Chapter 41 - Lost II - The Royal Hybrid

Tatiana's POV

I waited in dead silence. Waited for the words to form on her lips. I watched, my body tensing as it could possibly could, as she wet her lips before she spoke.

"I was wrong back then. Back when I first told your parents about the legend of the hybrid. This is a legend, yes, and it happens every 500 years but… it is also a curse."

"That didn't answer my question," I pointed out suddenly feeling anxious.

"It did," she said and looked away.

I knew it did, but I didn't want to believe it. It just couldn't be.

"Does my parents know?"

"They do," she nodded. "I told them when you went to talk with your mates."

"I didn't want to know this," I said shaking my head. "This wasn't why we came here. I wanted to know why I had two mates. They wanted to know," I half yelled and pointed to them. "I wanted to know about what turned out to be called the two-faced wolf. Not this. This wasn't it."

"This is what you needed to know," she said, her voice suddenly stern. "No one knows why you have two mates or why Cecilia or the moon goddess herself did. Only the moon goddess will ever be able to answer that question. I could only tell you what I know, and what I know is how the hybrid came to be and how the hybrid can survive. I'm so sorry that this isn't what you wanted, but neither of us wanted this."

"Then fix it! Please!" I begged.

"I can't. This is beyond me and even if I could this is not something I should even try to meddle with. Again, the only one who can undo what has been done is the one who did it in the first place."

"So, the moon goddess then?" I asked eagerly. "She can do it, right?"

"No, she can't," she said shaking her head. "She wasn't the one who started this. Cara was."

"Cara? But… She is long gone," I exclaimed in disbelief. "There has to be another way? I mean the moon goddess put the hybrid into our bloodline so… Can't she remove it?"

"And what? Curse another bloodline with it instead?"

"Why does it have to be this one?" I argued even though I deep down knew the reason.

"Because this is her own bloodline. You are descending from her just like Lucas and your mother are. She knew what she was doing when she did it. And she knew what the outcome was after she saw it for the first time. I have said it before, and I will say it again. Magic needs balance. It gives and it takes. You were granted magic. The two-faced wolf that shouldn't even possess something like that, was granted magic and will forever have it and be able to control it. But to balance that out…"

"The magic needs to take from another…" Hayden whispered.

"Exactly… And the one the magic takes from, is the one that becomes something they shouldn't. Something their body simply can't handle."

"Then take the magic. If this is how it is then I don't want it," I snapped as the tears started to fall.

"I wish I could, but again-"

"You can't undo what someone else has done," I interrupted. "I know."

"Tatiana…"

And with that I turned on my heels, ignoring the constant calling from my mates as I ran out the door and down the many stairs.

"Tatiana!"

One step, two steps, don't fall.

Seven, eight, nine…

I had come here with the hopes of finally figuring out what I was, and I did. I was the one who would get to live. I was the one who got it all while my twin brother had to settle with being the cursed one. I was a two-faced wolf while he was…

How could this happen?

Lucas… I had to find Lucas.

I finally reached the bottom of the tower and sprinted out the door, but I didn't manage to get very far before a pair of arms unexpectedly grabbed me from the side pulling me into a hug.

That warmth. I knew it. I knew who it was, and just as quick as my body was ready to fight the person off, it relaxed and I leaned against my mother's warm body, sobbing uncontrollably.

No words were shared between us, none were needed, as she just let me cry the tears that I hadn't known were desperate to come out.

I felt both of my mates along with Zaya as they were passing us. The sadness, the helplessness, and the need to protect radiated off of them, but they could do nothing but follow Zaya when she told them to give us some space.

"Where is dad?" I sniffled after my body had calmed somewhat down.

"He is not here," she whispered in a sorrowful tone. "He is out to get Lucas back from his mission."

"Isn't there a way?" I asked as I pulled myself from her arms to look into her tearful eyes.

"We don't know," she shrugged, trying to give a small smile but failed miserably. "We have trained him so much over the years. Tried our best to make sure that he controlled his powers and not the other way around but neither of us knows if that was enough."

"But…" I trailed off and took another step back to look at the woman in front of me. "I thought you didn't know before now?"

"I didn't, we didn't," she assured me, raising her hands. "But not long after we began searching for answers about the legend, the moon goddess appeared to me in a dream."

"She came to you?" I asked shocked.

"As she has before yes, but this time was different. This time the feeling around her was heavy. So heavy that it was almost unbearable to be in her presence and I knew it could be nothing good. And that is when she warned me," she said shaking her head.

"About the curse?"

"No, she doesn't exactly meddle with things, so whenever she does she can't tell what will happen or when it will happen, after all, she is not allowed to directly change what is to happen, but indirectly…"

"She is," I muttered.

"Yes, and all she told me back then was to make sure that he controlled the power and that it didn't control him."

"She told you nothing else?" I asked as I took a step forward this time. "She didn't give you any hints on how to stop this?"

My mother looked away before she folded her hands behind her back and looked out over the land.

"Walk with me?"

She didn't wait for an answer as she just began walking.

"Your dad didn't know. No one did but me, not even Lucas himself."

"You didn't think it would be something that he deserved to know? I mean, after all, it is his life?"

"I wanted to tell him, but please bear in mind that I didn't know what it meant back then. I didn't fully understand… I didn't know until today when Zaya returned and trust me when she began telling me what she had learned, my heart broke and my spirit sank. I had hoped she would come to us with the knowledge of exactly what you can do with your powers and how to evolve them, but that wasn't the case."

"No, it wasn't. Instead, she came home and doomed your son," I huffed and a part of me wished that she had never even returned.

I wouldn't have noticed if she didn't anyway. It is not like I could remember her.

"No, she didn't do any of that, and I won't have you think that she did!" she scolded.

She had stopped walking and now stood in front of me, her finger raised, and her brows furrowed to the point where they almost connected.

"All she did, was find out the truth, and without it, we wouldn't even have known. We wouldn't know that we now have to cherish every god damn moment we have with him," her voice shook, and her lips started to quiver and that is when it hit me.

I might be his sister, but she...

"Mom," I whispered shaking my head as I suddenly got riled up with guilt. "I'm sorry," I sighed. "That wasn't fair to you. That wasn't fair to anyone actually. You have lived with him as everyone else has since the day he was born, while I have only known him for a short period of time. I can't and shouldn't act so careless or selfish."

I felt like giving up at that point. How could I speak that way knowing that I wasn't the only one that this would end up hurting and that it would hit them way harder than it would me?

"No, sweetie don't do that. You are his twin and when you two were kids you were practically glued to the hips. I will never understand the bond you two have but one thing I do know for sure, and that is, that the bond you two have, no matter the distance between you or the time spent apart, is just as strong as it was back then."

"There has to be a way," I said as I grabbed her hand. "And if there is, then I will find it."

That was a promise I was willing to give.

"You can't," she exclaimed, gripping my hands tight. "You need to remember that Killian is out there, and he still wants you for whatever he is planning. You heard what Kathleen said. He won't stop until he has you and I'll be dammed if he gets to take you one more time."

"I know, but this is my brother we are talking about, and I have missed so much of his life already… Don't make me lose the chance to be a part of it now," I begged, knowing that I was asking of the impossible.

I was asking a mother to put one child's life over another.

Chapter 42 - Lost II - The Royal Hybrid

Tatiana's POV

I paced back and forth in the kitchen waiting for my brother to arrive back home. I knew it would take some time for him to get here. After all dad needed to get to him first, but I couldn't relax even if I tried.

I felt like things kept coming at me and that I didn't have time for it all. Dammit, I didn't even have time to think sometimes.

I needed to see Chad, to see the damage I had caused him while I had my blackout; I still needed to talk to Kathleen after what happened, to try and smoothen things between us, especially now that I had beaten up her brother and I also needed to think of a way to get my other wolf to appear. Besides that, there now was the whole thing about Lucas and trying to remove the curse that he had been born with just as I had to deal with the fact that Killian was still on the loose and that he would stop at nothing.

When my mom told me that he wouldn't stop until he once again had me by her side, I knew that she was right, but I also knew that I just couldn't sit back and let this curse take place.

So many things, so little time.

I was snapped out of my thoughts when I heard the sound of the floor creaking behind me. I quickly turned around, half expecting it to be my dad and Lucas and half knowing

that it wouldn't be, but I was met with mates and mom instead. Of course, she had to get and get them.

I let out a sigh as I bend over and supported my own weight by resting my arms on my knees.

"Are you alright?" Hayden asked as he with the speed of lightning stood by my side.

"I am fine," I said as I continued to stare at the floor, following the patterns the wood made. "I just…" I didn't even know how to finish my sentence.

I just what? Was tired? Wanted to give up? Exhausted?

"I know," he cooed. "It is okay to need a break every once in a while."

I liked that about him. A lot. I didn't even have to put words to my feelings or thoughts for him to understand. No, he simply just knew. If that was a part of the mate bond or just the fact that he was such a caring person, I didn't know.

"How did this happen? How did everything turn out so bad?"

"When people like Killian live, that is typically what happens," Gabriel snorted.

He continued to stand further away, and I guessed that since we hadn't had time to make any rules, he didn't want to intrude or break any unset boundaries.

"No, I don't just mean him. I mean this," I said as I gestured to everything around me.

"I'm not sure we follow sweetie," mom chipped in.

"Why couldn't we just have a normal family? No royalty, no magical powers, no curse…" I frowned. "Then I wouldn't have been taken, you and dad wouldn't have been through all this pain and Lucas would be safe. We would all be safe."

"You have to look at this another way love," she sighed. "If all of this didn't happen, if I hadn't been through all that pain, then Kyle wouldn't have led me to your dad and then Tyson would have ruined the world as we know it. Not only that but had I not met your dad I wouldn't have had both you and your brother and you wouldn't have Hayden or Gabriel."

"But no one would have to die," I mumbled.

"Not necessarily," she said shaking her head. "Tyson was a gruesome man and had I not been there to stop him then only the moon goddess would know how much pain and death he would have brought with him."

She walked over to me and rested her hand on my shoulder. Once again, the warmth of her spread to me and I instantly calmed down. All the chatter in my brain went away and I could finally take a deep breath.

"No matter where you are, no matter who you are, there will be death," she said as she bent down to look me in the eyes. "Death is a part of life. Just like with magic, there needs to be a balance and in this case, some people just live longer than others. We can't stop death from happening, but we can make the best of the time that we've got."

"I know it does, but what is so good about being special like I am if I can't even save the ones that I care about and love?"

"You can't save everyone, my sweet girl," she cooed. "Trust me. I have tried that so many times and every time I was greatly disappointed. I have lost too, your dad and every one we know, have lost someone that they love. It isn't fair and it will never be easy, however, this is just the one thing that we cannot change."

I straightened myself and cleared my throat as I looked at both Gabriel and Hayden who had worried expressions plastered over their faces.

"I know," I sighed. "I just don't want it to be any of you. I don't think I could live with that."

"Time heals all wounds," she reminded me. "Now this isn't the only thing that is on your mind, is it?"

I looked at her, a bit shocked that she could tell, but then again she was not only my mom, she was also the Royal Luna and she was bound to everyone in this pack.

"I think I know why I can't remember attacking Chad," I said quietly. "I meant to ask Zaya about it, but I forgot it with everything else I learned, and then I ran out on her so…"

"What do you think happened?" mom asked.

"I think… I think it might have been my other wolf?" I more asked than stated. "I mean, I have no contact with her so there really isn't a way of knowing if that is truly the case, but seeing as I haven't talked to her yet, and the fact that what Chad and I discussed involved her…" I trailed off.

"You think she felt your anger and confusion?" she questioned.

"I think she did yes," I nodded. "But I can't be sure. I mean, I could be wrong for all I know."

I walked over to the window and stared outside as I tried to find a way to put words to the constant feeling I had in the pit of my stomach.

I watched as the wind shook the threes and its branches. I watched as it made the grass beneath us sway and already fallen leaves on the ground, move from one place to another. I kept watching the way they danced over the grass until my eyes focused on a completely other thing. My reflection in the glass. The way my hair fell over my shoulders. The way my smile was turned upside down and the way my eyes sparkled.

I slowly lifted my hand and let a finger glide over the place on the window where my eyes were being reflected as I spoke.

"I know she is in there. I can feel her. Now that I know that she is there, I can feel her. I can sense her in a way that I can't explain," I said as I let my hand drop. "The way I felt when I was being trapped by Killian or locked away for bad behavior… That is how she is feeling now and I can't help but wonder if it is my fault. If it is something that I am doing to her."

"I don't think it is," mom smiled. "I think you are trying to do what you can to get her out, just like I think that something else is keeping her in. But it could make sense that she is the cause of your blackout. Have you not talked to Amara yet?"

"No, she is still locked away. She has been ever since we shifted back," I said, worry clear in my voice.

"She might just be exhausted," she reassured me. "After all an involuntary shift takes a toll on one's body and you haven't been a wolf long enough to learn how to shift your power when shifting."

"Another thing I need to learn."

"Don't worry," she chuckled. "You will learn it all in due time. You just need to practice, not only on your shifting but also on your powers. Maybe that way you can help your other wolf too?"

"Maybe," I mumbled. "I just wish I knew her name, so I knew what to call her. Calling her my other wolf seems wrong."

"Again, all in due time. Dont beat yourself up too much. It will come to you when you are ready," she said. "Now, let's focus on one thing at a time okay?"

"Starting with Lucas."

Chapter 43 - Lost II - The Royal Hybrid

Tatiana's POV

It had been two weeks since Lucas had returned home. Two weeks with a lot of silence, a lot of questions, and not nearly enough answers.

The day dad returned with him he had a smile on his lips. He didn't fully understand why he had to come back so early, but he was smiling simply because of one thing. That he got to see me again sooner than he had expected. A smile that quickly was replaced with a frown when he ran to hug me and felt me shaking.

I didn't mean to start crying, I really wasn't. I had planned to hold it all back in while Zaya explained everything, but the minutes his arms landed around me, the safe feeling, the warmth, all the love… I just couldn't handle it and I broke down.

"I have missed you so much," he mumbled against my hair.

I felt his arms tighten around me, pulling me closer and as I felt his heartbeat slowing down, mine started to beat faster.

I was really going to lose him. No matter how I twisted and turned this in my head, I would lose him.

I couldn't stop it before it happened. I hadn't even felt it begin before Lucas pulled himself away from me and kept me at an arm's length.

"What is wrong? Why are you crying?" he asked as he searched my face for the reason. "Did you miss me that much?" he joked, and I just started to bawl harder.

"Tati…" he muttered as he began looking around. "What is going on here?"

He looked at our mom and dad as they stood holding each other.

"Mom?"

"Sweetie," she sighed. "We should really wait on Zaya."

I sniffled a bit and bent my head down so I could wipe a few of the tears with my arm that Lucas was still clinging to.

"No, I can do it," I offered.

"You don't have to-"

"I should be the one to do it," I stated and twisted my hands so that I now was grabbing his arms as well.

And then it began. I watched as the big smile he had on his face when he walked in here, slowly turned into a frown. I watched as his happy eyes turned narrow and dim and I felt as his grip loosened on me until he fully let go and let his arms hang by his side.

"I will do whatever is in my power to make sure that this doesn't happen," I promised him with a sob. "I will not let this happen, okay? You hear me?" I asked as I shook him lightly.

By this time mom was crying too. Her silent tears were running down her cheeks, her lips pursed into a thin line. Even dad had a hard time holding on as he just kept staring at the ground, constantly wriggling his right foot.

"So…" he took a deep breath, letting his eyes meet mine. "I am going to die? That is what you are telling me?"

"No," I sobbed. "No, didn't you hear what I just said? I will do whatever I can to make sure that this won't happen. That this legend won't carry out and-"

"Curse," he interrupted.

"What?" I asked as he caught me off guard.

"You said legend," he muttered. "What you got is a legend. What I got… This is a curse."

I knew he didn't say it to hurt me or for it to hit me the way it did, but when he said those words, my mouth opened slightly, and I gaped at him.

"I…" I trailed off.

I didn't even know what to say.

"I will fix this," I tried. "I will find a way to fix this."

My voice broke at the end of the sentence. Could I really find a way to fix this or was this just an empty promise? What if I did find a way but too late?

Lucas must have felt my anxiousness, because the next thing I knew, he pulled me in for another hug as he gently stroked my hair.

"I know you will," he whispered. "Just know that this is not your fault. It will never be your fault. Remember that."

For the past few days, I had been hiding out in Zaya's tower with some of the eldest books I could possibly find in the library. I knew the best, quickest, and probably the most efficient way to find answers was to talk to the moon goddess herself, but mom had already tried that and not even she could get through.

'How to remove an ancient curse'

I had finally found a book on removing curses. Zaya had told me not to get my hopes up, that this book might only have answers on curses cast by angry witches, but for me, this was still worth a shot.

'Loveless curse'

'Curse to the moon'

So many curses to pick from, but just not the one I was looking for.

I let out a big sigh just as a minor knock on the door could be heard. I snapped my head up from the book I had in my hands and kept watching the door. Zaya wouldn't knock, Lucas was working on his powers and both Hayden and Gabriel were out so I didn't know who else would be here.

"Come in," I said and kept a close eye as the door creaked open.

Kathleen's head popped in through the crack and it was then I remembered that I hadn't talked to her yet. In all this chaos, I had completely forgotten about her. I put the book down and stood up as I gestured for her to come in.

"Am I disturbing?"

"No, not at all," I smiled. "I have been at it for hours so I could use a break anyway."

She walked into the middle of the room where I was standing. She swayed from leg to leg just like I started picking on my fingers. It was both of our nervous traits.

"This is stupid-"

"I'm sorry-" we both said at the same time making us chuckle.

"You go first," she said.

"I am sorry," I repeated shaking my head. "I didn't mean for this to go on for so long. I meant to talk with you but then…"

"I understand. You didn't exactly plan all of this and to be honest, I could as easily just have pulled you aside, but I didn't, so we are equally as bad," she shrugged.

"Still, you are my best friend, and I should have taken some time to smoothen things out between us… I don't like when we fight," I admitted.

"Me neither. Not that it is something I am used to," she mumbled. "We never fought before. Only over small things and we would usually talk the same night, but this time… It's been two weeks and I miss you and I am sorry for how I reacted."

"Don't be, after all, Chad is your brother and I should have let you see him."

"No, I understand why you did what you did, and I am not mad."

"Not even over the fact that I beat him up?"

"First of all, I have heard talk about you not being in control at that time and second of all, after all these years he really had it coming. I just want all of this to be over."

"He really did yes, but that doesn't justify what I did whether I was in control or not," I said as cracked my knuckle. "Can we just let it go now then? And go back to normal?"

"That would be nice."

She offered me a small smile but that was it. We stood there kind of awkwardly staring at each other until I started laughing.

"What are you laughing for?"

"Look at us," I said and spread my arms. "Why are we acting like strangers that don't know what to do? Come here," I said and walked to her with my arms spread.

I pulled her in for a big hug and waited for her to hug me back, but she didn't. Not at first. It took her a little while, but after a few seconds, she put her arms around me and rested her head on my shoulder.

"I am so sorry for everything you are going through right now," she whispered. "I can't imagine what you are going through. What you all are going through."

"It is tough," I sighed as I pulled away. "On everyone, but Lucas is taking it well. A little too well for my liking."

"You feel like he is hiding something from you?" she asked, her eyes narrowing.

"Yes," I said surprised. "How did you know?"

"I know you," she shrugged. "And I know how you sound when you are skeptical about something."

"Well, you are right in that," I chuckled. "I just feel like… He knows something or that he knew something from the beginning. It is just… His entire reaction when I told him. He spent more time reassuring me that it wasn't my fault than he did at realizing that he was going to die."

"So, you think that he already knew?"

"I have a feeling, yes, or at least something like it."

Chapter 44 - Lost II - The Royal Hybrid

Tatiana's POV

I roamed the halls in the search of my brother. The talk I had with Kathleen had put a few things into perspective and I couldn't get what she told me out of her head.

"You think that he already knew?"

Did he? Did he know that he was cursed and if so, then why didn't he tell anyone?

We had spent the past two weeks, not only trying to find a way to break this curse but also connecting with one another.

"You can't be serious!" Gabriel snorted.

"I am dead serious! It trumps it every single time!" I chuckled.

"Pineapple on pizza?"

"Yes! It just brings out this…" I trailed off, looking for the word while I twirled my hand around in the air. "Luce, help me out here."

"Sweetness," he said with his mouth stuffed.

"So, this must be a twin thing then?" Gabriel laughed while picking the pineapple pieces off of his slice.

"I'm sure many people like it like this," Lucas shrugged. "Like you Hayden?"

"Oh, no," he said holding his pizza slice up into the air. "The only thing that will ever make its way onto my pizza, is meat."

"How in the world can you have these two muppets as your mates," Lucas groaned, not satisfied at all.

"I don't mind," I shrugged. "That just means that there will be more for us," I grinned and snatched the rest of the pizza box.

"Yeah," he said sounding a bit unsure. "For us."

"Are you okay?" I asked him, making him the center of attention.

"I will be fine," he assured me, and it was then I remembered the whole curse thing.

"I'm sorry, I'm an idiot," I sighed and put the pizza down.

"Don't be," he said waving his hand in the air. "Besides I have heard rumors that you aren't too fond of sharing your food," he said in the sassiest tone I had ever heard.

"Touché."

I had let it go for the rest of the evening, but it hurt to see him like that. To see that he would joke about it like that in order to hide the fact that it bothered him or was hard on him, and now if it turns out that he knew even before I told him…

"Honey?" mom called out as I for the second time passed her office, her voice sounding rather uneven.

I took a few steps back and peeked inside blinking a few times at my mom's position.

"Uhm?" I said trying to hold my laugh down. "What are you doing?"

"Yoga," she breathed. "Or I am trying at least."

She looked like she was about to cry, maybe from the uncomfortable position she was in, but I didn't question it.

"Now, that makes more sense," I smiled. "You called on me?"

"Yes, I noticed that you have been running across the entire land for the past hour," she said before taking a deep breath and bending down. "Anything I can help with?" she asked as she turned her head to the side to look at me.

"No, I don't…" I stopped myself quickly.

If anyone knew anything, it would be her. After all, she had eyes everywhere.

"Mom," I mumbled and walked closer until I was right in front of her. I crouched down, folded my legs underneath myself and my arms on my knees, and looked at her.

"Yes, dear?"

When she noticed the way my expression had suddenly changed, she bend her legs and let herself sit on the floor in front of me.

"What is wrong sweetie? Are you okay?" she asked as she let her hand glide over my cheek. "You worry for Lucas, is that it?"

Was it really that obvious?

"I do but it is also something else. Something that has been bothering me quite a bit," I admitted as I began picking my fingers.

"What is it?"

"Do you think… Is there any possibility that he knew?"

"He knew of?"

"The fact that he is cursed?"

"You think he knew?" she asked in a wondering tone. "Hmm, I suppose the chance is there I mean he has as much of a chance to contact the moon goddess as we do."

"Maybe she showed herself to him? Is that possible?"

"It is very possible yes, but, why do you ask? I mean, has anything happened?" she asked biting her cheek and I got a sudden feeling that she was hiding something.

"No, and that is just it…" I mumbled. "He hasn't reacted at all. You saw him when I told him. He barely even flinched and all he cared about saying was that I should remember that it wasn't my fault. No one reacts like that and the after-math is just the same. He hasn't done anything besides the usual."

"Maybe that is just how he is trying to cope with all of this," she shrugged and looked out the window just as her eyes glazed over. "Or maybe… Maybe you are right," she almost whispered.

"I had a feeling you'd say that," I sighed and got up. "Do you know where he is?"

She held up her finger as she closed her eyes. Her breathing got shallow and her body slumped over a bit, but it didn't take long before she took a deep breath and straightened herself back up.

"The three on the hill," she said with a sorrowful smile on her lips. "Go talk to him. He is the only one who can truly tell you what he knew or didn't know."

"I will, thanks, mom."

I didn't wait for her to say anything back. I just ran as fast as I possibly could past everyone I met on the way. Once I got outside, I took a quick look around before I continued running. She acted weird, almost secretive. It was like she was trying to tell me something without telling me and to be frank, it confused the hell out of me. No... It didn't just confuse me... It made this unsettling feeling appear in the pit of my stomach.

I ran faster, feeling some of the longer grass tickle my legs until the hill came in sight and I slowed down. My eyes scanned the horizon trying to find him and once my eyes landed on Lucas's body slumped against the tree I instantly relaxed.

"Lucas," I breathed as I got closer to him.

"Tatiana," he smiled, but the smile didn't reach his eyes. "What are you doing here? Is everything okay? You sound out of breath."

"I have been looking for you everywhere," I said as I still tried to catch my breath. "Mind if I sit down?"

"Not at all," he chuckled. "Want some water?" he asked as he put his hand to the side and pulled out a bottle.

"Where did you hide that?" I asked as I took it.

"Behind me," he shrugged. "Had to keep it out of the sun in order to keep it cold."

"Makes sense," I muttered as I put the lid back on.

"So, I am assuming that you didn't track me down just to enjoy the view with me?"

He twisted his body a bit, so he was now leaning sideways against the tree in order to look at me.

"Well, you are good at assuming things aren't ya?" I chuckled lightly before I cleared my throat. "I need to ask you something and what I am about to ask you is something you must not take offense to okay? And please just answer me truthfully no matter what the truth might be. I promise we won't be ma-"

"You are quick to catch up on things," he sighed and shook his head.

"Wha… What?" I asked dumbfounded.

"I had hoped you wouldn't find out, but I also know that you are one bright cookie, so I kind of knew that it would happen eventually."

"Do you know what I was about to ask you?"

"You wanted to know if I knew already. About me being cursed. Am I right?"

"Yeah?" I said hesitantly.

"I did."

"You did?" I exclaimed. "How?"

"The moon goddess came to me in what I first thought was a dream," he explained. "But then when I realized that it wasn't, she started to tell me about this entire legend and how the power of the hybrid could only be controlled by the one whose wolf once was two and I knew that she was talking about you somehow. I knew that you were more special even though you hadn't returned back home yet at that time."

"Why didn't you tell anyone? If this happened before I returned… Why would you walk around with all of this alone?"

"At first, I wasn't sure if you would ever return home, but then you did and I focused on that blessing instead of the curse I had on me. I wasn't sure that you would ever find out and if you didn't then how could I possibly go tell my family that I at some point not too far into the future is supposed to die? That my sister is saved because of her gifts, but that I am doomed because of the very same gift that makes her so special?"

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Tatiana's POV

I wasn't sure of what to answer and I had a feeling that he could sense that when he turned so his back was now leaned against the tree. Had I been in his shoes I wouldn't have known how to say it either, but for him to walk around with this… burden on his shoulders for so long… It must have been unbearable.

"You see what I mean now don't you?" he smiled as he looked up at the sky. "I'm not mad about it, well, at first, I was I guess," he admitted. "I was mad that it had to be me, me out of all people it could have been, but then I thought… There must be a reason as to why I was the chosen one. There must be a reason why it wasn't you. I was mad that I was the one at first, just like I was mad that you had been taken away. Not only did I feel like I was missing a piece of myself, but as it turned out I would also end up dying due to some stupid curse and all before I ever got to see you again. How could I not be pissed about that?" he chuckled dryly.

"But it didn't turn out as I had first thought. Because then, you returned home, and I finally for the first time in a very long time, felt whole again. When I saw the way mom hugged you, the way Dani smiled at you, and the way you lit up everything and everyone around you, I knew it was the right choice. I knew that you would end up being the salvation and I still believe that even though I might not be around to see it."

"Lucas…" I whispered, choking down a sob.

"It's fine Tati. Really. I am okay with however it will turn out and so should you. There is no need to feel bad or guilty about this because I don't. I have had everything in life, despite it being short, and the last gift I got was for you to come home."

"How can I be fine knowing that you won't be here? Knowing that you will die while the rest of us will live? This is not okay Lucas."

"Because I will be here," he smiled and lifted his hand to my chest. "I will be right here."

"Why does it feel like you are saying goodbye to me?" I whispered, a tear escaping down my cheek.

He didn't answer me. He only smiled; a smile so bright that it could light up even the darkest places.

"Lucas…"

"Mom and dad already know," he sighed. "You found mom doing her yoga right?"

"How did you know?"

"She does that when she is sad," he smiled.

"She did act kind of weird but I didn't think much of it..." I trailed off.

"She started doing it after you had been kidnapped and she's done it ever since when dealing with grief. She thinks it will somehow stop her emotions from coming through. She is the Luna after all, and she thinks that she has to be strong all the time. Will you remind her that she doesn't have to? That she has people she can lean on?"

"Lucas stop…"

"And will you help dad too? He will probably not show it much, but if I know him right, he will take every mission outside the pack lands that he can. He won't let mom see that he is sad. He thinks that it will make him weak."

"Stop it! Please!" I begged.

"I am afraid that I can't," he chuckled. "I just wish I had more time with you."

"Then make more time! Spend time with me instead of talking nonsense!"

"It's not nonsense," he said shaking his head.

"You said in the future-"

"I said not too far into the future," he corrected me. "Listen, all of this might not make much sense right now, but I promise that after I am gone, it will."

"When?" I asked with gritted teeth.

He let out a sigh and looked away.

"I asked you something," I snapped. "When? How goddamn long time do I have to fight this before you die?" I asked even though I already had a feeling that I knew the answer.

"Tati… You can't fight this," he said in a low tone.

"Yes! Yes, I can!" I shrieked as I got up from the ground. "Yes, I can! I can fix this!" I cried out. "If anyone can fix this it is me! I-I can summon her a-a-and ask her for her help! I-I don't care what I have to do! I will do it!"

At this point, I was shaking.

"I-I thought I had time," I mumbled as I dragged my hands through my hair. "I thought we had more time."

"Time is a funny thing, isn't it?" he muttered. "We can be impatient, hoping time will move faster because there is something that we really want to happen quicker, and then when something like this happens, we always want more of it. We want time to stop or scroll back. There is never enough time, but how we spent it… How we decide to use whatever time we got is what matters."

"But… This is not fair," I sobbed. "It is not like you are dying for something. You aren't dying to save someone or because you are sick," I spat. "You are dying because the moon goddess decided to put this curse on us!"

"That is where you are wrong," he said looking up at me.

Those eyes… My eyes…

"I don't understand," I whimpered.

"As I said before, you will. Once I am gone everything will clear up and you will understand. It will all come to make sense and when it does, remember this conversation."

He tried to get up from the ground but failed. His legs caved under him, and he quickly took the fall with his hands.

"Lucas!" I yelled and bend down to him. "Are you okay? What is happening."

"Remember what I told you right? I will always be right here," he whispered. "And keep an eye on mom and dad for me will ya?"

"Luce…" I whispered, but I knew what was happening and the realization hit me like a brick. "Why here?" I asked trying to keep my tears back. "Why not home where everyone can say goodbye?"

"I don't want to see everyone crying. I said goodbye to those that needed it after you confronted me two weeks ago, like our family and your two mates. I gave them a piece of my mind too," he laughed. "I came out here because it is peaceful. You might not remember it, but we spent every day here just watching over the hills, and the skies, and sometimes we would just lay down to take a nap. We were usually watching the entire pack land and just before you got kidnapped, the very last time we were here together, you pointed out over the entire land and told me that you one day would rule it all and be as good a queen as mom is. Make sure to do that for me."

"Why didn't you tell me sooner… If you knew all along... Why... Why didn't mom tell me? Or dad or any of the others?"

This time there was no stopping it. My tears fell so hard that I had trouble breathing.

"And take away the hope you had? I could never. Besides, this won't be a goodbye. Another thing you won't understand until later," he said and gave my hand a small pat. "I used my dying wish. That is how I made them not tell you. If anyone should, it should be me and they chose to respect that."

Of course, they did... The worst part? I didn't even blame them for it because I knew that deep down I would have done the same.

"What if I hadn't come up here huh? Would you have just left without saying goodbye?" I yelled, the tears streaming down my face before they landed on our conjoined hands.

"I would," he admitted, the shame in his voice evident. "Because that you… You are the one person I couldn't say goodbye to. But-" he sighed as he tried to sit up straight. "I also knew that mom would get you here in time. Under no circumstances would she let me have my way. Not with this. Not when it could cause you to hate me for it."

"I-"

I was interrupted by a light so bright and so sudden that I had to close my eyes. The wind became more violent as it shook the tree and every other thing it could grab.

"What is happening?" I yelled out while clinging to Lucas, making sure that our hands never let go.

"It's time."

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Tatiana's POV

"Time for what?" I asked my eyes still closed as the wind laid to rest.

I opened them only to see nothing but white. It almost looked like a white room but without any walls. There weren't any hard edges. It simply just looked like… infinity.

"It is time for him to come home," a woman's voice said. "To fulfill his duty."

"His duty? Who even are you?" I questioned, my voice sour, as I stared into nothing but light.

Where the hell were we?

I was about to ask when a woman with long silver hair appeared in front of me. Her eyes were as blue as the sky, her skin as pale as snow and the second I felt the energy coming from her and noticed that she was practically floating off of the ground, I knew who she was.

"You… You are the moon goddess, aren't you?"

"I am yes," she smiled.

I looked at Lucas who was still by my side. He looked rather at peace, yet he had an expression of sadness spread across his face.

"I assume you got to say goodbye to everyone as we discussed?"

"I did," he nodded. "They know I won't return home."

"Wait, wait!" I yelled out. "You can't do this," I exclaimed. "He has barely lived. He hasn't experienced anything. He hasn't felt how it is to love, he hasn't felt the mate bond or-"

"I don't need to," he interrupted.

"Shut up! Yes, you do!" I argued. "You are a person, you have a family, and friends, and you also have a mate waiting for you somewhere out there who will never know what happened to you if you just disappear now! For god's sake, mom is doing bloody yoga right now to ease her pain because she knows that you won't come home, and dad… I don't even know what he is doing, but he is surely not doing well either and you are just so willing to throw it all away for nothing? To throw us away?"

"Tati please…" he begged.

"No," I said shaking my head before I turned to the moon goddess and walked up to her. "You have the power to stop this. You have the power to give us a way out, to strip him from the magic. That would end all of this, but you won't do it. Why?"

"Because some things are meant to happen and if they don't there will be consequences."

"We can handle the consequences. Whatever it is we will face it. Together," I said as I turned my head to look at Lucas. "No consequence is too big for us to handle, right?"

"I see you haven't told her?" she asked as she tilted her head.

Her voice was kind and soft yet filled with confusion and it made me question whether or not she even knew of basic human feelings. Had she ever had someone she loved? Someone, she would gladly give her life for? Why did she make it sound like me wanting to save Lucas was such a foreign feeling for her?

"Haven't told me what?"

"Nothing," he mumbled and tried to walk past me, but I grabbed his hand in the process and stopped him.

"Told me what Lucas?" I demanded.

"It is nothing Tati… Please just let this be."

"No, I will not! Not when you are about to leave without even putting up a fight! How do you expect me to just sit by and watch you literally give your life for nothing?"

"He is not giving his life for nothing," she chipped in from the side.

"Excuse me for being rude, but unless you want to fill in the blanks here, I would appreciate it if you stayed out of this," I snapped, not giving a rat's ass that she was the creator of all creatures.

"Tati!" Lucas hissed. "You can't talk to her like that!"'

"It is quite alright," she smiled and put her hand on his shoulder. "She is hurting because she loves you. After all, the bond you have is quite unique in a lot of ways."

"Of course, I love him! He is my brother and thanks to all this magic shit and unique powers, I lost the time I should have had with him and now just when I finally come back, you simply want to take him away expecting me to be okay with this?" I sneered and it was then it hit me. "Wait," I said holding up my finger. "How can everyone else be so okay with this? How come they haven't tried to stop you or talk you out of it?"

"Let this be please," he said shaking his head. "You don't need to know."

"That is where you are wrong," I argued. "I do need to know."

"No, you don't, and I am done talking about this."

"I will not let you leave unless you give me the damn reason to why you will sacrifice yourself so easily or why everyone else will even let you do it in the first place! Stop keeping so many things from me! I am your sister! I deserve to know the truth."

He sighed deeply and turned around. His hands started to clench and unclench as he paced back and forth.

"I can't…"

"Lucas, you should tell her while you have the chance to explain," she said in the same soft voice. "Otherwise, she will not be able to forgive herself because she will not understand unless you make her."

"If I tell her, she won't be able to forgive herself," he said through gritted teeth. "She will recent herself from the very moment the words exit my mouth and you know it."

"I promise," I said quickly not thinking straight or thinking much about the words he just said. "I promise to forgive. Please. Just give me the reason. It is all I want," I sniffled as a few stray tears fell from my eyes. "I just want to know why you aren't fighting to stay here. With me. With your family and all of those who love you. I just... I need it to make sense," I sobbed, this time not caring that I showed my vulnerability in front of the moon goddess herself.

She could, for all I cared, go back to the place she came from and stay there.

"Are you sure you want to know?" he asked as he walked up to me. "Are you absolutely sure? Because once you know… You won't be able to not know. You won't be able to just put it in the back of your mind like you usually do with things."

"I am sure," I stated, and I watched as his defense slowly crumbled.

He sighed and took my hands into his. His eyes looked directly into mine as his mouth began moving.

"You know of the legend now, and how it came to be," he stated, and I nodded. "Not only was it a rare thing for the hybrid to be born, but for the hybrid to be born as twins? It had never been seen before," he said shaking his head. "And do you know why?"

I shook my head, not wanting to bring up one of my stupid remarks now.

"Twin hybrids were never meant to be," he said as if it was the most obvious thing in the world.

"I-I don't understand," I muttered looking down at our hands.

"When we were born, the hybrid's magic was split into two. One half for you and the other half for me. However, it is still too much power for a normal wolf to carry. You on the other hand have the gene of the two-faced wolf. You were born to be the double hybrid. You were born to carry all of the magic by yourself. You are the wolf who once was two," he shrugged. "I was just… An accident I suppose you could say."

"No, you're not," I snorted. "Our parents love you, you know that."

"Not an accident in that way. I know I was wanted; I know I was and still am loved, but magically wise, I should not have been born."

"And how do you know that it isn't me who shouldn't have been born?" I asked as a matter of fact. "Why do you have to take that burden?"

"Because you were born with the two-faced wolf gene as I said just before. I was not. I was never meant to carry all of this magic."

"This still doesn't give me the reason I need," I pointed out. "This doesn't make sense at all. Can't you just blurt it out? Rip off the bandage?"

"You want to know the story behind it, otherwise it will tear you down from the inside out."

"We can have the story time later," I said getting impatient. "Just tell me. Why do you have to die? That is all I want to kno-"

"I have to die so that you can live," he blurted.

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Tatiana's POV

After he had said that sentence, I finally understood what he meant, and he was right. I did not want to know that. I was speechless, numb even. Every single cell in my body has frozen to ice on the spot.

"Y-you have to… For me?" I stuttered. "Die for m-me."

I made no sense, I knew that, but this didn't make sense to me either.

"Tati…" he began but I cut him off.

"No. Why? Why can't we both live?" I chuckled hysterically while my tears silently fell. "You're lying, right? This is not the real reason. Tell me it is not real!"

"It is real," The moon goddess said slowly. "You don't like that answer, do you?"

"Don't like that answer? Are you for real?" I almost yelled before I calmed myself down. "I know you haven't been alive for a very long time, and you might not remember the way it feels to love someone or to have someone love you, but let me tell you this... You do not wish for someone to die just so that you can live. You don't ever wish for someone you love to die. Ever," I gritted out.

"I see," she said in a wondering tone that made me want to roll my eyes at her.

He was dying so that I could live? But why? Why ever trade his life for mine? What good could possibly come out of that? As I saw it, none. No good thing could come out of that.

"This is why I didn't want to tell you," he whispered as he stroked my cheek. "I can see that you are starting to spiral."

"You said there was a story," I said clearing my throat. "I think I would like to hear that story now."

He nodded slowly, watching my every step.

"You know how you have had trouble connecting with your other wolf?" he said slowly.

"Yeah…"

"There is a reason to that, and that reason is kind of why I have to do this. You should have had two wolves from the beginning, and only one of us should have been born, but since there were two babies born instead of one…"

I let the words sink in, slowly thinking them through before they hit me.

"My other wolf… You? You have my other wolf?" I asked shocked.

And shocked was an understatement. I felt absolutely confused, and in denial, and I had a lot of trouble believing the words that came out of his mouth.

"I do," he nodded slowly, never taking his eyes off of me. "If I don't sacrifice myself if I choose to live… Do you remember she told you about a consequence?" he asked and I nodded. "Well, that consequence would be that mom and dad wouldn't lose only one child. They would lose both."

"I would die too? That is the consequence?" I gaped.

"If you don't get your other wolf, you won't be strong enough to carry the magic either and you will eventually perish as I already am. But seeing as you have the gene for the two-faced wolf you are stronger and not affected by the magic strain yet, so I can save you. I still have time to do it, so let me do it."

I knew as much. Maybe that was why I had so much trouble trying to control the powers I already had? I knew that nothing was simple when it came to magic and as it turned out, I was right.

"By dying," I pointed out. "You will save me by dying. Have you ever thought about how that would affect me?"

"That is why I didn't want to let you in on the detail," he groaned and gave my hands a squeeze. "Think about it, sis… If you die, then who will stop Killian and save everyone from what he is planning to do? Who will be there for mom and dad? And what about your mates? You not only have but, but two of them and I? Seeing as I wasn't even supposed to be born in the first place…" he trailed off.

"He doesn't have a mate Tatiana," The moon goddess cleared up. "He never did."

"See? I won't lose anything, but your mates will. You will. You dying will only make things so much worse for everybody. "

"And you dying won't?" I huffed. "You will lose everything. You will be all alone," I cried. "Wherever you are going, you won't be with us, and we won't be with you."

I was too focused on Lucas and his sorrowful facial expression that I didn't notice that the moon goddess had moved to my side.

"My sweet child," she cooed as she put her hand on my shoulder and for a second, she sounded like mom.

For a second, just a second, she sounded like a real person with real human emotions.

"He will never be alone. He will run at home with the rest of my children, and he will always be with you."

"People always say that when someone is gone," I sniffled. "But it is not the same."

"This is different. I will transfer his wolf to you which means that a part of him literally will be living through you and with you," she smiled softly. "He will never be alone just like you won't. That is what scares you too, isn't it?" she asked, and Lucas looked at me with big eyes.

I shook my head lightly while looking up as I tried to control my breathing.

"I just found you," I whimpered. "I finally felt whole, like I would never be alone again. I always knew I was missing something, someone, and it was you all along. We are two halves of the same whole, so, without you… how can I not feel alone?"

My body was shaking, my eyes so wet that no matter where I looked, everything was blurred.

"I c-can't just say goodbye."

"Tati…" he pulled me in for a hug and held me so tight that I knew it was time. "You will never be alone. I will always be with you. Our family will always be with you."

"I don't want to lose you."

"I couldn't be there for you when you grew up. I couldn't stop Killian from doing all the things he did to you and put you through throughout the years," he sighed. "Let me at least do this for you. Let me make sure that you have a future; that you have a chance to get what you always wanted—a family. I beg of you. We can't complete this without your consent."

"So, if I say no?"

"Then I will die for nothing as you said, and you will later when your body can't handle the strain, die for nothing as well."

He let his right hand glide over my hair, again and again, trying to calm me down while his left rubbed small circles on my back.

"Don't let me die for nothing Tati… Don't let me watch you die either," he begged. "Please."

It took me some time, but I finally understood him a bit better. This wasn't because he wanted to die. No, this was because he didn't want me to miss out on the things he had always had and that I had yet to experience. And so, I said the words I knew he was waiting to hear; the words I knew would break my heart.

"Okay," I sobbed. "Okay."

I looked at the moon goddess who nodded at me and before I even had the chance to change my mind, she rested a hand on both of us.

"Will it hurt?" I whispered.

"No," she sighed. "It won't hurt any of you. If anything, it will only bring him and his body peace."

As she began to speak in a language unknown to me, the light around us started to shine brighter and brighter, the wind picking up once again and I felt the thing I dreaded the most. The life slowly left Lucas's body as he leaned more and more against me, his legs starting to cave in.

"I love you, you know that right?" he whispered, his voice so very weak. "I am so thankful that I got to see you again; that you made it home before this…" he trailed off.

"I'm very happy too. I'm so very happy I got to spend some time with you," I sniffled and fastened my arms around him as I slowly lowered us to the ground as his body was getting too heavy for me to stand with. "I love you too and I always will. I will tell mom and dad that you love them as well and that you are at peace now. I promise I will do everything I can to be the queen I told you I would be."

"I will always look out for you," he mumbled barely audible and as I rested my cheek against his forehead, he took one last deep breath.

A breath that hung in the air around me for what felt like an eternity.

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Tatiana's POV

Everything was quiet around us. So quiet that the silences were nearly deafening. The only thing I could hear was my own heartbeat, beating so slow that I for a second didn't think it was beating at all.

I sat there, with my arms around my brother crying silent tears. I felt as they flooded down my cheeks, felt as they hit my arm before slowly dripping down on Lucas's still body.

"It's done," she said softly.

The soft tone in her voice reminded me of the way Lucas begged me to let him die only minutes ago and I started to cry even harder.

My body shook uncontrollably and no matter how hard I tried to blink away the tears that kept coming, it didn't work. My vision kept being blurry despite the only thing I wanted to do at that moment was to see his face once more.

"Thank you," I whispered to him as I caressed his cheek. "You did well. You were a good son, a good brother, and a wonderful friend. You just remember that, okay?" I pleaded even though I knew he was long gone and couldn't hear me.

"He is at peace now, right?" I asked in a groggy voice.

"He is no longer in pain," she nodded. "I have to take him with me now."

"Please," I croaked out. "Just two more minutes."

She nodded and floated away as if to give us some space.

"She says that you are at peace. That you are no longer in pain," I gulped. "I didn't know it hurt you that much. Had it really come to that? To being unbearable? There is so much I wish I had asked you and now… Now I can't."

I hugged his body tight before I let my lips meet his forehead to give him the last kiss. The kiss of goodbye.

"Are you ready?" she asked, and I nodded slightly while wiping my cheeks with my sleeve.

Her mouth pursed into a thin line as she waved her hand in the air. Everything around us started to disappear including his body.

"What will happen to him?" I croaked out.

"His body will remain where he last was, his spirit is with me and will follow me to the place he needs to go and his wolf with you. It is now up to you to mend the bond that was once broken. If you do, the wolf will stand by you until the end, a piece of Lucas will be with you, and you will be able to control the powers you have been given even more than you do now. Use them for good. Don't do what others have tried to do for so long. Be the light in our world made of darkness so that that the light can spread."

I had completely forgotten that I was given the magic he had in him as well as his wolf. It would not only give me the chance to bring peace inside of myself, but also to everyone around me. Maybe, I could even save some of my old pack and show them how a pack is supposed to be. Just maybe.

"Don't worry," I sniffled. "I won't disappoint. I will make him proud of me."

"He already is," she smiled as the rest of the light dimmed and darkness took over.

"Hey, Hey Tati," Lucas's voice rang.

"Lucas? Where are you?" I asked as I looked around. "Lucas?!"

I was so dark I could hardly see a thing. I didn't know what was up or down, left or right. The only thing I had to go after was his voice.

"I am right here Tati. Right here where I will always be."

His voice roamed in the darkness, echoing all around me, but he was nowhere to be seen and I had no clue on where to go.

"I-I can't see you? It is too dark!" I called out. "Can you come to me please?"

"I can't," he cooed. "But remember that I will always be with you. Remember who you are and what you are destined to be. No matter what you are stronger than you think. Remember that."

I blinked furiously trying to get my stinging eyes to open, but it was hard. I shivered slightly as a gush of wind hit me. Was I outside?

I finally managed to open my eyes just a little and I noticed how the last rays of today's sun hit the grass in front of me. It was then I remembered I was on the hill where I had been the entire time. I looked down and saw our hands entangled in each other, but I didn't dare to look up. I couldn't, because I knew what I would see.

But what if it had all been a dream? What if this wasn't real and we had just fallen asleep out here? After all, it seemed to unreal to be true.

I took a small breath of fresh air and held it as my eyes glazed over his body. I saw how his chest wasn't rising or falling, how his body rested limply against the tree, and how his face looked as if he was sleeping so peacefully.

It hadn't been a dream. It had been very real, and the reality hit me harder than I had thought. I thought I was done crying, I didn't want to cry anymore, but I couldn't hold it in.

I rested my head against his chest, my hand still holding on to his as I cried the very last tears I had.

"I'm sorry," I choked out. "I didn't mean to."

"It wasn't your fault," my mom's voice whispered from behind me.

I jumped a little from the shock as I turned my head to see where she was and to my surprise, she wasn't alone. On the grass, only two meters away from me, my entire family was standing. Dad was holding mom's hand caressing it gently. Uncle Kyle and Ryan had a firm grip on Hayden's shoulders as his tears ran down his cheek and even Gabriel was there looking both uncomfortable and sad.

"We waited for you to return," mom smiled and looked up at dad before they started to walk towards me. "I wanted to tell you sweetie, but Lucas begged me not to, and seeing as you let him go, you know how hard it is to argue with him when he reaches that state."

"I feel like this is all my fault," I sobbed. "It shouldn't have to be like this."

"It shouldn't, no, but sometimes reality will deal you a hand you haven't asked for, and sometimes the hand you are dealt, won't be a good one."

"He deserved so much better," I whimpered.

"He got to die at his own will honey," dad said and gave mom's hand a squeeze. "He even fought it for so long so that he had a chance to see you; to get to know you and when he did, he left on his own terms. That, and dying for someone you love, is a good way to go."

"A good way to go," I mumbled suddenly feeling very tired. "Are any of you feeling incredibly hot?" I asked as I let out a deep breath.

"No," Hayden said and stepped forward.

He put his hand on my forehead and looked at me with big eyes.

"God Tati, you are burning up," he exclaimed as he started to pull my jacket off of me.

"What?" Gabriel half yelled and ran to me. "She got a fever?"

"How are you feeling?"

"Tired," I muttered. "Warm… Not good," I sighed. "Not good," I repeated feeling really sluggish.

"We need to get you to Doctor Taylor," mom stated.

"No, what about… We can't leave him," I staggered out. "We can't…"

And then the darkness I was in before swallowed me once again.

Chapter 49 - Lost II - The Royal Hybrid

Hayden's POV

I watched in horror as her entire body buckled under the pressure, making her stumble forward in a bow. I managed to catch her before she hit the ground and then everything broke out in chaos.

Her body started to shake so violently that some of her bones could be heard snapping. Her arms twisted themselves in the wrong direction, her head kept banging against my arms and her legs bend as if she was about to stand.

"Oh my god," Talia exclaimed and backed away, horror and worry in her eyes. "What is happening?"

'Somebody! Go get Doctor Taylor now!' Alpha Shane mind linked to the pack, probably too much out of it to even think to just mind link him personally.

"We have to get her back to the house!" Kyle said. "Gabriel, go help Hayd – Gabriel? Are you okay?"

My head turned to the side out of pure instinct and when I saw Gabriel on his knees on the ground trying to stop himself from shaking, one thing got clear. Whatever was happening to her, was happening to him too.

"Somebody better go get Zaya instead," I yelled to my dad.

"Why? Shouldn't we get them to Taylor?" he asked.

"We should do that too, but this isn't necessarily only a medical thing," I said shaking my head while trying to hold Tatiana from breaking every bone in her body. "She got her second wolf. That is why it is affecting him as well, or so I think. Go get Zaya and tell her to hurry. Magic needs magic and right now she is our best shot to try and keep them from breaking each other."

"Breaking each other?" Talia questioned.

"She never had her second wolf, right? So, the wolf is now trying to adjust or something and this is the outcome," I staggered out. "I don't know what exactly is going on or how to stop it but please, just trust me. I know this has something to do with it."

Alpha Shane nodded, and this time sent a private mind link to someone, possibly Taylor himself, to ask him to get Zaya on the way.

I held on to her desperately, trying to stop her arms from snapping backward and her head from shaking too much. I was terrified to let go and go check on Gabriel, as the thought in my head, that her neck could snap, kept popping up.

"Is he okay?" I almost cried out when I noticed he was no longer on his knees, but now fully laying on the ground grunting and shaking, his bones making the same popping sound as Tatiana's. "God dammit, someone answer me please!"

I didn't know when exactly I had started caring so much for him or even started to worry about him but seeing him like that made something inside of me twist and I felt sick to my stomach. I had a hard time struggling with the fact that she had him as a mate as well, him out of all people even, but from the short amount of time after we agreed on trying it out, he had grown on me and it sparked something from the past.

He was good to her, cared about her, and even though I didn't want to admit it, he was a good mate. Not just to her but also to me, however stupid that sounded, but he was, and maybe that was why I felt myself break inside and torn between who I was supposed to help in this situation; who I was supposed to protect. But I knew that if he could talk right now, he would tell me to take care of her and so that was what I did and I left him to the others.

"Honey, come and help me here!" Talia yelled as I watched her struggle to hold his arms to his body. "He is a big guy, and I might be strong, but I cannot hold him still on my own."

I was about to speak; ask how he was doing when suddenly Tatiana went limp in my arms. Not just relaxed but full-on limp, her breathing barely detectable.

"Tati?" I exclaimed in panic.

My eyes went to her face, her beautiful face that was so relaxed that she looked like she was sleeping. There was no sign of the pain and struggle she was in before. Her body was relaxed and had it not been for the few bruises and broken bones from the violent shaking, you could have not seen what she had just been through.

I rested my ear against her chest just to make sure that her heart was beating steadily and when I heard the small thuds I took a deep breath of relief.

I hesitantly took my eyes off of her and looked back at Gabriel to see him just the same as her. All relaxed.

"What is going on?" I mumbled.

"I think I have the answer," Zaya yelled out as she came rushing up the hill almost out of breath when she finally reached us. "This is… God dammit why did you have to be this far away," she breathed. "Sorry," she cleared her throat while patting her chest. "Being a witch doesn't help my endurance at all it seems. Anyway, she got her wolf from Lucas," she said and eyed his dead body next to Tatiana and I swear I could see her lip quiver slightly. "It is now fighting against Amara and Tatiana to see which one of them is the dominant one. In a pack, there is an alpha, and even though Tatiana is her own person, and the wolves are in her body, she can still lose this battle."

"What happens if that is how it turns out? If she loses?" Shane asked.

"If one of her wolves wins, she will be caught in a wolf state. It won't be forever though. There is a way to fix it and that is to simply let the winning wolf gain her trust and respect. That way it will see her as the real alpha of "their body" and back down which should hopefully turn her back to normal," she explained still panting slightly.

"And if not?" Talia asked slowly.

"We will cross that bridge if we come to it," she frowned.

"When will we know if we are there?"

"When she wakes up," she sighed. "Either she will wake up as a wolf or she will wake up as a human. Nevertheless, she won't wake up before her internal battle is over and even though I don't know how long it can take, it wouldn't surprise me if it could last for a few days," she explained. "The same goes for him," she stated as she pointed to Gabriel.

"Why did it only happen to Gabriel and not Hayden?" my dad questioned. "They are both her mates after all."

"Because the wolf fighting is the wolf bonded to Gabriel and nothing is as strong as a bond between mates when they first meet, you all know that. Not only is her new wolf fighting her, but it is also fighting Gabriel and his wolf in some way. I don't know much about this honestly, but I believe he will wake up when she does."

"And will he wake up in a wolf state too if she does?"

"No. Because he and his wolf know who the alpha of the two of them is. They won't be affected like that, at least I don't hope so," she said as she shook her head.

"So, what now? This might be some internal battle, but we can't exactly leave them out here, and what if they have one of these episodes again? They can end up breaking their own damn neck," I muttered. "I mean look at their arms... They broke them themselves."

"We take them to Doctor Taylor, he is already making beds for them, and then he will monitor them while we wait."

"And what do we do in the meantime?"

"As I said… We wait."

Chapter 50 - Lost II - The Royal Hybrid

Tatiana's POV

Black. A color I was so tired of by now and yet here I was, surrounded by that exact color not knowing where I was or who was here with me.

"Hello? Is anyone there?" I yelled out to nothing. "Anyone?"

I seemed to be alone here.

"Great, no one around and I don't know where the hell I am," I grumbled as I tried to remember how I had gotten here. "Think Tatiana… Think."

I remembered how felt tired, how everything slowly began to fade, and then…

Distant pictures of shaking and grunting, along with the sound of bones breaking flashed before my eyes.

That was right. Something had happened, something bad that created a lot of pain, but what?

"Think for god's sake," I muttered getting slightly annoyed.

I tried to remember, remember the cause of the pain. I had been sad. Something had happened but what?

"Tatiana," a distant voice spoke.

"Who is there?" I asked.

I took a few steps forward, or at least I thought it was forward but for all, I know I could be walking sideways, as I tried to figure out where the voice was coming from.

"I am… but I… by the other… careful… coming."

Her voice was clearer this time, and I now knew who the voice belonged to.

"Amara? Amara, I can't hear you properly," I said and took another few steps. "Amara? Try again. Come on!" I yelled out into nothing.

"Can't… you have… you need… alpha."

Her voice came through like a radio that lost signal. Every second or third word she spoke was nothing but muffled sounds making it impossible for me to put her words together and form a full sentence.

"I need an alpha? Amara, you are not making any sense," I sighed frustrated.

"Fight," she roared before her voice turned into a distant echo.

"Fight who?" I yelled back but I had a feeling that I wouldn't get a response.

"Great," I sighed.

I was all alone for real this time. Not even my own wolf was here.

I decided to try and find out where I was but no matter how far I walked it still continued to be just as pitch black as before.

I had walked for what seemed like forever when suddenly I felt another presence behind me and not one, I was used to.

"Amara?" I called out as I turned around, just in case. "Is that you?"

I stared into the dark not really knowing what could suddenly stare back, but nothing did. Instead, I felt the same breeze as before as if someone were running behind me with immense speed.

I spun around; this time not so careless as I lifted my arms ready to defend myself if anything should happen.

"Who is there?" I grunted. "Show yourself!"

"You don't know me," a whispering voice said, and a shiver went down my spine. "But you will soon."

"What is your name?" I asked.

"What is yours?"

"I am Tatiana," I answered, trying to sound brave and unbothered when in reality I was shaking on the inside. "Now, tell me who you are."

"My name… Is Rama," the whispering voice spoke.

"Rama, what a pretty name," I gulped. "Rama, tell me, do you know where we are?"

"We are where I was supposed to be all along. Where he had to die to get me to."

Where she was supposed to be all along? Wait a minute… He had to die?

Oh my god… It all hit me so fast that I nearly fell on my ass.

Lucas, the moon goddess, the light… The transferring of a new wolf…

The current darkness, the way I was able to hear Amara from outside my mind compared to how we usually communicated… What was happening here must have been like when the moon goddess moved Lucas and me without moving our physical bodies, but now the battle was in my subconscious self instead?

"Are you my other wolf?" I questioned even though I had a pretty good feeling that I knew the answer already.

"I was, then I wasn't now I am again."

"If you are my other wolf, then where is Amara?"

"You don't need her, not now," she huffed.

"What have you done to her?" I growled.

"Only what you have done for so long, you suppressed her, you didn't look for me, how am I supposed to know that you are the strong one?"

"The strong one? What are you talking about?" I asked waving my hands in the air. "And what do you mean I didn't look for you? I didn't even know you existed until a few weeks ago!"

"You found our mate, I can feel it; smell on you even, so I know you are lying," she growled.

She clearly didn't believe me, but I didn't blame her. As much as I wanted to be mad at her for coming to me like this and suppressing Amara, blocking her in the back, I at the same time felt for her. If what she said is how she saw things, then who was I to tell her that she was wrong?

"Listen, yes I found our mate, and yes, I did feel something weird, a small connection maybe, but I didn't know what it was until someone told me what I was," I sighed. "And no, I'm not the strongest one, I don't think I ever will be, but I will be strong enough to fend for those who need it. Isn't that enough?"

"And what about us? What about Amara and me?"

"I will fend for you two as well," I said stating what I thought had been so very obvious. "Now let her go or I will have to fight you."

Fight her… Fight… Maybe that was what Amara had meant? Did I really have to fight her in order for her to back down? No, I had to be able to reason with her…

"I won't, not until I see your strength," she hummed. "I need to know that you are the alpha."

"Alpha?" again a word Amara had used in one of her unfinished sentences. "I am the daughter of an alpha if that is what you mean?"

"No, I mean alpha over us. Amara is weak compared to me, so she was easy to push away, you need to be stronger than me or else…"

"Or else what?" I snorted. "You'll take over? You don't want to be here? Well listen up, I have been through hell and back since the day I was taken from my family. I had to find my own way back after, I, by myself I might add, found out that everyone I had known since forever had lied to me to use me for my powers, powers that by the way ended up taking the life away from my twin brother, his life that he had to sacrifice in order to save me because I was supposed to have had you from the beginning. So, if you want to make this transfer difficult and try to fight me for dominance, then be my fucking guest because I am tired and I will not let my brother's last will go up in flames."

I was fuming. I had just lost my brother and now his goddamn wolf was threatening me? I waited for an answer, for anything really, but nothing came.

"Hello?" I asked stupidly. "Rama?"

No one spoke but the sound of paws hitting the ground, closed in on me instead. I narrowed my eyes trying to spot anything in the darkness and just as I was about to give up four front paws stepped out of the darkness and into the dim light that opened around me.

Both Rama and Amara walked up to me and stopped only before the tips of their snout touched my hands that now hung by my sides. One wolf was beautifully black with crystal blue eyes and the other was as white as snow with eyes that glowed red like a fire.

"Amara?" I asked and looked at the black wolf who nodded at me before bowing her head.

"Rama?" I pointed out as I looked at the white wolf who did the same, but she lifted her head again after a few seconds.

"I am sorry for the way I had to do this. I didn't know how else to see the fire you hold. That is the strength I talked about and that is what makes you the worthy one to bear the power of the double hybrid. You come from the legend of the two-faced wolf and now you have reunited not only us but also brought us to our true heir. You."