

## TLOA Lycan 611

### Chapter 611 - WE HAVE TO GO NOW!

Hope raised her head and looked at him through her wet lashes. And then she said in a hoarse voice after she was crying, "You don't need to do that, the three of them just woke up." She told him what the priestess had just told her.

"Good," Kace said coldly. If it wasn't because he knew that Hope would be so mad if he gave the idea of leaving behind the three witches, he would be more than glad to waltz out of this cave, and back to the village. And proceeded to go back to their realm, as soon as possible.

There was nothing they could do here and this journey had completely failed. The only reason they were here was because of the priestess, to ask her to heal the damn wounds on his back. Yet the priestess was gone forever, along with the sight of her dead body there.

Hope's mood was still down when they walked back to the other part of the cave where the priestess left Lydia, Leon and Abby.

But, a little smile graced her lips, when Hope saw the three witches had woken up, and stared at their surroundings in daze.

"Lydia!" Hope cried out and immediately gave the witch a warm hug. "You are awake! I am so glad!"

Lydia almost fell on her back, when Hope all of a sudden pounced on her. "Where are we? What is this place?" she asked dizzily, seemed unable to break free from her.

"Don't worry, you are safe. We are inside a cave in Mount Uzu," Hope finally released the poor witch, who seemed almost suffocated by Hope's tight hug.

"Mount Uzu? What is that?" Lydia didn't really remember what the last thing that had happened to her. Apparently her mind still worked on that.

However, before Hope could talk further, or fill her in about the latest thing that had happened during her absence, both of them whipped their heads when they heard someone was screaming.

Abby was screaming.

Hope watched how Abby flew a few meters away, and her body hit the damp wall of the cave, beside Leon, Kace was standing while fuming mad.

Leon was flabbergasted. He shook his head upon seeing how his sister was being hurled by Kace, yet did nothing to help her, he just mumbled absentmindedly. "Wow... I bet that hurts a lot..."

Apparently, when Kace approached Leon to help him to stand up, Abby was too excited to see the man from her dream. And she threw herself towards him, only to be thrown away by the man himself in reality.

"Don't you dare to touch me!" Kace growled in low voice, threateningly. "One more time you try to do that, I will tear you limb by limb!"

If it was not the normal Kace. He wouldn't be so vicious. So, it was the beast. Yet, the beast was kind enough to give her a warning, instead of doing whatever his true intention was in the first place.

Abby whimpered softly, and looked at Kace sullenly. But didn't dare to make another reckless move. She was not yet completely aware of her surroundings, adding that to the pain on her back, and her head after hitting the hard wall. That combination just made her feel worse.

"So, where are we?" Leon shook his head, to clear his mind, shifted his attention towards Kace. He didn't worry too much for his sister, something like that wouldn't kill her. Abby would be fine in a minute.

Kace then briefed him with their current situation. Lydia listened to it as well.

"Hope I think you have to leave this cave now," the priestess suddenly spoke as her expression became worried.

"What happened?" Hope frowned, she followed the priestess's line of sight, but she just stared at the direction of the tunnel.

"What happened? what?" Lydia looked at Hope questioningly, didn't understand to whom she was talking to.

Hope silence for a while before she turned her attention towards Kace. "We need to go from here," she said, her voice laced with fear.

"Why? What happened?" Lydia asked, she could sense there was something wrong with Hope's facial expression.

"The priestess said there will be many vampires and witches. They are on their way heading here, with numerous of the witches, she is not sure if she has enough energy to guard this place." Hope relayed what the priestess told her.

"What priestess? Didn't you say earlier that she is dead?" Lydia frowned.

"I will explain about it later, we don't have time now, I will show you the way." Hope stood up and helped Lydia to get her balance.

Lydia circled her left hand on Hope's shoulder as the girl supported her to walk. Of course, it was the priestess, who showed Hope which direction that she needed to take.

Seeing Hope was having difficulty to support Lydia's weight, as the both of them trudged very slow, Kace pulled Lydia towards him and let her weight fall on him. "Show us the way," he said.

Meanwhile, Leon approached Abby and stretched out his hand, "need help?" he asked casually. He felt better, though the world around him was still slightly spinning.

Grumbling, Abby grabbed Leon's hand and stood up, "why is he willing to help that witch, but threw me away without a second thought?" Abby used her brother's body for support when they walked to follow Hope.

"Because she didn't have the same intention as you," Leon said while spatting the truth all over his sister.

Abby didn't answer that, yet she was clearly fumed as they walked along this long tunnel.

"Why is she talking about the priestess?" Lydia asked Kace as they followed Hope.

"Apparently she can see the spirit," Kace then added. "The souls of those who died."

Lydia raised her eyebrows, but didn't say anything about it. She just made a mental note at the back of her mind to tell about this progress to Serefina once they managed to get out of this place. Serefina needed to know about this.

Meanwhile, this journey became more and more unpredictable.

"Hope, you know the right way, don't you?" Lydia asked, because if they had to fight those vampires, and witches, with their current condition, she was unsure if they would survive.

### **Chapter 612 - THEY WILL BE THERE**

"This way," Hope mumbled, taking another turn while staring at the empty space beside her. She was nodding or muttering something as if she was talking to someone.

"She is alright, isn't she?" Abby frowned with the sight of Hope's behavior, "maybe her head knocked on something before."

Supporting his sister's weight, Leon answered with difficulty. "You heard what Kace said, she is talking to the spirit of the dead priestess."

"Nonsense," Abby spat. "We are supernatural creatures, what kind of creature is this dead spirit that we can't see, but she can? She is merely human," she spoke with disdain.

If not all humans could see the supernatural creatures, then Hope was considered one of the few gifted to be able to see them. But still, there was no way for her to be able to see something that even the supernatural creatures couldn't see. That was beyond nonsense. At least that was what Abby thought.

While the rest of the people knew, there were many things in this world that were beyond their wildest imaginations even for supernatural beings.

Hope took another turn, and quickened her pace, while occasionally glancing through her shoulder to make sure all of them could catch up with her, since they were not in good shape at the moment.

"But, there is no exit here," Hope was talking to the priestess when they met the dead end of the tunnel. She could hear Abby grumbled, saying "See? I told you she doesn't know what she is doing." But, Hope ignored that.

"Here, over here." The priestess pointed to a more specific side of the cave wall, two meters away on Hope's left side.

Before Hope could protest again that it was only another stone wall, Lydia interrupted her and staggered forward with the help of Kace.

"I think I know this..." Lydia mumbled as she touched the same side of the cave wall that the priestess showed Hope. "This is magic."

Lydia walked closer, and freed herself from Kace when she touched the wall with both of her hands, and then closed her eyes seeking concentration within her.

Lydia was not as powerful as Serefina, but it was clear to see that the witch siblings were still not in the same level as her, while Lydia was way more advanced than them. action

Under the witch's touch, the cave wall gradually dissolved away until they could see the other side of the forest.

Lydia was the one who stepped out of the cave first, then followed by Kace and Hope. But when she watched this side of the forest, a frown formed on her face.

The forest that stood before their eyes was eerie. Bugs zipped in and out of their ears, buzzing their annoying wing. Not only that, when Hope walked, the mud sucked on her foot before she got the steadiness to shake her foot free and flicked off some of the soggy clods.

If it wasn't because Kace was holding her, Hope was so sure that she would have fell on her back.

"Are you sure this is the right way?" Hope asked the priestess. She was very irritated by the mud that stuck like glue on her feet.

In that situation, when no one there could see the priestess and the thousands of fireflies that guided them, Hope was seen as if she was talking to herself.

And it was Abby, who took this moment to throw some snarky comments. "Yeah, I have the same question! Why should we follow this girl who is talking to herself like a crazy person?"

Hope was so irritated, and frustrated with their current situation. Added that to the priestess's facial expression, which told her there was a possibility their situation would get worse. Despite all that, she tried to help them to the best of her ability.

Hope needed no additional criticism at this point, especially not from someone like Abby.

Before Hope's mind could think what she had to say, her mouth had fired harsh words for the young witch, as if it had its own mind.

"SHUT UP!" Hope snapped, even Kace slightly flinched as he had never seen Hope ever snapped like this before. "Did I ask you to follow me?! You are free to go! Why do I need you to follow me?! Just for your information, I was about to leave you without any hesitation, if then you didn't wake up any time soon!!"

Hope was panting in the end of her sudden outburst, and Abby was too shocked to think of any harsh words to reply.

"Hope, we need to move." The priestess reminded her.

Right.

There were way more important things to do rather than to scold the ignorant, spoiled brat witch. She could do that later if they managed to survive from this.

Hope took a deep breath to calm her nerves. She wished she could ask Kace to throw this girl off somewhere again. But of course that was just her emotional side. "This way," she mumbled.

Hope was thankful with the sparks that danced on the surface of her skin, when Kace helped her to walk, it really helped.

Kace rubbed her hair and leaned over to whisper to his mate's ears seductively. "You are so hot, when you are angry."

No matter how soft Kace's words were, those people around them would be able to hear that. Behind them, Leon chuckled lightly, while Lydia glowered at the beast; 'it wasn't the right time to have that kind of conversation!' she gave that kind of glare.

Hope was happy when she heard Abby stomped her feet in the sticky mud. But on the other hand, Kace's words made her cheeks blushed attractively, and she couldn't concentrate with what the priestess said next.

"I am sorry what?" Hope shook her head to get rid Kace's words from her mind.

"I said, I can't go further than this..." the priestess stopped walking, or floating in her case.

"But, why? How can I find the way out from here?" Hope's voice laced with panic. They were in the middle of nowhere!

"You will be fine. Just follow the direction of the setting sun, you will meet the centaurs there. I have told Chiron about this," the priestess assured Hope again. "They will be there."

### **Chapter 613 - TRAITOR!**

"But, why can't you come with us?" Hope asked, she didn't have the confidence to bring all of these people out of there by herself.

"I can't, I am sorry." The priestess's expression turned sad. "I can barely hold on. I have used enough of my strength."

Hope could see it, her spirit became weaker and weaker. If it wasn't because of the contrast of her translucent body against this dark, terrifying forest, maybe Hope would have a hard time to see her.

"I think this is our goodbye," the priestess said softly, smiling tenderly among the thousands of fireflies.

Hope could feel her chest tightened. She hated goodbye. "It is a shame that I can't give you a hug," Hope bit her lips to prevent her tears from streaming down her cheeks.

It was very strange for her to feel so attached to the priestess when in fact they just met a few hours ago.

If only Hope could meet her in flesh...

Growing up with women like Lana and Serefina, without a doubt, the priestess would be the brightest, warmest and kindest woman that she had ever met.

"You can give me a smile then." She tilted her head. "Promise me that you will find your way to the centaur, I will be happy to know that you are safe."

Hope nodded, her voice croaked. "I promise."

They were staring at each other for a few seconds longer before the priestess decided it was the time for them to move.

"Go now, I will try to hold them back as best as I can." The priestess gave Hope her last warm smile before her spirit was fading away and disappeared from their sight, along with the thousands of fireflies, made the forest become even more terrifying.

"The priestess is gone?" Lydia asked, her eyes scanned the entire forest, as if she could catch a sight of her.

"Yes," Hope said, feeling down. "She said we have to go to the direction of the sunset, there, we will find the centaurs."

"Centaurs? Are they on our side?" Abby asked, but Leon glared at his sister to prevent her from making the situation even worse. "But, it's dark already, how can we know the direction of the sunset?" She looked at the sky and frowned.

"Do you think the direction of the sunset is different in each region?" Lydia scoffed, finally Abby's complaint got on her nerves.

"Do you..." Abby wanted to retort, but she lost her voice in mid of her sentence. Her mouth opened wide, but there was no sound that they could hear.

"If your sister keeps making trouble for us, I will make her stay here and let those vampires turn her into their guinea pig!" Lydia snapped at the siblings.

Leon raised both of his hands, as if saying; you can do what you want.

"This way," Lydia grumbled and led the way. It was easy enough for her to know the right direction of the sunset. And Hope was glad for that. action

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The priestess said they had to follow the direction of the sunset, but she forgot to ask how far it was...

They had been walking for two hours long, but Kace still couldn't pick any scent from the centaurs, there was no indication those creatures were nearby.

Due to the fact no one was in good shape at the moment, all of them were so tired already.

"Hope, are you sure the priestess said to go towards the direction of the sunset?" Lydia asked while staring at the night sky, gloomy clouds hanging above their heads, looked like it would rain soon.

"I am sure, she said it," Hope became restless, her legs throbbing painfully, and the mud from before had hardened inside her shoes, it felt so itchy and hurt.

Kace had been telling her to get on his back, but Hope insisted that she wanted to walk. There was no way she would let him carry her when he was not in a good condition either.

However, right now, Hope barely could move her feet. To think of it again, she had been running the entire day, thanks to the devil woman who put her in this messed up situation. Added to the fact that she had not yet eaten anything since her last dinner with Kace that seemed like it happened a thousand year ago...

Suddenly, Kace stopped walking and pulled Hope towards him as he growled loudly. His face contorted as his eyes turned red.

That was not a good sign.

"What happened?" though Hope asked that, but she knew the answer before Kace said it.

"They are nearby," Kace said dangerously.

Leon, Abby, and Lydia crept closer towards Kace and Hope.

"We have to find a place to hide," Leon suggested, his eyes looking at his surroundings warily while at the same time keeping Abby closed to him.

"Too late," Kace gritted his teeth as he put Hope behind his back.

The witches that came with the vampires, must have done something to cover their scent, because Kace couldn't smell them before they got this close.

Hope had a bad feeling that a disaster was about to happen in no time.

Right at that moment, they could feel several people walking behind the bushes in the dark of the forest.

Kace's grip on Hope's wrist tightened as he growled deeply when eight people emerged from behind the trees.

In a place with a very limited light like this, it was difficult for Hope to identify them, only when they were only ten steps away from them, Hope could see five men and three women, smirking at her little group.

"Dmitri..." Kace said his name with venom on the tip of his tongue, but then Kace narrowed his eyes and chuckled, yet there was no humor in his red eyes, as they turned deadly cold. "Ron, from Golden Moon Pack. Kyle, from Diandrum Pack and Drake, from Rosete Pack."

Kace mentioned the other three men, who came along with the vampire and the witches.

And then the lycan talked in disdain. "Does Torak know that you guys betray him?"

#### **Chapter 614 - THE SITUATION IS GETTING OUT OF HANDS**

Alpha Ron from the Golden Moon Pack stepped forward as he grinned and showed his sharp teeth. "I think we need to have another Alpha in this case."

Kace raised his eyebrows as he smirked, but there was no humor in those red eyes. "Speaking like someone who can beat him, huh?"

Alpha Ron narrowed his eyes at Hope behind Kace's back and his smug face only became uglier. "I see you are playing with a human girl now." Then he said tauntingly. "I heard a rumor about you, the youngest sibling of Donovan, is the weakest among the three... Now, I can see why there is a rumor like that. After all, birds of a feather flock together."

Anger boiled Kace's blood.

Not because those stupid Alphas had betrayed his brother. Not at all, Torak could handle them just fine. It was not because of his words either. But the anger that Kace felt right now was because of their situation. If this was like any other occasion, he would have shifted and dug his claws right into Alpha Ron's face. Tore him limb to limb, and made him beg for his death. action

His chance of torturing his enemy before his last breath was taken away. It was always the beast's favorite part of every battle, but this was also the part that his human's side objected the most.

Yet, because of this damn barrier, he couldn't do that or else the pain would be unbearable for him. Not to mention his wounds were getting worse now.

"I agree." Kace's eyes shifted to the vampire. "Stinky creatures always look for another stinky creature to join with. However, I am very surprised that you throw your pride just to be the vampire and the witch lap dogs, I guess I thought too highly of you."

Talking wasn't the beast thing, but when he did it, he actually had a quite sharp tongue.

"YOU!" Ron and the other three Alphas growled loudly, they felt insulted and that was what Kace wanted.

Kace glanced at Lydia, but the witch looked back at him with concern. They couldn't afford another battle, but this situation was inevitable.

"Why don't you and the girl come with us in peace, so no one would get hurt? We can save our time for the unnecessary battle. And you should have known which party would have the upper hand." Dmitri suggested as he looked at Kace with his sparkling eyes.

However, another witch stepped forward, emerged from the darkness and stood beside the vampire, "I am a little bit curious about the girl. Why did Beelzebub insist for us to take her," she mumbled while staring at Hope with interest.

Apparently they didn't know that Hope was Kace's mate, or the fact that she was a guardian angel. It would be better to keep it that way.

"LYDIA!" Kace roared out loud as he leapt forward and fell on his four legs.

Not only Hope, Lydia and the witch siblings were also surprised by Kace who actually shifted into his beast form. It was shocking because as far as they knew, there was some barrier that prevented the lycan to shift into his beast form. That was also the reason that kept the centaurs from entering this forest and chose to stay away from this place. The reason why they had to walk for hours just to get to the meeting point with the centaurs, was because they couldn't step closer to this forest.



But, how did Kace do that?!

Even the other party was flabbergasted upon seeing the majestic white lycan, with gash on his back, standing proudly right before their eyes.

Meanwhile, even Kace did manage to shift, but this was the most painful shifting that he had ever done. Even his first shift was not as painful as this. It hurt like hell!!!

The pain gnawed every inch of his skin, made it harder for him to move, and even worse when he had to fight those imbecile creatures that threatened his mate.

Ignoring the pain that he felt, Kace held his ground and snarled fiercely at them. Though it was hard for him to stay in that form.

"Impossible..." one of the witches muttered under her breath. Her eyes glued to the beast right before her eyes with her jaw dropped open. "How did he still manage to shift under this spell?"

"I don't have any idea..." the other witch replied. Out of instinct, she took two steps back, being threatened by the beast's hostility. His red eyes were akin to sharp arrows that would pierce anything that was staring back at him.

And for the other three Alphas, of course they wouldn't risk their life to shift into their beast form, because they knew how much pain that they should endure for doing so.

"He is crazy," Alpha Drake from Rosete Pack knitted his brows tightly.

"As expected from the Donovan bloodline," Alpha Kyle from Diandrum pack commented, but there was a vicious smirk that etched on the corner of his lips.

After his shock, Alpha Ron became even more vicious than before, as he realized that shifting under such circumstances would drain the beast's energy quickly. "I would like to see how he will fight the seven of us. I think it will not take a long time before we subdue him, and his ego."

Alpha Ron already took a step forward and was about to lurch onto the big beast's left side. He thought the beast wouldn't be able to move freely. And even if he could, his speed wouldn't be on par with him.

Yet, he calculated it wrongly. Because the moment Alpha Ron leapt to the beast's left side, and was about to dig his sharp nail and added another gash on the white lycan's body. Kace raised his big paw and clawed Alpha Ron's face, sending him flying a few meters away until his body collided with a tree, creating a loud cracking sound.

Seeing the situation was getting out of hand, Lydia grabbed Hope's wrist. "Let's go!"

"Wait! But, what about Kace?!" Panic laced in Hope's voice.

## **Chapter 615 - SURVIVAL INSTINCT**

Quicker than Hope's brain could process everything that happened around her, Lydia had ushered her away from the beast that was fighting four Alphas in their human form, and a vampire.

The only thing that resonated in Hope's mind was; how could Kace survive that?!

Hope really wanted to stay, but then what could she do then? Only now Hope realized how hopeless and useless she was. Hope hated herself for this. Even if she could, she would do anything in her power to help. But unfortunately, even the best thing that she could do would not help them that much.

Hope pitied herself for being useless.

Lydia practically dragged Hope away. It was almost unbelievable to see the witch still had the stamina to run that fast. Knowing she just woke up a few hours ago, and they just ran for two full hours.

If it wasn't for the adrenaline that rushed through her veins, Hope would have collapsed now. The pain from her feet made her numb, as her head became dizzy.

Hope couldn't see them, but she knew the three witches came for them. Since the Alphas were busy fighting the beast, it was only natural for them to go after their second prey.

"Do something!" Abby ran beside Lydia, horror in her eyes, she didn't look any better than Hope too. Meanwhile, Leon was nowhere to be seen, it seemed the brother was staying behind to assist Kace.

This situation was getting out of hands.

Especially when Hope's legs could no longer keep up with her will to move faster. And instead, she tripped over then fell on her face first, hitting the ground.

Hope yelled in pain when she felt her face bumped onto a tree trunk. Yet, that would be her last concern, because after that, the three of them were surrounded by the three witches from before.

Because of Hope's stupidity they were being caught, and it made Abby curse under her breath. Apparently Lydia's spell had worn off. If this was any other occasion, Hope wouldn't let the young witch off after insulting her, but their situation needed her attention more.

"Okay, let's make this quick, give me the girl." The witch named Shannon stretched out her hand, as if Hope would take it willingly.

"Here! You can take her!" Abby pushed Hope's shoulder when she just stood up from the ground, and caused her to almost fall again for the second time. If it was not because of Lydia, who held her back, falling to the ground was really what would happen to her.

Lydia glowered at Abby, but quickly put her focus on the three witches surrounding them.

"If you do that again, I swear I will kill you myself!" Hope hissed viciously as she tried to steady herself while panting. The running really exhausted her greatly.

"You don't want us to do this to you Lydia," Shannon said in her sweet voice, while shaking her head. "I know you befriend Serefina, but it doesn't mean you can take the three of us in your current condition."

It was true, Lydia barely managed to conjure a blasting fire, which was dodged easily by Shannon.

But it was enough distraction for another witch to sneak behind Lydia's back, and grabbed Hope's shoulder then shoved her backwards while Abby did nothing to help her. Neither did she warn them that there was a sneak attack right under her nose. action

Abby had the expression that showed that she didn't want to get involved in this situation. If taking away Hope could save her, then she was more than willing to let them take the girl.

For the third time Hope's head hit an oak tree and everything started to spin.

In her lightheaded state, Hope could barely see Lydia's yelling. As the witch that captured her dragged her into the dense forest.

Hope tried to fight back, but her body wouldn't cooperate. She could barely notice the sight of her surroundings, and catch her breath.

After a short run, the witch stopped to chant a mantra to call Beelzebub.

The witch just let Hope knelt on the ground, catching her breaths, thinking she wouldn't be able to run away.

However, once her lungs had filled with the air that she needed, Hope didn't waste another second to regain her full strength because if she waited any longer, it would be too late for her to do anything.

Hope grabbed a rough, big, stone and slammed it against the witch's shin bone as hard as she could. Causing the witch screamed in shock and pain, ruining the spell that she chanted.

The moment the witch lost her balance, Hope yanked her cloak until she fell on her back and immediately climbed on top of her and straddled the witch.

The witch might be very good at their spells, or magical powers. But they weren't that different from humans when it came to dealing with physical attacks. Melee's attacks left them vulnerable

Hope learned this quickly when she watched how helpless the witch was when she couldn't chant her spell, or use her hand to conjure some magical things when Hope gave her a jab on her neck.

The witch coughed violently from Hope's assault. But the girl didn't let the witch gain her strength, and she pulled the scarf around the witch's neck with all the force she could muster.

The witch began to swing, and push at Hope, who was straddling her. However, the girl sat on top of her and pulled the scarf even tighter, screaming when the witch swung her fist into her cheek. Yet she didn't let go.

Hope felt like it took forever before the witch's body stopped writhing, and stayed still. She watched as the witch struggled for her final breaths, and the life began to drain from her eyes.

When there was no more movement from the woman under her, Hope felt very exhausted from the exertion.

It was too late, but when the realization hit her. Hope shuddered as her body trembled, when she realized she just killed the witch.

She just killed someone for the first time.

**Chapter 616 - THEY ARE HERE**

Hope felt sick when she realized what she had done. Then she immediately got off from the dead body of the witch in front of her.

She crawled away from her, and only stopped when she was far enough, away from the dead body. Her adrenaline kicked higher as she hyperventilated because of the tension.

When the reality hit her hard, Hope needed some time to calm her raging breath, before she tried to stand up with the support of a tree trunk beside her.

Hope shrieked the moment she heard a loud footsteps coming towards her direction, but her tense muscles loosened when she saw who it was.

From afar, Lydia sprinted towards her.

The witch was not in her good shape when Hope could see her tattered cloak with a few burn marks on it. Yet she was alive and that was the most important thing for Hope.

"Are you okay?" Lydia asked her when she was close enough to see how pale the girl was, her body seemed couldn't stop trembling.

Lydia followed Hope's line of sight, and watched the dead body of the witch on the ground with her mouth and eyes opened wide.

"I killed the witch," Hope said to her with a low voice, barely a whisper.

"Good! I will need you to kill more if you meet any situation like this again." Lydia nodded in agreement, but Hope wished this would be the last time. "You did an excellent job! Now we have to go before the other witches come." action

Behind Lydia, Hope watched Abby stagger towards them. Her face was ghastly pale, there was a cut on her left cheek, but over all, she was fine.

"I thought she was dead," Hope scoffed disdainfully, she remembered how Abby had pushed her and caused her to be caught by the witch.

Lydia glanced at Abby through her shoulder as she scowled. "I hope the same thing, unfortunately it is her that luck sided with this time."

There was a small smile on Hope's lips, as she felt slightly better after she heard Lydia's reply.

"Let's go." Lydia grabbed Hope's hand without waiting for Abby to catch up with them.

Lydia looked older than the last time Hope saw her before she disappeared, seemingly the battle with the two witches earlier really had taken a toll on her.

Fortunately, the light of the moon shone brightly through the leaves above their heads to illuminate their path.

Hope was pleased when she realized Lydia took the way back to where they left Kace and Leon.

"Let's hope they survived," Lydia muttered under her breath.

Even though the three women were running, they were too exhausted to get some more speed. Their movements were only slightly faster than walking, thus it took quite some time for them to reach the spot.

Hope gasped when they came to the clearing where the white beast fought the Alphas, and the vampires. The sight that they were seeing now made her gasped. There were not only Kace and Leon there, but there were a few hunters also.

"Why are they here?" Hope's last encounter with the Hunter left a bitter memory in her mind, hence she wasn't immediately happy to see them here.

There were around twenty hunters there with Delta, the new head of the hunter, crouching down in front of Kace.

The moment Hope's eyes landed on Kace, who was leaning his back against the tree, she rushed towards him, and squatted down beside Delta.

"What happened to him?!" Hope was hysterical when she watched how pale Kace was. Not only his complexion that reminded Hope of the priestess lifeless being, but also the gash that littered his skin, which seemed very hard to heal.

Kace's eyelashes fluttered the moment he heard Hope's voice.

"We were late, the moment we reached this place, he had casted away the werewolves, and the vampires. He was about to look for you, but he didn't have enough strength." Delta explained briefly.

Because the moment the hunters reached this place, there were only Kace and Leon there, and the scene where a lot of blood splashed on the ground, trees and stones.

At that time, Kace had shifted back into his human form. But the aftermath of the battle drained his energy, the lycan barely took a step when he collapsed to the ground.

Meanwhile, not far from them, someone was cleaning Leon's wounds.

"So, you are here to help?" Hope glanced at Delta cautiously.

Delta knew why Hope behaved that way. Her experience with the hunters was not a pleasant memory, but he answered her politely. "Yes, I am here to help." He nodded his head.

"How did you get here?" It was impossible for the hunters to be here, as the village and Mount Uzu were four days apart. It didn't make sense.

"Actually, we are only half a day away. My group departed after you, so no longer after you and the lycan entered this mountain area, we met with Chiron at the border of the barrier," Delta said solemnly. "After all, this is our priestess that you were trying to save."

His attitude was the opposite of the previous arrogant leader of the hunters, Leroy.

On the other hand, Hope nodded in understanding. That was why Kace couldn't sense them, they were actually too far to be detected by the lycan's strong senses, but not too far enough to give immediate response when they were needed.

Hope lowered her head as she grabbed Kace's cold hands. "I am sorry, we can't save the priestess. She is already..."

"...Dead." Delta finished her words. "We already know about that."

"What?" Hope whipped her head to stare at the hunter in confusion. "If you already know, why do we have to be here?"

Delta immediately raised both of his hands as he waved them in a denial gesture. "No, no. I didn't know before. Chiron only told me when I and my men arrived here. He told us that the spirit of the priestess told them that you need help. But since we've been waiting for a long time, and you still hadn't shown up, that's why we came here, and also because the centaurs couldn't enter the barrier."

### **Chapter 617 - THE MONSTER THAT I LOVE**

Hope was staring at the bright moon above her head. It was only a few hours before the night ended, when she felt a movement from someone who slept on her lap.

They were in the clearing, surrounded by the hunters who took turns to watch for the night. They chose to stay here until the sun rose, and with the help of Lydia, Leon and Abby, they casted some spells in a small area inside this forest for protection. After all the three people needed to rest and Kace was totally exhausted and lost his consciousness due to the exerted battle earlier.

"Hope..." Kace's voice was hoarse and dry when he called her name.

Hope lowered her head, and met with Kace's blue eyes, the lycan tried his best to keep his eyes open, but it seemed that it needed a lot of effort from him.

Running her fingers on his curly hair, Hope said softly. "You need to rest."

There was no answer from Kace for some time until he mumbled, "I am glad that you are fine," he spoke in a dreamy tone as his eyes closed, his breathing was shallow and this made her worry.

However, Lydia said Kace only needed some rest to replenish his energy, and then he would be fine. The wounds from earlier also were closing in, and the small cuts couldn't be seen anymore. Though his healing ability was slower than usual, Lydia said it was due to his lack of energy. Added that to his old wound. It simply exhausted him.

Most of them said, normal lycan wouldn't survive this far with the kind of wound like on Kace's back. It was not an ordinary gash, not to mention to go into multiple battles since they arrived here.

But, Kace was persistent.

"You don't know how afraid I was when I thought I couldn't save you..." Kace's voice was very soft, he took Hope's hand and kissed it gently.

When his soft lips touched her skin, they sent a delicate spark that made Hope shivered.

Kace knew he loved her, even from the first time, he knew he would have died without her. But at the same time he also knew the word 'love' wouldn't be sufficient to describe his feelings for her.

For his little mate.

For his hope.

"I love you my angel..." Kace said gently and his sincerity touched Hope's soul, as she could feel his undying love for her, was something that she would cherish the most.

"I love you too, my wolfie." Hope said cheekily as she bent down her body and kissed his forehead.

The lycan was visibly relaxed by her touch, the knitted on his forehead loosened as his breath became more even.

Lydia, Leon and Abby were sleeping not too far from them, and apparently were too exhausted to care for the world. But Hope couldn't fall asleep. Although her body was very tired, and needed to rest, she couldn't close her eyes. Instead she resumed to stare at the night sky when she thought Kace had fallen asleep while she was playing with his hair.

However, after a long silence, Kace spoke again. "I want to hear your voice."

"Hm?" Hope lowered her head, but her fingers still twirled a strand of his hair.

"Talk to me..." Kace said sleepily.

Hope was thinking for a moment before she decided what she wanted to say to Kace. She wanted to tell him about this, but couldn't find the right time.

"I tricked Lydia when she gave me the conditions to allow me to come to this realm," Hope said cheekily.

"What conditions?" There was a faint smile on the corner of his lips, when he heard how enchanting Hope's voice was. It was like a melody that only belonged to him.

"She wanted my blood in exchange to take me to meet you here," Hope stared at Kace's soft lips and his pointed nose.

There was a slight frown on his face. "You shouldn't agree with her."

"I said I tricked her, remember?" Hope knew Kace would say something like that, if he was in good condition. She could imagine how Kace would tower over her, and gave her a deadly stare for agreeing to such an agreement.

"What did you do?" Kace asked sullenly.

"She asked for my blood in exchange to meet you and I agreed. But I didn't tell her when I will give my blood to her. Since I have to give my blood willingly, she couldn't force me if I don't want to do it. So as a witch, she would live an immortal life, therefore she could wait for eternity," Hope said cheerfully.

There was a slight smile on his tired face, but then his tone became serious. "Don't do that ever again, you can trick her once, but witches are very cunning, I don't want you to get into trouble."

"I know..." Hope nodded, if only she had another way, and if only she didn't know that her blood was valuable, she would have agreed without worries. But since the incident with Beelzebub four years ago, and discovered about her blood through Kace's explanation, she knew she couldn't be reckless when it comes to her blood.

"Hope..."

"Hm?"

"What if I am not as good as you know me? What if I am truly a monster?"

Kace's sudden question caught Hope completely off guard. She could feel the sadness, and disturbance in the way Kace spoke to her.

The lycan was being vulnerable with her, probably because of his condition that he needed reassurance from her. Or maybe because he was not fully aware about what he was saying now.

Kace had been holding his back all this time, and acted as if he was fine all the time by showing her only his smiles, and how gentle he was with her.

However, behind his easy going behavior on the outside, there was a part of him that even Kace didn't want to know. Too scared to embrace that part, let alone showing it to her.

Leaning over, Hope's lips caressed him. "Then you will be the monster that I love," she whispered softly.

### **Chapter 618 - THE PERFECT MORNING**

Hope couldn't sleep last night. And when the first ray of the sun fell on her face, only then she felt very lethargic. Her legs were numb after being Kace's pillow for the entire night.

But, fortunately, when Kace woke up that morning, he looked much better. All of his wounds had healed, except for the one on his back. But at least there was no additional wound that Hope could see.

"Are you okay?" Hope caressed Kace's head when he opened his eyes as she yawned.

"You don't look so well," Kace's black eyes stared at Hope's sleepy face. She looked gaunt and this made Kace furrow his eyebrows. He immediately sat down when he realized that he had been using Hope's lap as a pillow while she had to be in sitting position the entire night. "Why don't you sleep?"

Hope's black eye bags told him that she didn't have enough sleep last night.

"I am fine..." Hope raised both of her hands, and stretched her body until she could hear the cracking sound from her joint and sighed in relief. "Don't worry."

Kace didn't believe her.

He raised his hand and poked Hope's legs as the girl grimaced in pain, and slapped his shoulder.

"What are you doing!?" Hope glowered, her legs were numb and it was painful when Kace poked them. She raised her hand to prevent Kace from poking her again, ready to swat the big bad lycan.

However, regardless of the slap that he got on his back again and Hope's protest, he moved closer.

"No, what are you doing!?" Hope panicked, it was painful enough to move her legs, but she didn't want Kace to touch them too. "No, don't touch!"

"Can you stay still?" Kace glared at Hope and this made the girl pout her lips sullenly.



After the girl stopped her assault on him, Kace moved to her legs. Though Hope still whimpered when Kace touched them, she didn't hit him again.

With care, Kace touched her legs and gave them massages, giving the right amount of pressure and made circular motion on her feet. At first, it was painful, but after a while, Hope could feel her blood circulated and she was no longer in pain.

"Wow!" She moved her legs, and they were fine. "I don't know if you can do massages?"

Kace chuckled and he flicked her head lightly. "I was your P. E teacher, remember?"

Hope frowned, "I forgot."

She really forgot about that. It felt like her life at school was from another life. Two weeks weren't over yet, but she felt like the life she was living in that realm was like a beautiful, peaceful dream.

"Should I call you 'Sir'?" Hope teased him while she reached for Kace's stretching hands and used it to support her to stand.

Yet, Kace stole a kiss from her when she was close enough, chuckled when Hope glared at him. "A morning kiss," Kace said sweetly to her ears. While ignoring the hunters, who were stealing a glance at them.

"Stay here, I will talk to Delta," Kace said as he walked away to talk to the head of the hunters.

Hope didn't know what he wanted to discuss, but he looked less gloomy than the beast that Hope met when the first time he appeared.

Since his human side was too weak to take the control, the beast resurfaced since then.

Seeing Lydia was awake, Hope walked towards her. "Morning."

Lydia glanced briefly at Hope and yawned, she looked better. A good night's sleep could indeed replenish someone's energy.

"Morning," Lydia greeted her, she yawned again, seemingly needing another hour of sleep, but they had to go immediately before the barrier that protected them became worn out. If that happened, their enemies could easily find them.

Hope had told the hunter about the priestess' body. Yet with the current situation, if they insisted to go back into the cave, it was almost like a suicide mission. Thus they needed to go back to the village as soon as possible, and think carefully about the solution and what their plan was.

The morning in this clearing was not as terrifying as the night time. The chirping birds that perched on the branches could be heard, and also the warm sunlight that peeked through the leaves.

If only they were not in this kind of situation, this would be a perfect morning.

Hope could see Abby was talking about something to Leon. Both of them seemed to be having an argumentation. But that wasn't her problem. The thing was that Hope disliked Abby from the beginning, and she didn't really like Leon either.

After Kace discussed something with Delta, he went back to Hope and told her that they would be ready to leave in five minutes.

And the moment when everything was packed, the twenty five of them went to meet the centaurs at the border of the barrier that Beelzebub had casted around the mountain.

It took another three hours before they reached the place where the centaurs had been waiting for them.

And during the last two hours of their walk, Kace insisted for Hope to climb on his back. Apparently the girl's constant yawn slightly irritated the lycan. He reprimanded her for not taking a good care of herself, and arrogantly said that he would've been fine even if Hope didn't offer her lap.

Hope knew Kace was not ungrateful after what she did for him. He was just worried. But still, it annoyed her to be scolded.

Well, she took back her words that she thought the beast was being nice now, because he was still annoying.

However, after a long squabble. Hope finally tired and hopped on his back and immediately regretted; why didn't she do it earlier? It was so nice and comfy to rest her head on Kace's broad shoulder.

In the end, it didn't take a long time before Hope fell asleep and only woke up when they saw the centaurs in the distance.

"I will walk," Hope wriggled her body as Kace put her down.

Yet, something happened and Hope could see it in Kace's eyes before she even felt it.

### **Chapter 619 - HE LOST HER**

Hope woke up dizzy when the sun light shone brightly on her face, she rubbed her eyes and remembered that Kace had been piggy backing her since a while—she actually didn't know since when, because she lost track of time.

"Put me down," Hope mumbled and yawned at Kace, she stretched her arms and legs, made the lycan slightly lose his balance and had to secure her on his back.

"You can sleep a little bit longer," Kace said lightly as he could pick the scent of those centaurs who were nearby.

"No, I will walk," Hope insisted, wriggling her body from him.

"The centaurs are nearby," said Kace to her, but still didn't want to put her down. The beast liked it when Hope's warm breath brushed against his neck and her steady heartbeat thumped on his back, knowing she was this close and put him at ease.

"I will walk," Hope said again, as she wriggled her body trying to break free.

The girl was so stubborn and because Kace thought she had rested enough, he put her down. Kace looked at her as a big smile etched on her cherry lips, her complexion looked well too.

From the distance, they could see Chiron and the rest of the centaurs that came with him. The chief of the centaurs stood tall on his four horse-legs, a long, big bow was in his right arm and a quiver was behind his back.

With the sight of the centaurs, all of them were looking slightly cheered up, knowing that their journey had ended. All they had to do next was to turn to the village, and create a strategy about how to retrieve the priestess' body, and the thousands of skeletons that belonged to the missing children, from inside the cave.

That wasn't an easy task, but they were confident that they could think of one or two solutions.

However, Kace didn't know where it was coming, or even caught a glimpse of it when all of a sudden there was an arrow that hurled from thin air and pierced Hope's chest right before his eyes.

Blood spraying in the air, splattering on Kace's face and cloak, as a look of pure horror on his face.

Hope didn't feel it at first, but the fear that tainted those black eyes of the beast made her follow his line of sight and found the tip of the arrow that pierced through her heart along with the waves of pain that turned her entire body numb.

Kace moved fast when he watched Hope's body was about to collapse, he stretched his arms and cradled her as he knelt.

"LYDIA!!!" That was the first name that flashed in his mind, the person that could possibly help Hope.

Lydia didn't need to be called twice as she already crouched down beside Kace, she reached for the arrow and it vanished into dust, causing Hope to cough up blood.

Kace's body was trembling.

"Press her wounds!" Lydia said, her voice laced with panic.

Kace did what Lydia said, but when he pressed his trembling hand on Hope's chest, the girl grimaced and whimpered in pain. Kace's mind was in disarray, he frantically spoke something that Hope couldn't comprehend and was not able to alleviate her pain.

The pain was unbearable. She was having difficulty breathing, every time Hope wanted to say something, blood rushed up to her throat, clogging her windpipe, putting her more in agony.

"Kace! Bring her to the centaurs!" Lydia looked something behind her back that Hope couldn't see it, but judging from her expression alone, she knew, whatever was happening, it was not something good.

Hope shrieked when Kace carried her away towards the centaurs, cradling her bleeding body as gently as he could, but still, a little movement made Hope had to shut her eyes tightly and bite her lips.

Vaguely, Hope could hear someone was shouting behind Kace's back, and another screams after screams.

She was unsure about what was happening, but when Hope heard there was a blazing sound and the air around her became warm, she realized what they were facing now.

The witches and the vampires had caught up with them.

But, how many of them were there? Could they fight them again? Did Kace have to fight again? He just recovered! No, all of them were not ready for a battle.

"Please, please, please Hope... open your eyes..."

There was a pleading voice, sounding very pitiful. Hope felt like her heart was being stabbed twice only by hearing the sound of his voice.

"Please stay with me..."

The same voice.

Hope gulped hard and opened her eyes, but she was not able to see anything.

Hope felt like her body was being drowned, and the voice that called her name started to fade away, along with the numbness of her senses.

And the last thing that she heard from that pitiful voice was a pleading from him.

"Please... don't give up on me..."

Kace couldn't believe what he was seeing right now... his mate stopped breathing. His Hope stopped breathing. action

Kace didn't know what he should do at this moment.

Chiron approached him, and did his best to bring her back, but Hope just didn't move.

Even in this clamor with the hunters, and the centaurs fought off the vampires, and the witches behind him, Kace was sure that he couldn't hear Hope's beating heart anymore.

The sound from the world suddenly ceased to nothingness, as he watched Hope closed her eyes, laying on the pool of her own blood.

Kace couldn't feel anything, yet at the same time he felt like there was something that weighed him down, hazed his focus and clouded his mind.

The essence of his life had disappeared, and there was no more gravity to hold him to the ground.

And the last thing that Kace saw was red.

"Kace."

Someone called him, but he gave no response, as slowly, very slowly, white fur escaped from every follicle of his skin and his body shook with the force that came from within.

"Stay away from him." The same voice warned the centaurs, coming from a woman with red hair.

## **Chapter 620 - SO WAS HE**

"Sereфина," Chiron called the witch's name as he stood up and gestured to Zarrn to stay away from the Lycan.

Not too far from them, a bunch of hunters and centaurs were snarling and squealing as the ground started to turn into a butchery. The theatre of death filled up with keening, and caterwauling sounds as the ground was sodden with blood and ichor.

A windstorm of fire arrows was skirling and sizzling up through the sky from the spell that the witches chanted.

There were around twenty witches, standing in the far distance, battling the hunters and the centaurs from afar, while fifty vampires slaughtered their enemy, bathing themselves with their blood and entertained their ears with their yowls and snarls.

There were too many of them and soon it would turn into a massacre.

"We need to help the other," Chiron gestured to Zarrn to follow him while he nodded at Serefina. He knew this witch. This was their first encounter again after several decades have passed.

Leaving Kace with his dead mate and the witch, the head of the centaurs and his right hand man entered the ground, which had been burnished with a sickly odor rose up from it.

"Kace," Serefina called him again, but she didn't move forward to approach him. There was something from Kace that put the witch in full alert.

The sight of his trembling back and the way his slow shift into his beast form, telling him there was something wrong with this lycan.

Of course this was not any ordinary error, this was not a mishap or something of short.

His mate was dead. His mate was killed before his eyes, and her blood was still dripping from his hands.

His eyes were glowing with insane fury, an indescribable wrath, when his mind ran wildly couldn't work properly.

The sight of his mate only drove him further and further away from reality. action

"Kace, calm yourself." Even Serefina was not convinced by her own words, how could she ask a lycan, who just lost his mate to calm down? Who was she fooling? There was no way Kace would calm in this kind of situation.

However, except talking sweetly of nothing, Serefina was also at a loss about what was happening here.

She raised her head as she gritted her teeth.

'Moon Goddess, what are you up to?'

However, there was no moon above her head, in contrast there was only the torching brightness of the sunlight...

And the beast that was about to wreak havoc in a matter of seconds.

The sound of his snapping bones were almost as eerie as the sound of the battle behind them, a tough fight for them to win.

Kace raised his hands, which had half shifted with his majestic white fur that was covered with ember-red blood. His insane red eyes were dull with the sight.

The white beast finally reached the last stage of his transformation, as he stood mightily on all four legs. This was the longest, the most painful and the most uncontrollable shifting that he had been through.

As he was in full beast form, his senses became hypersensitive, he practically could smell blood, sweat and fear hanging heavily in the air, with blistering heat and glaring sun above their head.

The beast took a tentative approach to the motionless body before him, his snout touched the girl's pale cheeks as he whimpered in despair when the girl didn't respond to his touch.

An irrational agony and grief searing through his system, leaving him incapable of resisting the overpowering wave of emotion. A red haze descended over his mind and he knew no more when he charged towards the gruesome, frightening battlefield, blinded by his anger.

Serefina watched without being able to do anything. For the first time—she was afraid of the white beast.

She had fought Kace countless of times in his beast form before, but it was only because she knew those were harmless fights.

But, not this time, even the air around him, frightened the witch.

Serefina rushed back from Fulbright City when she felt there was something wrong. However, the moment she reached her house, no one was there.

It was expected though, because Kace had moved Hope to Sterling's house, the werewolf, the old friend of Kace.

Yet, when Serefina was there, they told them that Hope and the twins disappeared the night of the festival.

Sterling and Sophia had been trying to look for their sons and Hope, but they couldn't find them. They also told Serefina about the dream that Hope had the night before.

It was not very difficult for the witch to put all the pieces together and understand what was actually happening. She should have known that Lydia was up to something, when she asked to come along with her.

Especially when Serefina asked her for a favor to help Kace and Lana if both of them didn't return until the festival in the village occurred.

Knowing her, it was most likely that the witch had brought along Hope and the twins with her to enter this realm. Without knowing what kind of danger that they would face once they were here.

Serefina crouched down beside Hope's body, her brows knitted tightly, as she raised her head and faced the glaring sunlight.

'Why did you let this happen Selene?' The witch questioned the Moon Goddess.

Stretching her hands, Serefina touched Hope's forehead, her body was still warm to her touch, but she was most likely dead.

"What would happen if we lost one of the guardian angels?" Serefina gritted her teeth as complexity crossed her face.

The witch stared at the bloody battle that happened before her eyes, shivering when the brutal side of the beast contributed more and more horrendous scenes in the clearing.

Serefina shielded herself and Hope from the blasting fire that was sent by one of the witches there, when they spotted there was someone left behind.

However, the white beast did not even turn around to check whether the fire from earlier hit his mate or not, because his mate was already dead, so was he.