

TLOA Lycan 381

Chapter 381 - BICKERING

"We can't bring all of the people inside there." Aeon stepped forward and faced them all.

There were too many Lycans in this area now and they would get unnecessary trouble if they wanted to go inside altogether at the same time.

That wasn't how it would work.

"Any suggestion shadow?" Alpha Romulus stood in front of Raine, blocking Aeon's eyes from staring at their Luna as if he wanted to eat her alive. That wasn't polite and in another remark, if it wasn't because he was still useful, Alpha Romulus would be more than happy to bite his head off.

"Shadow?" Aeon snorted at the nickname that the Alpha gave to him, slightly growled when his line of sight was blocked by his sturdy body from seeing Raine there.

In this situation like this, Aeon had to check his temper every now and then.

"Okey." Raine clapped her hands and moved away from Alpha Romulus's back. "Do you have plan?" she asked Aeon in business- like tone.

"Just bring some people inside." Aeon answered in matter of fact tone.

"How do you know it is safe inside?" Alpha Chris spoke up, his eyes glued to the house in front of them.

The house was two- storey building with a dark aura surrounded it. Not to mention it was so quiet for a place like bar. The more quiet a place was, the more dangerous it was.

"Do you know where is Torak?" Raine squinted her eyes at Aeon, trying to figure out, whether he was leading them to a trap.

"I don't know." Aeon said truthfully. "You want to come here, so I bring you here. Any other matter is not my concern." action

Upon hearing Aeon's words, Raine was slightly taken aback. She realized the only clue that she had was actually only this place.

Whether Torak was there or not, Raine wasn't sure. She lowered her head and bit her lips, trying to think of some information that would be useful to find Torak, yet she could find nothing.

"What they did to Torak?" Serefina voiced out her concern.

The witch felt something dark from the house and, to be honest, if it is not needed, she didn't want to go inside.

"Lucifer beheaded him." Aeon said bluntly.

It was the truth, Lucifer flaunted that fact in front of his face a few hours ago, before he went out to wreck some havoc in human world.

Waves of murmuring sound filled the air when they heard Aeon's statement.

"Watch your mouth, he is not dead!" Raine snarled at Aeon, her big obsidian eyes widened in anger.

"I didn't say that he died." Aeon corrected Raine's accusation.

"You said Torak was beheaded! What do you mean with that?!" Raine shouted out loud. Was Aeon trying to make a fool out of her?

"Yes, he was beheaded." Aeon agreed readily. "But, isn't you holding his soul?" As he said that, the shadow warrior eyed something inside Raine's pocket.

Raine was stunned because Aeon knew about the spirit animal of the white Lycan, she stepped back as if trying to hide the little bird in her pocket.

"I will not hurt it, I have told you that I am here to help you." Aeon was unusually very calm when he talked to Raine.

She found this quite disturbing when Aeon was very understanding, especially when it came about Torak.

Yet, Raine's choices were very limited. She could decline his help, but she also didn't have another way to find Torak faster.

"What do you want to do with it?" Serefina frowned. She didn't like the fact that the shadow warrior knew about the spirit animal.

"I don't know." Aeon shrugged.

Actually it was a common thing for the shadow warrior to know the fact about the spirit animal, they had roamed around this realm for as long as the first Lycan was created, thus the secret was something that they knew as well, though they didn't go around and talked about it.

"But, there is a book inside this place that will tell you what will happen to the creature that leave this realm but their soul still etched in this world." Aeon added.

"Another book." Serefina sneered. "Last time it was a book too." The witch rolled her eyes.

"You can always go if you don't like the idea." This reply was like a trigger to make the witch fuming mad.

Hence, before another fighting scene was happening, Raine stepped forward and stood between the two angry creatures, which looked like they were ready to tear their opponent apart in any moment.

"Okey, enough with all of this." Raine raised her hand to hold Aeon back, so he could stay where he stood. "Let's go inside. We are only wasting our time in this stupid argument."

Serefina glared at Raine, yet didn't say anything.

"How do you know there is no one inside?" Raine asked her last question, though the house looked empty, but at this point, she couldn't trust whatever she saw right away and believed it as it was.

"This is Lucifer's place, if he is not here, no one will be here. And also..." Aeon glanced at Serefina as he smirked triumphantly. "A bottle that consisted with the witch magic, is not enough to bring you here, even if you are the great witch."

It was only the people who had been marked by the devil himself who was able to visit this place. Just like him.

However, Aeon didn't tell Raine that piece of information, it was better to leave it unknown, there was nothing good would come out if she knew about this.

Raine couldn't trust Aeon a hundred percent, but they were already here. There was no way back for them.

"So, who will go inside?" Aeon back to their topic.

"If there is no one inside, why don't we go together?" Raine still couldn't get it.

"Because, even though it is an empty house, this place is protected by dark magic." He explained.

That was what Serefina felt since they arrived.

Chapter 382 - SECRET PASSAGEWAY

It was actually the dark magic that made the witch felt uncomfortable, not only that it was quite strong as well.

"If you step any closer from this, you will burn into dust." That was one of the reason why the devil was having a good time for leaving his den. They could careless about this because it was protected so well. "I can only protect maximum of six people."

Raine looked around. Those Lycanthropes from the red river city that came with her to take down Alpha Ryan and Jenedieth's plot, absolutely couldn't go inside, thus the only people left was....

"It will be me, Serefina, Calleb, Raphael, Alpha Romulus and Alpha Chris while the rest of you will stay here." Raine make a quick decision.

"Alright." Aeon nodded with Raine's arrangement.

The Alphas were satisfied with Raine decision and together they went into the house. action

"Stay close to me." Aeon warned them as he extended his shadow under them, so they were walking on his shadow. ???Don't step out from it."

"Okey." Out of five, it was only Raine who answered his warning, though Aeon didn't care as long as it was Raine.

With that, they walked toward the house silently with Aeon led the way.

They climbed three stairs and opened the door. Once the door opened, the foul smell of alcohol assaulted their nose, especially to those Lycans who have strong senses, it was so hard to ignore.

"I assumed you know where is the book is." Serefina folded her arms in front of her chest, her nose scrunched in disgust with the smell.

"I know." Aeon nodded.

"You have more knowledge than I expected." Regardless it sounded like a compliment, if it came from Serefina to Aeon, then it was something that you shouldn't be proud of that. "For an outsider like you, you know the devil well."

Aeon didn't answer her comment and acted as if he heard nothing as he walked down the corridor with five people in tow.

That house was actually very clean as if someone had really taken good care of it and made an effort to keep it that way.

However, the chill that ran down Raine's spine was telling her there was something bad about this place.

Aeon kept leading the way to one of the doors and the moment he opened it, Raine could see the same exact room that she had seen in her vision.

"This is the room in your vision, right?" Aeon guessed it when he noticed Raine suddenly changed of expression.

"Yes," Raine nodded curtly.

This was indeed the same, the exact room that she saw the witch from the blue moon pack would come, but because she had ordered her to be killed, the future altered and now something unpredictable happened.

Aeon walked toward a bookshelf and picked a book from it. Raine thought it was the book that they had been looking for, yet instead of giving the book to Raine and found out the information that they needed, the bookshelf in front of them moved and split into two, revealing a secret passage behind it.

"A secret room?" Serefina raised her brows, seemingly didn't very ecstatic to see this. "I am not coming inside."

The witch raised her hands and leaned her body against the wall nearby. Resolute with her situation.

"But, what if we need you?" Raine didn't want to leave the witch behind.

"Why would you need me?" Serefina frowned as she waved her hand toward Aeon. "You have him."

Crossing her arms, Serefina looked at Raine straight into her eyes, challenging her to force the witch. Yet, Raine knew better to not argue with Serefina if she was this stubborn.

"Let's get inside." Raine didn't want to have an argumentation with Serefina when she was trying to be an **s, thus she decided to just leave her there.

Raine didn't know why the witch didn't want to go inside the secret passage and tried to figure out her reason, but her mind only roamed around the possibilities of she was having a phobia.

Maybe claustrophobia?

Raine shrugged her shoulder as she followed Aeon to go inside the secret passage with Calleb, Raphael and the two Alphas behind her.

This place was so dark and humid, Raine was afraid that the little bird would suffocate because she kept it inside her pocket jacket, thus she picked the little thing out and cradled it in her hand, feeling its heavy breathe.

Just a little bit more... just a little bit more...

Raine chanted that words as she moved forward.

Outside the door.

Serefina's sharp eyes stared at the door where they came from as her expression turned very calm, too calm until it was almost scary.

She looked like someone who was waiting for something.

A minute...

Two minute...

Nothing happened.

However, all of sudden Serefina made a quick slashing movement as her face turned darker. She didn't say anything when she heard a chuckle that echoed inside the room.

The glasses made noisy tinkling sound added the creepiness in the air.

"Hay, Serefina... long time no see..."

Along with that sweet voice, a girl appeared from behind the door.

She looked so gorgeous wearing tutu skirt as her dark eyes twinkle under the light of the room.

"Lilith..." Serefina mentioned her name with a lazy tone, as if she really didn't want to face this person right now, or if she could say she was a 'person'.

"I see you and those pathetic creatures barged into my house." Lilith walked toward the bar. She took a sophisticated bottle and poured the liquid inside to two glasses.

"Don't worry, I am sure this is not the first time. Moreover, this will be a quick visit." Serefina shrugged her shoulder, didn't move an inch from where she was standing.

"I see you look for the book..." Lilit murmured. "Don't you want to know why I don't stop you from entering that secret passage?" she asked cheerfully.

Chapter 383 - IT'S TIME TO END ALL THIS

Serefina didn't give any respond to Lilith's question, her expression was devoid from any emotion as she stared right to her eyes.

"Drink?" Lilith raised a glass at the witch while holding another glass with her right hand. "Make it floats to you with your magic, because I don't have the ability," she chuckled as if she just said a joke.

Serefina was standing, at least, ten meter away from Lilith and the latter didn't want to walk over toward Serefina to give her treat.

"No. Thanks," Serefina rejected the offer immediately. "That's not my taste."

The moment she finished her words, the glass in Lilith's hand shattered into thousand pieces with a loud of sound.

Lilith, who was holding the glass a while ago, was shocked and stepped back as she glowered at the witch. "Are you crazy!" she was very angry beyond words.

"I guess so." Serefina shrugged her shoulder. "While this is only you and me, why don't you entertain me with the reason why don't you stop them from entering the passageway?"

Lilith was still waving her hand because of the shards of the glass pricked her skin. It wasn't something that very hurt she just exaggerated her reaction.

"Why don't I entertain you with the reason why I slept with Jedrek?" Lilith smirked.

And the moment that words left her lips, all the bottles on the bar shelves exploded, all the chairs turned upside down and the shattered pieces of glass swirled within a weird wind that cut Lilith's fair skin.

The devil woman screamed and told the witch to stop her attack, yet Serefina wasn't someone who could accept an order easily. She tended to do thing in the opposite direction.

The whirlwind that consisted with the shards of glasses that engulfed Lilith's body happened for a minute or two, but by the time Serefina decided to stop, Lilith's clothes had torn apart.

"Ups, I think I overdo it." Serefina grinned, but the mirth in her voice was a contradiction of the anger that had appeared on her lime green eyes.

Once Serefina was done to make a chaos in this place, the bar was totally a mess.

Lilith was very angry as her devil expression came out for a second, before she remained in her beautiful form.

"I don't think I like the subject that you suggested to me." Serefina clicked her tongue in annoyance. "You should just answer my question."

"You are so angry because I mentioned about Jedrek?" Lilith taunted the witch, just like someone who was so dumb enough to not learn her mistake.

"It is so bad that I can't kill you, no matter what I do." Serefina sighed in disappointment, but then her eyes became shrewd as she flicked her fingers toward Lilith.

The witch grazed Lilith's cheek with broken glass and created another scream of agony that echoed throughout the room.

Though the cut was so deep, but it didn't bleed. Moreover, Lilith's skin fixed itself, just like the healing ability that those Lycans had, even so, the pain was real.

"Lucifer will be here soon! And all of you will die!" roared the devil woman. "Especially that shadow warrior, he must have known that he will not be able to live longer than this once Lucifer finds out what he is doing now."

"Hoo..." Serefina nodded in understanding. "That is why you didn't stop them from entering the secret passage. Because you tell tales to Lucifer. Isn't you afraid that you will ruin his good mood when he is too busy in fulbright city? Charming those gullible human with his new witch?"

Lilith was so angry to the way Serefina talked now. She grabbed a broken leg of a chair and threw it toward Serefina.

Seeing the piece of wood flew toward her, she didn't even flinch, because before it could hit her, the wood collided with a transparent wall that surrounded Serefina and small area around her. action

"B*tch, you don't know how to fight. The only thing that you know is seducing people around." Serefina gave the devil woman a disdain smirk.

But then, realization hit her. "You are not just telling Lucifer that we are here, but there must be something down there that will make sure they can't go before he comes, am I right?"

"This is too late for you to realize it now." This time, it was Lilith who gave Serefina a smirk.

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"Is it the right way?" Alpha Romulus who was walking the furthest back, shouted at the shadow warrior, who was walking the front. "We have been walking for quite some time now, but there is nothing here."

Alpha Romulus's complained invited another criticize from Alpha Chris. "Do you really know where we will go?"

Aeon didn't answer them, he wasn't willing to talk even a word with them and this annoyed the two Alphas.

"Hey! I am talking to you!" Alpha Romulus was getting riled up from being ignored.

"Aeon, why don't you answer them?" Raine sighed upon seeing the shadow warrior's attitude. "Do you really know where is the book?"

Meanwhile, Calleb and Raphael, who were walking on both of her sides, were very quiet. Even Raine could tell that they were very tense and the complains from the Alphas didn't help the situation at all.

"I know this place. I have been here twice," Aeon answered Raine's question.

"What were you doing here?" Raine frowned.

So, in the end, Aeon was indeed associated himself with the devils since the very beginning.

"Something that you don't want to know," Aeon answered curtly.

He remembered the first time he was here was when he realized he didn't die because of the annihilation that the Lycanthropes had done to his kind.

He was awoken in this place. Alone.

It was Lucifer who had given him a chance to live again and to look for Raine. He had been waiting for her for as long as Torak did.

But, it's time to end all this.

Chapter 384 - WHERE IS OTHER PEOPLE!?

Raine furrowed her eyebrow when she heard the way Aeon answered her, but she didn't ask anything further from him.

They were walking for another minutes before they found stairs, which leading them down.

"Wait." Raphael held Raine's hand before she could take a step to go down the stairs.

"What?" Raine turned around and Raphael pulled her behind his back as he faced Aeon.

"Do you scare?" Aeon asked Raphael in mocking tone. He didn't know why the Beta stopped him, but he wouldn't be there to waste his time.

"What are you up to?" Raphael confronted the shadow guard. "Do you want to kill all of us?"

Raphael's statement erupted growls from the two Lycans behind them, they were ready to attack Aeon if it wasn't because Calleb who held them back and convinced them to let Raphael talked to Aeon.

"Why should I kill you when we are already here?" Aeon shrugged his shoulder nonchalantly. "I will not appear from the beginning if that is my intention."

Aeon then glanced at the bird in Raine's hand.

"That bird will only last for another one hour or two," Aeon shifted his gaze from the bird and looked at Raphael. "Do you really think that bottle could lead you here?"

Raphael didn't say anything as he squinted his eyes dangerously.

"Don't look at me that way," Aeon grumbled as he waved his hand with lazy attitude. "If you think that I am Lucifer's paw, then my answer is; yes, I was. But, because of that too, I know what you don't know."

"You are not now?" Calleb quipped from behind Raphael while holding back Raine, protected her in every way possible.

"I will not be here if I was not." Aeon glared at Calleb. "Are you going to stand here or we will continue this? Noted this; I don't care whether your Alpha is alive or not, my concern is only she."

"How dare you to talk to our Luna like that!" Alpha Chris was about to storm forward and ripped Aeon's mouth for talking like that about Raine.

"Enough!" Raine was very annoyed with the way those Lycanthropes and Aeon behaved. "Stop talking and start walking!"

Raine walked past Raphael and Aeon. "What are you waiting for?" she glared at Aeon.

It was Aeon who said that the bird wouldn't last for another few hours, thus why were they still wasting time to argue about something insignificant? Raine simply couldn't understand with their ego.

Aeon chased after Raine and walked in front of Raine while Calleb and Raphael followed them closely with the two Alphas in tow.

After they walked down the stairs, there was another door, but before Aeon could open it, he turned around and warned all of them.

"Whatever you see behind this close door or whoever you meet later, don't ever show your emotion or walk away from the shadow." Aeon glanced at the shadow under their feet.

The shadow warrior didn't even wait for them to answer him as he opened the door and stepped inside without hesitation.

"I will walk in first." Raphael held back Raine and followed Aeon's step.

Raine put back the little bird in her hand into her pocket when she entered the room and immediately shivered when cold wind blew past her face.

It was so cold as if they were inside a refrigerator.

Raine moved closer toward Calleb and snuggled in his embrace as the Gamma wrapped his arms around her shoulder.

Why the temperature was very low? When it was so warm outside? Raine didn't think that they provided air conditioner here.

"Don't you feel so cold?" Raine sneezed as she asked Calleb.

"We, Lycanthropes, fortunately, have hot blood, thus this kind of coldness is still bearable." Calleb explained.

"Oh," Raine mumbled as she felt Calleb's hand, which dr.a.p.ed on her shoulder, was indeed warmer than hers. "I hope in this condition, I have hot blood too."

"Don't worry. You have 'hot headed'." Calleb chuckled on his own joke.

"Not funny." Though she said that, there was a smiled grazed her lips.

They walked further inside, but aside from the coldness of the temperature, this tunnel passageway wasn't as dark as they thought, there was still glimmer of light along the way, though there was no light source there.

And at that time, when Raine was lost in her own thought about the little bird in her hand, she saw something.

A girl.

Not too far from her.

No. There are two girls.

Raine recognized one of the girls as the girl from the vision that she saw before, the girl who was able to revive the flowers that have withered.

But, Raine didn't know who was the other girl.

Who is she? Why they are here?

Those two girls were only staring at her, yet their eyes were not really on her. It almost like they were daydreaming.

The flower girl was holding a bucket of red flower while the other, the one that Raine had never met, she held her hand behind her back.

Overall, Raine could see the resemblance among the three of them, especially their black hair and black eyes.

If Sereфина had told her that the girl with flower was a mate of Jedrek Donovan, then it should be safe to say that the other girl was Kace's mate?

Raine's curiosity made her wanted to walk over and approached them, she even didn't realize when she had taken three steps away from Calleb.

And the strangest thing was; Calleb didn't even hold her back or prevent her from leaving his side.

Raine just realized that she left the group when Aeon held her wrist and shouted her name. "Where are you going!?"

"Huh?" Raine was slightly confused when she watched Aeon's stern expression. "There are two girls there."

Raine pointed the direction of the girl before, but she couldn't find any of them. It was only darkness.

However, when Raine looked back at Aeon, there was another thing that shocked her. "Where is other people?!"

Chapter 385 - SACRIFICE

Raine's question made Aeon turned his body and all the four people behind him had already gone. He just chased after Raine because he watched as she walked away and Calleb didn't even stop her.

It was only seconds and they had gone.

"Where are they?!" Raine became panic and bit her lips harshly while trying to catch a glimpse of Raphael or Calleb, or the two Alphas.

"We have to find the book soon," Aeon grumbled under his breath. "Or something bad will happen to them."

Aeon knew this place quite well, thus he assumed the other people had seen what Raine was seeing when she walked out of the group.

"Where is the book?" Raine asked agitatedly. Torak had not yet to be found and now, another people were in danger. This kind of situation made Raine's spirit turned sour as anxiety crept in her mind.

"Let's go. This way." Aeon grabbed Raine's wrist and tugged her toward the direction that they were heading before.

This room was getting colder because Aeon's body didn't provide the warmth like Calleb did.

Aeon tried to make Raine a little bit warm by taking off his jacket and draped it over her shoulder, but it didn't help much as her body was still shivering.

"Just a moment and we will be there." Aeon encouraged Raine to take another steps toward the book.

Out of coldness, Raine snuggled into Aeon's embrace as she tried to keep the little bird also warm. Rather than herself, Raine was more concerned about the bird. action

The bird was already very weak to begin, she didn't want this coldness to make the bird's condition worse.

Aeon then wrapped his arm around her body, though he understood why Raine did that and why she moved closer to him, he couldn't deny that he was happy by her gesture.

Though it was only a fleeting moment, he wanted to cherish it. The time when Raine depended on him.

"Here is the place." They reached another door crossed the room.

On the second thought, actually this room was very big, almost like a grand ballroom with crystal chandelier hang very high above their head.

Aeon pushed opened the door with both of his hand, it was another room. An empty room to be exact.

There was nothing that worth to be seen except an opened book on top of a translucent podium.

"Is that the book?" Raine even didn't realize when she asked in a whisper, because this room was very quiet. She acted as if she was afraid to attract attention of someone or something.

"Yes, it is." Aeon nodded and grabbed Raine's hand to approach the book.

The podium was a little bit high for Raine's height, thus she needed to tiptoe to see the opened book, yet it was only blank page inside of it.

"There is nothing here." Raine stated as she tilted her head to look at Aeon, who still flipping through the empty sheets. "What should we do now?"

Raine began to panic again because she was running out of time and now if the book was a useless thing for them, they had wasted so much time. Not to mention Calleb and Raphael were missing.

"Aeon, what should we do?" Raine urged him to talk, yet Aeon only stared deeply into the empty book with furrowed between his eyebrows.

"Sacrifice." Aeon muttered as he shifted his gaze from the book toward a strange word, which was written on the podium, right atop of the book.

It was a small word that engraved beautifully there.

"What?" Raine didn't catch what Aeon said, she tried to look the same spot that Aeon was staring at, but she couldn't understand a thing.

There was nothing there that interesting enough to see.

"Step back Raine..." Aeon said in low voice as he traced his long fingers on the edge of the book. "Step back for a while, I think I know how to read this."

Raine wanted to know how Aeon managed to read the blank sheets, yet the seriousness on Aeon's face, made her to comply and didn't ask anything again.

Raine took three steps away from him, holding her bird close to her heart, she was waiting with anticipation while staring at Aeon's back.

She hope whatever he tried to do, it would succeed.

And before Aeon could do anything, he looked over his shoulder at Raine and smiled ever tenderly.

And then the next thing that happened before their eyes turned Raine utterly thunderstruck.

Because when Aeon put his hands with his palms were facing the empty sheets, something happened and this wasn't something that Raine could imagine, even not in her wildest dreams.

Raine stood there in shock as she watched the supposed to be floor, was now fire. Flames licked the air.

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

"Aeon, what is this!?" Raine stuttered. She moved closer toward Aeon, yet the flame only lasted for a few second before it disappeared, as if the thing that Raine had seen before was only in her mind.

Raine clutched Aeon's clothes and gritted her teeth, stared in disbelief at the empty room before her eyes, which a few seconds ago was on fire.

"It's done now." Aeon heaved a deep sigh. "We will find the Alpha."

Raine was about to reply to him when she watched Calleb, Raphael, Alpha Romulus and Alpha Chris were there, sitting on the floor with shock expression.

"They are comeback!" Raine ran toward Calleb and Raphael with Aeon followed behind her. "Calleb, are you alright?"

Raine helped Calleb to stand up, but his legs were very weak as he fell on the floor again with pale face.

Not only him, the other three people were also in the same state.

Raphael and the two Alphas apparently regained their consciousness faster as they skimmed their surrounding in alert.

"What happened to them?" Raine asked Aeon.

"They had encountered something from their past or future. Something bad."

Chapter 386 - THEY ARE COMING

Something from the past or future? Raine was contemplating in Aeon's explanation. action

If that was the case, how about the two girls that Raine had seen before? Were they from her future?

Questions after questions were roaming around her head, yet she tried to shake them off, right now there was important thing that she should do. Raine didn't have time to think about that yet.

While Raine attending to Raphael and Calleb, Aeon moved to the two Alphas and brought them closer, so they gathered in one small circle with Aeon in the middle.

"Calleb, this is me. Are you okay?" Raine shook the Gamma's body lightly as his eyes were so dull.

"I am... I am... fine..." Calleb stammered, trying to regain his own consciousness as he shook his head vigorously as if he was trying to get rid of the dreadful images right before his eyes.

The same thing happened to Raphael and the other two Alphas.

Raine literally could hear their ragged breathe.

Yet, when Raine thought everything would be better as they had found the four missing people, something unexpected happened again.

There was a loud noisy. The sound was coming from faraway place, maybe from the floor atop of them.

The first thing that came into Raine's mind was; Serefina. Did the witch encounter predicament?

That loud noisy then intensified as all of them could hear the sound of terrifyingly intense rumbling. The sound was getting louder and louder until it became a deafening roar.

Raine pressed her palms on her ears and before the sound consumed her, she found herself in a pair of arms, and she was whisked away.

When Raine looked back, she was blinded by a flash of light, it was a fireball, which exploded only twenty meters away from her.

Raine was dumbfounded. They were no longer inside the empty room with strange book laid alone atop of podium.

Aeon, or Serefina, had brought them back to the surface, in the yard, in front of the house, which now had turned into debris.

Raine watched in horror as the center of the yard was set ablaze. She held the arms of the person who held her, tightly.

Raine skimmed her surroundings, all the Lycanthropes had shifted into their beast form and let out a howl, beckoning the other beast to gather around in pack formation, ready for the next attack.

But then she heard what sounded like wh.i.p.s cutting through the air, the sharp and distinct cracks reverberated throughout the air, churning up dust and smoke as the winds became more intense. The beasts spread out.

Raine squinted her eyes and scanned the scene before her eyes, it was hard to see as dust and smoke swirled in the air.

When the things went quiet and all the debris had settled down, it was when Raine saw Lucifer and Belphegor, flying high above them with their hideous smirk on their lips.

Both of them stared down at the yard like a predator, looking for their prey, ready to kill.

The beasts snarled and snapped at the devils, daring them to attack while Serefina, who was standing right next to Raine, clenched her jaw and balled her fists.

"We can't do this," she muttered under her breath, only then Raine spotted blood trickled down from her temple, but the witch remained steadfast. "We have to go from here, they are too strong in their land."

It was so rare to hear Serefina asked for retreat.

Yet, when Raine raised her head and looked at the sky, it was no longer the darkness of the night sky, it was the color of something, or unknown creatures, covered it. Something evil.

"What is that?" Raine whispered, holding her breath as she watched those dark things moved closer, engulfed the light of all the stars.

"Their legion." Aeon replied, very close to her ears. Then, Raine realized that she was in his embrace since the beginning.

Raine tried to free herself from him, but he held her even tighter.

"Witch." He stretched his hand out and waited for Serefina to grab it.

Though she didn't like the way the shadow warrior called her, they didn't have time to hear her complaint.

Thus, just like before, they touched each other and everything changed in matter of millisecond, before a fireball exploded where all of them had been standing.

=====

Raine blinked her eyes a couple of time before she could adjust herself from the sudden change. She has been changing places three times less than five minutes.

"Let me go." Raine gently removed herself from Aeon's embrace, she didn't want to offend him, but she wasn't comfortable, with their proximity.

Aeon, finally, let her go as he looked at the girl in her arms moved away from him with sad expression.

"What you've got?" Serefina didn't let Aeon to stay in his melancholic state for long time as she bothered him immediately. "Those devils will follow us here. You better have good news about your trip to the passageway."

Actually, Serefina and Aeon worked well together, regardless their bickering every now and then, as both of them used their magic to move from the collapse bar house right in time.

They could teleport themselves out of there, but Aeon couldn't teleport them right away into the room where the book was placed.

The shadow warrior didn't appreciate the way the witch talked to him as he squinted his eyes dangerously. "The library, huh?"

Aeon noticed that they were in the yard, in front of the collapsed library building.

"Mm, nostalgic, isn't it." Serefina crossed her arms in front of her chest as she replied sarcastically.

Right at that time, there was a security guard running toward their direction with flashlight in his hand. "Hey! What are you doing there!!!" He shouted angrily and made Raine startled.

Yet, before that man could take another step closer, Serefina had waved her hand and then his body flew a few meters away before dropped to the ground.

"Serefina! You killed him!?" Raine was shocked.

Chapter 387 - I DON'T TRUST HIM

Serefina just rolled her eyes upon hearing Raine's exclaim, "Of course not, he just passed out." She waved her hand nonchalantly as she focused on the matter at hand. "So, what we've got now? Where is the book?"

"We don't need the book." Aeon's statement made Serefina raised her eyebrows and later her voice if the shadow warrior didn't explain it quickly. "I have read it."

"And?" this time, it was Raphael who asked him.

Meanwhile Raine looked at her surroundings, some of the beasts had turned into their human form and the other remained in their beasts form while the five Alphas, apparently, were not in good condition as they were attended by their respective pack members.

The situation around the construction of the library building where so quiet as it was in progress to rebuild again.

"Torak is indeed in tartarus." Aeon confirmed that after the fire that he watched when he did the sacrifice.

This made Raphael frowned while Calleb was sitting on the ground, seemingly still in shock from whatever he saw earlier.

"To open the gate to Tartarus, there is another risk that you have to know." Aeon directed his words toward Raine. "The risk is too big."

Raine stared at Aeon directly, his gaze laced with worry and reluctance, yet Raine didn't want to think about anything else other than how to get Torak back.

She wanted to be selfish this time.

"What kind of risk?" Raine asked slowly.

"I am not sure what exactly it would be, but..." Aeon halted and stared deeply into Raine's eyes as if he was going to dig a hole into her eyes. "...we will open the gate to hell, what do you think will happen?"
action

There was a silent that follow Aeon's question, until Serefina broke it with her careless comment like always.

"Just open it and get Torak out of there." Serefina shrugged as if that was the obvious answer and no one seemed to notice that.

"What do you say?" Aeon ignored Serefina's opinion, all he needed was a word from Raine and he would do whatever she wished.

"Do it." Raine said softly, but there was a determination in her tender voice, glancing over at Raphael and Serefina, but both of them apparently didn't mind with whatever the risk that they should take as long as they could get Torak back.

It wasn't a good thing, but Raine was relieved because they agreed. She just wanted to justify her decision.

Because whatever chaos that would happen after this, Raine would be the one who responsible for it, but if it meant she could get Torak back, then everything would be worth it.

It sounded selfish indeed, but Raine knew this was the right thing to do, though this wasn't a good one.

"Understood." Aeon nodded his head as he looked at his surroundings and stopped at Raine's obsidian eyes again. "I only hope you will never regret this decision."

"Even if I will regret it later, I know I will choose the same decision all over again." Raine was sure with this.

"Alright." Aeon nodded as he understood what Raine was feeling right now, he stretched out his hand toward Raine. "I need the bird now."

"The bird?" Raine took offense with Aeon stretching hand as she was being protective. She didn't want to give the weak bird to Aeon.

Truth to be told, Raine didn't trust the shadow warrior enough to give Torak's soul to him.

"I need it." Aeon demanded.

Raine's frown deepened as she stared at Aeon. "What are you going to do with the bird?"

"I need that to get to Torak." Aeon explained to Raine. "We have come this far and I will not do a silly thing to hurt the bird."

"Like how you will not hurt Raine when the devil managed to get her blood before?" Serefina chimed in sarcastically while rolling her eyes.

"I will never do that if I knew what he would do." Aeon countered the witch's words through gritted teeth.

It wasn't only Raine who was being deceived at that time by Lucifer, he was also suffered the same thing.

"Sure, sure... your words are very believable." Serefina didn't stop her sarcasm at all.

Yet, before they could decide what they should do or Aeon was able to convince Raine, all of sudden weird feeling filled the air.

All of them looked at each other in uncertainty.

What was happening?

They were in the park within the construction of the library building, this place was supposed to be windy as a lot of trees surrounded them and the gloomy sky, indicating rain would fall.

Not long after that, a group of men emerged from behind the shadow of the trees, they were wearing long black coats that swept the ground.

Raine watched in horror as their number didn't decrease as if there was no end from them.

How many they were? A thousand? Two thousand?

"Who are they?" Raine was being pulled and protected by Aeon and Raphael while Calleb started to gain his awareness about their predicament, he stood next to Raine.

"The devil's legion." Aeon replied to Raine.

This was the same thing that they had seen before Aeon and Serefina brought them all here. They managed to catch up to them in matter of minutes only.

Aeon felt the shadows rose from the depths of his heart. They swirled around his body.

"Hello my dear."

The sweetness of Lucifer's voice almost made everyone by Raine's side to puke, they snarled and growled at the threat that the devil brought.

"So, you decided to betray me in the end." Lucifer talked to Aeon. "Why I don't surprise."

"You are the one who didn't keep your promise!" Aeon was livid. "You promised me, you will never hurt her."

Lucifer widened his eyes. "But, she is still alive." His golden eyes directed at Raine. "Though it will not be for long." He smirked devilishly.

With that was being said, the calm in the air broke and the situation devolved to chaos.

Chapter 388 - TARTARUS

Apparently there were witches among them as they cast their curses, and vampires that were very eager to reach to Raine, invited by the scent of her blood.

It was hard for Raine to put her focus because their enemies were everywhere and she was in the middle of it.

Raine watched as Serefina tried to repel every spells and curses from the dark witches.

Among the snarl, ears- piercing sound of bones were being broken and explosion of balls of fire, Aeon approached Raine.

He extended his arm again hastily. "Give me the bird now if you wanted Torak to be saved, any later than this I don't even know if we could survive this attack."

Raine looked at the worse nightmare around her and the blood.

Blood.

It was everywhere.

The Lycanthropes were outnumbered by the Devil's legion, witches and the vampires.

Raine's heart was breaking upon seeing their desperate situation, Raphael and Calleb's beast were fighting not too far from her, trying to fend off the other party from getting closer to Raine.

There was no one to be asked for opinion, whether Raine should trust Aeon or not. After all, Aeon and Torak wasn't in good term to begin with.

The retaliation that those beasts gave to them wasn't as effective as they thought.

Their enemies had become so strong.

There was fear and confusion reflected from Raine's eyes when she looked back at Aeon's stretching hand.

This decision should be made by her, right now.

With her shaking hand, Raine pulled out the weak bird from her pocket jacket and placed it on Aeon's opened palm.

"I hope you will not betray me for this." Raine asked earnestly.

"What a beautiful thing that you have in your arms... I would never have thought that he would leave his soul behind like this." Lucifer suddenly appeared only three meters away from Raine and Aeon. action

Out of instinct, Aeon put Raine behind his back and glared at the devil, whose lips form a sickening grin.

Another beasts who watched that the devil had managed to get closer to Raine, tried they harder to attack Lucifer, yet somehow they couldn't enter the magic protection that Lucifer had casted around the three of them.

Not even Serefina's magic could penetrate it.

Around them, the bloody battle continued to rage. It was a living hell. But, Raine had not seen the hell yet.

"Knowing the consequences, why do you still choose to side with them?" Lucifer asked Aeon, but didn't really want to know the answer for that.

"You know my priority since the very beginning." Aeon glowered at Lucifer as he held the bird in his right hand and Raine in his left hand, keeping both saved from the predator before their eyes.

Or, he hoped he could protect them.

"Very touching." Lucifer nodded and crossed his arms in front of his chest as he stared sharply at the bird. "But, you know..."

This time, Aeon didn't let Lucifer to finish his words before he did something upon their situation.

He extended his hands to the sky and in an instant the sky turned even gloomier than before. The stars and the moon were covered by something like... shadow?

Not only that, the lights around them were consumed into the darkness of the shadow that Aeon created.

Nobody knew until where the extended of Aeon's shadow, but from this point of view, it was safe to say that the whole fulbright city was covered by shadow, even the light from the lamp couldn't manage to go through it.

Raine clutched onto Aeon's clothes very tightly as she felt cold and dark engulfed her body, the last thing that she could see was the expression from Lucifer, he looked Aeon in anger.

When her vision failed her, Raine's instinct sharpened as she smell rotten flesh filled the air around her and assaulted her nostrils.

Shrilled screams could be heard from afar and when the thick shadow that covered them evaporated.

Raine was shock as her knees turned very weak and she dropped to the ground. The only thing that existed in her world was the sight of Torak's head was being put on top of a small table right before her eyes.

His eyes closed, but there wasn't a single drop of blood around his head.

"NOOOO!" tears were pouring from Raine's eyes. She was lost in despair. She had lost all the senses around her, as all she could feel right now was only a big hollow in her heart.

So big that it consumed her agony.

Raine felt the urge to release the heavy burden in her heart, the fire that burned her entire body.

When she lowered her head to avoid the gruesome scene that was displayed before her eyes, she felt the firebird appeared on her palms and it majestic plumage, which akin to bonfire, grew brightly upon her touch.

Now the fire of the bird also spread on her, Raine was burning. Her fire was so bright it could illuminate the underworld for centuries, brightened the even the darkest part of the hell.

Weird enough the fire didn't hurt her, but it didn't mean it could save Raine from the sorrow that she felt.

Raine was lost herself in that process and everything would burn, not only the devils.

Raine's body was starting to morph into a molten ball of fire as she rose into the air.

Even Aeon's words couldn't be heard, his words were only a silence scream that couldn't reach Raine.

The guardian angel roared angrily as a huge blaze destroyed everything around her. The wrath of Raine could fill the abyss of the Tartarus.

Even Lucifer, his confidence smile finally faltered. The devil felt the extreme heat that radiated from the guardian angel's body and the firebird.

Raine's fire expanded and she didn't even care when she had hurt Aeon as well in the process.

The only thing that Raine cared was the fact that Torak was dead.

Someone had beheaded him!

Chapter 389 - THE FLAMES THAT COVERED THEM

Raine couldn't comprehend that fact in her head as she immersed herself in the agony that she felt, not even Aeon's voice could reach her.

In his attempt to calm Raine, Aeon was burning with the heat in the air around him. The shadow warrior extended his hand to her, but he couldn't even move an inch.

"Raine, stop it!" Aeon covered his face from the fire, he was badly injured, but he didn't care. action

Meanwhile, inside the molten fire that engulfed her body Raine felt there was a pair of arms that sent spark through her whole body.

The familiar spark that she had missed for days, the spark that only belong to him.

Raine curled herself into his embrace as in her head, she heard Torak's voice, talking to her, calling her name, asking her to stop.

[Torak...?]

[It's me... it's me, my love.]

The blaze flickered for a moment, before it exploded all at once in a puff of smoke.

Finally Raine opened her eyes. She had never looked so weak to the Alpha before this, even when Torak found her for the first time, she didn't look like this.

Raine now, was looking at him with sadness and exhaustion. She said nothing as tears after tears were streaming down her cheeks.

Torak's heart was aching, upon seeing his mate in this condition.

"I am sorry... I am so sorry. I have brought you into this mess..." here, Torak was holding his mate, let her body heat warmed him.

"Torak..." Raine called out his name in agony, her voice was very hoarse and dry as though she would hurt her throat further if she talked more than this.

"Yes, my love... I am here." Torak ran his fingers through her black hair as Raine buried her face on his sturdy chest.

"I saw you... I saw you..." dead.

Raine couldn't bring herself to say the last word, as if it was a final verdict that the scene that she had seen before this was real.

She didn't want to think that scene was real.

"You saved me. You saved me and now I am fine." Torak hugged Raine a little bit tighter now, feeling her small body shivering out of fear.

Even Torak could feel her fear from the bond that they shared.

Torak kissed her head and let her crying for as long as she need and that was what Raine did before she sniffled and raised her head to see her mate face.

"Don't leave me..." her voice was very pitiful and Torak's heart clenched upon hearing the plea that laced in her voice.

"I will not..." Torak shook his head and wiped away her tears. "I will not..."

And once again their body were engulfed by fire from the firebird that flew on top of their head. The white light flooded their surroundings and the sound of the crackle of flames moments later.

The sensation of falling overwhelmed Raine as she shut her eyes and held onto Torak's body tightly.

"Torak!?"

"Alpha!"

"He returns!"

Noises sound that buzzed Raine's ears awoke her from a nightmare. She recognized those voices and her eyes shot open in alarm.

She was in her world again.

Raine watched as Calleb and Raphael approached them, also the five Alphas and their pack members. They were in their human form.

Why they were in human form? How about the battle?

Raine skimmed her surrounding, but still didn't let Torak go from her tight hug, her arms were akin to octopus, latched onto Torak.

The devil's legion, the group of men, who wore long black cloak, stood in the distance couldn't cross the fire that encircled the Lycanthropes.

Where did the fire come? Is it the fire that the bird had conjured or it is Serefina's creation to ward off their enemies?

Raine didn't have time to think about that when the fire, all of sudden, was extinguished and showed the devil, c.o.c.king his head to the side and grinned as he halted his step a few meter away from where the Lycanthropes stood.

"Wow! How about your reunion with your mate? Are you touched?" Lucifer meant to sound strong and daunting, but his question came out as an angry snarl.

Raine felt all the color drain from her face.

Torak could feel Raine's distress and put his big palm on the back of her neck as he drew circles to soothe her tense.

"Stay with me my love," Torak whispered to her ears as he shifted into his massive beast, putting Raine on top of his body.

[Don't fall and keep your head low.] Torak mind- linked Raine.

Raine complied, she grabbed Torak's soft white fur and lowered her head, only then she realized Torak's beast this time was bigger than the last time she saw him.

But, another thing happened, all of sudden Torak's beast was covered with golden flames.

The first thing that Raine thought was, the beast was being attacked by the Devil or the witches and this fire would burn them.

Raine's heart skipped a beat as she wait for the fire to burn them, yet the flames were not hot. They fluttered around her like innocent flickering lights.

[Don't worry. Just hold tightly to me.] Once again, Torak mind- linked her. Apparently, Torak didn't totally lost to his beast and was still able to communicate with Raine.

The beast felt his little mate nodded her head and then began sprinting toward Lucifer. His powerful legs were moving so fast, leading his pack with Calleb and Raphael's beast followed closely behind.

A rush of adrenaline pulsed through Raine's entire body, the beast was moving with ease and fortunately Raine could find a comfortable position to place her body, so she wouldn't fall easily.

Raine's legs clamped both sides of the beast torso as she was hidden underneath the beast's flames.

The beast, effortlessly, maneuvered through the devil's minions as he bit or clawed them in the process and rapidly stormed toward Lucifer.

Chapter 390 - THE CRATER

Lucifer fair face turned hideous when they had moved very close to him. His body bulged with muscle and his head turned red as his golden eyes became darker. His entire eyes were the color of the night.

The shadow that surrounded the city had disappeared, but lights still not came back yet, thus it was extremely dark.

Only the full moon, the witness of this bloody battle.

Raine tried to raise her head and shuddered with the scene around her. The smell of burnt flesh and blood began to fill the air around them.

Roar and snarl echoed every now and then.

From above the beast's back, Raine watched everything that played before her eyes. She heard the guttural snarl of the Raphael's beast before she saw it. The beast leaped from behind Torak as he caught the neck of Belphegor with his teeth, who was jumping from behind Lucifer.

The Sloth wanted to take the opportunity that Torak was occupied with Lucifer. But, Raphael stopped him mid leap.

Raphael swung the head of the devil in his mouth and threw him to the other attackers on his right.

Torak growled menacingly and reared back, preparing to attack. Raine cried out and almost fell when Torak suddenly charged forward, meeting the devil and clobbered each other.

Moments later Torak jumped, clawing through another the devil's minion or vampires and halted for a moment, giving Raine's enough time to readjust her position. action

The first witch beat the beast and came up to Raine's left and lashed a spell at her, yet before the curse could befall upon her, another light hit it and repelled it.

Raine turned around and watched Serefina was having her time, wreak havoc on the enemies around her.

The smirk on her lips, indicating that she was having so much fun to kill those poor creatures with the assist of Calleb beside her, who did the same thing.

Those beasts around Raine were so vicious and didn't stop even to take a breath from killing one after another. Their primal instinct were on display.

The creatures that the devil's brought from the darkness, shrieked and died.

Apparently the existence of their Alpha helped a lot to boost their spirit as they were fighting even better. This was why the Alpha's position was a crucial part.

Also the reason why those Lycanthropes were hesitant to fight against the devil when they thought that their Alpha had died.

Alpha Ryan and Jenedieth had thought about it a lot, yet they miscalculated something, no, they were actually underestimated the existence of Raine.

They would have never thought that Raine managed to survive from the attack from Belphegor and the other as they have Raine's best friend on their side.

In the end, that haughty mind had led them to their end.

Raine braced herself when the beast's legs left the ground and then dropped a hundred meters away. She thought, she would fall because of the aftereffect as her mind raced and her breathing was ragged.

By some miracle Raine didn't fall, but she struggled to keep her balance as the beast maneuvered through their enemies, sprinting and leaping.

It gnashed its teeth on the enemy's flesh.

The scenes were gruesome as blood splattered around in the air. A surge of sheer horror surged in Raine's veins.

Raine didn't know what kind of tactic that Torak's and his pack member used, but when Raine realized it again.

Their position had already switched. Now the Lycanthropes were circled the devil and their minions.

Though at first they were outnumbered, but by some miracle the Lycanthropes and Serefina, managed to kill more than they think they could kill.

The progress was very fascinating.

At this point they could corner those devils and the remaining of Vampires and Witches.

There was a short moment when Torak and Lucifer exchanged their gaze and snarled before Torak charged forward.

At first Raine couldn't see it, yet as Torak moved closer toward Lucifer, Raine could see the eerie huge crater with large fire that was dangerously out of control from beneath it.

This was what Aeon talking about. They had opened the gate of hell. The Tartarus appeared in their realm. In human world.

The only question that crossed her mind was; what would happen then?!

Raine felt a chill race along her back when the Torak's beast led the Lycanthropes stormed toward their enemy.

The number of the devils minions were outnumbered the beast, yet the beasts were massive. They could easily overpower them.

Torak was pressing head and unleashing the full extent of his power.

Raine watched in astonishment as Torak's beast tore apart the devil minions with seemingly no effort.

The beast penetrated deep into where Lucifer standing, or flying mid air.

The Pride flew so high above them, looked down with gloomy expression at the battle below him.

His face became even more hideous when the Lycanthropes managed to push those devils back to Tartarus.

Yet, he could think about that later, because right now, Torak had jumped onto him.

Torak's beast leaped so high and turned the look of amazement on Raine's face shifted to horror when she had almost fallen off of the beast's back.

Raine cried out in fright the moment her grip loosened. She started to fall. Feeling his mate was falling from his back, the beast let out an animalistic growled.

However, before Raine's body fell on the fierce battle beneath her or got concussion because of the impact, a dark shadow engulfed her entire body and protected her as she landed safely on the ground, far enough from the Lycanthropes and the devils.

"Aeon...?" Raine adjusted herself as she hurriedly stood up. Aeon appeared in front of her.

"Stay here." Aeon said to Raine as his eyes met the Alpha beast eyes and he nodded ever so slightly.

From afar, Raine watched as the beast bit down Lucifer's leg and threw him to the flaming crater in the middle of the yard.