

And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 151: Dancing with Darkness

Unknown.

For years I had been waiting for the moment I would re- gain my freedom, and with every passing second, I survived in a world that didn't want me. I dreamt of the day I would get my revenge.

The day I would be able to regain who I truly was and make my way back into a world I would punish for treating me the way it did. Power, it was the ultimate sacrifice, and with the death of so many, balance would be restored.

The distant dripping of water from the pipes within the darkness was the only thing that reminded me of where I was. I was unfairly punished for trying to correct the evils of the world. Evils that the gods themselves didn't deem important enough to be tampered with.

Sitting upon the small cot in my cell, I stared off into the darkness, waiting for anything to remind me I wasn't alone in the plans of my rebellion. Day and night, for years, I had been formulating my plan. Making sure nothing could happen to detour what needed to be done.

A plan that would get me back to my one true love. A woman with raven black hair as deep as the night, with eyes so blue they reminded me of the sea. Her love was the only thing that made me feel mortal in a world of souls who didn't die.

I had no doubt she was waiting for me. No doubt when I

got back to her, she would be in the same small cabin we shared in the woods, anticipating when I would walk back through its front doors.

It was funny what love could do to us in the weakest of moments. How one single kiss could change your entire life, and how quickly that love could be snatched away from you when you least expect it.

"M' lord," a soft voice called from within the darkness, "things are more complicated than we would have liked."

My eyes darted to the red-haired woman I was all too familiar with. "Inanna..."

The moment she came into view, she dropped to her knees before me as if to worship who I was, even if she was technically my equal in a way. As her golden green eyes gazed up at me from the floor, I couldn't help but see how truly wicked she was.

"The girl... she isn't doing as we would have hoped."

Of course, she wasn't. She was just like her mother, and that was something I expected.

"So what are you going to do then?" The question posed made a blank expression cross her face as her eyes shifted from side to side, and her heart rate increased.

"M'lord," she stuttered in confusion, "shall I kill her?"

"Kill her?" The anger that crossed me over the comment was graciously expected. How could this woman think I would want the girl killed? She was important to my freedom, and without her, I would be held here indefinitely.

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"Yes, I can arrange-"

"You will do no such thing!" I growled in frustration, "have you not been listening to anything I have told you over the past few years? She is important to what I need."

Taken aback by my outburst, Inanna's brows furrowed slightly as she shook her head. It was clear she was confused, and as she opened her mouth, I braced myself from the stupidity that was sure to follow. "She does deserve to die in the end-"

"How do you come to that conclusion?" I asked, trying to understand what exactly she had said against the girl. Yes, she had shown interest in her over the years but never truly explained why her sudden interest in killing her had been so high.

Opening and closing her mouth, she pursed her lips together and grinned instead. It was a clear sign she wasn't going to say anything to me, and when she finally did open her mouth, I wasn't surprised. "Your son has taken the news of you well."

Diverting the question

as usual. "That's good. Does he seem open to what we are asking him to do?"

Shrugging her shoulders, she slowly stood to her feet, flicking her hair over her shoulder with a grin that spread softly across her lips. "I have been... helping him to understand."

"Your mind tricks aren't what I asked you to do, Inanna."

"I know," she hummed as her gaze glittered in the dim lighting, "but it's working, so what does it matter?"

She was cocky in her approach to do what we had

planned, and knowing she played with fire when it came to the pawns in our game, I was concerned. However, unlike so many others I had played with before, she was effective when it came to getting what she wanted.

"Very well," I sighed, shaking my head, "just no more complications."

Pausing in her step, her eyes met mine with another glimpse of hesitation, and I knew that at something else had happened she had come forth to tell me. "What is it?"

"The dragon," she said slowly, "he's become a complication and a possible issue."

"Dragon? You mean Silas?"

Nodding her head, I sighed with frustration. Silas had once been a friend of mine and over time became an enemy as our views on certain things changed. He didn't see the cause I was trying to fight for, and it wasn't a surprise he would put his nose into things that didn't concern him.

"I see. Handle it. Put some space between him and whatever complication he is creating. I'm sure your creative nature can think of something, Inanna."

Lucas.

The moment Inanna had stopped me in the garden after I spent the evening with Cassie, I knew she wanted something. However, I hadn't expected her word to be true about meeting my father. The dark eyes that looked back at me were the same as my own, and everything about him was untrusting.

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Lucas.

The sound of his voice when he said my name that night was something that would forever haunt my dreams. There was no way I had come from that, but the more I thought about it, the more I knew it was true.

He was my father, and I was filled with more darkness than I realized.

The moment I returned to my room, I reeled over the conversation I had with Cassie. I hated I was being cruel toward her, but the last thing I wanted was for her to get hurt. For the darkness inside me to lash out and destroy her in some kind of way.

She may have been a lot of things, but deep down, I could see her heart was purer than most of us here. Even if she did hide it behind a wall of sarcasm and cruel intentions. No one can blame someone for lashing out in unkind ways because of what they have been through, and I knew that better than anyone.

The moment I slept, I dreamt of the dark world I belonged to. Whispers of hatred and unhappy endings swirled through my mind as I saw the destruction the past brought and the future held.

A world of flames and chaos which would consume everyone I loved if I didn't keep my distance from her. Cassie would be the one to do it, and it would be because of me.

However, as I tried to keep my distance, something dark inside me sought to complete our bond. Sought to force her into submission, and as much as I tried to fight it, I couldn't. My lycan tried to push himself to the front and craning my

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neck now as I stared at her, all I wanted to do was taste her blood.

Feel her heart beating against my own as I fucked her into submission.

"Lucas, let go of me," she cried out softly as panic filled her eyes. Panic I was enjoying more than she knew. "You're hurting me."

"Hurting you?" I growled as she stared up at me with the same blue eyes I had fallen in love with so many times before. "How many people have you hurt?"

Shock swept through her face at my comment. She had definitely not been expecting me to ask her that, and honestly, I was pleased with her reaction. Yet, disgusted with myself as well. What the hell was wrong with me?

"What happened to you?" she whispered as her eyes brimmed with tears. "How can you say something like that to me? You wanted me as your mate, and then you treat me like shit... what the fuck is wrong with you?"

"Wrong with me? There is nothing wrong with me. I feel better than I ever had."

Shaking her head, she refused to accept my answer, and as she tried to pull herself free again, I tightened my grip on her. My hand slid up to her throat, causing her to whimper in both pleasure and fear. "Lucas, please."

"Oh, don't pretend you don't like being treated like this, Cassie. I can smell your arousal, and it's so fucking delicious."

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A soft moan escaped her lips as a single tear fell down her

cheek. I knew she could use her powers to hurt me if she wanted to, and that battle waged behind her eyes as she tried to contain the anger that wanted to lash out. "Please, let me go."

Before I could answer her, I was roughly hit from behind. My hold on Cassie loosened as my gaze turned murderous and was spun around to find Pollux had pulled Cassie behind him and was staring down at me with a newfound hatred I found deliciously enticing. "Pollux," I chuckled with delight, "how good of you to join us."

Narrowing his gaze, he bared his fangs at me, "I don't give a fuck if you're her mate or not. If you ever put your hands on her like that again, I'll fucking kill you."

Laughter escaped my throat at his comment as I felt the shift wanting to take over me. Every part of me wanted to kill this boy for putting his hands on me, but I knew that wasn't possible. Odin and the other gods wouldn't allow that to happen.

"Pollux, please... let's go."

Her soft voice caught my gaze and her hand on his arm. Regardless, if it was her brother, it pissed me off more than anything. "You're not going anywhere, mate."

The moment I went to step forward though, I was frozen in my place, and stepping from around the corner came a flash of blue hair and glowing green eyes. The same girl I had seen with Cassie so many times stood with her hand gently in front of her and a grin on her face.

"Oh, isn't this interesting," she purred, turning her gaze to Cassie and Pollux for a moment as I stood, unable to do any-

thing. "Cassie, why didn't you tell me your mate was part dark-ling."

What did she just call me?

Cassie's brows furrowed in confusion as she let her gaze fall from me to her friend. "What is that?"

Chuckling, the blue-haired girl looked to me again with a mischievous smile. "Let's take this conversation into his room, shall we? It looks like we have a lot to talk about, and the hallway isn't the best place to do it."

Chapter 152: Waking Lucas

Shocked by everything going on, I didn't know what to say when Trixie froze Lucas in place and referred to him as a darkling. Moreover, I didn't know what to think about Pollux coming to my rescue. It was evident something was wrong with Lucas by the way he was acting, but never did I consider myself to be weak in a moment where I shouldn't have been.

With his hand on my back, Pollux ushered me into Lucas' room as Trixie used her powers to glide him backward and then lower him onto his bed. She seemed almost entranced with her movements as her powers radiated through the space, catching me by surprise. Of course, she had powers, but this... this was something else entirely.

"How did you do that?" The question left my lips before I could actually contemplate what I said and as she touched her hand to Lucas' forehead, his eyes closed before hers. I turned to me.

"It's part of my powers, and he is asleep. Not sure how long as I have never tried to use that on someone but we can hope for the best." She pushed a strand of hair behind her ear as she glanced at my brother and quickly looked back at me.

They were mates, and the flirting gesture made me smirk before realizing I had to figure out what was happening. "What's a darkling?"

Trixie and my brother both looked at each other before

looking at me. My brother knew, and that was honestly unexpected. Usually, he didn't know anything like that, and I was the one filling him in. Opening and closing his mouth, he glanced at Trixie, urging her with his head to say something, to which she rolled her eyes and groaned. "You're no help, are you?"

"Oh, just fucking tell her," he snapped, rolling his own eyes. Both of them acted as if they were closer now than they had been before which was weird considering it wasn't that long ago he was being a dick.

"It means that he is the child of a God who plays within the shadows. There are a few, but it's rare to find the children as they are often killed."

As if her words held magic, Freya walked into the room with a smile on her face. Her long hair was braided in sections and adorned with small flowers. She glanced at Lucas with a raised brow and turned towards me. "I'm glad you all finally figured it out. Too bad he wasn't aware."

My mind was blown by the fact everyone knew and I hadn't, nor had Lucas... at least we were assuming he hadn't. "How do we fix him?"

Freya furrowed her brows and sighed, "I can't tell you that I'm afraid but I can say you have friends who can help."

"Why are you here then if you're not doing anything?" Pollux snapped, saying exactly what I was thinking.

Freya shrugged her shoulders with a smile and as she turned towards the door and then looked over her shoulder, I knew for sure she had come for a reason. "Odin wants to see you, Cassie... you weren't in your room so I figured you might

be here with your... whatever you want to call him."

She didn't bother to wait for a reply before she was out the door, leaving me there wondering what the hell was going on. Turning to Pollux and Trixie, I stood dumbfounded. "What the hell am I supposed to do... I can't leave right now."

"So then don't," Pollux sneered, rolling his eyes as he crossed his arms over his chest.

Trixie, however, was quick to shake her head with wide eyes, "You can't refuse Odin, Cassie. Just go. I think I know what we can do to try and help Lucas. I can't promise it will work long term, though."

"You can't leave Trixie in here alone with Lucas," Pollux scoffed with laughter.

Smirking, I turned to him, "That's why you're staying here with her. I'm sure you can protect her from Lucas if something happens."

Pollux's mouth dropped open as he glanced at Trixie, who was beaming with a mischievous grin as I turned and made my way toward the door. I wanted to look back and admire Lucas one more time before I left but I couldn't. I had to stay focused.

Step by step, I made my way down the hallway toward the hall where Odin resided. I didn't know my way around this place very well but I did the best I could to get by. So when I finally approached and my eyes set upon the golden throne Odin sat on, I couldn't help but admire him and also shake in fear.

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Was he going to kill me for what I did?

Or was he going to help me... the question was one often unanswered.

Pollux.

The moment Cassie left, I was in shock. Trixie, my gorgeous mate who wasn't a shifter, seemed nothing but pleased with the situation I was currently in. The idea of being alone with her was driving my beast crazy with the desire to claim her, but I refused.

How was she going to help me lead when she couldn't take care of herself?

It was a joke, honestly. A mistake by fate.

"You don't seem pleased to be here with me," Trixie stated, causing me to focus my attention on her and taking in every detail of her face down to her enchanting eyes. Never in my life had I wanted to kiss someone as much as I did then, and as I fought the urge to do so, I scoffed in response.

"I had things to do, so don't think it had to deal with you."

"Right." She laughed. "Whatever you have to tell yourself."

She was quick to go back to what she was doing, her figure pacing around the room as I watched her. She had reached out to someone, but I wasn't sure who the hell it was. There was something about her I loved and couldn't get over, and the realization I didn't know what it was frustrated me.

"What are you doing?" I asked, watching as she waved her hands up and down Lucas' body as if she was doing witch-

craft or something.

"Do you always ask this many questions?"

Taken back by her response, I stood there for a moment. "Excuse me?"

Trixie sighed with annoyance as she turned towards me, placing her hands on her hips. No matter how sweet and bubbly this girl was, I could see behind the front she had a fiery attitude which was not something you wanted to mess with.

She proved that when she quickly put Lucas in his place before he could do something to Cassie or me. Even though she wasn't a shifter, I had to admire her for her strong-willed nature. "You heard me, Pollux."

Pollux? No one here called me by my first name but Cassie, and yet the moment this woman said my name, I felt my balls tighten with anticipation.

"Look, just tell me what the plan is. I don't want to argue." Changing my tone with her, she smiled brightly before a knock came at the door. Trixie didn't look surprised by it, and in fact, got excited as she quickly answered the door.

"Sansa!" She squealed excitedly as the light-skinned girl entered the room. Her eyes fell on me and then darted toward Trixie with a raised brow as if she was unsure of what she walked into.

I was going to ask why you were in here with Lucas, but seeing Pollux is in here as well, I want to remind you I'm not up for group orgies-

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"Oh my god, no!" I quickly exclaimed, cutting the woman

off causing her and Trixie to laugh at my outburst.

"Calm down, Lux... I'm only teasing," Sansa replied as she walked toward the bed, pulling a brown satchel from her shoulder and setting it down. "So, we need to strip his mind of darkness... sounds like fun."

I wasn't sure what she was talking about, but Trixie walked around to the other side of the bed, looking down at Lucas with a quizzical glare that made me slightly uncomfortable. "You know, for an asshole, he is attractive."

"Yeah," Sansa sighed looking at Lucas as well, "Cassie definitely got a keeper."

Scoffing, I rolled my eyes, pulling both of their attention toward me. "Can we get to what we need to do, please? I have other places I'd rather be."

"Are you jealous, Pollux?" Trixie asked me as she slowly made her way from the bed toward me. "Do you not like me making comments about other men?"

I was frozen in place, unsure of what to say. The primal dominant in me wanted to put her in her place and show her who she belonged to and who was in charge. But the other part of me refused to break down from the expectations I had upon myself since youth.

I was an Alpha with a pack to protect.

I couldn't have weaknesses within my reign, or my pack

would fall and I would fail.

Taking a deep breath through my mouth, trying to not let her amazing aroma of jasmine and honey flood my senses, I

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shook my head and kept a calm neutral expression. "Why would I be jealous over you, Trixie? There is no reason."

Sansa quickly snapped up from where she had been bent over, and a fire in her eyes showed how angry she was at that moment. "Who the fuck do you think you are speaking to her like that?"

Trixie quickly glanced over her shoulder, shaking her head at Sansa for her outburst. Something I hadn't been expecting her to do. "It's okay, Sansa. I'm not bothered by what he has to say. In fact, the pain of the mate bond only affects him. So if this is what he wants, I'm fine with that."

Hearing her reply to the situation gripped my heart and twisted my stomach. How could she think that? She should be enraged!

"Nice to know you don't care. Makes things easier," I snapped at her, but instead of her being hurt by my outburst, she simply laughed and walked over to the bed as if everything that happened just then between us meant nothing.

"Sansa, are you ready to wake dear Lucas?" she asked her friend, my presence quickly put into the background as the two women got ready to do whatever witchy shit Sansa had planned.

"Sure am... now, if only I didn't have to worry about another dick in the room... not that I can promise this won't backfire and take another man for payment."

Her eyes darted toward me with amusement as I tried to understand what she meant. There was no use in the end, though, because before I could open my lips, she placed her hands on the side of Lucas' head, and she spoke the words to

set him free.

“Come forth from darkness, and fill the light-”

The Latin that left her throat after her first bit of words went by in a flash, and with a blinding white light that lit the room, Lucas gasped for air and shot upright in the bed. His breathing came in ragged as he glanced around looking more confused than I had ever seen him in my entire life.

Chapter 153: Golden Shimmers in the Darkness

Cassie.

The last thing I wanted to do was see Odin, my supposed grandfather, when I had more important things to worry about, like what was wrong with Lucas. However, here I stood before him, watching as he took me in from head to toe, running his hand over his beard as if he had something on his mind. “You called for me?”

Nodding, a smile crossed his wrinkled face. “I did... I know our last meeting didn’t go as I had planned and I wanted to clear things up.”

Stunned this was why he called me, I opened and closed my mouth, trying to find the words needed to make sense of why I was here. Of course, I wanted to talk to him, or at least I thought I did, but right now wasn’t the time to do it.

“I’m not sure what you want to talk about...” It was true, I didn’t know what he wanted to talk about considering there wasn’t really much to say, but by the look on his face, he wasn’t pleased with my remark.

His brows narrowed at my words as he sat a little straighter. I had no doubt he wasn’t expecting me to respond the way I did, but it was irrelevant. Pollux and Trixie were waiting for me and being here wasn’t going to help the mass of mysteries we were trying to figure out.

“Castor,” the sound of Odin saying my first name was a distraction. No one called me Castor but my mother, and that

was usually when I was in trouble.

“Odin...” I replied, holding my chin high. “I’d say that we can do this all day long, but I honestly have something else to tend to.” I refused to backdoor or show any weakness. If he had something to say, he could get on with it.

Chuckling, he shook his head with a smile that made my brows furrow in confusion. “You have such a strong will to survive, Castor. So much confidence and yet it is perfectly balanced by the soft, sweet side of you that you hide away.”

“Showing weakness gets you killed,” I replied quickly. That was a lesson my father taught me long ago, and something I made sure I didn’t do.

“There’s more to life than simply hiding behind what you fear. We really do need to have this conversation, but I can see by the way you are moving from foot to foot you would rather be elsewhere than actually having a conversation with me. Am I correct?”

“You would be correct,” I quickly said with an eyebrow raised in his direction. Gesturing with his hand, he showed me towards the door, not saying another word. I wasn’t sure if this was a good thing or if I possibly made a huge mistake in disregarding whatever conversation he wanted to have with

Turning towards the door, a heavy breath escaped me as I thought over what I was possibly doing. Was this going to be a negative mark against me, refusing to have words with Odin? Or would it be a positive thing to where he maybe wouldn’t look at me again, and therefore, I could go under- cover or do whatever it was I needed to do without his watch- ful gaze upon every move I made?

Regardless of all of it, my mind went back to my brother and friend, who currently watched over my unbonded mate, who lay in a bed full of darkness, and I had absolutely no idea what had happened to him.

Was I angry at him for the way that he had acted? Yes.

Then again, deep down, I knew I was not the easiest per- son to live with.

Making my way down hallway after hallway, taking turn after turn, I found myself closer and closer to Lucas’s door, and as I opened it upon my arrival, I was shocked to see the sight before me. Lucas, upright in bed, was snarling at Pollux, his eyes completely black as if the Onyx depth of despair had filled him and not a single bit of light was left.

I didn’t have the slightest clue what was going on, and the last thing I wanted was for the gods to figure out what it was. It was bad enough that Freya was obviously well aware of the situation if she said anything to Odin.

There was a chance Lucas could be imprisoned here.

Which, no matter how much you pissed me off, wasn’t something I wanted for him.

Gazing around the room, my eyes fell on Sansa, and with a wide, shocked expression, she shrugged her shoulders. “I have no idea what happened.”

“What happened while I was away? I was literally gone for fifteen minutes,” I exclaimed in anger. How was it we calmed the chaos for a moment, and I came back to a shit storm

brewing in his room?

Lucas's eyes darted directly toward me as I spoke. "You," he growled in anger.

I wasn't sure what his problem was, besides the obvious, of course, but slowly he slid off the bed, and as he did, I made sure not to freeze in front of him again. I wasn't going to be a victim this time.

Letting the power that flowed through my body come alive, he stopped in his tracks and growled at me again, the problem was my stupid ass brother didn't know I had everything under control, and as he tried to rush Lucas, he got blasted back by something I hadn't expected to see.

A power that almost mimicked mine, but one of nothing by obsidian darkness.

Trixie screamed out my brother's name as she and Sansa tended to his unconscious body. He wasn't dead, and that was simply by luck. But knowing Lucas hurt my brother pissed me off, and without a second thought, I charged him, only to have him toss me onto the bed and pin me beneath his body.

With his claws at my neck and only inches between our faces, I felt myself break. I wanted to hurt him, hell part of me wanted to kill him for hurting Pollux, but I couldn't.

"Lucas, let me go. Look at what you have become!" I shouted at him, trying to get his attention, trying to do anything I could to make him see he was losing control of who he

was.

"Me?" he laughed maniacally. "You're the cause of all of this, Cassie. You're the burden on not only the human realm

but this realm as well. If it weren't for you and the power inside you, so many people would still be alive,"

"What-" I gasped, my eyes instantly filling with tears at his words. "Lucas, stop... it wasn't my fault."

"Nothing is ever your fault, is it? Poor Cassie, she can't take the fall for anything, can she? What a pathetic use of godly power."

Lifting his other claw high into the air, I wondered if the end was coming. I wondered if I was going to die, but a roar, unlike anything I had ever heard, rattled the room, and as it did, Lucas was ripped from my body and tossed toward the far side of the room.

It took a minute for me to process what had just happened, but as I looked toward the figure currently stalking Lucas's body, attempting to get up from the floor, I took in a sight more magnificent than anything I had ever seen.

Silas stood there, a golden shimmer encompassing his body. Fiery irises burned in the center of his eyes. "Under the command of Odin, you are to be taken."

"What? No, Silas..." I didn't want Lucas imprisoned, nor did I want him hurt. He wasn't himself, and I could see that. Hell, I could feel it from the small bit of our bond. Something was wrong with him, and I had to find a way to save him.

But before Silas could even get hold of him, Lucas quickly lept out the nearest window. My heart jumped in fear as I scrambled to where he had just been and looked out, expecting to see him dead. Only he wasn't.

In fact, Lucas was nowhere to be found, and his lingering

words rattled through my mind like a plague of pain that pounded down upon my heart.

"Cassie, are you okay?" Looking over my shoulder, Silas was back to his normal self, and with a sorrowful expression on his face, I couldn't resist hugging him. My arms reached for him without hesitation as I buried my face into his chest.

"Thank you, but how did you know?" Glancing up, he looked at me with a smile and shrugged his shoulders.

"Odin," he said softly, making my blood run cold. "He knew something was wrong, so he sent for me to find out what it was."

"If it was Odin, why didn't he or the other gods come to help us? Why would they let it happen and not step in to help us fix this?" None of it made sense, and as a sigh escaped him, his eyes turned to Sansa, who quickly stood to her feet, rolling her eyes.

"You want me to give a history lesson?" she asked, crossing her arms over her chest, "that's bullshit."

Silas groaned with irritation as he gave her a death stare that amused even me. After a moment of reluctance, she rolled her eyes and sighed. "Okay, fine. The gods don't interfere because the mortals—even the half-bloods—must know how to handle our own problems, in simpler terms. They only step in when it directly affects them."

"That's the stupidest thing I have ever heard," I muttered to myself, but obviously loud enough for the others to hear. "What's the point in all of this, then?" "What do you mean," Silas asked as he stared at me, "this

is how this realm works."

“Yeah, and it’s beyond stupid. Are you telling me they just let everyone do whatever they want? I mean... something is wrong, and they won’t help. That’s fucking stupid. I don’t even get the point of being here. I’m not learning anything, and honestly, all it reminds me of is being in high school again.”

My outburst definitely surprised the others in the room; even Trixie frowned at my comment. My brother groaned and with that, caught everybody’s attention. And I was thankful for that-considering I did not want the attention on me. All I wanted was to be able to go off on my own, back into the human realm, without anybody around to tell me what to do to try and live a normal life.

I had hoped coming to Asgard to live with the gods, to learn from people like me, would be beneficial, but in the end, it hasn’t been. I was stuck here trying to figure out who I was and grow from the mistakes I had made, and in the long run, ended up with problems that involved my brother and my so-called mate.

Why was it fate couldn’t just let me be normal for once?

Chapter 154: Rejected

Cassie.

For two days, I didn’t see hide nor hair of Lucas. In fact, all of us had looked for him, and yet... nothing. I was worried, which the others thought was crazy, considering Lucas attacked me, but in reality, I tried to attack him first, and so did my brother.

Guilt swallowed at me, wondering if he would ever be normal again. Even if he didn’t want me anymore, it didn’t mean I didn’t care to know if he was okay or not. Frustration filled me as I tried to focus on my current task at hand. The endless lectures on how to use effective magic was something so far from my thoughts, and yet my teacher’s rambling still echoed in the distance.

The moment the bell rang, a sigh of relief washed over me as I collected my book and moved from my seat. My stomach growled for food, considering I had barely eaten the last two days, and instead moped around like a pathetic loser hoping for the attention of one person who, at one point, couldn’t stand to be around me.

Stepping into the hall, I instantly dreaded this place. The whispered conversations and stares of the people around me made my skin crawl. Everyone heard about what had happened with Lucas, and I wasn’t sure exactly how they had heard, but it may have had something to do with the fact Zia had seen Lucas jump from the window.

She was an absolute bitch, and the more she glanced at

me and made mocking comments, the more I wanted to cut her eyes from her head and shove them down her throat. She had already tried twice now to taunt me, telling me I didn't deserve Lucas and that she would happily take him off my

hands.

As if I would ever reject my mate, even if he were a bit of an asshole since we slept together. A moment I thought of very often.

He was mine, and I was his, even if I didn't want to admit it to myself.

"Cassie, what are you doing here? I thought I told you to go back to your room?" Sansa said as she grabbed my arm, stopping me in the hallway between the bell.

"I can't miss class because of all this," I explained as I adjusted the bag strap on my shoulder. "Plus, I'm starving and really need to get something to eat."

Her eyes went wide at my words as if my wanting food shocked her in some way. She was literally the one who scolded me this morning for not eating. "Oh well, why don't we go to the cafe down the street where we got drinks that one time and we can grab something there?"

The cafe was a good fifteen-minute walk from here, and honestly, I didn't have the energy to do that. All I wanted to do was to go down to the cafeteria where everybody always ate lunch, grab something there and then move on to my next class without bringing any more attention to myself.

If that was possible.

"No, I think I'm just going to grab a sandwich or some-

Chapter 154 Rejected

1748 Vouchers

thing down in the cafeteria," I replied as I gave her a small smile and attempted to walk past her, to which she quickly stopped me once more.

"Oh, come on, it'll be fun. We haven't done it since that day, and there's been so much else going on. I think we should do that. We could even find Trixie."

Laughter escaped me as I shook my head. "As amazing as that sounds, maybe we can do that this weekend. I honestly just want to grab something small from the cafeteria and just move to my next class. I can't be late."

Hesitant about it all, she quickly let me go but kept at my side the entire way there, still trying to convince me that going to the cafeteria was only going to be boring and that we should go have fun somewhere off campus.

It wasn't until they got to the cafeteria doors Trixie popped up with a smile on her face, and I suddenly realized something was going on.

"Hey, I was just coming to find you guys. I actually ordered us some food down the street. Why don't we go ahead and take a walk and go pick it up, and then we can get to class, and we won't be late," she said without a breath, causing my suspicion level to rise even higher.

"What the hell is going on with you two? Why are you acting like this?" Both Sansa and Trixie looked at each other, giving each other a questionable gaze that was undeniably a sense of warning, if *you* will, between the two of them.

I wasn't sure what was going on, but I sure as hell was going to find out. As I pushed past Trixie, opening the door to the cafeteria, I got a front-row view of exactly what had them

Chapter 154 Rejected

so out of sorts.

17788 Vouchers

Lucas sat at the table with Zia and a couple of the other populars – if you want to call them that – who showed off around school. His arm was draped over Zia's shoulders as she leaned in close to him with only inches between his lips and hers.

Upset didn't even begin to explain the way I felt the moment I laid my eyes on him and Zia. Only two days ago, he had literally tried to kill me, and yet he was sitting here amongst all of these people, acting as if everything was fine and nothing was wrong with him.

Shock and anger consumed me as I tried to think of what to do or what to say. Anyone else would have run out of there crying in tears that their mate was lounging on another woman, but my and Lucas's situation was far different than the typical mated couple.

Hell, we weren't even actually mated yet. Of course, we had sex, but thank God I didn't let him bite me. I could only imagine what the mate bond would feel like right now. "Are you fucking kidding me?"

My muttered response did not go unnoticed. Trixie and Sansa had heard me, and as his eyes met mine, I could assume he heard me too. Trying my hardest to think clearly on this matter, I held my head high, averted my gaze from his look of disgust, and marche

d down the center of the cafeteria, straight towards the buffet of food that lay on the far back wall.

The last thing I was going to do was allow him to fuck up the rest of my day. I had already spent the last two days com-

40.18%

Chapter 154 Rejected

1788 Vouchers

pletely worried about him, on whether or not he was alive, if his mind was too far gone and how I was going to be able to help him. And yet he sat here with those people with his arm around another woman, acting as if everything that had happened between him and I had never existed.

“Cassie, you don’t have to be here going through this,” Trixie’s soft, gentle words were a push of encouragement and understanding. But at the same time, I wasn’t going to allow him to get what he wanted. I wouldn’t allow him the satisfaction of seeing me break.

Turning my gaze towards Trixie with a croissant in hand, I smiled at her. “I already wasted enough time trying to figure this man out. I’m not going to continue doing it. If he wants to figure his stuff out with her, then let him. I have better things to do with my time.”

I didn’t really. Honestly, it was killing me inside, knowing he would prefer the company of another woman than allowing me to talk to him so I could try to figure out what the fuck was wrong.

Turning back to the food in front of me, I made a small plate and grabbed a drink and as I turned, hoping to make my way out of the cafeteria without causing any kind of disturbance, I found Lucas standing before me with a sinister grin upon his beautiful plump lips.

“The fuck are *you* doing in here?”

Staring at him for a moment, I held up my plate of food, raising one brow as I shrugged my shoulders. “What the fuck does it look like I’m doing?”

53.75%

“I thought I made it clear I didn’t want anything to do with

Chapter 154 Rejected

17 jan

Mouchers

you, so I don't know why you're here bothering me," he spoke loud enough for the people around to hear what he said, and as I took in his comment, I couldn't hold back the laughter that escaped me.

So instead, I decided to play his game. "Bother you? I'm pretty sure you're the one who just walked up to me. I didn't say anything to you, nor did I approach you. I walked right past you and got my food, and yet you're the one standing in my way from leaving."

Lucas' eyes narrowed as a sneer marred his lips. He couldn't deny the truth in what I said. I hadn't said a single thing to him, and yet he was the one who left the comfort of his new **toy** and friends to come over and address me as if I was the one bothering him.

It wasn't the smartest move on his part, considering everybody around heard exactly what I said. It left him standing there looking like the fool he really was. No matter the fool, though, in the gaze he laid upon me, I saw the darkness seeping within him, and every part of me wanted to help.

But I couldn't. It was obvious Lucas had made his choice, and had he wanted my help, he would have allowed me to give it to him two days ago when he tried to kill me.

"You are a delusional bitch. I will never be with you. Get that through *your* fucking head," he growled as his eyes shifted between gold flecks and Obsidian chaos.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, I stepped closer, making sure he got a good whiff of my scent as I gazed up and down his body taking in every single curve of the ripped muscle beneath his shirt. As well as the same well-defined arms.

67.84%

Chapter 154 Rejected

that had once held my naked body against him.

17 jan

Vouchers

"If you don't want me, then reject me and get it over with."

I didn't really want Lucas to reject me as his mate, but at the same time, I was tired of this back and forth battle with him. It was absolutely pointless, and as he seemed to contemplate what I was offering, a smile spread across his lips.

"Fine. I, Lucas, reject you, Castor, as my mate."

The stinging

pain of the tear of our bond echoed through my heart. Thankfully our bond hadn't been completed, and I was for once grateful I didn't allow him to mark me completely. "You will regret doing that one day."

"Accept the rejection, Cassie," he snapped as he stood waiting for me to say something further, but instead of accepting right away, I pushed away my pain and smirked.

"When I'm ready, I will. For right now, though, you don't deserve it."

He cringed in pain himself as I quickly pushed past him, making my way down the hall with all eyes upon me, whispers escaping those who had witnessed our reaction. I had to learn to ignore everyone like I used to do with Melissa, and as I took a deep breath, it worked—for a moment.

Zia stood from her seat as I passed her, a look of pure satisfaction upon her face.

"Looks like you finally got what you deserve," Zia called out, with nothing but amusement in her tone.

82.47%

Halting in my tracks, I stared at the double doors in front

Chapter 154 Rejected

17 Vouchers

of me that was my escape to freedom, wondering what choice I was going to make. I could continue through the doors and be known for the girl who got dumped during lunch, or I could turn and make her eat her own words.

Both were things people would eventually forget... but right now, I didn't care.

"Cassie, don't—" Sansa and Trixie said in unison. "She's baiting you."

Pushing back the pain in my heart, I glanced at my friends with a smile, "I know... and she is going to eat her fucking words too."

Cassie.

Chapter 155: Challenging Zia

Handing over my plate of food and drink to Sansa, I slowly turned to face Zia. Her long hair flowed in waves over her shoulders. Her piercing eyes stared back at me with a smug expression on her face, the only thing I could think about was what it would look like beaten in.

Perhaps that was a slightly aggressive thought for me to have, but she had pushed my last fucking button like no one would believe.

“What is your problem?” I asked her, trying to remain calm as everyone waited for her explanation. A scoff left her lips as she sat there, rolling her eyes with her arms across her chest. She had to always be high and mighty when she was around her peers, something girls like her would never get tired of doing.

“I don’t have a problem. It’s you who’s jealous Lucas and I are, well, eventually going to be together,” she replied mockingly.

The last thing I had was time to spend on a woman like this, but I was sick and tired of her pushing my buttons. I was sick and tired of her spreading false rumors and more sick and tired of just dealing with her shit in general.

I hadn’t even been in this place that long, and it was like she was completely threatened by my presence here and sought to try and make my life a living hell.

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Chapter 155 Challenging Zia

1# 88 Vouche

“You have high hopes for someone who’s second best. I that what you do with your day, Zia? Do you dream of taking the men of other women just to make yourself feel better when they don’t give you the attention *you* want?”

Shocked by what I had said, her mouth dropped open wide as her eyes narrowed and an angry glare crossed her face. “What the fuck did you just say to me?”

Snorting with laughter, I glanced over at Trixie, who was just as shocked as Zia. It didn’t come as a surprise to me no one had ever stood up to this girl. She was

pathetic, honestly and I didn't understand how she could be the way she was when, in today's age, we should be working with each other not against.

Regardless of how she should be, I couldn't help but stand there staring at her in annoyance. "I'm pretty sure I didn't stutter, and I said it loud enough for everybody in here to hear. So I don't understand where the confusion is coming from."

Stomping her foot, she screamed in irritation as she stormed past people toward me. I knew that look in her eye. It was one of a woman on a warpath, and if she wanted a part of me, then she could have one.

"Enough!" Lucas' roar was enough to make me shudder. With our bond still technically in place, for the most part, I let the shiver of his tone run down my spine before he stepped in between Zia and me with his glare pointed at me. "Give me what I want."

"No," I snapped with more determination in me than I ever felt. "You're not you right now, and I won't let you make a

12 25%

Chapter 155 Challenging Zia

choice when you're not thinking clearly."

17

Majcher

Laughter escaped him as he looked at Zia and a few others before turning his gaze to me again. "You never ever wanted this, Cassie. Why hold on now?"

"Because I won't let you do something you might regret."

My reply made him flinch as his angry scowl dropped for a moment before reappearing again. No matter what I said, he refused to see what I was saying

for truth. The more I thought about it, the more I couldn't help but wonder what had happened for him to act the way he was.

The night we spent together flashed through my mind, and though he tried to break our bond, I refused to accept him. Which meant neither of us was going to move on.

Zia's slimy fingers wrapped around Lucas' arm as she leaned in and kissed the corner of his lips. As much as I wanted to remain calm and not let her see how much it was affecting me, I couldn't. A low growl emitted from my throat enticing the beast within Lucas because behind his gaze—a flash of gold—let me know his beast wasn't pleased with the choices he was making.

"Oh, is someone jealous?" Zia hissed, causing me to roll my eyes and laugh.

"Jealous?" I smirked. "That would call for me to have someone worth being jealous over. I wouldn't really call you competition, Zia. You're more like... a gnat that doesn't leave when you swat it."

Crossing my arms over my chest, I watched her eyes narrow at me as a look of shock and disgust crossed her face.

26.74%

Chapter 155 Challenging Zia

She couldn't believe what I had said to her, but honestly, she had no one to blame but herself. In a moment of amusement, I thought the argument was over, but as I looked at Trixie, whose expression matched so many others, I misjudged the situation.

The punch Zia threw caught me off guard, and as her fist connected with the side of my face, I stumbled. A wave of anger rushed through me. My eyes connect with her's, causing an 'oh shit' expression to come forth in her eyes.

"A sucker punch... really, Zia?" I snarled at her with fists clenched at my sides, my nails extending, cutting into my palms as I thought of the many ways I was going to demolish her.

"Cassie, calm down right now," Lucas said warningly as he pushed Zia behind him.

"You would protect her after what she just did, Lucas?"

Opening his mouth, he was silent as if contemplating what he was going to say next, and even though he hesitated, he quickly sneered once more, gritting his teeth as the eyes of everyone in the cafeteria watched on.

"You're not my mate, Cassie. So why would I care what happens to you?" he replied, causing my heart to clench in agony. Yet, no matter how hurt his comment made me, I didn't allow others to see its effects.

Zia began to laugh at Lucas' comment, and any idea I had to walk away from being the bigger man escaped my thoughts. With a fit of anger rolling through me like a typhoon, I reached out past Lucas and snatched Zia by her throat.

40 58%

Chapter 155 Challenging Zia

11

My claws dug into her skin, causing droplets of blood to drip down her flawless skin. "Find something funny, Zia."

She gripped my hand, trying to break it free as she gasped for air. Lucas was too stunned initially to *do* anything, at first. Yet, he did come to terms with the fact that if un-stopped, I'd probably kill Zia. My brother already had his arms wrapped around my waist, trying to break me free of the hold I had on the girl.

I was a hunter, and she was my prey. My instincts to kill on an all time high as I dug my nails deeper into her skin. "Let me go!" she gasped, "someone help!"

"Cassie, let her go now!" Pollux screamed at me, trying to get me to focus and loosen my hold. My will and drive to high to acknowledge him.

"She has crossed a line that's unforgivable. I will not tolerate disrespect."

The sound of my own voice sounded foreign in the moment, and as I realized what I was doing, I quickly let go of Zia and was pulled back. Her friends ran to her rescue as she pretended to be dying from what she had gone through.

"That bitch tried to kill me!" She whined as fake tears quickly started to fall down her cheeks. "Someone better do something! I want her gone!"

"Too bad that will never happen!" I yelled back, thrashing in Pollux's arms as Trixie and Sansa tried to help him calm me. My eyes still locked onto her wanting to rip her apart. No matter what the consequences would be, Zia was going to pay for what she was doing. "Enough!"

Vouchers

A voice yelled, catching the entire cafeteria's attention. "What in the hell is going on?"

The voice came from the main door to the cafeteria, and as I looked toward it, I spotted an older face I hadn't ever seen before- a man who looked to be in his late forties, accompanied by Inanna at his side.

He was a graying man with dark stubble and blue eyes. His whole characteristic screamed shifter, and I had no doubt he had to have been some type of cat shifter by the way he was dressed and carried himself. It was as if he was the king dick on campus, and everyone needed to bend to his will.

"Well?" he said again, glancing around with his hands on his hips. "Who the fuck is going to start explaining?"

As I opened my mouth to speak, Lucas stepped forward, and addressed the man. "Nothing, the girls were just showing each other new moves."

"Lucas-" Zia called out before he snapped his angry gaze toward her shutting her up.

The older man hesitated as his eyes shifted from Lucas to Zia and then to me.

"What do you have to say for yourself?" he asked me.

As much as I wanted to rat everyone out, that wasn't who I was, and honestly, the last thing I wanted

to do was get myself in trouble. I may not have cared for this place, but it didn't mean I wanted to have any other kind of issues before I was able to go back home.

"We were just practicing... nothing happened."

68.49%

Chapter 155 Challenging Zia

17788 Voucher:

"Are you sure you want to go with that answer?" the man asked with a raised brow as if he knew I was lying but wanted to see if I'd admit to something.

"That's enough, Lyonal. She said it was nothing, and that's where it will be left."

I didn't expect Inanna to speak up. The nasty look she gave me as she brushed past me and placed her arm on the upper left shoulder of Lucas' chest made me furrow my brow. It was an intimate gesture, and whatever she whispered to Lucas made him narrow his gaze at me.

Turning without another word, she exited the hall, and Lucas quickly tended to Zia before the both of them followed behind Inanna.

I had no clue what the hell was going on, but the gesture between Inanna and Lucas was something I hadn't expected. There was something going on, and I couldn't help but wonder if the way Lucas had been acting was because of Inanna.

The chatter of the cafeteria quickly returned back to normal as I stood in my place with Pollux, Trixie, and Sansa at my side. The three of them talked about what happened as I continue staring at the closed door, trying to figure out what it was I was missing.

"Cassie." The sound of Silas' voice was welcoming, and glancing over my shoulder, I watched him stride towards me with a concerned expression in his eyes. "What happened?"

"It was nothing," I replied, shaking my head. "Just a misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding?" he said in an unbelieving tone.

A heavy sigh escaped me as I forced a smile on my face, and nodded my head. I tried to figure out how I could explain to him what I had noticed. It wasn't like it was an easy thing to tell anyone. "I think Inanna has something to do with Lucas."

My response caught not only the attention of Silas but Pollux, Trixie, and Sansa as well. "What are you talking about?" Sansa asked with curiosity.

"I don't know," I muttered again, "but I'm sure as hell going to figure it out."

Chapter 156. A Pack to Save Lucas