

TLOA Lycan 1081

Chapter 1081: After the war (5)

The destruction that resulted from the war seven years ago, left the kingdom with so many damages and many things had happened since then.

Jedrek had appointed seven new generals and also the Beta, a second in command for him.

The king hadn't appointed a Gamma because he didn't really think it was necessary since there were already seven generals, who were more than enough to help with work.

Aside from the Beta and the seven generals, Jedrek also appointed another four supernatural creatures, as the lords for the four domains; east, west, north and south.

Of which, the two dragon shifters took the east and west territories, while the other two were occupied by the magicians and the fae respectively.

A lot of lycanthropes had died during the war and their numbers had decreased significantly, therefore the recovery of this realm took quite a long time.

And after seven years had passed, finally everything almost returned to normal, though the sorrow of losing one's family member, mate or children would follow them for the rest of their eternity.

And that dark feeling was also felt by the king, he was not an exception in this case.

Jedrek stood in his balcony, staring at the full moon above him while basking himself in its cool light and let the wind play with his cloak.

He had been like this ever since they returned to this realm. Staring into the distance while deep in thought.

No one had the slightest idea what had happened to him and the guardian angel during the war. However, they knew that the queen had sacrificed herself to save them, just like the other guardian angels.

And for Jedrek, times like this were his moments to remember what had happened back then, because he didn't want to forget even a tiny detail about Lilac.

He wanted to remember how he had hurt her and how much he loved her. That was the only way for him to regret the mistakes that he had committed and repent for his reckless and ignorant actions that caused his mate so much pain.

Jedrek then glanced at the burns on both of his hands. The ugly scars crept from his shoulders to his wrists, which he got when he followed Lilac and jumped in to the crater, the gates of the hell.

He didn't really remember what exactly happened when he felt his body get burned by the flames, as the only thing in his mind at that moment was only Lilac, about how he wanted to be close to her and be with her, even it meant that he had to go through the hell.

However, before Jedrek could reach his mate, he had lost his consciousness and the moment he opened his eyes, he was brought back to the land below which the crater had closed.

He found himself alone with his scars that couldn't heal no matter how much long it took.

Yet, Jedrek didn't regret it even for a millisecond. He thought of them as a reminder of what had happened during the war and also how he lost Lilac.

Everything seemed dull after that. Every single one of them were busy, as there were a lot of things needed to be fixed and established again.

The hectic schedule helped Jedrek a little to forget about the hollow in his heart, but when the night came and he was all alone again, the void in his heart start longing for his mate and no one could fix that...

It went without saying that all the Donovans believed that the guardian angels would return again and that their mates would come back to them, yet no one knew for how long they needed to wait.

And for Jedrek's case, he was even more anxious of the fact; whether his mate wanted to return to his side or not...

Lilac.

The name echoed for the millionth time in his heart, calling out to her softly in the breezy wind, yet it was only nothingness that replied to him.

Jedrek was not sure about anything now, since seven years had passed and there wasn't any sign of the resurrection of the guardian angels whatsoever.

Jedrek glanced at his ugly scars and clenched his fists tightly.

=====

The guardian angel had returned.

That was a piece of news that managed to shake Jedrek's composure and since he heard that news three days ago, the king always asked about some related news, whether they saw someone like Lilac or any other human, or a creature that was not a shifter.

However, he got nothing.

Maybe, tomorrow he would see her.

Maybe, tomorrow she would return to him.

Maybe, tomorrow they would finally meet.

And Jedrek kept saying the same thing for the whole week, but nothing happened, except for the fact that his high hopes were slightly wavering.

Yet, the king kept waiting for the return of his queen.

=====

A year passed in a blink of an eye and nothing significant happened since the last news about the return of Raine and Hope to their mates.

However, Lilac had never once appeared, even her whereabouts were unknown.

At first Jedrek thought Lilac still needed time to think about their relationship and when she got the time that she needed, she would return to him.

However, it didn't seem like it was the case anymore.

A year was enough time to think about everything thoroughly, but if even after a year Lilac was still nowhere to be seen, it only meant, she decided that she didn't want to be with him anymore.

That was the only explanation that Jedrek could think of, but every time that thought aroused, he would always deny it with the excuse that his mate still needed some more time.

But, how long? And until when?

Or maybe, it was just like his dark thoughts which told him that Lilac didn't want to return to him.

Why would she do that?

Why wasn't she willing to give a chance for them?

Based on what he heard, Jedrek knew that the mate bond between Raine and Torak or Hope and Kace was long gone. There was no mate bond between them any longer.

How could such an important essence be gone from their life?

At first Jedrek didn't believe it, but when he saw how happy his other brothers with their mates even without the sacred touch of the mate bond, the only thing that crossed his mind was; that was love.

A pure love that took form very differently from that of the coercion of the mate bond. The love that it did not make you feel like it was not an obligation to love your other half.

Then again, Torak and Kace didn't seem to be bothered by that fact. They loved their mates regardless...

Maybe that was the answer for the question, which had been asked by Jedrek and Lilac during the whole upside down charade of their relationship; whether they would still love each other and want to be together, even without the presence of the mate bond or not.

Even now... Jedrek still wanted to be with Lilac... didn't she feel the same too?

=====

Seven years had passed since the return of the guardian angels, yet there was still no news whatsoever about Lilac and the king was still waiting for her...

Under the bright sun, Jedrek walked toward a pack house. Torak's pack house.

Raine had just given birth to their second child and just like before, Jedrek was invited to see his brother's child as Torak threw a party for the baby.

"Uncle Jedrek!"

A childish voice called out his name and made Jedrek turn around out of instinct, but the moment he saw the little boy, the child jumped up to him which caught him by surprise.

It was lucky enough that Jedrek had such good reflections that he could catch the boy in time.

"Uncle Jedrek! Show me how to hunt in the woods!" The little boy around six years old screamed excitedly.

It was Sean, Kace and Hope's second child. He met Jedrek a year ago when Torak called him for a small reunion that he said as a meeting to discuss about the issue with humans.

And since then, Sean seemed to like his uncle Jedrek more than his own father, because at that time, Jedrek took him to hunt, though the little boy was not yet able to shift.

"I will," Jedrek said, smiling as he put the little boy down, and he found his brother frowning at him while Hope giggled.

"Hi Jedrek, nice to see you again," Hope greeted him sweetly, but his brother glared at his son.

"Nice to see you too," Jedrek muttered.

"You are a traitor," Kace hissed and Sean pouted his lips.

But Hope elbowed him and spoke sharply, "Behave."

Behind the couple was Sean's twin sister, Selena. She was a cute and energetic girl, just like her parents and was the apple of Kace's eyes.

Everyone always teased Kace that, Selena only needed to move a little finger of hers and the lycan would come running to her. She had her father wrapped around her fingers.

"Uncle Jedrek, will you teach me how to hunt too?" Selena came to Jedrek and in the next second, she was being picked too, but this time together they walked toward the pack house.

"Yes, but after we see the baby," Jedrek said and Selena cooed cutely, clapping her hands excitedly.

"Father said Aunt Raine has a baby girl!" Her eyes shone with happiness.

"That's what I heard." Jedrek nodded.

In front of them, Kace was having a father- son argumentation and left the rest of them behind when they raced toward the pack house.

"How is it?" Hope asked, but Jedrek knew what she meant. "There is still no news?"

Jedrek shook his head and he felt the hollow in his heart became even darker.

Chapter 1082: After the war (6)

Jedrek watched the little creature in her crib, pouting her tiny lips as she clenched his fingers tightly.

The baby blinked her eyes and yawned, and was about to put her own fist into her mouth if it was not for Jedrek, who pulled her small hand away in time.

The feeling was incredible as it stirred something deep inside of him.

How could a small creature like this that Jedrek could crush with ease, held such a power that could make the king feel floored?

This was the first time for Jedrek to see one of his brother's children when they were only a baby. Because every time he came, he would refuse to see the baby and only congratulated his brothers and their mates formally.

However, this time Raine insisted for Jedrek to see her second child when she noticed how distraught the king looked.

Fourteen years of waiting...

That was long enough and challenging of your patience to its limits, especially when you watched how your other brothers finally got their happiness. The end that he should have been blessed with too, if only Lilac was there with him.

Yet, the reality said otherwise...

Lilac had never appeared before him and no one knew where she was now.

"How are you feeling?" Raine asked as she teased her baby and the baby laughed, letting out a strange screech that, startlingly, enticed Jedrek.

"I am fine..." Jedrek said absentmindedly, but his eyes had never left the small creature that had been holding his fingers since the moment he saw her.

Raine looked at Jedrek and it went without saying that what he said was a lie, it was only an obligatory response that he used to say whenever someone asked about his feelings.

"Do you want to hold her?" Raine gave the king an offer, which made Jedrek raise his head and reject it right away.

"No, thank you. I am not good at handling a fragile creature like her." Jedrek immediately pulled his fingers out of the baby's grip and felt sad when he lost the warm feeling.

However, Raine then stretched out her hands to pick up the baby and cradled her in her arms, as the baby cooed in happiness for being held by her mother.

"Come here. Try once." Raine moved closer to Jedrek and stretched out her hands toward Jedrek. "It is okay."

"No!" Jedrek refused. He was so panicked.

No. Of course this wouldn't be okay. Nothing would be okay in Jedrek's hands. He was not a protector, he was a living destruction.

Jedrek couldn't imagine what he could possibly do to the fragile baby. He could kill her accidentally.

Yet, Raine didn't even consider that when she thrust her own baby toward Jedrek and forced him to hold her.

"Raine, I will hurt her!" Jedrek said in panic, but out of instinct, he received the baby and held her in his arms awkwardly. "Torak will be pissed if he see this!" He screeched when he felt the weightless baby in his arms. "What should I do!?"

Raine chuckled when she watched Jedrek's expression, the same reaction and expressions that Torak showed when he held their first baby, five years ago.

Torak was also panicked and Kace laughed at his brother out loud.

At that time, Torak looked like he was more than ready to shred his brother muscle to muscle, but the baby in his arms prevented him from doing so.

Kace, of course, was fine with the baby, as he had met Hope since she was only a few days old baby and nursed his own mate.

But, for Torak and Jedrek, this was their first experience of holding someone? very fragile, defenseless and precious at the same time.

Raine understood how Jedrek felt when Aurora held his finger, the look on Jedrek's face seemed like he was almost at peace.

"Support her neck properly, or else you will hurt her." What Raine said didn't help the situation became better for Jedrek and she knew that. She just teased him because he was too stiff.

"You better take her away from me," Jedrek's voice was almost like a whisper when he glanced at the baby that curled peacefully in his arms, not even bothering with the stress that her mother was putting him through.

"You will be fine Jedrek, you will not hurt her," Raine said softly, she then took a step back and watched as Jedrek struggled to not move from his position. "I think the baby likes you."

"No, she doesn't," Jedrek grumbled, but Aurora proved him wrong, she gave him her toothless smile and cooed, snuggling closer in his warm embrace.

Jedrek could feel his heart almost exploding when he watched it. It was a mixed feeling between fear and curiosity, but he didn't know how to express that.

"You are just like Torak," Raine commented. "He was very careful when he held me when we met for the first time, because he was afraid that he would hurt me."

"You were not a baby when you met Torak for the first time," Jedrek pointed out the fact and Raine agreed with that.

"Yes, I was not a baby, I was seventeen years old at that time," Raine said softly, reminiscing the moment she met Torak under the rain. "But trust me, I was as fragile as her."

Yes, Raine had been through so much and psychologically, she was as frail as a newborn baby. You could snap her effortlessly and it would take a long time for her to be healed.

And Jedrek was well aware of that, therefore he didn't say anything and shifted his focus on to Aurora, who was busy nibbling his shirt.

"Didn't you meet Lilac?" Jedrek finally asked, bringing up the question that he wanted to know the answer for more than seven years. He had never really talked about this with anyone, let alone with his crude brothers. "I meant when you were in whatever realm you were in before being resurrected for the second time."

Raine smiled softly at Jedrek, she had been waiting for him to ask this question since seven years, but only now did the cold demeanor that he had was slightly crack open.

It seemed, the long wait of fourteen years had finally taken a toll on him and he had no longer had the energy to put up a strong front.

"Yes, I met her, but we didn't really talk, as it was only a brief meeting before we went back to this realm," Raine replied softly, caressing Aurora's flushed cheeks.

"What happened when you were there?" Jedrek asked again, but this time he looked at Raine in her eyes, waiting anxiously.

Raine then shrugged her shoulder. "The first guardian angel of time showed me about the past, telling us about the story of her love to the first lycanthrope, who walked on this realm."

Yes, Raine had been showed her past memories for the second time, but in a different point of view. She saw herself grew up from a traumatic young teenager to be someone powerful that could fulfill the task that was given to the guardian angels.

It was such a blessing to be able to see herself become stronger and for the first time Raine was really proud of herself, it was the version of herself that she didn't see while she went through those experiences or when, for the second time, the devils forced her to endure it again.

"I think Hope and Lilac went the same thing like me." Raine smiled softly at Jedrek. "I choose to go back to Torak because he is my safe heaven. Hope must feel the same for Kace..." she paused for a while and looked Jedrek deep in his eyes. "But, I don't know about Lilac."

Jedrek could feel his own breathing turned even more erratic when he heard Raine's explanation and he didn't know how to express this feeling.

If Raine and Hope had been showed their past memories, of course they would return to their mates, since neither Kace or Torak had made an attempt to kill them or hurt them in any other way.

Unlike himself...

It was like Jedrek was being reminded of his ultimate mistake again and again. This made him to succumb deeper into the darkness, unable to see any way out from this.

"The mate bond between us had shattered, that's the price that we have to pay to be able to come back to our mates, we gambled with that, as there was still a chance that once the mate bond between us disappeared, the feeling also would be gone, but..." Raine stretched out her hand and caressed Jedrek's cheek, feeling the tips of her fingers getting wet from the tears of the king. "But, we came back."

They dared to bet on their true feelings that could surpass the mate bond. The true love between them that didn't need such bond, because they had created their own.

Jedrek gritted his teeth when he heard that. He felt his heart break into million pieces and he didn't know how to fix it when the hollow only grew larger and darker.

"Lilac also returned with us. She bet the same thing like us. But, maybe she didn't have enough confidence in you to find you again." Raine now used both of her hands to wipe away the tears from Jedrek's cheeks, as the lycan trembled. "Because sometimes, time can't heal the wound in someone's heart, but effort and patience might will."

Aurora yawned in Jedrek's arms and snuggled closer to the warmth of the lycan's body. She felt really comfortable to be held by him.

Chapter 1083: The end

The feeling when Jedrek watched how Kace had an argumentation with his son and how Torak stared at his little angel, or how his brothers looked very peaceful whenever they were surrounded by the people that they loved; their mate and children, was something that Jedrek could only imagine.

This was the scene that always came into his dream, interrupting his not so peaceful sleeping time, bombarding him with the questions that started with; what if...

Those questions haunted him relentlessly and left him unable to feel any other feeling anymore, turning him numb and feel lost for words.

The family that he supposed to have, but he ruined his only chance, because he pushed away his own happiness with his bare hands, hurting his mate so deep that she chose to stay away from him...

No. Jedrek had been ruining his life over and over again even before he got to meet Lilac. This was like a toxin that he passed down to the people around him and he didn't know how to stop it...

Raine said that she and Hope returned to their mates because they were their safe heaven, so it was easy to say that Lilac didn't think the same...

Jedrek left the party early and didn't tell anyone about it. He just met Sean and told the little boy that they couldn't go hunting now, because he wasn't feeling good.

Actually, Jedrek had never felt better since he lost Lilac, the moment he followed her to jump into the crater, the gates of the hell, just to be with her...

And now, he didn't know how long this waiting would take to end, or maybe it would never end and this was his punishment for neglecting the most precious thing in his life.

Jedrek shifted into his white beast and let his instincts lead him away from Torak's pack house, away from the commotion that was happening there, away from countless happy smiles and blessings that was thrown at the beautiful baby.

The sight was too blindingly beautiful for a dark and sorrowful soul like him.

Jedrek let his beast's instincts lead the way, dashing through the trees and leapt over a river, letting the glaring sun bask his fur, as the scars on both of his front legs turned more prominently visible and those scars made his appearance more scarier than he already was.

The white beast didn't stop running even when the sun went down and left the horizon or when the sky had turned dark, showing the majestified charm of the night with the full moon surrounded by the stars.

He didn't know why he kept running nonstop. He just needed to run. Maybe this was him, who was trying to run away from his suffocated feelings that made his chest always cave in painfully.

Maybe, physical pain was all he needed right now to overcome the pain in his heart that was bleeding again.

The beast ran until the air left his lungs and he was left tired and exhausted...

And now the beast, laid down in the meadow under the cool light of the full moon above him, staring into the distance like he always did...

=====

Jedrek didn't know how long he had been sleeping, but when the scorching light of the afternoon sun assaulted his eyes, he groaned and started to gain his consciousness.

Didn't know when he shifted back into his human form, but he didn't feel any better. The numbness in his heart only reminded him over and over again about the void that he couldn't evade.

From the distance Jedrek could hear the sound of the cars and people talking to each other, laughing and teasing. There was life around him, but he didn't feel like he was alive.

Mindlessly, Jedrek stood up and started to walk toward the noise, since he didn't really know where he was after the whole crazy running that he did yesterday, thus he decided to see which city he had ended up in.

With unsteady steps he emerged from the trees and stepped on the pavement, where he met three school girls giggling at the screen phone that was being held by one of them.

Jedrek walked passed them and another group of school girls, older people, a woman, who just stared at him and smiled meaningfully, a guy, and... more people that he couldn't remember.

He walked like that until the sun went down again and he arrived at a familiar building.

At first Jedrek didn't realize it, but then he remembered that building was the house where Lilac was born. Her family's house. The place where he took her life.

The orange hue of the sun illuminated the almost empty street and the building before Jedrek's eyes.

It brought back memories, but not good ones...

Jedrek stood there for almost two hours, until the lamps on the street poles were turned on and the sky turned dark again.

There was no need to mention how Jedrek looked like after two days of being on the verge of mental breakdown and roaming around mindlessly. However, his looks alone could overcome his messy and unkempt appearance.

When the laughter from the house could be heard from where Jedrek was standing, he walked slowly toward its gates.

Maybe, he could hear more clearly if he went closer, maybe one of those voices belonged to Lilac.

Jedrek just wanted to see if she was happy now and that was all that mattered to him at this moment, since the mate bond had shattered, he couldn't feel her presence or mind- link her, therefore he needed to check by himself.

Maybe Lilac was indeed inside the house... he didn't know how could something like this possibly happen, but the slightest possibility of meeting his mate was all he needed to walk down this path again...

However, before he could reach the gates, a gentle gust of wind blew over and along with it came a faint familiar scent that made Jedrek stop in his tracks.

He turned around and found a small flower shop, where the scent was coming from.

Only with the scent alone, he could feel the longing in his heart gnaw at him again which then urged him to breathe in more of it.

Forgetting about the house, Jedrek walked toward the small shop, which seemed to be almost closed, as someone inside was busy tidying up that place.

The girl sensed his presence and came to him with a smile on her plump lips. But, she was not her and the scent was coming from the Lilac flowers on the display, not his little flower.

"Is there anything I can help you with?" The girl talked to him politely, but her eyes shone brightly when she watched the man before her eyes and blushed slightly. He was handsome beyond words! Like the reincarnation of a Greek god!

"I want lilac," he said, voicing out what he really wanted. The deepest plea that he had been holding back for fourteen years.

"Oh, okay... we have beautiful lilac flowers over here," she talked and showed Jedrek the flowers arranged in different rows of that small shop.

A lot of sweet and fresh scent came to his senses when Jedrek followed her, but he didn't really hear what she said or what the reason why she giggled happily while staring at Jedrek and led him back to the counter where she would wrap the flower into a beautiful bouquet.

"Do you want to write a letter for the receiver?" The young girl offered him.

At first, Jedrek wanted to shake his head and refuse, but something else caught his attention, making this the most momentous time of his life.

She walked gracefully out of a door, looking beautiful as ever and as if the soft light of the moon outside was shining particularly on her, she looked like a goddess herself...

At first his mate didn't realize his presence, but when she raised her head and caught a sight of Jedrek, the time seemed to frozen.

Jedrek remembered that the mate bond had nothing to do with this anymore, but how could his heart beat in the same rhythm like hers?

The feeling didn't fade away, if anything it only got amplified.

They kept staring at each other, with many complicated and unsaid feelings between them... the love that grown on each other...

"Oh, I think you don't want to write anything, then I will wrap the flowers for you..." the girl, who was being ignored made a conclusion, but before she could wrap the flowers, Jedrek spoke to her.

"Write something down for me..." Jedrek said, his voice soft, as his eyes fixed on his mate.

Slightly confused, the girl followed his order and took the note and pen. "What do you want to say?"

Jedrek's blue eyes bore into Lilac's, he didn't even dare to blink, afraid that she would disappear and with his velvety voice, he chanted a poem...

"Of all the ones that begged to stay

I'm still longing for you

Of all the ones that cried their way

I'm still waiting on you

Maybe we seek for something that

We couldn't ever have

Maybe we choose the only love

We know we won't accept

Or maybe we're taking all the risks

For something that is real

'Cause maybe the greatest love of all

Is who the eyes can't see..."

His voice echoed inside the flower shop beautifully. The way he spoke felt like he was talking out of his desperate state...

And indeed that was what he felt right now...

Tears started to stream down Lilac's face when she heard him... his voice, the words, the way Jedrek stared at her with desperation and longing, hit her deeply.

She thought, after all this time, she would be fine.

After all the years that had passed she would finally forget about him.

After the pain that he had put her through, she wouldn't want him anymore.

However, that was a lie that she told herself.

Because every inch of her being, still wanted him...

Upon seeing his mate cry silently, Jedrek took the flower bouquet from the girl and walked closer to Lilac. As soon as he was standing in front of her again, he dropped to his knees and pushed the flowers into Lilac's hands.

"I am yours, will you take this senseless man again?" Jedrek didn't ask, but begged her.

And that was the time when Lilac knew that she couldn't really lie to herself...

She loved him and always will...

Chapter 1084: Side story: let me do the right thing

Jedrek couldn't say how happy he was when he finally met Lilac and she still seemed to have feelings for him. It was unbelievable, but at the same it was an amazing feeling for him to say the least.

He wasn't used to sharing his feelings, but he wanted everyone to know that he was happy beyond words. It was quite complicated.

Apparently, Lilac had been living near her original house after she returned to this realm, but because of her youthful appearance, she could only stay there for a few years before she had to move to another place.

However, three months ago, she decided to return to this place again and opened this flower shop. She bought an apartment and wanted to stay here for as long as she could before she felt the need to move again.

And here they were, inside Lilac small, but comfortable apartment on the seventh floor of a residential building not too far from her flower shop.

"You live in this place?" Jedrek scrunched his nose in disgust, but he was trying so hard to not let Lilac see it, though it was quite impossible.

"Why?" Lilac asked, the corner of her lips curled into a slight smile, because she knew exactly why Jedrek didn't like to be in this place.

This apartment room, which only has one bedroom and bathroom along with a small living room and a kitchen, couldn't be compared to the luxurious facilities of the castle that the king used to live in.

But, Lilac said she needed time to decide whether she wanted to go back to the supernatural realm or not.

Of course Jedrek wouldn't rush her even though Lilac knew that if it was Jedrek from the past, he would use every way possible to bring her back to that realm.

However now, Jedrek didn't want to force her to do something that she didn't want to do, especially when Lilac had willingly taken him back and the worse possibility in Jedrek's mind didn't actually take shape.

The king would relent everything that Lilac wished for, thus he would let her stay for however much time she want, until she felt like it to go back with him.

"No, nothing." Jedrek shook his head hurriedly and ventured into the room further. His ocean blue eyes skimmed every corner of the place, but there was nothing much that he could see except the sweet and colorful room, with many flowers surrounding it.

Jedrek was not a fan of flowers, but he liked lilac, as they had the same scent like his mate, so literally speaking, the king now was surrounded by the 'touch' of her.

"You can sit anywhere you want," Lilac said as she walked toward the kitchen and took out a jar of water and two glasses for Jedrek and herself. "I just have water, I hope you don't mind."

Lilac's voice was a little bit louder, since she thought Jedrek was in the living room and she was in the kitchen, thus the lycanthropes king wouldn't be able to hear her.

Apparently, she forgot that Jedrek could hear her just fine. It was just Lilac who had turned into a mere human. The king was still the same creature with extremely heightened senses.

Jedrek then followed her into the kitchen. "I don't mind it, as long as I am with you," he said and hugged her from back and rested his chin on her shoulder.

Lilac giggled, but she squirmed away. "Behave."

"Okay," Jedrek said, raising his hands above his head. A surrender gesture. He clearly didn't want to upset her.

Lilac smiled softly, the kind of smile that would make you smile as well without any particular reason. "What do you want for dinner?"

At first, Lilac thought it would be awkward if she stayed with Jedrek in the same place like this, alone. However, it seemed the fourteen years of separation didn't affect them too much, as they could interact normally, just like the times they had a good relationship and knew each other, before the war broke out years ago.

"Why don't you let me make something for you instead?" Jedrek asked. He stared at Lilac, who was raising her brows questioningly.

"You can't cook." That was a statement and Lilac was quite sure with what she said. Since when did Jedrek have to cook for himself when he could get everything with only a wiggle of his fingers?

"I learned," Jedrek said offhandedly.

Yes, he learned how to cook, though he was not really good at it, but he had a list of things that he wanted to do with Lilac, when he finally found her and today was just the first day of all the things to come.

"Why do you want to learn it?" Lilac couldn't understand Jedrek's intentions.

"So, I can take care of you," he said while rummaging Lilac's small fridge and then frowned because he didn't like how empty it was. "You don't have anything here."

"You don't need to take care of me, I can take care of myself and my fridge is not empty, I just don't go grocery shopping often."

"What do you eat then?" Jedrek was still dwelling on the fact that Lilac didn't have something in her storage as well.

Lilac leaned her back against the dinner table and folded her arms in front of her chest. "You are so old fashioned. I can get any dish that I want with only a single call."

Jedrek rolled his eyes when he heard that. "Let's go buy something edible for you to fill your tiny fridge." He didn't want her to be starving and the way the lycan said 'tiny fridge' annoyed Lilac.

"My fridge is not tiny. If you come only to criticize the way how I live, you can go." Lilac glared at Jedrek, thinking she would upset him, because usually he would come back with a strong response.

However, to Lilac's surprise, Jedrek didn't retort her words. But instead, leaned over to kiss Lilac's head and smiled softly at her. "I will not go anywhere nor will I take my words back. You need to be well fed."

"I told you that I can take care of myself," Lilac said stubbornly like usual and this only made Jedrek reminisce about the past. It reminded him of how strong headed his mate had always been.

"I know, but I still want to take care of you." He kissed her forehead. "Let me do the right thing now."

Chapter 1085: Side story: gone missing

Selena was born only three minutes earlier than her twin brother Sean, on a bright chaotic day. Maybe because they were twins, they had similar traits.

However, it seemed Sean was talented in taking things to a whole new level.

There would be not be a single day without him giving Kace a headache and make Hope scream in frustration. And today was one such day...

Selena and Sean just started to shift into their beast, and just like their father, they turned into cute little white wolves. Hope couldn't have enough even after taking pictures after pictures to capture that moment.

Especially when the night was so bright, because of the light from the full moon above them.

The family of four had a big house with a high wall surrounding that place, but all the servants would leave that house when the sun went down. Kace and Hope liked this neighborhood the moment they noticed it after she returned, and immediately decided to settle down there, thinking this was the perfect place for them to have their own family.

Moreover, Ethan and Sterling didn't live too far away from here.

And that night was a sacred night when their two lovely children turned eight and started to shift into their beasts.

Kace was there in his white beast form. The beast was there to guide their pups throughout their transformation that looked nerve-wrecking, as both of them writhed in pain.

Yes, the first shift was always painful and Kace had already explained it to them.

Actually, Kace and Hope were not sure if their children would be a shifter too, because Hope's condition was a little bit complicated. She was a guardian angel before and now she is a normal human with a long life span.

But, just in case this moment happened, Kace had them educated about the supernatural world since they were very young and had them to tell no one about this secret.

Therefore, when the moon shone brightly and the two siblings showed the signs that they were about to shift, Kace was very excited, but Hope couldn't stop biting her lips out of nervousness.

It felt like she was about to give birth again and seeing her children's faces contorted in pain didn't help in calming her nerves at all.

"Mommy, it hurts..." Selena whined, she stretched out her hand to touch the white beast, who nuzzled the side of her face. "Daddy..."

Hope felt her heart being torn apart harshly, she knelt down beside Selena and Sean, but didn't dare to touch them, because Kace said it wouldn't be good.

"I know sweetie... please hold on a little bit longer..." Hope's voice cracked. "Kace..." She raised her head and looked at the white beast that let out a low soft growl, as if saying; everything will be all right.

Hope felt a little bit less nervous, but it didn't make her feel any better.

On the other hand, Sean didn't let out a single whine, but from the way he curled his body, they knew the little boy was only too stubborn to let them see him in a weak state.

The white beast nudged and licked his pups every now and then to give them courage to go through all this and to let them know that they were not alone, that their mommy and daddy were there to support them.

It took roughly an hour before their bodies shivered and white fur broke out of the surface of their skin.

And it took fifteen more painful minutes to complete their transformation.

But, the moment it ended, there were two little white wolves, whining and wriggling their bodies. Their red eyes looking around in confusion.

They looked so small, compared to the big white beast, and flustered.

It was such a beautiful sight to behold and heartwarming when they started to try to move around, falling and picking up themselves again, trying to adjust with their new forms.

They were so cute and Hope couldn't help, but feel excited about them.

However, that was the story from the other day, because today, Hope really wanted to be able to shift into a beast as well, so she could catch her children whenever they ran about in the neighborhood.

For new shifters like Selena and Sean, they were still visible in human eyes, even though they were in their beast form.

People wouldn't be able to see their beast form when they reached ten years old, as the shield would set in motion.

Therefore, whenever Sean didn't listen to Hope and Kace warning to not go outside of the house or shift during daylight, Hope and Kace would go into panic mode.

"Where is Sean?" Hope asked Selena, who was in her bedroom, doodling in her book.

Selena and Sean had gone to play in the backyard in their beast form when the sky was still dark and no servants filed in yet, but if Selena was already inside her room and Hope couldn't find Sean in the backyard, then...

The little girl raised her head and blinked her blue eyes. "I don't know."

With that answer, Hope fell into panic mode again and went to find Kace. Because the last time Sean went out of the house in his beast form, a few humans saw him.

"Sean is outside," Hope told Kace when she saw him and the lycan growled in annoyance before he put down the toast in his hands and went out of the house in his white beast form.

"Wait, I will go with you." Hope ran to catch up with the white beast, who stopped in the street to pick up his naughty pup's scent.

Once the white beast caught up Sean's scent that smelled like cocoa powder, he took off in a particular direction with Hope following behind him.

Sean was around five hundred meter away from home, but that was not the most shocking thing for both Kace and Hope, because then they saw Sean, in his little white beast form, being played by a five years old little girl with her mother.

Both daughter and mother apparently tried to feed him with a snack in the girl's hand.

"Mommy, the dog is cute, can we take it home?" The little girl asked her mother.

Hearing that his pup was mistaken as a dog, the white beast growled loudly. Unfortunately, no one could hear it except Hope.

"Behave, Kace." Hope warned him.

After saying that, Hope immediately went ahead and greeted both the mother and daughter. "I am sorry sweetie, but he is mine. He strayed away from home."

"Oh," the little girl looked disappointed and looked at her mother.

"It is not a stray dog, we can't take it home," the mother said to console her daughter and missed the way Hope grimaced when her son was called dog.

But, it was not the time for that, because they had to bring Sean home now. "Okay, I will take him now." Then she picked him up and cradled the little brat in her arms.

"Can I see him again? He is cute." The little girl asked politely.

Hope felt a little bit conflicted, but then nodded when she saw the eagerness in Sean's eyes. "Sure."

[We have a lot of things to talk, boy.] Kace growled through mind-link at his son and the little white lycan could only whine.

Chapter 1086: Side story: something i want to say to them

There was no graveyard for the victims of the war, as there was nothing left to be buried. Because they disappeared like smoke and left nothing behind to remind the living about them.

But then after everything had settled down and the situation was brought under control, the Donovans initiated to build this place as a moment to for the souls that had left this realm during the war. And this place turned out be extraordinarily beautiful.

It was a two acre vast land that was developed into a 'man made' rain forest with a small river streaming in the middle of it.

The number of trees in this forest equals the number of victims of the war and each had a name carved on the surface of the tree bark.

And of course Raphael and Lana's names were there too.

The two trees were planted near the river, in the place with enough sun light for their leaves during the day and warm moon light during the night.

The two trees had its roots entangled with each other and were the most biggest trees around, so every time someone went there, they would take their rest under its lush full leaves.

As if those trees were alive and could understand, every time people came to take a quick nap beneath them, the two trees seemed leaning over to cover them from the bright sunlight while the wind played with their hair until they fell asleep.

Just like what happened today.

Today, Calleb felt like taking Eddard, who was turning five yesterday, to this rain forest that was named Peaceful Soul.

Because this place was under the spell of more than a hundred magicians and fae, no human was able to see or enter this place.

However, that was not a big deal for the shifters and any other supernatural creatures, especially those who fought side by side during the war.

But today, Calleb felt a little bit sensitive because they just threw a party for Eddard yesterday and the little boy asked about his parents and why they were not there with him.

Caleb felt like there was someone shoving a burning charcoal down his throat when he heard that and he began tearing up. It was Belinda, who finally came to his rescue and explained to the sad little boy that his parents had returned to the moon goddess's side during the war with the devils.

That his parents had fought very bravely and there wouldn't be a single person in this realm who didn't know about them, as they were heroes in everyone's heart.

Therefore, today Caleb took Eddard to this place for the first time and indulged him by explaining the story of his parents.

The little boy looked very excited and asked for Caleb to talk more about them, but his body couldn't catch up with his excitement as he became very exhausted after a long walk and fell asleep under the two trees that were carved with his father and mother's names.

Eddard was fascinated right after he saw the trees for the first time and couldn't stay still, skipping and bouncing like a small rabbit asking question after question until moments later the exhaustion took a toll on his small body.

Seeing how Eddard slept peacefully, Caleb also lied down beside him and it didn't take him a long time before he fell asleep as well.

The wind that blew brought the sweet scent of this forest that could calm your nerves and made you relax. As if the whole universe was trying to take care of you and you didn't have anything to be worried about.

The shade from the trees also protected them from the harsh sunlight, but still gave the two of them the warmth of their own.

Eddard fell into a deeper slumber until he felt something caress his cheeks, very light and soft. The way it touched him was very different, strange, but tender at the same time.

Out of curiosity, Eddard opened his eyes and found a pair of similar colored eyes to his own, staring back at him lovingly. They belong to a woman. A beautiful woman with a handsome man behind her, and both of them were smiling sweetly at him.

"Who are you?" Eddard sat down while rubbing his eyes.

"Hi Eddard," the woman greeted him cheerfully, while the man only stared at the little boy softly and for some reason, Eddard was not afraid of them though the Alpha and Caleb had told him to not talking to strangers. "I have been waiting for this moment for so long."

Eddard didn't understand, he tilted his head and looked at them. "Do I know you?"

"You look healthy and happy." The woman's voice was very soothing in Eddard's ears. He liked listening to her.

"I am not happy..." Eddard said sullenly and then he looked down, as his small shoulders dropped, showing how unhappy he was.

"Why?" The woman immediately hugged him and the man moved closer.

Somehow, Eddard loved this woman's scent, he liked being hugged like this and felt like pouring out all of his sad feelings.

Eddard talked about how other children had parents and siblings, but he didn't have any except Bree. But, he knew Bree was not his sister and about other things while the two of them continued listening to his child-blabbering for almost thirty minutes until Eddard told them about his wish to meet his parents during his birthday.

"...but I know that it will never be possible." Eddard pouted his lips.

"Why?" The woman asked again, while caressing his back.

"Because Belinda said the moon goddess had taken both of them because they have brave hearts and very kind. But, I don't want them to be kind or brave. I just want them to be with me," he said what he was thinking out loud and this made the woman burst out in tears, for a moment she couldn't talk.

Therefore, it was the man, who had been silent from the beginning, opened his mouth.

"But, the moon goddess could also give them back to you. Maybe not forever, but for a little bit moment. Will it be enough for you?" The man asked.

"Yes," Eddard said, he nodded his head. "There is something I want to say to them."

"What is it?" The man spoke in a very tender voice.

Eddard raised his head and looked at both of them, he blinked his eyes a couple of times as he remembered what Belinda said to him. "I love them and feel very proud of them."

Yes, Eddard was sad, but he was also proud of his parents after listening to their story.

As soon as those words fell from his lips, tears fell from the woman eyes and the man had to look the other way to hide his own.

"We are also very proud of you and love you so much, my child." The woman whispered between her sobs.

Once again, the wind blew and brought the sweet scent of the forest, as the leaves rustled and they spent the next few moments talking about everything.

=====

Caleb opened his eyes when he felt his surroundings had started to become dark, he rubbed his eyes and saw the sun was almost set on the horizon, meaning it was their time to go back before Torak thought something worse happened to them and sent a whole army of lycan warriors to look for them.

Not them actually, he would be worried for Eddard.

Even though Torak rarely showed it, but he cared for Eddard more than he cared about his beta. Well, that was understandable, since Caleb was more than enough to protect himself if something happened, while the little boy had not yet shifted into his beast form.

"Let's go home." Calleb yawned and then stretched out his body, feeling satisfied when he heard the sound of his bones cracking. "Did you sleep well?" He asked.

Calleb then dusted the dirt off Eddard's pants and shirt when the little boy stood up. "I just slept for one second," he said exaggeratedly and showed with his tiny fingers how short his napping time felt like.

Calleb didn't take it seriously and just laughed at it. "Come on, I will carry you." He bent his body to carry Eddard, but he avoided him.

"I will walk. I am a big boy now," Eddard said and his eyes glanced behind Calleb's back for a second before he continued. "Mommy and Daddy said to be nice to you."

Calleb frowned. "What?"

He knelt in front of Eddard, but the little boy hit his head softly, like what Raphael always did to him while saying, "Dad said: 'Stop being sad.'"

Chapter 1087: Side story: what the baby like

Raine was feeling a little bit sluggish lately. She didn't want to move from bed at all if she could, but of course she couldn't do that, Torak would call all the healers if he were to find about her actual condition...

However, Raine felt it was kind of cute to see Torak falling into panic mode.

It was just a week since they stumbled upon the most amazing piece of news. The healer had confirmed that Raine was pregnant with their first child and Raine would never forget the expression Torak made then.

The Supreme Alpha was literally floored by the news.

For a few minutes Torak didn't say anything and just scrunched his forehead, until Raine was wondering whether he listened to what the healer said or not.

But then, slowly and surely, understanding dawned upon him when he finally spoke, "First child?" His voice was barely audible. "My mate is pregnant with our first child?" Torak repeated what the healer said.

Meanwhile, Raine had been staring at her flat stomach since she heard the news.

Raine didn't feel anything strange except her appetite that went upside down. Sometimes she wanted to eat all the food on the table, but in other instances, she didn't even want to see any of it.

Torak didn't know what happened to her except that her scent was slightly different, but not in a bad way. Raine smelled more ripe and sweet... if he could describe it.

But, it never crossed Torak's mind that his mate was pregnant with their first child. He was just worried about Raine's condition and that was what had been circulating in his mind for two days before Raine agreed to be taken to the hospital.

And now they finally knew the reason behind Raine strange behavior all along.

At first Torak thought it was because the side effect of Raine being a human and was stripped off her powers as the guardian angel of time, but now Torak knew that was not the case.

Raine was pregnant. They were going to have their first born! Something that never really crossed their minds before.

Well, they thought about this, but didn't really say it out loud, as they were still relishing the happiness of spending time with just the two of them.

However, now they were going to bring a little version of both of them in to the world. How amazing life could be.

And since then also, Torak started being extra protective of Raine and their unborn child. He wouldn't allow Raine to carry anything or walk too far.

And because this pregnancy made Raine a little bit lazy and easily exhausted, Torak would wake up before her to prepare a healthy breakfast for her. He would make sure that everything was perfect for his mate.

Just like now...

Raine yawned and stretched her body when she heard Torak entering the room with a tray full of healthy food and fruits.

"How are you feeling today?" Torak greeted her with his soft voice. The sound caressed Raine's ears and it made her feel giddy.

"Great," Raine said and then moved to the side a little to let Torak sit down beside her. "What did you cook Chef Donovan?" She teased him, because all of a sudden, Torak became a reliable chef and her personal nutritionist.

Raine had never seen someone apply what they learned from book as perfectly as Torak, who developed a new hobby of reading everything about pregnancy.

It was kind of cute, but also annoying at the same time, because Torak would be on alert almost every single second.

Torak kissed Raine's forehead and picked up a piece of toast before bringing it to her mouth, but Raine shook her head.

"I need to brush my teeth," she said and then wriggled out of Torak's embrace. "I have morning breath."

"You don't have morning breath," Torak complained, as he put aside the tray that was filled with Raine's breakfast and saw a pout on his mate's lips. "Even if you have, I still love you."

Raine laughed lightly when she heard that, "I know you will love me regardless..." she leaned over and pecked Torak's lips before she went to the bathroom.

But, of course, Torak would follow suit and stay inside the bathroom, just in case Raine was too sloppy and fell.

That was Torak's number one nightmare.

And the fact that the lycan was afraid to hurt Raine didn't help the case at all. At first, Raine didn't bother with that and only thought that Torak just needed time to calm his nerves.

Yet, his worriness only increased with each passing day, especially when Raine's baby bump started showing.

Torak would sleep on the couch with the reason that he was afraid that he would bump her in his sleep, though Raine knew very well that Torak wouldn't do that.

Therefore, when she was three months pregnant and her bump was already prominently visible, which meant she was only one and half month away from delivering their baby, for lycans only needed to conceive for four months and a half, Raine was awoken in the middle of her sleep when she felt it was very cold beside her and found Torak sleeping on the couch.

For some reason, Raine was angry because of the way Torak treated her. Oh, Selene! She was not a fragile glass doll!

And then, without a second thought, Raine got off of the bed and approached the lycan. She sat there, on the cold floor, which would freak out Torak once he saw this.

Well, Raine had never seen Torak being so afraid of something before she conceived. Suddenly, he was totally like a different person, no, actually this pregnancy only amplified his worries toward Raine.

He was afraid to lose her and now he was afraid to lose both of them...

Torak also found it difficult to comprehend how he could feel panicked at every single second of the day.

Meanwhile, just like what Raine thought, the moment the tip of her fingers caressed Torak's cheek, the Alpha was awake. His eyes immediately fixed on Raine, as he abruptly sat down.

"What happened? There is something wrong?" Torak asked and helped her to sit down on the sofa. "Do you feel uncomfortable somewhere?" He knew that Raine would get cramps every now and then.

"No, I am fine," Raine said and rested her head on Torak's shoulder. "But, I want something."

"What do you want?" The moment Torak heard there was something that Raine wanted, all of his sleepiness went away.

Raine stared at Torak deeply, but behind her eyes there was something that she tried to convey.

For a moment, both of them stayed like that until Raine leaned over to kiss Torak's neck, as her hand crept under his shirt.

Torak frowned, but when he realized what his mate wanted, his body became stiff and his voice turned heavier. "Raine... we can't do this..."

"Why can't we?" Raine pulled away from him and pouted her lips. "The healer said it is fine."

"No, Raine... I will hurt you..." Torak's eyes then fell on her stomach. "And the baby..."

"No, you will not..." Raine shook her head vigorously, denying his attempt to avoid her again. "You will never hurt us."

It had been weeks since they had any intimate moment like this and Raine knew that Torak had been holding himself back. He was being too hard on himself.

Realizing that she had ignited fire within Torak, pointing out something that he desired, Raine became even bolder. She pulled Torak to her and kissed him deeply.

At first Torak tried to release himself, but when he felt Raine's warm breath against his skin as she traced wet kisses along his jawline, Torak whispered breathlessly to her. "Raine, I don't want to hurt you..."

"You will never hurt me..." Raine whispered back to him. That was the same reply that she gave him when Torak hurt Raine once in the past when he marked her.

With that being said, Torak carried her to their bed.

=====

Raine woke up when she felt Torak's fingers tracing her bare skin. From her collarbone to her pregnant belly, under the blanket.

She wriggled and snuggled closer to him. "Morning..." she said sleepily.

"Morning," Torak murmured. He didn't stop drawing his mindless circles on her skin when he asked. "Are you okay?"

Raine chuckled when she heard that. "I am fine, the baby is fine." And then she opened her eyes and stared at the Alpha mischievously. "Actually, the baby seem to quite like it."

Only then did Torak started laughing along with her.

Chapter 1088: Side story: date a dragon shifter

Raine just gave birth to their second child and Torak just threw a party for the little princess last night, thus almost all the members from nearby packs came to visit them.

After the great war ended, resulting in decreasing their numbers significantly, there were not many packs that were left. It would not be exaggerating to say that sixty percent of the total of the packs under Torak had been wiped off.

It was a great loss for them, but on the other side, they could coordinate with one another more efficiently, since there were not many of them.

Therefore, when last night Torak threw a party for his little daughter, almost all the representatives from every pack came and those people were just enough to be accommodated in this place.

Caleb, like usual, drawn himself away from the commotion, since it was a little bit overwhelming for him. He himself didn't know when he started to act this way.

At first, Caleb would hype the crowd, but then, when everybody was enjoying the party and talking with one another with such joyful faces, all of a sudden, Caleb would feel numb. He would feel empty inside.

And when that feeling came, he would draw himself away from the crowd to find a peaceful corner to will his sorrows away, since he knew the reason for him to feel that way.

Caleb stared at the crowd and watched as all the lycans that he knew, danced with their mates with a big warm smile on their lips, enjoying this moment, being happy for their Supreme Alpha and Luna.

However, here he was, trying to become invisible for everyone around. He didn't want to be recognized, until Bree came over and sat down beside him.

"What are you doing here? Alone?" Bree asked, she stared at the lycan beside her.

The little girl, who unexpectedly was a dragon shifter, now had grown up to be a beautiful woman. She looked beautiful in her purple dress and for this dress, she dyed her hair in the same color.

Belinda, who saw this girl's antics, could only shake her head without knowing what to do with her, since she couldn't get angry at Bree.

Bree was a free soul. Just by looking at her, you could see the wildness and mischievousness that was swirling in her naughty eyes. Well, actually you could see it since she was only a child.

"Why don't you dance with me?" Bree asked Caleb and tugged his hand to stand up, but the Beta was too lazy to be parted with his comfortable sofa and his peaceful corner, so he shook his head and pulled his hand again, making Bree frown.

"Stop being sullen. You are spoiling the party mood," Bree chided. She looked like a mother, who was scolding her son for refusing to socialize with other people. "Now get up."

"Leave me alone Bree," Caleb said, irritated. Because Bree was being very noisy now. He wanted to be left alone.

Bree gave him a death stare that forced the Beta to grumble, but it was effective enough to make Caleb move his a** from the sofa and dance with her.

"See? This is not bad, right?" Bree said when she took Caleb to the middle of the crowd, with all the couples dancing around them.

"This is bad," Caleb was still grumbling, even when he spun Bree and caught her again. "What are you trying to do? I know you are up to something."

There was nothing romantic between them, since Caleb only saw Bree as his annoying little sister and the girl saw him the same way, a grumpy big brother.

Therefore, Caleb could say when Bree was being mischievous and had something brewing in her pretty little head.

Bree didn't answer him, but her eyes skimmed the room briefly and when she saw the person that she had been looking for, her eyes lit up and she asked Caleb to spin her again and danced very close to him, whispering to his ears, but said nothing.

"What are you doing?" Caleb asked in irritation, because Bree just blew some air into his ears. "Stop being annoying."

And only then Calleb saw Stephan entering the room and his eyes locked on the naughty girl in Calleb's arms, as something click in Calleb's head, finally realizing what Bree was trying to do.

"Silly girl, don't get me involved in your love story." Calleb knocked Bree's head lightly, but the girl rested her head on Calleb's shoulder instead, while staring at Stephan provocatively.

"I am upset because he canceled our date last time," Bree whispered back to Calleb.

"Yes, but whatever it was, it had nothing to do with me," Calleb replied, trying to pull away from Bree, but she hugged him even tighter.

"I just want to annoy him back," Bree said sullenly and Calleb rolled his eyes dramatically.

Meanwhile, from the entrance door, Stephan walked into the room and stood right beside Calleb, without saying anything, making the situation even more awkward for the Beta.

Oh please, he just needed some peaceful time and didn't want to get involved in this kind of argumentation between the couple.

"Can I have my girl back?" Stephan asked Calleb in a wry tone, as he glared at Bree, who didn't want to get separated from the Beta.

"Sure, you can have her all for yourself," Calleb immediately said and stepped back from Bree, indicating that Stephan could take her now.

However, the girl refused to dance with him and raised her chin when she walked out of the party dance floor, while saying. "Single like both of you can dance together."

"Single?" The corner of Stephan's mouth twitched when he heard that. "What do you mean by single? Aren't we in a relationship?" He frowned deeply. "What is the matter with her?" He then looked at Calleb.

"Don't ask me, I don't know." Calleb kneaded his temple. "Why don't you chase after her?"

Stephan then shuddered, "The last time I chased after her, she almost clawed me with her sharp claws."

Calleb chuckled when he heard that and shrugged his shoulders. "You are dating a dragon shifter after all."

Chapter 1089: Side story: porridge

Jedrek felt his heart skip a beat when he heard Lilac sneezed for, after God knows how many times. His mate caught a cold.

This was something that upset Jedrek for the fact that Lilac was a normal human. Because human's body was very fragile and was readily susceptible to sickness, and that was what happened right now.

Lilac's temperature broke out in a fever last night and the girl refused to go to the hospital until now. No matter what Jedrek said, she always said that she just needed a good sleep and would be better later.

But, even after the sun hit the horizon and the night had turned into day, Lilac was still fast asleep and there was no indication that her fever would go down any soon. This frustrated the lycan even more, since he didn't know what to do to convince her.

"Lilac, we need to go to the hospital, okay..." Jedrek tried to persuade her once again, but his mate kept shaking her head, complete refusal to go to the hospital. "My little flower, you are scaring me, don't be like this..." Jedrek took a deep breath to calm his wrecking nerves.

If it was his past self, he would already carry the stubborn girl in his arms directly to the hospital, but ever since they reunited three months ago, Jedrek would always try to respect what Lilac wanted or what she didn't want.

Thus, in this kind of situation, he was a little bit flustered because he didn't know what to do and Lilac didn't help at all his flustered self.

"I am all right..." Lilac said in a hoarse voice. She had to admit it, being sick like this was quite annoying, but there was nothing to be worried about because she had gotten used to it. "I just need some sleep."

Jedrek grabbed his hair out of frustration. "You have been saying that since last night." He pointed out the fact. "But, you are still in this condition even now..."

"I am all right..." Lilac tried to sit down, but she was too weak and as soon as she lifted her sluggish body, her head felt dizzy.

On the other hand, Jedrek immediately came over to her and let her lie down again, mumbling in frustration because Lilac was so stubborn. "What do you want? I will bring it for you..."

"I need to cook something for our lunch..." Lilac said in her soft voice and this only made Jedrek growl.

"We can buy food." Jedrek frowned deeply. He didn't want his mate to move around recklessly, especially to go to the kitchen.

"You know that I don't like it." Lilac stared at Jedrek, pouting her lips. "Why don't you cook for me?"

Well, actually Jedrek was not that bad at whipping up something edible, but his skills definitely couldn't be compared to Lilac's cooking skills.

"What do you want little flower?" Jedrek asked softly, he knelt down on the floor, beside Lilac's bed.

Lilac thought about it for a little while and then she told him what she wanted. It was only a simple porridge with shrimp, but the problem was; they didn't have shrimp in the fridge, thus Jedrek needed to go out to buy it.

Going out for grocery shopping, actually was not a good idea, but what else he could do.

"Is it okay if I leave you alone?" Jedrek asked in concern. He looked at Lilac deeply in the eyes and saw her nodding weakly.

"I will be fine, you don't need to worry about me," Lilac said as she closed her eyes. "I will go to sleep and I hope when I am awake, I will have my porridge," she smiled and snuggled into her blanket.

With that being said, what else Jedrek could do except to comply with her wishes? Thus, with heavy steps the lycan walked out of the room and went for grocery shopping.

Jedrek just hoped it wouldn't turn out be yet another nightmare for him.

=====

All women's eyes in the grocery shop were fixed on a man, who looked very aloof and mysterious, standing near the seafood aisle.

This man looked out of the place because of his features, as if his whole appearance was a contradictory element to his surroundings.

How could someone as handsome and godly looking as this man could be in the fish section in this grocery shop? Where mostly only women would occupy the place?

On the other hand, the said man, who was none other than Jedrek, was trying very hard to ignore the intense gazes that those women were actively throwing at him.

The look in their eyes that could tell him that he was a big catch and they would like to eat him whole if they were given a chance.

Fortunately, with the scary aura surrounding the lycan king, no one was able to make a move on him. He looked like a dangerous thing that you could only appreciate from afar, but couldn't be touched or else, you would be the one, who had to suffer.

More or less, that was how Jedrek looked like for the outsiders.

This was also one of the reasons why he was very reluctant to go to public places without Lilac. Because as a supernatural creature, their looks would be exceptional if one wanted to compare them with normal humans.

"Can you make it fast?" Jedrek complained when the young woman who took care of the shrimp that he wanted deliberately slowed down her work, making him wait longer than necessary.

"Oh, okay... okay..." The young woman stammered, but her eyes were glued to Jedrek with passion. She didn't even want to hide her intentions and this only made Jedrek growl in a low voice.

That was not the only thing that happened, because when he was going to pay for it, the cashier even slipped a paper with her number to him.

"You dropped this," Jedrek said as he gave back the paper to the cashier, whose face reddened after hearing what he said.

She took back the paper and lowered her head until Jedrek disappeared from that grocery shop, with her heart thumping wildly.

Jedrek grumbled and threw the shrimp into the car, before he drove away from that place.

But, it didn't stop there, when Jedrek finally reached the apartment building and took the elevator to go to Lilac's floor, he was stuck with a woman, who didn't stop staring at him and was daring enough to initiate a conversation.

And after a few pleasantry words, she finally asked what she really wanted to know.

"Do you live here?" She asked curiously. "I never saw you before."

Of course, because Jedrek would always leave and return in his beast form.

"Yes, with my wife," Jedrek replied out of politeness and could see how the woman raised her eyebrows skeptically.

"You have a wife?"

"Yes, and ten children."

"But, you don't have a ring on your finger," she pointed it out.

"Instead of a ring, I got a tattoo of her name," Jedrek replied proudly.

The woman's eyes widened in surprise.

=====

"This is amazing," Lilac said as she enjoyed her shrimp porridge. "See? It is not that hard to make this porridge. But, why do you look so tired?"

Jedrek sighed when he heard that. "A lot of things happened."

Chapter 1090: Side story: one more round

It had been two months since Hope returned to this realm to stay beside Kace again.

The two lovebirds looked amazing next to each other, but always left the other people uncomfortable, since they were to be fed up with the public displays of affection that the couple served them often.

Actually, Hope was a little bit annoyed with the way Kace was now treating her, but seeing the lycan looking all happy while fulfilling all of her wishes. And in the end, Hope couldn't say anything to reprimand him.

However, there was one thing that Hope knew very well that Kace really wanted, but she kept pretending to act like a fool, though in her heart, she knew he felt anxious and was about to go crazy.

Kace wanted a child badly.

That was very clear from the way how dearly he loved children. He would even bring up children vaguely every time they finished doing it.

This made Hope blush as she didn't know how to respond to him, thus she tried to act cool, though what she felt was the other way around.

Ugh. This was an embarrassing thing to talk aloud, but from what Hope knew, and with her knowledge on the shape shifter's gen, like the lycanthropes, she understood that they had a strong seed, which would get you pregnant easily.

However, it had been two weeks, but Hope didn't think she felt any signs of getting knocked up or whatsoever.

Hope wanted to ask him about this, but like what she thought earlier; it was an embarrassing thing to say out loud.

She just wanted to know whether it was a normal thing? Well, as far as she knew, you would start to show just when you are only a week pregnant and start to feel the signs of having another life inside your stomach in a few days only. This was because pregnancy for shifters only lasted for four months and a half, so it was relatively fast if you compared it with human's pregnancy.

But, until now Hope didn't feel anything!

What happened to her?! Or was something wrong?!

Was this because Hope was no longer a guardian angel and the mate bond being broken, hence there was no connection between them?

No. No. No.

Hope was pretty sure that was not the case. Maybe, all of this was only in her mind. Maybe, even Kace didn't think too much about this.

Maybe this was only her, who had high hopes for herself.

Well, since she didn't have a family of her own and you could say the same for Kace, thus she wanted to make her own little family as soon as she could...

The thought of having Kace's baby left Hope cringing, but that very thought also warmed her heart greatly.

Therefore, Hope went straight to the point this time...

"Why didn't I get pregnant yet?" She asked out of curiosity and impulsiveness just when both of them laid on their bed, under the soft gaze of the moonlight out there, which could be seen from behind the window glass.

"What?!" Kace almost got choked by his own saliva when he heard that and turned his head around very fast, too fast until he felt like he had snapped his own neck.

Hope blinked her eyes and asked him innocently, "Well, we have done it a few times already, but why didn't I get pregnant yet?"

Kace grimaced when he heard that and then stared at Hope timidly, who was lying beside him. "Why do you think that way?" He asked softly.

This time, it was Hope, who was confused. "I thought you wanted a child."

Kace's brows creased deeply. "Of course, I want one..." then he added carefully. "But, I don't think that I ever mentioned it to you..."

"No, you have never mentioned it before, but the way you would talk about children and how you usually treat them, showed me what you want..." Hope mumbled as she explained. "Actually, you did mention it once, but I don't think you remember it, since you only talked about it offhandedly."

Great! Kace totally forgot that he ever said something like that.

"Did I?" Kace asked in a soft- whisper like voice, which caressed Hope's ears gently. She then snuggled closer in Kace's arms and buried her face against his chest.

"Don't you want a child?" Hope asked again, her voice all muffled.

"Of course, I want a child," Kace said immediately, not letting Hope have another bad thought regarding their current topic again.

"But, why don't you let me?" Hope knew that this topic was a little bit sensitive and steamy, but she needed to know what was Kace's reason for this.

Kace looked hesitant when he had to answer her, but then he said the truth. "Because, I thought you were not ready."

Hope frowned and then looked at her mate questioningly. "Why do you think in that way?"

Kace shrugged his shoulders when he heard that question, "I don't know... maybe because you are too young to be a mother and you still need to enjoy your time..."

"I enjoy my time with you..." Hope flipped her body and now she used her elbows to support her upper body, so she could stare at Kace. "And I want this, not only for the two of us..."

Hope said her last sentence in a whispery voice that made the blues in Kace's eyes darken further.

And then there were no more words that needed to be shared between them when the soft glare of the moonlight became the witness of the passionate love that the two of them had for each other.

=====

The light from the moon glistened on Hope and Kace's bare skin as they laid back on the balcony and let the wind caress their bodies.

Hope looked like a little kitten when she snuggled closer to Kace and nuzzled his neck. She yawned sleepily and was about to get up to walk toward their comfortable bed, but Kace held her back.

"Lay down," he said and wrapped her in his arms once again.

"Let's go back to the bed," Hope said, yet Kace shook his head.

"Stay still."

"Why?"

"To make sure that I got you pregnant," Kace grinned foolishly.

"What?" Hope chuckled when she heard that.

"Or maybe we can have another round." Kace wriggled his brows suggestively and Hope laughed out loud when she heard that.

=====

"You have to check again, maybe that test kit is not working properly." Kace urged Hope to take another test early in the morning.

"Kace, stop it." Hope was annoyed because Kace was being beyond irrational. "We just did it last night."

"Oh, my seed is very potent. You must be pregnant by now." Kace didn't want to hear any refusal from his mate.

"I just did the test and the result said negative." Hope was not really worried about this, because it completely did not make sense if she indeed got pregnant by now.

"But, I bought a new one. Try this." Kace gave another test kit to Hope, which she threw away, while glaring at her mate.

"No. I need time to pee." Hope folded her arms defensively.

However, Kace came up with a brilliant idea. "Or, maybe we can try another round again."

"No, my body is in pain." Hope refused immediately his suggestion and got off the bed, before Kace could reach her.

"Come on, Hope. Just one round."

"NO!"