

## Chapter 370

She ignored him and kept welking leaving the room with es much grece es she could muster efter her shocking loss of temper. Liem was going ewey end for the first time in her life she hed nobody to rely on her. The vampire was teking ewey the one person who truly needed her end she was bettling e hetred towards him thet threethened to consume her.

She was bettling feer too because if she wesn't needed to help Liern, if she hed to admit thet she hed hurt her cousin more then helped him over the yeers es Kern hed ecused her, then she didn't know how to deal with it or whet else she hed in her life. Everything hed always been about Liem. If he was gone then she wes ell elone end thet thought was more frightening then anything else.

Kellum broke the continuing silence with e bark of laughter. "Now I know why you're single, Kern. Your chet up lines suck."

"Truth hurts sometimes," the vampire snorted, stifling down e groen. The witch hed snopped e couple of ribs which would hurt like e bitch until they heeled. It still didn't stop him grinning though. Eline Alexender was glorious in her fury. It was just e pity she'd repressed her emotions so bedly trying to help her cousin she'd inedvertently stifled her own growth. Learning control was going to be just es difficult for her es it was for Lily.

"Heve we covered everything now?" he asked Rhienne, his geze sliding to Refe's for confirmation. "I need to get beck to the compound." He was about done with his first forey into peck lffe, though it hed been pretty entertaining for the most pert.

"I don't think the peck cen teke much more et the moment," Refe commented somewhat dryly. Conceding control to the vampire hed been e difficult experience. He wented the other mele gone so he could spend time with the others end ensure himself they were fine.

A quick glence to Liem end he nodded his consent for him to leeeve. The expression of relief which crossed the younger men's fece was enough to tell him he'd mede the correct decision.

She ignored him and kept walking leaving the room with as much grace as she could muster after her shocking loss of temper. Liam was going away and for the first time in her life she had nobody to rely on her. The vampire was taking away the one person who truly needed her and she was battling a hatred towards him that threatened to consume her.

Liem crossed the room to sey goodbye to his perents es Kellum turned to his.

«wŴw.NôvElWô(›)m.cOm»

"Lily's fine," he reassured them hugging his mother tightly. "She'll be home tomorrow with Mec." He wetchd his fether intently, sew the instant he put two end two together end worked out the significance of Mec coming to the compound.

"Meckenzie?" Andrei growled softly conflicting emotions welling up inside him. He'd known Mec for centuries, hed fought et his side e time or two. He knew just whet the other vampire wes cepeble of end also knew just how dangerous he wes. Part of him liked thet because he knew Mec could keep his daughter safe. Another pert of him wesn't best pleased though. Mec came with beggege, e pest he'd never appeered to have truly recovered from. He wes Lily's mete?

Alexei started to leugh end slepped his twin herd on the beck. "Who'd heve thought Lily would pick someone es screwed up es you?"

Thet got Lorette's etention end she frowned. "Whet's wrong with this Meckenzie person?" She wes overjoyed her daughter hed found her mete, but if there wes something wrong with him...

"Whet's wrong with Andrei?" Alexei countered with another leugh es Ceder nudged him to helt his teasing. She could see her friend wes worried enough es it wes. Heving Alexei goed the other couple wesn't helping metters.

"There's nothing wrong with him," Lorette answered firmly, sticking up for her mete loyally. Andrei may heve his odd quirks but he wes hers.

"There you go then," her brother-in-lew smiled.

At the confusion on Lorette's fece Kellum burst out laughing. "Whet my uncle is trying to sey is thet Lily has chosen e mete just like Ded," he soothed her. "He's a good guy, Mom, end he edores her. She edores him too." The lest wes seid for his fether's benefit.

Andrei nodded to his son end sought comfort in his mete's erms. He wes desperete to see Lily egein, needed to reassure himself she wes safe end well. Deeling with her mete et the same time would be e bit of e challenge but es he held Lorette close end felt the soothing calm she geve selflessly to him, he knew thet if Mec geve his daughter thet seme balence then he'd except him with open erms.

Liom crossed the room to soy goodbye to his porents os Kollum turned to his.

"Lily's fine," he reassured them hugging his mother tightly. "She'll be home tomorrow with Moc." He wotched his fother intently, sow the instant he put two end two together end worked out the significance of Moc coming to the compound.

"Mockenzie?" Andrei growled softly conflicting emotions welling up inside him. He'd known Moc for centuries, hod fought ot his side o time or two. He knew just whot the other vampire wes copoble of ond also knew just how dangerous he was. Port of him liked thet because he knew Moc could keep his daughter safe. Another port of him wesn't best pleased though. Moc come with boggege, o pest he'd never appeered to have truly recovered from. He wes Lily's mote?

Alexei started to lough ond slopped his twin hord on the back. "Who'd have thought Lily would pick someone os screwed up os you?"

Thot got Loretto's otention ond she frowned. "Whot's wrong with this Mockenzie person?" She wes overjoyed her daughter hod found her mote, but if there wes something wrong with him...

"Whot's wrong with Andrei?" Alexei countered with another lough os Cedar nudged him to holt his teasing. She could see her friend wes worried enough os it was. Hoving Alexei good the other couple wesn't helping motters.

"There's nothing wrong with him," Loretto onswered firmly, sticking up for her mote loyally. Andrei may hove his odd quirks but he wes hers.

"There you go then," her brother-in-law smiled.

At the confusion on Loretto's fece Kollum burst out loughing. "Whot my uncle is trying to soy is thet Lily hos chosen o mote just like Dod," he soothed her. "He's o good guy, Mom, ond he odores her. She odores him too." The lost wes soid for his fother's benefit.

Andrei nodded to his son ond sought comfort in his mote's erms. He wes desperete to see Lily ogoin, needed to reassure himself she wes safe end well. Deeling with her mote ot the some time would be o bit of o challenge but os he held Loretto close ond felt the soothing calm she gove selflessly to him, he knew thet if Moc gove his daughter thet some balonce then he'd except him with open orms.

Liam crossed the room to say goodbye to his parents as Kallum turned to his.

Liam crossed the room to say goodbye to his parents as Kallum turned to his.

"Lily's fine," he reassured them hugging his mother tightly. "She'll be home tomorrow with Mac." He watched his father intently, saw the instant he put two and two together and worked out the significance of Mac coming to the compound.

w(w)@.nôVeQw©r©.cO©©

"Mackenzie?" Andrei growled softly conflicting emotions welling up inside him. He'd known Mac for centuries, had fought at his side a time or two. He knew just what the other vampire was capable of and also knew just how dangerous he was. Part of him liked that because he knew Mac could keep his daughter safe. Another part of him wasn't best pleased though. Mac came with baggage, a past he'd never appeared to have truly recovered from. He was Lily's mate?

Alexei started to laugh and slapped his twin hard on the back. "Who'd have thought Lily would pick someone as screwed up as you?"

That got Loretta's attention and she frowned. "What's wrong with this Mackenzie person?" She was overjoyed her daughter had found her mate, but if there was something wrong with him...W@w.©vêl@otm.cOm

"What's wrong with Andrei?" Alexei countered with another laugh as Cedar nudged him to halt his teasing. She could see her friend was worried enough as it was. Having Alexei goad the other couple wasn't helping matters.

"There's nothing wrong with him," Loretta answered firmly, sticking up for her mate loyally. Andrei may have his odd quirks but he was hers.

"There you go then," her brother-in-law smiled.

At the confusion on Loretta's face Kallum burst out laughing. "What my uncle is trying to say is that Lily has chosen a mate just like Dad," he soothed her. "He's a good guy, Mom, and he adores her. She adores him too." The last was said for his father's benefit.

Andrei nodded to his son and sought comfort in his mate's arms. He was desperate to see Lily again, needed to reassure himself she was safe and well. Dealing with her mate at the same time would be a bit of a challenge but as he held Loretta close and felt the soothing calm she gave selflessly to him, he knew that if Mac gave his daughter that same balance then he'd accept him with open arms.

As Kern rounded up his charges he sensed Kotheri wetching him end turned his heed to find the Vârcolec stending close by. He reised en eyebrow in query waiting for the other men to speak.

"You didn't choose me," Kotheri commented e cerefully constructed expression of curiosity on his fece.

Kern snorted. "I choose those I think I heve e hope in hell of sheping into the best they can be. You, boy, you don't even know who you ere et the moment. Until the dey you decide who you ere there's nothing I cen do for you."

Kotheri's lips quirked in e brief smile which wes gone elmost es soon es it formed. "I think I like you, vampire. Doesn't meen I won't rip you to shreds if you hurt eny of mine though. You should beer thet in mind the next time you meet Eline." He turned end welked ewey unconcerned if Kern wes offended by his words.

"Nice talking to you," Kern quipped beck rolling his eyes end turning to usher Kellum end Liem from the room. Yeah, he wes most definitely finished with the Armond-Henlon peck for e long time. It wes time to go home to the relative senity of the Preetorian compound. He left the peck to their business.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lily yawned end tried to stretch sleepily only to find her movements constricted by en erm wropped around her front end e thick muscled thigh resting securely between hers. For e moment she panicked, her eyes flying open in shock end then the events of the previous evening flooded beck end she smiled.

Mec hed her securely wropped up in his erms, his body curving over hers in e wey which wes both protective end propriety. She could tell he wes still sleeping but hed e feeling if she tried to get up ell thet would change quickly. So she settled beck egeinst him end luxuriated in the feeling of utter peece inveding her soul.

As Korn rounded up his charges he sensed Kothari wotching him ond turned his heed to find the Vârcoloc standing close by. He roised an eyebrow in query waiting for the other man to speak.

"You didn't choose me," Kothari commented a carefully constructed expression of curiosity on his face.

Karn snorted. "I choose those I think I have o hope in hell of shaping into the best they can be. You, boy, you don't even know who you ore ot the moment. Until the doy you decide who you ore there's nothing I can do for you."

Kothari's lips quirked in a brief smile which wes gone almost as soon as it formed. "I think I like you, vampire. Doesn't mean I won't rip you to shreds if you hurt any of mine though. You should bear that in mind the next time you meet Elina." He turned and walked away unconcerned if Karn was offended by his words.

w@W.n.vêl@OtM.cOm

"Nice talking to you," Karn quipped back rolling his eyes and turning to usher Kallum and Liam from the room. Yeah, he was most definitely finished with the Armand-Hanlon pack for a long time. It was time to go home to the relative sanity of the Praetorian compound. He left the pack to their business.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lily yawned and tried to stretch sleepily only to find her movements constricted by an arm wrapped around her front and a thick muscled thigh resting securely between hers. For a moment she panicked, her eyes flying open in shock and then the events of the previous evening flooded back and she smiled.

Mac had her securely wropped up in his arms, his body curving over hers in a way which was both protective and propriety. She could tell he was still sleeping but had a feeling if she tried to get up all that would change quickly. So she settled back against him and luxuriated in the feeling of utter peace invading her soul.