

## TLOA Lycan 581

### Chapter 581 - CUTE

"Why are you mad at Lana?" Hope was being held on her waist tightly by the furious lycan when they walked back to the Loris' house.

Kace didn't shout or anything, he just kept ignoring the girl and this made Hope feel guilty, no matter what, it was her who had pushed Lana to follow Kace, though Kace didn't seem to mind to agree with her suggestion.

"It was me, who told her to come and help you." Hope glanced at Lana, who was walking a few meters away from them, her stoic expression didn't give away what she was actually feeling inside, but her eyes showed how disappointed she was with Kace's silent treatment.

"Hope. She left you and I will not accept any excuses for what she did." Kace stopped walking as he faced his little mate. "You can go first," he spoke to Lana and the siblings as they walked past the couple. It seemed this would be another quarrel.

Mr. and Mrs. Lori had reached their house and opened its door as they were still shaken by what was happening in the village. Bree, in her mother's arms was sleeping peacefully, didn't care for the world.

Lana threw another glance at Kace before she followed the siblings to enter the house.

"You don't make any sense Kace," Hope hissed. "I am fine. You should stop treating me like a child."

Kace gritted his teeth when the searing pain on his back returned and his voice became hoarse, yet Hope thought the man was only trying to hold back his anger. "We are in a strange place, in the realm where I don't even know which place is safe for you. With some creatures there, holding a grudge against me!" because he killed their mates.

Kace didn't need to add that explanation, as Hope already knew what he meant.

"It is you, who is holding a grudge towards yourself. The centaurs could kill me countless times, if they intended to do so, I would have died by now!" Hope remarked.

It was hard to talk to Kace when he didn't even realize that he had clouded his own judgment with his own fear of those creatures' revenge. The creatures that he had hurt so badly in the past.

Kace was taken aback when Hope talked about her death. It was hard to hear and even so hard to imagine when the lycan was forced to envision what Hope was talking. He shuddered involuntarily.

Kace hugged her immediately, pressed her head against his chest. "Please, don't talk like that, you don't know how afraid I am," he spoke softly against her hair. "I will not be mad at Lana anymore, but please don't ever talk like that."

As odd as it sounded, the lycan was afraid what Hope was saying could actually happen somehow, someday. And he didn't want it to happen.

On the other hand, Hope was speechless. They were in the middle of an argument when out of the blue, Kace was hugging her like this, at this point, and how could she continue to get angry with him?

However, when Hope was about to hug him back, Kace's breathe hitched. "What happened?" Hope frowned, she wanted to free herself, but Kace held her even tighter.

"No, nothing," He said after taking a deep long breath.

"Your wounds, right?" Hope was quick to realize it. "This is your wound!" It was a statement. "Let me see it."

"No, you don't have to see it. I am fine." Kace buried his nose on the curve of her shoulder, but Hope groaned, annoyed.

"Can you stop saying that you are fine, when you are not? You will not get anything from lying to me, so stop that kind of habit." Hope reprimanded him lightly.

However, instead of denying her once more, Kace was chuckling upon hearing her berating him.

"What are you laughing at?" Hope carefully put her hand on his h.i.p.s, she couldn't circle her hand around his waist as she was afraid that gesture would make the pain from his wound get worse.

"I am sure you pick that bad trait of scolding people from the witch." Kace caressed her back.

"She taught me well," Hope chuckled.

It was weird that their argument ended like this in a short amount of time. Because at first, it seemed they wouldn't come into any settlement, when all the tension dissipated the moment Kace acted this way to appease Hope.

"We need to meet Chiron first thing in the morning," Hope said and this earned a groan from Kace. "We need to find the priestess and he said I can find her."

"Let's talk about that later," Kace grunted.

Ignoring what Kace was saying, Hope continued. "Your wounds seem to have become worse after the battle earlier, and we still need to find Lidya."

"Hope, you know." Kace released her body and put her in an arms-length distance to stare into her black obsidian eyes. "If you are a lycan, you will be the female version of the Alpha."

Hope scrunched her nose. "Is that a compliment?"

"Of course," Kace kissed her forehead that made the girl giggled. "Let's go back to the house. We will carry out your plan tomorrow morning."

"Hm... my plan..." Hope hummed. It sounded like she was a leader of this small team. "Kace, do you know what your beast wants to do the first thing he takes over your body?"

Kace scoffed, of course he remembered that.

This imbecile beast...

Hope laughed when she saw his reaction. "Yes, he wanted to mark me."

"Don't worry, I will not let that thing happen again," Kace mumbled.

"No," Hope shook her head. "Quite the opposite." action

"Huh?" Kace tilted his head to look at his smiling mate.

"Why don't you mark me?" Hope said casually, as if she was asking for extra allowance. "I was afraid when you suddenly acted like that, but to think about it again, actually, I like your beast. He is cute."

"Cute?" The corner of Kace's lips twitched as he heard that. "You hurt my pride."

### **Chapter 582 - HOW ABOUT A KISS?**

Hope laughed heartily and that was the most beautiful sound that Kace always missed to hear. He could just stay for days just to hear his mate laugh like that.

"Stop being a baby!" Hope slapped Kace's arms. "I am still mad at you." She tried to make her expression match her words, but failed miserably. Her smile wouldn't disappear.

Probably because Hope had just experienced the tension of the battle just a few hours ago. Thus for having Kace here and talking to her, teasing each other like usual, well his wounds were different concerns, Hope felt more relaxed.

"What are you mad at me for? I will be good to Lana. You have to know how worried I was when I realized you were unprotected," Kace said sullenly. They were walking back to the house hand in hand, kept their paces as slow as they could, relishing the scene around them.

They didn't know why Mrs. and Mr. Lori lived out of the village, but seeing them as a family of farmers, it was probably because they considered about the efficiency of time they could get by living near their farm.

"Ian and Ethan were there to protect me," Hope retorted. How could Kace forget that they were also there protecting her?

However, Kace scoffed when he heard Hope's answer. "Those pups? What could they do?"

"Kace!" Hope elbowed him playfully and this earned a laugh from the lycan. "You can't talk like that about my friends."

"Why? It's true though!" Kace is persistent with his opinion. "In my world, they are considered a pup because of how young they are."

Hope stopped walking and turned around to face Kace. The light from the moon that was shining brightly behind her back made her appearance look angelic.

"How long is the lifespan of a lycan like you?" Hope was curious.

Kace was charmed by his mate's beauty and the way she frowned. "We are immortal."

Hope bit the bottom of her lips, she had guessed this answer. She asked away because she wanted to be sure about it. "In that case..." she lowered her gaze, and kicked the gravel beneath her feet sullenly. "... I will grow old and die while you..." she raised her head to meet Kace's beautiful blue eyes. "You will stay like this for years, decades, to centuries from now."

Kace understood Hope's concern. Even before this fact lingered over Hope's consciousness, priorly it was his concern since the first time Serefina handed her to him. Therefore, he had asked this exact same question a long time ago.

"That is not always the case..." Kace cradled her face in his big palms and stroked her cheeks with his thumbs. Only in this moment, Kace felt at peace, even his beast stopped fighting him. Whenever Kace was close to Hope, the beast would be more gentle and well-behaved. He would be less restless and jittery.

"What do you mean?" Hope's eyes shone brightly when she heard that.

Even Kace could see the glint of hope in those eyes. "Because, once I mark you, your life span will be adjusted. If it worked, you would be immortal just like me." That was what Serefina told him.

"Really?" Hope's eyes widened adorably. "I will live hundreds of years?"

To think about this again, guardian angels were also immortal creatures, thus Serefina's words could be accounted for.

"And another hundreds of years." Hope chuckled upon seeing how childish his mate now. She was grinning from ear to ear while her eyes filled with excitement.

"What will we do if we have that long life span?" Hope squinted her eyes and Kace knew exactly what she was thinking now. His little mate must be thinking about the places she would like to visit.

"Everything you want." Kace leaned over and kissed her forehead. "I have enough money to satisfy your adventurous soul, once you graduate from your school."

Hope bounced excitedly when she heard that. "That's why I chose you over Oliver." She threw her arms around Kace's neck and winked at him.

"Oh, please..." Kace groaned. "Why do you have to compare me with that brat? He can't even compete with half of my charm."

"Tsk," Hope gave him a look when she thought Kace was being silly. But honestly, she agreed with him. She couldn't compare Oliver to him. Because, not only were they from different levels, but the both of them also came from different worlds. "For a second, I thought your beast took over your body again," she spoke lightly.

"What? I am just saying the truth," Kace laughed as he tousled her hair. "Let's go back, you will catch a cold in this weather."

"Wait," Hope pulled Kace back. They were just a hundred meters away from the house. "Why don't you mark me now?" she looked at him expectantly.

"You want me to mark you now?" Kace looked at her in amus.e.m.e.nt. "Do you know that the process is dangerous?" he tapped the tip of her nose.

"Don't you just bite me?" Hope tilted her head, she was clueless. "Isn't it like the bite of those vampires in the movies? That you will drink my blood?"

Kace scrunched his nose in disgust. "Can you stop comparing me to those dimwitted creatures?" not only she just compared him with Oliver, but now it was with the vampires?

Hope giggled seeing how irritated Kace was. "So, why is the process dangerous?" if it wasn't because Kace couldn't stop from drinking her blood, thus what made it dangerous?

"Marking is not an easy process. It's going to hurt. It might even kill you if we are not careful enough." Kace's voice became serious.

"Kill me?" The question sounded like a whisper, showing her concern.

"I have to admit it, Hope. Werewolf's bite is dangerous and a lycan's bite is even more lethal." He caressed her cheeks softly as his mate turned quite. "I must be a hundred percent sure that you will be fine." especially when there were never once in history that a lycan had a guardian angel as his mate.

"Fine," Hope said bitterly. "If you can't mark me yet, how about you kiss me?"

### **Chapter 583 - A LONG NIGHT**

Kace was slightly taken aback by Hope's bold request, but when he watched how his little mate grinned happily upon seeing his reaction, he knew that she was only teasing him.

Well, Kace was more than happy to play along with his sweet mate.

"Why are you running? Come here." Kace waved his hand at Hope, gesturing her to come closer, yet the girl was running towards the house. "You said you want a kiss? I will give you as many kisses as you want. Come here."

Meanwhile, Hope was laughing heartily. It was so nice to let out some tensions by teasing each other like this, after so many deaths that occurred in less than three hours before.

However, it didn't last for long. If they thought the battle in the village had over, and they succeeded to drive away all the demon wolves, they were totally wrong.

All of a sudden Kace and Hope could hear a loud scream from inside the house. It was Mrs. Lori, followed by a loud sound of explosion.

For a moment, Hope froze, she dared not to breathe. It felt like her heart had stopped beating upon seeing what was happening before her eyes. Then, Kace reached her and pulled her back immediately.

Kace turned his body while hugging Hope, so that his back was facing the house to protect his mate from the debris or dangerous flying object that was thrown because of the blast.

"What is happening?" Hope shut her eyes tightly when the second explosion was heard. Though this time, it was not as loud as the first one, from the sound of it, it seemed the house was collapsed.

Kace didn't answer her, he carried her body and ran a few meters away. He put a great distance between them and whatever the thing that caused the explosion in order to get Hope to safety.

When the eerie sound of the explosion had ended, Hope opened her eyes and poked her head from Kace's strong arms, to see the scene behind his body.

It wasn't a good sight to see...

Just like how the sound had given them the idea of what was happening. The house was indeed, had flattened to the ground.

"What about the others?" Her voice was barely a whisper.

Lana, Ethan, Ian, Mr. and Mrs. Lori and also... Bree.

As for the shape shifters, the three of them probably would only get some wounds. But for the humans, they wouldn't survive that kind of explosion, right?

Hope's body shivered involuntarily to think what could happen to the Lori family. What was happening just now? Wasn't the battle over?

Meanwhile, Kace wanted to check on the rest of the people. But he didn't want to leave Hope alone there, or brought her with him to go near the wreckage of the house. He was still not sure what the cause of it was.

"Kace, we have to check them out," Hope spoke in a low voice, despite her fear, apparently her concern to them was greater.

However, before Kace could decide what he should do next, a moment later, there were movements on the ground. And then, Hope watched in horror as a human's head emerged from the ground.

But, not just a very ugly face, there was a neck, shoulder and body too.

The most impressive sight was its huge size... it was twice of the white beast's size.

"What is that?" Hope managed to ask in a low whisper, as she clutched onto Kace's shirt tightly.

"Troll," Kace answered grimly. "The creatures in this realm are getting weirder," he mumbled. The lycan didn't even know that trolls were still alive. Their kind was believed to be extinct centuries ago, and somehow turned out to live as a mere folklore.

"I don't like this realm," Hope grimaced when the troll swung its big hands and stomped his big feet on the wreckage of the house.

"I don't like it since the first time I stepped my foot into this realm." Kace remembered the mad wolf that he had to fight the first time he entered this realm. "The troll looks strange..."

"There is nothing normal about this creature. He is so hideous." Hope scowled when she watched how the troll was drooling. Ugh!

Even at times like this, Kace found Hope's comment was funny. "That is not what I meant." Kace squinted his eyes at the troll. "The size of the troll... I have never seen a troll with this size."

Normally, the size of a troll was as big as a human. Although they were very strong, they also slow and dimwitted.

However, what they were seeing right before their eyes now, was totally different.

The troll looked as if he was looking for something in the rubble. Only when his big finger that was the size of Hope's arm, picked something from the ground. Hope covered her mouth when she watched in horror at the thing that he picked up.

It was Ethan, or... Ian? Hope couldn't distinguish the twins from the distance. Beside her, she could hear Kace cursing under his breath as he growled in annoyance.

"Stay here Hope."

As soon as he said it, Kace had turned into his white beast again. It seemed the night would be filled with another battle after battle.

It looked like the time when they could rest was very unlikely to come any time soon.

Hope didn't need to be told twice, the strenuousness in Kace's voice was enough to make her understand the danger of this situation.

In front of her, Hope watched how the beast dashed towards the rumble and leapt as high as the troll's arms and bit down its wrist.

The twin's body fell from such high, but before his body could crush to the ground, he shifted into his beast.

It was Ethan, Hope could see the yellow streak on its neck. His beast was the color of sand. The sand colored wolf leapt to safety and whimpered.

"Ethan!" Hope shouted as she rushed towards her friend, and helped him to walk a little bit further from the white lycan and the troll, while they were busy taking down each other.

## **Chapter 584 - A LONG NIGHT (2)**

"What is that thing?" Ethan shook his head when he shifted back into his human's form. His vision blurred and the wounds on his body started to heal itself. The perks of being a supernatural creature.

"Troll," Hope replied, just like what Kace told her, but her eyes didn't leave the two creatures that were trying to smash and bite each other to their death. The size of the troll and his slow movement made it easy for the white beast to get a few chunks of its flesh, which was horrendous to see.

"Troll?" Ethan scrunched his nose. "They are real?" It was also hard to believe for the young werewolf, as he was too young to witness a living troll before they ceased to exist centuries ago.

"Apparently, yes," Hope said grimly.

There were many things that happened in a short amount of time. It made them hard to catch their breath and process everything to keep up with what was going on. And then now, this other strange creature was brought to them somehow.

"We really need that cloak, Hope," said Ethan while looking at the girl beside him.

"What cloak?" Hope totally forgot about the cloak that Lidya had given to her, since that cloak also had long gone.

"The cloak that Lidya gave you. She said you are not allowed to take it off no matter what." And now they could see why Lidya was very insistent for Hope to wear that cloak. "Although I don't feel there is something wrong with your scent." Ethan sniffed her, but all he could smell was only a fresh morning scent, crisp and pure.

Since Ethan wasn't Hope's mate, there was nothing special about her scent. But, how did those evil creatures keep coming just by smelling her scent? Wasn't Hope just merely a human, who fortunately mated to a lycan?

Hope knitted her brows and smelled herself, she didn't even know how she smelled like.

Brushed off the topic, Hope was bringing back the important topic. "What about the others?" She stared at the ruins of the house. Apparently the white beast managed to take the troll away from it, but not far enough for Hope and Ethan to be safe to come close.

"I am sure Lana and Ian would be fine," Ethan grimaced, the last thing he remembered was when they were inside their room, then all of a sudden there was a loud sound and the roof above their head collapsed.

That was expected, yet... "But, what about the..." Lori family? Hope bit her lips when she couldn't even finish her sentence.

What about them? It would be a miracle if they could survive from it.

Ethan lowered his eyes as he mumbled, "I don't know..."

It was not sure whether the white beast just wanted to drive away the troll from there, or he was just too tired, or maybe he was too kind to kill the creature. Whatever it was, in full strength he should be able to take the troll down by now.

"You stay here Hope, I will go and check." Ethan rose on his feet when he watched the battle had taken place near the farm, scaring the animals there.

"No, I will go with you," Hope also stood up. "I don't want to stay here alone."

"Okay, but don't come too close to the collapsed building. I don't want anything to happen to you and get myself killed by Kace for that reason." Ethan warned her.

"Alright," Hope agreed and followed him, running back to the house. And then, she stopped when Ethan raised his hand, gesturing for her to stay.

Ethan moved swiftly and easily among the debris as his figure disappeared behind the wooden blocks.

Hope shuddered when the cold wind was howling, brushing her face and body. From the distance, she could hear loud snarls and growls. Above her, the moonlight was shining brightly in the cloudless sky.



"Ethan?" Hope took a step forward because she couldn't hear anything from him for such a long moment. Or maybe he just disappeared for two minutes, but she felt like she had been standing there for hours.

"Ethan?" Hope took another step when there was no response from him. Her heart beat so fast, as many horrible images flooded her head.

Was he attacked by another creature? Or, was there something bad that happened to him?

However before her imagination grew wilder. Ethan's voice was heard from a certain place from the ruins of the house.

"Hope, come here!"

"Oh," Hope felt relieved when she heard his voice, "Right away!"

Hope had trouble climbing what had been the home of the Loris. And within two minutes, Hope could see Ethan, Ian and Lana were crouching down, circling something beneath the rubble.

"What happened?" Hope walked carefully to approach them, she could sigh in relief when she found the three people were there, safe and sound, a little bit worn out, but they were fine.

"I think the girl is still alive," Lana muttered, she put her fingers on Bree's nose and could feel her warm breath. "But, I don't think Mrs. Lori could make it."

Only then, Hope watched the position of the mother and daughter. Apparently, Mrs. Lori managed to protect her daughter, by cradling her in her arms. But as the consequences, she sacrificed her own body to bear the brunt of the collapsing building.

Hope froze for a moment upon seeing the heart-wrenching scene in front of her, before Ian's voice snapped her back.

"Hope, the three of us will lift the wooden blocks, I need you to get the girl out from there," Ian instructed.

"Oh," Hope blinked her eyes before her mind could process the instruction. "Oh, okay. I will do it." She squatted down beside Lana and upon closer look, Mrs. Lori's dreadful condition was clear for her to see.

Hope wanted to avert her gaze, but if she did so, how could she take Bree from her mother's embrace?

"In the count of three..." Ian took the lead as he grabbed a huge part of the wooden blocks that fell on Mrs. Lori's h.i.p.s while Ethan and Lana took another part of it.

Mrs. Lori's body was in a difficult position beneath the rumble, if they took the wrong steps, Bree would be in danger.

### **Chapter 585 - A LONG NIGHT (3)**

If they took the wrong movement then Bree would be buried inside these ruins. So that's why it was crucial for Hope to take Bree as fast as she could before something bad happened.

"One... Two... Three!" Ian shouted out his instruction as the three of them lifted the heavy piece of the wooden blocks that buried Mrs. Lori's body. "Hope, take the girl!"

Hope didn't need to be told twice as she immediately fell to her feet and pulled Bree's small body away from her mother's embrace. This would be the last time and the last moment for the little girl to feel the warmth of her mother.

"I got her!" Hope crawled back with Bree in her arms as she watched Lana and the siblings put back the heavy piece of wooden blocks, this time, it covered Mrs. Lori's body completely. They couldn't see her, but they knew she was there, lying motionlessly, no longer breathing.

The three of them fell on their back as they were panting, trying to catch a breath. The wounds on their body were not completely healed yet, thus, this extra physical labor exhausted them.

"How is she?" Ethan asked, panting. He turned his head towards Hope and little Bree.

"I think she is fine, but she is still unconscious." Hope felt her heart ached. The little girl had to lose her mother this way, at such a young age.

However, Hope forgot that she was no different from little Bree. She was saved by Serefina when she was only a baby, and also lost both of her parents at such a young age.

"She will be fine. We can ask the centaurs to do their magic healing on her." Ian reassured Hope as he stood up, approaching the two girls.

Though they just met for a few days, the siblings really bonded with little Bree. She reminded them of Rossie, their younger sister, who they left back at home. The girl must be very upset if she knew her brothers left her behind for days without a word.

"I think she injured her head," Ian wiped off the blood that trickled down from Bree's head. "But, it is not serious."

Hope wanted to know how Ian knew that the injuries were not serious. But then she remembered that it was one of the perks of being a shapeshifter. Somehow they knew of how bad the condition of the other creatures was. This ability came naturally and they called this instinct. They would know whether their opponents were stronger than them or not. It applied the same in this case.

"Where is Mr. Lori?" Hope asked. Her head skimmed her surroundings, and watched as Lana moved swiftly to the other part of the rumble.

She stopped for a moment and sniffed the air, as if she was trying to pick a certain scent, which was true, because she was looking for Mr. Lori's location.

A moment later, Lana shouted to the other people, "Over here!" as all they could see was only her waving hand. Apparently she had found where Mr. Lori was.

Ian helped Hope to stand up and offered her his help to carry Bree. But Hope just waved her hand, at the very least, carrying Bree in her hand, was the only thing she could do to help.

When they approached where Lana was, deep down Hope wished that nothing bad would happen to Mr. Lori, since Bree had just lost her mother.

And then, there, Hope saw a figure lying down under a piece of wreckage. She recognized him immediately.

Of course it was Mr. Lori in his dull blue color robe, the exact same robe that he used when he attended the funeral.

Hope could feel her heart that was beating so fast, that she hugged Bree closer to her. She clumsily walked on the rumble.

Oh no, not Mr. Lori too... action

Hope fell to her feet next to Mr. Lori with Lana beside her, and the twins sat on the other side of his body.

"Mr. Lori..." Ethan called him, his tone was unsteady as he tried to lift the heavy piece of wreckage off the lower half of Mr. Lori's body.

Ian and Lana tried to do the same, yet the wreckage didn't even budge. And Mr. Lori's face contorted in every small move that they made.

They were trying desperately to move the large piece of wood off of him, even with the three shapeshifters there, it didn't move at all.

Seeing their efforts were in vain, and it didn't help Mr. Lori's condition either, as he was in immense pain right now, they stopped and tried to think of another way to save him.

Mr. Lori's eyes were wide and filled with fear, as they could see a dark pool of blood were already formed below his head.

"It's okay, we will get you out of this, alright?" Hope tried to console him. Yet, even she knew that those words were merely empty words.

"We can't move it," Ethan hissed grimly.

"We need to find help," Ian looked around in panic.

"I will go to the village and ask for help," Hope volunteered, she was about to give Bree to Lana when the female werewolf stood up.

"No, you stay here with them, I will go to the village and ask for help. I can run faster than you." Lana said and shifted into her beast before she rushed towards the direction of the village.

She was right, in her beast form, Lana could run ten times faster than Hope.

Ethan attempted once again shoving the wreckage from Mr. Lori's body, only to be disappointed by his strength. The piece of wood was very firm.

"It is okay, Mr. Lori. Lana is looking for help," Hope said softly, her voice was shaking as well as her entire body.

"Bree..." he stretched out his trembling hand and Hope moved closer to him so he could see his daughter.

"She is fine, she is just unconscious, but she will be fine," Hope said hastily.

"My... wife?" He asked again, but Hope didn't answer him this time. The look of defeat on Hope's face showed him the truth more than any spoken words could.

He just lost his wife.

#### **Chapter 586 - A LONG NIGHT (4)**

Hope felt her chest caved in painfully when she watched the man start to cry silently upon the loss of his wife. His tears got mixed with the blood below his head.

Even though they just met a few days ago. But, this husband and wife had been so kind to them. Despite their tense look whenever Kace was nearby, yet it was still understandable.

Mr. Lori's wrinkled and worn face contorted in pain as he tried to move, but his attempts were getting weaker and weaker. He was bleeding internally and was running out of time.

They didn't know how long Lana would come back with the help that they needed. Normally, it would take them an hour to reach the village, just like when they had to go for the funeral. But maybe Lana could make it in ten or fifteen minutes with her speed...

By then, Hope was afraid that Mr. Lori couldn't wait that long.

"Hope... I can't die. What will Bree become without me? My wife is dead, I am all that she has left," Mr. Lori spoke faintly between his tears as he looked at his unconscious daughter. He coughed and blood bubbled from the corner of his mouth.

This is not good.

He stretched out his hand and gripped the edge of Hope's cloak, the part that he could reach.

"Please," he begged and Hope could feel her heart was being torn apart.

If she could, she would do anything, anything, in her power to save him. But... the reality said otherwise, if the three werewolves were not able to do anything for him, what else she could do?

"Please..." his eyes strayed to the twins' face, pleading.

"Don't worry, Mr. Lori... Lana will come with help, when the centaurs are here, they can definitely save you," Ethan said as calmly as he could through his gritted teeth. While Ian averted his eyes. He couldn't see this.

On the other hand, Hope had cried in silence as she bit her lips. So she wouldn't make a sound. She hugged Bree close to her.

For a moment, there were only grief and hopelessness that engulfed them. And then a solemn look of defeat crossed over Mr. Lori's fading features. His lower lip trembled when he said.

"Please... take good care... of Bree..." a tear fell in the corner of his eyes.

Ethan looked more collected than Hope and Ian, as he understood the gravity of the situation.

Mr. Lori's time was coming, his consciousness was already slipping away. By the time Lana and the centaurs came, he would have gone.

"We will." Ethan nodded solemnly as he grabbed Mr. Lori's hand, giving as much warmth and comfort as he could. "We will take care of Bree. Don't worry."

Hope could feel her fat tears streaming down her cheeks. Her heart was breaking. Remorse twisting in her gut.

There was another silent that ensued.

The moment Hope and Ian raised their head, Mr. Lori's glassy and vacant eyes was all they could see. His body stayed still lifelessly as Ethan put his eyelids down slowly, closing the eyes to respectfully give the absolute peace to the deceased.

It was also Ethan, who took the initiative to tell them what they had to do next.

"We need to go out of here." Ethan stood up. There was nothing they could do by staying there. "We need to help Kace, and go to the village, maybe we will meet Lana and the centaurs on the way."

Hope nodded, wiped her tears harshly from her face. This time, she didn't object when Ian offered his help to carry Bree, because Hope could feel her legs were growing weak.

Hope watched how Mrs. Lori died, but Mr. Lori... his last words, his hope to be able to live for his daughter, his wish for them to take care of Bree, were something that would always echo inside her head whenever she saw the little girl.

"Let's go," Ethan helped Hope to stand up and led them out of the rumble of the house.

Not far from where they were, they could hear the sound of the white beast. He was growling and howling viciously.

Only by hearing the sound of it, there was a tacit understanding among the three people, who immediately quickened their paces.

'What is happening?' Hope thought to herself as she ran beside Ethan and locked her eyes at a certain place, where a white beast was standing tall on top of the fallen troll. action

There was something wrong with the beast, Hope could see it from afar. He writhed in pain.

'Did the troll manage to hurt him greatly?'

However, when Hope saw their battle before, it goes without saying that the beast had an upper hand over the troll, so it was most unlikely that the beast would be injured.

'So, what happened with Kace?'

Upon closer look, the three of them could see how the beast snapped his head and tore flesh after flesh of the poor troll, which now seemed to have already died.

"What now?" Ian, who was carrying little Bree in his arms, took two steps back, he looked too scared to come close to the beast.

"Hope, I don't think you want to see this...?" Ethan grabbed her wrist and pulled her back.

However, Hope had caught a glimpse of the beast's odd behavior, thus she swatted Ethan's hand from her and walked forward.

With her own eyes, Hope could see another horrible scene. Probably, Hope had had enough with this kind of scene, or maybe she had gotten used to all of these gory mess situations. Not long ago, she had witnessed two people die. She saw a mother sacrificing her life for her daughter, and witnessed the heartbreaking last words of a dying father to his daughter, thus what the white beast did in front of her didn't even make her flinch.

Hope just looked sad with her brows knitted together.

"What is happening to Kace?" She muttered to herself, why did their situation become more and more unpredictable?

"Look! They are here!" Ian pointed at the distance where Lana and the centaurs rushed in the clearing.

### **Chapter 587 - A LONG NIGHT (5)**

A few meters away, they could see Lana's beast and a few centaurs were running in their full speed towards them. But that wasn't the thing that made Hope, Ian and Ethan frown.

The fact that all the centaurs were holding their bow and stretched their arrow as long as the string could stretch out, made Ian curse under his breath.

"What the hell...?" Instinctively, Ian hugged Bree a little bit tighter. Then he slightly turned his body, so he could shield the little girl, in case those centaurs were crazy enough to make them the target of their arrows.

"Why do they aim at us!?" Ian did the same to Hope, he pulled her behind his back as they watched in horror the determination of Chiron's expression when he led his people to aim at them.

However, before the lethal arrows could be released, Chiron roared loudly. "GET DOWN!"

"What?" Ian knitted his brows, he wanted to ask more, but he felt someone had tugged the back of his robe and forcefully made him kneel.

Right at the same time, there were around ten to fifteen arrows being released in the air. One or two of the arrows brushed past their head, only slightly an inch from their skin, as they could feel the billowing of the sharp wind that followed its speed.

Lana was the first who rushed towards the three confused teenagers there, and growled to, whatever, creature behind their back.

When the centaurs stopped shooting their arrows, only then Hope, Ethan, and Ian dared enough to raise their head, and looked back through their shaking shoulders. Just in time to see the last demon wolf puffed into a black smoke.

"What?!" Ian's eyes grew wider, "But, how?!" He was having a hard time forming a full question sentence.

Yet, it was understandable enough for the rest of them.

The demon wolves were that close to them. But how could Ian and Ethan couldn't feel their presence? It wouldn't be weird if it was Hope, since she was a human. But for the shapeshifters like the siblings, having such danger at that close range like that, and didn't even realize it, was something questionable.

"Don't you even notice that they were around?" Lana shifted back into her human form, as she glowered at Ian and Ethan. She couldn't understand why they were not aware when those demon wolves were so close and were about to bite off their heads.

"No," Ian shook his head profusely, "I couldn't sense them, and neither can I smell them."

Lana was still staring at him incredulously.

"It's weird," Chiron spoke flatly.

"What about Mr. Lori?" Lana didn't even bother to discuss this further, as she snapped back to her sense and remembered the reason why she left them.

Upon hearing Lana mentioned his name, the crestfallen expression crept across the teenagers' faces as they lowered their head.

"I am late," Lana concluded. She didn't seem better after finding out the fact that she just failed to save the father.

On the other hand, Chiron gave a silent order to Zarrn, who walked away to the rumble of the house with the other three centaurs, probably to retrieve the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Lori. At the very least, that was all they could do for now.

"What happened to him?" Chiron nodded his head to the white beast, who seemed writhed in pain as he kept tearing flesh after flesh of the dead troll, growling and snarling to nothing in particular.

"I don't know..." Hope's voice was barely a whisper as her eyes trailed the magnificent beast.

Lana furrowed her brows when she realized there was something odd with Kace's beast behavior.

"Since when has he been like that?" Chiron asked again. He took a few steps closer towards the beast, only to earn a sharp vicious snarl from him. As if he didn't recognize him at all.

"We don't know. We just came here when Mr. Lori couldn't make it, and then found that he was already in his current state like this." Ian explained as he hugged little Bree close to him. Occasionally, he would check her breathing by putting his hand in front of her small nostril. Afraid something bad would happen to her.

Chiron looked at Carina beside him, "What do you think happened to him?"

Carina squinted her eyes and stood two steps in front of Chiron, "I need to have a closer look, he is too far," she murmured to herself and said a little bit louder. "But, I can assure you this is not black magic."

If it was not a black magic, so what is it?

Now, the white beast seemed to be fighting something that they couldn't see. However, what was he fighting about? action

"What do we have to do now?" Lana felt her heart ache when he saw the white beast was in immense pain. It almost seemed as if the beast ripped the troll apart just to elevate his own pain, which they could see didn't really help.

Chiron didn't answer for a while, as he considered his option. "I think we need to wait. It is too dangerous to go near the beast now." He knew very well, a feral Lycanthropes was not something trivial. They couldn't put their guards down, or else they would end up in a bad shape, or the worst case was that they could lose their life.

"Wait? We can't just wait!" Lana glowered at the centaur, a thick emotion of concern flashed on her eyes. "He is in pain! Why do we have to wait!?"

"Lana!" Ethan shouted her name in a warning tone. Lana had become unreasonable with her behavior now. He could understand if it was Hope, since she was Kace's mate. But Lana was... Ethan didn't know how to put it, but it seemed there was something more in the way Lana saw Kace.

On the other hand, Hope was aware of Lana's outburst, just how she was aware of her feelings for Kace. She was not blind to see it.

However, there was something that couldn't be explained that drew Hope to walk closer to the beast, and when their eyes locked, everything went completely dark.

## **Chapter 588 - SOUL TO SOUL**

Hope was aware of Lana's feelings for Kace, but at this moment, there was something else that had drawn her attention more than her understanding about that.

There was something from the beast's behavior that made Hope couldn't take her eyes off of him. It was as though he was the gravity of her universe, everything around her was fading away, and even Lana's outburst was meaningless.

Her body seemed to have a mind of its own, made Hope walk absentmindedly towards the raging beast. Didn't really care about the fact that the monster was in the middle of a rampage, and presently acting weird.

"Hope, what are you doing?" Ethan was the first person who realized what Hope was going to do. He stretched out his hand to grab her wrist, and pulled her back to the safety.

Lana stopped making a fuss with Chiron when she watched how Hope, all of a sudden, fell to the ground, lost all of her strength along with her consciousness.

Fortunately, Ethan already held her before her head could hit the ground.

"Hope!"

It was the last word that Hope heard from the people around her, before everything went completely dark.



The last scene that she remembered was when she was staring into the beast's red eyes. It felt like those eyes could suck her soul out of her body, Hope lost all of her senses.

It was completely silent... so dark... until a soft sob echoed in this nothingness.

Who is crying?

Hope furrowed her brows, she was not sure whether she had opened her eyes or not since the darkness that surrounded her seemed to make no difference.

And the cry was getting loud, but with strangled sobs.

Who is there?

It sounded like a boy. Above of all, Hope was glad she was not alone there. But at the same time, the sound of the cry didn't settle well with her. Hope felt like she hated whatever the thing that caused this boy to cry.

Hope was lying on a concrete-like cold floor, her awareness probed tentatively, she wriggled her body and found she was able to move, she raised her hand and rubbed her eyes.

Only then she realized her eyes were closed this entire time. Hope frowned. How stupid she was...

She didn't even know whether her eyes were closed or not.

However, it wasn't the time to berate herself because she had this sudden urge to come closer to the source of the crying sound.

And when all of her senses came to function, the chill in the air reached her first. Her body was aching, yet her heart was distraught by the only voice there.

Hope tried to sit up, but the motion made her head spin, leaning on her forearms, she forced herself to breathe in deeply.

Hope blinked her eyes, once, twice... to readjust her sight with the light that invaded her vision.

And then, she found herself there, in the familiar situation that she had seen before.

It was a young man, burying his face between his knees while he hugged his legs tightly.

"Hello?" Hope approached that man. She knew who he was. His scent was something that she would always miss. This situation was akin to a lucid dream and déjà vu mixed together. "Are you okay?"

Hope crouched down in front of that man, staring at him, waiting for him to raise his head. Yet, he didn't do it, neither had he replied to her. Somehow, Hope knew he wouldn't do it.

Just like what she had done, not so long ago, Hope stretched out her hand and patted the man's head. "It's alright." She said lightly, as soft as she could to console him. "Everything is alright."

There, Hope felt it. The spark that erupted from her touch. The man also felt the same as he raised his head and stared at her with his deep ocean blue eyes.

It was Kace. Of course it was him. His ocean blue eyes were something that Hope loved the most. It always felt like she could lose herself in those beautiful blue colors.

Hope remembered, this was the last scene that happened last time before Hope was awakened from her afternoon nap when Kace was still unconscious because of the aftermath battle.

"Why are you crying?" Hope asked the teenage version of Kace, as he looked at her with confused eyes. action

He didn't answer.

Hope crossed her legs and sat in front of him, hand still patting his head as she smiled reassuringly to him.

"You never cry in front of me." Hope thought this would be a long conversation, thus she adjusted her sitting position to make herself more comfortable. The boy didn't answer her, but he was still staring at the girl in front of him. "You always smile, and it went down to me thinking that you never had any problem."

A fat tear fell on his cheek that she brushed it away with her sleeves harshly.

"I think I was wrong for thinking that way, because... who doesn't have problems and difficulties in this troublesome life, right?"

The boy still didn't answer her, but his blue eyes flickered with something that Hope could tell as... an eagerness? Hope was not sure.

"But, why don't you share it with me?"

Though Hope didn't know where she was now, or what kind of situation that she was in, or why she met this younger version of Kace. But one thing that she was sure about this roller coaster situation was that being here with Kace, calming her nerves.

Hope felt like she had a purpose to be here, to meet him, in this absurd condition and place. She felt very close to Kace in this moment.

Felt much closer than the times they had spent together.

Weird isn't it?

Yet, that was what she felt now.

"You said I am your mate, your soul mate. Don't you think our bond is something special?" Hope played with his curly black hair, just the way Kace always played with hers.

"—me," Kace mumbled.

"Hmm?" Hope leaned over. ??I am sorry, what was that? I didn't hear you."

Kace glanced over his shoulder, "The beast scares me."

**Chapter 589 - HIS MATE**

Fear and anxiety were written all over Kace's face when he said that. And then, he lowered his head again.

"The beast scares you?" Hope repeated what he said and stretched out her arms to hug him.

Kace didn't move, he stayed still when Hope engulfed him in her warm embrace. She rested her chin on top of his head. Though this position hurt her knees, Hope stayed that way anyway.

"Why are you scared of the beast?" Hope asked again, she stroke Kace's back soothingly. "Isn't the beast a part of you?"

Hope could feel Kace shook his head as he muttered. "No, I don't want him... he's so mean."

A frown crept over Hope's face when she heard that, yet she didn't say anything and let Kace finish his words.

"He wants to kill everything. He always forces me to kill." Kace shook his head once again. "I don't want it."

Hope fell silent for a moment, when she thought about this before she said, "Can I meet the beast?"

Kace's body was shivering when he heard what Hope was saying, he shook his head again. "I am afraid." His hands that hugged his legs, now hugged Hope's slim waist. "He is angry now,"

"Why is he angry?" Hope kept asking, as she occasionally would look around her, hoping she would see the beast there. action

"I don't know," Kace said softly. "Maybe because he hates me."

Hope kissed his head. "He doesn't hate you."

"He hates me. I am not competent. I am not like my brothers." Kace sobbed softly.

"No," Hope shook her head. "Don't say something like that."

"The beast scares me," Kace repeated his words.

And then, Hope saw it. There it was, the magnificent white beast, prowling behind Kace just ten meters away from them. His red eyes locked on the boy in Hope's arms as he let out a grimly snarl.

The young version of Kace whimpered out of fear, as he buried his head on Hope's shoulder. His body shivered uncontrollably.

Once again, the beast howled viciously when he saw how the boy reacted upon his appearance.

He hated it when Kace was acting weak. Especially in front of his mate. Somehow, Hope knew it just by seeing his eyes. His bloody red eyes.

In the next second Hope locked her eyes with the beast. And then, there was a bright light, suddenly everything changed again in a split of moment.

Hope felt like she was just being teleported back to reality from a different dimension, as she heard many concerned voices that called her name.

"Hope?"

It was Ethan's voice, even in her groggy state, Hope was still able to differentiate the twin's voice.

Hope's eyes snapped open at the sound of other voices around her. There were Lana, the twins, and Carina, who were standing over her limp body.

When Hope's senses started to kick in, she grabbed Ian's arms and stared at him wide-eyed. "What happened?"

"I don't know, you just fell unconscious all of a sudden," Ian answered, with a puzzled look on his face.

With the help of Lana, Hope tried to sit down, leaning her body to Ethan, while Carina was staring at her intently, concern etched on her face.

"How long was I out?" Hope' voice came out as a whisper.

"Only a minute or two," Ethan replied.

When Hope still gathered her bearing, and her mind was still reeling the moment that she just experienced a while ago. It didn't look like she was just out for a minute or two, she heard a loud sound that came from behind her back.

Hope startled when she remembered that they were still in the middle of something before she fell into that weird dream, or it was not a dream at all...

Hope turned around, as she watched in horror when the centaurs tried to hold back the angry white beast.

"What happened?" Hope tried to stand up by holding onto Ethan, "Why didn't Kace shift back?"

The angry white beast wanted to get close to Hope's small group, but the centaurs tried to divert his attention by trying to put a thick rope around its body.

If what Ethan said was true, that Hope was only out for one or two minutes. Then, it seemed that amount of time was enough for the beast to overpower ten centaurs around him, despite their vigorous effort. Probably, it just needed three more minutes before there was the first victim.

"I don't know why he doesn't shift back, it seems like he has lost himself to his beast again," Ian fidgeted when he watched the white beast's fangs graze one of the centaur' body.

They needed to do something about this or else, not only those centaurs would be in danger, but also Kace would be swallowed by his own regrets the moment he snapped out of this situation now.

"Yeah, but this time it is worse. He lost it when he was in his beast form," Ian added.

"We need to do something before there is casualty," Lana mumbled, she shifted her feet uncomfortably when she watched how easy it was for the white beast to take down three centaurs that were coming to his way, now he was coming closer to them. "I will go and help the centaurs," Lana declared. She was getting anxious because she was worried about Kace.

However, before Lana could shift into her beast form, and joined the crowd to restrain the white beast, there was a hand that held her back.

"I will do it," Hope said calmly.

"What? No!" There was a cohesive answer behind Hope that came from the siblings after they heard her intention. But, Hope chose to ignore them, and walked forward.

"No, Hope!" Lana twisted her hand, and held the girl's shoulder instead of stopping her gently. "Do you think you can stop him?" she asked incredulously.

Hope turned around, and watched how Lana's eyes flickered with incredulity. There was a tinge of annoyance as well.

"You are not a shifter. You are just a human. He could kill you in no time," Lana spoke rightfully.

Yes, Hope understood what Lana felt about Kace, but it didn't mean she could treat her like she was nothing.

Smiling, Hope answered her, "But, I am his mate."

#### **Chapter 590 - A NAME TO CALL HIM**

Hope could see how Lana's expression became slightly uncomfortable. Although she tried to hide it with an awkward soft smile, then the hand that grabbed Hope's shoulder, loosened.

"I know, but..." Lana took a deep breath. She was trying to put her reason in words for Hope. "But, the fact that you are just a human, puts you in a higher chance of getting hurt. If the beast strikes you, there is a high chance you will die."

Despite Lana's remark that also made sense, but that was not her true reason. She knew it was wrong to be manipulative, but she wanted to take more roles in this situation. And her desires of proving herself, so that Kace could notice her effort and genuine feeling, was hard to suppress.

"He will not hurt me," Hope stated. Even she herself was shocked at the confidence in her voice. How did she know that the white beast wouldn't tear her body apart the moment she walked close to him?

Yet, just as weird as it sounded, Hope believed he wouldn't do anything that would harm her. She didn't know where she got this confidence from. Maybe, it was the bond between them? Or, the images that she had been seeing these past few days. action

The white beast that turned into the fireflies, Kace who lost himself over his beast, the younger version of Kace who was crying out of his fear, and the white beast that looked into her eyes and seemed to want to say something as he growled at the crying boy in her arms.

Those things seemed not related to each other, but somehow Hope could feel there was something that either the beast or Kace wanted to say his deepest feeling to her.

"How do you know that? How can you be sure that he will not hurt you?" Lana squinted her eyes. It was clear that she was annoyed by Hope's sudden behavior. "Did he say it to you?" she sneered.

Even Ethan and Carina could feel this slightest hostility from the way Lana spoke to Hope this time.

Her desires to do something for Kace overwhelmed her. She had been feigning indifference since Kace and Hope's relationship escalated real fast. But only for this moment, she was unwilling to give the spotlight to Hope if she managed to tame the beast. Although oddly, she believed Hope would succeed.

"He didn't say it to me, but there is something that words couldn't explain that heart could feel." Hope put down Lana's hand from her shoulder. "Lana, I love you. You're a sister to me. Please, don't make things difficult for all of us."

There was another meaning behind Hope's words and it hit Lana deeply.

She knew it.

Hope knew her feelings for Kace, right?

If only Hope had a remarkable hearing ability, she would hear how frantic Lana's heart pounding in her chest right now. Unfortunately, she didn't have it in her.

Hope gave her a soft and harmless smile. She meant her words that she loved her, but she hoped Lana would stop to harbor that feeling for Kace. She would only hurt herself. Didn't she know that?

Of course, Lana knew that she would be the one who would get hurt in the end. But sometimes, people liked to deceive themselves for something that they couldn't get. Wallowing in their pain, instead of doing what they had to do, they still held that tiny shard of false hope.

"I will be fine," Hope shrugged her shoulder. "Beast or not, he is still Kace."

It was true, though his human's side and his beast were contradicting each other, but it was still him.

Hope turned around, and looked at the beast, which was still trying to get rid of all of the nuisances around him. She took steady steps, as if she was strolling through a courtyard filled with roses and lushes, instead of walking straight towards an angry beast that was hard to tame.

"Hope! Are you crazy?! Come back here!" Ian was about to pull Hope back, reasoned with her to stay. Because Lana let her go just like that. Why didn't Lana stop her? They were only exchanging a few words and Lana had backed down?

"Let her," Ethan said as his arm around his dense twin's neck. "If she said she can, let her try."

"What do you mean let her try? Do you think she is able to stand one strike from the beast?" Ian glared at Ethan.

Ian didn't answer him, he just rolled his eyes incredulously, while Carina... the female centaur had her eyes glued on Hope's back.

Under Lana's indiscernible eyes, Hope walked closer to the commotion.

"What are you doing here!?" Chiron was shocked when he saw Hope was only a few meters away from them, while the beast was getting more and more aggravated by the rope that the centaurs threw at him in order to tie him down.

"It's going to be okay, let me talk to him," Hope replied to Chiron as she locked her eyes on the beast.

"It's dangerous!" Chiron warned her. "He doesn't know what he is doing now!"

Hope shook her head, but didn't slow her paces. "No, he knows what he wants, but because you are trying to get in his way, he is kind of upset."

Chiron scrutinized Hope's expression for a moment, wanting to make sure that the girl knew what she was doing, before he said hesitantly. "Are you sure? What do you think he wants?"

For now, Hope had already stood beside Chiron with the white beast locked his red bloody eyes at her.

The girl smiled when she tilted her head and looked at the chief of the centaurs. "Of course." She nodded to emphasize her words.

"So, what do you think he wants?" Chiron glanced at the beast, which had stopped struggling as his focus was on the girl beside him.

"Me." Hope's smile widened and then she shifted her attention towards the white beast, and opened both of her arms. "Right, Wolfie?"

It was the name that Hope always used when she was little to call the white beast.