The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Novel Online Free, Chapter 431: THEY SHED THEIR MORAL

THEY SHED THEIR MORAL

Iris shouldn't be blamed for this, because she had told Maria that Sofia was her responsibility. It should be her, who took care of the pregnant woman that they fancied. She had nothing to do with this.

"Like you always said, she is pregnant with the alpha firstborn, you will be held accountable if something happened to her and the baby." Iris stared at Maria's shocked expression coldly. What's there to be surprised for? If they really cared for the woman, they should stop arguing with her and take her somewhere else immediately.

However, this was not Iris's problem anymore. She turned around and left them, as everyone stared at her with gaping mouth, as they didn't expect her to be so callous like this.

Iris straightened her back and walked across the hall. Let them stared at her. If they really wanted to put her as the bad person, they could do it as they wished.

With that, Iris walked out of the room, she headed toward the front yard, where Jemma was being held. Some people gathered around and then some more, as it got crowded now. They whispered among each other about what had happened in the main hall and they grimaced to see how Jemma wailed.

She looked mortified to be forced to drink Rottingbane leaves, to prevent her from shifting to her beast, as she was being tied to a pole with her back faced the crowd. The young woman cried out loud, she ranged from pleading to have Iris's mercy to straight up cursing at her and wish for Hanna's death, back to begging again.

And what made people dumbstruck was; how Iris was so calm throughout this entire ordeal, as she stood a few steps away from where Jemma was being tied, her blue eyes looked so dead, as if she didn't feel any emotions right now.

Probably, that was what mate was, as some of your mate personality would rub on you and you became the reflection of each other, because right now, they felt like they were seeing the alpha, since how nonchalant Iris was, was a reminder of Cane's personality. Their alpha rarely showed his emotions in the open for people to know what was going on in his mind.

And at this moment, that was what Iris was doing. She looked aloof, as if all the pleas and insults that were thrown at her meant nothing.

That could be true, because the only thing in Iris's mind was Hanna's stained-blood face. Her blood was still on her hand when she touched her earlier. The image played again and again in her mind. It was too much blood and Iris had never seen Hanna was in so much pain ever since she found her years ago.

This fact alone made her blood boiled. She was waiting for Redmond to come.

However, instead of Redmond it was actually Ethan and Will, who came toward her and Jace followed behind the two of them.

People sighed in relief to see the beta and Gamma was there, they must be able to talk her out about this punishment. It was too cruel for the young girl, she could die and they didn't to see people died anymore in this pack. Aria's death was still engraved in their heart.

Iris frowned to see Will walked straight to her and then knelt down in front of her solemnly. This would be the first time, he initiated to talk with her, while Ethan and Jace nodded out of respect for the luna.

"I call for Redmond," Iris stated, her voice was oddly detached from any emotions. "Where is he?"

Will lifted his head, so Iris could read what he was going to say. "Luna Iris." His eyes glinted with determination, as his jaw hardened. "Please, allowed me to deliver the punishment."

People gasped to hear Will's plea, but then they remembered Will and Hanna was in some kind of relationship when they went to the capital city, though after they returned, the two of them didn't look like they got along well.

"Have you seen Hanna?" Iris narrowed her eyes and watched how Will clenched his fists tightly, anger flashed in his eyes, as he gritted out the answer.

"Yes."

Fair enough. If Redmond couldn't do it, Will surely would be able to deliver the punishment. "Do it. A hundred lashes, no more, no less."

Will nodded and then got back on his feet to get the whip. This thing felt so heavy in his hand, as if it bit his palm. Will was familiar with it, since it was him, who used to be lashed. He knew how it felt to be the end of the recipient of this vicious tool.

However, he didn't want to be moral right now. The only person that he cared the most more than himself had been hurt inside the pack that he protected by an outsider, who held no importance and he would go ballistic.

Jace came closer to Iris, tried to advise her, while Ethan stood by her side and stared at Will, the gamma had this emotionless expression on his face.

"Luna, don't you want to reconsider your punishment?" Jace asked, trying to talk with Iris, as he found this punishment came from anger. You shouldn't give a punishment when you were not emotionally stable, it would bite your conscience once your anger subsided and the beta didn't want that for her.

"There is nothing to be reconsider," Iris replied.

"Or at least, let someone else to do it. Will..." Jace glanced at Will, who was ready to deliver the first lash. "He will kill her..." Jace knew the story of the three guards from Ethan and seeing the determination in Will's eyes, he realized, it wouldn't end in a good note.

"Then that must be faith."

Jace was shocked to hear that. Pain really had changed people and the same thing could be said to the people in the Howling Wolf pack, as they were no longer able to see Iris without the shadow of their past.

"Luna, I don't want you to regret this decision later. The blood will be on your hand and believe me, once your anger disappeared, you will question your action at this moment." Jace didn't say for Iris to revoke the punishment, but giving Will the role as the executor for someone, who had hurt the person he loved, was not right.

"You talk as if you know me, beta." Iris stared at Jace straight into his eyes, which made the beta averted his gaze, because he felt like he was being intimidated.

"Luna, but being lashed is something..." Jace immediately stopped himself before he continued his words, but Iris had caught the gist of the thing he wanted to say and her eyes dimmed.

"Believe me, beta, I know how it felt. The people in the Howling Wolf pack and Blue Moon pack are not the only people, who are familiar with my father and brother's brutality. I still carry the scars with me."

With that, Jace lowered his head and didn't say anything anymore. He knew when to stop and not to push further. He couldn't afford to cross her line right now.

And with that, all of them could hear how Jemma cried, as if she was being slaughtered with the first lash on her back. The whip bit through the fabric of her dress and tore her flesh, as blood immediately stained her back, splattered on the ground with every lash that Will did.

People averted their gaze, they covered their eyes and some of them left the proximity because they couldn't take it to watch the whole thing unfolded, since it reminded them of their dark days and more so, because Jemma's wail was simply too much, their heart couldn't take it.

More people cried and left, even Jace grimaced and averted his gaze from the scene before his eyes.

And among all the people, probably it was only Iris, Ethan and Will, who were not affected by it. They remained oddly calmed, as they watched the whole thing, as if they had sold their soul to the devil and now, their hearts were not able to feel anything.

And somewhere, miles away, the five swords dimmed even more.

"Can you stop treating me like this? And answer my question already?" Haco felt so much headache when he tried to make the lycan talk, at least, answered some of his question, but this cursed creature didn't want to open his mouth.

"Where is my mate? I want her."

"I will call her here later, but right now, there are a lot of things she needs to handle."

Silence.

Haco facepalmed himself. He really needed Iris to make the lycan talked. "I feel like I am dying."

"You are." The lycan stared at Haco's straight in the eyes with his black eyes.

It took the sorcerer two hours to make him drink the potion he made to change his eyes color. He needed to bring up Iris's name before he relented and gulped down the entire potion.

While, Lu could go out of this study room by himself and looked for Iris, he looked reluctant to step outside, or rather too lazy to do so. Somehow, he looked a little bit lethargic, as if he was holding himself back.

"Yes, because of you," Haco grumbled, he threw Lu a dagger look.

"Indeed." Lu nodded, agreed with him.

Haco got a bad feeling in his guts to hear that.

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THAT'S THE PLAN

"What do you mean with that?" Haco got this feeling there was something more behind Lu's words. He hunched his back, waiting for his answer. "Lu, at least, have some decency to tell me what it is. You have been using me for five whole decades."

Lu stared at Haco. "You have at least a year more left."

"Why so? Are you being a clairvoyant now?"

"I was extracted from you. You can say I have been your life force for the past five decades, your life force attached to me." Lu crossed his arms in front of his chest, staring at Haco lazily, while the sorcerer tried to process the information about his life.

"And why it's only my life force that's attached to you? Why it's not vice versa?" Haco was still hoping Lu said something nonsense, but then if there was something he really knew about this lycan was; he always be true to his words.

"Because I am not even alive, old man." Haco massaged his temple when he got the answer. "Feeling better now you know about it?"

"No!" Haco snapped, but then he sighed deeply and his tone a little bit calmer when he talked again. "After you used me for five decades now you drop this information when I finally free from you."

Lu scoffed. "The day you were being kicked from the Holy Kingdom was the best day in your life, admit that." Lu tapped his temple, indicating that there was time when they shared their thought process.

Haco scoffed back at him. His grey hair glinted under the sunlight that filtered through the window, as his wrinkled lips tugged upward. "I think the Holy Kingdom is indeed not my place."

There was silence that ensued as the two of them were deep in their own thought, before Haco threw the same question that he had been dying to know.

"Was the first Serafim your mate?"

Lu clicked his tongue. He showed the expression as if he told him that he didn't want to talk about this, but the sorcerer was persistent.

"At least, let me died in peace. You will not die again if you answer my question, you know." Haco knew the reason why Lu died and if the first Serafim was indeed his mate, thus there was a lot of things that finally make sense now from the history that he read long time ago.

"Yes, that cheeky woman caused my demised."

Even though that was the truth, Lu still couldn't bring himself to cuss at her and take her accountable for his death. His love for her was so deep and he was willing to go through it all over again just to keep his promised to her.

That woman was truly the death of him, but there was no regret.

Thankfully, he didn't need to bound with the same stupid promise he made centuries ago, now it was different lifetime.

At the forty- seventh lash, she stopped crying, leaving only a small whimper, his body stopped struggling and on the fifty- two last, she was not moving, neither she made a small sound, still Will continued until the last lash and only then he stopped.

People would see him as a monster now and he didn't care.

The young, sweet boy that they knew, someone that was still have a warm heart even after their slavery day and always looked so peaceful, as he avoided conflict and used to be the pacifist, now turned into someone else completely.

Will wouldn't hurt someone if it was not necessary and was very compassion, but then, here he was standing in front of the bloodied girl that he whipped to death and feel nothing. He was broken beyond repaired. There was no fixing for him.

Blood soaked the ground and some of it splashed on his chest, face and hair. His hand was bleeding because he gripped the whip tightly.

The whip dropped from his hand and then he walked toward Iris to inform her the punishment had been delivered.

"You may retreat," Iris said and Will immediately resigned himself, all of them knew, where he would go. "Release her."

Two guards immediately came forward and lowered Jemma's body to the ground. Her healing ability couldn't keep up with the wounds that she sustained.

"Lu- luna..." One of the guard stuttered, as he rushed toward Iris and knelt down in front of her. He was trembling under Iris's gaze. "Luna, the girl is... dead." It sounded like a whisper, but all Iris needed was to read his lips, so she understood what he was saying.

"Bury her."

And that was it. Iris didn't show an ounce of sympathy at all, as she turned around and left the scene. Everyone made a way for her, they were extremely afraid of their luna right now, as they tried not to get her attention and make any mistake in her presence. They felt like their dark days crept in, hovered above their head. This feeling almost the same like when alpha Gerald ruled over them.

Meanwhile, Iris couldn't care less about this people.

While people looked afraid of the luna, Ethan didn't feel the same, he didn't find what had happened held some meaning, but still, he instructed the guards to carry the girl's body to the mountain.

"Do you want to bury her there?" Jace asked, he frowned to see how nonchalant Ethan was.

"Yes. Next to Aria's grave. The view is nice." Ethan thought about it for a while. "Do you want to come with me and visit her too?"

"No." Jace shook his head. "There is nothing to be seen. I am not interested to visit a tomb."

Ethan shrugged his shoulders. He was not really interested to see Aria's tomb either, but like he said, the view was nice and he needed some alone time for himself.

Will stood in front of the door to Hanna's bedroom, but he had not yet decided whether or not he wanted to enter. He still had blood on him and was at lost. He couldn't think straight, not because he just killed a young girl, who had hurt Hanna, but because he didn't feel any guilt at all from doing so and deep down, he knew it was so wrong.

But then, after an hour of standing there, Will decided to leave at the same time someone opened the door and Amee walked out of the room.

"How is she?" Will asked the old lady.

"She will be fine tomorrow, Grace is with her." Amee gave him a reassuring smile and Will simply nodded politely and walked away, but Amee caught up with him.

"Is that your blood?" Amee asked, pointing her finger at him.

"No."

"I guess so." Amee nodded in understanding. "Thus, it must be the girl's blood. I think the luna will not mind if Grace look after her too, right?"

"I don't know." Will hastened his pace, because he didn't want to talk with Amee.

"Go and change your clothes, cleaned yourself and come to see her." Will didn't give any reply to that, but when Amee spoke again, he halted his step for a while. "She is looking for you. You know what Will? You have given her much more pain than the wound on her face with the way you treat her."

Jace jogged behind Iris, he caught up with her before she entered the alpha's bedroom. If Iris could hear, she would be able to hear distinguish cries from the luna's bedroom, where Maria was trying to calm Sofia down.

She would cry even more when she learned her personal maid servant had died during the punishment.

"Iris," Jace called Iris and grabbed her hand to stop her.

Out of instinct, Iris swatted his hand and backed away, her eyes were on alert, even when she learned it was Jace, she didn't put her guard down.

"What is it?" Iris asked, her voice was so calm, it almost eerie.

Jace looked hesitated and then went to open the alpha's bedroom. "Let's talk inside." He didn't know how their conversation would go, but he was sure this was not something that other people should hear.

Jace held the door opened and let Iris to go inside first, where her lizard immediately came to her and snuggled against the crook of her neck, seemingly very happy to see her again, since it was so rare to be inside the room, except for night, but she last night she didn't come.

"What do you want to talk about?" Iris fished out something from her pocket and gave a piece of meat that she got from the kitchen on her way here to the little lizard, which couldn't be said as little anymore now.

"I am not saying this because I want to say what you have done is wrong," Jace said carefully, he was trying to find the right words to say, but in this current situation, it seemed, there was nothing right. "But, I think by killing Jemma will disrupt Cane's plan."

Iris cradled her lizard in her arms, as she stared at the beta, while the creature munched on the meat happily, but its eyes fixed on Jace, as it could sense his anxiety.

"Then what Cane's plane is?" Iris asked. "Now I think about that, I am sure he can find a way to let people know the baby is not his, why he did nothing about it?"

Jace gritted his teeth. "Maybe, that's the plan, luna," he said.

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HE IS GONE

"What Cane's plan is? What his end game not to straighten the misunderstanding?" As someone like Cane, who used to twist every word and fact, this kind of matter shouldn't be a problem in the first place at all.

Or probably, this was only her exhausted mind and drained emotions, which talked her down to think this way.

She was so tired, she felt so tired.

"I am not so sure, luna, but I think that's his plan not to reveal the truth yet." Jace tilted his head, as he contemplated. "Actually, I shouldn't have discussed this matter with you."

Iris sighed. She was tired with this game, where she was kept in the dark, but knowing Cane, it was not only her, who was frustrated to be in this position.

"Then you can deal with the lycan," Iris said, as she turned around with the lizard in her hand, because of what happened recently and how busy she was, she was kind of neglecting the creature.

Hearing that, Jace was mortified. "No!" He immediately blocked Iris from going out of the room, which made her frowned, while the beta grimaced. "No,

please luna, I can't deal with the lycan. You know that it's only you, who can keep him in check."

Jace only met with the lycan for no more than a few hours, but he knew, he was not up for the challenge.

"I don't know how to help when I don't even know anything," Iris said blatantly. Jace wanted to keep her in an arm length from whatever plan Cane had, but he wanted her to get involved at the same time.

Jace furrowed his brows, he was contemplating his option, but when Iris was about to walk away again, he gave up. Screw him! If Cane returned, he would explain the situation with Iris and why she knew his plan.

In Jace's mind, he didn't think Cane would share this information with Iris, since he himself barely knew anything about it, as each of them were only given task and incomplete plan.

"Okay, okay, I got it. I will tell you."

Iris stared at him. "You don't need to, if you feel under the pressure."

Yes, the beta was under the pressure, but his hands were tied and his options were limited. "Luna, there is not much that I know about the plan too, but I think this will give you some perspective."

Iris said nothing, she waited for Jace to talk about it.

"Just like you know, the southern pack is under his control. He most likely than not, to be the only alpha in the south and next, I think Cane aimed for Moon Dew pack. Alpha Gallot's pack." Jace didn't know the detail of the plan.

"How?" Iris narrowed her eyes.

If you knew Cane well, you must be familiar with his method, where he would keep all the detail to himself and distribute the task to his people, therefore, when Cane was absent like this, everything was crumbling, because they were not sure what the next step they should take.

Cane was someone without an explanation after all.

And what Jace said was rather made sense if you saw the whole situation from Cane's perspective and his way to execute a plan.

"Cane has been sending spies to the Moon Dew pack and the black market ever since Sofia arrived in this pack. He has planned something about her, but he didn't explain anything to me." Jace looked at Iris deeply. He didn't realize until now how this woman had changed in the past half year.

There must be a lot of things had happened during their journey to capital city and from what he heard, many things indeed had happened when they stayed in the palace.

"Luna, look." Jace cleared his throat. "Even Cane saw Sofia as a nuisance, but he let her stay in this pack, he even let her occupied your room and the whole pack misunderstood the situation." Jace then explained about his opinion regarding this matter, which related to the deal between Cane and the king.

How he thought, Cane did this to keep the whisper among people about how he couldn't have a child, though the whisper was not a threat, but things could escalate so fast when it involved the king. After all, almost everyone knew what alpha Gerald had done to him.

So, Cane wanted to keep the whisper at bay.

"But, I think it's more than that. Cane wanted to get to alpha Gallot through Sofia, but if you asked me how, I am really clueless, luna. No one really knows what is going on in the alpha's head. But, surely, he has been paying close attention to Moon Dew pack and alpha Gallot's movement."

Jace then added hastily when he thought, his words were not convincing enough for Iris.

"Luna, I have seen the way Cane treated you in the past few weeks and if I am being honest, I don't even believe that Cane can be so affectionate."

Iris pressed her lips and then spoke in an even tone, but her eyes flickered with emotions. "You know Cane did that partly for a show. There's point he wanted to emphasize and how people perceive us." Iris could say that much. Cane's calculative personality kept bothering Iris whether he did that because he aimed for something.

"Yes, maybe you are right, but can you really deny if Cane was not being affectionate with you even without anyone around you?" Jace had witnessed it a couple of time, because in the beginning, he had the same thought like Iris.

"He really cares about you, luna and that's how I see things between the two of you."

But then, he realized Cane had done it naturally, as if he wasn't even thinking when he would kiss her head randomly or played with her hair when he read his report.

For someone, who got involved in it, it would be hard to place the judgment, but for outsider perspective like Jace, he could say for sure that Cane was genuine with her.

On the other hand, Iris lowered her head.

She couldn't deny it. There was no different from the way Cane treated her when people saw them or when they were together. "He confused me."

Jace nudged her arms to get her attention. "Don't worry, luna. You are not the only confused person here. Some time, he drove all of us crazy."

Iris chuckled a bit when she read what he said.

"More so, for someone like the alpha, he will not do something without meaning, especially when he let something that he sees as a nuisance to be around him for long. That must be the reason why he has not yet revealed the truth about Sofia's pregnancy and let nature take its course." Jace then clicked his tongue. "And yes, his lack of explanation is really a pain."

Iris lowered her head and she really wished Cane could return soon, but she didn't know how to get to him.

Right at that time, someone opened the door abruptly and the panic Haco appeared.

"What is it?" Jace frowned to see the sorcerer's expression.

"He is gone!" he hollered in frustration.

Jace was immediately on alert when he heard that.

Hanna was inside her room with Grace and Amee, some people had come to see her and express their worry for her current condition, but no one had a heart to tell her about what Will had done and the end of Jemma, Amee also made sure of that, since Hanna still looked so weak, after she lost a lot of blood.

"Where is miss Iris? Why she didn't come to see me? Is she angry with me because I caused trouble?" Hanna murmured. She didn't care about the member of the pack, who expressed their feeling to her, she only waited for her missy to come, because of how cold and distance Iris was when she sent her away made Hanna nervous.

"Of course not, there is something she needs to deal with, don't worry she will come here soon enough to see you, okay?" Amee calmed her down.

She didn't know the detail, but when she asked about this to Jace, the beta only told her, there was an urgent matter related to the alpha.

"Okay," Hanna said dejectedly.

Probably, the way Will suddenly turned so cold toward her and kept his distance had affected her more than she realized it, because right now, she was so scared Iris would suddenly become so cold and ignore her the way Will did. It was not a pleasant feeling and now Hanna was overthinking.

Right at that time, this familiar scent hit her, the scent that belonged to the person she had longed.

Hanna's body stiffened when she stared at the door and Amee realized it too. "I think it's time for him to show up," she mumbled under her breath.

Not long after, someone opened the door and Will entered. He looked as calm as usual, but it was very clear to see there was something shifted in his personality and he was no longer gave off this warmth.

Will stood there for a while, as his eyes found Hanna's and the two of them stared for a while, until Amee cleared her throat and talked to Grace.

"Come here with me, Grace. Lets find more herbs." Amee stood up and dragged Grace out of the room, leaving the two of them alone.

"What do you want?" Hanna asked.

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THE CRYING MISTRESS

"What do you mean he is gone?!" Jace roared to Haco, which made the sorcerer jumped in surprised. "He was with you! You said, you are going to keep your eyes on him!" This was a disaster if Lu moved around randomly. No one should know he was not Cane!

"I am sorry, but I am not doing this on purpose!" Haco shouted back. He was annoyed with the lycan too. "I was turning my back against him for a moment, but in the next second he already disappeared."

"How could you not realize he went out of the room?" Jace immediately went out of the bedroom, followed by Haco and Iris as well.

"I am not a shifter, okay? I don't have great senses like you do!" Haco bit back.

Jace grumbled under his breath and asked the first guard that he met. "Where is Ethan?!"

"The gamma went to the mountain, he went to bury the girl's body," the guard replied. Right. Ethan had told him earlier about that. "Find the alpha! Once you spot him, don't engage with him, but tell me immediately, understood?!" The guard was confused, but he nodded his head. "Tell the other about this as well!"

"Yes, beta Jace."

With that, the guard rushed away to carry the beta's order, while Jace felt like his head was going to explode.

Jemma's death didn't really affect the pack, since they only knew her for a few weeks, ever since Sofia arrived here. More so, she was not easy to be around and they tolerated her behavior because she was Sofia's personal maid.

But still, her death shocked them and left a bitter taste in their mouth, since this was the second death that happened in this pack after Aria and all of their death related to their luna. "Don't you have a way how to find Cane?!" Jace hissed at Haco.

"No. Without magic stone, I am useless, remember? I can't sniff around like you do," Haco was panting, he couldn't keep up with Jace and stopped running all together. Iris stopped with him too. "I think if he disappeared, he must look for her." Haco nodded at Iris.

Jace halted his step when he heard that. "You are right. He must be looking for you."

"I guess so," Iris replied in small voice, the lizard was still in her arms.

"He must be sniffing you around, it would be better if you don't go anywhere." Haco voiced out his opinion about this matter. "Why don't you stay in your room for a while, so he can find you easily?"

Iris didn't answer that immediately. She wanted to go to see Hanna and looked after her, but she thought, this matter was way more important.

She didn't go to visit Hanna immediately because she needed to calm herself down, since seeing her wounded like that really aggravated her. She felt like there was a monster inside of her that was awaken.

More so, she knew Amee and Grace were there to take care of Hanna.

"Okay," Iris replied. "Jace, can you tell Hanna I will be there later. Tell her I am caught up with something."

"Sure." Jace nodded and then raced away to start hunting down his own alpha. Damn it.

Meanwhile, Haco followed Iris to the bedroom, because he was not given any magic stone, rendered him useless in this searching for the lycan without his power, those creatures could find him way faster by sniffing his scent.

"Iris, there is something I want to tell you," Haco said when they already entered the bedroom. He glanced at the lizard in her arms and now he was very sure about this, but then, there were a lot of question that followed about the Serafim in the Holy Kingdom.

"What is it?"

Amee dragged Grace out of the bedroom, so Hanna and Will could have their time together to talk about their problem.

Amee didn't know what happened between them two because when they left for the Capital city, they looked so happy, as they could be together, but something shifted inside Will that no one could understand.

Will was someone that you could approach easily, but right now, even Amee herself felt suffocated with his presence, as if he carried a dark aura around him, he looked... feral.

"Alpha?" Amee and Grace immediately halted their steps when they saw Cane and then lowered their head solemnly to greet him.

Cane stared at Amee and then Grace. That was right, this was the woman he had been looking for.

"You, come with me." Cane pointed his finger at Grace and beckoned her to follow him.

Amee frowned. She had known Cane for long, thus she could feel it when there was something off with the alpha, but then, she shook her head. That must be her own imagination.

She watched Grace followed the alpha without having a single doubt with the way Cane acted strangely.

Meanwhile, most of the time, Lu laid dormant, he didn't care with Cane's plan and even when he was able to know what was in the alpha's mind, he couldn't care less about that.

However, this particular matter, was the only thing that interested him. Thankfully, he remembered his way inside this pack and Grace's scent.

He led them to Grace's study room, where the smell of herbs was very strong, which made Lu groaned. He hated this smell.

"Where is that?" Cane asked, once they were inside the study room.

"Where is what?" Grace asked, confused, because she didn't get what Cane wanted, since they didn't talk about anything on their way here.

"That!" Cane raised his voice impatiently, which made Grace shocked upon hearing that. "That, the concoction you made from the water magic stone! Cane gave you a lot and you supposed to make a concoction so he can reproduce!" His voice dripped with annoyance, since Grace was not quick to get what he wanted.

That was the water magic stone that Cane had ransacked from the black market.

If what Jace said was right that the reason for Cane to keep Sofia here was because he had a plan to get to alpha Gallot through her and the fact he had been sending spies and put a lot of attention to the Moon Dew pack and black market, it must be because he wanted the black market along with the hidden mine inside of it, not to mention Lou was wrapped around his palm. The merchant literally worked for him now.

Meanwhile, after hearing that, only then it clicked in Grace's mind. "Ah!"

"Yes, that! Where is it?" Cane clicked his tongue impatiently. "You have been ordered to make this concoction ever since he went to the capital city, right? Don't tell me you slack off?" He crossed his arms in front of his chest now.

Meanwhile, Grace blinked her eyes, she felt so weird with the way the alpha was talking, why he called himself as if it was someone else?

However, seeing how impatient Cane was and how he glared at her, Grace didn't dare to ask about the oddity and then went to get the concoction she had made before.

There were two bottles, one bottle was the color of blue and the other was the color of black. Both was the size of an adult palm.

"Should I drink both?" Cane asked, he lifted both bottles. This was the only thing that interested Lu the most among a lot of plots and schemes that tangled in Cane's mind.

He tried to follow Cane's way of thinking, but it didn't take him long to despise it, because of there were so many complications. When he was with Haco, the sorcerer only cared about mundane and simple thing.

"No, alpha, yours is the black one, while the blue one is for luna Iris," Grace replied.

"What is this for?" Lu must have missed this information, because he didn't remember Cane asked anything about making another concoction for Iris. Well, actually, he could be said knew nothing about the vessel he was in.

Grace blinked her eyes, confused. "You are worried that luna Iris can't handle... mmh, she can't handle you, so you want her to nurse her health and be as healthy as possible before you... mmh."

"Before I fuck her?" Lu asked in a matter of fact tone, as if he was stating that the color of the bottle was black.

"Mmh, yes," Grace said in small voice. She felt embarrassed to talk about this with the alpha, especially when there were the two of them here.

"Good thinking." Cane nodded, satisfied. "Good job! Go back to your work."

And after saying that, Cane left the room with the two bottles in his hands, while whistling happily, which made Grace's jaw dropped. Since when the alpha whistled? What actually happened with him?

Meanwhile, Lu couldn't care less about how stunned Grace was because right now, he was going to find Iris. They needed to start it soon, so they would know whether the concoction was working or not.

However, when Cane sniffed the air, his nose scrunched in disdain when he caught this particular scent and the person appeared at the end of the corridor.

"Alpha Cane?!" Sofia gasped loudly when she finally met with him. She had been trying to find him ever since the breakfast incident, but would always be away during the day and came back so late at night, when she had fallen asleep. "Alpha Cane, please, give justice for me..." Sofia cried again.

The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Novel Online Free, Chapter 435: THAT UGLY CHILD IS NOT MINE

THAT UGLY CHILD IS NOT MINE

Sofia was having a hard time to find Cane, because he was always not available and because of her pregnancy, she used to sleep for longer hour and that added to the difficulty.

But right now, when she saw Cane for the first time after the breakfast incident, she was so relief, but then the death of Jemma hit her again so hard. They had been together for years and now she lost her companionship.

The reason why Sofia didn't stop Jemma was because that was how they used to act in the Moon Dew pack, with a lot of mistress that alpha Gallot had, they would fight over anything and Jemma would always be the aggressive one, while Sofia would keep up a front.

However, this was not Moon Dew pack and Jemma messed up with Iris in the wrong time. She would leave unscathed if it was the timid Iris in the past, without any of those horrendous things happened to her in the past six months.

"Alpha Cane! She killed my friend! She killed my personal maid! I want justice for her death!" Sofia screamed between her cries, while Maria was trying to calm her down and remind her about the baby in her stomach. She was worried Sofia would collapse again.

Maria was trying to console Sofia when she accidentally heard Jemma had died, thus she took her for a walk. They went to the garden, but Sofia felt not good and kept crying, thus Maria was about to get her to see Grace and it was when they met the alpha.

"Alpha Cane! Please, deliver justice for my friend!" Sofia cried so hard, her face turned red.

Meanwhile, Lu simply scrunched his nose, disgusted by the sight before his eyes.

What was that? Runny nose? So disgusting. Why her saliva all over the places? Didn't she realize that? Couldn't she wipe her face first before talking?

Lu didn't like this sight. He wanted to find his mate and give this concoction for Iris. He couldn't understand why Cane had to wait, they had arrived in this pack for five days now, but he had not yet told Iris about it at all.

Yes, and within those five days, a lot of things had happened.

"Alpha Cane!" Maria approached Cane and she gathered her courage to block the alpha, to stop him from leaving, while Maria leaned against the wall, feeling all the emotions that racked her body. "Alpha Cane please, what Jemma has done is so wrong, I know, but death is too much for her."

Lu stopped walking, he narrowed his eyes, trying to recall who was this woman, but he couldn't remember. He should have paid more attention to Cane's surroundings, apparently. "Why it has anything to do with me?"

Lu suppressed the urge to push this old woman out of his way, but he knew if he did so, even when he was lethargic now, he would end up hurting her and he didn't want to be reprimanded by his mate again.

"Alpha, you have not heard about this?" Maria was shocked when she learned Cane didn't know about what happened to Jemma and what the luna had done to that girl.

"Get to the point and scram!' Lu growled. This woman annoyed him so much.

Maria jumped a little, as she was so scared with the alpha's harsh tone. "Th-this early morning..." she told Cane everything that had happened between Jemma and Hanna, and even though she didn't agree for Jemma to attack Hanna, the punishment was too harsh and now the girl died. "Alpha, Sofia is very sad, Jemma is her best friend and I am worried something might happened to your baby."

Lu was half daydream when he heard Maria's explanation, but his eyes shone a little bit darker when he heard the last statement.

"My baby?" He almost growled at that. How could he have a baby when he was still trying to fix this body?

"Yes, yes, alpha..." Maria nodded her head vigorously, though it was so odd to see Cane was surprised to hear about his baby. He should have known about this, right? But, the fact the alpha was finally interested to his baby made Maria brushed it off. "Sofia is carrying your firstborn, alpha. She is very sad now, why don't you go over and console her a little?"

Maria didn't feel bad for pushing the alpha to be together with Sofia, but she was really afraid of the current luna and her already partial judgment leaned more toward Sofia now, everyone sympathized with her, especially when she had to go through this when she was pregnant.

"What did you say? My baby?" Lu frowned, he looked over his shoulder and found that runny nose woman leaned against the wall caressed her stomach, which was a blatant sight she was pregnant.

"Yes, your baby alpha, your firstborn," Maria said, probably a little bit excited, because right now she really pushed it for Cane to walk over and talk to Sofia a little. "I don't want anything to happen to your baby, alpha, the baby will be your first child, your flesh and blood."

Curiosity got the best of Lu, as he walked over and stood in front of Sofia, as he stared down to her stomach, as if this was the first time for him to see a pregnant woman.

Seeing this gesture made Sofia thrilled. Finally, finally he noticed her.

"Alpha..." Sofia whispered, her voice was trembling, but she didn't dare to move, she didn't even dare to breath a little bit louder when the alpha's focus was on her pregnant belly. She even covered her mouth when Cane raised his hand and caressed her bulging stomach.

Meanwhile, Maria felt this elation in her heart, seeing how Cane and Sofia right now, she felt like she was seeing Cane with Leane, his destined mate.

Probably, this was what the whole pack wanted. They still couldn't look past through the shadow of alpha Gallot from Iris. Some of them managed to do that, but some of them surely couldn't and with nightmare still hunted them down and the scars from the slavery still marred their mind, it was so hard for them to see Iris with Cane.

Her existence was a grim reminder of what her father had done, even with everything Iris had done for them, they still couldn't help it.

Some time, there was feeling you couldn't control.

"Alpha, this is our baby..." Sofia choked in her words, she was so elated and happy to finally get a recognition from Cane. She had tears in her eyes when Cane leaned over and pressed his ear against her stomach. If Jemma was still here and Iris didn't kill her, she would be the happiest person in this world.

However, the next thing Cane said left Sofia and Maria stunned.

"This is not my baby," Cane said, as he straightened up his body, the corner of his lips curled into a disdain smile. "How could this ugly baby mine?"

Ugly baby...

The alpha actually called the baby in Sofia's stomach ugly?

Sofia and Maria were mortified by what Cane said, thus they didn't know what to do when Cane walked away from them, whistling while carrying the bottle in his hand. He sniffed the air to look for his mate, he waltzed in the hallway, feeling happy, not knowing he just crushed someone's heart.

"What... what the alpha meant with that?" Maria stuttered. She frowned, as she stared at Sofia. They indeed treated Iris unfairly, but they had this undying devotion to their alpha.

Sofia cried harder this time when Cane rejected her and the baby, which made Maria came over and consoled her again.

"How could the alpha not recognize the baby, there is no way I will pass another man's child as his?" She didn't have any intimacy with anyone after her night with Cane, she really hoped for herself to get pregnant, so she could get away from alpha Gallot's clutch and the Moon Dew pack.

She was so happy when all the people in the Howling Wolf pack accepted her and thought her life finally would be easier now.

A woman would rely on their mate and son and that was how she grew up with

But now, the man had rejected her blatantly and refused to acknowledge his child.

"Why the alpha hates me so much? I didn't do anything that deserved this..."

"It's okay, it's okay... the alpha might be upset because the luna is angry right now. He will come around once you gave birth to the baby. Don't cry..." Maria hugged Sofia gently.

"He confirmed you are the Serafim, Iris," Haco said in the end, he told her everything about the conversation between him and the lycan earlier. "But,

vaguely, I got the idea, from the way he talked about the first Serafim. It seems the first Serafim was the caused of his death, though not directly. I am not sure about this, but that's how I saw it."

"What?" Iris narrowed her eyes. All this Serafim thing was still odd for her.

Serafim was not anyone, she was a respected figure in this realm and for someone like her to be the Serafim, while there was another person, who was known throughout the continents as one, didn't make sense for Iris.

But then, Haco had pointed out everything for her, including the lizard in her arms.

"Haco, you know people from the Holy Kingdom will arrive half a month from now, right?"

The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Novel Online Free, Chapter 436: UNDERSTANDING IS NOT ENOUGH

UNDERSTANDING IS NOT ENOUGH

"Haco, you know people from the Holy Kingdom will arrive half a month from now, right?" Iris stared at the sorcerer. Maybe this was because of all the things that happened in the past few weeks, which tired the sorcerer, but he looked like he had aged for a few years, he looked so old and a little fragile. "They will kill us both if the words traveled to their ears. More so, how can you explain the Serafim now?"

"I don't know, iris, I really don't. I feel like I got all the clues, but no answer," Haco said in frustration. He knew very well the punishment for someone, who pretended to be the Serafim and he didn't wish something like that happened to Iris at all, but then all the sign was there, Iris also half believed him, though the whole thing sounded so absurd. "I wish I can pry some information from the lycan, since he is here and knows more about what happened in the Holy Kingdom and the Serafim, but he refused to say more."

This was another similarity between Cane and Lu, it was hard to get anything out of their mouth, as they kept everything for themselves.

"Why don't we check your back, if the symbol of the Serafim was there, it will answer some of the questions." But then Haco immediately added hastily when Iris was staring at him. "No! It's not me! I don't suggest it's me, who will see your back! Gosh, that lycan will kill me for sure if I ever thought about that!"

"I know." Iris frowned to see Haco overreaction. "I didn't say anything about you seeing my back... I will ask someone to check," she said it in low voice.

Iris felt uncomfortable to show her back due to the horrendous scars. She didn't want them to pity her and she would be hurt if they were so shocked to see them.

But if this was something they needed to do, then be it.

There was silence befell on them for a moment. They were still inside the alpha's bedroom, while Iris was sitting on the edge of the bed, Haco nestled on the single sofa, which looked so big for his skinny figure. His cheekbones protruded and there were more wrinkles on his face.

"Iris, are you okay?" Haco suddenly asked this mundane question, but Iris knew what he meant.

"Yes, I am fine." Iris nodded.

"Good." Haco nodded. "Maybe you have already known this, but I only want to say it as a reminder for you."

Iris stared at Haco with this blank expression, as if she didn't have any emotions.

"Things will get hard from here onward with the people in the Howling Wolf pack, but I hope you don't dwell with it too long. Cane's aspiration is so big and this will not be the only pack you put your effort for."

Iris finally smiled when she read what he said. Her smile was so gentle, but sad at the same time. "I know that."

Iris had given up on this pack, because they didn't seem to be able to move past the dark history between them.

More so, the scars were still fresh, as it was only a little bit more than a year, since they managed to free themselves from the slavery her father subjected to them and there was no due for trauma.

Even after decades had passed, the trauma would still linger with them, who was Iris to tell them to get over their fear, anger and trauma when she was the reminder of her father action.

She couldn't force them to see her in a new light, when they still tried to heal from their nightmare. Her presence was akin to a nudge to their wound, which caused how hard it was for them to accept her.

They had witnessed how their love ones were killed brutally and now when Iris watched how Hanna was being hurt, she knew that she was ready to shed all of her morals to avenge her.

Anger and fear of losing the only person, who had been there for her clouded her mind and blinded her eyes.

Though it was Jemma, who had done it, but she couldn't stand Sofia too, simply because she was related to Jemma, as she was her missy.

That was the power that anger and hatred held.

In that case, how could you respect your tormentor's daughter when they took your own daughter right before your eyes in the most vicious way, even when that said daughter had nothing to do with that?

Iris finally understood why it was hard for most of them to warm up with her after Hanna's incident, the strong feeling to protect and fear of losing your love one was so great, you wanted to destroy everything around you to see them got hurt.

However, it didn't mean she would accept the way they treated her.

Sometimes, understanding was not enough and there were a few things that couldn't exist together.

"I hope around this time, next year, everything will calm down slightly," Iris said in low voice, as if she talked to herself.

"I hope so, I really wish to see that." Haco's eyes dimmed slightly, he didn't say anything about what Lu had told him of how he wouldn't be here in a year from now.

"When will you talk? If you don't want to talk, you can go, I want to rest," Hanna said, she stared at Will, who had been sitting on the chair next to her bed, yet there was no word came out of his mouth, she had been waiting for long and there was no sign whatsoever he would start talking.

On the other hand, Will pressed his palms on his thighs, trying to talk, but he couldn't. He didn't want to talk and walk through those memories again, especially to tell her about what happened to him. This feeling killed him from inside and he felt like he was tormenting both of them with his silence, which worsened his guilt.

His tongue was numb and he gritted his teeth, trying to get the word out of his mouth.

But it had been two hours Will like this and Hanna had been waiting for all this time. She grew tired and dejected.

"Let's not hurting each other and make thing clear between us," Hanna finally said. She reached to her neck and pull something from under her dress. It was a necklace that Will gave to her months ago. She unclasped it and reached out to his hand to put it on his palm. "I love you, Will and maybe I will always do, but I can't stand it. I deserve an explanation, but you don't give me one and I don't think you will. Let's end this, so there is no hard feeling between us. I don't want to resent you for the way you treat me, because I am so close to such nasty feeling and I don't want to be that person."

Will stared at the necklace in his hand, he remembered very well when he gave it to Hanna and her happy face or how bashful he was. The way his hands were shaking when he touched her skin and how Hanna smiled beautifully.

But in the end, Will still couldn't bring himself to talk about it. He only nodded and then left the room.

Soft sobs erupted from Hanna's throat when Will closed the door and left her alone. The pain in her heart was way more hurtful than the pain on her cheek.

She felt her heart had been destroyed into million pieces and she felt this emotion, where you felt a thousand feeling, but at the same time nothing at all.

There was a huge void in her heart, which filled with pain.

But, if only Hanna was a little bit calm, she would notice Will didn't go anywhere, he squatted down beside the door of her bedroom and stayed there, only staring at the necklace in his hand, as tears started to trickle down from his eyes.

He fought his own demon in his head to put an end to it.

"My sweet moon!" Lu entered the bedroom and found Iris near the fireplace, while Haco was snoring on the single sofa, sleeping.

On the other hand, Iris felt the movement behind her and turned around, but her sight immediately covered by Cane's chest, as he hugged her so tightly and kissed her forehead a few times giddily.

"My sweet moon!"

"Mm! Let me go, you squeezed me!" Iris protested, but she only got more kisses from Lu. "Where have you... mm!"

Lu pressed his lips against hers and gave her more pecks here and there.

"I really missed you! You know what? I got a good news for you!" Lu looked so excited with this news.

But, because of the noises Lu made, it woke Haco up, as the old man grumbled to him. "Where have you been?! You know, all the people have been looking for you!"

Lu tilted his head and glanced at Haco over his shoulder. "Can you give us space? What are you doing there? Scram, will you? I want to have moment with my mate. I am so sick to see you everywhere."

"Do you think I am not sick to see you!?" Haco harrumphed, he stood up from the sofa. "Humph! I don't want to talk with you again!"

"Perfect!" Lu replied merrily.

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HAVE HER OWN FAMILY

Grumbling, Haco left the two of them alone inside the bedroom, at the very least, the lycan would oblige Iris and there was nothing to be worried about.

Meanwhile, he would find someone to inform the beta that the alpha was already with Iris. Jace would understand what was that meant.

Inside the bedroom, Iris tried to push Lu away from kissing her face. He looked ecstatic for some reason. He didn't cause trouble, right? That was all Iris was concern about because she didn't want to add more trouble, since they had more than enough and without Cane here, it would only complicate things.

"Where have you been?" Iris asked sternly, she looked at the lycan's eyes, those eyes were the same color like Cane's, but still, Iris couldn't feel the same familiarity when she stared at him at this moment.

"I went to meet that healer!" Lu was elated and then pulled out something from his pocket. It was two small bottles, which he waved it in front of Iris. "Look! Cane ordered the healer to make the concoction with the water magic stone for his fertility issue. He also ordered her to make one bottle for you, so you can nurse your health!"

"You went to see Grace?!" Iris was shocked, she was not sure whether the news about Lu went to see Grace was way more shocking than the fact he got the concoction of Cane's fertility issue from her.

Iris knew Cane needed the water magic stone to fix his problem, but she was clueless that he had ordered something like that to Grace, since Cane had never even mentioned anything about it.

"Yes!" Lu nudged the small bottle that contained with blue liquid toward Iris. "Come! Drink this! Let's try whether it will work or not!" he looked like a child, who was asking Iris to play with him. He looked so enthusiast for her to drink the concoction.

However, Iris had other worries and she had even more question that she needed Lu to answer it.

"Lu!" Iris snatched the bottle from her face, but she didn't drink it immediately just like how Lu wanted her to do. "Tell me, what you were talking about with Grace? Tell me every detail of it!"

Iris's heart pounded against her chest, she couldn't imagine if Grace found something odd about Cane, but then Grace already learned about the lycan, but she was not sure how she would take this news if she knew the alpha was actually not Cane.

She and Jace had agreed not to let anyone else to know about this and thankfully, Oliver had been entertaining alpha Dristan and Sir Elijah at this moment, though the two of them kept asking about Cane's absent.

"I didn't hurt her."

"Okay." That was a relief. "And then what the two of you were talking about."

Lu kept staring at the bottle in Iris's hand, pouting.

"Lu?" Iris softened her voice and then caressed his head, which made him purred against her touch and started to talk about every single detail of the conversation between him and Grace, thankfully, he had rather a good memory.

"... She stuttered when she mentioned about it, so I finished her sentence with 'When I fuck her?' and after that, I left. That's all. I didn't do anything at all." Lu frowned when Iris stopped running her fingers through his hair.

"Wh- what did you say?" Iris could feel the heat from her face and she really wanted to smack this lycan for saying such thing to Grace. But, of course, that was only in her mind because the embarrassment was so unbearable.

"Said what?" Lu tilted his head, staring at Iris innocently, as if he didn't understand what she meant.

"Y- you said..." Iris couldn't even say the words. She really wanted to cry.

Lu frowned even more and then he had this moment when finally he caught what she wanted to say. "You mean when I said 'when I fuck her'?"

"Lu!"

Lu still had this innocent expression on his face when he explained it to Iris. "But, I was right. What is wrong with that word? You don't allow me to use this people in the pack for sacrifice, thus the only thing I can think of is this." He waved the other bottle in his hand to her face and this really irritated Lu.

"Lu, be serious, please!" Iris was thinking to avoid Grace for a while now and since what Lu said couldn't be taken back again, she would move on with her next question.

"I am very serious with you." Lu sat with his legs crossed. He looked like a child, who was being reprimanded. He was not sure why Iris was angry at him when he didn't do anything bad? It was so hard to please her.

Iris closed her eyes and calmed herself down, trying to put in the back of her mind about what Lu said to Grace so blatantly and when she opened them, she looked a little bit in control with her emotions.

"Lu, can you explain to me about the things you told Haco? About me being a Serafim? How can you say that?" Iris asked him calmly, hoping he wouldn't seal his lips this time. "Lu?"

"You are the Serafim, how can you not know about that?" Lu stopped his childish act and actually looked a little bit serious right now, which made Iris relief, because it meant they could communicate in this matter.

"I don't know, Lu. Seriously, I don't." Iris shook her head. "The idea is so wild. I can't even thing about the possibility."

"There is no possibility. It's the truth." Lu then leaned over and stole a peck on Iris's lips, which made her upset.

"Lu!"

"Okay, I will behave," he said sullenly and the sight melted Iris's heart.

She took a deep breath before she spoke again with this unpredictable lycan. "Please, can we talk seriously now?"

"No kissing?"

"No kissing."

"So boring."

"Lu, I am very serious right now."

"Okay," Lu said in defeated tone, but he cheered up a bit when Iris started to caress his head, which reminded Iris how the lycan liked it when she caressed his soft fur every new moon, so did Cane.

"Lu, you must know about this, but I can hear you howling every new moon, while you know... I am deaf." Iris had been wanting to ask about this first before she jumped to the question about the Serafim. "How it happened?"

Lu lifted his head and then looked at Iris intensely. He didn't say anything and Iris started to wonder, whether he would even answer this or not.

But then Lu spoke very softly, though Iris wouldn't know how tender his voice right now. "Because my soul called for yours."

"How's that happened?" Iris knew there was an explanation for that, but this answer only added more question to her already long list.

"You were my mate." But then Lu corrected it. "You are my mate. Our souls call for each other."

Iris bit her lips, trying to arrange the next question in her mind. "How is the relationship between you and the Serafim? What happened to both of you?"

Hearing that, Lu's soft gaze turned cold, as he scoffed. "She was my mate, but I am her first complication as a Serafim."

"What do you mean with that?" Iris narrowed her eyes, but at this point, Lu didn't want to talk about it anymore, his jaw thickened and he even didn't want to look at Iris.

However, Iris couldn't stop now. She wanted to dig more information, since the lycan was here and he knew a lot of things, he could answer many of the questions she and Haco had. "What do you mean that the first Serafim was the cause of your demise? Lu?"

Iris finally leaned over and pecked his cheek, which made the lycan looked at her in disbelieve.

"You said no kiss!" He said in accusation tone, while Iris was at lost.

"I will give you kiss if you answer my question," Iris tried to bargain, she felt so embarrassed to even suggest this. If it was really Cane, she would never dare to say anything like that.

"Five kisses for one question? And then we ended it with sex?"

"Lu! You push too far!"

"Do we have a deal?" Lu asked her, excited.

"Why do you keep talking about sex?" Iris felt her face was burning up and the tip of her ears turned red. Why it was the only thing in his mind? This lycan seemed like he had nothing in his mind, but how to impregnant her.

It was not that, Iris didn't want to carry Cane's child, but they were not in the situation, where they could talk about this casually, there were a lot of things at stake here.

"Because only then you can get pregnant," Lu said in a matter of fact tone. He looked unfazed when he talked about this kind of thing, as if it was such a normal topic.

"Why do you very obsess to have a child?" Iris narrowed her eyes. It was not the sex that he wanted, but he was adamant to have a child with her.

Lu stared at Iris deeply and this time, he extended his hand to caress her earlobe, which made Iris squirmed and swatted his hand away.

Lu smiled. "Because you were the one, who wanted to have a child. You want to be normal and have your own family."

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THE NIGHT IS STILL LONG

'If I can, I want to be a normal woman, having no duty to fight the darkness and having a family of my own.'

'How many children do you want?'

She laughed and he swore, that was the most beautiful sound he had ever heard. He could hear it forever and would never get sick of it. Her blue eyes shone so brightly, as if she held the vast sky.

'As many as I can.'

He still remembered how her voice slightly cracked with sadness when she said that. That was the first moment, where she showed her fragile side.

Unfortunately, the memories came from so long ago and the image started fading away in his mind, he desperately held onto it, though the feeling he had at that time still heavily lingered in his chest.

"Lu, I am not your mate. I am not the woman from your past," Iris said softly, but the lycan simply lowered his head, seemingly refused the obvious fact vehemently.

"You are my mate," Lu said stubbornly. He promised to find her in every lifetime. "You are mine. You are mine to protect."

Iris wanted to tell him that he had mistaken her to someone else, but seeing how despondent Cane's face was, she couldn't bring herself to say it.

But a second later, Lu raised his head and looked cheerful. "Come on! Drink the concoction! Let's make babies, my sweet moon!"

Iris threw her sympathy to this lycan out of the window, because right now, she felt like she wanted to facepalm herself. Why he had nothing else in his mind, except for that.

Somehow, Iris was not uncomfortable when Lu kept talking with vulgarity with her, but she legit annoyed.

"Get away from me!" Iris facepalmed Lu when he was about to kiss her again, which made him pouted his lips. Iris was sure, the sight of Cane pouting like this would forever engrave in her mind. "Behave, Lu! And answer my question."

Lu mumbled. "Okay..." he said in small voice.

Iris took a deep breath, she stared at the sky out there that had turned so dark. The king would arrive early tomorrow morning, which meant, they only had less than twelve hours to sort out the problem with the lycan.

At this point, Iris really wanted to shake Cane's body and get him back, as they were clueless about what to do when the king was here, wrong move and Cane's plan would crumble.

For now, she tried to get as many information as she could from something that Lu would know, especially about the Serafim and...

"Lu... I have this dream about the five swords, what is that?" Iris asked him.

Lu scoffed when he heard that. "Those must be swords of the useless knights, who knew nothing and only become a burden to Na." He then grumbled something, which Iris couldn't read.

"What did you say? I couldn't catch it."

"Those five knights were useless."

If Cane was a reserved person, then Lu could easily cuss you out without even thinking. He spoke his mind so freely.

"Where have you been? Why it took you so long to bury the girl?!" Jace snapped at Ethan out of frustration. He had been waiting for his return from the mountain after he buried Jemma's body, but only late at night, he come back.

"Come here," Ethan said, his voice sounded so dark, as he dragged Jace away from alpha Dristan and Sir Elijah.

Since they couldn't meet with Cane for now, with the reason the alpha had a lot in his plate to deal with, it was Jace, who handled the problem regarding the five packs and the border warriors that Sir Elijah had brought with him, because tomorrow, they needed to report what had happened to the king.

Meanwhile, alpha Dristan had started to be suspicious with the absent of Cane. Fortunately, Koda was with Lou in the Riverside pack, so he didn't have someone to move behind the scene.

"What is it?" Jace frowned when he saw how serious the gamma was. Seriously, they didn't need more problem. They needed solution, not another headache.

But, seeing the expression of Ethan, he knew whatever he was going to say, it wouldn't be something nice.

Meanwhile, alpha Dristan listened to the conversation between Sir Elijah and Oliver, but his eyes followed the beta and the gamma. He could sense it, there was something wrong and he really needed to know what it was...

On the other hand, Ethan stopped dragging Jace with him when it was only the two of them, as they stood in the balcony of the second floor, which facing the annex of the warrior.

"What is it?" Jace frowned. His voice turned serious. He had prepared himself for the worst, but what Ethan was going to say was something he didn't expect at all.

"Aria's body is gone," Ethan said straight to the point. His brown eyes turned a few shades darker and he gritted his teeth.

"What? Probably a monster dug the grave..." Jace was shocked to hear that, but then he felt there was more into it. "Didn't you dig so deep so the monster wouldn't be able to find the body?"

Ethan shook his head. "Someone dug the grave, Jace. Someone took Aria's body."

"Ethan, seriously. I am not ready for this. I don't know what happened to Aria's body, we will figure it out later. It might sound cold, but we have another important problem to think about, okay?" Jace sympathized with what happened to Aria's body.

However, as cruel as it might sound, she already died and there was nothing they could do about it, it was not worth it to spend their resources or man to figure out what happened in the mountain out there, while they were here waiting for their impending doom without a single light of solution.

"Probably the monster dug the grave and found her body. Let's think and focus our energy to something more important." Jace felt bad to be so cold

toward Aria's dead body, but the situation right now, couldn't afford them to do anything about it.

Ethan growled, because Jace didn't get it. He grabbed his elbowed and prevented him from leaving. "Someone dug the grave, Jace! Don't you get it?" Ethan said in frustration, but when he saw Jace really didn't get it, he explained hastily, which sounded like a rumble. "There is no way monster dug her grave, because after her death, winter came and the monsters were in hibernation. Don't you get it? Someone wanted Aria's body."

In another hand, if someone knew about Aria and even went to extra length to retrieve her dead body, which meant that person had a hidden intention in their mind. What were they going to do with her body was beyond them, since they were clueless about black magic.

"Jace, this is not good." Ethan shook his head. "We don't know who was that person and what their motive, but if somehow the fact was twisted and the Howling Wolf pack was accused of engaging with the black magic, Cane's claim to the five packs will be nullified."

Everything could happen and proof could be procured, Cane had proven it time and time again. Therefore, you couldn't let your enemy caught your tail, because they would cut your head.

Just like with alpha Gallot. By sending Sofia here, he opened a path for Cane to reach out to him. If alpha Gallot thought he had Cane wrapped around his fingers, it was actually the other way around.

"You are thinking too far." Jace shook his head.

"Everything could happen, Jace. That's why Cane has been very meticulous with his scheme, but even so, there is still a few things that slipped from his hand." Ethan had seen how Cane was deep in thought, as something didn't go as he predicted.

"Okay, let's talk about that later when Cane is here."

"When?"

"I don't know, Ethan! Damn it! My head is going to burst!" Jace was under so much pressure right now. He couldn't imagine, how Cane could handle

everything, while figuring out his next steps, it was so much for his brain to handle.

"Can't Iris do something about the lycan?"

Jace shook his head. "She is trying, but no one knows how to get Cane back."

"What actually happened to them? Why the lycan suddenly appeared?"

Iris couldn't sleep, her mind wandered in the bright room, as she stared at Cane by her side, but she knew it was not him.

The lycan didn't answer many of her question and he looked lethargic, as he curled himself on the rug near the fireplace to sleep, but Iris shook him awake to go sleeping on the bed. She didn't want Cane to get sick or something to sleep on the rug for two nights straight.

And here she was, trapped between his arms, as Lu nuzzled her neck and slept like he was dead.

Iris couldn't help it, she extended her hand and ran her fingers through his hair. She felt the comfort that she used to get from Cane, thinking it was him, who cuddled her.

However, when her mind was wandering aimlessly, Cane suddenly opened his eyes. He looked sleepy and tired, as he pulled her even closer to him, he literally squeezed her.

"Sleep, it's still night," Iris said softly, but Cane lifted his head and leaned over to kiss her lips gently, as his other hand held the side of her face.

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HELP ME

Iris was surprised when she felt Cane's cold lips against hers and she struggled to push him away, yet he was as sturdy as rock. There was no amount of strength that Iris could use to move him, as his tongue licked her bottom lips lazily.

Iris felt her heart was beating so fast when Cane caressed her cheek, down to her neck to her collarbone, she shuddered when his fingers brushed her breast down to her waist and fisted the fabric of her dress, skimming it up her legs. Every inch of her skin sizzled by his touch and an empty ache formed low in her stomach when his fingers made contact with her bare skin.

Iris gritted her teeth to hold back a whimper, she felt like she was cheating on Cane to let him touched her intimately like this, but then, it was Cane.

His palm was rough, but his body temperature felt so wrong against her skin, as he was so cold, it made her shivering.

She felt guilty, but at the same time, she didn't want him to stop, which made her felt even guiltier. The empty ached between her legs pulsed and probably he knew how much she had aroused, as he growled against her lips. He must have known how disturbed his mate was.

When Iris slightly parted her lips, he used this chance to kiss her harder. The kiss was not as considerate as she felt before, it was so different, his kiss was demanding and this made her opened her eyes and saw Cane's face.

Iris was conflicted, it was the man she wanted, but at the same time, it was not him. How she could explain herself to Cane? Did he even realize what was happening? Just like how Lu could read Cane's mind if he wanted, did Cane can do the same?

When Iris was still not sure whether to give in to her own desire, as she had never wanted someone to touch her as bad as Cane did, he trailed his mouth down her neck, which made Iris arched her back.

The opposite of his demanding kiss, he moved very slow and considerate enough to let her adjusted to his touch.

"My sweet moon," he whispered against her skin, as he pulled down the front of her dress and sucked on her breast, while his fingers slid beneath her undergarments, brushing her clit and teasing her entrance.

"Ah!" Iris fisted the sheets and dug her heels into the bed.

It was a strange, but she grew hotter and her breathing turned ragged.

This was wrong, wasn't it? She couldn't let this happened, since it was not Cane, so it was wrong, right?

"Damn it! Damn it!" he cussed under his breath, as he kissed her lips again, sucking on her tongue and slid two fingers inside her, which made Iris groaned, as he moved them in and out slowly and every movement, he would push further inside of her.

The feeling was so intense and when Iris realized it, it was too late for her to go back or even stopped what they were doing. This intense feeling tipped her over the edge and she shook beneath him as his fingers fucked her agonizingly slow.

He stopped the movement at the same time he stopped kissing her, which made Iris opened her eyes and saw his hooded gaze on her, mesmerized by the sight of his mate and the frustration that he caused, but then Iris saw someone, standing in front of the adjoining door to the luna's bedroom.

It was Sofia, she was standing there, watching them with mortified look on her face and this made Iris did something that would embarrass her if she had a sober thought, as she guided Cane's fingers to her opening and started to move her hips.

"Cane..." Iris called his name softly, but her voice dripped with frustration, since he stopped right before she could find her release, he intentionally bothered her this way, as she could see a small smile tugged on the corner of his lips.

That was how Cane would smile and it filled Iris with desperation, she wanted him desperately.

"Cane, please, come back to me..." a tear rolled down her eyes when she could feel his fingers worked on her opening again, at this point, Iris didn't care whether Sofia watched them or not, she hoped, tomorrow she would remember to ask someone to block the door.

It didn't take long before her whole body shook beneath him and he swallowed every whimper from her mouth, as pleasure washed over her.

Iris had never felt this way before, there was no pain, only pleasure and once she was sated, exhaustion came to her, while he peppered small kisses on her cheeks and forehead. And lastly, he kissed the tip of her nose, while saying something in the most gentle voice. "Sleep Iris, you need to rest."

Iris could feel his steady heartbeat and warmth body against her as she drifted to sleep.

Will stared at the puddle of blood on the floor, which dripped from the incision he made on his wrist that started to heal again, while the necklace that Hanna returned to him sat pitifully on the table.

There was no emotion whatsoever on his face, while he made another incision again with the dagger in his hand. He did this a couple of time and only the silent in this room that became a witness of what he was doing to himself.

This time, the incision was deeper than before and a lot of blood oozed out from the deep wound on his wrist, but it was not enough, the pain was not enough to his already numbed feeling.

At this point, even the pain that he inflicted on himself was inferior to the pain in his heart.

He should have gotten rid of this misery, since what princess Osana had done to him, was something that he was not unfamiliar with. She was right, he had done it countless of times and it shouldn't have bothered him as much.

However, he had tasted the sweetness of hope.

When they were freed themselves from the slavery and got the control of their pack back, that was a moment of hope, his heart filled with light and when Hanna accepted him and his flaws, forgiven him for his mistake, he knew he could start his life anew.

The torch of hope in his heart burned brightly, it blinded his eyes with happiness, until everything fell apart and his world crumbled on his feet once again when he had to return to the same hell he had been before.

But this time, there was no hope.

No. Will didn't want to let himself to have any hope, because it would only make your fall even harder. He wanted to end this misery. He didn't want to get hurt or feeling this numb anymore, but then, he knew if he did something recklessly, he would hurt her, though he already did.

He was stuck between the feeling of wanting to drive the dagger straight to his heart and end everything, or to hold on a little bit longer.

Yet, staring at the necklace, he knew the second options wouldn't hurt her as much as the way he treated her right now.

However, from the distance there was loud footsteps and the door was slammed opened with so much force, until it made a pitiful sound.

"Will! What are you do... fuck! FUCK!" Ethan cursed so loudly when he watched what happened to Will, there were a lot of blood on the floor, as this room filled with metallic scent of it.

For a moment, Ethan was too dumbstruck to even react. He didn't even breath, as his mind worked so hard to digest the scene before his eyes.

He came here to advise Will not to wallow in sadness, since Hanna would be fine in the morning and also reprimanded him to skip the urgent meeting, since the king would arrive less than four hours now.

But, he didn't expect to see this horrendous sight.

Ethan knew, Will had been acting so strangely lately, but because he didn't say much and he was clueless about what was happening, he thought, Will only needed some alone time.

"Damn it! Damn it!" Ethan immediately approached Will and inspected his wound. "Fuck Will! What happened with you! Are you feeling guilty because you killed that girl!?" Ethan knew it sounded absurd if Will hurt himself because of Jemma's death, but he completely and utterly didn't have any idea what was going on in his mind. "What the fuck are you thinking?! No one blamed you for that! That girl was an outsider!"

However, Will didn't respond to Ethan's strong reaction, he simply whispered desperately. "Help me..."

Lyle approached the drunk Redmond and stared at him with a frown. "Why are you spending most of your time here? I thought you have become the dog of the alpha," he snickered.

He still despised the fact Redmond pledged his loyalty to Iris, but even more so if he pledged his loyalty to Cane.

"Shut up," Redmond growled at him, as he threw him a dagger look, warned him to stay away from him.

"Seriously, you look so awful. Why? There is no slut in the capital city?" Lyle knew it frustrated Redmond when there was no brothel in this Howling Wolf pack, so did the rest of the former warrior of the Blue Moon pack.

"Fuck! I got one pregnant!"

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I REALLY WANT TO KISS HER!

"Fuck! I got one pregnant!" Redmond cursed drunkenly. He spat a few incoherent words, while Lyle laughed at that.

Currently, they were at a cheap bar near the main gate of the pack, guarding the area, but the night was so bored and the festivities to welcome the king was not up to their standard, since this was not a welcoming party that they used to have.

"You are so unlucky!" Lyle taunted him, as he sat down next to him and got a bottle for himself. "So, you are a father now?"

"Hm... less than four months, three months? Ten months? Oh, I am so bad at this." Redmond shook his head, as he opened another bottle and drank the liquid straight from there. "Damn it! I don't want a drooling creature!"

Lyle laughed again when he heard that. They had been friend ever since they were so young and it could be said, he was the most trusted person for Redmond, that was why he was his second in command.

"Where is that girl? Why don't you bring her here? You may not like the baby, but if the momma is hot, you can pass her to us once she already gave birth." The corner of Lyle's lips tugged upward, as he suggested such immoral thing.

For a moment, Redmond only blinked his eyes at him, but then the next thing happened so fast, as he grabbed a bottle of wine and slammed it so hard against Lyle's head, which made the man fell to the ground and the people around them had their attention toward Redmond, waiting whether it would turn into a brawl?

"I would rather have her killed than watching you past her down among yourself," Redmond slurred, he watched how Lyle shook his head, trying to get some clarity about what just happened, but definitely, he couldn't, as he stood up and grabbed Redmond by his collar and lifted his body.

However, Redmond fought him back, as he swung his punch toward his face and the fight broke out in the bar. Both of them swung their punches and cursed under their breath.

Thankfully, Redmond didn't shift into his beast, or else, Lyle wouldn't have stood a chance, since he couldn't shift into one, because they still consumed the Rottingbane regularly.

People around the bar, who mostly were the former warriors from the Blue Moon pack, cheered them to fight more. It was such entertainment to watch them, since they didn't have many things to amuse them ever since they were under alpha Cane's thumb.

People in the Howling Wolf pack was so boring, they didn't know how to do a proper party.

"Fight! Fight! Fight!"

All the people chanted to watch two people fought.

But, their cheer stopped when Stone and Avid went into the bar and put to stop to the fight, as they dragged each of them away from one another.

The former warrior from the Blue Moon pack, booing them for interrupting with their entertainment, but soon stopped it when Stone told them he would throw them all to the mountain if they really wanted to have some entertainment. "Damn you, Redmond!" Avid grumbled, while dragging Redmond's body out of the bar. "Why did you choose to be drunk now when the king will arrive in a few hours?! You have an important task to do, you know!"

Redmond had been acting weirdly, he had been spending his time at the main gate and avoided the pack house, even when Iris summoned him to come, he refused.

"I don't want to be a father!" Redmond wailed drunkenly. "I don't want a drooling creature!"

"Oh, shut up! Who want to have a father like you?!" Avid didn't know what happened that night, though he was also there when they went to the Moon Dew pack.

Iris woke up when she felt someone shook her body lightly. She felt exhausted and wanted to sleep a little bit longer, but this person was so persistent to wake her up, thus she opened her eyes and found Cane was sitting on the edge of the bed, staring at her.

"Wake up, we need to greet the king," he said lightly after he saw her woke up.

Iris blinked her eyes, tried to gather her thought, but then her eyes opened so wide, she immediately sat down and grabbed Cane's hand, as she shook her head.

"No! You can't meet with the king, Jace and Haco came up with the idea..."

But, before she could finish, Cane said, "It's okay now."

Iris blinked her eyes when he leaned over to kiss the tip of her nose. Her heart was thumping wildly against her chest, as the realization hit her. The way he talked, the way he kissed her... she recognized it almost immediately.

On the other hand, Cane watched how tears trickled down from her blue eyes before she threw herself to him and almost knocked him off the bed, if he didn't have a strong stance. He held Iris tightly, since they were on the edge of the bed now and she could fall too, yet his mate didn't care about any of that.

"I am sorry, I am really sorry. I am sorry, Cane... I didn't mean to hurt you. I didn't mean it. I swear..." she cried against the crooked of his neck. Her messy hair covered his face and all Cane could see was her auburn hair, the color that had grown in him.

Because Iris didn't see him, so he didn't say anything and only hug her close to him. He closed his eyes and breathed in her scent, as Iris kept apologizing.

He let her talked and didn't interrupt her at all, until she finally calmed down and loosened her arms around his neck and Cane pulled her body in an arm length, so he could see her face. Her eyes were puffy and the tip of her nose and her lips were so red, as she kept crying.

"None of this is your fault, I am the one, who needs to apologize to you for putting you through that. That's my fault not to realize it sooner that you are in so much pain and I am really sorry." Cane wiped tears that streamed down her cheeks.

Cane knew what Iris would face once they were in the Howling Wolf pack, Jace and Ethan had warned him, but he was still thinking Iris would be able to handle it and the member of his pack wouldn't be rude enough with her, as it turned out, he was so wrong.

Letting Sofia to stay in the pack was one thing, Cane didn't do anything about it because it was align with his plan, but to completely disregard Iris's position as the luna was different thing.

He recognized his flaw to put so much attention and effort to outside force, while he kind of neglected the issue related to the people close to him.

Just like how he didn't think it was necessary to increase his people comprehending by teaching them how to read and write, since he didn't see that as something necessary, because he was fine with the way they were, until Iris showed him the benefit of having his people having that ability, which made things easier. They got more information because of that too, since people thought nothing of them, thinking they were illiterate.

"I am really sorry, Iris." Cane grabbed her hands, kissing her knuckles solemnly and rested his forehead on the back of her hands.

He knew his flaws and the pain that caused her and he was sorry for that.

Iris rested her forehead on the back of his head, as she sobbed softly. The feeling of relief to get him back was something she couldn't describe. She didn't know that she had been holding back so much until she felt this.

However, the serenity inside the room was disturbed when Cane heard someone knocked on the door and Ethan's voice, talking to Jace.

"Should we enter? She will not be able to hear the knocking on the door," Ethan said.

"It's not appropriate to enter, more so, the lycan will raise hell if we sneak inside," Jace replied.

Slightly irritated, Cane lifted his head slowly and kissed Iris's lips before he walked toward the door and faced his beta and gamma.

"Gosh! Lu!" Ethan was shocked when the door was suddenly opened. "Is Iris awake? Can we talk to her?"

"What do you want to talk with her?" Cane asked, his voice was slightly cold.

Hearing the question, Ethan and Jace sighed deeply. Here we go, the lycan makes thing difficult again.

"We need to talk to her, okay?" Ethan said with his patient was running thin. "She will be so angry if you interrupted. Can you call her?" Ethan craned his neck to see inside.

"Shouldn't you two be in the entrance gate to greet the king and his entourage? What are you doing here?" Cane asked lightly, but his voice was firm.

"Haven't Iris told you yet? Lu, look..." Ethan wanted to explain, but Jace had elbowed him. "What?" Ethan was irritated, yet Jace ignored him.

"Cane, is that you?" Jace asked hesitantly and Ethan immediately shut his mouth.

"It's me." Cane nodded.

There was a moment of silence after that, before Ethan burst into a laughter. He was so relief, he didn't know how to react properly.

"Heaven! What Iris had done to bring you back!? I really want to kiss her!"

"Pardon me?" Cane's eyes turned cold.