

TLOA Lycan 701

Chapter 701 - THINGS THAT NEED TO BE FIXED

Torak opened the tent and walked out to get some fresh air. He nodded to the two guards who were stationed in front of his tent. They would stay there to keep his mate safe.

After line of reasoning with Kace, Torak had another argumentation with Serefina about she, who would go the other realm and met Jedrek.

She looked reluctant, but didn't really turn down Torak's suggestion. The witch seemed to need a solid reason to see her ex lover. Which Torak understood and gave it to her.

In the end, what Torak said was true. Serefina would meet Jedrek eventually and it would be best if she went there herself, while Torak would take care of the matter here before they marched there.

All in all, the more Serefina pushed back her time to meet Jedrek, it would only prolong the discomfort and uneasiness that she felt. It would be better to put it to end right there and then, facing her own worries rather than dragged the matter longer.

Serefina and Jedrek needed a lot of time to talk.

And just like what Serefina always said to Raine; in their situation now, there was no time for her to wait until she was ready, because no one would ever be ready to face their own fear.

Torak rewarded with a dagger look from Serefina when he mentioned that.

"Are you a lycan?" A childlike voice called Torak.

He felt someone tugged on his trouser and the Alpha lowered his gaze to meet a little girl around the age of eight stared at Torak with her bright big eyes.

"Yes," Torak answered her.

"Are you Kace's big brother?" she asked again.

"Yes," Torak replied and sat down on the grass, watching the campsite before his eyes. "What are you doing following me?" He had felt her presence since he left the tent.

"I just want to know." Bree sat down beside Torak while hugging her cat.

"What is your name?"

"Bree." Bree looked at Torak and could see the similarity between Kace and him. "They said you will take Kace away."

Torak raised her brows, caught out of guard by her question. "I will."

Upon hearing that answer, the look in Bree's eyes showed how shocked she was, but then they turned gloomy.

"You don't like it if I take him with me?" Torak looked at the little girl, who was caressing her cat.

Bree shook her head. "I like him. He and Hope like older brother and sister for me."

"Where is your parent?"

"They were died when a Troll attacked our house." Bree raised her head and her eyes turned bright when she talked again. "Kace fought the troll and killed it."

"Hm," Torak hummed. "He is brave."

"Yes... and then they said he shifted into a white lycan and..."

Torak spent the next hours, listening to Bree's story about how gallant his younger brother when he fought the troll until how kind Kace when he caught a cat for her.

His brother hunted a cat for this little girl? Torak really wanted to laugh, as he knew Kace wasn't an animal lover, but then he remembered he gave a bunny to Raine, even though he didn't like it.

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"If you don't want to go, you can stay here. Calleb will stay with you," Torak caressed Raine's hair while looking at uneasiness in Raine's eyes under the scorching sun.

They would go back to mystic river village after they buried the bones of the children, who had been kidnapped from the villages, to sacrifice to the devil. Also the body of the priestess. At least, this was the last thing they could do for them.

"No," Raine refused. "I will go with you."

"Actually, you don't need to see it, we will just bring the remaining of the victim and buried them. After that, we can go. With many people we have, I am sure this will be finished before the sun goes down." Torak reassured Raine. "You can stay here with Calleb and Jack."

Torak needed to go inside to see with his own eyes what the demons, who followed Kace had done, maybe there was something he could find out.

"Hope will go inside the cave?" Raine asked. She watched Hope and Kace were talking not too far from them, among the shifters, centaurs, the hunter and people who were preparing to enter the cave.

"She needs to go inside because only she, who knows where the priestess is," Torak explained to Raine.

"I want to go too." Honestly, Raine didn't really want to go, but she had this feeling again. The feeling that urged her to do something that even she couldn't understand why.

"The scenery inside can be very gruesome for you to handle," Torak spoke with concern.

"Take her inside." Serefina came and with her usual boring expression, she stared at Raine. "Why do you want to go inside? It's not like Torak would let you pick up those children's bones and bury them yourself." And here she was, back with her snarky comment.

Raine was used to the way Serefina talked to her, thus she just shrugged her mocking tone, but Torak narrowed his eyes at the witch dangerously.

"I feel like I need to go inside," Raine said nervously, as she occasionally glanced at the cave. "And I don't know why..."

Serefina nodded. "Good. Follow your instinct. Every guardian angel awaken their power differently, maybe this is your call."

Raine glanced at the cave again and then at Hope, who was smiling at her and waved her hand.

"I thought you already on your way to the Kingdom." Torak looked at Serefina.

"I will, after this," Serefina mumbled, she still looked reluctant to leave. But, when she received Torak's intense gaze, the witch glared at her. "Once I know what's bothering Raine I will go to see Jedrek."

"Why Serefina has to go alone there?" Raine asked.

"Because she has a lot of complicated things to fix," Torak answered.

Chapter 702 - WE KNOW, BUT THEY DON'T

After Lilac and Jedrek was trapped in the tavern because of the rain, the Alpha King had better idea to introduce Lilac to their culture.

And now, here was Lilac, trapped with Warlock as she listened to him about the history of this realm and everything that entailed.

Lilac was not slightly happy about this and was far too boring to listen to Warlock's monotone tone.

"Listen." Lilac put down a book in her hands, a little bit harder when it slammed on the table that made Warlock raised his brows. "I don't know what the use of me learning all of this when what we are facing now has nothing to do with this."

"Because the King named you as his queen," Warlock answered curtly, but then his eyes became curious when he looked at Lilac. "Are you really his mate?"

"I am," Lilac replied simply, as if that fact didn't interest her at all.

"I don't believe it," Warlock mumbled and Lilac raised her brows, misunderstanding his words. "No, I mean; I don't believe it because the Alpha had been cursed by the moon goddess..." Warlock didn't need to elaborate further about the curse, there was tacit understanding between the people regarding this topic.

"Well, here I am. A token of gratitude from the moon goddess because the Donovan won the war with the devil." There was a thick of sarcasm in the way Lilac spoke.

In the other hand, Warlock wanted to ask more, yet in the end he resolved to keep all the questions for himself. It felt like he was prying into his King's life.

If the King said Lilac was his mate, then she was his destined mate. No question asked. "So, should we continue our lesson, your grace?"

Lilac cringed when she heard Warlock called her 'your grace' and threw him a look.

"No," Lilac said sternly and stood up from her chair. "Let's call it a day."

"But, your ceremony will come soon. At least, you have to know about the detail for the ceremony," Warlock retorted.

Lilac sighed and she looked at the sky through the window at her left side, twilight had fallen and the dim evening light shone through the leaves. Soon it would grow dark and Lilac had stayed there with Warlock since lunch.

"No. Enough for today." Lilac walked out of the room, didn't bother to listen to Warlock's complain.

"Where is Jedrek?"

"The last time I saw him, the king was in the throne room," he informed her.

"Okay," Lilac replied. She needed to talk about this with him.

The moment the door was closed and Lilac was no longer inside the room, Warlock slumped on his chair. "I don't want to do this either."

He couldn't understand, why Jedrek wanted to learn all of this stuff. Even if she was his mate and she would be crowned as their queen, the interaction between Lilac and Jedrek was not like someone who was interacting with their mate.

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Eaton was shaking his head. "I don't agree with your decision Jedrek," he voiced out his objection. "Why do you want to have a mating ceremony? At time like this? I really don't understand."

"You don't need to," Jedrek replied casually, he looked to the far distance. The evening sky was exceptionally beautiful at this time around, with the sound of cricket sang in the air.

"Jedrek, it is not the right time to hold mating ceremony." Eaton was adamant to oppose Jedrek's idea about the ceremony.

"I didn't say it will happen tomorrow."

"Yes, you said it will happen right after you deal with Maximus," Eaton groaned in frustration. "I don't even know what you will do with Eaton if the three generals, who were looking after him managed to bring him back."

"Isn't that very obvious?" Jedrek glanced at Eaton.

"What?" Eaton raised his eyebrows. "You will exile him?"

"I will kill him," Jedrek replied without hesitation. Now he had killed Diana, Janus had vanished, the castle destroyed, the city central was ruined and the gate to tartarus had opened, Maximus's existence was no longer needed.

"I know, the death penalty is a suitable punishment for him, but after you killed him, you have to deal with eastern region." Eaton reminded him. "His influence there is great, the eastern region will revolt once the news about Maximus's death reached their ears."

"I will deal with them myself," Jedrek said.

Eaton sighed. "So, correct me if I am wrong, but your plan is to kill Maximus, hold a mating ceremony and then march toward the eastern region to deal with the rebels?"

"More or less," Jedrek replied tonelessly.

"Tell me Jedrek, why do you very adamant to hold the ceremony when you know this is not the right time for that?" Eaton narrowed his eyes, trying to read Jedrek's mind, but even Killian, the mind reader, couldn't do so, what's more him.

"Once the news about me having a guardian angel as my destined mate, those shifters out there, will start to reject her." After all, the image of weak creature became their queen wouldn't very appeal to them, thanked to the general knowledge about how weak they were and nature of the shifters who looked down on the guardian angels.

"So, do you think they will not reject her after the ceremony? Those shifters out there, despised her, therefore, why don't we keep this matter as a secret instead of flaunting the guardian angel around?"

"She is not that weak," Jedrek finally admitted it.

"We know, but they don't," Eaton said in matter of factly.

"Then it is her job to convince them." Jedrek concluded. "Moreover, I don't want to use the guardian angel like the first war. If she can't deal with the people, how can she handle the war? In spite of the fact, I don't want her as my mate, but you know very well the pain of losing your mate. I will not go through that unnecessary pain."

Chapter 703 - THE UNEASINESS

Eaton lowered his head and balled his fists, as the pain upon hearing what Jedrek said surged to the surface. He lost his mate because of what Janus had done.

There was one moment of Janus craziness that he accidentally sacrificed Liz to prolong Diana's life and since that accident, Eaton's loyalty was no longer with him. He couldn't serve the mad king who had killed his mate.

When the anger started to bubble up in his throat, Eaton felt Jedrek squeezed his shoulder reassuringly. "When Serefina left, I went feral. Therefore, if I lost my destined mate now, there is no need to say that I will go beyond that."

It was easy to order Maximus to kill Lilac when she was just a baby and Jedrek had not yet met her, but now, as much as he hated to admit it, the mate bond had gotten stronger over time. It was impossible for him to feel nothing if he lost Lilac.

There was a moment of silent as Eaton readjusted his feeling before he continued his line of questions. "But, why the mating ceremony? You can introduce her in another way. You seem rush this thing." Eaton glanced at Jedrek. "What happened?"

Right, Jedrek should have another way to introduce Lilac to his people, but he insisted the mating ceremony was the right event for that.

"Like what the girl said; war is drawing near. The two gates of Tartarus have opened. It was only a matter of time before those people started to rebel to inquire about their missing family," Jedrek replied to him, but he didn't really give the specific answer about the question that Eaton really wanted to know.

"And you want to mess with eastern region by killing Maximus?" Eaton added.

"I will take care all of that at once," Jedrek spoke rigidly, his eyes still stared at the far distance place and filled with... longing.

"We can deal with Maximus later." Eaton was still trying to change Jedrek's decision. However, that was not an easy thing to do.

"No, I will not have my enemies live under my roof again." Jedrek had had enough and he would not start it again by keeping Maximus, even as his prisoner. If the eastern region couldn't accept this, they must know who their king was!

Eaton sighed deeply. He relented. However, he still had other questions that remained unanswered.

"But, it doesn't answer my question. Why you have to rush the mating ceremony?"

Jedrek didn't answer that question, instead he resigned himself. "Goodnight, Eaton." And then walked away toward his chamber.

Right, Jedrek rushed it. He had to do it.

Of the many selfish things that had been decided lately, this was the most selfish thing he had to do for himself.

Jedrek was well aware about the fact that he would meet with Serefina soon and in spite of the fact that his feeling for Lilac had gotten stronger, he still needed a solid reason to stay with her. He was not sure how he would feel when he met with Serefina after so many heartache nights that he had been through.

It didn't seem like the witch would come back to continue their relationship. Jedrek didn't want it too. He had been trying to forget her for centuries and only he, who knew what kind of effort that he had done to keep going since she left him, and all of that would be trifle away if he forgave her so easily.

Jedrek wouldn't do that.

However, in contrary, he didn't know how sure he was.

Therefore, he needed this. The mating ceremony would solidify the mate bond between him and Lilac. After that, he didn't need unnecessary distraction when he put his focus solely on the upcoming war.

This was a mess...

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When the sun down, all the bones of the children from the cave had been buried near the waterfall, with beautiful scenery and flower petals covered their final resting place.

It was their tradition. When the hunter would have fire when they died, the children would have the ground for them.

During that time, Raine would stay inside the cave, to figure out the strange feeling that she felt, yet she couldn't find anything.

She got overly anxious throughout the process, but that was it.

"Do you find something?" Serefina folded her arms in front of her chest, narrowing her eyes at Raine.

Raine shook her head. She felt dejected when Serefina sighed regretfully. The witch was disappointed in her and Raine was disappointed in herself. She didn't need for her to show it. It only added to her depression.

Even the scenery from this place, where the picturesque waterfall, which pounding the rocks and the rich hues of red blended with orange at the horizon, wasn't able to appease Raine's uneasiness.

"I will go with Hope to see the priestess," Hope mumbled and walked away.

When Raine had walked away, Serefina turned around and glared at Calleb behind her. "Don't you dare to comfort her now, there is something that she needs to do it alone!" She warned the Gamma, who was about to look after Raine.

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"So, the mating ceremony, huh?" Lilac finally found Jedrek in the throne room, sitting in his throne while staring at her, yet she couldn't read what kind of emotion that swirled in those cold eyes. "I will never have thought the thing between us will escalate so fast."

Lilac walked across the quiet room with only the soft sound from her feet on the stone floor that could be heard, toward the King on his the throne.

"First, you want to kill me and now you want me to be your queen." Lilac stopped right in front of Jedrek, staring straight into his dark blue eyes.

Jedrek kept his eyes on her, even though she was being sarcastic, she still looked fascinating.

"What the reason you want to do this? I don't see the mating ceremony has anything to do with the war."

Chapter 704 - DECISION

"What the reason you want to do this? I don't see the mating ceremony has anything to do with the war," Lilac said, she waited for Jedrek to respond, but the king determined to shut his lips tightly. "Or, it has anything to do with Serefina?"

There was an emotion, which flashed in Jedrek's eyes with the mention of the witch's name and this confirmed Lilac's statement.

"You want to hear the truth?" Jedrek asked with expression that devoid from any emotion.

Lilac gave him a look. "I have enough with lies."

"Yes," Jedrek replied curtly. "It has something to do with her."

Lilac could feel her hear beat faster. She had expected this answer, but she was still surprised when Jedrek admitted it readily.

"Your reason?" Lilac gritted her teeth. The feelings of disappointment began to rise within her and grew sharper.

"As you know, we cannot escape from this mate bond, and no matter how hard we try to oppose it, this bond is just getting stronger to uniting us." Jedrek stood up and got very close to her. "So, I just want to be done with it."

Lilac was aware about it as well.

Even though, the mate bond didn't work the way it worked on Jedrek and despite her hatred to him, Lilac found it difficult to go all out to despise the lycan before her eyes.

"How about Serefina?" Lilac felt bitter when she remembered Jedrek's ex lover. "Will you run to her the moment you see her?"

Jedrek slightly furrowed his eyebrows. "No." Therefore, he needed this mating ceremony, to claim her as his and enclosed his feeling to Serefina.

It was ironic, when it came to physical strength, Jedrek could overpower any other creatures in this realm without much of difficulties, but when it came to feeling, he needed to think carefully, to decide what should be done.

"So, in the end, you will choose your destined mate over your ex lover?" there was a hint of sarcasm and bitterness in the way Lilac asked him.

"I choose what is right," Jedrek replied.

Lilac nodded. "I hope you keep your words. We have a war ahead of us, so I don't want to fight for your affection too. If you want to be with me, that means there are no other women." She emphasized this.

"I want you to stay away from Tordoff too," Jedrek said. His eyes were slightly darker when he mentioned his general's name.

Wasn't he the one who asked Tordoff to look after her? Yet, Lilac didn't voice out what she thought. Their conversation currently went smoothly than she expected, thus she didn't want to ruin it. "Done."

And then, there was a moment of silent between them. Later, Jedrek grabbed her hand as he said, "walk with me."

They walked out of the throne room with Jedrek was holding her hand to the small garden near this wing.

Lilac watched her small hand that was enveloped by his big one. Everything about him was exceptionally big, even Jedrek was a head taller than his other generals.

But, what Lilac liked the most was the fact, despite his cold demeanor, the Alpha King's hand felt warm.

"I have said it before, I will not live forever. How will you deal with that?" Lilac walked slightly behind him, staring at his broad shoulder.

"I will not let you die," Jedrek said without hesitation.

In the other hand, Lilac could feel her heart thumping rapidly against her chest, she bit her lips and lowered her head when she spoke. "If there is no mate bond between us, will you be like this?"

"No," Jedrek answered in the same tone. "If there is no mate bond between us, we will not know each other."

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"Why are you so quiet? Is there something that you are thinking now?" Hope asked Raine. Since they entered this cave until the time when they buried those children and went back to the cave to retrieve the priestess's body, Raine had been very quiet.

Only if Hope knew Raine a year ago, when she was still not able to talk, she wouldn't say that she was quiet now.

"Nothing," Raine raised her head and gave her a reassuring look, which was not very convincing.

"Don't lie. Tell me." Hope narrowed her eyes, as she glanced at their mate behind them. Torak and Kace walked side to side, but no one from them strike a conversation. They seem like strangers to each other.

If it was not because of Hope and Raine, who insisted to come inside the cave to find where the dead body of the priestess, or one could say what remained from the priestess, absolutely Torak and Kace wouldn't be here too.

Followed behind Kace and Torak, there was Delta and another five more hunters.

"Don't you feel something?" Raine spoke in low voice, but of course the two lycan behind them could hear it too, though they didn't show it on their expression.

"Feel what?" Hope crept closer as she looked around her in alert. There was nothing change from this place since the last time she was here.

"Strange feeling," Raine mumbled.

"What do you mean with strange feeling?" Hope scrunched her eyebrows. "I don't feel anything. Maybe you are afraid because of the scene that you had seen with those poor children."

"No," Raine replied. "This is different feeling." However, she was not able to explain it to Hope in detail.

They walked to a place where the sound of the river flowing was clearer. The sound came from the underground river.

"Don't tell me, you are afraid of ghost..." Hope said teasingly as she wrapped her arms around Raine's shoulder.

And then, they heard it. An ear- piercing scream that made Hope and Raine stopped walking.

"What is that?" Hope looked at around her to see if she could find the person who was screaming.

Meanwhile, Raine's first reaction was to turn around to look for Torak instinctively, as she knew she would be safe with him.

However, there was no one there...

Chapter 705 - THE TRAITOR

"Where are they?" Raine asked, her voice was laced with fear. Her heart skipped a beat as she realized only Hope and she were there.

Looking at Raine who looked scared, Hope turned her head back to look for Kace and the other people, but there was no one behind them.

"Where are they?!" Hope was flabbergasted.

In the distance the voice of the woman who had been screaming died down and left them in eerie silent.

Hope looked around her, but just now she realized, the fireflies that had been floating around her earlier, which had been helping them to reach this place, had gone.

After silence, they could hear muttering voices from the same direction as the woman who screaming earlier.

Hope was still floored with what was happening, but Raine immediately got the idea about what was going on.

If Raine was not mistaken, apparently, they went to the past again, it was the same feeling and situation that she had been through more than twice..

"Come here," Raine said as she grabbed Hope's hand to follow her.

Hope kept looking around and when she realized Raine was taking her toward the direction of the muttering voices, instead of where they came, she questioned her. "Where? We have to find the other."

"Sst!" Raine put her finger to her lips to signal Hope to keep quiet, "We can't find them now."

"Why?" Hope asked in low voice, but she let Raine to bring her toward the other direction. "Maybe we are going too fast, so they lag behind."

Raine shook her head regretfully. "I am afraid that is not the case."

"What do you mean?" Hope narrowed her eyes and looked at Raine questioningly, when she pushed her to hide behind one of the stalagmites.

"We are not in our time," Raine spoke and then added when she saw the other guardian angel was still confused. "We go back to the past."

Hope widened her eyes in surprised and let out a dry chuckled, but then Raine covered her mouth and gave her a warning look. "I know it sounds impossible, but it is real." Raine knew what she was saying was true, as she nodded to something behind Hope's back. "Look."

With curiosity, Hope glanced over her shoulder and stretched her neck to look something that Raine told her behind the stalagmite.

And there, she watched in horror, the priestess was alive! Not like her ghostly figure, with body like thin smoke that floated in the air, but in flesh.

The priestess looked very beautiful. She was wearing the same white cloak that Hope had seen when they met for the first time.

However, in front of the priestess, with back was facing Hope and Raine, it was the devil woman and Terra, the young maiden, who was once the priestess's trusted person.

The devil and the devil child!

Yet, that was not the thing that caught Hope's attention. The fact that she was already dead, but now that she stood before him, alive, made Hope gasp in disbelief.

How could that be possible?!

"She is the priestess, right?" Raine asked in low voice.

Hope nodded absentmindedly, without averting her gaze from the three people there.

In the other hand, Raine could understand Hope's astonishment. She was like her before, only the different was; Raine had to face it alone and in a more unpleasant place.

"Yes, she is," Raine nodded when Hope whipped her head to look at her. "We go back to the time when the priestess is still alive."

Hope opened and shut her mouth, yet in the end there was only a single word that she could say.

"How?"

"My power," Raine answered it simply.

"But, I thought..." Hope thought Raine was only able to see the past or the future, not literally went back to the past. "We are really in the past now...?"

Raine put her finger in front of her lips again and nodded at the priestess, the devil and the young girl there. "Yes."

Hope shifted her attention back to the three people, just in time when the priestess gave a dagger to the young girl and mumbled in vicious tone to the devil, who was kneeling in front of her, clutching her neck in pain.

"Terra, stab her and I will seal her in this mountain," the priestess gave an order to the young maiden as she prepared to put some spells on the devil, so she couldn't run away.

The priestess was very focus until she didn't see it coming. Instead of doing what she was told, Terra thrust the dagger on the priestess's chest.

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Lilac walked on the street with Theo beside her and another three lycan warriors that followed behind her. As if she needed protection from them?! She could protect herself just fine!

However, Lilac didn't say a word about her displeasure. She was having argumentation with Jedrek this morning, regarding this.

Apparently, the rumor that said all the Alpha lycan was awfully overprotective and very authoritative was true. Lilac experienced it firsthand of what possessiveness was like.

Jedrek didn't allow her to go outside the castle if she didn't bring these people with her, in the other hand, the King had another matter to be handled, so he couldn't go with her.

No, Lilac didn't want Jedrek to accompany her too, but she had another matter to be handled as well in the city.

However, Jedrek didn't yield even after Lilac turned his throne room into a swamp. He simply said;

"You are welcome to destroy this room, but they will go with you or forget to go anywhere beyond the gates." He didn't budge at all.

"Do you think I will not be able to escape from them?" Lilac was head to head with her mate.

"And you will see what kind of punishment they will get."

With that sentence, Lilac was fuming, she stomped her feet out of the throne room under the hard gazes from the other generals, Lyrus and Eaton.

Chapter 706 - TERRA

Jedrek knew very well that Lilac wouldn't let that happen. She was like an open book that was easy to read.

The true nature of the guardian angel, who had a gentle heart was not completely lost in her and Jedrek made good use of it.

Even so, Lilac was still upset because of the way Jedrek treated her.

"No need to be upset," Theo talked casually to her. "You can choose to stay inside the castle, if you don't like to be followed. I don't really enjoy escorting you too."

Lilac shot him a nasty look. "Don't push your luck general, or I will not care with the punishment that Jedrek will give to you."

She thought, Theo would talk back to her, but the general chose to shut his mouth tightly.

"What the punishment that Jedrek will give to you if I escape?" Lilac was curious when Theo became silence.

The general glanced at the guardian angel and shrugged his shoulder. "Since I will not die, if he was in good mood, he will skin me alive.?? Theo chuckled when he watched Lilac widened her eyes in horror. "Don't worry, I will recover after a week, feeling like a brand new after two weeks."

Theo made it sounded like a joke, but Lilac didn't find it funny at all. "You lie," she scoffed.

Theo ran his fingers through his hair as he answered her nonchalantly. "Or he will have my head. After all, you are the person that the king had been waiting for a long time. There is no way I will walk out of his wrath alive if something happened to you."

Lilac laughed bitterly upon hearing that. Things really had changed. Years ago, Jedrek had asked someone to kill her, but now he would kill someone if something happened to her. This was the most

ridiculous irony that she had come across. However, Lilac didn't know if this would be a good thing or the other way around.

"You will not say those words if it was you, who was given an order from him years ago," Lilac grumbled to herself.

"What order?" Theo looked at Lilac curiously.

"Nothing." Lilac shook her head and walked ahead, but the general easily caught up with her.

"But, I still don't believe it you are a guardian angel." Theo frowned at Lilac, staring at her up and down, as if he was judging her.

"Why? Which part that you don't believe it? The fact that I am your King's mate and will be your queen, or the part which I beat you all when you surrounded me with the other generals?" Lilac raised her eyebrows defiantly.

Theo glared at Lilac when she mentioned their first fight in the castle back then, but then he sighed deeply. "Both."

Both of them walked in the bustling street under the scorching sun, but the guardian angel didn't bother. Lilac even completely ignored the people who look at her intensely with questioning eyes.

She received that kind of looks when she walked with Jedrek and Theo just a few days ago and now she walked with Theo again, that kind of treatment was expected.

Little that Lilac didn't know was the fact that those people had already known her as their future queen, since Jedrek had never walked with any other woman since Serefina. However, Lilac's true identity as a guardian angel was still unknown.

"Where are we going?" Theo asked. He had been walking on this street for an hour and now the sun had risen and lunch time would come.

"There," Lilac nodded at the direction on her left.

Theo frowned. "What are going to do there?" he asked, feeling uneasy, but he didn't show it on his face. "There is nothing there."

Lilac glanced at Theo before she strode toward the direction that she wanted. Sure thing, Theo wouldn't feel anything. However, as a guardian angel, she could feel the darkness from there.

Lilac had sensed it from the time when she walked with Jedrek, but because of the rain, the feeling faded away. Therefore, today she wanted to make sure of it. It was very rare to sense darkness from such bustling city like this.

The area that Lilac headed was the south side of the city, where there was only vegetation and swamp.

People did not normally live in that area except for those who wanted to hunt in their beast form. Therefore, it goes without saying that the place was a little bit dangerous for Lilac.

"Wait, you shouldn't go there." Theo stopped her by standing in front of the guardian angel, but Lilac simply moved to the other side. "There are a lot of wild animals there."

"Wild animals?" Lilac said it mockingly, she crossed her arms when Theo tried to stop her again. "If I can handle your kind just fine, why should I be afraid of wild animals?"

Well, that made sense... Theo thought.

Reluctantly, the general followed her, but he narrowed his eyes in concentration, especially when they got closer to the area.

Dripping trees with black trunks, rotting vegetations and sc.u.mmy water were the sight that greeted them, with dirt and mud mixed with stagnant air that hit their sensed.

Theo wrinkled his nose and the three Lycan warriors also didn't like the situation here.

But, Lilac felt otherwise, she felt invigorated for being in the nature, yet it didn't cease the darkness that she sensed, if anything, it was only getting stronger.

"Who is there?" one of the lycan warrior sensed something and walked over to check on it. He went behind the tree and return with a young girl. "You shouldn't be here, what are you doing here?" the warrior asked.

"This place is not for a pup," Theo mumbled. "Bring her back and find her parents."

"Wait," Lilac stopped the warrior and walked closer to the young girl, who seemed like in her early adolescence age. "What is your name?"

"Terra," the girl answered while staring at Lilac with her innocent eyes.

Chapter 707 - TERRA (2)

Lilac narrowed her eyes at the young girl named Terra, she moved closer and ordered the warrior to release her. "Step back," she said to the warrior and he did what he was told. "What are you doing here Terra? Where is your parent?"

Terra blinked her eyes. "I got lost your grace," she said softly.

"Got lost?" Lilac smiled at her softly. "How did you come here?" now, Lilac was standing two steps away from Terra, while Theo and the other lycans were standing beside her.

"I went here with my mother and father, but then I got lost," she looked at Lilac with pitiful eyes, as if she was afraid of being here alone.

"How long have you been lost in this forest?" Lilac asked again in the same tender tone.

"One, two hours." Terra shrugged her shoulder. "I don't know..."

"Let the guard take her to her parents." Theo suggested to her, but Lilac raised her hand to stop it again.

"You really think that she is lost?" Lilac glanced at Theo. "Lycan lost their pup in this swamp? Are you sure that she is one of your kind?"

With remarkable hearing and sensing ability, it was almost impossible for the lycanthropes lost their pup, even though they were in the wild like this.

Theo and the three lycan warriors behind Lilac sniffed the air and only then they realized. "She is human child."

It had been so long since the last time they met with human and because they were accustomed to lilac's scent, they didn't think that the child they were dealing with was actually human.

Moreover, how could there be a human child here?

"Right," Lilac agreed as she clapped her hands. "Human child, what are you doing in the realm of the beast?"

Realized that her lie had been exposed, Terra took a step back. Her innocent eyes hardened.

"Now will you tell me where your parents are?" Lilac moved her hands and the roots under Terra's feet followed her movements.

Terra was aware that she was in danger now, thus she was about to flee when her feet was caught by one of the roots under Lilac's control.

"You said you want to meet with my parents! I will let you meet her!" Terra struggled to free herself, but the roots turned her helpless and nullified all of her effort.

"Fine, just tell me where are they and I will bring you straight away to them." Lilac tied Terra on the tree.

"You don't need to do this. She is only a human child." Theo frowned at Lilac. "Why don't you let her go? She is of no use to you."

"No," Lilac rejected Theo's idea. "She is here for a reason. A reason that I don't like."

It was Terra that Lilac sensed earlier. The darkness that forced her to come in this swamp area. The darkness from her that was so strong that made Lilac felt uneasy.

The darkness was the part of human heart that was bound by something very evil. Everyone had darkness in their heart, but only if it reached to certain level that the guardian angel could feel it.

Just how Lilac sensed Terra.

"Bring her to the castle," Lilac ordered the three lycan warriors and they did what she said.

"What you will get from human child? You just wasted your time. Let her rotted in this swamp," Theo said in disdain while frowning at Terra, who was struggling from the lycan that held her.

"Information," Lilac answered without hesitation. Her eyes locked on Terra.

"Jedrek will not agree. He dislikes human," Theo stated.

"There are a lot of things he doesn't like and the guardian angel is one example, but you can see where I am now," Lilac said in finality.

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Raine didn't see it coming, but Hope already knew this would happen, yet she was still dumbfounded by the bloody scene before her eyes.

The only thing that Hope had experienced that close to the gruesome scene like this was when she killed the witch.

With the witch, Hope did not feel sympathetic because she would kill or hurt her if she did not do what she had done.

But, now it was totally different. Hope knew the priestess and she was crying with deep sorrow for some time when Kace retrieved the dagger from the priestess's chest and moved her to another place.

Therefore, to watch how helpless the witch now, or how her eyes widened in disbelief upon seeing the betrayal from the young girl that she trusted, mixture of emotions flooded in her heart and turned her knees weak.

Hope and Raine watched as Terra stabbed the priestess three times in a row and the last time, the young girl stabbed her right in her chest.

The priestess collapsed to the ground and eventually didn't move at all.

"We have to save her..." Hope mumbled absentmindedly. She turned her head to look at Raine when she didn't give any response. "We need to save her..."

On the other hand, Raine looked more collected than Hope. She had seen this kind of scene a couple of times already. The death of her parents, the death of the lycan who harassed her, the death of Sunny, the death of Aeon and countless deaths that she couldn't remember during the battle with the devil and the riot in Torak's pack when he was claimed dead.

Raine had watched more than enough.

Therefore, she was more calm than Hope, who was in an emotional mess, she was crying hard now.

"Hope, we can't save her..." Raine tried to shush her, but Hope's eyes locked in horror to the priestess's body. "There is nothing we can do. We have to go from here."

Hope shook her head.

"This already happened, there is nothing we can do, we cannot change the past." Raine glanced at the direction of the devil and Terra worriedly.

And as Raine expected, the two of them had heard Hope's voice and now Terra and the devil woman were walking towards them.

Chapter 708 - WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

"Sst!" Raine looked around her, but the way where she came was too far for them to reach without being noticed. "Stop crying, Hope," Raine said helplessly, she covered Hope's mouth with her palm.

Eventually, Hope's cry subsided and she glanced over her shoulder to see the devil woman and Terra were approaching toward their direction.

"Come here," Raine said as she grabbed Hope's hand and ran toward the direction of the dark underground passage, where they separated from Torak, Kace and the other hunters.

"They will see us!" Hope said desperately.

"If we stay they will find us," Raine spoke while taking Hope along with her. "I don't know how to fight."

Right! They didn't know how to defend themselves. "I will ask Kace to teach me how to fight when we return," Hope mumbled between her sobs, she wiped her tears with her free hands while running.

"Right, but we have to survive this first," Raine agreed, but her mind was too busy to think the possibility they would be caught by the devil.

Right at that time, something was hurled passed the Hope's head and hit the stalagmite right beside Raine's head. It was a close call!

Raine turned around and watched the young girl was holding another dagger and ready to lurch it to them again.

"Raine, bring us back! I think this is already enough!" Raine shouted in fear when another dagger missed its target and they could hear the devil woman ordered something to Terra. "I don't know why you bring us here, but I think we have to go back now."

Raine grimaced when she heard that.

However, when they reached a place where should have been the passage they had come from, it was not there!

"Where is that?!" Hope touched the cave stone wall, but it was very solid. "Impossible! The passageway is supposed to be here!" she groaned in frustration.

"Come here!" Raine grabbed Hope's wrist and took her behind the stalagmite to hide again. "Where are the two people?" she breathed heavily.

Hope tilted her head and looked quickly behind her, but she saw nothing. There were no one there and the only thing they could hear was the streaming river.

"Hope, you need to bring us back to our time," Hope looked at another guardian angel beside her. It was amazing to know that Raine could bring them back to the past, but she thought it was a right time for them to return to their own mate.

Raine bit her lips, she fidgeted. "I can't," she said in voice that barely a whisper.

"You can't? What do you mean?" Hope frowned at her. "You brought us here and you should be able to bring us back, right?"

Yet, Raine shook her head. "I can't control my power."

"What do you mean with that?" It took some time for Hope to discern what Raine was saying. "You can't bring us back?"

Raine shook her head weakly. "I don't know how..."

And Hope's eyes widened in disbelief. She wiped the remaining tears from her face, now the sorrowful feeling and grief that she felt a while ago when she watched the priestess was being killed had replaced with something more fearsome!

They were trapped in the past with the devil and a young crazy girl, who was able to kill the other people without batting an eye.

"What we should do now?" Hope crept closer toward Raine, hiding both of them as she looked around worriedly.

"Don't worry, we will go back to our time eventually..." Raine said, but even herself could hear the hesitation in her voice.

"Someone is coming." Hope heard the sound of footsteps, someone was approaching them. She bent her body to pick two big stones, which she gave one to Raine.

Since they didn't have any weapon with them, they should be able to use everything they could find at this point.

In spite of the fact, the stones wouldn't be able to protect them, but it was better than having nothing at all.

Raine clutched her stone tightly when the sound of the footsteps that approached them became louder. Beside her, Hope had raised her hand to attack whoever appeared from their hiding place.

Hope could feel her heart was beating so fast when she swung her hand and was about to strike the other person, yet her opponent moved faster than her and caught her hand mid-air.

Seeing Hope was not able to attack the other person, Raine stepped forward and raised her hand to hit the person, who held Hope's wrist.

However, Raine dropped the stone in her hand the moment she saw who it was.

"Torak!" Raine pounced onto her mate and hugged him tightly.

On the other hand, Torak immediately let go of Hope's hand when he felt his mate in his arms, safe and sound.

"Where have you been?!" Torak growled, but it wasn't because he was angry, he was afraid something happened to her.

Raine and Hope disappeared all of sudden and they couldn't find them anywhere!

Torak knew the two guardian angels disappearance must have something to do with Raine's power, but it didn't cease his worry.

Meanwhile, Kace rushed toward them when he smelled his mate and hugged Hope tightly.

"Are we back?" Hope asked in confusion.

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"Why we have to question the child?" Jedrek asked Lilac in stern voice.

The first thing Jedrek heard when he arrived at the castle was; Lilac had taken a human child into the dungeon and was about to question her.

"Because she is not an ordinary child, Jedrek," Lilac talked in low voice, she tried to hide her agitation, but it seemed her annoyance leaked from every word that she spoke. "There is something evil inside the child."

"Then kill her," Jedrek said simply.

They were in the hallway where it was just the two of them under rays of the twilight and Lilac's furious expression only made the King even more amused.

Chapter 709 - TO BE HIS EQUAL

"No," Lilac rejected his idea immediately. "Don't you have anything else other than killing people?" she crossed her arms.

"We fight the devil and now they come to our door, what else you want to do? Invite her for dinner?" Jedrek walked away toward his chamber and Lilac followed behind him, the guardian angel was not happy at all with the king's statement.

"We can ask her," Lilac spoke hastily. She had to half running only to keep up with Jedrek's pace.

"There is no need to ask, they will not say anything that is how the devil works." Jedrek didn't slow down and let Lilac caught up with him, the guardian angel was panting, as the sound of their footsteps echoed inside the hallway.

"She is not devil, she is human. You said yourself," Lilac retorted. "Have you forgotten?"

"And just like you said, she has something evil inside of her," Jedrek was adamant with his decision.

However, before he could open the door to his study room, where Lyrus and the other generals were waiting for him, Lilac hastened her pace and placed her palms against Jedrek's chest to stop him.

"No, I am still talking to you." Lilac had to crane her neck in order to look at Jedrek's eyes in this close proximity. He was so tall.

"If you are still asking to meet with the human child, we have done talking." Jedrek stopped walking and glared at Lilac. Actually, he could easily shove her away, but this time he waited for her reaction.

"No, I will talk to her. There are a few questions that I want to ask." Lilac was adamant. It was her who had brought Terra to this castle and placed her in the dungeon, but who would have thought Theo had ordered someone to inform Jedrek immediately about this and now the King forbade her to meet with the girl.

"Or?" Jedrek asked rigidly to his defiant mate. "Or what? You will turn this place upside down again?"

The throne room that Lilac had turned into swamp this morning was still in the process of being repaired, because Jedrek didn't grant her wish to go to the city alone, thus the king assumed his mate wanted to make another swamp in one of his castle rooms.

"No, of course not." Lilac avoided Jedrek's eyes and mumbled sheepishly.

"Listen." Jedrek pinched her chin and tilted her head so she could meet with his gaze when he spoke. "I am the king, so stop arguing with me, especially not in front of my subject."

Lilac swatted his hand from her chin and glared at him. "And I am your queen, so stop treating me like I am one of your subjects." Lilac squared her shoulder to look more confident. "We have agreed with this relationship, so as your equal, I want to have a say in matter like this too. If you want this to work, you can't expect me to listen all of your words while you ignoring mine, that's not how it works."

Lilac was determined to put the things between them right. Jedrek had to stop acting like her words were not worthy enough to be heard.

"You want me to treat you as my equal?" Jedrek asked after a moment of silence.

Lilac blinked her eyes, she was on alert about what Jedrek was about to talk. "Yes."

"Come with me," Jedrek spoke as if he was grumbling and he opened the door while taking Lilac with her into the study room.

Meanwhile, the guardian angel was caught off guard by Jedrek's sudden moves and stumbled forward. Fortunately, Jedrek's hold was firm enough to avoid Lilac from embarrassing herself.

Once the two of them were inside, there were five pairs of eyes staring at them curiously, especially at Lilac.

"If you want to be my equal, prove yourself," Jedrek spoke in very low tone, which only Lilac could hear and then let go of her hand as he walked to his plush chair behind his fancy table, leaving Lilac alone, standing at the entrance of the door that left opened.

Being under the hard gazes of the high rank lycanthropes was not a pleasant experience at all, and right now the Lilac was experiencing it.

The room fell into dead silent when Jedrek sat down on his chair. However, no one seemed to be able to take their eyes off Lilac. They didn't have any idea why she was here.

Jedrek left Lilac right on the door step with the door opened, so she could choose, either she walked away and closed the door from outside or she entered the room and proved herself that she was worthy to be his equal.

That was the king's message and Lilac was well aware.

Taking a deep breath, Lilac turned around, closed the door and entered the room with her head held high, but she hoped no one could hear the sound of her heart beating so fast as her stomach churned in discomfort because of her nervousness.

Even though Lilac did not see it, but she could feel those eyes following every movement that the guardian angel made until she reached Jedrek's seat and found there was no extra chair there.

Lilac stared at Jedrek and watched as the corner of the King's lips slightly moved upward, smirked triumphantly.

However, Jedrek had underestimated his mate if he thought that could make the stubborn guardian angel back down and felt sorry for herself.

With the same grin on her lips, Lilac turned and scanned the room. Unfortunately, there were no spare seats here, as if this meeting was meant only for Jedrek and his five trusted people.

"What are you doing here? This meeting does not require your presence." Theo frowned at Lilac.

And that was the time when Lilac decided that this general should learn how to respect her as his future queen.

"You," Lilac nodded at Theo. "Bring me your chair."

Chapter 710 - A LESSON FROM LILAC

"What?" Theo frowned. "Why?" he was not a little bit happy by Lilac's order.

The general was aware that the guardian angel before his eyes was not a weak creature like what people had known for centuries, but he still refused to be ordered around by her. It seemed old habit died hard. His pride didn't allow him to bow down to the guardian angel.

However, not every lycanthrope in this room had the same thoughts as him. At least, Eaton did not.

The former beta of Janus stood up and was about to offer his chair when Lilac shook her head. "I want his chair," she said sternly, crossing her arms, she didn't take her eyes off Theo.

"I will ask someone to take another chair for you," Eaton spoke again. If Lilac persisted like now, the meeting wouldn't start, as he knew Theo wouldn't bow his head to her.

"No," Lilac said calmly, she shifted her attention toward Eaton and caught his gaze that said; 'don't make things difficult,' yet Lilac ignored it. "He should know that it is rude to reject direct order from his Luna."

"You are not my Luna," Theo said through his gritted teeth, he glared at Lilac.

"Not your Luna?" Lilac raised her eyebrows and tilted her head at Jedrek. "He said I am not your Luna." She shrugged her shoulder. "Then, doesn't that make you are not an alpha?"

"Don't twist my word, I have never said that!" Theo's buoyant mood was gone. Now, he was really pissed by Lilac.

Ignoring Theo's protests, Lilac turned his attention to the Alpha, who was sitting comfortably in his plush chair while she was fighting to find a seat for herself.

What ridiculous situation that she was in right now!?

"Am I not your mate?" Lilac asked Jedrek straightforwardly. "Tell them if I am not your mate."

This concept was the same like what Jedrek used when he left her on the door step alone, left herself to choose her own decision.

Right now, if Jedrek said Lilac was not his mate, it would be completely a lie, since it was he himself that said the guardian angel was his mate, yet if he recognized her as his, then he would have to punish Theo for refusing direct orders from his Luna, their queen.

Jedrek could see his mate smirk when he finally spoke, "she is my mate, your Luna and Queen and the meeting will not start until she sits down."

His voice neither loud nor harsh, but it was enough to stabilize Lilac's position in front of his people, at least for now.

Lilac sighed internally when she heard that, she could say she was lucky enough to have Jedrek spoke like that. It was good enough to see her mate was doing something he should have done as a mate.

"Tell someone to bring another chair," Theo hissed to Warlock, who was sitting beside him and the general walked out of the room to inform the guard.

Meanwhile, Theo dragged the chair over and put it beside Jedrek for Lilac to sit. However, the guardian angel thought she had to give an extra lesson for today to Theo.

"Thank you," Lilac said sweetly to the general when he put the chair. "For giving me your chair voluntarily, you are pardoned from the punishment for refusing my direct orders."

Next to Lilac, Jedrek glanced at his mate with amusement danced in his eyes before he started their meeting.

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"So, you don't know how to control your power?" Hope asked Raine when they had returned to their tent.

After they buried the children and cremated the priestess, Torak and Kace agreed that tomorrow they would leave to the mainland and went back to the mystic river village.

But, the people that Torak had brought with him and the centaurs would stay here along with Lydia. They would follow them to the other realm, when Torak had done talking with Jedrek about Kace's term. The youngest Donovan was not happy a little bit to know that they would go home and reunite.

When there was someone who asked 'why?' he would glare at them and hissed in derision. 'he is an a**' that was how he answered them.

"No, I don't." Raine shook her head regretfully.

"Don't you try to ask Serefina what happened with you?" Hope sat down beside Raine.

They two of them were inside Raine and Torak's tent and had another round of endless conversation. The two of them seemed like would never run out of topic to discuss.

"I don't say I am good with my power too," Hope raised her hands when she watched Raine's dejected expression. "I don't even know why I am seeing these fireflies everywhere I go..." she watched the flickering little things that even Raine couldn't see it. "...or ghosts..." she shuddered.

"They are the spirit of the dead people," Raine corrected Hope while chuckling when she watched her expression. It sounded a little bit creepy when Hope mentioned those spirits as ghosts, though that was not wrong either.

"Whatever they are..." Hope shrugged her shoulder. "I will love to be able to control the time like you do..."

"I don't have control over my power, remember?" Raine reminded her. "Serefina has been helping me, but I don't know what is wrong with me, why I still can't do anything with this power of mine."

To be honest, sometime Raine was scared if one day she unknowingly went to the past and was not able to return.

When the two guardian angels were in deep thought, someone opened the curtain of the tent and startled them.

"Your mate is looking for you, it is already late, Raine needs to sleep," Calleb spoke rigidly. He didn't even bother to hide his dislike toward Hope.

"I think I should go back," Hope stood up and hugged Raine. "Bye, Raine." When Raine walked past Calleb, she frowned. "Why I feel like you don't like me?"