

The Love of a Lycan #Chapter 230 - ETERNAL LIFE - Read The Love of a Lycan Chapter 230 - ETERNAL LIFE

Chapter 230 - ETERNAL LIFE

"You were in my celebration day, you were in the castle, you met my parents, you saw me, you fought the wizard hunter..." Torak mentioned all of it calmly. "... I just needed to add a little bit imagination and you admitted my words are right."

Raine was flabbergasted, how he could think that way? And she admitted easily.

Torak chuckled when he saw Raine defeated expression. "I have seen a lot of dirty things, my love. Schemes, lies, plot and ploy, so I don't want anything like that between us. If you can't tell me, I will figure it out on my own, but don't ever lie to me." Then he added. "Because I will not appreciate it, whatever the reason."

Torak's expression turned serious, it was so rare to see Torak gave that kind of face in Raine's presence

"I think even if I want to lie to you, I will not be able to do so..." Raine muttered, not to mention lying to him, she even couldn't keep this secret.

"No, my love. It's totally different things. If you want to lie to me, it means you don't trust me enough to know the truth, but if you want to keep things secret from me, you have your own circumstances."

"I will remember that..." Raine smiled brightly.

"Good." Torak reciprocated the smile as he tousled her head. "I will be very disappointed if you lie to me."

Raine could sense the warning tone that laced in the way Torak spoke to her and it made her shuddered slightly.

When the lunch time came, Torak close his laptop and glanced at the baby that smiling on Raine's sketch book while pumping his little fist.

"Do I look that adorable or it's just your subjective point of view?" Torak tilted his head as he stared at Raine. He loved the way she blushed.

"I just draw it based on what I saw." Raine tried to defend herself.

"So, you depict me as an adorable baby." Torak said shamelessly and stood up to walk over to Raine.

Raine also stood up and wrapped her arms around Torak's neck while saying. "My adorable baby."

His mate's words made his beast purr in delight when he heard that. No matter how small the act was and how insignificant the words were, as long as it came from Raine's lips that showed affection toward him, Torak would always be pleased and happy.

"Alright, what do you want to eat?" Torak placed a kiss on her forehead.

"Can we eat at the place where my parents always took me when I was child?" Raine asked carefully. "I don't really remember it, but it is near my old house. Is it okay? Because it's quite far from here."

"If you want to eat there, let's eat there." Torak decided and took his car key while he mind linked his Beta.

[I will go out with Raine.] Apparently it would be lunch for both of them only.

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Torak had visited Raine's house when she went missing for the first time, so he knew the place, thus Raine took this time to take a short nap.

She just felt it now that she was quite exhausted by that traveled back and forth of the time, and despite it was only two minutes in her real time, but for her, she had spent two days in the past that filled with nothing but nerve-wrecking event.

Only when she felt safe with Torak beside her with the slow song from the radio, the exhaustion and sleepiness greeted her and she fell asleep without knowing it.

Seeing Raine who was falling asleep, Torak reclined the seat so she wouldn't hurt her back, sleeping in that position.

When they arrived in front of the worn out Raine's former house, which almost looked like a ghost house, Torak saw something from inside the house, but it disappeared as fast as it appeared, as if Torak was only seeing things. action

He couldn't get down from the car to check on it and left Raine alone, so he didn't think much of it and sped the car to the restaurant that Raine had described it for him.

Raine still remembered the name of that restaurant, she just forgot the exact location, so with asking a few people, Torak managed to find the restaurant that they were going to.

Fortunately the restaurant that Raine mentioned was still open even after eight years had passed. It seemed the business was growing fine in this area.

"We are here..." Torak said as shook her shoulder, trying to wake her up.

After a few attempts, Raine finally opened her eyes and rubbed her face.

"Is that the restaurant that you want?" Torak pointed the building across the road where he parked their car.

Raine took a look at the building. The name of the restaurant was the same, 'Lucky Star Restaurant', only the building now looked bigger than the one in her memory.

"I think it is the restaurant." Raine turned her head and looked at Torak. "Let's go, I am hungry." Raine said eagerly as she unbuckled her safety belt and jumped out of the car.

Afterward, both of them walked across the street and entered the restaurant.

This restaurant was so clean and all the tables and chairs were in one row that faced the street while behind them was an open kitchen where they could see how the food was cooked.

Because the lunch hour had passed, there were no many customers there and when one of the waitresses saw Torak and Raine she took them to the table at the corner.

Because Torak didn't familiar with the food there, so Raine ordered the food for both of them.

"It's so different..." Raine said while looking around the entire restaurant. "I hope the foods still have the same taste..."

"Time passes and everything changes." Torak stated.

"What you will do when I am no longer alive?" Raine asked. "After all I don't have eternal life like you do."

Without them knowing, there was someone in the far distance captured this moment.

Chapter 231 - TORAK'S WOMAN

"What you will do when I am no longer alive. After all I don't have eternal life like you do." Raine said it sadly. "I will grow old and you will stay like this."

Torak stretched out his hand and caressed her side face. "The guardian angel has eternal life too." He said calmly.

It was true that most of the supernatural creature would have eternal life of they would have the life span that much longer than normal human.

Raine was elated when she heard about that, but then she lowered her head in disappointment. "But... I am also a human."

"Yes, that's why, we still need to figure things out first before we came into conclusion." Torak concluded.

Serefina had mentioned it before, while her body was human, her soul was the soul of guardian angel.

Torak has to admit it now that Serefina has more knowledge about this than he had, thus, no matter what Serefina had done and how hateful her comments were, the fact that Torak needed her to find more things about Raine, couldn't be denied.

As long as the witch didn't cross the line and kept his mate safe, he would endure it. It seemed there were a lot of things to discuss with the witch once she woke up and in better condition.

"You meant, there is a chance for me to have a long life like you?" Raine beamed to imagine her life with Torak.

"Yes." Torak caressed her head and kissed her forehead. "There is a chance for that..."

There is a chance for that, but... there is a chance that she will die like any other normal human being.

That was the last sentence that both of them didn't speak out loud because they didn't want to ruin this moment and the food, which came not long after that.

With the food on the table, the topic about eternal life seemingly had forgotten, but deep in Raine's heart it still bothered her, so did Torak.

It would turn into disaster when he found out if his mate couldn't live an eternal life with him. After centuries he had waited for her, finally the moon goddess fulfilled what she said and if she was going to take his mate away again after Torak could taste a breeze of heaven from her, he would turn this world into living hell.

The moon goddess didn't need to bother with the devils, as he would put those devils into ashamed for what he would do if he lost his mate.

"May I know something?" Raine asked carefully after she swallowed a chunk of fish meat that Torak had deboned it for her.

"You can ask anything." He replied. action

This place is in outskirts, thus no one would expect the famous CEO from Donovan company would have his lunch there with a young girl, thus they could eat quietly.

But the thing that they didn't know and Torak miscalculated was the fact that he had been in the spotlight recently and how human's curiosity could overcome everything.

"May I know where are your parent now? are they still live in the castle?" Raine asked gingerly, she was afraid this matter wasn't something that Torak wanted to talk about.

However, Torak answered her without any changes of expression. "They had been missing after the great war." He said.

"Missing?" Raine stopped her spoon mid-way to her mouth as she put it back down. "Someone kidnapped them?" She was surprised with her own idea.

Torak chuckled and grabbed her hand, which was holding the spoon and brought it to her mouth, so she could continue to eat and stopped gawking. "No. I don't mean to brag, but after the great war, Lycanthropes are the strongest creature in this realm. I don't think other creatures would be able to kidnap them."

"Maybe it was something like conspiracy... you know, when your own people... hmph!" Raine was forced to stop when Torak stuffed a piece of chicken b.r.e.a.s.t onto her mouth.

"No, they left on their own volition." Torak stopped Raine from her wild imagination. "They left a letter for us."

"A letter?" Raine leaned forward as she was getting more curios. "What it said?"

"Not much, it only said; because everything had settled we will leave the rest to the three of you to take care of." Torak repeated what his parents had written to them.

And when Torak didn't say anything again, Raine blinked her eyes in disbelief.

"Only that?" She asked.

"Only that." Torak reiterated her words.

With that, Raine was deep in thought as she stared at Torak blankly. "Maybe they want to take a long vacation after the stressful war?" She mumbled.

Upon hearing that Torak laughed heartily as he nodded his head. "That makes sense."

It was a rare sight to see Torak was so carefree and laughed that way instead of his usual dominant demeanor and cold nature.

The man, who was hiding behind the shadow captured those moments with trembling hands, he almost assumed the man inside the restaurant wasn't Torak Donovan, the CEO of Donovan Enterprises Holding inc, probably he

had been following a wrong man or the man that he had followed got switched in the middle of his way here.

But, that was also impossible, because a man like him was hard to find in common with others.

Regardless of that, the most important question was; who was the girl with Torak Donovan? She actually managed to make the stone- heart CEO laughed like a normal human being.

When he was in deep thought, the sound of his cell phone startled him. He cursed under his breath before picking up the call.

As soon as he said 'hallo', the person from the other end, talked rapidly with enthusiasm, that must be something important as the man, who was holding the camera, was dumbfounded and looked at the couple inside the restaurant, talking intimately with each other.

"This will be big!" He exclaimed.

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Three days passed uneventfully.

However, on the fourth day after Torak visited the restaurant near Raine's old house, big news suddenly appeared in all media.

"Torak!" Raphael burst into the Alpha's office room with annoyed expression.

He knew this sort of news would come to the surface one day, since Torak and Raine were often being in public, but still, the Beta thought this was too soon and abrupt. There must be someone who had moved all the media this way.

However, that wasn't the thing that Raphael concerned the most, the real problem was because the headline of the news.

It mentioned that Torak Donovan, the CEO of Donovan Enterprise Holding inc, who was known by his ruthlessness when it came to execute business's matter and the most desired bachelor, actually dated a young girl who was far below his age and rumored still underage.

"I know." Torak averted his eyes from the laptop in front of him as he watched his second in command was fuming mad. It was very rare to see Raphael lost his cool, as he was always collected in every situation.

But, apparently this news had made him lost his nerves.

Regardless the fact that the news had not yet released, but they still had another way to know it beforehand.

"What do you know?" Raphael was squinted his eyes. He didn't remember that he had said something. So, how on earth he already knew?

"About the news." Torak leaned his back against the backrest of his seat while intertwining his fingers. His blue eyes darkened a few shades.

"You already knew?" Raphael felt his brows shot up in disbelief. Sometime he wondered that Torak actually didn't need any help and would be fine with his own, as he seemingly knew everything even the thing that Raphael didn't know it yet.

"Yes, I have insider." Torak said in low voice. "It's Haco." He mentioned the name of the perpetrator of the commotion that would happen tomorrow.

"Expected." Raphael nodded and sat down across Torak's seat. He knew his Alpha has many minions that he had put in his enemies territories.

Yet, every time Torak knew something before he did, it still made him depressed. After all, Raphael was his second in command, he felt useless if the Alpha kept doing this.

"So, what do you want to do? Should I call Jared and suppress the news like before?" Raphael suggested.

It had happened before, when the first time Torak met Raine and they were trapped inside the hotel by the newspapermen the moment they were about to return to their own territory.

At that time, they had ordered Jared to clean up the mess that Haco had made, thus Raphael thought Torak would do the same thing.

However, Torak didn't agree with that suggestion immediately, he was in deep thought.

It was already six in the evening and the gloomy night out there complimented the darker mood that Torak felt right now, the dangerous aura that emitted from the Alpha's was prominent.

A thick silence stretched inside the office room and Raphael didn't dare to interrupt Torak's train of thought.

This uncomfortable situation lasted until Torak's phone on the table rung and the light lit up to show the caller id.

Upon seeing the name on the screen, the layer of ruthlessness in Torak's eyes slightly ceased down. Raphael didn't need to guess who was the caller.

"Yes, my love?" Torak's voice was so soft and calm, it was a contradictive of his behavior a second ago.

"Why are you not home yet?" Raine complained and said her next sentences in a whisper. "I miss you..."

Having ability to have a remarkable hearing ability, allowed Raphael to hear everything, as he heard his Luna sweet voice.

"There is something that I have to take care first, but I will go home now." Torak said as he stood up and gestured for Raphael to follow him.

"Oh, alright..." Raine cheerful voice could be heard as she bid him goodbye. "Take care on your way home."

"I will." Torak said with smile on his lips.

And then the line was cut off.

"I will tell you later about what we should do in this matter." Torak replied to Raphael. "For the meantime don't do anything."

"But, the news will appear tomorrow morning. Once it published the damage will be harder to be fixed." Raphael said, they didn't have much time if they didn't want this news blasted the whole country because the effect of this could backfire at the Alpha.

"Stay put." Torak replied curtly as he walked toward the car. When Raphael was about to go to the driving seat, Torak opened the door first. "I will drive." He said.

With that Raphael sat on the shotgun seat and let the Alpha drove them home.

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The Alpha drove the car with breakneck speed, as they arrived twenty minutes faster.

The moment they arrived, Torak gave the car key to the guard as he strolled inside the house with Raphael followed behind him.

And as soon as Torak opened the door, his sight was covered with black as he felt his body was being hugged. Torak chuckled and reciprocated the hugged with the same affection.

"I am sorry, I am late." Torak whispered to her ears, as he felt she shook her head.

Following behind Raine was Torak's third in command, Calleb. He jogged from upstairs with wary etched on his face as he approached the couple.

However he stopped himself a few meters away and scrunched his eyebrows by the sight of his Alpha and Luna.

"Eww! Can you do that later?" He whimpered, seeing Torak and Raine was being affectionate. "Spare my heart please!" He grumbled.

"Get yourself a mate." Raine turned to look at him and then chortled. "So, you can be affectionate with her!" She hugged Torak's waist tighter.

"Oh, please! Can you give me the Alpha for two minutes please? There is emergency that I need to tell him." Calleb rolled his eyes dramatically.

"If you want to tell him about the news tomorrow, don't even bother to do that, he already knew." Raphael walked past Calleb and informed him casually.

"Really!?" Calleb's eyes grew wider, he thought he would be the first person who break the news for them. "You told him? So, what we will do?" He started to talk without stopping.

"Torak has known before I told him!" Raphael shouted from the kitchen.

Seeing Calleb was talking something about some news, Raine became curious and lifted her head to look at Torak. "What news?" She asked softly.

"So, what we will do?" Asked Calleb, he looked at Torak with eagerness.

Calleb needed some action or something badass, because his days with Raine were so peaceful. Painting drawing, petting the rabbit... painting again, drawing again and watching movie, he felt any longer than this he would gradually become a kitten rather than a wolf.

But, like usual, no one was willing to answer his questions.

"Can I talk to you about something my love?" Torak lowered his head and looked at Raine in the eyes. His blue eyes were like a surface of a frozen river in the winter, still but no one knew how the stream beneath it.

Raine nodded her head, of course she would love to hear anything that Torak wanted to say.

With that, the couple left to heading to their room, leaving Calleb with his curiosity.

"So, what we should do now?" Calleb frowned because he didn't have anyone to talk to. "Hei! Ralph!" Therefore, he went to the kitchen to bother the Beta about what their Alpha had planned for this.

Calleb liked to look after Raine, but the serenity almost killed him.

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Torak was hugging Raine from behind. They stood facing the glass door to the balcony, watching the droplets of water rained down the earth as the storm brew in the gloomy sky.

"What is it?" Raine whispered- asking, her curiosity gnawed her heart when Torak kept his mouth shut, though he said he wanted to tell something to her thirty minutes ago.

"I am thinking..." Torak said while spacing out.

"And...? What are you thinking?" Raine prodded. She really wanted to know what was it.

"Whether to tell you or not." Torak said with grin, he nuzzled Raine's neck, the spot where Torak supposed to mark her.

"That is ridiculous." Raine swatted Torak's arms that rested on her stomach playfully, but she liked the way Torak kissed her shoulder. "Why don't you just tell me?"

Torak didn't reply to her immediately, but instead of answer, he asked a question. "Can I ask something from you my angel, if you don't mind?"

Raine blinked her eyes when she heard this, it was so rare for Torak to ask something from her. Before, he had asked for Raine to not fear him.

And now, she didn't fear him, she loved him.

So, what it could be now?

"I will never mind if it a request from you." Raine turned her body and faced him. Her handsome beast.

Raine looked deep into his beautiful blue eyes and his perfect feature. It was hard to believe that a man like Torak really loved her, as she felt herself lacked of every aspect.

Raine felt that she wasn't a beauty, a very smart girl, didn't have an outstanding talent and didn't have a strong leadership like how she viewed a Luna should. She compared herself to Diana, Torak's mother, and felt ashamed of herself. She was just so- so...

Once again, her self- conscience bothered Raine.

Hence, what else she could do to feel useful for Torak if she didn't try her best to fulfill his request? Regardless, Torak wouldn't think that way, but Raine couldn't help but seeking for her worthiness for him.

"You can reject it if you feel you don't want to do it." Torak said with seriousness that made Raine became even more curious about what was the thing that Torak wanted her to do.

"What is it?" Raine narrowed her eyes. She felt herself tensed up.

"If I said it, remember to not force yourself if you think, you couldn't do it." Torak reminded her. Raine was about to nod her head to agree with him when Torak held her chin. "Listen to me first before you answer."

Raine blinked her eyes and waited for Torak to talk.

"I don't want to force you to do something that you don't feel comfortable, but I think this is the right time." Torak released her chin and tucked her hair behind her ears while his other hand traced her jaw line...

"What is it?" Raine liked the spark on her skin every time Torak touched her and at this point, she was entranced by him, drawn into his blue eyes and willing to do anything to make him proud of her.

Torak stopped for a moment before his husky voice sounded in Raine's ears when he said it clearly. "I want to introduce you as my woman."

Raine's obsidian eyes flickered with surprised as her brows formed a furrow. "To who...?" She asked carefully.

"To everyone alive, to every creatures that walk on this earth and to every single soul in this realm." Torak said solemnly.

The feeling was almost like Torak was going to propose Raine.

Raine was flabbergasted and didn't know what to say, as if the words in her head was being evaporated.

In Raine's silence, Torak continued his words. "I want to make a grandiose birthday celebration for you, instead of eating with only the four of us. Will you accept that?" Torak kept his unperturbed eyes on Raine's reaction.

Yet, except from shock, he had not yet seen a rejection from her. Her lips slightly parted and then she closed them tightly before she bit them anxiously.

Torak let his words sunk to her understanding, thus he didn't force her to answer him immediately. He let her to take her time.

"You can think about this over dinner, okay?" Torak suggested, Raine's reaction was within his prediction, as long as she didn't reject the idea immediately it meant she was considering it.

"Okay." Raine mused.

Torak knew this was too abrupt, but this would happen sooner or later. Since he was given the opportunity to do it, so why didn't he use it as best as he could?

Raine had changed a lot since the first time he found her and this was only a matter of time to bring her out to the spotlight.

While Serefina had taken a part to make her stronger by finding out her origin and learned about her power, Torak wanted to show Raine that in this world, wasn't only contain with good or bad, as there would be always plot hid in 'good' or 'bad' along with ploy.

There would be various stratagems around her that she must face it.

Torak loved her innocent and naivety. He wanted to keep her that way, but he came to conclusion; keeping her that way wouldn't help her to survive in this world.

In any case, her ignorance would harm her and her kindness would be used by others.

Raine ate without really enjoyed the food that passed her throat as her mind was elsewhere, roaming around thousands of possibilities and her fears.

This was the quietest dinner that they have had so far and Torak didn't even complain when Raine didn't finish her food on her plate, it was obvious to see that she didn't have the appetite.

Somehow, Torak regretted that he brought the topic too fast and ruined Raine's mood over the food.

When the dinner had done and both of them headed toward their bedroom, no one was talking.

Only when the light was out and Torak thought to mind link Raphael and made a call for Jared to deal with Haco about the news, Raine rolled her body on the bed and crept closer to him.

She nuzzled her face against Torak's chest and murmured. "If they knew I am with you... they will come after me..." Raine stated.

In that case, she wouldn't have the same peacefulness anymore. The thought of being a normal college student would be too much.

"Yes." Torak wrapped the blanket for both of them.

"I will be the center of attention..." Raine hated it to be the center of attention, every time it happened, she found herself fidgeting uncontrollably and started to make nervous gestures, which wasn't good to see.

"Yes." Torak replied. He pulled her closed to him.

"Those women, who likes you, will start to accuse me of stealing you..." Raine frowned with that thought. Calleb had told her two or three things about how women always surrounded Torak like bees eager for nectar.

They wouldn't mind to attack each other if necessary, though Torak wouldn't even spare them a single glance on them, more so appreciated their action, yet it happened often.

"How can you steal me when I give myself to you willingly?" Torak answered solemnly. "You will be protected from them." He caressed her head lovingly.

And as the darkness engulfed them tightly, Torak wouldn't be able to see the blush on Raine's cheeks when she heard that.

Afterward, Raine didn't give Torak another question as she kept silence, deep in thought.

"You don't need to force yourself to accept it." Torak reminded her. "Just like what I have told you before... but, I will like it to announce to all the people that you are mine." He tried another way to persuade her for taking this arrangement.

"Will you be happy if everyone knows about me...?" Raine asked in low voice, unsure if she wanted to hear Torak's reply.

"I will be more than happy, my love, to be able to claim that you are mine in front of the public." Those words were true, Torak would definitely feel that way.

Raine was flustered by Torak's words, but she was sharp enough to relate the conversation between Torak and Caleb this evening. "Torak, are you in trouble that required me to show up?" Raine asked gingerly.

"There is nothing to worry about..." Torak said, but his voice was laced with a little bit of reluctance.

Raine caught that and pondered to herself.

Meanwhile, Torak felt bad for manipulating his own mate, but Raine needed this little push.

At this point, Torak really wanted to laugh and mock himself, because with this method, he felt he wasn't any different from the witch, though he was worse because he didn't even spare his own mate and manipulated her like what he did to the other people.

There were these contradictions;

Torak loved his mate without doubt, but he wanted her to become stronger and could protect herself, but he was also couldn't bear to see her getting hurt, then by getting hurt was part that she must face.

His mind was conflicted.

"I will do it..." Raine said in low voice, barely a whisper.

She knew this decision would change everything that she had planned in her mind for her college life, but life didn't always turn out the way you want it to. Raine had learned that in hard way.

Moreover this time Torak had asked her generously and Raine didn't want to disappoint him. After sometime everything would pass, right?

"Are you sure?" Torak held Raine's chin and lifted her head to face him, regardless the lack of the light, Torak still could see the outline of her face and touched her soft skin.

Now Torak felt restless because Raine had agreed readily.

This was the first time he was so unsure about something or he couldn't decide what exactly he wanted.

Actually, if Raine agreed with his suggestion, various plans had formed inside Torak's mind, but he had to eliminate few of them because it could harm Raine in the processes.

"Not only that, those people will also dig up your past memories and wanted to know more about you." Of course Torak would try his best to not let the information about Raine's past was revealed, but since the exposure on Raine would be so big, there would be some affect too.

Raine bit her lips and nodded her head, she knew, she couldn't avoid it. After all, all of those were her past.

"I am sure." Raine's voice was slightly louder this time as if she wanted to find courage in her own words. "Let's announce it in my birthday."

Kissing her forehead, Torak made up his decision, as he mind- linked Raphael.

[Ralph. I need you to prepare something.]

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As expected, the following day's news brought turmoil in all over media.

The comments on line were talking no other than the girl in the picture inside a restaurant, a mask party and in mall.

All of the pictures were taken candidly and showed the intimate affection and interaction between Raine and Torak.

Torak's name was on every people' lips and also on the top of the search engine.

However, while the outside world was in tumult, here, inside the extravagant house in the most elite location for multi millionaire.

A certain girl was holding her beautiful bunny while sitting inside the green house, listening to Calleb, who has been reporting to her about the progress of the situation.

Yet, he still couldn't cope up with the latest news.

"Raine, don't you know if you are going outside alone, you will be devoured by those jealous women out there." Calleb said dramatically. "What actually Torak was thinking when he made this decision for you?"

"He thought what best for me." Raine grinned at the Beta and took another carrot to feed the bunny as it munched it happily. "You said it yourself before that Torak would never harm me."

"Yeah... I know..." Calleb drawled his words. "It just... it never crossed my mind that he would announce your relationship to the public all of sudden and you actually agreed with that. Time passes very quickly"

Chapter 232 - THE ALPHA'S MATE

Raine lifted her head from the bunny on her laps to look at Calleb and grinned. "Yes... the time passes very quickly." She reiterated Calleb's words.

"You know what? The first time I saw you, even the bunny on your laps is braver than your old self." Calleb nodded at the white bunny that munched the carrot carelessly. It sure got a little bit fat under Raine's care.

Raine chuckled when she heard that. "Yes, I think you are right... I don't even dare to see people in the eyes."

"You have worked hard to become better." Calleb patted Raine's head.

Raine, without doubt, was his Luna, but Calleb always saw her as his little sister, who died two decades ago because of rogue attack. They have the same timidity when it came to socialize with stranger.

"Thank you for always takes a good care of me." Raine said it gratefully.

Though they would always squabble over trivial things, like siblings, but Calleb was the second person, after Torak of course, who always made her comfortable to have him around her.

"Gah! What with this mood!" Calleb threw his hands in the air and grumbled. He clearly didn't like a melancholic situation and heart to heart conversation, as it didn't suit his style. "Have you seen the building and all those fancy decoration for your birthday?" Calleb changed the topic.

Raine slightly cringed when she heard Calleb's question.

It had been four days since the news with a big headline; Torak's woman, broke out and it didn't cease down even a little bit after days, then tomorrow as a respond for the big news about Torak's woman, Torak actually would announce the birthday celebration for his woman, a girl in this case.

Instead of denying the news, Torak validated it as the actual fact.

Of course this news tomorrow would shake all the media online and offline, and even sent bigger waves of shock to all the people in business and entertainment industry.

The preparation for Raine's birthday party was still under process and the extravagant of it had already been caught by the media, yet they still didn't get clear information regarding the purpose of the party was held.

"No." Raine shook her head. "I leave everything to Torak to make decision." She slightly down when Calleb reminded her about the upcoming celebration.

Raine left everything for Torak to handle because she didn't even know what she wanted or expected for her birthday celebration.

The original plan was for having a simple dinner with Calleb and Raphael after that, Raine would ask her 'gift' from Torak. Actually it was a request to be precise.

"You should see the place by yourself. You will surprise!" Calleb said it with enthusiasm, but when he saw Raine grimacing, he took back his words. "Or maybe not."

"I am sure, I will surprise." Raine said sarcastically.

"You will get used with all the attention of those people, like how you had overcome your fear, this one is only another obstacle." Calleb said those words wisely, it was such a rare occasion.

"I don't need those people when I can get Torak's, I will be more than happy." Raine stated cheerfully.

But, Calleb laughed out loud and startled the bunny in Raine's laps as it jumped down and scurried away.

"I am sure Torak's wolf will wiggle his tails ecstatically if he heard this." Calleb uttered between his laugh.

"You scared the bunny." Raine slapped Calleb's shoulder with annoyance. "Calleb, can I ask you something?"

"What is it?" He asked after his laugh ceased down.

"Do I look... beautiful?" Raine blurted out her insecurities. She didn't have a female friend to talk about man like how all the girls in the orphanage were always gossiping about their crush.

And the only person, who was close enough for Raine to talk about this, was Calleb. So Raine didn't have a choice except to ask him as her insecurities started to bother her.

"Of course you are beautiful, it is impossible for you to become handsome." Calleb joked and got another slap on his back.

"I am serious..." Raine almost cried because this was embarrassing enough, to ask something like this, without Calleb turned it into a joke. "I mean... do I look attractive in... man's eyes?" Her voice was getting small in the end of the sentence.

Calleb raised his eyebrows when he saw Raine's cheeks blushed. "You want to ask if you look attractive in Torak's eyes?" He simplified Raine's question and pointed out the most important part.

Raine nodded her head and bit her lips, she really felt embarrassed now, but at the same time she also wanted to know Calleb's opinion. "Yes."

"Of course you do look attractive, you are his mate, who else Torak will put his eyes on?" Calleb stated the matter of fact and tilted his head as if saying; why do you ask the obvious?

For some reason Calleb's answer turned Raine even gloomier, it felt like the feeling that Torak had for her wasn't sincere and the mate bond was like a shackle for Torak to be with Raine.

Raine shook her head, she knew she was only being demanding for no reason. But deep down, the fact about the mate bond, bothered her.

There would always be 'what if's' in Raine's mind...

She couldn't help but remember the question that Serefina and Aeon had asked her about her relationship with Torak without the existence of the mate bond.

What if there was no mate bond between Torak and her? Would he still feel the same? Would he kill Raine instead for being so weak?

"What if there is no mate bond between us?" Raine asked Calleb unsure how to explain her own feeling in this matter.

"Why are you questioning the impossible?" Calleb furrowed his brows and added. "The fact that you have to concern now is; you are Torak's mate and no one will be able to say the other way. Don't bother yourself with something meaningless."

With that was being said, Calleb dusted his pants as he stood up and stretched his stiff body. "Let's get inside, this almost the time Torak will return."

Raine didn't satisfy with Calleb's answer, probably she had become so demanding on this matter, instead of being grateful for what she had now, yet she couldn't help but think about this over and over again.

"So, why Torak has not marked me yet? Isn't that something that mate will do?" Raine pestered Calleb to go out of the greenhouse, passing two Lycan warriors on their way to the main house.

"How will I know? I am not the one who will mark you." Calleb face-palmed himself, as a Lycan without mate, he was also clueless about that matter. How he suppose to know? All the thing that he had said to Raine at that time was based on what he had heart, not from his experience.

"It bothers me..." Raine whined.

"Then asked him." Calleb suggested.

"I have a plan to ask him to mark me as my gift birthday, what do you think? Is it alright to ask something like that?" Raine was nervous if her request would make Torak's upset or felt unease.

Caleb stroke his chin as he gave some thought about it. "I have never heard giving a mark as birthday gift, but you can try it." He said carelessly, later on, he would regret his words that had no knowledge in them.

"You think so? Do you think Torak will upset with my request?" Raine kept asking when the main house was a few meters away.

"Why would he be upset? Marking your own mate is only natural thing to do." Caleb said rightfully. "At least in my opinion. If you want to know more about this all confusing things, you can ask Raphael, he has more knowledge than me." Caleb suggested.

But Raine rejected it directly. "No, I am okay with your advice." Raine didn't think she could ask something like this to Raphael.

They were in good terms, but Raine was not that close to Raphael as she was with Caleb to ask something personal.

Caleb shrugged his shoulder, didn't even bother with whatever Raine's decision would be.

=====

As tomorrow came, the announcement about Donovan's company would hold a grandiose celebration, in the most luxurious building in the city, hit the day even before the sun rose from the east.

The uproar and comments online had created many speculations even before the real news was released by Donovan Company's public relation.

Torak's name with his mysterious woman filled the top of all the searching engines in the country.

This was also the first time that business magazine and gossip magazine has the same topic at the same time.

The impact of this news were so great and almost out of hand as many woman, especially Torak's big fan, started to fan the news became a gossip trash about how the young girl had seduced Torak Donovan and she had used dark magic to charm the perfect bachelor.

For some people it sounded ridiculous, but there would always be people who found the theory interesting and talked about it with enthusiasm.

That was only one of hundreds of speculations circulating online before the real information would be published in the afternoon.

The announcement alone was taken up by five famous television stations to air it at the same time and would also be broadcasted on digital billboards at the busiest street in the country.

Torak didn't hold back when he announced the birthday celebration of his woman, this was also as he had publicly declared that he was no longer single and shut all the chances that any woman has upon him.

When the first wave of the comments hit that day, even Raine didn't dare to open her phone and turned on the television because it would always show the same news that appeared.

Raine wouldn't have thought this would turn out this huge.

She was almost pleading for Torak to cancel it if she didn't remember how Torak had asked her sincerely that night to let all people know that Raine was his woman and for all the creatures to know that Raine was his mate.

Raine was very nervous to face her upcoming birthday that would be in three days from now.

And two days before the significant day, Belinda came from the Raven village to accompany Raine.

Torak had seen how all of this commotion had taken a toll on Raine and made her speak less to him. Raine was nervous and it was clear to see for everyone.

And because Raine didn't have female friends or anyone to speak rather than Calleb, that Torak thought wouldn't get how distressed his mate was, and also because Raine wouldn't talk about what she felt about it to Torak, after all, it was Torak's plea for her, thus Belinda would be the best person that Torak could find to accompany Raine.

And Torak's judgment was right.

Once Belinda came, Raine was slightly better and been more cheerful than days before.

Now that Belinda was there to be with Raine, Calleb could come to the company and helped Raphael to deal with most of the media as everything went so abrupt there were a lot of things to be handled. Not to mention public's reaction was almost getting out of their hands.

This fact made Raphael concerned.

"Torak... Raine will be the center of attention for months, do you think she will be all right?" Raphael asked, when they were going out of Torak's office room to heading to the second floor, where they would hold the announcement in multipurpose room about the forthcoming extravagant event.

"We can't keep this secret any longer." Torak stated fact. "This bound to happen sooner or later."

"Yes, but should you make it this big?" Raphael asked.

A little bit information that they had leaked to the public this early morning had made a big fuss, not to mention when they admitted openly about this.

"Yes." Torak replied curtly. "This should be big."

"You will attract all of your enemies to attack Raine." Raphael voiced out his concern. "Not to mention she will be a college student, there will be a lot of human who will hate her and creatures that seek for revenge to you through her."

From the beginning Raphael disagreed with the idea, as this was too risky.

"I can understand your concern." Torak replied as they entered the lift. "But, with Lucifer and Andromalius already knew that Raine is my mate and also a few minions out there with the same knowledge, it is only a matter of time before the thing you worry about happens."

Both of them arrived at the second floor and were greeted by the employees as they bowed their head politely when Torak and Raphael walked past them.

Because of the crowd, Torak resumed their conversation through mind- link.

[In the end, the overcome would be the same.] Torak halted as he thought about something before he continued. [I prefer to strike first and set everything within my plan, so I can control the situation, rather than to wait for them to attack Raine first and not ready enough to know what steps we should take.]

Raphael thought about it for a bit longer and as Torak's words repeated in his head, he knew that his words made a lot of sense, afterward Raphael didn't mingle with that topic as they walked into the conference room.

At 1 p.m sharp, a large number of reporters had already gathered at the press conference room. Amongst the multiple shutter sounds Torak and Raphael stood at the side calmly.

Torak didn't need to make an appearance for this press conference, but he simply wanted to make sure everything was running as he had planned. He wouldn't tolerate any mishap for this.

The place where Torak and Raphael were standing couldn't be seen by those reporters neither they could see them, but Torak and Raphael could see the public relationship manager and his team on their seat in front of many cameras and reporters as this announcement would be aired live.

At 1.15 p.m the press conference officially started. The staff maintained order as the reporters were given 15 minutes to ask question.

At the same time too, many people stopped what they were doing to look at their cell phone to stream on the news on line or stopped walking to follow the news from the digital billboards that were located in the busiest streets of the city Red River city and the Fulbright city.

From the roof top where Aeon had resided, he could see the big picture of the digital billboard that broadcasted the press conference live.

He gritted his teeth and the shadow around him turned darker as if he could swallow the whole building into the nothingness.

=====

"Don't you want to see the live press conference that Torak holds for you?" Belinda was holding her cell phone as she accompanied Raine inside the green house, feeding a little white rabbit.

At first Belinda was surprised because Torak had allowed this little creature to reside here, but since it was Raine's request, it seemed possibly.

Raine was holding the white bunny while squatting down beside a sunflower, her white dress touched the ground and became a little bit dirty, but she didn't seem mind it as she put all of her focus on her pet that munched spinach from her hand, as if there was nothing more important for her than to fat the little one.

"No, I don't want to see it, it will only make me more nervous about my birthday." Though Raine had never celebrated her birthday for eight years, but this was the first time she feared her own birthday.

The thought of becoming the center of attention was so nerve- wrecking, not to mention her days ahead when she entered the university, she would be starred by many people, without doubt.

That wasn't because she had committed crime or got a noble prize, but because she was simply Torak's woman.

"Don't be so nervous, the Alpha will handle everything." Belinda tried to cheer Raine up, but only got a slight nod from her as she continued with what she was doing, oblivious with the fuss outside this house.

Even Raine could feel that the human guards looked at her differently, as if trying to see what was good in her until someone like Torak Donovan became so infatuated with her.

While the Lycan guards didn't show any surprised as if they had expected it from their Alpha, and treated her politely.

"I know he will..." Raine replied after a few seconds had passed.

All she had to do was be safe and followed Torak's instruction, right? Like a good girl...

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Two days and the day of her birthday arrived in a blink of an eye.

Her birthday celebration would start at 7 p.m, but since 5 in the evening the hall had filled with many guests from influential people that Raine had ever seen in the television or she had never seen at all.

The place where her birthday was held was the most expensive five-star hotel in the city, where Torak was the second largest shareholder there.

That fact didn't ease the nervousness that started to building up in Raine's stomach.

It was a good thing that Belinda and Calleb was there to accompany her before she entered the ballroom.

Raine looked so exquisite in her white dress, she glowed like an angel basking in the moonlight, so pristine and calm, with her long straight black hair cascaded down her shoulder and back casually.

Belinda had helped her to apply a simple make up and now he was staring at Raine as her eyes twinkled with admiration by what she was seeing, made Raine bashful.

In the other hand, Calleb's reaction didn't help either, he gawked at her as if Raine had grown the third hands and has two head.

"Stop staring at me like that..." Raine whimpered, she wanted to scurry away, or better, went home and forgot about this party.

"Don't be like that... you are so beautiful." Belinda caressed Raine's cheeks and took her to the front mirror, so Raine could see herself.

Raine stared at her reflection on the mirror and had to admit that she was beautiful, at least for tonight, in this dress and make up.

Her mood had been not good since this morning and only turned gloomier when she watched a parade of luxurious cars that came into the hotel one by one, they were all her guests, or to be precise, Torak's guests as Raine had never met them even once.

The fabric of her dress was so soft to the touch and has small crystal around her chest area, with off shoulders and body hugging style and the length of the dress reached her ankle as she wore a nine centimeters high heels, so she wouldn't be too diminutive beside Torak.

Raine wasn't that short, it was only Torak that too tall for her. action

"Yes, you look like an angel." Calleb chimed in, but then he realized. "Well, you are indeed an angel, but you know what I meant."

Raine didn't want to hear those words since she didn't enjoy their compliment at this moment.

"Where is Torak?" Raine looked at the door. Wouldn't he come to pick her up? Raine didn't want to enter the room full with strangers alone.

She also had not yet seen her since they had their breakfast together, though Torak called her five times to make sure she was all right.

No, she was anything but all right, but at this point, she wouldn't be able to go back, there was no way to step down from what she had agreed.

This already 7.10 p.m, the party must have been started by now.

"Don't worry, the Alpha handles everything. He will order us to bring you inside at the peak of the event, so you don't need to stay for long time and attend to all the guests that you don't know." Belinda explained.

Upon hearing that, Raine's eyes widened and whipped her head toward Belinda. "Really?"

"Yes, you will be there for an hour at the most." Belinda perplexed. "Hadn't I told you about this?"

Raine shook her head. "No." She would be less nervous if she knew this beforehand, at least she could endure an hour of overwhelming attention.

"Don't tell me that you forget about it!?" Calleb hissed as he watched Belinda grimaced. "That's why she kept asking for Torak, I thought she was just being noisy even though she already knew Torak is entertaining the guests on her behalf."

"What to do? I forgot you know!" Belinda retorted.

"The Alpha will angry if he knew this." Calleb mumbled and stared at Raine, beamed with happiness when he approached her. "Cheer up! Today is your birthday and here my gift for you!"

The Beta fished out something from his pocket and gave something long and slim onto Raine's hand.

When Raine raised it to her eyes level, she furrowed her brows because the thing that Calleb gave her was a beautifully carved poniard, a slender dagger in fifteen inches length.

Raine didn't know what to say when she received her first gift in her birthday. "Hmm... Calleb... what should I do with this?" She asked gingerly while pulled out the sharp blade and carefully held it.

"To protect yourself of course." He said with proud look on his face. "I got it when I won a bet with an old Lycan who had lived through many dynasties and now live as an ascetic in remote area."

Belinda sneered. "What kind of gift is that? Don't you see, the weapon don't please the Luna at all." She chastised.

"The poniard means to protect her, not to please her!" Calleb retorted. "Look at you, you didn't even bring anything as a gift and now you complain about my gift?"

"You!?" Belinda's temper flared up.

Raine had seen this scene many times so she didn't as panic as the first time she watched Belinda hung Calleb upside down in the air.

"It's okay, I like it. Thank you!" Raine stepped in and hugged Calleb. "Your gift is my first gift that I received after nine years."

"I am sorry I don't bring anything." Belinda cleared her throat awkwardly. "We don't have this tradition to celebrate birthday or give something on their birthday, so I didn't bring anything." She looked regretful now

Raine smiled ever softly, walked toward Belinda and hugged her tightly. "I know and I don't mind, I am very happy that you are here to be with me during these past three days." She said sincerely. "Thank you Belinda."

Raine's words made Belinda feel better.

"Alright, stop with this 'thank you' scene, Torak just asked you to make an appearance." Calleb clapped his hands and separated Raine from Belinda as he assessed her, checked if there was a wrinkle on her dress.

Belinda was so tempted to blow the young Lycan out of this room through the window, but Raine was standing too close to him and she didn't want to ruin her dress.

Together, the three of them went to the main hall, where the celebration of the party had begun.

Calleb and Belinda escorted Raine to the side of the stage where there was a huge eleven tier birthday cake, which decorated in white and golden color and also red roses in every tier.

Only by the sight of her birthday cake alone had amazed her and made her lost in thought for a few moments as she missed the entire speech of Torak.

Only when Calleb nudged her side, Raine's comeback to her senses and heard Torak's last words.

"... here is my woman. My angel. My mate." Torak said with his husky voice, one could detect easily the happiness that laced in the way he talked about Raine.

Belinda gave a small push on Raine's back so she could take her first step toward Torak.

Once she appeared on the stage, there were thunderous clapped around her and flashes of cameras light that blinded her eyes.

Raine was afraid and was about to stagger back to the backstage, but then she caught Torak's blue eyes and his stretched out hand, he smiled softly as he talked to her in silence; 'come to me my love'

With that, Raine stilled her heart and gathered all of her courage to take one step at a time to reach the place where her mate has been waiting for her.

Chapter 233 - MARK ME

It was difficult steps that Raine had to take to come closer to Torak, but she managed to do it with shaking hands and trembling body.

The only things that could make her to keep going was those eyes, those blue eyes that were saying; trust me.

Raine did trust him.

That was the reason she took these difficult steps to be close to him. Once Raine's trembling fingers touched his opened palm, the spark that erupted from skin to skin contact managed to cease down a little bit of her nervousness.

Torak pulled Raine close to him and held her slender waist firmly to keep her steady.

In front of hundreds influential people and thousands to million viewers online, Torak kissed Raine's lips only for three seconds long, but Raine felt like eternity as it took her breath away when those eyes stared at them intimate action.

Raine had never been in front of this many people, moreover to be the center of their attention. She blinked her eyes and grabbed the edge of Torak's black outer clothes anxiously.

When Torak ended their short kiss, he whispered to her ear encouragingly. "You are very brave tonight my love and very beautiful as always."

Through her gritting teeth, Raine whispered back to him. "Can I just look at you? I am so nervous to see those people..." She glanced briefly at the sea of people below the stage and then retracted her gaze on those calming blue eyes.

Torak chuckled when he heard that and nodded. "You must always have your eyes on me only." He kissed Raine's forehead that erupted another cheerful commotion among the guests that made Raine shuddered. "Let's cut the cake first."

Afterward the MC of the events took all the talking job as he followed the flow of the time table for this event.

Raine looked the giant birthday cake that look so beautiful until she didn't have a heart to cut it. With all the meticulous decoration, the eleven tier birthday cake looked inedible to eat in Raine's eyes.

However, when the knife that she held cut through the first tier, it went deep into without any difficulty as if this was the softest cake.

Raine could see the black color of the sponge as the inside part of the cake, beneath the layer of something like white foam on its surface.

Someone gave Raine a small plate to put the first slice of the cake and a small spoon.

Then came the MC's voice that asked a rhetorical question about; who the lucky person would receive the first cake.

Of course the answer to it was very obvious, it goes without saying that Torak would receive it, as if Raine could give the cake to anyone else aside from him.

And another clicking sound and flashes of camera to capture this moment.

After that, Raine stayed for another thirty minutes while greeting the guests who came to approach her and congratulate her birthday and her relationship with Torak.

Most of them were being too friendly to her until she felt it was so fake, but Raine tried to maintain her smile and Torak handled their small talk about trivial things.

Among the guests there were lycans, elf, dragon shifter, witches and human. Torak explained it to her patiently.

During that short thirty minutes, Torak had never left Raine's side and always made sure she was safe in his arms as he rested his hands casually on her waist, inviting jealousy from all the single women inside the room.

Raine would only answer them with smile or nod her head, she was too afraid to make a small talk or talk unnecessary things.

With Raine was being there, smiling ever so softly without complain, instead of scurrying away and hiding at the corner, was considered a good progress.

Thus, after the twentieth person that congratulated Raine, Torak thought this was enough for her and leaned over. "Let's go home, shall we?"

Raine's eyes glimmered beautifully as her smile bloomed more cheerful than the last thirty minutes she was there.

"Yes, please." She replied eagerly.

Thought they would leave early, but the guests could stay there, enjoying limitless food and drink with Raphael in charge to greet every one of them.

"Can I change my shoes before we go?" Raine asked hopefully, the high heels started to kill her.

"Sure, you can go with Belinda and Calleb, I will join you inside the car." Torak rubbed her head and took her to where Belinda and Calleb were arguing about something, again.

However, half way to approach them, someone cut in and greeted Raine and Torak politely. "Happy birthday Raine..." He said with rough voice.

The man's golden eyes stared at Raine intensely as his lanky body blocked the sight of Belinda and Calleb behind him. "It had been a while since the last time we met." He mused seeing Raine's attempt to hide behind Torak's body. "Hmm? Still afraid of me I guess..." He stroked his chin.

Torak didn't want to entertain the devil and didn't want to stay any longer there as he said coldly. "Enjoy your stay Mr. Reiz."

With that, Torak walked past him with Raine closed to him.

Belphegor grinned at Raine when the angel stole a glance at him but hurriedly retracted her gaze.

Raine wondered why the devil was there, did Torak invite him? But then, why Torak invited their enemies to this place? She couldn't understand.

"You can go change with them, I will be waiting for you inside the car once you are done." Torak gave Raine's hand to Belinda and let both of them escort Raine away from the party room.

=====

Belinda helped her to undress her beautiful dress and changed into something more comfortable like sweater and jeans.

When Raine came out from the changing room, Calleb was leaning his back against the door, waiting for them.

"I like the dress from before." That was the first thing that Calleb said when he saw Raine went back to her sweater and jeans attire, looking at her with disapproval look.

"You can have it if you want." Was Raine comeback that made Belinda was laughing out loud and Calleb pouted his mouth.

Together, they walked to the front lobby where Torak had been waiting for them inside the car.

Torak helped Raine to get into the car by holding the door open, like the gentleman he was, and sat down beside her.

The initial driver opened the car door for Calleb as he would drive them home and Belinda sat on the shotgun seat.

Once the car left the splendid celebration and moved further away from the luxurious hotel, Raine turned her head to face Torak.

"Why Belphegor is there?" Raine asked softly when their car was running on the highway under the street lights in the dark night.

"Belphegor? The devil?" Belinda turned around to look at Raine and her Alpha. "He is in the party as well?" She asked in disbelief. "How he could be there?"

Even before Torak could answer Raine's question the duo on the front seat had started to answer it for her as they started to squabble again.

"Yeah, unfortunately he has become our partner now as he is the representative of the de Medici family, replacing Remy de Medici because he was killed by his younger brother, Ramon de Medici, who was now in the jail." Calleb explained it.

"How he could enter the de Medici family and became their representative?" Belinda eyes grew wide as she was so agitated with the news. Lycans and Devil didn't have a good history together.

Caleb shrugged his shoulder. "I don't know, the devil has many ways to get what they wanted."

"Knowing the devil will be part of the company, why don't you cut ties with that de Medici family?" Belinda chastised Caleb even though that kind of act was only Torak could make the decision.

"Do you think cut ties with them is as easy as cutting onion? There are a lot of things need to consider." Caleb retorted as they exited the highway and ran on the normal road with many food stall along the way.

Because Raine had known the reason why Belphegor was attending the party, so she didn't have any interest to listen to the rest of Belinda and Caleb's argumentation.

Raine etched her face on the glass window while staring at every food stalls. She didn't eat anything at the party, as she didn't have appetite because of her nervousness.

However now, she could feel her stomach grumbled.

Torak leaned over and rested his chin on Raine's shoulder as he looked at the food stall along the road with her. "Are you hungry?" He asked and felt Raine nodded her head.

"I want to eat sweet and sour b.r.e.a.s.t chicken..." Raine pointed one stall before it disappeared because of the speed of the car.

"Stop the car and turn around." Torak said immediately to Caleb.

"Huh?" Caleb was confused by the sudden order, but he hit the brake nonetheless. "What happened?" He asked while making u turn to drive back.

"Raine wanted to eat chicken b.r.e.a.s.t." Torak informed Caleb casually.

"Didn't you eat in the party?" Caleb glanced at Raine through rare view mirror.

"No, I didn't eat anything..." Replied Raine as she kissed Torak's cheeks because he granted her wish.

"There were a lot of delicious foods there. It such a waste that you didn't try it." Caleb himself had pigged out every dishes, there and almost forgot about his duty to entertain the guests as he entertained himself.

"How can I eat..." If I was so nervous even to breathe... Raine said inwardly.

When the car pulled over, there were two more cars stopped with them, apparently they were the bodyguards that Torak had hired for their safety.

One car filled with Lycan warriors and the other car was human. There were eight of them in total and they secured the area once Raine got out of the car.

She looked around and found the eight of them surrounded the area of the stall where she would eat. Thankfully, there were not a lot of people here tonight, or else they would surely become the center of attention... again.

And that was the last thing that Raine wanted as she had had enough with the attention that she had gotten in the party.

"Torak..." Raine tugged Torak's sleeves, didn't like with the situation.

"It's alright, they are here to keep you safe." Torak rubbed Raine's head to reassure her. "Just ignore them and let's eat."

Torak grabbed Raine's hand and took her inside the stall to order two plates of sweet and sour chicken b.r.e.a.s.t that she wanted, but Raine asked for more plates for the eight people that guarded them.

The stall was small and empty and the four of them took a table at the corner.

It didn't take long time before two plates of chicken b.r.e.a.s.t appeared on their table along with another dishes that Calleb and Belinda had ordered.

Seemingly Calleb had a big hole inside his stomach because after all the foods that he had eaten, he still managed to dig out a bowl of noodles.

Raine ate her chicken b.r.e.a.s.t slowly as her mind reeled at her plan to ask her gift from Torak. She still couldn't figure out the best way how to communicate her wish...

"There is something in your mind?" Torak asked, now that he had caught Raine's blank expression for the third time.

Raine hurriedly shook her head and ate her food like an obedient little girl.

Once they were done, they went straight to the house and Raine became as quiet as a bunny.

"Good night Belinda, good night Call." Raine bid them farewell before Torak brought her to their room.

Belinda and Calleb occupied rooms downstairs while Raine and Torak's room was on the second floor along with Raine's painting room.

And when the door closed, Torak hugged Raine tightly as his warm breath fanned Raine's neck and made her slightly shuddering with the intimacy.

"I am sorry to make you to go through this, but bear with it for a bit longer." Torak said thoughtfully.

Raine nodded, but her mind was thinking another thing, the most important part of her birthday.

Torak then retracted his hands and turned Raine's body as he pulled out something from his pocket. It was a red box as big as Raine's palm.

"Happy birthday my love, I wish you a safety and happy live." He prayed for his mate softly.

Raine smiled and took the box from Torak's hand as he urged her to open it. When the lid of the box was opened, it displayed the exquisite of Torak's gift inside.

It was a necklace with a white pearl, which glinted dimly under the light of the room, as its pendant. The necklace didn't look so fancy, but beautiful and elegant regardless. Suited Raine perfectly.

Torak took the necklace from Raine's hand and put it on her neck as he brushed away her hair to clasp it. The pendant hung right on her chest as it gleamed faintly.

"This is beautiful..." Raine appreciated the gift.

"But not as beautiful as you." Torak held her chin so Raine could see the rare soft smile on his lips as he leaned over to lay a kiss on her soft lips. "I mean it."

Raine could feel her stomach did somersault by what Torak said and what he did.

Despite this wasn't the first time Torak had said something so lovely and this wasn't also their first kiss, but every time Torak did that, Raine could feel butterflies fluttered its colorful wings on her stomach.

Raine wrapped her arms around Torak's neck as she tiptoed and pulled him closer to her, as the same time Torak held her slender waist to keep her balance.

Torak teased her lips with his warm tongue while saying, "What the gift that you wanted, my love?"

"Mark me." Raine answered between their kiss. She just blurted out that words like that, her meticulous plans that had cracked and occupied her mind since days before were useless when she answered him plainly that way.

Torak stopped as he pulled away from her.

Raine also suddenly became alerted by Torak's reaction.

Did she say something wrong?

Did she upset him?

Did he not want to do it?

A lot of question swarmed on her mind as her body tensed up because Torak didn't say anything for a while.

"I am sorry..." Raine became self-conscious as she apologized for something that she didn't know. Was it a mistake to ask something like that?

Raine was unsure.

Seeing the trouble expression on Raine's face, Torak's expression softened as he caressed her blushing cheeks with his thumbs. "Who told you about the Lycan's mark?" He asked softly.

Raine lifted her head to see Torak's shock expression had changed into a concern one. "Caleb..." She replied.

Torak nodded, but didn't say anything further. The silence between them was uncomfortable.

"Will you... mark me...?" Raine asked gingerly. "They said a lycan will mark their mate so their souls will be bonded for life." Raine loved the idea of being together with Torak.

Yet, apparently Torak had another idea. His expression looked trouble now as if Raine's request had bothered him greatly.

"You will not...?" Raine asked, but it almost like a conclusion. Her eyes stung as her tears ready to fall. She blinked her eyes to fight back the urge.

"Oh, don't make that sad expression my love, you know I can't bear to see your sadness." Torak kissed away Raine's tears and her forehead before he carried her to the sofa near the opened window and sat her on his laps.

The breeze night winds fluttered Raine's hair as she rested her head on Torak's shoulder, she felt dejected.

Raine had learnt how important for a mate to bear their mate's mark, but Torak was being reluctant for her to bear his mark. Why?

Torak cradled Raine in his arms. "I will definitely mark you, but not now..." He said in hoarse voice.

His beast was banging his head to mark Raine and claimed her as his, but Serefina's warning kept ringing in his head and Torak couldn't ignore it.

Even when Raine said those beautiful words, he almost lost his control over his beast.

Mark me...

That was the most beautiful words that Torak had ever heard from her and also the most tempted thing that he had to resist.

Raine didn't truly understand how important for the Lycan male to give their mark to their mates. Was the pride of every lycans if their mate bore their mark. After all, it was a sacred ritual.

But, Torak couldn't fulfill Raine's tempted wish yet.

This wasn't only Raine, who felt bitter, but Torak also felt depressed as well.

"Why?" Raine asked with small voice and looked at Torak with sorrow in her obsidian eyes. "Why you can't mark me?"

"Because your body will not be able to take it..." Torak explained.

Werewolves' bite was dangerous, but Lycans' was fatal. It was very rare for Lycan and werewolves for having mates out of their own kind, and even to their own kind, the marking process could be unsafe.

Moreover, in that very rare case, there wasn't even a case that werewolves or lycans was mated to guardian angel and human, unfortunately Raine was both.

Even in normal situation, Raine couldn't stay in Torak's territory because her soul couldn't take it being surrounded by beasts and became vulnerable, that was the reason why they were in this city instead stayed safe in Oriole City, Torak's territory.

Not to mention Torak had to bite her now, the result would be terrifying and Torak couldn't take the risk no matter how desirable the temptation that Raine's words carried and how dejected his little mate expression now.

She had been stressing herself over this matter.

"That's why I can't mark you now..." Torak said regretfully. "If I could, you would have already bear my mark by now."

Torak would have marked her the first time he met her under the rain of that faithfully night, if it wasn't because the fear on her eyes, no, she was terrified.

Not to mention to mark her, Torak even had to make an extra effort only to be close to her.

When Raine's condition started to improve and she became so close to him, Torak had thought about to mark her, but then came Serefina's warning about the consequences.

After Raine heard Torak's explanation, her heart slightly felt better, because there was a complicated situation and condition behind his reason, yet she felt sorrowful regardless.

Raine nuzzled on Torak's chest. "I thought you don't love me enough to mark me..." She whined.

"Don't be silly." Torak kissed the crown of her head. "There is no such thing."

"Caleb said that every lycan will mark their mate when the first time they met... but, you didn't... so I become anxious..." Raine whimpered pitifully as she rubbed her face against Torak's chest.

"How can I mark you when the first time I met you. You were so afraid of me and thought I would hurt you." Torak reminded Raine.

Raine bit her lips, felt embarrassed when she remembered her reaction. "I was afraid of you for no reason."

"It's expected my love for someone who had endured all of those horrendous experiences, but now you had overcome your fear and I couldn't be more proud of you." Torak praised her.

"Thanks to you..." Raine giggled and kissed his chin. "So, how long until you can mark me?" She asked.

"I think until you are strong enough and able to control your power." Torak said. "Or else, it will be so dangerous to do it."

Raine pouted her lips as she thought about that. "I need to work harder then..."

"You don't need to bear my mark to be convinced that I love you..." Torak chuckled. "Don't you believe me after all this time?"

Raine mumbled something unclear like; 'I believe you but...'

"I know you love me... but, I want that mark... it feels so romantic to be bounded with someone that we love." Raine voiced out her thought.

"Romantic?" Torak raised his eyebrows. "Is that what you think? Romantic?"

Raine nodded. "It feels like we are in relationship, but we are not going to get married." She made a random analogy.

Torak laughed when he heard that. "We just let the public know about our relationship and now you are talking about marriage?"

"No... no..." Raine waved her hands frantically because of Torak's teasing. "That's not what I meant..."

"I know..." Torak hugged Raine in his arms as he whispered. "Let's not rush this matter, we will take one step at time..."

"So, my birthday gift is postponed?" Raine asked.

"Yes. But, I will definitely give it to you." Torak kissed the sweet on the crook of her shoulder, where he would put his mark. "Here..."

Raine scrunched her eyebrows and squirmed because it tickled. Torak closed his eyes to gather his conscience, he was too reckless and overestimated his self-restraint.

"But, my love..." Torak tipped her head up by pushing her chin with his finger as he stared intently at her. "Don't talk about this kind of thing again with anyone, alright?"

Raine frowned and nodded, but she still asked. "Why?"

"Marking is an intimate topic and I don't like you to be intimate with other person." Torak said sternly. "Understood?"

"Understood."

=====

The following days passed and the blink of an eye, today was the day Raine would be a college student.

After her appearance on her birthday, a week ago, the news about her and Torak didn't cease down even a little bit.

At first Raine was so stressful when she read all the hate comments and felt slightly depressed when they depicted her as an awful girl with many horrendous baseless backgrounds.

But then, Torak confiscated her phone and said to not bother with those rumors because at time it would pass.

However now, Raine needed to go out and enjoyed her first day as a college student.

She was so eager to go, yet anxious at the same time.

"Don't be so stressful." Torak said when he saw Raine was staring blankly out of the window's car. "If something happened, call me immediately."

Torak handed her phone and kissed her forehead when the car reached the entrance gates of her university.

"Stay close with Stephan, but if he is bothering you, tell me and I will teach him a lesson." Calleb said cheerfully from behind the wheel.

"Thank you..." Raine grinned. "I think you had taught him enough lesson last time."

"Dragon shifter is haughty and arrogant creature by nature, so there is possibility he will repeat the same mistake again." Calleb explained.

"Stay safe, okay? Don't do anything recklessly and avoid to being alone." Torak added.

"In emergency situation, act first, think later." Raphael chimed in as he halted what he was doing on the laptop and turned to add another advice for Raine.

Raine couldn't help but laugh on their advices, apparently it wasn't only her who was being nervous. action

"Okay, I have to go now or else I will be late." Raine kissed Torak on his lips and waved goodbye to Calleb and Raphael.

Then, Raine walked to the entrance gates where Stephan had been waiting for her.

The university that Raine entered was an elite one, there were many children of public figures and influential people, also heiress from famous business family, who study there, thus it wasn't strange if they have the best security to prevent journalists from entering the university area.

Torak stared at Raine's back, who was approaching Stephan, both of them exchanged a polite greetings before they entered the building together.

"Are you sure to leave her like this, Torak?" Calleb asked, he still had his eyes on Raine though her figure was getting smaller and smaller. "Don't you want

to add more protection around her?" He was like a father who took his child to the first day of school, getting anxious and overwhelmed with worry.

Torak closed his eyes when he couldn't see Raine anymore, but her scent still lingered in the car. "More than this, she will realize that I am stalking on her."

Chapter 234 - TORAK'S DISSAPOINTMENT

"So, the angel is looking for the grimoire of the pure blood witch, together with that witch?" Lucifer was playing a knife in his hand as he looked at Aeon, who was forging a sword.

No matter what era, a bladesmith would always be a bladesmith.

Aeon put his focus on the matter at hand and half ignored the devil, as he kept bothering him ever since he managed to make a connection with Raine again.

Yet, being ignored didn't stop Lucifer to talk. "Why do you need this grimoire?"

Aeon didn't answer him again as he forged and bended the hot metal in his hand.

"You know what? If that book is existed in the past, then it will be existed in the present." Lucifer tilted his head to see Aeon's reaction.

A devilish smile curled on his lips when he saw Aeon stopped what he was doing and stared at him, with hostility, yet he asked Lucifer, the devil knew the shadow warrior had fallen into his ruse.

"What do you mean?" Aeon's black eyes narrowed dangerously.

"What?" Lucifer feigned an innocent look as if he was saying that out of a brief idea that crossed his mind and didn't actually mean it.

"Your words from before about the existence of the grimoire." Aeon said.

But, unfortunately Aeon didn't get it.

The smirk on Lucifer's face widened as he explained. "Why do you need to look for that grimoire in the past? If it was something valuable, the witch should keep it save right? Or at least, even though she lost it, the grimoire must be existed somewhere." The Devil suggested. "So, why don't you look

for the grimoire in the present? It will be less dangerous for 'your angel' to be in this realm instead of she has to go back to the past."

Lucifer intentionally emphasized the words of 'your angel', to underline the idea that Raine belonged to Aeon.

As expected, Aeon liked the sound of it, though it was only a slight changed, but his expression softened.

"I think I can help if your angel really needs it." Lucifer's golden eyes shone brightly.

=====

Raine walked into the second building where her first class would be held with Stephan, who didn't stop talking ever since he picked her up at the entrance gates.

"Don't you know the uproar that you have made?" Stephan asked Raine, bothering her with the same topic though he didn't get the response that he wanted. "Fortunately you enter this university where, probably, half of the students' parents had gone to your party, so they won't make an unnecessary fuss."

Stephan was right, regardless almost all the students looked at Raine weirdly, but there was no one from them who actually approached her and made a small talk or tried to be close to her, since she entered the University's gates.

This was actually not as scary as Raine thought and she could still tolerate their curious gazes.

"You are right." Raine admitted, mumbling to herself.

When they turned at the end of the corridor and entered the class, Raine took the last row to sit at the corner.

Her class was like bench in stadium, where the last row would be the higher place than the first one, with their lecturer would be equipped with a big screen to convey their lesson, in the front of the class.

Raine furrowed her brows when he saw Stephan was sitting next to her, so she was trapped between wall and him.

"What are you doing here?" Raine felt uncomfortable.

"Study." Stephan gave Raine a look that saying; 'what else I will do inside a class?'.
"

"Don't you have class?" Raine asked, as long as she remembered, Stephan took different major from her.

"I did, but your mate put me here." Stephan shrugged his shoulder nonchalantly.

"How he did that?" It was unbelievable.

Stephan raised his eyebrows. "You can enter this University without test, all you have to do is; ask him." He said in matter of fact tone. "Moreover, I don't really care what major that I take, this kind of activity is useless for me."

Afterward, Stephan put his bag in front of him on the table and used it as pillow when he rested his head on it and closed his eyes.

Raine looked at him in disbelief, then she scanned the class that all the seat was almost occupied.

Raine couldn't find another corner and surround by strangers wasn't a good idea. So, after sometime she thought about the pros and cons, being with Stephan was still the best choice that she had.

With a deep sigh, Raine pulled out her book and waited for the class to begin.

The first class took an hour and half of it was filled with introduction from every students and talked about trivial things to warm up the atmosphere.

Once it Raine turned to introduce herself, the whole class became drop silence, even one could hear the sound of falling needle.

Raine forced herself to talk as loud as she could, but it turned out her voice was only a little bit louder than a whisper.

Nonetheless, no matter if those students could hear her or not, they already knew her enough to know her name even without the introduction. After all, the waves of shocking news and splendid birthday celebration, which Torak was held for Raine, just passed a week ago.

Even Torak and Raine's name were still on the top list of the search engine.

Fortunately for Raine, Mr. Hemsworth didn't ask her to repeat her very quiet introduction and let her to sit as he called another name.

During the class, Stephan was only awake for two times, first when he had to introduce himself and the second was when the ended of the class.

As the first class ended Mr. Hemsworth told them to head to the auditorium where there would be a short speech from the Dean and vice principal.

"Wake up, we need to go to the Auditorium." Raine shook Stephan's shoulder so she could get out from her seat too.

Stephan looked disoriented and yawned widely as he stared at the class that almost empty.

"We have to go to the Auditorium." Raine repeated her words again.

"What? To receive that boring speech from the vice principal and his staff?" Stephan rubbed his face harshly as he stood up.

"From the Dean and the Vice principal." Raine informed him, but he didn't even bother to listen.

"Pass." Stephan raised his hands and opened his palms. "I will take a nap inside the library, if you finish, come to find me."

After saying that Stephan left Raine, who was looking at him in bewilderment.

Why she should look for him? Wasn't he assigned to look after her? Thus, why it was him who ordered her around? Moreover Raine was fine with her own.

Raine decided to not look for him after the speech and tried to befriend with another people.

Because the situation in the campus turned out didn't as bad as she thought and those students didn't attack her with questions like what people online did, Raine still has a high chance to have a normal campus life just like how her plan at the first place.

Afterward, without Stephan tagged along, Raine was walking alone to the auditorium, it wasn't hard to find the place as all the freshmen were heading to the same spot.

Raine was still a bit awkward to walk among the crowd, but also excited to see her new life as a college student.

"Raine!!!"

Someone called out her name among the crowd, Raine stopped and looked around to see whose voice belonged to, but it didn't help with hundreds people around. action

"Over here!"

She shouted again and this time her voice came from Raine's left side, with curiosity Raine tried to focus at the source of the voice as she watched a girl in blue jacket and mini skirt waved her hand toward her.

Raine immediately recognized her face, she had met with each other before in the mask party, though they met by accident, but Raine didn't have a bad impression toward her.

The girl moved forward and approached Raine with difficulty.

"Do you still remember me? I am Sunny." She said cheerfully. "I was the one who had spilled drink on your dress at the mask party." Sunny reminded Raine.

"Yes, I remember." Raine smiled.

Before, Sunny had told her that she was also a college student in Royal University, but this was her second years.

"I am so happy when I saw you among the freshmen." Sunny exaggerated her reaction. "I was so thrill when I saw how extravagant your birthday celebration was, I was also one of your guests you know, but I didn't have a chance to congratulate you because you only stayed for a while." She kept going with her story.

Raine liked how energetic Sunny was, but she couldn't listen to her excitement any longer.

"Sunny... I am sorry, but I think I have to go now..." Raine touched Sunny's hand to make her stop talking as she looked around, almost all the new student had gone inside. "How about we chat latter?" She offered.

Raine didn't want to be rude to her first friend.

"Of course! How about we exchange number?" Sunny suggested, her expression didn't change a little bit.

"Sure." Raine agreed readily, and with that both of them knew the other numbers and waved a goodbye as they went to different direction.

When Raine entered the auditorium and found a seat, she felt her phone rung, indicating someone sent her a message.

Looking at the screen, Sunny's name popped up along with her text.

[If you are finished and have no class, meet me in university canteen, I will introduce you with all my friends. ((^O^))]

To be introduced to Sunny's friends sounded nice, thus Raine typed her reply. [Okay.]

The speech lasted for an hour and when it was done, it was already time for lunch.

Thus, with the promise to come to the University's canteen and hungry stomach, Raine walked to the Canteen direction.

She needed to ask two people for direction to the canteen because this was her first time to go there, which the two of them were quite surprised when Raine initiated a conversation. Along the way, Raine was curious about how Stephan knew the library in this University? Or probably he was asking around too.

The canteen was located next to the second building. It was an outdoor place that situated in the east of the park at the university where there were so many food stalls.

Once Raine reached there, she made a call to Sunny to ask about her exact place.

Sunny picked the phone on the second ring.

"Raine, are you already here?" Sunny cheerful voice could be heard.

Raine smiled to her phone when she heard her enthusiasm. "Yes, where are you?"

Sunny then told her where she was as she talked, there were a lot of voice near her whose asking; 'Is it Raine?' and 'She will join us?'

Raine didn't need to have a lycan's hearing ability to hear all of those questions, as they were so loud. "I got it."

After she knew their location, Raine walked to the place that Sunny had mentioned, it wasn't very far from Raine original spot.

Under a big tree, beside a hotdog stall, there was a picnic bench that could fit for eight people.

"Raine, over here!" Sunny waved her hand as she stood up from her seat.

Raine waved back at her as she walked toward them.

Aside from Sunny, there were two girls and two guys, all of them looked at her at the same time.

Raine gave them a polite smile once she was there, she clutched her hands together so she could stop herself from fidgeting.

"This is Raine!" Sunny stood up abruptly and introduced her in a tone of voice like saying ta- daa!

And then, Sunny went on to introduce the five other people enthusiastically.

Casey, a girl with brown eyes and brown hair that tied up atop of her head into a bun, she was wearing glasses and looked cute with mole on her left cheekbone. She was also quite friendly as she was smiling all the time.

Jamie was sitting across Casey, she was quite eccentric with her white short hair and a few strike of purple color hair on the left side.

Raine couldn't say if she disliked her to be there or it was just her character to ignore people, because she just continued eating while Sunny introduced her and only glanced briefly at Raine.

Beside Casey was Connor. He was an adorable guy with dimples on his cheeks every time he smiled and he smiled a lot, just like Casey.

Later, Sunny whispered at Raine that Casey and Connor was couple.

And the last guy was the one that attracted Raine's curiosity the most.

This man's name was Kai, but Sunny said he preferred to be called Kelly.

Kai or Kelly was wearing an adorable shocking color of pink shirt with his black straight hair that framed his long face. He was applying yellow eyes shadow on his eyelids and putting a light color of orange lipstick on his lips.

But, the shocking part was the way he greeted Raine.

"Hai, Raine." He glanced at Raine through his small round mirror in his hand. "But, you are welcome here, but I don't think I like you."

In an instant, Raine's face fell. She did nothing, but there was someone who already hated her.

Connor immediately punched Kai's arms as he made an apologize expression. Sunny also explained immediately to Raine.

"He didn't mean it, Kelly likes man and he is one of Torak Donovan's fans, so he was jealous with you." Sunny said in low voice. "He is not a bad man. Just ignored him for the meantime, he is still shock by your relationship announcement."

Raine was speechless, she was even hated by man. Just how big Torak's influence was...

=====

After that lunch with Sunny and her friend, Raine would spend most of her time with them, though Kai still disliked her and didn't talk to her nicely, but he didn't hate her in particular.

Kai always complained about how Raine dressed herself and rumbled on about how filthy rich Torak was, but Raine always used the same bag every day.

Kai always said if he was her, he would have bought all the latest collection of famous brands and would never wear the same clothes twice for the rest of his life.

Raine couldn't argue with his theory and Casey just waved her hand to tell Raine to ignore him.

But, in rare occasion, when Kai knew Torak would pick her up, he would force Raine to meet him first before she went home and all he did was to put a light make up on her face.

"You should learn how to do make up you know!" Kai would chastise Raine while applying a pink lipstick on her lips. "Do you think because you are already in relationship with him, he couldn't seek another woman? Don't be so na?ve! If you always meet him with this plain face of yours and your conservative style, don't cry when he looks for someone better. He is still a man you know! Men like to see beautiful things!"

Apart from Kai's infatuation toward Torak, he was a good friend.

Casey and Connor would treat Raine nicely, though Casey and Sunny would flaunt around their social media about how they could befriend with Torak Donovan's girlfriend and incited another ripple of comments from people online, most of the time they were the best friend that Raine could expect.

Meanwhile, Casey would treat Raine like she wasn't there, or probably she treated all the people that way.

It was so rare for her to talk, but once she talk she would make a sharp comment about the topic that could shut all the people there up.

For Stephan, he would always fetch her at the front gates and walked her to the gates when she would go home. In between, Stephan would choose to sleep in the library instead of mingled with Sunny and the others.

Stephan thought as long as Raine wasn't alone and there were thousands pair of eyes around her, she would be all right.

Hence he would slack off of his duty to be with Raine.

Yet, Raine didn't complain as she didn't really like to be tailed by Stephan because she knew, he would report everything that she did to Torak and knowing that, she was slightly uncomfortable.

Regardless, Raine loved her university life.

She could continue her education, which she thought she wouldn't be able to do it, and has a few people that she could call as her friend.

Inside the university area and among her friends, Raine was invisible, those people out there with their hate comments couldn't reach her or hurt her.

Not all the people hate Raine for being with Torak, there were also people who congratulated her, but the comparison was too big and Torak didn't like Raine to read comments in social media.

In a blink of an eye, three weeks passed uneventfully.

But, it didn't last for long.

In one afternoon, when Raine walked on the patio that adjoining the first building and the second building to have lunch with Sunny and the other, someone touched her hand.

Startled, Raine turned around and found a familiar face and figure.

His black eyes, which stared at Raine deeply, and his curly shoulder-length hair, as she could smell his musky scent with their close proximity.

"Aeon?" Raine said his name in disbelief.

"Raine, I miss you." Aeon blurted out that made Raine panic, it wouldn't be good if someone else heard him saying that.

"How can you be here?" Raine asked, looking around as if she was afraid Torak would see Aeon. She did it subconsciously out of habit.

Aeon didn't answer immediately and just fixed his eyes on Raine, she looked beautiful as ever, whether it was in the past or in the present, she looked so enchanting.

"I can help you to find the book that you have been looking for with the witch." Aeon stated.

"Aeon, I think you don't need to bother with that... I am sorry, but I have to go..." Raine tried to pry Aeon's fingers open from her arms. But, he unfazed. "Aeon, don't do this..."

Raine started to feel uncomfortable because there were many eyes that look at her and Aeon.

"What is it?" Someone came forward and grabbed Aeon's hand. "Let her go." He demanded in deep voice.

Raine whipped her head to her left and found a man as tall as Aeon with bulkier body was standing next to her.

Aeon glared at him as the man also mimicked his fierceness.

"Aeon, let go of me." Raine was so distressed by his stubbornness, she really didn't want to attract more unnecessary attention toward her and here, Aeon made things more difficult for her.

"Torak sure has put all of his dogs around you." Aeon hissed as he switched his anger toward the bulky man.

"Go!" The man snarled.

Raine was surprised by Aeon's words and looked at the man, who came for her rescue, she had never seen this man before.

Because this city wasn't Torak's territory and because her strange condition that couldn't be close with a lot of werewolves and Lycanthropes, thus Torak only brought a few of his own people and, even though Raine didn't know their name one by one, but she recognized their face as she often met them around the main house or when they had to guard her when she was going outside.

However, Raine had never seen him.

"Consider my words." Aeon said before he released Raine's hand and walked away.

Once Aeon had gone, that man turned to check on Raine. "Luna, are you all right?"

"You are...?" Raine narrowed her eyes, wasn't sure if he was merely a human guard to protect her or he was also a shape shifter.

"I am Mark, one of the Alpha's subordinate." The bulky man named Mark introduced himself.

"I don't know if Torak put more people here..." Raine mumbled and subconsciously looked around, suddenly she became alert with her surroundings, as if she was being spied. "How many people like you here?"

"Luna, you need not worry, we are here to protect you, you can pretend that we are not existed." While saying that Mark walked away from Raine before she could get the number of people that Torak had planted there.

Raine's mood turned sour for the rest of the day after she knew there were Torak's people surrounded her.

She thought it was only Stephan who was assigned to be with her, without her knowing, there were a lot more.

"Just now you know?!" Stephan raised his eyebrows when Raine told him about Torak's people inside the University. "Do you really think I can slack off if it is only me who looks after you? Knowing the Alpha, you should know that."

"But, Torak never said anything about that." Raine complained.

Both of them walked to the entrance gates, where a pricey car had been waiting for Raine.

"Yes, but it also means he is not lying." Stephan yawned.

The sun was almost set and the light of it casted their shadow longer as Raine contemplated Stephan's words.

Stephan was right, Torak didn't lie to her, but he just didn't mention it.

Raine knew this was for her protection, but it was a little bit uncomfortable when you didn't know there were always people who had their eyes on you and watched your every moves, but you didn't know who they were or which one were they.

No wondered, recently, she had never seen a single supernatural creature around. Before, at least she would meet one or two.

"But, how those people could enter this University? The one that I met earlier seemed to be in his third years at least." Raine asked Stephan again.

How Torak could put some people in the middle of the semester?

Stephan sighed helplessly as if he was tired to explain this kind of thing to Raine. "Oh, please. Until now, you still don't have any idea how powerful your mate is?" He rolled his eyes. "Try to make troubles and see how he would clean up your mess." He suggested.

With his absurd advice, Stephan opened the car door for Raine and sent her off with her car driver.

Once she arrived at home, Calleb had been there, waiting for her. "The Alpha asks you to meet him in his study room."

Raine frowned when she saw Calleb's expression and his stern voice. This would be something serious.

"Alright." She said and walked toward Torak's study room.

Once she was inside, Torak pulled her into a tight hug and closed the door.

"Torak?" Raine didn't understand what got into him. "What happened?"

It was his silence that answered Raine as he kept burying his head on her shoulder.

"What happened? You scare me..." Raine became anxious because of Torak's reaction. "Something bad happened?"

"I am sorry if I scare you." Torak released Raine's body and stared at her for awhile before he asked. "The shadow warrior approached you today?"

Raine was surprised, but then she remembered about Mark and Torak's people that he had put them there.

"Yes, but..." Before she could explain, Torak had made his own decision.

"Don't go to college until Serefina's condition better and put layers of protection there." Torak said firmly.

"What?" Raine creased her eyebrows in disbelief. "Torak... Aeon didn't do any harm on me..."

Until Serefina's condition better? The last time Raine visited the witch, she even had not yet woken up. If she followed Torak's demand, how long it would take until she could get back to college?

"Whether it's intentional or not, he will harm you eventually." Torak stated.

But, Raine was in denial. "No, you don't understand... he won't harm me, he had protected me a few times."

And then Raine told her about how Aeon had saved her and him when she traveled back to the past. If it wasn't for him, Raine must have been in danger.

But, Torak was far from glad when he heard that.

"That's why, Torak please... don't hurt him..." Raine pleaded.

"You beg me for another man." Torak's voice filled with disappointment.

Chapter 235 - RAINE'S REGRET

When Raine realized what she had done and witnessed the disappointment in Torak's eyes, she knew in an instant that she had hurt him.

"No... Torak... That is not what I mean." Raine was afraid when Torak put down his hand and stood there, staring at her impassively.

Her heart was beating fast when she watched the way Torak looked at her. His blue eyes filled with discontent.

Torak had never seen her that way before and this scared Raine, she stumbled forward and clutched onto his front shirt.

"No, Torak... I didn't mean to stand up for him..." Raine tried to explain herself, but in her panic state her words failed her.

In the other hand, Torak didn't reject her touch, but he didn't reciprocate the same warm that he always offered to her.

"You just came, you must be tired, rest first." Torak said in flat tone, the disappointment in his eyes had disappeared as Torak stared at Raine emotionlessly.

"No, I don't want to rest... please listen to me." Raine pleaded, she felt her fear welled up in her heart, seeing the way Torak treated her this way.

"Later Raine, we will talk about this later." Torak pried her fingers from his front shirt as he went back to his seat behind his working desk, busying himself with his paperwork.

Raine's body was trembling, she bit her lips.

Later Raine...

Torak called her name instead of using an endearment words such as; my love or angel, like he always did.

Just how upset was he toward her?

Raine didn't dare to approach Torak, because he looked so distance.

She clutched the strap of her backpack tightly as she stood there at the same spot for more than fifteen minutes without getting his attention at all.

Torak ignored her.

Fighting back her tears, Raine finally gathered her courage to say something in voice that like a whisper. "I will cook something for us, let's have dinner together."

After saying that, Raine sprinted out from Torak's study room, she was afraid to hear his rejection.

If he did so, she was pretty sure that she would cry, embarrassing herself thoroughly, showing him how weak she was.

The lycanthropes hated weak creatures.

That sentence repeated in her head as Raine headed to the kitchen and busied herself, preparing food for their dinner.

Would he hate her?

=====

Crack!

The glass in Torak's hand shattered into pieces under the pressure, along with drop after drop of blood that stained the carpet beneath him.

He was very disappointed to say the least.

After Raine went out of the room, he couldn't help but need something to release some steam.

What on earth his mate was thinking to beg for another man's life to him?

Torak didn't want to hear Raine's explanation any further because it was the same thing like he was forced to hear how she viewed another man, talking about the good thing of that man.

Torak couldn't stand it, his blood boiled with anger.

And the worst part of it was; that man was the same person that had been tied to Raine when she was in the village of angel.

Torak comprehended very well how that atrocious tradition rooted in that village. He couldn't be more grateful when he knew Raine had not united with that shadow warrior.

But, that nasty creature kept pestering his mate and now he appeared in front of her.

If it wasn't because Torak's man had stopped him in time, probably he had taken Raine away, after all there was no way his mate could fight him.

Torak had been worn out enough to think about Raine's safety while keeping her oblivious about how the world had been trying to attack her.

However now she had asked him to not hurt the man that, obviously, would take her away at the first opportunity given.

How Torak could stand that when he had to hear his mate spoke for another man?

[Ralph. Is Serefina's condition showing progress?] Torak mind link his Beta.

[No. She still unconscious.] Raphael replied almost immediately. [Belinda had checked on her this afternoon, but there is nothing much she could do.] He said regretfully.

Belinda wasn't as strong as her half sister, thus it was out of her ability to fix Serefina's condition.

Torak opened his palm that covered with blood, but his wound had healed. He complimented for a while before he spoke again.

[Meet me at the porch.]

===== action

"Did you cook this for me?" Calleb entered the kitchen and watched as Raine was meticulously preparing two plates of curry rice and a few side dishes.

Raine didn't answer Calleb rhetorical question as she kept busying herself with the food.

"Because if you prepared this for Torak, he will not eat it." Calleb said, biting his tongue while waiting for Raine's reaction.

Raine stopped abruptly and stared at Calleb without words, asking for explanation with her anxious eyes.

"He went outside ten minutes ago." Calleb started. "From what the Alpha and Raphael were discussing, seemingly they will not come back until tomorrow."

Raine dropped the bowl in her hands as it clunked against the table with loud noise before she dashed out of the kitchen and went to Torak's study room.

She pushed open the door forcefully and found no one there.

Fifteen minutes ago, Torak was still sitting on his seat, ignoring her while checking the documents on the table, but now he was nowhere to be seen.

"Raine, what happen with both of you?" Calleb's worry voice sounded from behind her as he walked closer.

Raine rooted on the spot, trembling. "Where is he?"

"I don't know exactly where he is going, but this is something related to Serefina." Calleb replied as he rubbed Raine's head. "Did both of you fight?"

Calleb touched on her head reminded her of the way how Torak always doted on her. It similar, but also different because Calleb wasn't Torak.

"I disappointed him..." Raine whispered, hiding her teary eyes behind her hair that fell on the side of her face as she lowered her head.

"Don't worry, he will be fine in few days... just give him some alone time." Calleb knew about the shadow warrior had come to meet Raine this afternoon and watched how his Alpha turned extremely mad by the news.

But, the Gamma was clueless about why Torak fought with Raine. The Alpha treasured his mate the most and this abrupt changed puzzled him.

Seeing Raine now, he wasn't sure if this was the right time to ask her about what had happened.

"Get rest first, I will ask someone to bring something for you to eat." Calleb suggested. Raine had just returned, she must be feeling tired.

"Hmm." Raine hummed, she walked past Calleb without lifting her head, looking so dejected.

"Ck, what happened with them?" Calleb clicked his tongue in annoyance when he heard a dull sound of the door was being closed. He didn't like this kind of atmosphere.

=====

The time had strike past midnight and the sound of howling wind from the balcony was prominent along with the rustling leaves.

Raine couldn't close her eyes, despite the tiredness that she felt. The bed was so big, empty and cold without Torak.

Slowly, she pulled out her phone and slightly narrowed her eyes because of the light that lit up from the screen.

All of her messages had not yet delivered since she sent it six hours ago and when she tried to call Torak's number, it was the machine that repeated the

same information that said she couldn't call the number because it was deactivated.

Raine tried to call Raphael, but he didn't pick her call no matter how many times she punched the redial button.

[Torak, where are you? I am sorry... can we talk?] Raine sent the message even though she knew it couldn't reach him for now.

She sat down and hugged her legs while resting her chin on her knees, staring at the dark starry night outside through the double door to the balcony.

Raine felt sorrowful.

She had to admit it that her words had offended him, but she didn't mean to stand against him and spoke for Aeon, yet at the same time Raine didn't want Torak to hurt Aeon too.

Aeon had saved her life more than twice already, of course Raine felt grateful for him because of that. That was what Raine wanted to tell Torak, but he didn't want to listen to her explanation.

Raine felt there was a hollow in her heart.

=====

Tonight Raine didn't sleep at all until the sun rose and the first light gradually illuminated the room.

When it was eight in the morning, Raine lethargically walked toward the bathroom and freshened up herself, ready to go to the college.

Probably after the whole night, Torak's anger would have ceased down by now and picked up her call, but even after she was ready to go, her messages still had not yet delivered.

Maybe this afternoon..

Raine talked to herself, trying to cheer herself up, yet failed miserably.

The way she dressed up today really represented her feeling, she was wearing black shirt under her black jacket that she zipped up to cover herself and dark jeans. There was no color from her whatsoever.

With her face free from make up and tired eyes as result of her sleepless night, her condition was terrible.

The moment Calleb saw her, he couldn't believe with what he was seeing. It took only a single night for Raine's condition to turn from worse to horrendous.

"Raine, are you alright?" Calleb glanced at the room and caught a glimpse of a tray full with foods, which was sent last night, before Raine could close the door of the bedroom. Apparently she didn't touch her food at all.

"Hmm." Raine nodded absentmindedly.

"Where are you going?" Calleb asked softly.

How could Torak make his mate suffer like this? Did Torak know Raine current condition? Those questions flew into Calleb's mind.

"College..." Raine replied ever so softly.

Calleb had to take a deep breath when he heard that, he hated this kind of situation and moreover Raine's retrogression.

"I am sorry Raine, but Torak didn't allow you to go anywhere today..." Calleb informed her carefully.

Raine lifted up her head and stared at Calleb with her sorrowful eyes, it took sometime before she could force a question out of her lips. "Why?"

Yet, before Calleb could answer her, Raine had known the answer.

Torak had told her.

Torak didn't allow her to go to college until Serefina's condition got better so she could do something about the shadow warrior.

Or maybe, until Torak got his hand on Aeon and finished him off, so he wouldn't be an obstacle anymore.

It was only a matter of time until one of the two choices occurred, and the second options bothered Raine the most.

"Torak called you" The light on Raine's eyes dimmed when she asked this question. She had been trying to reach him the whole night, but Torak didn't return her call.

"No," Calleb shook his head immediately. "Raphael sent me a text message last night when you just got to your room. But, afterward neither the Alpha nor Raphael could be reached." He said truthfully.

Raine sighed deeply and tiredly, she thought Torak particularly didn't want to be contacted by her.

"You look not well, why don't you rest for today?" Calleb suggested as he opened Raine's bedroom door. "The Alpha's judgment now is clouded by his temper, he will be in due time, just give him a little bit more space and then he will come to you."

Raine bit her lips. "Really? He doesn't hate me?" She asked in pitiful voice.

"Of course not, his temper is not always good some time, but he definitely will not hate you." The sound of Calleb's voice was so convincing, but Raine had another theory.

"Because of the mate bond." Raine stated and this particular issue resurfaced again, shook her feeling to the core.

"Raine don't say something like that. You seem to resent the mate bond..." Calleb grimaced. He didn't quite understand in this certain thing because he hadn't gone through it yet, thus he couldn't fathom how the exact feeling for having a mate.

Yes, at this point, Raine disliked the fact that the mate bond between her and Torak was the only thing that kept him by her side. It almost like all of his kindness and overprotectiveness wasn't real.

As if Torak was obliged to treat her well because of the mate bond.

Now, the old issue came up again in this situation, Raine couldn't lie to herself if she liked the idea that their relationship was based on the mate bond between them.

"I will take a rest." Raine didn't want to talk about this with Calleb nor she wanted to talk about anything to anyone. She needed her alone time too.

Raine closed the door, slid down and leaned her tired back against it.

Why this happened so fast? The day before yesterday Torak and she still shared the story about how their day went. Torak still teased her whenever he had a chance.

But now, because of her request last night, Torak flipped up and ignored her completely. He even didn't want to listen to her explanation.

Raine wanted to say that she didn't speak for Aeon neither she took his side, she just wanted Torak to know that Aeon had saved her life and it was against everything she believed to repay him that way.

It was mere gratitude, yet Torak didn't want to understand that.

Raine believed when Torak said he would kill him, after all he had done so when Aeon came to meet her in this room, though it wasn't the real him that Torak had destroyed at that time, but Torak wouldn't bat his eyes to do it again, whether it was real or fake.

Raine was also irritated by Aeon, if it wasn't because of him, she wouldn't have had this fight with Torak.

Why he should come to meet her?

Raine was staying at the same position for the entire afternoon and skipped her breakfast and lunch all together.

Ignoring Calleb persuading words for her to open the door.

=====

"Torak, don't you want to call Raine before we leave?" Raphael's brows creased by the Alpha's stubbornness. "I know you are upset because Luna had pleaded another man to you, but I think she didn't mean that way."

Torak stared at Serefina who was still laying on the bed, unconscious, but in Belinda's care, the color of her skin had returned a bit. She didn't look as pale as sheet anymore.

"I don't like her pleading for others, especially the man that harbored feeling for her." Torak's eyes turned black as he tried to keep his beast at bay, the thought of it alone managed to boil his blood with anger.

"Torak, you know Raine. Not like us, she has a soft heart. Even if it wasn't the shadow warrior and it was someone else, she will plead for the same thing." Raphael try to make Torak to see in different view.

Yet, Raphael couldn't blame Torak for reacting that way.

No one knew except him and Calleb, how hard Torak had tried to keep Raine safe or how far the extent of his effort to make sure Raine could have a normal life that she always wanted, since her last eight years of her life was nothing but miserable and chaos.

Even now, when he was still disappointed at his mate, he still thought about how to keep her away from any possible harm no matter how insignificant it could be, Torak didn't want to slack off if it came about her mate.

"I don't like her to plead for anyone, not even for me. I don't want her to stoop that low, she has to live with pride and never bow her head." Torak stated firmly.

Torak was coming from a royal blood of Lycanthropes, hence, even after centuries, the way he lived his life and the pride as the high- born still not ebbing away.

Pleading was a taboo thing for him, so it was no wonder if he expected the same thing from his mate... but, the situation was quite complicated.

"Torak, Raine still needs time to come to your expectation, she just recovered from her trauma and started her new life." Raphael said. "Give her some time to adjust. She is a human and on top of that, has a spirit of guardian angel, it is her nature to against any kind of violence."

Torak sighed deeply, maybe he exaggerated with his reaction, but with the mention of Aeon's name it was enough to irritate him, yet he didn't respond to Raphael's words and just walked out of the room after saying they needed to go now.

"Torak, are you sure, you don't want to make a call to Raine?" Raphael held his phone and was about to give it to Torak, because Torak's phone had ran out of battery since last night and he didn't even want to recharge it.

Torak halted his step and replied casually. "We will go back as soon as possible, she will be fine, Calleb is there."

Raphael sighed, he looked at a lot of messages and calls from Raine since last night. Torak had told him to not reply any of those, so Raphael could only oblige his Alpha's command regretfully.

But in the end, he texted a short message to Raine before he left to follow Torak.

[There is an important problem that arises. Don't worry, Torak will return soon.] Raphael thought that would be enough, and sent it.

=====

Raine was awake with the sound of her phone that notified her there was a message, she scrunched her brows as she felt she was slightly lightheaded.

It was a text from Sunny that asked where she was and why she didn't go to the campus.

Raine's body ached from being in the same position in long time, she straightened her body and got a relief from the cracking sound of her back, afterward she stood up clumsily and walked toward the sofa near the window.

When she stared at the clock, it was already one thirty in the afternoon, it meant she had been behind the close door for more than four hours, no wonder her body felt like it split into two the moment she moved.

Raine didn't reply at Sunny's text, because it wasn't her message that she wanted.

Once again, Raine checked on her message for Torak and for her grief, it was still not delivered yet.

But, then her screen flashed with light and notification that she received another message and it was from Raphael, Raine abruptly sat down and opened the message eagerly.

It was only a short text that say there was another matter that Torak needed to handle and he would return soon.

But the text didn't explain why Torak's phone was shut down or why Raphael didn't pick up her call?

Almost immediately after she read the message, Raine called Raphael's number, but the number that she called was deactivated.

What happened to both of them? Why their phones were shut down?

"Raine, are you there? Let's have lunch together." Calleb knocked at the door noisily. "Come on out, it is very boring here without you!" He tried to cheer her up by joking around as if nothing happened.

Raine appreciated his effort and stood up from the sofa to open the door.

"You scare me with your look!!!" Calleb exclaimed, being the teasing person he was. "Let's get some food, so you can replenish all the tears that you had squeezed out."

Calleb grabbed her shoulder and pushed her in front of him to walk out of her room and heading the kitchen to get some food.

Once they were inside the kitchen, Calleb immediately served Raine sumptuous seafood dishes and made sure to put each one of them into Raine's plate, regardless she would eat it or not.

"Raphael texted me..." Raine said as she put a spoonful of rice into her mouth, it taste like sand though.

"See? I told you, Torak will inform you about his whereabouts." Calleb took this opportunity to soothe her.

"It was Raphael, not Torak." Raine frowned.

"It's the same, the Alpha has his temper too, but he still cares about you." Calleb said rightfully, without knowing the truth.

Torak indeed cared about Raine, but he didn't ask Raphael to send that message.

Raine sighed, her head throbbed painfully. She didn't know that Torak's rejection could affect her so much like this.

She was used to rely on him and being pampered by him, hence when he didn't even want to be touched by her, the fact shook Raine.

"He doesn't care about me..." Raine said sullenly, a tear escaped her eyes as she tried to swallow her food.

"Easy there..." Calleb gave Raine a glass of water and patted her head. "Now tell me what did you say that angered him."

Raine bit her lips and sniffled. "He misunderstood me..." Raine rubbed her face harshly to fight back the tears. "He thought, I was defending Aeon... but I wasn't." She shook her head to emphasize her words.

"And then?" Calleb prodded.

"I asked him to not harm Aeon because he had saved my life more than twice, of course I can't repay him by having Torak to kill him..." Raine said between her sobs. "But, Torak misunderstood me..."

Calleb sighed again. Knowing his Alpha for years, it most likely his reaction would be when he heard his mate mentioned another man's name.

"Well, Torak indeed has misunderstood you." Calleb patted Raine's head. "He is throwing his temper now. You are not to blame for this."

Raine lifted her head and looked at Calleb with her teary eyes, her pale face and her eyes back were the evidence that this matter not only had bothered her, but also aggravated her self-conscious about her doubt of the mate bond between them.

Calleb had heard this that the mate bond only affected Torak, so Raine didn't feel the pull of it, but seeing how she cried her eyes out now, Calleb didn't think she would need the mate bond at all, she had fallen helplessly for Torak.

It was understandable, after all human was a creature that filled with emotions and once you touched the soft spot of them, most of the case, they would use their heart over their head.

Meanwhile Lycanthropes and the other supernatural creatures have their own nature and unique trait too.

"But, Raine... Lycanthropes are the most territorial among all of the supernatural creatures. What is belong to us we will defend it until our last breath and this trait is worse for the Alpha when it comes to their mate. Not to mention you were talking about another man, even if there is someone from

our pack stares at you and harbors an ill intention, the Alpha wouldn't think twice to end their life."

Caleb wanted Raine to know about their nature too, because it would be hard for her to keep up with them, moreover she would be the Luna of the pack.

Though Caleb didn't put his concern on this, but at the very least he wanted Raine to know her position in this largest pack where Torak led thousands of lycanthropes and werewolves along with some other creatures under his wings.

"You knew this." Caleb held Raine's eyes as he spoke seriously. "It had happened when there was a lycan harassed you months ago."

Raine remembered that, how could she not? The first moment when she witnessed with her own eyes how ferocious Torak's beast was and how he wouldn't hesitate to kill anyone that got in his way.

"But, Raine... you have to know also that the Alpha always has a soft spot for you." Caleb pursed his lips playfully as if he didn't agree with what he was going to say. "Torak has moved out from his territory for you, didn't kill the witch after all she had said because she still useful for you."

Caleb then leaned his back against the backrest of the chair.

"Whether it is because the mate bond or not, his love for you is real."

Chapter 236 - STRONG HEART RAINE

Raine also realized what Torak had done for her, but she couldn't help the sorrow in her heart that she felt because Torak had ignored her.

But then, Caleb didn't stop there, he continued. "You must have met the other Lycans that Torak had put in your university. Do you know how many Lycans that Torak had put there?"

"No." Raine replied honestly, she didn't have any idea about the other lycans were being there until recently. "Three?"

"No." Caleb shook his head. "More than that."

"Ten?" Raine widened her eyes in surprised.

"No, Raine. There are a hundred lycans and all of them must maintain their distance with you, they are not allowed to be in the same area with you for long time, because of your condition, but they have to be close enough with you if you need help, just like when Aeon met you."

"A hundred?" Raine was shock with the number that Calleb told her. "That's why I have never seen supernatural creatures around the university..."

Before Raine met Torak, she would see those creatures at every corner of the street that she walked, though some of them didn't try to attack her or simply ignored her, if she didn't make eyes contact with them, thus she always put fixed her eyes on her shoes, yet when she met Torak, Raine saw them less and less.

"Yes." Calleb nodded. "And 'a great effort' even couldn't describe well how much Torak had done to plant a large number of people inside the university of yours. It's including a great magic to modify memory of some people."

Just like how Torak had Belinda to modify the memory of people in the orphanage, so no one could remember Raine's face when someone asked about her, in this case Andromalius had been trying to find out about Riane's identity.

However, after the public announcement about Raine was being Torak's girlfriend and in another understanding was Torak's mate, probably that spell didn't work anymore.

Or when Torak killed the man inside the hospital when her first disappearance.

"And also bribes and sort of things that you will not think of." Calleb added without detail.

Raine didn't feel better when she heard that, if anything her feeling was worsened by the fact that Torak had done so much for her. "He has done so much for me..." Raine wept. She felt terrible.

"You know what? If that day the shadow warrior managed to take you away, I will not surprise if the next moment there will be a hundred headless Lycans in disposal."

Raine shrieked as she covered her mouth with both of her hands.

"I know, it looks cruel for you, but that's how we live, Raine. As an Alpha he is required to be cruel, because Lycanthropes will not condone weakness." Calleb blurted out. "Yet, no matter what Torak will always treat you like the most precious thing that he possesses."

Raine gulped hard.

"I am telling you this not because I speak for Torak and belittle your effort all this time, you had improved so much, but I am telling you this because I want the situation now is transparent for you, so you can judge it yourself." Calleb rubbed Raine's head. "I know that Aeon had saved your life and you are being inclined to him because of this, but if this news is caught by Torak's enemy, it will be a boomerang for you and if it something related to you, it will affect Torak as well. After all, you will be our Luna someday. You will lead and rule side by side with the Alpha."

Raine felt there was a heavy burden that pushed her shoulder down. When all Raine thought that all this time was how to live a normal life, there were many things happened without she knowing it and there would always be a thick plots in everything.

Raine didn't know if she could be the Luna that they expected.

It was hard to be with Torak...

"If you want to keep Aeon save, make him to stay as far away as he could from you or stop protecting him in front of Torak, because the most you try to save him the more furious the Alpha will be." Calleb gave some advice.

Raine looked at Calleb in new light, the Gamma, who always been fool around and teased her all the time, actually talked a long sentences toward her and all of that was brutal truth, the reality that Raine had ignored.

Raine kept ignoring the fact that there would always be a reason for every action and reaction, and only focused on how well Torak had been treating her, until she forgot what he had done for her just to keep her safe.

No wonder, though as a Lycan Calleb's age was consider young, he had been the third in command for Torak and the Alpha trusted him enough to keep Raine safe.

Calleb was wise enough to make her understand Torak's reaction.

But, if Raine thought about this again, Serefina had mentioned about this couple of time, yet in different way.

People around her had been trying to tell her that the world wasn't as beautiful as it was seen, and Torak's way to keep her safe by turning her oblivious on what was going on around her wasn't a right decision.

"Don't feel pressured, I know you can do it." Calleb tried to cheer her up.

Raine's feeling now was similar to her feeling when they said that she was Torak's mate and a guardian angel, when she knew nothing about the supernatural creatures and the existence of the pack of Lycantrophes and werewolves or the devil and witch.

It felt odd, but at the same time was surreal.

Regardless what Calleb had said, Raine still felt pressured.

They wanted a strong and confidence Luna to lead the pack, someone who had strong leadership ability just like Torak, but Raine was nothing but strong and every time she thought about this, her mind would always think about Jenedieth.

Her confidence and boldness... her beauty and fierceness... were something that could compliment Torak's character.

Not someone like her...

"Can I be that kind of Luna?" Raine asked in very small voice. "I want to be strong... but, why it is so hard?"

"Of course you can." Calleb said reassuringly. "Look back and you will see how much you have changed and you will keep changing until you reach the point where you are stronger than you think you are."

Raine lifted her head and hugged Calleb while crying. "Thank you... your words mean a lot for me..."

"You are welcome Luna."

=====

On the second day since Torak left the house with Raphael, both of them still had not returned yet.

No news. No message.

Even Calleb was flustered by the situation and now he was busying himself inside Torak's study room to handle a few matters because neither Torak nor Raphael were available to run the business and took some decision.

Calleb couldn't go to the company because Raine was not allowed to step out of the house and this time Raine didn't complain about it.

She didn't want to aggravate Torak anymore by disregarding his order, but she couldn't help herself by getting anxious for every minute that passed without news from Torak.

"I will be grateful if you stop to make that noise." Calleb lifted his head from the documents at his hands and glared at Raine.

"Sorry." Raine replied and stopped knocking the table with her fingers. "Still there is no news?"

Calleb sighed and ignored the questions.

Raine had been asking the same questions since the last two hours she was sitting inside Torak's study room, accompanying Calleb that more like bothering the Gamma.

"Calleb..." Raine whined.

"Raine, I don't know where they are. If I know, I would rather to go with them instead have to deal with these papers." Calleb also whined. Paper works were never his things.

But, since no one in charge, he had to take over all Raphael and Torak's work that he could handle.

"But, I am not going to ask that..." Raine stood up and approached Calleb, who was working on Torak's desk. "Can I go to the greenhouse and play with bunny? Nothing I can do here..." Raine said pitifully.

She wasn't allowed to go to the college and couldn't go out of the house, and when she wanted to help Calleb, he didn't allow her to touch the documents.

To watch movie alone was out of options because she would feel more lonely since Calleb couldn't accompany her.

Meanwhile Belinda was busy treating Serefina.

Raine has no clue how bad Serefina's condition was, because Torak not allowed her to see the witch. Raine only knew that Serefina was still unconscious, even now.

"Greenhouse is still inside the house area, there are Lycan warriors everywhere and guards." Raine added when she saw Calleb didn't reply to her immediately.

Calleb contemplated, it took him a moment to reply. "Alright, but don't go anywhere out of the house and keep yourself within the lycan warriors and guards eyes. If you find something suspicious don't go and check it, let someone else do that." He ranted.

"Okay... I will just go to the greenhouse not to a battlefield." Raine grumbled and waved her hands at Calleb.

Meanwhile another phone call annoyed Calleb as he cried. "Postpone all the meeting!"

=====

When Raine walked to the greenhouse, she met a few guards with their expressionless face and exchanged a polite smile, but Raine couldn't see any Lycan warriors nearby.

Maybe they were hiding somewhere, knowing Raine would be in the greenhouse.

Torak had given them a strict order that they were not allowed to be near her if it wasn't necessary, but just like those Lycans that Torak had put in her university, they would always have their eyes on Raine and would pop out if Raine was in danger.

Raine walked to the bunny's cage and found the white little one was sleeping soundlessly with it long ears down, yet when Raine squatted down to look for it, the bunny opened its red eyes and raised its small head to look at her.

"Hello..." Raine smiled and opened the lock of the cage, carefully picked the bunny into his embrace.

However, the moment the bunny was out of its cage, it jumped past her shoulder and ran toward the petunias before the bunny disappeared among it.

Raine frowned as she stood up and approached the petunias to get her rabbit.

"Bunny, come here." Raine called for her, but of course there wouldn't be a reply or the bunny could make a sound like a cat.

Raine squatted down to see below the plant's pot, trying to see the white fur ball beneath it.

From the corner of her eyes, Raine caught a glimpse of the bunny ran toward the bougenvilles. Annoyed, Raine stood up and walked toward the spot where she saw the bunny.

Yet, when Raine was about to bend over to retrieve it from the secluded spot, the bunny ran away again and this time it ran toward the door that slightly open.

Raine was surprised and started to run as well.

It would be troublesome if the bunny managed to go out of the greenhouse, it would be more difficult to catch it later.

"No. no...!" Raine shouted when the white fur ball dashed through the door and stopped ten meters away, outside. "Bad bunny!" She groaned.

The bunny stood on its hind legs and raised its long ears cutely, as if she was waiting for Raine to catch her.

The diamond on the bunny's red rubber band that attached on its front leg, shone under the ray of the afternoon sun.

Raine remembered, it was Torak who had given it to the bunny when he bought it for her.

She missed Torak dearly...

And when Raine mused into the memory, the bunny started to run again.

"Comeback here!" Raine started to run again to catch her bunny.

She didn't realize when she almost walked out of house, when a lycan warrior stopped her before she could run any closer to the gates.

"Luna, may I help you?" There were three lycan warriors there, but only one who came to approach her while the other two stayed behind and only nodded their head politely at her.

"Yes, I am looking for my rabbit." Raine was almost out of breath while chasing the bunny, but now she couldn't see it anywhere.

"Don't worry, we will find it soon." The lycan warrior informed her before his eyes turned haze.

It seemed he was mind- linking the other Lycans, Raine often saw Torak and Calleb did that.

"Luna, please stayed inside. I will give it back to you once we catch the rabbit." The lycan warrior said in his gruff tone.

Raine grimaced slightly when she heard the word 'catch' from the bulky Lycan. In Raine's eyse his huge body only consisted with muscled.

"Don't hurt the rabbit please..." She couldn't help, but saying that. It almost felt like they would bite the rabbit the moment they catch it.

The bulky lycan let out small chuckle. "We will not, Luna."

Raine blushed slightly to think how stupid her question was. It just came out from her mouth without her thinking about it carefully. "Alright, but I will just stay here, is it okay? It will not take long time, right?"

With the Lycan ability and speed, it would only a matter of a few minute before they could catch the bad bunny, right? So, it would be fine if Raine stayed there...

The bulky Lycan saw his Luna uneasiness and then bent his body dramatically while smiling. "Yes, just give me a moment and I will come back with the rabbit."

Probably the Luna didn't trust them enough and thought they would accidentally bit the rabbit to its death, there was a possibility for that though.

Raine nodded and saw the two Lycan behind the bulky lycan followed him as they sniffed the air to catch the smell of the rabbit.

Raine wondered how the smell of the rabbit could be? How they could pick up the faintest smell easily? It was incredible how those supernatural creatures could have that odd ability.

However, there were still a lot of things that she still didn't know it yet.

Raine was kicking the small pebbles below her feet when she heard rustling sound from the street across the gates.

When she raised her head, there, the white rabbit was staring at her innocently tilted her small head as if questioning Raine for not being able to catch her.

"You? Why are you there?" Raine looked around her and didn't see anyone. "Why there is no guard or a lycan here?" She mumbled to herself.

And also, why those lycan didn't know that the rabbit was there, standing on its hind legs just across the street. They should have known it, right?

Raine was contemplating about what she should do. The bunny was only across the street, if it didn't move carelessly again, she could catch it without trouble.

But, she wasn't allowed to leave the house... yet there was no one there to catch the rabbit.

The bunny has rubber ban with diamond on it, Raine was afraid there was someone out there caught her bunny because of it.

Raine hesitantly walked forward while looking around her, probably there was guard, either human or lycan, who walked past by.

However, there was no one and the bunny looked at its left side, as if there was something that caught its interest as it started to move a bit.

Seeing that, Raine quickened her steps and stopped right at the metal bars of the gates, she tried to get the bunny's attention while clapping her hands. "Hey, bunny. Come here! I will give you bunch of carrots!" Raine said in louder voice, so those Lycan could hear her as well.

But, the bunny didn't interest with what Raine's offer and started to take two jumps, approaching the things that caught its attention.

Raine clicked her tongue and tried to look the thing that caught its interest, but nothing there. The road was empty and only there was wall on both sides with the end that Raine couldn't see.

The rabbit took another leapt.

"No." Raine grimaced because the Rabbit started to move out of her sight.

When the rabbit took another leapt again, Raine was trying to look for the handle of the gates and as she found out the gates was unlocked, she pushed open it and started to run out of the house.

Raine didn't realize that she was already outside and the odd situation there, her only focus was on her bunny.

The moment she caught a sight of the white fur, it had turned at the T-junction that made Raine ran after it.

Raine was breathless when she turned at the same corner as the bunny took, but the sight of the road turned her flabbergasted.

It wasn't a road, but a rooftop!

Raine needed a long time to discern her situation.

How a road turned out to be a rooftop of a building?! How could that be possible!? Probably the scorching sun had play trick on her eyes.

But that wasn't the case, because when Raine turned around to go back to the street that she had walked, the street was no longer there.

She was totally in different place.

Though it wasn't the first time that she ended up in different environment in blink of an eye, but she still couldn't get use with this.

Did she travel back to the past again?

Raine frowned because her surrounding didn't indicate that she had thrown to centuries ago, actually it seemed like she was in the middle of the city with

billboard on the tallest building that she could see and the sound of car engine from the street below.

It didn't seem like she was going back to centuries ago. And with this little information, Raine could sigh in relief.

As long as she was still in this current time, she could call Calleb and asked him to pick her up because she didn't really know how she could go back home nor she knew where she was.

Raine started to look around her to find a door or stairs so she could go down from this rooftop when someone called out her name.

"Raine... you are here."

Hearing her name was being called, Raine whipped her head toward the source of the voice and found the person that had made her fight with Torak.

"Aeon." Raine's voice was colder than what she intended to.

Yet, Aeon didn't seem to mind the way Raine called his name or the way her expression turned impassive the moment he came to her line of sight.

"Did you bring me here?" Raine narrowed her eyes at him.

Aeon was wearing a simple t- shirt and ripped jeans the same style that he wore when he met her in the university while his slightly long curly hair was tied at the back of his neck.

"It's not him, it's me."

Another voice from behind Raine, which made her startle and turned her body around abruptly.

Not far from Raine, there was a man with golden eyes was staring at her, bemused. In his arms was the white bunny, nestled comfortably.

Raine had never seen this man before, but his golden eyes and the aura that surrounding him were very familiar.

"Hello Raine, finally we meet." The man said with a dramatic bow and smiled that didn't reach his eyes.

Only then, the understanding dawn on her. "You are the devil." She uttered.

Raine had seen those golden eyes, but it was not him. Those golden eyes belonged to the devil, Belphegor. But definitely this man wasn't Belphegor, but he must be one of the devils that Torak had told her.

"Let me introduce myself." Lucifer caressed the scruff of the white rabbit in his arms. "I am Lucifer and like what you said, I am the devil."

"What do you want to bring me here?" Raine looked at the bunny that looked very comfortable nestled in Lucifer's arms.

"Easy there..." Said Lucifer, kept focusing his attention on the small animal.

"Give me back the rabbit." Raine said sternly. The bunny was a gift from Torak.

"Oh, right... I am sorry." Lucifer lifted his head as he stared at Raine apologetically, a fake impression nonetheless. "Here. I found it roaming around the street."

What a lie...

However, Raine didn't want to argue with him about that, she just wanted her rabbit back.

Lucifer took a step forward, but out of instinct, as if he was a danger, Raine took a step back with wary expression.

"How can you get your rabbit if you act this way?" Lucifer smirked, tilting his head, as if he was assessing the girl before her eyes.

Raine was standing between Aeon and Lucifer, so when Lucifer moved forward to her and she stepped back, it brought her close to the shadow warrior.

"Here your rabbit." Lucifer extended his arms and held the rabbit on its scruff. "Take it."

Raine looked the rabbit, struggling to get free from the devil's hand, but couldn't get itself out of it.

"Stop it." Aeon groaned as he took long steps and grabbed the rabbit from Lucifer's hand and gave it to Raine.

Raine flinched when Aeon walked past her to get the rabbit and warily retrieved the small animal from his hand.

At the very least, Raine knew that Aeon wouldn't hurt her. So, she preferred to stay close with Aeon rather than to be with the devil.

Since the rabbit was in Raine's arms, she didn't want to stay there any longer and tried to find an escape route from there, but when Raine was about to go Aeon held Raine's shoulder.

"There is something that I want to show you." He said in low voice, slightly grimace when Raine cringed away. "Raine, don't be like that. You know I will not hurt you."

Lucifer folded his arms in front of his chest, staring at the pair with amus.e.m.e.nt dancing in his golden eyes. He wondered how far this shadow warrior would go for this Alpha's mate.

"I want to go home." Raine stated as she hugged the bunny and tried to avoid Aeon's touch.

"I have something important to tell you." Aeon ignored Raine's request.

"I have to go back now, or else the moment Torak find you, you will get hurt." Raine tried to make her own way out from this situation.

But, Aeon didn't appreciate the threatening's tone in Raine's voice.

"Wow... The Alpha will kill you for sure Aeon." Lucifer added fuel to the fire, when he saw Aeon's expression turned ashen.

"Do you think that Lycan can hurt me?" Aeon growled and took two steps forward.

Raine wanted to say 'yes' and asked Aeon to let her go, whatever Aeon's reason to bring her here, she didn't to stay longer there, yet she couldn't say it.

Because Aeon would be aggravated by that and that wasn't a wise answer for Raine in this unfortunate situation.

Regardless, Aeon took Raine's silence as a 'yes' answer. He was pissed, thus he grab Raine's arms and hissed. "Let's see how he will kill me."

In matter of second, everything was change again.

Raine wasn't in the rooftop of the building, instead, she was in the room that filled with bookshelves, row after row, as if she was in the library.

"Where is this!?" Raine was asking, panic. How could they teleport her as they wish?!

"Library." Lucifer answered Raine's question sarcastically. "Don't you see?" He waved his hands toward those books.

Raine didn't want to have a conversation with the devil, so she simply ignored him completely.

"Come here Raine..." Neither Aeon heeded Lucifer's existence as he extended his hand for Raine to grab. "I want to show you something. This is something that you and Serefina are looking for." action

"I don't want to see it." Raine shook her head. "I want to go home." She was adamant with her demand and this didn't please the shadow guard.

"Come with me please." Though he said please, but Aeon's eyes had turned darker than before, he didn't like Raine's rejection.

Chapter 237 - THE LUNA OF THE LYCANTHROPES

Raine looked around her and found that she didn't have a chance if she wanted to run away from this place and from both of Aeon and Lucifer.

Moreover she didn't really know how to escape this place.

"Come with me." Aeon still held out his hand for Raine to take. His voice was firm and this time he looked Raine warmly, sensing her hesitation. "I will show you the grimoire."

"The grimoire?" Raine frowned.

"You are looking for the grimoire with that witch right?" Aeon asked a rhetorical question. "I found it." He said simply.

Raine was surprised when she heard that. "But how?"

Aeon didn't immediately answer her question, he glanced at Lucifer, who kept quiet while looking for books on the shelf. "You don't need to know, all you have to do is come with me to retrieve the book."

Raine stared at Aeon's hand, hesitated to believe him.

"Raine, you know you will be safe with me. I will not do anything to harm you." Aeon kept repeating the same sentences, so Raine could stop fidgeting toward him.

Hesitantly, Raine took Aeon's hand.

His hand was cold, not like Torak's warm one. She missed him again...

Raine and Aeon walked through row after row book shelves, the place was exceptionally huge and a little bit cold.

Raine held her bunny tighter against her chest and let Aeon led the way.

"Aeon, even though I have the book, I don't know what I should do with it." Raine confessed, the idea to find this book was Serefina's idea. "I have to bring it to her."

Aeon didn't reply to her, his eyes were focused to lead them somewhere.

"After I retrieved the book, you will send me home, right?" She asked to make sure that Aeon wouldn't keep her here, though the possibility of the other option was still big.

"Why do you want to return to that Lycan?" Instead of answer Raine's question, Aeon posed another question. "He is a murderer and he will always be like that."

Raine gritted her teeth, just like when Serefina was badmouthing Torak, she also felt the urge to slap Aeon's face.

Yet, giving to her current situation, she couldn't do that, because there was no one who would save her if Aeon went berserk.

She needed to try to control her emotion and start to use her brain over her feeling, this wasn't the right time to blow up her top at him.

"He kills if necessary." Raine mumbled as a reply.

Aeon sneered when he heard that. "Kill if necessary?" He reiterated the words in disgust. "He kills whenever he wants, and that necessary. You will be better without him."

"No, probably I will have died by now if it's not because of him." Riane said firmly. She was sure with this. "He was the one who takes me out of the orphanage and has been treating me like no one ever did in these past nine years."

Raine could feel the grip around her wrist was tightened, but still bearable enough so she didn't scream out of pain.

"How about me, who had kept you safe for those nine years?" Aeon stopped walking and faced Raine directly. "How about me? Don't you consider me?"

Raine was startled when Aeon stopped abruptly and bumped onto him. Hastily, she put some distance between them, though it wasn't far enough because her hand was still on his firm grip.

When her mind started to process Aeon's question, gradually her brows furrowed. "What do you mean?"

"Those nine years, when you kept your mother's diary... I was there to protect you from those supernatural creatures that wanted to tear you apart." Aeon stated, emphasizing every words for Raine to understand.

"What?" Raine was utterly shocked and had a hard time to digest what Aeon said. "You had protected me for nine years?"

"Have you never asked yourself how can you escape from every attacks? And how some of those supernatural creatures acted like they didn't see you whenever you avoid eye contact with them?" Aeon stared deeply at the girl in front of him.

Another shock crept on Raine's eyes as she felt her heart tightened by this revelation.

"It wasn't because of you were avoiding to see them in the eyes that turned you invisible." Aeon inched close to Raine. "It was me, who kept you safe. As long as your mother's diary was with you, I was able to protect you."

Raine remembered how she thought she was lucky enough to avoid those supernatural creatures and escaped each of their attacks.

"No..." Raine was in denial, she didn't want to believe it was Aeon who had been protecting her during that period of time, but she couldn't find a reason to support her rebuttal.

All this time she thought it was only a sheer of luck.

"So, tell me how you can escape all those attacks? Luck?" Aeon said with grimace, as if he could read what was in Raine's mind. "There is no consecutive luck in this world Raine."

Raine was at lost for words and when she found them, the questions that escaped from her lips sounded harsher that she intended. "If it was really you, why don't you come out?"

"I can't appear all of sudden in front of you at that time, you are too young to understand and I am afraid you will not believe me." There was regret that laced in his voice. "I was planning to take you away from that wrench orphanage when you turned eighteen..."

This time, Aeon's face turned ashen because Raine also knew what happened before he could carry out his plan.

"The Lycan came and took you away." Aeon gritted his teeth to suppress his regret. "Only if I had come sooner, then you would be with me now."

Both of them stared into each other eyes, while Raine looked at him in disbelief and was shocked, Aeon looked at her with regret for not taking action sooner and let the Lycan took away his chance.

"Raine... I was the one who opened the door at the dark alley when you were eleven years old, when a kanima was trying to attack you, so you can escape him."

Aeon reminded Raine at the attack that night when she wanted to go home from school. Raine remembered that clearly.

"I was the one who pushed you to the river when you were facing the same attack at the same year." Aeon inched close to her as he caressed her

cheeks. "You can't swim, so I took you to the river bank and called people to help you."

Raine remembered when she got attack and felt there was someone pushing her to the river. She thought she would die when the water filled her lungs, but then she woke up inside the hospital.

Afterward, Aeon kept reminding her about all the attack that she had received during those nine years and tore one by one Raine's belief of the thought of how lucky she was back then.

That wasn't luck, that was Aeon who kept her safe.

In the end, Aeon was so close to Raine until she could smell his musky scent.

"Now, you believe me if I say I will never hurt you?" Aeon asked, pleading with his dark eyes. He watched how the eyes of the girl in front of him started to turn softened. "Say something Raine."

Raine shook her head. "I don't know what to say." She bit her lips that made Aeon wanted to kiss her. "I just don't get it, if you had been protecting me, why you had never appeared in front of me even once."

"I know..." Aeon felt dejected. "I regret it now."

There was silence that stretched out between them, as they were busy with their own thought.

"Can we... can we just get the book so I can go home?" Raine stammered as she backed away. Put some distance between her and Aeon.

Aeon looked at Raine impassively, it was palpable to see that he was disappointed by Raine's action.

"You still want to go back to that lycan after what I said." Aeon stated bitterly and Raine couldn't see him in the eyes as she knew, she had treated Aeon unfairly.

After some time, Aeon decided to not pursue the matter further and resumed to walk to their destination with Raine followed two steps behind him.

Aeon took her to another room with huge golden door, which strange alphabet was engraved on its surface.

The door was three times bigger than normal door with height that reached to the ceiling.

Raine was stunned because it was beautifully carved, but wondered how many people that needed to open this door.

Yet, when Aeon opened it, like it was weightless, Raine thought, it was only needed a supernatural creature to open it.

Aeon held the door opened and let Raine and the bunny entered first.

Inside was another spacious room with very high ceiling and bookshelves around the wall, but in the center of the room was ample space that could fit hundreds of people.

Aeon took Raine's hand to the middle of the room right under a beautiful crystal chandelier and when they were standing there, the chandelier lit up, illuminated the whole room brightly like the light of the afternoon sun.

"What is it?" Raine looked around, afraid that she would suddenly teleport to different place, but she was still there, inside the huge library.

And when the brightly light gradually ceased down, in front of Raine was a black worn out book, floating in the air.

"Is this the grimoire?" Raine asked in small voice, feeling the sudden urge to touch it. "Can I?" She raised her hand, only a few centimeters away from the book.

"Sure." Aeon nodded to encourage her. "This is the grimoire that you have been looking for."

Gingerly Raine took the floating book and felt the gravity started to affect the book when she grabbed it with her left hand while her other hand still holding the bunny that looked docile.

"But, how can you find it?" Raine asked, puzzled.

If this book existed in the present times, so why Serefina needed to go to the past to retrieve it? Or, maybe Serefina didn't know about this?

"If the book existed in past, then it will exist in the present too. Don't you think so?" Aeon stared at Raine's surprised expression softly.

"I think the same thing..." Raine mumbled. She caressed the book with her thumb and felt the roughness of its cover. "Serefina will be ecstatic when she sees this." And then, the questions. "Can you take me out of here?"

Raine hoped Aeon wouldn't keep her there, though she wasn't sure if he would take her back to Torak's place, but everywhere was better than here.

The quietness of this place started to make Raine feel uncomfortable.

"I can, but I don't want you to go back to that Lycan." Aeon stated. "I will not allow you to go back to him since you are here with me now."

Raine gritted her teeth and tried to find another way to escape from Aeon,

"But this book is useless without Serefina." Raine was trying to reason with him. "I don't even know how to use it."

"Then, you don't need to use it." Aeon stated callously. "Just keep it with you as a reminder that I will do anything for you."

Raine was uneasy when Aeon took her hand again, but she pulled her hand back. "I need to meet Serefina to give this book. This book belongs to her."

"No." Aeon shook his head firmly, his eyes hardened when Raine stubbornly tried to get away from him and met the witch. "This book belongs to you now. I found it and I give it to you."

Raine bit her lips, fidgeting. "But, Aeon... ouch!"

Out of the piercing pain that Raine felt from the tip of her fingers, she threw away the book abruptly.

"What happened?" Aeon approached Raine immediately and tried to pull her finger out of her mouth. "Don't suck it."

That was a habit of hers to lick her wound, no, actually most of people would do that. "My finger was pierced by that book." She frowned.

Raine pulled out her forefinger from her mouth as she saw blood was gushing out of the wound.

"The book?" Aeon frowned he had never heard that a book could bite. Afterward, he tore the edge of his clothes into a small piece and wrapped it around Raine's forefinger to stop the bleeding.

Then he walked to pick the book from the floor to scrutinize it.

From the corner of the black cover of the book, there was indeed much darker spot, where Raine's blood was absorbed.

"Well, you are indeed a guardian angel, even a book wants to take a bite of you."

Suddenly from the direction of the door, Lucifer had been standing there, observed the situation inside with his golden eyes and mocking smile that grazed his lips.

"What do you mean with that?" Aeon glared at the devil.

Actually, Lucifer was the one who told him about the book and the theory behind it, which was, if the book existed in the past, it should be exist at the recent time too.

Afterward, he brought Aeon to visit this library and declared the black covered book was the grimoire that Raine had been looking for, of course, Aeon believed him because of the deal between them.

The deal that had sealed his soul.

Therefore, Lucifer wouldn't deceive him because of it, would he?

Yet, before Lucifer could say another word, a sound of chirping bird echoed through the bookshelves- wall before a beautiful small bird appeared out of nowhere and flew toward Raine.

The bird was as big as a falcon with majestic plumage that grew brightly like a bonfire.

It flew above Raine's head before it perched on her shoulder.

"What is that?" Aeon frowned, because the bird wasn't a usual bird.

Meanwhile, Raine was stiff, surprised because the bird chose to stay with her and looked well- behaved. She glanced at its fur and was amazed by its beauty.

"That is firebird." Lucifer uttered in resentment. "The Alpha's pet."

After he said that, there was thunderous sound that echoed through the wall, not only that, the sound was so powerful until all the books fell down from the bookshelves.

"What is going on?" Aeon ran toward Raine to shield her from the falling books.

But, Lucifer looked unfazed. "Of course, he will come, she is the Luna of the Lycanthropes after all."

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Chapter 238 - THE THUNDEROUS SOUND THAT SHOOK THE EARTH

But, Lucifer looked unfazed. "Of course, he will come. She is the Luna of the Lycanthropes after all."

At the same moment when the Lucifer was saying that, suddenly a blaze of light hit the room along with an ear- piercing chirping sound of the firebird.

Aeon, who kept Raine in his arms to protect her from the falling book, suddenly was hurled aside with great force.

His body collided with a bookshelf, which it books fell on him continuously.

Meanwhile, in order to cover herself, Raine hugged back the person who was hugging her while protecting the little bunny in her arms.

When the loud cracking sound and falling object had ceased down, she opened her eyes in horror to see her surroundings.

All of that happened very fast and in matter of second, the meticulous library had turned into a mess with book on the floor and debris mixed with dust twirled in the air.

"What happened here?" Raine asked with shaking voice as she lifted her head to see Aeon.

She expected to see Aeon's face because the last sight that she saw before she closed her eyes was him, protecting her.

However, the person who was hugging her protectively now, wasn't the shadow warrior.

The look of surprise and excited crossed Raine's eyes when her eyes met with the figure that she had been missing dearly.

"Torak..." Raine called out his name. "You are here." She stated in joyous.

Torak glanced at his little mate in his arms impassively, there was no smile or whatsoever emotion on his face. The way he talked also very rigid.

"Step back and stay with Raphael." Torak drew back his arms from Raine's body when the debris and dust had settled and no more books fell.

Raine was late to catch Torak's iciness, but she did what she told nonetheless.

Glancing through her shoulder, she caught a sight of Raphael and Serefina. Even though Serefina was slightly looked pale, but overall she was already in her quirky self, staring at Raine in disagreement as if accusing her for being here, in this mess.

Raine moved to the side and approached Raphael as she stood beside the Beta.

Torak was standing in front of the three of them, facing the devil and the shadow warrior at the same time, the claws on his finger came out dangerously as his body shook violently.

He didn't turn to his beast, but he was a step away from being one as his eyes had turned bloody red with elongated canines that as sharp as razor blade.

Raine could feel Torak's wrath that emitted from his half shifted body. For a moment she could feel the chill that ran down on her spine.

Torak was eerily intimidating.

Raine wanted to ask Raphael about how they could find her, but found the situation and the atmosphere required her to be quiet.

"Torak..." Lucifer dusted the dirt from his body while Aeon was trying to stand up after been hit to the wall. "Don't you know that you can't barge in someone property and ruined my place like this?"

"I have warned you, do not touch my mate!" Torak growled deeply.

"I didn't!" Lucifer exclaimed and exaggeratedly raised both of his hands as he glanced at Aeon. "He did."

Seeing the devil was making fun of his words, Torak turned into his Lycan's form and bolted toward Lucifer in breakneck speed.

The beast and the devil let out thunderous roar and growl during their battle, biting and clawing the other with the speed that Raine's eyes couldn't follow.

They move too fast, the vision of them were blurred, just like a movie that was being fast forward.

Their battle was too intense and the library building couldn't accommodate their battle any longer, after the ravage entrance of Torak and the other two, the building had busted as it started to shake as if there was an earthquake.

"We need to get out from here." Raphael said as he looked at the witch beside him. "This building will collapse soon."

Around them, many big holes had created on the wall as the result of the beast and the devil's battle.

Serefina grabbed Raphael's hand and stretched out her other hand for Raine to take while saying. "I will teleport the three of us out from here."

Raine, who was halfway to take Serefina's hand, stopped. "The three of us? How about Torak?" Raine could feel herself panic, Torak was in the middle of fighting the devil and there was no break in between. action

"No need to worry about him." Said Serefina in agitated tone. "He will be fine."

Raine knew she was wrong to ask Serefina for helping Torak, so she turned around to face Raphael. "We can not leave Torak here."

"Remember, this is because of you that we are here." Serefina said ruthlessly, didn't even care when Raine's expression turned guilt- ridden. "We can do nothing even if we stay."

With that was being said, Serefina took Raine's hand and she teleported them out of the building.

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Raine just blinked her eyes because of the dust, but the next thing that she saw was a park filled with people.

Children were playing with their siblings or chasing after ball that their parents threw at them, teenagers were riding their bicycle.

The sound of laughter was everywhere as the golden evening sun shone dimly upon them.

It took Raine long time to attune with her new environment and when the understanding dawn on her, the first thing that she asked was her mate.

She was sitting down on the grass while Serefina and Raphael were standing on both of her sides.

"Where is Torak?" Raine asked while trying to stand up and followed their line of sight.

In front of them was a huge building that as known as the public library in the heart of the city.

Were they there before?

And as if answering Raine's question, the building collapsed in an instant with thunderous sound that shook the earth.

Chapter 239 - YOU DROPPED THIS

People screamed and shouted, some of them even tried to run from the place, afraid if it was a bomb or some kind of terrorist attack.

There was no way, hundreds years library building suddenly collapse and in an instant had already flattened with the earth.

The commotion started to get loud as all the people tried to get away from there and they ran to different direction while keeping their family together, Raine was standing there, flabbergasted, unmoved.

Serefina and Raphael were standing on her both sides, staring at the same direction as they furrowed their eyebrows.

"Raphael..." Raine held her breath when she spoke. "... Is that... the library that we were in?" Her question sounded unbelievable in her ears as she said it.

"Yes, it was." It was Serefina who answered this for Raine.

"Then, how about Torak?" Raine could feel her blood rushed in her vein, she was too antsy even to stay quiet like what Raphael and Serefina did. "We have to save him! We have to find him!"

If it wasn't because Raphael was holding her arms tightly to keep her in place, Raine would have dashed to collapsed building and dug every inches of the debris with her bare hands to find Torak.

"Torak is there! Why don't you help him?!" Raine was trying to get away from Raphael strong hold, but she couldn't move him even an inch.

"Raine, calm down." Raphael fell on the ground along with Raine as he held her, preventing the Luna to move closer to the destroyed building.

"How can I calm down?!" Raine could feel the air became thin as she was having difficulty to breath. "Torak is there and all you are doing is staring here?!" Anger rose up from the pit of her misery.

"Let's wait for a few moments." Raphael said as calm as ever and this aggravated Raine.

Why nobody felt the same thing as her? Wasn't Raphael was Torak's second person in command? Why he didn't care even a bit about him?

"I don't want to wait!!!" Raine screamed, droplets of her tears started to fall down on her cheeks as she was being helpless.

Raine was well aware that she could do nothing to help Torak in this situation, she even couldn't break free from Raphael's tight grip.

"Raphael please, help him..." Raine turned around to look at Raphael with teary eyes and pitiful voice.

"Raine... please calm down first." Raphael pulled Raine's head and hugged her tightly so she could stop struggling. "Torak will be fine. Let's wait for awhile."

Raine finally let Raphael to hold her as she rested her head on Raphael's chest, streams of tears from her red eyes didn't cease down as her breath rasped in her chest.

Meanwhile, Serefina was standing on her spot, unfazed.

She didn't even flinch when she watched how the building turned into dust in matter of seconds, or how Raine was throwing tantrum in front of her.

The witch's lime green eyes looked at the same spot without even blinking, as if she was waiting for something.

Half an hour passed after the library building collapsed, the park which was full of excitement was now in chaos.

People made a barricade behind the police line while police cars and fire trucks had arrived at the crime scene.

However, as odd as it sounded, no one noticed about the three people in the middle of the chaos, they didn't seem to see them or the polices even bothered to remind them to stay away from the park.

Raine sat on the ground and sobbed silently in Raphael's chest as he held her head and caressed her back, her eyes didn't even a second left the sight in front of her.

Hoping that he would come out and walked toward her, and held her like he always did.

But, as the seconds turned into minutes and minutes turned into hours, Raine still couldn't see the person that she wanted to see the most.

There were many victims because of the sudden collapsed building, polices and firefighters tried to get the injured people out of the scene or tried their hardest to get them out of the debris.

Ambulances came with roaring sounds.

In this commotion and racket, Raine's mind was disarray. Waiting in agony for Torak to return. Her tears had stopped flooding down her face, but it didn't ease the pain in her heart, if anything the sorrow had become more prominent.

The waiting was killing her as she didn't know if something was happening to him, or maybe he was struggling while they were waiting in this safe place.

"He doesn't come..." Raine whimpered, the excruciating pain attack her with the thought she would lost him.

Raine's body was trembling out of fear to face the reality.

"Raphael... why he has not come yet?" Raine asked Raphael with a voice that barely a whisper.

Raphael didn't have the answer for that. It has been so long since the Alpha was trapped there, he should have come now.

"Stop crying, there he is." Serefina finally spoke.

Raine immediately lifted her head and followed the witch's line of sight, but she couldn't see it yet.

"Where is he?" Raine's heart was beating so fast against her ribcage until it was so painful.

Raphael also sniffed the air, trying to catch the scent of his Alpha before he pointed straight ahead. "There."

After Raphael said that, a figure gradually appeared among the crowd, striding toward where Raine was sitting on the ground, waiting for him.

Raine stared at the figure until the outline of him, made her sigh deep breath of relief. She watched Torak was getting closer until he stopped in front of her.

There was some dirt and blood on his face and his brown shirt, but aside from that, he was in good condition for a person who just escaped a collapsed building.

Torak squatted down and stared at his mate disheartened state. "You dropped this."

While saying that, Torak put down the white little bunny, which a little bit dirty, on Raine's laps.