

Hellbound Heart

Chapter 351 Name

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Seb nodded and eagerly scooped Elle up in his arms. Then with a graceful leap, he carried her away.

As they swiftly moved through the forest, Elle reveled in the familiarity of Sebastian's embrace. Her heart fluttered with joy as she held onto him tightly, cherishing the scent of his presence and the comforting warmth of his body. Even though it hadn't been long since they were in each other's arms, it already felt like days had passed, when in reality, it had only been mere hours.

In no time, they arrived at the house. Sebastian carried her with grace, his arms supporting her as if she were the most delicate treasure. Once inside her room, he gently seated her on top of the table, his gaze locked with hers.

Elle was tempted to wrap her legs around his waist, to pull him closer and prolong their time together. However, a sense of responsibility and understanding held her back. She knew that Sebastian and Alexander had urgent matters to attend to, and she didn't want to hinder their mission with her desires.

"I'm going to leave you here, again," he said in a low voice, looking like he hated even saying it but had no choice.

Elle smiled softly, her eyes filled with understanding. "Don't worry, Seb. I won't let anyone abduct me again," she assured him, her voice filled with determination.

He sagged against her, his forehead resting gently on her shoulder. "I wish I could take you with me, but it's too dangerous," he murmured. "For now, it's still safer for you to stay here."

"Mm," she nodded, smiling. "Zeke's here, so please rest assured, Seb."

Sebastian visibly relaxed, the tension in his body dissipating. It was as if the mere mention of his brother's presence brought him a sense of reassurance, as if his brother's presence alone could take away all his worries and doubts.

"You're right, Zeke's here. I can finally focus on my job," Sebastian murmured, his forehead gently resting against Elle's.

"Yes, and I still have something important to accomplish here," she replied, her eyes sparkling so brightly that it made Sebastian pause, unable to find the right words.

His gaze lingered on her, seemingly captivated by the radiance that emanated from her eyes. "You look..." he trailed off, at a loss for words.

Her smile widened. "I'm just happy that I can finally help, Seb. From now on, I'll do my very best," she declared happily.

Suddenly, Sebastian leaned in, his lips capturing Elle's in a passionate kiss.

Elle momentarily froze, overwhelmed by the intensity of the kiss. She initially felt the need to resist, to be the one to stay composed, but resistance was futile, and soon she found herself reciprocating with equal fervor. Their tongues intertwined, their mouths moving in perfect harmony, as if it had been forever since they last kissed.

When they finally pulled apart, their breaths were ragged, their chests heaving. Sebastian's voice was laced with desire and frustration. "Fuck," he breathed, his eyes dilated. "We need to put an end to this as soon as possible so I can finally bring you home and..." He paused, biting his lip as he took a deep breath, his fingers gently loosening their grip on her scalp. "I need to go now before I lose control, Iza," he admitted, chuckling helplessly.

Elle nodded and pulled him into a tight embrace, holding him close as if trying to anchor him to the present moment. "Please be careful, Seb," she whispered. "Come back to me safe and sound, okay?"

He kissed her knuckles and then pressed a tender kiss to her forehead, his touch filled with reassurance. "I promise," he murmured. And with one final touch, Sebastian vanished before her eyes. Top of Form

When Seb materialized before the Black Forest's exit, he was surprised to see that Alexander wasn't alone. Gav was unexpectedly with him. Sebastian couldn't help but voice his confusion. "Why is he with us? I thought my brother said he couldn't stray too far from him."

Alexander shrugged, a calm expression on his face. "He promised not to interfere, just to tag along with us," he explained. "Don't worry, Seb. Despite his troublesome nature, I believe he'll keep his word."

"Are you sure he didn't put you under a spell for you to agree to bring him with us, Alex?" Sebastian asked.

Gav's eyebrow lifted slightly, amused by Sebastian's wariness. "Would you rather me stay here and disturb your brother's precious moment?" Gav asked, a smirk playing across his face.

Sebastian tsked. "You better behave yourself then," he warned, not fully convinced of Gav's trustworthiness.

"I will. Stop being such a worrywart, younger brother," Gav teased.

Sebastian scowled at the term "younger brother," his irritation rising. "Stop calling me that. I'm not your brother," he retorted, walking past Gav with a cold demeanor.

Gav didn't react, as if he hadn't even registered the coldness in Sebastian's words. His gaze remained steady, unfazed by Sebastian's attitude towards him. "You truly have a temper, Zeke's brother," Gav remarked, a hint of amusement in his voice.

"Why the fuck do you insist on refusing to use our names, except for Zeke's?" Sebastian snapped, his patience wearing thin. He had grown increasingly irked by Gav's disrespectful way of addressing everyone, particularly when he referred to Elle as the "red-haired" and Alicia as "Zeke's woman," despite them both already introducing themselves properly.

"I don't know what kind of world you came from, and I don't really care if it's the norm in your world to call everyone so disrespectfully," Sebastian pressed. "But you are here in our world right now."

Gav simply glanced at him. Again, he didn't look affected at all. "If you insist," Gav responded. "But don't get mad if I end up calling you different names because I cannot remember names."

Sebastian scoffed. "You cannot, huh? You're not going to tell me you only remember my brother's name, are you?"

Gav's eyes settled ahead of them. "That's right, Zeke's name is the only name I remember."

Sebastian paused for a moment. Somehow, he could now feel that Gav wasn't lying. Silence suddenly reigned between the trio until Alex broke the silence.

"Why is Zeke's name the only one you remember?" Alexander, who had been quiet all this while, finally piped in. "Is it because of the blood oath between you two that Zeke mentioned?"

"Perhaps," Gav simply replied before the three of them finally stepped out of the Black Forest.

Chapter 352 Zeke and Alicia - Part 1

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a/n: There will be several chaps under this title 'Zeke and Alicia' and it's going to be focused on Zeke and Alicia. After these chaps, the focus will be back to our main characters.

Back in the Black Forest...

Outside the house, the ethereal glow of moonlight filtered through the trees, casting an enchanting ambiance over the area. Inside, however, it was calm, warm, and quiet.

In the kitchen, Alicia joyfully prepared a meal for her husband and son, infusing the room with the aroma of love and home-cooked goodness.

Meanwhile, in the adjoining room, Zeke and Azy were finally having their long-awaited father-son bonding—an extraordinary bonding that had been a decade in the making. Zeke's presence was as commanding as ever, but this time, there was also an unmistakable tenderness emanating from him. He sat across from his son, his eyes locked onto Azy as the young boy attempted to control the tiny and wild pitch-black flames flickering in his small hands.

As Alicia moved quietly amidst pots and pans, she lifted her gaze towards Zeke and Azy. And instantly, her attention was captivated by the scene unfolding in the adjacent room.

It was a moment she had longed for—a moment where Ezekiel and Azy were finally together, bonding like any ordinary father and son.

As Alicia observed the scene, her heart swelled with both joy and a tinge of sadness. It was a bittersweet moment for her, as she couldn't help but reflect on the years that Ezekiel had been absent from their lives. She had often imagined what it would be like if he had been there for Azy from the very beginning. The countless moments and milestones they had missed as father and son.

Now it was finally happening, after a long... long wait. A decade to be exact.

Alicia could still remember it vividly in her mind, that moment when the darkness was swallowing her husband, taking him away from her... from them. That was the very same moment Ezekiel had broken to her the news, that she was pregnant with their child, with Azy.

Now he was here and Azy's grown to a boy that's exactly a small version of him.

She had often wondered how the father and son would connect once they were finally together. There had been a lingering worry in Alicia's heart, a fear that perhaps Azy wouldn't be able to form a normal bond with his father or that it would take a long time for him to feel comfortable around Ezekiel. After all, Ezekiel had been absent from their lives even before Azy was born. The absence of a father figure during Azy's formative years could have created a barrier between them. However, as she watched them now, Alicia's worries began to fade away.

Because here they were, already synchronizing as if this wasn't their very first time being together like this. Their demeanor, their expressions, even the subtlest of movements, mirrored one another it was simply amazing.

Alicia's eyes shimmered with unshed tears as she witnessed the pure joy emanating from Azy's face. His eyes were alive with wonder and delight she had not seen in Azy's face for a long time. Alicia could tell that it was because he was finally experiencing the love and guidance of a father he had yearned for so long. It was a joy that had long been absent—a joy that had finally blossomed with the presence of his father.

Wiping her tear away, Alicia turned away, a tender smile gracing her lips as she continued with her cooking.

And as the clock ticked on, Zeke's guidance gently led Azy to gain control over his pitch-black flames. The room seemed to hold its breath, until finally, Azy's power responded, dancing under his command. Azy's face lit up with a radiant smile, his eyes sparkling with confidence and pride.

Alicia soon entered the room. Her face beaming as she proudly acknowledged Azy's ever so quick improvement.

Azy grinned at her. "Thanks mom, but it's all thanks to dad's teaching," he looked so happy. The happiest he had ever been.

"Not at all, son," Ezekiel said, his voice filled with pride as he gazed at Azy. "You are simply amazing, Azy. The way you handle your powers at such a young age surpasses anything I could have done when I was your age."

Azy's eyes widened in disbelief, his cheeks flushing as he cast a shy glance at his mother and father before speaking again. "It's because I am the son of two powerful individuals like you, Mom and Dad." He beamed at them and Zeke's smile widened.

Alicia's heart swelled with warmth as she savored the sight of Zeke's relaxed features and the unmistakable light in his eyes as he spoke with their son. It was a rare moment of pure happiness, one that she had longed for and now cherished. She couldn't help but trace the lines of his face with her gaze, memorizing every detail, every expression.

"Yes, you are right. But the power you inherited from us isn't going to define your real strength Azy. In the end, everything will be in your own two hands." Zeke told him and Azy nodded with firm gaze.

"Mom always told me power isn't everything. And I also know that my power could be very dangerous..." Azy's voice weakened a little as he stared down at his own hands. "I also know you and mom are worried because of this power I possess and that's why you are doing your best to teach me how to control it." Then he clenched his fists tight before lifting his gaze and holding his parent's eyes with determination. "Please don't worry. I will tame my own power and learn absolute control, just like you, dad. I promise I will do my best so that... when you two returns... I'm going to make you both very proud of me."

"Oh, Azy..." Alicia hugged her son.

"You are already making us proud, Azriel." Zeke said as he too joined their warm embrace.

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In the cozy dining area, the family finally gathered around the table. The aroma of Alicia's cooking filled the room, mingling with the sweet atmosphere. The table was filled with dishes that reflected Alicia's love and care.

As the room was filled with the soft clinking of silverware and the gentle crackling of the fire in the hearth, Zeke was taking a moment to observe his wife and son, his eyes shimmering.

When Alicia glanced at Zeke and saw him watching them with that breathtaking look in his eyes, she reached out and took Zeke's hand.

Soon, in the midst of their meal, laughter and conversation flowed naturally. Alicia was the one who talked the most, but eventually, due to Azy's obvious intense desire to hear more stories from his naturally. Alicia was the one who talked the most, but eventually, due to Azy's obvious intense desire to hear more stories from his father's mouth, Zeke also broke his usual silence and began sharing stories from his past, allowing both Azy and Alicia a glimpse into the days of his youth when he was being trained by Alexander.

Chapter 353 Zeke and Alicia - Part 2

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As the night wore on, the cozy atmosphere in the house gradually quieted. The family sat together, their fingers intertwined, enjoying the peaceful ambiance surrounding them.

After some time, Azy, feeling a mix of contentment and a desire to give his parents space, mustered the courage to speak up. "Um, Mom, Dad, I think I'm going to head to bed now," he said softly, his voice filled with a hint of shyness.

Alicia and Zeke exchanged surprised glances, recognizing the subtle intention behind their son's words.

"And I want to sleep in the other house tonight, with Alexis." Azy continued and he abruptly stepped back as if eager to go. "Goodnight mom, dad. See you both tomorrow."

And he turned around and walked away, leaving Alicia and Zeke unable to speak or move for a while until Zeke whispered in Alicia's ear. "You've raised him too well, he's now way too thoughtful for his age, Alicia."

Alicia shivered at the delicious warmth of Zeke's breath against her ear but she still managed to retort. "I don't think so, Ezekiel... I strongly believe that that very personality is something he inherited from you."

Zeke chuckled lowly, making Alicia feel both seduced and struck at the same time as the sheer sexiness and temptingness of that sound. Oh dear...

"I'll take him there..." he then stood and Alicia immediately nod at him.

"Go," she urged when he pressed his thumb over lips and pressed gently.

"Don't sleep." he said and it's Alicia's turn to chuckle.

"I won't. Never." She replied and Zeke bit his lip before finally disappearing into smoke.

He materialized just outside the house, stopping Azy who had just taken a few steps away from the door.

"Dad." Azy blinked, looking confused why his father was here and seemed to have stepped out the house to stop him from leaving. Did they not want him to go? But... don't they need their alone time together? Azy wondered.

Zeke extended his hand to Azy. "Come, let me walk you to Alexis'."

Azy was immediately relieved and nodded as he took his father's hand. He had wanted to spend more time with his parents but he also wanted them to spend time with each

other. Besides, there's still tomorrow and he was actually already excited about spending more time with them once he wakes up.

As they walked hand in hand through the silent forest, the moonlight casting gentle shadows, Azy couldn't help the smile lingering across his face. He felt an overwhelming sense of contentment and joy, as if in that moment, everything in the world was perfect. It was a feeling of pure bliss, where he couldn't imagine asking for anything more because he was experiencing the happiest moment of his life.

Finally, they reached the other house. Azy turned to Zeke, looking a little hesitant to let go of his father's hand. However, he looked up to his father with a smile. "Goodnight, Dad." He said.

Zeke was about to reply when the door swung open. From within, two figures emerged—Alexis and Alice.

Alexis's eyes widened with awe as he stared up at Zeke while Alice hid shyly behind her brother, peeking at Zeke with curious eyes.

"Uncle... Zeke..." Alexis stammered, his voice filled with both excitement and nervousness. His admiration for his uncle was obvious in his voice and the way his eyes sparkled.

Zeke's eyes softened as he met Alexis's gaze. Memories flooded back to him—of that day when Alex had forced him to carry the new born Alexis in his arms.

Taking hold of Azy's hand, Zeke approached the twins, a gentle smile gracing his lips. "Yes, I'm your uncle," he said, his voice warm and affectionate. "You both have grown so much, Alexis, Alice."

Alexis beamed, his confidence momentarily faltering in the presence of his revered uncle. "Uncle Zeke," he said, his voice filled with a mix of excitement and shyness. "Alice and I were so eager to see you! We've heard so much about you!"

Zeke reached out to ruffle Alexis's hair. "I'm glad to see you both again," he said. "Thank you for taking care of your younger brother, Alexis, Alice."

Alexis grinned happily. As though his uncle's praise was one great honor for him. "Please rest assured we'll always be taking good care of our younger brother, Uncle! I promise we will always be by Azy's side."

A warm gleam filled Zeke's eyes as his hand lingered in Alexis's hair. "I know I can count on you, Alexis."

Alexis beamed at his uncle's words, his chest swelling with a sense of responsibility.

"You can rest assured, Uncle," Alexis replied, his voice steady with determination.

Alice, still hiding behind Alexis, continued to steal a shy glance at Zeke. Her eyes held a mix of curiosity and timidity. Sensing her shyness, Zeke knelt down to her level, his voice gentle and reassuring.

"Alice," he called her name and then Zeke patted Alice's head gently, causing the shy girl to blush even more. Her cheeks turned a rosy hue as she shyly glanced up at Zeke.

Just then, Abi emerged from the door, her smile radiant as she observed the interaction between Zeke and the children. "Alright, young ones," she said, her voice gentle and motherly, "your uncle really needs some rest now. Let's let him go for now, okay?"

The twins though a little reluctant went on to grab Azy's arms. "Well then, uncle. Leave Azy to us for now." Alexis said causing Zeke to smile again.

"Right, goodnight, Azy," Zeke said, his voice tender. "And good night to you both as well, Alexis, Alice."

"Goodnight, Uncle Zeke," Alexis and Alice said in unison. Alice's voice was barely above a whisper, but it carried the same heartfelt sentiment. With those words, the trio finally stepped through the door.

Zeke nodded gratefully at Abi and when she responded with an understanding nod, Zeke then disappeared.

Once the door was closed, Azy, Alexis, and Alice linked arms and made their way upstairs. The atmosphere was filled with a bubbling excitement as the trio's voices buzzed with enthusiasm.

"Your dad is so cool, Azy!" Alexis exclaimed, unable to contain his excitement. "He really feels so strong and powerful."

Azy smiled with pride. "Dad... is amazing," he replied.

Chapter 354 Zeke and Alicia - Part 3

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a/n: This mass release is dedicated to @MonsterUnderTheBed! Thank you so much for the supergift Mich!

With a soft towel wrapped snugly around her, Alicia stepped out of the bathroom when she suddenly halted at the sight that welcomed her. There he stood against the closed bedroom door, her one and only Ezekiel. The mere sight of him made her breath hitch, his gaze smoldering with desire, sending a shockwave through her body, causing her heart to race as an overwhelming surge of yearning coursed through her veins. In that moment, it was as if time suddenly stood still.

Zeke's expression had transformed into one of raw desire, so intense that his eyes were practically brimming with devouring hunger. Everything about him right now was such a stark contrast to the composed and calm presence he had been displaying just several minutes ago. Alicia's chest rose and fell with each deep breath, her body responding instinctively to his presence. Though they were still several feet apart, the magnetic pull between them was simply inexplicable. It was as if not just their bodies were desperately longing to be one, but their souls as well.

As she looked at him, every fiber of Alicia's being yearned for his touch, his kiss, and his intoxicating warmth. But she fought the urge to rush into his arms. She just stood there, her body vibrating with anticipation, awaiting his cue. Zeke's hands clenched at his sides, his desire evident in every line of his body, yet he didn't make any move. The air crackled with tension as he finally spoke, his voice filled with need and longing. "I need you," he whispered.

And in an instant, Alicia's resolve crumbled. The yearning in her heart became unbearable, and she closed the distance between them with slow steps. Without hesitation, she threw herself into his arms. Zeke's strong arms wrapped around her, drawing her closer as their bodies molded together in a perfect fit. And then their lips collided in a passionate kiss, igniting a fire that had long smoldered within them.

"Alicia," Zeke uttered her name against her mouth. The roughness of his voice, the rasp of it, was warm and luxurious, making her core tighten in response, sending a delicious ache spreading through her body. "Finally holding you like this... kissing you like this feels like I'm dreaming again..."

"Were you dreaming of me while you were in the underworld?" she whispered back with a ragged voice, cupping his face.

He smiled. "You don't have any idea, Alicia. I dream of you every time I sleep. Sometimes I purposely tire myself out just to see your face."

Alicia's heart welled and constricted at the same time. "You're having a hard time sleeping there?" she asked, her voice now weakened.

"Demons don't sleep, and my body doesn't really need it. I can only fall asleep after a long battle, after I tire myself to my limits," he explained. "Huge battles and chaos were

both a curse and a blessing for me down there because it's the only way I can see your face again."

She caught her lip between her teeth, her eyes glassy with tears. "You cannot... see me... imagine my face except when you're asleep and dreaming?"

"At first, I could... I would look at my ring and see your face, but as time went on, I suddenly became unable to even imagine anyone's face. I have not forgotten. I remember everything, but I can't visualize anyone's face," he trailed off, pressing his forehead against hers. "I was wrecked the moment I realized this. I thought I was also doomed to forget your face. That day, I fought until my entire being was numb, and for the first time, I fell asleep. When I saw you in my dream..." he licked the corner of his lips, smiling helplessly. "I was so..."

He took a deep breath, and Alicia's tears flowed silently over her cheek. She tried not to cry, she tried her very best, but she couldn't help it. Right now, her heart was also wrecked. She never even imagined that he had gone through something like that. She knew his life in that world was definitely dark and chaotic, but to think that he had to experience something like that too... it was just... she couldn't even say a word but just hold him tight.

"Shh... don't cry," he said, and when Alicia heard regret in his voice, she wiped her tears and stared up at him again.

"I love you, Ezekiel," she replied. She didn't know why those words came out of her lips, but perhaps it was because these words were all she knew in that moment.

Zeke's eyes dilated, and all of a sudden, his mouth was on hers again, devouring her almost desperately. Each deep lick and exploration of his tongue conveyed his unbridled passion, leaving her breathless and craving for more, awakening a primal desire that had long been dormant within her.

"Alicia," he moaned her name against her mouth, his hands delving into her damp hair. The tremor in his touch mirrored the intensity of his need, and she couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by the depth of his desire and longing.

"Fuck... I need you so much... miss you too much... it's killing me," he rasped. Every syllable he uttered reverberated through her.

But he didn't give her any chance to respond as his mouth once again devoured hers. And all Alicia could do was incoherently moan to him just how much she missed him too... just how much she loved him.

Her whimper of pleasure mingled with his own groan as their mouths danced together in a symphony of utter desire. Her fingers, entangled in his silky black mane, held onto him desperately, as if she was afraid he would pull away from her.

With a growing hunger, her hand then slipped beneath his shirt, seeking the warmth and solidity of his body. As her fingertips glided over his taut, chiseled muscles, she was intoxicated by the mere sensation and allure of his physical form. Every ridge and contour beneath her touch was a seductive work of art. Dear lord... she had waited for so long for this... to touch him again like this...

Chapter 355 Zeke and Alicia - Part 4

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As their breaths mingled, Alicia gently bit Zeke's bottom lip, capturing its delicious full curve. He groaned deep within his throat, and Alicia smiled with pleasure at that raw and primal sound he let out. It washed over her like an intimate caress. She loved the way that sound burned her already scorching body.

When her towel slipped away, his breath caught in his throat. His hungry eyes devoured her body for a moment before he swiftly discarded his shirt, revealing his mouth-watering chiseled chest and defined physique.

And when their naked bodies collided, an electrifying jolt of desire coursed through them both.

His hands found their way to her hips, his fingers flexing against her flesh. As they pressed against each other, the tips of her breasts met his chest, igniting a surge of sensation that rippled through her. A gasp escaped her lips while he groaned and crushed her against him, lifting her effortlessly off the ground. His arms encircled her, securing her in his powerful embrace as he carried her backward toward the bed.

His arm supported her back as he gently placed her on the bed. He hovered above her, his body settling into perfect alignment with hers. And then he claimed her breast with his mouth. His soft lips sucked greedily like a starving man, while his hand plumped and kneaded the other mound so possessively.

"Ah..." she moaned. God... she missed this. After years, she was finally being touched like this again. "Ezekiel..." His name echoed as she hooked her legs around his calves, causing him to groan.

"Oh... Alicia... I've missed you..." His words spilled out in a low, guttural groan, declaring his yearning for her. She could feel the intensity of his need seep through her skin, the longing and hunger that matched her own.

She pulled him closer, urging him to merge their bodies together. She arched her hips, seeking more friction and pressure. The fabric that separated them became a teasing

barrier, heightening her craving for him. She wanted him inside her again. Maddeningly so.

But she wanted something else from him first and foremost. She wanted him to say it... those words she had been waiting forever to hear.

"I love you..." she told him once again. And he stilled. Their breaths mingled as he looked down at her.

"Say it," Alicia coaxed, her voice barely audible as she locked her gaze with his. Her heart pounded in her chest. She needed those words, the affirmation that he had promised he would utter once he returned to her. She yearned to hear them, to feel their weight and power seep into her soul.

Gently, Zeke's hand brushed aside strands of her silver hair, exposing her forehead. His touch was tender, his fingers seemed to be shaking ever so slightly, filled with a mixture of so many intense emotions. She swallowed hard, willing herself to be patient.

Seconds stretched into eternity as she waited. Her eyes never wavered from his beautiful, dazed grey eyes.

It wasn't that Alicia had ever doubted Zeke's feelings. No, she knew, deep in her heart, that Ezekiel loved her more than words could ever express. She had felt his love in the way he looked at her, in his tender gestures, in every choice and sacrifice he had made... in everything. His actions spoke louder than words, and she had always understood his love without needing verbal confirmation.

But she still longed to hear those words from his lips. It was a craving buried deep within her. Alicia had always wondered why he had never said it. She knew that Ezekiel was a man of reasons and intentions, so she could already tell that there must have been a reason why he couldn't... or perhaps he didn't want to say it. She had thought that maybe he believed his actions spoke louder than words, or maybe he feared the vulnerability that came with speaking such powerful sentiments. But Alicia always felt like the reason was something more than that.

In the past, she hadn't found the chance or the courage to ask him why or to encourage him to finally voice those three little words. But now, in this precious moment with him back in her arms, she refused to let the opportunity slip away. She wouldn't waste another moment pondering or hesitating.

Because she knew, deep down, that this could be her last chance to hear it. She had realized this fact once again when she woke up and found out that if Elle hadn't accidentally summoned Ezekiel, there was no guarantee of what could've happened to her. Everything was uncertain. Unexpected things could happen at any time, and she and Ezekiel were not exempt from the unpredictability of life. She trusted him, but she could not bear waiting for another ten or more years to hear it.

Not to mention the knowledge that she would soon forget everything, including him. The thought of forgetting him, of not recognizing the man who held her heart, was overwhelming. How would she treat her husband once her memories were wiped away? Would she push him away, plagued by doubts and uncertainty as she had done in the past?

Ezekiel would always be an enigmatic persona for those who knew nothing about the real man within him. And now, with all his new powers, he had become even more terrifying and dangerous. Alicia was a rational and skeptical person, particularly when faced with someone as powerful as Ezekiel. She couldn't help but imagine herself instinctively avoiding him, questioning his motives, and second-guessing everything about him once her memories were erased.

Though she also felt confident that Ezekiel would always be able to smash any barrier she created against him, Alicia wouldn't dare to think that it was going to be that easy. She didn't know why, but she couldn't shake the feeling that the path they would tread after her memories were erased would be arduous and uncertain. Something in her gut was telling her that she needed to cherish these three days now with everything she had because there was no guarantee that they would have this chance again anytime soon once her memories were erased.

So, she wanted to hear it, spoken directly from his lips. She wanted him to tell her those words while she still remembered him.

Chapter 356 Zeke and Alicia - Part 5

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Silence continued to envelop them. The only sound that could be heard was their beating hearts, their mingling breaths. Zeke's eyes, filled with unspoken emotions, searched hers for the right words. His throat worked, and then, finally, he spoke.

Silence continued to envelop them. The only sound that could be heard was their beating hearts, their mingling breaths. Zeke's eyes, filled with unspoken emotions, searched hers for the right words. His throat worked, and then, finally, as if the weight of the world lifted off his shoulders, he spoke.

"I love you," he said with raw emotion, his voice a mere murmur, yet it resonated with a power that echoed through her very soul.

Tears pooled in Alicia's eyes, shimmering with the overwhelming rush of emotions that surged within her. She reached out and cupped Zeke's face in her hands, her touch

conveying all the love that swelled within her heart. Oh heavens... she couldn't explain what she felt. How... how could those three little words make someone feel like this? How could those three little words be so powerful? Or was it because she had waited for so long to hear them?

Ezekiel closed his eyes, his body trembling with a mix of passion and longing. Wrapping his arms tightly around Alicia, he held her as if he never wanted to let go. "Damn too much, Alicia," he continued, quivering as he squeezed her so tight, engulfing her, leaving her breathless and exhilarated. Alicia captured his mouth with overwhelming fervor. She was so happy... so... so utterly happy.

She moaned incoherently into his mouth as desire coursed through her veins, aching for him to be inside her, to feel their bodies become one once again after so long. Her kiss was desperate and passionate at the same time. She kissed him with everything she had, with all the passion and devotion that she was possibly able to give, as if that was going to be their last, and she was now dying to get her fill of him.

Time seemed to slip away as their mouths moved together, their hunger for each other uncontainable. The entire room was quickly suffused with the intoxicating scent of their passion. In that moment, there was nothing else that mattered except the urgent need to unite their bodies and souls in a fiery union of love and desire. As their lips finally parted, their eyes met, each gaze holding a mixture of tenderness, longing, and an unspoken promise.

"Ezekiel," she whispered, panting. As her hands caressed his back, she felt him shiver under her touch.

"I want you," she added, her core aching so badly for him that she arched into him as her nails caressed his back from spine to his hips. And when Alicia sank her teeth just over his heart, Zeke threw his head back, letting out a low growl.

"Oh, Alicia..." he moaned her name before his head lowered and latched onto her nipple while he squeezed her breast in his other hand. The way his scorching hot mouth devoured her flesh was maddening. She couldn't help but clutch at his hair, too lost in pleasure to be gentle.

She wrapped her legs around him, letting him know just how desperately she wanted him to finally devour her whole, possess her, claim her all over again. But he slipped away from her hold, moving downwards.

"Ezekiel..." she moaned his name again. She wanted him to just take her. She needed him so much she was more than certain she didn't need any foreplay. Because she was already dripping wet, practically drooling for him.

Her core was clenching, needing him deep inside. She could no longer wait. Just as she was about to beg him to just take her, she was awestruck by the sight of him kneeling

there with his thighs spread between hers. His cock, impossibly thick and big, was already leaking pre-cum, and she was mesmerized, completely forgetting what she was about to tell him. Oh, heavens... her mouth literally salivated... her core tightened with ravenous greed... was it because it had been years that she felt like his cock seemed to have become so much bigger than before?

His eyes were dazed with desire as she stared at him, his skin sheened with perspiration, turning him into the perfect god of sex that he was. This elegant man truly turned into a god of sex when he was naked, when he was so aroused that his thick veins could be seen so prominently.

And then, before Alicia knew it, his mouth was between her legs. She shuddered at the mere feeling of his mouth on her. Oh heavens... to finally feel his lips and tongue on her again was driving her crazy.

Moaning louder, Alicia gripped his hair when he started to move his tongue and lick her hungrily. And when he gently bit her clit, she arched her back wantonly against his face. Her hands pulled harder, pushing his face towards her. She was losing herself with lust and need for him, and Ezekiel gave her what she wanted.

He lifted her slightly and then devoured her once again with fervent hunger. As if he couldn't get enough of her taste. He ate her like he was finally tasting the most delicious delicacy he had been craving for so long.

"God... Ezekiel..." she moaned, panted, and mewled at how good it all felt. The pleasure he was giving her in that moment was indescribable.

And when his thick and long fingers delved into her and curved into that delicious spot, she bit her lip, throwing her head back. He remembered exactly where her sweet spots were, as if years had not passed since he touched her like this.

In and out, his delicious fingers entered her while his mouth didn't stop stroking her clit. She was going to come now... and it was going to be...

"Ezekiel... I'm coming..." she moaned, sounding like she couldn't breathe because of too much pleasure.

And when she began to thrash, his other hand gripped her hip, restraining her. His fingers still didn't stop. Instead, his pace hastened like never before until she shattered so hard her entire body shuddered violently, her vision turning white.

Chapter 357 Zeke and Alicia - Part 6

Chapter 357 Zeke and Alicia - Part 6

Zeke was in a daze as she watched his beloved shatter before him. It took everything he had to let her come down from the high, to give her a moment.

But before she could even fully stop shaking, she opened her eyes and reached out for him.

And the moment she kissed him, he lost it.

He kissed her with lust-fueled kiss before he lifted her with trembling arms. He leaned his back against the headboard and spread her over him.

Zeke was dying for her. He desire her so much his body was shaking with need. All he wanted was to take her, bury himself inside her right here right now. In fact, since the moment he entered this room, he was tightly holding himself back.

Years had passed since he last touch her and now she's right here before him, he could feel himself literally going out of control. Right now, he couldn't help but feel worried. Because he knew exactly just how desperate he was for her. And she for him. He was afraid this extreme yearning they felt for each other might actually make them end up tearing each other apart before they even realize it.

So he decided to do everything he could to stay in control. At least until their impossibly intense need for each other subside even for a little. But fuck... it was so hard. So hard he was already trembling harder than she was right now.

His chest was heaving as forcefully as hers even though he hadn't even cum yet!

"Take me," she moaned as she kissed his neck. His plan was to have her take the reins. That way, he could at least put himself in check even for a little.

When he lined his length up to her glistening sex and felt her heat, he groaned hard. His jaws going taut as he fought not to slam his way home.

"Take me... babe," he whispered ina tortured voice and she obeyed dazedly. She lowered herself slowly and both of them moaned before she could even take him to the base.

Zeke couldn't believe he almost came right there and then, before she could even take all of him. It was almost like their first time! She was so tight that he was certain he must have busted right then if she wasn't taking him so excruciatingly slowly.

"Fuck," he cursed, gritting his teeth. "You're so..."

"You're so big..." she uttered.

"Tight." He also groaned.

And their eyes met. Both of them unable to help but smile at the way they said those words synchronizing.

"I love you," she whispered and then without warning, she lowered herself down and took him to the base.

Zeke hissed, jaw taut with strain, while she cried out and gripped his shoulders. Her walls clenched around him and he started coming violently, spurting his seed inside her.

He held her so tight against him. Fuck... it was insane! But Zeke wasn't surprised. He somehow knew he would come undone the moment he's inside her and he was ecstatic that Alicia too was the same.

"Love you... I love you," he murmured as he kissed her ear and she gripped him back so possessively.

He wanted to stop for a while. To give her some time to rest. To breath. But fuck him... because he didn't go soft after that mind-blowing orgasm.

Groaning against her skin, Zeke forced himself to pull away and look at her face. He was fighting for self-control again and he knew that if he won't look at her face, he would loss himself from this insatiable pleasure.

But as soon as their eyes met, she was smiling dreamily at him. She looked so beautiful. With her glassy eyes, skin sheened with sweat and damp hair. She was... this goddess of his was simply perfect! So seductive! And he wanted to... damn!

He felt his length twitch inside her and he hoped right then that she would distract him even for a few moment. But then...

"Please," she said, looking obviously as drunk with desire and love as he was. "More, my love."

A curse left his mouth and it sounded so guttural as he flipped her around without pulling out of her. And then he started to thrust into her while devouring her mouth. He didn't want to stop kissing her, not only because her mouth was something he'd never get tired of but also because he believed that if he stops kissing her, he would complete go out of control.

She moaned against his mouth. Her hands grabbing him, pulling him into her. And it was driving him insane.

But then, she cupped his face and whispered to him. "Please... stop holding back. I want you to stop holding back..."

"But Alicia, you're –"

"I'm completely fine, my love. Believe me. I feel stronger than ever right now, so please..." she begged desperately, looking at him with lust and desire that mirrored his own. "Please fuck me, Ezekiel."

A feral groan left him and he began to thrust hard and fast into her, eliciting a scandalous moan out of Alicia's lips. His extreme desire took over and he took her like a starve man.

Until his lust was too much his thrust became messy. He felt like his body was going out of control now. For the first time since he acquired the peak of his demonic power, his darkness leaked out of him without his permission. He knew his power wasn't going to do anything to Alicia at all but he, a now full-blooded high demon... with the way he was now, he might unknowingly break her.

"Babe... Alicia... tell me to stop if... I'm too much... cause I can't..." he forced himself to utter those words, but Alicia's response was a fuel to the fire.

"No. Don't stop. Please... don't hold back. I... please make love to me hard... fuck me hard, Ezekiel."

And he lost it. For real, this time.

Chapter 358 Zeke and Alicia - Part 7

Chapter 358 Zeke and Alicia - Part 7

Alicia felt like he was tearing her apart. He was so hard, so thick, and so freaking rough, and yet, the pleasure was overwhelming.

Ezekiel had always been intense when he stopped holding himself back, but right now, this was a whole new level. His strength was simply insane. If she hadn't been temporarily healed by Elle's incredible fae magic, she was certain she wouldn't be able to keep up with him. She was certain she would actually break.

She now understood why he had been torturing himself by holding back. Right now, there was no sign of the calm, collected, and ever-so-regal Ezekiel that everyone knew. Right now, he was high demon Ezekiel, out of control.

And yet, despite his impossibly hard thrusts that made her yelp in both pleasure and pain, Alicia found herself thrilled and exhilarated. Heaven above... she was truly at this man's mercy. She was fully and irrevocably his, regardless of what he had become. And she fully and irrevocably wanted him, desired him, loved him, no matter how extreme he had become.

She was just glad that despite everything that was going on with her, she had always been able to handle him. As if no matter what, she was made for him, and he for her.

As she looked up at his handsome face, Alicia felt so lucky that she was the only one seeing him like this. The only one who would ever know this side of him.

"Ez... ze... kiel..." she uttered his name brokenly due to his hard thrusts when he growled and stood up at the end of the bed.

He pulled her by her legs, and then lifted her lower back before his cock impaled into her. She shrieked, her mouth hanging open. He was so damn deep inside her.

"Oh, Ali... cia..." he moaned her name, his eyes glassy with lust. And when she followed his line of sight and saw what he was staring at, she saw a little bulge appearing every time he thrust into her. To watch her body bulge like that... she was... hypnotized.

"Fuck... you're driving me... crazy..." he moaned as his pace went impossibly fast, and Alicia felt like her breath was being taken away.

She couldn't even utter a coherent word anymore as his deliciously intense thrusts began to bring her to the very heights of heaven once again.

And then he bent and claimed her mouth without stopping or slowing down his thrusts until Alicia scratched his back, and Alicia bit his neck, drinking his blood as they both shattered at the same time.

Their orgasm was so intense it was almost impossible. So intense that it seemed to have lasted for eternity. So intense that when they finally came back to earth, they looked at each other with eyes filled with disbelief.

For a long while, the two of them remained entangled, never moving away from each other's embrace. He didn't even bother to pull out of her.

No words came out of their lips as they simply held each other, listening to their heartbeats, to their breaths.

Until finally, Zeke lifted his hand and his fingers gently brushed against her cheek.

"I love you," he whispered, his voice husky and deep as he kissed her forehead.

Alicia smiled, her heart so full of utter happiness and contentment as she remembered the exact words he had told her more than ten years ago. When he said, "When I come back... I will say those words to you every chance I get. And as many times as you want to hear it."

"I love you too... so much," she replied, tearing up because he had finally fulfilled his promise.

Zeke's fingers brushed against her cheek, his touch gentle and comforting. "Please don't..."

"These are tears of joy, my love," she said, smiling, and he kissed her eyes.

"Are you... okay?" he asked, his voice barely audible, that if she hadn't become a vampire, she was certain it wouldn't be possible for her to hear him. "I know I was... too much."

"I love you," she replied. "I loved it..."

He caught his lower lip between his teeth before he buried his face in her hair, groaning.

"It was... so indescribably good, Ezekiel. And you didn't hurt me. At all," she assured. "If you're skeptical, you can check yourself."

He groaned again, but his groan was such a sexy sound to her.

And then he released a long breath, as if he was so beyond relieved.

"You don't have to sleep if you don't want to," he murmured, his voice filled with tenderness. "We can stay like this for as long as you desire." His gaze met hers, full of love.

"I remember back when you always wanted me to go to sleep," she grinned at him, and he smiled back, his eyes gleaming like billions of stars.

Just then, Alicia was also reminded of the question she had been meaning to ask him.

"Ezekiel..." she murmured his name, her voice filled with a mix of curiosity and vulnerability.

"Hmm..." he responded, his voice laced with warmth and affection.

"Is the reason why you couldn't tell me 'I love you' back then really because you wanted to wait until you returned?" she asked, her gaze searching his face for answers.

"I... I wanted to avoid... saying it."

"Why?" she asked hesitantly.

"Because..." he paused for a moment. "The few times I uttered those words to someone I care about... every time I returned to them, they weren't there waiting for me... alive," he revealed.

Alicia's heart clenched hard.

"I've been able to say it now, at long last, because I am no longer leaving you," his gaze held hers, unwavering. "This time, we will go together, Alicia."

She nodded, smiling back at him before she buried her face against his chest.

"What will you do when we meet again and I no longer... remember you?" Alicia then asked after listening to his heartbeat for a long while.

"I'll seduce you in an instant," he responded with a mischievous smirk.

"You do know I will most probably point a dagger at your neck if you do that, don't you, my husband?"

"I know. But I also know you will never do more than that. Though, I do expect a powerful punch from you," he told her, and they both chuckled.

Chapter 359 Calm

Chapter 359 Calm

The morning sun cast a gentle glow as Alexander and Gav returned to White Falls village. Alex and Zeke had actually planned for Gav to only leave the Black Forest during the night and under Alex's watch. The previous night had been a close call, as Gav's fascination with human technology had nearly led to his accidental separation from Alex. But despite a few close calls, Gav was somehow able to successfully keep his dangerous powers in check.

Now, as they reached the entrance of the forest, Gav was so quiet Alex couldn't help but tease him. "No sulking allowed, future king of darkness," he quipped, a mischievous grin spreading across his face. "The future king of darkness isn't allowed to sulk."

"Who's sulking? I'll simply resume my explorations once the sun sets." Gav replied flatly.

Alex chuckled. "Well, I don't recall Zeke granting you that permission, but perhaps you can make your case later today."

Their banter was interrupted by a sudden yell that caused both Alex and Gav to halt in their tracks. "Dad!" Alexis's voice echoed.

As the twins approached, Alex immediately opened his arms wide, welcoming Alice into his embrace while Alexis gazed up at Gav, his eyes shining with curiosity and awe.

"Hello, uncle," Alexis greeted politely, his mature attitude shining through his words.

Gav tilted his head. "Uncle..." he echoed.

"You're Uncle Zeke's friend, aren't you?" Alexis inquired, his inquisitive nature prompting him to seek clarity.

"I believe so," he responded.

"I'm Alexis," the young boy introduced himself with a maturity that belied his age. "I'm happy to meet another strong person like you, Uncle Gav."

Gav didn't respond and simply acknowledged the boy's sentiment with a simple nod. His reaction towards Alexis made Alex smile as he wondered if Gav wasn't actually comfortable around children.

In that moment, an idea sprouted in Alex's mind. He turned to his children.

"Alexis, Alice," Alex called out softly. "Why don't you two take your new uncle on a tour of the forest?"

Gav opened his mouth, perhaps to protest or declare that he didn't need a tour, but before he could utter a word, the twins eagerly agreed to their father's suggestion.

"Leave him to us, Dad," Alexis responded with enthusiasm, exchanging a telepathic conversation with his father. "Do you know anything that he likes, Dad? It should really help us a lot," Alexis asked.

"Hm... oh, he's incredibly curious about human technologies," he replied, knowing it would be the perfect element to keep Gav entertained. Alexis's eyes immediately brightened, as though his mind was already formulating a solid plan to captivate his uncle's interest and attention.

"Alright, leave him to me, Dad," Alexis declared confidently, his words eliciting a smile from Alex. He knew he could always rely on his son, who seemed to have an uncanny ability to avoid major mishaps that there were moments when Alex actually wanted Alexis to experience a little more trouble or mistakes, just to embrace the fullness of youth and also to learn from it.

As soon as Alex left, the trio then set off, Gav a bit in disbelief that Alexander had entrusted him to two children. "We have something to show you, uncle, and I strongly believe you will like it." Alexis said as they move.

Gav remained silent, simply following the two children until they led him to a treehouse. The spacious place was adorned with modern conveniences, including a television and various gadgets. Alexis proudly announced, "Welcome to our hideout. This is where I, Alice, and Azy spend our time."

Gav's eyes wandered until it settled on a computer. Alexis noticed his interest and guided him towards their gaming room. "This is what I'm going to show you, Uncle," Alexis said, his voice filled with anticipation. With a flick of switches and buttons, the room sprang to life, ready for a gaming adventure.

And the moment Gav held the game controller in his hands that Alexis gave him, the familiar music of Super Mario Bros echoed in the room.

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Meanwhile, in the tranquil meadow located in the northern reaches of the Black Forest, a gentle stream meandered through the picturesque landscape. Underneath the soothing shade of ancient trees, Zeke, Alicia, and Azy were having their very first family picnic.

As the sunlight filtered through the leaves, painting the scene with dappled hues, Zeke and Azy continued their bonding through another training session. The contrast between their powers that screamed darkness and danger, and the bliss and contentment filling their eyes was indescribable.

The meadow seemed to hold its breath as their dark powers coexisted with tranquility. The scene seemed to be proving that darkness and light could find balance within the embrace of a loving family.

When the training session momentarily paused, Zeke and Azy joined Alicia on a checkered blanket, their faces radiant with joy and contentment. And soon, laughter filled the air.

The scene exuded an aura of serenity, encapsulating the essence of a perfect family moment. It was a tableau of bliss, where the worries of the world seemed to dissipate, leaving only the purest form of happiness in its wake.

...

The night descended upon the treehouse, casting a veil of darkness over the forest. Inside, Abi arrived, carrying a tray of food with Alice by her side. Gav and Alexis remained engrossed in the gaming room, fully immersed in their virtual battle.

As Abi peered through the door, a smile tugged at her lips. She couldn't help but be amused by the intense focus displayed by Gav and Alexis. They seemed to be in their own world, completely captivated by the game before them. It appeared that Gav had forgotten everything else, his attention solely fixed on conquering every opponent in the

virtual realm. Alice shared with Abi that Gav despised losing and was now determined to conquer every opponent in the game.

Abi couldn't contain her laughter at the thought of Alex and Zeke discovering that the dangerous man Zeke had brought into their world had now become an avid gamer in just one day. It was such an unexpected twist!

Realizing that they should not disturb the focused duo, Abi and Alice retreated to the balcony, relishing in the tranquility of the night. However, Alice's gaze soon shifted towards the entrance of the Black Forest, her eyes taking on a crimson hue.

"Mom," Alice spoke softly as Abi approached her. "I think... someone's coming," she added, her eyes fixated on the direction of the forest's entrance.

"Do you know who it is?" Abi inquired, aware of Alice's extraordinary and unique ability to see far beyond the capabilities of any vampire. Alice possessed an uncanny gift of seeing people's faces so clearly even from miles and miles away."

"It's... Uncle Kyle, Mom," Alice revealed.

Chapter 360 It's time

Chapter 360 It's time

Through the shadows of the entrance of Black Forest, Kyle glided gracefully. He wore an aura of darkness that seemed to merge with the forest's ambiance. His footsteps, though light, sent ripples through the thick carpet of fallen leaves and twigs.

The male vampire pressed forward when suddenly, a bright light shone in the darkness. It wasn't the cold, remote gleam of the moon, but a warm, radiant luminance that seemed out of place in such a dark place. From its center, a silhouette formed. It was her—

Lilith, the queen of witches. Her gown seemed to shimmer and dance with every flicker of the light around her.

Kyle immediately showed longing and fondness as he set his eyes on her. He looked at her like the way a lover would gaze upon his beloved.

But the witch queen's demeanor remained as immovable as a stone statue, her eyes locked onto his, cold and intense. Only her hair moved, dancing gracefully in the subtle breeze.

The silence stretched like a taut bowstring, until Kyle spoke. His voice resonated through the darkness, velvety and warm, as he addressed her, "Were you waiting for me, love?"

Lilith remained silent. No reaction appeared on her face despite that intimate line.

The tension mounted, and the forest seemed to hold its breath, as if anticipating what would happen next between them.

Step by step, the vampire continued his approach, an air of confidence surrounding him like an alluring aura. His grey eyes glowed with an otherworldly intensity, matching the silver radiance that emanated from Lilith's very being.

"Stop right there," Lilith's command cut through the night air, her voice firm. But Kyle only smirked and continued forward.

As his form drew closer, Lilith's hand found the hilt of her sword and drew it. The blade gleamed with a mesmerizing luminescence, mirroring the gleam in her silvery eyes. The forest seemed to stir, as if the ancient trees themselves acknowledged the presence of their queen and awaited her bidding.

"I told you to stop... vampire," she repeated.

"It seems... you don't miss me as much as I missed you, Queen Lilith," Kyle admitted with a nod, a bittersweet smile tugging at the corner of his lips.

"But it's alright, I understand," he continued, his voice gentle, yet laced with a touch of mischief.

He took another step closer and Lilith's grip on her sword tightened.

"Tell me, vampire prince, why are you here?" Lilith asked.

"Because I miss you."

Kyle's immediate response almost made Lilith falter. But she held her composure and didn't dare drop her guard.

"We are not the naive youths we once were, vampire prince. If you think —"

"And yet," he cut her off, "I can still see a hint of that young witch who stole my heart."

For the briefest of moments, her shoulders tensed and her fingers clenched involuntarily. But almost as quickly as it had appeared, she cast it away. She took a measured breath, her face smoothing into its familiar, enigmatic calm, her posture regaining its regal stance.

"I've never stopped loving you, Lilith," Kyle continued. "I've tried to move on, but my heart has never truly let you go. Every time I close my eyes, I see your face, feel your touch, and it haunts me."

Lilith's breath caught in her throat. Her pupils dilated, and her composed face twitched ever so slightly.

Kyle took a step closer, the space between them dwindling as he reached out to gently cup Lilith's cheek. "And I know a part of you still love me too."

"Stop trying to seduce me, vampire," Lilith whispered. "You know that you and I can't –"

"Who says we can't, my love?" he murmured, his voice a tender melody. "The world has changed, and so have we. I think it's time to rewrite our story, Lilith."

"We can't rewrite history," her jaws worked. "I chose my duty over us back then, and I must stand by that decision."

"Tell me, Lilith," Kyle's voice was a whisper, his breath caressing her skin like a tantalizing promise. "Do you truly believe that denying yourself what you desire is the path you're meant to walk?"

"Leave, Kyle," she said softly.

"Sometimes, the simplest truths are the hardest to accept, isn't it?" Kyle murmured, his hand reaching out to brush a strand of Lilith's silver hair behind her ear.

"I asked you to give up on me, Kyle," she stood her ground. "I chose my duty over our love."

Kyle's gaze held hers. "And perhaps it's time for you to choose again, Lilith. To choose yourself, your happiness, and the love that still burns between us. To let go of the past and allow ourselves a taste of what we denied for so long –"

A sudden blur of movement erupted.

Lilith moved with the speed of a striking serpent and in the blink of an eye, Kyle was sprawled on the forest floor. The wind, previously a gentle whisper among the trees, halted in stunned silence, as if even nature itself was taken aback by the suddenness of the motion.

He dared to glance up, his eyes locking onto the witch queen.

Lilith stood there. Her stance exuded authority, every line of her form radiating power. In her hand, a sword gleamed, its edge positioned with chilling precision, mere inches from his throat.

A silence enveloped them, broken only by the whisper of wind through the trees.

In that moment, the moonlight painted a portrait of contrasts—

Lilith, the queen of witches, poised and formidable; Kyle, the vampire prince, captured and vulnerable beneath her.

For a few more moments, the two locked in a tense standoff. Until Kyle's eyes glimmered playfully, his lips curling into a smirk that bordered on the wicked.

"Are you going to kill me, love?" he asked, his voice a rich and alluring melody, each word dripping with a daring that was almost intoxicating. Fear seemed foreign to him, replaced instead by a reckless courage that matched the smile playing on his lips.

Lilith's jaw clenched, but the sharp edge of her sword didn't falter.

"Shut your mouth," she hissed. "You think you can fool me?"