

TLOA Lycan 1071

Chapter 1071: Yes, you hurt me

Deafening roars filled the air and the ground beneath them shook vigorously when the shifters and the minatours rushed to confront their opponents.

Above them, in the blue sky that was contaminated with the black smoke, were three dragons, flapping their massive wings while letting out loud screeches that could make anyone who heard them tremble in fear.

On top of the white beast, Raine squinted her eyes, as she concentrated on her own task.

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Inside the hut, Kace was unfazed when he heard the loud commotion from outside that told him another war had started, because that couldn't attract his attention... He could only focus on what was right in front of him; his dying mate...

Apparently, restraining three devils in her realm, rewarded this side effect to Hope. Her condition became weaker with every second that passed and there was nothing Kace could do except to hold her hands and stay beside her, waiting for the other guardian angels to finish their task, so Hope could end hers.

And after that...

Kace didn't even want to think what would happen after that...

No one knew what would happen, but somehow, they knew the worst things would still be lurking around the corner when all of this over.

When all the guardian angels had finished their missions, the sole reason why they were resurrected in the first place.

Kace did not care about the deaths out there, because the only death that could scare him to his wits end was the one which was lurking around his mate...

"If I am fortunate enough to get resurrected again, I want to tour around the world with you..." Hope said softly. Her face looked very pale, just like how she was when she just escaped from the grip of the death that forced Kace to mark her. "What do you think?"

Hope was trying to make Kace think other things aside from the sorrowful fact in his mind. But, it seemed her attempt was not really successful, since the only response she got from from Kace was silence.

"If I come back, I want you to take me on a date... a real date..." Hope turned around and looked at Kace, running her fingers in his hair. "The last time you took me on a date, I couldn't get to enjoy as it was ruined by Abby and Leon." Hope pouted.

Of course Kace remembered that. If he could say, he was willing to give up everything just to return to that time...

Everything seemed more easier during that time, he had everything he needed and was sure that Hope was safe under Serefina and Lana's care.

But, death was the inevitable outcome of war, and everyone have their own turns, the only thing was no one knew when it comes knocking on their door.

"I hated Abby for ruining our date and flirting with you." Hope scowled, her brows were scrunched together, but her voice was soft. "But now I feel thankful for her because she and her brother had saved Bree..."

And now Leon and Abby were also a part of those people, who were fighting in the war out there.

"Hm..." Kace could only give her that response, as he stared at their intertwined fingers. He would be beside her to make sure Hope was safe and also because he didn't want to leave her alone.

"Kace..." Hope stretched out her hand to touch Kace's chin to tip his head up, so he could see her. "This is not a goodbye, you know that..."

Kace gritted his teeth when he heard that, but didn't say anything to answer her back.

"Kace..." Hope frowned when her mate kept refusing to make an eye contact with her. "Look at me."

Reluctantly, Kace raised his head and looked at Hope, when their eyes met he couldn't hold back the fear that he had been trying to suppress.

"I am afraid Hope... I don't want to lose you..." A tear fell on his cheeks which was followed by another then another.

"You will not lose me... This is not a goodbye..." Hope pushed herself up, so she could hug her mate and let him cry on her shoulder.

Yes, this is not a goodbye...

They hoped so...

Jedrek needed a few more minutes to calm down, but even though his body had stopped trembling, he was still hugging Lilac, afraid to let her go.

During which no words were exchanged between them, until a question from Jedrek broke the serenity.

"Would you come back to me if the moon goddess gave you a chance to return?" Jedrek asked in a low voice.

Her hand that was caressing Jedrek's back stopped when Lilac heard the question that she had been asking herself and still couldn't find the answer.

Even after Jedrek asked her out loud, Lilac couldn't find it in her to say 'yes' with certainty.

The longer Lilac didn't answer his question, the more Jedrek knew he had lost his mate... Lilac wouldn't let him wait for an answer if she really intended to come back to him, but the silence she gave him was also an answer.

"We have to go now," Lilac said, patting Jedrek's back. "We shouldn't waste any more time here, everyone is waiting for the result..."

Jedrek felt the hollow in his heart getting bigger when he heard that, but he nodded in agreement. "Yes, let's go..."

Reluctantly, and very slowly, Jedrek let go of Lilac and stood up.

On the other hand, Lilac watched Jedrek's expression when they started to walk in search of the book that they were trying to find out.

"Why did you apologize earlier?" Lilac asked offhandedly.

She heard Jedrek apologizing to her, but was still curious about the reason until he looked like a sinner, and was on the verge of a mental breakdown.

"Because I hurt you," Jedrek answered in a simple way, though what he felt was nothing close to the word simple.

Lilac bit her lip. "Yes, you hurt me Jedrek, I would be lying lie if I said otherwise."

Jedrek lowered his head. "What should I do to make up for that?"

Lilac shook her head. "What you are feeling right now is because of the mate bond, but once you are over it, you will be fine."

Chapter 1072: Sacrifice

Jedrek raised his head out of surprise, he didn't think that Lilac would answer him in that manner, but before he could utter anything more, Lilac beat him to it.

"That's a fact. Once I am gone, and the mate bond is snapped, you will not think of me the way you are thinking now or feel the pain as excruciating as you are experiencing now." Lilac raised her head and met Jedrek's gaze with her eyes. "Once all of this was over, we will be nothing to each other, but two people that once got to know each other and then turned into complete strangers. The mate bond was what binding us together, Jedrek..."

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Raine and everyone could see that the humans they were fighting against in this war didn't look normal. Something was totally off with them, especially their eyes.

Their eyes were ones that of a golden shade. So much similar to those of the devils'.

If this keep going on, it wouldn't be a wonder if another thousand human beings lost their lives today.

[Torak, take me to the center.] Raine mind- linked Torak, as the beast kept slashing his sharp claws and baring his teeth at the humans that kept attacking them.

Silver bullets were shot, aimed at the shifters, if it was not for the witches and magicians' constant interference, those shifters would have died with dozens of bullet holes in their bodies.

The white beast roared when he leapt onto a massive iron vehicle and forced himself through the human barricade while dodging several bullets that were aimed at him.

Raine looked around and stopped some bullets that the witches couldn't manage to stop from reaching them.

Raine could stop time, but she needed to be in the right spot, so that she could influence it over such a massive area.

Not only that, she needed to save her energy for everything she planned next.

The final task of hers was to restore the invisible wall that separated the supernatural creatures and the human world.

This was not an easy task to accomplish, so did what Hope and Lilac had to achieve now, but they were certain they could go through it all.

This was almost the end of their mission...

Only three devils were left.

Meanwhile, because of the huge numbers of the humans that were fighting with all of their might against the supernatural creatures, it took a long time while overcoming many difficulties for the white beast to bring the guardian angel closer to the place that she mentioned.

Along the way, Calleb's brown beast never left their side even once and fought back really hard to make sure that nothing would harm Raine.

He would never forget the fact how those humans had killed his mate brutally and wouldn't let the same chance fall into their hands to do the same thing to Raine.

Fighting against the fact that the shifters couldn't kill the humans without bearing the consequences, they ended their lives rather brutally and quickly.

[Here...] Raine said through the mind-link when she thought that that was the perfect position to start. All she needed was to wait for Lilac and Hope to finish their tasks and be done with all of this.

The white beast and the brown beast stopped in the center of the commotion and Raine jumped down from the white beast's back to observe her surroundings.

Immediately after, Raine realized something just when she was brought to the spot that she wanted, which was; they couldn't stay there for a long time, because it went without saying that those armed vehicles or the silver bullets would eventually reach their targets; them.

However, the moment Raine felt she was ready to unleash her attack, an unexpected thing happened at the same time.

Just as Raine was about to stop the time to make all those humans around them stop attacking the shifters, Lilith appeared right before her.

The female devil smirked viciously at the guardian angel and stretched out her hand to grip Raine's neck.

Lilith appearance was so sudden that rendered the two beasts on Raine left and right sides unable to react right in time.

Yet, Raine didn't even budge when Lilith wrapped her cold fingers around her neck. Instead, she stared indecisively at her.

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Jedrek and Lilac finally reached another door across the room. The two of them walked in silence, as they were deep in their own thoughts.

And just like before, Jedrek walked forward and reached for the handle of the door before Lilac could do, but this time he didn't hear any warnings from the guardian angel, which also meant; he didn't have a chance to start a conversation.

Behind the door, was an even bigger room than the last one, with a crystal chandelier hanging very high above their heads and an opened book on top of a translucent podium in the center, but aside from these, nothing was inside and this room could be said as an empty room.

"Is that the book?" Jedrek asked Lilac, finding an opportunity to engage her in a conversation.

"Yes," Lilac replied curtly, as she didn't even slow down to wait for Jedrek.

Once Lilac was in front of the translucent podium with the opened book on top of it, she had to tiptoe, because it was too high for her petite stature.

Meanwhile, Jedrek stayed closer to her, as his black eyes scanned the entire room, trying to detect any kind of threats that would catch them off guard if they relaxed even a bit.

"What should we do?" Jedrek asked when he noticed that Lilac had just kept staring at the book, without doing anything.

"Sacrifice," Lilac said in a toneless voice, her brows scrunched tightly, a reflection of her complicated thoughts.

"What?!" Jedrek growled.

"Step back," Lilac ordered Jedrek to stay away from her, but of course the king wouldn't listen to her.

"I will not go anywhere before you tell me what do you mean by sacrifice?" Jedrek felt like snarling at his stubborn mate for what she was trying to do.

"What should I explain to you about sacrifice?" Lilac squinted her eyes at her mate. She bit her lip to prevent herself from losing control.

Chapter 1073: This is the time

"What should I explain to you about sacrifice?" Lilac squinted her eyes at her mate. She bit her lower lip to prevent herself from losing control.

Instead of listening to her, Jedrek grabbed her wrist and stepped even closer until he could feel her warm body.

"Let's end this," Lilac said grimly and watched as Jedrek shook his head.

"Please Lilac... Don't do this to me..." Jedrek begged her.

"You know what will happen to me in the end. This is not something that you can change..." Lilac reminded him again.

"But, will you come back to me?" Jedrek noticed the uncertainty in Lilac's eyes and felt suffocated, for he already knew what her answer would be.

He didn't want to hear it from her...

What was he supposed to do with this situation? It was selfish of him to still wanting her to stand beside him after what he had done. After he broke her heart and made her suffer, going through all the hellish pain that she didn't deserve...

However, Jedrek wanted to be selfish for one last time. He couldn't deny the fact that he needed her. He needed his mate, his queen...

He couldn't make Lilac happy when she was with him, but he still wanted her nonetheless...

Couldn't he be selfish for one last time? He wanted her so bad, but the way she looked at him, made Jedrek's heart stop beating, because the meaning of her gaze was killing him from the inside...

"Lilac..." Jedrek gritted his teeth and pleaded to his mate. "I beg you..."

No one ever heard that word from the king. Jedrek would never utter that word no matter what.

No matter how bad the situation might turn out for him, no one ever heard him begging someone for something...

But, right at this moment, when Jedrek begged Lilac, it showed how desperate the king was in trying to have his queen by his side.

To have her come back to him again after all of this over, so that they could start everything from the beginning.

Yet, Lilac didn't seem to be having the same idea as him. Because she still couldn't make up her mind and was still conflicted with her own feelings.

"You don't have to say that," Lilac said, her heart ached to see the pain in Jedrek's eyes, as if he meant every word he said.

Maybe he did.

However, Lilac couldn't help but think that it was the mate bond between them that was making him say those, the bond that was so strong until Jedrek couldn't avoid her even though he loved Serefinia very much...

The bond that bound them together, despite what they felt for each other. The bond that clouded their true feelings.

It almost felt like whatever they had before was only an illusion, like a castle that was built from sand...

And Lilac didn't think she wanted to go through all of that again when she had a chance to be free from it.

Lilac still couldn't forget the way Jedrek looked at Serefina with love in his eyes and how he hugged her while whispering in to the witch's ears.

Yes, it was all over now.

There would be no more Serefina in their life... But, the feelings were still lingering and for Lilac, the pain was still afresh. She was afraid of trying again, as the wound in her heart was still bleeding.

Lilac just wanted to focus on what they had to do now and end this tiring war once and for all.

"This is not you who's talking," Lilac said in a hoarse voice. "This is the mate bond, which was making you feel the want to keep me beside you."

"Lilac... give me one last chance." The king knelt before his queen and this was the second time he knelt for her.

The first was when he had to save her life and the second time was to save what the remaining feelings that they had.

If there was still something left for them to be saved...

Lilac bit her lip when she saw how Jedrek bent his knees for her, again, begging her as if she was the love of his life, which Lilac very well knew that was not the case...

Therefore, Lilac didn't want to prolong this and make everything difficult for both of them, thus she opened her palms and created a waving motion, which pushed Jedrek away from her and forced the Alpha to be thrown a few meters away from his mate.

"LILAC!" Jedrek roared and immediately stood up when he watched in horror how Lilac cut her own fingers and blood started dripping from her open wounds.

The very blood which later stained the empty book and turned it into a black color. This did not make any sense at all!

Why did Lilac become so heartless until she could not even give Jedrek a chance to mend the mistakes that he had made?

Why wasn't she willing to give him any chance? She just went ahead with her own plan with the thought of ending all of this, and then disappear from his sight once and for all...

On the other hand, Lilac hissed when the pain from her hand made her eyes clearer as the blood that was dropped on to the empty book turned it darker.

The guardian angel ignored the searing pain from her mate when she finally determined to finish this.

No one would ever imagine how Lilac could keep up with this complicated feelings...

And then, before Jedrek could reach her, something happened and this was not something that he had expected, not even in his wildest dreams.

Jedrek stood there in shock as he watched the supposed to be floor, was now burning in fire, the flames licked the air around them and turned the room more humid and warm.

In an instant, the coldness that Lilac felt before, disappear as she felt the heat of the fire warming up her whole body.

Jedrek thought the flames would burn Lilac alive, but he was wrong, because the flames only lasted for a few seconds before disappearing completely, as if everything that he just saw was only in his mind.

"Lilac! Are you all right?!" Jedrek didn't even waste a second to reach his mate before doing a brief check on her.

Only when he was sure that she was all right, could Jedrek sigh in relief and hugged her body tightly. His body began trembling, when the thought of losing his mate almost made his heart stop beating.

Jedrek stared in disbelief at the room before his eyes, which was on fire just a few seconds ago.

"What was that?" Jedrek could hear his voice which was laced with anxiety as he demanded an explanation from her.

Meanwhile, Lilac in his arms only stared blankly at the empty book that had reverted back to its original color. No longer as black as it appeared a few seconds ago when it absorbed Lilac's blood.

"It's over now," Lilac said, muddleheaded, as she let Jedrek hug her however he wanted.

Lilac could feel that that her time was almost up. She had done this part of her task, but there was one last thing she needed to finish.

Whether they managed to seal the devils inside the realm that belong to Hope, was out of her reach.

They could only hope that Hope would do her part smoothly and all of the sacrifices that had cost them wouldn't go to waste.

"Let's go... we have one last place that we needed to visit," Lilac said softly, wriggling her body away from Jedrek so she could get away from the spark and the intoxicating smell of her mate.

Jedrek knew what that place was...

And that would indeed be the last...

Hope felt it.

It was a burning sensation that crawled on her skin, making her gasp in surprise before she felt her eyes became heavier and heavier as the sound of Kace's voice gradually becoming a whisper, before it was completely gone.

On the other hand, Kace watched in horror as Hope closed her eyes when her breath turned shallow.

"No! Hope?" Kace shook her body and his brows creased when he didn't get any reaction from his mate.

Hope closed her eyes and didn't seem like she would wake up any soon.

However, that was not the most terrifying thing that he had realized, because even though it was only a small detail that could be easily missed out, but Kace still caught the sound of Hope's heartbeat as it grew weak and then eventually stopped.

It was bad...

And Kace felt like his heart was dropped to the floor.

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Lilith appearance was so sudden that rendered the two beasts on Raine left and right sides unable to react right in time.

Yet, Raine didn't even budge when Lilith wrapped her cold fingers around her neck. Instead, she stared at her indecisively and smirked, as if she had expected this.

The guardian angel's reaction was totally out of her expectations, thus the beautiful devil crinkled her perfect brows and stared deeply into Raine's eyes when the guardian angel gripped her wrist.

"This is over." Raine smiled as she felt a warm sensation wash over her body.

She didn't know this, but for some reason she knew right in her heart that Lilac had already done her part and Hope was about to do whatever it took to finish hers.

Only then, would it be Raine's turn and the guardian angel was more than ready to see the end of it...

Lilith tried to fasten her grip on Raine's neck, in hopes of breaking it, but the guardian angel did something entirely unprecedented...

Chapter 1074: This is the time (2)

It was not until then did Lilith realize that Raine had stopped the time around her.

"Do you think this cheap trick can work against me?" She laughed and teleported Raine and herself away from Torak and Calleb. "Don't you know that we have your blood?"

However, a similar smug smirk crept onto Raine's lips as well.

"That's right." Raine tightened her grip on Lilith's wrist. "My blood is indeed on you all. That's why, you should be worrying now as I will be taking back what is mine."

Raine said with determination in her voice. This time she knew what exactly she was going to do, there was no hesitation whatsoever...

She understood very well what she had to do and what would come with the completion on her task.

Her love for Torak and all the pain she had endured. The sorrow that she had to experience. All of that happened for a reason and it was almost like only now Raine could see a light in the end of this dark tunnel, the understanding came just like that...

Nothing mattered to her now except to end all of this... Even her feelings for Torak.

Because to save her mate's life, was also an act of love, right? No one would be left alive if they failed now...

There would be no story to be told when the devils managed to take over this realm...

"Why are you smiling?" Lilith tried to crush Raine's slender neck, to erase the smirk from the guardian angel's face, yet she couldn't do that, as if all of her strength had suddenly gone. "What do you mean?"

And it took less than a minute for panic to set in the devil's expression when she realized that she couldn't teleport herself and she was stuck in her current place.

The time stopped, but she should be able to move freely, also the minions that she brought. However, whatever happening now was not at all in line with what she had expected.

Lilith was consciousness enough to understand that the time had been stopped, but she couldn't move her body and the same thing also seemed to happen to her minnions.

How could this be happening?

This is impossible... This couldn't be...

Lilith stared at the guardian angel in front of her, with anxiousness written all over her face when she realized what she was facing right now.

"I'm taking back what is mine," Raine repeated her words and then, slowly, realeased her neck from Lilith's grip, taking one step back. "You never thought that I can do this, did you?"

Raine tilted her head and stared at Lilith, who stayed in the same position with her hand stretched out.

"What are you doing?!" Lilith exclaimed loudly.

"I think you should have been wary when making a deal with a witch, especially a witch like Serefina," Raine mumbled, but loud enough for Lilith to hear her. "Serefina's intention to give our blood to you was not just because she wanted to create a connection between your realm and Hope's, but also to give me access to do this..."

Raine snapped her fingers and one of the creatures from hell that was closer to them burst into dust, followed by the others.

"Aargh!!!" Lilith screamed when she noticed that another creature had ended up with the same fate and disappeared like it was nothing, leaving no trace of its existence.

"You have been warned," Raine said viciously and walked closer to the devil. "I will take back what is mine..."

Lilith's eyes widened in disbelief when she watched with her own eyes at the things Raine could do. It was impossible for Raine to be so powerful like this, right? She literally had them in her grasp.

That d*mned witch!!!

She fooled all the devils!

They would never thought that this was what her true intention had been! She planned their destruction with the guardian angel's blood and they took it gladly without knowing that would be the first step of their downfall.

Raine was right, the witch was very cunning and the devils indeed underestimated her for thinking that they could control her.

They were wrong. Totally wrong!

"Do you think by having our blood, you can have our power for free without any consequences?" Raine raised her brows and chuckled, yet when her laugh died down, the only thing that could be seen on her countenance was fury.

Hell hath no fury like a raging mad guardian angel...

"The devils took the people that were dearest to me and you think I will be so kind to let you take more after that?" Raine's voice dropped into a vicious whisper.

Raine then stretched out her hands and traced her slender fingers on Lilith's face, neck, shoulder...

"You took Raphael... Lana... Serefina... Rossie... Ian... and many more..." She traced Lilith's outstretched arm.

"What? Do you think you can kill me?" Lilith said grimly. She hated how Raine was touching her, but couldn't do anything. "You can't kill me."

"I am aware," Raine replied solemnly. "But, I can still do this."

Raine put her hand on the back of Lilith's and stared deeply into the devil's eyes, and for some reason Lilith felt fear at the sight before her eyes, or more precisely what Raine could possibly do to her.

There was something in the way the guardian angel was gazing at her.

"Don't you always think that your human figure is perfect?" And once Raine said that, green disgusting scales appeared on the surface of Lilith's smooth skin, spreading over her whole body and when it reached her face, the skin became even worse, with wrinkles and half peeled.

"Aarrggh!!!" Lilith couldn't help, but scream in fear. Her human figure faded away, and was replaced by her true form. Her devil's form. Her disgusting self.

"You will stay in this form. Forever." Raine shifted her attention when she caught sight of the white beast with a brown beast, running hot on his tail.

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"Let's go... we have one last place that we needed to visit," Lilac said softly.

She freed herself from Jedrek and walked back the way they came in earlier, but before that, she took one last look at the book, which had now melted down, as if it was made of ice.

She wished everything would end well for the other guardian angels. They were just a step closer to finish their tasks and after that...

Lilac glanced at Jedrek, who had been staring at her. A complicated emotion was swirling in those deep black eyes.

However, before her feelings began to shake her determination, Lilac shifted her attention and walked ahead.

The mate bond was a blessing for other shifters, but it didn't seem to help or charm the relationship between Lilac and Jedrek.

It was a curse.

And Lilac would end this for both of them, since Jedrek couldn't do it. At least, this was the last thing that she could do...

Jedrek would be fine once she was gone and Lilac hoped that the mate bond which was binding them would also disappear along with her, so that he didn't need to endure any pain...

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The darkness faded away from Hope's sight, though she was not sure whether she closed her eyes or not, but a ray of light could be seen at the end of this dark dream.

A white light.

Hope was not really surprised when she realized where she ended up now as she could notice the place that she was very familiar with.

In front of her was the last three devils, looking all confused and grim. The devils were not in their human form, but in their true form, which looked terrifying to the sight...

However, for some reason, Hope didn't even flinch with the sight before her eyes.

"Nice to see you here..." Hope smiled sweetly. Her complexion now was not pale anymore and she looked great, as if the figure on the sickbed was not her.

Hope was in her realm and she was in total control of everything inside this.

The last three devils stared at Hope with complicated expressions, as they felt a little bit weird to be in this white realm.

However, when one of them was trying to say something, Hope had waved her hands and silenced them.

"I wish you enjoy your time here," Hope said sweetly and watched gleefully when the three devils before her eyes started to fade away, leaving her alone in this white realm.

Hope grinned mischievously, she felt great!

She no longer felt that she was very weak and exhausted like how she felt a few days ago. She could go back to Kace.

Hope couldn't help but feel excited when she thought about her mate, because Kace had been very anxious lately, knowing the lycan, his reaction was expected, it was already good enough that he didn't kick a fuss over it.

Hope felt bad for him.

"It's time to go then..." Hope mumbled.

However, her smile dropped when she finally realized something...

"What happened?" Hope looked around her, but she was still in her earlier position. Inside her realm.

"Why can't I get out of here?"

Hope gulped hard when fear started to creep into her heart. She walked a few steps to look for something that she was not sure if it existed, like a door or a window that could help her go back to human world and return to Kace.

However, she found nothing, except for the infinite stretch of white color.

In the midst of all this, she heard a familiar voice calling her name. "Hope, you have done well."

Out of instinct, Hope turned around and found the moon goddess, who was smiling tenderly at her.

Chapter 1075: This is the time (3)

Raine noticed the white beast and the brown beast that came closer to her, while the other creatures were frozen in their places, not able to move because Raine had stopped the time for them.

Not only the humans, but also the creatures from the hell as well.

Right now, those creatures that had stolen her power, were not able to overpower the true owner of the power who it actually belonged to.

However, Raine's task did not just end there, as the last step was the most crucial and hardest one of all.

Raine watched the white beast turn into his human form and soon Calleb followed suit. Torak stepped forward to approach the guardian angel, but Raine raised her hands to stop him.

Meanwhile, Calleb face twisted in disgust at the sight of horrifying devil, who was wailing sorrowfully, crying upon her figure. Her figure that would never change no matter what, because Raine had taken her human form from her.

Indeed they couldn't kill the devils, but at least Raine could do this to Lilith and Hope could seal them away.

However, all of that came at a great expense and now they would finally face the end of it...

"My love..." Torak stopped walking when Raine took a step back, avoiding him. "What happened?" He was confused.

The war had already ended and Torak could tell it for sure when he saw how Raine overpowered their enemies, while the other shifters killed all the creatures from hell easily, since they couldn't fight back.

This was over and Raine was still alive.

Wasn't that a good news? It was only a matter of time before they started to celebrate the victory. Torak could also see his beautiful future with his mate after all this charade was over.

But, why was Raine acting strangely all of a sudden? She was literally avoiding him now.

"Come here, my love... what are you afraid of?" Torak took a step closer, but Raine took a step back too.

On the other hand, Calleb grabbed a big rock near him and dropped it on the devil, who was still wailing in pain, crying and shouting out all the profanities.

Once the big rock hit her face, the devil stopped crying and disappeared into a thin black smoke, then carried away by the wind.

Lilith definitely didn't die, but she was so weak to even show herself for the time being, especially when the minions that she brought with her had been slaughtered without mercy by the shifters and the magicians.

Above them, the three dragons flew very low and flapped their wings to join the massacre, venting out their frustrations and pain upon the loss that they had endured during the war which was caused by the devils.

It was a great start and a wonderful ending that they could ever wish for after so many losses that they had been through.

Yet, why didn't Raine want to be touched?

Torak was flabbergasted upon seeing the way his mate avoided him. "Did I do something wrong?" Torak asked carefully. Maybe he indeed had done something to upset her...

"Torak... I think this is the time." Raine said in a sad tone. She smiled bitterly at her mate. "I want to make this easier for you, but I don't know how..."

"No. Raine... I don't want this to end like this." Torak took three steps forward, too quick for Raine to dodge him and in the next second, she was already in his arms, being hugged tightly. "Don't do this, my love. Don't leave me," Torak begged her, as if his life depended on it, but he could feel his mate shook her head.

"I don't want to leave your side either, but I have to." Raine could feel it and the answer was crystal clear for her about what she had to do next. This understanding dawned on her as if she had known it from the beginning. Something that she just forgot.

"What should I do to make you stay?" Torak whispered into Raine's ears in a hoarse voice as tears rolled down his face.

It was indeed true that there would be always a first time for everything and the same rule applied to the Supreme Alpha, Torak had never cried before, but he did now and the woman in his arms was the reason for it.

His body trembled, as he tightened his hug, almost suffocating Raine, as though he wanted their bodies to fuse into one, not wanting to be left alone in this chaotic world.

How could he imagine himself roaming around this world without her? He had already done that for centuries, but the two years he spent with Raine would never be able to compare to it.

All of his achievements in those centuries when he was alone started looking dull once Raine stepped in to his life and Torak no longer wanted to live that kind of life.

He needed his mate.

How could he let her go?

"Please, my love... tell me what I should do to make you stay. I will do anything..." Torak was very determined with his words and he meant every single one of them. No matter what it cost to keep Raine by his side forever. "Tell me..." he begged her.

However, Raine just cried silently in his embrace, unable to promise anything to him as she bit her lower lip to prevent herself from crying out loud.

The pain in Torak's voice hurt her as well. She didn't want to see him in such pain.

But, her time was up and there was nothing she could do to prevent it.

Raine could feel her body starting to become very light as her hold on Torak's warm body began to weaken.

"Raine?!" Torak called her name in panic when he felt her body started to disappear, as if he was hugging something very soft and tender. "What is happening?!"

Torak freed her from his embrace and watched with eyes wide open when Raine's body became translucent. In her stead, were dozens of fireflies.

Torak felt like he was hugging a thick mist, as her scent began to disappear, along with her body. "Can you not leave me?"

"If I can, I would choose to be with you..." Raine whispered to him. "I always want to be with you, my love..." That was the first time Raine called him that and it hit Torak's heart so deeply.

Raine then grabbed Torak's shirt and buried her face against his chest, wrapped her arms around his waist, while mumbling, "Torak, will you wait for me?"

"I will," Torak said solemnly. "Make sure to come back to me."

And with that, the fireflies flew in the air, as a soft white mist cascaded down from the sky and engulfed them all.

It was the barrier that separated the supernatural world and the human world, which was broken during the war, but now it was fixed, yet it cost them the guardian angels.

Torak then dropped to his knees, while clutching his chest, feeling the excruciating pain as the mate bond was slowly tearing apart, indicating that Raine was no longer in this world and they would be separated for God knows how long...

Even it was only a slightest hope for Torak to see Raine again, then he would take it, as he knew that his life was only hanging by that thread of hope.

=====

Lilac teleported them to the place, where the crater that allowing creatures from hell to enter this realm is situated and all they could do was to face them. Alone.

Jedrek shifted into his white beast and Lilac jumped onto his back, and when Lilac caressed its big head unconsciously while feeling the softness of the white beast's fur against her hands, the beast purred in delight.

It reminded the guardian angel about how much she loved him, but also the pain that she had been through because of him.

Yet, this was not the time for any of that, because their enemies were barring their teeth at them, ready to tear them apart if they didn't move fast enough.

When the first creature from hell moved closer to them, Jedrek raised his claws and tore its body apart, before he charged toward the crater, that was located in the middle of this abandoned place.

This was the same crater through which Raine brought back Torak from Tartarus when Lucifer killed him.

Meanwhile, Lilac used all of her power to assist the white beast, killing the creatures from hell as many as she could.

The two of them moved in sync as if they could read each other minds and understand the next move that one another would make.

Or maybe they indeed can do that.

Lilac opened the path for the white beast, while the beast moved faster toward the crater.

It didn't take a long time before the white beast to arrive at the crater's mouth and Lilac jumped to the ground swiftly and at the very moment Lilac felt a familiar yet strange sensation wash over her body and she knew that Raine was almost done with her task.

It meant, it was her turn...

Lilac's heart began to race when she stood at the edge of the crater and the heat started licking her skin.

Raine was too far from them and the time didn't stop here, like how it happened around Raine, thus the only way to survive from this was to close the craters and it did cost big sacrifices.

Lilac knew what was waiting for her, but to face death head on was a different feeling from anything she could ever imagine.

Lilac closed her eyes to steady her trembling heart. This was what exactly she saw when the stone had answered her unspoken thoughts that time.

Chapter 1076: The end of everything

A small gasp escaped her lips as a tear fell on her cheek.

Lilac gazed at the lava beneath her and then turned her head to see the white lycan, facing hundreds of creatures from hell not far from her, alone.

There was no way Jedrek could fight them off alone in his current situation without getting serious injuries and that was the last thing that Lilac wanted to happen in her last moments.

Despite of everything that happened, Lilac didn't want to see Jedrek getting hurt. She loved him in spite of how deeply heartbroken she was, yet there would always be this feeling that nagged at her, screaming at her that whatever they have right now was not real.

All of that was a result of the mate bond between them and Lilac no longer wanted to walk on the delicate egg- shelled path, which would break at any moment.

She no longer wanted to feel insecure and be worried about his feelings toward her. This was very exhausting and Lilac didn't want to go through all of that anymore.

It also hurt her that she had to be separated from Jedrek this way, in this kind of situation and feelings. However, time waited for no one until they were ready to say their goodbyes.

Lilac could literally feel her heart breaking into a million pieces, but at the same time, her mind told her that it was the right thing to do, that it was something that she had known from the very beginning.

She knew her choice, she knew it beyond the shadow of a doubt, she felt it in her soul about the necessary things that she had to do.

Her heart began to race when she stood there, at the edge of the crater, at the brink of her own life.

And for a moment, Lilac opened her mind so she could mind- link her mate. [Jedrek...]

[Lilac?]The white beast tilted its big head and looked at Lilac with wide eyes, which were blood red, as he was ready to face another fierce battle in front of him. [Little flower, please don't leave me. We will find another way to do this.]

There was no other way.

If Lilac ruined this chance, then Hope and Raine's sacrifices would go to waste, and Lilac wouldn't be selfish enough to do that. Especially to risk everything for being with Jedrek.

However, Lilac didn't say anything and just stared at the white beast, as he stared back at her, while the creatures from hell crept closer to them, indicating that they didn't have much time to be wasted.

[They are coming.] Lilac nodded at the massive number of creatures that would kill them without a second thought. Actually, that was not the last thing that she wanted to say to him, but she couldn't think of any right words to be said in this moment.

All of the things that swirled in her head were imprecise, wide of the mark.

It needed a great amount of courage to avert her eyes from the white lycan and finally turn around to face her fate, that was waiting for her in the form of a burning crater.

[Stay there Lilac. Stay there!] the white lycan felt as if he was being torn apart between facing the enemies and trying to keep his mate in the safe place. [I will get back to you!]

But Lilac didn't answer back, she shut her mind again and closed the mind- link between her and Jedrek when the white beast dashed toward the creatures from hell.

Those filthy creatures wouldn't stop coming until the crater was closed and that was Lilac's task now.

Lilac shouldn't hesitate to do it, as she could feel that Raine was already done with her task. The two guardian angels were gone and this was her turn to do the same.

Wasn't this the purpose of her resurrection?

But, why did her heart feel very heavy now when she already knew it?

The flames from the craters beneath her feet reflected in Lilac's eyes, when she turned her body. "Goodbye my king," Lilac whispered to the wind when she closed her eyes and a tear rolled down her face.

This was an improper farewell...

And the last thing that Lilac could hear was the painful roar from the beast, as if he was in a great agony. The sound was very heart- wrenching that it forced Lilac to open her eyes.

As her body dove into the flame of the crater, Lilac noticed the white beast standing at the brink of the crater. His bloodshot eyes, showed how much fear he was experiencing right now.

However, the next thing he did left Lilac gaping at him in disbelief.

Because the white beast didn't think twice before he jumped into the lava, to follow his mate. He didn't even care when the flames licked his fur, as he was determined to be with her.

People tend to say you would do everything for the one that you loved.

Did it mean Jedrek finally loved her? Or, it was only the mate bond?

It would be great if there was no such thing between them.

=====

Calleb, who was watching how the creatures from hell disappeared before his eyes, immediately ran toward Torak and looked around him when the humans started to move again.

However, because of the thin white mist that shrouded them that appeared to conceal their presence, those humans couldn't see them and looked confused to find out they were in this vast land only with their people, while the non- human creatures could no longer be seen.

The white mist was like a soft curtain which helped hiding them even in their humans form, as if shielding them away from any harm or unnecessary battle that shouldn't have happened in the first place.

But, it would only last for a short period of time, only until everything had settled down.

And this was the last gift that Raine gave to them. The sense of protection. The guardian angels were the protectors of this realm.

"Torak..." Calleb walked closer toward his Alpha, who dropped to his knees while clutching his chest tightly, as if he was in a great agony that was hard to be endured. "Where is Raine?"

Calleb didn't see when Raine disappeared as hundreds of fireflies, because the only thing that he noticed at that time was the mist shielding them successfully.

Torak didn't answer his Beta, as he gripped the sharp gravel on the ground, until his hands were bleeding, but the pain couldn't be compared to what he was feeling right now.

He lost the love of his life...

Calleb looked around him to find Raine. The guardian angel must know how to handle Torak right now, but as long as he could see, there were only the shifters, magicians and the minatours that stood behind the curtain, staring at the mist and the humans on the other side of it, as if they were in a different world, because the human couldn't see them, even though they were standing head to head.

The supernatural creatures looked perplexed at this scene.

"Have the war finally ended?" one of the creatures asked in confusion.

The war had finally ended, but for some people, it didn't feel like they achieved something great. If anything, they felt utterly miserable for losing the most precious thing that had ever happened in their lives...

=====

Kace couldn't believe with what he was seeing right now. He was still holding Hope's hand when her body started turning ice- cold as her heart stopped beating altogether.

It was impossible and couldn't be real, right? There must be some mistake here... Hope wouldn't die like this...

"Hope...?" Kace blinked his eyes to get rid of his tears that were now rolling down his cheeks. His voice turned hoarse and his body was trembling. "Hope... wake up, Hope..."

Everything flashed before his eyes when the first time he held baby Hope in his arms, how she called his name for the first time...

How Kace protected her with everything he had, but now he lost her...

"Hope, please wake up... you are scaring me..." Kace caressed her cheeks and smoothed her hair from her face. "Don't scare me like this, baby girl..."

Yet, there was no response from his mate. The guardian angel didn't move, neither was she breathing...

Kace then sat down and cradled her in his arms, kissing her forehead, her hair, her cheeks, nose and lips, but Hope still didn't give any response.

And the most heartbreaking thing was when Kace realized the spark between them started to fade away, just like Hope's body that started to turn into hundreds of fireflies.

The sight was beautiful, but the pain was very devastating, especially when Kace could no longer feel her body in his arms.

"No... no..." He mumbled in panic when he watched how Hope's body disappeared from his sight and he was left alone there, while from the outside he could hear all the supernatural creatures shouting in joy, telling to one another that they had won the war, that the creatures from hell finally disappeared and the barrier of the two worlds had been stabilized again.

The screams of joy was a complete contradiction to what the Donovans were feeling right now.

There was nothing they wanted so badly except to get their mates back.

This victory was sorrowful and not even a glimmer of joy could they feel from it...

The Donovans lost the battle within themselves when they fell to their grievances upon losing the love of their lives...

Chapter 1077: After the war

Raine didn't know how long she was sitting alone in the same place, maybe she had been there for a minute, two minutes, an hour or two, or maybe she had already spent a whole day...

Raine couldn't tell because the sun still appeared as if it was just disappearing into the horizon but it didn't move down since... since God knows when.

The only thing that Raine knew was; she had to wait for someone, even she herself didn't know who she was waiting for...

She just knew it, as if she had known this all long and what she was doing right now was something normal.

It was natural for her to wait for this someone, even though she didn't know who she was waiting for.

Few more seconds or minutes passed, but Raine was still alone, staring at the red hue from the sun that was still radiating faintly in the horizon, as though the time was stopped and Raine was the only one who was immune to it.

Raine didn't remember why exactly she ended up here, or who she was, or the story of her past... the only memory that she had was that of her waiting on this bench, with various colors of flowers surrounding her and her name; Raine.

That's it.

She was someone with no past or future.

But then, a woman walked toward her with a warm smile on her lips and her beautiful white gown almost looked identical to the one that Raine is wearing right now.

The woman's warm smile made Raine smile as well and she stood up to walk closer to her, because she knew she was the person that she had been waiting for.

"Did you wait for too long?" The woman asked her sweetly when Raine stopped right in front of her.

Raine shook her head.

"Can we walk now?" The woman asked again and Raine nodded.

"To where?" her voice was very soft and tender, just like the woman in front of her.

"Walk down this path with me." The woman waved her hand and Raine turned around to see which path she was talking about.

Behind her, there was a small path with big trees, which overlapped their branches with those of the opposite trees, on either side of it, canopied the path with their leaves, like a tunnel.

Raine was not aware that there was a very beautiful path behind her earlier, but now she was very excited to walk with this beautiful woman with long black hair who was smiling at her sweetly.

"Sure," Raine agreed and they walked together. "Where are we going? Will we meet someone?"

"Yes, we will meet someone." The woman grabbed Raine's wrist and together they walked along that path. "You will meet two other persons like you."

"Like me?" Raine scrunched her brows, not quite understanding what this woman was talking about.

However, as they walked alongside a river, before they entered the tunnel, Raine glanced at her and this woman's reflection on the water and she frowned.

"Why does our faces look very similar?" Raine asked the woman beside her, who had stopped walking too and was now staring their reflections.

"Because you are me," the woman said and wrapped her hand around Raine's shoulder and talked in a low voice. "Remember about the story of the first guardian angel of time?"

The moment she asked Raine about that, dozens of memories spiraled down in her mind like a broken dam and Raine could remember everything.

Everything...

From the time when she was only a child until the last battle that cost her life...

But the most important thing was a man named Torak Donovan.

As soon as her heart remembered that man, Raine could feel the longing that gnawed at every inch of her skin...

She missed him terribly...

=====

"Where is Eddard?" Bree was roaming around the pack house, but couldn't find the little boy anywhere.

"I think he was outside with Belinda," one of the women in the kitchen answered the teenager before continuing with their task again, washing all of the dishes and preparing food for dinner, since the sun was almost down.

Bree immediately ran toward the back door which would lead her to the back yard, where Belinda had planted many flowers.

Years had passed since the last battle with the devils and human, and now everything, gradually, became normal again.

Bree stayed in Torak's pack because she couldn't go with Kace, since that lycan disappeared right after the war. No one knew where he had gone, but they knew he would be fine.

Kace just needed time to mourn upon the loss of his mate, just like the other Donovans.

And moreover, there was Belinda in this pack, who insisted for Bree to stay with her along with baby Eddard.

He was no longer a baby though, he turned seven a week ago and Torak threw a party for him, yet the Alpha only appeared for a short while just to congratulate him and then the rest of the party was hosted by Calleb, who hyped the situation.

Even though the Beta looked all happy and cheerful, but Bree sometimes found him staring into the distance, as if he was deep in thought.

It was not hard to guess what he was thinking all the time.

Most of the time Calleb would think about his mate and his best friends, who were no longer by their side.

Since the guardian angels disappeared after the war, the Donovans looked very down and chose to be alone almost all the time.

But, the look in Torak's eyes was not one of the mourning, he was waiting...

Just like Calleb, the Alpha would also look deep in thought and when there was someone walking behind him whenever he was in that state, he would get startled and turn around very fast to see who was approaching him.

It was not because he was scared, because Bree knew there was nothing that could easily scare him, but it was because he was waiting for his mate and the disappointment was apparent in his eyes when the person that approached him was not someone that he expected them to be.

That person could definitely not be Raine but it was just that, Torak had built such habit over the years...

Calleb had talked to him, but it seemed there was nothing much he could do, since he was not in a better situation to give some advance to his Alpha either.

"Eddard!" Bree walked through the various flower plants and arrived at the meadow, the place that she and the little boy always played at, yet he was not there either. Bree couldn't find Belinda either...

Where did Eddard go? He was supposed to be in the pack house at this time because dinner was almost ready and he had not yet done his homework.

"Eddard!" Bree called out his name again before she rushed forward and leapt, yet she didn't touch the ground when her body started shifting into a beautiful dragon while flapping its humongous wings.

=====

Eddard is a seven year old little boy who inherited everything about looks from his father, but in terms of curiosity and determination, he is a carbon copy of his mother.

He was always full of curiosity and a little bit hard to be handled. When his was throwing a tantrum, it was only Calleb or Torak, who was able to calm him down.

Thanks to Raphael's blood as the supreme Beta, since he was just a child, he showed the domination of his bloodline, coupled with Lana's traits, it was simply hard to talk down the little boy.

Bree and Belinda would usually go with him whenever he wanted to take a walk, out of the pack house, because they were afraid Eddard would roam too far into the humans residences.

After the war, the barrier between the two worlds had appeared again and the humans wouldn't be able to see them in their beast form, but their existence had been exposed, thus they were still searching for them, even though seven years had passed.

Eddard was very curious of this part of Torak's territory.

This place was indeed a little bit far from the pack house and he was only been here once when Torak took him for a walk.

However, since the Alpha was always very busy and Calleb didn't want to bring him to this place, Eddard decided that he was big enough to venture alone in this part of their pack area.

The number of the shifters that survived after the war was not much, therefore it could be said that the supernatural creatures had decreased in numbers significantly.

"I think it's over here..." Eddard mumbled to himself when he walked passed a familiar path that led him to a beautiful waterfall that Torak had showed him once.

Thanks to his smart brain, he could remember it perfectly, because not long after that, his ears perked when he heard the sound of the water.

A big grin appeared on his tiny lips when he leapt forward and shifted into his beast. He could already shift when he was only five. Calleb was very proud of him when he did that. And Torak brought him to this place and told a story about his father.

Eddard loved to hear how brave his father had always been and how beautiful his mother was.

The little beast sped up when the sound of the waterfall got louder. He stopped running when the water splashed his face and he shifted back into human form.

However, when he was soaking happily, a woman walked toward him and greeted him with a sweet smile etched on her lips, she squatted down and spoke tenderly, despite Eddard's attempts to scare her by growling viciously.

"You must be Eddard, right? You look very much like your father," she said.

Chapter 1078: After the war (2)

Sun was almost down when Torak, in his white beast form, started patrolling around the border of his territory.

Since the war and the number of the lycanthropes decreased, also the fact that they had to be careful to blend with humans, everything changed.

Torak couldn't possibly go out and claim his assets as Torak Donovan, because people had known him as one of the shifters and though seven years had passed they had not yet forgotten about him, in fact his name was on the top of the most wanted non-human existence list along with Raphael and Calleb.

Because they knew the two of them were his personal assistants, but those humans did not know that Raphael had been killed.

The shifters, who were not yet identified, were still able to socialize with the other humans, but for those shifters who had known as non-human existence, they could only seek a place to hide from them.

In spite of that, Torak and the other survivors didn't really feel difficult to adjust with the way of their lives now, especially when you didn't have to think about money to support you financially, since Torak had a lot of it and it was enough for several more generations.

Everything was fine, just a little bit adjustment needed and with the help of the magicians they could shield every pack from humans and ward them off.

However, though everything was fixable, but for Torak nothing was fine when he didn't have his mate beside him.

Torak lived these seven years with half a dead mind and body. He would eat because he needed to but not because he enjoyed it, same applied to sleeping or other activities.

Only when he walked like this could he feel calm a bit.

But, today was exceptional. For some reason, his beast had been restless ever since the day had just started and Torak didn't know what happened. He just felt edgy and nervous.

Therefore, he took this opportunity to patrol around the border, longer than necessary, checking the things around it twice, or thrice, yet it was not at all helping in his case.

For some unknown reason, the anxiety still lingered on his being, gripping his heart uncomfortably.

Torak didn't know what happened, but it was definitely something unusual for him to feel, until he felt it. No, he smelled it.

The scent that only belonged to her. The scent of the fresh earth after rain...

It was impossible, right? His senses were only playing another trick on him, just like what had been happening during the past seven years.

However, even before he could process what was actually happening, his legs had started to pump forward, dashing through the woods, dodging logs and trees, led by his most favorite scent alone.

This couldn't be happening... no, this must be happening...

Torak couldn't think straight, as he was muddleheaded and didn't know what he should think of right now.

It was his instinct and his longing for his other half that made him run toward the source of the scent. It was her scent.

It was Raine's scent...

His mate...

His mate finally returned!

Torak didn't even want to think if his guess was wrong and he would be disappointed again. For him right now, a glimmer of hope like this was all he needed.

Maybe he would feel heartbroken if he found out that he was wrong, but at the very least, he could hang on to this tiny hope and believed that one day Raine would return, maybe not today, but one day he would have her in his arms again.

Torak was sure beyond the shadow of doubt.

It was just, the process of waiting for her was sometimes too exhausting. There would be always a night that Torak couldn't sleep and look at the moon through his window and prayed for the safety of his mate.

He didn't know that he could be like this. But, he would do everything just to have Raine by his side again.

The white beast moved faster when the scent got stronger and stronger, until he could hear the sound of the waterfall and found Eddard, who was standing there alone.

Torak shifted into his human form without even slowing down, the transition was smooth.

And when Eddard realized that someone was near, he turned around and found Torak.

"Alpha!" Eddard ran happily toward Torak and hugged the Alpha, who was still disoriented while sniffing the air.

He was not mistaken, Raine's scent was still in the air. Very strong, as if she was standing next to him. However, Torak couldn't find her anywhere.

"Alpha... who are you looking for?" Eddard asked in confusion. He raised his head to stare at the Alpha, while still hugging him.

"Eddard," Torak said his name and finally paid attention to the little boy, forgetting the fact that he shouldn't be there at this hour, especially when the sun was almost down. "Are you here alone? Was there someone else here with you?"

Torak didn't know why, but he almost had a hard time to breath, while waiting for Eddard's answer.

The little boy looked at Torak with his big eyes and nodded. "Yes, there was a beautiful woman with long black hair here."

Torak felt his heart almost dropping to the floor when he heard that. A beautiful woman with long black hair. There were only a handful woman in this pack with long black hair and even if it was one of them, Eddard wouldn't mention her as a beautiful woman, since he knew every single person in this pack.

"Where is she now?" Torak dropped to his knees, so he could be at the same eye level with the little boy. His hands that gripped his small shoulders trembled with wave after wave of emotions. "Do you know where she was going?"

Eddard nodded again. "At first I thought she is a human, an intruder, but there is something about her that told me she is not hostile."

"So? Where is she now?" Torak asked again, being impatient. "Do you know where she is going?"

"She asked about you," Eddard said, scrunching his eyebrows because Torak was acting very unusually.

"And what did you say?"

"I thought you were in the house pack, so I told her that you were there."

"She went to the house pack?"

Eddard shrugged his shoulders. "I guess so. But, I didn't tell her where the pack house is, since she didn't ask." He tilted his head. "I don't think she know where the pack house is."

"She knows." Torak stood up. His heart is beating so fast until it hurts.

"She knows? Who is she?" Eddard followed Torak, who walked in the direction where he came. "Is she a new member in our pack?"

"No," Torak said in low voice as it sounded very hoarse with emotions which were caught in his throat.

"She is your Luna."

"My Luna?" Eddard blinked his eyes.

However, before the little boy could ask another question, Torak had given him an order.

"Shift!"

=====

Raine walked toward a pack house, the same pack house, as she remembered the last time she was here.

The backyard garden, the flowers...

Apparently, Belinda took very good care of everything here and managed to bring back this garden alive again.

This garden was very beautiful. More beautiful than the last time Raine was here.

Basking under the golden rays of the sunset, this scenery was simply outstanding... she hoped she could see Torak here... among the beautiful flowers.

However, it didn't matter where they would meet either, as long as Raine could see him again, she would be more than grateful.

She met Eddard and that brought back a lot of memories about Raphael, since he looked like him a lot.

However, when Raine coaxed him to come back to the pack house, he was very stubborn and insisted on staying back.

And, because Raine knew that waterfall was still in Torak's territory, which meant he would be safe, she left him to play by himself...

Raine wanted to see Torak so bad and the thought of how he would react upon seeing her was something that she was looking forward to.

And there she was when she heard it.

A low growl that was very familiar and shook her to the core...

The sound of heavy footsteps that were coming in her direction told Raine that he was around. He was close...

And when the sound of it became more vivid, Raine looked around to find the figure of the white beast that she loved the most.

From behind sunflowers, Raine watched as a white beast emerged from the shadows before walking under the red hue of the evening sunset, basking in his glory and as beautiful as Raine could remember.

The white beast walked very slowly and then stopped, staring at her in disbelief, holding its breath as if what he is seeing right now is something unreal.

Yet, Raine couldn't hold back any longer and the way the white beast stopped approaching her, only agitated her.

Thus, Raine decided that she would be the one who had to run toward her mate.

Tears brimmed her eyes when she charged forward and literally threw herself onto the white beast, hugging his neck while feeling the softness of its fur against her skin.

"Torak, I miss you, my love..." Raine whispered to the dumbstruck beast and only got a response after a few minutes, because he needed a long time to process that what he is seeing right now is not just a mere imagination, and that his mate was finally here.

However, he felt something different...

Chapter 1079: After the war (3)

However, there was something different...

Torak felt it the moment he touched Raine and felt the different from the way they touched each other.

There was no spark.

There was no the tingling feeling that they almost felt when they touched each other.

There was no the bond between them.

There was no mate bond all over.

Torak was flabbergasted when the first time he realized this, despite being hugged very tightly by his mate, he didn't feel the spark whatsoever.

Not only that, in his beast form, Torak couldn't mind- link Raine to show her about how he felt right now since all the words failed him to explain what he exactly felt about this.

What happened with them now?

The white beast then shifted back into his human form and hugged Raine tightly. However, the spark was still not there...

How could this happen?

Was the mate bond between them had gone? Was that the price that they should pay for?

Yet, that was not important anymore when Torak could feel Raine's soft skin and hair, also the warm from her body and her scent.

All of sudden, everything seemed all right.

There was nothing change even without the absence of the mate bond.

Even though the spark from touching each other was not there and they couldn't read each other mind no longer, the way Torak felt about Raine and how his heart beat for her was still the same.

There was nothing change with his feeling. In his eyes, Raine was perfect. She was as beautiful as always and he couldn't ask for more, or else he would be the ungrateful creature in this earth.

The love for Raine and how the longing had finally came to end were the only thing that was in Torak's mind right now.

He had his mate back and nothing else matter.

He loved her when the mate bond was still there and he loved her even now when the mate bond was no longer existed between them.

This was such an amazing feeling.

If the mate bond obligated them to be together, but without it, it didn't make Torak's love for her became less important.

"Raine..." Torak whispered to her ears and buried his nose on the crook of his shoulder, taking liberty to breath in her scent. The sweet scent that only belonged to her. "Is it you?"

"Yes, this is me... I come back." Raine nodded, tears rolled down her cheek when she answered him. "I comeback for you, my love..." she whispered to him.

The feeling was surreal to have her back in his arms and if this was a dream, Torak wished he would stay in this beautiful dream forever...

"I miss you..." Torak's voice was very hoarse when he cupped Raine's face and kissed her slowly, devour the taste of her lips, while they were smiling in their kiss.

There was nothing more perfect than this moment and Torak felt his waiting for seven years were worth it.

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They were in the second floor and this entire floor was dominated with baby blue color, giving somewhat a calm vibrant and homey vibe.

Just like how Raine remembered it, there were only two doors in this floor.

One that led them to a huge dinner table and from where she stood, Raine could see the scene of the dining hall. The sight that many years ago made her froze on the spot, but now all she could feel was the warm greeting from all the people from this pack.

Their pack.

Raine couldn't believe that time flew very fast and everything seemed surreal to come true now. There was no war, there was no threat from the devils and they were here safe and sound, together with all the people that they loved...

The moment the Alpha and Luna stepped into the room, a loud of cheers and clapped echoed in the dining hall and only smiling face that they could see inside this room.

Beside Raine, Torak stood very close to her as if there was strong glue that was put on them. There was not even a moment for Torak to stay away from Raine, as if he put his focus on something else, he would lost her.

It was ridiculous, but knowing Torak, it was not impossible, because that was the way he protected her before, when they met for the first time.

Torak wouldn't let go of her, since he had a taste of the bitterness of the separation...

There was no way he wanted to go through that nightmare again.

Meanwhile, Raine seemed to understand her mate fear and grabbed his hand to walk into the dining room and sat among their people.

At first Torak didn't want to have this dinner, as he just met Raine again for less than four hours. Torak just wanted Raine for himself.

However, the reality told him otherwise, especially when Calleb knew that Raine had finally returned, he made an announcement and hyped all the people to see their Luna.

Of course, the news about Raine spread like a wildfire and no one would let Torak to have the Luna for himself.

Maybe not now, but definitely Torak wouldn't let them to have Raine for the rest of the night, because at that time, Raine only belonged to him.

For now, the Alpha, reluctantly, agreed for this dinner and let them to meet Raine.

"Raine, I miss you so bad," Belinda said, tears had stained her cheeks since the first time Calleb told them the news about Raine, and now she was crying again.

Many people that had known Raine came to her and hugged her for a bit longer, and in the process they had to push Torak away, because so many people came to his mate.

"Stop being grumpy, Alpha." Calleb came to him and gave him a glass of drink, teasing the Supreme Alpha. "Raine is here now."

Calleb could see how her presence alone was able to warm the room and made all the people more cheerful.

She was indeed born to be a Luna.

When all the people had they turned hugging Raine, this time it was Calleb, who stepped forward and hugged her very tight, swung her body and made Raine giggled in surprise, enjoying this.

On the other side, Torak could only see them sullenly, since it was Calleb, he didn't really mind it, as he had a big tolerance to his Beta.

And after that, they had their dinner together. The atmosphere was so warm and there was only laughter and jokes that people threw at each other.

It was such a beautiful night.

However, it was enough for Raine, because she knew that deep inside of her, she wanted to be with her mate now. It was time for them alone.

And as if Torak could read Raine's mind, he stood up and took her hand, disregarding the people gaze that looked at them questioningly. Why their Alpha and Luna went out of the room even before the dinner ended?

See, even without the mate bond between them, Torak was still able to know what Raine wanted from her small gesture alone. With or without the mate bond, Torak would still want her, love her wholeheartedly.

And then, Calleb smoothened the situation. "Let's let Raine and Torak have a chance to make a small Alpha or Luna..." he said in low voice, but there was no way they couldn't hear that.

And with that understanding, the warm atmosphere returned.

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Behind the close door, under the light of the moon, in their balcony, Torak kissed Raine deeply, as if he was trying to devour her presence and taste the sweetness of his mate's lips.

He didn't want to let her go again.

"The mate bond is gone..." Raine said breathlessly when Torak undressed her very slowly and her dress pulled around her feet.

However, Raine didn't feel shy... she looked at Torak's dark eyes with longing and shivered when Torak's hand caressed her bare skin.

"I know my love..." Torak replied softly to her lips and kissed her jaw, peppering small kisses along her collarbone. "And I still want you nonetheless. There is nothing I want, but you."

Torak then lifted Raine and carried her into their room, placed her on the bed.

For a moment Torak just stared at his mate, staring at every inch of her skin, as if he had never seen something more precious than this, until Raine pulled herself up and traced her slender fingers on his chest.

"Take it off..." Raine said, tugging gently at Torak's clothes. "I want to feel you."

And Torak complied to her demand.

Within a second, Raine could see the wounds from the war from years ago on Torak's chest. It seemed there were wounds that couldn't properly heal.

"Is it hurt?" Raine traced her finger at the big wound that transverse from his left shoulder to his stomach.

"Nothing is hurt me than to not able to see you." Torak took Raine's hand and kissed her knuckles.

Raine understood, because she felt the same too. Those wounds were only reminder that they had been through the worse together.

Torak then laid her down on the bed again and gently nibbled on her stomach, made Raine moaned in pleasure when she wrapped her legs around his waist.

However, Torak didn't stop teasing her for a long time and this time, Raine pushed Torak down, kissing her mate and they made love as if there was no tomorrow.

Chapter 1080: After the war (4)

Sterling walked into the bar to look for someone, the only person that concerned him the most for the last seven years.

His eyes skimmed briefly that almost empty room and found Leon instead. He was standing behind the table bar and was wiping a champagne glass.

"Where is he?" Sterling stopped in front of Leon and immediately asked him without saying a 'hello' beforehand.

However, the man understood, who was Sterling talking about and nodded his head toward the door at his left, without raising his head from the champagne glass in his hand.

Sterling then walked toward the door that Leon had pointed to him, with hurry steps. His face flushed red with anger.

How could this lycan be so reckless?!

Kace almost told to the whole world that he was a non- human! They had agreed that they needed to keep it down.

However, this stupid lycan showed his power and made a chaos in the town. Taking down ten people with ease as if he had just ate a bunch of steroid and became superhuman.

Damn superhuman! No one would believe that! Those stupid human would immediately assume he was one of the non- human existence.

No. Kace was a non- human existence and he just revealed that!

This stupid Lycan!

Sterling pushed opened the door and found that stupid lycan was sitting on a high chair, with a bottle of drink in his hand, like he could be drunk even after drinking all the bottles in this bar.

"The sun is still out there! What are you doing with that?! You just wasted those alcohol!" Indeed! There was no use of that alcohol for this lycan, but he still drunk it.

"It feels good in my throat," Kace said hoarsely and then gulped down the liquid. "I will not die anyway, so why do I have to hold myself back?"

"You will not die, but you surely will put someone into trouble." Sterling slapped the back of Kace's head and sat down beside him, taking away the bottle from his hand. "Stop drinking! What is the problem with you?"

Kace squinted his eyes in disgust, his hoarse voice was like a scratch on the wall when Sterling heard it. "Do you really ask why I am like this?" he raised his voice, but then shook his head. "Until when do I have to wait?"

Of course Sterling knew, who Kace meant was...

"It has been seven freaking years! I don't even know, whether I can get my mate back!" he roared in frustration and put his head on the bar table.

If Kace acted this way, there was nothing Sterling could do, except sighed helplessly.

In this case, knowing your mate had died and wouldn't get her back was way uncomplicated rather than waiting for the reunion that was not sure when exactly it would happen.

It almost felt like you were going through your each day soullessly...

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Leon was still wiping the glasses in his bar, while his sister was sitting on the barstool right in front of him and did not stop talking about her nonsensical wish.

"Why he keeps waiting for someone that will never return when there is me?" She rounded her eyes in disbelief, complaining to her brother about the way Kace treated her these past seven years. "Seven years! His mate will never return! She is dead!" she grumbled loudly and gulped down her drinks rather aggressively, as if that drink had wronged her in any way.

Meanwhile, Leon rolled his eyes dramatically when he heard that. "Don't let Kace heard what you just said earlier, he will run away from you and you will never be able to find him again." He shrugged his shoulder. "I don't mind if he runs from you. But, he is my friend."

"But, I am your sister!" Abby argued.

"I need my friend more than a sister like you," he answered her straightforwardly. "At the very least, he doesn't give me a headache like you do."

Abby sneered disdainfully upon hearing that statement. "He will not hear it. He is sleeping now." And then, out of instinct, her eyes looked at the door where Kace and Sterling were there. "He should stop waiting and choose me."

"Why he has to choose you?"

There was a voice that came from the entrance door that startled the two siblings. Out of instinct, Leon and Abby turned around to find a girl with a long black hair was walking toward them with confidence.

Her eyes zeroed in Abby's when she approached her and stood right in front of the witch.

On the other hand, Leon almost dropped the champagne glass in his hand when he realized, who was there. Who this girl was.

Of course they knew her.

This was the girl that they just talked about.

She was Hope.

"Why he has to choose you?" Hope repeated her question with hostility. The last thing that she wanted to see the moment she returned was the fact there was a fly around her mate.

Therefore, she would crush those flies if they tried to be closer than this.

Meanwhile, Abby gulped down hard and looked at Hope in disbelief, forgetting the question that was thrown at her.

"Listen," Hope said viciously, her patient grew thin when Abby acted mum like this. "Don't flirt, don't hope, don't tease, don't talk to my mate, because that's all my job to do."

And then, without waiting for the answer, Hope had shifted her attention to Leon, who was still staring at her like he was looking at a ghost.

"Where is Kace?" Hope asked.

Yet, Leon's answer was interrupted by Abby, as she just snapped back to reality. "You shouldn't be here! You are dead!" her voice screeched painfully in Hope's ears. "You had gone for seven years!"

Hope then gave the attention that Abby needed before she said, "I have gone, but now I am back." She replied simply. "So, stay away from him, before I do something horrible to your ugly face. You know, right? I just returned from the dead?"

Hope glared at Abby fiercely and asked Leon again about Kace's whereabouts, without taking her eyes away from his sister. "Where is Kace?"

"He is inside that door," Leon replied, nodding his head at the door.

Hope glanced briefly at the door that Leon showed to her and walked there without hesitation with steady steps. There was a complicated emotion that swirled inside of her heart.

And the fact that Kace was still waiting for her even now and didn't give Abby a slight chance to come close to him, made her heart swelled with pride. That's his boy!

Hope stood in front of the door and took a deep breath before she twisted the handle and pushed the door open.

However, when she was about to step into the room, there was someone else, who opened the door at the same time like her.

It was Sterling.

The man looked at Hope in disbelief. His eyes opened wide and his mouth formed a small gap.

"Impossible..." he muttered to himself when he watched the girl, who was standing behind the door. She was smiling and greeted him, proving that she was not only an illusion.

"Sterling, long time no see..." She said cheerfully and when the man before her eyes didn't give her any response, she hugged him. "I am real. I am here."

Only when Hope hugged him, Sterling snapped back to reality and reciprocated the warm hug to the girl. He kissed her forehead and said how grateful he was that she was there.

"You should check on Kace." Sterling glanced into the room and released her body. "He is a mess without you."

Hope giggled when she heard that and wiped the happy tears from her eyes. "I know."

Sterling smiled fondly at her, because seeing her now was a great assurance that Kace wouldn't do something outrageous again.

"Go and see him," Sterling said and then he stepped out of the room, closed the door to give the couple privacy.

The moment Hope was standing alone there, her eyes skimmed the room until she found Kace was lying on a couch with his arms over his face, sleeping, seemingly didn't realize that the person he had been waiting like crazy had finally there.

With a slow and steady steps Hope approached her mate and sat beside him. She stretched out her hand and touched his cheeks.

"Hey, wolfie, wake up..." She nudged his cheeks until she got a response from him.

At first, Kace wanted to ignore this little disturbance, but then he sensed her scent and abruptly opened his eyes.

For a moment Hope and Kace just stared at each other, as the lycan was still thinking this was a dream that he had wished for long time, because when he touched her, he couldn't feel the spark.

However, Hope then spoke, "there is no mate bond between us anymore. Do you still want me?"

No mate bond?

Kace's mind spun in confusion and then found out that he couldn't mind- link her as well.

"I am just ordinary human with a long life span to be with you. Will you still want me?" Hope felt her throat tightened when her tears threatened to fall.

Especially when Kace stretched out his arms and pulled her closer, whispering to her ears the words that she had expected him to say, but it was still echoed in her ears beautifully and shook her entire soul nonetheless.

"Always."