

TLOA Lycan 411

Chapter 411 - KILL HIM!

Snake shifter was so rare to see, but most of them didn't leave together with their own kind, they were nomadic entity.

And one more reason why there were not many of their kind alive was because they were cannibal and wouldn't even bother to eat their own kind.

"Don't interfere, we have enough trouble already." though her voice was calm and nonchalant, but there was warning that laced in her tone.

Of course Kace didn't want to interfere, but...

The car didn't move when Kace stared at the side-view mirror as the huge man turned into something disgusting.

The sand color like hair on his head had disappeared completely along with his eyebrows. His skin now littered with something that looked like scales, they were the color of light green.

The pupil of his eyes shaped like a snake and his teeth were very sharp like razor.

The poor little girl was grabbed by her neck as her feet were dangling a meter away from the ground. She tried to kick and escaped from his attacker, yet without footing, she lost the momentum.

The girl tried to shift, but apparently she couldn't do it, whether it was because the strangle around her neck, or because it was something new for her.

For young shifter, who just shifted into their beast form, sometime they needed to concentrate more to get into the shape, so their body could accommodate their beast form.

But, as they grew old, the transformation would be as easy as breathing.

Apparently, that was the girl's case. She failed to shift and would die anytime soon.

"Kace." Serefina warned him again in deep voice, because she saw that look on his blue eyes and when she heard a low growl from his chest, she knew what kind of scene that she would see next.

Just like the witch predicted, Kace stormed out of the car and shifted into his massive white lycan once his feet touch the ground.

Serefina could only sigh exasperatedly and rolled her eyes by Kace's decision.

Didn't he think about his mate's safety? Why he had to save someone insignificant to them that would definitely bring trouble?! Was he crazy!? They had to get out from this place as soon as possible and here Kace was trying to save the poor little girl!

Serefina groaned. "D*mn you lycan!" she unbuckled the strap on the baby and took her as they got out of the car. Hope was staring at the witch and cooed softly. "Your mate is annoying, you know?! Well, you also." action

In the open area of parking lot, the snake shifter had managed to make an eerie cracking sound from the neck of the poor little girl.

He didn't kill her straight away as he enjoyed to torture his prey and looked the despair in those brown eyes.

The voice of the girl, asking for help, was caught on her throat as her head throbbing painfully.

The snake shifter ran his forked tongue on his bottom lips as his slanted pupil dilated in delight by the anguish pain that smeared on the girl expression.

However, before he could make everything became more satisfying for him, the white lycan snarled and pounced onto him.

Forced the snake shifter to release his prey.

Both of them fell to the ground, but with the white lycan was on top of him, he had an advantage position to attack him ruthlessly.

Though in snake shifter's defense, the white lycan manage to wound him. He was bleeding from several places and looked worse for wear.

However, not so long, in his defense the creature succeeded to snap at the white lycan and sunk his teeth on the beast shoulder.

The beast roared in pain and tried to get away from the snake by throwing heavy punches at the side of his face.

Yet, the creature didn't even bother to move away and ignored the blow as he kept his teeth there.

Now, blood was pouring down from the white lycan's shoulder and coated his pure white fur as they continued to fight.

Regardless what the beast did, the teeth of the creature were still embedded on his shoulder.

'Kill him you idiot!'

Among that chaotic situation, Serefina's voice rang in his ears, though the witch were several meters away from the battle.

Meanwhile, the girl finally regained her consciousness and tried to sit down with her head and neck was very sore because of what the snake shifter had done.

She rubbed her aching neck and skimmed her surrounding until her eyes fell on the battle not far from her.

The girl crawled back to avoid to tangle in that vicious battle. In his eyes the white Lycan was in trouble, because he couldn't move his shoulder and limped as the snake shifter pushed him down to the ground.

The slithery creature had the upper hand now.

This time, the white lycan opened his paw as his razor like claws elongated and he clawed the side of his head.

That action caused the shifter lost a big chunk of his face as blood streaming down from his wounded head, but he didn't die yet.

The shifter roared and growled in anguish when the pain was unbearable, but still alive.

The gruesome scene made the girl turned away her head and covered her face with both of her hands, her young heart was not strong enough to see what would happen next.

The blue eyes of the white lycan shone brightly and widened by the sight that he was seeing.

Something bright flashed on the beast eyes and cut the neck of the snake shifter swiftly, in the next second, its head had rolled on the ground.

He died.

The effective way to kill a snake was cutting off the head.

But, this wasn't what the beast doing. Someone else did it, and when he turned his head, he saw Serefina was holding baby Hope in her arms.

And once again, her voice rang in Kace's head. 'I told you to kill him'. Her voice was very strong and annoyed.

Chapter 412 - THEY ARE DEAD

Bleeding, Kace shifted back into his human form as he walked past the dead body of the snake shifter that human couldn't see.

"I told you to kill him." Serefina repeated her words for the third time, but this time her voice didn't echo in her head and Kace appreciated that.

"I will not kill him if I could." Kace took off his shirt and wipe off the blood on his injured shoulder as he changed it with the new one that he took from inside the bag from the car.

The moment he was shirtless, one could see that the big open wound started to cave in as his skin slowly closed.

The healing ability of Lycan was always remarkable.

"So, you will let him to bite your hand off?" Serefina didn't appreciate Kace's decision, though she had figured out why he didn't want to kill the creature. The witch thought his reason was very ridiculous.

"I can chase him away without killing him." Kace put on black shirt the moment his wound stop bleeding.

"Yeah, I can see how he would have done that before you would do anything about the situation." Serefina spoke sarcastically. "You are getting slow."

"There is nothing I could do in these past long decades of my life. Maybe I have to go under some training again." Kace made sure he was clean before he extended his arms to take Hope from Serefina. "My senses kind of dull."

"That's because you always avoid conflict." Serefina gave the baby to Kace as Hope squalled happily by the sight of him.

"Why should I bother myself to face trouble?" Kace frowned, but it didn't last for long, because as soon as Hope's lovely face entered his line of sight, a broad smile tugged on his lips.

"That's why you can't be the Alpha." Serefina snorted. "You are too soft and ignorance."

Actually Kace wasn't like this before the great war occurred, but he started to act this way when it was ended. Probably the sickly scene of the bloody war has something to do with his change of behavior.

"Did I ever wish to be one?" Kace gave the witch disapproving look as he tossed the car key to Serefina. "You drive, I am hurt."

Since both of his brothers led their own pack in different realm, he didn't find in him the desire to lead something or took huge responsibility over many lives.

It was too troublesome and to be an Alpha was out of an option for him.

Serefina groaned and opened the car door as she sat behind the steering wheel agitatedly.

However, after strapped Hope back onto her safety seat, Kace didn't immediately climb on the car as he looked at the girl impassively.

The poor little girl was just standing a few meters away from them, staring at the dead body of the snake shifter with her unwavering eyes.

"You! Get on the car!" Kace snarled at the girl as he held the door next to Serefina opened.

Both Serefina and the girl were staring at Kace with wide eyes, disbelief flashed on those eyes, yet with different intention.

"It is enough for you to help her! Don't tell me that you actually want to take her with us!?" Serefina didn't even bother if her voice reached the girl's ears when she approached them.

"I will take her with us." Kace gave her an affirmative answer as he kept holding the car door opened.

Regardless the girl heard it or not, she didn't show it on her expression as she inched closer toward Kace.

"Get in the car!" Kace snarled at her once again as a deep frown appeared on his forehead.

Once the girl was inside the car, she hastily buckled herself, afraid that Kace would change his mind and left her alone to fend herself.

She didn't want to encounter creature like that again. She didn't think that she would be able to escape something like that again next time or was lucky enough to have someone was helping her just in time.

???I don't like you to join this car." Serefina said distastefully, because she couldn't say anything to make Kace changed his mind. Well, she knew him too well to know that little fact.

"Don't mind me." The girl replied to Serefina briefly, she didn't even look the witch in her eyes as. "That big guy who asked me to join, if you have any complain, you can tell him."

Both Serefina and Kace raised their eyebrows at her snarky comments as they lost for words.

The girl didn't think there was something wrong with the way she talked. All this while, she had been defending herself and started to get used to talk whatever passed her mind without thinking about it twice.

"You have such a gall, girl." Kace stated.

Actually, he didn't really care about the girl's behavior, because her antics reminded him of Serefina. However, the witch wouldn't take that lightly.

"Talk to me like that again and I will throw you out of this car." Serefina growled menacingly.

The girl stared at Serefina, but before she could say anything, the witch had flicked her fingers as blue fire appeared on the tip of her forefinger.

"Stop agitating her. There is a baby inside and she needs to sleep." Kace groaned as he tried his best to make the witch stop her action to burn down the girl.

After all, Kace was injured because of her and if Serefina decided to demolish her, all of his effort would pour down the drain.

Serefina took the girl silence as the sign that she understood her position and started the engine.

The car growl to live and they went toward their direction. Apparently, they would be behind the schedule.

"What's your name?" Kace asked after twenty minutes of silence.

"Lana." The girl said almost immediately.

"Why are you out there alone?" Kace checked on Hope and readjust her blanket.

"Because my whole family is dead."

Chapter 413 - FAIRYTALE

"You said it before," Serefina cut her statement icily and this made the girl looked at her in a frown, yet she didn't say anything.

"Continue." Kace sighed tiredly. Serefina was one thing, but if the girl has the same personality like the witch, he was worried about how his mate would grow up later.

Despite her scowl at Serefina, Lana continued her story, disregarding the witch entirely. "My pack was attacked by vampire one day. My father was the Gamma of the pack and told my mother, my brother and me to leave the house."

Lana's voice trailed off. She stared out of the window as her next explanation turned into a murmur sound.

"My brother was the warrior of the pack, thus when he realized the situation was getting out of hand, he ran into the battle and was killed." Her voice turned gloomier as the story unfolded. "My mother hid me inside a wine barrel, so those vampires wouldn't be able to smell my scent."

The silence fell hard inside the car, even Serefina kept her focus on the road and didn't bother to give her thought upon this story, which was a good sign rather than to have her run her mouth.

"I don't know how long I was there, but when I no longer could hear anything, I mustered up my courage and tried to get out from inside the barrel."

Lana stopped again as Serefina drove the car exited from highway.

"All I could see was blood everywhere and dead bodies. It was a carnage." Lana's voice sounded steady, but there was ripple of anger that she tried to suppress.

"I couldn't venture to look for my mother and my father, because some of the vampires were still there, therefore I ran away."

Lana licked her dry lips as her fingers clasped together. She was too young to experience those gruesome memories, but that how life worked. It took everything dear to you to mold you into something new, whether you would break or became stronger.

Thankfully, Lana was the last one.

"How long have you been running away?" Kace leaned over and nudged her with a bottle of water.

Lana lowered her eyes and didn't say thank you, but the way she gulped down half of the water from the bottle, showed how much she needed it.

"The attack happened three weeks ago." Lana answered Kace after she took a deep breath and felt refresh. "Since then, I had run into some wicked creatures. Fortunately, I managed to escape from them."

"Lock heart pack," Serefina said with her eyes still locked on the road. "Your pack before was Lock heart pack."

There was a soft gasp that escape Lana's lips. "How do you know that?"

"I heard there was a pack that was demolished by vampire attack." Serefina then glanced at Kace through the rear-view mirror. "Your brother is very livid because of this."

A small frown between Lana's eyebrows morphed into an understanding look as she covered her mouth in surprised and turned around to look at Kace behind her seat.

"Girl! Sit down properly!" Serefina grunted upon the sudden movement.

However, Lana disregard her completely as she made a quick observation on Kace and asked. "You are one of the Donovan!?" she squeaked and covered her mouth.

"What a dramatic reaction..." Serefina scoffed and rolled her eyes exasperatedly, yet Kace didn't find it comfortable too, to be addressed that way.

"Oh! Right!" Lana's cold and stern expression from before had long gone. "I saw your white beast!"

"You can stop talking too loud, if the baby is awake I will throw you out of the car." Kace threatened her, starting to regret his decision to bring her along with them.

From the rear view mirror, Serefina shot him a look that said; I told you she will be a nuisance.

"But you are the legend that my parents would often tell us before we go to sleep." No matter how hard her demeanor before, Lana was still a little girl, who had not yet lost her childish and innocent side entirely. Her reaction now proved it.

"Wow! A legend..." Serefina almost laughed by that. "May I know what kind of story of the Donovan?" her voice was thick with sarcasm.

"You don't know?" Lana turned her head, confused. "Nobody knows?"

"Girl, I don't have a fairytale about them to help me to sleep." Serefina rolled her eyes again.

"Yeah, but you sleep with one of them." Kace remarked as he raised his eyebrows defiantly, challenging the witch to retort his words.

Instead of that, Serefina stepped on the acceleration deeper, rumbling growls behind her throat.

Lana would have been knocked on the dashboard if it wasn't because of her seatbelt that saved her. She shot an angry look at Serefina dan the witch ignored completely.

However, her eyes shone when she talked about the story that her mother would tell her before she fell asleep.

It was about the great war. How they have brought their people out of the battle with victory. The battle between the Lycanthropes and the devil. action

The way Lana recounted it for them, made the Donovan sounded so majestic that the resulted of the war was nothing but joy and pride.

Though the truth wasn't like that...

Kace experienced all of that first hand and he knew how the feeling of despair that filled the air after the war was ended.

It sounded nice only because the story was meant to tell as a fairytale.

"I bet no one from your brothers know about this sweet story of them." Serefina commented.

"I think they will not care about it either." Kace replied as he crossed his thick arms in front of his chest and glanced at the sky that had turned into a golden color. "Why didn't you go to the other pack?" he asked Lana again to change the subject.

Lana gritted her teeth. "They attacked the nearby packs too."

Chapter 414 - ENJOYING THE MOMENT

"Did he do nothing?" Kace voiced out his thought in grumble.

"I heard the supreme Alpha had his own people to come and deal with this issue." Lana responded to Kace dissatisfied tone. "But it takes longer time because our pack is fairly remote territory of his."

Supreme Alpha...

The title made Kace thought about his second brother and the moment when they were together, leaving inside the castle with their parents.

It was a distance memory now... once that Kace rarely visited again.

"Eat this." Kace handed a sandwich to Lana.

The girl didn't need to be offered twice as she munched on it eagerly and the sight tugged something in Kace's heart that he hated to admit it.

Well, but Kace had to say that the girl was a strong one, physically and mentally. She managed to survive this far on her own, as expected of the high rank born.

And with Lana ended her story about the Donovan's fairytale, the rest of their journey was filled with silence, there was only rare occasion when Hope would wake up and cry or did her business as a baby...

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Just like how Kace and Serefina had expected, they arrived in the mystic river village almost very late at night and the two girls were sleeping.

The baby on the back seat pouted her lips and clenched her fist around her brown teddy bear while the girl in the front seat curled her body in fetal position, but the moment the car engine was stopped grumbling, her eyes snapped opened. The sharp gaze on her brown eyes skimmed her surrounding in alert.

Kace was way too familiar with that gesture. She had been in constant danger before this, of course her sense grew tenth times better.

"We are here." Kace stopped her wondering- confusion look and opened the car door to retrieve Hope from her infant safety seat as Serefina had half- way toward a foyer of the house in front of them.

Her house.

Kace expected not less than this fancy building from the witch. For as long as he could see, this was the most exquisite house that he had seen in this village.

Such a bold building...

Mystic river village was a village at the foot of the mountain that surrounded by trees and forest.

Two hundred years ago, when the last time Kace was in this village, the people here would believe that they should make human sacrifice to appease the God of the mountain.

Well, Kace laughed hard at that bullsh*t, because he knew it better that those odd belief had something to do with the people in northern coven.

The other realm behind the forest of that pine trees. The sacred and forbidden place for the villagers. action

In the past, Kace didn't have to be worried about that, but now when the witch determined for his mate to live here, of course this issue would be his concern.

"Let me bring the bag." Lana was quick on her feet when she approached Kace and tugged on the blue backpack that he carried while holding baby Hope.

"It's okay." Kace didn't give the backpack to Lana as he strode into the house.

Apparently, the witch had kept this place clean even after so long. Magically.

"There are five rooms. You can use any room that you want." Serefina strode into the room on the first room near the living room. "But, don't ever knock on my door or disturb me if there is nothing important."

The witch yawn and slammed shut the door. This long trip was really taking toll on her, so did Kace.

With baby Hope in his arms, he sniffed the air and strode toward the second bedroom on the left side of the house.

"You hear her. Find your own room." With that was being said, Kace sauntered across the living room toward the direction of his bedroom, leaving the bewildered Lana alone.

Just like that? They were leaving her there alone just like that?

The little girl stared at the entrance door that still opened wide. She couldn't help but frown by the two people ignorance.

Whether it was the two of them were too strong, so they feared nothing, or they were just too reckless to begin with.

But, Lana inclined to the former reason.

Leaving the door opened was an invitation for unwanted guest to come, but knowing what kind of the unwanted guest that would come to chase people like Serefina and Kace, Lana thought a single door wouldn't stop them.

Thus, it was only a futile attempt to seek for safety behind the close door.

Nonetheless, Lana strode toward the door, closed and locked it before she turned around to take this beautiful house into her eyes. It had been long time for her to sleep well, on a real bed.

Maybe this time, she could have it...

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"Are you going to let her stay?" Serefina crossed her arms as her expression turned dark.

The sun barely reached the horizon when Kace and Serefina were having their own discussion inside the kitchen.

"She can help you." Kace yawned and stretched his body as a satisfying cracking sound could be heard from his bones.

"Like what? Cleaning the room?" Serefina raised her eyebrows. "Or, taking care of your mate? I wouldn't mind for the last one."

Kace frowned when Serefina mentioned it. He took a pity on the little girl, but not trusted her enough to take care of Hope.

"Don't you dare to leave them both." Kace spoke in threatening tone.

Serefina didn't seem to care as she shrugged her shoulder. "You will be away to know that." There was a surprised look on Kace's expression, but before he could say anything, Serefina had cut him off. "One visit for every year. That is our deal." She reminded him.

Kace's eyes hardened as he clenched his jaw and talked through his gritted teeth. "You seem to really enjoy separating a mate."

Chapter 415 - A WARNING

Serefina rolled her eyes upon hearing his statement. "I find that is amusing." She answered off-handedly.

"You trust her easily." Serefina brewed two cup of coffee and gave it one for Kace.

"I don't." He took the cup and ran his fingers on the edge of it. "But, I know she didn't lie." When she talked about her past. He didn't voice out the last part.

Kace has his own way to know when people lied to his face.

"When you will get over with it? It had been centuries since the war." Serefina grumbled as she sat down on the couch beside him. "I don't understand you."

Kace let out a dark chuckle as he gave her a wink. "Don't worry, you are not the only one."

"I heard your voice last night." Serefina blew her hot coffee slowly.

The question sounded harmless, but it managed to drop his calm mask from his usual easy-going demeanor.

It was only a handful people who knew about this thing and, unfortunately, Serefina was one of the 'that people'.

Voice, wasn't a right word to use for what the witch heard last night, the wailing sound that she heard was so loud, sharp and short, it was actually woke her up.

Out of the three Donovan, the great war had taken a toll on Kace more than his other brothers' had.

More or less, Serefina knew what the reason, but she needed to confirm it just to be one hundred percent sure about her theory.

"You can't leave in the future if the sin from the past keeps weighing you down." The witch commented casually.

Kace shut his mouth and didn't have anything to say for the next ten minute that filled with silence between them until a light steps could be heard in the corridors.

"Morning." Lana rubbed her sleepy eyes as her voice sounded like a grumble, as if the day had come early and upset her because she needed time to sleep more.

None of the Lycan and witch who replied at her greeting, yet the little girl didn't mind it in the slightest as she started to roam around the kitchen and made breakfast for the three of them.

In reality, there was nothing that she could find except a box of oatmeal that was enough for the three of them.

A moment later, three bowls of oatmeal were served before their eyes. Lana took a seat in front of Kace on the bar stool kitchen and enjoyed the breakfast, didn't care about the stares that she received from the two people in front of her.

"Well, I think you have a little bit useful now." Serefina spooned the oatmeal and brought it to her lips before she smelled it first.

"I told you that it would be your loss if you don't bring me with you." Serefina rolled her eyes dramatically upon hearing this statement. "You don't have anything there, I think you should go to buy some ingredients." Lana spooned a mouthful of oatmeal before she continued to talk. "Give me money and I will fill your fridge, then you don't have to worry about meal."

"I think I will drop you to the nearby pack on my way." Kace murmured against his oatmeal.

Lana dropped her spoon and stared wide eyes at Kace. "Why?!" Her question came out harsher than she intended to. "I have pledge my loyalty to you."

Kace waved his hand, dismissing that statement. "I don't accept that, don't you know how the loyalty work? I am not an Alpha and I don't have a pack to run, neither I intended to have one."

Lana scrunched her nose in disgust as she retorted. "You told me about it before and though I don't believe it that one of the Donovan is in front of me right now, eating a bowl of oatmeal that I made, I still pledge my loyalty to you." She said with determination.

This time it was Kace turned to drop his spoon, the way Lana talked about him as if he was some kind of magnificent being that fell from his grace.

This girl sure had a sharp tongue like the witch.

"You saved me. That was enough reason for me to follow you." Lana resumed eating her breakfast, leaving no room for argumentation.

"Wow." Serefina widened her eyes, amused by the girl's attitude and the way she handle the conversation with Kace. "I think I like her a little now."

Serefina was always a fan of this kind of behavior; bold, fearless and resolute. Just like her.

Kace groaned. "You like her just because she managed to upset me." action

"No, actually if she promises to take care of everything that I don't have time to handle, I will consider accepting her as my apprentice." Serefina shrugged her shoulder. "Especially, if I will always have breakfast every morning."

Lana glared at the witch, but it didn't cease the pompous smile that etched on her lips.

"I don't follow your order." Lana growled.

"Such a hot blood you are..." Serefina clicked her tongue, but there was not hostility in her tone. "I bet you will change that statement in the near future."

"I will not test that statement if I were you." Kace raised his bowl and finished the oatmeal in one go before he raised on his feet and strolled out of the kitchen. "I will check on Hope."

The baby supposed to be awake at this hour.

Lana tilted her head and stared at the retreating back of the character in her fairytale. "Why he is so inclined toward the baby?"

This was something that Lana couldn't understand and as the young blood of the shifter, her curiosity got the best of her before the warning from Serefina came.

"Don't try to find out about it if he doesn't explain anything to you." Serefina also finished her bowl and stood up. "He has a bipolar personality, but I will assure you that he will kill you without much of hesitation the moment he sees you as a threat for the baby."

Chapter 416 - WHAT IS YOUR TRUE INTENTION?

"What the baby for him?" Lana asked as if Serefina didn't inform her anything just a second ago.

"Curiosity killed the cat." Serefina quipped.

"I am a wolf, not a cat." Lana put down her spoon too and looked at Serefina with her placid brown eyes.

There was something in her that reminded the witch about the younger version of her. Herself, who didn't care about the world and did everything that her heart desire until her heart was no longer belong to her, when her heart was beating for someone else. For him...

"Good. I will be glad if you know your place." Serefina then left the room, leaving the girl was still in daze.

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"What are you doing hiding there?" Kace spoke without even raised his head from the baby in front of him.

Apparently, he just bathed Hope and put on a beautiful yellow dress on her while the baby giggling and gushing on the bed.

Lana, whose curiosity was brewing on the back of her head, couldn't help but wanted to know more about the baby, which Kace was very possessive of.

"I bring a bottle of milk for the baby." Lana had thought about it, just in case she was being caught staring like this.

Pushing the door opened she walked into the room with a bottle of warm milk in her hand as she handed it to Kace once she was standing beside the bed.

"Thank you." The lycan didn't immediately give the bottle to Hope, who was reaching out her stubby arms on her meal eagerly, but he poured some of the milk on the back of his hand and licked it.

After he taste it and felt there was nothing wrong, only then he dared to give it to the baby, who nipped on it happily.

"You know how to make a bottle of milk for a baby." This fact didn't go unnoticed by Kace. "How old are you?"

"I used to have little cousin and occasionally would make it for him." Lana replied, still standing beside the bed while looking at Hope with her curios gaze. "I am fifteen."

fifteen...

Age for shifter indeed worked in different way from human, but her appearance that looked like twelve years old girl still made Kace frowned.

"You don't look like you are in your fifteen." Kace voiced out his confusion as he ran his blue ocean eyes on the girl. "You look younger."

Lana shrugged. "Maybe because my mother was a fae."

Kace raised his eyebrows upon hearing that confession. He had never heard that werewolf was mated to fae, yet he had never really cared about something like that.

"What is her name?" Lana sat down on the other side of the bed as Kace's alert eyes followed her every moves. action

It wasn't that Lana didn't realize that Kace became tense when she was close to the baby, but she was careless about that as her eyes locked on the baby.

Why the great Lycan was babysitting this weak creature? A human baby on top of that. Did he not have another interesting activities to do?

Yet, Lana kept that thought for herself as she reached out her hand to touch the baby.

However, she had not yet managed to touch a single hair of her when Kace's big hand grabbed her wrist. "Her name is Hope." It was like a low warning growl to keep Lana's hand from Hope.

"Nice name." Lana commented, drew back her hand before Kace decided to snap it. What the witch said was right. The great Lycan was very protective. "Is she your baby? But, she is not a shifter."

Though Hope was only a baby, but another shifter could feel their own kind the moment they laid their eyes on them.

"My baby?" Kace reiterated her question and a gruff laugh as loud as a ringing bell echoed through the room. "Yes, she is my 'baby'."

Lana's frown deepened when she heard that. Why she felt there was another meaning behind his words?

"But, you don't have mate." She blurted out without even thinking about the statement that just passed her lips. "I heard it that Donovans didn't have mate."

What Lana said kill the light atmosphere that was created by Kace laugh, because now the Lycan was crossing his arms in front of his sturdy chest as he observed the girl a little bit more serious.

"You really had to watch mouth of yours." His voice wasn't loud, but it carried warning and hostility in his tone. "I don't know how you grew up, but I think, even the Gamma's family will teach you some manner."

Lana's brown eyes snapped at Kace and they remained in staring contest for a minute before Lana dropped her gaze.

"I lied." She said in low voice.

"Figures." Kace nodded.

At first, he trusted her words, but when he thought about it again and watched the way she carried herself, it was most likely some of her story was lie, if it wasn't all.

"So?" Kace prodded, he took Hope and cradled her in his arms carefully.

"I didn't lie when I say that the pack was attacked by vampires or the rest of the story." Lana's eyes remained at the baby on Kace's strong arms. "I lied when I said I was the Gamma daughter."

Kace didn't understand that, but remained silence, waiting for her to explain.

"I was omega in the pack, because my mother is not from your kind." Lana started. "She left me with my werewolf father and never come to see me again."

Omega...

Kace was unsure there was a pack that still regarded someone for that title. As far as he knew, that position had long been removed from their hierarchy.

"I know what you think about it." Lana shrugged her shoulder. "They gave me that position as a form to ridicule me." There was a fleeting of anger in those brown eyes.

"I don't care about that, I just want to know your true intention."

Chapter 417 - CROSS HEART

"I don't care about that, I just want to know your true intention." Kace cut her off in the middle of her explanation and instead gazed at her sharply.

If she was treated badly in her pack, it made sense why she didn't look for the other pack to take her in for the fear they would treat her the same.

That was why she was so adamant to refuse Kace from taking her to those pack earlier.

But, that was her problem, while the only thing that concern Kace was her true intention now. If she was going to be near his mate, she had to gain his trust completely.

"Since the attack, I have been looking for my mother, the fae." Lana let out disgruntled voice as she explain. "The last thing that I know about her that she is living in the northern coven."

"I will not go there." Kace stated. "But, you free to go."

Lana let out a frustration sigh before she spoke again. "No. That is not the point." She ran her fingers through her disheveled brown hair that tumbled on her shoulder. "I was looking for my mother just because I have no one. Despite the harsh environment in my old pack, but I have a place for me to sleep and eat."

Kace would have never thought that this stubborn and rather brutish girl has a very simple mind. She just wanted to belong to something or someone or whatever...

Well, that was a pure instinct of shifter, especially werewolf and Lycan, because of that same reason they created a pack for them. Because of the feeling to belong to something...

But, for a rogue like Kace, he doubted he wanted something like that. He didn't want that kind of feeling, the responsibility to tie him.

Because the expanse of losing someone that was so dear to him was something that he couldn't handle well.

Meanwhile, Hope was different case. She was different reason and entity for Kace...

Someone that he would gladly laid his heart open just to ensure her safety, yet she was safe enough now; gurgling and gushing every now and then, and slept away most of time.

Even only little, Kace realized that the baby had gained some weight, though for him she was as light as a feather.

"So, my point is..." Lana straightened her back with determination on her face. "I was serious when I said that I pledged my loyalty to you."

It didn't matter for her if Kace wasn't an Alpha, as long as she could be part of this little group, she didn't mind it.

"Hm..." Kace didn't shift his attention from the baby in his arms as he nodded. "You can do anything as you please, but don't touch her."

"Don't touch her?" Lana raised an eyebrow at that statement. "But, who will take care of her when you left?"

Kace didn't need to look at the smug smile on her lips when she talked as if she had known everything. What a little brat she was...

Apparently she had eavesdropped the conversation between him and Serefina.

"Do I give you permission?" Kace bit back. "You have not yet gained my trust, little girl."

"I am loyal to you." Lana was adamant with her words. She even huffed exasperatedly.

Kace didn't bother to reply to Lana as he was fascinated by the baby gentle touch when she played with a lock of his dark hair.

"Well, I can ensure your loyalty if you don't mind."

All of sudden, Serefina's voice rang inside the room that made Lana jumped and was in defense position, it was her instinct to be alerted by this kind of surprise.

However, on the other hand, Kace didn't even flinch when he heard that, he was used by Serefina's intrusion after all.

"What do you mean?" Kace asked, but it was only a formality because he was so careless about any of that. "I thought you don't want her to be here."

Serefina shrugged her shoulder. "Don't get me wrong, but I have zero experience when it came about children."

"That was why, I will not leave." Kace tugged Hope's small hand away from him as he raised his head to look at the witch, who was standing against the window, so the glow from the sunrays fell on her background, making her looked like an angel who radiated a light in her presence.

Whether she realized it or not, but Kace was positive that Serefina did that on purpose.

He frowned. This lunatic witch was always full of herself... action

"You have to leave in order to distract your dear brother's people." Serefina didn't budge with their deal before. "The longer you are here, the easier for them to find all of this."

Regardless of everything, there was weird connection between their kind, especially with royal blood that ran down their veins.

A hunter, though extremely difficult, would eventually catch a wind about Kace whereabouts.

That was why, Serefina didn't want Kace to stay for long time here. Before, no one would have thought that they would hide near the northern coven, hence she wanted to keep it that way.

"What do you suggest?" Lana asked pompously, she was certain that she would give her all to gain Kace's trust.

She had been living under such environment before, thus she wouldn't let this chance slipped away.

"You will learn how to talk to me with much manner young girl." Serefina curled her lips dangerously while Kace could only sigh.

The lycan was able to see what kind of people that his mate would grow up with... he just hopped his little baby wouldn't take after any of the two.

"I don't follow your order." Lana snapped. "I follow him."

"Okay girls, let's settle this." Kace put down baby Hope and crossed his thick arms in front of his sturdy chest. "What do you want to do?" he nodded at Serefina, totally ignoring the hard stare that both of them gave him because of the word 'girl'.

"Cross heart." Serefina said with malice in her tone.

Chapter 418 - THE OATH

"NO!" Kace immediately objected Serefina's idea. He jumped on his feet and towered over Serefina, his action made the baby startled and started to cry. "DON'T YOU DARE TO TOUCH HER!"

Kace roared at Lana, who was about to reach baby Hope in order to calm the crying baby. However, Kace's harsh tone forced her to retreat and took a few steps back until her back hit the wall behind when she watched how Kace's blue eyes shifted into his dark color.

Despite the anger that bubbled in his chest, the way he carried baby Hope in his arms was so gentle and thoughtful.

"Don't you think I will allow that!?" Kace glared at Serefina, trying hard to suppress his anger.

"Calm down." Serefina didn't even flinch when Kace glowered at her. "I have not explained about it yet."

"That is dark magic Serefina!" Kace admonished her. "I will not allow you to do anything with dark magic to my mate!"

Mate...

That one word that slipped from Kace's lips didn't go unnoticed by Lana. So, the baby is his mate? But... wasn't the Donovan cursed by the moon goddess herself?

In the heated situation, Lana didn't dare to inquire such a thing out loud. But this little information made everything made sense for her, the way Kace was being overprotective to the baby was akin to someone would do to their mate.

"Now one more soul knew about it." Serefina nodded her head at Lana casually. "Don't give me that blank expression, I know you heard it."

Lana's blank expression, she was trying so hard that she didn't hear the mishap in Kace's statement, now hardened.

She held Serefina's gaze and bravely admitted it. "So, why? I have pledged my loyalty to Kace, it is not a matter for me to know one or two of his secret." She said arrogantly.

"Wow, such a loyal person that you get here, Kace." Serefina clicked her tongue mockingly.

"You. Shut. Up." Kace tried to reign his anger. Serefina had annoyed him by saying that she would use dark magic on Hope, he didn't need this little fella to add fuel to the fire. She wouldn't be able to handle the flame.

"Oh, come on!" Serefina shifted her attention to the livid Lycan in front of her, yet with the crying baby in his arms, the witch was one hundred percent sure he wouldn't dare to shift into his beast, moreover to attack her, thus her arrogant face was still on display. "I know that is a dark magic, but not all dark magic will work badly."

Serefina's statement regarded by a low, deep and menacing growl the back throat of the Lycan.

Cross heart.

It was a dark magic, an oath, which would tie down both party by blood. Kace didn't know exactly how it worked, but like most of the supernatural creatures, everything that related with dark magic wasn't something that would end well.

The worse part of it, was the fact that the blood that both parties should draw was coming from the blood from the heart.

What was that even mean? She would cut the baby's chest open?

The notion of it alone made the beast that resided within him wanted to claw the witch's face. Sometime Kace didn't know what was going on in Serefina's mind.

She was too absurd to be understood.

"I don't care how less- bad it will be, I will not allow you to hurt her!" Kace bit back, his harsh tone made Hope crying even more. Her face turned red and her breath became ragged.

Kace was terrified because of this, he had never seen Hope was crying until like this. He was afraid she couldn't breathe as she choked on her tears.

"Serefina... what should I do..." Kace's angry tone dropped to the anxious one when he tried to make Hope stopped crying. "Don't cry please... I am not angry with you... I am not angry... I will not shout again, I promise... please..."

Kace tried to coax the baby, yet Hope determined to cry until her tears dried and this scared the hell out of him.

Serefina rolled her eyes and walked lazily toward Kace, as she was standing right in front of the baby, she stretched out her hand and touched the baby's cheek.

Straight away, her action made the baby stopped crying and closed her eyes as if she was falling asleep.

However, this made the lycan became more frantic.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER?!" Kace roared at Serefina, his eyes shifted from black to blue back and forth before they remained blue, though they were a few shade darker.

"Relax!" Serefina snapped back at him and glowered angrily, she was enough to be shouted at. "She is sleeping now! I put her to sleep!"

Even before Serefina finished her words, Kace had put his finger under Hope's tiny nose, only when he felt the warm breath that brushed against his skin, he could relax a bit.

His tensed muscles slowly relax as he hugged the small baby protectively, pressing her body against him to feel her heartbeat, too afraid that the pounding on her little chest would stop.

"She will wake up without losing anything! Healthy and happy!" Serefina said dramatically, yet Kace ignored it as his eyes shot the witch an angry stare. "Alright, we have to go to business."

Serefina clapped her hand as if it was a sign to dismiss the matter about the sleeping Hope, but once again Kace objected it. action

"No!" He tried to make his voice as deep as he could, but he couldn't help the distress, which laced in his tone. "I will not allow you to hurt her! I will throw her away if I have to!"

Kace glared at Lana, whose back pressed against the wall flatly.

Serefina let out a tired sigh. "I didn't say it has to be Hope's blood. The oath could be taken by the two of you."

Chapter 419 - ONE YEAR OLD

Thick of ice had melted when seeds took root and vegetation began to grow, afterward temperatures increased before it became cool again when autumn came along with the fall of the leaves and the plants began to grow dormant...

A certain man, as beautiful as the fallen leaves and as cold as the winter season, walked determinedly toward the most exquisite house in that area.

His thick arms full with many presents and bags, yet it didn't bother him even the slightest, if anything, he looked more radiant than usual.

When he was already in the foyer, the door of the house had been opened by someone from inside.

"I can smell you from miles away." A sarcastic comment rang in Kace's ears, but he only grinned when Serefina stepped aside.

The witch didn't even offer him a help when Kace stumbled inside the house with his presents.

"Where is her? Where is her?" Kace almost jumped in excitement when he heard a giggling sound that came closer.

Once he was inside the house, the Lycan put down everything that he had been carried and rushed to find the source of the happiness that bubble in his chest only by hearing her sound.

Kace didn't need to look for his Hope for long time, because a girl, around the age that looked like twelve, had brought the giggling little fella toward him.

It had been a year since the last time Kace met her and now the hair on her head has already grown beautifully.

Dark, as dark as her eyes just like the placid night sky. Looked so serene, yet mysterious and captivating.

The smile on her face was enough to outshine the sun out there, filled the Lycan's life full with bliss and happiness that he had never really felt before.

It was something amazing that how a little giggle from her could change how he saw his own life. Fascinating, isn't it?

"My Hope! My little star! My baby!" Kace raised the baby as high as his arms length and spun on his heels, made the baby giggle even more.

"Oh my moon! You have three teeth!" Kace squalled and hugged Hope to inspect her more. "No, you have four! Wow!"

On the other hand, Serefina didn't find a little change on Hope amazing at all. What was so surprising for having four teeth? She couldn't understand the way Kace reacted toward that small detail.

"Could she run?" Kace didn't even bother with Serefina's snarky comment, or maybe he didn't have much interest to hear the grumbling witch spewed her sarcasm everywhere.

"She could walk a few steps." Lana generously replied his question.

"Could she talk?" the Lycan's blue ocean eyes glued on the baby as if he couldn't tore his gaze away from her being.

"Just some incoherent words." Lana shrugged and then walked to take all the presents that Kace had bought for his little mate.

"Oh! My Hope had grown so big already!" Kace squalled once again. "I will bring you to the town and we can buy something nice, okey!?"

"No." Serefina cut his idea icily. "I have told you that she can't go out of this house until she turned five."

Kace, of course, had completely forgotten about that. The big lycan pouted his lips as a frown formed on his forehead.

"Five years?" Kace reiterated dramatically. "That means I have to wait for another four years until I can actually bring her to amus.e.m.e.nt park?"

"That's our deal." Serefina reminded him again and the big man could only sighed in defeat.

However, that little fact didn't dampen his mood for long time, because in the next second, Kace had crawled back to the presents that he had bought for Hope.

It was all toy and beautiful dresses, some accessories and a lot more things that Serefina couldn't figure out what kind of things that Kace had brought. action

Even the dresses that he would occasionally send to this house, were still hanging perfectly, didn't have a chance yet to wear.

"I told you, I will not bring any of those things when we moved four years from now." Serefina warned him.

"It's alright, I can buy another thing for her all over again." Kace didn't mind, because everything for her girl had to be something new and exquisite.

Serefina rolled her eyes upon this statement. Of course, the witch wouldn't doubt it if someone told her that Kace had just bought out the entire store.

Kace neither an Alpha king like Jedrek, who own a castle, nor he was the supreme Alpha like torak, who own a business empire, but become immortal being had it own peak as there was many way to stash an abundant of wealthiness.

"Come here baby." Kace walked three steps back and squatted down as he waved his hand to Hope, who was looking at him.

Hope blinked her curious eyes at the sparkling object in Kace's hand, crouching down and crawling toward him.

"Good, come here... come here..." Kace caught his baby before she could bump onto his knees and put her on his laps. "Look, I have something for you..."

Kace opened the red box with black ribbon on top of it and pulled a sparkling object from inside the box.

It was a necklace with white pendant hang on its string. The pendant was a shape of a little moon, white full moon.

"Do you like it?" Kace let the pendant fall in front of Hope as he held the strings, "This is your birthday presents."

Hope stretched out her hand as she tried to catch the sparkling object. Kace let her grab it and played with it before he put the necklace around her neck and kissed her forehead. "Happy birthday my dear Hope!" Kace beamed when Hope hugged him.

And just like that, Kace spent the rest of the day played with the birthday girl, as he tried to make Hope call his name that Serefina found that was a ridiculous effort.

Chapter 420 - TWO YEARS OLD

"Ka... ce..."

A big man was sitting on the grass with a little girl, blinking her eyes and tilting her head as she listened to him.

"Ka... ce..." Kace reiterated his name, moved his lips exaggeratedly as he tried to make the baby followed his lead, but Hope just stared blankly at him and frowned. "Kace. Said my name baby."

The big lycan was almost crying to teach his little mate to say his name. He had spent two hours just by doing this.

"Don't be ridiculous, you idiot." Serefina's words were a mocking taunt for the Lycan's effort. "You should stop it."

"Why?" Kace whined in frustration. "She could say your name and Lana, but why she couldn't say my name?"

"Because you just meet her again and she is still confused with you." Serefina grumbled.

The witch was sitting on the chair near at the terrace of her backyard house, where Kace was trying to teach the poor little girl to call his name.

"Give it up. She will call you if she wants." Serefina added, drinking something from her tacky yellow glass.

"But, why?" Kace howled childishly as he watched Hope walked away from him and raised her arms, asking to be carried when she saw Lana was approaching them.

To be ignored like this... It was so painful...

"I think she forgets about you." Lana picked Hope up and carried her as the little girl buried her face on the crook of the girl's neck.

Lana looked slightly older than the last time Kace was there, not only that, she would definitely grow into a beautiful woman someday.

But of course the Lycan didn't realize it because all of his focus was on his little Hope.

Even now, he was burned with jealousy when Lana could be so close to Hope and made the little girl walked toward her for protection, instead of him and it was very annoying to see...

"How she can forget about me? I had bought all of those things so she could remember me..." Kace wailed and then he snapped his head toward Serefina, staring in accusation at her. "Did you spell her? To forget about me?"

Serefina rolled her eyes upon that absurd idea of his. "I don't have time for that." She said matter of factly.

Lana threw a disdain look to the witch. What a pathetic excuse that she spewed. Serefina was literally, absolutely, had neglected her responsibility on taking care of Hope.

If Lana wasn't there, she couldn't imagine how the baby would survive under that ignorance woman care.

"Baby... why are you forgetting meeee....?" Kace wailed in despair, he rose to his feet and trudged toward Hope, but his expression made Hope startled and buried her little face on the crook of Lana's shoulder. "Huhuhuhu... my baby is forgetting me..."

"Shut up Kace!" Serefina snapped, annoyed by the wailing sound that the big guy produced. It didn't suit him at all!

Seeing the situation had turned like this, Lana took a deep breath. She thought, she was the one who would be so immature in this small group of weird people, yet, as it turned out, she was the one who mature enough to handle the situation.

Especially, when the witch did nothing except yelling at the overgrown Lycan, who acted childishly upon the rejection of two years old toddler.

"You can't startle her like that." Lana explained, trying to make the Lycan stopped wailing and pouting, as he looked at her in jealousy.

"So, what should I dooooo?" Kace stared at the back of Hope's head as she clutched onto Lana's neck for dear life, just like a baby panda. action

He wanted in Lana position.

"Let's get inside first." Lana led the way to go back to their house with Kace in tow, following her eagerly.

Meanwhile, before the three of them entered the house, Serefina shouted. "I will go for awhile and return tomorrow," She locked her eyes on Kace as she added. "When I come back, I want you to leave this house."

Kace scoffed and let out a deep growl upon that harsh comment, "she forget about me, maybe I should stay longer here."

"Well, it's alright. But, when your dear friend come to visit, I hope you know what you should do." Serefina shrugged her shoulder nonchalantly.

"I have distracted them far away from this place." Kace retorted. "It will be fine if I stay for another one or two days."

He had tried to bring those chaser and hunter away, so far from this place and yet, he just had a day to be together with Hope?!

Serefina wouldn't know how much Kace missed his baby girl!

However, when he was here, his baby girl forgot about him!

Ugh!

How ironic was that?

"Fine. If you really wanted to risk her life, I am good with that." Serefina's comment hit the right spot, as he couldn't find a word to rebuke her.

Grumpily, the Lycan walked inside and slammed the door shut. He didn't say anything when he followed Lana and Hope into the house.

Lana led him into another room that apparently was decorated as playground for Hope. There were many toys there and most of them were the toys that Kace would send here occasionally.

Hope took a doll that as big as herself, it was a customized white wolf doll that Kace sent it here eight months ago, so she would remember him.

"That is her favorite." Lana explained.

That explanation made the certain lycan beamed in happiness, washed away all the sorrow that he felt earlier.

Kace approached Hope carefully and sat down in front of her. "Do you like it?" His voice was very gentle and drew Hope's attention toward him.

She blinked and nodded her head, hugging her white wolf doll close to her.

"May I know what is it?" Kace caressed her soft black hair as the white pendant shone under the sunlight.

Hope grinned and answered his question. "Wuulf."

