

TLOA Lycan 431

Chapter 431 - EIGHT YEARS OLD (2)

There were three nurses that came toward Kace and asked what they could do to help him, even asked if he was hurt somewhere.

Lana shook the remaining snow on her body and scoffed loudly, didn't even bother to hide the disgust on her face, when she heard that. From their eyes, she knew what the things that had drawn them toward Kace.

Good look was really an asset...

Lana then helped Kace to unwrap Hope from behind his back and as the other people watched them, they were gasping loudly when they saw a little girl from behind him, wearing thick jacket and blanket.

Immediately, one of the nurse took stretcher with her and let Kace put Hope on it, at this time, the little girl clutched onto him tightly.

She didn't want to be far from him.

"Kace..." She whined unconsciously, her brows furrowed as her eyes shut, her expression showed how much pain that she was enduring now.

This sight made the beast whimpered.

"I am here baby. I am here..." Kace put her down, but Hope grabbed his sleeves and curled her body while hugging her hands.

Together with the three nurses, Kace followed inside the emergency room with Lana followed closely behind them.

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It took less than two hours to give Hope a thorough check.

After some injection, they put IV drips on her and wore an identity bracelet on her other hands, for now they let her stay inside a personal ward.

Kace was sitting on the chair beside Hope's bed, staring at his mate pale complexion with concern was written all over his face.

A nurse just came a while ago to take a sample of Hope's blood and left afterward.

"Kace, you need to take a rest." Lana tried to pull him from his reverie. "I am sorry that I didn't take look after her well and cause this."

There was remorse in her voice and to hear Lana apologize was a very rare occasion. This girl was very stubborn and cold- hearted, yet the way she took care of Hope was beyond Kace's expectation.

Who knows, someone like Lana could be so gentle to the little girl? Maybe because she had a bad experience as a child, thus she didn't want the same thing happened to Hope, who didn't have parents just like her.

After the examination and injection, Hope's breaths turned even, though she looked still weak, but at least she didn't cry in pain anymore.

"No, it's not your fault." Kace shook his head and let out a deep sigh. He then stood up and faced Lana.

The little girl that he met eight years ago had grown up into a beautiful woman without him knowing it, because most of the time that Kace visited Hope, he would put all of his attention on his little mate, forgetting all the things around him.

Furthermore, Lana would be absent, going somewhere to leave Kace and Hope alone.

Therefore, only now that Kace realized that Lana had become taller than the last time he remembered.

Kace put his hand on top of Lana's head and tousled her hair. The stubborn and brazen little girl from years ago had turned out to be like this. The thing that Kace liked the most from her was the fierceness in those brown eyes.

"You have grown up." Kace said as he put down his hand and walked toward the door. "I will buy something for us, there is something that you want?"

"Huh?" Lana stuttered and whipped her head toward Kace. "I... no. I don't need anything. Thanks." For some reason, she became nervous.

Lana wanted to curse at herself for her stupid reaction, she thought Kace would laugh at her or become suspicious, yet he just waved his hand and walked out of the room while saying; he would be back in ten minutes.

Once the door was closed, Lana clutched the front of her shirt, where her thumping heart was beating loudly.

She could feel the heat that crept on her face and her neck, it was so lucky of her that Kace didn't see her in this kind of state or else...

Or else...

Lana bit her bottom lips nervously and touched her head where Kace had tousled her before...

This is not good...

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"Don't give me that look." Kace groaned as he raised his head from Hope's bed.

He was tired and his aching head didn't help his case, but he refused to leave Hope's bedside and chose to sleep there, which definitely wasn't the best sleep that he ever had.

His large body bent in strange way.

Actually, he had smelled her when she was still walking outside the corridor and had guessed this would be the scene that would be unfolded the moment the witch was here.

"Why did you bring her here?" Sereфина cold voice travelled to Kace's ears when he rubbed the tiredness from his eyes.

"Don't you see? She is sick!" Kace hissed menacingly at the witch. What kind of question that she spewed?

"That wasn't the point!" Serefina shook her head in frustration, her lime green eyes skimmed the room briefly.

Hope was still sleeping after a doctor change her IV drips and injected sedative into it, so she could take a rest while Lana curled her body on the sofa with a covered her body.

"Wake up!" Serefina flicked her fingers to wake her up. action

As if electrocuted, Lana immediately opened her eyes and looked at her surrounding in alert.

"You don't have to do that." Kace frowned.

However, Serefina ignored him as she talked hastily. "Stay awake when we leave." Afterward, she ushered Kace out of the ward.

Lana blinked her eyes in confusion when they caught a sight of the blanket on her body. She didn't remember wear one before.

"What is it?!" Kace swatted Serefina's hand on him irritably.

"Did you let them to take her blood?" Serefina didn't stop as she walked along the corridor hastily.

Kace's eyes flickered with surprise. "Yes."

Chapter 432 - NINE YEARS OLD

Serefina raised her eyebrows when she looked at Hope. The little girl was covered in blood and mud.

"What the hell happened to her?" Serefina crossed her arms. She didn't appreciate the sight of Hope right now.

"Mrs. Mason, please your words..." Ariel, Hope's home teacher, whispered to Serefina timidly. She was still afraid of this woman, even now.

"Oh, this is the way you talk." Mrs. Ramirez, Drake's mother, sneered at Serefina. She raised her chin and crossed her arms haughtily. "I will not wonder why your daughter is very rude."

Serefina shifted the attention of her green lime eyes toward the woman who was talking with hostility just a second ago.

Even that small gesture, managed to make Ariel gulped hard. She felt like she was watching a thriller movie, where the murderer was gazing down on their victim.

Probably, Mrs. Ramirez also felt the same chill that ran down her spine and wanted to lower her head to avert Serefina's eyes, yet her prideful- self made her glared back at Serefina instead.

Wrong move...

"Hm... nice analogy." Serefina hummed. "I will not wonder if your son is like a girl, since you are a woman, of course."

If that statement meant to be a joke, then it wasn't funny at all, but if it meant to be a sarcasm, apparently it was too blunt.

"Do you want to say that my boy like a girl!" Mrs. Ramirez blew up her top and was about to rush toward Serefina.

However, one hard look from the witch was enough to make her stop on her track. Those glaring green lime eyes were very terrifying, as if they were not from this world.

Which was half true...

"Please, calm down Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Ramirez." Mrs. Maya, the head principal tried to ease the tenses that started to build up in the air as he cleared his throat. "We will ask to the children first about what was happening."

Then, Mrs. Maya gave a meaningful look to Ariel.

"Drake, will you tell me what happened?" Ariel asked softly at Drake. She didn't know what was exactly happening because when they were fighting it was break time and there were only a few students there.

Most of them said that Drake had been bothering Hope by tugging her hair a couple of time. Ariel knew that Hope didn't like if someone touched her hair, she had experienced it since the first day of school.

"Hope ignored me!" Drake pointed his fingers toward Hope with accusation that burned in his black eyes. "I was talking to her, but she didn't reply!"

"I don't want to talk with you!" Hope shouted at him, her soft expression turned hard as she gritted her teeth.

Her hair was slightly disheveled, also her shirt.

"See?! She is very rude!" this time, it was Mrs. Ramirez who pointed her finger toward the little girl with accusation. "How this prestigious school could accept a girl as rude as her?!"

Serefina didn't say anything as she rubbed her chin with tedious look.

Lana was running some errand for her, that was why it was her, which should be there and dealt with the situation.

Hope glanced at Serefina, looking for comfort after being shouted, yet she didn't do anything and just stood there with boring expression.

"Mrs. Ramirez please calm down." Mrs. Maya's voice a little bit stern now. "You can't talk to a child in that way. Let's hear what Drake say first."

"There is no need for that! It must be this girl, who acted outrageous! Therefore, Drake taught her some lesson!" Mrs. Ramirez talked boldly.

"Mrs. Ramirez." Mrs. Maya sighed helplessly. "That is not the way we teach our students."

Mrs. Ramirez scoffed loudly. "Are you not ashamed to have a daughter like her?" she directed that question toward Serefina, because she had not yet said anything after that bold statement. "Well, I can see that she got that from you."

Unexpectedly, Serefina started with a chuckle on that statement, but then it turned into a mocking laugh. She covered her mouth and flashed harmless smile on the people inside the room.

Not to mention those people, even Hope was confused about why she was laughing now.

"You are talking about shame?" Serefina snorted in the end of her laugh.

The sound of it was quite enchanting in their ears, just like under the spell, Mrs. Maya didn't interrupt her like she did to Mrs. Ramirez. action

"I will be more embarrassed if I have a child like your son." Serefina's flashed toward the little boy, who was immediately hiding behind her mother. "He was crying because fighting a girl? The girl who is smaller than him? Is he even a boy? Maybe you are mistaken his gender." Serefina gave a disdain look to Mrs. Ramirez. "Very embarrassing."

"Mrs. Mason, we can talk..." Ariel was trying to calm both parties, but unfortunately for her, Serefina had not yet done.

"If he is my son, I will definitely disown him after this," she sneered. "Crying after fighting with a girl?"

"You! How dare you talking to me like that!" Though her voice was very loud, but deep in her heart, she felt embarrassed because what she said was true. "You don't know me!?"

"The same question." Serefina tilted her head and gave her vicious smile. "You don't know me?"

And with that question from her, the entire room fell into silence.

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"You used your magic." Hope was trying to catch up with Serefina when they walked out of the school building to the parking lot.

"Hm." Serefina didn't bother to hide the fact that she used her magic to make Mrs. Ramirez apologize to her and Hope.

"But, that's not fair." Hope grumbled.

"Why it's not fair? I used my ability."

"But, you are a witch."

Serefina rolled her eyes. "So, is that my fault that she wasn't born as a witch?"

That statement made the little girl giggled.

"Listen. Next time, if you want to punch him, punch him hard until he couldn't talk. Understood?"

"Understood."

Chapter 433 - NINE YEARS OLD (2)

"What the hell happened to you?!"

That was the first impression of Kace when he watched Hope walked into the apartment with blood and mud all over her body as Serefina had not yet cleaned her up.

"Kace!" Hope ran toward Kace and jumped with arms opened, she knew that he would catch her. "You are here!"

Serefina drew a depress sigh when she watched the lycan was visiting again. "Yeah, he is here." Then she walked straight toward her room, didn't want to be bothered with the those people.

"No!" Kace caught Hope, but he didn't swing her like he always did, instead he put her down and scrutinized her face and this made her pouted her lips. "What happened to you? Did you fight with someone?"

Hope nodded her head vigorously, her eyes shone brilliantly when she spoke. "I did! I gave Drake a punch on his face!" She balled her small fist and punched the air.

Kace raised his eyebrows. "You punched him?" he knew who was Drake. action

That boy had annoyed Hope since the first day of their school, but this was the first time that they actually fought with each other.

"Yes! I punched him like this!" Hope swung her arms and then used her feet to kick the air. "And kicked him like this!"

Seeing how energetic his mate, a big panic that Kace felt before was disappeared, though he was still concern with a small cut on her forehead.

"Okay, my precious one, I guess you win the fight?" Kace brushed away stray hair from her forehead to see if she got another cut, but to his relieve it was only dirt and the blood was not her either.

"Yes! I made him cry!" Hope jumped excitedly. "Do you believe it? I made a boy cry!"

Kace chuckled as he picked her up from the ground and kissed her forehead. "Yes, I believe it. You will make men cry when you grew up, my little one. But, now we will clean up your wound, alright?"

Hope didn't understand what Kace was talking about, but she didn't fuss over it and let Kace to put her down on the edge of her bed while he went outside to get medicine box.

Kace come back not so long after that and squatted down in front of Hope.

"Kace." Hope asked while looking how diligent and gentle Kace when he cleaned her wound.

"Hm?" Kace replied without lifting his head. "What is it babe?"

"Do you feel that?" Hope grimaced a bit when Kace poked her wound on her knee cup, apparently she hurt that part too.

"Feel what?" Kace blew the wound because Hope was in pain when he brushed the cotton with alcohol on it.

"This." Hope put spread her fingers and put her palm on the side of Kace's face as the tingling feeling crept from the skin to skin contact. "Do you feel it?"

Absolutely Kace would feel the same sensation, "Yes."

"Why I just feel this when I touch you?" Hope put her hand down and tilted her head. Her habit when she was confused. "But, when I touched other people I don't feel this ticklish?"

Kace put plaster on the cut of her knee cup before he sat down on the bed and angled her head to face him.

The cut on her forehead wasn't bad either, but by seeing there was dry blood there, the sight didn't settle well with Kace or his beast. He frowned slightly.

"When you grow up, I will tell you." Kace smiled at her.

Hope was only nine years old, how he explained this to her? Told her that she is his mate? This wasn't the right time yet.

Hope pouted sullenly. "Why don't you tell me now?" The older she gets, the more critical her way of thinking. "Is it because of the wolf inside of you?"

Hope poked Kace's chest with her finger and glanced up at him while he was cleaning her wound.

"Yes, you can say that." Kace nodded.

"But, why I don't feel the same way when I touched Lana? She has a wolf too." Hope just knew that Lana could turn into a wolf a year ago, when she was sick and Kace took her to the hospital, Lana shifted into her brown wolf and it was so beautiful, though not as beautiful as the white one.

"Yes, but her wolf is different from mine." Kace put a plaster on her wound that immediately made Hope stopped asking question as she grimaced in pain.

Kace chuckled and kissed her forehead. "Go and clean up. You smell like mud." Yet he didn't mind it, her scent was always the best smell for him.

"Will you let the wolf to play with me?" Hope jumped from her bed and looked at Kace expectantly.

"Sure." Kace agreed, how he couldn't agree under those eyes?

Hope was literally jumping up and down when she went to the bathroom.

Afterward, Kace walked out of her room and found Serefina was in the living room, staring blankly at the book in her laps.

"Have you found her?" Serefina asked the moment Kace sat down across from her. She lifted her gaze from whatever book that she was reading. "I can feel it. She is around this area."

Kace rubbed his face harshly when he heard that question. "No." he hated that answer. "I have been looking around this area, but I couldn't find her."

Serefina could sense it since months ago that Gluttony had been poking around the edge of her protection, but because the devil didn't have scent, it was quite hard to track her down.

"I am pretty sure she is near." Serefina mumbled, she didn't like it when someone scouted her area.

"She is very agile and good at hiding" Kace grumbled, but then he started to notice this. "Where is Lana? She will disappear if I am here."

"She runs my errand." Serefina answered curtly, perusing her book once again.

Chapter 434 - TEN YEARS OLD

"What are you doing Hope?" Kace stood on the doorway of Hope's bedroom after he observed what his little girl was doing.

Hope was dabbing a pink color of lipstick on her lips and tried to curl her long straight black hair. Kace was sure that the 'tools' that she used was coming from Serefina's bedroom, because there was no way she would get it by her own.

Hope was startled as she whipped her head toward the door and stared at Kace wide- eyes. She jumped from her seat and rushed toward him.

"You have to knock before you enter my room." Hope pushed Kace and closed the door. Afterward, there was a soft 'click' sound that indicating she just locked her door.

Kace was standing right outside the locked door with blank expression, for a minute he just couldn't wrap it in his head.

What the hell happened to his baby girl!?

It was almost a year since the last time Kace met Hope, because he was busy cashing after Gluttony and avoiding Jedrek's people, for the later he wondered why his brother didn't just let him alone?! It had been decades! What else did he want from him?!

Yet, Kace knew what exactly Jedrek wanted was; Serefina. The witch.

Why Jedrek had not yet found his mate? So, he could stop his infatuation toward that quirky witch. But, then Kace was afraid that he had managed to kill his mate.

Whatever it was, Kace didn't mind, as long as he didn't touch his mate. But, for Jedrek that wouldn't be the case... he had issued an order to kill his mate after all.

However, what the hell happened to his baby girl!?

When she started to use those make up and tried to make herself pretty? No. She was already pretty! But, why she did that?

Hope had never closed the door right before Kace's face like this before. Usually, she would jump to him and demanded to see his wolf cutely.

So, what is it now? What happened during this year?

Kace was dumfounded for another minutes until the door was opened and produced Hope from behind it.

Fortunately, she had wiped away her pink lipstick, but the curls were still there. Kace found himself lost for words.

"What is it little one?" Kace asked softly. He could tell that his mate was starting to regret her action earlier.

Hope fluttered her lashes and looked at Kace with pout tugged on her lips. "I am not little anymore..." she said timidly, barely a whisper, yet Kace could hear it clearly nonetheless.

Kace's eyebrows rose questioningly. Despite there were no words that came from his lips, he stared a hole on her head. action

"Is that Serefina's?" Kace asked after he watched how his little mate started to feel uncomfortable with the silence that stretched between them.

Hope nodded timidly.

"Did Serefina know that?" Kace tousled her hair like he always did and he could feel Hope became relax. She was afraid that Kace would get angry at her.

Kace was shock, but he wasn't angry with her.

Hope shook her head. "She will get mad if she knows you touched her things." Kace knew that witch well, she would get fussy over Hope was touching her things and coming into her room.

It was a good thing that Serefina was away while Lana, after she opened the door for Kace, she disappeared again, like usual.

"I know." Hope answered timidly. She bit her lips nervously.

"So? Why did you take that from her?" Kace grabbed her hand and led her to the kitchen where he made a glass of warm chocolate.

"Because my friends use that too..." Hope was sitting on the barstool, playing with her curls.

Kace had to admit that she looked so cute with that hair style, yet in his eyes she looked very cute whatever she did, thus that judgment couldn't be justified.

"They used that inside of school?" Kace raised his eyebrows. Was that allowed?

"No." Hope lifted her head and looked at Kace. "They tried to wear their mother's make up in their house and took pictures of it. They tried to dress up like their mother."

"And they showed it those pictures to you?" Kace guessed it right when he saw his little girl nodded.

"And then you want to try it too?"

"Yes." Hope admitted, but then her expression turned sad. "But, I don't have mother, so I think Serefina is the closest one to it, that's why I..." Hope stopped, but Kace knew what she wanted to say.

"Drink this." Kace pushed the glass of warm chocolate toward her and sat across from Hope as he took a sip from his own glass.

As children reached the age of ten, many would start to think of themselves as being almost teenagers, while some would start looking and acting more mature, others would remain more child-like, both physically and emotionally.

Kace though, the former reason was what happened to Hope. She started to imitate and admire someone older than her.

The problem was; since Hope was very rare to go outside and met other people, the only a.d.u.l.t with strong presence in this house was only Serefina.

Kace just regretted that his baby girl has to take the witch as her rolled model.

"Are you angry with me?" Hope sipped her chocolate, fluttering her lashes from behind her glass.

"Angry? Of course not." Kace chuckled. "You have grown up well" he stretched out his hand and tousled her hair, but stopped when she frowned because he had ruined her curls.

Kace sighed.

"I just want you to stay like this a little bit longer." Kace murmured, retracting his hands from her, unknowing to him, Hope was still frowning because she lost the ticklish feeling that she liked it. "Let's buy the things that you want when you got a little bit older, okay?" he didn't want Hope got trouble with Serefina because of this.

"Okay!" Hope replied cheerfully.

Chapter 435 - ELEVEN YEARS OLD

"Kace... why don't you buy me a phone?" Hope put the side of her face flatted to the table while staring at him, pleading. "All my friends have a phone. Why I don't have?" she asked sullenly.

It has been four months since Hope wanted a phone for herself, so she could communicate with her other friends, because Serefina wouldn't allow her to go outside most of the time.

However, Kace didn't know this. He just visited her again after a few months.

He got an information that led him back to the northern coven where Serefina told him that Hope's blood was there. Possessed by one of the witch there.

Kace didn't know how Serefina knew it, but when he was there with her, it was true that one of the dark witch had used Hope's blood for something terrible.

It was blood that was lost from the hospital a few years ago when Hope was sick. Her blood as the guardian angel was very crucial, but then not much creatures knew about that.

Therefore, Serefina and Kace was trying real hard to find out who was the one who had stolen it. Apparently, it led them back to the northern coven. It was a witch doing.

But, how they could know that?

"A phone?" Kace was hugging her waist while they were watching a movie in the living room, just the two of them.

"Yes, yes..." Hope nodded vigorously, excited that Kace didn't reject it right away.

Hope had been asking this to Serefina, but she didn't want to buy it for her and most of the time, she wouldn't be at home.

Meanwhile, Lana wouldn't do anything if she didn't get a green light from Kace or Serefina. It was a useless attempt to ask her anyway.

And Hope last choice was Kace. She was pretty sure Kace would give in to her, because all of this time he would always give everything that she wanted.

"All my friends have it, it is only me that don't have a phone." Hope buried her face on his chest, acting all childish. She felt safe whenever she was with him and it was so natural to hug or be with Kace.

"Will you buy it for me?" Hope murmured, yet there was a grin pulled on her lips when Kace draped his arms on her back to caress her hair. She liked the feeling of his touch, though she still didn't know why she felt this way only when she was with him.

"Of course, my little angel." Kace chuckled upon hearing the pleading in her tone.

"Really?" Hope raised her head and beamed at him. "When we will buy it?"

"Hmm..." Kace stroke his chin and thought about it for a while. "I can't come here tomorrow and I don't know when I can visit you again..."

Hope's face fell when she heard that, the stars in her dark night like eyes, died out when she heard that.

But, Kace's laugh sounded like a breeze wind in her ears. "What if we go now?" He glanced at the sun that was still on the horizon. "It is still two o'clock."

Serefina would be very pissed if Kace took Hope away when the sun had set, but it would be fine in the broad daylight.

"Yes! Let's go!" Hope gave Kace a kiss on his left cheek.

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Hope was happily licking her ice cream when they walked in front of beauty store, which sell a lot of make up kit, she stopped and stared at it with longing in her eyes.

"Can I have that also?" Hope pointed her finger at a champagne pink lipstick on display.

They just bought a phone for Hope and now she asked for more, yet deep down, Hope knew Kace would fulfill her wishes.

"Can I?" Hope tugged on Kace's sleeves beside her. "Please?" she pouted her lips and that was all she needed to do to get an affirm nod from Kace.

Kace felt an urge to face- palmed himself for this, but when he watched how happy his little mate was, he could just sigh helplessly.

"No too much make up." Kace raised his finger as he talked sternly. "You are still young. There is no need for you to cake your skin with those products."

His voice more like a mother, who was talking to their children for not being naughty, though it wasn't quite close.

Hope just agreed with whatever Kace said and he wondered if she really heard him.

With the happy Hope beside him, Kace entered the store and immediately bought the thing that she wanted and then left before she wanted another.

Kace didn't know if he could say 'no' to her, especially when she acted cutely.

Hope was very happy and Kace could see from the way she was smiling and the vibe that she gave off. Seeing her like this, there was a satisfied feeling within him that he couldn't elaborate with words.
action

Kace felt he was very blessed to have her in his life...

The sun was almost set and they needed to go home before it was getting dark. But, when they were walking in the parking lot, Hope suddenly stopped and stared on her left.

"What is it Hope?" Kace also stopped and followed her line of sight.

There was nothing particular there, except parents with their two children, just came out from their car.

"Do you know him?" Kace tilted his head at Hope.

Now she was eleven years old, she was getting tall. The tip of her head reached Kace's elbow now, but of course she would grow taller in a few years later.

"Hm... the older one is my classmate." Hope answered timidly, barely a whisper and when that family walked past them, Hope was hiding behind him.

"If he is your classmate, so why are you hiding?" Kace asked curiously, yet he still hid her nonetheless.

Hope shook her head. "No, nothing. Let's go home."

And Kace swore he saw her blushing.

Chapter 436 - TWELVE YEARS OLD

"Who are you texting?" Kace frowned when Hope was busy with her phone, even when he came, Kace wasn't welcomed with a warm hug like before.

Instead, he found Hope was sitting on the living room, giggling over her phone, yet the moment she saw Kace, she put down her phone hastily as her expression turned tense.

This kind of reaction made Kace frowned.

"When did you come?" Hope asked, trying to hide her nervousness by avoiding Kace's eyes, as if she was being caught red handed doing something illegal.

"Just now." Kace flopped his body beside Hope, but she was only getting tensed by the proximity.

"What?" action

"What?" Hope was trying to create some space between the two of them smoothly, but it was too obvious for Kace as he grabbed her wrist.

"Why do you react like that to me?" Kace stared at her conflicted black eyes, gripping her chin when Hope trying to avoid his eyes.

"No. I don't. Like what?" The pitch of Hope's voice was slightly higher than she intended and this made Kace squinted his eyes dangerously.

"You are hiding something from me Hope." Kace stated, he nodded affirmatively with his own words. He knew she was hiding something from him.

Hope swatted his hand and stood up. "No. I don't. Why are you asking me that way? As if I was stealing something from you."

"You know that is not what I meant." Kace crossed his arms in front of his chest. He was trying to figure out, what happened with Hope, he felt like they grew apart.

"I will do my homework." Hope mumbled after they were in staring contest that felt like forever.

After saying that, Hope was literally running toward her bedroom and closed her door with a soft clicking sound, which indicating she just locked her door.

Kace was flabbergasted, didn't know how he should react to that.

He was coming here because he missed his little angel, but now she became a private person and... a little bit rebellious...? If Kace could say...

Kace was very familiar with the sight in those eyes. Because one time in the past, he had those kind of look too.

He sighed deeply when realization hit him hard. His baby girl had started to grow into a teenager. She would like to socialize herself with her surroundings more and followed her friends, maybe she would forget about him.

That thought made him sullen. Well, Kace should expect this.

However, what else he could do? It was not appropriate to make a move on twelve years old girl! That idea alone freaked him out!

Maybe Kace just had to give her time that she needed, so she could enjoyed her youth, gave her a normal life like the other teenager around her age, before everything got messed.

Yes, everything would get messed eventually, with the devil out there and the war that Serefina was trying to discuss every now and then, but Kace just turned down the conversation when she started.

Kace didn't want to think about that. He wanted to enjoy the moment with Hope without the fear about what would happen in the future.

Especially when this relationship started not in common way.

Kace pinched the bridge of his nose as he leaned his back against the backrest of the sofa. The tiredness immediately flooded his system and as soon as he closed his eyes, he was like a light bulb that goes out.

He had been investigating some matter with Serefina, chasing after Gluttony, which was still roaming around this area and trying to avoid Maximus.

That guy was really annoying. It was pretty hard to make him believe that Kace was in certain place more than a week, because after that, he would start to realize that Kace deceived him... again.

All of that mess finally took a toll on him...

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Kace didn't know how long he had slept, but when he felt there was someone near him and tried to get closer to him, he was full alert.

Before that person could touch him, Kace's eyes snapped at the intruder as his hand moved very fast to catch their hands and was about to break their bones.

Yet, he immediately pushed that person away when he recognized her, even under this dimly lit room. When his mind started to work, her scent reached him.

"Lana, what are you doing?" Kace rubbed her face harshly.

He had been sleeping like this for as long as he could remember. Since he became a rogue and Maximus was determined to bite his head off.

"Are you okay?" Kace watched as Lana rubbed her wrist, which Kace was holding before, maybe coincidentally he had indeed broken her bones. Kace moved closer toward Lana to see how much that he had done. "I am sorry," he murmured apologetically.

"No, it's alright." Lana resumed her cold expression as she put down her hand. "I saw you fell asleep, so I just wanted to give a blanket."

Kace followed Lana's eyes, which were staring at the blue blanket on the floor.

"But, since you are already awake, why don't you go to the guest room?" Lana immediately stood up.

Fortunately the lack of the light managed to hide the blush on her face or maybe Kace was too sleepy to see that.

"No, it's alright." Kace glanced at the clock there and stood up, stretching his body and yawning. "I have to go."

"Go?" Lana frowned. It was three o'clock in the morning, where did he want to go?

"I have so many things to do." The corner of Kace's lips pulled into a wolfish grin. "Can you help me to pay close attention to Hope? She was acting strangely."

"She is a teenager now." Lana grumbled.

"I know." Kace ran his fingers through his shoulder-length black hair in frustration. "I just don't want her to meet some jerks out there." His voice became a growl as he extended his hand and tousled Lana's hair. "Okay?"

"Okay."

Chapter 437 - THIRTEEN YEARS OLD

"What do you mean she is not at home?!" Kace was infuriated by the phone call that came from Lana, she just told him that Hope was not in the school when she picked her up like usual and her phone couldn't be contacted.

His grip on the glass tightened before it shattered into thousands of pieces when Kace ended the phone call with Lana.

The man next to him raised his eyebrows questioningly, yet he didn't seem surprised by the sudden outburst or with the way the wound on Kace's hand healed faster than normal human.

Even the moment he asked about what was happening, the skin on Kace's palm had mended together, leaving only traces of blood.

"My girl is not home." Kace answered that man's question, grumbling as he took his jacket and hastily went out of the bar.

"Is he okay going out like that? He just broke a glass." a woman with a seductive smile asked Leon. Apparently, she didn't manage to see how the wound on Kace's palm had healed even before he walked out of that place. She was clueless about that man's healing ability.

"He will be fine." Leon glanced at the exit door that Kace had taken, but his figure had long disappeared. "It is someone who will be in trouble."

The woman twirled her curly brown hair as she walked toward Leon and sat on the barstool where Kace was sitting a while ago.

"Why don't you tell me about your friend? He is hot." She winked at Leon, yet the man only chuckled and shook his head.

"You better forget about him," he advised. "You can't handle him."

The woman raised her eyebrows as her eyes shone brightly. "I like that kind of man."

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Kace drove his car like a madman, receiving many curses along the way to Hope's school.

This girl was becoming stubborn and stubborn day by day. Last time Kace met her, she was adamant to go to camp with her friends in the pine forest.

The problem was, the pine forest was near Raven village, which was the location of Torak's pack house. Sure enough, no matter how many kisses that Hope gave to him or how many times she fluttered her long lashes with her pleading eyes, Kace would never allow her to join that stupid camp activities.

Hope was very upset since that.

Kace could understand that she was a teenager and needed to be socializing with her surrounding or hang out with her friends occasionally.

However, their condition right now, wouldn't allow her to do that, especially when she had not yet aware about the danger that lurked around her.

Serefina had told Kace to tell her about what was happening with their world, but Kace always turned it down. Reasoning that Hope was only thirteen and she needed more time to enjoy her normal life before they boomed her with this prophecy and all.

Yet, the normal life that Kace meant to give to her was a very strict life that she was not allowed to go to certain place without him or Lana.

Unfortunately that wasn't the life that Hope wanted and she started her rebellious act.

"Where is she?!" Kace asked the moment he got out of the car and approached Lana, who had been waiting for him in front of the school gates. "Any news from her?"

At the same time Kace asked that, he tried to call Hope's number, but she didn't pick up her phone. The lycan let out a frustrated growl as he shoved back his phone to his pocket.

"I have asked around and some of Hope's friends said that the last time they saw her, she was with Alyssa and Rena, but they didn't know where they were going." Lana reported it to Kace and he cursed out loud.

Alyssa and Rena were Hope's best friends, they were quite close from what Hope always told him in her story about her school.

"Have you asked their numbers?" Kace's eyes flickered to black and this made Lana nervous. Black eyes for Lycan wasn't a good sign, it meant they were really pissed now.

"Yes, yes..." Lana nodded immediately, but her expression didn't turn any better. "But I couldn't reach their number too."

"D*mn it!" Kace was livid. His hands were shaking uncontrollably, fighting the urge to turn into his beast.

Kace closed his eyes and tried to control himself as his nose raised, sniffing the air around him, searching for his mate's scent.

Lana probably couldn't do it, because as the werewolf her senses were not as advance as Kace because he was a lycan.

Added that to the fact, he has the alpha blood ran through his system and Hope was his mate, of course Kace could pick even the faintest scent of her.

Kace growled as he rushed into the school building, crossing the vast yard in such speed that Lana had to overwork her legs just to catch up with his pace.

At this hour many students had returned home when some of them were inside the class for additional lessons.

Thus, there was no one witnessed such abnormality from two people there.

Kace stopped when he reached the school backyard. Hope scent was stopped there. It seemed she got in the car along with her two other friends. action

However, the thing that bother Kace the most was; he picked another strangers scent that were vanished along with his mate's.

It wasn't only Hope and her other two friends, there were other people too with them.

"Shift!" Kace growled before he leapt forward and his body shifted into his Lycan's form, as smooth as he walks.

The majestic white Lycan appeared before Lana's eyes and she didn't need to think further when she followed Kace's lead and shifted into her brown wolf.

Kace gave the control to his beast to track down his mate, as it would be easier to depend on it.

It would take miles for them before they could find her.

Chapter 438 - THIRTEEN YEARS OLD (2)

Hope was biting her lips and faking her smile since the moment she got into the car with Alyssa and Rena along with the other three men, who were older than her.

Those three men were people that Alyssa befriended with online for these few months.

Alyssa had told Hope that it would be okay, because they would come back before night. They would just hang out together to certain place that Hope had never heard of it.

Well, she couldn't be blamed as this was the first time for her to be away from home without Kace or Lana.

Hope knew those two people would freak out the moment they knew it. Probably they had known it at this time.

She just wished Kace wouldn't wreck some havoc later.

Hope glanced at the front seat where Alyssa was talking to the three men. They were definitely older than the three of the girls.

Sebastian was nineteen, Gary was seventeen and Aidan was seventeen too. They came from different city and this had been planned by Alyssa and Rena since a week ago.

When Hope agreed to do this at that time, she was not in her right mind.

She knew it wasn't the right things to do, but no one from Kace, Serefina or Lana who gave her the freedom that she wanted and the rebellious part of her pushed this thought to accept both of her best friend's offer to hang out with those three men.

Hope was quite excited when she agreed to it and looked forward to this day, yet when this was actually happening, the only thought that roamed around her head since she left her school building was what Kace would think of her.

The guilty feeling ate the last pieces of excitement that she felt.

"Why are you so quite?" Aidan, the man who was sitting right in front of Hope in the middle seat asked her while flashing his beautiful smile.

"Huh?" that question snapped Hope from her reverie as she reciprocated his smile that didn't reach her eyes at all. "No, I am fine."

"Don't worry about her. This is the first time she is hanging out like this." Alyssa, who was sitting on the front seat next to Sebastian, who currently driving, chimed in as she winked her eyes at Hope.

"Really?" Gary turned his head to look at Hope, he was sitting next to Aidan in the middle seat and had been grumpy since the first time they met.

"She has strict family." Rena nudged her side and grinned.

This line of question had put Hope under the spotlight as they looked at her questioningly and Alyssa's big mouth didn't help her case.

"Not only strict, she is not allowed to go anywhere without her baby sitter. Who is her name Hope? Luna? Lani? Ah, Lana right?" Alyssa snapped her fingers.

It was very obvious that Alyssa was the most talkative one among the three of them as she was the one who had been doing the talking since hours ago, engaging with cheesy conversations or flirting back with Sebastian.

Well, one could say that Alyssa was very bold with her opposite s.e.x while Rena would join with them every now and then.

And for Hope... she had been very quite the whole time.

For some reason Hope didn't feel safe with them, maybe because she didn't know and never met the three guys or maybe because she was used to Kace's company as Hope never went out with other men except him.

"She is not my baby sitter, she is my sister." Hope corrected Alyssa's statement, her voice was slightly defensive, as she didn't like the way she talk about Lana.

Hope had grown up with Lana, she had taken care of her even until now, thus she wouldn't allow anyone to talk bad about her.

Fortunately, Alyssa got the message and didn't talk much about it again, though she knew that Lana wasn't Hope's biological sister.

"Wow! This is your first time?" Aidan blinked his eyes and stared at Hope in disbelief. She hated the way he stared at her.

"With friends? Yes." Hope admitted.

"Trying to rebel from your family, huh?" Gary snorted as he leaned back against his seat and ignored the rest of the conversation, feeling grumpy again.

"Then we should make this memorable!" Aidan clapped his hand like a child. Hope hated it too.

"Where are we going?" Hope ignored the excitement in Aidan's eyes and his bright smile, when she asked no one in particular.

"We will go to Oriole city." Sebastian answered Hope.

Oriole city was the next city after the red river, it would take at least three hours to reach there and Hope frowned.

It was stupid of her to not ask their destination.

"What are we going there?" Hope furrowed her brows. "You said that we will come back before night." There was an accusation that laced in Hope's voice toward Alyssa.

Yet, her best friend didn't take it seriously as she grinned at her and replied offhandedly. "The night is still very long, honey??? we will come back before twelve o'clock."

Alyssa made it sound like Hope was kind of Cinderella and all of the people inside the car were laughing that joke, except Hope. action

She regretted her decision now and wanted all of this ended quickly, so she could go back home and receive her punishment.

"Don't be upset." Rena nudged her again and whispered when she watched that Hope's mood had dampened. "Try to enjoy this moment. Isn't this what you want?"

Is it?

"I don't know..." Hope shook her head, she knew her mood had affected Rena beside her. "I just felt bad about this, especially when I have to lie and avoid Kace."

That was true. Mostly, she felt guilty to disappoint him.

Rena squinted her eyes and bit her lips, her gesture when she was thinking about something. "What is Kace for you? He is not your father or brother. He is not even blood related to you, right?"

Chapter 439 - THIRTEEN YEARS OLD (3)

That question rang in Hope's ears and mind until they reached Oriole city.

Hope had known him for as long as she could remember. When she started to remember things, he had been there with his smile and easy going personality. action

But, what is he for her? Hope knew that her family is not normal. Hell, she is not normal too. Sometimes she would see something that others couldn't see it.

Though she wasn't afraid because she had seen Kace turned into his beautiful white wolf since her tender age, or Lana who would turn into her brown one and Serefina, despite she couldn't turn into anything, but Hope one thousand percent sure, she was a witch.

That's her family and Hope didn't mind it.

Actually, she was quite thrilled she has a different family than other, but the way they tried to restrain her freedom was something that Hope found irritating.

Most of the time, Hope would space out and didn't join in the conversation, though Aidan tried to ask a few questions that she turned down with only 'yes', 'right' and 'absolutely', afterward the man gave up and talked to Rena instead.

Hope felt bad for her sour mood, but she just didn't feel comfortable anymore. They were talking in innuendo and occasionally would hint something in a different way.

In the end, Hope chose to turn on her phone and sent a message for Kace, she knew Lana would talk to him once she found out that she was missing.

Hope was too afraid to hear Kace's outburst if she called him directly, because no matter how much Kace would tolerate her, the moment he was angry, no one would want to be the receiving end of it.

After that, Hope followed them to get out of the car and bought two bottles of mineral water to moisten her dry throat and Rena, that girl chose to stay inside the car.

"Have you tried this?" Aidan's voice rang from behind Hope as his stretching arm passed her shoulder to take a bottle of soda from the higher place.

Hope flinched, didn't like this proximity at all. She side-stepped and murmured, "No." before she left him to pay for her own drink to the cashier.

But, as she walked she could feel that Aidan followed closely behind her.

"Let me." Aidan said as he put down his own drink and paid for their drinks. Hope didn't mind it, as she didn't want to make a fuss over a little bit of money. "I see you're not comfortable with our journey here."

Once again Aidan was trying to strike a conversation with this quiet girl. With her fair skin that contradicted her long black hair and eyes, Hope looked astounding and very beautiful for the girl in her age.

Of course, she would grow up to be more beautiful in a few years later. Aidan wouldn't miss this opportunity.

"I just think what kind of punishment that I will receive once I reached home." Hope shrugged, trying to keep the conversation as short as she could without asking in return.

Aidan chuckled when he heard Hope's answer and ran his fingers through his hair. "Don't worry, they will not kill you."

Seeing the smile on Aidan's face, Hope took that as a joke and gave him a half-hearted smile. Well, they definitely wouldn't kill her, but they would make sure the days after this was something that Hope didn't look forward to.

"Where is Alyssa?" Hope and Aidan were the first to reach their car and there was only Rena there. She didn't mention the missing Sebastian and Gary, as she didn't care about them.

Rena shrugged, her expression turned sullen when she watched Aidan followed closely behind Hope. "Alyssa went with Sebastian." She answered curtly.

"How about Gary?" Aidan leaned his tall body against their car while Rena was staring at the two of them from the car window.

"Toilet." Rena replied as she received a bottle of mineral water from Hope.

"Where are we going?" Hope asked again, the last message that she sent to Kace only informed him that she was in the Oriole city but didn't mention her exact location as she also clueless where they were going to.

"To Sebastian's home." Aidan finished his drink and tossed the empty can toward the nearby trash bin.

"What are we doing there?" Hope found herself was frowning while the tone of her voice was higher that she intended, yet this time, she didn't bother to hide her disagreement. "You said we will go back before late night?"

If they were going to spend time in someone house, they would be too late to go back to their city as it took another three hours before they reached there.

Hope threw an accusation look to Rena, which the later return her gaze sheepishly. "Well, if you return late at night or tomorrow morning, it will not make any different with the punishment that you will receive, right?" she tried to justify herself.

"What?" Hope was squinted her eyes at her. This was how her friend thought about her getting punishment? They took it lightly and disregard her opinion. "You didn't say anything about it!"

Rena grimaced upon hearing the harsh tone in Hope's voice. "Hope, why don't you just enjoy it? It is very rare for you to find this opportunity. You always complain about how they took it from you."

Yes, Hope wanted to rebel a little from those people, but when she was in this situation, she felt stupid.

"I don't believe it!" Hope groaned in disbelief as she walked away to find some space to calm herself.

She could hear Rena was calling her, but it was only Aidan who actually ran after her, maybe he told Rena to stay. Hope was too furious to find out.

"Don't be upset." Aidan managed to catch up with her.

But, when Hope felt Aidan's arm draped on her shoulder she shoved him away and glared at him. "Don't touch me!"

Chapter 440 - THIRTEEN YEARS OLD (4)

As though he just electrocuted, Aidan pulled his arms off Hope's shoulder and raised both of his hands in surrender. "Calm down. I only wanted to comfort you."

Seeing the shock in Aidan's face, Hope's hard gaze softened a little bit, but her lips still pulled into a frown. "I am sorry. I didn't mean to yell at you, but I am just not used to people touching my hair." She shook her head.

Yet, in contradiction, Hope liked it when Kace did that, because of the tingling feeling that erupted on her skin, giving a goosebumps all over her body when they made skin to skin contact.

"It's okay. My mistake actually." A friendly grin appeared on his lips again as he followed Hope to enter the mini market, where they just bought drinks.

"Why they don't allow you to go out by yourself? I meant your family, you are old enough to take care of yourself." Aidan shrugged his shoulder. "Well, I had travelled to the other city when I was just eleven."

Hope raised her eyebrows, but didn't reply to his statement as she picked a bag of ch.i.p.s from the rack and two bars of chocolate.

"I will not talk about that if you don't comfortable to share your story." Aidan ran his fingers on his hair nervously.

"They worry too much, I think." Hope finally answered after a few moment of silence. It was impossible to say that she saw those creatures that no one could see it and that was one of the reason, which Serefina and Kace gave to her when she asked why she couldn't go out by herself.

Some of those creatures were scary, but as scary as they were, Hope used to see them and she was fine with that.

There was no real danger had fallen upon her caused by those creatures, as long as Hope pretended that she couldn't see them, they would leave her alone.

Just like what was happening now.

From the corner of her eyes, Hope could see a dark grey wolf, just as big as Lana's, walked past the street and turned into human form when no one notice it. action

Sometime Hope felt like she was living in fantasy, but here she was, living with those creatures and a witch. A snarky witch on top of that.

"Hm..." Aidan rubbed his chin. "I heard they were not your real family."

Hope gave Aiden a side glance before she muttered her answer. "Real or not, they are taking care of me since I was a baby."

Hope felt her answer was getting sharp and sharp, she was not in the right mood and would snap every time she could, or at least that how she felt now.

"Oh, okay." Aidan grimaced, but he didn't give up as he tried to strike another conversation. "You have unique name."

He tried and Hope just answered with a short replied. "I know."

She knew where this name came from, Lana told her. It was Kace, he gave her this name from the only poetry that he knew.

It quite romantic actually...

However...

What is Kace for her? Or, be more specific, what is her for Kace? A few things that Hope knew about him was; he was a lycan, an older creature than werewolf and had a great senses among the shifter, and one thing for sure he didn't seem get older.

Kace was exactly the same person in her early memory about him. Not grew old at all.

And another thing that puzzled Hope was the way he treated her. He was so caring and affectionate. Oh, and the tingling feeling.

Sigh...

Hope had a lot of unanswered questions that swirled on her head and every time she voiced them out, Kace would only say she would know when the time is right.

"Hey." A tap on Hope's shoulder pulled her out from her reverie. "You are spacing out." Aidan grinned as he helped her to carry the snacks from her arms, walking toward the cashier.

"I will pay." Hope pushed away Aidan's hand, which was about to hand the money.

Something on Hope's face made Aidan nod, didn't want to make the girl more upset than this, even though her lips curled into a pout, she looked so cute than ever, Aidan thought.

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The car stopped in front of a huge blue house, which Hope assumed was Sebastian's as they had told her that they would spend time here for a few hours before Sebastian drove them back to their city.

Alyssa had apologized to Hope because of her ridiculous idea, but since they were already here, nothing they could do now.

Hope was furious, but she kept it for herself. She couldn't blame Alyssa and Rena for everything that happened, it was her choice too to join them in this rebellious act.

Feeling stupid was understatement to what Hope felt right now. She felt horrible.

The second messages that she sent to Kace was mentioning where she was right now and how sorry she was.

Apparently Sebastian came from well off family, the furniture inside the house screamed how much money that his parents had spent.

"My parents are not home until tomorrow, just go to the backyard I will have someone to prepare barbecue for us." Sebastian grinned at Alyssa, both of them didn't stop flirting with each other.

"Try to enjoy this moment! You don't know when will you can experience this again." Rena circled her arm on Hope's shoulder. Her hazel eyes beamed in excitement when she watched there was a swimming pool in the backyard.

Yet, the thing that drew Hope's attention was a woman who was smiling at her from across the swimming pool, her golden eyes shone brightly under the moonlight.

She was so fascinating, but also creepy.

Their eyes locked together and for some reason Hope didn't like the way she stared at her.

"What are you looking at?" Rena asked beside her.