Belong to the Lycan Alpha by Jikanyotomare

Chapter 181

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This couldn't be possible to happen. There was no way those lycan could be inside the fortress without anyone knowing about it. All of them were dumbstruck by this information, they looked at each other, having the same thought.

However, Hunter was the only one, who voiced it out.

"There **are** only two possibilities," Hunter said. The tension **stretched** out in the **air**. "There **is a** traitor among **us**, or Aiden leaked the information about **the secret** tunnel inside this **pack**."

After all, they all knew that Aiden was currently with the lycan, thus they more welcomed the No one wanted to be accused for treason or anything like that.

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"It's not time **for** that!" **Alpha** James roared to mask his anxiety. He knew this must be Aiden, that pack for what? What he wanted to gain by joining force with the lycan?

on of his had traded their

Hunter didn't **say** anything, but the damage had been done. The alpha looked alpha James with displeased, they looked

disgusted by what Aiden had done and by extension, alpha James too.

As a parent, he should know better how **to** take his son under control, especially when he **was** the future alpha of the **pack**.

Despite that, alpha James was right. **It** was not the right time to dwell in away the lycan out of this pack. Because while they were having this fruitless. was dying.

matter, because their main priority was to drive

The lycan showed their brutal side and there was nothing that could stop them. they aimed.

on the innocent people in the pack

ney were here for blood and that was what

The casualties after tonight would be alarming and

alarming and felt a lot more under the pressure, because he hoped he

pha James would meet Aiden, yet at the same time, he didn't feel like he

And yet, it was not up to him to decide this

to

see him.

That night **was** a long and bloody night, where there were so many shifters died. Both from the lycan side and the werewolf side.

This battle was almost like the war that happened more than a year ago, but Golden Claw pack took the brunt this time...

Lilac woke up in the middle of the night because of her nightmare, but also because she felt she was having a cramp.

Her heart was still beating erratically, but she couldn't remember what kind of dream she had. The dream must be very terrifying, yet she still couldn't recall any of that, all she knew was this bitter feeling and what was left from her nightmare **was** this bad taste in her mouth.

She felt like she was going to vomit.

With that, she went to the bathroom hurriedly and then emptied her stomach there. This must be because of her nightmare, that was why she felt this awful. She felt like eating something sour after she cleanse her mouth.

After **that**, Lilac went out of the room to get some fresh air. She felt stuffy inside the empty room that she occupied alone. without Hunter. She missed him **so** much.

"It's okay, baby. Your father will be here soon." Lilac caressed her stomach, as she walked in the corridor. There were many guards that stationed there and all of them greeted her politely when she walked past them.

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Initially, **Lilac** only wanted **to walk** until she felt **sleepy**, but then she didn't **feel sleepy** at all. **There** was something **that** bothering her, **but she couldn't** put her **fingers on what** was **the matter**. She **stared** at the **bright moon** and **sat** on the bench in the **garden**.

The night was rather cold, thankfully she was wearing her cloak.

Lilac stayed there until the **first** light of the sun appeared in the horizon and then decided **to return to her** bedroom, **but** she **met** with Darren, the **beta instead.**

There was something on his **expression** that made Lilac approached **him**, **since** he didn't seem to **notice** her until she closer **to** him.

"Luna, what are **you** doing here? **Did** you wake up early?" **He** greeted her politely, but the flicker of anxiety **in his eyes**

bothered Lilac.

"What is **that**? Hunter sent a **letter for** me?" She pointed the letter in Darren's hand, ignoring **his earlier** question. She recognized the enveloped.

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"Oh," Darren mumbled. "**No.** This **is** just usual report," he dodged the question, but Lilac had sensed something was **amiss**, thus she snatched the **letter** from his hand.

She didn't usually act like a brat, but her curiosity got the best of her and also because since last night she had been feeling off, thus anything related to Hunter, she wanted to know.

The more she read the letter, the darker her expression was...

The battle finally settled when the first light of the sun appeared on the clear sky. The ground was stained with the color of blood and there were so many dead bodies that scattered around.

The lycan was very tenacious, even though they were outnumbered, they were still able to hold their ground for this long. More so, it was always its nature that the lycan was way stronger than the werewolves, thus there was a **power** play there.

Because of the nature of the situation, most of the pack members **were** being evacuated away to the safe place, including luna Jasmine and Ruby.

Ruby held her baby tightly against her chest, her expression was unreadable, she had readied herself for a bad confrontation when she **was** in the same room with luna Jasmine.

However, to her surprised, it didn't happen and what actually happened was the opposite.

Luna Jasmine approached her and Ruby had prepared for a few nasty words that she would vomit it, but she simply asked a question.

What alpha Ramon wanted from Aiden? **He** promised to help me before," luna Jasmine said and then added. "You must be worried of Aiden too, right?"



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After what Aiden had put Ruby through, **she must be** crazy **if** she missed the man, **especially** after the ultimate **betrayal that** he had done.

There was no coming back from **that**. This must be some kind of karma for her, **but** what happened to her was completely different from what **he** did to **Lilac**.

Aiden didn't have a child with Lilac and he didn't mark **her** when he started his **affair** with Ruby, but when he did it to **her**, she had been marked and they had their first child together.

That **was so** cruel for Aiden not to think twice when **he** stick his member into another woman's.

"What do you want from me?" Ruby asked, she covered her mark with her hair, while holding her baby. If you didn't **see** it closely, you wouldn't be able to tell that this **was** a mark from alpha James and luna Jasmine was too anxious to notice that, even though she was so close with Ruby right now.

"I want to know what kind of help that alpha Ramon had offered to Aiden. I want to know in detail."

This could be counted as luna Jasmine asked for help from Ruby, but she was still holding onto her pride and talked to her **as** if she **was** talking *to* her lackey, which didn't sit well with Ruby.

"If you wanted to know about that, you need to ask alpha Ramon himself. I don't know why you came to me instead." Ruby focused on her baby, she pretended as if luna Jasmine didn't even existed.

"Get me in contact with alpha Ramon in secret, if there was someone else knew about it, I will never forgive you." This was a warning, but luna Jasmine knew her words didn't hold any threat at all.

"Why do I need your forgiveness?" Ruby asked coldly. "I don't need your forgiveness. It's you who asked for my help, but why can't you talk nicely to me?"

Luna Jasmine gritted her teeth, her eyes flickered with malice. "I only wanted you to know that a mother, who lost their child is not a person that you wanted to face."

After saying that, luna Jasmine left.

The situation was already under control, thus the people in the safety place could go back to their respective houses. When they went out, the sun was already up and it was afternoon.

Meanwhile, the other alphas and warriors had cleaned up the streets from the dead lycan and buried their fallen warriors.

It was a very grim day.

Once everything was settled and Hunter had time to write a letter, among ten letters he received, eight was from Lilac, who was worried, apparently she learned about what happened in the Golden Light pack, the alpha then wrote for his mate first before he informed his beta that everything was fine and the

should proceed with their initial plan.

"You must have gotten a report from Cane too, right?" Lilac asked Darren, she look

for him after she finished reading her letter, in which told her that everything was alright in Golden Claw pack, that they managed to calm the situation.

However, Lilac didn't believe him, she was not convinced with Hunter's word and the only thing to know whether he telling her the truth was to read the official letter from Hunter to his gamma.

"The alpha is really fine, luna," Darren/said helplessly.

Lilac handed back the letter to Darren. She felt slightly relief, though not completely.

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"You need **to stop** worrying about the **alpha**, luna. Hunter **is the** strongest lycan. There will be nothing **bad** happened to him. You need to trust me in this."

Lilac lifted **her** head. She **stared** at Darren **incredulously** without saying anything, which made the **beta felt awkward**.

But then, she opened her mouth and the sound of her voice was eerily calm.

"He still can get hurt, bleed and killed. Just because he has a high ability to heal himself, it doesn't mean he has an undying body. Don't take lightly about his safety and wellbeing," Lilac said.

Her voice **was** steady and clear, this made Darren lowered his head. Without even Lilac knowing it, she used her luna's voice and this really sook Darren. He felt like he was facing the alpha instead.

After that, Lilac decided to walk for a while, until she felt tired, so she wouldn't have a hard time to sleep later. Having some alone time like this was very nice too. No. She **was** not really alone, her baby was with her all the time.

However, Lilac met with Raya instead when she enjoyed the sight of the flower garden.

"What are you doing here?" Both of them laughed when they saw each other and said the same thing.

In the end, they had a small talk, discussing about trivial matter, but suddenly Raya asked Lilac to come with her.

"Where?" Lilac stood up and followed her.

"Somewhere. This is a secret place?

Lilac blinked her eyes. She liked secret place, her and Hunter also had their own secret place. Thus, without asking anything, Lilac followed her, she had no suspicion at all.

However, the more they walked, the more Lilac was familiar with this place, because Raya actually took her to the waterfall, where she met Hunter for the first time, the place that held so much memories for them.

"There is a cave behind the waterfall, you know!" Raya said enthusiastically.

"Yes, I know," Lilac chuckled, she was amused to see Raya's surprised expression. "Hunter showed me," she said mirthfully. This warmed her heart to come to this place again.

"Oh..." Raya looked a little bit disappointed, but then she smiled cheerfully again, telling Lilac to wait there and she would bring food and drink for them. "It will be like a camping!"

Lilac wanted to stop her, but she already left, but not long after, she sensed someone in the dark.

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Never in million years that Lilac would have thought that she would encounter him here. More so, how could he be here? There was no way it was possible, right? Or maybe her eyes just played with her?

However, there he was, talking with her as if that was the most common thing to do.

"Lilac, I missed you. I missed you so bad," Aiden said. He stared at Lilac with longing in his eyes. "You have never given me a chance to tell you how much I regretted what I

have done to you, what I have done to us. You never gave me that chance. I know you are hurt. I know how much I hurt you. But, we meant to be together. We are

destined mate for a reason."

Lilac looked around, she wished she could catch anyone. Raya said she would be back in a minute, but where

she was right now?

Why she was not back yet?

Lilac tried to remember all of her training, but she couldn't recall anything due to her anxiety. There was something off about Aiden that she couldn't point it out. He looked crazy. His gaze filled with insanity. The way he looked at her was something that could give you chill down your spine. S~Earch the (Find)NOvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She wanted to leave this place, but Aiden had grabbed her elbow and made her stayed. His touch was very repulsive and when his scent hit her senses, Lilac felt like she wanted to vomit.

"Stay away from me or else Hunter will hunt you down," Lilac said, she was thankful that her voice was not trembling though it was lack of intimidation.

"He can do as he please if he were here, but the problem is, he is miles away to hunt me down." Aiden sighed deeply. "You used to look at me with love in your eyes, what changed?"

"You are insane, Aiden! You have your own family! You have your own child!"

With the mention of child, Aiden looked down to her stomach and stated. "You are pregnant. I heard the news that you are pregnant."

Suddenly, his voice turned very cold and this scared Lilac, because she was afraid this man would hurt her baby and herself.

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Lilac was pregnant and she was past the month, where it was safe for her to shift into her beast, thus she couldn't escape this situation, aside from screaming for help. She tried to protect her stomach.

Thankfully, the warriors that were assigned for her were nearby, thus they could come in time.

Gavin immediately shifted into his beast and chased after Aiden, while the other warriors helped Lilac to stand. up and take her back to her bedroom.

Raya was freaked out when she saw Lilac's condition. She looked so pale.

"What happened? What happened to her?!" Raya asked in panic, as she helped the warrior to get Lilac to the

bedroom and tuck her in. "I will call the healer!"

Lilac felt mostly shocked, but after that, she was fine. She was worried about her baby and she was afraid something bad might happen to her child.

However, after Raya returned with the healer, Abigai, and she reassured her that she was fine, only then Lilac –

could relax a bit.

"I will make a concoction for you, you need to drink that and take a rest."

But, Darren came into the room to check on Lilac. He rushed here the moment he learned what happened.

"Luna," Darren said, but Raya had stopped him from entering further into the room. "What happened?" he hissed. "I heard Aiden was here?"

Unfortunately, Gavin didn't manage to get Aiden. That man managed to escape and now the luna was in this

condition.

e beta had written a letter to the alpha and strengthened the protection around the pack. He couldn't believe Aiden could enter their territory without anyone noticing him.

But then, to think Kellan had betrayed them and collaborated with the lycan to destroy this pack and even attack the alpha and the luna in the past, Kellan must have told them a few secret tunnels that connected this pack to outside.

Darren had ordered the warriors to close the secret tunnel and stand guard there, until further notice. This

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matter had to be discussed with the alpha.

"I will tell you," Raya said. "Come, let's talk outside. The luna needs to take a rest." Raya took the beta out of the room and explained everything to him. "I don't know that there would be an attack when I left her alone, or else, I would never have done that." Raya looked remorseful.

"Don't blame yourself, no one would have predicted that Aiden would enter our ground." Jace patted Raya's shoulder. "But, why did you tell Gavin to step away from the luna?"

Darren had questioned Gavin earlier about why he didn't come right away to Lilac rescue before thing escalated to this point, but he told him Raya ordered him to stay away from Lilac for a while.

"We went to the waterfall and I thought, we wanted some private time. Probably dipped in for an hour or two, Raya replied. "That's why I told them to step back for a while, it's not appropriate if they were nearby."

"This is already night."

"Yes, but the weather is rather hot."

Darren nodded. He didn't pursue further about this matter and then left after giving Raya a few instructions and told her not to let Lilac's guard to step away again.

"I know, I am sorry. That's my mistake." Raya lowered her head, she looked very remorseful.

"I am going to leave, take care of the luna."

Raya nodded again and with that, she stayed with Abigail by Lilac's side, until morning came and the alpha

walked into the room.

Both of them were surprised to see the alpha was actually here.

They were about to greet him, but Hunter gestured to them to be quiet and leave the room. Abigail and Raya immediately left, leaving the two of them alone.

Hunter then approached Lilac and kissed her forehead. He didn't want to wake her up, but he needed to touch

her, to make sure she was only sleeping.

He had asked Darren about what happened and the beta had explained everything to him, in which made Hunter's blood boiled with anger. He wanted to skin Aiden alive, if it was really a possibility.

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The alpha waited for his luna to wake up for sometime and only after **two hours of** waiting, Lilac finally opened her eyes. She looked exhausted and a little bit pale, but her beautiful eyes widened when she saw Hunter was there.

"Hunter, is that you?" Lilac still didn't believe with what she was seeing. She blinked her eyes a few time and then pushed herself from the bed to take a closer look at Hunter.

"It's me, Lilac," Hunter said with a smile on his face. He helped her to sit down and caressed her face. She looked lovable. "I am sorry I put you in danger again."

Lilac shook her head. She knew what Hunter was trying to say. There was no way the blame was on him when it was Aiden, who had hurt her. "That's not your fault, Hunter. Don't blame yourself." Lilac hugged him. "Our baby is fine too."

At this point, call him cruel, but Hunter cared more about his mate than the baby that he didn't even meet yet. He only wanted to hug his mate closely and wouldn't let go.

However, he needed to leave right away, because his business had not yet been done in the Golden Claw pack. There were a lot of things to be taken care of.

"How can you be here?" Lilac finally asked, they were having their meal now when Raya delivered the food to

their bedroom.

"I received the letter from Darren and I rushed back here."

Lilac narrowed her eyes. "Don't tell me that you rush back alone?"

"They are not so fast. They will slow me down."

In another word, he spent the whole night to rush back to the lycan pack, because he didn't want to receive

another letter. He wanted to see Lilac in his own eyes, to make sure that she was fine and there was nothing major happened to her.

"That's dangerous."

"That's not."

In the end, Hunter told her everything that happened in the Golden Claw pack and how they managed *to* find the lycan pack within the Cralys mountain and they were going to attack them once their preparation was done.

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"We found the lead to their pack and I need to return now." Hunter tucked away her hair and kissed her lips.

Lilac was not thrilled to hear that. She thought, he would return for good, but because he was already here, probably she could coax him to change his mind.

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"What is it?" Hunter asked with his brows furrowed when he saw Lilac pushed away her meal and sat on his lap, her stomach started showing and she gained a little bit weigh, which made her looked even more adorable.

Hunter put his hand around her waist to steady herself and looked at her eyes.

"I want to go with you. I will not let you leave if you didn't take me with you," Lilac said stubbornly. "See? Even in your pack I am still in danger."

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It took a lot of persuasion and seduction from Lilac before Hunter finally relented and let **her** come with him to the Golden Claw pack. This woman really **knew** how to **get** what she wanted.

More so, the **reason** why Hunter left her **in** the **pack** was because the alpha **was** worried, since she **had to** take a long journey **to** her former pack in **her** current condition, but more importantly was because Hunter knew that Lilac didn't like to be in the Golden Light pack.

However, after this incident, Hunter really reconsidered his decision, because he was not going to feel good to **leave** Lilac alone, knowing there was a high chance Aiden would come again, since he had learned about the **secret** tunnels of the **pack**.

Who knew, what **else** information that he had in his hand right now, **because** it **was** not like that man would give up just like that.

"Happy?" Hunter asked Lilac, who was beaming. Currently, they were inside a carriage that would take them **back** to the Golden Claw pack. Because Lilac came along, Hunter had to bring a dozen of warriors with him, just in case.

Raya also came with them, so she could accompany Lilac.

This was perfect!

"Very!" Lilac **was** cheerful. She didn't care if she had to meet with luna Jasmine, Ruby **or** even Aria, because she would stay with Hunter and that was all that matter.

"Come here," Hunter said, he opened his arms and Lilac snuggled against his chest. She breathed in his scent and was very peaceful.

It didn't take long before she fell asleep and they reached Golden Claw pack early in the morning. Because they had to take carriage, Hunter was late for the meeting, but the alpha didn't seem to care about it at all.

He explained to them what happened in his pack and why **he** was late.

"I am glad that Lilac is fine," alpha James said, he was genuine when he said that, because he knew that girl and for a whole full year, he **saw** her like his own daughter.

Hunter nodded and they continued with the discussion.

But, **after** the meeting, alpha Ramon approached Hunter, he asked for a secret meeting with him, **because** there was something important that he needed to tell him.

Later **at** the evening, they met at the same spot, where they found alpha James and Ruby together.

"What do you want to **talk** about?" Hunter asked straight to the point.

"Luna Jasmine came to me and ask for my help."

"She asked to save her son?"

"How do you know that?" Alpha Ramon raised his brows.

"Isn't that very obvious?"

Alpha Ramon then explained that luna **Jasmine was** willing **to give** up the **treasure** of the pack to him, **if he was** willing to help out during **attack**.

"What did you say?

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"I told her to give me three **days to** think about it, **so I** can give her a clear **answer**, **because** her **request is** not something **easy**." SEAR*ch the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Alpha Ramon had to discuss this **matter** with Hunter first and heard what his opinion and plan about this.

The result of the **meeting**, they planned to attack the Cralys mountain the day after tomorrow. They advanced their plan because Aiden was spotted in Hunter's pack.

Aiden must **have** returned to the lycan and now he must have concocted some plan, thus before they could work on that, **they** needed to attack first.

"Tell luna Jasmine that you will agree with her request, thus she needs to bring the key to this pack treasure with her right away."

Luna Jasmine should know the significant of this key, because without your wealth, how could you run your pack? **This** would be **a** great blow for Golden Claw pack for losing their treasure.

But, because luna Jasmine knew it worth, that was why she was ready to bet on it. Her request was very simple. If the **attack** happened and they managed to get a hold of Aiden, she wanted alpha Ramon hid him somewhere safe. With that, no one would be able to harm him. He couldn't return to his own pack because of the trial that was waiting for him, but at the very least, he could seek for refugee somewhere, until Luna Jasmine found a way for him to come back.

"A mother's love is scary, don't you think?" Alpha Ramon agreed with Hunter's plan, but before he left, he wanted to talk a little bit longer with this alpha. It always fascinated him of how well Hunter thought about all of his plan.

He really pushed luna Jasmine to insanity, because he knew that woman would do anything for her son and her love would be the fall for this pack and her mate.

But, a mother, who desperate to save their child, wouldn't care about that and Hunter used luna Jasmine's strong love for Aiden.

"Yes, it's powerful." In a way, Hunter admired luna Jasmine's tenacity. She was trying her hardest even though the possibility for her to succeed with this plan was not big, but she took the risk.

After that secret meeting, Hunter returned to his quarter, where he saw Lilac and Raya were chatting, both of them were sitting under a tree. Torches had been lit up and Lilac was supposed to be in her room.

"Why are you still here?" Hunter approached Lilac, he kissed her lips and caught the sight of a little bird in her palms.

"This... the baby bird fell from its **nest**," Lilac said. She showed the bird to Hunter, while Raya **greeted** the alpha politely.

Hunter lifted his head and looked at the tree, he could **see** the nest. It **was** not that high, but Lilac couldn't shift in her current condition and Raya was afraid **of** a high place, thus she couldn't climb

"Where **is** the warrior **that** supposed to guard you?" Hunter looked around, but Lilac said sheepishly to him.

"I asked Gavin to **prepare** for some **snacks**," Lilac said, she smiled innocently at her **mate**.

"We will have dinner **less** than two hours." Hunter Reminded her, he didn't want her **to** skip **her** dinner **because** of **the** snack.

"I promised I will eat my dinner too, but right now I really hungry, I feel like I can't move. Okay, the last statement was too over, but she was really hungry.

In the **end**, it **was** Hunter, who **had** to climb the **tree** and put back the baby **on its nest**. After that, **Lilac** got **her** snack and the two of **them had their** dinner in **their** bedroom.

Raya **excused** herself, **she** knew **that** she was not **supposed** to be there. She got the **cue** and left.

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"Why don't **you** eat in the dining **hall like** the other?" Lilac asked curiously because based on what she learned, **the** alphas **were** having dinner **together**.

"I love to eat with you."

"You can ask me to come too."

"You are not comfortable to eat with them."

Hunter **was** completely right about that, because Lilac felt awkward and out of place, if she had to sit with them.

"I love **to** spend time alone with you." Hunter kissed her ruddy cheek. She put on some weight, but it only made her looked very adorable. He really wanted to devour her. She was his dessert, but after ate their dinner, Lilac fell asleep **rather** fast.

Late **at** night, Hunter **was** woken up because Lilac snuggled against him, he hugged his mate, but when he thought that was it, he could feel her hand under his shirt and traced down to his member.

Lilac..." Hunter was alerted, but he got a kiss on the lips from her. She looked sleepy, but it was clear to see that she **was** horny, her scent became sweeter and she was so hot, as if her body was burning. "I can't believe it..."

Hunter knew what it was. Lilac was going through her heat.

It was rare for a shifter to go through their heat during pregnancy, but it didn't mean it never happened, since a heat would come to hit you in random time.

"Heaven, Lilac..." Hunter groaned when Lilac started to nip on his neck and it made his body thrummed with desire for her. He wanted to have her in every way he could, but he needed to control his lust, just in case, he hurt her.

The alpha had never been very grateful that he took her with him, or else, it would be a disaster to leave her alone during her heat.

"I want you, Hunter... I want you," Lilac whimpered and this drove Hunter crazy. He flipped her body and let her laid down on her back, as he hovered above her.

"Slow down, okay..." Hunter said in deep and dark voice, he held down both of her hands above her head, but she started to grind her body **against** him, which made Hunter groaned. "You make me **crazy**, love."

Lilac whimpered again, because Hunter didn't give her what she wanted. She kept staring at him, pleading with her eyes and Hunter gave her a **kiss**.

Her lips **tasted** very sweet and when his hand traced down her body, **she** moaned, the sound of her voice was heavenly, which made Hunter wanted to hear more. He lifted her dress and caressed her inner thigh, he could imagine how wet she **was** right now.

"My love..." Hunter mumbled against her lips, when he ripped her undergarment.

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The night was long as they threw themselves on the throes of desire and lust. The heat lasted until the night ended and when the sun finally appeared on the horizon, Lilac was spent. She curled herself in a ball against his chest, sleeping like a baby, satisfied.

Meanwhile, Hunter couldn't think straight. It was insane for him to do that with her in her current condition.

He was worried that he might hurt her or the baby, but when he saw her sleeping face and how contented she **was**, he could breathe a sigh of relief, because she was surely fine, if she could smile on her sleep.

"You scared me, love," Hunter kissed the top of her head and hugged her tightly. Their body were sweaty and it was a little bit slippery, but the alpha wanted to devour this moment with her for a little bit longer.

He had an important meeting this morning, but he didn't have enough sleep last night, still, he didn't complain. He would love to have this sleepless night over and over again, but probably, he had to be careful with the intensity so they wouldn't hurt their baby.

Hunter kissed Lilac again and squeezed her body gently. She let out this adorable sigh, but still sleeping.

In the end, after the sun was up and the sky turned so bright, Hunter let go of his mate's body and got up, he went to the bathroom to clean himself and then wrung wet towel to clean Lilac's body up.

Their clothes were on the floor and Lilac was mostly naked, thus it was easy for Hunter to clean her up, but even when his need was fulfilled already, it was still hard to see her in such vulnerable state, she was very tempting.

"You will be the death of me, love," Hunter said with a little smile on the corner of his lips, as he wiped her body gently.

After he took care of his mate and put a comfortable dress for her, he went outside to have the last meeting before the attack.

The meeting lasted until afternoon and around that time, Lilac woke up because Raya shook her body.

"Lilac, you need to eat something, you have skipped your breakfast, you can't skip your lunch too," Raya said in coaxing voice, she kept shaking her body gently, until she opened her eyes. "Lilac, wake up."

Raya scrunched her nose because this room was completely reek with the smell of their lovemaking and the

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evidence was very obvious.

"Lilac! Wake up!" Raya raised her voice, which made herself startled. She immediately took a step back.

But, because of that too, Lilac finally opened her eyes, she looked around her groggily. "Did you just... yell at me?" She looked unsure, seemingly she was still not really conscious enough to tell whether she was dreaming or not about the yelling.

"I didn't," Raya said. She schooled her face and approached Lilac again. She sat down on the edge of the bed and looked at her closely. "You look slightly pale. Are you alright? Should I call a healer?"

Lilac frowned and waved her hand. "No need, I am just tired."

Lilac didn't see it, but Raya balled her fists under—her sleeves, as she smiled sweetly **at her** and reminded her that she had skipped her breakfast.

"I brought lamb meat for you, come here. Try this, but before that, you need to wash your face first." Raya pointed her finger at the meal that she had brought with her.

Lilac narrowed her eyes, she was slightly dizzy, but probably because she was too hungry. With the reminder of Raya, her stomach started growling. Both of them could hear that.

"See? You will let your baby hungry if I didn't wake you up," Raya said, she smiled softly at her and then patted her shoulder. "Go and clean your face first before you ate."ALTË

Lilac yawned and then got off the bed. Her head was still dizzy and she was very sleepy, her body was sore, but she was mostly feeling satisfied. The heat that happened to her last night was rather brutal, she was worried it was too much for her baby, probably she needed to see a healer?

Lilac would ask a healer to check on her later. She felt great, but it didn't she would take the risk, if it came about her baby.

After that, Lilac ate her lunch, Raya ate with her too and both of them had a mundane talk about trivial things that happened around them.

"What else do you want?" Ruby asked luna Jasmine when she came to visit her, **as** she breastfed her baby.

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"Don't give me an attitude," luna Jasmine growled at her.

Over these few weeks when luna Jasmine was not really active and succumbed into her misery because her son was in predicament from being hunted down by his own father and her mate betrayed her, yet she couldn't find the woman that alpha Tony was having an affair with, Ruby started to build her influence within the pack.

She gathered people that she could trust, people who had the same sentiment like her, who didn't like luna Jasmine, some of them even hated her, just like Aria.

This pitiful woman had been used twice by luna Jasmine, she even bore the punishment for her and even though she was Lilac's best friend before, but after the second betrayal, Aria knew there was no chance for her to reconcile with Lilac anymore.

Ruby also knew about that and she got her to her side.

Right now, Ruby would use to be seen with her and helped her with Azel or anything that she needed, which irked luna Jasmine, because she saw this as a betrayal, since Aria used to be a close friend of Lilac.

"What are you going to talk with me?" Ruby asked straight to the point.

Luna Jasmine glared at her, but then shifted her hatred toward Aria. "Leave," she said through her gritted teeth.

Aria might be loyal to Ruby now, but she was still scared of luna Jasmine, the aura the she carried was something else, you wouldn't be able to ignore that.

"Yes, yes, luna..." Aria immediately went away from there. She didn't want to get into trouble again, she didn't think Ruby could handle luna Jasmine just yet.

"What do you want to talk about?" Ruby was not happy because Aria left just like that, she left with tail between her legs. What a useless thing....

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"Now you dare to talk to me like this," luna Jasmine said sharply. She looked a few years older now. She was no longer care much about her appearance. She looked a little bit skinny and her complexion was not really good. Grey hair started to appear and she became so bitter.

"Just tell me what else do you want? I have let you met with alpha Ramon. I have nothing to do with you. anymore," Ruby said snarkily. She wanted her to leave this room. The sight of her was suffocating.

"I want you to find out who is the person, who has an affair with James," luna Jasmine said, emphasizing every

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word she said. "I want you to find out, who is that b*tch."

Ruby raised her brows, she didn't expect this request. "I thought you have asked around about this, but if you couldn't find out, what about me? I don't have enough resources like you have."

The way Ruby acted was very natural, as if she was really didn't remember anything.

"What do you want me to do now?"

Luna Jasmine growled dangerously to hear that "I want you to find her out! I don't care what you are going to

do!"

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Ruby stared at her, she felt this pity and guilt at the same time, but it **was** not much to the point, she would be willing to admit the affair.

"Okay, let's see what I can do for you," Ruby said nonchalantly, as she put down Azel on his crib. He was sleeping. She was happy enough that luna Jasmine was too busy to interfere with her time with Azel, because at the

beginning, she wouldn't let go of her baby even when she her to.

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Good," Luna Jasmine grumbled. She glanced at Azel briefly before she walked away.

She didn't have any interest on the baby, whose blood was stained by this woman, more so, this baby could threaten her son's position, because James had mentioned about the heir, the baby could be the heir for the pack, skipped Aiden entirely.

It would be good if the baby was gone, so James could focus on saving their son, instead of hunting him down.

That was what luna Jasmine was thinking about Azel now.

At the same time, Aria went to the kitchen because she didn't want to be near luna Jasmine. That woman had been in a really awful mood. She didn't want to be the target of her anger anymore.

Thus, she went as far away, to the kitchen, where she could have a few things to eat.

However, Aria saw a familiar woman, she knew this woman was always with Lilac. She was a friend that she brought from the lycan pack.

The mention of 'friend' made Aria angry, because she was supposed to be Lilac's friend.

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At that moment, Aria saw it...

Raya looked suspicious, she put something into the meal on the tray.

"What is that?" Aria mumbled to herself.

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RYKER'S PO.V

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I hadn't brought up Camilla's confession in a week. I wasn't sure if it was cowardice on my part or if it was because I didn't want to jeopardize what little civility we had formed with each other. She acted like nothing happened and somewhere in the back of my mind, I decided that it was the right way to go so I said nothing

about it either.

Despite my silence, I didn't forget that she had agreed to the date and already started working on something. I wasn't sure if her general likes and disliked had changed but I hoped they hadn't because her newfound 'family' was of no help at all. There was something off about them- especially the daughter- and I wasn't sure if it was because she didn't like me or if there was something else at play that I didn't quite know of.

A knock on my door snapped me out of my thoughts and I looked up just in time to see Christine make her way. in. "A letter came from your sister and Damien. They want to come visit."

"They can't right now," I cut her off and she rolled her eyes at me before continuing.

"If you had let me finish, you would have heard where I said that I told them now would not be a good time. They still don't know that anything happened so I made up an excuse about the workload being too much and promised to let them know when they can visit."

I wasn't sure why I ever doubted Christine, she was one of the most efficient people I knew. When Camilla went missing, she didn't hesitate to pick up most of the slack and even now, with Camilla present, she still did a lot of work because she felt it was better

to slowly integrate Camilla back into the work space instead of dumping everything on her at once.

"Have you seen Camilla?" I asked and she shook her head.

"You're the one that sleeps in the same room with her, why are you asking me?" she crossed her arms over her chest. "You can check with Marie or Peggy. If she isn't in her office then she will be there. Why are you asking?"

"Can you help me get her in an hour?" she raised a brow in amusement. "I have something planned for the both of us. She doesn't know what it is about, so don't tell her. I just need her."

She opened her mouth to speak but decided against it and made her way over to my desk. She took the seat opposite me and looked me square in the eye as she crossed her arms over her chest. Christine had a naturally

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terrifying gaze about her. I wasn't sure where she got it from or how it came to be but it came so easily to her. It was the kind of look that could make a grown man cry for his mother.

"Are you sure about this?" she asked and I cocked my head in confusion. "All of this that you are doing to win he over, are you sure? I love my cousin and my loyalties will always be to her. I want her to be happy with you but most importantly, I want her to be happy. Camilla runs, it is what she does best."

"For someone who loves her, you have such little faith in her. Camilla used to run, she doesn't anymore. If she did, she wouldn't have even agreed to stay. She is different now."

"She is still Camilla," she cut me off. "I don't want you to chase her away because you want her back. I would much rather have her here as someone who hates us than not have her as all."

I pursed my lips suddenly feeling bored of the entire conversation. I didn't expect everyone to understand my reasons for doing the things I did, but I at least expected from support from Christine. Camilla had changed and it seemed like I was the only one who could see that. She wasn't going to run, she wasn't going to hide.

"She will get her memories back."

"And if she doesn't?" she asked. "What happens when she is unable to ever glean them back? Will all of this stop then? Will you stop trying to fight for her? If all of this is about her memories then this might be a good time to stop."

"If she never regains her memories then we will make new ones. I am making new ones and if you were just able to get rid of your fears for five seconds, Christine, you would want to make new ones too."

She clicked her tongue before standing to her feet and I knew I had hit a nerve. She turned on her heels without another word and headed straight for the door. I didn't expect her to say anything but at the last moment, she turned to look **at** me.

"I might be scared and I might be the one that's running, I can admit that, but you also need to admit that you are scared shitless too and that is why you are doing this. You can see exactly what I can and that is that Camilla isn't ours anymore. She hasn't been since the moment I found her."

She slammed the door shut behind her as soon as she was done speaking and I cursed as I ran my hands through my hair. Her words were like a **plague**, like a slow acting poison that threatened to carve me from my insides out. I didn't want to give them much leverage but they had latched onto my insides and threatened to wreck everything I had struggled hard to build.

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It was difficult to concentrate, difficult to think, Christine's words floated around in my mind unhindered and I couldn't take it for more than half an hour before I pushed to my feet and decided to take a walk in the palace gardens. I needed the fresh air and I was alone, or so I thought until I heard someone murmuring curses under their breath so quickly they would have made a sailor proud.

I followed the sound despite my initial need for solace and found Marie there struggling and failing to grab an apple from the top of the tree. Expletives were leaving her mouth faster than I would have ever thought possible and she was so fixated on her task that she didn't realize I had walked over to her until I reached up and grabbed

that fruit she had been struggling with.

She stilled and as if in slow motion, she turned to face me. Her cheeks heated and she couldn't look me in the

eye as I handed it over to her. "Thank you."

"You are more than welcome. How long had you been at it?"

"Long enough for it to become embarrassing. If I had any self respect or dignity I would have let it go but I would rather die than let a stupid fruit get the better of me. It is a f*cking apple for goddess sake."

"You have a rather colorful vocabulary," I mused and her cheeks heated once more. "Do you always speak like this?"

"No," she said too quickly before clearing her throat. "I really apologize. I should never have-"

I held up a hand to stop her. "I have no interest in crucifying you for your language. I only came here because I could hear you from the other side. If there is nothing else that requires my assistance then I can-"

"Wait!" she yelled out halting me in my tracks. "It is about Camilla. I just wanted to ask a question. I hope I am not over stepping any boundaries." S~EARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She looked sheepish which was a stark contrast from the woman who was swearing the place down. I wasn't "sure if it was worry or something else that was in her eyes but simply because I had heard Camilla's name, I

found myself waiting. She took a few breaths to calm herself before finally speaking.

"She is never coming back, is she?" he asked and I stilled. As much **as** I wanted to say no, it was not my place to

do so.

I would much prefer for her to never go back but the truth was that Camilla was her own person and I couldn't control her any more than I could control another. I could implore her to stay and I could find her if she ever ran away but that wouldn't get me her loyalty and that would not be able to get me her love which was ultimately

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what I wanted.

"I think you should discuss that with Camilla. Her staying or leaving remains her choice."

"Just drop the political stance for one day, your majesty."

"You can call me Ryker," I told her and she stilled "Camilla's friends are my friends and she sees you as family. That makes us family by extension."

"Ryker," my name sounded strange on her tongue. "The thing is, she cannot just walk away from this. This is an entire kingdom, they will come for her if she tries to leave and our village will be the first place they check. She has a duty here."

"Perhaps, but it still remains her choice."

"She will not leave. I know her well enough to make that assumption," she chuckled under her breath. "I guess that means we have no business here anymore. If it is alright with you, my mother and I would like to return to our village."

I thought about it for a second and I understood her desire to leave but I couldn't have that yet. "If it pleases you, would you mind staying a little while? Camilla doesn't understand the palace yet. She still feels like a stranger. It might make her feel better if she has people she knows around. We can make a home for you here if you so desire but if you do not, we will just keep you a while and send you on your way."

She smiled softly. "I can see why she loved you and if you keep this up, she will again." She bowed low. "Thank

you, Ryker. The weather does look pretty out here. I am sure Camilla would love to see it. I should tell her about

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CAMILLA'S PO.V

The moment Marie started trying to get me out into the garden, I knew there was something else going on which was part of the reason why I wasn't surprised to see Ryker there. We hadn't spoken since I somewhat agreed to the dates and I expected some kind of heads up before he planned anything but it seemed I was wrong because he stood there completely stoic in front of a fruit tree. His back was to me but I knew he was aware of my presence. It was obvious in the way he was unnaturally still.

"What are you looking at?" I decided to break the silence and he turned to me. "Let's not beat about the bush with each other, please. I would very much prefer if we were just honest. Did you ask Marie to get me?"

"No," I could tell he wasn't lying but he also wasn't telling me the truth. I crossed my arms over my chest and he sighed. "I helped her with something and we had a conversation. She decided to come get you, I didn't ask her to. If anything, I had asked Christine to get you in a few minutes time."

"The date," I deduced and he nodded.

I wasn't sure how I felt about it. Some part of me wanted to stay, wanted to experience it and see what was going to happen. I wanted to be brave, I wanted to take risks but at the same time, I was also scared. No one ever realized how scary it was to not know who they are. It was the one thing that drove us and sure, I knew I was using it as a crutch but I needed something to latch onto and I didn't have that.

"If you don't want to," he began but I shook my head.

"I'm fine, I'm just trying to mentally prepare myself."

"We can reschedule it for another day. We don't have to do anything.

"Audrey is in school, Aurora is asleep and everyone is busy. I think this is the best time that we will get to ourselves," I joked and the fact that he didn't disagree with me led me to know that I was right. "It is a harmless. date, I can handle it. Lead the way."

I saw relief settle on his shoulders and for the first time, it hit me that Ryker was also having a hard time. I never stopped to think about just how difficult this could be for him. He had his mate but couldn't completely have her. I wasn't the only one suffering as a result of my lost memories- we all were. Us, the children and everyone else involved who had to deal with the fallout. It was terrifying and to me, it resembled the blind leading each other.

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Ryker didn't say a single word as he led me into the woods. I would have thought that there would be some form of fear at being alone in the woods but the truth was that I had never felt as protected. There was something about Ryker, something that led me to know that under no circumstances would he allow any kind of harm to come to me. He wasn't doing anything extraordinary, he was just holding my hand as he led me deeper but I had. never felt so safe in my life.

"Are you okay back there?" he asked snapping me out of my thoughts and I turned to him. "You have been deathly quiet. Is something wrong?"

"No," I said almost too quickly. "I was just thinking about something but you don't have to worry about it. Where are you taking me?"

I knew he noticed the change of subject but to his credit, he didn't push or delve on the past topic, he embraced the change. "Why tell you when I could just show you?"

"You do realize that you are leading me into the woods and it would be completely normal for me to assume that you wanted to kill me."

He stopped, turned to me and burst out laughing. "Did we trade your memories for a sense of humor?"

"It would seem so."

"I don't know about you but I think it's a fair trade," he winked and I couldn't help but roll my eyes playfully.

"Just tell me where we are going already."

"if you were not so impatient, you would realize that we were already here."

Ryker pulled back some leaves and I was struck with one of the most beautiful sights in the world. There was a small waterfall that emptied itself into a clear stream. There were flowers littered all over the place and a picnic "table had been erected. There was something awfully familiar about it but I could not place my finger on it. I

turned to Ryker only to find him already staring at me with a mixture of anticipation and worry...

"Do you like it?" he **asked** and I nodded.

"It's beautiful, although I feel a sense of déjà vu coming on. Have I been here before?"

"We had a thing here once with the family. My sister was here along with Damien. It was a while ago, I hoped it would spark some memories."

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I gave him a sad smile. "Nothing, unfortunately, I just know it seems similar. I know that isn't what you want to

hear but-"

"That is more than enough," he cut me off before leading me over to the picnic table. "I don't know if it is your powers but you have always loved places like this. You loved the plants, you loved the water, there was always just something, you know? I never really put two and two together."

"What about you?" I asked and he turned to me. "Do you like places like this or did you only tolerate them because of me?"

"I never minded anything if I am being honest. Seeing you happy has always been worth it so the answer would be yes, I liked them, but it was mainly because you liked them."

"That is such a non answer," I mumbled trying and failing to hide my smile.

Ryker was a good man, that much was certain. He was gentle and kind and he was the kind of man that anyone would kill to have. Every few seconds, I would glance at him out of the corner of my eyes, he was handsome, only a fool would have been unable to see that and I was no fool. He was seated so close to me that I could smell his scent and it bordered on overwhelming.

"How about a swim?" I asked after a minute of trying and failing to ignore his scent that was all over my space. didn't wait for him to respond before I got to my feet and made my way to the edge of the water. "Do you think we can swim inside of it?"

I knew I was acting weird but I also knew that if I didn't get away from that scent, I was going to end up doing something absolutely stupid. I wasn't sure if he knew why I rose abruptly but he didn't protest as he came to stand next to me.

"We can but there are no swim clothes, Camilla. Do you want to risk getting your entire dress wet? I know you have powers over the water but even with that, you might drown."

I scoffed. "I can swim with my undergarments," I offered and he hesitated for a second before finally nodding.

He was stiff as he helped me undo the ropes on my dress. If I were a better person, I would have asked but I was so transfixed on his hands that were moving deftly against my spine. He never touched my bare skin but just the heat from his body behind me was enough for every thought in my head to fly out.

He helped me out of my dress and corset leaving me in just my undergarments. It was scandalous at best and he turned away to give me some privacy as he took off his clothes. I didn't know what I was doing and I found

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myself asking what the hell I had started but I didn't have an answer for that.

I got into the water trying to ignore the goose bumps that showed up on my skin or the way my nipples perked up from the cold. It could easily be hidden so it wasn't much of a problem- or at least, it wasn't until Ryker made his way over to the stream in nothing but his briefs and they were perked up for another reason entirely.

"It's cold," I mumbled sounding almost stupid and he raised a brow at me. "Why don't you swim all the way over there and I can stay here and we can."

Before I could form one more word, he made his way over to me and grabbed both my arms. He pulled me flush against him and I could have sworn that in that moment, I felt nothing—nothing but him, the feel of his skin against mine, his warm breath and in that moment, in the swirling cold water, I felt like I was on fire.

"Camilla," he began and I bit down on my bottore lip.

"Please don't say my name like that," I whispered and he had the audacity to look confused. "You're here, and you're touching me and you're saying my name and I cannot think. I need to be able to-"

He pulled my hair back out of my face and cupped both my cheeks. "Camilla."

"Yes?"

"Shut up," he mumbled before kissing me.

I stilled for a full minute and then it felt like fireworks had exploded all around me. it felt like everything was suddenly right in the world and despite knowing that I shouldn't, despite knowing that it was incredibly stupid to do so, I kissed him back. One of his hands moved to my waist as he pulled me impossibly closer and I felt just how hard he was underneath the water. I couldn't help but wonder if he could feel everything else as well.

"You're thinking too much," he mumbled against my lips before biting down on my bottom lip and I released **a** soft moan.

Everything was perfect, for one split second it was perfect and then I felt it. I pulled away from him and ran my hands through my hair in frustration. He reached out for me but I moved out of reach.

"That shouldn't have happened," I whispered despite knowing how much it broke me to utter those words. "I'd like to go back now."

He looked confused but at last, he nodded. "Okay, we can leave now."

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