

Dr Luna Book 6

The Lycan Princess Chapter 16-20

The portal opened, and Aiden stepped into his soundproof office. He looked around the familiar room and took in a deep breath of air. Finally, he was back. He was the first to return since his parents were staying a bit longer. With him he carried nullifying scales to protect the pack against the effects of nembrant glass. He also had a mirror so that he could run a check on all the members in the pack. He needed to see if anyone there was under its influence.

The moment he opened the door from his soundproof office, he heard the sounds of laughter and yelling. He listened to the high pitched squeal of his mate and her adorable laughter. She sounded... happy. Not that he wanted her miserable, but there was a sweetness there... that he hadn't heard before. He slowly made his way to the room

and glanced in through the c***k of the door. He was careful to keep his aura diminished, but his scent would give him away eventually.

“Ike! You are not allowed to use your powers.” Jamie hissed as feathers swirled around the room. “Just look what you did—oooof” A pillow collided with his face, followed by rippling giggles.

“Fresh blood.” Diana laughed as Jamie’s eyes flickered up at her.

“The cheeky princess needs to be taught some manners.” Jamie snorted as he reached for another pillow.

“Fear not, my lady! Come to my flank, I’ll protect you.” Kurt lifted his head up nobly as he used an overexaggerated, manly tone.

“This is a free for all, no teams!” Jamie huffed as another pillow smashed into his face. The pillow exploded and with it more feathers filled the air. He turned his head to

see Lycaon's shoulders shaking. "Oh... it is on."

Aiden's eyes were glued to Diana, and he swallowed. His blood roared in his ears, inundating him with the deep primal need to claim her as his own. Every breath he took was thick with her scent, it ignited a fierce ache within him that he couldn't deny. It took all of his willpower to keep himself from lunging towards her and taking her right then and there. To say he missed her was an understatement. He obsessed over seeing her again.

He had never seen her interacting like this before. She had changed. As if she was ready to live her life. The gut-wrenching fact was she looked like she was doing better without him. He took in a deep breath as he wondered if it was because he was gone that she was doing better. He flexed his muscles and his jaw tightened. He was fine giving her the time she needed but with the idea that

she would eventually be his. If there was a problem with him, she needed to let him know so they could work it out together. In either case, she was his, and he had no intention of letting her go.

The moment he noticed Diana lift her nose in the air, he pushed the door open fully.

Lycaon looked at him, but the god already knew he was there. Aiden smiled and looked around the room. “What have you done to my pillows? And... why are there cots in here?” He quirked a brow as Jamie collided with him, wrapping his arms around his torso.

“You are back! Sorry, we’ve been sleeping with your girl.” Jamie grinned at him widely as a low growl came from Aiden’s chest.

Kurt laughed and walked over to Aiden, pulling him in for a hug. “Aiden’s back, so you are going to have to tone your joke down now. We felt there was safety in numbers.”

“Yeah, we’ve been having a slumber party... guess the party’s over.” Jamie laughed as he watched Aiden’s fixated gaze on Diana.

Aiden’s eyes left Diana’s as he reached into his pocket to pull out a mirror. He turned it around and watched as Jamie and Kurt looked into it. There was no reaction from the mirror, so they were clean.

“Diana.” Aiden said in a quiet tone as he held the mirror towards her. He watched as her eyes flickered in confusion, but she stepped up to look at herself in the mirror. Once again, there was no reaction. “Okay, good. This mirror can detect nembrant glass. Here, each of you take one of these. They are nullifying scales. They will protect you from the effects of the nembrant glass.” He handed one to each of them and watched as they took them. He then handed the mirror to Kurt. “I want you two to examine every member of the pack. If any of them make the mirror glow red, report back to me. I know it

is late, but we need this done. Take this too.” He said, as he handed him a sack. “There are enough nullifying scales for the whole pack.”

“Yes, Alpha.” Kurt said with a big grin. “It’s good to have you back. Deeders...” He paused as he searched her blank face. She looked tense and uncomfortable. “Jamie and I will still be here. We will just be moving out of Aiden’s room. If you need us...” He nodded at her, knowing she understood what he meant. He wanted to stay until he knew she was comfortable, but Aiden was her mate. It was his job to make her secure. He gripped the mirror slightly and then left the room with Jamie.

“Well... you two will have a lot to talk about,” Lycaon said as Diana turned to look at him with wide eyes.

“Are you... leaving, leaving? Are you going after Eris now?” She watched as his green eyes softened as he looked at her.

“Soon, but I’ll check in on you once more before I go to make sure everything is fine. Okay?” He stepped up to her and placed his hand upon her head. He heard the almost inaudible, low growl that came from Aiden. He turned his head and raised his brow at the young lycan. “Take good care of her... or else.” He wanted to take Diana and leave with her. He would never make her doubt their relationship. He would shower her with love and affection. He would be everything for her... everything except her fated mate. He clenched his jaw and swallowed the lump that was beginning to form in his throat. He had to leave now before he did something he would regret. Diana wasn’t his... and that was it. Without another word, he vanished, leaving Aiden and Diana alone.

Her silver eyes met with Aiden’s green ones. Green like Lycaon’s but different. His green eyes pulled her in and threatened to drown her. She wanted to run to him and to bury

herself in his scent. She wanted to tell him she wanted him and that she loved him. She had so much she wanted to talk to him about and some things that they needed to talk about. However, she didn't want to talk to him right now. All she wanted was to be wrapped in his embrace and feel his comfort, but she felt like she couldn't. Aiden needed to know everything. Please, hold me. She inwardly pleaded.

Aiden looked at her silver eyes and waited. He was waiting for her to say something, to do something, but she just stood there. What was she thinking? Was she upset that he had returned? He was going crazy without her, and it didn't look like it had bothered her. He had been dreaming of this moment and this was not how it went in his mind.

As he looked at her face, he realized her sweet eyes looked confused and vulnerable. Was there something wrong? He couldn't take it. He had to hold her. He walked up to

her, closing the gap between them. He wrapped his arms around her and pulled her against his chest.

“I missed you... Gods, I missed you.” Aiden whispered into her hair as he breathed in her delicious scent.

She felt her body instantly relax as his homey scent of a wood burning engulfed her. His warmth embraced her as she pushed her head deeper into his chest. Her grip against him tightened as her chest ached. Her composure shattered in this moment and the tears began to fall freely, soaking his shirt. She missed him so much, she needed him so much, but there was still a barrier of things between them. And there was a chance that Aiden would not accept her after hearing what she had promised.

Aiden felt the dampness against his shirt, and he looked down at her. “Diana?” he cooed softly as he tried to look at her face. She pulled him tighter and pressed her head

into him. “Dee.” He whispered as he tilted her chin up to look at him. Her silver eyes shined with water that streamed down her face continuously. He leaned in and began kissing her falling tears. His nose caressed her cheek softly as he continued to pepper her with light tiny kisses. “What are these tears for?” His soothing voice asked her.

“I’m sorry. I just missed you so much. I thought I was going to die. And—” Diana was about to tell him how she was afraid she would never feel this again. That she had made a promise that he might not like. But Aiden never gave her that chance.

His lips crashed against hers greedily as he pulled her impossibly close. His lips seared hers with his heat. It wasn’t enough to just have her lips though. He began to suck on her bottom lip and then plunged his tongue into her mouth. She found her hands reaching up around him, digging into his flesh as she tried to push them more

together. Her mind was cloudy, and she wasn't thinking. The way he was taking her lips was as if he was marking them as his. Tingles erupted as his tongue danced with hers.

She let out an involuntary moan of pleasure as she gave in to the desires taking over. He tilted her head to the side, angling it so he could taste her deeper. He growled into her mouth, and she answered him with a growl of her own. Her primal beast was awakening and demanding what was hers. Their tongues tangled as they moved together with fervor and hunger. Aiden's hands roamed over her body as she felt the hard length of him pressing against her.

Aiden wanted to feel every inch of her. He wanted to taste all of her. What started out as a desperate need to touch his mate changed into a primitive hunger to claim his mate. She responded to him greedily and dug her fingers into his flesh. The prickling pain

and pleasure had him biting her lip as he sucked on it.

Diana's heart raced as Aiden's lips continued to tease her skin. She felt like she was on fire, and she needed him. She was lost in the raw lust of it all until she felt something warm trickling over her fingers. With a jolt, she forcefully pulled away from a stunned Aiden. His eyes were dark and lustful as he panted, looking at her in confusion. She looked at her fingers and gasped in shock. She had dug her claws into Aiden... claws. She had partially shifted her hands, but without her knowledge.

Diana had not shifted into her lycan once since she had awoken. She had felt the beast, but lately it was as if it was in a fog. She looked up at Aiden's shoulders and reached up to check him.

"Dee, I'm fine." Aiden chuckled as he pulled his shirt to the side, proving his point. His

wounds were completely healed. “I enjoy this side of you... let’s not stop.”

She shook her head and took a hesitant step back. “I didn’t mean to. I didn’t even know my fingers had changed...”

“Dee, it happens. We are beasts after all.” Aiden stepped towards her as she shook her head violently.

“You don’t understand, Aiden, I can’t shift.” Diana watched as his face turned to confusion. “I tried to shift while you were away. I wanted to train and work hard. I was trying to be— I wanted you to be proud of me.”

“Diana, I—”

“Even with Ike there, I couldn’t shift.” She listened as Aiden growled.

“I don’t like the way he looks at you.” Aiden had seen the desire in Lycaon’s eyes. An undeniable force that he recognized. The

way she was looking at him now showed she had no idea what he was talking about. With a smile, he stepped into her and placed his hand on her cheek. “Don’t worry. I’m sure you’ll be able to shift with time. Your beast is there...” he turned his head to look at his torn shirt and chuckled.

“But what if I can’t shift? What if I can never shift?” She asked, and Aiden shrugged.

“Then you never shift. I’ll protect you. I’ll keep you safe if that is what you are worried about.”

“You need a strong luna. Not a burden—”

“You will never be a burden to me. You are my greatest comfort. Is this what is bothering you? Baby, you are everything I want and need.” He listened as she let out a shuddering breath.

“I hurt you. I should have control... that could be dangerous.”

“You didn’t hurt me.” Aiden’s voice was low and husky. “You excited me.” His dark eyes wandered over her body. The desire rising inside of him. “Dee—” he whispered as she shook her head.

“There is more. Aiden, I have done something, and I’ll understand if you don’t want me afterwards.”

His lips curled down as his thumb brushed over her cheek. “Do you want me... do you still want to be with me?”

“Yes, but—”

“Then it doesn’t matter. Even if... even if things had gone too far with someone... I understand you were lonely and I— I’ll still want you. I’ll forgive you.” Aiden watched as her lips parted and then her brows knitted together angrily.

“Aiden Locke! How could you say such a thing?! What type of person do you think I am? I would never give my body to someone

else. Never.” Her voice snapped in irritation at the very thought. Then the horror set in. “Is this... what happened with you?” she said in a painful whisper. Was Aiden lonely and was with someone else?

“No, I would never. I’m sorry Diana. I wasn’t accusing you. I was just trying to reassure you—I’m sorry. Dee, I need you. I would never forsake our bond.”

She wasn’t sure what was so different now, but being near Aiden was enticing her feral beast. The lycan within her was demanding her mate like never before. Was it because she was mentally ready to be his? She took a step back, away from Aiden. She couldn’t get lost in that feeling again.

“Dee.”

“Please, Aiden. I need to talk to you and I’m afraid—”

“You don’t need to be afraid—”

“I’m afraid I can’t control myself. I want you Aiden. I want to be with you. I don’t want to deny this any longer. However—” she said as she raised her hand to ward off Aiden from approaching. His eyes were dark, and the hunger was evident in his eyes. “I need to talk with you... first. It’s important for me.” She watched as he curled his fingers into balls at his side. His face was tense as he battled with himself.

A dark chuckle left his lips as his eyes flickered at her. “How do you expect me to fight this when I hear you want me? I’ve been waiting to hear this from you. I’ve been waiting... for you. What type of restraint do you think I have?” He let out a frustrated groan and wiped his hand over his face.

“I’m sorry, Aiden... I—” Diana whispered as she watched him move his hand from his face. His eyes were now a calm entrancing green, and a faint smile rested on his lips.

“Dee, you don’t have to apologize. I’ve been waiting for you for a while. What’s a little bit more? If this is important for you to talk to me about, then let’s talk. Let’s seal our bond with nothing hidden under the table.” He watched as Diana pursed her lips together and then scrunched up her face.

“Yeah... speaking with things under the table... is there anything I should know about Janna?”

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“Janna?” Aiden asked, as he quirked a brow up at Diana. “What about her?” He smiled as he stared into her silver eyes. “I went to a couple of dances with her, but I was never even her boyfriend. She is a brat. She hated that I didn’t spend all my time fawning over her. The dimwit thought she would make me jealous and started making out with another guy, knowing I would see them. I didn’t even acknowledge it. I just kept walking by. Since

then, she has been the one doing everything she can to get me to look her way. I think she thought up until I found you, she had a chance to be with me.” Aiden chuckled, but then stopped as he noticed the serious look on Diana’s face.

“She still does.” Diana said in a matter-of-fact tone. She wasn’t upset about this. It was just the truth. What she wasn’t expecting was the darkness that clouded Aiden’s eyes. His lips curled up, revealing his canines as a low growl escaped from him.

“What. Did. She. Say?” He knew that no one else was delusional to think that he wanted Janna.

“Look at you getting all protective.” She smiled at Aiden, who calmed down as he chuckled quietly. They both stared at each other and the s****l tension began to build again. Diana cleared her throat and said, “She really didn’t say anything. She said that she wanted you to get angry on her behalf.

And that she ended up causing a problem between the two of you. She wanted me to let you know it wasn't what you thought you saw. Basically, she said she saw that I wasn't marked so—" She shrugged as the murderous glare from Aiden returned.

"I'll—"

"It has already been handled, Aiden. I told her that I would eviscerate anyone who tried to take my mate from me. Kurt and Jamie also had a few words for her. Let's see if she was able to gain any clarity from it. All I wanted to know was if there was anything that I needed to be aware about, like a person like Janna. You lived your life before you found me. Just like how I was engaged to take a chosen mate before—" Aiden's growl cut her off as he curled his lips up angrily.

"That man was never worthy of becoming your mate."

“Actually...” Diana whispered and turned her head away. She stared at the fallen feathers on the floor as her lips curled down. “I was the one not worthy of being his. I doubted him. I hated him... and he had stayed loyal to me. He loved me... even after he found his fated mate. It wasn’t him that betrayed the lycans. It was his identical twin brother who took on his identity. I saw it all... the memory of everything played in my mind. Endymion showed me what really happened.”

“Diana...” Aiden whispered as she turned her head to look at him. He could see the pain in her watery silver eyes and his heart clenched at the sight. He took a step forward, wanting to comfort her.

“Shaun’s direct descendant is Sion Faust, the Alpha of the Chance pack.” Diana said as Aiden stood still, staring at her.

Aiden’s body went rigid. His mind whirled with what she was wanting to say. Shaun

Faust didn't betray Diana and now she was telling him about his direct descendant. What did this mean? Did she want Sion? The thought of another man even looking at her had rage igniting in his veins, making them bulge beneath his skin. Recrimination pounded through him like waves crashing on a shore and his heart raced faster than a wildfire on a dry summer night. Jealousy burned hot within him as he envisioned another man laying a finger on his beloved mate. He wouldn't stand for it; he was ready to fight for her.

"Just a bit ago, Endymion asked Lycaon to bring me to him." Diana whispered, looking back at the scattered feathers on the floor. Her heart raced as she thought of the consequences her rash decision could have. What would Aiden say when she told him she promised their son to another? Aiden was everything she knew in this world. His home was her home. His officers were her family. What would she do if Aiden didn't want her

after this? She also wondered if she deserved Aiden. Guilt consumed her insides for having ever doubted Shaun before. She knew she had to find faith within herself again so that she could pledge complete loyalty to Aiden or else it would never feel right.

“I met his Luna there. She is also the sheya your father has been talking about.”

Aiden relaxed on his heels and inwardly sighed. Sion already had a mate, so he wasn't after Diana. However, Diana refused to look at him. With a heavy heart, Aiden realized that Diana was so overcome by guilt that she simply couldn't look him in the eye. What was it that she was regretting right now? He was beginning to feel anxious, and he shifted his weight from each foot.

“I'm sorry. I wanted to help her and outsmart the gods. I made a rash decision without you.” Her voice came out like air.

Aiden's thoughts spun like a hurricane inside of him, desperately searching for some sort of clarity. Every possible outcome weighed on his mind until he was sure he would break under the pressure. His fingernails dug into his palm as his gaze roved over Diana's delicate features; her eyes were shuttered away from him, and her perfect face held taut with strain.

He couldn't stand it any longer. With a sudden burst of passion, Aiden reached out and took Diana's face in his hands, pulling her towards him. Their lips met in a fiery kiss that left them both breathless. Aiden poured every ounce of love he had for Diana into that kiss, trying to communicate to her that she was everything to him. For a moment, everything fell away as they were lost in their love for each other.

When they finally parted, Aiden looked into Diana's silver eyes, his own green eyes full of overwhelming emotion. "Diana, you are

my mate. Nothing will ever change that. You have my heart, my soul, and my loyalty. Whatever decision you made, I will stand by you and love you unconditionally,” he said, his voice soft and full of love. “As long as you didn’t promise yourself away, we can work through it.”

“Aiden...” She reached her hand to his that was resting on her face. He was trying to reassure her, but she already knew Aiden was going to be upset about this news. Though hope flickered that he wouldn’t turn her away, she still knew he would be upset. And rightfully so. She squeezed his hand gently as she lowered his hands from her. She stepped away from him so she could see him fully. She also wanted to give him the space he may need after she broke the news.

Reluctant but resolute, she took in a steadying breath. As a leader, she made a decision. Even though she wished she had made it with Aiden, she still felt it was the

right one. Even without the gods, this would be a strong union. With one final exhale, she drifted into the role of the Lycan Princess.

“Aiden, I made an unbreakable vow with the Luna of the Chance pack. If we have a son together and they have a daughter... they will be arranged, chosen mates. They will be a strong union and what is needed for the future. I wish we could have made this decision together, however, I do feel that it was the right one.” She watched as Aiden closed his eyes and let out a breath. She noticed how his body seemed to tense as his jaw drew rigid.

For a moment, the room was silent. Aiden turned and walked over towards the window. He felt a mixture of emotions as he tried to process what she had told him.

“If we have a son and they have a daughter... they’ll be arranged mates.” He said, his voice deadly calm. His knuckles grew white as he stared at the window. “You promised our

son away.” He turned to look at Diana with a mixture of anger and pain.

“I did.” Diana’s unwavering gaze was fixated on Aiden. She held herself upright and strong, though inwardly she was drowning.

“I won’t pretend I am not upset about this. I love you Diana, and nothing is going to change that.” His gaze softened as he looked at her. “This just caught me off guard. Arranged mates... Diana...” He muttered as he shook his head.

“I watched my sister go through this. Her whole life she was promised to the vampire prince. She suffered a lot through the engagement and often felt unwanted. She didn’t get to experience normal events since she was promised to another. She lucked out, and Derek ended up being her fated mate—” He shook his head and pursed his lips together. “There were times though... I hurt for her. I could see the pain she tried to hide. I hated the arrangement my parents made. I

swore I would never— and now that you have...” He winced and looked down.

“If... if you aren’t with me, the deal won’t stand.” Diana said in a shaky breath. The walls of her leadership faltered as she thought of losing Aiden. “There is no deal without you.” Every ounce of confidence and surety she had once held disappeared into thin air, collapsing like a house of cards in his presence. She didn’t want to walk away from him, but if letting him go would spare him pain, she wouldn’t hesitate.

Aiden’s emerald eyes trailed over his mate. Her tiny body suddenly looked tense, and he could see the fear in her eyes. There was no future for him without Diana in it. The truth is... Diana was right. He had heard about the Alpha of the Chance pack in Elysium. He was not a normal Alpha, but now a new type of beast. Levi had also mentioned that he was a minor god now. This bloodline would carry the strength needed to rule and fight in the

wars to come. In truth, Diana was a better leader than he was. She could lead with the strength of her mind and overrule her heart. While his emotions guided him too much.

“Diana—” He rushed to her, not wanting her to feel insecure for another second. His hands gripped her hips tightly as he brought their faces together. He stared into her silver eyes and the white sparkle that danced in them. He spoke with a passionate fervor that was meant to pierce through her very soul: “You didn’t make the wrong decision. It’s just one I wouldn’t have made... couldn’t have made. I need you by my side. I need you to help me lead, but above all of that, my heart chooses you. Even with you being my mate... I chose you—not because I have to, not because it’s the right thing to do—but because my heart yearns for you.”

Her body trembled as she felt the heat of his breath on her face. His burning scent invaded her senses and pulled her into him.

Each breath from him sent tingles over her body. His eyes were blazing with a fierce intensity that left her struggling to breathe. His eyes were so dark they were like wells of molten lava that threatened to consume her whole being. She could feel his desire for her even after learning what she had promised.

“You’ve been trained to be a strong leader. You make the tough choices that a true leader needs to make. We may end up disagreeing a lot, but that will never mean I don’t want you by my side. Even if we fight over a decision all day... our nights will always be passionate. That is the one place where we are not leaders. We are lovers. We won’t bring that into our bedroom. I don’t like the agreement of arranged mates, but that doesn’t affect us. WE are another matter entirely.” Aiden stared into her silver eyes that glistened with her tears.

“Aiden... I understand that the situation with your sister makes what happened more

difficult for you.” She paused as she studied his face. “What if I am only good at being a leader? I want to be a good mate too. I need to take your feelings into consideration when I make decisions. I keep thinking about how much I have hated Shaun for something he didn’t do. I didn’t believe in him and in the end, he still loved me. He felt like he was betraying me by being with his mate. I didn’t have that loyalty to him...” She watched as his emerald eyes softened. His fingers brushed over her cheek, and he tilted his head to the side.

“Trust... is built... it doesn’t happen overnight. We have been together longer than you knew Shaun. You didn’t have time to build trust with him. It was new and fresh. That stuff would have come. Our bond together will only continue to grow. It will be ironclad, unbreakable, and something you can always trust. Diana—” He brushed his nose over her cheek and tenderly kissed her skin. “Our bond isn’t fragile. You will lean on

our bond and believe in it. I want you to get to the point that you would know that, even after making an agreement that I would disapprove of, I will still be by your side. The fact that you thought I might not want us anymore because of that... well, it means we have a lot of room to grow.”

“It has caused you pain—”

“Sometimes the right decision isn’t the one with the least amount of pain. I can’t just will myself into liking the idea. It will take time to get used to it, even if I can rationalize it was a smart arrangement. I know what might play out... the potential pain this might bring upon our son. Because of that—”

“Because of the fated mate pull I am here with you. I was woken up from my slumber when I didn’t ask to be. And had you asked me then I would have rather stayed asleep or been dead. It has taken me time to get used to all of this. The world now. Not having my

family... and you. This won't be a shock to our son. From the moment we know we have a son, and they have a daughter they will meet. We will visit often, and they will be raised to be each other's mate. Unlike how things were with Lucy, they will see each other regularly. Not just visits in the summer and NEVER with a fake stand in. That was a different situation than the one we will create. Because of that, our son will not have that potential pain that you witnessed with Lucy.”

Aiden looked at Diana with a newfound respect and admiration. She had thought out everything, and he realized that he had been selfish in his own pain. Looking into her eyes, it was obvious that she had thought about their child's happiness as well. The decision she made on her own was difficult. Hearing Diana's plan for their son brought peace to his heart. It wouldn't be the same as his sister's situation. They would make sure of that. Their son wouldn't have to feel

unwanted and he would know his mate. They would grow up together. The Chance pack wasn't far away and both sides could visit often.

He leaned down and kissed her forehead before pulling her into a tight embrace.

“Thank you,” Aiden said, his voice heavy with emotion. “Thank you for thinking about our son, for wanting to protect him from the pain that Lucy went through. I'm sorry I didn't consider that before. I was so consumed with my own feelings about the situation.”

“No, you have every right—”

“No, I should have trusted you more. Like I said... we have room to grow. I'm not perfect either... do you still want me?” He said in a teasing tone. Her fingers dug into his back, and she buried her face into his chest. He felt her press her nose into him as she held him close.

Her body trembled as her beast threatened to take over. She was using Aiden's scent to calm herself, but it only seemed to provoke her feral nature more. Claiming Aiden was no longer an option but a need. "Aiden..." she whispered as she lifted her head up to him. She clenched her jaw as she forced herself to take a small step back.

He gazed into her dark stormy eyes that threatened to swallow him whole. His heart rate accelerated in response to the hunger she was showing him.

"I don't want to hurt you." She breathed out as she licked her lips.

"Then don't make me wait another minute longer... because waiting to mark you... is painful. It's agony. The force of my beast is growing stronger. I need to be closer... I need to take the restraint off of him. It's time I take what is mine." His voice was husky as his heart raced. He narrowed his gaze on her as his beast roared within him.

He stepped into her space, claiming it as his own, as a growl reverberated in his chest.

Her heart thundered in her chest as her own beast stirred in frustration. She reached her hands up as he stepped into her fingers.

“Well?” She breathed out as she stared into his darkness. “Take the restraints off.”

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Diana was prepared for the crashing desire of Aiden to slam into her, but it never happened. Gingerly, his fingertips traced over her cheek then down her neck. His lips touched her face as soft as breath upon her skin. Her body was tense as every touch left heated tingles of anticipation.

Aiden’s hands traveled down her body, as if he was worshipping every curve of hers. His touch was featherlight, yet it sent shivers down her spine. His lips followed, leaving a trail of fire wherever they touched. She gasped as his lips found the sensitive spot on

her neck, nibbling on it gently. Aiden's hands slipped under her shirt, and his fingers danced over her skin. Every touch was like a jolt of electricity, igniting her desire.

Diana's body trembled with need as he enveloped her, his hard form impossibly close. His heat seared her skin like a hot brand, and her desire for him ignited, a wildfire blazing through her veins. He staked his claim in soft kisses that lingered, until the burning ache between them threatened to consume them both. With teasing licks and nips that grew more desperate by the second, he tasted her skin and promised to take all she had to give.

Her hands roamed up and down his back as she desperately tried to pull him closer. Her desire for him burned hotter than the sun. Her body squirmed in frustration as he moved his head lower. He tasted the flesh of her stomach as he slid her shirt upwards, tossing it aside over her head.

With a low growl, Aiden lifted Diana up, wrapping her legs around his chest as he carried her towards the bed. He laid her down gently, his body hovering over hers as his arms trembled with restraint. He wouldn't ravage her without his senses. He wanted to make sure she enjoyed this experience. She was precious to him... and he wanted to show her that. His tongue flicked out over her skin as he unclasped the bra she was wearing. His eyes focused on her nipples as he lowered his head.

Her breath hitched as his lips found the swell of her breasts. His lips inhaled her nipple and a strangled moan left her mouth. The shocking heat and swirling pleasure his tongue ignited made her toes curl. His tongue flicked across her nipple like a lit fuse, igniting an inferno of pleasure that coiled through her body and made her gasp. Each stroke of his skillful tongue brought her closer to the edge and she threw back her head, panting with desire.

With a gentle kiss on her hardened bud, he lifted away from her. He discarded his own shirt hastily before he began trailing kisses on her stomach. At the same time, his hands slid her shorts and underwear off of her body. A breathless groan of delight left her mouth as his tongue caressed her soft skin. She arched against him, the sensations of his touch were maddening. She tried to control her breathing, but it was impossible as each touch sent jolts of electricity through her. Her body writhed beneath his as she became lost in the sensations he was causing. Then the slow steady strokes of his tongue and kisses continued to trail lower. With a sudden deep ache, she realized he wasn't stopping. His tongue slid lower, moving over her soft mound. And she realized that he was about to taste her. Her body stiffened with the fear of being invaded, but her body trembled with her need for it. His lips kissed her inner thigh as his green eyes met with hers.

She was so close to him that her scent was pulling him in. He nipped her inner thigh gently as her body shuddered in response.

“Aiden.” She breathed out as he waited for her. He kissed her delicate skin as he kept his eyes on her. His nose traced over her skin as it moved dangerously closer to her. The thought of him tasting her sent a foreboding thrill through her body.

He felt her legs begin to close as he drew closer to her. He brushed his lips over her and began to lick her inner thigh. He lifted her leg and put it over his shoulder and then held her gaze. He waited until she softly nodded her head for him to continue. His lips kissed her leg and then he licked down to her hot center. He nuzzled the flesh gently as her scent assaulted him. His massive body shuddered with desire as a deep rumbling growl reverberated through his chest. Finally, his tongue pressed into her and began to lap at what was his.

Her body went still as he parted her with the tip of his tongue. Then he began to lap at her center. His hot tongue raked over her flesh before plunging inside of her. She buried her hands in his hair, her nails clenched against his scalp as his tongue slid deeper into her. Electric pleasure washed over her as his tongue flicked over her, discovering sensations she never knew existed. He tangled his tongue on her nub before he lapped at her, stroking her into a frenzied boil that built pressure up inside of her.

Her body trembled in ecstasy, her muscles clenched tightly around him and her head tossed back and forth as she tried to focus on the sensations he was causing. Her hips writhed in response to the pleasure he was inflicting on her.

His tongue thrust into her over and over again, tasting the sweetness of her. She was everything he wanted and more. Her taste was an aphrodisiac that only spurred him

on. He sucked her nub between his lips and stroked her flesh with his tongue.

“Aiden...” She whimpered as the desire built up inside of her. She tugged on his hair but he didn’t relent. Was she begging him to stop or to give her the release that was coming? She arched her back as a wave of pleasure washed over her. With a guttural cry, she found her release.

With the taste of her on his lips he couldn’t help but smile. He admired her body as it shuddered from the pleasure he had given her. He glanced up and saw her flushed face as she lay before him. He loved the way she looked in the aftermath of her passion. Her cheeks were flushed, and her lips were parted. She was breathing heavily, and her hair was a tangled mess around her head. She looked like a goddess as she lay there, naked and panting. He couldn’t help but want to do it again.

He moved on top of her, his mouth finding hers in a passionate kiss.

“I’m not done with you, my Luna.” With those words, he began to remove his pants. “You are ready for me now.”

Heaving with passionate desire, she glanced down as he ripped off his pants to reveal the throbbing evidence of his need for her. She bit her bottom lip as she stared at him. His tongue had felt like it was filling her up completely, and yet what was before her was much greater than that.

He watched as she melted beneath him, and before she knew it he was back on top of her, pushing her legs apart with gentle insistence. Fear and excitement coursed through her veins as she felt him inch closer to her. He prodded his nose against her skin and then began to suck on her sensitive marking spot.

Burning tingles erupted from her neck as she felt his fangs graze against her.

“There is no turning back now... you are about to become my future queen.” He breathed out and then with a sharp motion, he pierced her skin. At the same time, he slid inside of her. He was gentle but she still cried out in pain.

Pain. Pleasure. Maddening sensations swirled through her body. She had never felt anything so intense. His fangs pulsed pleasure inside of her and her legs wrapped around his waist, holding him in place. Slowly, he began to move against her and her nails dug into his skin. Her legs clenched around him as he let out a growl. He pulled out his fangs and then licked over his fresh mark. All the while, he slowly moved against her.

His lips captured hers in a hungry kiss as his tongue tangled with hers. He growled into her lips as he felt her claws dig into his back.

A moan left her mouth as she twisted impatiently against him. She wanted more.

“Just relax and let me pleasure you.” His hot breath caressed her skin as his tantalizingly slow movements continued.

“You are mine, Diana. Mine. I’m never going to let you go...” He murmured as he continued to slide into her. He felt her clenching down around him and he groaned in pleasure. She felt so good, and his thrusts grew more tumultuous as his grip on her hips tightened. “Mine!” He growled, pushing deeper into her with an animalistic fury. She felt her muscles quiver beneath him, responding to the intensity of his touch, and she gasped at the pleasure radiating through her body. His desperate movements continued until they were both driven into a frenzied explosion of passion.

She clung to him with each thrust as he pushed further into her depths, and he could feel her quivering around him. She fought

against the building pleasure that threatened to overwhelm her and take control, but he felt too good to resist.

The pleasure built and built until it finally crashed over her in an ecstasy of delight, sending her body tumbling over the edge into an abyss of ecstasy. A low growl rumbled in his chest as he felt her muscles gripping him and her body explode around him, milking him with her release that he couldn't hold any longer. With a low roar, he found his own release spilling into her and filling her up.

He pressed his forehead against hers, his breathing ragged as his heart raced. He pulled out of her gently and pulled her into his arms.

“You are a part of me now.” He whispered to her as she rolled over to her side. He pulled her against him, his arms wrapping around her protectively. With one hand he stroked

her hair and with the other, he touched her cheek.

“I love you so much,” he murmured as he turned her head to him. Only he wasn’t met with her sweet silver eyes. Instead, golden eyes stared back at him, and a low snarl crept from her throat. With one hand she shoved him down and hopped on top of him. He watched as she bared her fangs at him as her feral eyes swept over him. “Diana.” He called to her as her lips curled up.

“Mine,” she growled as she plunged her fangs into his neck. Aiden winced from the aggressiveness of her claiming him. Her fangs pierced him hard and deep. The moment she pierced his skin a light illuminated from the new mark. As if a seal had been broken.

A burning sensation spread through his body, but the pain was a welcome feeling. He groaned in ecstasy at her claiming him. Then his eyes widened in shock as her fangs began

to suck on his blood. Was this because he had pure vampire blood inside of him? It was if she was frenzied with bloodlust as she continued to drink from him. He found his body becoming aroused as she moved over him. She sat up, her eyes capturing his as she licked the blood from her lips.

Without warning, she slid on top of him, pushing him back inside of her. She closed her eyes as she dug her claws into his shoulders. Gripping into his flesh, she began to ride him.

Strength surged through her body, and she was overpowering Aiden. Not that he wanted her to stop but if he did... he couldn't. Instead, his body reacted to the demands his queen was making on him. He was answering her primal need thrust for thrust. He was her slave as she rode him. Diana was in control.

A feral cry tore from her throat as she felt herself falling into an abyss of ecstasy. Her

muscles quivered and tightened around Aiden. She threw her head back and howled as her o****m tore through her. Her nails dug into his chest. The pain and pleasure was so intense, it brought Aiden with her. He released inside of her, filling her up and touching her very soul.

She opened her eyes as she was spent from her o****m. Her silver eyes shined through as she blinked down at Aiden. It took a moment to come out of her haze. She looked at the blood that dripped from her body and then at the red pooling over Aiden.

“Aiden!” She gasped as she realized what she had done. Her hands began to tremble as she tried to scoot off of him, but his hands captured her waist. Slowly, he pulled her down next to him.

“And here I was trying to be easy on you.” He teased as he kissed her lips.

“I—I hurt you...” She whispered as his lips crashed into hers.

“I’m not hurt. You felt so good...” He growled as his nose nuzzled her.

“I... drank your blood.” She licked her lips as she remembered the frenzied feeling. His blood ignited pure pleasure inside of her. It filled her with want and desire... it was so strong she was afraid she wouldn’t be able to stop.

“Mmm you did. I need to do the same with you now. After all, you started the unbreakable bond. Who am I to deny it?”

“Unbreakable bond?”

“Vampires don’t just mark, they can also exchange blood with their mate. It is a permanent marking. It makes it so that only your mate can ever satisfy you. You can never take another as your mate after this. You did this in a feral state, but the exchange still holds. I admit, I don’t tune in to my

vampire side since I am the lycan prince. I forget that I do have vampire blood in me.” He rolled to the side as he kissed Diana’s lips. “I don’t want another mate but you. This will seal me to you... so that there could never be another for me.”

“But Aiden—”

He didn’t wait for her to object as he bit into her neck. He drank her blood feeling the liquid lust built inside of him. As he drank from her, he felt her emotions and desires in her blood. Her blood didn’t taste like blood, but a sweet nectar meant only for him. He craved her... craved her taste. She consumed him and nothing could ever satisfy him... nothing but her. He pulled away from her, his eyes dark with want. He was ready to take her again when suddenly she sat up. Her eyes looked panicked as she reached for her neck.

“Aiden.” She breathed out as her eyes filled with worry.

“What is it?”

“We have to check on Kurt and Jamie... now!”

The Lycan Princess Chapter 19

Aiden blinked at her in confusion. After what just happened between them other men should be the last things on her mind. He arched a brow up and pursed his lips together.

“Why?” He sat up as Diana hopped out of bed and began to hurriedly shove clothes on.

“I forgot to mention something else.” She hissed hastily as she threw clothes at Aiden who put them on in confusion. “Lycaon said that once we marked each other that Jamie and Kurt would lose their wolves and become lycans.” She huffed as she watched Aiden shrug his shoulders slightly.

“They are going to become lycans?”

“They probably have already gotten their lycans now, which is why we need to go to them. We need to make sure they are okay and they’ll need you there to rank them.”

“Wait what?” He quickly finished throwing his clothes on and then walked out of the room with Diana. “What do you mean? Why? And they are already ranked, right?”

“Their wolves were ranked, not their lycans. Lycaon said it is necessary for them to be lycans now. Their wolves know about it and so do Kurt and Jamie. The problem is they are becoming lycans instantly. They might need help with their feral nature. It isn’t the same as someone having a werewolf exist in them. They are the beast now. We were born this way Aiden. But... think about how just moments earlier I was with the marking...” Her cheeks crimsoned as she tried to not think about the s****l moment but the feral part of it. “The vampire nature is something I am not used to. There is a new power

stirring inside of me that has me restless. These are only parts and pieces of something new... not something entirely new.” Sighing, she shook her head and then grabbed Aiden’s hand, running down the stairs with him.

“This way.” Aiden pulled Diana towards the northern territory the moment they left the house. He felt two new strong auras that were familiar but different. They should have finished checking over the pack before the change. At least, he hoped they did. He wasn’t sure how the change would affect them. What if there were any complications? He tried to mindlink with them, but it was like there was a block. It was as if they were purposely not allowing him to mindlink them. He let out a frustrated sigh.

“I can’t mindlink with them.”

“Wait...” Diana gripped Aiden’s hand and looked at him. “The link isn’t going through?” She pursed her lips together and hissed in air through her teeth.

“What is it?” Aiden asked, stopping and turning to face her.

“Feral lycans or lycans that are not part of a pack can be aggressive. They may need to be reminded of who their leader is. It will bring their minds to clarity. Their minds were vulnerable, and their wild nature may have taken over. You know how even werewolves have gone wild too. They almost blank out while their wolves take over completely. Be prepared... you might have to recertify your dominance over them.” Diana and Aiden began to run again. Her mind was racing as she worried about Kurt and Jamie. She needed to be able to shift, but a part of her worried about the feral nature she had. She had seen it emerge just now with Aiden, and she had no control over it. There was a chance her first shift she could temporarily lose herself.

It was like everything she knew had changed. This feral nature wasn't the one

she was born with. It had changed when Lucy gave her her lycan. Even shifting, which was always seamless, was now a struggle. Now, around Aiden, her lycan managed to come out on its own. Digging her claws into him without her realizing it. If this was happening to her, there is a good chance it took over Kurt and Jamie. If that is the case, a simple command will not work on them. Aiden will have to fight them into submission. They must recognize him as their leader and surrender themselves to him.

Their steps quickened, and soon they ventured into the northern territory where their scent became stronger. It was dark, but their lycan sight allowed them to see clearly. The land was a great expanse of cleared land which was surrounded by ancient trees. It was the kind of place that gave a werewolf a sense of peace... and also a lycan. A lot of werewolves made their first shift in this area, and Aiden felt that Kurt and Jamie

were drawn to this area. There was no one in sight, but he could smell them. He could feel their surging auras.

“Aiden.” Diana gripped Aiden’s hand as her eyes focused on two large masses at the edge of the clearing. Next to them was a familiar head of red hair. Diana felt herself relax knowing that Ike was with them.

The moon was full and high in the sky, brightly illuminating the surroundings. As they walked closer, a low threatening snarl came from one of the beasts with black shiny fur. The other was a light fawn color that had narrowed his eyes on Aiden and Diana. Aiden instinctually stepped in front of Diana as he stared at the two lycans.

“Kurt! Jamie!” He growled, but Lycaon just shook his head.

“You won’t be able to reach them like that. They have been given strong, powerful lycans. A rare bloodline of elite warriors

meant to get through the tough times ahead. They need a leader to submit them.”

Lycaon’s eyes traveled to Diana. His eyes landed on her fresh mark and he felt like he couldn’t breathe. He knew it had happened since Kurt and Jamie changed but seeing it... was something else entirely. It felt like he had lost everything all over again. “You shouldn’t be here Diana since you can’t shift.” His tone was gentle as he tore his gaze away.

“This is exactly where I am supposed to be. Besides, the lycan deity is here. I think I am safe.” She listened as he chuckled and then looked between the two angry lycans. “Are they completely feral?”

“Their human nature is lost inside of them right now. Their beasts recognize their deity at least but they have no loyalties to their royals. You must claim that...” Lycaon’s green eyes pinned to Aiden.

“I have to fight them?” Aiden’s brows knitted together as a slight frown rested on his lips.

“There are two of them... and they aren’t going to go easy on you. Can you handle it?” Lycaon asked as he quirked a brow up at him.

Aiden swerved around to face Diana, his expression taut with a tight wall of worry. He didn’t want her in harm’s way; the guttural growl behind him was only growing louder and stronger.

“Diana, get away from here! I can’t bear the thought of you being hurt.”

“I’m no sitting duck Aiden,” Diana replied sternly with conviction. “There’s no chance I’m going anywhere. Focus on what is at stake and let me take care of myself.”

“I have to fight against them—”

“You must Aiden,” she interrupted, “our beasts need direction—without someone to

guide them they will be pushed to insanity. Lead them Aiden, be their king, take control of their future.”

“Don’t worry about her and concentrate on what needs to be done.” Lycaon said suddenly next to them.

Aiden eyed him before nodding his head to Diana. His eyes lingered on her for a moment, and then he took a deep breath. Slowly, he turned back to face the two feral lycans. His heart was pounding in his chest as he took a step forward, ready to fight. He knew that Kurt and Jamie were no longer themselves, that their beasts had taken over completely. He had to remind them who was in charge, who their leader was.

The two lycans were snarling and snapping, their eyes glinting with feral rage. Aiden could feel their power, their strength, and he knew that this was not going to be an easy fight. Kurt and Jamie were now circling him, baring their teeth angrily. The lycans snarled

and lunged at him, but Aiden was quick to dodge. He knew he couldn't hold back.

Aiden could feel the power within him start to surge, his own lycan nature coming to the surface as he prepared to fight for dominance. He could feel the energy of the moon radiating around him, enhancing his own abilities and giving him strength. In a flash, his silver lycan emerged, his colossal beast taking a stand against the other beasts. He eyed the two lycans and was able to determine that Kurt was the black one and Jamie was the fawn colored one.

The three beasts snarled and growled at each other, circling each other like predators in the wild. Aiden was the first to attack, lunging at the black lycan with a ferociousness that took the other by surprise. Kurt stumbled back, but quickly regained his bearings and lunged back at Aiden, their giant bodies colliding in a fierce clash. As the two beasts continued to clash,

Diana noticed Jamie hanging back, watching the fight with narrowed eyes. She could see the intelligence in his gaze, the calculating nature of his beast as it analyzed the fight. Diana knew that he was waiting for an opportunity to strike. Her silver eyes shined as she focused on the fawn colored lycan.

Kurt lunged at Aiden but with a fierce growl, he met his attack head-on, his massive paws slammed into Kurts chest. The black furred beast stumbled backwards, but then dove back into Aiden relentlessly. The two clashed with a ferocity that echoed through the clearing, their bodies slamming together in a flurry of fur and muscle.

Diana watched as Jamie circled around Aiden and Kurt, his own eyes gleaming with a wild hunger. Kurt managed to land a solid hit against Aiden, his claws tearing into his shoulder with a fierce snarl. This was the moment that Jamie had been waiting for. He lunged for Aiden while Kurt had him

vulnerable. He wouldn't be able to react to him. Aiden was holding back against Kurt and Jamie, and this was costing him.

The scene seemed to go into slow motion, with time quickening its pace to a blinding speed. Diana had no time for thought or hesitation; her reflexes kicked in and propelled her forward towards Aiden. With one powerful leap, she pounced on the lycan with such force that it felt like a hundred of her before had all collided together at once. The fawn-colored fur was thrown in all directions as an ancient rage stirred within her blood. Her powerful white paws pinned the beast beneath her. The same white fur that she had when she shifted before... only this time there was a strange power coursing through her veins.

She didn't have a second to waste contemplating the situation. Jamie snarled at her menacingly, and she glared fiercely back, her lips stretching across her teeth in a

primal warning growl. Her voice rumbled like thunder in the darkness of the forest as she unleashed an ear-splitting roar. The ground trembled as the fawn-colored lycan extended his neck to Diana in submission.

In that moment, it was like Jamie emerged from a blackout. His eyes regained color and he looked at the white lycan on top of him in confusion. Diana stepped off of him and he took the moment to shift back to his human form.

Jamie's now human form lay on the ground, panting heavily as he tried to comprehend what had just happened. Diana towered over him, still in her lycan form, her white fur bristling with energy. He slowly raised a hand in surrender, his eyes wide with shock.

Aiden, who had been fighting Kurt, glanced to the side to see what had happened. He watched in disbelief as Diana stood over Jamie, her fierce gaze locked onto his own. He could feel the power radiating from her

with an aura of respect that her presence demanded.

The black lycan in front of Aiden pinned his ears back as he glared at him with razor sharp pupils. He curled his lips up displaying his canines as a low rumble came from his chest. Aiden's silver lycan planted one foot after another in front of him calmly as he approached the vicious lycan. Kurt was strong, but he was no match for him. He could now put all of his focus on Kurt and end it without hurting him.

His silver lycan moved with a fluid grace, dodging and weaving around Kurt's attacks. He could sense the other lycan's strength and fury, but also his confusion. The black lycan was lost in the grip of his own beast, without any sense of direction or loyalty.

Aiden took a deep breath and let out a low growl, his silver lycan form exuding authority and commanding respect. His muscles rippled under his fur as he advanced

towards Kurt, who snapped at him as he approached. With a sudden burst of energy, Aiden lunged forward, his massive jaws clamping down on Kurt's throat, pinning him to the ground. He applied enough pressure to hold him without piercing his skin. At that moment, Aiden's silver lycan let out a fierce roar, claiming his dominance over the other lycan.

As recognition formed in Kurt's eyes, Aiden stepped back. The black lycan slowly moved to his feet and then shifted back into Kurt. He glanced around for a moment but then his eyes landed on the white lycan next to Jamie.

“DEEDERS! You shifted!”

The Lycan Princess Chapter 20

“That was some crazy stuff... sorry for attacking you, Aiden.” Kurt grinned at him as he walked up to Diana's beastly form. Her ear twitched to the side as she turned her

head to look over at Aiden who had also shifted back to his human form.

“How are you both feeling? Are you doing okay with the change?” Aiden asked as he looked between Kurt and Jamie. They had lost their wolves, which were like another consciousness in their minds. Being a lycan was not like being a werewolf.

“I’m okay. My wolf told me that it was time and we got to say goodbye. It’s a bit sad, but I feel okay about it.” Kurt said and Jamie nodded his head.

“Ike! Did you see me? Hey... my lycan is bigger, do you think...?” Jamie trailed off and Lycaon belted out a loud laugh.

“That isn’t how it works, but nice try.” Lycaon grinned as he sadly thought about how much he was going to miss them. He wasn’t sure how long the hunt for Eris would take, but no matter what... his time being around them constantly was done. “I guess

you just needed Aiden around to shift. You are just as beautiful as I remember, only stronger.”

Diana. You are a magnificent looking lycan. Diana felt a shiver run up her spine as she heard Aiden’s voice reverberate through her mind. She gazed upon him with admiration as he approached her, his emerald eyes unblinking, piercing into the depths of her soul. In that moment, an indescribable energy intertwined them together as if they had known one another since the dawn of time. The bond between them was undeniable and powerful, and Diana felt alive like never before. As if a spark ignited inside of her that was now a full flame. She inhaled slowly and then shifted back to her human form. The moment that she did, Aiden took her into his arms.

“We checked everyone over and didn’t find any traces of them being controlled.” Jamie said, going back into officer mode.

“It looks like they have been naturally ranked again after submitting to us.” Diana said, looking over at Lycaon.

“Yes, the connection was still there, so nothing formally needed to be done. You guys are all set. A group of four lycans to lead the Diamond pack. It’s now time for me to hunt down Eris. The goddess Shiva will be watching from a distance. She won’t intervene with anything. She will only act if Eris shows up.”

“Will you come back after?” Diana asked, and he gave her a small sad smile.

“I’ll come back to check on you and how you are doing. I’ll pop in and out much like I did before...”

“But Ike—”

“Don’t go getting sentimental on me. I was just a temporary babysitter. Time for me to go and do deity stuff.”

“You are always welcome...” Diana whispered, feeling conflicted about him leaving.

“Yeah, anytime you want to be reminded you aren’t the best at everything, we have some video games with your name on them.” Jamie flashed him his teeth victoriously as Lycaon chuckled.

“See you later, Ike. Go hunt that b***h down and kick her a*s... deity style.” Kurt watched as Lycaon nodded his head with a soft smile on his lips.

“Take good care of her. Any tear you cause to fall, I’ll make sure to pay it back to you.” Lycaon’s serious green eyes locked onto Aiden’s. There was an unspoken acknowledgement between them at that moment. Words were not needed. Suddenly, the sky was ripped open with an icy blue streak—Shiva had arrived. “Well, Shiva is here...” Seeing Diana stand before him, Lycaon felt his heart being torn in two; her

sweet silver eyes were something he'd never forget, no matter how far apart they were. His heart ached as he took one last look at her, knowing that the dream he had been cherishing was now lost forever. The dream of having her beside him, a life they could have shared together if only it were possible. He slammed the door shut on this secret desire once and for all, feeling his pain cut deeper than any blade ever could. Lycaon took one last look at Diana, his heart heavy with emotion. He couldn't bring himself to say another word, instead he quietly vanished before their eyes.

Diana watched as Lycaon disappeared from view. She had grown to care for Lycaon deeply over the course of their time together, and the thought of him leaving filled her with a sense of emptiness. She had come to rely on him during their time together. He became family to her. Aiden sensed her sadness and placed a comforting arm around her, pulling her close to him.

She leaned into him, feeling the warmth of his body against hers, and closed her eyes.

“I’m going to miss him...” Diana finally managed to say, her voice barely above a whisper.

“I know...” Aiden replied, his arm still wrapped around her. “I am grateful he was here to watch over you while I couldn’t be. You will see him again.” He kissed the top of her head and then smiled. “I’m back now, Diana, and I am never leaving you again. I’m here... you have me.”

Diana looked up into his eyes, and she saw a flicker of something that she couldn’t quite place. She gave him a faint smile and nodded her head. “I know.” She lifted up on her toes and kissed the tip of his nose. “You are never allowed to leave me again.”

A warm smile reached Aiden’s lips. Inwardly, he was jealous of Lycaon. He recognized the look of want, but luckily it seemed Diana

was oblivious to it. However, he was glad that Lycaon seemed to push his feelings aside. He was someone important to Diana, and it seemed like he had a good relationship with his officers too.

“I promise you, Diana. I will never leave you again. I will always be by your side, no matter what.” He lowered his lips to hers, kissing her deeply, his tongue exploring the depths of her mouth. He didn’t care who was there to see him. Finally, he was able to show his affection publicly, and he was going to. The electric sparks of his mate made him dance with her tongue passionately. When a soft moan elicited from her mouth, he pulled her body closer to his. As if he couldn’t stand any minor gap between them.

For a moment, they were lost in each other, their bodies pressed against one another. Then the faintest scent of something foreign snapped them back to reality. A low growl

was heard from Jamie's throat as they all focused their gaze into the dense forest on the edge of the clearing.

"I don't recognize those scents..." Kurt knitted his brows together as he lifted his nose in the air.

"They are too close to our territory. Should we send out the patrol unit?" Jamie asked, turning to look at Aiden and Diana.

"I feel like I know this scent..." Diana muttered, deep in thought. She knew she had smelled it before, but she couldn't place it. "Shh... Aiden, do you hear that?"

Aiden furrowed his brows as the faintest of sounds barely carried on the wind. The quiet, yet familiar cry of a baby followed by the sounds of fighting. "What in the—"

"Now is not the time for hesitation," Diana declared to Aiden as her muscles contorted, pressing against her skin with a pain that would have stopped a mortal in their tracks.

With a flurry of fur and cracking bones, she unleashed her lycan, fur the color of the moon, commanding them with her presence alone. Aiden shifted next, his silver lycan sprinting at Diana's side, Kurt followed after with his ebony beast just inches away from them both and Jamie close behind with his fawn-colored lycan. They hurled themselves forward with an adrenaline-fueled abandon, their beasts' faces set in a grimace of feral determination. Not a single doubt clouded their minds as they pursued the foreign scent and an infant's cry.

The forest grew denser as they ran; the trees became thicker and the underbrush harder to navigate. The sounds of fighting grew louder as they approached, and Diana's heart pounded in her chest. Her instincts were on high alert, and she knew that danger was just around the corner. They burst through a thick wall of foliage and found themselves in a clearing where a group of werewolves had cornered a werewolf and her infant child.

The werewolf was fighting with everything it had as it protected the infant behind it.

The four didn't hesitate and launched themselves at the other wolves. The werewolves, seeing the four lycans, instantly retreated with their tails between their legs. Jamie and Kurt pursued them as their high pitch whimpers of fear filled the night. Diana and Aiden stopped near the werewolf, who was soaked with blood.

Diana and Aiden both shifted back to their human forms and stared at the wolf in front of them.

“Shift back.” Diana commanded softly as she did the werewolf transformed into a young woman with raven-black hair and light mint-green eyes. The woman collapsed to the ground as she turned her head to look at the baby crying.

Aiden knelt next to the woman as Diana walked over and brought the baby to her. On

top of the woman's injuries, she looked like she was exhausted.

"You have the same scent as the wolves who fled. Why don't you explain the situation?" Diana's voice was calm and rational.

"Is Sullivan okay?" The woman whimpered.

"Sullivan, that is a good name. Yes, he looks perfectly fine." Diana knelt beside the woman so that she could take the baby in her arms.

"You're her, aren't you? The Lycan Princess?"

Diana nodded her head as the woman's eyes filled with fear. "Please don't kill my baby." She sobbed.

"What? Why would I do such a thing?"

"You can tell... can't you? That he isn't pure. He isn't a pureblood. I'm sorry... but please don't punish my baby. Punish me." The

woman's voice was a frantic wail. Diana looked up at Aiden in confusion.

“Why would I kill your baby because he is mixed? I don't understand?” Diana watched as the woman's bottom lip quivered.

“My pack said you would come to life again. They said that the lycans were pure and only mated with other lycans. That you would side with them... that you would reward them for staying pure.”

The creases on Diana's forehead wrinkled up as she shook her head at the woman. “We didn't have a rule against taking other mates. During my time, we didn't have the transportation that you have today. We stayed pure because that is who we saw the most. We rarely saw other species. Your pack is wrong. I disagree with them. Is that why they were chasing you? To kill your baby?” Diana gritted her teeth together.

“When they found out I had accepted my fairy mate in secret, they killed him. I was planning to run away with him...” Her voice trembled as a tear trickled down her face.

“When I found out I was pregnant... I fled. I knew what they would do. They have hunted me for a year. I just wanted to find a safe place to raise my baby.”

“You have. You will live with us in the Diamond pack.” Aiden said, and the woman’s lips parted.

“They will keep coming for me.”

Diana smiled and shook her head. “No... we are going to come for them.” She glanced up at Aiden, who nodded his head in agreement.

“What is the name of your pack?”

“They call themselves... The Children of the Moon.” The woman said as her eyes fluttered with exhaustion.

“What is your name?” Diana asked as the woman stared at her baby.

“Colleen...”

“Colleen, rest. We will take care of your baby.” Diana took the baby back into her arms and the woman passed out. It was like she just needed permission to sleep.

Aiden whistled and Diana jumped, startled by the speedy creature that raced next to Aiden.

“Is that a messenger fairy?” Diana asked as Aiden smiled and nodded his head.

“When I marked you, I gave you the gift of fairy sight.” He pulled out some paper and scribbled on it quickly. He handed it to the fairy, and it blurred out of sight. “I sent a message to my father. The Children of the Moon have been a pack we have been meaning to touch base with. Now, it seems we can’t wait any longer.”

Twigs snapped and Jamie emerged with Kurt following him slowly.

“They jumped into the river and headed towards the shriek woods.” Jamie huffed as he walked closer. “Kurt almost had one of them, but he seemed a bit distracted. What is... Kurt?” Jamie asked as he noticed his fixated eyes.

“Kurt?” Aiden asked as he rose to his feet to walk over to him. “Are you okay?”

“Mate.” He whispered, and they all glanced in shock at the unconscious woman.

“She has a baby...” Jamie said and Diana nodded her head slowly.

“This child’s father was killed by the Children of the Moon because he was a fairy.” She whispered as the baby began to cry loudly.

Kurt walked up to Diana and reached his arms out. “May I?” He asked. Diana glanced at Aiden, who nodded his head. Slowly, she eased the baby into Kurt’s arms, who brought the baby up to his chest. Almost

instantly, the baby stopped crying and just stared up at Kurt with eyes full of wonder.

“Don’t worry little one. You and your mother are safe now.”