

TLOA Lycan 711

Chapter 711 - PROVIDE YOU WITH SOLUTION

At first Hope didn't really feel it, but then the way Calleb talked to her and how he looked at her direction whenever she was near him, was obvious that the Gamma didn't like her.

And Hope didn't know why he treated her that way.

"Because you smell like rogue," Calleb answered curtly. He crossed his arms and showed his disinterest in her.

Not only Hope, who was surprised by Calleb's bluntness, Raine also was taken aback by his attitude. As long as she could remember, Calleb was the most bubbly person that she had ever met, but now the way the Gamma looked at Hope, it seemed like he was holding a grudge toward her.

"Calleb," Raine admonished him to appear hostile toward Hope. "She is not a rogue."

Calleb shrugged his shoulder. "She and her mate don't have a pack, so they are rough."

"They are with the centaurs," Raine retorted. She didn't believe it Calleb thought that way about Hope. What is wrong with him? Since the day they fought the devil, occasionally, Calleb would look distracted and became moody.

"You can't call those creatures as your pack just because they have been staying with them." Calleb made his point.

"I am sorry." This time, Hope spoke in rigid tone when she cut the conversation between Raine and Calleb. "Do I know you? Or, have I offended you in any way? I don't think you have the right to tell me how we live."

"I don't," Calleb said simply. "But, since you ask me why I don't like you, then that's my answer." afterward Calleb waved his hand at Raine and walked out of the tent, after he notified Hope again. "Go back to your tent."

The moment Calleb was not there, Raine and Hope looked at each other in confusion.

"What is wrong with him?" Hope frowned, she disliked to be treated that way when she didn't even know what she had done wrong to him.

Raine approached Hope and smiled awkwardly. "Maybe this long journey had exhausted him. I will talk to him later, we need to sleep now, tomorrow will be another long journey."

But, even Raine knew that didn't answer the question; why Calleb treated Hope with hostility.

Hope reciprocated Raine's smile. "You don't have to talk to him about this. I don't really care what he thinks about me. Even before I met the centaurs, according to his logic, I have been living as a rogue since the day I could remember, so it doesn't bother me. I am happy to live with the people that I love."

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Lilac had been listening to the discussion between Jedrek, Lyrus, Eaton, Theo, Warlock and Rowan for almost two hours now.

They were talking about the attack in the region under Jedrek's territory, the rogue that wreck havoc in east region and the tensions in the society due to their family members who kept disappearing and never be found again.

"So, what do you think?" Jedrek asked Lilac all of sudden, because the guardian angel had been a good listener since the start of the meeting and didn't voice out a single word.

"You keep killing their family members, so this situation should be predictable," Lilac replied simply.

"Those people had lost their beast spirit, they are no longer shifter, and will be the puppet of the devils. We don't need any addition of another potential enemy," Theo retorted.

"Those people had family, they had brothers and sisters, had mate who was waiting for them to come back and probably some of them had felt something wrong had happened to their other half, that is how the mate bond works, right? And now, if you keep covering up the truth, the situation will only get worse." Lilac glowered at Theo. "And the moment they learned the truth, it will be hard for all of you to fix the situation." The guardian angel stared at the people inside the room sharply, including her mate beside her. "After all, this is what the devil wanted. They plotted for you to go against your own people."

Since, Jedrek wanted Lilac to speak up her mind, so the guardian angel thought it would be better for them to listen to her point of view as well as her dissatisfaction with the way they handled this situation in the most barbaric way.

After Lilac's long monologue, the room fell into silence, as their attention were on her. However, the lycanthropes was haughty creature, they wouldn't admit it easily, especially when it came from the guardian angel.

"So, do you want to say that we should return those people to their family, let them live among the society and when the time came, the devils can use them to kill our kind from within? Do you think they will let us kill their family member, even though we let them learn the truth?" Eaton remarked. "That's ridiculous."

This was also one of their reasons why they killed those shifters that had lost their soul, because if they didn't kill them right away, it would be a disaster if their family protected them when Jedrek took an action.

Lilac narrowed her eyes at Theo. Since the first time they met, he had been treating her less than she deserved. Even though, the guardian angel managed to whip his a** with her roots.

"What do you think best to do now?" Warlock asked, but when he realized Lilac's position, he added reluctantly. "Luna..."

And Lilac answered truthfully. "I don't know."

"You don't know and you sit there like you know the solution of this issue," Theo sneered and he was rewarded by Eaton's sharp glare.

Lilac chuckled when she heard that and Jedrek slightly shifted his gaze toward his mate, curious about what she was laughing at.

"You made this decision without asking me, all of you even put me in the dark, and now when the situation had become like this you complained because I can't provide you with solution?" Lilac jeered.

Chapter 712 - HI, LITTLE FELLA!

Dead bodies were on the ground in this solitude dungeon, which didn't provide enough light to illuminate every dark corner.

A woman crouched down above a dead body of a lycan warrior and puncture his chest with her sharp nail, drawing blood right from his heart. She licked it and closed her eyes.

"Fresh blood is always the best," she m.o.a.ned.

"You should try the royal blood," Asmodeus chuckled upon seeing Beelzebub had her own time with the dead shifters. "I had tried it for centuries."

"I should come here sooner, instead of roaming around in the other realm," Beelzebub replied as she stood up.

"Why should we come here to take your human maid? It will be easier to find a replacement." Asmodeus waved her hand and the iron door was opened for them.

"I like her, she is an evil in human skin," Beelzebub chuckled delightfully. "She killed a priestess and many other people with her innocent face and smile on her lips. Oh, I love to see how vicious this little girl is."

Behind the iron door there were a lot of people inside, and most of them were the shifters who had lost their soul, they had come out from their coma and were waiting for their execution, since there were a lot of them.

These prisoners were the shifters, which had lost their spirit beast, that just recently found near this south region and for the shifters that they had at the city central, they had been executed even before the gates of Tartarus were opened.

"Please, save us!"

"Let me out of here!"

"Open this cell!"

"You! Open this d*mn door!"

Wails and weeps echoed inside the cell, which filled with those shifters. They bang their head against the iron cell and kicked it until their feet bled, yet they couldn't muster their power or shifted into their beast to help them from this dreadful situation.

"What happened to us!?" One of the prisoners roared and slipped his hand between the iron bars to reach for Beelzebub or Asmodeus.

"What Lucifer and the sloth want by turning them into useless shifters?" Beelzebub frowned. She had been away for too long to keep track about what her fellow devils had been doing all this time. She was too busy with her own interest.

"Create chaos, like usual." Asmodeus shrugged her shoulder nonchalantly. "You know him, he always like to invest for this kind of thing. Moreover, we don't need to do anything and they will destroy their own kind eventually."

The two women walked along the corridor with countless cells lined up on their left and right side, which every one of it, filled with the shifters, wailing and shouting to them.

"I don't know if the guardian angel's blood can be used this way." Beelzebub was in awe when she looked at those shifters. If they were in normal condition, they would have shifted into their beast by now. Unfortunately, they were no longer could do that.

"Thanks to the fae who managed to get the blood from the girls," Asmodeus said.

Ten years ago, they got the fae who had stolen a guardian angel's blood from the hospital, when the creature was bragging about it. It was their luck to be in the same place as her, but she couldn't say the same thing to the fae.

"And knowing how the shadow warrior used to exploit their blood for battle, we just need to add a little bit here and there to create them." Asmodeos waved her hand toward the shifters inside the cell.

"Wonderful isn't it?"

Beelzebub chuckled, she pushed the door of one of the cell in front of them, and it opened for them.

The two women stepped inside the cell and found a young girl around twelve years old huddled on the corner. "Hi, little fella." Asmodeus greeted Terra cheerfully.

Terra raised her head and an innocent smile appeared across her face. "I know you will come!"

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"If you don't have the solution, you shouldn't sit there and join the meeting," Theo said softly, even he added smile on the corner of his lips, but his eyes said otherwise, as he kept ignoring the warning glare from Eaton and because Jedrek didn't say or do anything for Lilac when his general disrespected his mate through and through, the general became bolder.

"Then why are you still here?" Lilac leaned her back against her chair. "If I can't join the meeting because I can't provide a solution to you, then what about you who keep complaining in the entire meeting and still can't solve the problem either?"

Rowan feigned his laugh by coughing and Warlock cleared his throat while looking somewhere else while Lyrus and Eaton frowned upon hearing Lilac sarcasm. This girl surely had a sharp tongue.

Why Jedrek always ended up with a woman with a lot of sarcasm on the tip of their tongue? Eaton still remembered how Serefina was like.

"I reject your ways by killing them. This is not the solution we are looking for," Lilac said in firm tone.

Theo's outburst died down when Jedrek took his turn to talk. "What do you think we should do?" Jedrek tilted his head and watched as his mate was in deep thought. For a moment the room fell into silent before Lilac spoke again.

"The other guardian angel is able to see the spirit. I think we need to wait for her," Lilac said. She looked at Jedrek, waiting for his rejection.

"In another words, there are one more guardian angel who will come?" Theo raised his eyebrows

"Actually, there are two," Lilac said cheekily and flashed him with a warm smile. Of course, this annoyed the general.

However, a moment later, the six lycanthropes in the room growled deeply at the same time and sprang to their feet.

"What happened?" Lilac was confused because Jedrek grabbed her arms all of sudden, forced her to stand up while the other lycan had left the room.

Chapter 713 - HARSHER PUNISHMENT

"Something happened in the dungeon. I want you to stay inside your chamber." Jedrek said rigidly. He didn't want to hear her rejection right now since he was so livid.

It was not only the dungeon, but something was happening in the front yard. Someone had killed all of the guards and released those shifters from their cells, and now they were running toward the gates to free themselves.

However, once they reached the gates and there were people who saw them, the problem wouldn't end up there. It would cause another ripple of protest from the citizens. They would hold solid evidence that the royal had something to do with their missing family members.

[Close all the gates! And don't let any of the shifters get away!] Jedrek gave an order through the mind-link and listened to their solemn replied while taking Lilac away. [Eaton. Find out who released them!]

Lilac was panting heavily when she had to catch up with Jedrek's quick steps. The king only stopped when he found a guard nearby and handed Lilac over to him.

"Bring her to her chamber and make sure she stays there," Jedrek spoke sternly.

"What? No!" Just like what Jedrek had thought, Lilac refused to listen to his order. "I am going with you!"

Jedrek stopped walking and glared at the guardian angel, but Lilac didn't back down easily as she craned her neck to meet with his gaze.

"You will not like what you see," Jedrek spoke through his gritted teeth. "Stay inside your room and don't go out until I said so."

Lilac shook her head helplessly. She knew Jedrek wouldn't listen to her, so words wouldn't work on him. It would be great if she could save his energy for another important thing except argued with him.

With that thought, Lilac walked away toward the commotion. She couldn't listen to the noisy sound that happened in the front yard, as it was too far from where she was now, but she still could feel it.

She ran as fast as her feet could take her, but Jedrek still managed to outrun her after saying, "don't make a fuss with what you will see."

Soon, his figure disappeared at the corner and when Lilac took the same turned, the king had gone. "Why is he very fast?" Lilac grumbled and looked beside her, where the guard from earlier caught up with her. "What are you doing?"

"The king gave an order to stay with you my lady," The guard said.

"I am not your lady!" Lilac snapped at him, venting out her frustration because of Jedrek. action

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"What happened with Calleb?" Raine was standing at the stern of the ship with Raphael beside him and Torak was talking to Calleb, but occasionally he would glance at her direction to make sure, Raine wouldn't take any reckless movement that caused her to fall into the sea.

"Like usually, Torak needs to talk something to him. You know him, he is a capable pup, but sometime he can be thoughtless," Raphael replied to her. He was in alert, ready to take some action if needed.

Raine wanted to see the twilight from this part of this ship and after persuading Torak tirelessly, finally he relented.

A moment ago, Torak was with her, but then he remembered there was something he wanted to say to Calleb when the Gamma walked past them, therefore Raphael was in charge for Raine now.

"Calleb dislikes Hope," Raine stated, she closed her eyes when the wind brushed her face and swayed her long hair. "He said it himself." Raine added when Raphael gave her a questioning look.

The Beta sighed deeply and didn't answer immediately, as both of them watched the sun slowly disappeared at the line where the sky and the sea meet.

"Calleb doesn't dislike Hope, he doesn't like rogue." Raphael told her. "He lost his younger sister in one of the rogue attack."

Raine whipped her head and widened her eyes in surprised. "I have never heard about this."

"Yes, he was training at that time for his position as gamma when his original pack was attacked. There were many casualties, including his sister." Raphael recalled the memories. "She was around your age and was a warrior in their pack."

Raine's expression turned gloomy. "That's why he said he didn't like Hope because she smelled like a rogue."

"It was only his younger sister was left from his family, as his parents both died for the same reason." Raphael put his hand on top of Raine's head and patted her. "It was also the memory that Calleb had seen when we went to the devil's den not long ago, when we went to the secret passageway to get the book to save Torak."

Raine remembered, it was also the same time when she saw Hope for the first time and the other guardian angel that she had seen first.

"That's why, he was a little bit distracted when we were in battle with the devil afterward," Raphael said softly and glanced at Calleb, who was nodding his head while smiling wryly at Torak, it seemed he did another silly mistake again.

"He became moody," Raine turned around and watched Calleb was saying something to Torak.

"It's alright. He will be fine eventually, he only needs time to readjust his feeling. Maybe his dislike toward Hope because of the fact that she and Kace are indeed rogue, but you don't have to think about it too much, he will just annoy them a little."

Raine chuckled when she heard that, but her sadness comeback when her laugh died down. She walked toward Calleb.

Torak and Calleb stopped talking when they saw Raine was approaching them, the moment she was close enough, she hugged Calleb.

Calleb's eyes widened in surprise, especially when Torak narrowed his eyes dangerously. "Raine, don't you think you are hugging the wrong person? Torak was scolding me and if you act like this, my punishment can be harsher," he whined.

Chapter 714 - IGNORANCE

"Come here," Torak said grimly while pulling Raine away from Calleb, he kept the little girl beside him and frowned when he watched Raine was crying. "Why are you crying?"

"Nothing," Raine mumbled as she wiped her tears.

However, Torak wouldn't just believe it. "What happened to her?" He glared at his Gamma and Beta.

"I don't know!" Calleb shrieked as he threw his hands up, shaking his head like a rattle drum. "I was here with you." Then the Gamma whipped his head toward Raphael. "Raph! What you did to her?"

"I didn't do anything," Raphael said, shaking his head.

"No, Torak... I am all right..." Raine wiped her tears and sniffled. "I am just a little bit sensitive."

Torak groaned and dismissed the two of them. "Go."

Raphael wrapped his arm around Calleb's neck and half dragged him away. "Let's go."

"Bye, Raine!" Calleb was back to his cheerful personality as he waved his hand and winked at her.

This flirtatious action made her giggled, especially when Torak growled and the Gamma ran away as fast as he could.

"My patient with them has no limits," Torak grunted and shifted his attention toward Raine. "Now, tell me what happened?" He cupped her face between his palms. And watched her expression turned sullen as Raine told him what Raphael had said earlier.

"It's all right now, he has you as his little sister." Torak caressed Raine's soft hair as his mate sobbed and kissed her temple. "You became more sensitive when you are in period..."

Raine widened his eyes in horror her face flushed red in the evening sun.

Ugh!

Of course he knew and now he teased her.

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The moment Lilac reached the front yard, she was greeted by horrible scene where many people were being tackled down by beasts, which was twice their size.

"What is your order, Your Majesty? Should we kill them?" Lyrus asked Jedrek.

"No, don't kill them!" Lilac shrieked. Just a moment ago she told them to stop killing those shifters, and now this happened.

However, Lyrus wouldn't take order from Lilac, thus he ignored her thoroughly and looked at Jedrek, waiting for his decision.

"We should have killed them if it was not because there were another important matter came up. This is the right time to do that." Lyrus added when he watched all of the shifter had been handled and were struggling under the beasts that pushed them to the ground.

"No, you have to stop it," Lilac spoke more firmly now. She glared at Jedrek fiercely.

However, despite what she said in the meeting room and how she strongly objected to Lyrus's suggestion, Jedrek had the last say and he opted to do it anyway.

"Kill them," Jedrek said without hesitation.

"No!" Lilac was about to stop those beasts from tearing those people apart, but Jedrek held her hands and it was too late for her to do anything when the sound of bones cracking under the pressure of the beasts' powerful jaws rang out, echoing in the cold night air.

Lilac closed her eyes and turned around, but it was only heightened her other sense as she could feel every blood that drip from their lifeless body, which seeped into the ground and every struggle movement from them before they became still.

When things got quieter, Lilac opened her eyes and turned her head to look at her mate with hostility, even the spark between them was not able to calm her down.

"I feel like I want to kill you now." She grinded her teeth.

And without waiting for Jedrek's respond, she swatted his hand away, which had prevented her from doing anything and stomped her feet away from the gruesome scene, even Lilac could smell enormous amount of blood in the air. action

However, there was no guarantee that if Jedrek didn't hold her hand, she could save them, because the incident happened so fast and those beasts' sharp fangs were only inches away from their necks.

Tears of anger sprung in her eyes when she stormed toward the other part of the castle. She felt disappointed toward Jedrek for never listening to her.

"Why do you keep following me!?" Lilac stopped walking abruptly and snapped at the same guard, who had been following her.

"I need to escort you back to your room, my lady." The guard said apprehensively, facing the angry guardian angel was quite frightening. Especially when he witnessed firsthand Lilac's grand entrance a year ago.

"I am not your lady!" Lilac remarked, but then she remembered something. "Did you put all the prisoner in the dungeon?"

The guard nodded.

"Bring me there."

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Jedrek watched when Lilac walked away from him and gestured for Theo to take the charge in this mess while he went to the dungeon with Lyrus and Eaton.

"Who had done this?" Jedrek asked Eaton, as they went to the east wing, where the dungeon was located.

"We don't know." Eaton frowned. "All the guards there were dead and they even didn't have a chance to mind link their fellow friend that they were attacked."

"There was no suspicious scent there," Lyrus added. His eyes kept flickering, as though he was in daze when he relayed the report that the lycan warrior told him through the mind-link. "Or any traces that indicate someone had entered the dungeon by force."

Jedrek listened to that and hastened his pace, but the moment they reached there a sweet scent that he had grown to love, hit his nostril and made him growled deeply.

"Didn't I tell you to go back to your room?!" Jedrek snapped when he watched Lilac's figure at the entrance of the dungeon, she was crouching down in front of one of the dead body with the same guard who was supposed to escort her to her room. "What are you doing here?!?"

Lilac just threw Jedrek a look, she was still very upset because of his order earlier, thus she chose to ignore him, the way he ignored her.

Chapter 715 - HE FELT IT TOO, RIGHT?

"I am asking you!?" Jedrek growled in annoyance. No one ever disrespected him the way Lilac did and was still alive. But, in the end of the day, of course this fierce girl was an exception.

Jedrek grabbed Lilac's elbow and forced her to stand up and like what always happened before, Jedrek couldn't control his strength, thus he ended up hurting Lilac even more.

"You are hurting me!" Lilac snapped back at him and tried to push him away.

This time, Jedrek didn't insist holding her and finally let her go after seeing Lilac's pain expression. However, he was still furious. "I told you to go back to your room!"

"Did you hear me agree with that?" Lilac turned around and entered the gloomy dungeon.

On the other hand, Eaton and Lyrus looked at each other, they felt a little bit awkward upon seeing the couple's argumentation, though it looked like this wouldn't be the last, but they swore it was the first time there was someone dared enough to argue with Jedrek after a long time.

Stiffly, Eaton and Lyrus followed the furious royal couple into the dungeon.

Inside, there were already several guards carrying the bodies of their dead friends, they could see how many casualties had fallen because of this mysterious attack. It seemed almost all the guards on duty had died.

"Where did you put the girl?" Lilac asked to the guard, who had been following her.

The guard didn't answer her question immediately and looked at his King for confirmation, only when Jedrek nodded his head, he led the way to the deepest part of the dungeon.

"Who had done this?" Lyrus watched as one of the guards carried one of the dead bodies with his blood were still dripping on the floor. He was curious, "why don't their wounds heal?"

"The devil," Torak replied the first question and Lilac replied the second one.

"Black magic." Lilac knitted her brows when the strong stench of rotting flesh and blood mixed in the air, she glanced at Jedrek, but he seemed didn't look bother with it. Shouldn't he have a sharper sense of smell? "It prevented them from mind- link the other guards."

Meanwhile, Jedrek glanced at Lilac, though she seemed to be frowning and feeling uncomfortable, but her steps was steady and without hesitation when she approached the cell where they kept the girl.

"That makes sense." Eaton commented.

"But, how do you know it was the devil?" Lyrus asked curiously.

"There is no strange scent here. Those devils don't have scent." Eaton replied and Lyrus nodded in understanding, he just remembered that the devil indeed had no scent and since they had the support of the witches, it was only fitting that what Lilac said was true.

"Someone had opened the door," the guard said when he found the door to the girl cell was unlocked.

"Of course, they had," Lilac grumbled and pushed the guard aside as she was about to open the door when Jedrek pulled her away and entered the room first, followed by Lilac and the other. "The devil has taken the girl."

Lilac could feel it when she arrived at this dungeon when she could no longer feel the darkness from Terra, but she just needed to confirm and see it by herself.

"Why can't you feel the devil was nearby?" Lyrus crossed his arms and asked Lilac. "If you are able to feel them, you could notify us."

"Obviously, it's because I can't feel them." Lilac frowned.

"But, you can feel the darkness from the girl," Lyrus asked again. "I don't understand why can you feel the darkness from the human girl, but you can't feel the devil?" action

"Because they are two different things. Every human being has darkness in their heart. However, I will only be able to feel their darkness if it has reached a certain level, just like what happened to that young girl." Lilac was in deep thought, she explained while staring at the chain on the floor, the same chain that was used to arrest Terra.

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"Didn't you say that you would leave once you found out what was troubling Raine?" Torak glanced at Serefina, who was standing beside him.

They were on the ship deck and only an hour before the ship docked, staring at the horizon where the orange hues had appeared, as a sign that the sun would rise soon.

"You need someone to take you to my house," Serefina mumbled her reply. It was a lame excuse, even she knew.

"I think Kace and Hope remember where your house is, even though they've been away for a year." Torak responded and the witch was grumbling something incoherently. "Do it quickly and get it done right there and then, you know from the first time that your relationship with Jedrek will not go according to what you planned by the time the moon goddess lifted this curse. That is the real reason why you left right?"

"Mind your own business." Serefina glared at Torak and it was a rare occasion that the Alpha didn't bite back.

The first ray of the sun was warm and beautiful to see, it was the time when the day casted away the cloak of the night and the cold wind.

"How did you feel when you found Raine?" Serefina asked all of sudden.

Torak looked at the witch and realized what actually she wanted to know. "I don't know how to put it into words," he started. "I feel like my life before meeting her is dull in comparison."

Serefina lowered her head and watched the reflection of the ship on the clear water of the sea. "So you are happy now?"

"She completes me," Torak said. "The word 'happy' cannot describe what I feel. It feels like all of my sins had been forgiven when I am with her."

"Hm," Serefina mumbled. She bit her lips when she thought; so, he felt what Torak felt too, right?

Chapter 716 - SHE NEEDS THIS...

Finally, after weeks of waiting, Tordoff, Sebastian and Kyle managed to bring Maximus back.

Meanwhile, Maximus was well aware about what had happened to the castle in the city center and now Jedrek had moved his force to the castle in the southern region.

However, he didn't know what would greet him once he arrived there, neither Tordoff nor the other two generals knew what Jedrek would do to Maximus. They were just ordered to bring him back and here they were, entering the gates of the castle.

"I still don't understand why don't you come back after you got hurt?" Kyle asked Maximus. "The situation in the city center falls apart when the castle collapses and the gates of Tartarus open."

"I have another thing to do," Maximus grunted in low voice. He had heard about that and was surprised that Jedrek managed to push his limit to kill Diana. The king must not have drunk the drink he always gave him. It seemed Maximus had to start giving that to him again, otherwise he will be difficult to control.

However, the thing that Maximus didn't know was the fact that Jedrek had never been truly under his control. It was his genuine feeling for not having his own mother killed, yet things changed and he was forced to choose between awful or dreadful and the king chose something less costly.

Something that he should have done from the beginning.

Yet, Maximus wouldn't know about that until it was too late for him to realize his mistake and how he had underestimated Jedrek all this time, thinking he was the one in control.

"I will see the king tomorrow," Maximus said, as he was about to walk toward different direction.

But, Sebastian held his hand. "No, the King wants to see you now."

Maximus frowned. "But, it is already late."

"But, the king wants to see you as soon as we arrived." Sebastian pressed this matter.

"Did he tell you?" Maximus narrowed his eyes suspiciously.

"The king just mind-linked me," Sebastian replied. "He is in the west wing. Let's go."

Maximus didn't budge, thus there was a tension in the air when both generals were looking into each other eyes until Maximus swatted Sebastian's hand and walked ahead.

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"Where is Lana?" Hope squalled when she finally returned to her home, this house was exactly how she remembered. Since the first two months Kace brought her away, she had been asking for them to come back, yet Kace always turned it down and eventually, due to her bad condition, Hope had never asked again.

"Lana is away. She has another mission." Serefina plopped down on the plush sofa and closed her eyes to avoid Torak and Kace's meaningful look. She hated it when the two brothers kept reminding her about the thing that she was supposed to do.

It was not a big deal. She just needed to go to the other realm and met Jedrek, talked to him about Kace's term and Torak and Kace would come one or two days later.

It really was not something big...

Serefina sighed tiredly.

"You should stop ordering her around," Hope complained and grabbed Raine's hand. "Come, I will show you my room!" she was very happy to come back.

After Raine knew the reason behind Calleb's hostility toward Hope and Kace, she had talked to him and now the Gamma slightly held himself from making a rude remark whenever Hope and Kace were around.

Kace sat down beside Serefina after he showed Torak, Calleb and Raphael their room. "So, I am wondering why..."

"Stop!" Serefina raised her hand and glared at Kace. "I know what you are going to ask. I will go tomorrow!" she growled, maybe if she was a female lycan, she would have clawed his face by now.

Kace frowned. "No, what I want to ask you was; can't you see? Hope is getting better now. Why is that?"

It was not that Kace was ungrateful, but he had tried everything and Carina had done everything that she could, but Hope's condition was not getting better, though it didn't get worse.

However, seeing Hope now, she looked very healthy, as if she had never been sick in this past year.

"The guardian angel's healing ability," Serefina murmured, they could hear both of the girls were squalling and talking with each other from inside their room.

"I thought the guardian angel didn't have that kind of power..." Kace stared at the direction at Hope's room and smiled tenderly, he was more than happy to know that she was back as cheerful as she was before.

"The guardian angels have different healing abilities from the shifters," Serefina said. "But, it doesn't mean this healing ability could heal physical injuries."

"Why didn't you say this a year ago?" Kace glared at Serefina.

"I think I forgot, but it was your fault too." Serefina reciprocated Kace's glare. "You shouldn't runaway the day after I said that! You don't even ask me again if I missed something. We were just coming back from the northern coven realm and you asked me that, I am not in my right mind, okay?"

The guardian angel had extinct long enough for Serefina to forget the smallest detail about what they were able to do.

Also that was the time when Serefina got the backlash for the life that the moon goddess gave to her. How could she remember that little detail?

"Whatever," Kace said tiredly and leaned his back against the backrest. There was a moment of silence before he looked at the witch beside him again. "Are you going tomorrow?"

"Hm," Serefina hummed. There was no emotion in her lime green eyes, they were empty.

"Do you think he had found his mate?" Kace asked carefully.

"Yes," Serefina replied dryly.

Kace looked at her and stretched out his hand, he pushed her head so she could rest on his shoulder. At this time, the witch didn't resist. She let Kace caressed her head.

She needed this...

Chapter 717 - DROP YOUR PRETENSE

Maximus met Jedrek in the backyard, where he was standing alone under the moonlight, caressing a flower that Maximus didn't even remember was there when the last time he visited this castle.

"Your majesty," Maximus greeted Jedrek solemnly, but his eyes said otherwise. He would have dug his claws if he was able to do so right at this moment. He never liked jedrek, even since they were little.

His Gregory family was one of the most powerful family when Janus was still an Alpha. However, because of the wrong decision that they made, Jedrek sentenced his whole family to death.

Maximus was lucky enough to survive that massacre by pretending to turn his back on his family and gave them up. They had planned it like that when they found out that the devil would lose the war. If he didn't do so, he would have died by now and the Gregory family line would have ended at that faithful day.

Actually, it wasn't only his family that turned their back on the lycanthropes, but all the dragon shifter had done that as well. However, they were still alive and was free to roam around the realm, even though there was a vow that they couldn't break.

All this time, Maximus carried the hatred and vengeance on his shoulder. That was why, he followed Jedrek when he was no longer put his loyalty to him. The only thing that he wanted to see was Jedrek died in the same way he demolished his entire family.

"All of you can go." Jedrek waved his hand and let the other three general to leave him alone with Maximus.

"I heard what happened in the city center," Maximus spoke calmly. "In the end you killed both of your parents." He arranged his words in such a way that it sounded as if Maximus didn't blame Jedrek, but still that should make the king feel uncomfortable by presenting such a reality right before him.

However, Jedrek didn't even flinch when he heard that. "Right, I finally killed both of them. I should have done that earlier before more victims fell to support his fake life." He locked his blue eyes on Maximus.

"My mother lived, just like what the devils promised. But, she had never opened her eyes or spoke a word. What kind of life was that?"

It was true, Asmodeus kept her promise, but apparently Janus didn't mention specifically what kind of life did Diana have to live.

"I understood your point," Maximus said. "But, not only with Asmodeus your father has made a deal."

Jedrek didn't respond to that, he just stood there silently, waiting for Maximus to talk more. It seemed there was a tacit understanding between them now.

"Janus promised the Kingdom to the Greed. Do you know what the consequences when you killed Diana?" Maximus plucked one of the red flowers in this garden and crushed it. "Not only you open Tartarus, but your whole Kingdom will collapse. It is only a matter of time, before it happened."

Jedrek chuckled, but there was no humor in his blue eyes. "So, you indeed know the consequences all along."

Jedrek never really knew the true consequences of his actions. It was only after the gates to Tartarus had opened that he thought that was what would happen, but it turned out that there was more to come. action

His father's love to his mate was truly overwhelming. He wouldn't bat his eyes when he handed over the kingdom to the devil.

Jedrek didn't know, whether he should laugh or cry for this.

"It is already late at night, we will talk about this later. I bet you must not have been drinking that potion in quite a while. I'll make it for you right away." Maximus said. "I heard Serefina and your two brothers are coming. I guarantee this time I will succeed in killing those Guardian angels." He was about to excuse himself when Jedrek spoke.

"Stop your pretense," he said impassively. "No one will kill the guardian angel and I don't remember that the last order I gave to you was to kill Kace's mate."

Jedrek indeed had ordered Maximus to kill guardian angel in the past, his own mate including, but his last order never mentioned anything like that. He even said he wanted the guardian angel to be brought to him alive, so Kace would return as well, knowing his mate was in Jedrek's hands. However, the general interpreted his words differently.

"Sure, your Majesty." Maximus turned around, as if there was nothing happened and their conversation was not important enough to hold his interest. "I will bring your drink."

Luckily, Maximus was on high alert, so he could feel a dagger flying past his face and he dodged it in time.

"What did that mean?" He turned around and watched Jedrek face that devoid from any emotion.

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"What are you doing in front of my door?" Lilac couldn't sleep because she felt there was someone who was standing right in front of her chamber and as it turned out, it was Warlock.

"Just enjoy the view," Warlock replied nonchalantly. He leaned his tall body against the wall while staring at the beautiful moon.

Lilac narrowed her eyes suspiciously. "You can enjoy the view from your own room."

"My room doesn't have this kind of view." Warlock glanced at Lilac and shrugged his shoulder. "You can go inside and continue to sleep."

"Is it Jedrek's order?" Lilac guessed, no excuse makes more sense than that. There was no way the general would be here if it was not Jedrek's order. Despite, Warlock looked less hostile than most of the general, but there were no in good terms too, just like Lilac and Tordoff.

"If I say 'no', will you believe me?" Warlock raised his eyebrows.

"What is he up to now?" Lilac groaned in annoyance.

Warlock shrugged, but at the same time, someone approached them and called out her name.

"Tordoff?"

Chapter 718 - CHALLENGE FOR THE ALPHA

"Tordoff?" Lilac called his name when his figure appeared in the hallway. "You are back."

Tordoff grinned at her. He missed that expression and how she smelled. "I am." He glanced at Warlock. "What are you doing here?"

"I asked the same question too." Lilac crossed her arms in front of her chest.

"Shouldn't you go back to your room, Tordoff?" Warlock squinted his eyes at Tordoff, he didn't like when he was being cornered by the guardian angel and his fellow general. "This is your queen's quarter, it will not look good if there is male lycan roams around in this place late at night."

"You shouldn't be here as well," Tordoff responded.

"King's order." Warlock shrugged his shoulder. "I will walk away if you say you are here because you will replace me." He locked his eyes on Tordoff. "But, if not, then please leave."

"What the King wants by having you guarding the guardian angel's door?" Tordoff was not satisfied with Warlock's answer.

"Apparently, she is not only a guardian angel, she is also our king's destined mate." Warlock gave Lilac a look. He was still in denial that their king finally had his mate. All of the people thought the curse was eternal. "Probably, you have not yet heard about this because you were gone when Lyrus started to inform us."

"No. I already knew," Tordoff said coldly. His eyes were on Lilac.

Tordoff remembered the day when Lyrus told him about Lilac's true identity was the same day when he had to follow Sebastian and Kyle to look for Maximus.

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"It meant; I am no longer need your drink," Jedrek then added when he watched Maximus was about to talk, "or your service."

Maximus narrowed his eyes. Somehow, he knew what Jedrek already learnt about his true intention. Little did he know, Jedrek had known it for a long time. The King was just very good at pretending and hid his feeling.

"You must be in pain now. When you know Serefina will come with your brothers. I will make the drink to ease your pain.

"You don't need to do that kind of thing anymore." Jedrek walked slowly toward Maximus. "It has been a really long time since I last drank your potion."

Maximus raised his eyebrows when he heard that. "You have been pretending," he stated and then chuckled. "Very well."

The night was so cold and the cricket was so loud, yet at this moment no one paid attention to that small detail, especially when one secret had been revealed unexpectedly.

"So, you know that I am not loyal to you?" Since Jedrek had known about it, there was no way for him to avoid this topic. Since they had dropped their facade, in spite of the fact that both of them had not yet talked much, but by looking into each other's eyes, the two of them knew how much information the other had.

"You were not even loyal to me when you were still my Beta." Jedrek said in matter of fact tone.

"I was loyal to you until you killed all of my family," Maximus said in very calm tone, as if he was talking about the beautiful moon. "You pardoned the dragon shifter and let them alive when they had committed the same mistake that my family had done."

"Your family was under the lycanthropes law, where death is a punishment for traitors." Jedrek didn't need to remind Maximus about this, he should have known it.

This punishment had been imposed for as long as the Donovan royal family had existed and ruled this realm.

Therefore, such crime couldn't be pardoned. However, the dragon shifter were different, they were from different realm and were not bound by the same rules. Jedrek could pardon them as long as he saw an advantage in it.

"Traitors?" Maximus scoffed. "So, do you think I am a traitor now?"

Maximus still remembered how his father told him to hand their family over when the war was about to be won by the lycanthropes. At least, there was one of their family lineage that survive, so he could carry their family blood along with the vengeance.

"You have always been a traitor," Jedrek spoke impassively.

"Don't forget that if something happened to me, you will face the wrath from the eastern region," Maximus jeered.

"Don't worry about that, I have worked on it," Jedrek replied casually.

Maximus smirked. Looks like things were not going according to what he had planned. He couldn't give Jedrek the same death he did to his family. This was pitiful. If only he had a little time, everything would be perfect.

However, Maximus could do one last thing.

"I challenge you for Alpha position," he said before he leapt forward and shifted into his beast mid- air.

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Lilac watched the two generals talked at each other in very respectful manner, it seemed like they would have clawed each other's face if it was not because of Lilac still standing there.

But, one thing that Lilac realized just now. action

"Tordoff," she called his name and this automatically stopped the conversation between Warlock and him. "Did you come back because you found out where Maximus is?"

Tordoff nodded. "Yes."

"You managed to bring him back?" Lilac's suspicion grew stronger. "Where is he now?"

"He is with the king." Tordoff answered truthfully, but he didn't understand why Lilac looked surprised. "They are having an important conversation now." He assumed the conversation must be really urgent for Jedrek to summon Maximus right away after their arrival.

However, Lilac knew better than that.

Jedrek was going to kill Maximus! He said it before. Because their mating ceremony would be held right after he dealt with him.

That was why, Jedrek put Warlock in front of her door to prevent her from roaming around the castle at this time and watched something that she shouldn't.

This wasn't because Lilac wanted to stop Jedrek from killing him, but ...

Chapter 719 - THEY ARE FIGHTING

"What are you doing?" Hope yawned when she found Raphael was standing alone at the corridor, staring at the door.

"Huh?" Raphael was surprised, his expression was akin to someone who was caught red- handed when they stole something. "No. Nothing." He said absentmindedly. "Whose room is this?" Raphael asked.

Hope woke up because she felt thirsty and found Raphael was staring at Lana's bedroom. "Lana's room, the werewolf girl who have been taking care of me," she said and yawned again. "She is a very nice girl and I miss her, but Serefina often send her away to do something."

"You should go back to your room," Raphael smiled softly, though Hope's personality was a little bit different from Raine, but they both have something in common, that was; their eyes would sparkle whenever they talk about the person they liked.

"I will..." Hope yawned again and walked away. "Good night Raphael..."

"Good night Hope..." Raphael smiled softly, watching as the girl entered her room. "Lana..." He said her name softly.

He didn't know what brought her here, but the moment he came into this house, this faint scent had put him restless.

His beast had been clawing on the edge of his mind... Raphael knew, this could only mean one thing...

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"Where are you going?" Warlock grabbed Lilac's hand just in time when she walked past him, but Tordoff held his hand and glared at the other general.

"Let her go," Tordoff said grimly. He didn't like it when another person touched her.

Warlock narrowed his eyes when he felt the hostility from Tordoff. "You don't have a say in this matter. She shouldn't step out from her room. That is a direct order from the King," he hissed viciously.

"But, I don't think he will please to know you are hurting his mate," the word 'mate' came out from Tordoff lips sounded bitter.

"Do you see I am hurting her? I said; she should stay inside her room." Warlock took a step forward, so both of the general could stand face to face with each other.

"Okay. Enough with this!" Lilac snapped, she was annoyed with the two lycan. "You, let him go," she said to Tordoff. "And you, let go of my hand." She glared at Warlock.

However, no one listened to her order and they were still in that position for another seconds until Lilac shouted at them again.

"Now!" She waved her free hand and branches from the nearby tree moved in her command, it rough bark wrapped around Tordoff and Warlock's h.i.p.s. "Or, I will throw both of you out of my way!"

Seeing the branches that coiled around their waist, Tordoff and Warlock finally relented and released each other hand.

"Tordoff, tell me where Jedrek and Maximus are." Lilac looked at Tordoff.

"Luna, you can't go there. I have an order to make you stay inside the room, for tonight." Warlock walked ahead and stood in front of Lilac to prevent her from walking away. "The king will have my head if I don't follow his order."

Lilac looked at Warlock in annoyance. "If that's what you're worried about..." She moved her hand and the branches from the tree nearby hit Warlock unexpectedly and pressed him against the hard wall behind him. "Jedrek should know that sending one of his general will never be enough to stop me," Lilac said sternly.

On the other hand, Warlock groaned as he couldn't move a finger from the branches that wrapped his body and mouth, let alone to shift or talk, because every tiny movement that he made, caused the branches pressed him even tighter.

Warlock could only follow Lilac and Tordoff with his eyes.

Whatever would happen between Jedrek and Maximus wouldn't be good if the king asked all of them to stay away from the backyard. action

Tordoff was running beside Lilac when he suddenly stopped.

"Why?" Lilac looked around and found nothing, then she shifted back her attention on him. "What happened?"

"Are you really the king's mate?" Tordoff asked, his brows scrunched up and he stared deeply into Lilac's eyes.

On the other hand, Lilac didn't know why Tordoff was talking about this all of sudden. This was not the right time, yet she answered him anyway. "Yes, I am his mate."

"But Donovan is cursed to not having mate in his entire existence. I don't get it." Tordoff frowned. That was what Tordoff believed. Most of the people believed, just like how they believed that the guardian angel was the weakest creature in the whole realm, which had no other use unless to sap their power to increase their strength.

Lilac shrugged her shoulder and patted his upper arm. "It is very simple; the moon goddess had lifted the curse and gave them mate. You know about the prophecy, right?" she asked, yet Tordoff didn't answer her. "I know you know that. The resurrection of guardian angel was not only a sign about the upcoming war between the devil and the lycanthropes once again, but also as a token of gratitude for the Donovan for the first war that they had won."

"By giving you as their mate?" Tordoff couldn't hold back the derision in his tone. "You don't know the King," he said in low voice, but Lilac could hear him anyway.

"You don't know him either," Lilac responded. It was true that she still couldn't understand Jedrek completely, but she was sure, she knew about him more than what Tordoff knew.

Tordoff shook his head. "I am sorry, I don't mean to offend you." He wanted to say that he had seen what Jedrek had done, especially when it came to his affair. To put it simply, he was not a faithful man, but apparently this was a bad time to talk all of that.

"No, it's all right..." Lilac sighed deeply and warmed up to him. "Let's go, I need to find him."

Reluctantly, Tordoff led the way, but only two steps and Lilac stopped walking.

Her face scrunched up as she spoke softly. "They are fighting."

Chapter 720 - THE FIGHT WAS OVER

Lilac didn't need Tordoff to show her the way to Jedrek, because she could feel it through the vibration beneath her feet, even their vicious roars were enough to lead her to find their location.

Lilac ran as fast as she could with Tordoff followed right behind her. Turned from one corridor to another and rushed across the small garden, where Lilac had bloomed all the flowers there, regardless it wasn't the time for them to bloom.

The two of them dashed toward the backyard garden, which strangely didn't have any guard around that area. Apparently, Jedrek had everything planned. He had sent every guard away.

It was impossible there was no one heard this loud commotion and came to check about what was happening.

Another roar and whimper.

Lilac felt like her heart was bursting. He had been running non- stop, not even halting to catch her breath.

However, the moment she reached the backyard, all she could see was blood everywhere, but the two beasts were not in sight.

Lilac walked toward the dense trees across the yard, but Tordoff held her arms to stop her. "Warlock is right, you shouldn't be here."

"But, we are already here." Lilac swatted his hand away and walked toward the direction where she could feel the beast's heavy breath.

"Let me go first," Tordoff said and walked ahead of Lilac, kept her behind his back and tramped toward the dense trees, to notify their presence.

If Jedrek was in his beast form, and Tordoff was almost a hundred percent sure he was, he didn't want to move recklessly around the angry beast. He had fought Jedrek's beast once and he didn't stand a chance, thus he knew better to not provoke him again. Even his beast felt restless when it sensed their Alpha.

Behind Tordoff, Lilac could see long traces of blood that splattered on the trees and bushes. She didn't want to think whose blood was that.

And there, standing on all four, the white beast that had his jaw clamped on the other beast's neck. It sharp- razor talons dug deeper, tearing the flesh of his opponent and created a pool of blood beneath them.

The white beast groaned and grunted viciously even when the other beast was no longer could put up a fight.

"Lilac, we need to go..." Tordoff said softly. He pushed Lilac behind him while his eyes locked on the beast.

However, his small voice distracted the white beast from his prey. And as he lifted his head with blood was still dripping from the corner of his mouth and fangs, Lilac and Tordoff could see his red eyes.

The white beast snarled viciously when he saw Tordoff, standing in front of Lilac, hiding the girl away behind him from the beast's sight.

Tordoff was well aware, red eyes for the angry beast was not a good sign, it meant their animal's side took control over them and he didn't know whether Jedrek would hurt Lilac or not in his state now, thus out of instinct, he needed to protect her, little did he know, his decision only aggravated the beast.

"Lilac, get out from here," Tordoff whispered.

"No." Lilac objected his idea firmly. "I will see him."

"No, the king is not in his right mind, he can hurt you," Tordoff gave Lilac a glare, but the girl didn't even flinch when the white beast snarled viciously at them.

"I can handle him myself." Lilac moved swiftly and stood in front of Tordoff, but the general was too worried about her and once again grabbed her shoulder to prevent Lilac from moving closer toward the king.

However, this time the beast let out a deep menacing growl while clawing his opponent's face, ripped the flesh, as the blood streamed and soaked to the ground. The metallic smell was very thick in the air.

With just one glance, Tordoff knew that Maximus stood no more. He died at the hands of the king.

If it was ordinary shifter, they would run away in the first chance given, but Tordoff stayed. There was no way he would leave Lilac. He didn't want the king to hurt her anymore.

"Let me go," Lilac looked at Tordoff firmly. "You will only upset him by touching me."

The beast prowled toward them, his red eyes fixed on Tordoff. He was ready to pounce on him and tore his hand from his mate.

But, before it could do that, Lilac had shoved Tordoff away from her and she stepped forward, knowing what the beast's intention was. "I know how to handle him." Tordoff was about to retort, but Lilac raised her hand to stop him. She knew what she was doing. "No," she said sternly.

It took every ounce of his will to not grab Lilac's hand and drag her out of the danger.

However, Lilac walked very steadily to approach the white beast and stopped two steps away from him. She stretched out her hand to touch him and the beast shifted his attention toward Lilac, still baring his fangs.

"Jedrek," Lilac called his name when their eyes met. "Come here."

Somehow, Lilac had more faith in Jedrek when he was in his beast form than when he was in his human skin, because she knew, the beast moved out of his instinct, and his instinct told him to never hurt his mate. That was how the mate bond worked, while his human side, had a lot of things to be considered and prevent the pull of the bond from flowing naturally.

Cautiously, the white beast took a step closer toward Lilac, his eyes were still glancing back at Tordoff every now and then, before he allowed Lilac to touch his bloody snout.

Only when he felt the spark between them, his focus was on his mate as he relished her touch.

Lilac smiled and moved closer, so she could hug his massive head and run her fingers across the beast's fur, which was covered in blood.