

TLOA Lycan 501

Chapter 501 - THE WHITE BEAST

"So, he is going to that forest?" Rosie snuggled under the warm blanket while looking at Hope, who was laying beside her. action

Thanked to the over-anxious Kace, that Lycan made Hope stayed together with the siblings when he was away with Lana.

Tonight was the fourth night Hope stayed at their house and would continue for the next week. Of course Sterling and Sophia didn't mind it all, over the years they thought of Hope as their own.

"Yes..." Hope sighed. "With Lana..."

Hope rolled her body and lay down on her stomach as her eyes wondered to the nightstand lamp beside the bed, but her mind was somewhere far away from this place.

"Do you think this is ridiculous if I said I am jealous of Lana?" Hope mumbled.

Beside her, Rosie stared at the ceiling as she contemplated for the answer of Hope's question. "Why are jealous of her?"

Hope didn't hesitate when she answered this. "She has everything that I don't. Smart, charming, beautiful, reliable, independent, strong, attractive... the list can go on for two days," Hope said exaggeratedly. "She has bigger b.o.o.b.s as well..."

Rosie chuckled when she heard the last words from Hope, but the girl only buried her face on the pillow, mumbling something incoherently.

"I think Kace didn't mind even if you have flat chest." Rossie tried to assure Hope, but only earned a glare from her. "I am serious. That is the reason why do you have a mate, someone who will accept you no matter what your situation or condition."

"You always talk about these mate things with glimmer in your eyes, do you really want that bad to meet your mate?" Hope giggled. Every time they were talking about mate, Rossie would always have that kind of expression on her face.

"Of course I want!" Rossie rolled her body to face Hope beside her. "I will love to know everything about my mate!" she felt giddy.

"Don't you think this mate bond is a deception?" Hope ever heard Serefina mentioned something like this. "If it is not because of the mate bond, then every shape shifters will be free to love whoever they want."

Hope could relate to this statement. If centuries ago, those shape shifters didn't have this kind of mate bond, they wouldn't live in unbearable agony when the Donovan brother slaughtered their mate.

They would definitely be sad and had a breakdown moment, but wouldn't lead to suicide or irrecoverable state.

Based on what Hope knew about this, losing their mate was the pain that no creatures would be able to handle it.

"For non shape shifter, this mate thing is really farfetched matter and nonsensical. But for us, mate is something that the moon goddess herself blesses upon you." Rossie adjusted her position to make herself comfortable. "But, do you believe if everyone has their own pair?"

Well, everyone did have the person who would be, either their spouse, partner or someone who would spend the rest of their life with them, right? If you are lucky enough, but most people did.

"The concept is the same, for us." Rossie could see Hope's answer though she didn't say it out loud. "It just, the moon goddess makes it easier for us to be with the one who we destined to be."

"You make it sounds beautiful." Hope pouted her lips, she missed Kace already, despite it has not been twenty- four hours they separated.

Rossie grinned. "Having your mate in your life is indeed beautiful."

Such a sweet girl. Hope thought. She wondered what kind of man who would be lucky enough to have her as his mate.

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Footstep sounded outside of the door forced Hope to open her eyes sleepily. There was a faint knock at the door that followed.

Tilted her head, Hope found Rossie was sleeping soundlessly beside her and the knocking sound could be heard again.

Who is this? Hope thought as she climbed off of the bed and walked toward the door, didn't want to wake Rossie up. Maybe this is Ian or Ethan...

However, when Hope opened the door there was no one there, only an empty and gloomy corridor that she could see.

Frowning, she thought this was another prank from Ian because he couldn't sleep. Was he so bored that he bothered other people in the middle of the night?

Hope was about to close the door when she heard a low howling sound from outside of the house. She blinked her eyes and immediately sobered up.

Called her crazy or maybe she just missed him, but Hope could distinguish the howl of Kace's beast. With that realization, warm chocolate scent hit her nostril as a name escape from her lips.

"Kace...?" Hope frowned.

As the howls continued to echo throughout the house, Hope found herself walking toward the source of the beast's sound.

Inside the dim lit living room, Hope carefully opened the front door, trying to not make any sounds as much as possible.

The furrow between her eyebrows deepened when she heard the howl turned into a whimper, as if the beast was in some sort of discomfort or... pain?

When finally Hope could open the door, she gasped.

"What is this..." Hope said in bewilderment. She wanted to say more, but the words wouldn't seem to form from her lips.

She was staring at a beautiful torch-lit courtyard, which filled only with a single tree, vivid flowers and velvety grass.

This sight was definitely not the front yard of the sibling's house. Where was she?

But, the thing that calmed her down was the fact of a beast with its fur as pure as the color of snow, was sitting on his hind legs, staring at her with those beautiful ocean blue eyes.

"Kace...?" Hope was still worried about her surroundings, but the sight of the beast made her kept walking. "Kace, is that you?" She took a few steps closer when she heard the beast whimper again and lower its head.

Chapter 502 - FIREFLIES

The beast was as beautiful as the last time Hope remembered it, the big size wolf lowered its head and whimpered again when Hope stayed still and didn't take another steps to close the distance between them.

The beast closed its eyes and made a low noisy sound again, encouraging Hope to touch its big head.

Forgetting about her strange surroundings, Hope took another step closer toward the beast as its eyes opened and showed its beautiful ocean blue color, which slightly dimmed.

When Hope was close enough to the beast, she stretched out her hands to pat its head and feel the fluffy of its soft fur.

The beast made a soft satisfied sound as its nudged Hope's palm to stroke its head. The beast was like a docile big fluffy wolf until Hope's eyes caught a sight of its back.

There, Hope watched in horror when four lines gashes could be seen, the same wounds that Kace showed her the other day on his back. Hope was petrified.

In Kace's beast form and his white fur, the wounds were obtrusive. Only by seeing it, Hope could feel how much pain that Kace had to endure.

"What happened? You said, you will take care of the wound?" Hope's questions were heard as a soft whisper. "Why are you here?" action

The beast closed its eyes and let Hope touched him as the girl before its eyes knelt and hugged him. The warm tears from Hope's eyes fell on its fur as small sobs could be heard from her lips.

"Can you go back to your human form?" Hope asked, they couldn't communicate if Kace stayed in this form.

However the beast let out another soft whimper and Hope took that as a 'no'.

"Are you in pain?" Hope kept asking. She stretched out her hand further to touch the edge of the still-bleeding wound behind the beast's back.

The beast growled deeply with a warning tone when the tip of Hope's fingers grazed its fur near the wound and the beast's body became so stiff.

"I will not hurt you..." Hope's whispered to the beast's ear.

It sounded very ridiculous as Hope supposed to be the one who had to worry of getting hurt. With the beast's head on her shoulder, the big wolf could bite off her head within second and left her headless, killing her as easy as breathing.

But, of course Hope knew he wouldn't do that, thus she caressed where its wounds where...

"Why are you still hurt?" Hope mumbled to herself. "Where is Lana?"

Hope then realized her strange environment and let go of the beast as she scanned her surroundings, looking for Lana, but the girl was nowhere to be found.

"Where is Lana? Something happened to her?" panic laced in her voice when she stood up and looked around again, but still found nothing.

Hope rested her hand on the beast's head, caressing its soft fur as she felt the beast nuzzled against her touch.

However, another thing happened again at that time.

In the vast courtyard with a beautiful torch lit and a single tree with green leaves in every its every branches also the velvety grass, all of it suddenly fluttered as if there was a breeze of wind that blew them.

Hope didn't realize it at first, but when the light from the torch flickered and the sparks from its flames floated in the air, Hope realize one thing.

Every single particle in Hope's line of sight, gradually and slowly, turned into fireflies... the scenery before her eyes was so breathtaking and heart- stirring. Hope had never seen something as beautiful as this.

Millions of fireflies flew to one direction... soaring high into the sky toward the moon that shone brightly in the dark of the night.

Hope was flabbergasted as she was too drawn by the beauty of the light flickering from the fireflies before her eyes.

"What is this...?" her question was barely a whisper, but her hand that rested on the beast's head felt something was off...

It almost felt like the warm on her palm started to fade away just like the fireflies, which disappeared into the dark night.

Hope looked down and watched the beast's glimmered with the same light as the fireflies, its blue ocean eyes faded until they were the same color as its fur and, slowly, its lids dropped.

"No..." Hope choked in her own voice when her hands couldn't touch the beast's anymore.

The beast was still there, but its body turned translucent and couldn't be touched, it was now only a vague image of a big wolf with its head dropped to the ground.

Just like smoke, his image became blurry and with the blow of the wind, it disappeared...

Small gasps escaped Hope's lips, she quickly placing her hands over her mouth as her eyes became wider.

What was happening?!

Hope blinked her eyes to clear her vision, but in her fourth attempts everything went dark. She heard an ear-splitting scream from somewhere, but soon realized it came from her.

The problem was; Hope couldn't stop, not being able to see was something horrible to experience, not to mention the last thing that she witnessed.

"Hope! Hope!"

Someone called her name and shook her body, along with that the darkness disappeared as her eyes was infiltrated by the bright light.

"Hope! What happened?! Stop screaming!" Rossie's voice could be heard above Hope's head.

It took Hope another second to realize that it was a dream, a very horrible nightmare!

"Hope." Rossie's voice was filled with worried. "What happened? Nightmare?"

From the distance both of them could hear a few hurried steps before the door was forced to be opened by Sterling. A loud growl ruptured his throat as his red eyes scanned the room, looking for any threat.

"What happened!?" Sterling roared, behind him the twins and Sophia rushed into the room with worried expression. "What is happening here!?"

Chapter 503 - DEAD SOULS

"Fireflies...?" Ethan said it in confusion as he bit a straw from his juice.

The four of them, once again, end up in the canteen when lunch break and were sitting on their usual seat.

While beside Ethan, Ian yawned widely and rested his head on the table, using his arms as a pillow with his eyes slightly closed.

Hope felt a little bit guilty because of the commotion that she had caused this early morning. That stupid nightmare had woken up the whole house and made Sterling become a full version of overprotective the head of family.

Sterling actually turned into his beast and scoured the area near the house, despite Hope had told him it was only a bad dream, the terrible one.

"There is this ancient story," Ethan continued to speak when Rossie comeback with a tray full of her lunch. "This telling about fireflies."

"Were you reading a weird book again?" Rossie sat down next to Ethan and nudged Ian head so he could wake up and ate his lunch.

??This is knowledge about our kind, you should read it sometime," Ethan retorted. "What do you mean weird book." He knocked his sister head lightly and this reminded Hope of Kace, the way he always joked around with her and treated her the way Hope had never been treated before.

The feeling that Hope would only get from him.

"So, what this about with the fireflies." Hope just told the sibling about the detail of her nightmare while Sterling and Sophia only knew that she had a very bad dream.

It was awkward to tell them that she was dreaming about Kace, for some reason, Hope felt embarrassed. She felt like a love- sick girl, who couldn't bear to part with her boyfriend.

"Firefly is a symbol of spirit." Ethan told them, trying to remember an ancient story that he had read before.

"What do you mean with spirit? There are a lot of thing about spirit." Ian chimed in as he gobbled up his lunch sleepily and Rossie could only furrow her eyebrow in disagreement.

???Firefly is a symbol of the soul of the dead," Ethan explained. "In some folklore they believed if someone dies their souls will turn into fireflies."

"Then..." Ian drawled. "What do you mean with your theory? Do you want to say Hope was in cemetery when she was dreaming about Kace?"

Ethan frowned. "No, that is not what I meant. The main focus here is the fact Kace's beast turned into fireflies and faded away."

"What? Do you want to say that Kace's spirit is dead?" Ian's jaw dropped as he stared at his twins with wide eyes.

Sometime Hope forgot if they were twins as they had very different personalities.

However, there was another important matter which caught Hope's attention. Maybe Ian just mentioned it casually, but what if it was true?

Hope remembered what Lana had told her, she said Kace's spirit was wounded too. Did that mean Kace was...

She shook her head, didn't want to think something bad about him. She was afraid it would jinx him and Lana.

Kace would come back, that was what he had promised her and Lana was with him. Both of them would be fine.

After all, it was just a dream. A dream, which felt almost very real.

Yet, Hope couldn't concentrate with the rest of their conversation as her mind lingered around her terrible nightmare last night

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Some malnourished kids run around dusty street and disappear into a hut. Beneath, it was a massive sea of rocks and gravel instead of smooth ground. This place was almost like a desert.

"Are you sure this is the entrance?" Kace furrowed his eyebrows when he saw high wall overgrown with tall grass near the horizon, it meant, whatever place that they were heading now was still so faraway than Kace expected.

"Yes," Lana nodded curtly, her eyes didn't wander around to see the poor environment surrounded her while Kace couldn't help, but grimace every time there was a kid, who stared at him with their pleading gaze as if they needed his help.

"These kids..." Kace stole another glance at the kids, who was standing not too far from him.

"Don't look at them and more importantly, don't talk to them." Lana warned Kace again. Her expression was devoid from any emotions.

The further they walked, the more people they met.

Kace and Lana passed a circle of people smoking something out of a pipe, their eyes gazed to nothingness, as though if there was mayhem right before their eyes, they would only resume what they were doing right now, without even care to give their surrounding a glance.

"What is this place?" Kace couldn't help his curiosity as he narrowed his eyes at the people there.

Despite the fact that they went to this realm through a pines forest, the world behind those green habitation was this almost dying place.

"The border between two worlds," Lana answered Kace curiosity.

This was the first time for this lycan to cross the border and everything here was something that he had never seen or expected.

"It is common here to leave those people starved like that?" Kace had seen the aftermath of war and this kind of sight wasn't something that he missed to see in his entire eternity ever again.

"The witches and vampires here don't think them as people," Lana glanced briefly at Kace before they continued to walk toward the high wall. "These people here are their guinea pig."

Kace whipped his head toward Lana. He didn't say anything, but his eyes conveyed his disgust to the idea.

Well, he wouldn't feel this way centuries ago, the days before they were cursed or the war with the devils.

However, their casual discussion didn't last for long time when a man stood tall a few meter away from Lana and Kace, yet all of sudden he hunched over on all fours.

Chapter 504 - FERAL BEAST

The man body spasmed violently, his whole body convulsing as his back started elongating and the muscles in his body started to engorge.

When he hunched over on all fours toward Kace and Lana, his claws started extending from his fingers and his fangs from his mouth. The air filled with dozens of snapping bones.

Kace had never seen this kind of shifting before, but Lana did. Her eyes zeroed in at the creatures which charged toward them now.

Kace and Lana moved away at the same time when that beast lurched toward the spot where they were a second ago.

A piercing howl echoed through the hot atmosphere surrounded them. The malnourished kids ran toward their hut, seeking for protection from whoever inside there, while the people with pipe stayed still where they were, didn't seem notice about what was going on not too far from them.

The beast was the color of mud, dirty and feral. And its chased after Lana as the woman turned into her own wolf.

Lana's wolf was as big as the muddy color one, but even the spectators could see the power difference between them.

The feral beast ran rampant, chasing after Lana and easily tackled her to the ground. Loud of ear-piercing howls and growls filled the air

It was a close call when the feral beast almost bit Lana's neck and ended her right there and then, a white lycan smashed its side and forced him to move away from the brown wolf beneath him.

The magnificent white lycan was fighting off the other beast, slamming it into the gravel and rocks on the road, attempting to subdue it.

Debris and dust covered the sight on the spot where the two beasts were fighting brutally. Roars and snarls from them could change this whole place into a real battlefield.

Lana turned into her human form as she clutched her injured arms, she didn't expect that and was caught out off guard when she was being attacked.

Hoisting herself up, she moved away when the white lycan just sunk his claws into the feral beast's back. When Lana tumbled away, the two beasts brought their fight to the other side of this dessert like place.

The white lycan was bigger than the muddy wolf, but every attack that he attempted didn't hit the vital part of his opponent, thus this fight took longer time than it needed.

Lana could see the four line of gashes behind the white lycan's back, he didn't get that wound fromm this fight, but even with that wounds, the white lycan still has the upper hand in this battle.

They wrestled and tore at one another under this bright sunlight, as if they wouldn't stop until one of them couldn't stand on their legs anymore.

And with one last ear-splitting roar, the white Lycan sunk his razor fangs on the beast's neck as blood sprayed on its white fur.

The feral beast collapsed to the ground and turned into his human's form with his neck split open.

The white lycan took another steps back, its magnificent body shook as his human form stood in its place.

Kace's eyes gradually turned into his initial ocean blue as he stared at the man, who pooled on his own blood on the ground. His breathing ragged and his black eyes fought back the sleepiness that engulfed him, the darkness that would consume him into nothingness.

"Let's go." Lana approached Kace, who was still standing while staring at the man in daze. "We have wasted our time here."

At this point, Lana's wound on her arms had healed and all that's left was only traces of blood on her torn sleeves.

Yet, Kace didn't take another step to follow the woman, he was still standing there with furrowed eyebrows.

"What are you doing? We have to go now." Lana frowned as she stepped in his line of sight. "Don't tell you are thinking what I am thinking now."

As if Lana could guess what was inside Kace's mind, her gaze turned hard.

"Yes, I am thinking what you are thinking now." Kace nodded and stepped forward to approach the man, who second ago was about to kill Lana and him.

"You can't save him!" Lana said exasperatedly when she watched Kace crouched down and put his big palm on the man's split open wound.

Kace ignored Lana's words as he stared at the man. He has black eyes, so it wasn't because he was still under the beast's control, but this was the original color of his eyes.

His chapped lips reminded Kace of someone, who had not drank water for days, as they moved and formed a pleading words.

"Help..."

That was all the man said in his voice that barely a whisper before he closed his eyes. Died.

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"You don't have to feel guilty because of that," Lana spoke with concern as she glanced at Kace beside her for the tenth times as they walked toward the high wall.

Kace didn't answer. He refused to talk after he witnessed the way that man died with a pleading word hung on his lips.

There was something that bothered Kace greatly, aside from the fact he had killed another creature, let his beast to take control for a second and tasted the blood that its always wanted because Kace always suppressed its desire for blood and more more blood.

"It is our nature to kill another creatures, which threatened our live." Lana walked in front of Kace as the sun had almost set in the horizon. "We live in the world where we have to kill in order to survive."

Kace narrowed his eyes at Lana's back. He didn't agree with her statement. "I think I live long enough and went through many wars to know the value of someone's life," he spoke in boring tone. "And for some reason I think that man shifted into his feral beast out of his will. I want to know about that, but unfortunately, I killed him instead."

Chapter 505 - NORTHERN COVEN REALM

"You don't have to worry about that. There will be many unpredictable things happen the moment we enter the realm," Lana was standing in front of the high wall, where fungus and moss vined on its surface.

However, they couldn't see the door from there.

"How do we go inside?" Kace scoured the entire high wall. "Jump over it?" On that moment, it was the only way since it was impossible to smash the wall open.

"No," Lana ran her fingers on the surface of the sleek moss, contemplating. "Take my hand!" she stretched out her hand for Kace to take.

The lycan didn't welcome the invitation immediately. "What is it?" he stared at Lana's opened palm with a frown between his brows.

"I am not seducing you, but if you want to go through into the other realm, you have to take my hand." Lana said impatiently while Kace rolled his eyes.

"I didn't say you would seduce me. I mean, what would happen if I take your hand? The high wall will collapse?" Kace grabbed Lana's hand.

This casual action made the girl slightly lowered her head and turned around, so Kace wouldn't be able to see her expression now.

"We're going through this wall now," Lana mumbled to him. She raised her other hand and made a caress-like motion to the moss-covered wall.

In the next second, the moss and fungus melted away, just like an ice cube under the bright sunlight. Not only that, the wall also disappeared along with the melting moss.

"How did you do that?" Kace asked in awe. He knew that Lana can do one or two magic tricks, but what she was doing now was like a full blood witch.

"Fae's blood," Lana answered curtly, her brows twisted in concentration. "It helps."

While waiting for the high wall to melt and create a passageway for them, Kace engaged in a casual talk with her. "How's the progress of your mother search going?"

"Not really good." Lana shrugged her shoulder and pulled Kace's hand with hers when she stepped across the other realm.

The lack of light at the other side of the world made Kace squinted his eyes and wondered, what kind of world they'd about to enter?

Despite the border between two worlds had bright sun over their head, which seemed could burn everything under its scorching light, gravels and rocks beneath their feet, there was nothing but the vast desert as far as their eyes could see. Despite all that, this side was completely dark.

Kace and Lana were standing in an evergreen forest, like the pine forest near the Mystic River village, only the vegetation here was slightly different. Above their head, there was no moon which light could guide them.

The only source of light was the flickering fireflies that surrounded them. Their glimmering faint lights radiated from their body.

"What is this place?" Kace raised his hand to nudge the firefly with his finger.

"The land of the dead," Lana answered. It was fortunate for them, as shape shifters they had a great vision. Despite this place lacked of light, they could see their way just find.

"The land of the dead?" Kace let go of Lana's hand and didn't notice a small frown between the girl's brows. "What a name for this nice place." He was still immersed with the faint glow from the fireflies.

"That's what I thought when I came here." Lana agreed with Kace's opinion.

"How could you be here?"

"Serefina told me, taught me and misled me to go into this place," Lana grunted as she led the way.

"That sounds like Serefina," Kace chuckled lightly.

They were having this light conversation while they were walking inside the forest, accompanied by the fireflies. The sight was breathtakingly beautiful.

Two people, walking inside the deep forest, challenging their fate in this foreign realm, talking lightly and exchanging smile every now and then, it would be more fascinating if they were a lover.

However, unfortunately, the reality was different, as they were not destined for each other.

Kace and Lana walked for almost an hour or so, nobody knew the exact time then.

When the dense of the forest unraveled and the fireflies that was left accompanying them was less than a couple, Kace started to see a brighter light from afar, coming from a small town.

Lamp streets and building illuminated the night.

"A town?" Kace raised his brows. "So, northern coven is a town?" he had never been in this place, thus it slightly confused him to see this.

Kace thought Northern Coven would as gloomy as the creatures which lived there, but apparently this place was quite similar to the Mystic River village.

"It's only one place, and there are many places in this Northern Coven realm, which either the witches or vampires had not yet set their feet on its land," Lana explained as they walked toward the small town.

"How do we find the person who can cure my wounds?" Kace wanted to ask this since the very beginning, but Lana refused to answer him before they trespass the border of this realm.

"Here." Lana grabbed something from her pocket and gave it to Kace to see. "Serefina gave me this to find that person."

Kace took that thing from Lana's hand and examined it. "A candle?" between his callous fingers were a small white candle.

There was nothing peculiar about this candle, it was just like any ordinary candle that Kace had seen a thousand times.

"What are we going to do with this candle?" He played with that small thing, weighing it on his palm before Lana took it away from him.

"This is our clue to find that person," Lana said.

"Who is exactly this person?" Kace grew impatient when Lana didn't explain about the person who was going to treat his wound and heal him.

Now, they had entered the town with buildings surrounded them.

"A priestess," she replied.

Chapter 506 - I AM SORRY

"A priestess?" Kace reiterated in questioning tone. His eyes widened and looked at the girl beside him in disbelief. "Do you really think this priestess could save me?" there was resentment in the way Kace asked this.

"Serefina thinks this priestess could save you," Lana corrected, after all she just did the task that Serefina gave to her.

"What this priestess will do? Praying for me while burning that candle? You must be kidding me," Kace looked at the bar which Lana chose to enter.

"If that works, why not?" Lana shrugged and was about to enter the bar when Kace grabbed her hand and forced her to turn around and faced him.

"This sounds very ridiculous," Kace grunted. "How long it will take until we find that priestess with only a single clue?" and to say the only clue they had was the very ordinary candle, sounded so pitiful in Kace's ears. "We need to go back before the festival."

"Calm down," Lana didn't pull her hand from Kace's grip, she just reciprocated his gaze. "Hope is with that family and we have warned to not come to the festival."

"Knowing her, do you think she will comply obediently, especially when we don't return as per the time we promised her?" Kace knew the girl wouldn't be so lenient upon being lied to.

And Lana knew it as well. "We will return before the festival," she assured him.

"I am not sure with meeting the priestess, but since we are already here, let's finish this as soon as possible." Kace didn't feel excited to meet the priestess at all.

"I know this will be your reaction, that was why Serefina told me to not tell anything until we are here." Lana pushed open the door and walked into the bar.

"I think both of you have grown to know me very well," Kace replied as he followed her.

Apparently the bar was out of business now as Kace could see all the chair was upside down and a few spots were covered with white sheet. Another thing that Kace realized was; there was no one there neither the door was closed.

Lana didn't seem to bother with this fact and walked toward the stairs, beside her, Kace didn't question the girl about this as he assumed she knew what she had to do.

Both of them climbed the stairs in silence.

On the second floor, there was only one hallway, which led them to the only door in the end of it and Lana was heading there.

This place was very quiet, too quiet for Kace liking and had nothing. No scent, no sound. This place was completely empty, but what they were doing here?

Did Lana want to get something from this place?

Lana stopped in front of the wooden black door with intricate carving on the surface of the door. Again, as if she owned this place, Lana didn't even bother to knock and pushed the door with her body.

However after a few attempts, apparently her strength was not enough to make the door budge and her face contorted with annoyance.

Kace still didn't say anything when he grabbed Lana's shoulder and pulled her away. Kace replaced her spot and tried to push the door.

It was indeed very heavy, but in his second attempts the door opened with a loud screeching sound that made Kace scrunched his nose. The sound agitated his ears while Lana had covered hers with both hands.

The scene behind the door threw Kace out of guard as the view before his eyes, once again, made him scrunched his brows tightly.

"Did all the doors in this realm will lead you to another world or something?" Kace held the door open just enough for Lana to go into the room, no, this was not a room.

This place was covered in a crystal white snow, Kace took a deep breath in the fresh, cold air. They were in the mountain.

"Where are we exactly?" Kace spoke in a sigh, his voice turning to fog in the freezing air. Snow and ice clung to the bare branches of the forest trees. Yes, another forest!

Kace could feel his head spun with this fact, they had changed environment four times just within six hours.

"I don't know if this will be snow over here," Lana mumbled, she shook the fallen snow on her head and tightened the jacket around her body. "The walk will be slightly difficult."

"Worry not, my entire life has been difficult, I am kind of used to that now," Kace replied with a small grunt and this made Lana smile a little bit.

Both of them stayed standing there for a minute more as their eyes locked on the white- encrusted top of the mountain before Lana decided it was time to keep moving.

"Let's go," she said as she took steps ahead.

Kace followed behind her silently, he didn't have trouble to keep up with Lana even in this snowy environment. action

Along the way Lana would grumble here and there, brushing the snow from her head and clothes. It was clear to see this beautiful white snow had agitated her, especially when the snow reached her knees and she was having difficulty to walk.

Lana had stumbled a few times during this walk and Kace would be there to catch her to gain her footing again. "Do you always walk so clumsily?" he couldn't help, but teased her.

"No! It's just hard to walk with this snow everywhere!" Lana shot him a scowl and ignored the heat rising to her cheeks in embarrassment.

Kace's whole demeanor changed, he gave her apologetic smile. "I am sorry," he said softly.

"For?" Lana was busy to keep her balance. "You don't have to be sorry for this, it didn't look like you are the one who creates this weather."

But, Kace shook his head. "I am sorry because I spoke harshly to you at that time."

Chapter 507 - THE CITY OF SPIRIT

Lana's body turned stiff, she was clueless that Kace would talk about it in this situation. Well, actually there wasn't a good topic for this condition too.

"I think I am too harsh with my reaction," he admitted. After all, Lana had been there during the time when he was not able to be with Hope and kept her safe.

Though, his beast couldn't accept what Lana had done, but his human side, the side where his emotion and feeling made everything became more complicated, realized his reaction was too crude.

"I can understand," Lana mumbled. "Actually I don't have intention to let you know about my feeling for you... it's just..." She lost her words, hesitated to explain herself.

Cold wind blew and they clutched their jacket even tighter around their body.

"... it's just I was too carried away." Lana admitted, she didn't really want Kace to hear this and wished the wind would bring her confession away.

"Understand." Kace nodded.

"Thank you," Lana bit her lips. "I know my place." She added.

"But, I hope we will not tangle in this matter anymore," Kace held Lana's elbow when she was about to fall again, "Because one day, you will find your own mate. Someone who you could claim as yours."

"I hope so." Lana meant her words, maybe only by finding her own mate, she could stop torturing herself with her feeling for Kace. She was afraid jealousy and envy would eat her alive.

With the mention of 'Hope', Kace could feel his heart ached, he missed his little mate already. Why he had to leave her alone again when he could see her every day since he arrived in this village and decided to stay?

If this wasn't because of these troublesome wounds, he would be next to Hope and teased the girl to no end. Maybe went on a date again to watch a movie or two, and shopping, and romantic dinner... there were hundreds of plan that roamed around Kace's mind and all of that included Hope in it. action

He wondered what she was doing now? He had to come back before the festival.

"Where we will go now?" Kace asked against the howling wind.

"We will enter the vampire territory behind this mountain," Lana shook her head from the snow that rested on top of her hair.

It was fortunate enough for them to have this kind of body, because if they were only human, they would have froze to death by now in this harsh and cold environment.

"Is it the only way?" Kace asked again, this time he was walking in front of Lana, so she could be protected from the cold wind and was easier to walk by following Kace's footsteps.

"This is the only way that I know," Lana replied.

"Who we will meet after this? A vampire?" Kace didn't like the idea. Vampire and wolf were a sworn enemy since centuries ago.

The only things that held them back from biting off each other neck every time they met was a treaty of peace between th'e two leaders.

Yet, even though both parties had agreed for almost every points of the agreement, but the hostility between them were still something that should be questioned.

"No, we will not meet with the vampire." Apparently Lana also didn't like the idea as well, her tone dropped when she thought about the vampire, after all that creature was responsible for the damage to her Pack before.

"So, who will we meet?" Kace glanced at Lana behind his body, slightly worried that she wouldn't be able to keep up with his pace, but relieved when she was only one foot away from him.

"A candlemaiden," Lana answered almost immediately, as if she had predicted this question from Kace.

"A candlemaiden?" Kace slightly raised his eyebrows. "I have never heard of such a creature." He roamed his memories, but couldn't find anything that ring the bell about that name.

"A candlemaiden is human with great spiritual strength," Lana explained.

"So, why we have to see this candlemaide when we are supposed to find the priestess?" Kace shook his head to get rid the snow from his head.

"Because..." Lana tightened the jacket around her body, she felt slightly cold. "By finding her, we will be able to find the priestess sooner."

"What a tiresome journey," Kace grumbled.

"I thought the northern coven only filled with witches and vampires."

"There are a lot more creatures here that outside world don't know about them."

It was clear to see, during Lana's searching for her mother, Serefina had assigned her to go back and forth this realm, it came out surprising as her knowledge became very handy at time like this.

"Where we could find this candlemaiden?" Kace asked impatiently.

This journey, this uncertainty, this unknown creatures and this foreign land, made him restless. Maximus sure knew how to give him trouble after trouble.

"I heard she lives in the city nearby this mountain," Lana answered, but when she received a glare from Kace because of her indecisive answer, she hurriedly added. "Serefina had confirmed it, the candlemaiden lives there."

Kace clicked his tongue, he always thought, only if Serefina willing to bow her head slightly and came here herself rather than asked Lana to do all the job in this northern coven, half of their issues should have been solved this time around.

It took them longer than Lana predicted to reach the city nearby with the snow slowed down their paces. It was called City of spirit. What a name...

The moment they reached the city of spirit, the sun had raised above their head and illuminated the city bellow the hill.

The houses were all snug up against each other, each doorframe a riot of color that mirrored the whole street. Magenta leaned against azure, which pushed against orange, which clashed with deep green of its neighbor. The rooftops were staggered, some jutting above others.

Chapter 508 - STAY OVERNIGHT

Children ran down the streets, laughing and shouting and darting between people who carried basket at their h.i.p.s.

"What are they? They look lika human." Kace sniffed the air, but found it strange because he couldn't smell anything from them. They were scentless.

"Human," Lana replied grimly.

Despite the happy atmosphere that surrounded them, Lana's expression was the contrary. She looked upset about something.

"No way, they don't smell like one." Kace scrunched his nose. "Actually, they don't have any scent on them."

"They are humans who are abducted by fairies when they were only babies. Some fairies have a habit to swap their children with human children."

"For what purpose?" Kace felt he had not yet seen this world enough, there were many things that he didn't know.

"So, they could use human children as their slaves," Lana walked among the people with Kace next to her. "Not all fairies do that, but they who did it had a close tied with the witches."

"But they don't have scent." Kace still bothered by this fact.

"Yes, they don't. They had being fed by fairies potion for years. I guess that's the reason why we couldn't smell them." Lana stepped aside when a small boy was about to bump onto her. "This is how they got the candlemaiden. Human with strong spirit power."

"You know about a lot of things about this world," Kace stated in awe.

"You will eventually learn, even if you don't want to, if you spent the last seventeen years roaming around this world and had many task about their kind." Lana shrugged. Sereфина made sure she learned about her origin, about her fae's mother.

"And what about the fairies' children in human world?" Kace walked along the street to the spot where were less people.

"Those children will realize if they are different, whether it's the way their thinking or their body, and in the age of fifteen or so, their parents would come to explain the situation. If they accept it well, they will live, if not, those fairies' parent will kill their own child. After all, supernatural creatures like us couldn't reveal our existence to the human world."

With Lana's explanation they walked toward a different alley. The street before was filled with brilliant colors and colorful people. Those variant color was overwhelming, until sudden alley revealed the city sprawled beneath them, nothing but dark and gloomy rooftops and the endless of shrubbery.

Kace started to get used with this frequent change of environment.

Colorful houses turning into these gloomy shops and the streets were almost empty. This side was totally different from the place before.

Snow was no longer falling, but the air was still cold.

Finally, when the sunny afternoon had given way to an evening fog, Lana stopped in front of an inn. It was a long day and Kace could feel tiredness started to take a toll on him.

Not minding its worn plain exterior or the pungent smell of fish that clung to the warehouses around it, all Kace wanted to do was to soak his feet in warm water. He hoped there was one here.

Kace watched several people in dark cloak that covered almost their entire faces brought a lantern on their hand with a few children no older than ten years old, scampering around those strange people with cloak that Kace assumed was the witch.

A strange man, who was standing behind the reception desk, with his ghostly pale skin and white blonde hair, was talking to Lana about reservation. action

Lana asked for two room, but unfortunately they only had one room available.

"The festival is around the corner and we have so many visitors here," the man spoke in boring tone.

Lana wanted to argue, but Kace cut her. "It's fine, give the room." Kace didn't see what the point of arguing when he said there was no more room in this inn. If what that man said was true, then most of the inn would be fully booked as well and Kace was not in the mood to walk on that eerie street again.

The man looked pleased with Kace's decision and gave the key room to him.

"Third floor," he said to inform Kace, who already walked away and waved his hand to acknowledge him.

"Kace, do you know what this means?" Lana hissed, she jogged beside Kace. "We will stay in one room." she couldn't mask the panic in her voice.

"He said there is no more room here." Kace climbed the stairs, trying as much as possible to avoid the other people.

"They must have an extra room." Lana couldn't hide that she was nervous and Kace couldn't ignore the tiredness.

These wounds surely had weakened him.

"Look." Kace suddenly stopped and stared at Lana. "I am very tired and all I want is only a good night sleep and saving as much as energy for tomorrow, so we could roam around this place to find that candlemaiden. If you are very nervous because we will be in the same room..." of course Kace was able to sense that from Lana. "Just think of me as a wooden log. I will sleep on the couch, definitely we will not share the bed, and we don't have to talk with each other. Alright?"

"Alright," Lana said meekly as she lowered her head to avoid those beautiful ocean blue eyes.

"Good," Kace nodded, his body was aching all over.

If he remembered correctly, they had been through a desert, a feral beast, a forest, a mountain, a city and now they were in this creepy inn. Kace really exhausted and he could see Lana felt the same.

"Hope will kill me if she knows about this," Lana mumbled, but her face turned crimson red, she still couldn't get rid the fact she would sleep in the same room with Kace.

"My sweet mate will not kill anyone," he said softly. "She is an angel."

"An angel who has been raised by a witch like Serefina."

Chapter 509 - THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER CHANCE

"An angel who has been raised by a witch like Serefina," Lana sighed and added. "After all she has a trait as a human."

"Alright, maybe she will kill us if she found out about this." There was humor in the way Kace said it, but then the tiredness almost knocked him off. "Let's talk about that later..." he felt his eyelids dropped.

And when they found their room number, Kace opened the door and kicked his shoes and threw his backpack before he walked toward the bathroom.

"I will take a shower first," he mumbled and trudged directly to the other door. Not long after that, there was a sound of running water. action

Lana put down her own backpack and scoured this small room. This room was indeed only fit for one person. A single bed, a single sofa and a small cabinet, next to the bed, with bed lamp on top of it.

Lana stared at the sofa, it was too small to accommodate Kace's body, but she was very sure, Kace wouldn't agree if she suggested for him to take the bed.

For some reason, Lana was very nervous and couldn't calm herself down. She bit her lips and stared at the bathroom door every now and then, hearing the running water came to stop eventually.

From behind it, Kace stepped out with mist from hot water as his background. His damp hair and droplet of water that trickled down his neck looked seductive enough in Lana's eyes.

The young werewolf couldn't take her eyes from him, especially when his white tee shirt sculpted his abs perfectly.

"I am done, I will sleep now," Kace's voice was very heavy and his eyes almost closed when he walked toward the sofa. He stretched his body on that small sofa and closed his eyes with his hair still wet. Kace was dead tired.

Lana bit her lips as she stole a glance at Kace and found the lycan had fallen asleep in matter of second. As a shape shifter, usually they would have stronger stamina than any other creatures, but this time, Kace looked very exhausted because of his wound.

Shaking her head to get rid some dirty thought from her mind, Lana walked toward the bathroom to get cold showers.

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The first news that Serefina got the moment she arrived in the red river city was; the guardian angel, which was Torak's mate, was being hospitalized.

She didn't have any idea how the angel became sick? From what she heard, Torak treated his mate pretty well, which meant, Serefina could save herself from the unnecessary drama such as; persuading the lycan to accept his mate and explained the importance of their situation.

Serefina could only guess that the angel only got a common flu, just like any normal human. She ruled out the option the thought about Torak became violent toward the poor angel.

However, the moment Serefina arrived at the hospital, only then she could smell something fishy.

The floor where Torak and his little mate were, was being guarded very tight. Lycan strolled around and Serefina could sense the tense in the air.

Not only that, the fact that Torak had provided excessive protection like this, could only one thing; there must be something happen with the guardian angel.

Serefina walked throughout the hallway, sending her magic here and there, so no guards could step in to hold her back.

It was quite easy when you could manipulate other people as you wish for certain amount of time and in a matter of second, Serefina had stood in front of the guardian angel's ward.

"VVIP..." Serefina sneered. From the other side of the door, she could hear noises from inside.

This would be the first time she would meet again with Jedrek's second brother and not like with Kace, Serefina was not too familiar with him.

Because of the harsh wind outside, Serefina was wearing her windbreaker and shawl around her neck. pushing opened the door she walked in confidently. "Am I interrupting?"

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Lana stepped out from the bathroom, looked fresh and a little bit more energetic after a good shower. She was wearing tee shirt and sweatpants in the same color of brown.

Her cheeks flushed and her hair wet with a few droplets fell on the floor, escaped from her towel.

Yet, the first thing that seized her attention was a soft heavy breathing sound, which coming from the sofa where Kace was sleeping now. Of course this sound was coming from him.

As if the man on the sofa was the gravity of her existence, Lana walked toward him absentmindedly and the moment she realized what she was doing, her hand had caressed Kace's soft hair, pushing the strands away from his face.

Lana didn't know from where she got this courage, but the fact that Kace didn't even awake after her touch, encouraged her to do more than this.

With her shaking hand, her slender fingers traced Kace's jaw line, relishing the sight how vulnerable this man now.

Kace was very tired and in so much pain, until he couldn't realize what the girl, whom he trusted, was doing to him.

Lana gulped hard when her eyes savoring the sight of Kace's full lips, which slightly open. Her heart was beating fast against her ribcage and she became worried that the sound of it would wake Kace up.

Lana wanted to retract her hands and didn't want to take advantage from Kace's unconscious state now, but, instead of pushing herself away, Lana chose to lean over.

She was slightly hesitated when Kace's eyelashes slightly fluttered, Lana froze in her position, which only a fist away from him.

However, when Kace's breathing became even and he seemed oblivious about what was going to happen, Lana leaned closer.

She didn't know what has gotten into her to have this idea or this gut to do this...

All she knew, there would be no other chance anymore for her.

Chapter 510 - A CLOSE CALL

Lana was very close, extremely close for her own good, she was about to close her eyes and savored the sin that she nearly committed when all of sudden her eyes caught Kace's red eyes, which abruptly opened.

His eyes were not the beautiful ocean blue color, but the bloodshot red one.

Being caught out off guard from the indecent act she was about to do, Lana let out a short yelp as her body jerked away from Kace.

Lana fell with a soft thud on her back, her hand covered her mouth and her eyes widened in horror.

What should I do now? What should I do now?

With her quivering lips, she tried to form an excuse for her action. "Kace... I..." yet, apparently, her words failed her, as she couldn't calm her beating heart. In this rate, she wouldn't be able to talk or fixed the situation.

And again, what situation that she should be fixed? When everything was as clear as a day about what she was going to do to him, taking advantage of his condition.

Lana gulped hard and was about to cry when Kace's red eyes locked on hers. Regret and guilty washed over her body, seeped into every particles of her body.

She was already at the point where she resigned herself to what would happen to her. This situation couldn't be saved anymore.

Stupid Lana!

She really wanted to curse and slap herself for even having that kind of thought. Lana felt like she was not herself a few seconds ago for committing something out of her character.

Yet, she wouldn't regret it if everything went as she wanted, and this thought alone made her sick. Lana didn't know she has this sordid side in her.

She lost track of time under Kace's bloodshot glare, but when a few moment later Kace's eyes slowly closed, Lana felt there was a huge burden was being lifted from her shoulder, allowed her to breathe in relieved.

What was that?

Lana had thought the worst case possible. If the last time she was hugging him and he was so livid to even look at her for a few days, the more horrible things than being ignored should have happened by now the moment he knew she was about to kiss him, right?

But, Kace just closed his eyes like that? What does it mean? Was he falling asleep again? So, what was happening before?

It felt like, even Kace didn't realize what was happening a few moment ago. Was that his subconscious that prevented Lana from doing that or his beast, which came to the surface and gave her a warning.

Whatever it was, Lana stood up quickly and rushed to her bed, covering herself with blanket. Her heart pummeled in her chest and it seemed she would have trouble to sleep now.

She bit her lips and peeked at Kace from under the blanket, but it seemed the lycan was fast asleep.

So, what did she just see?

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When the sun kissed Lana's face and she felt someone shook her body, she groaned.

"Wake up, we need to go, right?" Kace's voice was akin to a beautiful song from Lana's dream, so soft and warm, she wanted to indulge herself in it longer.

But, a flash of memory hit her hard and made her jumped from her bed. This sudden action also took Kace by surprised as he jerked away from the bed.

"What happened?!" his eyes scanned the entire room in alert, looking for any threat. However, there was no other creature inside the room except the two of them.

"No, no... nothing..." Lana shook her head, fl.u.s.tered by her own reaction. Her eyes stared at Kace warily, trying to find hostility in him, but the lycan before her eyes acted normal.

Very normal until Lana thought last night was only a dream. A very dangerous dream.

"Did I surprise you?" Kace raised his eyebrows, amus.e.m.e.nt dancing on the corner of his lips when he said that. "Don't worry, even if you unconscious n.a.k.e.d in front of me, I will not do anything to you." action

That was absolute fact that Kace could tell her. There was no way he would touch any other woman except his own mate, Hope. Her name itself reminded him how he missed her.

Kace just wanted to finish this journey and returned to her as soon as possible. If he thought about it again, he felt like a lovesick teenager when his age was older than some of the mummies.

Moreover, despite the hugging incident before, Kace still thought of Lana as his younger sister, this one of the reasons why he was upset because Lana has feeling for him.

Kace arranged his backpack, ready to go within a minute, as he crouched down to check his belonging, he missed how Lana's face turned like a ripe tomatoes when he didn't see it.

Lana was heading for the bathroom. She felt her heart and brain boiled with embarrassment.

Kace was clueless about his predicament last night. It should be he was the one who had to be more careful around Lana when he was in unconscious state.

Lana felt dreadful.

It took her a long time before she finished her bath and stepped out from the bathroom, fully clothed with her hair slightly damp.

However, the important point now was; the rapid thumping in her heart had slightly decreased. She didn't want Kace to know. But his bloodshed red eyes kept her on edge every time she saw him.

"Eat this first." Kace threw a sandwich to Lana, which she caught it mid- air. "I bought it when you were sleeping. I think the taste a little bit salty." He scrunched his nose, sitting on the sofa where he used for sleeping.

"Thanks," Lana mumbled and took a bite.

In all honesty, she couldn't taste anything from that sandwich as her mind was in disarray, it played the scene from last night. She was so close to touch his lips with hers.