

TLOA Lycan 641

Chapter 641 - 'HIM'

"She stabbed you," Violet stared at Jedrek's left shoulder. There was no scar there, and the wound was healed completely. But somehow, the witch knew about it.

Violet supported her body with her elbow, revealing her skin under the glowing sunlight that came through a big window. She was laying on a large sofa, l.u.s.ting after Jedrek's body. Their meeting sessions would always end up like this.

Not that she was complaining, in fact, she was happy to share intimacy with the Alpha. They had been like this for as long as she could remember. "You can go now." Then Jedrek wore his clothes again. Even after what they had done, once he was satisfied, he would turn back into his usual heartless self again.

Violet was used to this character of Jedrek. She knew better not to expect anything for their relationship. Although it would be a lie to say that after years they had been together, she never aimed for the impossible. Of course she had. But, at the end, she realized that their relationship was nothing more than sharing some warmth whenever he needed it.

She knew who was in Jedrek's mind whenever they were together. Her red hair reminded him of someone he treasured the most, someone that he would never be able to forget. Violet sighed when she stretched her body lazily. She ignored him as she laid flat on her stomach and kept talking.

Meanwhile, Jedrek went back to his work again.

"Is she really a guardian angel?" Violet asked while wiggling her legs, showing her glowing back under the sunlight. But Jedrek didn't answer her. He was drowned in his work. "I have never seen one. Can I meet her?" Violet asked again. But again, no answer from Jedrek.

"I will take that as a 'yes'," said Violet, jumping to her own conclusion. "I have seen the destruction in the great hall, and it doesn't look like it was done by a weak guardian angel." Everybody knew how weak guardian angels were. Even though their kind had long been extinct from existence. They were known to be weak creatures.

Still, there was no answer from Jedrek.

"I'm really curious, maybe I will pay a visit to the north wing."

Finally, Jedrek spared her a glance as he knitted his brows. The north wing area was an abandoned part of the castle. Why would this witch want to go there? Judging by the glance that he threw her, Violet realized that she knew something that he didn't.

"You don't know, do you?" Violet twirled her red hair between her fingers. "Maximus took that girl to stay there." After hearing what the witch said, Jedrek resumed his focus back on the report in front of him. Apparently, he wasn't interested in that revelation.

Sighing deeply, Violet pouted her lips because Jedrek refused to talk. "Don't worry, I'll give you the information that I promised you, as soon as possible." At the same time, before Violet could speak further, someone was knocking at the door. Without minding his bed partner who was still n.a.k.e.d, Jedrek granted his entrance.

Lyrus opened the door and came in. He immediately averted his gaze from the n.a.k.e.d woman on the sofa. He knew what Jedrek was doing inside with Violet. Because he smelled their pheromones, that's why he knocked on the door first before coming in. But Lyrus didn't expect for his eyes to be rewarded with the sight of the witch's body.

"Jedrek!!!" Violet shrieked when she met Lyrus's eyes. Lyrus had immediately turned his head away, but the witch was still furious by Jedrek's lack of respect. In a blink of an eye, Violet teleported herself somewhere, leaving only her dress and undergarments on the floor.

"You should've not let me enter if she is still here," Lyrus mumbled as he approached Jedrek. Jedrek could hear the Beta's complaint, but he completely ignored it. "Any news?" Jedrek said. He watched as Lyrus sat on the chair opposite him. He had a new report from yesterday's incident.

"Apparently, this only happened in your brother's territory." said Lyrus.

Jedrek raised his head and met Lyrus's concerned eyes. "Torak?"

"Yes," Lyrus replied.

"Find out more about that," Jedrek said in a low voice. He contemplated for a while, calculating for what to do next. "And also put someone to watch the situation in his territory."

"Yes, Your Majesty." Lyrus nodded, but he didn't get up. There was something else that weighed his mind. He was unsure if it was his place to say it. But he thought it would be better to let the King know his concern. "Regarding the guardian angel. I think we should keep her with us, whether she is useful or not. But, it's better to keep her close than let her fall into the enemy's hands."

He turned his head at his Beta. He was about to lash out. But in the end, he asked for Lyrus to find Maximus instead. "Tell Maximus to come here." Lyrus knew that his concerns would only be ignored. However, he still kept his respect towards his Alpha and excused himself. He knew that Jedrek would only listen to Maximus more than him, as his Beta.

After Lyrus left, Jedrek leaned his back against his chair. He closed his eyes. Actually, he didn't want to think about anything right now. His mind was in a complete mess at the moment. He couldn't think of anything as to solve his problems.

His beast had been in a bad temper ever since he met Lilac. Her delicious scent still lingered in his mind even now. And he hated the fact that he missed her. This stupid mate-bond! He really wanted to kill her, but he just couldn't bring himself to do so.

It didn't take so long for Maximus to come and presented himself in front of his Alpha. His signature sly smile etched on his lips. Maximus slightly bowed his head solemnly, "Are you looking for me, Your Majesty?"

"Who told you to keep her inside the north wing?" Jedrek stood on his feet and prowled towards his general. Maximus raised his head to meet Jedrek's dark eyes, he didn't look surprised to see his Alpha's reaction. In fact, it was as he expected, he knew it would be like this.

"Your Majesty, the guardian angel is needed for the upcoming war, Sir," Maximus said calmly with his controlled voice. "It was a mistake to kill her years ago. You should've listened to 'him'. In fact it is a miracle that she turned out to be alive after all that."

Jedrek moved fast, and in no time, Maximus's neck was wrapped around his fingers. He threw him across the room. "I LISTEN TO NO ONE!" he roared in anger.

Chapter 642 - DARK DESIRE

Maximus struggled on his feet while trying to stay away from the angry lycan. For a split second, there was a hint of derision in his dark eyes. He concealed it well, and didn't show it in his expression. With his calm voice he said, "My sincerest apologies, Your Majesty."

"You better stay away from this matter Maximus!" Jedrek said through his clenched teeth. He had been losing complete control over his own temper ever since he met Lilac. He didn't need someone to drive him closer to her even more!

"Jedrek," Maximus rose on his feet. He was just trying to reason with the king. "It will get even harder to control 'his' temper, if you kill the girl now. Don't you remember how he bursted in rage uncontrollably the last time you ordered me to kill her?"

Jedrek's canines elongated dangerously, his anger was starting to surface. In a cold and heartless tone he said, "Don't you remember what I did to him after?" Hearing what Jedrek just said, Maximus shut his lips. It brought him back to the past. The memory was clear in his mind, how ruthless this man could be towards his own flesh and blood.

Seeing Maximus was living up to the horrendous memories in his mind, Jedrek gave him another warning, "Remember that, and you will remember your place."

After that, the Lycan King walked out of the room, leaving the general alone. Maximus's entire body was shaking uncontrollably. It was clear to see that he was burning in his anger. It was so intense that he couldn't contain it any longer. Failing in control over his anger, Maximus unleashed the monster inside him.

He leapt forward and shifted into a majestic looking golden wolf. And then, he rushed out of the room through the opened window.

=====

With a few urgent matters at hand to handle, it was indeed a long day for Jedrek. Meanwhile, another important matter from Rowan had to be included into his list. He reported that he found other strange cases where Lycans and werewolves had been stripped off from their inner beasts. Still the same with the last one, they were found asleep, alive, but smelled like they were dead.

In just a few days, this issue became more and more concerning. It could bring a definite threat to the kingdom in the future. If this continued, then there would be a wave of rampant panic among the people. Because, they already knew that there were a good number of cases where people were missing. And they thought that the missing people had not been found.

And for that reason, the people should never find out that the King had issued an order to kill those soulless people, who had been reported missing for days. If they did, there would be more than a wave of rampant panic.

The day ended when the sun set on the horizon. The night sky embraced the glory of the moon once more. Only then, everything seemed to slow down, letting the Alpha King have a break from his exhausting long day. He strolled aimlessly in his castle for hours to clear up his mind. However, when he let his instinct take over, his feet were brought to a different place, out of his usual route.

Unconsciously he was brought to the north wing of his castle. This was something unusual for Jedrek to roam around that particular area. He couldn't even remember when the last time he was there. This part of the castle was the place where his chamber was, decades ago, when she was still here. The time when everything was not as complicated as now.

It was said that the curse that was given to him was actually a gift. But now, what was said to be a gift, turned out to be the real punishment for Jedrek. He stared at his surroundings. He was not sure why he was there, but with every step that he took, he could finally smell the scent of that girl. That fiery-beautiful little girl.

The sparks that he felt the moment their skin touched was an otherworldly feeling. Never had he felt this kind of feeling in all his long life. He craved for more and here he was, following his instinct to reach to her. Her sweet fragrance surrounded his whole being when he climbed the stairs. He didn't need to be told which chamber Lilac was. Her scent alone was the only thing he needed to locate her.

The pull was so strong that the ruthless Lycan King felt dizzy. He was fighting the beast inside him. A battle of choosing between what the beast desired, and what his sane mind should do. Every ounce of his very soul cried out for his mate to fill the void in her absence. It was wrong to stand there, staring at the closed door.

He assumed he must've been completely out of his mind when he decided to reach for the handle, and opened that door. And when her scent got stronger, everything felt more exhilarating and unrestrained. There was no way to turn back now. Neither did Jedrek want to leave that place. He felt this was where he belonged, or at least it was what the beast thought.

Jedrek knew that he shouldn't give in to this dangerous urge. But after an exhausting day, and a long period of restrain, his will faded. Jedrek found himself compelled to walk towards the bed, even when he told himself to turn back. He didn't even notice the change in his surroundings where tree branches grew on the surface of the wall, or the velvety grass that covered the tiles beneath his feet.

The roots that Lilac had put around to protect her, and block any intruder, somehow gave away to him. They cleared his path, making his way to the beauty on the bed. It was as though those strange nature welcomed him.

The room was dark, but that didn't limit his eyes from seeing the shape of Lilac's figure.

Lilac was bored and exhausted after putting all those protection around her. It took her days to make it perfect. Now her room was akin to a jungle. But she didn't care not even a little. All as long as she could get a good night's sleep at peace.

She pulled on a loose nightshirt when she got ready for bed. It felt so good to be surrounded by nature like this. And now, she didn't have to worry about intruders. Whoever it was, they would not be able to enter her room as they pleased, or at least she would know if there was someone trying to break in forcibly.

She turned the light off and crawled into bed, snuggling under the covers. However, when her consciousness was about to fade, she felt something. Someone. There was someone inside the room with her. Lilac knitted her brows when she felt this person's movement in the dark.

She wondered inside her head, trying to figure out how this person could enter this room without making any sound. After all the efforts she pulled to guarantee for her safety inside the room? Lilac didn't have time to find out the answer when her hand slid down under her pillow, grabbing her silver dagger.

Chapter 643 - MATE

Lilac could feel the intruder was getting closer. Her adrenaline kicked in when she was so sure the intruder was inches away from her. The sleepiness that clouded her mind vanished, like it was never there just a couple minutes ago. So many things appeared in her mind. She was wondering how this person could pass the barrier that she made. It was supposed to be impossible to do that!

But then, she realized that despite her current situation, it was oddly enough that she had no sense of danger at all. Could this intruder didn't mean any harm to her? She couldn't explain this feeling, she just somehow knew that she wouldn't be harmed. Her grip on the hilt of her dagger tightened when this shadowy person bent his body and knelt beside her bed.

The girl was laying on her stomach, with her face facing the intruder. She was nervous and didn't even realize that she was holding her breath. She tried her best to remain calm and pretend to be in a deep sleep. All in order to conceal her tension. She braced herself to whatever that was about to happen.

Then, his hand slid across her cheek affectionately, and the sparks spread all over her cheeks the moment their skin touched. His light touch ignited thousands of butterflies in her stomach. Lilac knew immediately who he was. There was no one else could cause this feeling on her. But then again, it was impossible for him to be there. Could this be a dream? Am I dreaming? —she thought.

This touch was completely different from the last time they met. At that time, his touch was rough, and filled with anger. She could see the conflict he was battling at that time, he was torn between wanting to kill her and was powerless against the mate-bond. But now, his touch was full of affection, and pure tenderness. She never thought he would have such traits in him.

Jedrek's calloused fingers brushed against Lilac's lips. His touch this time sent shivers down to the core of her body. Her head started to spin and her body was reeling, wanting for more of his touch. The wind blew, clearing the night sky from clouds. The sight of the moon and its glory light revealed. The moonlight was not enough to kill the darkness inside the room, but it was enough for Jedrek to see her face.

"Mate..." was what he said so quietly in the dark. The guardian angel parted her lips the moment she heard what he said. Oh, Selene...—she said inside her head. It was all her doings.

The two creatures in the room were gleaming under the moonlight. They felt like they were under a spell. A spell that was sent by the Moon Goddess to help to ease the hatred between the two souls, blessing their mating bond.

Lilac couldn't stay any longer. She decided to open her eyes. And then Jedrek met her eyes. They were as clear as the Apricity River, the river that would never freeze no matter how cold it became. It was so clear for him to see the bottom of it. The beast wanted her.

The Alpha leaned over when he placed a kiss on her slightly parted lips. Lilac didn't seem to know what was happening. But she didn't care either when she let go of herself, and returned his kiss clumsily. Jedrek groaned when Lilac landed her fingers in his hair, and welcomed his touch. The feeling was something that he had never tasted before.

He pushed her gently so she could lay on her back with him hovering above her. She wrapped her hands around his neck as he pinned her to the bed. His lips left hers as they found her neck. The beast licked the sweet spot where he should place his mark against his mate's skin. The mark that would scream she was his. Claiming her truly as his.

When his breathing intensified, something finally snapped him back to his sanity. Jedrek backed away and stood up, moving away from the bed. He left his destined mate just a second before he claimed what belonged to him. Not only him, had the same thing happened to Lilac. She bolted to sit down, staring at Jedrek with horror in her eyes.

She couldn't see his expression because the wind blew again, making the clouds lingered and covered the moon, setting the room in darkness once again. Her breathing was erratic as she could still feel the tingling feeling from Jedrek's touch. Her body was trembling as she clenched her lips tightly. She didn't know what to do, or what kind of expression that she had to put to face Jedrek.

It was embarrassing! But, how could she not feel that way a minute ago. They stayed like that for what it felt like eternity, before Jedrek startled her again with his sudden move. For a second Lilac thought he would approach her again. A part of her wanted that. But she had to accept the embarrassment and the disappointment, when she found out the lycan chose to stride away towards the door, leaving her.

The roots, and the vines moved to where they were supposed to be. They moved along to cover the path that he left. Hell! How could her power betray her? and let Jedrek walk inside her room just like that?! Lilac's jaw dropped, she was beyond confused, disoriented with what just happened. Did he just...kiss her?

Lilac touched her lips and her neck. She could feel her warm skin under her palm. She couldn't help but looking back to what just happened. The worst part wasn't the kiss. No, she wouldn't add that to her list of sin. The worst part of it was when she just let him have his way.

=====

Jedrek walked in fury. It felt like he was about to go to a battlefield. His fists clenched tightly beside his body. He grinded his teeth harshly, thinking it would help to contain his anger. His anger that was

growing inside him uncontrollably, seemed impossible to subside anytime soon. It was so intense that people around him could tell that he was fuming mad about something.

When the Alpha King walked past the guards, they lowered their head. They didn't even dare to breathe the same air as him in his presence. His dark vibe set the entire castle restless. Tonight was exceptionally quiet as Jedrek spent his time in his throne room. He intertwined his fingers when his eyes were flickering back and forth from black to red.

Jedrek was in conflict. He hated the fact that for a moment, he gave in to his strong desire for having his mate. This was something that he didn't know how to handle anymore. He craved for her. And now, after he tasted the sweet touch of her, and how it felt like to be with her, he couldn't help himself but to want some more of it. However, his pride would never settle and allow him to indulge with this idea.

He wouldn't bow his head and surrender to that girl.

The sweet little girl.

Chapter 644 - PATHETIC

The atmosphere inside the castle remained the same that night. The Lycan King was the cause of it. His mood was dominated by this overwhelming anger. No one in the castle was brave enough to come close to the Alpha. Not a single soul would walk past the throne room. If one's destination required walking near that room, they would choose to take a detour, even though it would be a longer walk.

Not even Jedrek's generals would show their face upon him, not if their presence weren't needed. They knew better to not disturb him in his current temper. They thought that there must be something that was bothering him. They would assume it was caused by the issue with the devils, the missing people, and the soulless creatures. But, it never crossed their mind that it had something to do with Lilac.

Aside from Maximus, and some 'special' servants, no one knew Lilac had been living inside the castle, at the north wing to be exact. That she had been there for three days already now.

The sun rose at the east, a sign of a new day had begun. And when the sunlight illuminated the room, only then, Jedrek finally moved from his throne. He walked towards the direction of his chamber, and he entered the library. Inside the library, there were rows of neatly lined up books, organized in such ways. On one side, there were floor cushions, and leathered arm chairs with a few tables.

On the other side of that lavish library, there was a huge glass window showing the outside scenery. Jedrek walked towards a built-in sliding bookcase. He pushed it aside to reveal a secret passage. It was originally designed as an escape pathway for the royal family, if ever the situation forced them to flee from the enemy's siege. But it had never been used since the first time the castle was built.

The Donovans were the strongest of all royals. They were strong enough to never put themselves in any situation that required them to run away. This castle had always been a stronghold during every war that occurred throughout the generations. Behind that secret passage, laid a tunnel of infinite darkness. Jedrek walked that long path of the tunnel, leading him to the only door at the end of it.

Just like the wall along the tunnel, the surface of the wooden black door was covered with graffiti. But this one, there were a few claws that dented on it. An animal claws. Jedrek stretched out his hand to reach its handle and strolled inside.

"YOU BASTARD!"

There was a thundering roar the moment Jedrek entered the room. Someone rushed towards him, trying to throw him a punch in his guts, but Jedrek had accustomed to this treatment. Because every time he paid a visit there, 'he' would welcome him with a punch or any physical attack. Therefore, this time, before 'he' could give him a blow, Jedrek caught his fist first, and kicked him on his chest.

The man's body flew a few meters away before hitting the wall behind him. Dusts were showering above his head, but they didn't stop him from rising to his feet and leapt forward. He was about to shift, but before he could do that, Jedrek snapped at him.

"CUT IT OUT!" Jedrek was exploding. His anger had doubled since the last time he lost control over his dark desire, and did something that he shouldn't. The man stood up, still indignant. He stopped his shifting phase. Now, he was standing tall with a strong dominance aura all over his entire body.

"You are getting bold day by day. You now even have the nerve to challenge me and deny my order!" The man crossed his bulging arms in front of his chest. Displeased with his offspring.

Jedrek was trying hard to calm down, containing his anger, "Do not tell me what to do, Janus! I am not coming here to hear your pathetic plea." That man's blue eyes turned dark when he heard his son. Jedrek's voice was not loud, but every word that he said was venomous enough to sting one's pride. "I am still your father!!" Janus growled.

"And I am your Alpha!" Jedrek didn't back down either. He stared at the former Alpha before his eyes with hatred. "Stop manipulating people! You don't seem to be grateful enough despite the fact that I let you live this long!"

Hearing what his son just said, made Janus throw his head and laugh like a maniac. The eerie sound echoed through the whole room, sending shivers to anyone who heard that. However, Jedrek had faced his old man countless times. It'd take more than an atrocious laugh to make him flinch. Jedrek didn't come to watch his father laughing over something that he didn't even understand, so he was leaving.

It was an oval room with nothing there except seven doors that were placed surrounding the wall. Above them the sunlight shone brightly. The soft looking clouds in the sky could be seen from where they stood. How ironic to think of it as a perfect day.

"So, now I live under your mercy?" The sarcasm in Janus's voice was enough to make Jedrek stop walking away from him. Jedrek turned around and said coldly, "Do you not?"

The amus.e.m.e.nt in Janus's eyes faded immediately. But before he could speak, his son cut him to it, "I should've killed you centuries ago when I snatched the Alpha title right under your nose." Jedrek flashed him a rare smirk. It was not a mischievous smirk, but a smirk out of disgust.

"You indeed had killed me, son." Janus mimicked Jedrek's smirk. After all, his ruthless trait came from him. His own father. "You just couldn't get rid of me."

"Well then, you can rot here for all I care." Jedrek didn't spare him a glance when he walked away to enter one of the doors.

"I saw what you did to the girl in the north wing." Once again, Janus managed to make him stop. "Do you think I have completely failed? Even without me whining to tell you that you should keep the guardian angel, you will do it eventually."

Hearing the mocking remark in the way his father talked, made Jedrek's grip on the handle of that door in his hand tightened. Seeing how his words had affected his son again, he then continued, "See? You are so pathetic in front of your little mate," Janus said derisively.

Chapter 645 - A SECRET ORDER

Jedrek ignored his remark. Meanwhile, the beast inside him was affected by that. All the beast wanted was to rip Janus's face again, just like how he did it years ago. Janus got what he deserved years ago when he was being too noisy, and had the audacity to be displeased with Jedrek's decision to kill the guardian angel.

However, that was a wasting of time. Because Janus wouldn't die. How could Jedrek possibly kill a person who was already dead? Yes, Jedrek had killed him the moment he challenged his own father for the title and the throne. It was not normal for the royal family to inherit the throne that way. Because eventually, the title would be his. But, it was not the case for Jedrek. He earned that title in the most despicable way.

It was an utter humiliation for his father to ascend from his throne in such a way. But, there were more than a handful of unspeakable reasons for Jedrek to do what he did. That's why he would never regret his action. He just got to do what he got to do.

And for that reason, Janus was still there, stuck in that petty secret tunnel. All because of his own doings. For such a long time, he had not been the Alpha that he used to be, nor the father that Jedrek respected. Jedrek left that man alone there.

Then, Jedrek entered a room. He strolled straight to a beautiful, huge bed that was dominating most of this room. The bed that was meant for a King. A beautiful woman was laying there. She was surrounded by cushions and covered with a luxurious blanket made of silk. Her beauty was once well known throughout the realm. Her fresh scent was like a morning dew. She was the mother of all the lycans, and werewolves.

She was The Queen. The Luna. She was Jedrek's mother.

Jedrek sat silently beside her. He took his mother's hand and caressed it gently. But, there was no response from her. Her steady breathing was the only indication that assured him of her being alive. Another reminder that his misery would continue. But, what was the difference? He had been through all bad things. And here he was, standing tall on his own. That was his way. That was how he survived.

The happy family had long gone. Looking back to what it was, only made Jedrek want to laugh. It was actually a mess. Then, there was the sound of footsteps entering the room. But the Alpha didn't budge from his position when another familiar scent came to his senses. A young woman was walking inside the room. She was there to change the flowers with the new freshly picked.

She didn't dare to look at the Alpha. But, even though this young woman was mute and deaf, she could tell with only a single glance, that this man had been through so much.

=====

Lilac was pacing back and forth. She couldn't sleep after the intrusion last night. And now, the sun had reached the horizon, her head was throbbing painfully. She couldn't help but to think about every tiny bit of what was happening last night. She kept wondering how she could be so easy to throw herself at him! Oh, in the name of Goddess above!—she thought.

He was the exact same man who ordered a hitman to kill her years ago! Although it was the hitman who did the job. But still, it was his call, it was his order. In other words, yes, he did kill her! She wouldn't be here today alive, and well if it was not because of the Moon Goddess' graciousness. The life that she had now, along with the gift of the power she possessed, were all given by the Moon Goddess.

If it was not because of the mate-bond between them, last night Jedrek would absolutely bite her head off of her body. And last night, she kissed the same ruthless man. Great!

Lilac's lips formed a self-deprecation smile. She just couldn't stop thinking about how she didn't find it to be wrong. The sparks that she felt whenever he touched her was something that made her curious, and wanted to explore more.

"Don't be stupid!" Lilac knocked her head to force herself to go back to her senses. But then, her stomach growled in protest. She had not been eating a decent meal since the first day she arrived there. Even though the servant always came to deliver her meal, Lilac wouldn't even sniff the food they brought her. She thought it was the only logical thing to do, since she was under her enemy's roof.

She knew better to not shove anything down her throat recklessly. Because there was still the possibility that the food was a courtesy of her own enemy! If that was the case, then she was under a threat of losing her life again. She couldn't die now. At least not now. She still had an important mission at her hand.

And then, she extended her hand to pick an apple from the tree that she grew inside the room. The plants that she grew on the wall, was the only thing she ate for the past three days. But it no longer could stop her craving for real foods. Upon realizing that, Lilac groaned. Maybe, she could try to sneak out of the castle to find something to appease her hunger.

=====

"Are you sure Alpha?" Tordoff asked him in confusion. He was called earlier to present himself to the King. He thought he wasn't the only one who was summoned by the King to see him. He thought that the moment when he got to the king's study, he would see the other generals too. But there Tordoff was, in the King's study room feeling a little bit bamboozled with the fact that he was indeed the only one.

He heard about how bad the Alpha's temper was this morning. Every living soul in the castle had been avoiding crossing paths with him. They were even scared just to hear his footsteps. All because of how bad his temper had been since this morning. Despite being one of His Majesty's trusted generals, Tordoff was no different than the other living soul in the castle. He feared the King profoundly.

Even after years of being His Majesty's generals, not even once he could understand Jedrek's unpredictable mood. So that's being said, the last thing that Tordoff wanted was being on the King's bad

side. "How could she be there?" Tordoff couldn't help but frown with the revelation. However, once the question left his lips, he knew almost immediately, how he just made a terrible mistake this time.

He should've not let that unnecessary question slip away. Especially when Jedrek didn't seem to have the intention to answer any of his questions. "Understood, Alpha. I will do as you say." Said Tordoff quickly. Inside his mind, he started to wonder why Jedrek would want the guardian angel now. When three days ago, he looked like he wanted to be anywhere else except near the guardian angel.

And now he asked one of his generals to look after her? It was never the case. Tordoff never even once came across any situation when Jedrek asked for someone to be protected. And on top of that, he was not allowed to tell about this to any single soul. Not even the other generals. And how could the guardian angel end up in the north wing, anyway? Who brought her there?

Tordoff would oblige to every order that was given to him. It was the King himself who gave the order, how could he say 'No'? But, it didn't stop Tordoff's curious mind to think of why the Alpha wanted to keep the guardian angel safe, even from his own Beta, and the other generals. Why would the Alpha go behind the other generals' back by keeping this mission a secret between them?

It took Tordoff around fifteen minutes to get to the north wing where the guardian angel lived. Tordoff stood in front of the building. It looked so lonely because this was an abandoned area where not many people would walk by. Well, of course there were the special servants around. But there were not many of them anyway. Then, Tordoff sniffed the air. And immediately he knew that the guardian angel was there.

Chapter 646 - AN INTERESTING YOUNG GIRL

Lilac decided to go out of the castle, to find something edible to eat. But, she immediately realized that she had to sneak in order to go out of the castle. Because people would notice her unfamiliar face once she strolled out of the north wing. She didn't know exactly what she should do?

Despite her complicated relationship with Jedrek, she was on an important mission. That was why she was there, living in his castle. So that it would be easier for her, if ever she needed to see the Lycan King. She was sent there to make him aware of the upcoming war. But it was clear to see that Jedrek seemed to have completely ignored all about what she had to say. He thought it was none of his business.

Actually, if she wanted to meet the white lycan, she could. For her, it was rather an easy thing to do. She could just go and wreck some havoc like a couple days ago. And ultimately, Jedrek would absolutely run in his beast form to capture her, or fight her—that sounded more like him. But after what happened between them last night, she was reluctant to see him.

However, that was not her priority now, she just needed to go out for groceries and then come back after, right? But in order to go out, it would likely involve some pinning down actions, and fighting some wolves and lycans. So, to make it simple, leaving the castle, and returning discreetly wasn't a good idea either. Lilac knew that it would be impossible.

The girl was pacing back and forth, thinking about any options that she had for a solution. She gave up, and had to accept her fate of eating only apples. But then, she heard someone was approaching her direction. She turned to her combat mode. She armed herself with the vines, and roots coiling around her hands.

The man approached her with a smile on his face. A frown formed on Lilac's forehead when she watched the friendly gesture that he gave. "Good morning," Tordoff greeted her. He was unfazed with Lilac's combat mode, but wise enough to stop walking a few meters away from her.

"My morning was great before you came," said Lilac. Tordoff chuckled upon hearing her sharp remark, and didn't even bother to reply back. "Who are you?" asked Lilac, while trying to learn her surroundings, she could be ambushed if she wasn't careful enough.

"I am one of Jedrek's seven generals. I believe we fought the other day." He still appeared friendly to Lilac, while looking unoffended by the way she answered him. Well, he wouldn't expect to see her being delighted to have a chat with someone she just fought three days ago.

"Yes, I remember. The six of you ganged up on me at the same time, how gentleman!" This time, Tordoff's face scrunched as he took Lilac's sarcasm. He realized that his new assignment wouldn't be boring at all. Because, he had to deal with all of her snarky attitudes from now on. He needed to start to get used to it.

"I am sorry about that," he didn't sound to be sorry for anything. "But, actually you outnumbered us with your vines and roots."

"Ha haha, how funny!" Lilac laughed scornfully, but then her expression hardened. "What do you want?"

"I am here because of an order." Tordoff admitted it truthfully.

"Who sent you? Maximus?" That was the only name that crossed her mind.

"Maximus?" Tordoff tilted his head. When he did so, he didn't look like a fierce general that Lilac came across three days ago. He looked more like a young, carefree, regular guy. "Why would he have anything to do with this?"

Lilac scrunched her nose and shrugged her shoulder. "I don't know, he was the one who told me to stay here."

If Tordoff was surprised, he wouldn't show it on his face. Then he resumed with his wolfish smile, "I don't know that Maximus was the one who offered this place for you." However, Tordoff made sure to let Jedrek know about this in his upcoming report. "But, his choice was not bad at all, since almost no one would come to this side of the castle."

Lilac tried to see if he was lying, but she knew he was not. "So, who ordered you to come here?"

"His Majesty himself, the Alpha King." He replied sternly. She chuckled in disbelief upon hearing his answer. "Jedrek?"

Tordoff slightly frowned by the way she addressed his Alpha. "Well, that is his name, yes."

"Why is it? He wants to apologize by sending you here?" Lilac was surprised by what was happening now. What is it? A kiss could actually change his mind overnight?

"Why should he?" Tordoff blinked his eyes innocently, before he explained himself. "I am here to guard you."

"Guard me?" Lilac repeated his strange statement in confusion. But then, she realized the intention behind it. "Oh wait, you mean guard me like a prisoner?" she scoffed. "Well, thanks. But, I don't need a bodyguard. I am more than capable of taking care of myself, and we both know that."

The roots and vines flared, creating a halo form around her body. A smirk crept on Lilac's lips upon seeing that the general was slightly taken aback.

"Woah! Easy!" He held both his hands in front of him. "I am not here to settle scores with you."

Lilac raised her eyebrows. "Oh really?"

"And you are not a prisoner, His Majesty the Alpha King said that you are free to roam around the castle." Tordoff couldn't take his eyes off of the vines, and the roots around Lilac. He didn't fear it, instead he was amazed by it. "But, of course, there are places that you are not allowed to enter."

Tordoff looked at Lilac carefully this time. He thought that she was an interesting young girl. She was so free with her emotions, and her face showed everything she was feeling. She had no inhibitions, completely confident in who, and what she was. The general almost didn't believe that the girl in front of him was the rumored weak guardian angel. She could be anything, but weak, she was not.

"Good.?? Lilac nodded, she was not over the moon with what Tordoff just said. There must be something wrong somewhere, and she was more than willing to figure it out. It became more suspicious now since Jedrek was behind this order. There was no way he would go easy on her, right? "Now, I want to go to the city center. Can I go and come back as I please?"

"Sure," Tordoff replied almost immediately. "But, may I know what you want to do there?"

"Buy some food," Lilac said, shrugging her shoulder.

"You can get any food that you want here."

"I will not eat anything that is provided by my enemy."

Unexpectedly, Tordoff laughed. "You're funny."

"Excuse me, but, which part of my words was funny to you?"

Chapter 647: Show off!

"Well, you said it yourself that you don't want to eat anything that was offered to you by an enemy. But at the same time, you're staying here." Tordoff waved his hand casually. "In your enemy's lair."

To think about it again, that was quite right. It was spot on. Even Lilac was upset to admit that he was right. However, what choice did she have? Although, staying inside his castle was not the best decision she had ever made. But, it was made after a long, good, and careful thought.

Lilac wouldn't walk in here without careful calculations. She made sure that she was ready. Plus, she was armed just fine. She knew better than anyone else about the worst of her situation. The consequences of her action would cost her an unspeakable price. Her life.

"You can't judge me for that." Lilac frowned.

"I'm not judging you." Tordoff shook his head. "But I know that you are here for a reason."

"Oh, I am so glad that at least, you are paying attention to that. But, do you know that one of my reasons is to kill your Alpha?" Lilac asked sarcastically. She noticed the change in Tordoff's expression, and she smirked upon it.

"I will not be as friendly as I am now with you the next time you are talking like that about His Majesty the Alpha King." even the way he spoke changed.

"Don't worry." Lilac flicked her long black hair from her shoulder. "As much as I hate to admit it, my power is not strong enough to take down your beautiful Alpha. Plus, I can assure you that I need him alive more than dead."

Tordoff crossed his arms. He was right. The young girl was indeed exceptionally interesting. However, the silence between them disappeared the moment Lilac's stomach suddenly growled. It was so loud that caused Tordoff to burst a laugh. "See? I was right when I said you are funny."

Lilac glared at him to conceal her embarrassment.

"Let's go to the city center before that sound scares all the guards." Tordoff waved his hand for Lilac to follow him.

=====

There they were, walking side by side. Lilac was strolling beside Tordoff inside the castle, what an odd sight to see. It was only natural for whoever saw them then, widened their eyes in disbelief. Because it was still fresh in their memories about how Lilac ruined their great hall single handedly. Not only that, she also fought the generals, and His Majesty the Alpha King himself, before she could be taken down.

On the other hand, Lilac rather enjoyed their confusion, and fear for her. They should know better to not mess with her.

"So, what did you eat these past three days, if you don't eat the food that was delivered to you?" Tordoff was curious. Though Lilac chose to keep the distance between them, he made sure the guardian angel could hear his voice clearly.

"I ate this," Lilac said, at the same time she threw an apple at Tordoff.

The general caught it, and raised the red apple. "This?" He was a little confused. "I will not be able to walk if all I eat for three days straight is only this."

It was well known about how big the appetite of shapeshifters was. An apple wouldn't be considered as food for them, not even close to a snack, because how light it was. Meanwhile, Lilac didn't have anything to say about his statement. So, she remained silent, but when she saw that Tordoff didn't eat the apple, she asked. "Why don't you eat that? You don't like fruits? Fruits are good for your body."

"The same reason as yours," he replied, grinning.

Lilac rolled her eyes and snatched the apple from his hand. Then, she bit it down to make her point that the apple was not a threat. "You are wasting food," said Lilac. The general laughed again, and this only made Lilac frown. He looked down at her feet now.

He pointed at her tiny feet, "And may I know the reason why you are not wearing any shoes or slippers? You do realize that you're walking barefoot?" He never saw a female who would do that.

"Yes. Because I like it this way. I can feel the ground under my feet." Lilac knew that it would be considered strange to walk barefoot in any realms, except the one that the Moon Goddess created for her. It was an old habit for her, and people say that old habit dies hard.

=====

After her hunger was sated, and she was done shopping, Lilac agreed to go back to the castle with Tordoff. Although she would love to roam around for more, went to another store just to hear more complaints from Tordoff. But she had to admit that it was time to go. Her legs were tired of walking, and she couldn't hold back her yawn again.

What else could she do? She was up all night, wide awake since last night. All that because of Jedrek and his 'goodnight kisses'. Lilac kicked herself internally when that thought suddenly crossed her mind. The sun almost set, and all the light on the streets had been turned on. Lilac decided to give in and followed Tordoff to return back to the castle, finally stopping on making it difficult for the general.

She could tell that Tordoff would actually be a wonderful person to hang out with. That, if only he was not one of Jedrek's generals, if only he was not the enemy, if only they were not in this situation. Lilac liked how caring, and grumpy he was during the day they were in the city center.

All her life, Lilac had been living in a different realm. She only had Selene as her friend, tutor and everything that she knew. She didn't associate with other people too well. Although, on some rare occasions Lilac would be permitted to leave the realm, and watch her family from afar. But, it didn't help with her ability to socialize with other people.

"So, why does Jedrek want me to be protected?" Lilac asked while eating her snack. She refused to get on the carriage earlier, and that was why they were walking to the castle. Then, from her side, Tordoff said, "I don't know," he finished the cake that he bought. "Never questioned his order."

"Seriously!" Lilac rolled her eyes at him dramatically. But, before she could add another sarcastic word, Tordoff caught her arms, and pulled her closer to him. His eyes were fixed in a certain direction on the empty road. Could they be in danger?

"What is it?" Lilac followed his eyes to the direction where he was staring intensely. All she could see there were the bushes swaying slightly. "Cat? Mouse?"

"I would not care if it were just some pests," Tordoff said, and he moved forward. "I smell something. There's something wrong. Stay here."

She chose to not argue with him. Then immediately, she dropped to her knees to feel the ground beneath her palm. Almost in an instant the bushes were thrown over and revealed the line of trees behind it. She could feel the movement there and decided to send her tendrils to follow whoever was there. And in no time, she caught something there.

Meanwhile, Tordoff could only stand there in awe before complaining, "Show off!"

Chapter 648 - SOMETHING CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION

Lilac chuckled. She gave Tordoff a smug smile, and his jaw dropped upon seeing the boldness of the guardian angel. She stood up there, dusting the dirt from her dress, "Like I told you, I am more than capable of taking care of myself. Don't worry about me, I got me. Alright now, let's see what this thing is!"

Now, she was leading him. She sashayed away towards the bushes to see whatever she caught earlier. It took the general seconds until he brought himself to follow behind her. Like the lycan he was, Tordoff didn't like it at all to be dominated, surpassed in power by a young girl. While at the same time, he just couldn't help himself but to be impressed by this girl.

"Over here!" Lilac waved her hand, Tordoff let out an annoying growl. There they found an old man. But, they weren't some ordinary creature who can be deceived easily with the old man's appearance. For he was not an ordinary old man. He was a weak demon. Although weak, he was still a demon. "Is this the creature that you smelled earlier?" Lilac glanced over her shoulder to find Tordoff was there.

Without caring for what he would think, Lilac reached to her ankle and pulled her silver dagger that she always kept there. This time, the dagger was not meant to be pointed at the lycan. Meanwhile, the old man was struggling to free himself from the snare of her tendrils all over him, he would've cursed at Lilac if only she had not covered his mouth with the tendrils.

She looked at the silver dagger in her hand, and with a swift move, Lilac cut her palm to draw some blood. It looked like she had done this countless times. But then she stabbed it too deeply when Tordoff startled her. For seconds, she was oblivious of his presence. That's why she got startled. But Tordoff was there to snatch the dagger from Lilac, "What are you doing?" he said. The both of them grimaced.

He dropped the dagger, "Silver," and hissed.

"Argh! It hurt!" Lilac glared at Tordoff while holding her bleeding palm. But upon seeing what the girl just did to herself, was only making him alarmed. "Are you out of your mind? Why did you cut yourself!" said Tordoff while tearing the edge of his clothes. He wrapped it immediately on her palm to stop the bleeding.

"For this!" Lilac snapped at him. She raised her other hand that was coated with her blood, and smeared it on the demon before she squeezed him with her vines. Immediately, the demon's body billowed into black ashy smoke, and disappeared into thin air.

Tordoff raised his eyebrows in confusion, "You don't have to do that! Even though there are not many demons in this area, the guards can easily throw them out of our territory."

"Driving them away is not the same as destroying them. What you just saw now, was me completely getting rid of them. We need to destroy them completely Tordoff, don't you see that the darkness is getting stronger now? Don't you feel it?" After that, Tordoff was still not replying. Lilac realized that she needed to explain more of it so that he would understand her point.

"You see, their number had doubled increasingly. Sooner or later, you will definitely see these demons often than before. It is one of the signs that the war with the darkness is imminent. And I am sure that you have heard about the other sign, which involves the resurrection of the guardian angels. And here I am Tordoff, I'm one of the signs. With all the signs here, and you all are still going to ignore it?"

Tordoff shook his head. "I know about the prophecy, but whether we will participate in the war or not, that is not for me to decide."

"Oh, you know it will happen Tordoff! I know that you can at least put some words about it to your King!" Lilac now sounded frustrated.

In return to her outburst, Tordoff gave her a bitter smile, "His Majesty the Alpha King listens to no one."

Lilac dropped her hand, immediately realizing how foolish she was to even elaborate her important point to Tordoff who was only a general, knowing that the only one she needed to actually talk about this matter to, was someone else. "Oh, you're right! It's Jedrek that I need to convince about this. Let's go!"

"No, wait." Tordoff stopped her.

"What?" Lilac raised her eyebrows questioningly. "The demon is gone."

"It's not the demon that I smelled." Tordoff sniffed the air. "Plus, demons don't have any scent to begin with." He turned his head to his left side, and followed the odd scent.

The girl attempted to sniff the air, hoping she would catch a little of whatever the lycan smelt. But she couldn't smell anything in particular. With her wounded hand cradled on her other hand, she followed behind Tordoff. The general walked through the bushes easily. Lilac just needed to flick her fingers to get through. And, the bushes around her would make a clean way for her to pass through.

Laying there on the ground with eyes closed, was a body of a woman. It was not that far from where they found the demon. Seeing just a glimpse of it, made Lilac walk faster as she gasped in shock. Lilac stopped beside Tordoff who were crouching down beside the body. "Is she alive?" Lilac stretched her hand to see if there were any signs of a beating heart through the pulse on that woman's hand.

But before she could actually do that, Tordoff pulled her hand away, preventing her from touching the poor woman. "She is alive." he answered under his breath. And then he muttered some words that she couldn't hear.

"What happened to her?" she asked again, because she knew that there were more to it.

Instead of giving the girl some answer to her question, Tordoff tilted his head to look at her. From the way he was frowning, she knew that whatever it was, he knew the answer to her question but too hesitant whether or not he should tell her.

He was unsure about how much information that he could give to this guardian angel. His Alpha King indeed had ordered him to look after Lilac, but to what extent? Was that including sharing a few information? "I can't answer your question now." Tordoff shook his head and helped Lilac to stand up. "We have to leave, it is getting dark."

"And we leave her here?" Lilac widened her eyes in disbelief, but Tordoff didn't need to answer that when two guards came to the scene.

"Let's go."

And with that, they leave the woman under the care of the two guards.

=====

Jedrek was standing on the balcony. The sky above him had turned to dark once more. It was night already, and the crescent moon was shining dimly. There he was, gazing off into the distance to the gate. "So, you finally decided to let her stay," said Maximus who approached behind him. He handed him a glass of liquid that he should drink regularly.

Jedrek held the glass in his hand but didn't seem to have the desire to taste it.

"As I expected, in the end you will listen to your father." Maximus looked at Jedrek. He was still silent. It would be just like most of the time that this would be a one-sided conversation.

"See? There will always be benefits of keeping her by our side. I can feel it, this girl is different from the rest of her extinct race." Maximus nodded to his statement. "We can kill her at the right time. No need to worry, the pain you will feel afterwards can be handled properly."

From afar, Jedrek caught a glimpse of Lilac, who was walking side by side with Tordoff. They were just walking through the main gates. A sudden jumpy feeling came to him the moment he caught the sight of her. There was one thing that caught his attention. Her left hand was injured.

Chapter 649 - SHE WILL BE KILLED EVENTUALLY

Jedrek narrowed his eyes at the unskillful bandage wrap on Lilac's left hand. For someone who was injured, she didn't look in pain at all. But, it didn't dismiss the fact that she was injured. Nor did it help ease his mind upon discovering this. Beside him, Maximus frowned when he watched Lilac, and Tordoff walking together.

And then he asked, "Your Majesty, why is the guardian angel with Tordoff, Sir?"

"I am keeping tabs on her," said Jedrek, replying to Maximus's question. He looked down to the red liquid inside his glass, and swirled it casually.

Maximus looked at Jedrek intensely while talking nonsense. He was desperately trying to figure out the Lycan King's emotion right now. He was searching for some response in his eyes to the sight of his mate being together with another man.

Yet, Jedrek didn't show any emotion at all. There was only his usual cold demeanor shown on the surface as he half-listened to Maximus, and nothing else. The first general kept talking about all the benefits that they could get with keeping the guardian angel alive by their side, and killing her later after using her. He mentioned about the pain that Jedrek would experience after terminating his mate.

He had the nerve to say that the pain of losing his mate would be nothing, saying that Jedrek would be able to handle it. Oh, Maximus just didn't know what pain was...

"You just need to drink that regularly." Maximus nodded at the drink in Jedrek's hand that he kept on swirling.

"What about the progress of your search for Kace and his mate? Tell me about that instead." Jedrek seemed to change the topic since he put zero interest in any of Maximus's babble, while watching as Tordoff escorted Lilac to the north wing, and their figures disappeared in the dark night. They were already too far from his sight.

Meanwhile, Maximus chuckled upon hearing his question. He shook his head, "That spoilt brat is very smart, he has been avoiding me in the most astute way possible. Not only that, it seems like he knows the human realm very well. I don't even remember if he had been there for that long before to the point where he could tell every corner of the realm."

Maximus talked like a proud brother the moment when he was talking about Kace, and his brilliant escape strategy. But one could see his true emotion through his vicious eyes that glinted with murderous intent. He couldn't get rid of the fact that Kace always got away from his grip. His failure bruised his pride tremendously. And he wouldn't stop until he restored it by capturing that youngest Donovan in his hand.

Jedrek shoved the glass towards Maximus, and he caught it out of instinct. Jedrek now looked a little offended, "Address him properly, no matter what, he is still and will always be a royalty, and above all, part of the Donovans." Jedrek said calmly. But he showed a clear warning behind his words. He was displeased with Maximus's disrespectful manner towards his brother.

The corner of Maximus' lips tugged upward when he heard that, "Are you sure, you still want to kill his mate when you keep yours?" he asked in a mocking tone. But then, Jedrek turned around and met Maximus's vicious eyes. Still there was no emotion behind his eyes could be seen. "She will be killed in the end, didn't you say that?"

Maximus nodded in satisfaction. "Right, as you wish, Your Majesty, Sir."

=====

Lilac's bleeding was still not close to stopping. Tordoff sighed as he realized that the girl didn't have the fast healing ability, unlike the lycan he was. Because she was not a shapeshifter. That's why he brought her to see the healer to check on her injury, instead of escorting her directly to the north wing.

The healer lived in the castle, not far from the north wing. Since shapeshifters had the healing ability, the service of the healer was not needed that often. When they got there, the old healer saw Tordoff first and nodded upon seeing the general's arrival. Then, she put her attention on Lilac. "What happened to you child? Who stabbed you?" asked the old healer, she was a little concerned with her condition.

"I stabbed myself," Lilac murmured her answer. She told Tordoff that they didn't have to go to see the healer for her wound. But Tordoff kept insisting, and there they were. The healer said the wound would be fine after three days, and that her hand would just like brand new after a few weeks. But, it was not a pleasing answer for him. He thought it was too long for a wound recovery.

He was worried because the young general was under the obligation of keeping her safe after all. It was his duty to protect her. The old healer widened her eyes and looked at Tordoff. There was something in his expression that told her to not question anything. And then, she mumbled, "I will get something to stitch your wound."

When it was only the two of them, Lilac confronted the general. "Really, don't you remember that you were trying to kill me three days ago? Now you're making a fuss over this wound?" Lilac waved her injured hand at him mockingly. In response, he just chuckled, then took a seat near the door. "Well, that was different. You barged into the castle with your magical super plants that we had never seen before."

"So, what is the difference now?" Lilac raised her eyebrows.

"Now I know that you are a guardian angel," he replied simply.

"As long as I could remember, that time, I introduced myself as a guardian angel." Lilac reminded him.

Tordoff raised his eyebrow, mimicked Lilac's tone when he answered her. "Yeah right, you introduced yourself after you turned the great hall into a small forest. All with our guards bonded to the floor, and the wall. How could you expect us to pay attention to your introduction?"

"Well, for my defense, I'd like to say that they didn't die." Lilac justified her action.

"Barely," Tordoff corrected her and gave her a smile when he saw the guardian angel was pouting her lips. She was clearly annoyed. And then he added, "Now I know you will not kill them, but it was a different case at that time."

"What? If it's not because of this stupid order that Jedrek tasked you to, telling you to look after me, I am more than certain that we would have been in the middle of another battle right now."

"But we are not," said Tordoff making his point. "And I am glad that His Majesty the Alpha King considered his decision again, knowing that you are a guardian angel." Hearing his answer was not enough to stop her from getting annoyed. Thus, she scoffed. Jedrek had known her identity as a guardian angel, and his mate a long, long time ago. Way before she barged into his castle, the first time they met.

It could not be denied that their first encounter wasn't pleasant either.

"Right. Thanks to his generosity. I'm so grateful." Lilac nodded quickly, she wished to end this discussion as soon as possible. "Tell him that I am so grateful about it," she added sarcastically.

Not long after that, the healer came back. She started by cleaning Lilac's wound, and then stitched her skin to close the hideous looking wound. While all that was ongoing, Tordoff watched, and studied her face closely. He learned that except the small frown between her brows, the girl didn't show any sign of discomfort at all. He found it odd, and could not believe that the girl was really a guardian angel.

Chapter 650 - DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIS SECRET?

[Stabbed her own hand?]

A question in Jedrek's mind echoed inside Tordoff's head. Although the question was given through the mind-link, it was clear to see the presence of concern behind his question. It was rare for Tordoff to get mind-linked by the Alpha during an important meeting. They were discussing the recent devil's attacks that were targeting shapeshifters.

The number of victims had been increasing. And there were more victims coming. One was the one that Tordoff and Lilac found on their way back to the castle.

[Yes, Your Majesty, and her blood completely obliterated the demon from existence, Sir.] Tordoff tried to maintain his facial expression straight while listening to Rowan's rumbling about the victims. Tordoff was rather surprised with the sudden mind-link from the Alpha King. He cleared his throat to conceal his surprise gasp. The Alpha King asked him about what happened during the outing with the girl.

All the people around the table knew about the woman that he and Lilac found, but then he gave a strict order to not spill anything about the guardian angel to anybody. Tordoff stole a glance at his Alpha king. He didn't like the cold and overbearing voice in his head. No emotion in it, he could only feel his usual cold demeanor. It was unpleasant. He was indeed the Alpha.

And then inside his head was silent. There were no more questions from Jedrek, making them focus on the matter at hand. Their attention was suddenly caught by the news that they knew it was coming. With victims growing significantly in number, people apparently started to become anxious.

The people were so petrified with the fact that the missing people were still not yet to be found, even after the imperial search order was issued and executed. But, little did they know, the searching team that was sent to the field was not on a mission of finding the missing people. Their true purpose was to kill those victims who were found soulless in comatose. It had to be done.

However, this could not continue. If it was, things would definitely blow out of proportion in no time. After all, the people were not stupid enough. They would find out that there was something amiss in the way the imperial handled the matter.

=====

Lilac entered her room and waved her hand, fixing the roots and vines behind her. They were supposed to cave in, and create a defensive, impenetrable wall if ever there was some danger threatening while she was sleeping. Until now, she still wondered how Jedrek could easily enter her room that night.

She shrugged off that thought immediately. It was not the right time to worry about it. Now, she was extremely exhausted. Her body was desperately asking for a good night's sleep. A proper rest without disturbance. She stripped off her dress and walked towards the bathroom to clean up. She was so tired that she brushed her teeth with eyes half closed.

She put on a comfortable nightgown, and off she was to bed. She pulled her blanket up to her chin. The warmth that was provided by the blanket engulfed her whole in satisfaction. The rattling sound of the wind outside lulled her to sleep, she was ready to dive in a dream. But, it didn't last for long when she heard someone was knocking on her door, asking for her attention.

Lilac frowned, but didn't make a move to open the door. She thought, whoever it was would leave her alone once realized she didn't give any response. Unfortunately, it was just like any other day ever since she came to this realm. Nothing went according to her plan. She couldn't hold back her grunt then got up. Irritated with the sound, she dragged her body off the bed while rubbing her sleepy eyes.

Rubbing her eyes didn't help to get rid of her sleepiness, but the knock on the door was getting louder. She forcibly brought herself to the door and yanked it open. Her vexation was the fuel to whatever she was about to do to the person behind that door. She was so close onto snapping. "What?!"

"Wow! Easy." Maximus raised both of his hands when he saw the angry face who opened the door. The nest-like hair on her head was hard to miss. Then, he realized that his presence was interrupting her sleep. But he didn't care at all. His innocent smile still etched on his lips.

Lilac shook her head and narrowed her eyes. "You," she spluttered. "Don't you know what time it is?"

Maximus put down his hands. "It looks like the king has changed his mind and let you stay. He even sent Tordoff to look after you all day, right? How could you make such progress in less than three days?"

Lilac leaned her body against the door frames, observing the man in front of her. She was still half awake, questioning her own consciousness. Am I imagining things? Does he know about Jedrek's visit?— she thought.

"Why don't you ask him? It's not like I asked him to send someone to look after me. So, what makes you think that I know what is inside his mind?" Lilac was annoyed for being bothered with this kind of question. "Geez, is this it? My quality sleep was intruded for this? If you don't have anything more important to say, I'm going back to sleep, now."

She turned away and was about to slam the door on his face. But then he said, "I want to invite you somewhere."

She halted. "Where?" asked her suspiciously.

"Somewhere. This is a secret place of His Majesty the Alpha King." His expression remained the same when he said it.

"Jedrek?" Lilac knitted her brows. "Why should I go to his secret place? What makes you think that I would go there?"

"So that you can get to know him better," Maximus answered lightly.

Lilac scowled, "Look, all I want is for him to stop being ignorant, and start to care about the upcoming war. It's so close, I know you can feel it too. I'd be more than grateful if he shows a slight sign of awareness about the war, why don't he do something about it in his spare time? Because that was the only reason why I'm here. I don't care about his secret place!" said the girl, making her point.

Yes, it's true that Lilac wanted to see what kind of man who gave an order to kill an innocent baby. In fact, she wanted more than 'see' this man, she wanted to get the sweet revenge that she always imagined. But, it was her personal grudge. It was not the main reason why she was there. Her main mission must come first. The mission that was given by Selene, the Moon Goddess.

Lilac was grateful for what Selene did for her. She saved her life, and gave her a second chance. But, every breath that she took came with a great price. She had to do something in return to pay for it. Lilac didn't mind with all that, because she knew that her mission was about something bigger, more important than anything.

The only thing that she couldn't understand was why would Selene mixed things up, relating Jedrek to her in an odd situation with the mate-bond between them. She thought that their complicated relationship would only make her mission even harder. It really didn't help at all.

"Are you sure, you don't want to know about this secret place?" There was a glimpse of surprise behind Maximus's smile.

"There is a reason why it is a secret. And I never wish to snoop on anybody's secret!"