

## **TLOA Lycan 391**

### **Chapter 391 - IS IT OVER NOW?**

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.

Is it over now? Raine was astounded as how the event unfolded.

Torak's beast landed in his four legs and roared menacingly, this thunderous sound invited another beast to do the same thing, as if they were telling each other that the battle had been won by them.

The remaining minions from hell were being pushed to the flaming crater while the Vampires and the witches tried to flee from the battle that they couldn't win again.

When Raine watched Torak was safe and sound, she let out her breath in relief.

Meanwhile in the other side of the yard, where the battle of Calleb and Belphegor took place, the big grey beast snarled when the devil managed to bite down his hind leg.

The grey beast was bleeding badly. Bite wounds and lacerations covered him. Raine bit her lips upon seeing Calleb situation.

"We need to help him!" Raine cried to Aeon, who was holding her wrist tightly. But, the shadow warrior just shook his head.

"You will not go anywhere, they will take care of it," Aeon spoke calmly as his eyes locked on Raine.

"No!" Raine refused Aeon's idea. "Calleb needs help!"

At that time, there was an explosion that was created by the witches. It made a big hole where many beasts were standing.

Many of them were died in an instant and this was the first time for Raine to see how angry Serefina was.

Extending her free hands to the sky, Serefina made the gloomy cloud roiling, turning orange as if the color was the reflection of the crater down below it.

Thunder roared so loud and stopped every fighter in the yard in their place for a moment.

Ragged bolts of lightning soared down from the ceiling, striking the Vampires and the witches. The one that had been touched by it was electrocuted to death and many others were struck as well.

Torak's beast, the firebird soared to the sky and aided Serefina's magic by sending its own fire down to their enemies, while Torak and the rest of the pack threw all the minions from hell, back to the place where they belonged.

The yard flashed with lightning and fire as the air smelled of rotten flesh. The scene was grotesque.

When many dead beasts was being hit by the explosion that was created by the witches and their body scattered all over the place, flew a few meter away or died on the spot and couldn't be recognized

anymore, the same thing happened to those vampires and witches, their dead bodies were beyond recognition.

Raine turned her attention from the gruesome scene before her eyes back to where Calleb's beast was fighting the devil.

At that time, the devil managed to tackle Calleb's beast to the ground, clawed his razor nails, dug the beast's flesh with it.

Seeing that, Raine wriggled her hands from Aeon's tight grip, but the shadow warrior didn't want her to be near the battle field.

Soon after, there was another beast let out a massive growl, the sound reverberating through the air and the ground.

It was Torak in his flaming beast form, he charged toward the Calleb, who had shifted back into his human form and was almost beheaded by Belphegor.

Fortunately, the devil was not quick enough to execute his plan before Torak's beast hammered him to the ground.

Torak was swiping his claws into Belphegor, pummeling his fists into any area of the devil's body he could reach while the devil struggled to get free.

This happened for a minute before Belphegor managed to flee into the dark of the night.

With the two devils had gone, it was as easy as sweeping dust to get rid of the minions.

Torak shifted back into his human form and extended his arm to help Calleb stand up. His Gamma was a mess with blood and wounds littered his body.

But, he would be fine in a day or two.

"You are disturbed," Torak stated as he looked at Calleb right in his eyes and the Gamma avoided his gaze by lowering his head.

"I am fine," he mumbled.

Calleb has been disturbed ever since he returned from the basement of the Bar, where the image of his little sister was forcefully played in his mind.

The scene where she was being killed ruthlessly by the rogue, thus his mind wasn't in place when they were in this battle.

Torak didn't know this and wisely didn't ask further about the thing that bothered Calleb because there was another more important thing to do. He walked away from Calleb and headed toward Raine.

This was just a battle.

Some of the beasts had shifted back into their human form and helped Serefina to heal the wounded member while the rest made a perimeter around them, be ready if there was another sneak attack.

The flaming crater was still in the middle of the yard. Ablaze with fire, which seemingly wouldn't cease down.

The gate to hell was still open and seemed no one care about that, as they were busy to help themselves and each other.

Torak walked closer toward Raine and a frown formed on his forehead when he watched Raine was trying to free her wrist from Aeon's grip.

"I would like to have my mate back." Torak talked in his calm voice, but it didn't mean his tone didn't lace with a threat if Aeon didn't do what he asked for. "Let her go."

Torak stared at the hand, which was holding Raine, as if he would be more than happy to snap that hand into two if it needed.

Torak was still appreciated Aeon's effort back then when he helped his mate, but the shadow warrior was better to not push the Alpha's limit, because when it came about his mate, he was more than willing to take extra miles.

### **Chapter 392 - GOODBYE**

Aeon heard what Torak was asking to him and his demanding tone. He shifted his eyes to Raine and there was a sorrow in his eyes.

"I think it's time for you to go..." his voice was barely a whisper as he let go of Raine reluctantly.

Raine didn't even take a second glance before she rushed toward Torak and hugged him tightly, she buried her face against his chest and inhaled in his scent. There was something comforting about having a physical contact with him.

Raine had experienced more than once when she almost lost him. She was so scared and didn't want to let him go again.

This only made it clear for Raine the importance of Torak in her life.

"My love..." Torak did the same thing as he held his mate protectively. "Thank you for saving me..." yet Torak felt Raine was shaking her head and tried to say something, but apparently words had failed her, thus she remained quiet and nuzzled him.

There was a great pain upon seeing this scene for Aeon and he didn't realize how long he had held his breathe.

It wasn't only Torak who had been waiting for Raine for more than century, he did the same thing. He had done everything just to be with her again.

From selling his soul to the devil to this very moment, to the consequences that Aeon had to face. There was no escape from this.

Aeon had gone all the way just to find her, to protect her, the only thing that he didn't do it right was; he let Torak to meet her first. action

To let Raine depended on the Alpha.

At this moment, Aeon wondered. Only if, if he met her sooner, would the end be different? Only if he showed himself, would he lose her again?

Aeon wondered...

Yet, there was nothing he could do now to change all of this.

Aeon remembered how he used to follow her from the shadow and ward off any harm that would fall upon her because she could see those supernatural creatures and how her blood invited more danger than she could imagine.

He had tried to protect her all the time, but Raine didn't have any slightest idea about that.

Aeon had watched every tears that fell from her beautiful eyes, he had watched how she grew up, how her fear turned her so timid, but he didn't show himself just because Aeon thought Raine couldn't handle it yet.

Aeon was waiting for the right time to appear before her eyes, waiting until she grew up a little bit more.

Regardless what he did, Torak took her away the moment he saw her, the moment he felt his mate presence.

Probably, Aeon should have done the same thing...

He shouldn't think...

After what he had done, Raine didn't even look him in the eyes. There was a self-deprecating smile hung on the corner of his lips and this sharp pain that Aeon felt, grew stronger and stronger until it forced him to kneel.

He clutched his chest where he could feel his heart became very weak, just like the exhausted wings of bird, flapping intermittently.

"My love, I think you should go to him..." Torak whispered when he witnessed Aeon's condition, the shadow warrior wouldn't last for long.

At first Raine didn't understand what Torak meant. She raised her head to see Torak through her teary eyes.

And then she realized that Torak was looking toward something, or... someone.

Raine followed his gaze as she turned her body and found Aeon had knelt on the ground while clutching his chest, his whole body was trembling.

"What happen to him..." Raine blinked her eyes, let her tears fell rapidly on her cheeks. But, she didn't want to move from his mate's arms until Torak caressed her head lovingly and whispered something weird in her ears.

"Go and see him, maybe this will be your last..." Torak said in understanding tone. It sounded very weird that it came from him.

Raine, hesitantly, let go from Torak and walked toward Aeon as she knelt in front of him too and stared at the shadow warrior, who seemingly in great pain.

"Aeon, what happen...?" Raine asked carefully as she brushed away her tears from her face. "Are you okey?"

Aeon raised his head to look at Raine. His face was so pale as if there wasn't a drop of blood in his veins, or maybe he hadn't.

"Are you injured?" Raine became worried, at the very least, Aeon had helped her a lot. He has the most credit this time. Raine wouldn't be able to find Torak if it wasn't because of him. "Let me see it."

"No..." Aeon shook his head tiredly. "...just let me see you."

Raine frowned and turned her body to look at Torak, who was standing two meters away from her. In normal circumstances, Torak would have stayed next to her. What happened here?

"What happened to him?" Torak must have known something, or else he wouldn't so generous to let Raine approached the shadow warrior, giving them space like what he did now.

"He is dying." It was Serefina who answered Raine, behind her there was Calleb and Raphael, walking closer to them.

"What do you mean he is dying?" Raine didn't see that he was injured, he was perfectly fine. "Are you injured? Show me." She turned her attention on Aeon, demanding for him to show her his injuries.

"What happened to him is not something that you can help." Serefina inched closer toward them as she stood next to Torak.

"What do you mean with that?" Raine furrowed her brows as she felt bad omen upon seeing how they acted.

Serefina didn't answer Raine's question immediately, she looked at Aeon with complicated gaze, before she spoke again. "I am sorry this happened to you." Serefina's voice was so deep and low. She shifted her green lime eyes toward Raine, "I think this is the time where you have to say goodbye to him."

### **Chapter 393 - DON'T BLAME YOURSELF**

Raine couldn't comprehend what Serefina was saying, but actually her heart had known it, it just her brain wasn't able to discern the information right away.

"What, why?" Raine turned to look at Aeon. His jagged breath made her scared.

"It is the consequences that he has to face." Serefina explained patiently.

It was weird when Serefina and Torak became very understanding. Raine was afraid because of their behavior now.

"I don't understand." Raine shook her head and her tears were threatening to fall again.

"He traded his life for Torak's." Serefina sighed deeply. "I think that is not the smartest decision, but it definitely the bravest one. We could try another method, but he chose the fastest. Sacrifice."

However, if Aeon didn't do what he had done, this battle this time, without Torak, even Serefina doubted the result would be the same.

The presence of their Alpha for Lycanthropes was a boost for their courage.

"No???" Raine looked at Aeon with fear in her eyes when her mind, finally, could register the information. "No..."

It was the sacrifice? Aeon had traded his life with Torak's? action

Raine was unsure if she knew it sooner, she would prevent Aeon from taking that action. It was true that she wanted Torak to come back to her, but she didn't want for Aeon to suffer also.

Raine didn't hate him. She just didn't want Torak and Aeon to kill each other, thus she chose to ignore him, because Torak didn't like it when she was close to him.

"I am sorry... what should I do?" Raine sobbed and then she looked at Torak, pleading. "Torak what should we do? We have to save him."

In her heart, Raine would always turn to Torak whenever she felt helpless like this, because her mate was the only person who could fix it. He always has a way, right?

Seeing the pain in his mate's eyes, he clutched Torak's heart with the same pain. He walked closer to her and knelt behind Raine, still giving some space for both Raine and Aeon, as he extended his arms and caressed her head tenderly.

"I am sorry my love, but there was nothing that we could do..." Torak's statement was like a final verdict.

"But... but..." Raine then turned her pleading gaze toward Serefina, "You can do something, right?"

"My dear..." Raine didn't want to hear this endearment. "...nothing we can do."

Raine stared in disbelief as she watched how Calleb and Raphael avoided her gaze, they turned away their head from Raine in guilty.

That wasn't the reaction that Raine wanted.

"Raine..." there was a soft voice, very feeble. "...it's okay." Aeon stretched out his shaky hand and touched her cheek. There was a small smile on his lips. "I am okay now, this is my decision... there is nothing to do with you..."

"I am sorry... tell me... tell me what can I do to help you. Tell me..." Raine's sobs turned into a cry, her tears fell rapidly on his finger as he wiped them away.

"Don't blame yourself... I can't be helped from the beginning." Aeon remembered how he had traded his soul to the devil, just to live for one more time, to meet Raine.

And now, he had met her, Aeon shouldn't be so greedy for asking more.

He deemed to perish since the first moment he sealed the deal with Lucifer.

Whether he traded his life with Torak's or not, his end was clear from the moment he was betrayed by Lucifer.

Though he could be with Raine, Aeon highly doubted Lucifer would be so generous to let them live a happy life.

This was the right thing to do. At the very least, Aeon knew Torak would have done everything for her. He loved her badly and so did Raine.

It was a painful reality, but also the most relief one, because Raine wouldn't be alone anymore and Torak would always be with her, to protect her, to love her.

The pain was so excruciating over time, yet the more painful thing for him was still to see the tear in her eyes.

"I am sorry..." Raine mumbled. She wanted to say another thing other than 'sorry', but she just couldn't find the right words to say. "I am sorry..."

"Don't be..." Aeon leaned over and kissed her forehead tenderly, relishing her scent for the last time and how soft her skin against his chapped lips. "I hope you well..."

Torak saw it, but instead of feeling jealous, the Alpha could understand Aeon's pain. He had to admit it that the shadow warrior's feeling was genuine.

After Aeon kissed her forehead, he looked at Torak and spoke between his ragged breathe. "Can you help me...?"

Torak moved closer to the shadow warrior. "Yes."

They looked at each other eyes for some time before Raphael stepped forward and helped Raine to stand up.

"You better don't see this..." Raphael whispered to her ear as he turned Raine's head from Torak and Aeon.

"Why?!" Raine struggled to free herself from Raphael. "What they will do?" She looked at Torak and Aeon, who was facing each other, kneeling on the ground like an old friend.

"He has to be destroyed, or else the devil will be able to use his soulless body." There was sadness in Serefina's voice, though she explained it bluntly. She always like that no matter what the situation. "He had a deal with the devil after all."

"No!" Why they should destroy him!? Wasn't he already suffering so much?! "Don't do that!"

"It is that or he will suffer more in Tartarus. He belongs there after all the decision he had made." Serefina looked at Raine straight in her eyes.

That fact hit Raine so hard as she cried her eyes out and hugged Raphael tightly. "I am sorry... I am sorry..." Raine felt this was her fault.

Raphael turned his body, so Raine's back was facing the Torak and Aeon, thus she wouldn't be able to see anything.

**Chapter 394 - THE BEGINNING**

'cause you are the piece of me  
I wish I didn't need  
Chasing relentlessly  
Still fight and I don't know why  
If our love is tragedy why are you my remedy  
If our love is insanity why are you my clarity.

-Clarity. Zedd-

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Torak half shifted his hand into a claw, the sharp razor nail that would dig Aeon's heart quickly, made it less painful for the shadow warrior.

"Don't let her blame herself." Aeon stared at Raine's back, her body was shaking uncontrollably with sadness.

Somehow, he was glad that she cried for him. It showed that he has meaning for her to worth her tears, to make her so sad like this.

But, Aeon didn't want Raine to be in despair for so long. There was a lot of things that she had to do and there was a lot of dangers that waited for her.

He wanted her to be strong and he knew she would. Her kindness was something that Aeon adored the most.

The only thing that Aeon regretted it was; because he wouldn't be there to see that. To see her standing tall and confident.

But, he was already very proud when he watched how Raine handled the situation with the Alphas who had betrayed her pack.

Aeon hoped he could see it more.

"I hope we can meet in different circ.u.mstances." Torak said as he looked at Aeon right in his eyes.  
"Probably we can be a friend."

Aeon smiled ever so slightly when the pain was almost unbearable. "That sounds nice..." he agreed.

"Goodbye." Torak gave Aeon a small nod to show his respect to the shadow warrior as Aeon did the same.

"Good... bye..."

With that was being said, Torak jabbed his claws at his heart and crushed it in matter of millisecond, leaving the life in Aeon's eyes fade away.

The last thing that Aeon saw was Raine's black hair that fluttered by the wind. What a beautiful scene to see...



Before his mind failed him, Aeon remembered every moment when he watched her grow up, from the sweet little girl to a beautiful young woman.

Aeon remembered that Raine would leave a piece of bread, in her way home, for stray cats when she still lived with her foster parents and how she would like to tie her hair into a messy bun when she did her homework.

How time flew by in a blink of an eye...

Aeon closed his eyes and all the memories of her, sealed perfectly in his crushed heart...

Torak stood up with his bloody hands, feeling sorrowful for the man, who lied on the ground lifelessly with a big hole in his chest.

Behind Torak, Sereфина waved her hand and cleaned Torak's hand from the blood and flicked her fingers to burn Aeon's body into ashes.

There was a moment of silence where the wind blew past them as it howled into the night...

Torak walked back and took his mate into his arms.

"It's done..." Torak whispered into her ears and felt her body shiver in despair. Raine's tears didn't cease down for long time.

In Aeon's spot, there was a blue fire that burned so bright, illuminated its surroundings as the shadow that engulfed that place started to disappear and the moon shone splendidly.

At that time, Torak's eyes glazed, as he mind-linked all of the Lycanthropes.

Not so long after that, all the Lycans dropped to their knees, giving their final respect to the brave shadow warrior and to their fellow Lycans who died in this battle.

The night turned serene, except from the small sobs from the sad guardian angel in the Alpha's arms.

However, this is not over yet.

It is far from over.

It is just the beginning.

It is just a little bit taste of how the war will be.

Miles from their place, in red river city, near the place where centuries ago, was the village of angel, a certain river was frozen for the second time.

Apricity river.

That magical river that was the reason why the city was called red river city, froze.

People there was stunned and shocked, the news about it was on people's lips, but this was news for another day.

For now, in Fulbright city... this place was dead.

Lucifer and Belphegor didn't die, they just returned to where they belonged. The place where the other five devils resided.

There would be time when they face them all.

But, there was still enough time to prepare for the worst case.

Serefina walked closer toward Raine and Torak, when all the Lycanthropes had stood up and was in sorrow, there were too many dead bodies and they had lost many fellow comrades in matter of hours.

The witch caressed Raine's shoulder. "I think this is the right time for you to meet the other guardian angel." Serefina spoke softly.

Raine raised her head and looked at the witch through her swollen eyes, she wiped her cheeks roughly.

"I will meet them?" Raine asked in her hoarse voice. She was still afraid to see the burning blue flames behind her.

Raine could feel the warmth from it, but it wasn't enough to warm her cold heart.

After losing Sunny, after she was forced to kill her, Raine thought her heart had strong enough to face everything, yet it wasn't true...

Her heart still bleeding when she had to watch another death from the people that close to her heart.

Raine and Aeon's relationship was complicated, but she wouldn't deny that the shadow warrior had done everything for her.

He was so close... He protected her every time he could and every chance was given to him.

At first Raine hoped he would find someone better, yet in this rate, there was no possibility for him to cherish his life...

If Raine thought about it again, Aeon was so pitiful. He had been waiting for Raine for centuries, but she couldn't reciprocate the same affection...

This thought only made Raine feel worse. action

"Don't." Torak could feel it from her as well. "He didn't want you to feel that way. The best way to thank him is to appreciate what he had done for us."

Raine wiped away her tears and nodded before she turned to Serefina and spoke with determination. "Let's meet them."

### **Chapter 395 - I WILL RETURN THE FAVOR**

"It is better if you stay here and do nothing about this." Maximus gave Kace an advice. "Your brother is about to go feral now."

"He did it again." Kace squinted his blue ocean eyes while staring at trees outside of his room through a huge window.

"Serefina betrayed him and you are suspected of helping her escape." Maximus blurted out and he didn't budge from the door.

Kace shifted his attention toward the man, there was disdain in the way Kace saw him. "Am I becoming prisoner now?"

"No, you are not." His answer wasn't convincing, especially when it came from Maximus's mouth.

"So?" Kace raised his perfect brows and tilted his head. His easy-going nature was nowhere to be seen at this moment.

"Alpha Jedrek only needs more investigation about your involvement of helping Serefina to escape this realm." Maximus crossed his arms defensively, ready to fight Kace if he insisted to take a single step out of his room.

??In another word." Kace closed his eyes as he could feel the beast in him was on the verge of going berserk. "He doesn't trust me." He concluded.

Kace was born from the strongest Alpha and Luna of Lycanthropes, moreover, Kace was a Donovan. The sacred white Lycan, which ruled the realm of Lycanthropes. His Alpha's blood was so thick, though he didn't lead a pack like how Jedrek and Torak did.

Therefore, the way Maximus treated him right now was rude and unacceptable, yet Kace knew better to keep his angry beast in check.

This wasn't the time for it yet.

"Alpha thought you and Serefina are lover." Maximus didn't hold the information back. "Just because the fact that you are his younger brother, who shared the same blood, he didn't issue an order to kill you."

The way Maximus put out his words, he implied that Kace was not grateful enough as he was still alive until now.

As if he was trying to say that Jedrek was being merciful and generous to him right now. Maximus had belittled Kace.

A disdain look on Kace blue eyes deepened as a smirk appeared on his lips. "Oh, wow! I don't believe that words were coming from your mouth, a Gregory." Kace could see it, a shift of emotion in Maximus eyes.

Maximus Gregory was the last Gregory who was spared to live. It was well known that the Gregory family was a traitor during the great war between the devil and the Lycanthropes.

All of the male members of the Gregory family was sentenced to death by Jedrek, except Maximus, because he had surrendered himself before the treachery of the Gregory family came to light.

Maximus also had helped them by warning Jedrek about his family betrayal.

Because of his merit, Maximus's life was spared, but not all the Lycanthropes happy about this, some of them still thought that Maximus should have died too.

Regardless, no one in their right mind would disobey Jedrek's final decision.

But, Maximus was stripped off of his title as Jedrek's Beta and now he was just a leader of Jedrek's warrior. One of Jedrek's council.

Despite of all that fact, Jedrek and Maximus were still in good terms, as they have grown up together and known each other since they were still in the w.o.m.b.

"Don't play trick with my family name," Maximus said icily. This was always a taboo topic for Maximus since that day. "You know I am not guilty."

Kace crossed his bulged arms in front of his chest, smiling harmlessly toward Maximus. The smile that didn't reach his black eyes. "I don't know, I was not the one who gave your entire male family members a death sentence." He shrugged nonchalantly.

They stared at each other for a minute that felt like decade, before Maximus spoke in derision. "Yes, because I remember you are not the Alpha at that time."

Kace was different from his other two brothers, though he had the Alpha's blood ran through his veins, he didn't want to take a role in Jedrek's council or followed Torak's step to build his own pack in another realm.

There was something that bothered Kace about leading thousand of life under his wings, responsible to them and their family. action

That's only because, after the great war, something changed from the way Kace saw life.

Upon hearing Maximus snarky comment, Kace chuckled. "Fortunately I wasn't. Because if I was, we will not have this conversation right now."

Kace was suspected of having relationship with Serefina not for nothing. Actually, both of them were quite close, though they would bicker every now and then, but they were in good terms.

Therefore, it was impossible if Kace didn't pick one of two Serefina's annoying traits.

Maximus's pupil dilated as he gritted his teeth, "I think we shouldn't have this conversation from the beginning, because I have another important thing to do right now."

"Great." Kace nodded in agreement. "Because I don't appreciate your visit." It was a brutal truth.

"I just want you to know," Maximus turned around and gave his back to Kace when he was about to go out of the room. "It is waste of time if you think you can escape this castle, because there are a lot of warriors at each corners of this place that ready to take you down, as you don't have authority to say otherwise if you try to violate the Alpha's order."

Maximus couldn't win the argument before, thus he tried to strike Kace's pride as one of the great Donovan's brother. He belittled him because he wasn't an Alpha, someone that Kace not chose to be.

"And one more thing." Maximus glanced at Kace through his shoulder. "I will let you know if I had killed your mate as per Alpha Jedrek's order."

When he heard that, Kace didn't show any emotion on his face, but he was too calm. It was exceptionally calm until he opened his mouth and replied.

"Sorry for the trouble. Don't you worry, I will return the favor."

### **Chapter 396 - THIS WAS THE TIME**

"Sorry for the trouble. Don't you worry, I will return the favor." Kace spoke carelessly and smirked deviously when he saw how the expression of Maximus changed.

Kace thought Maximus would try to attack him, but he didn't do that as he decided to leave the room before he changed his mind and had unnecessary fight with Kace. The younger brother of Donovan was known as an ignorance person.

The sound of the door slammed shut was reverberating through the wall. Kace's dark eyes stared at it for long time before he walked toward the window and watched the night fell and the lights from the city near the castle was akin to the stars in the sky.

Kace knew it.

Jedrek would issue this order sooner or later. He was so against the fact that the moon Goddess had lifted their curse and blessed them with mate since his older brother has Serefina and thought of her as his mate.

Jedrek didn't care about his destined mate and he thought his other brothers also had the same idea as him without even asking a single question about it.

Especially when they knew about what kind of creature that their mate would be.

A guardian angel.

Such a weak creature as the mate of the most powerful Lycan in this realm. It would turn out as a joke if there was a single soul knew about it.

Jedrek was the firstborn, thus his pride and vanity was hundred times worse than the average Alpha. He wanted their blood to not be tainted by the lowly creature like guardian angel.

Jedrek was very controlling, even to his own brother.

Probably because of that too Torak chose to leave this realm and built his own empire.

However, Kace couldn't do the same thing. There was something that held him back. The great war not only left him with visible wound, but also there was something that shook his conscience deeply.

Though either Torak or Kace showed his opinion about this mate thing, but deep down in Kace's heart he was longing for having his own mate.

Kace didn't know about Torak. But for him, mate was the essence of their existence, at least that was how Kace sees it.

Regardless the fact that his mate would be the weak creature of guardian angel, the information that quite disturbing.

But, the problem was; Jedrek would kill his brother's mate without hesitation and he was very determined about it.

Kace closed his eyes and when he opened them, it had turned to its original blue color.

This wasn't the time yet to break loose. This wasn't the right time because Kace was waiting for 'that' signal.

The witch would send him a cue when he could leave this realm. Having Jedrek as his brother was both bless and curse.

Until that time, Kace needed to keep it low.

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The year when Serefina left the realm was the darkest days of Jedrek's regime.

He turned feral and killed a lot of his hunter when they returned with nothing. No news about Serefina whereabouts.

Jedrek even went to extra length to trespass other creatures' territory and messed up with the witches from the northern coven. The council who tried to oppose and advise him otherwise would end up death right at the moment when they raised his voice.

Jedrek didn't believe that Serefina could leave his territory with no one realized it.

That dark days happened for year and when Serefina's name turned into a taboo topic, the situation became much better as well.

There was less blood under Jedrek's throne.

Meanwhile, Kace was under strict supervision. He wasn't allowed to leave his room without Jedrek's permission.

Even when he could leave his room, Maximus or his people would come to stick his nose too close for his liking, yet Kace ignored them all the time.

Jedrek has no evidence that Kace was somehow involved in Serefina escaping from this place. He just knew that the night when Serefina disappeared, Kace also couldn't be found anywhere for almost two days before he returned and said that he just shifted into his beast and enjoyed the nature.

Though it sounded fishy, but that was what Kace always did when he couldn't be reached.

During that stressful period of time, the only thing that kept the youngest Donovan to strive was the thought that one day he would find his mate.

Kace tried to think positively when he had not yet heard about the news that Maximus had managed to find anything about his or Torak's mate.

Except the three of them, Serefina and Maximus, Kace didn't think that there was another people knew about this thing.

Decades passed just like a blink of an eye, especially for those Lycans who were blessed with eternal life.

Time wasn't something that they needed to be worried about and also wasn't something that they realized when days after days changed and never came back.

Serefina's name had never been mentioned, but it would always etch on people's mind that their Alpha could turn the realm upside down when it came about something that he cared the most.

Even after a hundred thousand days had passed not even a single news about Serefina could be found. She was called as the great witch not for nothing.

She hid herself very well.

Until today, when the sign from her finally arrived.

It was sunny day with warm sunray bathed Kace's body as he laid lazily on the couch in the west yard of the castle, enjoying the wind that blew his hair.

However, all of sudden, day turned into the dark of the night as the bright sun was covered with shadow.

The guards around Kace turned panic and urged him to go back to his room, as solar eclipse was a bad omen.

However, Kace has his own interpretation of this phenomenon.

This was the sign that he had been waiting for.

### **Chapter 397 - SOLAR ECLIPSE**

Kace sat down with dark expression on his face when two guards approached him to take him back to his bedroom.

"My lord, you have to go back to your room now." One of the guard asked Kace respectfully. He opened his arm to show the path to the castle, as if Kace all of sudden forgot the way to get there.

The solar eclipse wouldn't last for long time, thus Kace had to act immediately to crossover to another realm.

"My lord." The other guards reminded Kace because he didn't move at all and looked out of focus. "Is there something bothering you?"

However, instead of answering the guard's question, Kace turned into his beast and attacked those guards.

They didn't expect this, hence Kace had the upper hand to knock them to the ground easily.

It was hard enough to leave them unconscious, but not enough to take their live. Their healing ability would take around five minutes until they regained their consciousness and until then, Kace had long gone.

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The white beast pumped his four legs as fast as he could, threw away his obstacle and left them injured, so they couldn't chase after him.

This solar eclipse also helped Kace's beast to escape from the guards, who were surrounding the castle.

As a bad omen for Lycanthropes, Jedrek as the Alpha of the Lycanthropes Kingdom, needed to be put in safety place and completed a certain ritual.

Therefore, all of the guards would gather together in front of Selene's temple, where Jedrek would stay inside during the solar eclipse.

Because Kace wasn't really into that sort of thing and didn't really believe with the bad omen that was brought by the eclipse, he violated all the rules and escaped.

The castle and the town nearby was very quiet as everyone chose to stay inside their room, shielded themselves from the darkness.

Except from a few guards inside the castle, which crossed path with Kace's white beast, there were not many people in the town that saw him.

Among the absent of the sunlight, the movement of the beast was akin to a white shadow that pierced through the dark.

Once Kace arrived at the border of the dessert of no return, he saw leaped through it as the familiar sensation crawled all over his fur.

=====

The bustling city under the night sky was the first thing that Kace realized about his new environment. He walked along the street where many houses stood majestically on either side of the road.

At the end of the road, Kace saw her. The woman who had managed to make his older brother turned the entire realm upside down because of losing her.

The smile on her lips was the exact smirk that Kace remembered the last time they met each other.

At that time, Serefina told him that she would leave the realm and the surprise part was because, instead of telling Jedrek, she was telling him.

Kace was surprised and found her peculiar decision was something that out of her character, but she decisively didn't want to tell him her reason when Kace asked her.

As far as Kace knew, Serefina was head over heel for Jedrek, so did his brother to her. The question still remained; why she had to leave?

And Kace still couldn't figure it out until now.

Years ago, the night Serefina left the realm, she just said that she would find his mate and would give Kace a sign when she did find her. It was a call for him to come.

"Why do you think I want a mate? I have lived long enough without a mate, I don't think I want it now, especially when she comes from a weak kind of creature like guardian angel." That was what Kace said at that time.

Yet, Serefina just smiled at him and raised her head to look the full moon in the sky.



That night was a full moon. Kace remembered it clearly.

She looked very serene in her white dress. Any traces of hostility and arrogance, which often showed on her face, couldn't be seen.

"That is Jedrek's words, not you." Serefina said with certainty, as if she could see Kace's soul as easy as reading an open book.

"Don't be too confident in yourself." Kace grumbled as he crossed his arms.

At that time, he was unsure if he wanted a mate, but the beast in him knew him better that he needed his other half. His soul. The essence of his existence.

Therefore, Kace had waited for this moment, for more than decades.

Waiting for Serefina's signal and now, Kace could feel all the adrenaline rushed through his veins. The signal from Serefina appeared, so did his mate, right?

"Don't smirk at me." Kace greeted Serefina when they had faced each other under the street light that illuminated their surroundings.

Serefina raised her eyebrows questioningly. "That's how you greet me after such a long time?"

"What? You want a hug?" Kace opened his arms widely, inviting the witch to his warm embrace.

But, Serefina's smile dropped as she looked at Kace with disdain in her green lime eyes. "Disgusting."

"So?" Kace put down his arms and crossed them in front of his chest. The gesture that showed that he was a little bit nervous.

"I think she is inside." Serefina looked over at the house across the road where they were standing.

Kace followed the witch's line of sight and looked at a big house with all the lights were turned on, illuminating every dark corner of the house.

"She is inside?" Kace asked breathily. His heart was beating so fast, he didn't know that this anticipation felt like this.

"I think so." Serefina tilted her head.

"What do you mean?" Kace frowned. action

Yet, before they could continue their conversation, a familiar scent assaulted Kace's nose as he stared to the street behind the witch with hostility in his eyes.

"Maximus." Kace said his name icily.

### **Chapter 398 - HIS MATE**

"You are running away Kace." Maximus approached Kace and Serefina in steady steps. With him, there were five more Lycanthropes behind him.

All of them were warriors from the castle, people under Maximus. They way they walked cautiously toward Kace, indicating that they were ready to fight if it was necessary.

Kace glanced at Serefina. Well, at least he wasn't alone, there was the great witch with him. He was sure that Serefina could handle them just fine.

Kace had never seen Serefina as someone who needed protection, as she was always able to handle herself very well.

"No, Max." Kace shook his head. "I meet an old friend." He nodded at Serefina and she rolled her eyes dramatically.

"I see..." Maximus stopped a few meter away from them. "So, the rumor is true that both of you betray the Alpha."

Serefina frowned. "Betray the Alpha?" she looked over at Kace to ask for explanation.

Kace shrugged his shoulder nonchalantly. "There was a rumor about you when you left the realm." Serefina's eyes told him to continue, so Kace made a brief explanation about that. "I don't know the idiot who had spread the rumor that we are a lover."

Serefina's jaw dropped. "Lover?" She scrunched her nose. "With you?" the way she spoke her last words were laced with disgust. "Please, spare my wretch life."

"You don't have to show me that expression, you know." Kace was irritated by Serefina's exaggerated reaction. "You can see it now and report it to my dear brother about this reaction." Kace shifted his attention to Maximus. "That was a genuine respond from use upon hearing that stupid accusation."

Kace and Serefina treated that as a joke, but Maximus and his people behind him, didn't have the same sense of humor like the two.

"Why don't you come back and explain it yourself." Maximus suggested wisely. "I am sure the Alpha will be very happy to see his mate and his brother."

Though it sounded sweet, but Maximus's words were wrapped with a thick sarcasm.

"I have never asked him to stay." Serefina crossed her arms defensively while smiling at Kace beside her. "You are free to go."

It was true that Serefina asked Kace to come to meet his mate, but the choice to see her or not was on him. Kace could just ignore the sign, but he did come.

"No, thanks." Kace raised both of his arms, surrender. "Just say hi to my brother for me, will you? Tell him that I meet Serefina to exchange greeting, but after that we will go in different way."

"That's so funny, Kace." Maximus spoke coldly.

"No, it's not." Kace shook his head, disagreed. "Did you see me or she laughed?"

Serefina was holding back her smile when she heard the way Kace bit back at the leader of this search party. The witch had known Maximus as the last male in the Gregory family, she knew the whole story.

Meanwhile, Maximus eyes turned dark. "I know why you are here. I heard what both of you said a moment ago." A sly smirked appeared on the corner of his lips. "A mate, huh?" action

Kace's careless smile disappeared as his body tensed. "You better stay away from this, Max. I will not be so lenient with you in this realm." Kace used a warning tone when he spoke.

Unfortunately, he wasn't an Alpha and had never been in that position, thus his dominance was quite different from his other brothers, who could easily make those Lycanthropes fall on their knees upon facing his wrath.

Kace was too easy going to be a leader.

But, Maximus still didn't dare to put his guard down. Kace has fickle personality and it wasn't very wise to trigger something dark in him, especially when he had Serefina.

"I don't want to fight." Maximum declared, but Kace snickered when he heard that.

"I thought you always want to fight me." Kace taunted him. "Give yourself merit after merit, so you can clear your family name." Then he added. "I will fight you if it's necessary."

Maximus glared at Kace as his mouth opened slightly to say something, but before there was any words that passed his lips, his eyes glazed over.

It was a sign when Lycanthropes were having conversations through mind link. Apparently the number of the Lycan that he brought with him was not only five.

There were a lot more than that and the rest had been sent to do something.

At the same time, Serefina snapped her head at the direction of the house. Her calm expression morphed into anxious.

"Kace, you need to go inside." Serefina used demanding tone. "They did something to her." The 'her' that Serefina's was referring to was Kace's mate.

Kace didn't ask anything further when he heard panic in Serefina's voice, he knew that Maximus had done something toward his mate.

As soon as Kace took his second step, he bent down his body while his bones cracked to fit his beast form.

"KACE!" Maximus growled.

Seeing Kace was trying to run away toward the house, Maximus immediately gave the other Lycan a cue to chase after him.

However, Kace didn't even bother to turn and checked what was happening behind his back, because he knew Serefina would handle them well.

The sound of angry growl and snarl behind the white beast was the proof of it.

The beast ran as fast as his four big legs could take him. His heart was beating rapidly as his breath ragged and panic washed over his entire being.

Would he be too late to save his mate? Apparently the conversation was only a distraction.

Damn it!

This house is very big, Kace couldn't figure out where was his mate! He couldn't find her!

The beast circled the house, trying to find any sign of his mate when finally he heard a shrill scream from inside the house.

It turned the beast's blood cold.

### **Chapter 399 - A ROGUE**

The white beast barged into the house, looking for the source of the sound. Someone was crying and followed by rumble and mumble sound that echoed throughout the house.

It seemed something bad happened and they were mourning now, mourning of something or someone who was dead.

Kace couldn't feel it. The mate bond. The beast couldn't feel it.

Once the white beast arrived in front of a beautifully carved door, there were around ten people there, sobbing, crying and comforting each other.

The muscle of the white Lycan tensed up as his turned grim. Something bad had happened there.

The white Lycan took his time to look the four women, who were standing outside of the door, crying on each other shoulder.

However, none of them were his mate.

Whether it was a bless or another curse, because whatever behind the door, it would be worse than the crying women out there. action

Kace's beast slipped his large body into the room and his dark eyes turned murky when he watched a woman cried beside a white baby crib, another man was holding her shoulder and whispered something to her ears in order to calm her.

Meanwhile, three other men, who appeared to be doctors, said his condolences and stood there with grieving expression etched on their face.

The white beast walked closer toward the baby crib and looked down to the small creature, as beautiful and pure as the morning dew.

The white beast was very tall, thus its head could see over the box without much difficulty.

The beautiful baby puckered her pink lips and her small fingers curled. She was so beautiful with black hair and soft skin.

But, the baby was not breathing.

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The howling and rustling winds were the only sounds that accompanied Serefina while she was waiting for Kace to return from inside the house.

The witch had taken care of Maximus and his people, but they should go from there immediately before the annoying Lycan came back with more people, or worse, Jedrek.

Things would turn out very bad if that happened.

Not so long, Serefina could see Kace's figure walked out of the house, but he was alone. Why he is not coming with his mate?

His expression couldn't be read, thus Serefina didn't know what had happened.

"What is it?" The impatient Serefina approached Kace and asked him hastily. "Where is your mate? Something happened there?"

However, instead of answering Serefina's question, Kace didn't stop to talk to her and kept walking as he posted another question. "Where is those Lycans?"

"I take care of them, of course." Serefina walked next to him as she replied smugly. "Now, answer my question, where is your mate?"

Kace glanced at the witch next to him and growled irritably. "Mate my \*\*s."

A hard slap fell on Kace's back, but the Lycan didn't even flinch. "Watch your words pup!"

Kace rolled his eyes at the way Serefina addressed him, though he thought of Serefina as his older sister, but the witch seemed too engrossed with the idea and bullied him every time she could.

Well, like a sister would...

"So, what happened?" Serefina tried to catch up with Kace's large steps as they walked away from there, leaving the house, which the witch told him that his mate was there.

"You are wrong." Kace glared at Serefina. "My mate is not there."

"Really?" Serefina frowned, she felt it, weird energy from inside the house. She had been looking for that weird feeling since decades ago, thus the moment she felt it, she thought she had found one of the guardian angel.

But... has she been mistaken? Serefina was so confuse.

"Impossible... I am sure of it." Serefina mumbled.

"Like a hundred percent sure?" Kace squinted his eyes at her, doubting his own judgment if Serefina said she was certain of it. Maybe Kace should go back and checked it for the second time together with her.

"Hmm... like sixty percent." Serefina rubbed her chin, a complicated feeling flashed on her eyes.

"D\*mn you." Kace cursed. "You called me here for sixty percent?" He didn't believe that, Serefina had never acted so reckless if she was unsure about something.

Maybe time had finally changed her?

"Shut up. I am so confused now. But, still sixty percent is a high chance." Serefina retorted. She didn't want to be blamed. "How do you know she is not your mate? Did you touch her?"

"I couldn't sense the presence of my mate even when I was so close to the house, the only thing that pulled me closer was the crying sound, which I chose to follow." Kace recalled the moment that happened inside the house. "There were a lot of women inside the house."

"And then?" Serefina probed. "None of them were your mate?"

"No one from them, but there was a baby inside the room, apparently they were crying over the baby because she was dead." Kace frowned, he remembered that the baby was very beautiful with flowery scent.

"Dead?" Serefina repeated.

As for now, they had been walking very far from the house and turned toward a crowd place where cars and motorcycles sped on the road with bright stores on their left.

"Yes, I think Maximus's people managed to kill the poor baby." Kace concluded. "But, the baby was not my mate either." And he was grateful for that.

Kace couldn't imagine, how he would react if he saw his mate had died. He didn't want to confront his brother, but if it was because of his order that he would lost his mate, then he would never forgive Jedrek for that.

"Are you sure? I am glad if she was not yours, but how could I make a mistake?" Serefina denied her mistake arrogantly.

"Everybody make a mistake or two." Kace quoted.

"So, what you will do now? You can't go back to the castle." Serefina ignored his words. "But if you stay here you will be..."

"...A rogue." Kace finished her conclusion.

#### **Chapter 400 - IS IT HER?**

"Put that down, you idiot!" Alec slapped Kace's hand when he tried to mess with food on the table.

"I wonder, how can you live until this day with this kind of home cooking? Ariana is the worst cook ever." Kace grumbled when he picked overly cooked vegetables from a bowl and frowned when the slimy vegetables slipped from his fork.

"Don't bad mouthing my mate's skill!" Alec slapped Kace's back as he snatched away the fork from his hand. "After sometime, you will get used with this. Actually this is not very bad."

Alec proved it by bringing the bowl to his mouth and gulped down the slimy vegetables in one go.

"Yuck!" Kace grimaced when he watched that in horror. "What do you mean after 'sometime'? I have been eating this for more than thirty years and I am still not used to this.

"Then I think you need more than a hundred years to appreciate it." Ariana chimed in as she put another bowl in front of Kace. "Here you go."

Though Kace would complain endlessly about how poor Ariana's cooking skill, but he would come over and over again for dinner if he had time or when he was around.

Because Kace was often travelling to different places.

However, this was the only place where he would stay for three or seven days before he started his journey again.

A journey to find his mate, or the witch.

Serefina, being the annoying self she was, the witch actually left him to fend himself, in the realm that he had no idea how to survive here while he couldn't go back to the castle.

After what Maximus would report to Jedrek, Kace doubted that his brother would be generous enough to let him live without losing a limb or two.

Before Serefina disappeared, once again, she suggested for Kace to look for Torak in this realm as his second brother had established himself here.

But, the thought of having another Alpha- brother to control his life again, Kace turned down the idea almost immediately.

Kace didn't want to have his brother breathed on his neck.

Another consideration was because Kace didn't know how Torak's perspective about this mate things. He didn't have an open personality, well Jedrek too.

And Kace didn't want to risk it by betting on something that he was unsure about.

Thus, in a blink of eye, another decades had passed, and during that long period of time, Kace had wandered many places in order to find Serefina or his mate, if he was lucky enough, maybe he could find both as the witch also looked for her.

Kace was always the positive type, but this long- wait sometime took a toll on him and he became frustrated with whatever he did.

Twenty years ago Kace met Alec and his mate, Ariana. Alec was one of Torak's people, an Alpha for certain territory under his brother.

He had known each other ever since the great war and now he helped Kace to hide from Jedrek and Torak. Such a brave Lycan, if Kace could say.

Alec didn't only go against one but both of Kace's older brothers that was one of the reasons why Kace didn't want to stay for long time in his pack and gave him and his little family unnecessary trouble.

Though Kace would frequently visit him.

"Uncle Kace, spoon!"

A little and childish voice pulled Kace out of his thought as he looked at the small child in front of him, who was giggling at him.

"You want this spoon?" Kace raised a spoon near his hands, which had her favorite character on it.

"Spoon!" she stretched out her little arms, asking for her spoon.

"I will give you the spoon if you give me a hug." Yet, before Kace got what he wanted, he had a harsh smack on his back.

"Don't you dare to touch my daughter!" Alec growled angrily at Kace.

"Why!?" Kace touched his aching back. "Why? She likes me!"

"Fighth! Fight! Fight!" Arabella giggled when she watched her uncle and her daddy were bickering again and her mother was busy to prepare dinner for her family.

"You want me to fight your daddy, honey?" Kace winked at the three years old baby, who was jumping on her seat excitedly. "See? She likes me more." Kace stated and it was regarded by another blow on his back.

"Boys! Stop it!" Ariana came with the last plate in her hands, a signature dish of lamb meat, the only thing that Kace's taste could tolerate. "Or no one from you will have a dinner!"

It was true that both of them have the Alpha's blood on their veins, but in this moment, it was the woman in charge.

"Okey." Kace and Alec replied obediently.

"Here you go little one." Kace stretched out his arms to give the spoon to Arabella and rubbed her curly brown hair.

However, before they could start their dinner, there was a sound of doorbell ringing.

"Who comes at this hour?" Ariana frowned and was about to stand up before Alec stopped her and said he would check whose coming.

Alec walked toward the door and looked at the guest through the peephole. His expression turned unsightly by what he was seeing, he immediately opened the door as the night wind blew inside the house, brought the scent of the witch and something in her arms into the house.

"Serefina!" Alec mentioned his name in surprised. "What are you doing here?"

Yet, before he could say anything or invited her to come into the house, Alec could hear heavy steps from behind him.

Serefina shifted her green lime eyes from Alec to Kace, who was standing foolishly, two meters away from the doorway.

"Hi Kace." Serefina greeted him lightly.

"Don't 'hi' me!" Kace growled, but his eyes glued to a bundle that Serefina was cradling in her arms.

"Well." Serefina shrugged. "Then, tell me. Is it her?"