

## TLOA Lycan 401

### Chapter 401 - SLOWLY... SLOWLY...

Kace smelled that scent, an intoxicating scent that drove his beast crazy. He did not even realize when he started to grumble and scared Arabella in front of him.

"Kace, are you okay?" Ariana touched Kace's upper arm as she looked at him worriedly. "What happened?"

Ariana could see Kace's blue ocean eyes had turned dark, indicating that his beast tried to surface and took over.

"I am sorry." Kace shook his head, tried to push back his agitated beast, though his eyes still the color of the night. "I feel weird."

Ariana squinted her eyes, but before she could ask anything further, she watched Kace abruptly stand up and walk out of the room.

Hugging the little Arabella in her arms, she followed Kace and his mate, who had gone first, out of the dining room.

On the other hand, Kace was unsure why he felt this agitation. No. It was his beast. The beast in him felt restless because of this scent.

It smelled like fresh morning scent, pure and crisp. Kace felt the surge of happiness just by smelling it and he wanted more.

At this moment, his feet worked faster than his brain did. While her mind was still riling over the scent and wandering about what the source of this intoxicating smell, his feet had brought him toward it.

It just took less than three seconds when before Kace watched Serefina's head over Alec's shoulder. he halted his steps and heard how the witch greeted him casually.

"Hi Kace." Serefina greeted him.

'Hi'? Kace didn't believe with what he heard.

Serefina had just left him for God knows how long and she was standing right in front of the door way with that sickly smile on her red lips?

She almost drove him crazy because of the long- waited, without news, without anything and now all she could say was a simple 'hi'? As though they just parted their way yesterday.

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

Kace was certain that the source of this scent that drove him crazy was coming from that. Even when he couldn't see it, he knew. His beast recognized this sensation.

"Well." Serefina shrugged, she noticed the change on Kace's expression and the way his eyes couldn't avoid the 'thing' in her arms. She was right this time. "Then, tell me. Is it her?"

It was like a slow motion in a movie, when Serefina showed him a sleeping baby in her arms.

Kace felt his feet rooted to the ground as he felt his whole universe was centered in one thing, the only thing that matter for him. Even his own life was not significant compared to her.

"What is it? What do you mean with 'is it her'?" Alec's voice was like a whisper from faraway place that reached Kace's ears and brought him back to the reality that he had been staring at the sleeping baby for eternity.

And then there was a squalling sounds from behind Kace's back, it was Ariana with her three years old baby girl.

Her expression morphed into understanding about the situation. action

"Is it your mate? The baby is your mate?!" Ariana voiced it out in a brief explanation. The female Alpha knew it too well the way Kace stared at the baby in Serefina's arms.

"No way..." on the other hand, Alec breathed out in disbelief. "...she is just a baby..."

Yes, that was what exactly in Kace's mind too. She is a baby! How old is she? A month? Two months? What is this another joke from the moon goddess?

Wait, but that wasn't matter, right?

Kace ignored the gasping surprised from Alec and Ariana as he walked, very slowly, toward Serefina. Toward the baby in her arms.

Upon closer inspection, Kace didn't doubt it again, the feeling was unreal and this was as if the long wait that he had been enduring all this time was worth it.

Everything was worth it when Kace watched the serene of her sleeping face.

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"Don't you want to carry her?" Serefina grumbled as she shoved the baby toward Kace's sturdy chest. As if electrocuted, Kace backed away almost immediately.

"Don't do that! You will hurt her!" Kace growled, trying to keep his voice low and didn't wake the baby up.

"My arms are hurt! I have been carrying her for two hours now!" Serefina protested. "You don't want to carry her and now you don't allow me to put her down! Do you think my arms made of steel!?" she was agitated by the way Kace acted.

"SSTTT! SSSTT!" Kace put his forefinger in front of his lips to shut the witch. "You will wake her up!" The Lycan hissed out of frustration.

How he could hold something so fragile like the baby? The thought of hurting her, almost drove him crazy.

The panic flashed on Kace's face when he watched how the baby's soft eyebrow scrunched slightly as if she was going to wake up.

"Uncle Kace!" Arabella called for him, but Kace put his finger on his lips again.

"Sst! The baby is sleeping." Kace said in voice that barely a whisper.

"Kace, you are very tense..." Ariana was having a headache when she watched Kace's reaction over small thing. He would end up with high blood pressure if this continued.

Swiftly, Ariana gave her daughter to her mate and took the baby in Serefina's arms, as the witch breathed in relief, and cradled her.

"Slowly... slowly..." Kace was panic.

"You. Sit down!" Ariana commanded the Donovan, one of the most feared Lycan, like he was just a little puppy.

With his mate in Ariana's arms, Kace did what he was told, yet his eyes still glued on his mate.

"Stretched out your arms." Ariana said again.

"No! I am not doing it!" Kace knew what Ariana was going to do, but she shoved the baby toward him regardless, out of reflect, of course Kace would hold her. "Sh\*t Ariana! Don't do that!" he cursed as bead of sweat started to form on his forehead.

#### **Chapter 402 - A NAME FOR HER**

"Don't curse. The baby will hear it." Arian glared at Kace, it wasn't only the baby, but there was her daughter too inside the room. This bad Lycan would bring bad influence!

"I don't know how to hold her!" Kace hissed, panic was apparent on his expression. His muscles tensed and it didn't help him at all.

"Just hold her head and put your other arms along her body." Ariana tried to find the most comfortable spot to place the baby in the big man arms, but he was too stiff. action

"Relax." Ariana said that word for couple of time, yet Kace didn't listen, though he mumbled something like; 'okey' or 'I am relax', but he was nothing of it.

"Hold her like that." Arian slowly removed her arms from under the blanket that wrapped around the baby.

"No. no. Ariana... I don't think I am ready for this." Kace shook his head vigorously, but kept his arms steady. "No. Don't! I will hurt her!"

"You will not hurt her, you stupid Lycan!" Alec chimed in grumpily, annoyed by how Kace was being overreacted. "You have been holding Arabella, remember!?"

"It's not the same! Arabella was able to run when I carried her for the first time!" Kace retorted and the way the baby felt so light and soft in his embrace didn't help at all, as if he would snap her if he held her tighter than this.

This situation was simply too stressful.

"If you keep holding her like that, you will break her soft neck." Serefina's reckless comment caused her to receive not only Kace, but also Ariana and Alec's glare.

Kace's nervousness was already irksome to see, no need to add on it.

But, the witch only shrugged her shoulder as she picked a glass of water and drank it in one gulp. "I just warned him, so he knows that he could break the baby neck if he didn't relax." But they still didn't avert their gaze from her. "I just want to help." Yet, it didn't sound convincing.

"You don't help him Serefina." Ariana chided her.

"OH! OH! The baby is awake!" Kace's panic voice rang through the living room, his muscled no more tensed, but it had turned into a solid stone as if the Lycan morphed into a statue. "What should I do? What should I do!?"

"Relax!" Ariana growled in frustration as Arabella giggled behind her, shouting the same word toward Kace.

But, Kace was overwhelmed when the baby black eyes stared at him curiously, cooing as her pink lips puckered cutely.

In the next second, Kace found himself was smiling at the precious life in her arms. "Hello little one..." he greeted her and the baby gave him a toothless smile.

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"How did you find her?" Kace had put the baby on the center of the bed with many pillows circled around her.

He was like the overly worried father, who was afraid that his two months baby would roll around in her sleep and fell from the bed, though Ariana had told him that wouldn't happen.

But, of course, Kace wouldn't listen to it and no one would stupid enough to try to persuade him to do otherwise.

However, miraculously, the moment the baby opened her eyes and looked comfortable in his arms, Kace became relax and immersed himself by the sound of the baby cooed at his attempts to make her laugh.

Afterward, Kace handled the baby like an expert until she fell asleep again in his arms after drinking a bottle of warm milk.

"With a little bit this and that, information, magic, connection and my cleverness." Serefina said offhandedly and then she added. "And the moon goddess's bless."

She actually didn't give him any answer, it was expected, Kace just wanted to voice out his confusion about how the witch actually managed to find his mate, especially when she was only born two months ago.

Kace gave her a disdain look. "How about her parents? Did you just kidnap her from her family?"

"Nah, I am not into criminal act. She is an orphan." Serefina replied lazily as she sat down on the edge of the bed.

"So, what we will do now?" Kace shifted his attention from his lovely mate to the annoying witch. "Are we going to raise her?"

"We?" Serefina's eyebrows shot up questioningly. "What do you mean with 'we'? You will not involve in this, I brought her here to let you know that I have found your mate."

Kace frowned. "What do you mean? I thought I will raise her."

"And risk her life because of your dear brother wants her head so bad?" Serefina said mockingly.

"Well, my brother is your lover." Kace bit back.

Serefina brushed off his words. "Your mate, you and I, in one place. Imagine how that Lycan will get a bounty." She referred to Maximus, who was still out there, sniffing the traces of Kace and her.

"She is just a baby..." Kace frowned. Would they kill her?

"I think you forgot that it was a baby that they had killed that night." Serefina reminded him about the night when Kace decided to be a rogue because he couldn't come back to the castle anymore as Jedrek would punish him severely, especially when he was caught with Serefina.

The rumors about them was being a lover would be confirmed.

Kace traced his finger on the baby chubby cheeks. Serefina was right. "What is your plan?"

"She will live with me." Serefina said in matter of fact.

"What?" Kace snapped his head toward her. "Why she has to live with you?" he didn't understand the logic of it. "You said it before that her life is in danger if she lives with us both, but why do you say that you want her to live with you?"

"Because I am good at hiding and you are not." Serefina stated the fact. "But, first of all. You have to give her a name."

### **Chapter 403 - HOPE**

"She doesn't have a name yet?" Kace was surprised as he also forgot to ask the name of the baby.

"I want named her Serefina junior, but I don't think you will like it." Serefina glanced at the baby, she didn't have any idea what name would suit her, thus it was better to leave this insignificant matter to Kace to think about.

Kace's nose scrunched in pure disgust by her idea. He would totally go against it. What kind of name was that?

Kace was looking at the sleeping baby, her lips slightly opened and her little pointed nose was so small. She was so vulnerable, yet she was the most substantial entity in his life.

Kace wished nothing for her but her happiness, just like how she brought the light in the end of the tunnel of his penitence.

And then Kace remembered this poem, the poem that he heard long time ago...

[Do you believe, in what you see

Do you believe in reality

Do you believe in the sun that's bright

Do you believe in the stars in the night

Do you believe in the birds that fly

Do you believe in clouds and the sky

Do you believe in wind that flows

Do you believe in moon that glows action

Do you believe in light

Do you believe the spoken word

Do you believe the things you have heard

Do you believe in the final answer

Do you believe in the swirling dancer

Do you believe in sound and sight

Do you believe in moments bright

Do you believe in taste and touch

Do you believe that much

Do you believe in the soul inside

Do you believe in ecstasy and delight

Do you believe in glory and God

Do you believe in that thought

Do you believe in the sky above

Do you believe in love

Do you believe in the heaven and the earth

Do you believe in death and birth

Do you believe in life

Open your eyes with hope within

Open the door, let light reach in

If you believe, then you will win.]

When Kace watched the baby, that poem echoed in his head. The only poem that he remembered because it questions many things that he wanted to ask.

"Hope." Kace caressed the baby's chubby cheeks and rested his forefinger on her small palm, when the baby curled her fingers around it, the warmth spread in Kace's heart. "Her name is Hope."

His hope...

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At first Serefina disagreed with the name that Kace chose for the baby as it sounded weird, but definitely Kace wouldn't even budge with his decision.

Well, he has his own philosophy for this, as that name meant something for him.

Serefina never knew that the youngest Donovan had this sensitive spot and went all the way to this cheesy name. At least, the witch thought that way because when Kace told Ariana and Alec, they liked the name.

The second problem was; Calleb disagreed with Serefina's decision to take away his mate and raised her all by herself.

It wasn't that Kace didn't trust her to take care of Hope, but with Serefina's personality, he didn't think that his mate would be in good hand...

But the witch argued him back.

Her point was clear. With Kace and Serefina were not together, it would be difficult for them to be found. Especially when Kace needed to move from one place to another, in order to avoid Jedrek's people, who were still looking for his whereabouts, even after decades had passed.

As for Serefina, she was the master of it. She could chant as much spell as she wanted to protect her surroundings or manipulate her smell, so it was almost impossible to trace her.

But, with Kace near her, his presence alone was a disruption for her spell.

In the end, Kace agreed with Serefina's idea to raise his mate with one condition; Serefina would bring his mate to meet him once a year in her birthday until she reached the age of eighteen when she had mature enough.

Though he had to be separated, but this was for her safety.

In the night before Serefina would bring away his mate, Kace let the baby slept in his arms, spending the entire night to keep her safe in his arms.

"Why don't you sleep?" Ariana sat down next to Kace as she smiled at the baby.

"I just want to spend a little more time with her." Kace stated, there was no trace of tiredness on his face as firmly cradled the baby in his strong arms.

"She is so cute. I bet she will be a beauty when she grows up." Ariana caressed the baby's black hair. "I think you want her to grow up quickly." She made a conclusion.

Yet, Kace shook his head. "No. I just want her to live happily, cherish every moment and be healthy."

The sound of the Lycan's voice was very genuine and pure.

As Kace had given her, her name and watched her grew up. Kace would be everything for her. Her brother, her guardian, her protector and everything that she needed.

He would shower her with love.

"Hm, I agree with that..." Ariana nodded. "But, I still can't believe it that you have a mate. I don't know if the moon goddess had lifted the curse from the three of you."

If Ariana didn't watch the way Kace reacted around Hope, she wouldn't believe it, but Kace's overprotectiveness and the way he looked her it confirmed everything.

"Not many people know about this." but now, Alec and Ariana knew about it as well.

"Regardless, I am happy for you." Ariana said sincerely.

"Thank you..." but, before even Kace could give Ariana a proper respond, Serefina had stormed inside the room and with her demanding tone, she said;

"We need to go from here, immediately." Serefina walked over toward Kace and extending her arms, asking for Hope. "Maximus will be here in less than five minutes."

#### **Chapter 404 - JUST DRIVE!**

Kace growled at the information. How did that jackass know about his whereabouts?!

"I will carry her." Kace let out a deep growled when Serefina asked Hope from his arms. His instinct didn't let him to give his mate away when there was a danger nearby.

Kace didn't even trust Serefina enough to protect his mate. He was very possessive now.

"Alright!" On the other hand, Serefina knew those eyes too well. The possessiveness that swarmed on the Lycan entire body. "If you don't want to give the baby, get up now. We have to go immediately!"

Serefina walked out of the living room, without even say goodbye or just a simple 'thank you' for Alec or Ariana.

Alec, who just managed to coax Arabella to sleep, came out from the baby's room and immediately felt the tense in the air.

"What happened here?" He asked, puzzled.

On the other hand, Ariana rose to her feet and stormed out of the room and came back seconds later with a blue backpack.

"Bring this." She shoved the blue backpack to Kace. "I have this prepared for Hope. There are everything that Hope needs for two days." As she talked to Alec to explain briefly about their situation.



"I will go to stop him as long as I could!" Alec rushed out to meet Maximus on the way here. "After all this is Alpha Torak's territory, he couldn't do anything harsh in the other Donovan's land!" he mumbled as he turned into his beast as soon as he stepped on the terrace.

Inside the room, Ariana was talking very fast about how Kace should take care of two months old baby, she regretted that she didn't explain it sooner and thought they still had a lot of time to do this.

"Ariana, thank you so much!" Kace used his left hand to give the female Alpha a hug while holding baby Hope, the baby was sleeping sound and safe without any care for the world.

"Don't thank me, you make me cringe." Though that was what she said, but she hugged the big Lycan back.

"KACE!" from the backyard, Serefina's shrill voice called out his name impatiently

Kace released Ariana and hugged the baby firmly in his arms, made sure that the blanket covered her tiny body and kept her warm.

"Go." Ariana opened the back door, let Kace strode to where Serefina had been waiting for him with grim expression, she didn't like to wait.

With last nod, Kace and Serefina disappeared from Ariana's backyard.

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"D\*mn it! where are we, witch!?" Kace cursed under his breath when in a sheer of luck, he managed to escape death and went straight away to Tartarus.

Well, it wouldn't be a pleasant visit.

Kace backed away immediately from the edge of the rooftop of a building, one wrong steps and he would fall from this height, for a second, the Lycan wondered if he could survive, but of course he wouldn't want to know with Hope in his arms.

"Wrong place." Serefina said nonchalantly as she started to walk and ordered him to follow her.

With huff and puff, he followed the witch regardless. Kace grumbled and checked on Hope, she had woken up from her sleep and was playing with her tiny thumbs.

"Where are we?" Kace asked Serefina again as they walked down stair and exited from emergency door.

"Still in white claw pack." She replied with grumble.

White claw pack was the pack that Alec led, in another word, Serefina didn't teleport them too far from the Alpha's house.

"Why don't you bring us out from this place?" Kace protested. He was fine with all the wrestle and brawl, but with Hope nearby, that wasn't a good option.

"I am too tired from taking her here." Serefina glanced at the baby. "We will go to another city, I think it will take more than two days by car," she mumbled to herself as she fished out a car key from her pocket.

The moon shone brightly on the night sky as if the moon goddess greeted them and the baby blinked her eyes slowly.

It was so fascinating the way Hope pouted her lips and gushed, in Kace's eyes. Everything about her is so pure and pristine.

Hope's weight was practically nothing, she was so tiny and precious, made Kace wondered again; how a sinner like him could be blessed with such purity.

He determined to protect her. Not that the thought didn't cross his mind, but this time it was more solid than ever.

All the confusion about whether he deserved a mate or not had vanished. Kace knew from the first time he laid his eyes on her that his life had just begun.

His salvation was already here in a bundle of joy in his arms...

"Give me the baby," Serefina cut short Kace's thought as she was about to snatch the baby away from him.

Out of instinct, Kace growled defensively at her.

"Stop trying to bite me!" Serefina roared back at him agitatedly. "You drive." She gave the car key to him and extended her arms, didn't want to provoke Kace further as his eyes turned dark.

Though Kace was most of the time warm and sunny, but the witch knew better to not aggravate the beast that resided in him.

Kace wasn't an Alpha, but just like his other two brothers, his beast and his human side were powerful compared to normal shifter.

"Give me the baby." Serefina glared at Kace impatiently.

With a heavy breath, the Lycan handed the baby and took the car key from her hands as he stuffed himself behind the wheel and started the engine.

"Hold her firmly, but don't too tight, you will hurt her!" Kace warned Serefina as he glared from rearview mirror.

His blue eyes flashed with worried and anxious by the way Serefina was cradling Hope in her arms carelessly. action

Serefina frowned and gritted her teeth, the baby was fine the way she held her. The Lycan became very annoying now.

"JUST DRIVE!"

#### **Chapter 405 - STOP BY**

"You just ask me to drive to the north! But, you forget to mention where exactly we are heading now!" Kace grumbled.

He looked at the baby who was sucking on her nursing bottle, drinking her milk peacefully without care for the world as she played with the edge of her blanket and occasionally would turn her head to look at Kace and gushed.

Ahhh... how the Lycan's heart not melted with the sight?

"North... north..." Kace mumbled as he turned left, entered the gas station. "Change with me, my turn to hold her."

Kace had been driving for more than fifteen hours now, he didn't sleep, didn't eat and wasn't able to hold baby Hope.

He didn't mind to drive for longer time, but the sight of her eyes that looked at him curiously from time to time, made Kace's heart squall loudly to play with the baby.

Kace pulled over the car near a mini market, after he refueled it and turned off the engine. He opened the passenger door and took over the baby from Serefina's hand carefully.

Hope cooed and extended her small arms to touch Kace while giving him a toothless smile.

"Hi little one..." Kace lowered his head to let Hope to tug his hair happily. The baby seemed happy to be able to do that.

And Kace couldn't help but smiling as well, his smile was so bright that put the sun above them into ashamed.

The sparks that erupted from skin to skin contact, made the baby giggled. Kace felt it too. So, this was how the sparks felt when your mate touched you...

The feeling that Kace had been waiting for centuries to feel it, he bent down his body and took the nursing bottle from Serefina.

"I need to go to bathroom." The witch grumbled as she left both of them.

Hope was a happy baby as she played with her nursing bottle and sucked on it, blinked her eyes curiously at her surroundings.

From these three days observations, Kace could tell, Hope was easy to handle, as she would only cry if she was hungry or needed to be cleaned after she had done her business. Most of the time she would sleep or observed her surrounding silently. action

Another thing that Kace understood was; she liked the spark that she felt when he touched Kace, thus she would always extend her little arms to touch his face.

Of course, the baby didn't know the concept of mate, she just enjoyed the tingling feeling, just like Kace.

The Lycan didn't have any weird thought about how this bond would become, he enjoyed every moment with baby Hope.

In matter of fact, Kace felt blessed because he had a chance to watch her grow. The chance that didn't come to every Lycan as they would start to find their mate when they turned seventeen, most of them would start to look for their mate and found them around that age.

But it wasn't the case for Donovan's brothers.

Before this, they deemed to be mate-less for the rest of their eternity, yet the moon goddess lifted their curse and gave them the chance to feel this blissful feeling.

Kace couldn't understand, why Jedrek wanted to get rid of this peaceful feeling and suffered the pain of losing his mate. He knew that his brother was still looking for his mate to be killed and Maximus was the one who carried the order.

But, that wasn't his concern now, because for now, he needed to eat something as his stomach grumbled embarrassingly.

With baby Hope in his arms and blue backpack on his back, Kace left the car while whistling happily, enter the mini market to buy something for him and Serefina.

There were not many people there around this time, some of them were enjoying a cup of coffee while reading newspaper, at the back of this store. Old people's habit.

Kace grabbed four sandwiches and two sodas, some snacks and another baby formula and diaper for Hope, the things that Ariana prepared for her had almost done and they were still long way to go from their destination.

Well, the truth was Kace didn't know where Serefina would bring them, but as long as this was a safe place for Hope. He didn't mind to follow the witch's crazy idea.

"Do you want something baby?" Kace touched Hope's small nose as the baby let go of her nursing bottle and giggled.

After Kace was done to take all the snack and food for their long journey ahead, Calleb hummed happily, going to the cashier and paid everything.

"She is so lovely..." the girl, behind the cashier desk, who was checking all the items that Kace would buy, squalled with the sight of Hope.

Hope's black eyes and hair contrasted with her fair skin, her pouted lips and chubby cheeks were other things that made people would adore her in an instant once they laid their eyes on her.

"What is her name?" The girl stopped what she was doing and extended her arms to caress Hope's crimson cheeks.

However, the baby pouted and turned her head, snuggled closer to Kace's chest while hugging her bottle. Hope had never acted this way before.

"Oh, she is shy with stranger." The girl didn't look upset and continue to check the item in front of her, but her eyes occasionally would glance over at baby Hope.

"I guess." Kace replied emotionlessly, holding Hope firmly against his chest.

"She is so cute and delicious..." The girl's eyes flickered with golden color as she glanced at the baby again after she finished to put everything on the bag.

The flicker of the golden color on the girl's eyes was the sign for Kace to take two steps back and became very alerted by the situation.

His body turned stiff and his eyes were the color of the night sky, as a loud growl rumbled in his chest and came from the back of his throat.

#### **Chapter 406 - THAT WASN'T A GOOD SIGN**

The sound that Kace made, piqued the baby interest as Hope peeked through her long lashes, feeling the rumble noise from his chest.

Kace's dark eyes locked on the girl's golden one as a smirk appeared on the girl's lips tauntingly. "So... who is this lovely baby? After centuries, is this what you are doing? Baby sitting?"

The Devil knew about the prophecy about the resurrected of the guardian angel, but they were still clueless about the other prophecy, which mentioned that the guardian angel would be the Donovan's mate.

"She looks delicious, isn't she?" the girl leaned her back against the rack behind her as the pair of golden eyes glued on baby Hope.

Kace didn't like it. His beast was aggravated when the devil's eyes were on their mate.

"It is better for you to not interfere with this Beelzebub." Serefina entered the mini market and strolled toward Kace and the baby, she shot him a look. "Calm down."

This time Kace growled at the witch.

How he supposed to calm down when the Gluttony looked at his mate with her starving eyes. She licked her bottom lips that made Kace wanted to pull her tongue and cut it off.

Kace pressed the baby against his chest, covering her tinny figure with the blanket, hiding her from Gluttony's eyes, as he continued to let out deep grumbles as if there was a ragging storm within him.

"Go back to the car," Serefina spoke decisively.

"She smelled very sweet. Different from other babies." The girl sniffed the air and sighed in delight.

"Go back to the car! Now!" Serefina glared at the Lycan. He didn't take an order when he wanted to destroy the devil, who smelled his mate in disgusting way. "You will hurt her!" Serefina reminded Kace grimly as her eyes glanced over the baby in Kace's arms and his half- shifted fingers.

At this moment, Kace's nail had turned into claws, sharp- razor claws that would be able to cut anything in one movement, but the problem was, the baby would be hurt before he could make any move.

Only when Kace heard Serefina's words, he realized that he was still holding Hope in his arms and one wrong move, he would cut the baby with his claws.

It startled Kace as his breath hitched and his body trembled because of the anger that he tried to hold back and the fear of hurting his mate. action

"Go. Now!" Serefina repeated her order when she watched how Kace had returned to his senses.

With last livid glance, Kace stormed out of the mini market, leaving the items that he intended to buy. His hunger had long forgotten, consumed by his wrath.

The only thing that he wanted now was to go as far away as he could from here, hiding his precious little Hope somewhere safe before he went insane with his encounter with the devil.

Serefina was purposely not taking Hope away from Kace, because she knew once the baby left his arms the overly angry Lycan would slit the young girl's neck without batting an eye.

The problem was, the girl was possessed by the devil, hence there was nothing would change even if Kace killed straight away.

The only thing for sure was only the fact that they would only add problem onto their load.

Gluttony's eyes followed Kace's back until he disappeared from her sight before she shifted her attention back toward the witch and grinned.

"The great witch Serefina..." she sighed. "How long have you been missing from Jedrek's side? Don't you miss him?" she asked tauntingly.

Upon hearing that question, Serefina just raised her brows and was about to stroll out of the door to leave the devil behind when she asked another question.

"What is it with the baby? She is so different... she smells really good..." Gluttony shut her eyes as if she wanted to remember the scent of the baby that Kace was holding protectively.

There was no way she would forget that intoxicating scent...

"You better stay away from the baby." Serefina halted to say that words, but Gluttony didn't let her go easily.

"Is it about the time for the guardian angel resurrected?" Her golden eyes opened wide. "Is it her? The baby?" she licked her bottom lips and gulped hard.

Serefina didn't answer that question and proceeded to walk away from that store, she didn't even glance to take a second glance to see how the girl behind the cashier desk fell to the floor all of sudden.

The loud sound attracted more people to see and rushed over to help the cashier girl.

However, when one of the men held her, her body had turned very cold and she was no longer breathing.

"Call the ambulance, the girl is not breathing!" People were shouting inside the mini market, trying to help the girl's life.

But Serefina knew better there was nothing those people could do to help the poor girl, it was too late as the devil had sucked her soul dry.

"What take you so long!?" Kace roared the moment Serefina entered the car and turned on the engine. "Let's go from here!"

Kace's entire body was shaking uncontrollably from his effort to keep his beast at bay. He held baby Hope closed to his chest possessively, just like an overprotective mother who distressed over her newborn baby.

Even the baby stretched her small body uncomfortably and squalled because she couldn't move freely, yet Kace didn't pay attention to it, as his focus was to urge Serefina to go away from the devil and whoever or whatever creatures that would harm his mate.

"What is she doing here!?" Kace snarled when the car screeched and they exited the gas station.

From the corner of their eyes, they could see Beelzebub was staring intensely from in front of the mini market's door.

The determination in her eyes and the way her lips curled into a devilish smirk, made Kace gritted his teeth.

### **Chapter 407 - SEREFINA'S CRAZINESS**

In the end, Serefina had to drive them for another long hour before the sun set on the horizon and they decided to call it a day.

Serefina drove the car to the parking lot at the inn and get out of the car as she stretched her stiff body because of driving for long time.

By this time, Kace had calmed down now, yet still on alert.

The first thing he did when he step out of the car was raising his nose and sniffing the air, searching for any odd scent that could be a threat for the three of them.

When he was sure there was nothing odd, he took his back pack and strolled inside the inn with Serefina followed behind him after she put some spell around the area.

Kace rather please with the precautions that Serefina did to ensure their safety. He didn't want to meet Gluttony or any other creatures that he didn't want to meet.

"How many room?" the girl on the receptionist desk as Kace and smiled politely at him, asking for the general question after the boring greeting.

"One."

"One."

Kace and Serefina answered almost simultaneously. The Lycan didn't need to turn his body to see the witch was approaching him after she had done with her business.

"One room with twin bed." Kace added more specifically and didn't miss the slight frown from the girl's eyebrows.

Man and woman, with their baby, sleeping in one room. They definitely a family of three, right? But, why they slept in different bed? Or maybe...

"We can provide baby crib if you want." The girl was being professional and tried to help while curiosity got the best of her at the same time.

"No need." It was Serefina who answered her as she shot her an impatient look and extended her arm, asking for the key for their room.

After the receptionist girl notified them one or two information and gave the key to Serefina, both of them turned their body almost immediately and headed to their room on the third floor, leaving the puzzled reception alone without even giving her a single 'thank you'.

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After a long journey, exhaustion hit Serefina, her consciousness slipped away the moment her head touch the pillow after she finished taking a bath, leaving Kace to take care of the baby.

Kace put a single chair beside Hope's bed and played with the baby until late at night. He placed many pillows and blanket around her, therefore she wouldn't fall when she was sleeping.

Kace was also thoughtful enough to give a bottle of warm milk, so she would sleep with a full tummy. Though Hope only drank half a bottle of her milk because she had it not so long.

Hope mostly awake at night and would sleep during the day.

But, it didn't take her a long time to fall asleep again and let Kace to get some rest too.

However, in the middle of the night, the baby was crying softly. This sound was akin to alarm, which blaring inside Kace's head.

His eyes opened wide as they lost any traces of sleepiness. Kace snapped his head toward Hope and watched how she frowned and pouted her lips, holding back her tears while stuffing her fist into her mouth.

What is it?

Is she afraid of something? Kace's eyes skimmed his surrounding briefly.

Hungry? Because she was starting to eat her fist now...

But, when the familiar smell hit Kace's nostril, he knew too well that the baby had just pooped. He chuckled at Hope's teary little face, feeling uncomfortable because of the dirty that she created.

"I will clean you up okay." Kace leaned over and kissed her forehead. "Don't cry."

Kace skillfully removed the blanket and her diaper, before he cleaned her up and put new diaper and clothes for her.

Only then, Kace realized that Hope didn't have much clothes. He needed to buy some cute baby clothes for her later.

After she had been cleaned the baby yawned again and fell asleep, curling her little fingers around Kace's thumb.

Kace caressed her back to ease her sleep as he covered her tinny body with blanket.



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"Are you crazy Serefina!?" Kace's roar was the first thing that broke the silent of the peaceful morning after he knew where they were heading to. "I will not let her leave in that kind of environment! You lost your mind!"

Serefina glared hardly at Kace while crossing her arms in front of her chest defensively. "Do you have better idea?! I have been living there for more than decades!" action

"We are talking about Northern coven! Where the witches and vampires roamed around freely and rogue live there!" Kace adamant that the place which Serefina suggested was not safe for Hope.

The Northern part of this realm was a dark place, where there were no exact rules there! How Serefina could think that was the safest place?

Wasn't it better to live just like this? Moving to one place to the other? Kace didn't mind it at all! But, not with the idea to go to the northern area!

"You are a rogue yourself, pup! Did you forget?" Serefina scoffed, raised her chin high in challenging manner.

Kace snarled at Serefina's remark, but then he lowered his tone when he felt Hope was startled in his arms.

"That is dangerous place! Dark and dangerous!" Kace emphasized every syllable in his sentence, as calm as he could, afraid to surprised the baby again.

"I had been hiding there for centuries! There is no harm that will fall upon her when you know how to survive there!" Serefina retorted.

From the first time this argumentation started, the witch had come prepared and wouldn't back down without a fight and got what she wanted.

"And you expect me to agree with your crazy idea?! I used to admire your craziness back then, but not now when you involve my mate's life!" Kace hissed and grumbled viciously, in order to keep his voice low.

#### **Chapter 408 - SHOPPING!**

"Oh, Selene! I come to help you, so don't you dare to treat me like I am your enemy!" Serefina grumbled in frustration. She glared viciously at Kace, but the Lycan didn't budge with his decision.

"No need to call Selene! You don't like her, do you?" Kace quipped sarcastically, grabbed a teether for Hope, so she wouldn't cry agitatedly, upon hearing this endless argumentation.

If no one from them were willing to back down, this kind of conversation would last for as long as it needed.

Unfortunately, most of this kind of situation, would end with both of them choose their own way, yet that wasn't the case in this situation.

"That place is full with witches and other dark creatures!" Kace tried to make his point across, yet Serefina with her stubbornness made everything more complicated. "What in the world that you can think that Northern Coven is the safest place!?"

"Because I was there for centuries, you fool! You didn't listen to me, did you?!" Serefina ran her fingers to comb her hair agitatedly. "Yes, that place is full with witches, but that place also is protected with their spell and magic, so it will be hard for your brother and his people or that devil, who wanted to eat your baby, to find her! Don't you see? The least expected place is the safest one!"

Kace wanted to retort her statement, but something click in his mind and her point was, actually, make sense.

But, there was only one problem.

"She is a human." Kace brushed his cheek against Hope's and this gestured made the baby giggled. "Those wretch creatures will know about it soon."

"I have thought about that. No one will notice her as a human child as long as she doesn't come out of the house." Serefina glanced at Hope briefly before she turned around and packed all of their things, which not much and most of them belonged to Hope.

Kace furrowed his brows. "You can't keep her inside the house for the rest of her life!" he snapped, thinking how miserable it would be for his mate to not allow to see the outside world.

Serefina rolled her eyes dramatically when she heard Kace concern. "Relax. We will just stay there until she turned five."

Kace put down baby Hope and made a bottle of milk for her, as this was the time for her to eat. "After that, where will you go?"

Serefina shrugged her shoulder. "I will think about that later, we have five years to decide another safe place for her." And then she added. "Moreover, we will not enter too deep into the northern coven. I choose to live in mystic river village."

"Mystic river village?" Kace reiterated.

He remembered that place, it was a village under the mountain which the border of the northern coven and the realm for human.

The last time Kace was there, was around two hundred years ago.

There were not many people lived there and all of the people kept up with their traditions. It was an old tradition about human sacrifice to the god of the mountain.

Kace wasn't sure about that, but two hundred years have passed, there must be significant change, right?

Those sacrifice ritual bothered the Lycan. Though, that wasn't annoyed him like his former thought that Serefina would let his mate to live inside the northern coven.

This one was more tolerable...

"That village is only two days away from here, therefore we have to buy a few necessity for her." Serefina nodded at Hope who was happily sucking onto her nursing bottle, her bright dark eyes shone brilliantly. Even Serefina had to admit that the baby would be a rare beauty when she grew up.

"Right! I want to buy a lot of toys and cute clothes and dress for her! Let's go shopping!" Kace's dampen mood turned better by the thought of buying those things for Hope.

Serefina just rolled her eyes when she watched how Kace was very excited. Sometime, she wondered how the big Lycan determined to act childish all the time.

Serefina knew him for long time to make that conclusion.

However, the witch also knew Kace would turn into more beastly once his bottom line was crossed. Typical of those who had Alpha's blood ran down their veins.

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"Kace, she will not stay two months forever!" Serefina reminded the overwhelmed Lycan exasperatedly.

Kace was near to buy the entire store for Hope, yet the baby just bit her fist or giggled and drooled without care for the world.

"But, they are so cute!" Kace gushed when he watched a pink dress with cartoon character. "Do you want this Hope?"

Kace gave the dress to the baby and Hope stretched out her arms in attempt to grab the dress.

"See? She likes it!" Kace beamed and gave the dress to the sales person.

For now, they were inside a mall in this city before they drive to the northern part for two days straight, only stop to sleep.

"She will act the same way even if you give her a poison!" Serefina snapped at him angrily. They had been wasting their time for three hours just to buy clothes and toys for Hope.

Probably, Kace wouldn't stop if Serefina didn't remind him again and again that they had to go immediately.

The Lycan was enjoying his time with his baby mate.

"No! That's enough!" Serefina snatched a cute legging for one year old baby and threw it back to the rack, then she dragged Kace out of the store. "Give me your card!"

Serefina extended her hand to him. Those clothes were for Hope, thus it was only right if Kace paid for them. action

Pouting, Kace gave the card to Serefina and talked to the baby. "Next time, when you grow older, we will go shopping together and buy more cute things for you, okey baby?"

Hope just tilted her little head while blinking her big, adorable eyes and gushed.

**Chapter 409 - THE GIRL**

Kace was driving while Hope was sitting on her new infant safety, behind him with Serefina, playing with her new teether and teddy bear.

Along the way, Serefina would mostly stare out of the window as if she was in deep thought, she would stay like that if Hope didn't cry to ask their attention to be fed or cleaned.

There was only song from radio that filled the silence inside the car or Hope's voice that would rumble incoherently.

And when the sky turned dark and the moon illuminated the road, Kace looked for an inn for them to stay for tonight. action

From outside people, the three of them looked like a happy family, yet the truth was slightly complicated to explain.

Kace turned off the engine and unbuckled Hope as he carried the baby and took a backpack along with Hope's teddy bear. The baby was sleeping again.

The smell of milk that wafted on Kace's nose, the moment he carried her, created a curl on his lips as he gazed at her warmly.

Kace caressed her cheeks and kissed her forehead as happiness washed away his anxiety that he had been holding back ever since Serefina told him about her plan.

He held her small hand as spark crept on the surface of his skin.

Meanwhile Serefina made a reservation for them, the same arrangement; one room with twin bed without balcony because they didn't want to create opportunity for those who haunted them to sneak behind their back.

The night went just like before.

Serefina would sleep almost immediately once her head touched the pillow and Kace would spare sometime to play with Hope, who was awake when he would go to sleep.

Kace chose to sleep on the single sofa that he brought next to the bed where Hope was surrounded securely by large pillow and blanket.

Kace was afraid that he would accidently crush the baby in his sleep, that was why he slept there.

After feeding and cleaning her, he played with the baby until she yawned sleepily and fell asleep peacefully.

Only then, Kace would sleep.

When the first ray of sunlight appeared on the horizon, Serefina had woken up and took a bath while Kace would check on Hope and made a warm milk for his baby.

"I think we will arrive at the mystic river village in the evening, but I hope we will get there before the sun set." Serefina was more like mumbling to herself while drying her brown hair with towel in her hands.

"Do you have a place there? A house or something?" Kace asked off handedly.

"A house." Serefina replied as she called for breakfast to be brought to their room. She didn't bother to ask what Kace wanted because the big Lycan, literally, would eat anything as long as it was edible. There would be no protest from him.

Kace wasn't surprised when Serefina said she own a house there, after all she had been staying in mystic river village for very long time.

When Kace had done to take care of Hope, he went to take a bath and when he finished, two slice sandwiches were ready for him

And when the sun had shone brightly out of the window, the three of them left the inn.

Kace was holding the bag while Serefina was cradling Hope in her arms, their journey to the mystic river village was very tiring.

Only when he got there, Kace would get a proper rest.

However, when they reached their car, Kace let out a deep low growl when he watched a girl, around the age of twelve, was leaning his back against their car.

It wasn't because Kace didn't like the dirty girl would stain his car, but the fact that the girl was a shifter, was the reason why Kace let out a deep low grumble from the back of his throat.

"Move!" Kace took a defensive stance as he stood in front of Serefina, who was holding baby Hope.

A child or not, as long as they were shifter, they tended to be more vicious and cunning than the normal human on their age.

The girl held her chin high and glared back at Kace. Her brown eyes flashed with irritation by the way Kace talked to her. She took a quick glance at Serefina, but couldn't see what she was holding.

"Bring me with you!" She declared out of the blue, squared her small shoulder and tried to be more presentable when her dirty outfit failed her miserably.

"What on earth that make you think I will bring you with me?!" Kace scoffed and shoved the girl out of the way, so he could open the car door for Serefina as she squatted down into the car.

"Because you are an Alpha!" the girl's stern expression was unfazed when she looked at Kace and tried to hold his arms. "You are a werewolf!"

Kace glared at the girl when she touched him, but she didn't take it as the sign for her to release her hand from him, if anything, the girl clutched onto Kace tighter.

"First, I am not a werewolf, I am a Lycan and no, I am not an Alpha. I am a rogue!" Kace snapped at her and shook his hand.

The girl was thrown a few steps back. She hastily steadied herself and frowned at Kace, maybe she was wrong when she thought that Kace was a werewolf, but she was sure that the Kace was an Alpha.

It was in their instinct to know the higher rank in their kind immediately when they met with one, and this submissive feeling that she felt made her certain that Kace was an Alpha.

"Take me with you, I don't have family! My family was murdered!" the girl quickly latched on the car window when she watched Kace had started the car engine.

Her fist bumped onto the side of the window, but Kace didn't care, he even didn't spare her a single glance while baby Hope blinked her eyes curiously at the noisy sound.

#### **Chapter 410 - DON'T INTERFERE**

After Kace drove away from the inn parking lot, nobody talked about the event with the girl before, mostly because Serefina didn't care and Kace was too engross with the thought to reach the mystic river village before the sun was set.

But, they didn't know that the girl was following them by depending solely on her nose to track them.

When Serefina needed to go to bathroom they stopped at rest area to refuel the gas and bought something to eat while the witch did her business.

However, when Kace returned to his car with baby Hope in his arms, gushing and mumbling incoherently, he found the same girl was panting beside his car. She was sweating profusely.

"Take me with you." Despite her ragging breath, her voice sounded firm when she asked Kace to take her with him.

"No." Kace could see that the girl was malnourish and had been running from something before they met.

Whatever was that, Kace didn't want to get involve. He has enough trouble to keep him occupied for the rest of his eternity.

Another fact that Kace realized was, apparently she could shift into her beast, or else she wouldn't be here as her human form wouldn't be able to chase the speed of his car.

But, that wasn't the point. He wouldn't take her nonetheless.

"Take me with you or I will die." The girl spoke grimly, her eyes quivered in her attempt to hold back her tears.

Yet, Kace didn't sympathize with her as he raised his eyebrows and walked past her. "So, why do you think I care?"

Because Serefina was not there yet, Kace decided to buy ice cream, which not far from there, for himself with the strange girl followed behind him.

"I will do everything as long as you helped me." The girl was very determined to change Kace's mind. "I will take care of that little brat in your arms."

She made a big mistake to call the cute baby Hope as a brat.

Kace turned around and because of that the girl almost bumped onto him. Almost... because Kace extended his arms and pushed her back until the girl fell on her back.

Luckily, there was no one who watched that scene, or else Kace would be condemned from harassing a little girl.

He knew the girl would be alright, a little push like that wouldn't do any harm to their kind, no matter how haggard she looked.

"Call her with that again, you shouldn't worry about whatever will kill you." Kace remarked menacingly.

The girl nodded, even if she was afraid, she didn't show it on her face as she hastily stood up. "I will not say it again in the future."

"What future? Do you think I will see again after this?" Kace turned around and bought an ice cream for himself, but when he watched the way the girl stared at his colorful gelato, he ordered one more and gave it to the girl as he watched Serefina had returned from the bathroom.

"For me?" The girl stared in disbelief at the yummy ice cream and then at Kace's stern expression.

"Yes, so you will not follow me anymore." Kace shook the ice cream in front of the girl's face because she didn't move her hand to take it and the Lycan became impatient with her.

The girl took a big gulp before she succeeded to peel her eyes from the mouth-watering ice cream to Kace. "If I don't take the ice cream, will you take me?" though her voice was firm, but it laced with expectation.

"Of course not. Take it or not, I will not bring you with me." Kace blurted out the brutal truth.

The girl didn't even flinch when Kace talked harshly at her and just kept quiet while following him.

"You can't come with me." Kace glared again to stop the girl from following him.

In the other hand, Serefina just raised her eyebrows, didn't care or want to know why the little girl was there, most likely because she had guessed it.

"If you leave me I will die." The girl repeated her words and she received the same answer just like before.

"I don't care." Kace strapped Hope in her infant safety seat and gave the ice cream to Serefina, the witch scrunched her nose, but took it from him.

"You are an Alpha." The girl kept insisting to use that term again.

Kace was almost running out of patient. The way she mentioned the term made Kace wanted to scrap her face. It was so irritated and he didn't like it a bit.

"Even if I am an Alpha? Why I should bring you with me? You are not my pack member." Kace stated through his gritted teeth.

The girl's brown eyes shone as she tilted her head and show her neck, a submissive act. "I will pledge my loyalty to you." she said hastily.

"And I do not accept it." Kace replied almost immediately as he slipped his body inside the car and started the engine.

Once he closed the door, Kace stomped on the accelerator, brought them away from that place.

However, when he took second glance at the girl through the side-view mirror, Kace watched with large eyes when a huge man was standing a few meter away from behind the girl.

He stalked forward and strangled the little girl, who was still in daze, staring at the car.

"Sh\*t!" Kace cursed under his breath. Out of reflex, he stepped on the break.

Fortunately, there was no car behind him or else, it would be the three of them that was in trouble.

"What is that?!" Kace gripped the wheel tightly, leaving dent of his fingers there.

On the other hand, Serefina looked so calm when she raised her head to look what was happening to the girl from before through the rear view mirror.

"Snake shifter I guess." She said nonchalantly. "Don't interfere, we have enough trouble already."