

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 81

Ren's POV

I could almost laugh.

This had to be a dream, right? A cruel, twisted dream. I'd wake up any minute now, back to my miserable life with Mauve, back to my worst fears that Lily didn't give two shits about me.

All of this had to be a dream.

Because there was no way Lily was standing in front of me right now, saying words that I had been wanting to hear from her for the longest time.

I was speechless, my heart speeding up as her words kept going over and over in my head.

Lily wanted me?

I saw her lips widen in a gentle smile as she closed the distance between us, her hands still cupping my cheeks, her chest flush against mine.

"Check my mind. You have my permission," She whispered, her lips brushing mine in the faintest hint of a kiss and I had to fist my hands at my sides to stop myself from grabbing her hips and crushing her to me and continuing from where we left off.

Doing as she said, I scanned her mind and felt my heart squeeze in my chest when I saw how hurt she had been when she lied to me about not wanting me.

That day had opened up wounds from my past, my fear of loss and abandonment and I had been so scared to check her thoughts, wanting to hold on to the benefit of doubt and keep my last shred of dignity that I had instead of going into her mind and finding out that what she had told me was indeed true.

Her words had been more than enough to remind me of how my mother had not chosen me, of how Mauve had chosen everything that comes with our relationship but me. I had a freaking panic attack and dissociated badly moments later.

“Do you believe me now?” She whispered and I nodded, wrapping an arm around her waist and crushing her to my chest, a heavy weight lifting off of me.

Lily loved me. Maybe not as much as I loved her but it didn't matter. She was in love with me and it was enough. It was more than I could have ever imagined happening to me.

When she pulled back and tried to kiss me, I shook my head, hating myself for putting that look of hurt on her face but quickly making sure that I explained why I didn't want to kiss her again.

I had been so close to marking her, my wolf dangerously close to the surface minutes ago and that was such a terrible thing to do when I was still mated to Mauve. I was ashamed of myself for acting like an animal and allowing my d**k to control me at that moment.

“Did I say or do something wrong?” She asked, her voice sending a thrill down my spine and I shook my head immediately.

“Quite the contrary. You just made me the happiest man in Shadow Cove, but I can't kiss you right now. I'm scared of doing something that I'll regret and I would kill myself before causing you harm.”

Leading her to the bed, I sat down, patting my lap for her to sit and when she smiled and sat immediately, my heart swelled.

So this was what loving someone and being loved right back felt like.

“I don't know if you've heard the rumours.”

Her beautiful face twisted into an adorable scowl as she tilted her head to the side to peer at me in confusion, wavy black hair, falling over her face, down her cheeks and shoulders. “Rumours?”

I nodded, threading her hair through my fingers. “That I have no claim as Alpha of my pack.”

She shook her head.

“They're right. My mother, my biological mother, was a mistress. My father's lover. I was a mistake that should have never happened and my mother didn't

ever let me forget it. One day, she left me to die and the Hawthorne household took me in.

Ren's POV

I could almost laugh.

This had to be a dream, right? A cruel, twisted dream. I'd wake up any minute now, back to my miserable life with Mauve, back to my worst fears that Lily didn't give two shits about me.

"Most people don't talk about it anymore but growing up, I could feel the hatred that members of the Hawthorne clan had for me even though Ariel, my adopted mother, loved me like her own. I was proof of the Alpha's infidelity and I heard how people talked about my mother behind my back. It was not like I could even defend her. She deserved every foul name in the world but it hurt me... I can't lie and say that sometimes I wished I had not been born-"

"Oh Ren," Lily whispered and I cupped her face.

"If I had not stopped myself, I would have marked you, Lily. Do you understand that? No one would care that it's you I want, they'd judge you for it. I'm still officially mated to Mauve, so putting you in a spot like that is not my intention. I would die before I allow anyone to treat you like a mistress. You deserve more than hateful looks, wicked words and the shame that comes from all of that. I want to do this right with you and to do that, I need to reject Mauve first. The last thing I want is for you to be considered a homewrecker. That was why even though I was gutted when you left, I understood where you were coming from."

Lily deserved the world and I was not going to rest until I give her that, consequences be damned.

Her eyes widened in understanding and she nodded. "I'm sorry for rejecting you. I felt like I was taking advantage of your kindness and trying to make you leave a perfectly good relationship because you both looked good together."

I could not help the scoff that escaped my mouth. If Lily thought that way, then of course a large population of Shadow cove believed that Mauve and I were perfect for each other. The only thing I was certain that could come of whatever Mauve and I had were genetically good looking children and that required me to even want to touch her, which I had zero wish to do anymore.

“Mauve and I are only perfect on paper. At first I thought it could work even though I was not in love with her but it was always meant to perish. I can’t continue to be with someone who tries to use the truth behind my birth to blackmail me when she doesn’t get what she wants.

“The only reason she is with me is because of my name and status, Lily. She’s drunk on the power that comes with being mated to a royal and I’m just a means to an end to her. I was going to wait for her to reject me but she’s not going to. She never will, not when she sees leaving me as going back to a miserable life. She tried to kill herself when I tried to break up with her. That’s how bad it is.”

Lily’s eyes widened in shock and she shook her head.

“If she’s going to try to kill herself,” she said hesitantly, putting a hand on my shoulder, “then maybe we shouldn’t be doing this?”

I frowned and shook my head. I had let her go once, because I thought she didn’t love me. Now that I was sure that she did, I was not going to lose her again.

“I’m not going to let you back out of this. We deserve to be happy and I need you to stay with me for this to work. Please, don’t leave again.”

I didn’t care how vulnerable I was being now but I needed Lily to see that I was ruined without her.

When she nodded slowly, I fought my hardest to keep my hands from her, but I just couldn’t.

Grabbing her and lifting her up, I adjusted her so that she was straddling me, her a*s on my crotch, the forgotten hardness sparking to life and searing hot warmth washed over my entire body.

I grabbed the back of her neck and kissed her hard, our kisses, impatient and needy, arms around our bodies like we couldn’t get enough of each other.

To Aira’s credit, he wasn’t lurking under the surface, desperate to mark her and finally claim her as ours. That speech was as much for him as it was for Lily. But he was still a beast and I wondered just how much he’d take before he loses it completely.

Lily sat down harder on my crotch and I let out a hiss as desire shot up my spine. “Jesus, Lily.”

f**k it.

I gripped her hips as she started rocking back and forth, urging her to move where it felt good.

“Yeah, that’s the way. Keep going.”

She let out a strangled moan, goosebumps on her skin as she rocked her hips on mine, our kisses becoming more desperate, more passionate.

I allowed her when she pushed back against my chest, forcing me to lie back on the bed and I watched her with unabashed awe as she practically dry humped me, using me for her own pleasure and satisfaction.

She looked so hot, so beautiful, her cheeks flushed and hot, her blood red lips slightly parted, eyes clouded with desire, her head thrown back, long dark hair, sticking to her face as she grinded dirtily on me while I held on to her hips.

I watched her as she took and took, mesmerized by her. I’d give her anything she wanted. Anything she asked of me.

“Ren,” she called out my name, her voice trembling, her hands grabbing fistfuls of my shirt.

I sat back up, pressing my lips to her ear. “I’m here, baby. That’s right. Use me, I’m yours.”

She suddenly shuddered, letting out a muffled cry and collapsing against me, boneless and exhausted.

I stroked her hair, tucked thick strands behind her ear.

She buried her face in my shoulder and let out an embarrassed groan.

I laughed, rubbing her back as she climbed down from her high.

“I can’t believe what I just did,” she cried, tucking her face into the crook of my neck.

I laughed softly. "It's nothing to be embarrassed about. I loved watching you."

She groaned, shaking her head and I just smiled into her hair.

My scent was all over her, all over her sheets. And her scent was all over me. It was the closest I could get to marking her. The closest I could get to letting everyone know that she was mine and I was hers.

It's more mercy than I thought I deserved.

"We need to go," I whispered into her hair after a few minutes. "You can't stay here."

She leaned back to look at me and nodded.

The urge to kiss her again was hard but I settled for a quick peck and helped her to her feet.

"I've texted Bia. I'll be staying at her place for the night."

"I'll drive you to her place." I answered, returning her smile and helping her pack a bag.

My face hardened as I took in the mess again and I quickly hid my expression. Lily didn't need to see any of that anger. I would fix the issue.

As we headed downstairs, her cat in her arms while I helped her with the bag, it was on the tip of my tongue to ask her to just move in with me instead but I stopped myself, reminding myself that it was probably too fast.

Mauve's words about how desperate, needy and clingy I was thanks to being abandoned filled my ears and my words died quickly in my throat, not wanting to scare Lily away.

I didn't realize that I had stopped walking until a hand wrapped around mine and when I looked down, Lily was smiling up at me.

"Are you okay?"

All my fears melted away and I gave her an even bigger smile, tugging her to my side.

"Never felt better."

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 82

Lily's POV

Was this a dream? Was I really dreaming or had the events of the last hour happened?

The purr of Fiona on my lap as she wiggled her feet before putting herself in a comfortable position enough to resume sleeping was the slap that I needed to realize that yes, I was not dreaming.

I had kissed Ren... and... he had kissed me back. I had finally stopped lying to him and myself about how I felt and had come clean about everything. More importantly, Ren felt the same way about me? How unbelievable was that?

Feeling like the luckiest person on the planet, I snuck a glance at Ren from where I was sitting on the passenger seat. His profile view was almost angelic, soft silver white hair falling softly against his beautiful face, it almost made my heart stop just looking at him. When he glanced at me and smiled, something bubbled in my chest. My heart felt like it was going to burst from feeling so much for him.

This was real. Ren was driving me to Bia's place like he had said he would, my clothes in a duffel bag that had probably seen better days in the back seat but right now, the last emotion I felt was shame or embarrassment. All I felt was peace and love, so much love that it felt like my heart was about to explode with it.

It was quite ironic because hours ago, I could have sworn that this was going to be the worst day of my life, right from when Tate tried to molest me to coming home to find my mother injured and my house vandalized and my cat stabbed and on the brink of death. But right now as I stared out the window, a big smile on my face, I could not help but be grateful to whatever powers were responsible for how today ended up turning out.

For the first time in a long time, I was choosing to do something for myself. It was still like a dream that I had taken the bold step to tell Ren how I felt but now that I was taking control of my life, choosing the guy that I liked who also happened to like me back and wanted to try a relationship with me, I felt incredibly powerful. And deliriously happy.

Deciding that this occasion called for some happy music, I reached into my bag and pulled out my phone to listen to some music.

“You still have that? I would have thought that the thing would not last a day the last time I saw it with you.” Ren said but there was no hint of condescension or mockery. He sounded genuinely surprised to still find me using the phone.

“It still works fine. Looks can be deceiving.” I answered, hating the giant lump of insecurity that settled on my shoulders, even though I knew he didn’t mean any harm.

He was from a class that was on the polar opposite end of mine and someone like him would never have used this kind of phone but it was all I had.

He tucked his tongue against his cheek. “What happens if one day, it just stops out of the blue. We can’t have that. I’ll be getting you a new phone as soon as possible.”

My eyes widened in shock and I found myself already shaking my head in protest.

“You can’t do that.” I answered, even though I knew it was unreasonable to not accept the phone when he was right. My phone was barely functioning right now and I knew he was being nice but I didn’t want to look pitiful to the man I liked.

Ren glanced at me and maybe it was because of his piercing observant gaze or the fact that he could hear thoughts but he smiled gently.

“You’re mine now, Lily. I like to care of what’s mine. It’s as simple as that. Please allow me to take care of you. It makes me happy to do it.”

Stunned speechless, I blushed so hard and bit my lower lip when he grinned. The air was punctuated with the attraction between us.

“So, will you let me?”

Nodding shyly because I was too stupefied to speak, I decided to busy myself with looking at my messages.

My eyes widened when I realized that Bia had been blowing up my phone with messages since I texted her asking if I could sleep at her place for a couple of days. Quickly, I replied with a message telling her that I was already on my way and would tell her everything when we meet.

I was about to leave the app when I saw the string of texts that I had sent to Ren, message after message that had gone undelivered and the smile dropped from my face as I remembered how hollow it had felt to not be able to reach him.

“Did you block me?” I asked and he raised his brows in confusion.

“No. Why would I ?”

I raised my phone till it was in his line of sight to show him the messages that I had sent and he shook his head, looking even more confused, his brows furrowed like he was trying to remember something.

“Hold on.” He reached into the console and brought out his phone and when he handed it to me, I raised my eyebrows, wondering if it was okay for me to go through his messages.

“Go on, Lily.” He said and when I opened my chat box on his phone I saw that none of my messages had been delivered. Worse, I had been blocked truly.

Raising the phone to show him , I watched as his eyes widened in shock and he shook his head immediately.

“Block you? That’s absurd. I didn’t do that. I would never. All this while, I’ve been waiting anxiously to get a message from you.”

I nodded, believing him. But if he didn’t, then who did?

He was about to speak but then his face went cold and I saw his hands tighten on the steering wheel.

“I remember... this afternoon. I left my phone in the car. Mauve was in the car when I was trying to talk to you. I would not put it past her to pull a stunt like this.”

Before Ren told me everything about his childhood and relationship, I might have tried to absolve Mauve of this but now I knew better and was hurt by the

fact that while I was making myself unhappy just because I didn't want their relationship to crash, Mauve didn't mind cutting me out of Ren's life, even though we were just friends.

Now I understood why Rhea had said that Mauve could not be trusted.

Seeing how livid Ren was, I reached forward and took one of his hands, linking my fingers through his and when his face softened as he looked at me, I nodded with a smile.

I was not going to let Mauve come between us anymore. I was going to stay with him and make this work.

There was no need for words and I grinned when his shoulders relaxed as he parked in front of Bia's house per my directions.

Bia was already waiting for me on the front steps of her house and when she smiled and waved, I smiled back. I had Ren and Bia and Rhea and Chelsea on my side... dare I say Zac too. Of course I was going to be okay.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 83

Lily's POV

"Girl, I have been waiting for you. Thought you changed your mind and decided to go somewhere else. I was so scared. I'm glad that you're safe though. So glad." Bia said, pulling me into a tight hug the minute I reached where she was.

Pulling back to grin at her, I cupped her cheek.

"Where else would I go?"

"With that hot guy holding your cat and walking towards us right now is where else, right?" Bia said, wiggling her eyebrows and even though she thought it was a joke, I could not help but smile because I knew she would be shocked to find out that Ren and I had now spoken about our feelings and were in sync more than ever.

"Thank you," I said shyly as Ren handed Fiona to me and Bia took her from my arms, peppering her chubby face with kisses. He dropped the duffel bag beside Bia and came back to take my hand in his.

“I’ll get the phone to you tomorrow. I would have said I could come back tonight but I’m sure you’d want to settle in and be with your friend right now.” Ren said, closing the distance between us as he looked down at me and thank God for the dark of night because I was sure that I was as red as a tomato.

“I’ll see you tomorrow then. Goodnight Ren.” I said shyly and when he raised his eyebrows with a smile, I wondered what was on his mind.

“Goodnight, Lily.” He whispered, still holding my hand and I had just turned, about to release his hand when he spun me around and captured my lips in a kiss that had me rising on my tiptoes and grabbing fistfuls of his shirt.

My toes curled and I was sure that my weak legs would have sent me to the floor if Ren’s arm was not secured around my waist, the other angling my face so his tongue could slide into my mouth.

This was bliss. It was utter bliss and when we were done, I was smiling wide like it was Christmas, my heart running a mile.

“Where did you think you were going without a goodbye kiss?” He whispered against my lips.

“I’m sorry.” I answered and he rubbed his nose against mine, finally releasing me.

“You can make up for it tomorrow. I can’t wait to see you.”

The purr of my cat reminded us that we were not alone and my eyes widened as I turned around, forgetting that I had kissed Ren with Bia there, watching us.

She was still standing where I left her, Fiona in her hands but her body was frozen in shock, her jaw on the ground, her eyes wide enough that I was almost sure they would fall from their sockets as she stared at the two of us.

“D... did that just happen?” She asked me and when I nodded, Ren chuckled, kissing the side of my face and waving at her before entering his car and driving off.

Gently, Bia dropped Fiona on the ground and ran towards me , squealing loud enough to wake the neighbors.

“Oh my God, you are going to tell me EVERYTHING, Lily Beauregard. Not one thing out, do you understand?”

Laughing, I let her help me with my duffel bag and carried Fiona into the house, following her up the stairs to her bedroom.

“Dad’s out on a date again. He said to not wait up for him.” She told me as I settled into her bed, dropping Fiona to her soft carpet and watching as she arranged a bowl of milk for her.

“Ooh, things are getting serious with the girlfriend, aren’t they?”

“Yeah yeah, don’t think you can get out of this conversation. Now, tell me everything and young lady, I mean everything and first of all, start from that kiss, will you? You guys blew me away. I’m listening.” She jumped on the bed and laid down beside me, staring at the ceiling like I was doing.

And because it was Bia, it felt easy to tell her everything that had happened today. From the leaks and the whole issue with Aiden, how Ren and I were now together and how Zac was acting out of character.

Her face scrunched up at the mention of Zac and she turned sideways to face me.

“Wait, Zac... he’s that a*****e that hurt you at the club. That hurt me! I still have scars from that awful night, Lily. What the hell are you doing with a guy like that?”

“The million dollar question, huh?” I said quietly. “I don’t know but he apologized and I-“

“He apologized? He hurt you. An apology isn’t going to cut it. I don’t trust him, Lily,” she said, a worried scowl on his lips.

I pressed a hand to my chest, “I know this is only going to get you more enraged but I... I trust him. He proved himself today and I don’t know why he suddenly changed but I do trust him.”

“What exactly did he do to convince you?” She narrowed her eyes at me and I told her all about how he had helped me out at school, drove me back home, helped me with Tate, my mother and even calling Ren over, never once leaving my side.

He had every opportunity to hurt me again but he didn't. And maybe I'm a fool, maybe I'm naive or I'm just starved of friendship, but I trusted him almost as much as I trusted my friends now.

"I don't want you associating with that Zac guy because he's clearly bad news after everything he did to you but if he saved you from Tate, then maybe he isn't so bad? I don't know. I still despise him and I wouldn't still trust him just yet if I were you."

"Yeah I know." I answered, remembering how different Zac had been today and how I was sure that I had imagined whatever sparks between us. Maybe it was because I was alone and in need of comfort. Maybe it was because I was able to rely on him?

Bia was right, though, I needed to be careful with him.

"That's by the way. More importantly, I am team Ren, like I always have been and I'm so happy for you. Does this mean you're dating now?"

I shook my head.

"It's not as easy as that. He has to reject his mate first before we can officially be together."

Her brows furrowed in confusion.

"Mate? He has a mate?" Her eyes widened. " Oh s**t! Isn't that like someone that is meant for you or something?"

"Yeah, his mate is this girl from school, Mauve."

"And let me guess, she's a witch incarnate?"

I turned to look at her. "How'd you know?"

"I mean, just look at Ren. He's been your ride or die since day one. Something tells me that he's fiercely loyal to things he loves and if there's a fall out, ninety percent of the time, it's not his fault. Except I'm reading him all wrong."

"No, no. You're right, actually." Ren had told me that he had tried his best to preserve their bond in the beginning, but Mauve delighted in hurting him to prove a point. In using him. My heart would never stop aching for him. I guess

I should thank Mauve for being who she is. She makes it harder for me to feel guilty about my clandestine relationship with Ren.

“Mauve gives me the ick. She’s never been mean to me, but her vibe is just... off, now that I think about it.”

I fisted my hands at all the things she had done to Ren. Using her past against him. Manipulating him. Threatening to kill herself to keep him in the bond... Blocking me from his phone.

“So, it’s possible to be with someone that is not your mate?”

“Yes. We both want to be with each other.” I answered, my heart swelling when I thought of how Ren’s kiss had filled me up and made me feel whole.

Yes, we were choosing each other. For once, our choices mattered. For once, we both had a say in our lives.

“Does every werewolf get their own mate?”

“More or less. Fate and coincidences put us on the right path to finding our mates. It’s like an intuition. Only stronger, but it leads you to who’s destined for you. Like a hunger you can’t satisfy until you’ve been with them.” If the textbooks are right, that is.

“So... Sooner or later, you’ll find your own mate who’s destined for you.”

My heart stopped. I saw the direction she was heading.

“So what happens if your mate shows up? I mean, Ren is rejecting Mauve to be with you but what about you? Your mate hasn’t shown up yet. What’s going to happen when he does?”

My best friend stared at me expectantly and I realized that I was flawed and had no answers. I had never even considered that option.

“My... my kind of wolf, we’re called omegas, we usually find our mates a lot later than others because our wolves awaken at eighteen for the first time.”

Some omegas are wolfless, but you can never know for sure until you’re unable to turn after your eighteenth birthday. I always suspected that I was wolfless because I lacked the basic instincts of an actual werewolf. But recently, the random voice popping in my head that I was gaslighting myself

into believing was me hearing things... I couldn't ignore it anymore. I had to entertain the possibility that I did have a dormant wolf somewhere in me that would awaken on my eighteenth birthday.

And I was dreading it.

"Well, then. Your eighteenth is already days away." She said excitedly and I realized that she was right. I had been so occupied with many things that I had forgotten my birthday was around the corner.

"Can I throw a party? You can invite Ren, his sister and her friend and even ugh... Zac, if you want."

I chewed my lip, considering it. "Yeah, sure, but make it small, okay?"

"Got it. Let's go over the plans now."

As Bia started talking about the ideas that she had, I tried to listen but I could not help the dread that filled my chest at her question.

Ren was going to reject Mauve to be with me and I would have to do the same when my own mate was revealed. With any luck, my mate would not even want me thanks to my reputation and the fact that I was an omega but that knowledge scared me even more because I doubted that I would survive the rejection.

I was just an omega afterall.

Honestly, if I was wolfless, it would make the whole thing better. I won't have a mate to look forward to because I don't have a wolf. I'm practically human.

Holding my hands tightly together, I made a silent prayer to the goddess for the first time in a long time. I prayed that I would be Ren's second chance mate and that when my birthday came, he'd be the one I'd imprint on.

Second chance mates were rare... very rare. That's why I'm praying for this miracle.

Since I was praying with all my heart, the goddess was sure to answer me right?

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 84

Ren's POV

My entire body still hummed from the euphoria that I had felt after kissing Lily as I drove out of the lands beyond the borders of Shadow cove and back into the barrier that separated our world from theirs.

My smile was still very bright even as I passed through the borders of the one pack that I hardly visited because the one person I always wanted to see preferred to come hang with me; Aiden Vanderbilt. The first son of Maddox and Elizabeth Vanderbilt and the only surviving heir to Night Shade pack.

The euphoric smile I had on vanished as I approached the front gates of the Vanderbilt estate. The estate that my best friend called home.

Like a moth to a flame, the darkness and despair emanating from the estate tried to cling to my body, sensing my empathetic powers (like Lily likes to call it) almost immediately and I shook off the sudden cold feeling that I had as I stared at the gigantic black gates that told everyone to keep out.

Staring at these gates alone made me accept that the Night Shade pack was entirely different from what I remembered it to be.

Night Shade drew its power from the moon and the night. And most werewolves in this pack were stronger and more terrifying at night, perhaps the most terrifying in all of Shadow cove. As if that was not enough, they were the only pack that were not afraid to use dark magic and call on those powers to aid them in battles.

Infact, the royal family, Aiden's family, came from a long line of dark witches, and their strength in dark magic, blessed by the god of night, was what made them the most powerful pack in the entire realm.

Right now, though, I could not even say I felt that strength. All I felt was misery in the air. Sour and pungent like the stench of rotting eggs.

There had always been a dark, dangerous undertone whenever I came to the pack, but it suddenly felt entirely different from when Aiden's parents used to run it.

During Maddox and Elizabeth's time as alpha and luna, the pack had prospered, there was a mystery and beauty in the nightlife and I had loved coming here to play with Aiden because there was always something new, fun

and exciting to see. They had strange, magical creatures, enchanted forests with flowers and mushrooms that glowed in the dark, and magic lakes that looked like the glittering milky way. Everything about Night Shade was rare, beautiful and magical.

Now, I could not even remember the last time I came to Night Shade. After the m*****e, Victor, Aiden's uncle had assumed the position of Alpha, closed their borders and barricaded its territories, cutting off Night Shade from the rest of the packs in Shadow Cove.

It had never really bothered me because Aiden, the reason I always visited, usually spent days and even weeks either at my place or Zac's and only returned when his uncle was back from his long business trips, a small blessing since no one ever wanted the man around, especially Aiden.

The fact that I was even let through the protective borders proved that Victor was not around as the guards were usually more relaxed when he was not in the pack and took their orders from Aiden... At least, what little orders he was allowed to give since his uncle made sure that he knew his place as a subordinate.

There was a coldness and darkness that permeated from Aiden's mansion and it had nothing to do with the obsidian black walls, ivory pillars and marble statues of terrifying archangels.

It has everything to do with the young prince that lived there.

I knew that there was darkness that lived in my best friend, even from when we were younger. I watched him descend even further when he lost his parents and twin sister but I always believed there was hope for him.

Right now though, I had to admit that him being so invested in hurting the girl I loved meant that he didn't even care about me anymore and there was no coming back from that.

My hand tightened on the steering wheel because I didn't want to do this. I didn't want to give up on my best friend.

I knew Aiden in a way nobody else did. When I had been struggling during my first few years as an adopted royal, Aiden had been the one that took me by the hand and showed me the ropes.

Everyone always chucked Aiden up to being an impulsive, possessive and psychopathic tyrant, but Aiden had always been kind, patient and gentle to me, in his own way at least. To a point that sometimes I wondered if he had split personalities in that twisted head of his.

Zac and Aiden had been attached at the hip while growing up but Aiden had gone out of his way to include me in everything he did after I was formally adopted into the Hawthorne family. He had never hesitated to beat up people that talked bad about me and even punish my own servants for disrespecting. He taught me to be firm, critical, to say what I mean and do what I say, because there was nothing more despicable than a king who couldn't keep his word.

He had never judged me and unlike Zac who wanted to always stay busy being involved with the world and loved to travel for so many weeks at a time, going somewhere, doing something and staying busy, Aiden and I were like two sides of the same moon, preferring quietness and solitude. He loved his books and I loved my art and it wasn't so hard to find that quietness and solitude with each other.

We would usually lie together watching the clouds in the day or the stars at night, or Aiden would sit quietly in my studio, reading his favourite book while I painted or sketched, stopping once in a while to make an offhanded comment about how whatever current artwork I was working on was his favourite piece yet.

He was my best friend in a way even Rhea wasn't. No one got me like him and I thought it was the same for him but it hurt that it felt like I didn't even know him anymore.

Running a hand through my hair in frustration, I drove in when the gates finally opened and killed the engine of the car, stepping out and slamming the door a little too hard.

Stay focused, Ren.

I let out a sigh and started walking towards the mansion.

I hadn't even rang the doorbell for a second before it swung open immediately, Aiden's signature smirk greeting me.

I frowned.

“We’ve been waiting for hours,” he tilted his head so that midnight black hair fell against porcelain white skin, eyes like worn tombstones, boring into me. “You took your sweet time.”

All I could think about was Lily’s trashed home, her hurt cat, her devastated face. He caused that.

But here he was with an easy expression, a genuine smile on his face as if he was sincerely happy to see me, his eyes bright with affection and warmth.

“Zac told me w-“

Cold night wind suddenly blew into me and Aiden froze, his smile slipping off, his words dying at his throat. He leaned forward and sniffed my scent, livid rage flashing across his face, twisting it into something darker.

His smile that turned into a malicious smirk told me everything I needed to know.

He had smelled Lily on me.

“Who knew that all it would take for you to have the time to visit your poor best friend in his lonely mansion was animal abuse and some vandalism here and there.”

Growling, I grabbed his collar, pushing him into the house and slamming the door behind me with my feet before turning to hold him against the wall.

“What the actual f**k is wrong with you, Aiden?”

He met my question with a cruel round of laughter that only made me more enraged.

“Why are you even laughing right now? You really think this is funny? She was devastated, Aiden. And you’re laughing? You are laughing? Are you f*****g kidding me?”

I didn’t know what was so amusing about my anger, but he laughed even harder.

“You think that’s bad?” He wheezed. “I should do something bigger next time.”

“You won’t hurt a single hair on her head. I’ll make sure of that.”

“What? You think you can hurt me?” He laughed bitterly. “You think you’ve finally found the one. You want to be sooo good for her? You want to pull yourself into the semblance of a protective mate so that she doesn’t see the pathetic excuse of a man you are.”

I growled, about to punch him but a hand grabbed my arm and I realized that I had been so consumed with rage at Aiden that I had not even sensed that Zac was in the house.

“Don’t do it.” Zac said, still holding my arm and I stared at him, very unimpressed that he was stopping me from beating the s**t out of Aiden since it looked like it was what he needed.

“Why shouldn’t I? You heard what he said. He has gone absolutely crazy!”

“Because he’s not the one that vandalized Lily’s home and hurt her mum and cat. No, he didn’t send anyone else either.”

I wanted so hard to believe that it was true, that I could still save Aiden but there was staggering evidence that refuted that fact. He wasn’t giving anything away with his thoughts either. It was like slamming into a brick wall.

“How are you so sure?” I asked Zac.

He sighed and released my hand, pinching the bridge of his nose and sighing in exasperation at the situation which would have been funny under different circumstances since I was used to being the voice of reason that separated fights between the two of them.

“Take a good look at Aiden, Ren. Not the charade he’s currently playing.”

Confused, I decided to actually look at him and that was when I realized that something was not right with Aiden. He looked pale, his face gaunt like he was sick and in pain and I realized that he would have had me on my back a long time ago but he was just resting against the wall, a hand on mine that was around his throat like he was too weak to retaliate.

The smell of blood immediately hit my nose and I looked down to see a part of his shirt soaked in blood, around his abdomen. Quickly raising up the shirt with my free hand, I gasped in shock when I saw that the wound looked infected.

The moment I released Aiden, his head fell on my shoulders and he would have hit the ground if I wasn't holding him up.

I looked at Zac for an explanation, my eyes wide with panic.

"What happened to him?"

"I met the i***t bleeding all over the floor when I got here. He had not even bothered to change out of his uniform but get this, the dagger was still with him. The same one that Lily had used to stab him. I brought out the one I was holding and realized that it was a replica which means someone did this and knew Aiden would take the credit for it being the big bad villain that he is."

It was like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders and I frowned at Aiden who grinned at me, his eyes nearly closing as his body remained hard like he was trying to keep it together and not fall apart.

"Let's go to his room." Zac said

"My lair!" Aiden corrected weakly for the umpteenth time since we knew him and I would have found it funny if I wasn't worried sick for my best friend, my mind running a mile a minute.

"Why was he trying to rile me up then?" I asked Zac as I followed his lead, holding Aiden tightly to my side and worrying that he was losing too much blood because he was leaving a trail as we advanced and was barely even conscious, his entire body burning up with a fever.

Why hadn't he called me to heal him?

Stubborn a*****e.

"Who knows why Aiden does half of the stuff that he does?" Zac answered and I nodded even though he could not see me, because it was a good question. No one knew why he does what he does. It's like Aiden's brain works on a different frequency from the rest of us.

And why was he bleeding so badly? He should have healed by now.

My heart was racing, my brain coming up with different theories and drawing blanks as to why he was still bleeding profusely.

Surely it couldn't be because of the fact that Lily had stabbed him right.

By now he should have healed up if it was that stab wound unless...

My heart stopped for one terrifying moment. Goosebumps sprouted on my skin.

No, I didn't even want to think about it.

That was impossible, right?

Maddox and Elizabeth had been superstitious people that had been afraid for their son. Elizabeth had a difficult pregnancy and even after she delivered Ashley, Aiden took his sweet time coming out and he was delivered two whole days after his twin sister.

He had been born on a starless night that prophesied two distinct futures for the alpha prince. A grave disaster that will lead to his untimely death or a very prosperous and happy life. They had been terrified by this and had Aiden protected by a lot of dark magic at a young age.

That's probably what twisted his mind into becoming the man he is now. Nobody can hurt him in a manner that he can't recover from. No one... Except his beloved mate. His only kryptonite. I believe that was the only thing that kept him alive after the m*****e even though he was practically ripped to shreds by ferals that had been let loose when Edgar let down the barriers around the haunted forest.

Night Shade pack was the closest to the haunted forest where ferals roamed free. It was a dark forest teeming with dark faeries, ferals, strigoi and hybrids. There was a barrier Edgar had set in place to stop them from wandering out of the woods, the same barrier that had protected Shadow Cove from the outside world and made it the safest place on earth for werewolves for over fifty years.

Both barriers had been let down during the m*****e. Aiden's family had been the first to be attacked, the first to die. Aiden had watched his entire family get torn to pieces right before his eyes before the ferals set their eyes on him.

He had recovered from an ordeal like that. A stab wound should be a piece of cake compared to it, unless of course, it was inflicted by his mate.

I shook my head, trying to dispel those thoughts. Trying to calm my racing heart as I pushed open the door to his room.

Lily can't be his mate just because he's not healing from a wound she administered on him. He's probably just weak from the day or hungry. Yes, that's it. We've not been on speaking terms and without me to remind him that he needs food and cannot survive on bourbon and whiskey alone, he was probably lacking a lot of important nutrients that was f*****g up his body metabolism.

That's definitely it.

Lily can't even be his mate because they share a mutual hatred for each other. Surely the goddess would take that into account, right? She hated Aiden and Aiden loathed her. He didn't have any sentiment towards her like Zac who seemed to be drawn to her because she looks like his ex lover.

Lily would never accept a bond with Aiden, something that would no doubt hurt his ego, make him furious and make him decide to claim her just because he could. Something I wouldn't put past him at this point.

One of the things I feared the most in the world was Aiden's determination when he wanted something. Aiden was fiercely possessive of the things and people that he considered his and I couldn't imagine how much worse it would be with his mate.

I hoped to the high heavens and moon goddess that I was just being paranoid and that Lily was not his mate because for the first time in my life, I was ready to fight for what I wanted the most. I would not give Lily up. No matter the cost.

Not even to my best friend.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 85

Ren's POV

I sighed as I laid Aiden down on the king size bed in his gigantic room.

Growing up thick as thieves, Aiden had had it in his head that his home was meant to be a home away from home for both Zac and I. Because of that, he made sure he catered to the various aspects of our hobbies and passion.

There was a large king size bed draped in his favourite colours of dark blue and silver. There was a velvet-upholstered reading nook, nestled within an

alcove near the window, with a plush armchair and a small side table topped with a brass reading lamp.

There was an adjoining kitchenette, decked with state of the art kitchen equipments, an area in the house I'm sure as hell he never uses, because the buffoon couldn't cook to save his life. There was a small bar stacked with his favourite spirits and expensive wine and a living room area complete with a play station set and flat screen tv.

There was a shelf filled with all his favourite books, so that he didn't have to leave to go to the library on the other side of the house. An easel and art supplies were still on the balcony right outside his room where I liked to sit and draw at night and a small recording studio complete with a baby piano, acoustic guitar and noise cancelling headphones in a corner of the room where Zac worked on his songs.

I didn't even know he still held on to these sentiments. I hadn't been here in so long, I thought that he'd have done away with a lot of these things by now.

I set to work, slowly unbinding the messy dressing that Aiden must have used to try to seal up the wound when it didn't heal like he expected it to, definitely a nasty surprise and an unwelcome experience for the cruel prince.

I took a harder look at the wound and nearly facepalmed myself in exasperated. The i***t had even tried to stitch the wound with what looked like regular thread meant for fabric and clothes and not the surgical, biodegradable one that was meant for body stitches.

He's a working bio hazard to his own self sometimes.

I sighed and listed out a couple of items for Zac to help me find in the house.

I knelt beside him after Zac left and pressed a hand to his forehead, lowering his temperature and taking away his pain. It was the least I could do since I needed to cleanse the wound before any healing could be done so that I wouldn't close up infection inside his body.

"You're an i***t, you know that?" I mumbled as he reached out and took my hand, claspng it tightly in his while he mumbled incoherently in his fever induced state.

I didn't realize that the door leading to the living room area of his bedroom was slightly opened since we had just headed straight to his master bedroom through his favorite door and my nose caught unfamiliar scents that made my hackles rise in worry and I headed there immediately, right after I made sure that he was stable enough for me to leave him.

My eyes widened as I walked into the living room and found not one but four boys bound together in front of the sofa with their hands tied behind their back and their ankles equally tied. Black bags were over their heads, making it hard to identify who they were but from their uniforms they were clearly from the academy and one of them was even wearing the Gold crest uniform which meant that they were our schoolmates.

From the sounds they were making, it was obvious that beneath the bag they had been gagged and I furrowed my eyebrows in confusion and worry trying to understand what Zac and Aiden had been up to in the last couple of hours and why these boys were just abandoned here.

What could have happened?

There was no way I was going to go near them and ask so I turned around and headed back to the bedroom and found that while Zac had dropped some of the supplies that I had asked for, he was not in the room and Aiden was in no frame of mind to answer the long list of questions I had about the boys that were tied in his room. .

Touching his forehead, I realized that he was burning up again and quickly got to work. Deciding I couldn't wait for Zac any longer because I didn't like the way his wound was starting to look even worse the longer it was exposed to air, I found one of his

This was definitely uncharted territory for Aiden who was used to either healing quickly by himself or having me take care of him when he's hurt.

The wound looked even worse than it smelled and I frowned when Aiden winced.

"Why the hell did you not get a healer to treat this, Aiden? What were you planning to do? Pretend everything was okay and wait it out? Until when? Until you drop dead thanks to your stubborn pride?"

I waited for him to answer and was surprised that for once , he did not have a smart a*s comeback.

He winced again as I cleaned the wound and I was starting to feel terrible for scolding him when he was in severe pain until he spoke, his voice sounding hoarse and drowsy.

“Did you f**k her?” He murmured, but it was more than enough for me to hear and immediately he asked, my mind went to the passionate kiss that Lily and I had shared, not once but twice, in her room. Her beautiful face, her flushed cheeks, hazel green eyes glazed with lust, her body wracking with pleasure and I felt my entire body spark with desire as I remembered her shy smile and big doe eyes, her face flushed and heart thumping as loudly as my own was.

My wolf became restless again and all I wanted to do was be right next to her and hold her close. Maybe kiss her a few times and mark her if she’d let me.

“You’re going to pretend that you didn’t hear me, aren’t you?” Aiden added and I leveled him with a cold gaze.

“What I do with Lily is none of your business.”

I didn’t know how he managed to pull a know it all smirk with his pale face right now but he did, staring at me with curiosity that spelled only trouble.

“Her eighteenth birthday is next week, do you know that?” He asked, his smirk going even wider like he knew a secret that I didn’t. I didn’t like it one bit.

“Yes, Aiden, I know that. What’s your point?” I answered, quickly irritated and worried that Aiden seemed to know information about her which meant that he had searched for it. I hoped with everything in me that the only reason he was so fervent in getting every information about Lily stemmed from hate and not obsession like I knew I was with Lily.

“My point is,” He winced when I covered the wound but I knew that he wouldn’t stop speaking even though I somehow managed to tie his mouth because he was that troublesome. “Omegas awaken their dormant wolves at eighteen years and Lily might be one of them. Has it never occurred to you at least once that her mate would be found and she’d accept him, leaving all your hard work to rot?”

“You should focus all of this energy towards healing, Aiden.” I replied, trying to steer away the conversation because it felt like ash settling on my tongue as I realized bitterly that he was right.

“And you should be worried, my friend because even though you are fine with rejecting your mate, what makes you think that Lily would do the same?”

I hated how easy it was for Aiden to get to me and I growled.

“I love her, okay?” I said, levelling him with a cold gaze. “I love Lily and that’s never going to change, even if she finds her own mate. I’ll always be by her side regardless of who she has on her other arm.”

Aiden’s eyes widened perceptively before narrowing into a furious gaze. His voice was cold. Chilling. “What?!”

“You heard me.” I shrugged, meeting his arctic gaze with one of mine. “And I will never regret rejecting Mauve for her. I hope you got the answer you were looking for.”

Aiden looked absolutely livid and if he wasn’t so injured, he might have started a fight with me a long time ago.

“You know she’s just using you, right? She has never had anyone pay attention to her before, that’s why she’s entertaining you-“

“Trust me, Aiden, I’d know if she was using me. Now, be quiet and conserve what’s left of your strength.”

His livid gaze could cut through ice and I knew he was about to give me a piece of his mind when Zac strolled into the bedroom, sipping what I was certain was blood from a slushy cup, probably from the supply Aiden kept for him.

Zac usually drank from either of us so it stunned me to see him drinking from a cup with a straw.

I was about to ask why but Zac must have seen the look on my face as passed me the bag of materials I needed to clean Aiden up. He crashed into an armchair against the wall, his movements languid and lazy as he shrugged.

“Aiden has already lost too much blood today and as for you...” pitch black eyes narrowed at mine. “If I feed on you, I might just drain all of your blood just to spite you for making out with Lily.”

He answered with an easy smile but the dead cold look in his eyes told me that he was definitely not joking and I felt apprehension fill my lungs because the last thing I needed was Zac also fascinated with Lily. Also possessive of her.

I was sure that he hated her before but... how did his feelings for her change?

I knew I shouldn't have let him drive Lily home. They looked pretty chummy when I had showed up at Lily's home.

Aiden had dozed off so I felt comfortable enough to ask Zac what was going on with him and Lily without his interference and I was about to speak when Zac suddenly stood, a wicked gleam in his eyes as he looked at the door at his bodyguards who entered the room, dragging along with them two burly men.

Confused, I looked at Zac with my eyebrows raised.

“What is going on here?”

Giving me a bright smirk as he cracked his knuckles and neck.

“You can say that the party is just getting started.”

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 86

Ren's POV

Savio and Lucas, Zac's bodyguards slightly nodded at us and took the men into the living room area and when I followed them in, Zac closely behind me. I watched as they dumped the men, who were also bound and gagged on the floor across from the boys.

“You may take your leave now,” Zac shoed them off, dismissively. “Heaven knows how queasy you two get over things like this. And don't mention this part of my extracurricular activities when you're making your reports to my mother okay?” Zac said, his tone light like the activity he mentioned did not involve kidnapping people and tying them up and even though I was sure that

there was a good reason, I was wearing the same dreadful gaze that the bodyguards had on their faces before they frowned, clearly not in approval of what was going on but deciding to listen to Zac and leave.

“What is the meaning of this?” I wasted no time asking and Zac merely raised his brows at me.

“Are you not even a little bit curious about who leaked the videos of Lily? Both of which included Aiden and I by the way?”

The mention of the videos made my entire body harden in anger as I remembered how broken Lily had been when she had to re-live both videos. And even though I wanted to pretend that I didn't care who was responsible as long as it was down, I knew that it was a lie.

Zac was right. I was curious, I wanted payback, but it still doesn't explain why someone from Gold Crest highschool was among these people that were tied up.

When I didn't respond, Zac just shrugged and headed to take off the bags from the head of the three guys wearing our school uniform and I recognized them as juniors at the academy. Their eyes were wide with terror, their nostrils flaring as they tried to talk around their gags.

“I'm actually very proud of myself with these ones,” Zac said, beaming proudly and rubbing his hands. “They're scholarship students from an orphanage sponsored by your family. Even if they go missing, it won't cause too much of a hassle.”

I gave him an 'are you kidding me?' look that he just waved off.

“Anyway, I caught their scents on Lily's locker. Although they are responsible for putting the pictures up, they could not have done it without information which means that they had a Mastermind behind the leak. They're probably larkies that did the dirty work for money.”

Bending forward, Zac removed their gags and immediately he did, they started to talk above each other, each of them trying to explain themselves. I didn't know what surprised me more; the fact that these boys could have done such a thing or the fact that Zac was calmly handling them, even laughing and patting one on the head as he leaned in to reassure him that he would have his turn to explain himself.

“I am nothing if not fair.” Zac assured them and I had to remind myself that for all of his playfulness, my friend could be very deadly.

The fact that the boy even relaxed after Zac’s words and returned his charming deceptive smile with one of his own reminded me of just how dangerous Zac was... and told me of how stupid his captives were.

Walking towards the two other men, Zac took off the bags from their heads and looked at me.

“They’re the men that vandalized Lily’s home. I’m more curious about who sent them. Do your thing.”

I knew what he was asking and immediately tried to reach into their minds to extract the information that I needed but I noticed something strange instead.

Nothing. I saw nothing. Heard nothing. Their minds were like a blank slate and there was nothing but a thick black fog covering their minds that seemed to stop me from even seeing their memories as well as their thoughts.

Puzzled, I turned to try my powers on the students from the academy and also experienced the same thing. Immediately a theory started forming in my head that perhaps whoever was really responsible for leaking the videos was the same person responsible for sending the thugs to trash Lily’s home.

“Nothing?” Zac asked, his eyes wide with surprise when I said no and started to ask them questions but none of them could remember what the faces of the people that asked them to terrorize Lily looked like.

The students said that they always communicated through notes left in their lockers while the thugs received anonymous text messages. It was terrible to know that I could not even read their minds to confirm if they were telling the truth or not, my powers for once, having no effect on ordinary people.

It was scary to think about it. Whoever had done this must have been thorough enough to know we were going to come after them and had prepared accordingly for it. A feat that shouldn’t be so easy, especially to an outsider. Zac and Aiden were good at keeping me out of their heads, it wasn’t an impossible task but it was doable getting around my powers. But that was Aiden and Zac. I trusted them with my lives. These ones however...

I suddenly felt Aiden's presence enter the room and even though he still looked pale, his color was coming back and he leaned against the wall, his cold gaze, sweeping around the room and if he had any qualms about the captives bloodying up his persian rug, he showed no signs of it.

"Nothing yet," I confirmed to Zac and when I saw him deep in thought, I knew that he was having the same suspicions as I did.

"Magic?" He asked and I shrugged even though it was what I was thinking about because only dark magic could do something like this.

Werewolves were not proficient in dark magic except the elites of Night Shade and right now, the only elites within our circle high enough to hire dark witches at the academy were Paige, Hanz and Sebastian. And I wouldn't put it past any of those three. They were close to Aiden, they knew how much he hated her and they would do anything if they thought it would please him... The theory was starting to take form in my head.

Sebastian... Sebastian... My heart started racing as realization hit me. He had known about Aiden's blackmail. He had rejected my sister for Mauve and Mauve was responsible for the attack the first time. Was she responsible for this one? Or could Sebastian have acted alone?

"Oh well," Zac cracked his knuckle, dragging me out of my thoughts, "looks like we'll just have to make an example out of what we have on our hands."

"What's going on?" Aiden finally asked, moving from the wall and going to sit on the sofa directly facing the captives. As he walked, wisps of darkness melted out of him, taking the shape of a ferocious guard dog that prowled behind him, showing that he was at least, a little ticked at what was going on.

"They're responsible for leaking the videos." Zac informed him.

"No, they're not." Aiden said, leaning back against the sofa, crossing his legs, his arms resting on the back of the sofa. His dog, or one of the many that could take shape from his powers, sat beside him, his head in his master's lap as Aiden stroke his shadowed fur.

"What the f**k do you mean by that?"

"I mean they're just tools. I know who's responsible for the leak... It's Seb."

There was silence throughout the room for the whole of one second as Aiden confirmed the theory I had arrived at.

Zac pinched the bridge of his nostrils. Exhaled exasperatedly. “Sebastian Morellis?”

“Yup. That’s the one.”

“And you didn’t think to mention this to me before?” Zac asked, his voice tight with annoyance.

“I didn’t know you were going to go city hunter on his a*s. Besides, why do you think I was pissed at him back at school? I was going to kill him until you showed up.”

“We can’t kill him,” I reasoned, trying to keep their bloodlust in check. “But we can’t let him go unpunished either.”

Aiden nodded in agreement and for once, even Zac did.

Aiden and Zac were a lethal duo when they worked in sync and sometimes they get carried away in their quest to vent out judgement on who they think deserved it. While we’re usually on the same page, it’s my job to see to it that they don’t get too carried away with their victims.

It’s how we earned our street cred in the academy. How people knew to not mess with the princes of Shadow Cove. Yes, our parents and family names paved the way for our peers to respect us, but what really makes them fear us are these ‘extra curricular activities’ like Zac calls it.

Realizing that there was one more person still mute with a bag still covering his identity while the rest tried to save themselves by explaining to Zac, I pointed to him.

“He’s from Gold Crest highschool.” I pointed at him. “He can’t have anything to do with the leak, can he?”

“Gold Crest?” Aiden sat up so suddenly that his shadow creature whined. “That’s Cade’s jurisdiction. Our individual packs are fair game but Cade’s territory is off limits. We should let him take care of this one.”

“Oh, trust me,” Zac said in a cold tone. “You’ll want to handle his case when you find out what he did to Lily.”

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 87

Ren’s pov

“Oh, trust me,” Zac said in a cold tone. “You’ll want to handle his case when you find out what he did to Lily.”

Lily...

My heart skipped one terrifying beat and I didn’t waste any time in evading Zac’s mind and finding out what I wanted for myself.

I froze at the scene that played in Zac’s memory, his hands on her. On my Lily, pawing at her while she struggled, crying for help in his grasp. Zac shoved him off of her and glared at him and I saw the face assaulter for the first time through his eyes.

I recognized his face immediately.

When I had still been keeping an eye on Lily from the shadows, before I even officially met her, as requested by my parents, his face had appeared in a few of her thoughts and flashbacks. He was one of the people that had made life unbearable for her back in her old school.

“I know him. I recognize his face from Lily’s memories. He used to go to her former school.”

“I thought she was being homeschooled?” Zac asked, confused.

“Oh that.” Aiden yawned. “I lied.”

Zac’s face swivelled so hard to look at Aiden, I’m sure he nearly had a whiplash. “You... what?”

“You were asking too many questions about her. It was starting to get annoying.”

“So you lied to me?!”

I left them to their bickering as different flashbacks I recalled from Lily ran through my head, each one, more terrifying than the last.

Tate, dumping a garbage can full of feminine used products on Lily's desk, "congratulations on getting your first period, freak!" He guffawed with a few other guys, taunting her. "We thought we'd do you a little service since you obviously can't afford these for yourself."

Him, grabbing her hand and breaking it in two after she mistakenly stepped on him, "watch where you're going and stop getting in my way," he said coldly, pushing her away from him as she tried to fight back her pain, not wanting him to see her cry.

Him, dumping a bucket of water on her to wash off her 'stench.' Him, shoving a knife in her hands and telling her to kill herself.

I was seething in rage as I went and removed the bag from his face, but the sight of his annoyed face only made me more enraged.

"Do you know who I am? Let me go or you will regret it!" He growled at us as soon as I took his gag off, stopping Aiden and Zac from their annoying bickering. There was a rumble in his chest, his eyes flashing as he tried to rip his bonds off, fur already sprouting on his face, showing that his wolf was just beneath the surface.

Hmm... no wonder he had such bravado. Such stupidity.

"I already told my father what you did to me," he said, levelling a heated glare at Zac who grinned at him. "He'll know that it was you that took me!"

Zac folded his arms, tilting his head, a taunting smirk on his lips. "Oh yeah?"

"Yes." He snapped. "And that's nothing to smile about. He's on the council and he has good connections with the fbi that can expose your family business if he wants. You're not as invincible as you think!"

"You're not very smart, are you?" Zac chuckled, pressing a fist to his mouth to bite back his smile. "Not my favourite kind of prey, but I'll just have to take what I can get."

“What’s going on? What did he do?” I heard Aiden ask and before I could even stop myself, I relayed all of my thoughts to him including all the memories that had pushed Lily to suicide.

Before I was even done, thick black night exploded into the room and when the darkness cleared, three of Aiden’s shadow creatures had taken the form of huge, ferocious dogs, the size of small boulders and were growling in a way that shook the entire room and snapping their teeth at Tate. Big red eyes glowing in rage.

I was aware of Aiden’s dark powers and the creatures that could take form out of them, but even I and Zac were taken aback by the size and ferocity of them. Apparently, we still weren’t aware of the true extent of Aiden’s powers.

Tate’s eyes were wide as he went speechless, his entire body trembling slightly and one or two of our captives seemed to have passed out.

“Aiden...” Zac called out hesitantly to make sure it was him still in charge and not his wolf.

“Cerberus, Erebus, Azazel. Heel,” Aiden commanded from where he sat, still cross legged on the sofa, his eyes had gone pitch black, his face a mask of pure rage, even as his creatures obeyed, returning back to their master.

Tate fell to the floor, bowing before Aiden, trembling violently. “I take it back. I take it all back. I’m sorry. I didn’t know-“

Right before our eyes, his left leg bent at an awkward angle until it broke in not one or two but three places. Tate was screaming as he collapsed on the ground, his legs in a very bad position, his skin going loose and taut in all the wrong places.

“Go on,” Aiden gleamed, although there was nothing warm about that smile. “Beg me for your pathetic life,” he said as Tate’s right arm splintered, his bones disintegrating.

What the actual...

Tate screamed, his skin red, his face covered with sweat, tears and snot, “I-I’m sorry. PLEASE HAVE MERCY. I- I didn’t know she belonged to the three of y-” all five fingers of his left hand snapped like twigs, cutting off his cries with an ear splitting scream.

It's good Aiden's room is sound proof, I guess. Wouldn't want his people worried about what we were up to.

There was a cruel smile on Aiden's lips as if Tate's pain gave him immense joy.

He looked at Zac and I. "Should I kill him for touching her?" He asked us jokingly but he didn't wait for an answer as he broke practically every bone in his body, feasting on Tate's cries of pain until he stopped abruptly, falling silent on the ground.

Aiden's smile dropped, a bored slowly appearing on his face.

He rose from where he was seated and walked over to him, using his feet to nudge him, rolling him over until he laid on his back.

"Huh. He passed out. They always break so easily," he huffed, his gaze finding mine. "Heal him for me, Ren. I'm not done with him yet. You guys can do what you want with the others but this one is mine to break."

I sighed and took off my jacket, rolling up my sleeves. Looks like this is going to be a long night.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 88

Ren's POV

Lily: Mayday! Mayday! This is a code red situation!

I chuckled, looking at my screen and shot back my text.

Me: What's up?

Lily: Mr Fidiott's test this morning. I'm solving all the questions I wasn't sure about and I'm stuck on one.

Me: let me see.

Lily: Solve for x in the following equation: $3(2x + 4) - 2(x - 5) = 7(3x - 2) + 10$

I tapped my pencil on my chin, solving the equation and arriving at my answer in my head.

Me: Take your time to simplify the equation first, combine like terms, and isolate the variable to find the value of x.

Lily was quiet for a few minutes before her next message came in.

Lily: I... I can't believe I didn't even attempt this. It's easier than I thought when you explain it like that.

Me: it's fine. You're probably just burnt out from all the stress. Take your time and don't be so hard on yourself.

Lily: Thank you, Ren. For everything. I mean it.

I know. God, I know, Lily.

Lily and I had settled into a routine where I have a driver pick her up from Bia's place and drive her to school. At school, I accompany her to all of her classes. I couldn't stand being separated from her when we were in the same vicinity. My wolf was getting attached to her faster than I had anticipated.

Things were quiet at school, rumours of what we had done those behind the leak spreading throughout the entire school.

After Aiden and Zac were done with Sebastian, it was difficult to tell if he'd ever walk again, even with the help of my healing powers. They were good at breaking, I was better at fixing and together, we worked like a well oiled machine. But at times, when they got too carried away with breaking their toys and I had no qualms with stopping them, only time could fix their unfortunate victims.

I had left Aiden's house that night, exhausted and depleted. Zac had been concerned about how I was holding up, since my powers made me more empathetic than I usually was, but I was starting to find out that when it comes to Lily, I didn't care about seeing the brighter side of others, the bigger picture. Anyone that hurts even a hair on her head has to pay with their blood and that was something I could find common ground on with the guys.

I had been so exhausted from using my powers so much that I was knocked out for the whole of the next day with Rhea having to check on me for dinner.

Lily's birthday was in a few days and I decided to worry less about the issue of her finding her mate on that day and worry more about ensuring that she had a good birthday.

After a few more texts between Lily and I, I was able to settle down to make a call to Bia and she picked on the first ring.

"If it isn't prince charming himself." She answered, her voice light and playful and I couldn't help but smile at how excited she always seemed to be.

I liked Bia most especially because her personality was the type that I knew Lily needed. Someone that was bright and filled with energy that was not tainted. She didn't care much about the politics of Shadow cove and was not afraid to stand up for her friend whenever necessary.

As for her werewolf hunting boyfriend, I guessed that I would just have to keep an eye out for him and ensure that he did not have anything that he was planning against us.

"Okay, we have approximately fifteen minutes to have this conversation before she's all up in my space again." She said, her voice, low and urgent and she listened attentively to the plan I had for Lily's birthday. A weekend getaway at one of our private islands.

"Oh my God, you're brilliant!" Bia squealed, absolutely loving the idea.

"You think so?"

"I know so. Just look at what home girl has been through since she started at the academy. A vacation is exactly what she needs. What you both need. Even if it's a short one. And a yacht?" She squealed. "You get extra points on my chart if you smuggle me along with the both of you."

My parents had agreed to lend me their yacht next weekend and I wanted to take Lily on a trip with it. If she wanted us to go with her friends too so that she would be more comfortable, I didn't mind that at all.

I proceeded to ask her questions about what Lily would like and prefer, if she was seasick and what she liked to eat.

"Obviously, she'll need sunscreen. Loads of sunscreen. She's not too bold about wearing a bikini yet, so do away with those in her wardrobe. She

learned to swim last summer, so you don't have to worry about her falling overboard or anything. She's not allergic to anything I know of, except silver. See what I did there?" She joked.

I rolled my eyes, chuckling under my breath as I took notes. I wanted everything to be perfect this weekend. I want Lily to let her hair down and really breathe for what would feel like the first time in a long time. Time away from Shadow Cove would be good for her.

By the time I was done with the phone call, I felt lighter and it had been decided that I would take Lily on a short trip to one of his parents' islands during the weekend, immediately after her birthday party on Friday.

It would be a surprise and Bia on board with the idea really put my mind at ease. It was the least I could do for her especially after the brutal week she has had.

I thought back to the leaks, her vandalized home, the immunity the captives had against my powers.

For once, I had felt blind. Deaf and it was unsettling to say the least even though mind reading was just a small but crucial aspect of my powers.

My blood ran cold at the thought of something happening to Lily when I wasn't around her.

Shaking my head to rid myself of thoughts, I decided to focus my attention on homework and was pleasantly surprised when Lily texted me to help her with more math homework. Maybe it didn't mean as much to her but I was more than delighted that she could come to me with her problems and that I could help her solve them.

I was so proud of her ability to even be focusing on her homework and trying to get ahead with her life after the week that she had just had. Life was so cruel and even with that, she was not giving up. I was happy that I was able to assist her and I was ready to do much more than that but at the end of the day, I was trying to take things slow and not rush her into anything. It was hard but I was ready to do anything for her.

I was just about to call her, itching to hear her voice when a message came in from Mauve and the smile on my face dropped as I remembered that I had actually made plans for tonight.

Tonight, I was going to officially reject Mauve and I had summoned one of the elders, a healer and a witness to oversee the ceremony.

Of course, I could easily just reject her when it was just the two of us but the last thing I wanted was her blood on my hand with zero witnesses and alibis.

I had lied to Mauve to get her here because I knew that if she had any idea what I was planning to do, she would do whatever it took to get out of it.

I couldn't have that.

In the beginning, when we had nothing but mutual attraction thanks to the mating bond, I had wanted to make things work and I had really thought that with time, love would blossom between us.

Now, I realize how delusional I was to think that I could change her. That I could make her love me.

It took me falling in love with Lily to realize what a twisted, toxic cycle I was in. A cycle I am never going back to.

There was a light knock on my door and I looked up, realizing that I had been staring at my laptop screen, deep in thought, to see my mother, Ariel, walk into the room, dressed in an impeccable white pants suit, her white cropped hair looking lush and bouncing on her shoulders.

Rising to my feet, I met her halfway, engulfing her in a hug that made me sigh and remember how I used to be the smaller one back then, my head resting against her belly when she hugged me. Now I towered over her.

"Hello, mother."

"My son," She said with a bright smile and when we sat at the edge of the bed, she reached out to caress my hair affectionately, the same way she used to do when I was little. Immediately, the burden of tonight's event didn't seem so heavy anymore.

Growing up, it had been difficult to accept her open affection for me since my own mother couldn't care less whether I lived or died but now, I welcome it gladly.

“I just want to tell you that the elders have arrived and all that is left is for Mauve to show up.”

Even though her words came out lightly like she was talking about something mundane, I could see how her body had stiffened when she spoke and I knew that she didn't approve of it. Of even considering rejecting my mate.

But whether or not anyone thought of this, even if it was my dear mother, I was going to end things with Mauve tonight.

My happiness was counting on it.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 89

Ren's POV

I could feel my mother itching to say something as we walked out of my bedroom after I quickly changed into a more formal wear and started heading downstairs for the living room.

“You can say what you want to, Mother.” I said and she nodded, heaving a sigh of relief as she stopped us from moving and turned to face me, taking my hand gently and wearing a worried frown on her face “I know that since you came to me with this, I've asked you a million times but I want to ask you again, Ren. Are you sure about this? I don't mean to question your choice because you are old enough to know what you're doing but rejecting your mate is a very big thing, son. It is something that most werewolves never recover from? Are you sure that this is the only way out? Are you sure that you can bear the consequences of causing your mate a lifetime of pain for something that might just be fleeting romance with another shewolf?”

If I didn't know my mother was coming from a place of genuine worry, I would have been upset that she termed what I felt for Lily as fleeting but I understood why she was very worried and skeptical, because even though she would support whatever decision I made now, she didn't want to see me break a mating bond.

She and Irwin had been through the worst and managed to come out together on the other side, but that was because they had something Mauve and I didn't even have. They loved each other. They had been lovers when they were teenagers and discovered they were mates when they turned eighteen.

Young and in love, they had thought that nothing could shake them. Until tragedy had struck. The wedge between them started when Ariel lost her first and only son. Both she and Irwin, in an attempt to avoid feeling the pain of losing a child, had become depressed and thrown themselves into their jobs and positions as alpha and luna. It had only grown worse with time as they both started resenting each other and turned to other lovers with the intent to hurt each other.

I was a result of one of Irwin's many escapades with his lovers and I knew that not once had Ariel resented me for not being her biological son, a gift that I treasured forever.

Their marriage had nearly crumbled until they decided to try to save it and with these past few weeks and how much they've put into making their marriage work, including seeking therapy, no one would believe there was ever a time they had been unhappy spouses, least of all Rhea and I who had witnessed them at their worst for a time.

I knew that Ariel was using her relationship with Irwin as an example of how bad a mating bond could get when it was not cultivated, but she didn't understand that Mauve and I were not like them. Mauve would never love me and only saw me as a tool and I was not prepared to tie myself to someone like that for the rest of my life, especially when I had found someone that I was in love with and wanted to try a future with.

"Yes, mother. I'm sure. Thank you for supporting me regardless." I answered and she stared at me for a while before she nodded and took my hand, leading me downstairs to where the elders were gathered.

The doorbell rang and my shoulders tensed as I headed to open it, sure that my mate had arrived. True to her words, Mauve was the one behind the door, looking beautiful and radiant as always with a bouquet of roses and a bottle of red wine I guessed was a gift.

"Hello, Ren."

"Mauv-"

She cut me off, walking ahead of me and into my home. "Do you like the roses? They compliment my hair, don't you think?"

Stepping aside, I walked after her, listening to her explain why she bought the roses.

“It’s good you asked me out to make up for leaving me stranded at the restaurant the other day. I knew you’d finally come back to your senses.” She beamed proudly, walking into the living room and stopping in her tracks when she saw the people gathered there.

W... what’s going on, Ren” she asked, even though I knew that she knew what was about to happen.

“Tonight is our separation ceremony.” I answered and her mouth fell open, speechless as I took the wine from her and took her hand, dropping the bottle on the table and led her to the middle of the living room where the elders were already waiting to commence.

The entire room was silent and I saw that Mauve was still in shock as the elders recited a speech in Latin before tying our joined hands with a white rope that signified the mating bond.

“I must remind you that once this bond is broken, it can never be repaired. Do you still wish to continue with the ceremony,”the chief elder asked.

“Yes.” I answered and Mauve looked like she was about to collapse, her face pale. It made me want to stop, but I knew that if I did, Mauve would never let me go.

“Then you may recite the rite, Ren Hawthorne.”

I had just started to recite when Mauve closed her eyes and let out an ear splitting scream.

“Shut up! Shut the f**k up!” She yelled, her eyes filled with murderous rage, snapping out of her shock as she untied the rope and pushed against my chest.

“If you really think that I will allow myself to be rejected by the illegitimate son of a weak alpha stupid enough to knock up his lover, then you have got something coming!”

Ariel rose from her seat, teal blue eyes crackling with rage. “You will not come to my home and insult my son and husband like that, do you understand me, child?”

“Then teach your son some motherfucking decency to stick with the one meant for him, goddamnit!”

Ariel’s eyes narrowed to slits. “I see now why Ren wishes to reject you. You are not worthy enough for my son.”

Mauve scoffed, a manic look in her eyes as she shook her head wildly.

“You know what? f**k you! f**k all of you!” Mauve screamed, picking up the bottle of wine and hurling it directly at my mother.

I didn’t think. My wolf surged forward in rage at seeing my mother potentially hurt and I blasted Mauve with my powers into a wall, her bones crunching against the wall before she tumbled into the ground.

“Not another word!” My wolf, Aira growled at her and she flinched, rising to her feet.

She wiped the blood dripping down her lips, her face twisting into something almost demonic.

“Know this. If you want to get out of this relationship, you will have to f*****g kill me!”

And with that, she turned and left, leaving everyone present in a state of shock and confusion.

Ignoring how angry and trapped I felt at Mauve’s words, I rushed to see if Ariel was hurt but she looked fine physically, her entire body brimming with restrained rage.

“Are you okay?” I whispered, kneeling in front of her and even though she nodded, a tear slipped down her cheek as she cupped my face.

“I didn’t know that this is what you have been dealing with in the relationship and I am so sorry for even suggesting that you maintain the bond.”

Rising to sit beside her, I kissed her temple and pulled her in for a hug, my mind running a mile a minute as I wondered what I’d do to get rid of Mauve.

Bullied Mate Of The Lycan Kings – Chapter 90

Lily's pov's

"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Lily, happy birthday to you. Hip hip hip, hurray!" Bia and Theo sang at the foot of my bed and I smiled so wide, ignoring the fact that it was six in the morning and I had only slept a couple of hours after talking all night on the phone with Ren.

Passing the birthday cake to her father, Bia jumped on the bed and tackled me in a hug that was so tight, it made me want to cry tears of joy, for feeling so loved and cherished.

"Thank you so much, Bia, Theo." I responded and Theo winked at me and turned around to head for the door.

"Cake is downstairs, waiting to be devoured." He said and i smiled from ear to ear, very excited for the first time in a while about my birthday.

The past few weeks had been my happiest in a long time, especially thanks to the fact that i could hang out with Ren, Rhea and Chelsea at school and Bia and Theo when i was at home, helping around in the flower shop.

Bia had even officially found use for Fiona who was now the official shop mascot and wears an adorable sunflower hat during working hours.

I did not feel any different like i had thought i would when i turned eighteen. I had expected something very special and dramatic happening to me when i opened my eyes but i did not feel anything, but there was no stirring in me, no awakening or anything.

If anything i should be happy right? Because what i was dreading now more than anything was my dormant wolf waking and immediately locating her mate. To be very honest, i was already quickly believing that i was wolfless and mateless at the same time but i did not even feel a thing about that in fact i was pleased by the fact and yet at the same time worried that if my wolf did show and our mate appeared, i would surely be rejected because no one wanted to date or mate an omega. Quickly ignoring the weight on my chest, i focused on happy thoughts like thoughts of Ren and hanging out with him at school.

I blushed as i remembered how we had kissed the last time at a hidden part of the library and my entire body tingled with delight. We ate together, studied together and even went to classes together.

“Stop stuffing your face with cake, Lily. Your ride is here.” Bia said and I hurried out, delighted that yet again even though i had told ren that he did not need to, he had sent a ride for me.

The driver was quite early today, i noted even though he was always usually early so that i could not sneak into the bus. However, when i stepped outside, the ride was a little different. It was a sleek white limo and Bia was squealing and shoving me out of the house, wishing me a happy birthday once again before i could even process my shock.

When the driver opened the door for me with a slight bow in greeting, i saw Ren and the girls grinning at me and immediately i entered, Rhea threw herself on me and hugged me tight.

“Happy brithday, sweetheart!” she and Chelsea screamed after which chelsea shot a confetti gun in my face and we all cackled like clowns.

Before i could thank them for the warm reception, they started to fuss over me, giving me a plethora of ridiculously expensive items.

“Rhea!” I gasped as she unwrapped the bow to her gift and tore open the packaging.

It was a Carl St Claire Her Royal Majesty perfume that costs thousands of dollars per ounce! and I swear, I choked and died as she puffed some in my face, falling in love with the sweet, citrus scent.

“What? A lady always has to smell her best!” She insisted.

“Here,” Chelsea said, presenting me with a larger package. “Open it.”

I did as she asked and gasped at the brand new pair of red bottoms sitting pretty in the package.

“My mother always says good shoes take you to good places. I can’t wait to see where these ones take you, Lily. Happy Birthday.”

The fact that she was smiling sweetly between Ren and I as she said those words made me understand that she was implying that she thought Ren was a good choice for me and I should continue on that path and yet again , I was happy about the fact that Rhea and Chelsea loved me and approved.

To show my appreciation, I immediately kicked off my shoes and slipped on my new pair of louboutins, admiring the way it fit my feet perfectly.

“Thank you so much guys, you shouldn’t have.” I said with teary eyes and Rhea waved me off, presenting me a little cupcake topped with a candle just as Chelsea placed a plastic tiara on my head as they told me to make a wish and blow on the candle, which I did, grinning hard and hoping that my wish would come true.

Finally, Ren cleared his throat and Rhea rolled her eyes.

“Fine, you can have her now. Stingy man.”

Chelsea stuck out her tongue at him as he pulled me into his arms with a smile that made my insides curl with delight and i gasped when he kissed me deeply, not even caring that his sister and my best friend were in the car with us.

When he pulled away, he brought out a diamond bracelet, and I smiled shyly as he put it around my wrist, chelsea and rhea squealing in excitement.

When he pulled away, he brought out a diamond bracelet, and I smiled shyly as he put it around my wrist, chelsea and rhea squealing in excitement.

“Promise that you’ll never take it off?” He asked me and I nodded with a smile.

“I will treasure it.”

“There’s more,” he leaned in to press a kiss to my ear and I shivered, not used to how good his touch, his kisses made me feel. “But the other gift I have for you... It can’t be wrapped.”

“You guys are so cute, i want to barf!” Chelsea gagged and Rhea slapped her arm, pulling her away to start a conversation.

Ren pulled me even closer, his voice low as he spoke to me.

“Do you feel any different today?”

He was now wearing a serious expression and I could see that he was worried about me finding my mate. I knew that it was impossible for him to not be. I was so scared of finding out who my mate and i knew it could change the dynamic of our entire relationship.

Placing a hand on his cheek, I gave him my most reassuring smile, even though I had no answer either.

“Everything will be fine, i promise. Don’t worry,” I whispered, but Ren held my hand and his face turned very serious.

“I have something that I want to tell you.”

Afraid that he was going to say he would step away if my mate found me, i began to shake my head but he put a hand on my cheek, stopping me in my tracks.

“What if you don’t have to reject your mate?”

I ran into a metaphoric wall.

“I dont understand. W-” I choked. “What do you mean?”

“Exactly what I said, love. If it comes down to it and your mate doesn’t want to reject you, you don’t have to go through the process. I... I don’t mind you being with your mate, as long as you keep me in the picture.”

“Like... Like cheating?”

He chuckled and nuzzled my neck. “No, like your boyfriend. Your lover. Your chosen mate.”

TWO mates?

“Y- you want that?” I looked at him, my heart pounding wildly.

“I want anything that keeps me by your side, Lily,” he said in a deep timber that tingled my spine and fluttered butterflies in my belly. “I am prepared to love you and be there for you, no matter what.”

I stared at him, my tongue tied, my heart racing as he wrapped his arms around me and pressed me to his chest, sighing contently.

My ears kept ringing with his words all the way to school.j