and make sure she was safe first. Later, I would kneel at her feet and beg for her forgiveness. And after that, I will hunt down my uncle like the swine that he is, sink my teeth into his flesh and tear him limb from limb.

It was more mercy than he deserved.

Rushing towards the door, I threw it open and froze as students in school uniforms that were the same as ours, human kids that we had been classmates with for most of our lives stood in front of us.

I recognized Hanz, Tony, Carlos. They've sat with us in classes, at our table... so why the f u c k were they pointing guns and c*****g bows and arrows at us?

"Well, hello, Your Majesties," Hanz greeted, a wicked smile on his lips as he aimed directly at my chest.

He fired without any hesitation, before I could even force my locked limbs to react and shake off the shock and I braced myself for the impact as Cade threw himself in front of me.

I wasn't the only one that was surprised when silver bullets bounced off of him harmlessly.

If there was any doubt that Cade was born to a royal, then this had distinguished it, thanks to his abilities.

I looked at him in shock, not expecting him to risk his life for me, indestructible or not. "Thanks, man-"

But Cade raised a hand, still standing in front of me, acting as a wall.

"Don't thank me just yet. Everything I'm doing is for Lily and if you foolishly let yourself get hurt, she's going to get hurt too."

The hunters were already recovering from the shock of seeing their ace weapon bounce off Cade's body, and in annoyance, Juliet, a junior that offered to suck my d**k once just to get invited to one of our parties growled and nocked an arrow in her bow but Ren acted immediately, throwing both arms up, using his powers on them and we watched as they all dropped to the ground lifeless.

What I knew about Ren's powers was that it took a good amount of time to actually die from his abilities. Either he's been practicing or he took a mystery energy drink that boosted his powers.

Turning around to face me, he raised his blond brows at me, his eyes glaring at me.

"Now is not the time to be distracted, Aiden. You could have instantly unleashed your hounds to hold them down. Focus. I can't have you dying on my watch."

Gritting my teeth at the truth in his words, I dipped my chin in response and he nodded, Zac stepping out to spy the hallway to clear the area.

He was right. I could not afford to be distracted right now or dwell on the horrific news that Cade had dropped when we were currently under attack and even our human classmates seemed to be in on it.

"Coast is clear. Let's move." Zac said.

"Lily is fine. She's in the private parking lot waiting for us with Rhea, Chelsea and Chase. They are safe for now. We should get to them as soon as possible." Ren said and I hated how the childish part of me reminded me that I was still not bonded to Lily in a way that made telepathy possible.

Well, with what Cade had said, I probably would never be able to seal the mating bond with Lily and would have to just be glad that she was in my orbit.

"Let's go." Zac said and as we headed out.

Taking a deep breath, I felt my eyes turn dark and shadows leave my body taking the shape of hounds that immediately started running ahead of us to scout the perimeter and find Lily and protect her, Cerebrus leading the pack.

I sent a dark shadow to block out the sun, plunging the entire school into darkness and immediately my senses heightened as I knew it would for me and other wolves who would be able to see in the dark.

The shadow was not going to last for long but at least it would slow down the werewolf hunters and give us a fighting chance.

There were safe spaces littered around the school to hide in case of an invasion, places that the humans were not privy to. I expected them to hide until the coast is clear and a task force comes to do their job and defend the city. Right now, my only priority was my mate, getting to her and getting her the f u c k out of here. There was only one safehouse I trusted enough to hold her, and that was Zac's home, considering his home is built like a fortress and his family is in charge of the task force.

As we headed to the garage, I fought to ignore the bodies on the ground that we passed, werewolves like us, students like us, murdered by humans. They probably would have never thought that today would be their last and their lives were brutally stolen from them.

Entering the garage, I heaved a sigh of relief to find that it was still pretty much untouched. Cerberus had scampered ahead of the pack and was now giving Lily a thorough lick-down, wagging his tail happily and bouncing around her while she scratched his chin. Chase, Chelsea and Rhea wisely gave her a wide berth, distancing themselves from the shadow hounds surrounding Lily.

They disappeared as soon as we stepped into their line of sight, seeing as their mission was accomplished and Cerberus gave a little whine before disappearing into nothing but dark smoke. Lily let out a relieved sigh and threw her arms around Ren, hugging Ren tight, followed by Zac before she hugged me. She ignored Cade like he didn't exist and I dreaded what would become of our relationship when she finds out about her father being falsely accused. How she never even deserved any of the treatment she received.

Cade tried to act like he was unaffected by her lack of acknowledgement but I saw him swallow hard and look away when she went back to Ren.

"We need to move and fast." Zac announced and it wasn't long before we made a unanimous decision to drive to Zac's home in Poison Fang.

It was the most reasonable option, not just because his home was one of the biggest safe houses and death traps I knew, but it was also far away from the wards and the closest pack we could be sure to find safety in. Gold Crest was definitely not an option and Silver Moon was too close to the wards while Night Shade was the farthest away, not to mention my uncle might be there, waiting.

We decided to take two cars, Ren's and mine, with Chelsea, Chase and Rhea, riding with Ren, while Zac, Cade and Lily riding with me.

Cade got into the passenger seat while Zac and Lily were at the back and even though we weren't bonded, I could practically sniff Lily's anxiety in the entire car. The entire car was tense with silence and when I watched Zac pull Lily to his side, my grip on the wheels relaxed a little. She was safe. She was with us. We would protect her.

Cade on the other hand did not look pleased and when he looked at me, I glared at him.

"What was that about?" I asked, talking about the sudden attack because he had not mentioned that part and it was making me feel very wary of having him in the car right now. Ren had said that he was telling the truth but that didn't mean we could trust him.

Surprisingly, he looked just as confused as I was.

"I know you don't trust me but I didn't know anything about this or why they chose to even break the wards and allow the attack today. My mother had been insistent on not making any moves until they got their hands on Lily."

"On me?" Lily said almost immediately and from the mirror, I saw her eyes widen in panic and confusion.

"I'll explain everything to you later, sweetheart." Zac answered immediately, glaring at Cade who looked apologetic for blurting that out.

"So you don't know what's next?" I asked and he shook his head quietly, looking terribly shaken. I couldn't read feelings like Ren could but I could see that Cade looked genuinely disturbed by the whole situation and as much as I wanted a reason to dislike him, he was being genuine about not having a hand in his mother's plans.

"There were so many bodies." Lily whispered to herself, her voice broken and I fought the urge to stop driving and reach for her because she was right to weep. Our colleagues were dead, had been murdered and it felt like the m*****e was happening all over again, a m*****e that in my blind rage and gullibility had blamed Lily and her father for. A m*****e that had been orchestrated instead by my uncle.

I was so angry with myself for being so stupid and allowing myself to be easily manipulated by Victor. Burdened with survivor's guilt, I had made it easy for him to manipulate me, to abuse me and had remained subservient to him

because he was the last remaining relative I had, the only one that was left that I could still protect. He had been so good to me when I was little that I always made excuses for him when he finally showed his claws.

I'm hard to love.

I don't obey orders.

He's disciplining me in the only way he knows how.

Excuses, excuses, excuses, even when he broke my bones and tore through my back with his whips designed specifically to hurt me, and my love and respect for him turned to poisonous hate and begrudging loyalty...

But now?

All bets were off.

I will coat the entire pack with his blood.

If an opportunity ever came for me to kill Victor Vanderbilt, I will not hesitate. And if the opportunity doesn't come, I will create one myself.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 138

Lily's pov

The entire ride was filled with silence, tense silence at that it somehow it allowed me to think and my thoughts didn't bring anything but more confusion and many questions.

What did Cade's mother want with me? And from what he had said, it meant that his mother was responsible for breaking the wards. Why would she do that sort of thing as a lycan? Wasn't her loyalty supposed to be to us in Shadow cove and not the humans?

"Don't think too much about anything, alright? I'll explain everything soon." Zac whispered, his lips finding my ears. I was currently swaddled in his jacket, his arms around me and I realized how tense I was.

Tilting my head a little, I brushed my lips against his and that was all it took to make him grab my chin and kiss me senseless, moaning at my taste as his tongue dipped between my lips and swirled around my mouth.

When he lifted his lips from mine, I was panting hard and clutching his tshirt and my eyes mistakenly caught Cade who was gaping at me like I had sprouted two heads.

“But y- your mate- Isn’t Aiden your-“

“Mind your business, Corrigan and face your f u c k i n g front.” Zac drawled, taking my face again and kissing me even more.

It felt like my body was on fire, but it wasn’t from embarrassment. No, a part of me was thrilled that I had an audience and I could feel Aiden’s eyes piercing me through the rearview mirror and I caught his eyes, flashing him a grin as Zac lowered me into the seat, his lips never leaving mine as he took my hand and slipped it between us, letting out an animalistic groan when I cupped his erection.

I froze. My heart was pounding in my chest as I looked up at him, biting my lip. Making out with him, with my other boyfriend and my ex boyfriend in the same car with us and definitely watching the show, was one thing. Having s*x with him in the backseat with an eager audience was another.

“Sweetheart,” Zac panted against my lips, “unless you want me to f u c k you right here, right now, I’d have to pull away for a minute.” His voice was tight, strained, as if he was pained.

“Oh!” I floundered, trying to move away. “sorry.”

Zac startled, chuckled, kissed me softly, tugging on my bottom lip with his teeth, “so f u c k i n g adorable,” he teased, before letting me go.

I was blushing to my roots and when I glanced at Aiden, his jaw was tightly set, his grip was hard on the steering wheel, but to his credit, he didn’t snap. Maybe this, maybe a relationship with all of them could actually work.

Taking a deep breath, I looked out the window, purposely ignoring Cade’s eyes on me and I was suddenly lost in awe as Aiden drove through past the large sign board that symbolized that we were officially now in Poison Fang territory. My mouth dropped open in awe as Aiden drove deeper into the heart

of the pack and by the time we got to the large gates that were the entrance into Zac's home, my lips were nearly falling to the ground.

I had been to Ren and Aiden's home but none were as large as this. Zac's home was built like a fortress and was arguably the biggest, strongest house that I had ever seen.

"We're here." Zac announced and there was an expression on his face that I interpreted as nostalgia as Aiden parked beside the large water fountain at the center of the large space leading to the front doors. Ren's car parked some distance from us and they came down and walked towards us.

Just as Zac was helping me out of the car, the formerly empty porch became filled with guards, both male and female dressed in black and armed to the teeth and I opened my mouth to ask Zac about them when the large entrance doors swung open and out from it came a woman that at one glance was the template from which Zac Talaverra was cast.

She had the same dark hair, in a short bob and eyes that were so dark they could be mistaken for obsidian when they were actually dark brown in colour. She was also wearing a black bodysuit, knives and guns strapped to her waist and vest, and heavy combat boots.

Stopping merely inches from us, she surveyed all of us, a frown on her face and when Zac walked up to her, she pulled him into a fierce hug and that was when I realized that she was really petite.

"My son" she said, eyes filled with joy that was brief and Zac smiled bending down to receive kisses on his cheek.

And that was the end of anything emotion coming from this woman because after that, her face went back to a disinterested gaze, one brow tilted up as she looked at me.

"Mum, this is Lily, my bonded." Zac said as he came back to my side and I bowed slightly in greeting.

"Lily, this is my mother, Mariah. Luna of Poison Fang."

The others obviously were well acquainted with her.

Mariah looked like she was about to say something but then her eyes shifted from me and landed on Cade, her disinterested face turning to one of fierce rage.

Glaring at Cade, she pointed a finger at him.

“Seize him, slice his head off and send it as a parcel to his b***h of a mother.”

Immediately, two guards grabbed Cade and even though I was glad that Cade was finally getting humiliated just like I had prayed he would while I was trying to deal with my heartbreak, a tiny part of me was worried.

Zac, Cade and Aiden spoke at the same time.

“Mum, you have to listen first before taking rash decisions.”

“I can explain”

“Let him explain first before you mete out punishment”

“Mariah, please listen to us.” Ren added, taking my hand and I realized that I was frozen from the sudden tension.

They looked like they were about to say more but one death glare from Mariah was all it took to make them immediately swallow back their words and if we were not in a life or death situation right now, I would have laughed at how scared they looked.

Even though she was probably the smallest person in room when it came to size, she exuded a kind of charm and authority that made it easy to stare down at the boys and it made me like her instantly.

“While I would love to sit here, have a chit chat and listen to you boys defend Corrigan, I need to be out of here in fifteen minutes and join my husband at the wards to try and salvage what is left of the barriers. It’s already being contained from reports I’ve received but I have to see exactly how much damage has been done by the hunters who were only able to penetrate the wards by liaising with the Corrigan family.”

My eyes immediately moved to Cade in shock. I had thought that I had misheard when Aiden and Cade were talking about it on the ride here but from the way Mariah looked like she was one minute away from tearing him to

pieces while Cade was staring at me from where he was being held by the guards, his eyes begging to be understood, it seemed I hadn't misheard after all.

"How do you know about the Corrigan's being involved mother?"

"Victor informed us about her plans, even though by the time he reached out to us the wards were already down and the damage was done."

"That motherfucker is lying!" Aiden snapped and Zac nodded in agreement.

"He's just trying to throw Cade's mother under the bus and absolve himself of his involvement."

Mariah narrowed her eyes at me, her hand clutching the gun strapped to her waist.

"Tell me then, if Victor was lying, why is Night Shade being affected right now? Shouldn't it be relatively untouched the way Gold Crest is if they were allies?"

"What do you mean?" Rhea asked from where she stood between Chase and Chelsea and Mariah laughed but it was short and lacked amusement.

"As we speak, the streets of Night Shade are riddled with ferals and it's now a bloodbath. Victor himself is requesting help and trying to keep the ferals at bay. He requested your presence there, Aiden, knowing I would be the first place you'd come to. Your abilities would be better utilized there right now but I am now having second thoughts about sending you there blindly. Besides, the council has decided that our children must be protected at all costs."

Immediately, I felt a sharp wave of pain and sorrow washing over me violently and immediately I looked to Aiden, his expression stunned and confused and I hated that he looked so confused and frustrated.

Ren stepped forward, eyes locked on Mariah's and looked towards where Cade was.

"We can verify that Victor has been behind an attack like this before, particularly the m*****e that killed Maddox and Elizabeth, he used ferals to do the job. I don't know what has happened now with the partnership between him and Cade's mother but..."

“What you speak of is treason, son!” Mariah interjected, her gaze dark and chilling and the entire courtyard went silent as a grave.

“Do you know the gravity of the accusation you are making?”

“Yes. You know what I can do. You know my abilities. I know for certain that my accusation is not false and if you would just listen to what Cade has to say before meting out judgement, you would see that he’s telling the truth too.”

“I also know that your deductions can be influenced by presumptions. I will not put our community at risks for the likes of traitors like him-“

“No, Mariah. This isn’t a presumption. Cade is telling the truth and I vouch for him.”

Mariah looked at him for a long time and I had to commend Ren because I would have wilted under such an intense gaze before nodding.

“Fine. Cade will be taken to the cells for now and I will speak to the rest of the council so that we can separate truth from lie but that will be after we get the rest of Shadow cove under control.”

“Thank you.” Ren answered and I saw Cade heave a sigh of relief.

“Now, my men and I will be on our way, you are safe here, Zac will show you to your rooms” As she kept speaking, I noticed a gardener that I had seen loitering around reach into his pocket and before I could tell Zac that he looked suspicious, he pulled out a pin of a grenade and threw it at us.

In a split second, I saw Aiden react and a blanket of shadow covered us. Cade threw himself over me just as the bomb detonated, scattering silver ashes all over the blanket that protected us.

I was still on the ground with Cade covering me when the blanket vanished and there was a scream. When I looked, I saw Zac in his Lycan form, tearing the gardener to pieces.

The look on Mariah’s face was downright murderous as she confirmed what we were all thinking.

“Our home has been infiltrated.”

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 139

Lily's POV

“His mind is scrambled,” Ren said from where he was kneeling beside the decimated body, his hands and his eyes glowing and his hands hovered over the head of the body. “Dark magic. I can't trace its origin, can't pick his memories. It's impossible to tell who sent him.”

“It's definitely Victor, the motherfucking bastard!” Aiden cursed, shaking with rage. I tried to meet his eyes but he wouldn't meet mine and I just knew guilt was eating him up on the inside.

If his uncle was behind this, I deduced that he was also behind the first that took Aiden's family's lives and I just knew he was regretting all he has ever done to me. But I don't care anymore. What's in the past is in the past and all I want right now is my mate, our bond and my wolf to fight, to be useful in this incoming war.

This is the first wave. I just know it. And I want to be ready when s h i t hits the fan. We can't risk innocent people dying anymore.

“Or it could be Corrigan.” Mariah hissed, her eyes slicing to Cade who had easily shrug the men off like the weighed nothing and threw himself in front of me. In front of the line of fire. “For all we know, we have her spy in our midst.”

Zac stepped in front of Cade, obstructing his mother's withering glare. “Why will Cade serve himself on a golden platter for the off chance that you might not slice his head off? Why will he take the risk? Why will a mother even send her son a suicide mission? Think about it, mum. He's our only chance of finding out what the rebellion is truly planning. It's his word against Victor. We need him alive.”

Mariah gritted her teeth, her jaw ticked. “Gonzalez.”

“Yes, boss?”

“Round up every human in the house and kill them.”

“Mum!”

A look from her silenced Zac. “This is my home! My turf! If I can’t protect it, what’s the point of trying to protect an entire pack. We gave the humans a chance and they made their choice. I’ll die before I ever let anything happen to you or mine. We can’t afford to be faint at heart.”

Zac bit his thumb deep in thought, and then he snapped his fingers. “Why don’t I be in charge of questioning the humans? I’ll have Ren help with interrogating them. We’ve had people working with us all my life. We can’t afford to lose loyal workers in this war. The Talaverra name is not built on the blood of the innocent.”

Begrudging silence, a hesitant nod and the Luna of Poison Fang gave her permission.

“Lucas, Savio, do what he says. Round up the humans and wait for his instructions. My son is in charge while I’m gone. I trust he’ll make the right decisions.”

To Aiden, she sighed, taking in his livid glare, his hostile eyes that refused to settle. “Aiden. Look at me, son.”

He did.

“Elizabeth was my best friend. I loved her like a sister and I love you like my son. If Victor somehow has a hand in this, I will personally defend you in front of the council and have you exonerated. But if you leave here before I can confirm what is really going on, my hands are tied. You will be treated as a traitor as he is alleged to be because the council will argue that you survived the m*****e. You must wait until we make a verdict because I cannot simply take Cade’s word for the truth and make a judgement. You cannot leave this premises. Do you understand?”

Aiden was trembling, shaking with rage, but he nodded, his fists clenched.

Walking up to Zac, she took his hand, her eyes going soft. “My son, take care of things here. I trust I am leaving my home in good hands. I am proud of you, Zachary, you will be a good alpha one day, and you will make your bonded very happy.” She flashed me a small smile as she glanced at me.

Zac’s gaze softened and he nodded, squeezing his mother’s hand briefly before they separated.

“Ren,” she whispered, pulling my chosen mate into a warm hug. “You’ve always been the calmer one with a good head on your shoulders. I know I am leaving my sons in good hands with you. Keep them in line like you always do. I will make it back as soon as I can.”

Ren hugged her back, kissing both her cheeks. “Of course, Luna Talaverra.”

With last greetings (for now) to Chelsea, Rhea and Chase, she began walking away, she stopped in front a bike that was even bigger than the one that Zac owned and climbed on it, turning on the ignition before looking at us.

“You are the future of our species and my generation will do all we can to keep yours alive. Please do not for any reason leave the house until the situation has been contained. There is no foolishness in leaving to fight another day. Take care of yourselves, and don’t frustrate Lily before I return. I need to hear all about what’s really going on between you all.”

Throwing me a wink, she revved the engine and rode out of the courtyard with her guards in tow, some in cars and others on bikes.

The guards that remained pulled Cade away, towards the holding cell I presumed and I watched with my heart in my throat as he kept his eyes locked on me. I wanted nothing to do with Cade but there was really no reason for me to run away now. Not this time. We were in the middle of a war and I was done running away from everyone that ever hurt me, especially when staying would equipe with what it takes to save myself.

It seemed Cade knew more than Zac and the others and I decided that I needed to find a way to question him. My eyes followed the guards and I made a mental note of the direction they were taking Cade in, just as Zac took my hand and led me into his home.

My mouth fell open in shock because the interior of the house somehow looked even bigger than how it was outside and as we walked together, the others at our back, the house was prowling with scary looking guards, who had their faces in a permanent stoic fashion until their eyes landed on us, which caused them to smile in a way that I might have found disturbing if I didn’t realize that it seemed out of all of us here, I was the only one who was not acquainted to the people in this home. While the others exchanged greetings, I kept to my corner, my hand in Zac’s.

He led us into a large living room afterwards and I felt safe knowing that Aiden and Ren were right behind me.

“Hello Jenkins!” Zac said, greeting a big, hefty, older man with an eye patch that I suspected was hiding his missing eye. He was sitting behind the sophisticated bar located by one corner of the room.

“Kiddo. It’s been ages, man. For a second there, I forgot that Mariah had a kid who hated to live here. “

“Only because I hate your stupid face.”

“Well played, Zac, well played.” The two of them laughed and then Zac became quiet as she looked at me, his eyes intense.

“Jenkins, this is Lily. Lily, meet Jenkins.”

“Hello, beautiful. Want a drink?”

“No,” Zac interjected before I could voice my refusal to take alcohol, “but the boys do. Told them you make the best drinks and they didn’t believe me.”

“What?” Jenkins cried, offended, “that’s preposterous!”

“That’s not the only thing they don’t believe,” Zac confided, “The other day, I was telling Aiden and Ren about how you fought an army of ferals all by yourself.”

“Oh that’s crazy! We have to rectify that immediately. I remember what happened, clear as day! I was there! I lost me an eye!” Jenkins proclaimed, dismayed and Zac’s grin could split both cheeks.

“Why don’t you take some drinks to them and tell them all over again how you defeated the ferals all by yourself, as well as a few of your other achievements because they are just dying to hear the truth from your mouth! Show them your stuff, man!”

Jenkins immediately sprung into action, barrelling towards the boys to bring them to the bar and Zac chuckled as he took my hand and led me upstairs while old man Jenkins began his odious tale.

“Where are we going?” I asked, laughing because he was laughing and it felt like we were sneaking around, doing something we shouldn’t be doing. He stopped in front of a door almost immediately after.

“My humble abode.” He answered and opened the door, leading me in.

I gasped as I took in his bedroom that was much larger than my living room back at home. He had a huge four poster bed that could fit four grown men, a baby piano in a corner with posters of his favourite artistes and bands. Everything about his room was dark and I could barely even tell if it was daytime because of the dark window blinds.

“Wow” I said, rushing to touch his vinyl record player that was currently on his desk, my eyes sighting the guitar in his recording corner.

He was really such a creative and I was intrigued.

“Can I touch your things?” I asked and turned around to get my answer but Zac’s response was to grab my face and slam his lips against mine, kissing me so hard, I felt my breath whoosh out of me.

My body automatically moulded into him and I pushed myself up on my tiptoes, grabbing his shirt and pushing him back against the door as I gave in to the desire, the need, the want, swirling like an endless pool of lust in my lower abdomen.

He gripped my a s s, squeezing hard as our kisses turned hugrier, animalistic.

A growl rumbled in his chest and he wasn’t even trying to hide the fact that he wanted to devour me. I tasted my blood on his lips, felt the delicious sting of his fangs, his mouth, teeth, tongue and lips were consuming me as he sucked and bit and nibbled on my lips, his moan was more like a pained groan, eager to be satisfied, yet hopelessly insatiable.

He grabbed my thigh, squeezing so hard, I’m sure I’ll have bruises later and I tore at his shirt, buttons popping open and flying everywhere as I sought to feel his skin.

He hissed, as if in pain when my hand touched the cool smoothness of his bare skin and feeling encouraged, I wrapped a leg around his waist, grinding against his erection.

“Duchess... f**k!” He whispered into the next kiss, panting heavily against my lips as he hoisted me up into his arms and I wrapped both my legs around his waist. His big hands cradled my a s s, he buried his face between my b r e a s t s, “this a s s, these b o o b s... drive me f*****g insane.”

Aching, I brought his face up to kiss him some more, rocking against him so that my soaking wet panties rubbed against his hardness.

One strong arm gripped the back of my head, the other cradled my a s s. There was nothing playful or sweet about the way Zac kissed me ravenously, like he was starving and I was the only thing that could quench his hunger.

I didn't think he was moving until my back hit the bed and he was covering my body with his.

“I've been looking for a way to get rid of those bastards so that I can have you all for myself.” He rasped breathlessly against my lips, obsidian eyes piercing into mine. “I don't even know if this feels like a good time for any of this but I want you, Lily. I want you so bad it feels like my blood is on fire. I want you so bad, it feels like I'd die if I don't have you right now. I need you, baby. I need you in my lungs, in my veins, in my f u c k i n g brain. I want to know if I can have you now, if you want this too.”

My voice was lost because my head was still dizzy from his kisses but I nodded repeatedly, my entire body shaking with need as Zac let out an impatient but satisfied growl as he practically tore my uniform off my body, stripping my top bare within second.

“Holy s h i t,” he gasped, his eyes widening, taking in my topless body, “holy f u c k!”

And he buried his face in my chest and began nibbling and sucking on my skin.

Electrifying, sizzling kisses short-circuited my brain until I couldn't tell how I have ever survived without getting kissed by him, without letting him know my body.

My hands roamed over his body as if getting familiar with the landscape, this territory, this land that was now my own.

Mine. Mine mine.

Anyone that tries to take him away from me will have to pry him out of my cold, dead hands.

Threading my hand into his hair, I tugged hard, painfully, pulling his face up to meet mine.

“Kiss me,” I gasped and he smirked slowly.

“And where should I kiss you, duchess?” He asked, dropping his head to trace his lips on my aching pulse, “here?” He sucked, nibbled, left his mark, traced his lips to my collar bones and I felt the cold tip of his fang. “Here?”

“Yes, yes yes yes,” my feet curled in anticipation, toes gripping the sheets as he sunk in, just a little, to give me a taste, as pleasure like I’ve never known pumped into my blood stream.

My cells, my tissues, my blood and my soul sang for him, recognizing who they were bonded to.

His groan was a whimper of praise as he sucked on me. He kissed down my torso, dropping little bites and sucks around the way, asking me if I liked it, if I liked that, if I wanted more.

My reply was a resounding yes yes yes!

I gasped when he grabbed my thighs, spread them.

My eyes flew open. Was he going to...?

“What are you-“

He buried his nose right there! Pressing his nose into the apex of my thighs.

He groaned at my scent and embarrassment tinged my cheeks.

I mean, I’ve made out with four guys in my life, had s*x with one, almost had s*x with two and was currently in the process of doing the deed with one... I should be used to this by now. I shouldn’t be horrified by the thought of Zac eating me out, right? Right?

“Baby, you’re overthinking it,” he whispered, looking up at me.

His hair was mussed, his lips red and swollen, his chest panting, "I've always imagined what you smelled like, what you tasted like."

Gently, he pushed my thighs apart again and maintaining eye contact with me, he ripped my panties off and pressed light kisses to my inner thigh.

"Zac" I gasped as he kissed up the sensitive skin of my inner thigh and he groaned.

"f**k, you smell so good. I bet you taste good too."

I was panting now. Letting go of my inhibitions. I couldn't remember why I was hesitating in the first place.

"I've been good, I've been patient, I played nice with the others," he whispered, nibbling with his teeth and leaving his mark on my thighs. "Won't you reward me for that?"

I was whimpering now, my wetness pooling on the sheets so that it felt cool to my skin when the sheets rubbed against me.

I moaned my response, grabbing his hair and placing it right where I wanted.

Between my legs.

Zac ate me up like I was the only thing that could satisfy him. His groan reverberated through me as he pressed his tongue flat on my clit, eliciting shivers from me and rocking my entire world when he licked from cunt to clit.

I gasped, my eyes rolling to the back of my head as he took my clit in between his lips and sucked hard.

Stars... I've never seen so many stars in my life.

"God, you taste so good, you taste divine, Lily. My goddess," he moaned against my p**y, his wet tongue worshipping me and doing scandalous things to me and I didn't realize how much strength I had in my grip as I pushed myself up on my shoulders and gripped his hair, pushing my hips into his face and rocking against that wicked tongue, my embarrassment long forgotten.

Hair stuck to my sweaty face, my entire body was trembling and I smelled more like him than myself but I didn't mind as I offered him a drink of the gods.

“I could spend an eternity just doing this. I could spend an eternity just eating you out like this. You like it, don’t you. You like my tongue on you soaking wet cunt.”

I didn’t have it in me to give an intelligible reply. Something jumbled up and incoherent escaped my lips but he’d just have to make sense of it.

My o****m was close. So close. I could feel it.

I was almost about to explode when Zac pulled away and moved up to kiss me. “When you c*m, I want to be inside you, marking you, feeling your walls grip my d**k and milk me dry. I want you to reek of my scent, of my cum.”

“Please.” I whimpered, my thoughts splintering into pieces.

I wanted him to possess me. To dominate me. To f**k my insecurities out of me and make me his.

We made quick work of his pants, my fingers tearing at his belt, fumbling with his zipper. And then we both inhaled sharply as he guided his c**k into my wet throbbing entrance.

Slowly, slowly, every single second aching, so beautiful and electrifying, I could cry.

I threw my head back, gasping in pleasure when he was fully seated in me, holding him to me, my legs wrapped around his back as he began to move.

It wasn’t hard and fast, but slow and so intimate, more tears spilled from my eyes.

When I tried to look away from him, when I tried to shut my eyes, he gently took my chin, “no, look at me baby, look at me as I f u c k you. See what you do to me. See how you tear me to f u c k i n g pieces.”

His eyes were deep, penetrating, red. His body was trembling with more heat than I’ve ever felt from him, but his eyes never left mine.

And then he was kissing me as he rolled his hips into mine, evoking tremors and delicious earthquakes in me while his fingers wiped away my tear streaks from my cheeks.

Soon, we were going at it like animals, deep, desperate, hard and fast. I met him thrust for thrust, throwing my head back when he began drilling into me with a speed and depth that had me crying out his name so loud, no soundproof wall could me.

He pushed my hair behind my shoulder and the scrape of his fangs was all the warning I got before he bit into my neck.

Pleasure and pain rocked my world as I tipped over the metaphoric edge.

That bite was the final straw and just as I felt our bonding click into place, I let the hands of o****m pull me into his arms as he released into me, his body trembling and grasping for me like I was his lifeline.

It's good because he was mine and we held each other, kissing hard and trembling harder as we came at the same time.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 139

Lily's POV

“His mind is scrambled,” Ren said from where he was kneeling beside the decimated body, his hands and his eyes glowing and his hands hovered over the head of the body. “Dark magic. I can't trace its origin, can't pick his memories. It's impossible to tell who sent him.”

“It's definitely Victor, the m o t h e r f u c k i n g bastard!” Aiden cursed, shaking with rage. I tried to meet his eyes but he wouldn't meet mine and I just knew guilt was eating him up on the inside.

If his uncle was behind this, I deduced that he was also behind the first that took Aiden's family's lives and I just knew he was regretting all he has ever done to me. But I don't care anymore. What's in the past is in the past and all I want right now is my mate, our bond and my wolf to fight, to be useful in this incoming war.

This is the first wave. I just know it. And I want to be ready when s h i t hits the fan. We can't risk innocent people dying anymore.

“Or it could be Corrigan.” Mariah hissed, her eyes slicing to Cade who had easily shrug the men off like the weighed nothing and threw himself in front of me. In front of the line of fire. “For all we know, we have her spy in our midst.”

Zac stepped in front of Cade, obstructing his mother's withering glare. "Why will Cade serve himself on a golden platter for the off chance that you might not slice his head off? Why will he take the risk? Why will a mother even send her son a suicide mission? Think about it, mum. He's our only chance of finding out what the rebellion is truly planning. It's his word against Victor. We need him alive."

Mariah gritted her teeth, her jaw ticked. "Gonzalez."

"Yes, boss?"

"Round up every human in the house and kill them."

"Mum!"

A look from her silenced Zac. "This is my home! My turf! If I can't protect it, what's the point of trying to protect an entire pack. We gave the humans a chance and they made their choice. I'll die before I ever let anything happen to you or mine. We can't afford to be faint at heart."

Zac bit his thumb deep in thought, and then he snapped his fingers. "Why don't I be in charge of questioning the humans? I'll have Ren help with interrogating them. We've had people working with us all my life. We can't afford to lose loyal workers in this war. The Talaverra name is not built on the blood of the innocent."

Begrudging silence, a hesitant nod and the Luna of Poison Fang gave her permission.

"Lucas, Savio, do what he says. Round up the humans and wait for his instructions. My son is in charge while I'm gone. I trust he'll make the right decisions."

To Aiden, she sighed, taking in his livid glare, his hostile eyes that refused to settle. "Aiden. Look at me, son."

He did.

"Elizabeth was my best friend. I loved her like a sister and I love you like my son. If Victor somehow has a hand in this, I will personally defend you in front of the council and have you exonerated. But if you leave here before I can confirm what is really going on, my hands are tied. You will be treated as a

traitor as he is alleged to be because the council will argue that you survived the m*****e. You must wait until we make a verdict because I cannot simply take Cade's word for the truth and make a judgement. You cannot leave this premises. Do you understand?"

Aiden was trembling, shaking with rage, but he nodded, his fists clenched.

Walking up to Zac, she took his hand, her eyes going soft. "My son, take care of things here. I trust I am leaving my home in good hands. I am proud of you, Zachary, you will be a good alpha one day, and you will make your bonded very happy." She flashed me a small smile as she glanced at me.

Zac's gaze softened and he nodded, squeezing his mother's hand briefly before they separated.

"Ren," she whispered, pulling my chosen mate into a warm hug. "You've always been the calmer one with a good head on your shoulders. I know I am leaving my sons in good hands with you. Keep them in line like you always do. I will make it back as soon as I can."

Ren hugged her back, kissing both her cheeks. "Of course, Luna Talaverra."

With last greetings (for now) to Chelsea, Rhea and Chase, she began walking away, she stopped in front a bike that was even bigger than the one that Zac owned and climbed on it, turning on the ignition before looking at us.

"You are the future of our species and my generation will do all we can to keep yours alive. Please do not for any reason leave the house until the situation has been contained. There is no foolishness in leaving to fight another day. Take care of yourselves, and don't frustrate Lily before I return. I need to hear all about what's really going on between you all."

Throwing me a wink, she revved the engine and rode out of the courtyard with her guards in tow, some in cars and others on bikes.

The guards that remained pulled Cade away, towards the holding cell I presumed and I watched with my heart in my throat as he kept his eyes locked on me. I wanted nothing to do with Cade but there was really no reason for me to run away now. Not this time. We were in the middle of a war and I was done running away from everyone that ever hurt me, especially when staying would equipe with what it takes to save myself.

It seemed Cade knew more than Zac and the others and I decided that I needed to find a way to question him. My eyes followed the guards and I made a mental note of the direction they were taking Cade in, just as Zac took my hand and led me into his home.

My mouth fell open in shock because the interior of the house somehow looked even bigger than how it was outside and as we walked together, the others at our back, the house was prowling with scary looking guards, who had their faces in a permanent stoic fashion until their eyes landed on us, which caused them to smile in a way that I might have found disturbing if I didn't realize that it seemed out of all of us here, I was the only one who was not acquainted to the people in this home. While the others exchanged greetings, I kept to my corner, my hand in Zac's.

He led us into a large living room afterwards and I felt safe knowing that Aiden and Ren were right behind me.

"Hello Jenkins!" Zac said, greeting a big, hefty, older man with an eye patch that I suspected was hiding his missing eye. He was sitting behind the sophisticated bar located by one corner of the room.

"Kiddo. It's been ages, man. For a second there, I forgot that Mariah had a kid who hated to live here. "

"Only because I hate your stupid face."

"Well played, Zac, well played." The two of them laughed and then Zac became quiet as she looked at me, his eyes intense.

"Jenkins, this is Lily. Lily, meet Jenkins."

"Hello, beautiful. Want a drink?"

"No," Zac interjected before I could voice my refusal to take alcohol, "but the boys do. Told them you make the best drinks and they didn't believe me."

"What?" Jenkins cried, offended, "that's preposterous!"

"That's not the only thing they don't believe," Zac confided, "The other day, I was telling Aiden and Ren about how you fought an army of ferals all by yourself."

“Oh that’s crazy! We have to rectify that immediately. I remember what happened, clear as day! I was there! I lost me an eye!” Jenkins proclaimed, dismayed and Zac’s grin could split both cheeks.

“Why don’t you take some drinks to them and tell them all over again how you defeated the ferals all by yourself, as well as a few of your other achievements because they are just dying to hear the truth from your mouth! Show them your stuff, man!”

Jenkins immediately sprung into action, barrelling towards the boys to bring them to the bar and Zac chuckled as he took my hand and led me upstairs while old man Jenkins began his odious tale.

“Where are we going?” I asked, laughing because he was laughing and it felt like we were sneaking around, doing something we shouldn’t be doing. He stopped in front of a door almost immediately after.

“My humble abode.” He answered and opened the door, leading me in.

I gasped as I took in his bedroom that was much larger than my living room back at home. He had a huge four poster bed that could fit four grown men, a baby piano in a corner with posters of his favourite artistes and bands. Everything about his room was dark and I could barely even tell if it was daytime because of the dark window blinds.

“Wow” I said, rushing to touch his vinyl record player that was currently on his desk, my eyes sighting the guitar in his recording corner.

He was really such a creative and I was intrigued.

“Can I touch your things?” I asked and turned around to get my answer but Zac’s response was to grab my face and slam his lips against mine, kissing me so hard, I felt my breath whoosh out of me.

My body automatically moulded into him and I pushed myself up on my tiptoes, grabbing his shirt and pushing him back against the door as I gave in to the desire, the need, the want, swirling like an endless pool of lust in my lower abdomen.

He gripped my a s s, squeezing hard as our kisses turned hugrier, animalistic.

A growl rumbled in his chest and he wasn't even trying to hide the fact that he wanted to devour me. I tasted my blood on his lips, felt the delicious sting of his fangs, his mouth, teeth, tongue and lips were consuming me as he sucked and bit and nibbled on my lips, his moan was more like a pained groan, eager to be satisfied, yet hopelessly insatiable.

He grabbed my thigh, squeezing so hard, I'm sure I'll have bruises later and I tore at his shirt, buttons popping open and flying everywhere as I sought to feel his skin.

He hissed, as if in pain when my hand touched the cool smoothness of his bare skin and feeling encouraged, I wrapped a leg around his waist, grinding against his erection.

"Duchess... f**k!" He whispered into the next kiss, panting heavily against my lips as he hoisted me up into his arms and I wrapped both my legs around his waist. His big hands cradled my a s s, he buried his face between my b r e a s t s, "this a s s, these b o o b s... drive me f*****g insane."

Aching, I brought his face up to kiss him some more, rocking against him so that my soaking wet panties rubbed against his hardness.

One strong arm gripped the back of my head, the other cradled my a s s. There was nothing playful or sweet about the way Zac kissed me ravenously, like he was starving and I was the only thing that could quench his hunger.

I didn't think he was moving until my back hit the bed and he was covering my body with his.

"I've been looking for a way to get rid of those bastards so that I can have you all for myself." He rasped breathlessly against my lips, obsidian eyes piercing into mine. "I don't even know if this feels like a good time for any of this but I want you, Lily. I want you so bad it feels like my blood is on fire. I want you so bad, it feels like I'd die if I don't have you right now. I need you, baby. I need you in my lungs, in my veins, in my f u c k i n g brain. I want to know if I can have you now, if you want this too."

My voice was lost because my head was still dizzy from his kisses but I nodded repeatedly, my entire body shaking with need as Zac let out an impatient but satisfied growl as he practically tore my uniform off my body, stripping my top bare within second.

“Holy s h i t,” he gasped, his eyes widening, taking in my topless body, “holy f u c k!”

And he buried his face in my chest and began nibbling and sucking on my skin.

Electrifying, sizzling kisses short-circuited my brain until I couldn't tell how I have ever survived without getting kissed by him, without letting him know my body.

My hands roamed over his body as if getting familiar with the landscape, this territory, this land that was now my own.

Mine. Mine mine.

Anyone that tries to take him away from me will have to pry him out of my cold, dead hands.

Threading my hand into his hair, I tugged hard, painfully, pulling his face up to meet mine.

“Kiss me,” I gasped and he smirked slowly.

“And where should I kiss you, duchess?” He asked, dropping his head to trace his lips on my aching pulse, “here?” He sucked, nibbled, left his mark, traced his lips to my collar bones and I felt the cold tip of his fang. “Here?”

“Yes, yes yes yes,” my feet curled in anticipation, toes gripping the sheets as he sunk in, just a little, to give me a taste, as pleasure like I've never known pumped into my blood stream.

My cells, my tissues, my blood and my soul sang for him, recognizing who they were bonded to.

His groan was a whimper of praise as he sucked on me. He kissed down my torso, dropping little bites and sucks around the way, asking me if I liked it, if I liked that, if I wanted more.

My reply was a resounding yes yes yes!

I gasped when he grabbed my thighs, spread them.

My eyes flew open. Was he going to...?

“What are you-“

He buried his nose right there! Pressing his nose into the apex of my thighs.

He groaned at my scent and embarrassment tinged my cheeks.

I mean, I've made out with four guys in my life, had s*x with one, almost had s*x with two and was currently in the process of doing the deed with one... I should be used to this by now. I shouldn't be horrified by the thought of Zac eating me out, right? Right?

“Baby, you're overthinking it,” he whispered, looking up at me.

His hair was mussed, his lips red and swollen, his chest panting, “I've always imagined what you smelled like, what you tasted like.”

Gently, he pushed my thighs apart again and maintaining eye contact with me, he ripped my panties off and pressed light kisses to my inner thigh.

“Zac” I gasped as he kissed up the sensitive skin of my inner thigh and he groaned.

“f**k, you smell so good. I bet you taste good too.”

I was panting now. Letting go of my inhibitions. I couldn't remember why I was hesitating in the first place.

“I've been good, I've been patient, I played nice with the others,” he whispered, nibbling with his teeth and leaving his mark on my thighs. “Won't you reward me for that?”

I was whimpering now, my wetness pooling on the sheets so that it felt cool to my skin when the sheets rubbed against me.

I moaned my response, grabbing his hair and placing it right where I wanted.

Between my legs.

Zac ate me up like I was the only thing that could satisfy him. His groan reverberated through me as he pressed his tongue flat on my clit, eliciting shivers from me and rocking my entire world when he licked from cunt to clit.

I gasped, my eyes rolling to the back of my head as he took my clit in between his lips and sucked hard.

Stars... I've never seen so many stars in my life.

"God, you taste so good, you taste divine, Lily. My goddess," he moaned against my p***y, his wet tongue worshipping me and doing scandalous things to me and I didn't realize how much strength I had in my grip as I pushed myself up on my shoulders and gripped his hair, pushing my hips into his face and rocking against that wicked tongue, my embarrassment long forgotten.

Hair stuck to my sweaty face, my entire body was trembling and I smelled more like him than myself but I didn't mind as I offered him a drink of the gods.

"I could spend an eternity just doing this. I could spend an eternity just eating you out like this. You like it, don't you. You like my tongue on you soaking wet cunt."

I didn't have it in me to give an intelligible reply. Something jumbled up and incoherent escaped my lips but he'd just have to make sense of it.

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Pleasure and pain rocked my world as I tipped over the metaphoric edge.

That bite was the final straw and just as I felt our bonding click into place, I let the hands of o****m pull me into his arms as he released into me, his body trembling and grasping for me like I was his lifeline.

It's good because he was mine and we held each other, kissing hard and trembling harder as we came at the same time.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 140

Lily's pov

Gently opening my eyes, I roused from consciousness to a scent that was not mine but was very familiar. It felt like an imprint on my skin now, like a merging that was forever sealed. It was the evidence of the wonderful experience I had just shared with Zac Talaverra.

Speaking of Zac, he was beside me, or should I say, on top of me, half of his large body pinning me down to the bed as he slept and my heart felt full at the intimacy we had just shared again.

Remembering how Ren had once told me about Zac suffering from insomnia, I was very happy to see that he was fast asleep, no creases on his face that hinted to any nightmares.

Taking my time to look at him, I wondered how I had lucked out with someone like Zac. How had I even lucked out with all of them? I would never actually know? I was just going to be grateful everyday of my life.

Removing strands of his hair from his pout, I smiled, amused by his mouth formed a pout and then went back to normal again, the weight of his body nearly crushing me.

Cute.

I doubted that he would like being called that when he woke up.

Now that he was asleep, this was the perfect time for me to do what I had wanted to do whenever the coast was clear; visit Cade in the holding cell and hear exactly what he had to say about everything that was going on.

I hadn't seen Cade since the ordeal that had caused me to have to transfer school in shame and there was no way that seeing him now was not going to be awkward for me but I needed answers and he seemed to be the source of all of the answers right now. I also wanted to hear exactly what I had to do with all of this. I knew about Dahlia, but it's not like I'm any more special than the royals with their incredible powers. It sounded like something was afoot and I was in the middle and not even in a good way.

Gently, I removed the leg that Zac had placed over my body and when he didn't wake up, I decided to gently remove his hand. Feeling proud of myself and oddly excited about sneaking out of bed, I was almost out of the large bed when I was pinned back down to it, Zac's sleepy face staring down at me.

"What's wrong? Where are you going?" He asked groggily and I fought the urge to smile at how adorable he was.

"I'm going to see Cade to ask him some questions. You don't have to go with me though. you should get some more rest."

“I’m up.” He answered immediately, rising to his feet and helping me up from the bed, the sleep clearing from his eyes and I blushed to see him standing in all his naked glory, holding the bedsheet to my chest.

Throwing on sweatpants and a shirt, he came out of his closet, his lips tilting up in a grin as he gave me one of his shirts that was so big it stopped at my knees and shorts.

“Turn around.” I said and he looked like he was about to refuse but he shrugged, his smile still very wide and when he turned, I quickly put on his clothes.

“Okay you can turn back now.”

“Look how cute you look in my clothes. Have I ever told you how adorable you are?” He cooed and I rolled my eyes as he pulled me by the waist and pressed a soft kiss to my forehead, “your cute forehead, your cute nose, those f**k-me lips,” he kissed my lips. The kiss deepened into a needy, desperate makeout kiss and we were still kissing when Zac opened the door.

“If you guys weren’t finished, you didn’t have to come out,” I heard Ren drawl and I tore away from Zac, shocked.

My eyes widened to see Ren and Aiden rousing from their sleep by the door and Ren was leaning against the wall, his arms folded and looking at Aiden who looked like he just roused as well.

My face was flaming hot with embarrassment and Zac merely grinned as the duo glared at him, obviously pissed at Zac for the trick he pulled to get me alone, but while Ren didn’t blink an eye at Zac’s mark on my neck, Aiden’s expression changed immediately. He grit his teeth in annoyance and looked away from me but this time he didn’t look jealous. He looked sad and ashamed of something.

“Aiden-“

“It’s nothing, princess.”

Was it because he was the one that was my fated and was still yet to mark me?

Did he think that it meant I didn’t care about him anymore?

I was about to move forward to where he was and ask when Zac spoke.

“Lily wants to go to the holding cell to see Cade and I’m taking her there. You’re welcome to join if you want.”

“Sure.” Ren agreed, giving me a gentle smile which I returned.

“I’ll be able to verify if he is telling us the truth or feeding us some bullshit.” He added and Zac nodded.

“I’ve heard all I have to from Cade. I don’t need to hear any more.” Aiden answered and ignoring my eyes, he walked away.

My frown deepened. “Aiden! Stop right there!”

He obeyed as if he couldn’t bear to take another step without my command.

“If this is about your uncle, I really don’t care! What’s in the past is in the past—”

“But it’s NOT in the past! I’m the one thing that should have protected you all your life, but I hurt and humiliated you every chance I got. You could have been killed, Lily. You could have died!”

“But I’m standing here, am I not? What’s done is done. I forgave you, we’re past that!”

“I’m going to the gym. Break a leg, you guys.” he said coldly, clearly dismissing me.

My frown deepened in annoyance, my chest heaving as hurt and anger blossomed to life.

Ren took my hand and spoke to me via our mind link.

“Aiden is dealing with his own s**t and he means no harm. He’ll come around soon.”

Nodding, I sighed as Zac stirred us towards the cells where Cade was being held.

The men guarding the cell rose to greet us upon our arrival and when Zac informed them why we were here, they did not hesitate to let us in.

The cell was dark, giving a very spooky vibe but perhaps it was because I just already had a predetermined feeling about how cells should feel like or maybe it was because I was about to speak to Cade but I was very nervous.

The place was clean and we saw that Cade had been given a thin mattress to sleep on. He was sitting with his back against the wall though as the guard that followed us in opened the door to his own cell and left us.

I walked in first, Ren and Zac behind me and when Cade rose, I realized that he was in handcuffs. My throat tightened in concern and I couldn't even begin to imagine everything that was going on right now, from what was happening at the wards to the fact that if Cade was really telling the truth, he was going to be punished for his mother's crimes just like I had spent my entire life being punished for my father's.

As we stared at each other, I struggled to find the resentment that I once harboured toward him, hating that I seemed to have a soft spot for me, just like I now did for Aiden, a part of me always seeking to understand and forgive those that have wronged me.

I couldn't decide if that made me a good person or just a foolish person.

"You came" Cade said and it was obvious from his tone that he had not expected me to come and see me.

He was only looking at me, just like he had been out at the courtyard and if I wasn't for the fact that I was sure Zac and Ren were on either side of me, I could have sworn it was just us two in here from his intense gaze.

He started walking forward to meet me but Zac and Ren blocked his path immediately, standing in front of me like a shield.

"Not less than five feet away if you don't want to end up like that gardener." Zac warned and Cade quickly stepped back.

"I'm sorry." He said and I sighed, wondering just how much Cade had changed since I last saw him. That was a conversation for another day though.

"Cade, tell me everything you know about what's going on and what I have to do with it."

