

TLOA Lycan 691

Chapter 691 - INSIDE THE WOODS

"No, there is someone there! There is someone there!" Hope became frantic and this was the first time Kace saw Hope like this.

"Hope!" Kace held her face in his warm palms and watched her anxious eyes drifted to the dense trees, refused to look at him. "Tell me who is there."

Hope shifted her attention toward her mate, her brows wrinkled as she bit her lips, hesitated to answer him. "I don't know... but, she is calling for me."

"Why is she calling you?" Kace couldn't make sense with Hope sudden outburst. They were sleeping and all of sudden she was awake and talking nonsensical things like this.

"Because she is alone there. Afraid and vulnerable..." Hope was also confused with her own answer, but that was what she felt. She called for her and she needed to come.

Kace gazed at the dense trees and saw Chiron was approaching them, along with the other centaurs because of the commotion they caused. "What is she?"

Hope seemed like she was in deep thought. "Human...?" she answered with uncertainty.

"There is no human will be able to do that." Kace shook his head. Whatever inside the dense trees, it was not human. That was for sure. There was no human here except the people that with them, the villagers.

"What happened?" Chiron asked them when he was close enough.

"Hope heard someone in the dense," Kace answered.

"You heard someone in the dense?" Even Chiron was confused. How she was able to hear someone when the centaurs and shifters couldn't pick any sounds whatsoever?

Hope grew more agitated by the passing seconds. "Kace, please..." she implored with her eyes because she was frustrated to explain it.

Kace sighed deeply. "I will go over there to check on it, but you shouldn't come near. Understood?"

Hope didn't have a choice. "Understood." After all, she kicked up a fuss in the middle of the night and was not able to explain herself.

"But, if I found whatever there is dangerous, there will be no negotiation."

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Raine didn't know how long it had been when she woke up, but the feeling that surrounded her didn't seem right, the comfortable bed inside her tent had turned into rough grass, which scratched her skin.

The air, which had been warm and sweet, was now cold and eerie.

Raine stirred slowly, but when she sensed the change of her environment, she immediately sat up. Her big obsidian eyes, opened widely, taking her new situation.

"Torak?" Raine whispered, calling her mate and when she realized she was alone with no one nearby, fear crept in her heart. She whimpered and stood up in alert.

Raine was in the middle of the woods and didn't know how she could get here. The last thing she remembered was lying down beside Torak and fell asleep.

Raine pressed her back against a tree behind her and tilted her head to see a huge, nearly full moon in the night sky. She tried to calm her breath and think about what she had to do, assessing her circumstances.

After all, it was not her first time being in this kind of situation, jumping from one place to another or going back and forth between past and present.

From the look of it, apparently Raine just teleported herself to different place, which she could sigh in relieve, thus the next thing that she had to do was to find out where she was and get back to Torak.

Sound like a plan for Raine, yet in the middle of the night and in this unknown woods, it would be wise for her to not roam around and wait until the sun came up.

But, this stillness scared her. Raine was completely aware that she was alone.

[Torak...] Raine tried to reach him through the mind link, but there was no respond. It seemed she was too far, so she couldn't reach him. Yet, she tried again. [Torak where are you?]

Raine rocked herself back and forth to calm herself, pressing her legs against her chest and rested her chin on her knees.

If the quietness was not enough to frighten her, Raine started to hear rustling sounds from the bushes on her left side.

Something was approaching her and whatever it was, this thing was very fast!

When Raine was considering her options between ran away and stayed, hiding herself behind the trees, she watched a white lycan emerged from the bushes.

Its white fur bathed under the moonlight, magnificently.

Raine froze, relief coursed through her body, yet it didn't last for long time, because the moment her eyes met with the beast dark ones, she knew right away that the white beast was not Torak.

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"What do you mean Kace was hurt?" Jedrek asked Killian. Apparently, the mind reader forgot to mention this in his last report.

"I am not really sure if this is true, after all he was injured after nearly beating me to death," Killian complained, "but, from what I heard Maximus asked a fae's help to create poison to weaken him. But, I don't know what kind of poison was that."

"Do you think he has a chance to use it on him?" Eaton asked, he was standing beside Jedrek in his study room, where only the three of them left after the meeting with the other six generals and Beta Lyrus.

"I think there was a fight, because Maximus was injured and stayed away from your younger sibling for some time." Killian tried to remember that piece of information.

Eaton raised his brows and commented. "Wow! I thought Kace had the softest heart of the three of you, but I was wrong. As expected of Donovans." Eaton looked Jedrek, who was in deep thought. "You should call him back. Maximus I meant. Now Torak is going to meet Kace, he will not stand a chance against the two of them. This will only create misunderstanding on your part."

Chapter 692 - MEETING KACE

Jedrek's first order was indeed to kill the guardian angel, who would be Kace's mate, but the second order was only to find Kace and his mate whereabouts.

However, Maximus interpreted his order differently and went extra miles to kill the younger Donovan, which Jedrek never ordered him to do like that.

"You have to kill him," Killian said. "Maximus has been a b*tch for decades."

"No, we can't do that," Eaton rejected the idea.

"And why he can't do that? I wonder why you didn't finish him off since you knew his loyalty wasn't to you." Killian looked Jedrek, asking for answer.

Yet, it was Eaton, who explained to him. "Maximus's influence in the eastern region is great, since he was the last Gregory. Those people owed him a big favor, so if we kill him, there will be a riot there and that is the last thing we need in this situation."

That was one of the reasons why Jedrek kept him alive.

"Ask Sebastian and Kyle to bring him back," Jedrek ordered Killian before he dismissed him.

"Will do," Killian said and walked out of the room.

Since Jedrek was no longer under the influence of his father or the devils that stayed under his roof, that fact made the burden on his mind a little less. However, he still needed to face the reality that the blame was on him regarding the death of Janus and Diana.

No matter what Eaton said to sugarcoat that fact, it didn't make the Alpha King felt better even in the slightest.

No one would know about this and it was something he would have to deal with throughout his eternal life.

"Jedrek, what you will do to Maximus?" Eaton asked Jedrek carefully. This King had been less and less talking recently and Eaton was having a hard time to guess what was inside his mind.

"The thing that I should have done long time ago." Jedrek gave him a questionable answer.

"Jedrek, you know what will happen if you kill him." Eaton tried to remind Jedrek the thing that he had known very clear.

Jedrek raised his head and stared into Eaton's eyes coldly. "I killed both my parents, do you think there will be someone else that I am reluctant to kill?"

He had done many atrocity acts, thus if he had to rule with more blood in his hands, so be it.

He had lost his soul anyway.

He didn't need his soul, he just wanted to make everything went according to his plan.

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Raine's eyes locked on the white beast that prowled toward her, bared his fangs dangerously. She didn't make any movement, afraid that the lycan before her would misinterpret her reaction and attacked her.

However, at the same time her mind worked very fast, as she knew who the white beast was.

"Kace?" Raine called his name and the beast stopped in his track. "You are Kace Donovan, right?"

They came to this place to look for him, even though Raine didn't know how Kace Donovan looked like, but in his white fur, the beast was definitely Torak's younger brother.

The beast squinted his blue eyes, which to Raine relief, his human side was in full control, thus there was nothing to be worry about it. Hopefully.

"I came here with Torak to look for you," Raine was trying to explain herself since Kace refused to shift back into his human form. "I am Raine. Torak's mate."

Raine sat there with her back pressed against the tree, watching the white beast circled her and crept closer. Its snout touched Raine's hand and she cowered away. It felt strange, though the beast looked exactly like Torak's, but she knew it was not him and the absent of the spark between them only made Raine felt the bizzareness.

However, in the next second, the white beast shifted into his human form before her eyes and in another second, there was a man, with almost the same feature like Torak, even they shared the same blue eyes, kneeling in front of her.

"You smell like him," Kace groaned. This girl was indeed Torak's mate. He could see Torak's mark that peeked on her neck.

In one glance, one could be mistaken this man from Torak, but in closer look, he was nothing like his older brother.

Torak gave off a cold and dominance aura, but Kace was akin to a careless young guy with unruly nature. Though, Raine was still thinking Torak was way more handsome than him, but it was her subjective opinion, as Torak was her mate.

"I don't think I smell like him." Raine sniffed herself, but she couldn't smell anything, she didn't even know what her own smell was like.

"What are you doing here?" Kace stood up and glanced down at Raine. He assessed the girl before his eyes and found the similarity between her and Hope.

Both of the guardian angels had the same long black hair color and black bright eyes, yet Raine looked so timid and easily scared while Hope was more cheeky and buoyant.

"I don't know either," Raine said softly, she stood up and Kace could see how small she was. Did Torak not give her enough food? But, then Kace remembered Hope also only slightly taller than her.

"What do you mean you don't know?" Kace looked around him and sniffed the air, but he couldn't find Torak's scent anywhere, which was very strange. It was impossible he would leave his mate alone in this woods. "Where is him?"

"We..." Raine couldn't finish her words when she watched in horror three or four human with horse body, emerged from the dense trees. She shrieked and hid behind Kace's back. "What is that?"

"Centaur," Kace answered curtly, he glanced at Raine, "what are you doing?" Raine didn't answer him, her eyes fixed on the strange creatures in front of her. "You don't need to be afraid, they are the cutest creatures here."

Chapter 693 - THE TWO GUARDIAN ANGELS

"Cute?" Chiron looked at Kace incredulously, the only person who he ever heard saying that kind of word was only Hope, but it seemed, Hope's vocabulary had contaminated Kace's as well.

Ignoring Chiron's protest, Kace's attention was on Raine. To think that the girl, who was hiding behind his back was his cold and aloof brother's mate, didn't seem right. How Torak could handle someone so fragile like her? It even surprised Kace that the girl had bore Torak's mark.

Meanwhile, it was the first time for Raine to see centaurs. She didn't even know that the centaur was real! Torak had never mentioned about them.

Raine clenched Kace's shirt even tighter when they approached her and was lost for her words when one of them talked.

They could talk! And sounded like human for her.

"She was from the same race as Hope." Chiron nodded toward Raine. "Is she the guardian angel?"

Even Raine couldn't register Chiron's question when she stared intensely at the centaur.

Among the four centaurs, the one who was talking to Kace was the biggest one and his voice laced with dominant. He must be the leader. Raine could easily distinguish it, since she had spent a lot of time with Torak.

Those centaurs were very big. Their bodies were built with muscle. The upper part of the centaur body was human, with broad shoulder that dropped to their torso, but from their waist down was horse.

Raine found it was hard to believe what she was seeing now. She was curious, but at the same time frightened by them.

"Apparently, she is the person who Hope sensed earlier," Chiron spoke and Raine missed almost the whole conversation between Chiron and Kace. "We need to go back to the tent and bring her with us."

"No." Kace objected. "She needs to go back to Torak and I don't want him to be close to us." Knowing Torak would track his mate down, Kace didn't want to keep Raine near their group. He didn't know why Raine was here, but he was sure his brother would collect his mate.

"You will leave her alone inside the woods?" Chiron crossed his arms in front of his burly chest, while looking at Raine impassively.

Well, it seemed he was nice, Raine thought. At least, the centaur refused to leave her here alone.

Kace grimaced when he heard that. Of course he couldn't let Raine to stay inside this wood alone, but he didn't want to meet his older brother too. Things would only go south if he met him.

"Why do you come here?" Kace turned around and exposed Raine to the centaurs.

And when the girl lost her hiding place, she started becoming nervous under the spotlight of the attention of those centaurs and Kace.

"We... we come here to find you..." Raine whimpered. She felt like she was close to get a panic attack.

In spite the fact that it had been quite a while since the last time she got it, but she couldn't help. After all, it was in the middle of the night, inside the place that she didn't know, among the creatures that she thought was only a myth. And the last person she thought would defend her, looked at her with displeasure.

"Why do you want to find me?!" Kace glowered at Raine intensely and she lowered her head in fear.

"Because... the war..." Raine gulped hard, she felt her throat became dry.

"How many people with you?" Kace asked grimly. He was sure, he wouldn't like the answer.

"Around... two hundred people..." Raine answered truthfully.

D*mn Torak and his people! He cursed internally. "We can't take her with us or let Torak find us." Kace concluded. He just needed to hear the 'war' word to know the rest of the reason why Torak marched toward this realm to find him.

It was the same reason why Kace had fled from Serefina. Because the witch had talked about this when his mate's condition was barely alive.

Kace didn't care about what would happen to the world. He just wanted to be with Hope and the rest could burn into dust for all he cared. He knew it sounded arrogant and egoistic, yet sometime what we knew and what we wanted contradicted each other.

"Why?" Suppressing her fear, Raine raised her head to look at Kace. "The war is getting closer and we should..."

"I don't care about war." Kace cut her words icily.

Raine narrowed her eyes. "Those words are very ignorant." She remembered what the devils had done to Sunny, to Aeon, to her life. The pain of knowing that Torak was dead, still remained vividly in Raine's mind. And here, Kace talked that he didn't care about the war.

"I am very ignorant person if you don't realize it yet." Kace spoke sharply to her.

"You think you will be safe hiding here?" In her vexation, Raine found her voice to retort Kace's words. "There will be more people who will die."

"Trust me, I have told him about it many times, but he doesn't want to hear me." Hope interrupted as she walked into the clearing area where Raine and Kace were standing, facing each other in argumentation while the rest of the centaurs simply being bystander.

"Didn't I tell you that you can't come here?" Kace approached her and threw a dagger look to Zarn, who was escorting her.

"Since when I listen to you?" Hope whispered as she tiptoed to kiss Kace's cheek, to appease her angry mate.

However, the moment her eyes landed on Raine, they grew brighter and the fireflies swirled around them, flickering against the darkness of the night.

The two guardian angels stared at each others, fascinated by the other presence as they walked closer. "I don't believe it, I finally met you."

Hope knew by heart that the girl in front of her eyes was the guardian angel. She just knew it.

"I have seen you," Raine said.

Chapter 694 - UNDER THE MOONLIGHT

Yes, Raine had seen her. She saw Hope when she went to devil's place, to save Torak.

Hope was standing beside the flower girl, who was holding a bucket of red flower.

"I have seen you," Raine said. "And the other guardian angel."

Hope beamed. She didn't know why, but she felt happy to see her. "Really? What is your name?"

"Raine," Raine said timidly, she held her hand, but Hope threw herself to hug her.

"I am Hope!" she was almost shouting in her ears, but her action melted the anxiousness that Raine felt as she hugged her back.

It was an amazing feeling. Both of them felt like they had known each other for years. As though they were the long lost sibling, who just reunited again. There was no awkwardness and it seemed very natural to hug each other.

Both of them were overwhelmed with this feeling, until they forgot about their surroundings.

"Don't let your fear cloud your judgment about what the right thing to do," Chiron said, as he walked closer toward Kace and stood beside him, staring at the two guardian angels, who were dazzled by each other's presence.

"I will not march into the war with my mate," Kace spoke rigidly.

"Stop running, Kace. You've been running for too long." Chiron squeezed Kace's shoulder.

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With only a touch a flower bloomed beautifully under the light of the full moon, basking its red petals with alluring beauty and swayed gently by the wind.

Lilac grazed her finger to the other flower buds and the same thing happened, until this small garden was filled with fresh scent and she was satisfied.

Hiding behind the freshly bloomed flowers, Lilac had zero care to the dirt beneath her feet when she chose to sit there.

She wanted to feel like she was at home. There were too many things had happened since she arrived here and on top of that, she lost one precious year because Jedrek had put her under that stupid illusion.

She had not yet forgiven him for that, but it also didn't seem like the Alpha King would apologize for her lost year.

Lilac fell on her back and let her jet black hair scattered all over the ground, dirtied herself. However, it was only at times like this that Lilac felt very comfortable and could think more calmly.

The guardian angel stared to the night sky and watched as a firefly flickered before her eyes and a soft smile appear on her lips. "It will not be long..." she stretched out her hand and the firefly perched on her fingertip.

"What are you doing here?"

Lilac was too engross with her own thought and didn't realize Tordoff had been staring at her in the entire time she grew all of these flowers.

"Thinking," Lilac answered, but kept lying on the ground.

"Mind if I join you?" Tordoff sat beside Lilac and heard the girl giggled.

"If I say I mind, will you get up and go?" Lilac asked teasingly.

"It is comfortable here," Tordoff ignored her objection and caressed the freshly bloomed flower. "This is beautiful. I wish I have a power like you."

"I wish I don't know about all of this," Lilac mumbled and lowered her hand, watching the firefly flew away.

Her last conversation with Jedrek still lingered in the back of her head and the thing that happened afterward.

Jedrek kissed her. It was not like the passionate kiss that they shared back then when they were in the castle or the kiss when she was under the illusion.

Their kiss was different at that time, filled with unspeakable emotions. Jedrek didn't force his way. It was a chaste and innocent kiss, which didn't last for long time for both of them to savor and even left more questions after that.

Jedrek didn't say anything when he escorted her to her chamber beside his and only left her with a 'good night' and a kiss on her temple.

Later, Lilac couldn't see him for three days straight. Not even in his chamber, in his study room, in great hall, every corner of this castle, not anywhere. He was gone and the people that she asked about him only said that he had another matter to be handled. He went out of the castle with Eaton and some of his generals.

Lilac couldn't comprehend the way Jedrek treated her, when she thought to treat the bond between them casually, he acted as if he wanted her, yet when Lilac took a step closer, he was out of her reach.

Lilac had to keep reminding herself that he was the same person who had ordered Maximus to kill her, but if she was true to herself, she couldn't find in herself to hate him as much as she thought she could.

The soft nature of guardian angel truly added another complication in this weird situation.

"Hei, I was asking you." Tordoff nudged Lilac's cheek to get her attention.

"What?" Lilac tilted her head, she was lost in her own thought. "I am sorry, I didn't hear your question. What you asked?"

Tordoff sighed. "You can share your problem with me, you know?"

"Thank you for your offer," Lilac smiled beautifully, "but this is not something that I want to share. What was your question?"

Tordoff shrugged his shoulder and dismissed his concern for her. "I asked if you want to go with me to the city? You have not been out of this castle since the first time you came, right?"

"It sounds nice," Lilac agreed. She pushed herself to sit down and patted the dirt from her dress and hair.

"You will like the city." Tordoff stretched out his hand and picked up a dry leaf from Lilac's hair as she said 'thank you'.

"If you treat me a meal, it will be perfect." Lilac grinned. It felt so easy to talk with Tordoff and she enjoyed her company.

"Great," Tordoff mumbled while caressing Lilac's hair.

Chapter 695 - SHE IS YOUR QUEEN

At first Lilac didn't notice his touch as her mind was thinking about how it would be nice if she could talk with Jedrek as easy as she talked to Tordoff.

But, then she realized it when Tordoff's fingers brushed her cheeks and caressed her jaw. Lilac frowned and slightly jerked away from him as she looked at the general questioningly.

"Dirt," Tordoff answered, but he avoided her eyes when he lowered his hand. "Why don't you go back inside? It is getting cold in here."

Lilac cleared her throat to get rid the awkwardness in the air when she replied to him casually. "Why? Are you cold? Afraid of getting sick?"

"Of course, not. We, shifter, can stand even the worst weather without getting sick." Tordoff chuckled. "But, you will get sick if you stay out for long time."

"Glad to hear that your kind has strong body," Lilac scoffed and rolled her eyes dramatically, but it only made Tordoff laughed even louder.

"Come on, I will escort you back to your room." Tordoff stood up and held out his hand to help Lilac, which she accepted it gladly and both of them walked back to the castle, talking and laughing upon hearing the other person lame jokes.

Away from them, behind the blurry window of one of the rooms, Jedrek watched everything that unfolded with emotionless expression.

This was not the first time Jedrek watched Tordoff walked Lilac back to her chamber and it wouldn't be the last either.

"The people who had lost their family member demanded explanation from their King." Eaton reported this news to Jedrek. "You had killed many of their family members and rumor about it had spread like a wild fire."

"Rumor will only be a rumor," Jedrek replied, he shifted his attention from the small garden to Eaton.

"People will start to believe the rumor if don't do anything about it." Eaton pressed this matter.

"Especially if there is some truth behind this."

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"I don't believe it we finally met," Hope said. She put the blanket for both of them and laid down beside Raine.

"So do I," Raine agreed. "Sereфина said it was not the right time for us to meet when I knew there are another guardian angels."

"Sereфина told me the same thing." Hope pouted. "Oh, right. You said that you had seen me before this, but where?"

"I have a vision," Raine told her and she chuckled when she watched Hope's eyes grew bigger. "I saw you and the other guardian angel in my vision."

"Really? That is so cool!" Hope squalled. "How do the other guardian angels look like?"

"She is... beautiful, like you." Raine smiled and Hope laughed.

"Of course, it is impossible for us to be handsome," She said.

"Girls sleep! It's past midnight!" Kace shouted from outside of the tent.

"Leave us alone! It's girls night!" Hope shouted back at him and both of them could hear Kace grunted and groaned while stomping away.

It seemed tonight would be long, but like what Kace said, they needed sleep. When Raine felt very tired after what happened, Hope still hadn't fully recovered from her condition.

Thus after a few more conversation, both of them fell asleep soundlessly.

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"Lilac, I am sorry, I think we have to postpone our plans to go to the city." Tordoff found Lilac near the small garden when he had made a promise to take her to the city last night.

"Why?" Lilac asked him, disappointment was apparent in her eyes. She needed distraction and being trapped inside the castle without knowing what was happening outside was a little bit frustrated.

She had been thinking about went out to the city when Tordoff offered to take a walk there, but now h said he couldn't?

Lilac was up early to plan for the day, she was so excited and now Tordoff said they needed to postpone their plan?

"The king gave me an order to catch up with Sebastian and Kyle to find Maximus." Tordoff also felt disappointed because of this sudden order, but what else could he do? "Maybe, I will be back next week, how about we leave after I come back?"

Lilac lowered her eyes to hide her discontentment. "Actually, I can go alone."

"No, you don't know this city," Tordoff rejected Lilac's idea immediately. He didn't want her to roam around the city alone.

"When we were still in city central, I assure you I was fine, even when I went there alone," Lilac said confidently.

"No, just wait for my return and we will go there together," Tordoff insisted for Lilac to go with him. However, their little conversation was disturbed when the general someone approached them.

Tordoff tilted his head toward the direction, which Jedrek would appear and was slightly frown.

"Your Majesty," he greeted Jedrek and lowered his head in respect to his King.

Lilac immediately turned around to see Jedrek, but avoided to see his eyes when he walked over with Lyrus next to him.

"I believe you was given an order," Jedrek spoke rigidly, staring intensely at Tordoff when he noticed how close Tordoff stood beside Lilac.

"Apologize your Majesty, I will go now," Tordoff grinded his teeth with displeasure.

"I will walk with you. Come on." Lyrus took the initiative to bring the general out of this awkward situation. He signaled Tordoff to follow him.

Reluctantly, he followed the Beta after took another glimpse at Lilac, who was still looking toward different direction.

"Walk with me," Jedrek said.

And that was the last thing that Tordoff heard before they turned down the corridor. He didn't know, whether Lilac agreed or not.

"Don't have any idea about her," Lyrus spoke in warning tone.

"What?" Tordoff looked at the Beta. "Who?"

"Lilac, the guardian angel." Lyrus stopped walking and faced him.

Tordoff knew what he meant, but he couldn't see there was something wrong with that. "Why?"

"Because the guardian angel is your king's mate and she will be your queen."

Chapter 696 - HIS GROUCHY BROTHER

Hope and Raine were woken up when they heard Lydia's voice rang inside their tent and felt she shook their body hastily.

"What happened?" Hope rubbed her eyes and Raine had sat down groggily.

"You," Lydia said while pointing her finger toward Raine. "Quickly get up and go outside before something really bad happens."

"Huh?" Raine blinked her eyes rapidly to get her focus. "What happened?"

"Your mate is out there fighting Kace," Lydia spoke hastily, when she finished her words they could hear vicious growls and snarls from outside.

Without second thought, both Raine and Hope stormed out of the tent to appease their mate.

In the clearing, there were many people, centaurs and shifters had gathered to see the two white lycans circled each other, baring their sharp- razor fangs.

It seemed like the Donovan's reunion was not the warm one, definitely without any affection. Instead of hugging each other they chose to claw the other brother's face.

[No, stop!] Raine cried through the mind- link to reach Torak. She hoped the lycan could hear her.

Meanwhile, Hope rushed straight toward Kace's beast, though both white Lycan had the same color and size, but somehow they could recognize their own mate.

"No, Kace! Stop it!" Hope blocked the white beast and he snarled viciously at his mate.

Hope's position now, was an easy target if Torak chose to attack her, therefore the anger coursed through his veins because of Hope reckless moves.

However, at the same time Raine did the same, she hugged the beast tightly and buried her face in his soft white fur. "I am all right, I am fine," she said hastily.

Both of the beasts still snarled at each other, but it didn't take a long time before they calmed down under their mate consolation.

Hope hugged Kace's beast and tried to make him back down, but he shook his head and locked his black eyes on his brother, as Torak did the same. No one wanted to back down.

"STOP IT BOTH OF YOU!" Serefina's voice boomed in the clearing. The witch stopped running and panted heavily when she reached them. "Shift back will you?! And stop snarling at each other!" Serefina snapped to the two angry beasts.

However, it seemed her warning only incurred their wrath even further as the two beasts roared at her now.

At least, they were on the same page when it came to the witch.

"Oh, please!" Serefina exasperated. "If you want to kill each other, do it later! We have another important problem to be discussed!"

The two beasts did not appreciate Serefina's tone as they growled menacingly at her again. If it was not because of their mates, clinging onto their neck, they would have charged toward Serefina and there would be another battle that happened this morning.

However, Serefina had known both of them well enough to lose her courage upon their snarls and growls.

Hence, without fear, she pointed Torak with her long finger, as she spoke sternly. "Stop it. You can see yourself that Raine is safe and sound, there is nothing to be hostile!"

And then Serefina shifted her attention toward Kace. "And you! How dare you ran away from me and took Hope with you! Shift back now! I have dozen things to talk to you!"

Yet, just like any other day, no matter how angry Serefina and stubborn she was, the two lycans were on different level when it concerned their mates.

"Torak, please... I am fine, they did not do anything to me. I finally met the other guardian angel, don't you feel happy for me?" Raine coaxed her mate while running her fingers around his ear, she knew the beast loved this.

In the other side, Hope did the same. She kissed Kace's snout and implored with her big bright eyes.

It took another agitating minute for both Donovan to relent and finally shifted back to their human form, but the tension was still in the air.

Torak immediately checked on Raine and when he was sure she was fine, only then he gave his brother his attention.

Meanwhile, Kace pushed Hope behind his back when he reciprocated Torak's glare.

"Do you think you can come and wreck some havoc here?!" Kace snapped at his brother. "You have got your mate, now go!"

Torak narrowed his eyes, did not appreciate Kace's tone at all.

"Wreck some havoc, huh?" Torak scoffed, he placed his arm around Raine's waist protectively. "You dare to say something like that when it was you who attacked me first?"

It was true.

As soon as Kace smelled Torak's scent, his beast came to the surface and felt the urgency to drag Torak out of there. He did not want his brother to be here. It was an instinct and Kace let his beast to take control.

Therefore, Torak did not have choice, but to fight him back.

It was not Torak's intention to create such a ruckus, yet if Kace wanted to make things became difficult, he was more than welcome to give it to him.

Amidst the tension, there was sound of hooves that tapped on the ground and the leader of the centaur stepped forward.

"Alpha Torak," Chiron greeted Torak as he bowed his head respectfully.

Torak looked at the Centaur, the creature that was believed had been extinct, yet there they were. Alive and well.

"Chiron," Torak mentioned his name curtly.

He knew Chiron, though he was not there when Kace failed to meet Jedrek's expectation and had to go to his place to eradicate those centaurs' mates and their offspring, himself.

"Kace, come here," Torak called to his brother. "We need to talk."

"Do you think you can order me around?" Kace grunted.

"Of course," Torak answered without hesitation and when he watched Kace was about to retort, he added. "I am your older brother."

Kace groaned. "But, it doesn't mean I will follow you."

"Oh, you will." Torak crossed his arms while staring at his grouchy brother.

Chapter 697 - TOO MUCH TO COMPLAIN

After Torak said that the rest of the lycanthropes and werewolves that came with Torak arrived in the clearing too.

In his haste, the Alpha had outran them and Serefina simply teleported herself from time to time to keep up with them, as it was impossible for the witch to run alongside the shifter in their beast's form.

"Chiron, I think we need some space to talk." Serefina stepped forward to stop both of brothers from glaring at each other. "We need to talk with you too."

Chiron nodded at Serefina. "Sure, we can use one of our tents for more privacy." The centaur held out his hand to lead the way.

However, Torak had another idea. "I need to talk to you first." He stared at Kace. "Come with me."

"No," Kace said curtly, he crossed his arms in front of his chest defiantly. But, of course Torak wouldn't give it to him.

"Come. With. Me." Torak enunciated every word while staring intensely at his younger brother.

"No." Kace stood his ground. "If you just want to talk, you don't need to bring your people with you." He threw a nasty look toward the people behind Torak.

Of course, Torak brought them all just in case everything was not going according to their plan, after all, they would meet the centaurs and Torak knew very well what the Donovan had done to their kind. What Jedrek had done to them.

In spite of the fact they accepted Kace, but Torak wouldn't rely on it, especially when Raine came along with him.

"Back off," Torak said to Alpha Romulus on his left side and they took three steps back directly. He turned toward Raine and caressed her hair tenderly. "Stay with Calleb and Jack, okay?"

"Okay," Raine answered immediately.

Soon afterward, Torak walked toward Kace without hesitation. He knew his brother. He was the one who taught him how to fight centuries ago and even he realized there was big part of him that changed since that day, one thing Torak knew for sure, Kace wouldn't resolve anything with violence.

Just like what their father said; Kace was the kindhearted Donovan. Strongly reminded them of their mother.

"Walk with me," Torak said as he gestured for Kace to follow him into the dense woods.

"You sound like Jedrek," Kace spoke grumpily.

"And you sound like mother." Torak didn't stop walking, because he knew Kace followed him, eventually.

"What is that meant?" he frowned.

"Too much to complaint," Torak replied.

With groan and grunt, Kace finally followed his older brother, but not before he warned Hope grumpily. "Stay here."

After the two Donovan disappeared behind the dense trees, Serefina walked toward Chiron and spoke tiredly.

"Can you show me the tent? I think I need to catch up my breath." She had been using her power constantly all night and had to deal with Torak and Kace at the same time, it exhausted her mentally and physically.

"Serefina!" Hope pounced onto the witch until she almost lost her balance. "I miss you!"

Serefina scoffed, but she patted Hope's head. "You miss me, yet I have to take this annoying trip to find you."

Hope raised her head and grinned. "I have told Kace many times to go back to mystic river village, but he simply didn't listen to me," she complained.

It was undeniable fact that Serefina was the most annoying person that Hope ever met, but she had grown up under her care and she wouldn't be this strong, if it was not for Serefina's way to teach her.

"Where is Lana? Didn't she come with you?" Hope looked at the massive people behind Serefina's back, but couldn't find her.

"No, she will meet us in the mystic river village," Serefina said and pushed Hope away from her, she was still not used to how Hope had hugged her, though she had done this occasionally since she was only a toddler.

Meanwhile, Raine looked at the interaction between Serefina and Hope with puzzlement. She didn't know that Serefina could be less hostile toward guardian angel and display a tinny bit affection toward Hope. Something that she had never shown it to her.

But then, Raine understood that Serefina had raised Hope, thus it was only natural for her to treat her a little bit warm.

"Okay, I am tired now, I want to rest." Serefina finally managed to free herself from Hope's arms and walked away.

"Don't you miss me?" Hope asked sullenly, they had not seen each other for almost a year now, but this was how she treated her?

"No," Serefina answered shortly.

However, this answer made Hope laughed. As expected from the witch. She couldn't expect anything from her.

And when Serefina had walked away with Chiron, Hope waltzed toward Raine. She had a lot of things to talk to her, last night conversation was not enough.

But, Calleb and Jack blocked her way before she could reach Raine.

"Where are you going?" Jack asked. "Go back to your pack."

Hope frowned. "But, I want to talk to Raine."

"No, don't you hear your mate had said? You have to stay there," Calleb chimed in.

The guardian angel turned her gaze to Calleb, she was sure she had met him somewhere. However, she couldn't recall where or when...

"Why are you treating her like that?" Raine walked toward them and the two lycans couldn't stop her to stand beside Hope.

"Luna, you can't go with her..." Jack spoke, but Raine cut his sentence.

"Yes, I am your Luna, so start to treat me like one," Raine retorted.

"Raine, Torak said you should stay with us," Calleb talked.

"Sure, you can follow me then," Raine said cheekily and grabbed Hope's hand. "Let's go."

And both of them walked away toward the direction where Torak and Kace had gone while chatting happily.

Caleb and Jack groaned, but Raphael patted their shoulder. "Go, follow them. Maybe they will hurt each other," he said with a hint of sarcasm.

Chapter 698 - BAD INFLUENCE

Lilac followed Jedrek to the city, they were walking side to side with Theo and Warlock behind them and behind the two generals were a few lycan warriors.

Their small group attracted too much attention from passerby, for Lilac liking, as they bowed their head very low to their King.

"Why are you taking me to the city?" Lilac asked while looking at her surroundings. Stand after stand

"So, you will familiarize yourself with this realm. Starting from this city," Jedrek said.

"And, why should I familiarize myself with all of this?" Lilac felt like it was a hard job to understand the lycan beside her. He changed his mood and the way he treated her every time they met.

For a few days Jedrek was missing until Lilac felt she was being abandoned after their kissing the other night, as if he didn't want have anything to do with her, but now he wanted her to familiarize herself with this realm as if she was about to live here forever.

There was no forever for guardian angel... they were resurrected for a mission...

Jedrek didn't reply to her immediately, but when he decided to answer, his words surprised Lilac. "You are my mate, it means you will be their queen too."

Lilac raised her eyebrows at Jedrek when a lot of sarcastic words roamed around her head, but she was having a hard time to choose, which one she should use, in the end, it was only a simply question that passed her lips. "So, you relent now?"

"I think it is too late for us to go against it." Jedrek glanced at Lilac, who was staring at him since he said those words. "You are right, the war is getting closer and that is the important thing now."

Lilac shook her head, didn't believe with what she heard. "Just focus on the war, there is no need for me to know about your realm."

So, when finally the King realized what she said was true, their relationship turned from trying to hurt each other to become two people with the same interest and goal?

Ignoring Lilac's blunt rejection, Jedrek spoke. "There are a lot of customs that you need to know."

Lilac scoffed, knowing her words would turn into a deaf ear. "I don't think I will or want to learn that."

"You will. It takes time, but you will learn. Sometime, it's better to be thrown into water when learning how to swim." Once again Jedrek didn't heed to Lilac's objection.

"And sometime you drown," Lilac quipped.

"As the future queen, no one will let you drown." Jedrek intertwined their hands together as they walked down the street, gaining curious gazes from his people.

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"What do you think they were talking about?" Hope asked Hope as they sat down on the grass, staring at their mates who were talking at each other with face that devoid from any emotion.

"I don't know, it is hard to guess whether they are in argumentation or they have had truce, when they have not yet changed their facial expression since two hours ago," Hope replied.

Raine chuckled, she liked Hope with her witty remark. She looked so bright and brave. "I am glad they don't claw each other's face."

"Yeah, I am glad too." Hope laughed with her as they talked about their mate and everything, it seemed like they would never run out of topic to talk.

Meanwhile, Calleb and Jack were standing not too far from them, guarding the two girls, who didn't seem really care about them, as they chatted away.

"I have never seen Raine this happy." Jack was the first guard that Torak assigned to protect Raine when Serefina took her out of their territory. At that time, Raine was barely talking and too shy to even look someone in the eyes.

Of course, the scene before him now was something Jack never imagined would happen in a year. It seemed the witch had put extra measure in her time with Raine, but the result was proof that was what Raine needed, especially in their circ.u.mstances with the devils and their minions lurked in the dark now.

"I think she finds another soulmate," Calleb spoke sullenly.

"What happened with you?" Jack tilted his head as he threw the Gamma a questioning look.

They were standing under a tree that kept raining them with dry leaves.

"What happened with me?" Calleb frowned.

"Your tone."

"What happened with my tone?"

Jack narrowed his eyes, assessing his fellow lycan. "Don't tell me you are jealous because Luna has another friend."

Calleb rolled his eyes dramatically, but that was not completely wrong. He indeed felt a little bit annoyed because Raine didn't bother with him anymore.

Calleb used to accompany Raine and was used to seeing her annoying or clinging to him all the time., thus seeing her didn't bother with him anymore, he felt abandoned.

Finally, after two hours long, Torak and Kace ended their conversation and went back to their mates, who had been waiting for them.

Though Torak and Kace said for them to stay where they had left the two, but when they watched Hope and Raine followed after them, they just glanced toward their direction before continued whatever topic they were discussing.

"Didn't I tell you to stay with Calleb and Jack?" Torak asked Raine when he reached her.

"There they are." Raine pointed her finger toward Calleb and Jack. "I stay with them," she said cheekily and Torak couldn't counter that.

"And you," Kace knocked Hope's head lightly. "Didn't I tell you to stay there?"

Hope crossed her arms defiantly. "Stay where? Give specific area. I'm not wandering far from the tent."

Kace groaned and he threw Torak a look. "Your mate brings bad influence to my mate," he accused Raine. "Let's go eat something, I am hungry. Talking to him drain my energy." Kace grabbed Hope's hand and took her away toward the tent.

Chapter 699 - WARNING

Raine frowned upon hearing that, but Torak caressed her hair and wrapped his arm around her waist. "You don't need to listen to him."

"He doesn't seem to like me," Raine mumbled as both of them walked toward the tent with Calleb and Jack followed behind them.

"He doesn't like most of the people," Torak chuckled and reassured her.

"What both of you talking about?" Raine asked, curious. They had been talking for two hours long. However, to think that both of them had been separated for centuries, it was normal if they had a lot of things to talk about.

"Man to man conversation," Torak tousled her hair and chuckled when he watched Raine pouted her lips. "What about you? What both of you were talking?"

"Girl to girl conversation." Raine used the same tone as Torak, but it didn't sound similar, yet it made the Alpha laughed heartily seeing his mate a little bit sullen like this.

"Did I say you are beautiful today?" Torak teased her and he could watch Raine blushed. "You are my precious one."

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Lilac and Jedrek were having a fantastic day in the city. The sunny, clear skies and people who lined up to watch them and gave them respectful look. Noted the sarcasm.

There was no sunny clear sky, instead the sky was as dark as charcoal with thunder, which sounded like thousand beasts had been wrecking some havoc outside of the inn since an hour ago.

Lilac was sitting near fireplace in attempt to warm herself. Unfortunately, her body was not made of the same way the shifters did.

"Great! Even the weather doesn't like us to be together." Lilac said sarcastically. She was upset.

Lilac had asked to return to the castle even before the rain started pouring down the street, yet Jedrek didn't listen.

The king seemed to have a tight schedule for visiting three places in this city, so the reasons for introducing Lilac to his people were not quite accurate.

The moment Lilac realized Jedrek's intention, she had asked to return to the castle or wander alone in the city, but of course Jedrek rejected her idea adamantly.

However, after visiting the second place, the rain started pouring down heavily and here they were, sitting inside a tavern with Lilac couldn't move an inch from the fireplace without shivering.

Actually this place was cozy and quiet, and there was no a lot of people here, except for the three people who were sitting at their table obediently, not daring to make a sudden sound or movement, when they saw their King was there.

Meanwhile, Lilac and Jedrek sat at a nice table in the corner near a fireplace.

"Drink this," Jedrek gave Lilac a mug of warm cider, which the spices tingled in Lilac's throat and made her caught.

"What is that?" Lilac frowned pushed away the mug from her as if Jedrek was trying to poison her.

"This will keep you warm." Jedrek frowned, but he put away the mug and gestured to Theo to bring another drink for her.

"No, thanks. I am fine with the fire over here," Lilac said in bad mood, she lifted her legs and hugged them while resting her chin on top of her knees. She didn't dress for this kind of bad weather, thus she couldn't help but feeling cold.

"You think I will know when it is going to rain?" Jedrek glanced at Lilac and took off his coat and threw it to her. "Wear it," he said curtly.

The coat dropped on her knees, but Lilac kicked it away until it fell to the ground. The guardian angel didn't appreciate that rude gesture. "No need."

Jedrek glared at Lilac brazenness, yet the girl was more than ready for the staring contest. In the end, the King shook his head and picked up the coat from the ground, he patted it from the dirt and this time, he dr.a.p.ed the coat around Lilac carefully.

"I don't want..." Lilac was about to throw the coat away again when Jedrek caught her hand.

"Don't you dare," he said in warning tone.

???Why? You will punish me?" Lilac glared at him, she didn't want to feel intimidated by him.

"Try and you will see." Jedrek grinded his teeth. It had been a long time since someone rebelled against him countless time and still managed to have their head.

And like what Jedrek had expected, Lilac raised her hand to throw the cloak from her shoulder when Jedrek moved faster and wrapped the cloak even tighter around her.

The cloak was very big, so it was enough to wrap Lilac's body entirely, yet when Lilac struggled to free herself from him, Jedrek lost his patient and picked Lilac up, placed the girl on his laps and hugged her.

"You bastard! Put me down!" Lilac shouted and this drew attention from the people inside the tavern, including the two generals, who were sitting not too far from them.

"Keep calling me that and I will kiss you in front of these people." Jedrek warned her. "And you will see how bastard I am."

=====

Late at night, in one of the hallway of the castle, a man, who covered in dark cloak until no one could see his face, was standing beside an open window, while listening to a whisper. At first it was only a muffling sound and was hard to understand, yet the man managed to have a conversation with it.

The voices sounded like human, but their tones were hard to comprehend. The sound was akin to fingernails scrapped a chalkboard.

The whisper came from a shadow like a smoke.

"She is his mate..." The man said in low voice to the shadow and then came another whisper. "I am sure of it. He had said it himself and what happened today confirmed it." The man glanced at the empty hall. He was in alert, just in case there was someone else there. "The ceremony for the Luna will come after he has dealt with Maximus."

Chapter 700 - DON'T YOU AGREE WITH ME?

"I agree to go with you with one condition." Kace grinded his teeth in his attempt to hold back his anger. It wasn't easy for him to finally relent to Torak's demand.

After a long discussion that seemed would never end, Kace was cornered by Torak, Serefina and Chiron. Unfortunately for the younger Donovan, he was not able to counter the three of them at the same time.

Those three people were the most stubborn, persistent and too good at manipulating other. Kace's chance to get himself out of their demand was near zero.

"What is it?" Torak leaned his body against the backrest of his seat and looked at his grumpy brother. After a long time without seeing him he looked even crabbier than usual when it came to this kind of matter.

Torak knew Kace's displeasure toward Jedrek and Torak couldn't say that he agreed with all of the rules that his older brother set, but it was his realm and he was the sovereign, thus it was only his words were prevailed.

And this very reason too, which became one of the reasons why Torak chose to leave that realm. Aside he couldn't stand his brother, the Alpha's blood in him didn't allow Torak to kneel before the King.

All this time, the two of them had a tacit understanding to not disturb each other sovereignty, therefore, even though Jedrek was after the guardian angel and had an intention to kill them, he wouldn't do it openly in Torak's territory.

However, more or less, Torak knew Jedrek had secretly infiltrated his area. His last meeting with Lyrus had proved that.

After all, at that time, Torak had lost hope to find his mate after centuries of waiting for her, he thought the moon goddess had forgotten her own promise.

"I want Jedrek give back Centaur's land to them," Kace said without hesitation.

Chiron looked at the Lycan and lowered his head solemnly as if showing his gratitude. After all, this was what he had asked to him long time ago. He thought Kace had forgotten about it.

"You should ask him, not me," Torak said casually. "I will give it back to him if that land is within my territory, but unfortunately, it is not."

Kace shook his head. He knew Torak would say this. "You talk to him. I don't want to talk to him."

"Why?" Torak asked again calmly.

"Why?" Kace stared at his brother incredulously. "He had locked me inside the castle before I managed to escape, hunted me down by ordering his people to find me and killed my mate, and now you ask me 'why'?"

"Don't you want to complain directly to him? Maybe you can knock some sense into his head." Torak advised.

Kace scoffed, he wouldn't fall into Torak's words. "You want me to go. You talk to him. If he agreed to give back the land to the centaur, I will go. If not..." He shrugged his shoulder and waved his hand before walking out of the tent, leaving Torak, Serefina and Chiron inside.

It was the end of the conversation.

There was silence after Kace left the tent and it was Chiron who talked first. "I know this war is important, but we have been far too long from our ancestral lands. If we have to die, we want to die in our own land."

With that being said, Chiron nodded his head and walked out of the tent to find Kace.

"So?" Torak tilted his head toward Serefina. She had been silent ever since Kace agreed to Torak's demand on the terms that a little bit tricky.

"What 'so'?" Serefina frowned at Torak. She plopped on her seat and closed her eyes. The witch seemed exhausted.

"Why don't you go to Jedrek and talk to him? He usually listens to you."

Serefina threw Torak a nasty look. "Right. All I have to do is to meet him and say; hai, can you give back the centaur's land to them? And I will expect he say 'yes' easily..."

"Maybe you can try that way," Torak said casually, but when Serefina was about to retort he added, "in the end, you have to meet him, sooner or later."

=====

"Thank you for the term that you asked earlier." Chiron found Kace was lying down on a big rock, a little bit far from their campsite.

"I didn't ask that for you alone. That's for me too." Kace didn't open his eyes and let Chiron stand beside him.

That sounded like a simple request, it wasn't impossible to be granted, but also there was a high chance for Jedrek to turn it down without batting an eye.

And whatever it was, Kace didn't want to get a headache and be involved in the way they convinced Jedrek to do so.

He was not kind enough to forgive his brother for all the things that he had been through because of him.

The wound on his back was the end of his tolerance. The cost to heal it almost made him lose hope and he would never forget that.

"I still need to thank you." Chiron was adamant.

There was a silence between them before Kace spoke again. "How can you so easily forgive the person who killed your mate???"

Now, Kace had experienced that, he didn't think he would ever be ready to face the person who killed his mate calmly, just like what Chiron did right now.

There was nothing he wanted more rather than vengeance if Jedrek's people, Maximus, managed to locate her place and kill her.

That d*mn lycan should rot in hell. There was a little bit of regret that he didn't kill him in their last encounter.

"You were not the one who killed my mate and my firstborn, it will be wrong if I kill you," Chiron said in an impassive tone. "After all, living in sorrow, knowing you lost something so dear to you, is worse than death itself. Don't you agree with me?"