

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 51

Lily's POV

“Well, that was a lot to take in.” Bia said, tacking on an awkward laugh, by the time I was done trying my best to explain to her about the werewolf stuff and the hunter stuff and hoping that she was not terrified.

I should not have been surprised by her answer especially because my best friend was probably not going to care if I was an alien or not. Just the mere thought that she didn't even mind what I was made a huge burden lift from my shoulders.

“I do have some more questions though.” Bia answered and Angelo groaned right at the same time that I noticed Ren check the clock for what had to be the hundredth time this evening before clearing his throat

“While I don't want to be the one that tears apart this lovely reunion between friends, I think it's time that we all head back to our respective homes, especially because it is a school night.”

Rhea , Chelsea and Bia groaned at the same time and when I looked at Ren, he sighed and folded his hands. “I have to agree with the human, tomorrow is a school day and we should try to get home now before it gets too dark.”

“Why? Do you people eat others when night falls?” Angelo muttered, earning himself a growl from Ren that made my eyes widen and I shifted closer to him immediately, telling myself that the only reason I was doing that was because I was trying to protect him from anything that might happen and stop a fight.

“I agree with the boys.” I answered, so that everyone's attention would be on me and I heaved a sigh of relief internally at the way the tension in the room reduced considerably.

“It is a school night and we have to be up early tomorrow or we will be late for school.” I continued and the girls groaned again but it was Bia who rolled her eyes and punched my shoulder gently.

“Stop being such a spoilsport like the boys. You have never had a sleepover on a school night, I have never had a sleepover on a school night. I'm sure your new friends have never had a sleepover on a school night. Or have

you?" She looked at Rhea who shook her head immediately and Chelsea who answered.

"Nope. Not at all."

"See? I'm sure these guys of course have not done it either since they seem to be in a hurry to go home tonight."

Angelo's cheeks flushed. "Well, actually, I..."

"Shush, Angelo, sweetie. I'm trying to make a point here. We only live once and for all I know, this might be the only sleepover I am able to attend with you and your new friends. So what are waiting for? There is no time like the present."

Chelsea slung her arm over the chair and winked at Bia.

"You, dearest Bia, are a wonder." Chelsea said and the three girls shared a maniac giggle before they looked at me, waiting for an answer.

"Come on, say yes, it won't hurt to." Bia said and I realized that she was right. What were the odds that I would be surrounded by loyal people like this and what was the guarantee that some one would not try to split us apart once they knew that I had so many friends.

I had nearly lost Bia and now I was trying to still put distance between us?

It's just one sleepover.

"Okay, fine, let's have that sleepover." I answered with a reluctant smile even though I was nothing short of giddy that I was not going to be staying alone tonight. I loved having friends around in the house. It made me feel safe. Feel like a normal teenager again.

The three girls squealed, giving each other warm hugs before they realized that Angelo and Ren were still looking at us reluctantly, their faces telling me exactly what they thought of our idea.

"Would you guys like to be a part of the sleepover tonight?" I asked the two of them and they looked at each other briefly, clearly at odds with each other, but still considering my offer.

I realized that the major reason why I had not even wanted them to go was because while I was trying to explain stuff to Bia, my mother had sent a text that she was not coming back home today because she'd be holed up at work.

This used to happen a lot but this time around, I was scared, terrified of the idea of sleeping alone especially because of what had happened in my bedroom the last time. I still had no idea who was responsible but I am going to keep living like nothing was happening when I was afraid.

When I looked at Ren, I saw that his face had softened to one of understanding and I realized that he had heard my thoughts.

"I'm staying for the sleepover." Ren announced and when Bia glared at Angelo, gesturing for him to make a decision, he looked at all of us and sighed before nodding.

"Well, I guess we can have the sleepover." He answered reluctantly and Bia grinned, dragging me upstairs and gesturing for the girls to follow.

"Babe, order pizza." She called out to Angelo as we entered the room and when we were all seated on the bed, Rhea was the first to speak.

"Lily, not that we want to be mad at you or anything but Chelsea and I saw you and Ren when we were coming down the stairs and we had to rush back up so that we won't disturb you guys. Would you guys have kissed if Bia had not knocked on the door?"

My eyes nearly fell from their sockets, horrified that they had seen us and I opened my mouth to speak but nothing came out, causing Bia to give me a shocked but amused look.

"Oh my God, Rhea, I'm so sorry that you had to see that. I'm so sorry. It's not what you think it is."

"We are not mad at you Lily." Chelsea answered and it made me pause and look at them in confusion.

"You're not mad? You don't think I'm a bad person? A slut?"

"Of course not."

I blinked. She blinked.

“B- but Ren has a-“

Rhea scoffed. “If this is about Mauve, then you should forget about her. Nobody likes Mauve, not even Ren. Besides I prefer you for him.” Rhea answered and even though her approval meant so much to me, I shook my head immediately. I doubted that Ren liked me in that way. He had looked absolutely horrified when we pulled apart. What if he had just kissed me to be nice? Because he was influenced by my emotions?

I played with my fingers. “I don’t want to think too hard about it. I know I don’t compare to Mauve-“

Chelsea pulled me up to face her. “Don’t even say that, sweetheart.”

“I’m just an omega-“

“So is she,” Rhea cut me off. “She’s an omega just like you and until she found out that her mate was Ren, she was a bullied outcast. She was a nobody. She was barely scraping by.”

My heart hurt. “What?”

“I’m not telling you this so that you’d pity her, or because I want to make fun of her. It’s just the truth. Mauve owes everything she is to the Mating bond she shares with Ren. She’s only queen of the school because she’s mated to a royal.”

Mauve is... Just like me?

Rhea took my hands, imploring me to look into her gentle teal blue eyes. “But where you’re sweet and nice and humble, she’s mean and vindictive. She hurts-” she stopped herself, biting her lip hard. “It’s not my place to tell what goes on in their relationship Lily. But believe me when I say that Mauve isn’t good for him.”

“Wait wait wait! Back the f**k up! You kissed?!” Bia demanded. “You kissed your prince charming?!”

“Well. Almo-“

“I want the deets!” Bia answered and when the two girls also nodded, I shook my head again.

“Yeah! Tell us!” Chelsea chanted.

I blushed hard. I was tired of trying to deny that I had feelings for Ren. I liked him. I really liked him. That near kiss with Ren had felt like a blissful taste of heaven.

“Ren and I are just friends. Our emotions were a mess at that point. Whatever we have is just platonic. I promise.”

That seemed to bum them out and destroy the mood entirely. But I’d rather have them disappointed than encourage this narrative in their head.

“Please don’t repeat this to anyone.”

“Who are we going to tell? The president?”

“I’m serious, Chels. If word gets out about this, there’s no telling what people will do to me. They’ll label me a homewrecker.”

This sobered her up.

She shared a look with Rhea and Chelsea and they both nodded. “We won’t repeat this to a single soul.”

I let out a relieved breath, before my eyes met Bia’s amused own.

I knew that Bia was not yet satisfied with answers and was going to still ask me some more questions, I decided to excuse myself to the storage room to get some clothes for Ren so that he wouldn’t have to sleep in his uniform.

The only clothes we had that would fit him all belonged to my father and as I brought out one loud tropical colored shirt after the other. He always had a silly taste for loud and brightly colored tropical shirts. I remembered how I thought they were ugly and my father had merely laughed and said he loved them regardless.

I still thought they were ugly and yet, I could not hold back tears as I held the shirt to my chest and tried to inhale deeply, searching for his scent.

Everyone says he's a traitor but to me, he was just a father that loved his family dearly. He always would be.

I didn't realize when the girls came in but when they hugged me silently, I allowed myself to lean on them, grateful that they were here.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 52

Ren's POV

The only sound in the living room right now was the sound of the ceiling fan whirring above me and the sound of the old grandfather clock in the corner tick tocking to eternity.

Neither Angelo nor I had said anything to each other since the girls went upstairs and I doubted that I was going to say anything to him till tomorrow, not that I would not want to, but his gaze warned me to keep away which I absolutely had no problem with.

He was agitated. Checking around the house, probably for booby traps and casting me suspicious glares.

I wish he'd just chill, to be honest. He was acting like I was a brainless animal that would pounce on him and tear him to pieces any moment now.

He finally gave up his fruitless, frantic search and sat down on the couch across from me.

He whipped out his phone, saying something in rapid fire Italian as he pinged away on his phone and even though I was a bit fluent in the language, I did not care to decode it. Right now he was being very careful to not look at me and I did not know if it was because he was a hunter like Lily said, but his thoughts were all over the place like he was worried about being monitored.

Our eyes met again for the thousandth time, since we were sitting opposite each other and even though he glared at me and I sensed hostility from him, it was not the kind of hostility that made all the hairs on my neck stand in worry and apprehension. I realized that the hostility was not born from malice but rather something else. Perhaps a painful memory or experience.

I guessed that he was part of the second generation of hunters that were not obsessed with killing us for sport, unlike the first that killed us to mount our

heads as trophies on their walls. I would not still be sitting here if he was a first generation hunter. He would have tried to slice my throat at least ten times in the last ten minutes and instead he had done nothing besides looking at me from time to time and then at his phone.

Looking at his aura once again, I deduced that he did not have any form of malice besides the one that he clearly felt he had to display towards me. And if Bia, Lily's best friend, trusted him, then I was going to try to give him a chance as well.

After all, I was not brought up to attack someone who had not yet tried to attack me.

"Ever the peacemaker," Aira drawled, coming to life in my subconscious.

"You're one to talk," I smiled back.

Growing up, everyone thought I was born with a weak wolf that slept all the time and wouldn't manifest himself until I was in a life or death situation. But I knew Aira. My first friend. My loyal confidant. His entire aura was light, quiet, and peaceful. His quiet strength was soothing to the ruckus all around me. He was so strong that half the time, he'd purposely put himself to sleep to stop himself from overpowering me. He taught me to be calm and patient and focus on seeing the best in others. If I was a peacemaker, he was the art of peacemaking itself.

My insouciant wolf snickered in my head almost immediately. "Well, I'll be damned, my prince. You're trusting a hunter."

"I'm giving him a chance. Just like you taught me."

"And this has nothing to do about the girl we both have affection for?" The smugness in his voice was humbling.

I flushed. Deeply. Terribly. Violently. The memory of the near kiss we shared burned my lips.

Aira had fallen for Mauve. He had loved her inside and out and would have died to protect her, once upon a time. But the more she changed, the more she hurts me, physically, emotionally, psychologically, the more he withdraws. He kept withdrawing until it became a habit for him to disappear completely

from my consciousness whenever Mauve was near. He had nothing for her anymore, the same way I felt nothing for her anymore.

Lily had crept up on me. On the both of us. I didn't know when things changed from wanting to protect her and be her friend, to wanting to become her everything.

Affection was putting it lightly. I wanted Lily. I craved her. I wanted her writhing under me, or riding on top of me, plundering me for her own pleasure. I wanted her clothes off, her hair down, her soul bare. I wanted to dive into her and bury myself under her skin.

So yes. I did have affection for her.

The dark, dirty kind that would make her run from me if she hears the obscene thoughts I have of her. I couldn't let her into my head. Not when I knew what she just went through with Aiden and Zac. Not when I knew I wasn't much different from them.

My intentions for her were not pure or honourable. I didn't want to be her friend. I wanted her to own me. Consume me. See me for who I really am the way I see her for who she really is. I want her to love every broken part of me. I was desperately in love with Lily Beauregard. So much that I'd settle for the scraps she tosses my way under the pretence of being her friend. So much that I don't know what I'd do with myself if I lose her again.

I wasn't in control of myself when I had kissed her. Wasn't even thinking straight. But if Bia hadn't knocked at that moment, I wouldn't have stopped at just a kiss. I would have cracked her open, spread her out and spent all the borrowed time we had acquainting myself with her body.

f**k.

I ran my hand through my hair, pushing it out of my face.

"She trusts Bia and Bia trusts him. That's all the reassurance I need."

"Your blind loyalty to the girl will probably get you killed one day."

I nodded, chuckling to myself and when Angelo raised his brows, I was sure that he thought I was crazy.

“Then it is a good thing that I have you to protect me always, is it not?”

I could almost hear his smile in his voice. “Of course, my prince,” he purred, before leaving my subconscious entirely to wherever he retreats into most of the time.

I was about to say something else, enjoying the banter that I had with my wolf but a picture caught my attention, hanging on the wall.

I rose from where I was seated and walked over to it.

It was a picture of Lily and her parents. She could not have been more than two years of age and her smile was so pretty and bright. She was sitting on her father’s lap and grinning so wide, her cheeks flushed, her eyes shiny. She looked so adorable, I awwed a little in my head.

The pictures that followed beside the first also looked the same but as she grew older and her father disappeared from the pictures, I noticed that while she continued to smile, the light in her eyes were no more.

She still tried to smile brightly but something was missing. That something had not been missing when she smiled at me this evening and I would do anything to get her to smile like that for as long as possible. I wanted to be the one to remove anything that was responsible for making her sad.

Immediately I thought about that, my mind went back to Aiden. To the sick things that he had done to Lily and how he had showed no guilt or remorse whatsoever for what he had done

I didn’t regret going after him. I had no regrets telling him exactly how I felt about what he had done and calling him out on his cruelty. It was just a shame, a big one that instead of begging for mercy, that instead of pleading for forgiveness and seeing the error of his ways, he had chosen to remain obstinate.

I had no choice but to cut ties with him.

“Your girlfriend,” Angelo said from behind me. “Does she know that you’re here?”

I turned to look at him and he came to stand beside me in front of the picture that I was currently looking at, his eyes not moving from the picture even though I knew that he had me in his line of sight.

“Lily’s not my girlfriend.” Yet. I said, raising my eyebrows.

He glanced at me, also raising his brows.

“Not Lily,” he corrected. “Your mate. Does she know what you’re up to?”

My eyes narrowed at him. “How do you know about her?”

We were perfect strangers. I have never met him in my life. How did he know about Mauve? What had he heard? And what exactly did he know?

I must have done a poor job of hiding my surprise because Angelo grinned proudly and shrugged.

“I make it my business to know everything about my enemies and that includes everything that happens in Shadow cove, especially the four royal families. I know everything that there is to know about you and the other princes, especially those extraordinary powers of yours.”

This time, I could not hide my shock and I turned to face him.

“How do you know any of this?” I asked, my hands turning into fists as I tried to figure out how someone like him, an outsider could know so much about us.

He laughed and folded his arms as he turned to face me too.

Dark brown hair curled heavily over his forehead, stern black eyes held my curious gaze.

“Your council has become lax, Ren. Letting humans into the borders and admitting human students into the academy was the dumbest thing they could do and it may just cost you and your people your entire race.”

“I’d watch my tongue if I were you.” I answered coldly, the hairs on the back of my neck standing at the premonitory shiver down my spine.

He shrugged even as I tried to think about what he just said. To the best of my knowledge, only children of a few highly respected families were allowed to

enroll into the academy and this was solely for political purposes because the royal families did business with the elites in the human world.

It was a way to foster peace and unity between both races and it made me worry that it was the best idea now that Angelo had brought it to my attention. He was right. It would be too easy to plant a spy amongst us to feed those outside with information. Information that would cost us our lives and worse, the entire Shadow cove community.

“Well, I am just speaking the truth, Prince. If you don’t like it, you can just say so.”

“What exactly are you?”

Angelo shook his head and turned back to face the pictures on the wall.

“I’m a soldier. A protector. My duty is to protect my people against creatures like you and Lily. As long as you do not pose a threat to me and my family, I’m not a threat to you either.

That should have made me feel relaxed but instead it only made me worry. Because for how long would this kind of truce last?

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 53

Lily’s POV

What was better than having one great friend?

Having more than one of course.

That was exactly how I felt as the girls pulled me out of the storage room with the clothes that I had gotten for Ren and led me back to the bedroom, telling jokes that made me forget that minutes ago, I was on the verge of falling to the ground and crying.

Now, we were back in my room. We had all freshened up and changed into my pjs. Rhea looked regal in my white slip dress. She was sitting at my vanity and brushing her long white blond hair. Chelsea had opted for one of my old t-shirts and shorts, Bia was wearing a bright pink nightgown. She always has some of clothes her clothes in a seperate part of my dresser because she usually slept over.

“While we wait for the pizza, how about you guys show me some good stuff?” Bia said, jumping on to my bed and when Rhea, Chelsea and I looked at her in confusion, she rolled her eyes and threw her hands up in the air.

“You guys are werewolves and even though after what happened at the party, I have no choice but to believe you, I want to see some of the things you can do. Do you have fangs like in the movies? And can you jump over buildings? Come on, let’s have it. Surely you didn’t think that I would not want to see something like that, did you?”

She looked at me with brows raised in anticipation and before I could break the news to her that I was probably the last person that could show her what it meant to be an actual werewolf, Rhea closed her eyes and when they opened, her eyes glowed white.

Chelsea did the same, opening her eyes to reveal blue glowing ones and both of them grinned wide to reveal fangs. Their entire aura was something more predatory and ferocious. Is this what it’s like to be in the presence of werewolves with a higher pedigree? They weren’t even at their full potential yet and every bone in my body was screaming at me to run or to yield.

Bia fell from the bed, knocking me out of my reverie and when I rushed towards her, worried that the sight had shocked her, I saw that she was merely surprised but filled with awe as I helped her up.

“That... That is the coolest thing I have ever seen! I feel like I stepped into a fantasy movie. Oh my God!” She exclaimed.

We all stopped and looked at her and when she saw the shocked looks on our faces, she shrugged.

“What? Even Bella wasn’t scared when she found out about Edward and Jacob. So why should I be?”

“You’re crazy. I like you.” Chelsea said, causing us to chuckle and Bia was about to reply when her phone dinged a text. When she looked at it, her eyes brightened and she jumped up from the bed.

“Angelo said the pizza guy is here. Come on, let’s go downstairs.”

Leading us downstairs, Bia headed straight for the door, heaving a sigh of relief and holding her stomach as her boyfriend walked past us and joined her to get the pizza.

It was like he had tunnel vision when it comes to Bia and I loved that for her.

Looking between him and Ren, neither of them seemed to be sporting any injuries which meant that all was well, or at least they had come to some sort of agreement to be on cordial terms. It made me feel relieved but I could not help but wonder how long their truce would last. Angelo didn't like us and I didn't know if he was planning to change his mind about that anytime soon and even though Ren, Rhea and Chelsea said nothing, I knew they were tensed to be in the same room with a hunter.

I wish we'd all just get along.

I noticed Bia helping him put the things on the counter and include him in conversations with Chelsea and Rhea. He even guffawed loudly at something Chelsea said.

Hope bursted in my chest.

We'll get there. Baby steps.

"Hey," Ren said, appearing beside me. He placed a hand on my forehead, a worried scowl on his face. "How're you?"

"Good!" I replied and nearly facepalmed myself because the nervous reply sounded like a squeak.

We haven't had time to ourselves since the near kiss we just had and while I wanted to bring it up, I didn't want to sound needy or desperate.

It was probably a mistake he'd like to overlook. Something he wouldn't want me to bring up again.

"Are those for me?" He asked, looking at the bundle in my arms and I remembered that I was holding clothes that I wanted to give to him to change into. My father's clothes.

"Yeah! Come with me," I said, leading him to the front of the guest bathroom before I turned around to hand him the clothes.

The apology I was about to give for having only these loud and ugly outfits died in my throat when I turned because Ren was already unbuttoning his shirt.

“W- what are you doing?!” I exclaimed immediately, my lips parted and I could hear my heartbeat pick up its pace when his hand stopped on the final button and he looked at me, confused.

“Undressing?” He answered, genuinely confused by my curt question.

I blushed hard, my gaze lingering on his defined pecs and abs. But instead of replying him, I pushed the clothes into his hands and opened the guest bathroom, shoving him inside and closing the door.

“I’ll be waiting in the living room!” I yelled, fleeing even as I felt my cheeks heat up.

I had known that he had to have a great body beneath that uniform, especially after the picture he had sent where he was holding his sister’s cat, but seeing it in real time almost sent me to my knees.

I pressed a hand to my forehead, fanning my face with my other hand. Oh God, Lily, get a grip!

“Lily, you better come out here and get some slices of pizza before Chelsea finishes everything.” Bia called out, “and where’s Fiona? I miss that adorable kitty cat!”

I shrugged, even though she couldn’t see me. Fiona was a street cat before she became a house cat and sometimes she leaves home for long hours before she comes back again. If I don’t see her around the house, it’s usually because she doesn’t even want to be found.

I followed the sound of Bia’s voice to the dining room where I saw them helping themselves to plates and taking slices.

They didn’t know how warm it made me feel to see them here. I had never really had friends and besides Bia, I had never had any people in the house overnight like this, feeling comfortable enough in my home.

My heart tightened with joy in my chest.

Bia looked up and rolled her eyes.

“Stop standing there like a stranger and come closer, darling. These wolves have very large appetites.”

Quickly remembering that I had to keep some for Ren too, I headed to stand beside her and reached for two plates, helping myself to slices for Ren and me.

I was about to open the refrigerator to get some drinks when Ren walked in and I had to admit that he looked ridiculously good in that ugly shirt. I was even starting to like the shirt and admit to my father that it wasn't that bad.

“Your food is with Lily.” Rhea said, continuing to dig into her food and I swallowed nervously, my entire body tightening when Ren closed the distance between us, a soft smile on his face.

He was imposing. So beautiful, it was blinding. His hair was a stylish mess, eyes like brown mirrors and crystallized honey. The curve of his chin was perfect, I wanted to count each and everyone of his eyelash.

“Thanks for looking out for me,” he grinned, collecting the plate from my hand. His hand closed around the back of my head, pulling me forward as he pressed a kiss to my forehead. “What will I do without you?”

I froze in shock, his lips feeling like they're forever imprinted on my skin. I hated how thrilling the contact felt, how my breath felt like it had suddenly left my body and how my face heated up as I looked up at him.

He wasn't smiling anymore. His eyes had gone darker. He was staring at my lips. Oh what I wouldn't give to read his thoughts right now.

I heard snickers and when I looked away from Ren, the girls were laughing amongst themselves and wiggling their eyebrows.

“Come on, let's go to the living room. Avatar won't watch itself.” Bia said, pulling Angelo along and winking at me.

“Platonic my a*s.” Chelsea whispered as she walked past me and Rhea just smirked as she followed her out of the kitchen.

We were alone in the kitchen and my heart was trying to race out of my chest.

“Want me to wait with you?” Ren asked and I shook my head immediately, still trying to regain my composure from that kiss.

“Go on ahead, I’ll bring the drinks for you guys.”

I needed a second to breathe.

Nodding, I waited till he left to release a breath that I didn’t know I was holding. My heart needed to stop hoping and I needed to remember that Ren had a girlfriend. But what if Rhea and the others were right? What if I had a chance with him?

Shaking my head to rid myself of those thoughts, I carried the drinks to the living room to find everyone huddled in groups of two, the television on and the opening credits of a movie on the screen.

Bia was lying between Angelo’s legs, his arms around her and their legs covered with one of the blankets that we had brought downstairs. My best friend sighed as her boyfriend pressed soft kisses on her neck and I looked away, blushing at how intimate that looked.

Rhea and Chelsea were on another couch, hogging a blanket to themselves and sharing a bag of chips, leaving Ren alone on the last couch, which happened to be the smallest and when I finally caught their eyes, I realized that the girls had planned this arrangement , judging from the mischievous grins on their faces.

I narrowed my eyes at them. Devils in pjs.

This is going to be a long, long night.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 54

Lily’s POV

“Are you going to stand there all night, Lily?” Bia said with a s**t eating grin that made me want to reach over and pinch her cheeks. That little fiend always had tricks up her sleeve.

I was about to answer when Chelsea gave Rhea a knowing look before she turned back to look at me, her face giddy with mischief.

“The movie is about to start, Lily, so please help us get the light and settle down.” Her tone was less obvious but the smirk on her lips told me that she was indeed a part of the plot.

“You don’t want to make us wait, do you?” Rhea grinned wider than a cheshire cat.

At this point, they weren’t even trying to hide their true intentions.

“Y- you don’t want anything?” I looked at Angelo.

He looked up from pressing a lingering kiss to Bia’s neck, an annoyed expression on his face.

“Stop wasting everyone’s time. I’m just trying to watch the movie and hope I don’t get clawed open in my sleep,” his expression told me but his mouth said a different thing. “No.”

Curt. Annoyed. And short.

Looking at Ren who was completely oblivious but smiling at me regardless, I grumbled under my breath, hating how my face started heating up from just imagining how it would feel to sit beside him. And when I turned off the switch and we were plunged into darkness, save for the light from the television, I made my way back to the couch where Ren was seated and dropped to the ground instead, resting my back against the couch.

As much as I wanted to do nothing but be close to Ren, to bask in his scent and to allow him to hold me, I needed to remember that for all I knew, he could just be caring for me as a friend and nothing more. Besides, he even had a mate that would tear me apart if she found out that I had feelings for Ren.

Mauve may be an omega but she had power and influence at school and a prestigious position in high society. Ren or I pursuing each other would spell my doom. I’d rather be an outcast for a crime I didn’t commit than be known as the other woman that tore a beloved relationship apart.

“You know we can share the couch,” Ren leaned to whisper in my ear and I nearly jumped from the floor at the way his lips had felt as they brushed the outer shell of my ear, convinced that my heart would jump out of my chest at the contact.

“I know. But the couch is tiny. I’m fine here on the ground.” I managed to answer without stuttering, torn between wanting his face to remain close to mine and running away.

I wasn’t fine on the ground. It was hard. Cold and uncomfortable but I’d take that over sharing the couch and encouraging this farce.

Nodding, he relaxed back into his seat and I heaved a sigh of relief, happy that I could think straight again. However, that happiness quickly turned sour because it was not long before I started to shiver from the cold and the only other blanket was with Ren.

Be strong, Lily. Don’t give in.

But at some point, I was no longer focusing on the movie, instead I was trying to keep myself from not shivering and causing people to find out that I was cold.

Determined to remain seated alone without a blanket and brave through all of this, my mouth fell open in shock when Ren slid down to the floor beside me and covered my legs with the blanket, his scent of oud enveloping my nostrils, his thighs rubbing against mine.

I opened my mouth to protest but froze when he placed a finger against my lips and leaned in to whisper

“You said the couch was too small. The ground isn’t. I can feel you shivering from the cold and I have a large blanket that we can share, so no buts, sweetheart. Okay?”

He was wrecking me with that calm and articulate voice of his.

Knowing that he was not going to budge, I nodded and when he smiled, the light from the screen illuminating his face, I felt my heart skip a beat.

Turning his attention back to the screen, he wrapped an arm around my waist and pulled me flush against his side, his warm hand going under my shirt to rest on my belly. I was about to protest until I really that he was heating me up almost immediately and causing the cold to subside.

I didn't even realize that I had needed his healing hands so badly and was thankful because this had to be his powers at work and he was using them on me even without me asking for it.

My tense body slowly relaxing, I leaned into him, wrapping my arms around his waist and resting my head on his chest.

Now more than ever, I was grateful that the lights were out because nobody would see how I was grinning like a fool right now.

I wondered what would happen if Mauve could see us right now. She would probably develop an aneurysm and hurt me.

My tense body stiffened again when I remembered and I was about to pull away from Ren but he kept me from moving away and when I looked up at him, I saw that he was watching me with those deep attentive eyes of it . The words that were in my mouth died in my throat immediately.

"Is it that bad?" he whispered and I raised my head up to look at him again, our bodies rubbing up against each other in a way that made my heart skip another beat and wonder what was going on.

"What do you mean?" I whispered.

"Is it really that bad to sit with me? Do you really not want to be seen with me?" His face looked really relaxed but the steel beneath that question made me pause and look away from the screen. Ren sounded uncertain and worse, I wondered if he was sad.

"No, its not that." I assured him because it made sense that he would ask given that he was not blind to how reluctant I had been about sharing a couch with him and sharing the blanket with him. "Can't you tell? I thought you can read emotions."

He lowered his gaze, a forlorn expression crossing over his face. "I try not to unless it's really important. And I'm learning not to rely on my mind reading too much. I make assumptions sometimes and I'm not always right... An assumption as big as this, it would wreck me completely, Lily."

I swallowed. His eyes looked absolutely devastated. I guess it was a welcome relief that he wasn't prying through my mind at this point. The fact he tried to respect my privacy as best as he could only made me appreciate him more.

Why couldn't I be your mate? Why did it have to be Mauve? I'd be happy for the rest of my life loving you.

"I like you, Ren," I said finally. "That part is true. It's an honour to be seen with you. Please don't misunderstand me."

I refrained from saying more than that, dying inside of curiosity trying to wonder why he was asking that but I had to remind myself that Ren had a girlfriend and the last thing I was supposed to be doing was entertaining thoughts about someone who was very much happily mated to another.

A voice reminded me that Rhea had said that they were not happy but it didn't matter. I was not interested in getting my hopes up for anything uncertain.

His next words however made all of the thoughts that I had pondered on scatter like the wind.

"I want you to be mine." He whispered, his voice stopping my heart for all of one second.

Cold sweat broke out on my forehead, goosebumps sprouting on my skin, nervous shivers skipping down my spine. I looked up at him in shock, speechless at the request, unsure if I heard well.

His arms only tightened around me, long, gentle fingers taking my chin and tilting it up to look into his intent brown eyes. "I want to be yours."

My heart was pounding so hard, so hard that I couldn't hear my next words through the blood rushing through my arteries in an exhilarating rush.

"What's stopping you from being mine?" I whispered to him.

That's it. I'm f****d. I'm a goner. I just sealed my fate.

His answer was low and quiet. "Mauve."

That one word made everything that I considered impossible appear right in front of me again but I knew that even though I wanted Ren, it would be selfish to ask him to leave Mauve.

I didn't want to do it. Didn't want to say the words that burned painfully in my throat. I refuse to be the one to tell him to reject her.

He can't. Especially because she's an omega. It's one thing for alphas and werewolves in high ranks to reject each other, it's another to reject an omega.

A rejection like that, an alpha to an omega, could potentially kill the omega and cause the alpha to lose his wolf from the sheer pain.

Surely he wouldn't humour me... would he?

These thoughts should be taking center stage in my heart. But all I could think about as I snuggled deeper into him was my own selfish desires. How Rhea might be right. If Ren was truly unhappy where he was, then this changed things. Perhaps I could be selfish and act on my desires.

He caressed my cheeks, his thumb stroking my cheekbones. "Tomorrow" He whispered, leaning in to kiss my forehead and I could feel anticipation cause my entire body to tremble.

Excitement bubbled in my stomach as he pulled me into his arms and settled his cheek on my head, sighing contently. Tonight is for blurring lines and make-believes. Maybe tonight, I could allow myself to believe that anything was possible, I thought to myself as I pressed my cheek against his chest, listening to the steady beating of his racing heart.

I had no idea how things would turn out but for tonight I was going to pretend that we were together. We were just boyfriend and girlfriend embracing each other and having a movie night with close friends... just for tonight.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 55

Ren's POV

Maybe it was because of how everywhere was quiet and peaceful but I finally had time to think about how the entire day had gone and even though I knew that my friendships were probably over at this point, I also knew that nothing could beat the look that I had seen on Lily's face when she opened that door and realized that I had come to stay with her instead of being on the sides of my friends.

I didn't even realize that she would even ever consider me attractive until I brushed my lips against hers and she didn't move away.

She wanted me. Probably as much as I wanted her. I didn't want to impose what I wanted on her. Didn't want to make assumptions. But how can I not when she's looking at me with 'f**k me' eyes? When her pores are practically screaming at me to make her mine.

Not having her pull away from me was the confirmation I needed.

I had been getting mixed signals all evening but that was the one thing that made me stop myself from peering into her mind to look at, no matter how curious I was to know how she felt about me and how she saw me.

But I knew that I had not mistaken the spark in her eyes especially when she handed me a shirt and practically shoved me into the bathroom at the sight of my bare chest.

I was courting fire, I whispered to myself when I drew her in for a kiss on her forehead but I had realized that where Lily was concerned, the Ren who hesitated about everything and anything was nowhere to be found. That Ren seemed to have taken a back seat and I loved this version of me that didn't want to stand by the sidelines anymore.

At some point during the movie, I realized that I was the only one that was still awake, looking at the screen. Not that I was able to concentrate on anything related to the movie when Lily was wrapped around me like a second skin, deeply asleep and her body relaxed and comfortable when she had been anything but in the beginning.

I could not lie, the feel of Lily against me was so euphoric, I didn't want anything else. I wanted her to continue to be by my side. I wanted her to never let go of me and as she snuggled deeper into me, seeking my body heat, I kissed her hair, loving the silky softness, her scent of Jasmine and lavender and the peace that radiated from her.

I could not lie and say that the fact that she had been hesitant to sit with me to watch the movie immediately had not stung but I was happy that I had moved to the ground to sit with her, realizing that she was just shy, her pretty eyes giving away everything she was thinking at a glance. I knew that she liked me and right now, that was more than enough.

She was so beautiful, her face relaxed and her body no longer tense that it made me wonder where she had been all my life and why she was only just appearing now.

I had to count myself lucky that I was even anywhere in her orbit.

She was like her name. A gentle, lovely flower, so beautiful and fragile. I should be content just watching her grow from the sidelines. Watch her grow and blossom like I knew she would without my interference.

But there was a part of me, the darker part that I acted like it didn't exist, that part wanted to pluck her before anyone else notices and has the idea to do the same. That part of me was willing to do anything that it took to make her mine and keep her.

I wanted to treat her with so much love and acceptance that she would never want anyone else but me. She would never look for that love outside of me. If I could see how beautiful she was, it was only a matter of time before others got over her father's betrayal and saw her for what she was; a queen. And she would leave. Just like my mother did. Just like Mauve always threatened to do.

I wasn't her mate and sooner or later, the bastard will come along and claim her as his... and take what's mine.

I can't let that happen.

I knew it was irrational to think like this. Especially because I had not given Lily any reason to even want to be with me or stay with me but I could not help but wonder if she would stay if she knew everything there was to know about me; The truth of my birth. My illegitimacy to the alpha title.

My father may be alpha but my mother was another one of his many mistresses, back when the alpha and Luna's mating bond was nothing to be proud of. They were trying to make their marriage work now and Ariel had long since accepted and adopted me as her own son and made me a prince, but it would take a lot more to convince our subjects to do the same.

I was after all tainted blood, a half blood prince, cursed to always be looked down on as proof of the alpha's infidelity.

My heart started racing. Panic shot through my entire body, making me struggle to breathe.

No, Lily would leave if she knows all that. There's no way she'd stay with me if she had better options. She'd leave and I would not be able to do anything

to stop her, only watching her go helplessly, taking the battered pieces of my heart with her.

A dark feeling of possessiveness and violent need consumed me and my grip on her tightened so hard that she whimpered, but still held on tightly to me, still sleeping soundly and probably not realizing that it was I who was holding on too tight.

Her body language showed that despite her hesitance, she trusted me to look out for her and this was how I was going to act?

Immediately shaking my head to rid myself of the dark thoughts that threatened to drag me under, I loosened my hold on her and kissed her hair again, knowing without a doubt that what I felt for Lily was nothing platonic.

I knew that she had been shocked when I whispered Mauve's name as the answer to why I was not hers yet but it was the truth. The only thing that was still holding on to my failing self control around her was knowing that it would be unfair to initiate anything when I was still with Mauve.

Things were so complicated but I knew what I wanted now and it had taken that conversation with Angelo to realize that I could no longer pretend that I would be able to stay in a loveless relationship for the rest of my life in order to keep up appearances.

I'd be putting her in a position she didn't deserve. I'd be putting myself and Mauve in a position I have watched my parents be in all my life. I should know better than that. I've always wanted them to divorce and go their separate ways but I couldn't even do that now that I found myself in a similar situation.

I wanted Lily but there was nothing I could do when I still had Mauve as my mate. The first thing that I had to do was end things with Mauve. But the problem was that I could not just outrightly reject her after accepting the mating bond. It was very well known that few werewolves survived the pain of rejection from a mate and Mauve was an omega; her wolf might not survive the bond breaking.

I had to thread carefully and make sure that whatever choice I made would not hurt Mauve, but most of all Lily. But one thing was certain. I was done ignoring this need. I was going to go for what I wanted without remorse.

“Ren?” Lily suddenly whispered and my heart skipped as she opened her eyes slowly, looking around before looking at me.

“What time is it? Am I hurting you?” She mumbled sleepily, her little pout the cutest thing I had ever seen and tried to pull away but I stopped her and guided her head back to my chest again, rubbing her back gently.

“Everything is fine, love, just go back to sleep, okay? I’ll be here in the morning.” I whispered and when she nodded, wrapping her arms around my waist again, I knew that I was gone for this girl and there was no turning back no matter what.

She looks so beautiful and at peace,

I would do anything to keep her like this. I just wanted to swallow her up and lock her in my heart forever. I wanted to mark her. Claim her as mine.

My heart picked up its pace at the mere thought of it.

I keeps going back to the conversation we just had. Now more than ever, I’m sure that she wants me as much as I want her. Since I found out that sometimes my powers could reflect something different from what a person is really thinking, based on my own preconceived thoughts and notions, I can make assumptions that aren’t always right, I was wary of blindly trusting my powers. I had not wanted to put words into her mouth but she had still said that she wanted to be mine.

Well, she better take responsibility for what happens here on out.

For the first time, Ren Hawthorne was going to damn the consequences and follow his heart. And I knew that what I was going to do would shake the fabric of the entire Shadow cove.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 56

Lily’s POV

Was last night real?

As I looked at myself in the bathroom mirror, I could feel my cheeks getting red and yeah, that was enough reminder that yesterday had been real.

Ren had been here last night and I had slept in his arms.

I stretched out my hand and reached for the pyjamas I was wearing last night. I brought it up to my nose, inhaling his sweet scent of oud.

I'm never washing these.

I wanted to kid myself and say that I didn't hear him when he gave an answer to the reason why we were not together but if I did, it meant admitting to myself that perhaps I was not the only one that had developed feelings that had gone beyond being platonic into something that was too deep to speak about.

Bia and Angelo had left before I opened my eyes and when Ren, Rhea and Chelsea were about to leave, Ren had carried me bridal style upstairs and tucked me into bed, placing a kiss on my cheek, so close to my lips that I was certain it was not an accident.

God, I could not even get how his lips had felt against mine even for a brief moment out of my head.

Grinning to myself in the mirror again as I brushed out my hair, I decided to take extra time today to focus on how I looked before rushing out the door.

I had heard the front door open and close some minutes ago which meant that my mother had gotten back. She would probably be sleeping so I decided to leave a note for her on the fridge. Our relationship was still rocky at best but I didn't want to be mad at her forever and I knew that she didn't want the same either.

Bouncing happily to the bus station, the smile on my face was as bright as ever and even the person I sat beside must have noticed the aura around me because she smiled right back.

Coming down in front of the huge academy gates, I could not wait to see Ren and the girls and wondered if things were going to be different at school. Would they still want to be around me and be comfortable like they were in my house?

I was so deep in thought as I climbed on to the shuttles that would take us from the main gates to the actual school buildings that I didn't realize that people were looking at me strangely.

“Watch it, a*s kisser.” Someone snapped when I tried to sit beside her and that tore my attention away from my phone that I had been on, scrolling through Ren’s messages to see if he had sent anything this morning to see everyone in the shuttle giving me passive aggressive looks.

What was going on?

Somehow despite the empty seats in the shuttle, I was not allowed to sit and had to stand and that was when I heard one of the girls whisper to her friends.

“I heard the fight was because of her. They said Ren beat Aiden to a pulp because he did something to her.”

“What’s so special about her that royals are fighting over her? She’s a traitor and the daughter of one. Perhaps this is one of her schemes.” Another voice whispered, “tearing the royals apart must be a sick game her father brainwashed her into doing. It’s the easiest way to tear Shadow Cove to pieces.”

What?!

When I looked around, not one person was smiling at me.

“What are you looking at, you slut?” Someone I hadn’t even made eye contact with hissed, outraged for no reason.

Not wanting any trouble, I looked away and focused out the window, holding on to dear life and hoping the bus drops me down safely at the entrance without my blood splattered all over it.

“I’m talking to you!”

I squeezed my eyes shut, hoping that if I go away, this problem that seemed desperate to materialize will go away too.

But the second I finished making that quiet wish, someone stomped towards me, tugging on my hair hard. I cried out in pain and finally looked at her, my heart racing with rage.

“Just because you’re f*****g the royals doesn’t make you better than anyone here.”

“I’m just trying to get to school in one piece. You’re the one who’s saying these outlandish things about me. You almost sound hurt.” I tilted my head, giving her a mocking pitying look. “Why? Are you the one who wants to f**k one of them? Is that what makes you angry that they’re fighting over me?”

These words... These actions... They’re not mine. I usually just ignore them and fight for my life in a difficult situation. I never say anything to aggravate them. But I couldn’t stop. I couldn’t stop the wave of dark excitement that bubbled in my stomach when the girl stumbled back.

Her eyes darkened with anger and I grinned deep within me.

Yes. Feel the same rage I feel.

“You b***h!”

I didn’t see the slap coming until it was too late. My skin prickled from the force, my face snapping to the left. I swallowed a shaky breath, my cheek throbbing in pain. It felt like I just came back to my senses.

Walk away, I had to tell myself. Be the bigger person. Walk away.

Swallowing hard at the glares that were being sent my way, I stood beside the door and was relieved when the bus arrived in front of the entrance.

I had just rushed out of the bus when I stopped in my tracks, surprised to see Ren standing at the park, looking around.

When his eyes landed on me, he smiled and I stood frozen as he walked up to me.

I watched his golden brown eyes go cold with rage as he settled on my bruised cheek.

“Who did it?” He asked as his knuckles brushed the bruise. He placed a palm on the bruise, healing me from the pain. I noticed that although he looked as cold as a statue, his hand on my cheek was trembling slightly. He was barely keeping his self control. “Who dared to hurt you?”

“It’s fine, Ren.”

He froze, his eyes narrowed at me. “Somebody hurt you. It’s not fine. They have to pay the consequence for hurting what’s mine.”

Y... Yours...

I held on to his arm, "just drop it. I'm fine now."

No it's not, a feminine voice slithered through my consciousness.

I froze. Who said that?!

I shook my head, trying to shake it off. I must be hearing things.

I tugged on Ren's hand, "come on, let's go. We'll be late for class." But he was already zeroing in on someone behind me.

He took my hand in his and started leading me... Right back to the girl that had slapped me. "She's the one, isn't she?" He said in a voice that belonged in the arctic.

"No!"

He lost some of his rage to smile softly at me. "Don't lie to me, sweetheart." And just like a switch, he was upon the girl again, glaring down at her in a way that sent her trembling, "Natasha Clarke."

How did he know her name?

"M- my prince," she stammered, her entire body trembling.

"You're a scholarship student under my parents' foundation, are you not?"

"Yes, my Prince."

"Physical assault?" he tsked, looking at the healing bruise on my cheek. "Your time here must have made you proud. Your humble beginnings should make you at least a little bit sympathetic to Lily, should it not?"

"I acted out of turn. It won't happen ag-"

"Should. It. Not?"

"Yes. Yes, my prince."

"This is not a good look on the foundation. It's clear the Hawthorne family is wasting its resources on you."

“I-“

“Your scholarship is annulled from this moment henceforth. You’re never to step foot in this academy again. If you’re caught within these grounds in the next thirty minutes, you will be treated like any other trespasser and punished as such.”

My eyes widened.

This was worse than social suicide. Her entire future, at least in Shadow Cove would be completely ruined. No school would want to admit the academy’s reject.

The girl who I now knew was Natasha started crying and begging with all her might but Ren was already putting his hand on the small of my back and gently urging me away.

I looked up at him, awed at his power and authority. How he had handled this with such grace.

“You have the power to take away scholarships?”

“I’m in charge of giving them in the first place. Anybody with great skill and potential is an asset to us.”

This was news to me.

“Did you give me mine?”

“Yours was a different case. My parents handled yours.”

“What if she wasn’t a scholarship student? How would you have dealt with it?”

“Every person in this school is affiliated with the Hawthorne family in one way or another. It’s not hard to get to them.” He looked at me now, a worried etch in his brows, “Why are you asking all these questions? Do you think I took it too far? Are you mad at me?”

He was rambling now. “Her grades were already slipping so I was going to do it sooner or later, she just gave me a reason to make it more dramatic-“

I bit my lips to stop myself from giggling. I’ve never seen Ren so flustered. It was a sight that reminded me how human he really was.

“Ren!” I called his attention, stopping his rambling. I shook my head, a big smile on my face. “I’m not mad at you. Thank you for making her pay for what she did to me.”

She was one less bully to worry about. Why will I be mad about that?

He smiled back at me, his face lighting back up.

We walked into the building where I had my first class and all the warmth and joy I felt outside immediately got sucked out of me.

I started walking beside him, inching closer to him, still very conscious of everyone looking at us even though I was elated that he was here.

“Did you sleep well?” He asked me and I looked at him, ready to answer when I realized from my side vision that people were staring at us, wicked gazes resting on me.

“I did.” I replied but my answer was high pitched and the smile on his face dimmed before he looked around and realized what was making me nervous.

“Hey, look at me, Lily. It’s alright. Do you hear me?”

“Huh?”

“Look at me, Lily. Nothing else matters right now besides us. They don’t matter, alright?” He whispered when I finally looked away from those that were watching us to stare into his eyes, feeling my heart skip as he took one step forward and held my hand.

I saw his eyes glow slightly and just as they dimmed, I could feel the nerve wracking anxiety that I felt slowly dissolve away.

H- he was healing me. I realized that he had once said he had a wide range of neuro abilities. He had heated me up last night, could rid thoughts and emotions, heal me with a touch of his hands and even stop my anxiety.

Having abilities that were as diverse as Ren’s surprised me each and every time he used it and as he led me into the hallway, his hand still linked through mine, I noticed that eyes kept watching us but his hold on me was like an anchor, keeping me calm and tethered to the floor.

“We are here.” I said when I got to the door that led to my classroom, immediately feeling the loss of Ren’s warmth as I removed my hand from his and smiled before quickly rushing into the class.

“Whoa, whoa, freak. Watch where you are going.” A boy that bumped into me growled and I frowned, about to tell him that he was the one that had bumped into me but from the smirk on his face, it was obvious that he knew and didn’t care.

“What? Did you have something that you wanted to say to me?” He growled, but before I could reply, I saw that the frown on his face change into fear as he looked at something behind me and when I turned, I saw that Ren had entered the classroom and walked to stand behind me, his face an epitome of calm but expression cold enough that it was intimidating even if it was not directed at me.

“R-ren! I mean, Hawthorne! I- I mean, my p- princ-“

“You’re not bothering her, are you?”

“I- I would never do such a thing.”

“It’s not like your father’s company’s relationship with ours has to suffer because of your stupidity.” He looked at me, tugging me to his side. “Lily is close to me. I’d appreciate it if you treat her with the same amount of respect as you treat me.”

Swallowing nervously, the boy nodded and quickly walked away and I raised my eyebrows in confusion at Ren as he followed me to the end of the front row where my seat was.

“I thought you left. Why are you here?” I asked as I sat down and he shrugged, looking beside me to where my partner was currently watching us with unhidden interest.

Ren tapped the table twice with his knuckles and just like that, the boy beside me stood and walked to find another seat and I watched in awe as Ren took the seat beside me, his movement so fluid that it reminded me of who he was.

A royal. A powerful person.

I hated how my cheeks suddenly flushed hot at how sexy he was and as I cleared my throat and fanned my face. The teacher walked in and started a roll call.

When she noticed Ren, she smiled even though we all knew he was not supposed to be in this class.

“I know that you’re not supposed to be here, Hawthorne but since you’re a very good student, I won’t ask what’s going on.”

“Thank you, Miss Finn. It’s a pleasure to be here.” he said goodnaturedly and I watched the exchange between them, shocked again at how easy his confidence seemed to come to him.

Safe to say that I really enjoyed Miss Finn’s class with Ren right by my side.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 57

Ren’s POV

“Are you going to follow me everywhere today? Not that I’m complaining.” Lily joked as I walked her to her next class and even though I just smiled, I didn’t tell her that it was indeed what I had planned.

“Maybe,” I replied just as we got to the location for her next class and her smile widened when she saw Rhea and Chelsea standing outside the door.

“Wait, you guys have this class now too?” She asked them, looking at me and back at them in disbelief when they nodded but she didn’t question it, too excited and relieved that I was leaving her in safe hands.

She turned to look at me with those big, bright hazel green eyes, tugging my sleeve childishly. “I’ll see you later?” She asked me, her eyes filled with hope.

She was so adorable, I just wanted to eat her up.

I nodded immediately, reaching out to squeeze her hand.

Chelsea linked her arm through Lily’s and walked into the classroom and I shared a look with Rhea after which she nodded and entered the classroom.

I had taken one look at Lily snoozing this morning and known that I wanted to make sure that she was never hurt again. She'd never have a reason to cry again. And that was what had made me create this plan to make sure all of our schedules were changed to match hers so that at least one of us or all of us would be having classes with Lily throughout the day. With this, she would not have to be alone at any moment and would have us looking out for her.

Rhea and Chelsea had been excited to help and thought it was a genius plan thankfully so it had been really easy to have the schedules changed and now I could finally move on to the one thing that I had been dreading all day but knew that I needed to get it over with; finding Mauve and ending things with her.

Walking back in the direction from where Lily and I had come from, I ended up finding Mauve in the recording studio where the press club members usually sent out information to the entire school.

Mauve was incredibly beautiful in an attractive and confident way. She had come a long way from the scared, naive little girl to this proud, confident vixen. Long red hair spilled over her porcelain white face that could have been carved from marble by an expert sculptor.

She was absentmindedly scrolling through her phone as her friend, Sydney rehearsed the news for the day while Paige held out a bowl of chips to Mauve which she picked from and threw into her mouth.

She was really fitting into this royal status in a way that I would never fit, but unfortunately that was not going to be enough to save us. Our relationship was built on shaky ground from the start. It had just taken me this long to realize that I had to do something about it before it was too late.

Before it hurts Lily.

I entered into the studio and the entire room went silent. Mauve doesn't even look up as she buries her nose in her phone, scrolling through something with a bored look on her face.

It's not possible that she didn't notice me. She's just trying to make a point that I wasn't worth s**t.

I walked up to her, stopping inches from where she was sitting. "We need to talk."

She raised her head up and looked at me like I was a stranger, or worse one of her minions that she could order around

“I’m busy, can you come back later? Or don’t, Ren. I’m kinda very busy.”

“You’re eating chips.” I raised an eyebrow at her. “Surely you can spare me a few minutes of your precious time. This is important.”

“Ugh!” She groaned. “Just text me, Ren.”

“Let’s break up.” I blurted out in frustration, already tired of her games and that got her attention as well as that of her friends because they snickered and she frowned, her face disbelieving as she rose to her feet and looked at me.

“What did you just say?” Her voice was high-pitched, shaky and breathless, daring me to repeat what I just said.

“I’m breaking up with you.” I answered.

Her eyes bulged and she grabbed my hand and dragged me out of the studio and into an empty classroom, slamming the door shut before turning around to face me, her face filled with panic.

“What do you mean you’re breaking up with me?”

“Exactly what I said, Mauve.”

“What is that about?” She responded and when I didn’t say anything, she started pacing the room before she snapped her fingers and stopped.

“Wait, that’s it. You want to f**k Lily, isn’t it? That is what this is about, is it not? You don’t want to leave me, you just want her, don’t you?” Her dark green eyes were filled with a crazed glint I’ve never seen before.

“Why did you not just say so in the first place? If this is about f*****g that good for nothing daughter of a traitor, then you can go ahead. You can even have a threesome if you want. I mean we can even have an open relationship, as long as those bitches and side pieces know that I’m your girlfriend and will always be.”

I looked at her in disbelief because I could not believe that was what she thought was going on but then again, it was Mauve and even until last night , I was certain that I was not going to leave her.

But I could not stay with her and be true to myself. I needed to let her go.

“I’m serious about the breakup though. I haven’t claimed you yet, so the rejection rite won’t be too painful. I’ll get everything prepared by weekend. Of course, I’ll compensate you for the rejection but that’s as far as my generosity will allow.”

She was speechless. Eyes wide in disbelief, jaw slightly opened.

Sighing, I turned to leave the classroom when she grabbed me and kissed me hard.

“Please don’t leave me.” She said between kisses, her eyes filled with desperation but I moved away from her and shook my head.

“I know what you did to Lily.” I answered and when she froze, guilt immediately appearing on her face, I fisted my hands in disgust. I had hoped that it was not true but seeing her now, with no iota of regret on her face told me that the Mauve I knew, the one that had made me believe that I could actually try to love her was gone.

“And so what?” She yelled.

“And so what?” I asked, frustrated and livid. “You and your goons went to Lily’s house and trashed her room. What did she ever do to you? You know what? Don’t even answer that. I don’t want to know. It’s over, Mauve. Have a nice life.”

I turned around to leave again when she hissed and threw a shoe at my head.

“Go on then, Ren. Run to your lover. What do you think people will say when they hear about this? Then again, you’ll just prove everyone right about how the Hawthorne men cannot keep a mate.”

Her words hit their mark like they always did but I was done listening or hearing anything she had to say.

My hand was on the door knob when I heard a sound that made me turn around in horror.

Mauve was holding a small knife to her wrist, tears streaming down her cheeks, her eyes looking crazed as she trembled. From here I could already tell that although the handle was wooden, the blade was silver.

“I’ll do it. You know that I will, Ren. We have come too far to stop now. Please don’t leave me. I’ll die if you do. I can’t go back to how I used to live before I met you. Please don’t do this to me.” She sobbed, falling to the ground.

I froze.

“Mauve,” I said softly.

She shook her head and screamed at me, “tell me you won’t leave me! Tell me we’ll be mates forever!”

I started approaching her slowly. My healing powers had little effect when it comes to silver. I won’t be able to save her on time if she slits her wrist. While I didn’t like Mauve, I didn’t want her dead either. I reached for her and pulled her into my arms, sliding to the ground with her. Grabbing the knife from her hand, I opened my senses to her emotions and felt sorrow, strong and hard hit me.

She truly thought I was the only lifeline she had.

She was cold and trembling so hard, her teeth were chattering. “What’s wrong with us? I- I- I can fix it, Ren. Just tell me what to do and I’ll fix it. I promise. Just don’t leave me. Please don’t leave me.”

I wanted to believe her. In the beginning, I had been determined to make it work, to make her fall in love with me so that the bond would be real.

Those times had been good times. I had never sensed true love and affection from her, but at least we had been respectful and kind to each other and the memories would always haunt me, but somewhere along the line, Mauve had changed into a person that I didn’t recognize.

She tasted power and wanted more. She got a kick out of seeing me in pain and when she knew she had me, she started lusting after Aiden in her search for more power. She got too comfortable with what she was gaining from this relationship. She had turned from the sweet naive girl that I had honestly believed I could grow to love into something much darker. I had changed too. I was no longer that boy that she had met. We had both changed.

“We are not good for each other, Mauve. You don’t think I’m enough for you and I know that you’re not good for me either.”

“But we can try. I’ll change, I swear. I’ll do anything to be better. Please just one more chance.” She begged and I sighed, feeling exhausted and trapped.

All I could do was continue to rub her arms, realizing that perhaps breaking up with Mauve was not going to be as easy as I thought.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 58

Lily’s POV

When Ren had answered maybe to my question about whether he and the girls were going to be following me around from now on, I had not thought it was real until I was walking into the classroom with Rhea on one side and Chelsea on the other.

I could not believe it either because for the first time in a long time at this school, I was attending classes and not bothering to look over my shoulder because Rhea and Chelsea were with me.

Rhea entered the class first and there was an aura around her that would make anyone that saw her for the first time know that she was a royal. That presence was not something that was easy to fake or act up.

The entire class went quiet at her entrance and I watched as I was not the only one that stared at her look around the classroom and inhale like she was taking in her feel of the environment.

She was in so many ways like Ren, their presence almost ethereal and angelic. It could also be that I was probably imagining them as angels since they were my guardian angels today.

“So where is your seat?” Chelsea asked as we stood behind Rhea who was still looking around the classroom.

“Here.” I pointed to a seat on the front row and Chelsea rolled her eyes and stuck out her thumb, holding it upside down.

“Boohoo, I guess I have to deal with yet another nerd in the group.”

“I’m not a nerd. Plus, you’re a nerd yourself.” I replied and chuckled when she gagged even though we both knew I was right.

To be able to attend Shadow cove academy, you had to be extremely brilliant besides being wealthy and that was why the motto of the academy was the best of the best because they chose extraordinary students from all over to attend , which meant that despite how Chelsea was frowning at the word nerd , she was most likely one herself and probably even more so than I was.

“Okay, let’s find seats.” The front row seats, except mine were already occupied so we decided to sit in the second row and as the girls sat on either side of me, I fought the urge to squeal in excitement at how happy I was that they were attending this class with me.

I didn’t know what I would have done if I had to attend that first class alone after what happened in the shuttle and then attend this class as well and even though the trio behind this were trying their best to not make it obvious that they were doing this to watch over me, their plan was pretty obvious but more than anything, I was grateful for it and happy to know that I had them as friends .

Especially Ren, even though I had no idea what he was to me now. Was he a friend? Or was he more? And he had said something about making a move tomorrow, so what did that mean? Was he going to break up with Mauve?

That was not possible, was it?

It looked like the teacher was going to be late and Chelsea was already telling us about one of the latest trending videos on tiktok when a group of boys walked into the class, making a lot of noise as they trooped in.

They were all wearing the football team’s varsity jackets and as they entered, the rest of the class also seemed to break into chants, hollering at them excitedly as they walked to different seats to greet the students.

I didn’t recognize any of them so it was safe to assume that they were not having classes with us and had just come to see their friend.

Chelsea let out an exasperated groan. “Will you quiet down?” She yelled at them and I was surprised that the noise drastically reduced, but even more shocked when one of them looked in our direction and grinned, waving his hand.

“Chels! Rhea!” He hollered loudly, waving at us.

“Do you know him?” I asked the both of them.

“No! Never seen him in my life.”

“Not a clue on who he is.”

They said at the same time.

“Hey guys.” The handsome guy who was the tallest of the group said again and when he started walking towards us, I saw Rhea’s face go pale.

“Please don’t come over here.” Chelsea whispered over and over again and it made me even more intrigued to know who the guy was with dread.

“Hi guys, hello there.” He said for the nth time when he reached our table, his hand outstretched for a shake and when I looked to my left and right, the two girls suddenly looking like they were busy with something, I shrugged and shook his hand, taking in his looks.

He had curly light brown hair that dusted his forehead with brown eyes that were bright like a teddy bear’s, a golden tan and a muscular build that left nothing to the imagination and would always be associated with the body of a football athlete. His smile was wide and somehow comforting and familiar in a way that I didn’t expect.

He reminded me of a happy, energetic golden retriever puppy.

“I’m Lily,” I said with a bright smile. “And you are?” I asked, since it was obvious that Rhea and Chelsea were not interested in introducing him to me.

“I’m Chase, Chelsea’s older brother.”

My jaw. On the ground.

“Twin brother, bloody bastard.” She hissed, finally coming alive and looking at him and that was when I realized why Chase’s smile felt familiar. It was the exact same smile I saw on Chelsea’s face every time.

Besides that, they looked like they were not even twins.

“Older by two minutes, Chels. Do I always gotta remind you of that everyday?”

Chelsea made funny faces at him that made him chuckle and I liked him immediately.

“Will you be coming to my game?” he asked, his brown eyes brimming with excitement. “it’s all the way in Gold Crest and it’ll be like a field trip-“

“No. Exams are around the corner. Unlike you, I actually have to study to maintain my good grades.”

“Oh,” he deflated. “I didn’t consider that. One of these days, we’ll get to play here and you’ll cheer for me, won’t you?”

“We’ll see,” she said gruffly but that seemed like all the answer he needed because Chase beamed with glee.

However when he turned in Rhea’s direction, there was a sudden tension between the two of them that was palpable.

“Hey, princess” he said softly, his voice low and hesitant.

“Hello.” Rhea said curtly and my eyes widened at how cold she seemed.

“I wasn’t able to reach you yesterday. I was going to ask you to tutor me.”

“I had a sleepover at my friend’s place.”

“Oh.” He deflated. “I was a bit worried.”

“As you can see, I’m perfectly fine. You can go now. Your friends are waiting for you.” She answered.

I frowned. Rhea was a nice, cheerful and generous person. I didn’t know why she was acting so cold to Chase.

The hesitant smile on Chase’s face dimmed and I swear, I heard the sound of his heart breaking as he nodded and smiled at me before walking away.

I swear he looked like a puppy that had just been kicked.

“It was really nice to meet you.” I told him, overcompensating on Rhea and Chelsea’s behalf.

“Likewise,” he said as he walked away to meet his friends and I turned to Chelsea first with so many questions.

“How did I not know that you had a TWIN brother?”

“Ugh. Trust me, it’s better that way. I can’t seem to get away from him. He’s already a celebrity everywhere, even at home. I can do ten seconds without having to see his face.”

“But you’re siblings. TWINS! Aren’t you meant to be close to him?”

“A gross misconception Lily. It’s hard to be close to someone when you’re always compared with their merits and your failures. It’s kinda annoying, really.”

“Oh,” I answered, obviously not understanding what she meant since I didn’t have any sibling but I was still very curious so I decided to ask another question.

“How come I have never seen him eat at the table?” And by the table, I meant the popular table.

This time, it was Rhea that answered and I noticed that her eyes lingered on the door with guilt, watching the boys leave before she spoke.

“He hates the table because he thinks most of the people there are fake,” she said softly.

“And then there is the fact that he can’t stand Aiden.” Chelsea added and I smiled, liking him even more.

It seemed I was wrong. The school did have some people that still had some bit of sense if there were more people like Chase.

I was ready to ask Rhea what was up between her and Chase but just then the teacher finally arrived and I knew that it would have to wait until later.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 59

Lily’s POV

It was safe to say that if I could go to classes like this, then I would be very happy and would gain a whole lot more than I usually did when I was alone.

The entire morning had been so pleasant, mostly because when I was not in class with Rhea and Chelsea, I was in class with one of them at least and I was able to confirm that they had somehow intentionally changed their schedules to fit with mine.

I haven't had any more classes with Ren but it was safe to say that he was in on this. Probably the mastermind if it all.

I didn't have a problem with it though. Infact, I was more than grateful that they had done it because it had made learning in class so much easier than when I used to attend it on my own.

I wish this feeling of peace and security could last forever.

Whenever I had to be at school before today, it was hell because even when no one was actively bullying me, I was always terrified of even making one wrong move like breathing wrong in class or sneezing or even coughing and making people remember that I existed.

Half of the time I didn't attend classes and I spent the day hiding out in the library or the bathroom in fear. A dark feeling creeped up my chest as I thought of those first weeks in school that were actually full on physical assault and attempts to kill me.

I swallowed a deep breath, refusing to think of these. I had met Ren, Rhea and Chelsea and heck, even Chase was starting to look like a good friend. I had learned so much in just a couple of hours that I was pretty certain that if I had one week like this, I would be very well ahead of the class like the rest of my peers were.

I had one more class after lunch break and I'll be home free. I had learnt so much today and I could not wait for school to close for the day so that I could go to the library and do some extra reading to make sure that what was taught stuck in my head. It also helped that Rhea was absolutely brilliant because she had spent most of the class helping me to keep up and she was so patient when she explained stuff that it was easy to understand.

Thanks to her, I was able to understand some of the things that I would have never been able to since the academy was operating on an advanced syllabus and I was still that newbie from Gold crest trying to fit in.

As we walked out of the classroom into the hallway, I saw Chase glance at Rhea and almost raise his hand in a wave but stop himself. Quickly searching for Rhea's reaction, I saw that she was staring at him too, her gaze heated in a way that I didn't understand whether she was angry with him or something else.

Huh.

Once more, I wondered what Chase must have done to get such stilted reactions from her. It was a no brainer that I'd always pick Rhea's side even if this turns out to be something bigger than I was expecting.

I decided that perhaps it was not good to pry, especially when Rhea had been nothing but a sweetheart to me. If she wanted me to know, I was going to find out either way. That was what Bia always said to me anyways.

"So, how was today? And be honest, okay?" Rhea asked as she looked away from Chase to me and Chelsea coughed.

"You sound like a mom. Way to be subtle, mom."

Rhea rolled her eyes and I laughed, linking my arms through theirs.

"Today was wonderful, actually. Thanks to you guys. Rhea, thank you so much for putting me through all of those things. You're such an excellent tutor. In fact, you're the best in the academy!"

"Aww, you're welcome." Rhea answered just as Chelsea cleared her throat.

"I think the word you are looking for is third best. She's not the best tutor in the academy. She's top three though."

Rhea growled at her and I looked at Chelsea confused and surprised. Was she saying that there were people more brilliant at tutoring than Rhea?

How am I even supposed to compete with that and earn my keep here? I needed to do outstandingly well so that I don't lose the scholarship when I just got started.

“Why is that?” I asked Chelsea. “Who are the top two?”

“You happen to know the two of them. The second best is Ren.” Chelsea answered and just the mention of his name caused butterflies to erupt in my belly.

Of course he had to be there. How could someone be so perfect?

“And who is number one?” I asked and Chelsea’s face immediately hardened.

When I looked at Rhea, she was also frowning but she was the one that answered and the name she mentioned caused me to freeze on the spot and stop walking.

“Aiden.”

How was that even possible? How could someone so vile be the best tutor in the entire academy? And where did he find the time to even read and be brilliant, when I was sure that he spent most of his days engaging in mindless s e x with every girl that crossed his path and bullying poor students?

Without even meaning to, my mind went back to what had happened in the studio and I could not help the sudden shame that filled me again when I remembered how he had held the back of my head and showed me what he liked as he f****d my mouth and how I, despite feeling repulsed by his entire being had somehow not hated that feeling.

“Hey, are you okay?” I heard Rhea ask, her voice pulling me out of my destructive thoughts and I nodded, about to answer her verbally when we turned a corner and I saw that a small crowd had formed around a locker.

My locker.

Ren was standing outside the crowd, his shoulders slumped, looking at the locker in speechless horror.

My heart skipped a beat and started racing erratically.

Everyone there was laughing as they looked at whatever was written on there and some were even taking pictures and throwing rubbish at it.

I must have let out a pitiful sound because Ren turned around and when our eyes collided, I saw the sadness and disappointment on his face and I knew that whatever was on that locker was terrible.

Anxiety gripped me immediately like a fist holding my heart in a tight grip. The noose around my neck only tightened as Ren started walking up to me.

“You don’t need to see that. Come on, let’s go.” He whispered, holding my arms and stopping me from advancing forward.

“What’s going on?” I whispered but all he did was pull me into his arms and rubbed my back soothingly.

“Nothing you need to see right now,” he whispered into my hair, “come. It’s time for lunch,” he said as he tried to steer me away from my locker but I wouldn’t budge.

“What’s going on?” Chelsea asked and when Ren just shook his head and shared a look with Rhea, I used the opportunity to release myself from his grip, pushing myself through the crowd till I got to the front and finally saw it.

My mouth fell open in horror to see my locker drenched in blood, the words ‘blood w***e’ carved into the metal door in a big bold zig zag handwriting. As if that was not bad enough, there were pictures plastered all over the locker. Pictures of Zac feeding from me that night at the club.

Of course, whoever did this selected shots with Zac’s back turned so that you could not tell who it was that fed on me but you could certainly see my own face on full display.

I couldn’t breathe, I realized as I tried to take one step forward to bring down the pictures and I crouched to the ground, my hand against my heart, hitting my chest over and over again as I tried to make the pain stop.

I could hear people laughing around me and my vision turned blurry, fading in and out of reality, nausea hitting me hard as I fought back tears. Sitting on the floor, I vaguely heard Rhea and Ren trying to disperse the crowd.

Although I could feel the crowd around me dispersing, it still felt like I was breathing through a tiny straw

Oxygen... Where did all the oxygen go?

Chelsea knelt in front of me and pulled me in for a hug, whispering something about counting backwards to help me breathe but it felt like all of the oxygen in the hallway had disappeared into nothing.

Just then my phone beeped with a text and with shaking hands and teary eyes, I whipped it out of my pocket, but when I looked at the screen, my heart stopped.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 60

Lily's POV

Maybe it would have been better if I was the only one at that time that got such a notification. Maybe it would have made sense to me if this problem was escalating but I could have control over it.

But immediately I looked at the notification on my phone, I heard everyone else's phone in the vicinity ping as well, indicating that they were also receiving a text.

My heart dropped. A cold shiver racked my bones. I was afraid to look up, to move, to even breathe.

Maybe I was being paranoid. It could not have been the same text message that we all received right?

But the worst part was that just as I had tried to gaslight myself into believing that I had not heard everyone's phone vibrate with a notification, shocked eyes moved to me and when I looked at Rhea, she was also looking at me with so much sorrow on her face that made me know without a doubt that she had received the exact same thing that I had.

It was the one video that I had thought would never come to light. There I was on my knees, my mouth filled with Aiden's d**k as he slid in and out of my mouth like he had every right to do that.

The video had been cut off to hide Aiden's face but mine? Of course not. They had wanted everyone to see me that way. Wanted everyone to witness me in that degrading manner.

The worst part was that as the crowd gathered around me again, their videos kept playing and I kept hearing the sound of me gagging as I struggled to accommodate Aiden's appendage in my mouth.

People were snickering and gasping, their eyes on me with a mix of taunting and disappointment.

I could not believe my eyes. I didn't know why I had trusted that Aiden was going to get rid of the video of Zac, or why I had somehow not known that I was being filmed giving him a blowjob.

Even though it had felt like I was going to die from shame after what had happened in that abandoned drawing room, I had been certain of one thing, that nobody would find out. I had been certain that Aiden would keep his end of the bargain and not use the dirt that they had on me against me. But I guessed that I was the one that was foolish enough to have believed his lies.

I never learn, do I?

Their words meant absolutely nothing.

Ren was at my side in an instant, cocooning me in his arms. "Get up, I'll take you home," he said.

Shaking in rage, I allowed Ren to pull me up and as he and Rhea pulled me out of the crowd, all I could hear were the voices talking about me.

w***e.

A blood w***e and a slut? And she's playing Ren too? Ugh, that dirty b***h makes me livid as hell.

She looks like she knows how to use her mouth though.

If I was that guy, I would have f****d her until her throat was sore. He looked gentle.

She looks like she enjoyed it too.

Slut.

She should not be here but in one of those clubs. She might be better suited for her.

“I’m so sorry, Lily.” Ren whispered and tears trickled down my cheeks because I was certain that Ren would never be able to look at me the same way again and it was all Aiden’s and Zac’s fault.

Wait.

It was all their fault. All of this! Right when I was thinking that things were starting to look up for me, they came and smashed my hope to smithereens.

They wanted me to run, to hide, to fear them. f*****g bastards.

My sorrow quickly turned into rage and I stopped walking and turned around heading in the opposite direction , heading back into the school instead of home like I was planning to flee to.

“Where are you going?” Ren asked , holding my hand and even though it really hurt me to withdraw from him, I removed my hand and turned to face him.

“Where are they?” I asked my voice cold and curt.

If Ren was hurt by my answer, he didn’t show it, instead shaking his head.

“You don’t have to...”

“Tell me where those bastards are, Ren. Where could they be?”

Ren realized that there was no changing my mind and he sighed.

“They are probably at the basement lounge. That’s where they usually hang out when there are no classes.”

I knew where that was.

Turning around, I didn’t wait to know if Ren was following behind but I heard him tell Rhea and Chelsea to find a way to get rid of the videos and that he would follow me.

Dragging the door to the lounge open and stepping inside, I froze in front of the door as I took in the scenery.

Aiden and Zac were in the lounge like Ren had said they would be and there were other boys inside as well.

Sitting down with a relaxed pose like he did not just ruin my life was Aiden, cutting bits and pieces of an apple with a fancy looking knife and throwing each piece into his mouth absentmindedly. He almost look innocent in his beauty, without a care in the world. Zac on the other hand was standing in front of the pool table, getting ready to take a shot.

They still looked ridiculously handsome for the monsters that they were and as if they both sensed my presence, they looked up and the room turned silent as Zac rested on his cue stick, looking at me in confusion and Aiden dropping the knife on the table.

“Lily?” Zac breathed, onyx black eyes almost softening as he looked at me. “Why are you here?” He asked, looking genuinely confused and I would have laughed at his pretense if I didn’t feel empty inside.

My eyes landed on Sebastian and I froze when his lips lifted up in a vicious smirk... A vicious knowing smirk. And I finally realized that he had to have been the one that either distributed the video or was in on it... Feeling sick to my stomach for trusting him, I wanted to throw up at how foolish I had been for thinking he was a nice person but it was Aiden’s statement that tipped me over the edge .

Rising to his feet, he plastered a smirk on his face.

“Well look who it is,” he said with a mocking grin, “and you brought your guard dog along this time. You want him to watch while I make you my b***h again?”

“Shut the f**k up, Aiden.” Ren growled ferociously, taking a threatening step forward but it only made Aiden chuckle.

“Ren, I can say for a fact that you are just jealous that I got to use her first. Playing the patient dog will get you nowhere. At least, I wasn’t patient and I got her on her knees, moaning my name.”

My mind went blank with fury and one minute, I was standing by the door, the next I was in front of Aiden. I didn’t even realize when I picked up the knife and stabbed him in the stomach.

There was a collective gasp from everyone in the room but I didn’t care. He was a monster. His eyes widened in shock as I held the knife in place, looking him dead in the eyes.

“Listen to me, now, Aiden. You have done your literal worst and if you think for one second that this will chase me out of the academy, then you thought wrong. I am going to stay here no matter what and you re going to keep seeing my face. If you can’t stomach it, you’ll have to kill me first!”

Certain that I had gotten my message across, I was about to remove the knife and leave when Aiden grabbed my arm and moved forward, pushing the knife even deeper into his body, his hand wrapped like a band around mine.

“Is that an invitation to do what I want?” He crooned, pulling me closer and stroking my chin, ultimately pushing the knife deeper into his abdomen.

My eyes widened in horror as I struggled to let go.

“What the hell, Aiden!” I screamed, my fearful gaze on him, “Let me go. You’ll hurt yourself.”

“Well you stabbed me first. I am just finishing what you started.” He answered with an unhinged look in his eyes that terrified me.

The look of someone already going insane.

No. At this point, he could get really hurt. I knew my strength and I knew that I wasn’t strong enough to inflict any damage on him. I could hardly push through his skin, but with his own strength... oh god, I felt sick to my stomach as my hands became slick with his blood.

“Stop this!”

“You have no idea what I am capable of, princess but you’ll find out.”

“Aiden!” Ren growled, snapping my attention to him. I saw him move to help me but he was held back by some of the guys.

“Look at me, princess,” Grabbing my chin with his free hand, Aiden smiled malevolently.

“If you think I’ve done my worst, then you are stupider than I thought.” He whispered before releasing me and my heart thudded in my chest as I stared at my hands for a moment. Nausea climbed up my throat, making me want to hurl and throw up my guts.

“Lily!” I could hear someone shouting my name over and over again but the voice sounded far off until he was right in front of me.

“Ren?” I asked, focusing on his face.

“Oh, god, Lily. Come here,” he whispered, putting his arms around me and leading me out of the lounge.