

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 161

Cade's pov

The sounds of howls and chants filled the street, shaking me from the internal turmoil swirling in my soul.

“Alpha! Alpha! Alpha!”

Word traveled fast, I thought, a heavy lump in my throat that was refusing to go down, as I got down from the car and saw the crowd that had formed on either side of the road to welcome us back into the pack.

It was me. I was their Alpha. At 18, this was not the way I'd have imagined taking over after my mother. I had big dreams and heavy ambitions but I was still young and inexperienced and my mother had made more enemies than friends since she took over. Enemies that will want to take their pound of flesh from me.

My chest tightened.

I guess I'll have to start from somewhere.

We piled into an elevator, Lily and I, then Zac, because he couldn't leave Lily's side, no matter how horrible he felt for almost killing her. I knew Zac, and I knew that he'd never forgive himself for hurting her. I'd feel the same if I was in his position. Bia hopped in with us, because she was terrified of being away from her best friend, and Angelo joined her because he couldn't leave his girlfriend behind.

“Show them to their rooms,” I told the maid that met us at the door, controlling the tremble in my voice. “They'll be staying as long as they need to.”

Don't break down, I had to remind myself, fisting my trembling hands.

Don't let them know how much this is ripping you in half.

The maid nodded and I was about to make my escape when Lily tugged on my sleeve. I couldn't bear to look into her eyes because she'll see right through me, so I focused on the spot above her eyes and remembered to force a smile.

“Are you okay?” She whispered softly in a way that made my heart clench.

“Of course,” a beat, two beats, “why wouldn’t I be?” |

“I’m just... I’m worried for you. You know you can talk to me right? You can tell me how you really feel. I won’t judge you ,

I smiled and, taking her face in my hands, I pressed a soft kiss to her forehead, letting my lips linger against her skin. “I want to take & shower.”

Hurt and confusion flashed in her eyes but I didn’t stick around to reassure her.

I made a beeline for my bedroom. My entire body trembled as I tried to find a robe and it wasn’t until I realized that I was searching the wrong place for it, since all my robes were in the bathroom that the reality hit me again.

My mother was dead and I was the one that had beheaded her. I had killed Cynthia Corrigan

Stumbling into the bathroom, I managed to make it to the toilet seat. before throwing up, my gut clenching and unclenching as I held on to the seat for dear life.

My entire body retched and heaved as I threw up all of last night’s dinner but I couldn’t get the taste of her blood out of my mouth.

She had begged me to spare her when she realized that she was losing and for a moment I had almost listened. Almost believed her lies again, but remembering that if I did, Lily would spend the rest of her life on the run had sealed my decision. It didn’t make the decision any easier.

It didn’t make the memory of my mother’s dismembered body laying in front of me easy to bear.

“She’s dead.” I whispered as I flushed the toilet and that was when the tears finally fell. My body shook, huge sobs filling the bathroom as I rested against the bathroom wall and tried to hold myself together.

I was falling apart, the overwhelming sense of loss hitting me like arrows to the chest. It felt like I couldn’t breathe.

I didn't have a choice. She hadn't given me any choice. She had killed so many innocent people. She had wanted to kill my mate for power. She had turned everyone in the pack to laborers to achieve her goal. She had ruled with a fist so tight, it had terrified our people and forced them into subservience. All of these were reasons enough for her to meet the end that she got and yet all I felt when I remembered that she was gone was overwhelming grief, loss and sorrow.

I was supposed to be happy that a monster like her was finally dead. I couldn't let the others see me like this. I couldn't let them think that I was mourning for her because I supported any of her actions. She was the definition of a tyrant and yet before Lily, she was the person I had loved most in the entire world even though I knew that she only saw me as a tool.

I had loved her to the point that if she had asked me to die for her, I would have. I had hoped for so long that someday if I continued to show her my love, her cold heart would melt and she would finally stop her greed. I had prayed that one day she would finally love me like I loved her and did everything to make her happy.

But instead, my love seemed to have been nothing but something she could weaponize.

The last person I wanted to see me like this was Lily. When she had called asking for my help, I had known that I would have to stand against my mother and I didn't have any regrets about stopping the evil that was my mother, but how would I explain if anyone saw me crying like this? How would Lily feel if she saw me like this? Wouldn't she hate me for not being excited especially because we both knew that my mother had wanted her dead?

Quickly forcing myself to my feet, I reached for my toothbrush and quickly brushed my teeth while searching for my clipper. Washing my face, I stood in front of the mirror, clipper in hand and stared at my reflection.

Staring back at me wasn't the Alpha of Gold crest. It was a lost, confused boy who had finally lost both parents.

Taking the clipper to my hair, I turned it on and began to shave my hair off. It was a tradition that was practiced in Gold crest by the families of the deceased to mourn their loss. I hadn't cut my hair since my father died when I was still a very little boy and I had never thought I would do it for someone like

my mother. And yet, as shameful as it felt, I mourned her. I mourned who she could have been if she was it so power hungry.

All my life, I had done everything that my mother wanted the exact way she wanted it. My father had been the same way. She had been the one to call the shots in everything and we had both been nothing but her soldiers. When my father died, I had had to become the perfect soldier. eating only when she commanded it, killing when she wanted it, hanging on to her every word. The only reason I had ever disobeyed her was because of Lily and when she had taken my memories of her away for those years, I had gone back to what I had done my entire life;

follow her lead.

Now that she was dead, I didn't know who I was or what to do with myself anymore. The concept of freedom was so foreign to me.

Turning off the clipper, I rested my palms on the vanity and leaned in, staring at my reflection in the mirror. Where there had once been golden blond hair long enough to be tied in a man bun, there was now only an inch of jagged soft and spiky blonde hair. My eyes were devoid of life and I looked more rugged, my features sharper. Would I ever be able to the Alpha this pack deserved? What if I was worse than my mother? What if I was exactly like her? What if that madness, that greed for power was genetic? What if I ended up disappointing everyone that was proud of me for doing the right thing?

I heard the door to the bathroom open and when I turned to tell whoever it was that I wanted to be alone, I saw Lily smiling tenderly at me as she entered and closed the door behind her gently.

"Hey," she said, her voice filled with concern that made me want to start crying all over again. Breathing in, I tried to gather myself together and forced a smile on my face.

Pointing to my haircut, I widened my already forced smile "What do you think? I don't look too bad, I hope?"

She didn't answer, only moved close enough that she was standing in front of me and placed her hand on my cheeks. She wiped my tears with her thumbs, her eyes filled with so much love and concern. I hadn't even realized that tears had escaped. So much for my posturing to be alright. I dropped my head

in shame, watching as my tears. dropped to the ground and realizing that I couldn't even pretend to not be grieving my mother.

"Hey, look at me." Lily whispered, raising my chin so that I could look at her.

"Do you regret answering my call? Do you resent me for asking you to fight on my side? Do you regret what you did?"

"No!" I replied almost immediately, shaking my head vehemently to convey my seriousness.

"I don't regret anything. I'm glad she's dead."

"You can be sad she's dead, Cade."

"Why should I be? I'm fine. Of course I am."

"You can't talk to me about how you feel, you know that right? If you're hurting? You can talk about it, I know you loved her."

TRinched almost as if Lily had slapped me with her words which

reminded me of how much I hated that I loved my mother and I shook my head again.

"If it's the hair, don't worry. We have a tradition where the family of the deceased cut their hair. Plus I didn't even do it for her anyways, I wanted a new look. One that said Alpha now, right?" I laughed awkwardly, already blabbing at this point and Lily merely nodded, walking away and I watched as she turned on the taps in the bathtub, filling it to the brim and squirting soap in it.

Walking back to where I stood, she helped me out of my shirt and when her hands touched my belt, I froze, grabbing her arm while raising her chin so she could see my confused eyes.

"I just want to take care of you. Please let me?"

The fact that I had wanted to hear her say those words since I remembered why she had left me was probably why I didn't even fight her, relenting when she helped me out of my clothes until I was standing naked in front of her.

And then she did the last thing I would have expected. She started to get undressed too. If I wasn't so devastated by what had happened, I might have begged her to not do this except she was sure that she wanted to go all the way with me.

Right now, I was just grateful that she was here and would take her in whatever way she was offering.

She led me into the large tub and knelt behind me and just when I was about to ask her why she was behind me instead of where I could just sit and stare at her beautiful face, I felt her hands begin to massage the knots in my shoulders.

I immediately felt the knots in my back and shoulders relax as she worked her way through my tense muscles.

"Do you remember when you brought me up here when no one was around and how you made me a gourmet style meal?"

Oh yeah... A smile appeared on my lips as the memory came back to me.

"And then we got drunk on one of your mother's expensive wines and she'd almost caught us?"

I chuckled for the first time, my chest feeling a lot lighter as I remembered that particular night. It was one of the nights where I had seen a trace of the mother I had always wanted when she had come into my room and stared at me suspiciously when she didn't find Lily who was hiding in the bathroom and just smiled and told me that she'd ground me if she didn't find her wine by the next night. I had rushed to get a brand new bottle the next day.

No matter how horrible she had been, she was my mother and I had to accept that it was okay to miss her. To mourn her.

"It's okay to mourn her, Cade. It doesn't make you a terrible person for loving her. It won't change how I see you. You're not a robot. I understand perfectly how it feels to lose a parent and I would never hold it against you for feeling sad that Cynthia is gone." Lily whispered in my ear and held me close, resting her cheek against my back.

This time when I cried, it wasn't alone or in shame and when I was ready to leave the bath, Lily led me to my bed and got in with me, wrapping the covers around us, pulling me close to her and holding together all my broken pieces together.

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Lily's POV

It felt like it was a hundred degrees here. At least that was what it felt like to me. But it wasn't bad because I loved the warmth, especially while buck naked. The blanket felt heavy, like it was a fifty pound weight that was resting on my chest.

I tried to move my body and that was when I felt my back against a hard chest and as I tried to open my eyes, I heard a familiar voice that seemed to relax my already relaxed muscles and made my toes curl.

"You should go back to sleep, sunflower." A deep groggy voice snickered against my ear, "It's not time to wake up yet." My body trembled with glee as I remembered how we had basically cuddled to sleep. My heart squeezed tight as I remembered how he had sobbed quietly in my embrace and for the first time I had actually seen the man I had once fallen in love with beneath his armour of humor, loyalty and seemingly having things under control.

'Once fallen in love with' sounded weird and I knew why. It was because I still loved him. I had never actually fallen out of love with him. It had given me so much peace to know that I could share this very vulnerable moment with him and it had cleared all the doubts that I might have had about how he felt about me.

The fifty pound blanket on my body was Cades arm around me, I realized with delight and I snuggled even further into him, relishing his warmth as I turned to look at his face. His hair was now shorn low and his eyes were bright and blue and devoid of the shadows that had plagued him the night before and even though I knew that he still had a long way to go with bearing his mother's death, and would still mourn for her everyday of his life just like I would for my father, this was a good start.

My smile was bright and I reached up to run my hand through his scalp, his short hair giving him a harsher and sharper look that fit him so well it didn't even feel like a loss that he had cut his hair.

“Good morning,” I whispered and he nodded, his stare intense and sending a thrill through my body to be the recipient of his attention.

“Hello sunshine.”

“That’s not me. You’re the one with the hair that looks like the sun. I love your haircut by the way. It suits you.” I answered and when his face turned thoughtful, I wondered if I had said anything that had triggered him or made him feel uncomfortable.

The smile on my face fell off and I was just about to push myself up on my elbows, my thoughts filled with worry when he beamed and pulled me closer, his chuckle deep as he kissed my forehead before he gazed down at me, his eyes filled with an emotion that made my throat thick with feelings. Love.

Glogh. Glogh. Glogh... That was the sound of my poor heart running a mile a minute.

I swallowed and reached up to touch him with shaking hands. “Are you alright? Did you even sleep at all last night?” I asked, cupping his face, unable to stop myself from worrying even though he seemed to be doing just fine. It was perhaps because I had seen him act like he was okay only a few hours ago.

“I didn’t sleep a wink” he replied and even though he was smiling, I found my worry skyrocketing as I began to wonder what he might have done awake and alone. Had he needed me while I was sleeping?

“You’re so adorable with that little pout that tells me you are worrying even though you’re going to deny that you aren’t right now, Lily.” He replied, kissing my nose and grinning wide at me.

“The reason I didn’t sleep a wink last

night was because of you. I spent the entire night staring at you, gorgeous. And, it’s cute that you still talk in your sleep like you used to. I was wondering if you finally stopped.

My shoulders immediately relaxed and I pouted playfully at him, poking his chest with my hand.

“I do not.” I’m sure one of the boys wouldn’t have passed up an opportunity to tease me about it.

“But you do.” He smirked and I turned around, giving him my back.

The atmosphere suddenly shifted as my a*s fitted against his front and I felt his hardness pressing against my back.

Glogh. Glogh. Glogh. Glogh... My heart beat faster and faster as we both froze, waiting for the other to make the first move.

I gasped when he grabbed my hip, his strong fingers felt like hot iron bands, branding my skin. He pulled me back so that I was flush against him and then he rolled his hips into my a*s, groaning softly.

My heart wouldn’t stop trying to race out of my chest and I turned to look up at him.

He looked wild and ravenous. His eyes were dark and he was panting hard and desire, thick and molten, flared to life between my legs at the hunger in his gaze, my center already wet.

Keeping my eyes on him, I reached down beneath the blanket and gently grabbed his hard length, watching as he sucked in a tight breath when I started to stroke him gently.

“F**k, please, Lily” he groaned, taking my lips in a deep kiss that made my body tingle in all the right places and I pulled back, needing to watch him try and fail to hide his moans of pleasure, happy to know that I did that to him, that I drove him crazy. The tortured look on his face as he grabbed on to the back of my neck and placed his head against mine.

There was nothing but the sheets between us and the sound of our heavy breathing as he moved in and out of my hand, the sight so erotic I had to squeeze my thighs to seek relief.

“I’ve missed you so much you have no idea, Lily. Absolutely no idea,” Cade whispered reverently and rolled on to his back, pulling me down to straddle him.

We both gasped as his erection grazed my clit and I watched as he took me in, hands running up and down my thighs, his gaze filled with admiration.

Tfelt Dahlia purr to life in my chest and I was filled with the overwhelming need to make him mine, to claim him like I had the rest of my mates. He was mine, had always been mine and no one else's. His powers, his body, his wolf. Him.

As if he could see the possessiveness in my glowing eyes, he smiled lazily and squeezed my thighs, thrusting his hips into mine.

Feeling the last shred of shyness leave nobody, I started to grind against him, enjoying the tortured sound that escaped his throat at our contact and even though I wanted nothing more than to feel his thick hard length sink into me, I wanted to toy with him a little, make him beg for it. That had to be Dahlia speaking through me and I had no problem with her demand this time.

"Stop teasing," He bit out and I grinned as I hovered over him, attempting to push his length into me and just when I saw him prepare, his body stiffening in anticipation, I grinned and moved back, and before he could even get out a word, I covered the tip of his length with my mouth and his responding roar shook the entire room. One second, I was going up and down on his c**k and the next, I was on my back, staring into glowing eyes that were filled with lust.

I gasped at the force of his desire and prepared myself for the impact of him inside me. To my surprise, he only leaned close to me, his touch gentle and reverent as he kissed me gently.

"Lily... I know that I probably don't deserve to ask you of this or even have you beneath me but I am going to count it as one of the many blessings that the goddess has bestowed on me. I didn't ever dream of being an Alpha even though I knew that it was something that would happen, but now that I am, I am certain of one thing. I cannot live without you. Lily... I want you to rule by my side as my Luna. My equal in all things."

My heart skipped six beats as once, the enormity of his proposal knocking me off for a moment.

"Cade..." I whispered, but he hushed me with another kiss, deep and strong and gentle and sweet.

He panted against my lips. "You don't have to give me an answer now. I just wanted to let you know that this is how I feel about you. If this is about your mates, I don't mind sharing you with them. I'm willing to do whatever it takes

to make sure that things work between us. As long as you can make room for me in your heart, even if it's only a little,

"I accept, Cade. With all my heart, I accept your proposal.

I've accepted since you told me the truth about what really happened." I replied tearfully, my heart soaring with joy as I pulled him down for a kiss.

He groaned into the kiss, his hands diving into my hair, squeezing my breasts, my hip, my thighs, like he wants to feel every inch of me and hasn't decided what part to start from and he didn't have enough time in the world.

He was making these ravenous sounds, these hungry, wild noises as he kissed down my body until there was not an inch of skin that hadn't been kissed by him.

I pulled his face back to me and found his lips again, pulling him closer and closer to me as he pushed me off the surface of sanity. My body was thrumming with ecstasy and desire. His fingers dug into my inner thigh and spread my legs and he thrust into my wet entrance without hesitation.

My breath stuttered and he let out a hiss of pleasure. You'd think by now, I'd be used to the length and roughness but every time, every single time, the first thrust always took me by surprise.

'Slow, Cade, go slow,' I begged, my body already adjusting to the length of him.

He froze, his entire body shaking as if staying still was the hardest thing he had ever had to do. There was an intensity in his eyes that made it difficult to keep his gaze. Sweat dripped from his forehead unto mine and we both moaned as he eased out of me slowly, so agonizingly slowly that my body burned for him.

His gaze flicked downwards, transfixed on the point where we connected. Like it was the most fascinating thing he had ever seen.

"Fvck, Lily," he rasped roughly, one hand squeezing my breast hard enough to hurt, the other gripping my thigh even more roughly, losing some of that mechanical control I associated with him, "I should have known you'd feel so f*****g perfect."

He punctuated the last word with another violent thrust that ripped the air from my lungs and made my heart beat for him. As he f****d me deep and hard and slow, eliciting helpless whimpers from me, his hands roamed all over my body, his fingers traced my face, my cheeks, the indentures on my mouth, as if he was studying me, mapping me out, as if this was the last time he'd ever get to see me, wed ever get to do this.

The thought made my heart squeeze painfully and my anxiety only sky rocketed with his rough promises against my lips. "I will bleed for you. I will die for you. My queen, my luna."

Fear seized my heart and my fingers raked up his abs. His body felt like it was on fire as I slid up his arm and gripped his shoulders, claws digging into his skin, a feral need in my chest as I pulled him down to kiss me.

My eyes bored into his, "you will live for me, Caden. I won't let anyone take you from me."

His eyes turned darker, bluer than I have ever seen them.

"Likewise, my queen," he whispered harshly, his large chest rising and falling with each pant.

He went ballistic after that, growling as he wrapped my legs around his waist and f****d me into the bed. His eyes never left mine, the intensity of his gaze chilling me and lighting me on fire.

Cade was a cold, practical and mechanical soldier on the battlefield but in bed, he was a beast. Hot and intense and rough and if I didn't match how he felt for me, I might have been terrified by his intensity.

His hand wrapped around my throat, intense blue eyes pushing me over the edge as he drilled deep, sharp thrusts that elicited wave after wave of toe curling warmth in my chest, pulling me closer and closer to the person he was at the core of his being

His kisses were as rough and hot as he fu c ke d; short, distracted kisses that left me panting hard and wanting more. I was crying into his mouth as I came with a force that shattered my teeth and made my ears splinter with a ringing noise.

With a rough growl, he came in me, hugging me close to his chest, his entire body hot and trembling over mine.

I pressed soft kisses all along his jawline, the corner of his lips, his cheeks, the bridge of his nose and he rolled us over in bed so that I lay on top of him, my head on his chest. 'I'll never let you go now, you know that right?"

My reply was a chuckle. There was a war coming, I could feel it in my bones, my best friend had just been turned, and our hands were tied while Aiden was still at the mercy of the council, but in this moment, these few seconds in his arms, I found peace. A calm in the storm.

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Lily's pov

I didn't realize that I had slept off until I opened my eyes hours later to see Cade sleeping soundly beside me. My heart swelled and my core ached as I remembered how he had brought me to o****m two more times after the first before exhaustion took the two of us. I felt complete and even though I couldn't feel Dahlia's presence, I felt a sort of calmness that told me she would feel the same way.

I was about to stand up from the bed when Cade blinked, his face so adorable as he slowly opened his eyes.

"You're leaving?" He said with a pout that made me laugh and I hugged him before rising up from the bed.

"I want to shower, I'm starving," I answered as I headed to the bathroom. Not long after I entered under the shower, felt his body mold next to mine and I sighed contentedly as he kissed my shoulder, reaching forward to lather soap all over my body. I would have wished to stay longer under the shower if I was not so worried about Zac. I had not seen him since we came down from the car into the house and even then, it was obvious that he was trying to be as far away from me as possible and it hurt that he would even be doing that when I had told him over and over again that I didn't hold anything against him.

"Are you okay? You drifted for a second," Cade asked as he gave me a shirt and one of his shorts to wear and I nodded, quickly putting it on and waiting

for him to dress up. As we left the room together, I finally took in the penthouse.

It had been a long while since I was here. It was a different me. A Lily that was clueless, thought she was an omega and was not sure of herself or if she deserved to be loved.

This was a new me. No, this was who I had been all along, just no longer scared of herself or what others said and was now comfortable in her own skin. I had grown so much and I was so proud of myself for overcoming everything that I had gone through.

Following Zac's scent, I found him sitting in the open plan kitchen with Angelo and Bia. What caught my eyes immediately was that my best friend looked a lot better than the last time I had seen her, which was yesterday.

Infact, if I didn't know, I would have thought that she was the same human friend that I had but on a closer look, I knew that she was not. Her features were sharper and her eye color looked like it had another shade that made her look even more beautiful. it made her look almost inhuman. For a second, I wondered if she would show any characteristics that were similar to her sire.

My heart stopped for a moment.

The thought made me scared but then I glanced at Zac.

Zac was nothing like Callista. My eyes zoned in on what she was eating and I raised my brows in surprise. Human food? How?

My eyes looked back to Zac immediately and I was about to ask him how it was possible but I saw his eyes move between me and Cade and I saw when he realized what had happened between us. A dark look crossed over his eyes and he looked away almost immediately, causing me to flinch. I didn't say anything as Cade drew out a stool for me.

"I could have done that" I told him and he shrugged with a smirk, leaning down as I sat on the stool to kiss me on my forehead. I couldn't help but check on Zac again but he was looking at an inexistent crack in the wall but from the way his shoulder was tense, I was certain that he wasn't looking at the painting at all. I looked away to see that Bia and Angelo were watching me with curious amusement.

“How are you?” I asked Bia, deciding to ignore the hurt in my chest at Zac’s blatant avoidance.

“Other than feeling like I was hit by a truck, I feel alright.

Angelo has been an actual angel all through, I don’t know what I could have done without him.” She whispered and I smiled at her, happy that she was sounding like herself.

“How are you able to eat that? I didn’t think you could eat food anymore.”

I didn’t want to say the words but Bia smiled and shrugged.

“Yeah, I read about all those book stuff before I slept and they said vamps can’t eat human food but I woke up with an appetite for it and it tastes the same. Blood wasn’t hitting the spot for me, I tried it first.” She gave Angelo a look that was almost intimate and I was surprised that Angelo continued to allow Bia to feed from him given that he was a hunter that hunted wolves like us and Paradise vampires.

Well, who was I to talk? I knew exactly what love did to people. I had four mates when last year I was sure that I would not even have one, but I was confused because I had never heard about vampires eating human food or even sleeping at night, but Bia had just said that she did the two: I wondered if it meant that she still had her humanity left in her and if there was hope for her to have a semblance of normalcy in her life.

Cade stood up and came back with a cup of hot chocolate that he placed in front of me, which made me give him a grateful smile. Just then, one of Cade’s soldiers walked into the kitchen and bowed in greeting, his face giving no expression. But his mere presence made me sit even stiffer.

“Alpha, sorry to disturb you. I’ve come with news that there has been some trouble at the border than needs your attention.”

I wasn’t the only one who became even more alert after that statement and my eyes immediately moved to Cade to gauge his expression. Cade merely smiled and cupped my cheek, his eyes betraying nothing. “It’s nothing important” he said gently with a bright smile and before I could pry and ask him to tell us what is going on if it’s not such a big deal, he rose to his feet and took my hand.

“No matter what, you must stay with Zac at all times, okay?”

Do not let yourself get hurt.”

“Cade...”

“Nothing is going to happen, Lily. I’m just telling you to take care of yourself. Ren contacted Zac and I and told us to make sure that you don’t leave Gold crest and I’m sure he means well so please promise me. Promise you that you’ll be careful.”

I nodded even though I had a bad feeling about everything that was going on.

He had just turned to leave after kissing me when I was hit with something that struck like thunderbolt. It felt like a memory. Snapshots of blood and gore. The vision was sharp and gory and I focused on only one body amongst the heaps of bodies on the battle-ridden floor.

It was Cade, I realized with horror.

He was lying on his back, a spear with shadows around the tip that indicated there was dark magic involved, fashioned out of rhodium piercing his heart. As fast as the vision came, it was gone and so was Cade.

Cold sweat broke on my face and I rose to my feet. I ran after him and found him by the stairs, speaking to one of his soldiers.

“Secure the wards. They can’t get through unless they go through Silver Moon, and last time I checked, Irwin and Ariel were not in cahoots with the hunters. He must be mistaken about what he heard.”

“But what if he’s right? He has powers that can see through minds. You said so yourself.”

“Sometimes, his deductions are biased by presumptions.

Nevertheless, we must take Ren’s warnings to heart. We can’t ignore him. We’ll take the fight to them if that’s what they want. You will stay behind with your men and Angelos hunters. My mate must be protected at all times.”

“But I want to come with you,” I announced, crawling out of my hiding place.

He frowned with worry when he saw me. “You’re sweating.

Are you okay?" He asked, a worried scowl, creating ridges in his forehead as he walked back to me and cradled my cheek

"I said I'll come with you"

"Sit." He said, pulling me down to sit on the stairs and knelt in front of me. He took my hand.

"Please don't go. Tell me what is really going on. I want to help too. What did Ren inform you and why am I being kept out of the loop?"

"Ren doesn't know you're with me. Well, he didn't know until I told him and explained why you were with me. Hes livid that we let you get in harm's way."

I winced recalling that Ren had instructed that Zac keep me away from trouble.

"What did he say?" I inquired.

Cade swallowed. "His message concerns me as the alpha of Gold Crest."

"But if I'm going to be Luna, I want to pull my own weight. I don't want you to shoulder all the burden. I want to help." I whispered, my voice breaking at the end and Cade pulled me in for a hug, gently rubbing my back.

"It's just trouble at the border with the soldiers, Lily. He thinks that there's about to be another attack, but not on Shadow Cove, on Gold Crest. There's no way the hunters can get through our borders without going through Silver Moon and I'm sure the alpha and Luna won't let that happen."

"Ren is never wrong"

"I'll come back to you, I promise."

"Tll come with you. You need me. I can help. Let me help."

He was quiet for a while, considering my offer. "It's precisely because I know how powerful you are that I don't want you coming with me to the border. I need you here, just in case my people need you."

I huffed in annoyance, hating that I saw sense in what he was saying.

“We’ll compromise. I’ll go to the borders while you protect the tower and the heart of Gold Crest. Deal?”

I didn’t want him to leave but he was alpha and he can’t neglect his duties. So I feigned a smile and rose to my feet, planting a kiss on his lips and watching as he walked out of the house, a cold hard lump settling in my throat.

The air in the kitchen was filled with awkward silence when I returned and when I looked at Zac,

, his expression was

cold. I looked to my best friend to see her looking between the two of us and clearly noticing the strain, she cleared her throat to fill the silence.

“Lily, do you want me to fix you something to eat?”

“I don’t mind. Thank you.” Just as I took my seat beside Zac, he rose to his feet.

“I’m going to take a shower and check in with Ren about the Aiden situation.” He said to no one in particular and didn’t even glance at me before he started to walk away.

Tired of his behavior, I stood, “You’re going to have to tell me why you are avoiding me.”

He paused and turned to look at me. “I am not avoiding you.”

“That’s bullsh!t and you know it.”

“F***s sakes, I just want to take a shower, Lily.”

“So you’ve not been avoiding me is what you’re saying?”

“I’m going to take a shower.”

“If you walk away right now, I will not bring this up again.

We have to hash this out right here, right now, Zac, so don’t you dare walk away.”

The silence in the room was tense and even though I knew I had an audience watching, I couldn't back down now. I was done with his attitude.

To my horror and disappointment, he didn't say a word. He looked like he was about to and just turned around and walked out of the kitchen.

"Trouble in paradise? What happened between you two?" Bia asked and Angelo gently tugged at her hand and shook his head.

Shrugged and sat back down at the table where Bia had dropped my plate of food for me, deciding to stuff my face to numb the hurt.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 164

Zac's pov

The award for the shiftiest mate in history had to go to me.

Because even though I knew that the logical thing was to stay and speak to Lily like she wanted to, the truth was that I couldn't. I couldn't and I didn't even know how to explain that to her.

My chest felt like it was on fire when I saw the heartbreak written all over her face as I turned away from her and rushed out of the kitchen like I couldn't wait to be far away from her.

Thoped with everything in me that she would be able to find it in her heart to forgive me for being an asshole and more but I couldn't in that moment bear to look at her face without remembering the terror in her eyes as I had clawed at her like a hungry beast.

Callista was dead. I should be at peace now that everything is over and most of the bad guys are dead, especially Callista who was the architect of my nightmares, but instead of having dreams about her, they were replaced by nightmares that showed me killing Lily over and over again in many different ways.

Last night had been the worst. I'd watched as life slowly left her eyes, her body in my arms and her eyes bright with a smile as she reached up to stroke my face, telling me that it was alright, that she still loved me even though my hand was digging deeper into her chest, blood dribbling from her lips as her hand dropped from my face and went limp by her side.

My hand still felt like it was coated with her blood. I had woken up with a start and searched around to make sure that it had been a dream and I was no longer in Callista's control... That I hadn't killed the one thing I loved the most.

Theaved slightly, my heart heaving in my chest as I remembered her words from just now. She'd soon get sick of my bullshit and want nothing to do with me. What would I do then? I needed to get my s**t together and not try to throw up every time I see her sweet, beautiful face.

I stood in front of the mirror in the bathroom, I tried to scrub my hands over and over again, unable to get the sight and scent of her blood from my mind. It wasn't real, Lily was hale and hearty, and many more words that I whispered to myself didn't seem to stop me from feeling like a killer and I just wanted this nightmare to end. I'd take Callista visiting me each night over this. I'll take getting tortured and forced to please my sire each night over seeing Lily's understanding eyes as I beat her half to death.

Feeling raw from nearly peeling off my hands with the scalding hot water, I headed out of the bathroom to keep my watch and rings in my drawer when I froze, my eyes wide as I saw the most absurd thing that I could never have thought was possible.

Ren was here, in the corner of my room, with his hands folded and a glare that was directed at me.

He looked ethereally beautiful as always, but this time, there was something about him that didn't seem like he was real. He looked paler, almost translucent even, like a ghost. Immediately the thought entered my head, I started to feel panic clog up my throat as I asked the one question that I hoped would not give me an affirmative answer.

"Are you dead?" I whispered and Ren, still looking pissed at me, frowned and gave me the finger.

"No, you a****e," he bit out "I don't know what happened but Lily must have gotten a power surge after bonding with Cade, and it's manifesting in my abilities. It's been going haywire all morning."

"Yeah, I can clearly see that." A thought flashed through my mind, bringing a smile on my lips. "Ghost. That nickname has never felt more fitting." I replied with a chuckle, remembering how at one point in our lives, Ren had been

called a ghost by almost everyone because of his pale fair skin and how quiet he was.

Ren rolled his eyes at me, his expression brightening briefly before it dimmed again, and I took off my shirt, heading to pick up my robe.

“What’s up with Aiden? And why have I not heard anything about what is going on with the two of you?”

“Everything is silent right now,” Ren replied with a grim look that told me I wouldn’t be hearing any good news today

My shoulders tensed and I turned to face him. “So you can’t get a hold of him?”

“No”

“Is he even alive?” I rushed out, afraid that the answer to that question would be no.

“Of course he is. We are all bonded and most especially, he is bonded to Lily. Even if we don’t feel anything, Lily will feel it if something had happened to him,” he said reassuringly but it didn’t make me feel any lighter.

“What about Victor? How do we know that he has not tampered with the bond? Our powers don’t work with rhodium so what if it can also tamper with bonds as well as abilities?”

“He’s not dead” Ren bit out, running a hand through his hair

“I would know if something happened to him. I can feel him. I can reach him. I just can’t get him to reach back to me. I don’t know what’s happening but from his lack of response, I bet he is probably unconscious, most likely in a dreamlike coma but not dead. These new powers are allowing me to slip in and out of Night shade undetected but I came to realize that my astral projection only works when I want to reach someone from our bonded group.

Also I cannot stray too far from you or my body because I lose my grip on my powers and return back to my body.

“Why don’t we just burst into Night Shade, kill Victor and be done with all this bullsh1t?”

“Because we can’t act independently from the council, genius. They’re in place for a reason; to stop us from acting arbitrary without them. We need to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that Victor is the enemy and has done something worthy to be punished by death. Or we’ll be the ones having to watch our backs.”

I cursed. “So what do we do now? What can we do?”

“The council is being quiet. Too quiet,” he mused, a dark, pensive look washing over his face, “and we’ve been shut out, so it’s not like I can get any intel until my parents return. I’ll let you know when I think of something or hear any news. Now, do you want to talk about what is going on between you and Lily?”

“Stay out of my head, mind reader” I snapped.

“It’s kind of hard to do when all your thoughts are practically screaming at me.”

He tilted his head, his golden eyes boring into mine. “Don’t beat yourself up about what happened with Callista, Zachary. I’m sure that Lily doesn’t hold anything against you. She doesn’t even think half of these things that you are thinking right now”

I wanted to believe that he was right, but surely it wasn’t that easy, was it? Lily could have died that day and it would have been because of me. Worse, I knew that she would have died forgiving him even though I didn’t deserve it.

“You can start by forgiving yourself for what happened and do it fast before you push Lily away for good. I’ll be back soon. Take care of yourself. Take care of our mate.”

With those parting words, I watched Ren disappear and marveled at how gifted he was as I walked into the shower, but when I closed my eyes, all I could see was Lily’s bruised up face, her eyes filled with terror and her clawed up side, with blood dripping to the earth.

No matter how hard I tried to tell myself that it wasn’t my fault, I couldn’t get over the image of me beating up her fragile little body and how she had fought helplessly against me, how she had trusted me to not hurt her and I had proved her wrong. Over and over and over again. I felt like throwing up. I was so disgusted with myself. I heard the shower doors slip open and shut and

before I opened my eyes, I felt all the blood rush to my d**k, the familiar scent filling my nostrils.

I opened my eyes to see Lily standing in front of me, naked.

I let out a strangled gasp,

“w- what are you doing?” I

choked.

“What does it look like?” She asked, taking a hair tie wrapped around her wrist and pushing her hair up.

My throat burned as my eyes flicked to her perfect breasts, her taut abs. Lower. Lower. Fuck!

She paid me no mind as she wrapped her hair into a messy bun and leaned into me. My lungs were on fire and rational thought had escaped me at this point, but her skin only brushed mine as she grabbed the soap behind me and started to lather her body.

She was a fucking tease and she knew that. Her jade green eyes were on mine as she started to rub the soap up and down her body and my throat tightened, my d**k hard like granite even though she was practically ignoring me. She turned around and started to wash her body under the shower and it was the most sensual thing I had ever seen.

Her small waist, the curve of her hips, Fuck, that ass. With those dimples just above the curve of her ass.

My eyes felt like they were glued to her, unable to come off and when she turned around to keep the soap back, her thigh grazed my erect dick and I sucked in a breath.

Taking a long look at me, she turned around and started to head out of the shower and I didn't know when I moved but the next minute, she was pressed against the wall, my body moulding into hers. My hands slipped around her hips, squeezed her ass and I groaned as she rubbed her body against mine. I lifted her legs until they were wrapped around me. Slamming my lips against hers, I kissed her like I would die if I didn't. The taste of her, the feel of her,

jesus f*****g christ.

When I finally let her come up for air, I saw all of the emotions in her eyes that she had been hiding behind her wall of nonchalance.

Hurt swirled in those pale green eyes and my heart clenched in my chest.

“I thought you were ignoring me.” She whispered, her lower lip trembling, her voice shaking with hurt and tight with accusation and I hated myself for making her feel this way.

“You sure have been working really hard to let me feel unseen.”

My fingers trembled slightly as I cradled her cheeks. “I could never ignore you. You’re all I think about.” I replied earnestly and kissed her again, groaning into her mouth as she ground her body against me.

“Tell me what to do, Zac. Please. Tell me how to make you look at me with love again.” She whispered and I dropped her gently on the floor, cupping her face. For a moment, I can see that nightmare again, her dead, glassy eyes and blood streaming down her cheeks but when I blinked, the image was gone. Her body felt warm to the touch and I steadied my breathing, reminding myself that she was here. That she wasn’t dead

Taking one of my hands, she placed it against her chest so that I could feel her heart beating. “I’m here, Zac. I’m alive and I’m not going anywhere. What had happened has happened. You and I are here now and that is all that matters.”

“Do you forgive me truly?”

“If the tables were turned, would you hold what happened against me?”

“Never” I replied instantly, vehement need rattling in my chest.

She smiled, her lips parting wide. “Then you have your answer.”

She was so beautiful, it was actually insane to believe that she would want someone like me. I was completely captivated by her, her dark green eyes that were no longer looking dead but teeming with life, her rose red lips that looked slightly swollen from kissing me, her rosy warm cheeks that made her look adorable when she smiled.

Unable to stop myself, I kissed her again, my heart pounding hard in my chest that this moment was real.

“Don’t shut me out again, promise me.” She whispered, her scared green eyes locking into mine.

“I won’t. I swear it.”

Her smile was the crack of dawn. “Why don’t we create new memories? Memories that you can fixate on, so that you can forget all the bad ones.”

I grunted as she took my dick in her soft little hands and squeezed, my body tightening with pleasure.

I watched as she slipped down on her knees and when she looked up at me, her eyes hooded with lust and love, I felt precum escape the head of my c**k. She looked like a fvcking goddess and I knew that if she asked me to rip out my heart for her, I would do it in an instant.

I rested both hands against the wall, my toes curling when she licked the tip and groaned when she wrapped her hand around my length and took me in her mouth.

“Fu c k, Lily.” My voice echoed in the bathroom and I tried to stop myself from going so fast but when she took more of me, my c**k hitting the back of her throat, I lost it.

Grabbing a fistful of her hair, I started thrusting fast and hard, enjoying her soft garbled moans as she took me in, her hands holding the back of my thighs.

F**k, I loved her. I loved her so much.

I knew that I wasn’t going to last long. Not when it felt this good. A few more hard thrusts and my body was seizing up as I jerked into her mouth, roaring as I started to cu m and I watched as she took every drop, licking her lips when she was done, a satisfied smile on her lips. I wanted to be inside her. I wanted to make her scream my name. Helping her up, I held her against the wall and started to kiss her when a loud explosion went off, shaking the entire building

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 165

Lily's pov

My heart jumped.

Cade.

That was the first thought that crossed my mind as soon as the explosion rocked the building. I looked into Zac's eyes, unable to hide my dread. Like a hounddog, he immediately sensed it and pulled me closer to him. "I won't let anything happen to you, Lily. I swear it."

And how? How do I tell him that I cared more about him, about them, than I did about myself. The hunters were back and as much as I wanted to believe it, I knew that we both need to get our s**t together and do what needs to be done.

"Stay behind me," Zac said, leading the way out of the bathroom and immediately helping me into my clothes. In seconds, the door to his bedroom flew open and soldiers poured into the room, armed to the teeth. Cade's men.

Their entrance was so abrupt that I staggered back and braced myself, wondering if they were here not to defend but attack us but Zac was quicker and immediately, he took a step forward and growled, flames that were the color of onyx slicked across the room, serving as a wall that separated us from them. "Unless you enjoy the idea of getting your eyes ripped out by me, step out of the room until my mate is dressed."

I'd seen him produce flames before but there was something different about this, something that felt more powerful. Like he had a power surge.

The men immediately started to move back until it was only one of them- the captain- that was left in the room with us, his back turned, respectfully shielding his gaze from me.

The rest of the men waited outside, getting the clear message that they were dead if they took even just one step forward.

A smile tugged at my lips at how hot Zac looked in this moment when he turned around to look back at me, the cold, murderous look he had with the guards immediately melting away and being replaced by a softer one that turned my insides to mush. "You okay?"

I smiled and nodded back, loving that he would defend my honour like this. I was happy that he was finally starting to look like himself again after the last couple of hours and I leaned up to kiss him on his cheek, before turning to look at the man that was standing by the door.

“What’s going on outside?”

“We apologize for the sudden entrance,” He eyed the flames and it was obvious that he was very uncomfortable so I placed a hand on Zac’s shoulder.

“It’s fine.”

Zac didn’t look like he was happy to abide by my wish but he nodded, calling back the flames and glared at the man.

“Next time, even if the world is falling apart, you f*****g knock, do you understand?”

“Yes, forgive my impertinence, however this is a matter of great urgency. Gold crest is under attack.”

“Shadow Cove?” I asked, because it was just like the council to kick a dead dog.

“Negative. It’s the hunters. They came even more prepared this time.”

“A second wave.” Zac said, his voice cold and I palmed my face in frustration. Couldn’t we ever catch a break?

Snapshots of the vision I had seen suddenly made another appearance in my head and cold sweat broke out on my palms.

“I am under special command from the Alpha to protect you at all costs in the event that something like this happens and that is why we are here. To lead you to a safe room where you will be until we are able to contain the situation. Please kindly come with us. We don’t have much time.”

I stuck to my guns, hoping Zac would take my side, “I’m joining the fight.” And I swear, the poor soldier aged ten more years.

“But-“

Zac snapped,

, “She didn’t stutter, soldier.”

“You don’t understand. The Alpha-“

“The alpha won’t have a pack to come back to if we don’t make use of every hand we have at our disposal,” I said, walking past him and pushing through the door to walk into the living room where Angelo was already strapped to the teeth with his guys, ready for a fight... Except they were going to be fighting hunters just like them. Sometimes, I wondered if he resented me a bit for pulling him into a battle that wasn’t his to fight, but he caught my eyes and nodded respectfully at me, not a single drop of animosity in his eyes and my heart stopped clenching with anxiety.

I turned back to face the soldiers, “you will protect the innocents that need your help but I will not sit back and watch my people die while I cower in the shadows.”

Zac smiled proudly at me and took my hand, nodding his approval and I was glad that he was on my side on this, the validation made me feel a bit better about all of this because I had proven to him that I could stand my ground in a fight.

Screaming outside grabbed my attention and I tore away from Zac’s grip on my hand and rushed to the window to see what was going on.

It was a sight that was ten times worse than anything that I could have imagined.

It was the m*****e all over again and I got pulled back in time, momentarily paralyzed. I could only stare back in horror as I watched armoured tanks advance towards the pack, with high level machines that were scattering some gas in the air that I was sure was made from wolfsbane.

Grenade launchers and harpoons were not left out of the invasion’s armory and soldiers were carrying weapons that were made from silver and rhodium

Tears rolled down my cheeks as I watched mothers throw themselves over their children to shield them from attacks as silver was catered into the air. The screams kept getting worse and worse and I let myself feel the rage as the beheaded soldiers of Gold crest hit the ground. I let myself feel everything until I couldn’t see through the rage.

Nothing but murder was on my mind. Nothing but total annihilation would offer a decent retribution... But I couldn't do it myself.

Dahlia's voice was clear in my head like she was standing right next to me.

'Let me out. I will kill them all.'

I took one last look at the scene in front of me, my entire body shaking with cold blooded rage and nodded, knowing that she would feel my agreement, knowing that she would see just how badly I wanted all of those hunters to pay for what they were doing and knowing that she would show no mercy. Not like I would.

Mercy was the last thing they needed.

I felt power flow into my veins as Dahlia pushed me into the deepest parts of her subconscious and I welcomed the darkness that came with it, knowing that what would come after this was c*****e. And that by the time she was done, none of our enemies would be left standing.

Zac's pov

I used to be skeptical about Lily facing an opponent in a fight, but after she managed to hold me off when I was still acting on Callista's command, and then showed Callista who was boss, I knew that my days of coddling Lily were over.

There was a part of me that wanted to wrap my arms around Lily and take her to a safe place like Cade wanted.

It was what the others would do. But when she looked at me, her eyes filled with determination before she turned to look back at the sight in front of her, her hands turning into a fist, I knew that if Lily decided that she didn't want to go into hiding but wanted to go down fighting, I would stand right by her side and not force her into a safe room.

"What do you want to do, Lily? Tell me. Your wish is my command."

I took a step forward to touch her shoulder when I saw her body go stiff and she jerked, her fist clenching even harder as she started to hyperventilate.

She let out a blood curdling scream and darkness blasted across the entire building, all the glasses shattering in its wake, the entire building shaking with the force of her cry.

When the darkness cleared, we were surrounded by terrifying humanoid shadows with sharp claws and teeth.

There were legions of them, more than I could count and my heart stopped as I confirmed what I somehow already knew.

“Dahlia,”

She turned to look at me and I knew that my Lily was gone.

She c****d her head to the side to look at me and there was nothing remotely human about her anymore.

It was my Lily’s body but there was no mistaking that this was no human.

She carried herself like she had won a thousand wars, like she had a crown of diamond and the bones of her enemies on her head. She carried her head high and stood with a ruthless grace that made everyone within her radius want to bow to her and worship at her feet. Her eyes were completely black, no sign of her iris or pupils at all. Her body hummed with so much unimaginable power and when she smiled, it was filled with centuries old cruelty and vengeance.

“Hello, Azrael,” she said, almost fondly, her voice echoing as she addressed me by my wolf’s name and I felt my heart clench and my wolf keen with love and devotion in response.

“It is nice to meet you in your new host. Tell all that will listen to begin to evacuate. I will be very swift.”

Before I could respond, she waved her hand and where the wall was before, there was nothing but a huge gash and she jumped, all of her shadow creatures following suit.

She jumped.

We were a thousand feet in the air and she. f*****g.

Jumped

I screamed, forgetting for a moment that she could handle herself as she landed in the center of the invasion, creating a gigantic crater that split the earth in two.

Naturally, I followed after her, panic bleeding into my veins, transforming mid air and letting out a roar as terror seized my chest and I landed not too far from her. Without hesitation, I started to tear through the hunters and cars blocking my path, racing to get to her.

I realized quickly that I had nothing to worry as I reached her because she began to levitate in the air. I swear, it was like her audience, werewolves and hunters alike, inhaled a gasp at the sight of her; wild black hair, dark eyes and all, and when she spoke, her voice rang through the entire pack.

“To those I will spare, remember this day for the rest of your pitiful lives. Tell your kind to never dream of trying this again. To those that die by my hand today,” mock pity filled her voice, she had the decency to look like she meant her words “it is a pity that we meet under such dire conditions. All I can offer is a swift and painless death.”

She raised her hands and wind and darkness swirled around her like a tornado, lifting her even higher up until she was very high above ground. I looked on in awe as she stretched her hands, the darkness roped out of her like lassos, reaching and wrapping around all the hunters around her, snuffing out their souls in seconds.

I held my breath. Magnificent. Quick and painless, just like she had promised.

Their screams filled the air and when I looked around at the gold crest soldiers, I saw that they were equal parts amazed and terrified by the sight. Afraid of the sheer power that Dahlia was manifesting. The power of a goddess.

Blood leaked out of the ears of her victims as she took transforming mid air and letting out a roar as terror seized my chest and I landed not too far from her. Without hesitation, I started to tear through the hunters and cars blocking my path, racing to get to her.

I realized quickly that I had nothing to worry as I reached her because she began to levitate in the air. I swear, it was like her audience, werewolves and hunters alike, inhaled a gasp at the sight of her, wild black hair, dark eyes and all, and when she spoke, her voice rang through the entire pack.

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Blood leaked out of the ears of her victims as she took from them and dropped their empty bodies to the ground

More hunters, very stupid hunters if you ask me, started to rush towards her to attack and her shadow humanoid creatures set to work, growling ferociously, tearing through the hunters and ripping the armoured vehicles, metal and engine alike, apart

She practically floated through the streets in her swirling tornado, easily turning the tide and falling bodies left and right. Locals dropped to their knees and bowed their heads low to the ground in reverence as she passed them by. She spared the locals, lowkey preening at their worship, I'm sure, but she didn't spare the hunters.

She dropped to the ground close to me and I watched as all the soldiers around us bowed their heads to the ground in reverence as she walked past them towards me.

“Join me?” She asked, a hopeful look in her eyes as if she was holding her breath for my response.

She might be a powerful, vengeful goddess, but in this moment, she seemed like a woman in love, seeking the support of her mate.

I smiled, my tongue licking my fangs. “Where you go, I go, duchess.”

She smiled back, biting her lower lip into a seductive smirk and walked ahead of me, raising her arms to the sky.

Thunder boomed and lightning cracked in the sky, darkness washing over the skies as easily as rain clouds on a stormy day. I had to hand it to her, she took theaterics to a whole new level cry

Wind and darkness swirled around her again, lifting her up until she was a hundred feet above the ground. It was clear that the goddess in her still loved to look down on her subjects.

Morning turned into night as she let out a roar, raging forward with her humanoid creatures and I followed behind her, all of the other soldiers letting out an equal war cry as we descended on our enemies in the fight until the streets were soaked with the blood of our enemies.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 166

Zac's pov

Dahlia charged forward with her shadow humanoids and the Gold crest soldiers looked even more hopeful as they followed after her, their spirits renewed as the tides turned in our favour. Some of them dashed into buildings to put out fires and scour for any survivors that could be rescued while the others, including myself, cleared our way through the enemies until we reached the borders.

The fight was practically over before it even started.

The border didn't look any different from where we had come from. There were dead bodies all around, some human and some not. The rest of the soldiers advanced forward to check if there were still any signs of invasion while Dahlia and I rushed to where Cade was laying on the ground, being attended to by Ren of all people.

He was the last person I expected to see here because the last time we spoke, he was supposed to be keeping an eye out for Aiden. How had he even gotten here? I wanted to hope Ren being here was a sign that good things awaited us but instead I felt nothing but dread.

As we rushed towards them, I took in the state of Cade's injuries and my heart clenched in part dread, part relief. He was alive, although he was badly injured.

"What did you do? Run into a bomb explosion or something?"

"Or something," he bit out, grunting in pain.

"This habit of using yourself as a damn human shield is going to get you killed one day," I mused, dropping to my hunches beside Ren, who hadn't said anything because all his attention was focused on healing Cade. A gentle glow radiated off his palms and eyes as Cade's flesh knitted itself back together.

Cade had large burn marks all over him, probably from running directly into bomb detonations and there was a giant s***h on his side but besides that, he seemed fine.

'You'll be alright.'

He nodded at me, his lips set in a grim line as Ren practically reassembled his bones. He had my respect. Not many new Alphas as young as he was would charge headfirst into an attack when they could hide away and send their foot soldiers to do the work.

"Dorian!" Dahlia cried, dropping to the ground and throwing herself on Cade, kissing his face and when he lifted one hand to hold her, confused for a moment as if he didn't hear her correctly.

Dahlia pulled back to hug Ren, who broke concentration and hugged her back for a second, before he froze and pulled her back to search her face.

I saw him flinch, a look of confusion washing over him as he shared a look with Cade before they both looked to me for an explanation.

I didn't understand what they were confused about until Dahlia rose and stood beside me, a satisfied smile stretching both her lips. It was Lily's face but that smile was filled with something that was both old and ruthless. I realized that they were confused about Lily's strange behavior and the humanoids that surrounded us.

“Guys, meet Dahlia, she’s in control of Lily’s body for a while,” I introduced, “Dahlia, this is 2/3rd and frankly the least good looking of the rest of your mates. Now that we’re all caught up-” because we need to focus on our major issue at the moment. Dahlia was on our side and that was all that mattered to me.

“-What in the fresh hell

just happened? and-” I raised my eyebrows at Ren- “How are you even here?”

“I was already on my way here. I was too late though.” He said, his shoulders dropping as his golden brown eyes did a sweep of our surroundings.

Which means he knew about the attack happening. How?

And why was I sure that I would not like his answer?

“How were so many hunters able to make it to that Gold crest undetected? The only way that would happen is if they were able to somehow pass through all of Shadow cove defenses without alerting the Council, which is practically impossible.”

Ren rose to his feet, his hair tied in a knot at the back of his head with blood streaks striking the white blond strands, a frown on his face as his answer confirmed my worst nightmare.

“The council tipped them.”

“That’s impossible!” I said vehemently, but I knew Ren was many things but a liar.

“What do you mean?” Dahlia asked, her gaze intense in a way that would intimidate any who dared to lock gaze with her.

“I mean the council sabotaged Gold Crest.”

“Why the f**k would they do that? Gold Crest’s not their problem anymore.” A blazing inferno was swirling inside of me as I tried to make sense of a broken system I had lost faith in a long time ago.”

“Since the verdict was passed, there have been more meetings. Secret meetings. Some of the council members argued that the pack got too light a sentence and now that Gold Crest is no longer a part of Shadow Cove, they

posed a threat to the rest of the cove thanks to their manufacturing of rhodium. They decided that because Gold Crest was no longer officially a part of the cove, they needed to be treated like an enemy pack and strike first before Gold Crest does. But they wanted to do it in a way that evidence wouldn't lead back to them."

"Yeah right. Of course the Council would think like that.

They've always been self serving," Cade scoffed, his voice filled with bitterness and I didn't envy the cross he had to bear right now as Alpha and hearing that the rest of the other packs were trying to annihilate him and his people like we were not once a part of one big community.

"And their great big idea was to collude with the enemy." I deadpanned because how fvcking stupid was that?

"I stumbled on the meeting by pure accident when I was still trying to find Aiden_"

"With your cool new powers, I bet."

"Yes," he answered, only slightly miffed that I was probably not taking this as seriously as I needed to.

"It was a secret

meeting held behind our parent's backs by a majority of the council that were in agreement. They struck a deal with the hunters. The hunters agreed that if the council hands over Gold crest and all of its resources to them without providing resistance, they would not attack Shadow cove in the future. The hunters were coming to loot the mines for rhodium and gold, that's why they came with everything they had to attack. They had nothing to lose."

I didn't blame them. Who would factor in a vengeful primordial goddess in their plans to take over the world?

"No, they came to destroy." Dahlia said beside me, her voice as cold as ice. Her mind seemed to be running a mile a minute and I could see the conclusion she had come to at the end of it. Nothing but bloody murder was on her mind.

“Those old geezers are long due for retirement, don’t you agree?” She asked, an unsettling smile touching her lips, ruthless delight sparked in her eyes.

She looked at Cade. “I am sure that the rest of your army can take care of things here, can’t they?”

“Yes. The worst is over.” Cade responded and rose to his feet, already seeing the direction Dahlia was heading.

Thanks to Ren’s healing abilities, he looked a lot better and wasn’t bleeding anymore.

She tilted her head, a coy smile playing on her dark red lips.

“Then I think we should pay the Council a visit. If you are strong enough to go with us, that is”

Cade’s eyes were filled with vengeance as he nodded and it wasn’t long before an armoured car was prepared for the four of us to go in. Just the four of us. We have all the army we need and we couldn’t afford any fatalities if our attack blows up in our faces.

Ren was behind the wheel while I sat in the passenger seat.

Cade had his head resting on Dahlia’s lap and the entire ride, there was nothing but an eerie calmness exuding from Dahlia, even as she stroked Cade’s hair like he was her favourite cat.

However, when our eyes met, I saw that she was thinking of c****e, the darkness in her eyes showing that she wanted nothing but bloodshed. I grinned back at her, enjoying the promise of retribution.

Let us hope that her enemies said their last prayers to the moon goddess... because mercy was the last thing on this goddess’ mind.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 167

Lacs pov

My suspicions were confirmed by the time we arrived at the council gates. Not waiting for Ren to even drive in, she stretched out her hands and the gates blasted open, the guards running around in a state of momentary confusion.

By the time we got down from the car there was already a wall of soldiers trying to block the entrance and one of them rushed forward.

“Stop now or we will have to force you to.”

“Dahlia smiled. ” When will mortals understand to pick their battles wisely?” With a wave of her hand, the soldiers were sent flying and they dropped to the ground, looking lifeless.

Did she take their souls?

There was no time to determine that because as soon as she was done disposing of the men that were blocking us, she summoned a tornado of darkness and wind and lifted us up until we were directly staring at the boardroom where the meeting was held from outside. Creating a huge gash in the windows, she floated us in and the intense argument that had been going on immediately died as they stared at the open hole in the wall and at us in horror.

One of the elders slammed a fist on the table and he rose to his feet but before he could speak, most likely to ask what the hell was going on, Dahlia opened her hands and lassos of darkness reached out and wrapped around the throat of some specific council members.

Her eyes glowed and immediately all the lights in the room went off. Something like a white screen appeared from nowhere and like we were all watching a movie, scenes showing some of these council members going about their day started to play on the screen. I realized in awe and fear that she was projecting memories of those that the lassos were tied around their necks.

The memories kept filtering like someone was changing the channels until it settled on one scene. It was a different boardroom but some of the council members were

“present. Sitting at the head of the table was Victor, the slimy bastard, and there were people I had never seen before seated on the other side of the room. Humans.

Hunters.

“We know why you have gathered for this meeting and we have our concerns as well.” Victor said and one of the humans, the one who sat at the center, I presumed he was their leader nodded.

“Everyday Shadow cove increases in size and number and we humans cannot continue to live in fear that one day you may come for us. We both know that you are stronger and more powerful than we will ever be.”

“That is why I have a solution that will benefit us all.” Victor replied and when I looked around, I saw that everyone else was as engrossed in the scene as I was, some looking shocked while the guilty ones looked uncomfortable.

“We do not consider Gold crest, your suppliers of arms as a part of us anymore and them remaining at our borders is a cause for concern because it is only a matter of time before they attack us. If we hand them over to you, it means that we will reduce in size like you said and in return, rid ourselves of our enemies. It also means that you will be able to have access to enough gold and rhodium to be able to protect yourselves from others while making sure that you and our kind can continue to thrive in peace.

In exchange, you will leave us alone. The rest of Shadow Cove is not to be touched by you or your kind for generations to come. That is the agreement that will be signed in blood between us.”

There was a gasp from those watching and while the humans deliberated, I finally realized where I had seen the human that was heading the hunters before.

He was a popular congressman that had signed an alliance treaty to not attack our kind as long as werewolves didn't attack them. It was because of this alliance that humans had been allowed to freely cross the borders and even go to school here. The alliance was clearly not s**t if the humans were so willing to take up arms to kill us like animals.

As soon as the congressman agreed and shook Victor on it, the screen disappeared and when light returned to the room, some of the guilty council members started to cry out that they were innocent.

“Surely you can't believe that. She's a witch, using dirty magic tricks on all our minds. She's just like her father.”

One of the men yelled.

A ferocious growl rumbled in Dahlia's throat and one minute, he was screaming, the next, a giant scythe created from darkness appeared in her hand and she cleaved the councilman in two.

There was nothing to be heard but the drip drip drip of blood pouring from his severed body to the ground and his body dropped like a sack of dead meat, hitting the ground with a dull thud

Pandemonium broke out among the others that had been found guilty as they all started running towards the door, climbing over each other, desperate to escape. Giant spikes erupted from the ground where they stood, impaling them with eerie precision and ending their futile struggle.

– The silence in the room was filled with the stench of terror from the remaining council members that were alive. Some could not believe what had just happened, while others, like my mother, looked relieved and satisfied at the punishment meted out even though I could still see her discomfort at the gruesome way Dahlia had massacred them.

“No matter their sins, they are supposed to stand trial. You cannot come in here and do as you please, child. There is an order to things.” One of the women said and Dahlia chuckled, her gentle laugh increasing before she suddenly stopped, further confusing the room.

“Lily, dear, she is right” Ren's mother said and that was when Ren and I realized why they were horrified. Cade was the one who beat us to it, answering the council calmly.

“She isn't Lily. Not now anyway. This is Dahlia”

It took a moment for the council to understand what Cade had said and why it was a big deal.

There were collective gasps in the crowd and I saw my mother being the first of many to quickly incline her head in respect at the presence of a goddess in our midst.

“I don't need your greetings. I need retribution for what was done to the pack of one of my mated.”

“Can you explain what happened, Cade?” My father asked and Cade went on to explain what happened at the pack, his eyes darkening as he recounted the

attack and the c****e. When he was done, there were sorrowful faces that mourned the fallen.

_Ren stepped forward, his face solemn.

“The council was created to check the power of the Alphas and Lunas, to prevent tyranny and arbitrary rule, but what has happened here is enough to show how most of the council has now been overrun by greed and corruption and who is behind all of this. Victor has done nothing but gun for monopoly of Shadow cove and for long he has been working to make sure that he has most of the council on his side. By having control over majority of the council, the equality and fairness that the council should represent is no more and instead of speaking on how Dahlia carried out justice, the rest of you must figure out how to make Victor pay for his crimes.”

Ren’s words were followed by mutinies and as the council deliberated,

“There is no need for much deliberation. I will take my men and drag Victor by the beard if I have to-“

“You are not going to have the honour of apprehending him, Ignazio, I say you let Silver Moon handle this one”

Ren caught my eyes and a silent agreement passed through us, and just as I was about to take Dahlia’s hand and get the f**k out of here, Ren’s eyes glowed with a bright light, the way ot usually does when he uses his powers.

“What is it?”

He remained quiet, painfully still, his eyes glowing. And then he whispered.

“Aiden. He’s awake”

“Let’s go and get him. We don’t need the council on our „Side anymor”

Ren raised a hand, stopping me mid sentence. His face had gone pale, sweaty. “He’s in a dungeon of sorts... No-” he gasped, “he’s in lab. There are- **k!” He cussed silently,

“there are other werewolves in cages all around him. Other ... creatures. Victor is talking with someone else about another wave of attacks-“

“We just cleaned house with the hunters. They’ll be stupid to attack again.”

Ren shook his head, "I don't think he's talking about the hunters. In any case, we need to be ready. Civilians must stay indoors in their safe rooms." He murmured, his eyes searching, "it doesn't look like they're in Night Shade either.

I'm trying to find the location. I need a minute

A minute turned to a few agonizing minutes. He raked his hands through his hair.

Suddenly, he stilled, his entire body froze like he had been doused in ice. He lost concentration, his eyes returning back to their golden brown colour. And then, he stared right at Dahlia, nothing but horror in his eyes.

I saw Dahlia sway slightly on her feet. Rushing to her side, I caught her before she fell and panic bled into my chest when she clasped a hand over her chest, breathing hard, her face pale and eyes wide in confusion.

"Dahlia, what's wrong?"

"I don't know," she blurted out and before she could say more, she held her stomach and started to scream, her wails ringing through the entire room.

Kneeling on the ground with her in my arms as she writhed in agony, I could only look on as Ren rushed to kneel beside me, his hands shaking as he tried to heal her. He must have expended all his energy on Cade and his search for Aiden because his powers were not working. If anything, it was making it worse.

"No no no," Ren whispered, tears rolling down his cheeks as he forced more power into his hands. His hands pressed down on her. "Come on. Come on... please please please."

Her shirt was becoming soaked with blood and when I raised it up, my face blanched, terror tightening my chest as deep incisions appeared along her abdomen and stretched into her pelvis.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 168

Aiden's pov

My head felt like it was being smashed over and over again with brick and it throbbed as I opened my eyes slowly, wondering where I was. As I tried to sit up, I groaned hard, feeling like there was a heavy weight on top of me. I couldn't move my body; my arms, my legs...

I craned my neck, looked around and saw that I was in somewhere that looked like a lab. There were no windows, all the walls were painted white and the lights were nausea inducing. Or perhaps it was whatever I must have ingested that was causing that reaction.

I tried to move and realized that I was shackled to the large metal bed I was lying on, both hands and feet bound to the bed.

Where was I? What the hell was going on?

My throat felt parched and raw and I felt so dehydrated, it was making me feel dizzy. It was a struggle to even lift myself up on my shoulders, my body and mind feeling weird and sluggish like I had been drugged. When I tried to suck in a breath, it felt like my lungs were ablaze and I coughed, gasping for breath.

As if things could not get any worse, I finally focused on my surroundings and saw that there were beds on either side of me

There were beds beside those bed and the beds lined the hall, werewolves like me.. and other creatures (there was a little boy with giant dragon wings, another with elf like ears and fairy wings, a girl with bird wings and horns on her head, a vampire, wasting away under the fluorescent light) shackled to beds, caged and unconscious. Our beds were separated by what I now realized were cages made from silver and I saw that they were wearing the same hospital dress that I was wearing.

Test subjects, I realized. Lab rats. We were lab rats for some kind of experiment. Cade had not been lying about Victor and Cynthia secretly having a lab where they brought werewolves that they had kidnapped to use them as rats in their experiment. Except, there weren't just werewolves here...

I wondered just how long they had been running this operation and if the others were even alive. The room looked like millions had gone into funding this place and I shook my head in terror as I thought about how many families had lost their children to this evil.

There was only one way to find out. I needed to get out of here. Straining against the shackles, I tried to rip myself out of the binds but the silver burned my skin and I bit down on my lip, swallowing my scream of agony because the last thing I wanted was to alert anyone that I was awake or even trying to escape.

No matter how hard I tried, the binds only seemed to tighten but I was not deterred. I could not afford to give up and wait for someone to catch me trying to leave. My attempts, however, had to quickly come to an end when I heard a large door open and people walking in.

I heard my uncle's voice before I saw him and my hands fisted in rage. I knew his hatred for me knew no bounds and even though I didn't know why, what was his reason for abducting other teenagers for this?

He was talking to someone and when they walked into my line of vision, I finally realized who the other person was.

He was a popular congressman that used to do business with my parents. Gregory Rivers. Well, it seemed he never stopped doing business with Victor even after my parents died

"You sent my men on a suicide mission to Gold Crest,

– Victor. Surely you don't expect me to trust you again after this."

Victor smiled goodnaturedly, his good looks belying his hideous personality and shook his head.

"You know that I would not have even mentioned an attack on that pack if I thought it would lead to suicide. With Cynthia dead, I was certain that they could be easily defeated. Their new Alpha is no older than my nephew. I didn't anticipate that the girl would show up for them. It seems I greatly underestimated the power of the goddess that resides in her."

My ears perked up at that. I stopped struggling as soon as I heard about Lily.

"I did not think that she would be physically and mentally capable of giving the goddess full reign over her body. You are human, so you may not understand but what she did is a great feat that requires large amounts of physical and mental energy. I can also assure you that even with such power, I doubt the goddess will remain in control for long since it will have serious repercussions

on the girl's body if she does, She won't see the second wave of attacks coming. None of them will."

"You must take me for a fool if you think that I will send my men on another suicide mission."

"But who said anything about your men?" His voice grated on my nerves, the ominous edge to it, sending shivers down my spine.

The thought that my uncle had not only partnered with the hunters but allowed them entry to attack Gold crest made

-my blood boil and even though I was worried about the second wave of attack that he was clearly asking Gregory to prepare for, I was relieved to hear that my mate was alive and kicking a*s.

"Come, let us check on my nephew." Victor said and as he came to stand in front of my cell, his accomplice visibly uncomfortable beside him, I saw his eyes widen with surprise.

"You're awake." Victor said gently, his voice filled with faux relief. "I thought I had lost you, dearest nephew."

"Go to hell, Victor" I spat and he merely grinned.

"He's your nephew?" Gregory asked and Victor merely shrugged.

"More importantly, he is our test subject for the 'demon rose. The name could use some work. It's the new drug similar to what you humans call cocaine that we are planning to release on the streets. A lot more effective, if you ask me. Our pockets will be full in no time."

"I thought we stopped pursuing that after most of the volunteers died after ingesting them."

"In the right amounts, yes." Victor nodded. "I've been testing the drug on him in small doses and gauging his reaction to the drug. He is the best of the lot here, his stamina is quite commendable which is why it took a lot of doses to keep him compliant." Victor's voice didn't even miss a beat and you would not even know that he was talking about something so horrendous from the calm smile on his face.

His words confirmed what I had already suspected since I

-opened my eyes; that I was drugged which was what made me feel so sluggish.

“How effective is it?” Gregory had the nerve to ask, even though he looked like he would prefer to turn the other way and run for his life.

“Very effective, Gregory Victor answered with a bright smile, his eyes zeroing on me as he opened the door to my cell.

“Demon rose is going to be a hit among our kind, especially among stupid teenagers like our test subject because it has addictive tendencies to werewolves and vampires alike and offers a high, an escape from all their teenage drama.

Since supernaturals can't feel any euphoria from cocaine like humans do, I guarantee that this drug will fetch us a lot of money as soon as we start producing it in large quantities. With its addictive tendencies, they will quickly get hooked on it and do whatever they can to get their next

hit They will be completely under our control” He said as easily as one discussing the weather.

“You're out of your damn mind, Victor. Stop this at once!” I roared and watched as Gregory fixed up a syringe, right before he followed after Victor who walked into my cell.

“Why stop now? You were so gracious to deliver yourself into my arms, making my work easy for me and I have gladly accepted your sacrifice as a gift. It means I will be able to make use of you until I have no more need for you.”

“You will pay for this!” I yelled, trying and failing to move away as Gregory injected me, the needle driving like an

-arrow into my arm and I could feel my senses go numb as the drug filled my system almost immediately. My vision blurred and I blinked back tears, trying to stay awake.

“Why are you so hell bent on working with the hunters against us, Victor? Why would you sell out your own people like they are animals?” I whispered, my

words dragging thanks to the numbing effect of the drug. “What is the reason?”

“What if I don’t have a reason? What then? What if I’m just bored and I enjoy all of this c*****e and destruction a little too much? The thrill of getting under people’s skin. The thrill of being the predator and not the victim. The mastermind and not the foot soldier. What then,

Aiden?”

He was gleaming at the expression on my face.

“Th- that’s not true.”

“As the less powerful brother, I spent my entire life being overlooked and disregarded. There was never anything to do Nothing was ever expected of me.” The smile on his face vanished and I saw the monster beneath the handsome mask that he had used to deceive everyone for years.

“Your father was a genius, a prodigy. He was the favourite son. The first son. The leader. Everything he touched turned to gold; the alpha position, the family business and even your mother. He had it all. And what did I have?” His voice took a darker, poisonous edge as he gripped the edge of my steel bed, gazing into oblivion, stuck down memory lane.

“I had nothing but shadows. I was the loser, doomed to

“always be in his shadow. I was not even good enough to be his beta, never even found my mate, perhaps the b***h had found out it was me and decided I wasn’t good enough too.”

He wasn’t even talking to me anymore.

“It was not fair that your father got everything that I wanted while I was forgotten and abandoned. The shadows were all I had but I knew that was not enough. Not when your father was getting everything so easy. I wanted to knock him off his high horse so yes I had him killed. And imagine my surprise when the m*****e | orchestrated worked and no one could trace it back to me.

“So I decided to try again. And the more I won, the more I wanted to win. I wanted to see how much I could get away with before the consequences caught up with me. And now? Now, thanks to you, the powers you and your

silly little bond group possess, I will become invincible. I already have the council eating out of the palm of my hands, the teenagers and youths will be the next to go as soon as my drugs hit the streets.

I can almost taste the unimaginable

power I am about to have.”

His laughter echoed in the large room and I could only look, my mouth open with shock and horror that all this while when I had tried to excuse my uncle’s wrongdoings, he was just a literal psychopath.

I had thought he had a ground breaking reason for everything that he was doing. That there was a redeemable reason why he had killed our entire family, a reason I could sympathize with, but hearing that he had just done all of this for the fun of it snapped something in me that would

” never be repaired, sending me into a blind rage.

“You BASTARD!” I roared, pulling at the shackles as I tried to reach for him.

Blind rage made me see nothing but red.

“I WILL RIP YOU APART, VICTOR. I WILL KILL YOU, YOU DEGENERATE.”

“Save your strength, nephew, He replied, pushing me back into the bed with unimaginable strength that surprised me and he must have seen the surprise on my face because his smile returned.

“Surprised by my power? Don’t worry, there will be time for you to face me and I cannot wait. In the meantime, be very careful not to hurt yourself if you don’t want your precious mate getting hurt.”

At the mention of Lily, it felt like my heart stopped and I shook my head almost immediately.

“You’re lying,” I accused. “This is one of your lies!”

He quirked an amused eyebrow at me.”Oh, you really think so? Surely you didn’t think that I would not make contingency plans?’

He searched the expression on my face and realized that I did think he wouldn’t have any contingency plans.

His face fell with actual hurt.

“You wound me by how little

you know me, nephew. I knew that it would be almost impossible to get my hands on your little mate, so I had to find a way to make sure that I could hurt her without having to put a finger on her, in case I needed leverage against that goddess inside of her that kills first before asking questions. The moment she mated with Cade, her bond cycle was completed and now, my spell can finally be put into full effect.”

“No...”

He had to be lying. He had to be trying to scare me.

“Allow me to demonstrate, since it seems you don’t believe me, my dearest nephew.” He responded to my disbelieving gaze and as he stood beside my bed, he brought out a knife, slicing a straight thin line down my abdomen towards my pelvis that made my scream fill the entire room.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 169

Aiden’s pov

“Wake up, sweetheart.”

The voice sounded distant yet very close but instead of relief, the words left me feeling nothing but dread and warning. Of something deadly and evil.

“Lily?” I mumbled, and the hand on my cheek froze.

Clenched.

“You’re awake,” the voice whispered in glee. It felt strangely familiar, yet dreadful.

Trying to open my eyes felt so tedious and it felt like my entire body was unable to move.

The drug! I realized. That damn bastard.

As I managed to open my eyes slowly, my vision blurred and I could see someone hovering over me, their hand pushing hair out of my face. I could feel my arms and legs.

But I couldn't move either of them. What was happening?

Where was I?

I realized that I was no longer in that room where I had seen Victor. This looked like an actual bedroom unlike where I had been shackled with other werewolves, all of us lab rats for my uncle's depravity.

No, Victor was not my uncle. Had never been. Not in the way that mattered anyways. He was nothing more than a monster that I needed to take care of and I needed to do that very fast. Yet my body didn't feel like my own and I was sure that I was running out of time.

The bed felt soft underneath, me and when I managed to turn my head to the side, I saw that my hands were shackled. Struggling to look down due to the throbbing headache that threatened to make me go blind, I saw that my feet were also shackled.

"I was scared for a moment that you wouldn't wake up.

– Father was certain that you might not survive the last dose of injection but I knew you were much stronger than that," A sultry voice said, soft hands touching my arm. I flinched and managed to lift and move away. That voice made all the alarm bells in my head go crazy because I had heard it before.

Turning my head again, I forced my eyes open and when my vision cleared, my eyes widened in horror, my entire body recoiling in disgust to see Mauve leaning in close to me to caress my face.

"Where the hell am I?" I demanded, my throat parched, my voice hoarse and dazed, no doubt from being pumped with whatever Victor was manufacturing.

"Where is Victor?" I roared, my voice coming out harsher this time even though it took a toll on my head, compounding my headache.

A wave of dizziness and nausea hit me like a freaking freight train moving at top speed

Mauve chuckled, not looking to be in any distress. The fact that she was dressed in silk underwear was enough to tell me that she seemed perfectly comfortable with what was happening.

She patted her hair and I noticed it for the first time. It was black now.

“You like it?” She asked, a wicked grin on her lips, “I died it to match Lily’s. Maybe I’ll have better luck with you as a brunette.”

The black hair, her attempt at an innocent smile, her white underwear. She was trying to mimic Lily. I looked at her in blatant disgust, “I will never feel anything for you, Mauve

– and it has nothing to do with your fu c kin g hair colour.

Get off of me, you stink. Now, tell me where the f**k my uncle is, so that I can kill him.”

Her expression dropped. “Ever the ferocious one. Even on your dying bed, all you can think about is revenge despite the fact that I am dressed this hot for you. Even tried to imitate your preferences. You can’t even pretend to be interested in me,” she mused, kissing my chest and an army of ants were suddenly brought to life, marching all over my body. It felt like they were crawling all over me.

I thrashed wildly, trying to buck her off of me. “I am NOT interested in you, Mauve, I thought I’ve made it painfully clear all these years!”

“You have, haven’t you?” She tsked, tracing my jaw, an actual disappointed look on her face.

. “But it doesn’t matter.

My father, who also happens to be your dearest uncle, is going to kill you before the day is over anyways, so that means I can do whatever I want with you before your time runs out.”

It was almost hilarious how dying was the least of my troubles right now.

Right now, I needed Mauve to

dematerialize away from me.

She obviously didn't read the disgusted expression on my face or she chose to ignore it because she leaned in closer and pressed her nose in my neck, inhaling deeply. "No one is ever going to find us here and now that I have you where I want you after all these years, I am going to make sure that for the next couple of hours until dear daddy is ready to kill you, your eyes, your body, will be me alone."

– She gleamed, an unhinged glint in her eyes, a crack in her calm, sultry expression, "I can finally play with you until I am tired and have no use for you anymore. Basically, you are going to be my toy. You will amuse me until you do not.

Do those last words sound familiar to you?"

I hated that they did. They were familiar because they were my words to all of the people that I had played with like toys before meeting Lily.

Her hand ran up my abs and she groaned, her eyes darkening as she licked her lips.

"So hot. You were always so hot. Still are. I don't even know where to start with you, how to please you. How about this?" She leaned forward and reached for something and when she moved back to resting beside me, she was holding a wicked curved knife that was made from silver but with a wooden tip that made it possible for her to hold. My body stiffened in horror as she gleamed at me

"Some of those b'itches you f****d used to talk, you know?"

There was a rumour going around back then that you like pain and even though they didn't say whether it was inflicting pain or also receiving it, I have always wanted to know. Always wanted to test it out."

Straddling my lower thighs, she trailed the knife down my abs and I winced from how the silver stung from just

minimal contact with the object.

"Did you know that of the three of you, Ren, Zac and you, you were the one that fascinated me the most? I'm sure you knew that from the couple of times I offered myself to you and you treated me like I was filth. I would have done

– anything for you, even the pain thing wouldn't have been an issue for me. Honestly? I would have done anything to have the three of you. But for some reason, boring poor Lily gets to live my dream. Why?"

"Mauve! I hissed, "Stop this at once!" It felt like she had not even heard me because she continued.

"Why does she get to have you and I don't? What is so special about her that made not one but all of you go mad over her?" She pressed the blade into my skin and I screamed in agony as the silver burned my skin, watching the deranged look on Mauve's face.

My vision stuttered in and out, bright lights of pain blinking behind my eyelids.

My scream caused her to stop and she took a deep breath, closing her eyes and when she opened them, it was like a switch had been flipped. Her eyes were no longer clouded with madness but it didn't matter. She had just donned the mask that was wearing from the beginning, her calm face feigning sanity and hiding her cruel insanity.

"Did that hurt? Oh I'm so sorry for getting worked up when there is really nothing to be so upset over. I'm the one with you now and I'm going to make sure that you never forget me. I'm going to make sure that I'm the last face that you will see before you die. The last thing on your mind before I deliver your soul to Thanatos."

Her hand slipped into my pants and my whole body recoiled in disgust as she wrapped a hand around my dick and started to stroke me. It was shocking at first and I must have dissociated a bit. Like I was watching myself helpless and struggling from outside my body. It was a

"violation that I had never experienced before and I felt like peeling my skin off my body and rinsing it in the Styx river to rid myself of her touch.

"Get off of me!" I roared, trying to shake her off me "Get off of me right now!"

The bubble of fear and shame that hung in my throat only made me feel worse. Angrier. More helpless. "I promise you that once I get rid of these shackles, you will be nothing but pieces scattered on the ground."

She giggled, still stroking me hard and fast and when she leaned down to kiss me, I bit down hard on her lips, causing her to gasp and raise her head.

Her eyes darkened, a cloud passing over her face... And then it was gone. She was all smiles as she licked the blood off her lips.

"Well, it would seem that the rumors about you liking it rough are very true. I love it!" She clapped her hands and ripped off my shirt, moving to straddle me and I froze when I realized that she was naked underneath.

"Mauve, don't." Those were the only words that could come out of my mouth as I stared on, powerless as she started to grind against me

/ should have killed you. / should have damned the council and murdered you when I had the chance.

"Even now that you're solely at my mercy, you won't beg," she laughed and it felt like insects were crawling all over my body as she raked her finger down my chest. "Your pride knows no bounds, Aiden. I'll have so much fun

•breaking you and having you beg for me." Her moans filled the room as she ground hard against me, her hand wrapped around my c**k while the other one rubbed furiously at her cl!t.

Stray tears escaped my eyes and trailed down my cheeks, the shame of helplessness and disgust choking my throat.

I had never felt powerless like this before in my entire life and as I closed my eyes, all I could think about was the way Lily had begged me for mercy when I forced her to go down on me against her will and I had not listened.

This was fate teaching me exactly how it felt to be on the receiving end of such a despicable act and I prayed for it to be over fast.

I prayed that I would die right now so I wouldn't have to live with the shame of letting Mauve do this to me, so that I wouldn't have to face Lily and know that if she decided to reject me, she was within her rights and I didn't deserve to be forgiven for what I had done. I will never be able to look at her again, now that I understood an inkling of what she had felt.

I squeezed my eyes shut, feeling myself detach and dissociate from this situation until Mauves moans got duller and duller and farther away and mentally, I was in an entirely different place and Dily was reaching out a hand to me, smiling in that open, honest, all out way she usually did. I reached out a desperate hand to her.

My body grew lighter. I couldn't even feel Mauve's weight on me anymore. This will be over soon and I'll be dead before anyone can find me. I don't deserve a better

"fate.

Yes... that's what I'll do. Wait patiently and die.

My body grew slack, my hand clasped around dream

Lily-

A loud crash tore me out of my mental haven and when I opened my eyes, I saw that the wall to my right had collapsed and following it was a loud roar that shook the entire building.

Mauve's eyes widened in shock before a fist connected with her face, sending her flying right into the wall on the other side of the room and I looked up at a furious Lily, who was panting hard, her green eyes were wild and filled with cold murderous rage as she glared at Mauve.

"Get your filthy hands off my mate."

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 170

Lily's pov

Few minutes earlier.

I woke up to my head spinning and a sharp metallic taste in my mouth... Blood. I couldn't tell if it was mine or one of Dahlia's unfortunate victims.

"You're awake," a relieved voice breathed and I realized that I was in a car, my head in Ren's lap, his hand on my stomach, healing me from goddess knows what.

He looked tired, his face pale, forehead sweaty, his hands were trembling from over exertion and I cupped his

"beautiful face, gratitude filling my lungs. "Thank you for saving me."

While Dahlia had been in control of my body, I had been able to see everything that was going on outside of me...

Most especially how Ren had tried to heal her before she passed out.

He smiled and leaned into my hand, taking it and kissing my wrist. "How do you feel?"

"I'm okay," I croaked, "a little thirsty." He offered me a bottle of water and when I tried to sit up, I realized that another hand was banding around my feet.

"Don't over exert yourself, duchess," Zac winked at me, "you've kicked enough a*s to last a lifetime."

"There are ferals roaming the streets, Zachary," Cade drawled, from where he sat at the driver's seat. "I say we damn well need her help

"Ferals?" I sat up in shock, what the hell happened while I was out of it? "How did that happen?"

"Victor, that bastard happened, Cade hissed, slamming the steering wheel in frustration. "If Ren and Aiden didn't have a plan before going in, we would never have known what that bastard had been planning. He's using ferals and creatures from the deep to wreak havoc on the goddamn pack. And Aiden-"

My heart jumped, clattering in my chest.

"He has Aiden. We're thinking he used his black magic to connect the two of you so that what he does to Aiden would transfer to you."

My heart thudded. No no no.

"Luckily, the council proved useful for once and got it fixed before it got too bad. What that bastard put Aiden through must not have been pretty."

My entire body trembled at the thought of seeing Aiden again, fear numbing my limbs as a thought flashed through my head. The thought that we won't be able to get to him in time.

"Won't Victor see us coming?" I asked, taking the guess that they were going to get Aiden back.

“My mother performed a concealing spell on us. It was effective against the ferals, we’re hoping that it would be effective against Victor too.” Ren said, not sounding hopeful at all.

Cade drove us to an abandoned mansion deep in the heart of poison fang. If the armies of ferals appearing around the territory was any indication, this was where Victor was hiding like the swine that he is. Where he was keeping my mate.

There were civilians around for goodness sake!

“I’ll hold off the ferals and evacuate the locals. The rest of the tac team are enroute,” Zac told us as he left the car and zipped up his tac team vest. He was dressed in black leather, the tactical team uniform, probably so that it would

– be easier to gain the trust of the locals and have them listen to him.

Before we parted ways, he grabbed me, cupped my face and kissed me senseless, his fingers trembling as he traced my cheekbones. “Don’t die on me, duchess.”

“Likewise,” I panted against his lips, searching his eyes.

He sighed deeply and pressed his lips to my forehead, hugging me before glaring at Ren and Cade. “Protect her with your life.”

“You know we will.” Cade replied, shaking his hand and pulling him in for a bro hug. Zac did the same with Ren and it was heart wrenching having to part ways.

A few Night Shade soldiers guarded the territory and Ariel’s spell must have been very effective because they didn’t notice us sneak in.

My heart was racing, my fingers trembling with excitement the closer we got to my mate. The thought of seeing again made my entire body shake with anticipation.

While Cade brought up the rear, protecting us from behind, Ren led the way until we came to a vacant room that was... empty.

Dahlia shook with anxiety in my chest, mirroring mine.

He should be here... He should be here... Why isn't he here?

I was so close to breaking down in frustration and fear, the thought of never seeing him again was like a fist, clenching around my lungs and making it harder and harder to breathe.

There was a puzzled look on Ren's face as he looked around, feeling the wall and I felt it like a whiplash.

Aiden's pain. His humiliation, helplessness and frustration.

It was like I was looking through his eyes and what I saw made my entire vision turn red.

Mauve. FVCKING MAUVE!

An irrational burst of anger exploded in my chest and stomped on the wall, I punched it to rubble and the vision I had seen was actually Aiden's reality.

An enraged roar bubbled deep in her throat and the sound of her cheekbones crushing against my fist was not as satisfying as it should have. I wanted to rip her to pieces with my bare hands, I wanted to feel her blood dripping from my fingers.

I wanted to kill her.

Aiden's pov

Was what just happened a dream? Had I just imagined Lily coming in, punching the daylight out of Mauve and flinging her off of me or was I so out of it that I was beginning to cook up scenarios to escape my treacherous reality?

My head throbbed and my vision was blurry once more, my eyes filled with confusion as I tried to remain awake and when I blinked I saw Cade in front of me.

"Glad that you're still alive man," he said and the next moment, he was grabbing the chains that tied me to the wall and crushing them with his fist. Reaching for my feet, he did the same thing and came back to help me sit up.

Holding five fingers in front of me, he spoke with a smile that was filled with empathy that shocked me a little. The two of us were not exactly friends. We

were not close enough for him to feel any sort of sympathy for me considering that the last time I had seen him, I had told him to stay away from Lily.

“How many fingers?”

“Five.” I mumbled, my tongue feeling like lead.

“Good,” he grinned, patting my shoulder.

“Cade. How are you here?” My voice sounded raw and hoarse, almost slurred and I knew it had to be because of the drugs. I felt slow all around and my hatred for my uncle increased once again. I gently touched Cade’s outstretched palm to convince myself that I was not dreaming and that he was really here

“It’s not just Cade any longer. It’s Alpha Corrigan now.

Which means that you should not forget to add some respect to your tone when you speak to me next time. I’ll let it slide right now because you are clearly going through a lot, which is code word for you look like sh!t. But if you try it again, I’m afraid that I’ll have to cut all diplomatic ties with your pack,” He answered good naturedly and I would have punched him if I didn’t feel so out of it, a little reminder that he shouldn’t forget who he was talking to.

Managing a weak laugh, I nodded, trying to gauge the amount of feeling I could muster in my numb limbs.

“I will take that into consideration.” I managed to reply and when he nodded with a smile,

I wondered if he had actually

gone through with killing his mother and what it must have cost him to be here, smiling through the pain of having to murder a loved one and how sh!tty he would be feeling. One thing that I was sure of though was that I would feel nothing but relief when I killed Victor.

He was a monster and did not have any right to be regarded as my family.

A familiar scent hit me right before I saw his face and my eyes watered with relief that he had come along.

“Goodness. Look at you.” Ren whispered, his eyes filled with anger that I knew was not directed at me.

Quickly, he ran his hands over my torso, his eyes glowing in a way that told him he was examining me and his eyes widened as they dimmed, his hand pressed against my forehead as he shook his head.

“You’re doped up on enough drugs to kill an entire pack of wolves. I don’t even know how you’re still alive. But let me do what I can so that you’ll be able to at least move your limbs.”

With a gentle gaze, he looked at me, golden brown eyes softening. “I’m so sorry this happened to you. You don’t deserve it. No one does.”

The bastard couldn’t stay out of my thoughts. And even though this was not a situation to smile, I did. It was nice to see Ren. I had missed him always fussing over me and being the reason why Zac and I were in touch with our – emotions; well as much emotion as we had allowed ourselves to feel.

Normally when he was like this, I would have been ready with an annoyed and sarcastic comeback but I could only relax back into the bed as his hands moved over me, my head turning to the side as my eyes and ears finally opened to hear everything else going on around me.

My eyes widened when I saw Taryn, Lily’s shadow kitty, circling around her master. Lily was straddling Mauve who was trying and failing to block her blows. Lily snarled at her and as she punched her over and over again, her roar was filled with an agony that ricocheted around the walls of the room.

“How dare you? How dare you do this to him? How dare you touch what belongs to me?”

Each punch was harder than the last and with every blow, I

could feel her rage, her pain and her sorrow through our bond, her guilt at having me take the fall for her, her fear at the thought of never finding me again and her fury at Mauve taking advantage of me.

She could easily use her powers to give Mauve a swift death but I knew that she wanted to feel Mauve’s blood on her hands, to feel her bones break on her knuckles.

Her attacks became more feral and uncoordinated as she started to hit Mauve even faster and I knew that I had to call her back. Not because of Mauve, but because I could feel her hurting and needed her to see that I was okay. To stop hurting because of me.

“Lily,” I whispered and she froze mid swing, her face

– moving away from Mauve to look at me.

“I’m so sorry, Lily.” I added and she dropped Mauve’s body to the ground almost immediately and Taryn, seeing an opening, pounced on Mauve’s carcass, tearing her to pieces.

Mauve’s screams were music to my ears.

Lily rushed to my side and crushed me to her chest, her body shaking from the force of her sobs, the heart wrenching sound filling the entire room. Her eyes were red and swollen, tears streaming down her cheeks as she really looked at me and I knew that she was noting all of my bruises and scars.

“I’m so sorry, Aiden.. If I had known that this was going to happen, I wouldn’t have ever let you out of my sight. I would have never let you take the fall for me. I swear that I never wanted any of this to happen to you. You must have been in so much pain. Oh, goddess, look at you. I’m so s-“

I cupped her face, stopping her mid-sentence. Fear exploded in my heart at the thought of Victor taking her and subjecting her to what I just went through.

I shook my head, my entire body trembling, my shaky hands tracing down her cheeks as I cleaned her tears and I felt tears trickle down my face. Tears of relief and gratitude that I was able to get this chance to see her again and really apologize to her for everything.

“I’m sorry for everything I have ever done to you, Lily. I’m sorry for mocking you, for ridiculing you, for threatening you but most especially, I can never forgive myself for

– making you feel powerless enough to do something you didn’t want to.”

I saw her take in my words and when her eyes brightened with realization, I knew that she finally understood that I was most especially apologizing for

forcing her to give me a blow job. I remembered the tears in her eyes that day and how I had not cared.

If she didn't forgive me, I would understand.

My eyes widened in surprise when she smiled and kissed away my tears.

"I've forgiven you a long time ago, Aiden. I don't hold anything against you. Never have. You can let it all go now, okay?"

This time when I hugged her, my heart was lighter. Even if I died now, I knew that I had finally apologized to Lily for everything. I didn't deserve her kindness or big heart but I was not going to let that stop me from trying to make it up to her

As I pulled back to ask her how she and the gang had gotten here, Zac rushed in, his chest rising and falling as he caught his breath.

"As much as I don't want to ruin your fun little reunion, there is a war happening outside as we speak and we need to make sure we win and protect our homes."

When I looked at them in confusion, Ren was the one who answered

"There are ferals wreaking havoc all over Shadow cove and we have no idea where they came from but they are _ everywhere and it's getting hard trying to keep everybody safe."

The only way ferals were working together was if they were under some sort of control. It was eerily like the m a s s a c r e where ferals had killed my parents under Victor's control and I realized without a doubt that Victor was behind this. This was the second wave he had been talking about with the human congressman.

Rising to my feet gently, I flexed my arms and legs, grateful for Ren's healing that was able to help me a bit to stay mobile and knew what I had to do.

"I need to find Victor and kill him." I announced and Lily rose to her feet, coming to stand beside me.

"I'll go with you."

I was about to tell her not to even think about it when she growled, her eyes glaring at me.

“Save whatever you want to say, Aiden. I will not be letting you out of my sight ever again. Where you go, I go. I will not lose you. Not when I have just found you again.”

My heart clenched tight in my chest, surprised at how much love Lily thought I deserved even though I was not even worthy of her.

Grabbing her arms, I kissed her nose and rested my head against hers.

“I will spend the rest of my life atoning for hurting you, Lily.

She started to protest but I continued.

“But this is my fight. If I let you help me... If I let you kill

*him, I will never be accepted as Alpha. Even if I am, no one would ever think it wasn't just handed down to me. You have to let me go.”

“But I don't want to let you go,” she whispered and I kissed her gently. I sighed against her lips, breathing her in and inhaling her scent for what might be the last time. I nodded at Ren who immediately understood what I wanted.

He walked forward and pulled Lily to his side, kissing the side of her head.

“There are many people out there that we can save with your abilities, Lily. Just listen to Aiden and let him go. Now is the time to have faith and trust that he will come back to us.”

Her eyes were filled with a helpless and frustrated expression, tears streaming down her cheeks but she nodded, understanding and if the intense pain I was feeling

rough our bond was any indication of how much she was hurting at letting me go, I knew in my heart that I couldn't take this opportunity for granted. I needed to kill Victor, even if it kills me.