

## The Love of a Lycan #

*Chapter 111 - METANOIA (7)*

"What is shadow warrior?" Raine asked curiously as she bit her sausage. Lidya kept mentioning about shadow warrior since last night even Dorian was a shadow warrior.

Lidya blinked her eyes in disbelief. "Seriously, now I become more curious about you Raine. What kind of place Fulbright City that you lived. How you don't know about all of this?"

"I..." Before Raine could explain herself, Lidya had cut her words.

"You really don't know about this?" She emphasized her question by waving her hands, indicating the world around them.

"I don't know about shadow warrior and guardian angel, or this city..." Raine said in low voice. "But I know a little bit about Lycanthropes."

Raine wanted to say that she wasn't totally clueless with all these supernatural creatures, after all she had been seeing them for almost half of her life, but she had never heard anything about shadow warrior.

"Hmm..." Lidya folded her arms and assessed the girl in front of her. "It will be difficult..."

"I will try to understand it..." Raine promised she would try her best to grasp the information, she had prepared herself to perceive this bizarre situation.

"No, Raine... the situation here not only needs your understanding." Lidya shook her head. "It will be hard for you to understand this, especially for you, who have never lived in this kind of environment."

What was so difficult to understand? Raine was so ready to hear no matter how absurd the explanation was, she had lost her sense of rationality now, everything seemed possible for her, even if Lidya was going to say that she could grow wings, she would believe that.

Lidya sighed and finished her bread before she continued her explanation. "Shadow Warriors are our protector. I have told you before that our kind had

been hunted for decades by many creatures that wanted to gain more power by sapping our energy, shadow warriors are here to help us."

Raine nodded, at this point she could relate why Lidya and Lucas always said that the number of their kind has decreased.

"But, we need to do a favor for them in return." Lidya bit her lips and looked at her surroundings. "I will tell you after you finished your food."

Raine frowned, why she suddenly became mysterious? Looking at her plate that was still half full, she felt like she didn't want to eat anymore.

Lidya changed the topic to the common one as she explained to Raine that she would get her turn to help in the kitchen and Lidya would ask to the person in charge to put Raine in the same schedule as her, so she wouldn't feel uncomfortable, of course Raine was so grateful for Lidya thoughtfulness.

After Raine finally finished her food, half of the hall had emptied.

"We will buy something nice for you to wear." Lidya grabbed Raine's arms and led the way out of the Great Hall.

Both of them carefully climbed down the stairs and walked toward the bustling street.

Small houses like Lidya's were on their left and right covered with the white snow like cotton while their chimney peeked from their roof.

Raine didn't pay attention on this before, but now she could see how breathtakingly beautiful the view before her eyes. This place was simply like a painting of a dream rural city.

"Lidya, you said you will explain about the shadow warrior..." Raine reminded Lidya softly, she had been eager to hear what was that since Lidya became so secretive about that topic.

"Oh, right." Lidya slowed down her pace and looked around her. "Let's sit over there..." She pointed at the bench near a river.

Raine followed her and sat on the shore of the river, strangely, even though they were in the middle of winter, but the river didn't freeze, as if the weather didn't have any effect on it.

"The river..." Raine bemused, looking at the calm stream on the surface of the water that was glistening under the dim of the sunrays.

"This is Apricity River. This river will never freeze no matter how cold it became." Lidya explained.

"I have never heard something like that." Raine stated.

Lidya chuckled. "Maybe you don't know about this also, but winter in this place will last forever." She said.

Raine almost hurt her neck when she turned to look at Lidya in shock. "You mean the winter is the only season here?" Where is her? North Pole? The only place that would snow all the time.

"Yes." Lidya nodded. "But, it is a good thing for us actually, because it will prevent some creatures to come closer to our border."

"Border?" Raine reiterated.

"Like you see, we are in the middle of winter, but at the same time, only a few miles from here, it is the dessert of no return." Lidya pointed at the direction of the dessert, where Lucas had found her there. "Not many creatures could survive from the dessert, you and Lucas were very lucky."

Lidya stood up and approached the river, took off her gauntlet and washed her hand on the river.

"Come here and try this." She waved at Raine to follow what she was doing.

Raine could feel Lidya's reluctance to explain further about the shadow warrior, but Raine still followed her and removed her gauntlet to feel the water from the Apricity River.

Surprisingly the water was warm, it felt so good when her cold skin touch it, but Raine still not forgot about the question that she wanted to ask.

"What the guardian angel has to do in return for the protection of shadow warrior?" Raine looked at Lidya as she witnessed her expression slightly dim.

"Ourselves." She said curtly.

Raine not sure if she understood with the Lidya's answer. "What do you mean with ourselves?"

"Raine..." Lidya smiled gloomily as she touched Raine's hands. "Please look this matter on the bright side."

"What is it?" Raine was uncomfortable, she wanted to pull back her hands, but didn't want to hurt Lidya's feeling, thus she just sat there with frown.

"Many creatures want to sap our energy and once it happened, we are nothing, only a soulless body. The condition that worse than death itself." Lidya sat closer to Raine, still holding her hands. "But, the shadow warriors are here to protect us. We have been living shoulder to shoulder with them for decades, that way we can survive."

"But, what your kind give to them in return?" Raine didn't want to be distracted from her main concern.

"Our kind, Raine, our kind." Lidya corrected Raine's words. "You are one of us."

Right, if Lidya claimed Raine was one of them, which probably was true, then she has to follow the rule here, whatever it was, in order to survive.

This fact alone made Raine became nervous. What was the rule? Why they have to give themselves?

"What did you do for them in return?" Raine stared at Lidya's right in her eyes, she could feel fear started to crept in her heart.

"Every guardian angel needed to be paired with shadow guard." Lidya said it carefully as she assessed Raine's expression. "That is not all bad, I promise!" She hurriedly explained and raised her hand to make a promise sign.

But, Raine had pulled her hand from Lidya's grasp in surprised.

*Chapter 112 - METANOIA (8)*

"Raine, you see it for yourself this morning. Dorian is so nice to me, he cares so much about me." Lidya tried to make Raine to see the other side of this revelation.

"Lidya, being nice and care are not equal to be together." Raine disagreed with that logic, it was so rare for her to voice out her opinion.

Lidya shook her head. "We have to be together with someone one day, thus why aren't we with someone who can protect us?" She shook her head again. "No, actually we protect each other."

Raine didn't interrupt her, she let her to talk more about it.

"Once we bonded, we become stronger, the both of us." Lidya emphasized it, as if that was good news.

However, Raine couldn't see what Lidya saw. Her heart was reeling with one word. "Bonded?"

"Ah..." Lidya cleared her throat awkwardly. "You know, once the elder has pointed the shadow warrior, he will be with you forever and then... after that... you will copulate..."

Lidya didn't feel good to explain this thing to Raine, it was a common knowledge for them, so this wasn't something that needed to be explained.

"Once you bonded, you will become stronger." Lidya quickly jumped to the result. "Both of you."

Yet, the result wasn't Raine's concern, but the process. How was that possible? What on earth there was such a rule?

Even though, Raine slept with Torak, but they did nothing. Torak had never done something that made her uncomfortable. He would just hold her in his arms.

And now, Lidya said she would be with completely stranger and ... bonded?

"No. Lidya, I can't do that!" Raine shrieked, she abruptly stood up. "I... I have mate..." She said, hoping Lidya would understand.

Torak would never let this happen.

Lidya frowned this time. "We don't use word 'mate', Raine. That words for Lycan."

Raine shook her head. This happened so fast. "But, I am his mate!" She almost shouted at her, how many times she had to say this until they could understand?

"Raine." Lidya stood up and followed Raine's steps as she grabbed her shoulder. "Torak Donovan, the Lycan is cursed by the Moon Goddess herself for not having a mate for his entire immortal life, and for us... a guardian angel will never relate to something like that, Raine. That's not for us."

"Lidya... You don't understand..." Raine took two steps back.

"Raine, don't ever mention Torak's name in front of other people..." She warned her. "That's for your safety. Lycanthropes are not welcomed here."

Raine was overwhelmed, there were a lot of words that roamed around in her head that she wanted to voice out, but she didn't know where she should start. Her heart felt so tight because of agitation.

"Raine, you can't run away..." Lidya hurriedly grabbed her hand as she turned around, just about to escape. "The shadow warriors are everywhere, once you get caught, the punishment will be severe." She looked around her, afraid if there was someone else heard their squabbles.

"Lidya..." Raine struggled to make Lidya released her tight grip. "I can't do that..." She was on the verge of crying now.

"Raine, I have told you before, the things are not as bad as you are thinking now." Lidya tried to assure her. "Look at me and Dorian? We love each other now, can you see? It is not that bad."

"No." Raine shook her head adamantly. "If you have to live under their rule and if both of you benefit each other, but why they are the one who control you?"

Lidya bit her lips, but didn't let go of Raine's hands, she held them tightly.

"What happened here!?" A rough and hoarse voice sounded from behind Raine as heavy steps approached them. "Lidya, what is it?"

Lidya hurriedly pulled Raine closed to her and whispered. "Please don't struggle, or things will get worse."

"It's nothing Lex, everything is fine." Lidya said, fortunately Raine cooperated and no longer struggled from her.

The man named Lex tilted his head as he tried to see Raine. "I have never seen her." He pointed Raine with his sharp chin.

"She is the one that I have reported last night." Lidya replied.

Now, all make senses for Raine why Lidya was eager to go even in late hour to make a report about her.

"Oh, I heard that, another guardian angel." Lex nodded. "This is a rare case, I thought all the guardian angels are here, I don't know if there is your kind still out there."

Lidya nodded. "I am surprised too."

"You better bring her to the Elder immediately, we need more help with the border." Lex said begrudgingly as he remembered the wizard hunter had crossed their border again.

"Yes, yes. I will take her to buy dress to wear to the place of Elder." Lidya could feel Raine glared beside her, but she ignored it.

Lex also realized Raine's reaction as he was squinted his eyes at her. "Tell me if you need anything." He said to Lidya, but his eyes didn't leave Raine.

"Sure." Lidya smiled sweetly until Lex turned around and left.

"Lidya... you set me up?" Raine asked incredulously once Lex was not within earshot. "How you can do that? I thought..."

"Raine, don't think bad about me... this is for your own good..." Lidya frowned. "As guardian angel, we don't have place to go, nowhere is safe except here."

Raine didn't believe with what she heard. "If you go out there and those creatures sap you energy it will be a big deal, but if you stay here and used by them, it's not worth to mention?"

Raine felt it was totally wrong and for the first time she talked for herself.

"No, but we can live in peace here, they provide us with protection that we need, this is a compromise." Lidya released her grip on Raine's hand. "Come with me and we will pick something nice for you to wear to meet your shadow warrior."

Raine shook her head.

"Or, they will drag you there and the end will be the same. You can't escape Raine, they are everywhere." Lidya's voice softened as she pulled Raine into a hug. "You will love your partner eventually."

Raine didn't answer that, her mind was thinking about the possibility to escape from this place, but where she had to go? How she could find Torak? This place seemingly miles away from Fulbright City.

But, when she thought about it again, she could think about that later, the most important thing now was to run away from this city.

"Let's go." Lidya wiped tears from Raine's cheek. "Don't cry. Your partner will love you." As she said that, Lidya brought her to continue their trip to the place where she could find fine clothes for Raine to wear while talking about the love story between Dorian and her.

Raine didn't listen to that as she busy to see her surroundings, looking for a chance to escape.

However there was one thing that both of them didn't realize the moment they walked away, the Apricity River, which never froze, suddenly glistening as ice formed on the surface of the river, crept slowly and spread like the wind.

#### *Chapter 113 - METANOIA (9)*

Lidya chose a long cream color dress with overcoat in the same tone, there was weasel fur around Raine's neck, so she would be warm enough.

Raine's mind wasn't there when she went on the process.

Raine refused to talk to Lidya, ignoring her along the way to the place of the elder, she was good at it as she had been mute for eight years.



After realized her attempt to make Raine talked to her failed again and again, Lidya was silence in the end.

The Elder place was the biggest building after the Great Hall in this city.

It was two floors building with the color of amber, but because of the snow, the building looked very bright as it glimmered under the warm golden sunlight.

There was another staircase to reach the terrace and Raine should be careful, so her long dress wouldn't get wet, yet she didn't care and let the edge of her dress wiped the ice beneath her feet, made blotches of wet on its wake.

"Raine, I know you are angry with me, but please trust me, I have been in your position now and everything is going well." Lidya held Raine's shoulder, before they entered the building.

Angry? That word sounded strange in her ear. When the last time she was angry? She had been abused for years and didn't have privilege to be angry.

But now, she was angry?

"I don't believe it was only yesterday that I just woke up and felt very grateful to meet someone like you, but now you do this to me." Raine was utterly disappointed.

"Raine... I have tried to delay this ceremony..." Lidya was really trying to make an excuse for her to delay this thing last night when she reported Raine's condition. "They are in need for extra help, there was a battle with Lycanthropes last month and we suffered great loss. We need more shadow warrior who have been together with the Angel."

"You don't tell me everything don't you?" Raine looked at Lidya with expression that devoid from any emotion. "What else will happen to me?"

"After a quick ceremony which implies you are together with the appointed shadow warrior, you will go to his place..." Lidya's expression was gloomy.

"That is why you said that I will find my own place?" Raine recall Lidya's words this morning.

The sun had officially set, as the weather was getting cold.

"You will have to do it sooner or later, Raine..." Lidya tried to justify her action.

"I really don't know what this place or its rule and suddenly you pushed me to be together with someone that I don't know?" Raine raised her voice. "Just because I can't run from this place and I stand in front of you now, I willingly accept this!"

"You stay then you have to follow the rule here." Lidya averted her eyes from Raine.

"Can I go?" Raine asked sharply.

"You will not have a chance to even reach the border, just say that you can run from here, where will you go? If you think this rule is immoral, then you can see what those creatures out there could do to you." Lidya said sternly. "I bet you had never met them, that's why you thought our rule is awful, but once you meet them and..."

"I had met them." Raine cut her monologue icily.

It was true that Raine had met them, she had met them as they had been trying to kill her and turned her insane.

"What are you doing here, Lidya? The elders are waiting inside."

Suddenly the door opened widely and Dorian's figure appeared from behind the door, he looked at Lidya and then Raine.

"There is a problem here?" He stretched out his arms toward Lydia and pulled her close to him.

"No." Lidya shook her head as she tiptoed to kiss his chin. "Raine only nervous." She said.

Dorian was still hostile toward Raine when he looked at the girl in front of him. "Go inside immediately, we don't have time to waste."

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As if being together with someone and have s.e.x with them wasn't a big deal for anyone there, the so called ceremony was a mere introduction for two people, witnessed by ten elders who was sitting on tall chairs.

Raine's partner was Aeon.

They had met in the Great Hall this morning.

When Raine the Elder called his name and his figure appeared from behind massive golden door, Raine's heart skipped a beat.

Her whole body exuded rejection when he stood very close to her. She didn't like the closeness between them.

The feeling was totally different when she was with Torak.

On top of their tall seats, the ten Elders talked interchangeably, but not even a word that Raine could discern, her mind was elsewhere.

When Aeon stretched out his arms to accept her hands, Raine took a step back and avoided him.

But, Lidya was behind her to push her back, prevented her from taking another steps back.

Seeing Raine's reaction, Aeon didn't even furrow his eyebrows and patiently waited for her to come to him.

When Raine still rejected Lidya's advice to go to her partner, one of the Elder stood up, his nose flaring. "Your action is not appropriate!" He pointed his bonny fingers at Raine. "If you keep refuse this union, we don't have another choice except to punish you!"

The Elder's voice boomed inside the big room, echoed and reverberated throughout the wall.

Raine clenched her fist beside her body and stilled her heart that she wouldn't yield, if it was before, she would cower away and tremble in fear.

However, the reason this time was totally different, the situation was different.

In the past, though that was an act and verbal abuse, but it had never been s.e.x.u.a.l, yet now she was forced to be bonded with someone that she had never met!

It felt absurd and Raine refused to yield!

"Throw her to the dungeon until she learns her wrongdoings!" The other Elder shouted and gestured to the other man to apprehend Raine.

At that remarked, unexpectedly Aeon moved forward and wrapped Raine's tight fist in his big palm that felt warm.

"I will punish her myself." With that being said, Aeon walked out of the room with Raine tag along with him.

The room spun around Raine, when Aeon took large steps to go away from that place. They went down the stairs and walked through the white corridor before they arrived at the entrance door of the building.

He stopped for awhile to check on Raine, the girl stared back at him through her obsidian eyes, there were fear and stubbornness in them.

"I don't want to go with you." Her voice was so small, barely a whisper, but the way she said it, she was resolute with her decision.

She didn't want this union.

"If I bring you back, they will suck your blood dry." Aeon's voice was horse and hard as he tightened his grip on Raine's wrist.

Ignoring her futile struggle, he dragged her away from the building.

The cold wind brushed Raine's cheeks, forced her to close her eyes as the small particle of snow felt like tiny needles scratch her open skin.

The snow has fallen again.

Raine raised her arms to cover her face from the wind when Aeon grabbed her another hands and put them beside his waist, kept her hands there.

A second later, Raine felt the wind wasn't as strong as before, but the howling sound was still in the air, because of the distraction had gone, she opened her eyes slowly.

As soon as she opened her eyes, her vision was blocked by the view of Aeon's back. He walked ahead of her while keeping her hand inside the pocket of his lambskin overcoat to keep them warm.

He blocked the wind for her silently and made it easy for Raine to walk by following his footstep.

They walked like that until they arrived at the house that Raine assumed was his house.

Aeon led Raine to the terrace of the house and released her when he searched for the key house. "You will die within an hour in this weather." He said when he saw Raine glanced at the dark road, thinking about escaping from him.

Raine took a step back from him as she looked at Aeon in alert, Aeon was still searching for the key house from pocket to pocket before he found it on his shoes.

But, before he could open the door, Raine had decided to ignore Aeon's warning and dashed toward the heavy fallen snow.

She just reached the yard and stepped on the snow when her feet sunk until around her ankle, gave Raine hard time to move forward.

The weather didn't help her either when she tried to walk away. She thought, she would have high chance to escape than before, because who would stay on guard in this weather.

However, not only she couldn't move forward, but the harsh wind pushed her back until she sat on the wet, cold snow.

At this point, she was shivering because of the cold.

Raine bent her knees and supported her body in attempt to stand up, but it was so hard to even stand straight.

In that case, how come Aeon could walk leisurely like nothing happened?

Raine clenched her chattering teeth and curled her fingers, she felt them froze as the result of the direct contact with the snow.

Not only that, Raine also couldn't open her eyes.

It wasn't an hour, she felt she could die within minutes in this condition, suddenly she felt someone lifted her trembling body and brought her away.

It must be Aeon as he was the only person near her.

"I have told you, you won't be able to escape in this kind of weather." Aeon's deep voice sounded in Raine's ears.

*Chapter 114 - METANOIA (10)*

"I have told you, you won't be able to escape in this kind of weather." Aeon's deep voice sounded in Raine's ears.

The sound of the door swung open sent a musky scent to Raine's senses.

She opened her eyes when the harsh wind no longer scr.a.p.ed her skin and the sound of it muffled behind the door, she jumped from Aeon's arms and fell miserably on her back as her head hit the wall behind her.

She let out a soft grunt and rubbed her head, though it was deadly cold outside, but inside the house it was rather warm, even the floor was warm.

"Are you okay?" Aeon stared at the girl in front of him expressionlessly. He didn't try to touch her again and wisely kept the distance between them.

Raine's eyes flew opened and looked at him warily.

"Come, you need to change your wet clothes." Aeon stretched out his hand to help her to stand up.

However, Raine's eyes drifted from his open hand to the closed door.

"I don't mind if you want to try it again." Aeon shrugged his wide shoulder as he tossed his overcoat aside.

"I don't want to be with you." Raine said in low voice, she was afraid and more importantly she didn't want to... do that 'thing' with him.

She thought her words would trigger him, but unexpectedly Aeon only shrugged and walked away.

"You can do as you please today as I am too tired to deal with you." Aeon stood up and disappeared at the corner of the room, left traces of water along the way.

Raine was befuddled, he just left her like that?

Raine turned her head and stared at the door, crawling, Raine reached the door and tried to push it open.

It was locked.

Of course, why he would be so generous to leave Raine with the door opened? She stared at the door and sat down on the floor while leaning her back against the wall behind her, listening to the howling wind that was muffled by the door.

Waiting for the storm to pass...

After that, she would try again.

She should escape when she had chance before...

Now, she regretted it. She shouldn't listen to Lidya that she wouldn't have a chance to run away from this place. She was a liar after all.

Raine was so frustrated with her situation.

She was determined to wait until the storm passed, but Raine was physically and mentally exhausted to deal with it.

Her wet clothes made her shiver with cold as she pulled her legs and hugged them tightly, resting her forehead on her knees.

She will wait until the storm pass.

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Raine opened her eyes, but all she could see was black, the darkness engulfed her with everlasting sorrow.

She raised her hand and couldn't even see her finger, she felt vulnerable, but also familiar with this situation.

She knew someone was there, waiting in the corner of the obscurity, staring at her intensely. She knew he was there.

In the next second or the next decades, Raine didn't know as she lost senses of time, he hugged her from behind, his warm breath brushed the skin on her shoulder up to her neck.

The darkness prevented Raine to see who was he? And what he did to her? But her mind was disarray as she found herself was panting from every touch from his callous hands.

This wasn't right, but she couldn't stop him...

And when his hand caressed her tight and he whispered to her ear sadly. "Mine..."

Raine woke up with start.

Her body was trembling and sweating, even the cold room couldn't give her the comfort that she needed.

Her wet clothes were sticking on her skin uncomfortably, as if that man from her dream was still there, wrapped his arms around her body.

When the faint ray of the morning sun interrupted her thought, a voice from beside her startled her back to the reality.

"Drink this."

Suddenly a mug of warm milk appeared in front of her, covering her line of sight. Raine received it and raised her head only to look Aeon had walked out from the room.

Her last memory from last night was; she was resting her heavy head and, apparently, fallen asleep. However, Raine was inside a bedroom now.

Seemingly Aeon was being generous to pick her up from the floor and brought her to his bedroom, Raine assumed.

Just like Lucas's bedroom there were many dream catcher hung on the wall and the ceiling with beautiful decoration.

However, that was the only thing that beautiful about this bedroom while the rest was like someone had thrown all the items, which was not used anymore, all over the place.

This room was helpless and it would take weeks to clean it up, as the owner apparently didn't have any intention to do that soon.

It was so hard to believe that this bedroom wasn't a storeroom instead.



Raine looked down at the mug that she was holding, it was still warm as she rubbed her hand and the white smoke wafted on the surface of it.

She took a sip or two before decided that she needed to do something with her situation now.

Raine got off from the bed and tiptoed to the door and opened it gingerly, this house was so dark as if there was not any light could illuminate it.

The corridor was narrow with dust along its wall and the musky scent covered the entire house. The sound of clinking metal reverberated throughout the wall as Raine found the stairs and went down.

She found the living room no longer served its purposed as it had turned into smithy, where Aeon was forging an iron, hammering and shaping it. He was making a sword.

This wasn't a house at all, this was his working place.

Raine covered her ears with her palm, because the sound of it hurt her eardrums, yet the smell of musk was still lingering in the air, though it mixed with the smell of the burning metal.

She was amazed by the scene before her eyes, this was the first time she witnessed something like this, the fire was blazing in the space like a fireplace at the furthest place from the room that Raine assumed was where the kitchen supposed to be.

No wonder this place was warm, regardless the how cold the weather.

Realized someone was staring at him, Aeon stopped his work and raised his head, only to find the same obsidian eyes were looking at him, her eyes were still filled with fear and stubbornness, but this time they sparked with curiosity as well.

"Come down here." Aeon put aside the material in his hand and waved his hand for Raine to follow him as he walked inside another room in the first floor while Raine was still standing on the stairs, halfway to go down.

When Raine didn't listen to his order, he turned around and dashed toward her instead. Startled, Raine backed away and tried to go back to the room

upstairs, but Aeon was faster and stronger than her, she just turned around when he had already grabbed her wrist and pulled her to go with him.

Raine struggled, trying to get free from him when he dragged her inside the room and kicked the door closed before he made Raine sit on a wooden chair.

This room was filled with various weapons, they were hanging on the wall, from spear to small dagger, bow and arrow, there were also axes and mace.

This made Raine shiver in fear.

"We need to talk." He pulled another chair for her to sit. "Stay!" He said sternly when Raine tried to get away from him.

Aeon put his legs on both sides of Raine's, pinned her legs so she couldn't stand up or even move as they sat face to face.

This gesture was so intimate and Raine didn't like it, she tried to push his legs away from her and even punched his thigh, but the thick fabric of his made, probably thwarted all of her effort, because Aeon didn't even flinch.

"Stop it!" He growled now, more irritated by her action.

"I want to go." Raine said in very low voice that Aeon almost missed it, she indeed stopped her attempt to punch his thigh, but she leaned her back against the back chair, trying to be as far as possible from him that Aeon thought was ridiculous, knowing her legs were pinned between his.

"I heard about you from Lidya." Aeon ignored Raine's demand. "I know you are not familiar with the rule in this city, but once the Elder pointed us to be together than you will only be with me."

"That's against my will." Her voice slightly louder, but she still refused to see him in the eyes.

"Your will?" Aeon squinted his eyes and stretched out his arm to pinch Raine's chin between his fingers. "Guardian Angels have never talked about will." He said in deep voice, scrutinized the creatures in front of him, who stubbornly averted her eyes.

"Then I am not one of them!" Raine snapped and finally glared at him, but tears were brimming in her eyes, threatening to fall.

Aeon frowned, every creatures had their own characteristics, but disobedience wasn't one of Guardian Angels' trait. This confused Aeon, because as far as he knew there was no Guardian Angel had ever refused their partner, though they were not willing, but they wouldn't show it openly like what Raine was doing now.

"Many people had confirmed this matter." Aeon said in matter of fact tone. "They will not get it wrong."

*Chapter 115 - METANOIA (11)*

"Many people had confirmed this matter." Aeon said in matter of fact tone. "They will not get it wrong."

Raine shook her head and swatted his hand to release her chin from his fingers, but he caught Raine's hand and kept it on her laps, make her totally helpless to move.

"Let me go!" Raine yelled and shook her head vigorously as her black hair turned messy. "I am not one of them! I..." She wanted to say that she was Torak's mate, but then she remembered Lidya's warning and the hostility that these people here had for lycanthropes, gulping down the rest of her words, Raine resumed glaring at Aeon.

"Probably because you grew up in a different environment." Aeon mumbled to himself, trying to justify Raine's behavior.

"Why it is hard for you to believe that I am not one of them?" Raine asked, agitated and frustrated, she cried in desperation.

Of course Aeon didn't believe her words, the guardian angel has their unique way to identify their kind and now Raine was saying that she wasn't one of them in this kind of situation, wasn't that only mean she made up that reason to get away from him?

"We will know that after we bonded." Aeon said it flatly.

However, Raine turned stiff as her pale face turned even paler when she heard the word 'bonded'. She shook her head vigorously, but this time Aeon released her chin and let her messy hair covered half of her face while she cried.

"No, please... I don't want that..." She begged him, because she knew if he really wanted to, he could just easily do it, there was no way Raine could overpower him.

This time Aeon released her hand, but kept her legs between his to prevent her to move carelessly, and let her covered her teary face while sobbing, her small shoulder were trembling.

"Only then we will know what you are." Aeon said it as if the process of bonding wasn't a big matter for him.

"No!" Raine lowered her hands and began her attempts to move Aeon's legs from her, this time she didn't just hit him with her small fist, but also trying to scratch the back of his hands that wasn't covered by his clothes as he didn't wear his gauntlet.

Aeon only looked at her in dismay, he had never seen a guardian angel was so determine on something and became violence like this, he had never recalled there was a guardian angel that even tried to hurt their attacker, their kind was simply too kind for their own good.

But, actually just like what the moon goddess had said; she wasn't merely a resurrection from a guardian angel, but as she rebirth into human world, she was having their trait as well.

"Enough!" Aeon swatted Raine's hand.

And it happened in a blink of an eye, when Raine suddenly felt the room was spinning and made her dizzy, in the next second her back fell flat on the ground with Aeon above her, pinned her down.

Raine's eyes opened wide with pure fear exuded from every part of her body, out of instinct she raised her hand to push him away as her hands fell on his sturdy chest, she wriggled to get free from beneath him.

Torak!!!

She called out his name in her mind again and again, but this time, he didn't come...

"No! Stay away from me!!!" Raine cried out loud, she shut her eyes, didn't want to see the man above her.

For some reason, Aeon stilled. He stayed in the position that wasn't far enough for Raine, but close enough for him to study her expression.

He touched the tears that rolling down on her cheek with his finger and brought it to his lips, to taste it. Aeon frowned.

She was crying.

But the problem was, Guardian Angel had never cried. They don't have that complex feeling.

"You are crying." Aeon stated the fact as he wiped the tears from her cheeks. "Don't cry..." He said in coaxing tone.

He waited until her sob ceased down and she opened her eyes, because Aeon didn't make any move except wiping her tears away.

For some reason, when Raine had slightly calm down, his touch was familiar. She felt it somewhere, yet she wasn't able to recall the moment.

Once Raine opened her eyes, she found Aeon's black eyes were staring back at her, but there was concern in them, he was worry.

"Don't cry..." He shushed her.

The room was so quiet and only filled with Raine's muffled cry along with Aeon's coaxing words every now and then.

"AEON!"

Someone called out Aeon's name along with the sound of his fist pounding the door.

"AEON! WE HAVE TO GO NOW! THERE WAS A LYCAN NEAR OUR BORDER!"

He pounded the door again and again, from the sound of it, it felt like he was about to tear down the door instead.

If every creature has their own characteristic, then the word 'uncivilized' could describe them perfectly.

"I WILL GO! WAIT AT THE GATHERING POINT!" Aeon growled above Raine. He didn't like to be disturbed, especially at time like this.

Afterward, he looked at Raine beneath him, his expression was hard to read, but a moment later, he released her and stood up while the girl was crawling to the furthest part of the room, hit her back against the wall behind her.

"I will return soon." Aeon stared at Raine for a few second before he turned around and left her alone inside the room.

The clicking sound notified Raine that he locked the door room.

But, that was the last thing that she concerned as she felt her heart reeling by the mention of Lycan. There was a lycan came to their border? Was that Torak?

Her heart beat fast for the possibility, he found her here? If he was here, than she would be fine...

=====

"What is it!?" Aeon snapped at Ron who had called him while they were running toward the border. "They are attacking us!?"

The snow was like a flash of white light as they run faster to the border.

"No! They come to demand something." Ron said, his voice laced with disgust.

"How dare them to demand something from us!?" Aeon fastened his pace and arrived at the border of the Village.

There, they saw a lycan was about to shift back into his other form, so he would be able to communicate with them, he was Lyrus the three Donovans' most trusted person.

If he was there, then the matter must be something serious.

All this time, the relationship between the shadow warriors and those lycanthropes couldn't be said in good terms.

Those lycanthropes had never hunted the guardian angel, however if they saw one was roaming around without protection, out of their village, they would kill them without hesitation.

They despised the guardian angel for their weak and delicate nature, for them, their kind was like a bug, an eyesore. Therefore, the shadow warrior was there to protect them and built the border around the village of angel in order to keep those lycans away.

Lidya's words weren't totally lie, because it was true, if the guardian angel stepped out their feet from the village, they were very vulnerable for attack as if the target sign was placed on their head.

"WHAT DO YOU WANT!?" Ramez, the leader of the shadow warrior asked in his raucous voice. The tendrils of shadow swarmed around his body, ready to attack or defense himself if needed.

They were not called as the shadow warrior if they didn't have this magic in them, to conjure shadow for their fighting weapon.

There were an angry and low growl from the lycans behind Lyrus and sound of something heavy on the ground as they clawed the snow beneath them, ready to pounce on their opponent.

"We demanded for you to hand over all the guardian angel!" Lyrus's stentorian voice sounded throughout the vast land that covered with snow. "We will give you a day for this!"

"NONSENSE! HAD YOUR DOG BRAIN STOPPED WORKING? DO YOU THINK WE WILL DO AS YOU TOLD?!" Ramez was livid by the crazy demand of the lycan.

"We are not asking, this is an order!" Lyrus said with finality. "Tomorrow we will collect the all the guardian angel from this village!" With that being said, Lyrus turned to his wolf form and howled.

The other Lycanthropes around the area did the same and surprisingly, they had been surrounded by those lycans as they emerged from their hiding

place. While there was only around seventy shadow warrior, there were around two hundreds lycanthropes there.

Ramez and the other didn't like this situation as their shadow grew bigger and darker covered the white snow, as if black tapestry outspread the entire land.

However, there was another long howl and the entire lycanthropes stepped back.

Ramez and Lyrus locked their eyes in deadly way, as if they could kill each other only by their gaze.

That was a warning, a clear warning for those shadow warrior that their number alone wouldn't be able to defeat them. They were surrounded and there was no use for them to retaliate.

With that, the short encountered left great pressure and tension in the air.

This confused the shadow warrior, because those lycan had never interfered with their business before, their last week encounter also because of the wizard hunter had ran toward the direction of the lycan's territory and as hot-blooded as they were, they crossed the border and ignited the battle between the two.

However, aside from that, those lycan had never paid attention toward the guardian angel, so why now they wanted all the guardian angel? Why now they interested in the guardian angel?

"That's declaration of a battle!" Ramez stated.

*Chapter 116 - METANOIA (13)*

What on earth they thought they would give them?!

=====

All the shadow warriors underwent preparation for the impending war. Lyrus's warning wasn't a trifle matter, as he would mean his every word.

Between the preparation, Aeon made time to go back home and checked on Raine's condition.



He remembered that he had locked the armory room and there was nothing she could eat or place for her to lay down inside that room.

He opened the door and walked through the gloomy corridor before he stopped in front of a mahogany door, where he had locked Raine.

He fished out the key from inside his shoes and with clicking sound, he pushed the door open, but before he could step inside the room, he felt a piercing pain stabbed his chest.

As Aeon looked down, he met with Raine's fearful eyes, but there was determination that burnt in them and when he drifted his eyes, he saw that the little girl had stabbed him with the dagger that he had made.

Raine stumbled and trembled upon the thing that she had done, but a moment later, she pushed Aeon aside with all her might.

She gritted her teeth and used her small shoulder to push Aeon, but because of his huge body and many layers of his clothes, he looked bigger as he blocked the entire door, prevented Raine from going anywhere.

After Raine stabbed him, she tried to push him, with all of her strength, yet she didn't budge.

Slowly, Aeon pulled the dagger, without batting an eye, from his chest and tossed it aside, he didn't even flinched when his blood started to smear his clothes and then his thick overcoat.

He stared at Raine, who was slowly stepping back because she couldn't manage to make him moved.

When Raine was about to get a sword Aeon dashed into the room and held her hand, trying to snatch the weapon away from her.

This was dangerous things and she couldn't just play with it.

But, Raine was determined to grab hold of this sword and refused to let it go, she even bit down Aeon's hand and tried to run toward the door when she threw the sword at him.

Unfortunately, she wasn't his opponent and Aeon wasn't in the mood to deal with her.

After Aeon got the sword, he tossed it to the corner of the room. One hand was holding her waist, hoisting up and his another hand caged her hands so she wouldn't snatch anything from there.

Aeon brought Raine upstairs to the room where she occupied last night and tossed her on the bed.

Her body bounced and stumbled before she managed to get her balance and made her attempt to run toward the door.

But, before she could do that, Aeon had closed the door and locked it again.

"Let me out!!! Let me out!" Raine pounded the door with her small fists as she cried. She kicked the door only to end up getting hurt instead.

Raine wailed on the floor because her feet were in pain, the door was like steel! It hurt a lot. She bit down her lips to muffle her scream as her tears started to trickle down her face.

However, not long after that, the door swung opened once again and Aeon was standing there while holding a bowl of food.

Aeon remembered, last night Raine had not yet eaten anything when they arrived at home because she was trying to escape and this morning he had to go to the border because of the matter with those lycanthropes.

And now it was afternoon already, she must have been hungry.

"What happened?" Aeon frowned and put the bowl on the floor, as there was no table inside the room, and approached Raine.

The girl was wailing on the floor while holding her feet, her body scrunched like a shrimp.

"Let me see." Aeon held Raine's hand and tried to see her feet, but she just became stubborn and didn't let him to do it. "Stay still and let me see!" He growled in low voice.

This time, Aeon used slightly forced to keep her still. Raine abruptly sat down when Aeon open her sock and saw her bruises fingers feet.

Aeon's frown deepened, he looked at Raine's face and then the door. "Did you kick the door?" He asked in stern voice.

Raine didn't answer that, but from the evidence before his eyes, Aeon could easily know the truth. She had indeed kicked the door in attempt to runaway.

"Stay here!" He grumbled and walked out the room, this time he didn't lock it. But, Raine also couldn't go anywhere with her aching feet.

Not so long, Aeon returned with white bandage and ointment. He carried Raine to the bed and put her slowly, careful with her feet.

Afterward, he got the ointment and the bandage that he had brought with him.

"Don't move!" He warned her, though he looked very angry, but when he touched Raine's feet, he was very gentle and accommodating, he would stop or caress her feet when Raine whimper the moment he rubbed the ointment on her bruises.

As he was done bandaging her feet, he got the bowl from the floor that he had brought and gave it to Raine.

"Eat, you are not yet eat anything since last night." And Aeon put the bowl on her laps.

Raine looked at the bowl that filled with rice and various meats. "Where are you going?" Raine raised her head and looked at Aeon, who was about to walk out of the room.

"I thought you don't want me to stay?" Aeon raised his eyebrows.

Raine didn't want him to stay, but she wanted to know something, because she couldn't escape from this house and from him.

This morning, that man said there was lycan on their border line, Raine wanted to know that, what happened afterward? Was that lycan... Torak? Or people from his pack?

"I want you to stay." Raine mumbled while biting her meat.

Ignoring Raine's request Aeon turned around and left her.

Though she was disappointed, but she didn't mind to be left alone too. She didn't want him to be near her.

However, not so long, Aeon returned with a glass of water in his hand. He held the glass and waited for her to finish her food.

Sometime in between, he would give the glass to Raine for her to drink and then held it again for her.

"I am full." Raine pushed the bowl to Aeon, there was half of the food that she couldn't finish it, because he had brought it too much.

Taking the bowl, Aeon handed the glass to her. He didn't say anything from the start to the beginning.

"Your wound..." Raine stared at the stain of blood in front of his robe, where she had stabbed him.

"It will heal soon." Aeon didn't even blame her for that, although the shadow warrior didn't have healing ability as fast as the lycanthropes, but they healing ability relatives fast compared to human, moreover, their endurance for pain was high.

"I am sorry, I didn't mean to hurt you, I just want to go out from here." Raine looked down guiltily.

"You can't go from here." Aeon said it succinctly.

Raine didn't say anything for his answer and only played with the glass in her hand.

But, Aeon took it away from her and put it side to side with the bowl on the floor as he stared deeply at Raine.

"You are not like a guardian angel." He stated, he was referring to the guardian angel nature, they were the most calm creatures and wouldn't be so agitated or frustrated, neither they would try to hurt other like what Raine had done.

"Because I am not." Raine blurted out. "I can't be with you." She shook her head. "I don't want to be with you."

"It doesn't mind what you want or what you don't want, the fact is; we are together now." Aeon said in matter- of- fact tone.

Suddenly Aeon had his hand on Raine's neck as he pushed her down on the bed, holding her head so she wouldn't get hurt, while his other hand on her waist.

"What are you doing!? Get off of me!" Raine was panic with his sudden change of attitude, he was being so caring and gentle when he treated her wound, but now he pushed her again like this morning.

Raine even didn't have time to ask him about the meeting with the lycan this morning, that was the only reason she asked him to stay before.

As if Aeon was reading her mind, he spoke above her, but it wasn't something that Raine wanted to hear. "This morning the lycan wants us to give all the guardian angel to them."

Raine's eyes lit up upon hearing that. Was that Torak who had come?

"Why?" Raine only could utter that single question.

"We still don't know, we are still trying to figure out what they want." Aeon said in gloomy voice, those lycan had the upper hand in this matter.

"Was that Torak who came this morning?" Raine asked carefully.

"Torak? Torak Donovan?" Aeon frowned. "Why Torak had to come?" Torak was one of the Donovans brothers, he absolutely wouldn't come for something like this.

He had many great lycan to run their errand. However, if the battle was going to happen tomorrow probably he would make an appearance as they loved to bath with blood.

Tomorrow would be a bloody day.

It wasn't he who came? Or maybe it was Raphael or Calleb?

"Do you know Torak?" Aeon was surprised that Raine even knew about Torak, where she came from and how she ended up in the dessert of no return?

"I know him." Raine said it. "Just let me meet him."

*Chapter 117 - METANOIA (13)*

"You? Meet him?" Aeon's frown deepened. "What are you going to do by meeting him?" Not to mention to meet the Donovan, even to take a step away from the village the guardian angel would think thrice.

"Let me meet him." Raine said stubbornly. "Because I am his mate."

"NO!" Aeon yelled. He thought that was another trick from Raine to get away from him. "You are not his mate! You are mine!" He forcefully hugged her and buried his head on her neck.

Raine was screaming when he did that and tried to push him away, but of course she couldn't overpower him.

"Mine..." Aeon whispered to her ear, didn't even bother with her another attempt to push him away.

The sound of his voice just now, ring the bell in Raine's memory. She had heard that, someone said it in the same way, the same voice as he did...

It was that...

The man in her dream...

The man who had touched her, in her dream...

But, what was this exactly? Or, Raine got it wrong? Probably, it wasn't his voice. After all that was just a dream. Yet, to think about this again, ever since all the absurdity that had happened, she believed everything was possible to happen.

Aeon hugged her tightly under his burly body, but careful not to put all of his weight on her as probably it could crush her.

"We have to do it now." Aeon said to her ear as he started to grab the edge of her clothes.

Raine was panic, when she heard that, especially when his hand was on her waist. She screamed, rejected his touch and his advance.

When Aeon turned deaf ears on Raine's rejection, she cried and bit his upper arms. Raine bit him until she felt her teeth came off and her jaw numb.

Seeing her like that, Aeon stopped his advance and patted the back of Raine's head. "I will not do it, stop biting." He said with a sigh.

Raine didn't listen to him as she kept her teeth sunk on his thick clothes, barely touch his skin.

It wasn't the pain that made Aeon stopped, but it was because Raine's extreme rejection. There had never been a case that the guardian angel refused their mate and fought him.

"I will not do it, so stop it." Aeon patted the back of her head.

The bonded was important for him right now since he would be in a battle with the lycan tomorrow, the bonded would make his shadow stronger. That was one the important part of their union.

Raine realized that Aeon had stopped his action and hurriedly shoved him away, this time Aeon let her to do that and released her body.

She attempted to get off of the bed, but her legs were tangled with the blanket and she fell miserably on the floor instead, her face first.

After the crying, Raine was wailing in pain again, her legs hurt, her nose hurt and she was frustrated to get away from this man.

Out of the blue, Aeon was laughing seeing Raine was scrunching her face in pain.

"Silly." He commented and then helped her to entangle the blanket. "Let me see it." Aeon pried Raine's hand from her face and watched her nose turned red, she was adorable to see.

With tears on her wet lashes and flushed rosy cheeks along with her red nose, Raine was simply amusing.

"Stay here, I will get something for your nose." Aeon walked out of the room and went to the kitchen to get something for Raine.

Meanwhile, Raine was sitting on the floor, grimace every time she moved her face or her legs. Why she became so clumsy like this?

Not so long, Aeon came with wet cloth that had been soaked into cold water. He put it across her face to prevent swelling.

After that, Aeon simply leaned his back against the wall behind him and watched the little girl beside her kept the cloth on her face.

"Tell me the reason why you don't want to bond with me?" Aeon asked after the silence that extended between them.

Raine glanced at Aeon, surprised. He talked about something like this so casually. "That activity wasn't something that you could do with stranger." Raine mumbled.

Aeon didn't give reply for that statement, instead, he stood up and walked out from the room. Once again he left Raine alone.

=====

When the night came, Raine was inside the same room, where Aeon had left her, staring at the window.

When Aeon left Raine, he left the house but kept the door lock. Raine had been trying to open it with all the tools available inside the house, in the end it was only wasting her time while the windows were out of options.

All the windows were barred with metals, it almost felt like in jail, regardless Raine had never been there before, but the feeling was almost like when she was still in the hospital.

When Raine was trying to close her eyes, tired with all of her attempt to leave the house, she heard Aeon's voice. Loud and angry.

He shouted and cursed to someone as they approached the house.

"RON I WILL KILL YOU FOR TOUCH HER!" Aeon hollered when Ron was about to walk closed to the house.

"THIS IS ORDER FROM RAMEZ! YOU IDIOT!" Ron was angry as well.

"GET AWAY!" Aeon barked and there was a lot of noises as the sound of someone fell to the ground could be heard.

"DAMN YOU AEON!" Ron spat more curses.

Raine was sitting now, her expression was alert, this was the first time she heard Aeon was mad, even after she stabbed him and rejected him, he didn't



raise his voice and still treated her, quite, nice... excluded the moment when he pushed her down.

Raine got off from the bed and walked toward the door, opened it slightly so she could hear other voices, who were not as loud as Aeon and Ron.

Apparently Aeon and Ron were fighting over something and except both of them, from the voices that Raine heard, there were other three people who came also as they tried to stop the fight between the two.

"FOR GODDESS' SAKE! THAT WORDS ARE NONSENSE! HOW COULD YOU BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?" Aeon was enraged. "ALL THE CREATURES IN THIS REALM KNEW THAT HE WILL NEVER HAVE A MATE!"

"SO TELL ME WHY THOSE LYCANS SUDDENLY CAME AND DEMAND SOMETHING RIDICULOUS LIKE THAT!?" Ron was livid as well. He has his own partner, his guardian angel and now those dogs wanted him to give her away? What nonsense was that?

Many shadow warriors weren't please with this news as well, they had fought those lycans and knew really well to not cross path with them as much as possible.

The last time they fought they have lost miserably, not only that, many shadow warriors were killed at that time.

They couldn't afford to have a fight with them again, but they also couldn't give what they had demanded.

Giving all the guardian angel?! That was equal with them asking their life straight away.

Raine almost jumped from where she was standing when she heard the door slammed open and there were many footsteps climbed up the stairs.

She scuttled away to her bed and was about to hide under the blanket when the door of the bedroom swung opened.

A shadow warrior was there, standing arrogantly, he eyed Raine with hostility as he made a move toward her.

However, before he could reach her, Aeon stormed inside the room followed by four shadow warriors behind him.

He dashed toward Raine as he knocked Ron aside.

"Her legs were hurt, I will bring him to the Elder!" He growled at Ron and the other shadow warriors, warned them to not come closer.

They glared at Aeon when he scooped Raine in his arms. With her injured feet, she wouldn't be able to walk in the thick snow outside.

"Don't fight me." Aeon whispered a warning at Raine when he saw she was about to try to struggle like usual. "They come for you."

Raine looked at the five angry faces before her and wisely chose to follow Aeon's advice. She wrapped her arms around his neck as he hoisted her up. She shivered when Aeon brought her to walk passed Ron.

"What they want?" Raine whispered when they were going down the stairs. She buried her face on Aeon's shoulder, this was the first time she was so obedient.

"They thought you are Torak Donovan's mate." Aeon said as he grabbed extra cloak, which he wrapped around Raine's body, and also a blanket. "Stupid!" He hissed under his breath when they opened the door to the terrace.

But, that was true that she was his mate, however Raine could senses, this wasn't the right time to boast about that.

"Who else did you say about this?" Aeon asked as he stepped on the snow, easily and walked with Raine in his arms.

"Lidya, Lucas and their younger brother." Raine answered truthfully, she was only talking with them since the first day she arrived here, which only three days ago! How many things had happened only in short time.

"Lidya... Dorian." Aeon hissed their name as if it was a curse. "When you are there, don't mention anything about Lycan, especially Torak. Understood?" He stared at Raine, seeing if she was listening.

It wasn't a good timing to be stubborn.

Fortunately Raine nodded.

The rest of the walk was silence as no one talked, including the five people behind them.

Chapter 118 METANOIA (14)

No one wants to dance with death.

It's scary after all.

-nona (death parade)-

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They arrived at the building, the same building that Raine had entered yesterday with Lydia to meet Aeon.

If she thought about this again, she had just met him less than two days, but seeing from the situation that they were in, Aeon looked more than ready there to defend her from whatever the situation that they were in.

When they entered the building two shadow warriors were blocking their way, and informed Aeon that Raine needed to be put inside the dungeon.

Aeon growled and snapped at them. They were arguing until one of the elders came, and used his authority to make Aeon yield.

"I will be the one who brings her to the cell. She is incapable to walk." Aeon said with finality, this was the last thing that he could do.

At that moment, Raine felt conflicted, she didn't want to be put in the dungeon and being alone there. She had never been in a dungeon, but she knew very well that wasn't a pleasant place to be.

Raine tightened her arms around Aeon's neck as she tried to not say anything about this.

On the other hand, Aeon could feel her stress, and became more irritated to the elder and... Lydia. It must be her who talked nonsense to Dorian, causing words spread around their community, then led them to be in this tight spot.

This stupid matter about Raine being Torak Donovan's mate? At other times, they would just laugh at such statements, but not at times like this. They were close to war.

Every single information was useful, and they needed to take all the precautions.

Unfortunately, this related to his partner. Aeon had just had her, he wouldn't let them take her away easily.

When they arrived in the dungeon, Aeon brought Raine inside the cell and put her on the stone bed that was covered with only hays.

That place was dark and gloomy. The only source of light there was a fireplace that was placed a few meters away from Raine's cell.

When Aeon put her down, Raine subconsciously clutched onto his overcoat, while at the same time looked around the narrow place she was in now with fear on her face.

Aeon grabbed her hand and tried to pry her fingers so she could let him go. But he stopped before he even tried that.

"I will stay here." said Aeon informing the other two shadow warriors that followed them. "You can go!"

Hearing how his decision was final, and there would be other unworthy arguments if they tried to change his mind, the two shadow hunters just locked the cell while Aeon stood still and left inside.

If he wanted to be locked up with the woman, then so be it, as long as the woman was there. She was the priority of their mission after all.

Aeon sat down beside Raine and draped the extra blanket that he brought on her shoulder. Regardless of the fireplace, this cell was cold.

"Thank you." Raine said timidly. She was also surprised that Aeon was willing to stay for him. Despite her rude behavior towards him since they met for the first time.

Aeon didn't respond to her 'thank you' and only closed his eyes while leaning his back against the wall behind him.

However, he opened his eyes the moment he felt something soft fall on his arms and cover his body. He found Raine there, snuggling closer to him as she put the blanket over both of them.

"It is cold." Raine answered Aeon's questioning look. "You will catch a cold."

"I will be fine." Aeon wanted to shove away the blanket and told her to use it for herself, but Raine stopped him.

"This is enough for both of us." Raine said.

With that, they were sitting close to each other, sharing a blanket as the silence between them expanded before Aeon started to talk.

"I was a blacksmith when I realized I am part of the shadow warriors." Aeon said. "People from my previous village told me to come here, because this is my duty to serve the village of angels as a shadow warrior."

"How did one become a shadow warrior?" Raine tilted her head to look at him.

"I don't know how it works, it happened randomly, I guess." Aeon stared back at Raine.

But the girl lowered her head to avoid his eyes.

"I am an orphan, my parents left me inside the forest. Fortunately a witch found me and brought me back to her village, after that she raised me like her own." Aeon kept talking.

Actually Raine was a little bit confused with his sudden story-telling, but she appreciated that.

"I am also an orphan..." Raine said, probably because of the similarity between them, she felt fine to let him know a bit about her. "My parents were killed by creatures, but I managed to escape." She said.

"What kind of creatures?" Aeon asked, there was a sincere concern in his voice.

Raine shook her head. "I don't know what they are, but they were really scary." She recalled the creatures that had killed her parents and shuddered.

"How did you manage to escape?" Aeon kept asking, he liked to listen to her voice.

"I am not really sure." Raine frowned as she tried to remember that dreadful night. "I was bleeding from a wound in my hand, and they apparently couldn't touch my blood, so I used it to escape."

"Couldn't touch the blood of a guardian angel..." Aeon recited the words solemnly. "There were many creatures that couldn't touch the blood of a guardian angel, that's why you are so valuable."

When Raine thought about it again, seemingly that was the case, she had proven that two times.

"That's why sometimes we fight by using your blood." Aeon's statement made Raine look at him in disbelief.

"You... draw blood from all the guardian angels?" Raine couldn't believe it, she thought they were there to protect them.

"We only draw blood from our partner." Aeon stated, and he could feel Raine fidgeted uncomfortably. "I will not do that without your consent."

Raine stared at him upon hearing his statement.

"We would have been bonded by now if I didn't care about that." Aeon said as he pulled Raine closer to him, kept her inside the blanket.

Changing the topic, Raine asked another question. "But, it didn't affect lycanthropes."

"Yes, it is not." Aeon nodded. "And also they don't need guardian angels to help them to become stronger. Because they are already strong by nature."

"The way you talk about them, it sounds like you don't like them." Raine guessed.

"No one really likes them." Aeon admitted. "Not only are they the most brutal of all shapeshifters, but they are also the strongest one. They easily kill any creature that they don't like."

Raine frowned on that statement, she tried to shake the image of Torak killing the lycan.

'He did that to save you'. She reminded herself.

"They burned down my previous village." Aeon said gloomily.

"I am sorry to hear that..." Raine rubbed his upper arms, offering her condolences. "And thank you for sharing your story to me."

Aeon looked down at her and cupped her chin, so those beautiful eyes could look at him. "You said you don't want to be with a stranger." He said, recalling Raine's word earlier that afternoon.

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In the middle of conversation, Raine had fallen asleep and Aeon put her head on his lap, so she could sleep better, her body would get numb if she slept in sitting position.

Raine woke up and startled when someone opened the cell door noisily. She immediately sat down and looked at the man with caution.

they kill me?"

10:05

Raine knew that there would be a battle between the Lycanthropes, and the shadow warrior because He was holding a dagger.

Aeon felt Raine turned tense because of the man's sudden appearance, and held her small body closed to him.

"The elder had decided to go to war with her as the bait." That man nodded his head towards Raine's direction. "And for you, we got information that they will bring Kanima along with them, you know what you should do." That man glanced at Raine with meaningful eyes. "You better bring her out now."

The man left the dagger on the floor as he left the cell and let the door still open.

Raine's eyes were fixed on the dagger on the floor that he left behind.

"What did he mean by using me as a bait on a war?" Raine raised her head and looked at Aeon. "Will they kill me?"

Raine knew that there would be a battle between the Lycanthropes, and the shadow warrior because the Lycanthropes side was asking for all the guardian angels to be handed over to them.

Aeon and the rest of the shadow warriors thought that it was not common for the Lycanthropes to meddle with the guardian angel. Thus for their side demanding something like that, left them a big question.

That was why Lydia told Dorian about what Raine had said before to her and her brothers. That somehow this new-girl-in-town was Torak's mate. It led them into thinking and concluded that those Lycans were looking for her.

Aeon immediately hugged her protectively. "I will never let that happen Raine..."

This time, Raine didn't push him away, and rested her head on his shoulder. "What about the dagger, will you draw my blood too?"

"I will not." Aeon said firmly.

Though the blood wouldn't have any effects on Lycanthropes, and werewolves. But because they got information about Kanima, they would need the blood of guardian angels, it could save time for them when they were in the battle.

But, how could he draw the blood from her when she was shivering in his arms?

Actually at this point, Raine didn't mind it if he drew her blood... she had been through something more painful than that. Regardless, that wasn't a pleasant experience, but if that was something that was necessary to do, then she didn't have any objection to this action.

But, she felt something was wrong... If it was Torak, would he ask for all the guardian angels to be handed over to them? Why didn't he just come and find her, then there was no need for a battle between them...

Were they really coming for her?



"Do anything for them, but never live on their terms and conditions."

-IG: author\_vaibhav\_singh-

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They were in the vast land that its ground was covered with snow, everything was shimmering under the faint light of the afternoon sun.

However, the atmosphere between the two parties that faced each other was deathly still.

While the Lycanthropes were growling and paced their claws on the snowy ground firmly, because what they saw wasn't something that they had asked before, the shadow warriors were equipped themselves with various weapon, which they thought it would be enough in case they have to face those Lycans.

Black tendrils were growing out from the shadow warrior's form as they were in fully alert about the predicament was going to happen.

"What the meaning of this?!" Lyrus was in his human form to make it easier to communicate with the other party. "We ask for all the guardian angel to be handed over to us!" His voice boomed as his canines elongated dangerously.

"We have never had feud before the even a month ago, which we had admitted our mistakes for trespassing your territory, though we lost many brave warriors on our side, but the things that you ask from us isn't something that we could give to you! If the battle that you want, then the battle that you will get!!!" Ramez roared angrily, if their intention to ask the guardian angel related to the trespassing incident, that was too much, of course they couldn't grant that demand.

Ramez's statement stirred up strong reaction from both parties.

The lycanthropes let out dangerous growl that shook the ground beneath them while the shadow warriors engulfed themselves in their shadow, covered their whole body with the black shadow tendrils in order to protect themselves or to attack their opponent.

Whatever it was, the situation would lean toward the worse cases.

"But!" Ramez had not yet done with his statement as he gestured for someone to bring Raine to him. "If this ridiculous demand is happening because Alpha Torak wants his mate back, I will give her and consider this confrontation never happen in the first place!"

Upon hearing that statement from Ramez, Aeon grabbed Raine's arm and hid her behind his back as he glared angrily at the other shadow warriors, who was following Ramez's order to take Raine away from him. "Ramez! This is not what you have promised me!!!" Aeon barked at his leader.

"SILENT!" Ramez bit back, he looked daggers at Aeon and repeated his order. "Bring her here!"

Raine was staring at the distance from behind Aeon's back, to Lyrus, who was standing in front of hundreds big werewolves that were growling and snarling while lowering their front legs, ready to pounce onto the shadow warriors in front of them.

Even though Lyrus was seemingly the leader of the opposite party, but Raine had never seen him, yet if she thought about this again, except from Raphael and Calleb, she had not yet met all the Lycanthropes from Torak's pack.

Her eyes were still looking for the white lycan around her, probably he was hiding somewhere or her eyes couldn't spot him among this white snow. With no avail.

Raine didn't pay attention toward Aeon's struggle to keep her near him, to push back the other shadow warriors who attempted to take her away.

She was glad to see the pack of Lycanthropes because she knew Torak was nearby, however she couldn't cast aside the feeling of uneasiness that she felt now.

Something was wrong with this whole situation.

Torak always said she was his mate and he wouldn't let anything bad happen on her, but until now, Torak was nowhere to be seen. Instead of coming to save her personally, he sent another lycan to deal with the shadow warriors, moreover, if it was her that Torak was looking for, why he needed all of the guardian angel here?

If it was her who Torak wanted, this battle wouldn't be necessary and he shouldn't have suggested it in the first place.

In this rate, something dreadful was going to happen.

Finally, Aeon couldn't stand any longer as the shadow like tendrils coiled around his wrists and ankles, forced him to concede.

"Lyrus! This is not what you promised me!!!" Aeon wouldn't agree to bring Raine to this place if it wasn't because Lyrus had promised her safety, he told him that they wouldn't give his guardian angel over to those spiteful lycans!

"You will not bring her here if I didn't say that." Ramez openly admitted that he was going back on his words.

One thing for sure about the Shadow Warrior's nature was; they would put their people interest above their personal feeling.

For now, the only way they could get away from this mess was to hand over Raine to them, if what Lidya had said was true, that Raine was one of the Donovan Brothers' mate.

In the other hand, Raine glanced at Aeon, who was being forced to kneel down by the other member of shadow warriors. Her eyes were complicated. She wanted to go to Torak, but Aeon...

The shadow warriors managed to muffle Aeon's roar by tying a scarf around his mouth as he kept struggling under the coil of the shadow's tendrils all over his body.

Raine glanced at Aeon one more time before she was guided to stand beside Ramez.

"I will give her to Alpha Torak, but stay away from our village!!!" Ramez's eyes were cold and still as if his expression was carved that way.

However, Lyrus scowled upon hearing that statement. "What nonsense you are spouting!? Mate!? I have never heard Alpha Torak has mate!" He eyed the girl beside Ramez as he assessed her. "Don't you know about the Donovan's curse?! Moreover, why the Alpha is not here to collect her if she is our Luna?" He looked at Raine contemptuously.

Ramez was squinted his eyes and glanced at Raine.

Lidya wouldn't lie about something like this, but Lyrus's words was make senses too.

## **The Love of a Lycan #Chapter 120 - METANOIA (16) - Read The Love of a Lycan Chapter 120 - METANOIA (16)**

*Chapter 120 - METANOIA (16)*

Ramez looked down at Raine, whose height wasn't higher than his shoulder, and asked sternly. "What are you for Alpha Torak?"

Raine glanced at Lyrus one more time before she answered Ramez's question in low voice. "I... I am his mate..." Her voice was barely a whisper, if it wasn't because both parties have unexceptional hearing ability, no one would be able to hear her.

"Nonsense!" Lyrus scoffed. "A weak creature like guardian angel is our Luna?! How dare you claim that position?!"

Raine was startled and took step back because of the menacing growl that those werewolves produced.

"But.... I am his mate..." Raine said stubbornly as she stilled her heart and adamant with her statement.

Torak had told her many times about this and his action proved it countless times, so Raine was certain about this. Besides, this was the only way, which Raine was able to think in this unexpected turn of event, for her to be free from this strange place.

Raine thought Torak would be here and, like usual, he would settle everything then brought her away.

However, even though Raine had said that she was Torak's mate, the lycan in front of her was not convinced, this was the first time also for Raine to meet with Lyrus.

"Alpha Torak's mate? Our Luna?!" Lyrus scowled when he heard that. "I don't remember that Alpha Torak has a mate!" He looked at Raine with derision.

The situation was getting out of hand, while Raine stubbornly claimed that she was Torak's mate, Lyrus was saying with the utmost certainty that she wasn't.

Despite her trembling voice and her body said she was afraid of Lyrus and most of the Werewolves in front of her, but the girl stood her ground with her statement.

"ENOUGH!" Lyrus roared, with his words, Raine almost tripped on her own feet and hid behind Ramez's back, she cowered away.

Upon seeing her like that, Aeon became more aggravated and trying to struggle from the shadow tendrils that coiled his body from his fellow shadow warrior.

"Give us all the guardian angel and we will leave this place without harming anyone, otherwise, you don't want to know about what would happen next." That was a warning and Lyrus meant his every word. "Including her." He nodded toward Raine's direction, who was hiding behind Ramez's back.

"There is no harm by asking Alpha Torak if he is not missing his mate!" Ramez's voice was deep and dangerous as he held Lyrus's gaze. "I know how important 'mate' for your kind! Especially for an Alpha!" He suggested, but his confidence slightly waver by how Lyrus didn't even bother to think about this possibility.

Or... probably Raine was lying...

Ramez glanced at Raine behind his back and watched her lips were trembling with fear, but there was stubbornness in her eyes, should anyone ask about her statement earlier, she would say the same things over and over again.

"I don't need to ask for something like this!" Lyrus showed his canines. "If she is Alpha Torak's mate, so why the Alpha is not here to pick her up?"

"But, you forgot the fact that guardian angel will never lie with their words!" Ramez retorted.

With a nonchalant shrug, Lyrus said in matter of fact tone. "Then, it will be only one explanation." He gave Raine a wolfish smile when the girl peeked

from Ramez's back. "The Alpha is too ashamed to have a mate from your kind. A guardian angel" He said the last sentences with mockery laced in his word.

Guardian angel was strong spiritually, however their true nature to be so softhearted was one thing that those Werewolves despised the most.

Ramez's veins were bulging because of the anger that he tried to suppress.

"Ramez, you are just wasting our time by doing this!" The pitch in his voice was getting higher as he became more impatient. "Give us all the guardian angel now!"

The menacing growl from those Werewolves mixed with the wind and filled the white vast land, everyone was on their verge of tension.

"NO!!!" Ramez roared back, he rejected to obey the order, in spite of the fact that those wolves were stronger and outnumbered them, they refused to back down without a fight, they were warrior of shadow, their warrior's blood couldn't settle with the way they treated them. "Don't make a big mistake because of your ignorance. If this girl is really your Alpha's mate, you will doom to make this move on us!"

The agreement between the shadow warriors and the guardian angel had been around for long time.

"Your leader truly wants to ashamed your kind by spouting nonsense like this." Lyrus was squinted his eyes, but a devilish smirk rose on the corner of his lips. "Fine. I will give you what you want."

With that being said, his eyes turned misty.

Raine knew that kind of look because Torak would always be like that when he communicated with the other Lycans and werewolves through mind- link, something that only them that could understand.

She watched as one of the werewolves ran on his four legs toward the other direction and not returned until a few minutes later.

During that period of time, Ramez and his shadow warriors as well as Lyrus with his werewolves, were quiet, yet the tension was still in the air. This was suffocating enough to make one hard to breathe.

"We have the answer that you want!" Lyrus scorned, he paused to see the slightly change on the expression of the shadow warrior. "The Alpha said to kill whoever claims to be his mate! There is no way he will accept a weak creature such as guardian angel as his mate!"

The statement from Lyrus made uproar from both parties. The werewolves made an earth- shattering snarls as their canines elongated.

"Aeon take her away." Ramez said his order in low voice as his expression hardened.

With that remark, the shadow tendrils from Aeon's body loosened.