

The Love of a Lycan

Chapter 101 - SOMETHING UNEXPLAINABLE HAPPENED TO RAINE

Hell is empty and all the Devils are here.

-William Shakespeare-

Lucifer gulped down his scotch that burnt his throat like hell, oh... how he missed that place, with all the torture and the agony that filled the air. Blood and scream.

He watched the flat screen in front of him with disinterest.

A news anchor reported about the death of the old family from Fulbright City, de Medici. Remy de Medici was killed by his own younger brother, Ramon de Medici, in his own mansion.

His motive was still unknown, but both siblings was known didn't get along pretty well as they would fight at the court over the family heritage, in addition with their finance was nearly collapsing.

If it wasn't for Donovan's company that had given them cash injection and took over the nearly bankrupt company, they wouldn't have survived for long, leaving the great family's history behind as they faced their downfall.

Therefore, the most question that was on people's lips was; why?

Torak Donovan had helped them to reestablish their family's company, thus for what reason Ramon killed his brother?

Lucifer shook the glass in his hand gently as the liquid swirled.

"Apparently there is another people dislike the lycan set a foot in this city." Lucifer mumbled as he raised his golden eyes to look at the woman across the room. "Any news from the guardian angel?"

It was Lilith, ambling at an easy pace toward Lucifer and sat down beside him.

"Such a heartless devil." Lilith pursed her lips coquettishly. "The first thing you ask is that little girl."

Lucifer frowned when Lilith rested her hand on his left shoulder, the wound from the short battle with Torak before was still hurt. In the end the devil still had not regained his full strength, what a shame...

"Any clue who took her?" Lucifer gulp down the liquid in his glass that Lilith had poured to dull the pain in his shoulder, he chuckled on this, his body became more mortal years by years ever since the last battle centuries ago.

It required him a great effort to rebuild everything, anticipating the resurrection of the dark days, when the realms in this universe colliding once again.

Lilith gave a nonchalant shrug. "I don't know, even the Alpha went rampant when he knew the guardian angel was missing." She propped her chin between her palm, cupping her small face. "His reaction was truly brutal. Such an excessive anger... he really became the dog of the moon goddess. Those Donovans aren't like that before."

Lilith thought Torak's anger was because he blamed himself for the missing angel, every creature in these realms knew there would be a time when three guardian angels were resurrected from extinction, but it was also one of the signs of the resurrection of the dark days

"He didn't take an order from Selene." Lucifer informed her.

"No? Impossible." Lilith flicked her hair from her shoulder. "He has been keeping the Angel beside him, like a madman and even call the Serefina witch to look after her."

"He keeps the angel not because of Selene, he keeps her because she is his mate." Lucifer said it lightly.

Lilith didn't give any respond at first, but then her crispy laugh rung out inside the empty bar as she was laughing heartily.

"Everyone knows the Donovan won't have mates for their lifetime, it is their curse from Selene herself." She kept laughing, but then ceased down into chuckle when she saw Lucifer didn't have a change of expression.

"You mean, Selene will give them mates if they are able to keep the guardian angels safe, right?" At this point Lilith didn't laugh anymore.

When there was no respond from Lucifer, she frowned.

"Were you saying the true? The Angels are the Donovans' mates?" Lilith widened her eyes in disbelief. She still didn't know about this, neither Belphegor. Well, the latter was too lazy to find out about this matter anyway.

"The sin of lie is not bestowed upon me." Lucifer eyed Lilith as he pushed his empty glass, waiting for her to pour another bottle for him.

"You don't need to be bestowed with the sin of lie to be a devil, even human lie." Lilith smirked while pouring down the red liquid from its expensive bottle.

The red color that remained them of the blood.

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It was almost dawn, when finally Torak and Raphael returned to the mansion, which Torak had bought the moment he decided to establish their business in this city, so he could be near Raine.

However, he lost her in the end.

The bruises that were still not healed yet and the blood, which stained Raphael front shirt, was vivid evidences how brutal their battle before.

It was a good thing that Raphael could still manage to stand on his own two feet when he walked inside the room with Torak who looked slightly more sober.

Torak didn't even spare Serefina a glance when he went inside the living room straight to his own bedroom.

"The two of you alright?" Caleb asked in low voice, afraid if his question would aggravate the Alpha again. They didn't need another battle now.

Raphael shook his head as he rubbed his neck, it was a close call when Torak bit down his neck and almost killed him, sure enough he wouldn't try to get the bad side of Torak again, not for this witch.

Raphael walked in front of Serefina, she looked much better than the last time he saw her. "What you have?" He asked with stern voice.

"I have bad news and worse news." Serefina crossed her arms and legs defensively.

"Bad and worse?" Raphael shot dagger looked at her. "I should let Torak kill you earlier." What she meant by bad and worse news? He didn't save her life to hear that. He thought it would be a waste if Torak killed her just like that, probably she knew something that they didn't know, but apparently his judgment was wrong.

"Don't tell me that I didn't tell you the same thing before." Calleb chimed in, slumped his tall body on the sofa opposite Serefina.

Ignoring Calleb sarcastic comment, Raphael gave his attention on the witch. "What is the bad news?"

"Bad news." Serefina gave a disdain looked to Calleb for his remarked before she continued. "The person who has taken Raine is not Lucifer, Belphegor, Lilith or whatever creatures out there who want her."

Raphael frowned.

Before Serefina could explain further, Calleb had talked. "She thinks someone who took her was from inside her protection."

Serefina scowl because Calleb took her line.

"However, there were not another people at that time except Jack and her." Calleb nodded toward Serefina. "So, she thinks Raine was the one who had made herself disappeared."

"Nonsense!" Raphael growled incredulously upon hearing that theory.

"That was also my reaction." Calleb nodded his head as he reckoned his own reaction when he heard Serefina's explanation.

The witch closed her eyes, irritated. "Thank you for your explanation, but there is the part that you left behind." Serefina glared at Calleb when she opened her eyes.

"Oh, right." Calleb flicked his finger. "She said Luna, unintentionally, inadvertently and accidentally activated her power." He exaggerated some part of his sentences as he felt it was ridiculous.

However, Serefina didn't think the same thing as she meant her every word when the idea crossed her mind.

"The worse news, I don't know what power that she possesses and where her power took her or what will happen to her if she can't control it." Serefina said before Calleb could talk. "That I assume she can't."

"Torak will not be please to hear this." Raphael raised his head and looked at the second story of the mansion, where Torak's bedroom was located.

"Serefina, if you don't have good news or better news, you better stay away from him, before he changes his mind and tear you apart."

Serefina scowled upon hearing Raphael's warning, but she knew, the Beta said the right thing, her mistake was fatal this time, Raine could be in danger because of her own power or she could be somewhere that they didn't know, everything could happen to her and she was still not be able to protect herself.

What an annoying job that the moon Goddess had bestowed to her. Serefina snorted.

Chapter 102 - SHE WAS NOT ANYWHERE

"If you were to write a story with me in the lead role, it would certainly be... a tragedy."

-Ken Kaneki; Tokyo Ghoul-

The space around her was like caving in and pressed her body down to the abyss of the dark. She felt like her being crammed into a wormhole, until a blazing light invaded her vision.

It was a white blinding light like someone had put a spotlight on her head, made her a center of attention.

A little girl, who was hugging herself while covering her face, was trying to peek through her fingers, assessing her surroundings with fear and panic thumping in her heart. She could literally feel her heartbeat on her throat.

This was an odd light, she could tell by the way its blazing started to fade the moment she opened her eyes as if allowing her to take the situation she was in now.

The more the girl blinked her eyes, the more vivid the scene that presented in front of her eyes.

She was in a deserted place. A barren land more or less, a landscape of sand with harsh sun above her head, tumbleweed and dead grasses.

The wind howling and the smell of dry baked earth invaded her small nose.

Raine scrunched her face when she took her surrounding into her understanding. A blink of an eye before she was still in the living room with Jack, who would open the door and Serefina, who went back inside her room, however later on, she was in this deserted place.

"Jack..." Raine whispered into the wind as she called out the warrior's name, hoping he was also in this strange place, that she wasn't alone there.

However, her hope was only a wishful wish as her voice was brought away by the wind.

"Torak." Raine's voice slightly stronger as she called out his name, fear and trepidation laced in her voice.

Raine stood up and pirouetted with confusion was written on her face. She could see nothing. It was only sand until the line of the horizon, where the bright clear orange sky met with sandstone.

She didn't know whether she should stay or she had to go, but where? There was no sign of inhabitant from all the direction that Raine could see.

The scorching sunlight, burnt her skin and in no time her sweater had stuck closely to her body uncomfortably.

Raine didn't want to take off her sweater and only wearing her white sleeveless shirt, but the humidity was choked her until she had hard time to breath. It was too hot.

"Torak!" Raine screamed now out of the anxiety that she felt. She was afraid, and moreover she didn't know why she was here.

The desert was too vacant and mysterious for her to venture aimlessly.

As the atmosphere was getting thick and her sweater had damped from her sweat, Raine felt lightheaded while her breathing became irregular.

When the numbness crept in her legs, she felt the dry taste of the sand entered her mouth as her body was going limp, lack of strength to support her body.

A while later she had been lying flat on the sea of sand and her mind started shutting down with her closing eyes.

Raine's lips quivered before she gave in to the dark once again.

The howling wind grew bigger and her shadow danced like a fatamorgana, before it got bigger and engulfed the girl.

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"The Alpha is gone!" Jack slammed opened the door with so much force until the poor thing screeched. The warrior also looked so much better than the last time he was almost being killed by Torak.

Earlier, he went to Torak's room because Raphael wasn't able to mind- link him, they needed to discuss about what step that they should take and about Serefina's theory about Raine's power.

Jack volunteered to check on him, despite what he had done to him before, it was his fault to let down his order after all and made their Luna disappeared, though he, actually, wasn't really at fault.

But, more or less, he knew what the importance of mate in Lycan's life.

"Now, what?!" Serefina grumbled in irritation. "Where he has gone?"

Before it was Raine and now Torak also had disappeared.

"Someone said he saw Alpha shifted and went to the direction of the second district of Fulbright City." Jack informed them.

Raphael was squinted his eyes. "Second district?"

"Wait." Calleb raised his hand and frowned. "Second district is the place where Andromalius lives, isn't it? Torak must have thought that Andromalius has something to do with the disappearance of Raine."

Both Raphael and Calleb exchanged knowing looked and growled at the same time before they jumped from their seat and ran toward the door.

That wasn't a good sign.

"Jack, take Serefina with you and follow me!" Raphael ordered the warrior before he disappeared behind the door followed closely by Calleb.

"Take me with you?" Serefina hissed, but stood up elegantly before Jack could approach her. "Show me the way." She said callously, she was still her arrogant self.

Jack swallowed his critics because there was another important thing in hand that needed his concerned and walked in front of the haughty witch.

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Torak appeared all of sudden inside the lobby of city council's office, where almost empty.

The dim moonlight illuminated his tall body and his chiseled face that looked very stern, as his eyes were the color of blood.

The two securities, who were guarding the door, were startled by Torak's sudden appearance.

They knew him as the famous CEO from Donovan Company, who would invest huge amount of money in manufacturing in this Fulbright city. After all, he had just come yesterday morning with people from central government and made a headline in news business.

Furthermore, his name was on people's lips when the news about de Medici family exploded.

De Medici family was Torak's stepping stone to enter the business in Fulbright City, if something happened to them, it would affect his business as well and all the projects that he had signed with the government.

"Mr. Donovan?" One of the securities greeted him in shock, he blinked his eyes several times in addition to Torak's red eyes, he thought he was seeing something because of his late night shift. "What brings you here in this early morning?" He glanced at his watch that showed it was still 3:21 a.m.

Torak ignored him as he strode toward the other securities, he was a man in his early forties and had wrinkles on the corners of his eyes when he squinted his eyes, trying to look at Torak clearly from behind his thick glasses.

"Where is she?" Torak asked the other security with hostility, his tone alone could send a chill down the spines of people who heard him.

"Mr. Donovan, I don't understand what you mean." The other security frowned, the wrinkles on his eyes deepened.

Torak didn't have time to talk nonsense with him, all he had to deal with was his poor acting.

"Do you know him?" The first security elbowed his fellow friend, who shook his head helplessly.

"Who doesn't know him?" He whispered back at his friend. "He is the famous CEO from yesterday morning, right?"

"That's not what I meant, he talked to you, why an important person like him wanted to talk with you? A mere guard?" The first security was eyeing Torak with bewilderment, especially at his eyes. Did he wear contact lenses?

Torak was running out of patience as he stormed toward the older security and raised his hand into a fist and landed it down on his chest that sent him flying a few meters away.

The older security flew in the air before his body collided with the solid wall. His body collapsed and remained on the ground in a weird position.

"What the hell!!!!" The other security's eyes were like they popped out from their sockets when he watched the scene that unfolded.

That was inhuman strength!

It happened very fast and no one could see that coming.

The younger security's breath hitched, as he couldn't give a proper reaction. For seconds he was standing there like a fool while looking at his fellow buddy, trying to discern the situation.

As though he did nothing, Torak walked closer to the collapse body and pressed his foot against his chest. He leaned over as he asked the same question.

"Where is she?"

Chapter 103 - THE FACADE OF ANDROMALIUS

"What are you doing!? You will kill him!" The other guard finally snapped himself out from his shock and tried to push Torak away.

He really would kill the poor man if he kept doing that, but why he did that?! Something wasn't feel right.

However, his attempt was stopped by a single glared from Torak. His eyes were bloodshot, as if could burn him right there and then. It was something that he couldn't explain with word.

The other man stumbled and plopped down on his back as his eyes locked on Torak's next action.

Torak grabbed the man's neck, who was lying beneath his feet, and squeezed his throat. Blood splattered, on Torak's front shirt and the other security's face, the moment the man's neck broken and became headless.

"AARRGGHHHH!!!" The other guard screamed on the top of his lungs as he crawled and ran away from the bloody scene.

Torak didn't give a glance at the other man.

Fortunately, this was a secluded spot whereas no many securities were stationed there, even so, within less than three minutes, that place would fill

with many people the moment they heard about the guard's ear-piercing scream.

But, that wasn't Torak's concern now.

He looked at his bloody hand coldly, waiting for something to happen.

And it did happen.

The blood and the flesh beneath his feet, moved on its own, as if they had their own mind. Gliding and fusing together as they recreated and reformed it former self, a human.

"You are sure so rude Alpha." The man who was dead a minute before with neck was crushed, now was standing unscathed in front of Torak while rubbing his neck with derision on his expression.

"Where is she?!" Torak asked the same question for the third time, he was tempted to squash his head again, but it wouldn't help his case.

"You know that I didn't take her, right?" The man hissed in irritation. "So, she is indeed very precious for you..." He contemplated while stroking his chin.

"I know, but I assume you know where she is." Torak didn't avert his eyes when the man's eyes in front of him started to change their color and shape became yellow slit. "This is your specialize after all, Andromalius, finding a precious hidden thing."

"Well, well... now you admit that she is important to you... the question remains the same like the last time I asked you, who is she to you?" Andromalius gave a mocking smile, found this thing was more interesting than his night shift.

"Find her and you will know." Torak's cold and calm voice reminded about the frozen river in the middle of the winter. Looked calm, but no one knew the raging stream beneath it.

"Is this a plea?" Andromalius raised one of his brows. "You have a weird way to ask someone favor." He clicked his tongue and vanished from Torak's vision.

"This is a threat." Torak said into the empty space, where Andromalius had stood a while before. "Find her and I will not make things difficult for you during my stay in your territory."

Andromalius suddenly appeared again, but this time he was standing behind Torak. His old appearance changed and instead he was the man that Torak had met at the Airport, the first day he landed in this city. "That is not how you make a deal Alpha." He shook his head while making a face. "You shouldn't threaten the person who you ask for help."

Torak didn't have time to play with word- game of Andromalius, he turned his back and walked away as he could hear footsteps of more than three people, who were approaching toward his direction.

The truth was, his silent threat spoke volume than when he said it out loud.

Andromalius didn't know what the Alpha would do, but he was pretty sure it wasn't a good thing. He could just let the fight happen, but he knew the result wouldn't be in his favor.

Actually this was ridiculous for him, for being threatened in his own territory.

"Why don't you ask your witch? It is Serefina right? The witch who is guarding the little girl?" Andromalius was still trying to put up a front while asking Torak arrogantly. "She is the great witch from the past, who has been missing from our realm for years, right?"

With the mentioned of Serefina's name, Torak's calm facade slightly hardened.

"I will hear news from your side before the sun rises." Torak said his final word before he shifted into his white wolf and disappeared from Andromalius's sight before the owner of the loud footsteps arrived at the scene.

Andromalius clicked his tongue when he saw many guards came. "How you can give a ridiculous request like that?" Now, it was 4.02 a.m he had just approximately an hour at best before the sun rose.

Not to mentioned he should find another pretention now, since Torak had killed the 'security guard'. He saw his former fellow, paled and kept shaking his head as if in that way he could reposition his brain and understood the

situation better. His eyes widened while pointing his finger at the spot where Andromalius had 'died' before.

"I saw Torak Donovan killed him!" He yelled to the other seven guards, who had followed him to this place. "I swear to God! He killed him!"

"But there was no one here." One of the guards cut the man frantic explanation. "Not even a single drop of blood." He said helplessly.

"You must have seen a thing..." The other person tried to justify his fellow reaction. "Why don't you lay down for awhile, maybe you are just tired."

Being ignored, the man clenched his fist and barked. "Then tell me where is he!!!?"

Andromalius shook his head, bemused by watching the commotion as no one from the guards could see him. "Human..."

"They are so funny, aren't they?"

A voice was startled Andromalius. He snapped his head toward the direction of the voice and could see nothing except the well trimmed trees.

"Well, I couldn't disagree with you..." Andromalius drawled, but his eyes were still alert, looking at his surroundings. "I would like to have a conversation while looking my opponent's eyes, if you don't mind..."

"You want to see my eyes?"

Chapter 104 - TWO REALMS

Don't trust anyone, even the devil was once an angel.

-Unknown-

"You want to see my eyes?" A whisper that so close to Andromalius's ears, as if that person was on his nape, could be heard.

Startling, Andromalius snapped his head to his left and saw those beautiful golden eyes, they were shining brightly under the dim light.

"Lucifer..." Andromalius greeted his old friend. "I should know, it is you." His smile appeared, but it didn't reach his eyes as he became alert. There was nothing good to have a business with this fallen angel.

Lucifer let out an eerie chuckle. His golden eyes moved from Andromalius's face toward the commotion that he had created by being dead. "A security guard, huh?" He raised one of his brows. "What a lame fa?ade."

Andromalius shrugged his shoulder upon hearing the derision in his voice. "I am trying to be civil."

"There is nothing civil about our race." Lucifer remarked. He was wearing a black button down shirt that looked unkempt with dark denim jeans, his curly hair was giving other people impression he just woke up from deep slumber.

"Lucifer..." Andromalius shook his head. "I am not in the same race as yours."

Lucifer smirked. "A fallen will always be a fallen." He made his own conclusion before he talked straight down to the business. "I saw the Lycan was looking for you."

The commotion was growing bigger with the guard, who were together with Andromalius in the night shift, lost his control and yelled like a madman until someone took the initiative to look for the missing guard.

"Follow me." Lucifer said, quite irritated with the noisy situation. What a fuss that those human made.

Andromalius couldn't turn down Lucifer's order, he didn't make a good impression with Torak, if he were to offend this Devil also, he wouldn't have a good time from this moment onward.

After all, he was also interested with the identity of the girl named Raine.

Before Torak was trespassed his territory months ago, he had never heard something extraordinary about that girl, nothing special about her that caught his attention.

However now, the two powerful creatures in this realm were fussing about that little girl. He had tried to find out about her, but Torak's people had moved faster than his, to block the information about her.

And now, Lucifer was coming for that girl as well. This rare occasion was truly interesting.

Under the lamp street Lucifer snapped his fingers and both of them disappeared from the spot where they were standing a moment ago, vanished as though they had never been there in the first place.

Lucifer and Andromalius appeared at the same bar where he was drinking with Lilith before, however this time, Lilith was nowhere to be seen.

"Drink?" Lucifer had stood behind the bar table and raised a bottle of whiskey.

"Yes, please." Andromalius said, sitting on the bar stool. He didn't recognize this place, neither he had a memory about it. This place must be out of his territory.

"Talk now." Lucifer pushed a rock glass under his nose as he sat down opposite him.

"What should I talk?" Andromalius brought the glass near his nose and took a sniff on it scent before he took a big gulp. "I need time to trace her. It was ridiculous for Torak to assume that I will be able to give him any news within three hours. Not to mention I don't have any idea who she is."

"You don't know who is her?" Lucifer asked incredulously.

Andromalius was well known for his knowledge and his ability to find any important information, thus for him to not be able to know Raine's identity was quite a surprise for him.

"Torak had closed all the possible line and spot for me to find any information about the girl, he even went to the extent to erase those people memory of the girl face." Andromalius explained, almost like he was complaining.

Lucifer stroke his chin. "If that is the case, than I have wasted my time and my whiskey. You are not that good apparently." He said heartlessly.

Andromalius slightly offended by Lucifer provocation. "It was you who came to me and brought me here."

"You are right." Lucifer agreed. "That's why, you should make yourself useful. Give me the information about that girl whereabouts before you report to Torak." He said with finality.

"For your information..." Andromalius gulped down the entire whiskey and pushed the empty glass toward Lucifer, the glass skidded on the surface of the marble table and was stopped by the other person. "I don't take any order, especially in my own territory."

He has to make this thing clear, if not, he would be treated like a dog who would accept any request from both the Lycan and the Devil.

This was Lucifer's? sin, but he had a pride also that he needed to keep.

"Territory?" Lucifer scoffed. "There are only two territories, the upper world that ruled by Lycan and the underworld that ruled by me, so choose your place wisely."

And this was another threat that Andromalius received within less than an hour.

"You are chased out by the heaven my dear old friend, you don't have territory in this universe." Lucifer grabbed the glass, which Andromalius had pushed toward him, and it vanished into dust.

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Raphael, Calleb, Serefina and Jack arrived at the council's office and were blocked out of the building by police car while the police got down and greeted him.

"What happen inside?" Raphael asked before the police could utter a word for him.

Seeing it was Raphael, the personal assistant of Torak Donovan, the police startled.

What a coincidence...

"Mr. Lockwood, am I right?" The police assured the person, behind the wheel, identity first.

"Good morning officer." Raphael became impatient with this exchange greeting, he knew something was wrong had happened inside. "May I know what that's about?"

"What a coincidence sir." The police kept his politeness that Raphael didn't need at this moment. "Someone had said that Mr. Donovan had killed someone and hid the body of the victim somewhere."

There was a slightly changed of expression from Serefina and Jack while Raphael and Calleb remained calm.

Apparently they were too late to stop their Alpha to do something carelessly.

Chapter 105 - METANOIA

Metanoia: the journey of changing one's mind, heart, self or way of life.

"It is really a coincidence for Mr. Lockwood to be here." The police officer explained the situation, he looked into the dark car curiously. "Is Mr. Donovan inside?"

"No, Mr. Donovan is in the hospital." Raphael said smoothly. "He had a car accident a few hours ago."

Shock crossed the police officer's face. "How that could happen?! How is Mr. Donovan now?" His tone slightly rose by his surprise.

"We still look for the cause of the accident." Raphael nodded. "Mr. Donovan is in the Hospital, but his condition has stable now."

The accident of Torak was indeed occurred when Chupacabra were chasing after Torak and Calleb, there were many witnesses who would testify for it, added to the Traffic Camer, Torak's alibi was absolute.

Because no human would be able to run around after that kind of dreadful accident, Raphael had taken care about this, about the hospital would be an easy task to be manipulated. No one would know about it.

"Oh, but the news..." The police officer didn't recall hear something about Torak Donovan's accident.

After all, Torak Donovan was under the spotlight recently, so it was almost impossible for media to miss something big like that.

"We are trying to suppress the news as long as possible." Raphael's words streamed down like a river. "Mr. Donovan needs rest and this kind of news will affect the business."

The police officer scratched his head. "I don't really understand about business." He said sheepishly. "It is a good thing that Mr. Donovan is all right, but why Mr. Lockwood comes here in this early morning?"

"I just pass by from the hospital and saw this commotion, because of the business between our company and the government, I want to know what happen with the police line around this government building." Raphael said smoothly.

Caleb really wanted to clap his hand for the Beta, he was so smart and easy with his words. What a wonderful tongue that he has...

"Oh, I see..." The police officer nodded his head in understanding. "But, Mr. Lockwood, if you don't mind will you inform me when Mr. Donovan is able to be visited? Because we will not be able to keep this news for long time, after all there is someone missing from the government building."

"Will do." Raphael nodded cooperatively. "I will take my leave then officer." Raphael rolled back the dark window and left the scene before the police officer could give a respond. He had wasted enough time to answer that human's question while Torak could be anywhere, running rampant and put anyone in danger.

"So, any ideas where your Alpha will be?" Serefina

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Buzzing sound of people talking and the chirping bird was the first thing that intruded Raine's senses the moment she regained her consciousness.

Before she could open her eyes, she felt something warm thick quilt blanketed her.

She furrowed her brows as memories rushed back on her head.

The squabbled between Jack and Serefina...

Someone was coming...

Everything turned dark...

And, the dessert.

Raine's eyes abruptly flew opened as tossed away the quilt that hugged her body, she sat down and gauged her surroundings.

Somehow, she was inside a weird room with many things that Raine couldn't tell, were hanging atop of its ceiling. The only item that she could recognize was a dream catcher. There were three of them.

Before she lost her conscious, she was in the middle of nowhere, a dessert.

However, now she could see snow fell from the clear sky as the temperature became so cold. Raine took back the quilt that she had tossed earlier and wrapped it around her body before she got off from the bed.

The room's floor was covered with yellow rug that was very soft when her feet touch it.

The room wasn't big, it was only consisted by two cabinets, a small table and chair, a hammock, which hung on the corner of the room, and the bed that Raine was sleeping on, which filled almost the entire room.

Raine gritted her chattering teeth.

How many degrees was this place? Why it was so cold? Raine had never been in the place as cold as this.

"You are awake, I thought you have died."

A voice almost made Raine's scream loudly. Fortunately, she had spent almost five years being mute, so she could handle this surprise quite well.

Raine's eyes directed to the source of the voice, but she could see no one before the red tablecloth was lifted and she found a little boy was sitting under a table. He hugged himself as if by doing that, no one would see him.

"You are sleeping for week now." The little boy crawled from under the table. "That's why my brother hangs those dream catchers, you know, for good luck. He thought you were trapped in your dream." The little boy was quite a chatter, apparently.

Raine didn't give any response in return, but she also didn't turn around and left, like her initial plan. Instead, she looked the boy with curiosity.

Probably he knew something.

"This... your room?" Raine tried to produce louder sound, but what came out from her mouth was barely a whisper.

"No. This is my brother's room, but he has been sleeping with me since you occupied his bed." The boy looked at Raine with accusation, seemingly he didn't like to share a bed with his older brother.

The little boy looked like he was no older than seven years old, he was wearing woolen clothes that Raine thought was too weird to be wearing in her era. His hair was the color of copper with big blue ocean eyes that reminded Raine about Torak's eyes.

"How can I be here?" Raine asked again, this time her voice had slightly better.

The little boy shrugged as he walked closer toward Raine. "My brother brought you here from the dessert of no return. What were you doing there? My father said that place is really dangerous."

Raine wanted to know also, what she was doing there? Or, for more precise, how she got there?

Chapter 106 - METANOIA (2)

"Where should I go?" Alice asked.

"That depends on where you want to end up." Cashire cat replied.

-Alice in Wonderland-

"What is the dessert of no return?" Raine asked while walking closer toward the boy.

"Huh?" The little boy tilted his head as his little brows furrowed. "You don't know the dessert of no return?"

Raine shook her head honestly, she had never heard something like that or knew a place with that name even existed.

"Weird." The boy remarked. "Everybody from this village knows about the dessert of no return. That is forbidden place." His voice dropped until it was only a whisper.

"If that place is forbidden, so what your brother was doing there?" Raine crouched down beside the table until both of them could see eyes to eyes with each other.

"My brother is a strong man. He is the strongest of guardian angel." The little boy talked about his brother with the voice that laced with proud.

Actually the expression that the little boy made was quite amusing, but there was something that arouse Raine's curiosity.

"Guardian angel?" Raine repeated the strange word, her eyebrows shot up.

An angel? Is she died?

"Don't tell me you don't know about it too." The boy made another adorable expression as his mouth gaped open. He slapped his own head when Raine shook her head. "Impossible... you don't even know about guardian angel? Where are you actually from?"

"Fulbright city." Raine answered.

"I have never heard about that place." This time, he was the one who got confused.

This situation was becoming more weird and weird with the conversation with the boy, or probably the one that Raine should talk to was his older brother? After all he was only a child.

"Maybe your brother knows? Can I meet him?" Raine suggested.

The little boy shrugged and dusted imaginary dirt from his knees before he said like an older man. "You can use that cloak." He pointed at the grey thick cloak, which hung on near the door. "And follow me."

Raine suppressed the smile that threatened to appear on her lips while following the boy. But, her smile abruptly disappeared and in exchanged she let out a loud of gasp when she saw her surroundings.

The world that she had never seen before.

The houses were made by fine wood while the lushes of the trees covered their roof while some building were built by red brick that rose up into the sky, lions and gargoyles made of stone adorned the fountain in the middle of this city, or village...

Raine wasn't really sure what kind of this place that she was in. She felt like the Alice from a wonderland as she stranded in this strange place.

She felt uncomfortable and kept looking around, hoping she could see someone that she knew.

The streets were bustling with people who were exchanging greeting or just smiling at each other as if they knew every single person.

Some of people looked at Raine with curious gaze, but polite enough to not stare for long time while Raine lowered her head to avert their eyes.

And like the little boy, many people were wearing woolen sweater under their lambskin coat to keep them warm from this cold wind.

"My brother is visiting our big sister's house, over there." The little boy pointed a small wooden house with many wilted flower on its fences. "Come on." He waved his stubby hand to indicate Raine to follow him.

Strangely enough, though she had passed out for a week, she didn't feel lethargic nor thirsty or hungry. It felt like she had just woken up from a good night sleep.

"Here we are!!!" The little boy beamed as he stepped in the terrace. "Sister Lydia! Brother Lucas!"

Raine stood two steps behind the boy, only now she realized that she even didn't know the boy's name, she should ask him before.

When the door was opened from inside, a beautiful woman in her warm red velvet sweater, appeared before their eyes.

She smiled brightly while hugging the little boy, who snuggled closer onto her warm embrace.

"Oh." The woman gasped in surprised when she saw Raine. "You have woken up." She released the small boy as she walked toward Raine and cupped her face with both her hands.

Raine took a step backward out of habit, she still didn't use with the sudden touch, especially from the person that she didn't know.

But, the woman didn't mind with her gestured and stared at her face, checking Raine's complexion. "Good. You are in good condition." She nodded in agreement. "The medicine that I gave to you didn't have a bad side effect apparently."

Raine didn't say anything for that statement. She was at lost and just wanted to go home, to be with Torak again.

"Come inside it is cold outside." She took Raine's arm and led her inside the house. "My name is Lydia." Lydia introduced herself before she pointed a man, who was sitting on the couch that was covered by cozy white wool.

"He is Lucas." Lydia pointed at Lucas, he was also surprised to see Raine was there. "He was the one who had found you in the dessert of no return."

Lucas turned his body faced her, grinning. "Your condition were so bad at that time." He informed her. "Luckily my sister could find something to help you."

And Lucas went on with his story about how he had saved Raine, but the only thing that she wanted to know was; how she could go back? And where exactly she was now?

"If it wasn't because you called me, I wouldn't be able to find you there." Lucas remarked as he took a glass of drink from the tray that Lydia had brought over.

Lydia put one glass on Raine's laps as she sat down between Raine and the little boy, who was busy moving his own hands in the air.

"I didn't call..." Was the first line that Raine said after she entered the house.

"You don't realize when you call for help." Lucas shrugged and gulped down his drink. "Every Guardian Angel has our own way to communicate with each other."

Raine's mouth gapped opened. She didn't understand with this whole situation, what with this Guardian Angel thing?

"You don't know who you really are?" Lydia caught Raine's confusion as she concluded.

"What do you mean with that?" Raine asked, she tightened her grip on the edge of the sweater that she was wearing.

"You are one of us." Lydia exclaimed. "A guardian angel."

There was a thick silence that followed after Lydia's words as Raine was still trying to discern the information.

"I don't..." Raine shook her head, she looked around as if she would find someone who she knew if she did so, meeting Serefina would fine too. "I don't understand..."

"She really doesn't know anything about this world." The little boy stopped playing with his hands and stared at Raine accusingly as though her ignorance was a biggest sin.

"I live in Fulbright City..." Raine said, her voice was barely a whisper. "May I know what this place?"

"This is a village of Angel." The little boy was the one who answered her.

Chapter 107 - METANOIA (3)

When you feel my heat

Look into my eyes

It's where my demons hide

It's where my demons hide

Don't get too close

It's dark inside

It's where my demons hide

It's where my demons hide

-Demons; Imagine Dragons-

Raine didn't know how to process the information as she blinked her eyes and opened her mouth, but there was nothing she was able to say.

"There are not many like us." Lucas said his expression slightly down. "Many creatures used to use our pureness for their sake."

Raine overwhelmed, she couldn't catch up with this conversation. What the meaning with all of this? What he meant by many creatures? There were a lot of 'creatures' that she had been seeing for these past eight years here, which had driven her crazy?

Her breath hitched when the idea crossed her mind. How was that possible? No, actually everything was possible.

However the real question was; where was she? How she could get back to... Torak? She wanted to meet him, badly.

She didn't feel save here, in the place she didn't know, people that she didn't familiar with.

"You don't know about all of this, do you?" Lydia, became the considerate person in the room, caught Raine's anxiousness.

Raine shifted her gaze at Lydia and shook her head in dismay.

"I wonder what kind of place is Fulbright city? Are there many of us?" Lydia asked curiously as she looked back at Raine, became impatient to hear her answer."

"I don't know..." Raine replied sheepishly.

She really didn't know if there were many guardian angels in Fulbright city. She also still had a hard time to discern this information.

She? A guardian angel?

What was that?

"Oh..." Lydia's eyes slightly cast down. "Decades ago when we are still free and not being hunted, our people had roamed this realm, casting away the darkness."

"The darkness?" Raine didn't know when this conversation would be normal, the more they talked the more it confused her.

Lydia chuckled lightly. "Why do you think we are a guardian angel?" She gave her a rhetorical question that, honestly, Raine couldn't have known the answer.

However, instead of answered it, Lydia jumped into another matter. "However, four decades ago, all the creatures started to hunt us, because the essence of our power could make them stronger and as a result the darkness becomes darker." Lydia's eyes cast down. "This realm became imbalance."

Raine totally lost it. What was the darkness? What the guardian angel was guarding? What happened to the guardian angel, whom their essence was sapped?

Raine didn't deny that there were other creatures in this world, the only part, which she could understand and accept.

However, she was still lack of knowledge about this and the information that she got, confused her even further.

In the other hand, seemingly, Lucas didn't catch Raine's strange behavior as he continued. "This moment, they only see us like an object to strengthen their power, while the Lycanthropes simply don't like us because our people are physically weak creature."

Upon hearing the word of Lycanthropes, Raine's perked up. "Lycan?" Her eyes shone brightly.

If it was a lycan then they would know about Torak!

However, Raine sudden cheer- up behavior rewarded with a strange looked from the three siblings' eyes. They looked at Raine as if she was saying something inappropriate.

"Why do you look so happy when you hear about Lycan?" Lydia asked, she frowned as her beautiful black's eyes were assessing Raine.

"I know one of Lycan." Raine said happily and sheepishly.

"Who?" Lydia asked in sharp tone while leaning her body toward Raine, her fist on her laps tightened as if she was holding something back.

"His name is Torak." Until this point Raine was still not aware about the sudden change of the atmosphere, even the little boy stopped playing with his own hands.

Only when Raine mentioned Torak's name the three of them let out a shrieked and Lydia covered her mouth to prevent her from screaming.

Raine was startled by their reaction. She didn't know why they gave her that kind of reaction?

"The second brother of Donovan... Torak Donovan?" Lucas asked Raine in very serious tone while Lydia was shifting in her seat uncomfortably.

Raine nodded as reply, but her eyes became wary. She felt like she had just said something wrong and couldn't irreparable.

"I don't know how you know him, but..." Lydia was fidgeting as if she remembered something unpleasant. "You better stay away from him." She warned Raine.

The confusion was as thick as a fog in this living room, both parties had many question inside their head, but didn't know where to start.

"Sometime he lost his temper, but most of the time he was so kind and caring." Raine, subconsciously stood up for him as she reminisced how Torak had been treating her. No one had ever done what Torak did for her.

The three of them visibly grimaced by Raine's statement and somehow this irritated her. They didn't know Torak, but why they judged him?

"Why? There is something wrong with that?" Raine felt uncomfortable under their eyes.

"Yes, something totally wrong." Lydia hissed when she regained her composure after her shock. "You are not supposed to have anything to do with Lycanthropes."

"But, why?" Raine clutched the hem of her sweater, something wasn't right and she knew whatever Lydia would tell her, it would surprise her with a new revelation about Torak.

"Because Lycanthropes are used to slaughtering our kind. Their kind is too strong and too haughty to gain more power in this way, but kill us instead to prevent the other creature to sap our essence." Lucas finished his sister explanation in one bold and direct statement.

Raine was in disbelief. She couldn't accept what she heard and shook her head vigorously. "No. he will not kill other without reason."

Yes, everything that Torak had done was always had a reason behind it. He wouldn't kill only for his impulsiveness, right?

In truth, Raine wasn't sure about this either as she remembered how easy Torak had killed his own kind in the other day.

Chapter 108 - METANOIA (4)

Lucas frowned. "I don't know where you come from, but as one of our kind you have to be careful of Lycanthropes." His words laced with warning.

Raine didn't like how they talk about Torak, but she wasn't dare enough to argue with them.

"Alright, I think this is time when we have to stop chatting and start to eat something!" Lydia clapped her hand excitedly as she went to the kitchen followed by the little boy behind her.

"Raine, right?" Lucas asked looked at Raine in confusion. "How do you get to the dessert of no return?"

Not all creatures could enter that place because that place was forbidden, not only that, the dark aura that surrounded that place was something that hard to bear.

If it wasn't because Raine's voice, which calling for help, that very loud in Lucas's head earlier, he wouldn't ever know, not to mention risk his life to enter to the farthest line of the dessert.

"I don't know..." Raine shook her head. "I was inside my room and waiting for Torak when suddenly I was in the dessert." She answered him honestly.

"Why do you keep mentioning Torak's name? Do you really know him?" Lucas thought Raine didn't mean her word before when she said she knew a Lycan, especially the curse Lycan.

Who in this realm didn't know about the curse of the three Donovan brothers? There was no way a guardian angel has something to do with them.

The lycan despised their kind and the guardian angel feared them.

"I know him..." Raine nodded, how many times that she had told him that she knew Torak before he believed her?

"How do you know him?" Lucas's voice became deeper as he leaned his body toward Raine.

Raine didn't like his gesture, she was sitting uncomfortably now, she wanted to leave this place, but didn't know where to go. She bit her lips and moved to the other side, avoiding him.

"Raine, how do you know him?" Lucas repeated his question impatiently, wasn't aware with Raine's uneasiness.

"I am his mate..." Raine said it, her voice was barely a whisper as she averted her eyes, fidgeting.

"Impossible. Torak Donovan is cursed by the moon goddess herself will not have mate for his entire immortal life." Suddenly Lydia emerged from the kitchen while holding a big pot that filled with soup, the white smoke wafted from it. "Every single soul knew about that."

Actually Raine had heard about that also, but because she had not yet grasped the concept of mate well enough, she didn't pay attention into that matter.

"Right!" Lucas agreed readily. "You have to meet him in person to find out that you are a mate. That's how the mate bond works for Lycanthropes." He recalled the information about Lycanthropes that he had learnt from the elder.

"Right." Lydia nodded. "Whatever your reason is, don't associate yourself with them Raine. Their hearts filled with darkness."

"There is no way you have met him Raine." Lucas chimed in as he stood up and helped Lydia with the plates and cutleries for them. "You will not be here once those lycan saw you."

"But I have met him..." Their reaction and statement puzzled Raine.

What was wrong with them? First they said Torak was a bad person and now they didn't believe her.

Lucas and Lydia looked at each other's eyes, exchanging unexplainable look, but it was clear that they didn't trust Raine's statement.

"Probably you have a vivid dream about that." Lydia cleared her throat as she sauntered the room to stand beside Raine. "You know, the desert of no return is a forbidden place that filled with unknown magic, maybe it deludes you from reality."

Raine wanted to say that she didn't make up stories, but their skeptical reaction only threw Raine with confusion. Now she doubted her existence.

"Please stop talking about lycan, I will have a nightmare." The little boy whined. "Can we eat please?"

"Alright, let's eat Raine..." Lydia grabbed Raine's hand, ignoring her sudden tense, and brought her over to their dining table.

On the dining table there were three two main course with one soup and there was one extra plate that didn't match with the other three plates, which Raine assumed it was hers, thus she sat on the sea beside the little boy.

"There is no much dishes, because I don't know if you will awake this early! In my calculations you will wake up in a month." Lydia poured the soup on four small bowls for them.

"Hmm." Lucas smelled the aroma of the soup and beamed in delight. "You have spent all of your energy, good think the darkness didn't find you and devoured you alive."

Raine didn't give a response for that, she simply lowered her head and drank her soup, however she took a note to ask about this at another time.

After the topic of lycanthropes, their dinner conversation filled with lighter topic like how was their day. They also generously promised Raine to take her out to see the city and Lidya would take her to buy some clothes for her tomorrow.

Raine didn't want to bother them, as they had been kind enough for taking care of her when she was unconscious, but they insisted.

Lidya's size was bigger and taller than her, thus her clothes wouldn't fit her.

Actually Raine didn't mind that, she remembered all her oversize and second handed clothes that she received when she was still in orphanage, she bet Lydia's clothes would be much better than that.

After the dinner ended, Raine took initiative to wash the plates, at first Lidya rejected her suggestion, but Raine insisted, she didn't want only to be a receiver of their goodwill without doing anything in return.

The only problem was; there was no sink inside the house.

"Where should I wash this?" Raine confused when she saw there was no sink in the kitchen. She had put all the dirty plates inside a wooden bucket.

"Just left the dirty plates, you can wash them early in the morning in the river." Lidya was busy with her younger brother as the little boy had fallen asleep on the couch.

Raine blinked her eyes couple of time, she was puzzled with that fact. No matter how poor the house, they would have sink or at least a sluice at their home, not to mention Lydia's family didn't look like a lower middle class person.

"May I know what year is this?" Raine was standing at the kitchen door while looking at Lidya's direction, who put the little boy in Lucas's embrace.

"What do you mean what year?" Lucas tilted his head at Raine. "It had been two hundreds decades since the battle between the darkness and the light that put our world into chaos."

And that was the talk about the darkness again... Raine chose to not ask about it further.

"Raine, I have prepared a room for you upstairs, the second door on the left." Lidya told Raine while she opened the door for Lucas. "I have to go for awhile to make a report about you that you will stay here, Lucas and Ronny will go home because they are not living here, it is fine if I leave you alone?"

Raine wanted to shake her head, but her lips escape different words. "I am fine."

Lidya smiled and let Lucas and Ronny out first.

"Bye, Raine. See you tomorrow." Lucas waved at her with difficulty as he hugged Ronny in front of him.

After Lucas and Ronny stepped out of the house, Lidya closed the door while saying. "I will be back soon."

And with the soft sound of the door was being closed, Raine was left alone inside the house.

Raine looked around at this place. Lidya's house wasn't too big, but it's nice, with fireplace in the living room, in front of a big sofa that covered with white fur, this gave off an old fashion style.

Raine sauntered the living room and opened the curtain from the window beside the fireplace. It was snowing outside.

The white snow looked like cottons covered the streets, roofs and the trees. From where Raine was standing, she could hear the wind howling.

Raine felt bad because Lidya has to go alone in this kind of weather for her sake, why didn't she report about her tomorrow morning? It wouldn't be too late, right?

But, again Raine knew nothing about this place, let alone its rule.

Chapter 109 - METANOIA (5)

It's not just grief. There are as many emotions as there are people. The fragility of someone who lets their anger get the best of them...

The strength to overcome fear because of love...

You can't comprehend anything about them...

-Chiyuki; from: "Kurokami no onna" (death parade)-

After she tidied up the living room and made sure the dining table and the kitchen were clean, Raine was about to go upstairs and waited for Lidya inside the room that she had given to her, when she heard someone knocked on the door.

Raine froze.

Lidya didn't say anything about a guest, should she opened the door?

Raine waited until the knocking sound stopped, hoping whoever it was, they would think no one inside the house and left.

After some time the knocking sound stopped, but instead the person behind pushed opened the door instead.

Raine was halfway to the second floor when a man in thick cloak made of wool stepped inside the room, he was so big and tall with his head almost reached the door frame.

"Lidya, are you home?" The man scoured the living room as he took off his leather boots. "Why did you leave the door unlocked?"

After he put aside his boots and stood up to look for Lidya, he spotted Raine was on the last step of the stairs, staring at him.

"Who are you!?" His voice was hoarse and demanding as he strode across the room.

Only in five large steps, he had stood in front of Raine while holding her collar sweater. "Who are you?! Where is Lidya?!" He was glaring at Raine and shook her body violently. "Answer me!"

Raine really wanted to answer him, but his tight grip around her collar made her hard to breathe.

"Lidya went out..." Raine forced her voice out of her throat that sounded so weak and pitiful.

"What she is doing out of the house at this hour!?" That man sounded angrier now when he heard that. His nostril flaring when his green eyes assessed Raine's small frame and after he decided that Raine wasn't a threat, he just released her body to drop to the ground.

The moment she was released from his grip, Raine backed away, put the distance between them while rubbing her neck.

"Where is she going!?" There was no apologies from him for what he did when he asked Raine with the same tone like before.

"Lidya said she will report about me to the authority..." Raine gulped hard. "... that I will stay here..."

"You?" That man frowned. "What are you?"

That question sounded wrong, but Raine answered him anyway. "I am Raine."

"I don't ask your name! I ask what are you!?" That man looked impatient now as he glanced at the door couple of times, pacing back and forth in front of

Raine as if she was a prey. One wrong move from her, he would tear her apart.

"I ..." Raine then remembered, but it sounded strange when she said it. "... a guardian angel...?" Those words sounded like a question rather than an answer.

They said she was a guardian angel and Raine just went along with their assumption.

Fortunately that man didn't say anything again as his tensed muscles evidently relaxed. He sat down on the sofa while intermittently glanced at Raine, who was standing at the kitchen door.

The time was ticking so slow while they were waiting for Lidya, that man didn't offer Raine to sit and would let out a dangerous grunt if she moved from where she stood.

Finally the door swung opened and Lidya's figure that wrapped under a long brown overcoat came inside the room.

"Dorian, you have returned?" Her face beamed brightly while she got rid the remaining snow from outside from her long black curly hair.

The man named Dorian didn't waste any second when he scooped Lidya in his arms. "Why are you going outside in this hour!?" He reprimanded her, but the concern in his voice couldn't be concealed.

"Lucas accompany me, I am not alone." Lidya chuckled and patted the man's shoulder. "I just registered the new member of guardian angel."

"Are you sure she is a guardian angel?" Dorian stared at Raine sharply.

Only then Lidya realized that Raine was there.

"Raine what are you doing there? Come here." Lidya waved her hand toward the girl, but she stayed still, didn't dare to look at Dorian. "What did you do to her?" She frowned and swatted his upper hand lightly before she sauntered the room and approached Raine.

"It's alright Raine, he is Dorian Torres, my husband." Lidya introduced that man. "He probably slightly rude, but he doesn't mean it." She whispered at her ear apologetically.

More or less she could imagine how Dorian reaction when he saw Raine inside their house.

"You are home early, what happen?" Dorian supposed to comeback in two days later, thus she was also surprised to see him now.

There were no divider between the dining room and the living room, so when Lidya and Raine were sitting there, Lidya could still see her husband was warming himself in front of the fireplace.

"Those Wizard Hunters crossed the border again." Dorian spoke without averted his eyes from the dancing fire in the fireplace.

"We had made an agreement with them, right?" Lidya was angry when she heard that, Raine could see her shoulders tensed.

"An agreement like that is only a piece of paper for them." Dorian remarked begrudgingly, he removed his gauntlet and put it aside. "And those lycanthropes are really pain in the a**!"

Seeing this conversation was a serious matter, Lidya patted Raine's shoulder. "I will show you your room." She pointed her finger to the second floor.

Raine nodded gratefully, she wanted to be alone now to discern this sudden situation and this strange place, probably if she thought about it again she could find the answer.

Maybe she had made a forbidden move or pushed a wrong button, which resulted her being thrown into this place.

Lidya led the way to the second floor and showed Raine her room.

"Go inside, I will get clean clothes for you and tomorrow we will go buy everything that you need." Lidya said cheerfully as she went inside the other room, which Raine assumed was her room and Dorian.

Raine pushed open the door and stepped inside.

The moment she was inside the bedroom, the smell of citrus greeted her nose, it scent wasn't strong enough to make her dizzy, but it felt warm and welcoming.

The room that Lidya gave to her couldn't be said a big room, but it was enough to fit a small bed near the window and a small wooden cabinet next to the bed, only.

Raine sat on the edge of the bed because there was no chair inside the room, she looked at the heaps of snow on the windowsill, but couldn't see the street due to the glass was dewy.

Lidya came after a few minutes later, brought warm purple dress in her arms and an extra blanket. With Raine's frail frame, she was afraid she would freeze in the next morning.

"Here, try this." Lidya put the purple dress on Raine's laps and the extra blanket beside her. "Keep yourself warm, the night will be very cold."

"Thank you Lidya." Raine smiled softly, she was still not used to receive other people kindness, but she definitely like it, after what she had gone through, a little bit generosity was able to warm her heart. "You are so kind."

Lidya shook her head. "Don't say something like that, there are not many our kind that left, it is a good thing that we have you here." She smiled brightly, but before Raine could ask something to her, Lidya stopped her. "You have questions, ask me tomorrow, this already late and you have just recuperated, you need more rest."

Now that Lidya mentioned it, Raine felt her body was getting heavy, she was tired. "Alright." She agreed. "Thank you Lidya."

Regardless she didn't want Raine to mention it, she still had to say it.

Lidya chuckled and stood up. "If you need anything I will be in the next room, understood?"

Raine nodded, but of course she wouldn't go to her room, Dorian probably would kill her for disturbing his wife and his sleeping time.

"Good night." Lidya said before she closed the door.

"Good night." Raine replied.

After she was alone inside the room, she locked the door and started to take off her clothes to change into the warm purple sleeping dress.

She shuddered when a cold breeze blew through a crack beneath the wall.

Hurriedly she put on her sleeping dress and folded her old one before she jumped into the bed and pulled the blanket up to her head.

This was still very cold, thus Raine used the extra blanket that Lidya had given her, she was right after all, Raine would need that.

Now that she felt warm enough, her mind drifted to her last memory when she was in the apartment and then, out of the blue, she was already in the desert.

What she had done?

Raine tried to think about that, but she had done nothing in particular neither she met a strange creature that threw her miles away from where she was.

But, speaking of creature, Raine remembered something when she almost lost her consciousness.

Something dark engulfed her, but it wasn't the darkness from her unconsciousness, it was something else entirely. Something that felt alive...

Before Raine could proceed further about the information, the tiredness that washed over her body put her mind into a deep slumber.

The Love of a Lycan #Chapter 110 - METANOIA (6) - Read The Love of a Lycan Chapter 110 - METANOIA (6)

Chapter 110 - METANOIA (6)

Maybe (love) means something more- something we can't yet understand.

Maybe it's some evidence, some artifact of higher dimension that we can't consciously perceive.

I am drawn across the universe to someone I have not seen in a decade who I know is probably dead.

Love is the one thing that we're capable of perceiving that transcends dimensions of time and space.

Maybe we should trust that, even if we can't understand it.

-Brand, Interstellar-

The faint ray of light, from the window next to the bed, fell on Raine's face, gently woke her up to a beautiful morning as the particles of dust floating in a stream of bleak sunlight.

Raine stretched out her body and yawned sleepily, she wanted to sleep a bit longer, but remembered that she couldn't do that.

Lidya had let Raine stay inside her house and even became so nice to treat her as if she wasn't a stranger.

At the very least, Raine could do something that she could.

With the last yawn, Raine opened the blanket that wrapped her body like a hotdog and welcomed the cold air.

She shuddered and hugged herself while proceeding to go out of her room, walked down the stairs and headed to the kitchen and found the cabinet as she opened it.

Raine would see what food ingredients that Lidya has, maybe she could find something for their breakfast.

Inside the cabinet, Raine found brown bread, eggs, bacon, dry meat and fish and dry vegetables like lettuce and carrot. Raine thought she could make a simple sandwich with that.

But then, just now she realized, aside from sink there was no stove also in the kitchen. This kitchen only filled with a big cabinet for them to preserve food during winter and another cabinet for plates and cutleries.

At the other side, there was a simple stove with pot atop of it, where they could boil a soup, yet there was no way Raine could grill something or fried anything there.

Once again she found herself at lost with this condition, what happened exactly with all of this inconvenient? What year actually they lived for not having those kind of basic kitchen?

Raine stood there absentmindedly, she wanted to do something for Lidya in return for her kindness, but she didn't know how to do it.

Biting her lower lip, Raine took the brown bread and put it on the plate as she found a jug filled with milk, but it was cold, so she needed to warm the milk inside the smaller pot.

Raine was standing in front of the simple stove while holding the small pot filled with milk while thinking how she lit up the stove.

First she needed a firelighter. Raine looked around, but couldn't see any lighter there...

Why it was so hard to only make a simple breakfast? Raine frowned

"What are you doing Raine?" Suddenly Lidya's voice sounded from behind her.

Raine whipped her head toward her direction and saw Lidya yawn widely while covering her mouth with her palm, a glistening sleepy tear on the corner of her eyes.

"I want to make breakfast for you, but..." Raine waved her hand awkwardly toward the stove. "I don't know how..."

Seeing what the problem that Raine was facing, Lidya let out a crispy chuckle. "We don't have breakfast at home Raine, we will always have breakfast at the Great Hall." Lidya took the small pot from Raine's hand and put it down on the table. "But, thank you anyway, maybe you can help me with lunch."

"Sure." Raine mumbled as she nodded.

"Now, I will get you a new dress so we can go to the Great Hall and have our breakfast there, alright?" Lidya suggested, grabbed Raine's hand and led the way back to the second floor.

Raine went to her room again, waiting for Lidya with her new clothes. The weather was so cold, even with the sun was shining so bright, Raine couldn't see the scenery behind the frosted glass.

Not so long, Lidya had returned with new clothes in her hand, that was including a thick woolen cloak and several layers of clothes also a scarf, they were in the gradient of blue color.

"This will be a bit big for you, but I think it still fine." Lidya put the clothes on top of the small cabinet beside her bed.

"Thank you Lidya." Raine said her gratitude, but the other person only waved her hand casually.

"When you are done, Dorian and I will be downstairs." Lidya informed Raine.

With the thought of Dorian, Raine recalled the event last night when that man's big hand wrapped around her neck, he could easily snapped her into two.

Subconsciously, Raine touched her neck, it left bruises, but because the clothes that she was wearing it would cover them just fine.

Raine started to take off her sleeping dress and slipped into new clothes that Lidya had brought, it was so cold for her to stand n.a.k.e.d, even when she was in the closed room, her teeth chattering.

Only when she put the last layer of clothes and wrapped her body with the thick dark blue cloak, she felt better.

Immediately Raine went downstairs and found Dorian was arranging Lidya's scarf, so it would cover her neck perfectly, preventing the cold wind brushed her skin.

Lidya was so adorable when Dorian treated her that way, her blushing cheeks slightly reddened when she saw Raine was looking at them.

"Raine, come here." Lidya pushed Dorian's hand from her lightly as she gestured Raine to follow her outside.

Raine walked closer to the couple and gave a faint smile at Dorian that didn't reciprocate in the same way. He grunted and took big steps to go out of the house first, leaving Raine and Lidya alone.

"Is he angry with me?" Raine asked carefully. She could feel the hostility from him.

Raine could understand with the misunderstanding last night, but she couldn't understand why he still treated her as if she was an enemy? Wasn't the misunderstanding had been cleared?

"No, he just not used to have a guest at home." Lidya explained. "It is always the two of us only."

"I am sorry, I have become a nuisance in your house..." Raine was really feel terrible for that, she didn't want to disturb them, but aside from Lidya's house, she didn't know where she could live in this strange place.

Lidya realized her words and hurriedly waved her hands, gesticulating there was nothing to be worried. "It's okay, you will find your own house sooner or later." She said.

Find her own house? What does it mean?

"What do you mean with find my own house?" Raine asked while wearing Lidya's boots, they were slightly too big for her.

Raine was busy with her scarf and missed the change expression of Lidya, she grimaced when Raine asked that question. "I will tell you later." She mumbled and locked the door behind her.

The snow was so soft when they stepped in the yard and gave the two of them hard time to go to the Great Hall.

Raine and Lidya were having difficulty to walk as their boots kept sinking. Even the road also covered with thick snow.

Once they were arrived at the Great Hall, both of them were slightly panting.

The so called Great Hall was a huge building with many intricate decorations on the surface of its big pillars, there were around hundreds of staircases to reach the hall.

They needed to be extra careful when they climbed up the stairs, because of the snow underneath.

Raine was astounded by the scenery before her eyes. The Great Hall was approximately three hundred meters long while one long mahogany table occupied the center of the hall with hundreds of wooden chair along the table and the ceiling height was pleasantly commodious, designs of flowers were carved into the moulding and small children with wings look down at them from every angle.

The wall was painted in birch color, gave a sense of warmth with sweet smell wafted in the air.

Some people had seated on the chair and chatted with the person near them, or they just ate alone before they left in hurry, but from the interaction among the people, they seemingly knew each other.

Raine had never imagined such a splendid place to eat, she was in awed by what she was seeing. Beside her, Lidya nudged her hand, drew Raine's attention to her.

"Let's get our food there." Lidya pointed at the stall in the corner of the hall.

The process was like when Raine still in the orphanage, they would stand in line, waiting for their turn to get their food.

Raine was standing behind Lidya with a big porcelain plate in her hand, taking some bread, bacon and sausage along with a mug filled with milk.

Afterward, she followed Lidya to the empty seat while occasionally greeted the people that they meet.

Many of them would stare at Raine with curious gaze, but Lidya would dismiss them by saying she was a new member and introduced them one by one.

Until they reached their seat, Raine had been introduced to four people, she tried to remember their names and their faces.

"Like I said before, there are not many of us and to keep us united with each other, we built this Great Hall." Lidya explained. "The people here that you see now are the whole citizens, well less dozens people who had left or not yet come."

Raine looked around, there were many people there, with approximately three hundred people...

"But, most of them are the shadow warrior, not a guardian angel." Lidya waved her hand to the person across them. "Hi Aeon!" She greeted him.

The man has hair as dark as the night sky with black obsidian eyes, he was almost as burly as Dorian.

Aeon waved back at Lidya and glanced at Raine before he resumed eating his breakfast.

"He is a new member of a shadow warrior." Lidya whispered at her.

Raine took another look at Aeon, he wasn't as scary as Dorian, she thought.