

TLOA Lycan 491

Chapter 491 - I HUGGED HIM

Serefina's sudden voice startled both Kace and Lana as they whipped their head at the same time toward the source of the sound.

"What happened?" Serefina was wearing a green long dress that reached her knees and yellow boots, with her red hair, her overall appearance was very eyes-catching.

Kace furrowed his brows as he felt the various color on the witch was quite irritated. "What are you doing here?"

"I miss you." Serefina winked at Kace, apparently she was in good mood and slightly drunk as Kace could smell alcohol from her.

"Crazy witch." Kace muttered. "Were you visiting your old friend again?"

"Hm." Serefina nodded her head and sighed deeply while closing her eyes as though she was trying to sober up within a second, which was possible in her case.

The moment Serefina opened her eyes, they were shining brightly in the color of green.

"So, what news do you have for me?" Serefina fixed her attention toward Lana, who was standing only three steps away from her.

"Torak sent his best hunter, James, to look for you." Lana answered her immediately, staring at the line of trees through the window behind the witch, avoiding her eyes. "He found his mate."

"Hm, he found him..." Serefina touched her chin, as she was deep in thought. "How he could find her when we are not able to catch a whiff from her?"

"Maybe because she is his mate." Kace chimed in. He had discussed this possibility with Lana before the woman acted outrageous. "You know, the mate bond and instinct."

Serefina rolled her eyes when she heard Kace mentioned the mate bond and Lana slightly fidgeted. Both of them were in the same boat, after all.

"I doubt that." Serefina rejected the idea. "I feel there is a magical power has been hiding the girl, but I could be wrong." She shrugged her shoulder, didn't want to make a random speculation.

The most important part was the second guardian angel had been found and Torak was not crazy enough like his older brother to kill his mate.

With the thought of Jedrek, there was a wave of uneasiness hit the witch's heart. She dismissed it immediately.

"What are you going to do? Will you let Hope to meet the other guardian angel?" Lana's question earned a low menacing growl from Kace.

From the beginning Kace did not agree if Hope met with any of his brother before he was certain that they wouldn't harm his mate. Not even Torak, though he decided to keep his own mate alive.

"No," Serefina was in the same page with Kace at this moment. "This is not the right time to reunite them."

"Then, what will you do?" Lana looked like she was not affected by Kace's strong reaction.

Serefina contemplated for awhile and answered while staring at Kace. "I will see why he needs me there."

There was silence that ensued after Serefina's statement. Awkwardness spread in the air from Kace and Lana, and this didn't go unnoticed by Serefina.

"Have you found the person who can cure him?" Serefina was a witch not a healer, though she was powerful enough and the things that hurt Kace was something related to black magic, but it was still beyond her ability.

"No," Lana answered in a matter of fact tone. "I will try again to find that person in different place."

"No need for that." Kace cut this conversation. "It will heal with time. My healing ability will heal the wound, I just need to take a rest and everything will be find."

"No, it will not." Serefina shook her head as she stood up and walked toward the lycan. "That is black magic and it has been proven your healing ability couldn't handle it."

"I will find the person sooner." Lana ignored a glare that Kace threw to her direction, her eyes focused on Serefina.

"Who is this person you are looking for?" Kace asked impatiently. "Tell me and I will find them."

At this point, Serefina already felt there was something wrong going on between the two of them. "This person is in the northern coven, will you manage to enter that realm?" she asked casually.

Entered the northern coven was not an easy task, especially when almost all the creatures there didn't appreciate the existence of shape shifter.

"Show me how and I will do it." Kace didn't back down because of that fact. If Lana was going to hold this against him and it would be better to make everything clear now.

"Do you really think..." Serefina's words died down as the three of them tilted their head toward the door, which a second later was being pushed by someone from the outside.

"Lana...?" Hope's soft voice traveled into Kace's ears as her head poked from behind the door. "Kace you are also here and... Serefina?" Hope frowned at the witch. "Why are you here?"

Serefina rolled her eyes dramatically. "Oh, please... why I can't be here?"

"See, I told you, there is your mother there..." Ian's voice rang from behind Hope, but his figure couldn't be seen as he was afraid to confront the three people inside the room at the same time.

Facing one of them had already overwhelmed him, moreover all three at once. Nothing good was coming out from meeting them, not to mention they were having a bad temper for some random reasons.

When Hope went to deliver Lana's book, Ian wanted to go with her, thus when they couldn't find Lana inside the teacher's room, Ian tracked her and discovered Lana was with Kace, yet half way here, he caught Serefina's scent too.

"Let's go." Kace draped his arms on Hope's shoulder as he ushered the girl out of the room, ignoring his mate protest about Lana's book.

Once there was only Serefina and Lana there, the witch narrowed her eyes at the she-werewolf in front of her. "What happened between you and Kace?"

Didn't want to beat around the bush, Lana answered honestly. "I hugged him."

Chapter 492 - YOU WILL KILL YOURSELF

Serefina raised her eyebrows when she heard that. "You hugged him?" and there was a sinister smile appeared on her red lips. "How many times have I warned you until all of my words could get through the thick skull of yours?"

Serefina had told Lana countless time to not let her feeling toward Kace spread like a disease in her heart, but in the end, who would be able to control someone's feeling?

"It was just a hug." Lana was being stubborn and still felt unfair because of the strong reaction of Serefina and Kace. "Why? Have you never hugged him?"

In her frustration, Lana threw an absurd question about this situation. Perhaps, for normal relationships, Serefina and Kace would have shared a hug or two in their centuries of life, but apparently it wasn't the case for them and Lana had asked wrong question.

"Why should I hug him?" Serefina frowned her eyebrows as her nose scrunched with the idea of her hugging Kace.

"I..." Lana lowered her head, knowing her mistake. "My feeling got the best of me and Kace has been very angry since that night," she admitted.

With heavy steps, Lana walked toward the nearby chair and plopped down there. Her eyes closed as she threw her head back.

"Your action was an offense for him," Serefina stated. As one of the most possessive creatures, almost all the lycanthropes wouldn't like to touch their opposite sex if it wasn't their own mate, especially those who had found their mate.

"I know... I just couldn't help it." Lana looked tired when she said this.

"You are killing yourself if you don't stop this." Serefina had said it more than ten times and now it was just like passing words in Lana's ears.

"Is this how you feel?" Lana muttered. "Is this how you feel when you learned Jedrek would have a mate on his own? That was why you chose to run?"

Lana felt bitter when she realized she shared something in common with Serefina. She was young and have not lived too long, but her constant journey due to her assignment from the witch, forced her to learn a lot of information, including story about Serefina and Jedrek.

The part where Jedrek was having a mate was her own thinking because no one knew about this fact out there.

Lana thought her rhetorical question wouldn't be answered by the witch, yet she proved it wrong by speaking the truth. "I didn't run away. I just didn't have a choice."

"Why do you have no choice?" Lana opened her eyes and stared at the witch, who was sitting on the chair three tables from her.

"Long story my girl... long story..." Serefina mumbled to herself, but in the end she didn't tell Lana anything about it.

"When will you leave to meet Torak?" Lana changed their topic, knowing Serefina, she wouldn't get anything even if she lingered in that question.

"Soon." Serefina didn't give the specific time. "But, I want you to still complete the task that I gave to you."

Lana didn't answer this, yet Serefina knew she would.

=====

"What are you doing there with Lana?" Hope narrowed her eyes questioningly.

"There is Serefina also there." Kace corrected her statement.

Kace was saying the truth, despite he didn't explain the part that Serefina just appeared in the middle of his conversation with Lana.

Ian followed behind the two of them, looked happy enough because he could escape the class. action

"Why are you looking for Lana?" Kace tried to change the topic.

"She left her book in my class and I wanted to give it back to her, but she was not in the teacher's room, so did you..." Hope exposed her true intention.

"Your true intention is to see me, isn't it?" Kace bumped onto her lightly.

"Why? You don't like it?" Hope crossed her arms, feigning an upset expression. She bumped onto him too, but Kace didn't even budge.

"I loved it." Kace laughed.

"Guys, can you stop that? We are still inside the school." Ian complained from behind them.

"With the two of you super hearing ability, no one will know." Hope replied, they would act as any normal teacher and student if there was someone approached them. Unless, they were creatures without scent, Kace would know right away.

Speaking about creature...

"Kace, I saw a woman out of our school gate during Lana's class." Hope remembered that woman from earlier and decided to tell Kace.

Although she thought there was nothing wrong with that woman, but the way she stared at her for long time made Hope felt slightly uncomfortable.

"A woman?" Kace halted his stepped and grabbed Hope's wrist to make her stop too. "What woman?"

Hope shrugged her shoulder and glanced at Ian, ask for his help to explain the situation toward Kace.

"That woman had been staring at Hope during the class and I let Hope knew because I thought she knew her." Ian surmised the story. "But, I am sure, she that woman is not human... shape shifter, probably... that woman gave a strange vibe." he was unsure.

"How that woman looks like?" Kace disliked the fact there was another creature notice about Hope's existence.

Ian then explained about how that woman looked like in detail, as the explanation went further, the frown on Kace's face grew deeper.

"Do you know that woman?" Ian asked after he finished describing the woman.

Unfortunately, Kace shook his head. "No, I don't think I have met a woman with that description."

"Maybe she just a guest," Ian contemplated. "Witch or vampire..."

"What witch and vampire are doing in this village?" Kace knocked Ian's head, this time slightly harder than the one he always gave Hope. "They will go straight to the forest and open the portal to the northern coven.

"I am still not done talking." Ian protested while rubbing his head dramatically. "You don't know? Every three years there will be a festivity in this city."

Chapter 493 - RESTLESS KACE

"I know about the festivity." Kace said lightly. "It will happen two weeks from now." it was the same time as the gathering that would happen in the northern coven.

The reason why Abby and Leon were here and roamed around in the Kingstone city, away from the place where they belonged.

"Oh, I didn't come at the festival before because I was sick." Hope looked at Kace. "Can we go to the festival together?"

"I don't think that will be a good idea," Kace mumbled. "There will be a lot of creatures there and I don't like the vampires."

Rumor said it that the witches and the vampire had work on making an affiliation between the two kinds. Thus, it was common to see Vampires near the territories of the witches or otherwise.

"Do you think that woman is a vampire?" Ian asked Kace while they were walking toward their class.

"How should I know? You are the one who saw that woman." Kace put his arms around Hope's shoulder, felt a little bit tense because there was another creature set their eyes on his mate. "Don't go anywhere alone, even inside the school."

Hope wanted to reject that idea. She didn't think it was a big problem, she just mentioned it because of her curiosity only, probably Kace knew about the woman.

However, her refusal died down on her throat when she watched how rigid Kace's facial expression. He took this matter seriously.

Then, instead of becoming a stubborn child, Hope agreed to ease Kace's agitation. "Okay."

=====

It has been two days since Hope and Ian saw that woman and she never appeared again. At this point, Hope only thought there was nothing to be worried about.

Yet, Kace had different thought. He always picked and dropped Hope, despite Kace didn't come into the house, but he would always make sure that he wouldn't go until Hope reached the terrace and entered the house.

He became a little bit more possessive and overprotective.

Hope didn't mind it at all, she loved to have him near her, but she couldn't help her curiosity. "What really happened? You look more tense than usual. "

They were inside Lana's car while the owner would go home alone, Hope didn't know how she reached home, but she assumed Lana would go in her beast form.

Since it was Lana's car, no one would be suspicious that it was Kace who drives the car and not Lana.

"Nothing in particular." Kace turned the car into the garage and parked there.

"No, there is something happened right? I can see it on your expression." Hope didn't want him to tell her a lie. "There." she raised her hand and pointed the furrow between Kace's eyebrows.

"There is nothing to be worried about." Kace unbuckled his seatbelt.

"Is it about the woman that I saw a few days ago?" Hope didn't to let go of this topic. "It is about her, right?"

Kace sighed when he had to face his stubborn mate, but then he nodded. "Yes."

"I never saw her again." Hope leaned against Kace's big palm, which cupped the side of her face, she liked his touch and the spark that erupted between them whenever they made skin to skin contact.

"Maybe what Ian said was true, she just passed by because of the upcoming festival of this village attracted many other creatures."

"That is another problem. I don't like it when those creatures gather together here." Especially when they were creatures that did not get along pretty well with the shape shifters.

"You can't help it, if I am not mistaken, this village is within their territory, right? We are the outsider here." Hope shrugged her shoulder. "I wonder how the festival will turn out."

"You will not go anywhere Hope." Kace climbed out of the car and opened the car door for her. "You will not go the festival which surrounded by dangerous creatures."

Hope pouted her lips, "You are a dangerous creature, why is it fine for me to be near you?" she asked sullenly.

"Because I am your mate, you silly girl." Kace chuckled and kissed her temple.

"Boyfriend." Hope corrected. "It is weird to hear that."

"And it is weird to hear the word 'boyfriend' when I know all I want is to spend the rest of my existence with you," Kace retorted.

Hope rolled her eyes upon hearing that sweet declaration, but she knew in Kace's case that was probably true, as the lycan wouldn't be together with someone who wasn't their mate.

The lycan who rejected their mate and chose someone else was unheard. At least that was what Ian told Hope.

However, Hope really wanted to see the festival. The last time it was happening, she was sick and only could hear the exciting story from the siblings.

"But, why Ian, Ethan and Rossie could attend the festival? They are werewolf and I am human." 'Guardian angel in human skin' that was how Lana called her.

"We are, indeed, not in good terms with them, but it is not necessary for us to bite their head off once we see one. As long as there is no confrontation, everything will be fine." Kace took Hope's hand and led her toward the house.

"You will come inside?" Hope raised her eyebrows, after days Kace acted as if he didn't want to take a step inside, now he was very eager to enter the house.

"I want to make sure, the witch will be here when the festival is happening," Kace replied as they entered the house and the lycan started to pinpoint Serefina's position based on her scent.

She was inside her room.

"Take a rest." Kace tousled her hair and gave her a brief smile before he walked toward Serefina's bedroom.

"Why is he very anxious?" Hope mumbled to herself when Kace disappeared from her line of sight.

"Hope, can we talk for a while?" Lana's voice startled Hope as she suddenly poked her head from her bedroom, which the door next to where Hope was standing.

Chapter 494 - STAB HIM

"Hm? What is it?" Hope walked into Lana's bedroom as she held the door open for her.

Once Hope was inside Lana's unique scent engulfed her, it was the smell of fresh lavender and peppermint.

Lana closed the door and sat down next to Hope on the edge of her bed. She didn't think it would be great idea to tell the girl about this, but Kace was stubborn and his mate was the only way to soften his bad temper.

For now, after what had happened, Kace would never hear whatever Lana said, not even a single word from her mouth.

Lana was well aware they needed time to adjust with their situation after Lana's confession, it would be awkward and tensed to say the least and she also knew the beast inside of Kace was livid by her action, it would affect Kace's mood as well.

But, she had told him the truth and, even though it was pitiful that they turned out to be like this, Lana didn't regret her action.

She had been holding it back for years and a confession was all she needed. It wasn't her personality to hide something that she desperate the other person to know.

Just like this time...

"What do you want to tell me?" Hope frowned. Why everyone was very tensed recently? She could see it on Lana's expression.

"This is about Kace." Lana started. "You have to help me with this."

With the mention of Kace's name and followed by the word 'help', Hope could feel her frown deepened and her curiosity was piqued. "What happened to him?"

Lana hugged herself, the gesture that she always made every time she felt anxious and this didn't help with Hope's case, because she didn't response to her question immediately.

"What happened to him?" Hope repeated her question impatiently. What happened with this people and secret? Why it seemed they were holding much of it?

"I don't know if you notice this, but Kace has wounds on his back." Lana broke down the news.

But, unexpectedly, Hope wasn't surprised by this information. "I noticed that." That was the time when Kace, unconsciously, pinned her down, almost attacking her, because she touched his neck. There was a small part of his wound peeking out from behind the shirt he was wearing.

"You know about the wound?" Lana raised her brows, surprised.

"Not really," Hope mumbled and then she told her about what was happening inside the indoor basketball court. "I think he just startled because I touched him out of the blue. But, I saw the wound on his neck."

Apparently, the part that Hope had seen was not even twenty percent of the whole wounds that Kace had on his back.

"What happened to him?" Hope became anxious when she heard this, "Is he in danger? Is the injury severe?"

The fact that Hope couldn't read anything from Lana's facial expression, irritated her. She had a sudden urge to shake her body so she could talk faster rather than to keep her waiting like this.

Lana was lost deep in thought.

The moment Lana decided to open her golden mouth was like years for Hope. Well, she was exaggerating it.

But, the thought of Kace was having serious injuries made her stomach knotted itself three times over. action

"For now he is not in danger, but if the wound just left like that, he will." Lana stated. "He needs help."

Hope moved closer toward Lana, her face showing her confusion over this problem. "Then help him. How can we help him? Why don't we help him?"

Hope was glad Lana told her about this, she wouldn't have known about this if Lana didn't mention it first. As for the wound, Hope would think that was only an ordinary wound.

Yet, when Hope thought about it again, how Kace could have a wound when their kind's healing ability was remarkable?

And if Lana was trying to tell her about this, there must be something really wrong going on now.

"What is the problem?" Hope did not understand which direction this conversation would take.

"The problem is; he refused to be helped." Lana spoke impassively. "I need you to convince him."

"Why Kace doesn't want to be helped?" This confused her further.

Actually it wasn't that Kace didn't want to be helped, but that stubborn lycan didn't want to have anything to do with Lana anymore.

Though Kace, on the surface, looked like an easy-going person and less cruel compared to his other brothers, but he had a temper too.

If it were Jedrek or Torak, Lana would not only receive a harsh scolding from him, but maybe she was already in a deep dungeon, wasn't able to see the outside world anymore.

But, Lana was hesitated to tell Hope about this. She had received the hatred look from Kace, for now she didn't want to have it from Hope as well.

"I can't tell you in detail, but I want you to help me to convince him to do this..." Lana bit her lips nervously and Hope raised her eyebrows upon seeing that gesture.

Lana never did that. Just how nervous she was right now?

"What is it?" what the thing that Lana couldn't do, but she could? All this time, Hope would occasionally be slightly jealous of Lana's capability...

"There is someone that I have to meet. This person will be able to cure Kace's wound, but I need his blood." Sereфина told her to ask this to Kace, but she was very sure, seeing their situation now, Kace wouldn't do it for her.

"I will do it." Hope agreed readily.

"But, I need the blood straight from his heart." Lana held Hope's hand when she was about to go, asking Kace for his blood, she assumed.

"Straight from his heart?" Hope plopped down on the bed again. "How do I do it? Stab him in his heart? He will die!" Hope screeched when she imagined herself stabbing him.

Chapter 495 - WHAT THEY HAD DONE

"No, he will not die just from being stabbed." Lana shook her head vigorously, dismissed Hope's wild imagination from her head. She didn't like to hear that too.

It would be easy if Kace was willing to do it himself and sounded less scary too.

"No, I don't want to do that!" Hope pulled her hand from Lana and looked at her anxiously. "There is no other way which more civil? It sounds like I am going to kill him."

"It requires thousand people like you to hurt him." Lana expressed her thought, from thinking of Hope as a guardian angel and ordinary human.

But, Lana failed to see in different side, she didn't think of Hope as Kace's mate, which one word from her, would send the beast to the deepest hell of agony.

Hope's eyebrows furrowed as she was in a deep thought. "Tell me everything." She raised her head and there was a resolution in her obsidian eyes. "Makes me understand about this whole situation. I know there are a lot of things that Kace didn't tell me and I don't know how to ask about it when I don't even know what I should ask."

It was confusing for Hope, she felt there were a lot of things going on around her, but she couldn't put her finger on it.

While it may be true Kace would answer every question that Hope asked, he wouldn't explain beyond the questions he was given and Hope didn't know where she should start.

"Why he has that wound on his back? And why he didn't heal from the wound already?" Hope prepared herself to hear the worst. "Why he doesn't want to be helped?"

Lana sighed. No one in this house who was not stubborn. "Do you really want to hear this? This explanation will be very complicated."

"I am ready with the complexity." Hope determined to know every detail about Kace. Even after the last explanation from Kace and a few question from her here and there, Hope still felt she didn't know much about him.

"Alright, if that what you want." Lana sighed. "Kace has two different types of injuries at this time."

Hope took Lana's pillow and hugged it, finding a comfortable position to hear the rest of her explanation.

"The wound that you saw, it was caused by black magic. Therefore, even with our kind remarkable healing ability, Kace has a trouble to heal himself." Lana stopped to see Hope's reaction before she continued. "I think you already know about the black magic and what harm it could bring to someone who suffered from it."

Yes, Hope knew about that, in very rare occasion when Sereфина was in good mood, she would teach her one or two things about the supernatural realm and the creatures within.

Such magical things Hope thought were only a myth or fairytale, but they actually existed. Existed side by side with human world.

"If he is still stubborn, the consequences will be dire. Therefore, I need you to convince him." Lana clenched and unclenched her hands.

"I will do it, but the thing that I don't get it is; why he refuses your help? He is not someone who carelessly doesn't think of his own safety." Hope pointed out the truth.

It was very silly for Kace, for whatever reason he has to neglect his own safety, if he rejected Lana's help. Something was not right with his attitude or... maybe there was something else?

"About that..." Lana's voice slightly faltered under Hope's curious gaze. "...you can ask Kace yourself." She left it that way.

Hope made a mental note to ask about this to Kace, seeing Lana didn't want to spill anything, it would only waste of time to persuade her otherwise. "What about the other wound?"

Lana was relieved because Hope didn't linger in that matter. "The other wound is about his beast."

"His beast? His beast also hurt? How could the beast get hurt? Is it the same wound behind Kace's back?" Hope didn't know much about the beast, all she knew was; those shape-shifters could turn into another form aside their human form.

"No, it is not the same, this kind of injuries is difficult to treat." Lana explained. "Beast for us is like a spirit."

"Then, how could you hurt the spirit? It doesn't have a form." Hope didn't understand this logic. If you don't have a constitution, how someone could hurt you?

But, Hope was thinking in her human logic while the matter in front of her was not something that human could comprehend easily.

"Spirit could be hurt. It is like a human's feeling. The feeling doesn't need to take any form, but you will still feel the pain." Lana gave the analogy of this case.

"I think you are right..." Hope nodded her head in agreement. "Does this mean someone hurt his feeling?"

"No, it is not someone else. It is Kace who hurt himself." Lana rummaged her brain to find an easy way to explain this.

"Wait, I don't understand..." Hope straightened her posture and tied up her hair into a messy bun. "Why does he hurt himself?"

"This is an incomplete story that I got from Serefina." Lana stared at the door, afraid if Kace suddenly made an appearance.

Even Serefina had warned her to never mention this story.

"Do you know about the curse of Donovan brother?" Lana shifted her attention toward Hope.

"I know." Of course she did. Hope had been discussing that information about Donovan's curse with the sibling over two years when Kace chose to leave her without any news. "They were cursed for being mateless for their entire eternity."

"Right." Lana nodded.

"But, the moon goddess had lifted the curse because they had done a good deed and here I am!" Hope opened her arms widely as a bright smile appear on her lips. She loved this fact to the bone!

Lana gave her a wry smile when she talked again. "But did you know what the deed that they had done to receive the curse?"

Chapter 496 - KARMA

"Where are you going?" Kace asked when he watched Serefina was about to go with her small suitcase.

"To meet your brother," Serefina replied curtly as she put on her sunglasses. "I want to see the guardian angel that he found."

"Wait, wait..." Kace raised his hands up to prevent the witch from walking out of the bedroom. "Do say you will be away from this village? For how long?"

"I don't know," Serefina shrugged her shoulder. "It depends on how the situation there. Maybe a week, two weeks, a month... I don't know."

"How about here?" Kace didn't like this arrangement. "There will be a festival along with the gathering in the northern coven in two weeks."

"I am aware of that." Serefina nodded and walked back to sit on the edge of her bed as she contemplated.

The previous festival Serefina was here to strengthen the protection spell around the house to prevent unnecessary trouble from happening from other creatures.

"I think it will be fine as long Hope stays inside the house," Serefina was contemplating her answer. "It is not necessary for me to stay here."

"Are you sure?" Kace still has his doubt with Serefina's decision. "What if those wretch creatures find this place?"

"They shouldn't be able to find this place." Serefina frowned. "Do you starting to doubt my ability?" there was an accusation laced in her voice.

"What if I say 'yes'?" Kace rolled his eyes at the witch. "I will take Hope away from this village." He declared.

"And risk exposing her to the greater danger out there?" Serefina challenge him. "Stay inside the house and she will be fine. My spell will protect her."

"Are you sure?" Kace narrowed his eyes.

"You and Lana will be here, what else you have to worry about?" Serefina started to show her temper and became impatient because of Kace's endless anxiety. "Your little mate will be fine, those creatures will only pass through this village before they reach the forest and go to the northern coven realm."

Kace crossed his arms and contemplated. "Somehow the upcoming festival makes my beast restless."

"Speaking about your beast." Serefina's expression turned very serious. "You can't let your spirit condition in its current state for too long."

Kace didn't response to that. action

=====

"Impossible..." Hope murmured, her eyebrows scrunched up as she stared at Lana in disbelief. "It is impossible for them to do something horrible like that, right?"

Hope refused to believe Kace had done that together with his two other brothers. She could feel her body shaking from the news that Lana just told her.

"That's the truth. I don't believe it too when the first time I heard about it." Lana looked at Hope worriedly, apparently the revelation was too much for her to handle.

Hope always saw Kace as a perfect figure and to have that kind of sin was something that could destroy his image in the girl's mind.

"It's impossible the three of them killed theirs' mates?!" Hope's breathe hitched as her mind was trying to discern the information.

Hope held her head with both of her hands, she felt like it was going to explode soon. She gulped hard and blinked her eyes in disbelief.

Lana just told her about what had happened in the past, about what sin that the three Donovan brothers had committed that caused the curse upon them.

There was a time when the Donovan's brothers hunted every shifters' mates and killed them all, caused many uproar in the supernatural realm.

The reason was because; as the leader and royal family of the Lycanthropes, they wanted more territory for their kind.

Fought in bloody battle was a second nature for their beast, especially to those beasts, which was still feral and had strong animal instinct.

They wouldn't stop until they got what they wanted. The Donovan wouldn't stop until they got what they wanted.

Hope just knew now that shape shifter was not only werewolf and Lycanthropes, but there were a lot more out there, which now too afraid to go into the light. They chose to live under the shadow because of what was happening centuries ago.

"You will not see them often or maybe you will never see them in your entire life. Me myself had just seen two of them. Bear shifter and serpent shifter." Lana explained.

"Why they did that? I meant... why they kill other creatures' mates?" Hope bit her lips as shiver ran down her spine when she imagined it.

"Maybe Kace had told you about this, but mate is the essence of our kind existence. It wouldn't be a big problem if you have not yet met your mate, but once you met them, your soul becomes complete and there is nothing you want except to be near your mate." Lana spoke with rigid expression. "Your mate is the gravity of your life and for losing something as important as that, it will drive them crazy and the pain is too great to bear."

Hope gritted her teeth. That's why the moon goddess cursed them as such. The karma for the deed that they had done.

"The Donovan not only targeted their mate, but also the children and even the unborn child. Therefore they are on the verge of extinction now." Lana said it sadly. "I am telling you this not because I want to change the way you see Kace, but this history has something to do with the pain, the burden and regret that Kace has been suffering."

"They killed the children and unborn child?" Hope's voice was barely a whisper as she felt a sting in her eyes and a drop of tear fell on her cheek. "How they could do something so cruel like that?"

"Hope..." Lana stretched out her hand to give her a comfort, but Hope refused it. "Kace is having a hard time accepting that part of himself too. He hurts himself and this kind of pain is a torture for his spirit, his beast."

Chapter 497 - HE WAS HURTING HIMSELF

Hope was struggling to understand Kace's pain, but she would continue to be reminded by the action that he had done. It was terrible beyond words.

And in the end, it was very hard for hope to sympathize with him. Hope was shocked by this revelation and didn't know how to give a proper response or reaction.

"Hope, I don't tell you all of this, to make you feel how you feel right now toward him." Lana softened her voice. "He regrets all of that and this regret has been tormenting him, it almost kills him."

Hope's mind was disarray. She knew that Kace could be cruel, but she would have never imagined the severity of his cruelty.

"It had been centuries and he was just a young Lycan with hot blood who wanted to prove himself as the youngest child in the royal family such as Donovan. I think it was like a burden for him too." Lana glanced at the door once again and added. "The thing that I want to emphasize it to you is; if you don't help him now, he will suffer from greater harm that caused by himself."

Hope bit down her lips, contemplating on her own feeling

"It is unheard for a shape shifter to fight against his own beast to the point that they hurt themselves." Despite all the things that happened between Kace and herself, also her complicated feelings, Lana was still worried about Kace, knowing the harm that would befall upon him if this condition remained for long time, not to mention Kace was suffering from another injuries as well.

"How do you know all of this?" Hope asked after a few moment of silence. She felt her stomach churned uncomfortably. She disliked this fact about Kace, it shattered everything that she had seen from him.

But, if this was reality and Kace was not like the person she imagined, why should she be angry? Wouldn't she be angrier if she was lied to and didn't know the truth?

"I have spent seventeen years to do everything that Serefina told me to do, naturally I know two or three important information like this." Lana felt uncomfortable as she fidgeted. "Hope, don't let this information clouded your judgment about him. After all, centuries had passed and he couldn't undo what he had done."

Hope bit her lips and stared at the soft sheet beneath her feet as she hugged Lana's pillow that smell like her.

"When you were doing something extraordinary out there, I was just learning to walk and made some trouble." Hope mumbled to herself. "I am jealous of you..." she said this in low voice, ashamed to herself.

After all, Hope was only seventeen, she was a teenager who sometimes felt insecure upon what she had done or what she didn't do enough.

And Hope felt, compared to Lana, she had done nothing and this feeling made her jealous, yet when she was jealous of her, she didn't feel better either.

There was a bitter smile on Lana's lips when she heard this. "You don't know how much I envy you, Hope." And she meant these words.

When Hope was about to talk about something, the door was being pushed open and Kace stood there with puzzled expression.

"I thought you were in room." Kace spoke softly.

As if Lana had known Kace was looking for Hope because she had been glancing over to the door often, she stood up. "I will leave you here, there is something I want to talk to Serefina."

When Lana walked past Kace, they were exchanging a glance briefly and Hope missed to see this.

"What happened?" Kace walked over and sat down on the spot where Lana was sitting a moment ago. "You look not well." He stretched out his hand to check Raine's forehead, but she spoke before he could touch her.

"Why didn't you tell me you were hurt?" Hope rested her chin on the pillow that she was hugging, peered at Kace through her long lashes.

His shock expression didn't go unnoticed by Hope as she pressed her lips into a thin line. She was confused with her own feeling, a while ago, she felt horrible for what Kace and his brother had done toward those poor shape shifters' mates.

However, when she saw Kace right before her eyes, seeing the man that she had known for her entire life, her body and heart remembered how well he had treated her and how happy she was when she was just near him. action

That horrible feeling vanished into a thin air... Just like what Lana had told her earlier, the only thing that concerned Hope now was Kace's condition.

"You are hurt and you don't tell me anything about it." Hope could hear her own voice that slightly hoarse. She was not going to cry, right? What should she cry about?

"Who told you about this?" Though Kace asked this, but he already knew who the person who had told her.

Hope didn't answer him. She kept her lips shut as she stared at Kace with gloomy expression.

Kace sighed deeply upon seeing his little mate like this. "Come here." He opened his arms, wanted to feel her body near him.

Although Hope still didn't say anything, but she complied and snuggled into his warm embrace, resting her head on his shoulder as Kace did the same too, relishing her unique scent that could subside the turmoil in him.

"You won't want to see this." Kace whispered and felt Hope shook her head. "This is nothing, I will take care of it."

"I want to see it." Hope was stubborn and she wanted to see it no matter what Kace told her.

Knowing this, Kace sighed and released her body. "You don't have to worry about this."

Hope didn't answer that, but the way she stared at Kace, let the lycan knew she wouldn't change her mind.

With a deep sigh, Kace complied...

And the sight on his back, brought tears to her eyes.

Chapter 498 - I WANT TO KILL HIS MATE

Kace took off his clothes slowly and put it aside. At first, Hope couldn't see as she sat on his laps, therefore, she moved away and crawled around his body until the sight on his back fell on her vision.

Hope gasped loudly, covering her mouth to stop herself from screaming upon seeing the ugly gashes behind Kace's back.

"Kace..." she wanted to say something else, but the words wouldn't seem to form. She was staring at four long and deep wounds, which tore Kace's skin.

Her mind couldn't comprehend how Kace didn't show any reaction or slightest sign that he was in pain when he had these wounds on his back.

Hope even didn't realize when she started to sob and tear after tear fell on her cheeks as her body trembling in fear.

Seeing Hope was crying uncontrollably, Kace immediately put his shirt on and pulled her into his arms, caressing her back while saying something to make her stop worrying about him.

"I am alright, this is not hurt. You don't need to cry." But, his attempt failed miserably when Hope chose to ignore his words and cried harder. "Don't cry, don't cry... I am okay, I will take care of it, the wound will disappear in no time." Kace blurted out everything he thought could stop Hope from crying.

And again, Hope proved him wrong to even make this attempt. She sob- screamed on the top of her lungs, as if saying she didn't believe him and he should stop talking that way to her.

In the end, Kace could only pat her back, praying to the moon goddess so his little mate could be a little calmer. At this point, there was no point in making Hope stopped crying, Lana and Serefina must have heard it.

It took longer time for Hope to catch her breath and stopped crying, by the time her tears stopped falling, her eyes was swollen and red. She clutched onto Kace's neck tighter and wetted his clothes, yet Kace didn't mind it a little bit.

He kept caressing her back, providing the comfort that she needed. This was the first time for Hope to see Kace was in great injuries and this shocked her.

Knowing it from Lana and seeing it by herself was completely different.

"Is... Is that hurt?" Hope rubbed her swollen eyes harshly to stop herself from crying, she stared at Kace's face in blurry vision

"This is not hurt anymore." Kace wiped away her tears and kissed her temple.

"Lie." Hope pouted her lips, glaring. How could such injuries not hurt?

"I am not lie." Kace shook his head. "Sometime it hurts, but now I am fine." He gave her a reassuring smile.

"You have to treat those wounds." Hope choked in her words.

"I will, of course I will." Kace pulled away a loose strand of Hope's hair from her face. She looked very adorable even after that breakdown.

"Lana said... she could help you." Hope didn't want to beat around the bush. How she could take Kace's blood, which flowing from his heart without him knowing it? That was impossible.

Only if she had Serefina's magic, maybe she could do that. Thus, the best way to settle this, was to talk directly to him.

"She needs your blood." Hope continued after she wiped away her annoying tears that kept falling on her cheeks. "The blood from your heart."

Kace sighed. He should have known that this would happen, once Lana couldn't get it by herself, she would use another way.

"Hope..." Kace was about to talk, but Hope knew it would be a refusal, thus she cut him off.

"What happened between you and Lana?" Hope frowned, "Why are you two acting strange lately?" She was aware about it.

"I will talk to Lana about this." Kace relented.

=====

"Are you going to the red river city to meet Kace's brother?" Lana didn't even knock the door when she entered Serefina's room.

Actually there was no need for that as they were living with magical creatures who would know every move in this house.

Yet, the witch still got annoyed by this.

"How many time should I tell you to knock first." Serefina threw a dagger look to Lana, who was standing in the doorway.

"When will you leave?" Lana ignored her protest and stepped inside the bedroom, leaning her body against the small table near the door.

"Today, tonight." Serefina shifted her attention to the view from her bedroom window.

There was a silence when both women didn't talk. They were busy with their own thought.

Four minutes passed and Serefina was the one who broke the silence. "I see you used Hope to convince Kace."

"There is no other way to make him do it voluntarily," Lana admitted. "Serefina..." She called her hesitantly.

"Hm?"

"How do you feel when you find out Jedrek will have a mate?" Lana asked after a few moment of hesitation.

"How I feel?" There was a small furrow on her perfect brows when she heard this, though her eyes glued to the view behind the window glass. "I feel exactly what you feel now."

It was ironic to say the least that the two of them had a similar fate. This was the only thing that they share with each other and the only topic they could talk without raising their vocal cords.

"I want to kill whoever will be Jedrek's mate, tearing her body and drank her blood." A sinister smirk appeared on Serefina's lips when she imagined that, but there was a sharp pain, which tugged her heart whenever she mentioned his name. "Kill the woman who destined to live her life with him. I know you want to do that too to Hope."

"No! I..." Lana raised her head abruptly, but her words failed her, as she couldn't find a proper rebuttal.

Serefina ignored that as she continued. "But, thinking about the agony he will endure because of it, made me stop. Just like you."

Chapter 499 - SEREFINA TENDENCY

"I don't mean any harm on Hope," Lana spoke with uncertainty. She felt like being flayed with Serefina's words. It wasn't a good feeling to say the least. The witch lived too long to see through her defense.

"I wish you mean what you say." Serefina turned to look at the view from her window again. Such a beautiful world out there when one could only see in a small frame like this, because the moment you saw the whole picture, it wasn't the best place to live.

"Of course I meant it." the tone that Lana used was too harsh to be heard as genuine statement.

Serefina didn't argue with her again.

"Serefina..."

"Hm?"

"What will you do when you meet with his mate?" Lana asked, her mind was like a whirlwind now, confusing her further about what she wanted and what she needed.

About that...

Serefina didn't have an answer...

But, fortunately she didn't need to answer that, at least for now, because Kace entered the room without knocking and this made the witch sighed exasperatedly.

"Did my bedroom turn into a gathering place?!" she hissed agitatedly. "Why doesn't anyone knock on the door?"

"Is that necessary? When you already know who will come and know that I will enter the room regardless your consent." Kace walked in and stood in front of Serefina.

On the other hand, Hope followed behind him silently and plopped down on the single sofa, walking as quiet as she could, trying to not get the anyone attention.

Lana glanced at Hope and saw she gave her small nod. She had expected this. Kace's answer was too predictable if it regarding his mate.

However, Lana was relieved that Kace finally gave in. He needed this. Her focus now turned to Kace and Serefina.

"Tell me who is the person that you are looking for in the northern coven. I will look for them." Kace talked directly to the witch.

Serefina glanced at Lana briefly, who was still standing beside the door, before she gave the attention that the lycan demanded.

"You can't go there alone," Serefina said in finality. "You know it very well that place is not for shape shifter like you."

"You must know the way to enter the northern coven for shape shifter like me." Kace used the same tone to rebut her statement. "I just need to know the person I need to find and ways to enter that realm."

"You will not survive there." Serefina held his gaze as the words slipped her lips with inevitability. "No, if you are going alone." Her lime green eyes fell on Lana, suggesting something that Kace should have known it from the beginning.

Lana straightened her back when she realized where this conversation would lead to. "I can go by myself," She immediately answered the question that had not been asked. "I will find that person this time." She added, wishing her nervousness didn't got caught by them.

What was in Serefina's mind? Was she suggesting her to go with Kace alone? Was she out of her mind?

Not to mention to go alone with Kace, Lana was having a hard time be near him and for important note, Kace and she were not in good term now.

Lana glanced at Kace fearfully. The prospect of being in a mission with him was something that made her heart thumped rapidly.

If Kace agreed, this wouldn't be their first mission together, but this would be their first mission together after he knew how Lana felt about him. Wouldn't this be awkward?

Only if he agreed. Lana thought bitterly.

"How long it would take to find the person and comeback?" surprisingly, Kace's question this time was directed to Lana. "How long it would take to find the person and comeback?" He repeated his question because Lana did not answer him.

"Uh?" Lana snapped out from her deep thought as she regained her composure. "Because Serefina has gotten more information regarding this person location, I think if everything goes well, it will take no more than one week." Lana wanted to slap herself because of acting so weird.

Fortunately, Kace didn't point it out, but his declaration next was caught Lana by surprised.

"I will go with you," Kace said in monotonous tone.

If the journey no more than one week, he would be able to return before the festival to make sure Hope didn't take a step out of the house during that period of time.

"What?" Lana was surprised. "No, you don't have to." She was panicked with the prospect of being with him for days. It would be awkward as hell, for certain. action

"Didn't you say that shape shifter can't enter the realm?" Hope chimed in. She disliked the idea of Lana and Kace were being together for days too. Though what the two women thought had very different reasons.

"No, I didn't say something like that." Serefina disagreed with Hope's statement. "Kace will not be able to enter the northern coven realm alone, but it is different case if he goes with Lana. I think this will shorten their travel time." Serefina shrugged nonchalantly and this received a narrow gaze from both Lana and Hope.

Hope felt slightly off with Serefina's decision.

"It settled then." Kace nodded his head. He walked toward Hope and grabbed her hand. "Let me know when will you leave."

With that being said, Kace exited the room along with Hope, whose expression said that she still had more to say regarding this situation.

"What is your intention?" Lana threw Serefina a questioning look.

"What? I want to help both of you. You need his help to finish this job faster and as the person who is the core of this mission, it is only natural for him to go." Serefina has innocent expression on her face.

Narrowing her eyes, Lana voiced out what was in her mind. "You have a tendency to separate mates."

"You learn a lot."

Chapter 500 - KILLING EACH OTHER

It wasn't because Serefina wanted to do this, the tendency happened just like that because this was the only less harm way to console her crestfallen heart. Separated them and let them felt a tiny bit of her feeling of hopelessness.

It was unfair and Serefina knew that, but she couldn't help it. After all, she was a creature with feeling and there would be a sudden sharp of painful emotion whenever she watched a mate being together.

This was ridiculous, but also the most humane part of her.

"If there is nothing more, I will go now." Serefina stood up and took her small suitcase. "I don't know when I will return, but after the matter with Kace, I want you to keep looking for your fae mother."

"Why should I see her? After years of searching, I don't think I am going to meet her in my whole life." Lana let out a mocking laugh, her eyes shone with disgust.

"You will need her one day and thank me later." Serefina walked toward the door, stopped for awhile to see Lana's expression.

"What? Now you develop some kind of ability to see the future?" Lana raised her eyes defiantly. She didn't know why Serefina was very adamant for her to keep looking for her mother in the northern coven or wherever the fairies lived.

"I would love to have that kind of ability, but I am afraid I will disappoint you." Serefina shrugged as she flicked her hair from her shoulder. "This suggestion only based on my experience alone, besides you have nothing to lose if you keep looking for her, right?"

Lana didn't answer her immediately, as she still thought that was unnecessary thing to do, but there was a tiny part in her heart, which knew, she was doing the right thing.

This was only, everything that Serefina told her was akin to mystery.

"May you have a good journey with him." Serefina patted Lana's shoulder.

"Are you mocking me?" Serefina should have known, this would be a torture for Lana, but she kept doing whatever her heart wants.

=====

"Do you really need to go?" Hope asked with sullen expression. She disliked to be away from Kace and hated when it would be a journey only for Kace and Lana. "Lana said she could go alone."

"Yes, she said it." Kace nodded as he cupped Hope's face with both of his hands and raised her head so their eyes could meet. "But, this journey is about me. Don't you think it is unfair for her to do everything alone while I am waiting here and do nothing?"

Hope really wanted to be an ignorance brat and answered it with 'yes', but she knew Kace's intention was right. If it was her, she would do the same thing too.

How could she just sat back and accepted everything readily?

"Serefina said it is a dangerous place." Hope changed the topic.

"Lana and I will be fine. She had been there a few times and Serefina will not allow me to come if the chance for me to come out alive near zero," Kace joked, but Hope didn't take it well. "I will return before the festival." He promised. action

He had to return before the festival. No matter what, Kace had to make sure Hope was inside the house during that event and not ventured outside.

With her adventurous and curious personality, it was very possible if Hope didn't even listen to his warning and went all the way to satiate her desire to know one or two new things.

"Can I go with you?" Hope felt stupid for asking this question, as she knew the answer even before the question left her lips.

"You know the answer babe," Kace said regretfully, kissing her temple.

=====

"Why are you so insistent on going to the northern coven with me?" Lana found Kace was eating alone in the kitchen in the middle of the night. At this time, Hope had slept and Kace chose to stay there instead of going back to his own house.

"It is only right if I am the one who is going to find that person. After all, it is my wound that need to be healed." Kace ate his noodles, replying to Lana's question without even lifting his head to meet her in the eyes.

"I don't mind to go alone." Lana took a hesitate step toward Kace.

"I mind." Kace replied curtly, he raised his head and met Lana's eyes.

"You don't need to feel like you owe me something." Lana then remembered what she had said before, "I wouldn't be here if it was not because of you."

Lana regretted it when she brought how she had been taking care of his mate for years. When she thought about it, that really sounded insincere.

Regardless the fact she was jealous of Hope for being his mate, Lana had taken care of Hope like her little sister and one wrong sentence ruined everything.

"I don't want to talk about who indebted to whom." Kace put down her fork and drank from the glass beside him. "My reason behind my decision is very simple."

"That place will be very dangerous," Lana murmured as she sat down across from Kace.

"That only reinforces my reason for not letting you go alone," Kace said simply.

"Stop talking like that." Lana frowned, he shouldn't show any concern for her. "That only makes me hard to ignore you."

"I don't care if you died, but Serefina is not here and I need to take care of the wound on my back." Kace stared at Lana. "Just think like this."

It sounded harsh, but it was better to hear it this way rather than the one with concern.

"This journey will be awkward," Lana mumbled again. "I won't be surprised if we end up killing each other."

"Then we have to finish it before we kill each other." Kace shrugged his shoulder and continued to eat.