

TLOA Lycan 721

Chapter 721 - EARLY IN THE MORNING

"How is the King?" Sebastian asked when he watched Lilac emerged from the King's chamber.

The last night fight had been known to everyone in this castle and Maximus's body had been burned, he was named as a traitor and died for challenging the alpha position. His mate had been informed and she wanted to meet the king to know what exactly had happened.

After all, his mate had been away for a year because of the king's order, but the moment he came back, the first news that she got was Maximus had been executed for treason.

She deserved the explanation that she wanted, but that should wait, because right now, there was another important thing to take care of.

"He is still recovering from his injuries," Lilac replied.

"It is impossible!" Kyle shouted. "How could the wound not heal even after one night? We are not like you," he spoke in derision while looking at Lilac.

Here it goes again.

Lilac really couldn't understand this highborn Lycan for thinking of the guardian angel as low as they could when the truth was telling them otherwise.

Probably, it was what they always said; you could defeat them, but to gain their respect was something else entirely.

"I am very glad to know that we are not the same kind." Lilac used the same tone as Kyle when she replied. "I want someone to call the best healer in the city."

Lilac watched Sebastian, Kyle and Warlock didn't even budge from their position, they even acted as if they were not hearing anything.

"You," Lilac nodded to the guard that positioned not so far from the chamber. "Call the best healer in the city."

If the three of them were too arrogant to take orders, then Lilac would give orders to someone else. She didn't have the time and patience to deal with their rude attitude.

"He will not take order from you. He is the king's guard." Sebastian enunciated every word clearly, as though if he didn't do that, Lilac couldn't understand him.

From the corner of Lilac's eyes, she could see Warlock and Kyle sneered, but it made the guardian angel smiled too.

Lilac flashed a warm and gentle smile as she spoke. "Then he will take order from no one." Lilac locked her eyes on the guard. "Do you know that I am the king's mate and your future queen? Do you know what happened to those people who disobeyed direct order?" She stared at the three generals as well.

"I will find the healer, your grace." The guard was about to excuse himself when Warlock raised his hand to stop him.

"What do you want to say? The king of the lycanthrope needs a healer?" Warlock looked at Lilac questioningly. "It is the king that we are talking about. There is no way he needs a healer."

"If the words about the king's sickness circulated among the people, it will cause another commotion and problem, we have already enough of it." Kyle chimed in. "The king has never been sick."

Lilac crossed her arms and raised her chin defiantly. "He is now."

"You must have done something to him." Sebastian narrowed his eyes as he talked to her accusingly.

They had been waiting in front of Jedrek's chamber since the sun had not yet risen and the only thing that prevented them from barging inside the room was because they Lyrus and Eaton didn't allow them. It was the king chamber after all and the king was with his queen.

However, hearing the king was ill was beyond reason and they felt they had to confirm it.

"I did something to him?" Lilac asked incredulously and chuckled. "Can't you hear the irony in your words? I am the weakest creature in your perception." Lilac threw them a nasty look before she continued. "Hurt the strongest creature in this realm, until he can't recover," Lilac snickered and shook her head. "At least be consistent with your accusation."

After Lilac said that, there were deep growls from the three generals in front of her and the guard didn't move to carry out Lilac's order.

"Calm down..." Lilac stepped aside and revealed the closed door behind her. "If you want to go inside, go on," She said casually and waved her hand to the door handle.

However, this sudden change of attitude made the general frowned.

"But, Jedrek doesn't want to see you. He said he will burn the first person who entered the room," Lilac looked at them sharply.

Sebastian sneered. "He doesn't want to see us, his generals, and let you come and go as you wish?"

"Precisely," Lilac nodded.

"If you want to lie, do it in more convincing way!" Warlock snarled, he was still upset for being trapped by Lilac's power for hours last night. "What made you think that we would believe that?"

"I am your queen. Disrespecting me means you disrespect your king." Lilac needed to think another way to make them respect her. She had been saying this a few times and they were still talking to her in the same manner.

"You don't have a coronation yet," Kyle hissed. He glared at Lilac.

"With or without the coronation, I am still your Luna. Your Alpha's mate." Lilac squinted her eyes.

"Go on and let us see, what the consequence that you will get for disobeying the Alpha's direct order."

Actually, Jedrek never mentioned anything about this. Lilac just made up this order because of what Jedrek said last night.

=====

"You leave very early, don't you?"

The voice behind Serefina startled the witch, especially when her mind was somewhere else. She turned around and snapped at Calleb. "Can all of you, Lycan, stop bothering me?!"

Calleb shrugged his shoulder. "I just woke up and saw you."

Serefina groaned. Torak and Calleb had been bothering her about leaving, but now, when she was about to leave, she had to meet Calleb. Great!

Chapter 722 - HEAVY HEARTS AND TIRED STEPS

"You are awake," Lilac put down the book in her hands and stood up from the plush chair that she had been sitting for hours.

Outside the window, the sun was almost set and the porridge on the bowl that was meant for Jedrek had become cold because the king had been unconscious since his last fight with Maximus.

Jedrek squinted his eyes and tried to move his body, but he groaned. His body felt very weak, as if he had not used it for so long. "What happened?" he asked dryly. His throat felt like he just ate sand.

Lilac came over with a glass of water in her hand and sat down on the edge of the bed, beside him. She helped Jedrek to arrange the pillow behind him, so he could drink the water without choking.

"You killed Maximus, but it seems he did something to you before he died." Lilac let supported Jedrek's neck and helped him to drink.

Jedrek caught lightly and felt slightly better when the cold water moistened his dry throat. "What he did to me?"

"A curse," Lilac replied curtly.

"Impossible," He sighed tiredly as he rested his head against the pillow. "Curse doesn't work on Donovan's blood." This why they became the royal family, aside from their strength, because they were special.

"But, it did." Lilac put the empty glass back on the table beside the bed. "The same curse that your brother got."

Jedrek opened his eyes and stared at Lilac. "Kace." He remembered the last news that he got about Kace was; he was injured because of his encounter with Maximus, but he managed to escape from him and almost killed the general. It was because Kace was too kind, the only thing that prevented him from killing Maximus and saved Jedrek from the job. "How do you know about this?"

"Eaton told me," Lilac said truthfully.

Jedrek didn't seem very happy to hear that, especially when Lilac spoke again.

"I called a healer. She was here when you were still sleeping..." Lilac's sentence was cut short.

"I don't need a healer," Jedrek said grimly while glaring at his mate.

Yet, Lilac continued her words anyway. "She didn't know what kind of curse that you are suffering. The wounds on your back don't seem to heal even now." her brows knitted together.

Lilac remembered how Jedrek collapsed on her laps after his battle with Maximus. At first, she thought Jedrek was only tired, but she found the wound on his back when she changed his clothes the moment Tordoff and Eaton helped her to bring Jedrek back to his chamber.

And strange enough, the wounds didn't heal like it supposed to be.

"I have asked Eaton to bury Maximus's body and informed his mate. He sentenced to death because of treason," Lilac reported to him.

"You are happy to play your role as a ruler while I am unconscious, aren't you?" Jedrek sneered at Lilac.

For a moment, Lilac didn't answer him, she waited until Jedrek stopped giving her a disdain look and his expression became serious.

"I am not happy to play my role as a ruler. I play my role as your mate as the Luna of the lycanthropes." Lilac enunciated every word clearly. She wanted the word sinking into Jedrek's cold heart and made him understand that he had to stop shutting her away. "You said to me, before you lost your consciousness last night; trust no one."

Jedrek said it twice, before he closed his eyes. However, he didn't remember saying something like that.

"I don't remember," Jedrek replied.

"Whether you remember it or not, your subconsciousness always remind you that you are not safe even in your own castle." Lilac tried to understand Jedrek.

Living under the same roof with your enemy was the worst nightmare and Jedrek had been living in that situation for centuries. Didn't know who can really be trusted. Put everyone in arm-length, so they couldn't close enough to finish you off. Sleeping with one eye open. Wasn't that very exhausting?

Lilac really tried hard to understand him, but she needed him to cooperate too.

"So, why do I have to trust you? Because you are my mate?" Jedrek glared at Lilac, he was still stubborn to show her his emotion and always used fear and meant words to make them stay away from him, including Lilac.

"Because I am your mate. Because you know you can trust me." Lilac agreed with him. "In your vulnerable state, you trust me. Why don't you trust me now? You can stop fighting alone, there is a war ahead of us to fight for. You don't need to waste your energy to fight me. I am not your enemy."

Jedrek didn't like to hear that, but he was too tired to argue with Lilac now.

"I am glad that you are so forgiving. I guess you have forgotten that I killed you years ago and recently I have put you into the world of illusions for a year." Jedrek reminded her again and waited for Lilac's outburst.

Yet, she didn't do it. Lilac stared at Jedrek without saying a word, but the way her eyes looked at him as if she was looking at a boy, who was very stubborn to listen to other people's words.

The guardian angel looked tired to face his mate and for some reason, Jedrek felt guilty to turn her down over and over again.

"You need to rest," Lilac said and stood up.

=====

Serefina walked in the ruins of the city center and looked up at the sky, which had blackened with smoke and ashes from burning houses.

She had heard about the catastrophe that happened in this city and about Tartarus's gates that had been opened right in the castle.

It would take a few days to reach the south region, but every step that she took, felt very difficult.

Her heart grew heavier every passing second...

Chapter 723 - RETURN

"Leave it there," Lilac said to the servant to leave a basin filled with water and a washcloth that she was bringing. "All of you can leave now."

It had been two days since Jedrek absent from morning court because his condition was still not stable and Lilac was very adamant for him to stay inside his chamber and recuperate. Strangely enough, Jedrek didn't complain so much about this, probably because he finally realized that his condition did not allow him to appear in public.

During these two days, his other's generals had been bothering Lilac to meet with Jedrek, only when the king was giving them a warning through the mind- link, they ultimately stopped coming and complaining. Lilac was grateful for that. It seems that their relationship showed some progress, although it was very far to say that they were on the same page in every decision, but at least the debate between them had lessened a little.

Lilac watched the servants left the room and closed the door behind them, only then she opened walked toward the bed and opened the curtain that blocked Jedrek from people to see him, even now Lilac didn't allow anyone, including, Eaton and Tordoff to stay inside the room, not even Lyrus, Jedrek's, beta was an exception. The last time he visited and Lilac refused him, his complain could be heard even after his figure had disappeared at the corner.

Whether Jedrek was conscious or not when he warned Lilac, but the guardian angel wanted to be on the safe side.

Jedrek looked better now, but his wounds still made Lilac worry every time she watched it.

"Open your clothes, I will wipe your back," Lilac said and Jedrek had taken off his clothes before Lilac could put the basin.

"Did the eastern region know about Maximus's death?" Jedrek asked when Lilac started to wipe his arm. It felt so good to have skin to skin contact with her. He couldn't deny that he enjoyed her company.

"No words from Killian." Lilac replied, she did her job diligently and never raised her head to meet Jedrek's eyes.

"Send Eaton to the east if tomorrow still there is no news from him." Even though Jedrek was inside his chamber for two days straight and never met anyone else except Lilac, but he could still gain information through mind- link. All his generals took turns reporting what happened in the city and other domains to him.

But, sometime Lilac would report the same thing and Jedrek would listen. Since they had never really had an interesting topic to be discussed, then these tedious problems could help too, so they wouldn't stay silence in the entire day.

"Okay," Lilac agreed. "I will meet Maximus's mate this afternoon."

"Hm," Jedrek hummed and gave Lilac his other hand.

"After that, I will go to the city." Lilac lifted her head to see Jedrek's expression, but he showed no emotion.

"Take Sebastian with you and a few guards." Jedrek said.

Situation in the city was a little tense, people started to ask about the progress of their missing family members and became a little bit violence, especially people from the city center, since the first case happened there.

"I will go with Tordoff," Lilac said. Tordoff was adamant to accompany her to the city once he heard about her plan.

"Sebastian." It was final, Jedrek didn't leave any room for negotiation. And when Jedrek saw Lilac was about to reason with him, he reminded her. "I have told you to stay away from him."

Lilac sighed and then nodded. Of course, she remembered. It was the day when they agreed to work on this relationship. She didn't want to be the first person who broke their agreement. "I will go with Sebastian."

"Bring Lyrus with you too," Jedrek added.

"And? Who else?" Lilac asked sullenly. She couldn't understand, why they always thought she was not able to protect herself and needed protection all the time. "Will you ask Kyle and Warlock to join too?"

"Warlock and Kyle have another matter to take care of," Jedrek said simply. Instinctively, he dodged Lilac's hand when she was about to wipe his neck and took the washcloth from her hand.

Neck was a vulnerable spot and Jedrek would never let anyone to touch him there, not even Lilac. Not yet.

=====

Lana frowned when she saw all the lights in the house on. Lana opened the gates and walked into the front yard, as she could hear a few people were talking inside the house.

Had Serefina returned?

If she had returned, it meant... Kace was also there!

Lana closed her eyes and she could smell Kace's scent in the air, along with other foreign scents, but there was one particular scent that made her beast whimpered on the edge of her head.

She opened her eyes and watched Kace emerged from the house with a plastic bag in his hand while grumbling.

Second later, Kace's eyes found Lana and he approached her. "What are you doing there?" he asked as if they just met with each other yesterday.

In the past, though Kace was often away, but he would call Lana to ask about Hope. However, this past year, there was no word from Kace and Lana couldn't hold back herself when she hugged him tightly.

"I miss you..." Lana said between her sobs and this caught Kace out off guard. His naive mind thought that Lana had gotten rid of her feeling for him, after all, it had been a year without communication whatsoever.

"Lana." Kace frowned. The plastic bag in his hand dropped to the ground, he was not sure whether he had to reciprocate her gesture or not. In the end, Kace just gave her pat on her shoulder. "Go inside, Hope misses you."

"I miss you..." Lana insisted. "Where have you been?"

However, their moment was interrupted when they heard a vicious growl from behind Kace's back.

And there, on the foyer was Raphael with red eyes.

Chapter 724 - LONG MONOLOGUE

A guard opened the door for Lilac, where Kaitsa, Maximus's mate, had been waiting for her.

She had been asking for Jedrek's presence ever since she heard about what happened to her mate and because of Jedrek's condition, Lilac would be meeting on his behalf.

Once Lilac entered the room, there was a young woman with curly brown hair that reached her h.i.p.s, her pale skin looked sickly with a pair of grieving eyes that stared at Lilac in displeasure. She wished to meet Jedrek, not some random woman.

Beside Kaitsa was her firstborn, a boy in the age of three with innocent eyes, which looked like Maximus with curly brown hair that framed his round face. There was no mistaken, it must be Ed.

Lilac was informed enough about the pair mother and son.

"Kaitsa," Lilac called her name softly, but the woman scrunched her brows.

"Who are you? I want to see the king," Kaitsa stated sternly. She pulled her son behind her back, as if Lilac would hurt him. "Not a little silly girl, who will talk nonsense about my mate's treason act!"

"I am the king's mate." Lilac could understand with the hostility that Kaitsa showed to her, after all, she just lost her mate, thus she didn't take offense of it.

Kaitsa narrowed her eyes and observed Lilac, before the understanding dawn on her. "The king's mate? You are the rumor guardian angel?" she sneered, didn't even bother to hide her disdain.

"I am not a rumor, I am indeed a guardian angel," Lilac said firmly. Thanked to those generals, she started getting used with the people who underestimate her as a guardian angel.

"I don't want to talk with you. Where is Jedrek? I need his explanation!" Kaitsa screamed, she held Ed's hand too firm, until the little boy flinched.

"You can talk to me, or come back later when Jedrek's condition has gotten better." Lilac tried to be patient with Kaitsa, but the woman was only getting angrier.

"I DON'T WANT TO WAIT! I WANT TO TALK TO HIM! NOW!" Kaitsa's brown eyes turned red and beside her, Ed whimpered. If Kaitsa shifted now, she would hurt the little boy. However, despite her effort to hold herself, her body started trembling.

"Kaitsa, you will hurt your son." Lilac reminded her and nodded at Ed. "You will hurt him."

"BRING JEDREK TO ME AND LET HIM EXPLAIN IT!" Kaitsa roared, ignoring Lilac's warning and Ed started to cry and called his mother. The little boy was frightened.

Upon hearing the commotion, a few guards burst into the room, three of them had turned into their beast and snarled at Kaitsa.

Lilac raised her hand to stop them from moving closer. "Stop it Kaitsa, or someone will get hurt."

"And that someone is going to be you!" After saying that, Kaitsa shifted into her brown beast and charged forward, in the process, she hurt Ed just like what Lilac had expected.

And there were a few things that happened at once; roots sprang from the ground, breaking the hard and solid tiles. The guard, who had shifted into beasts rushed forward to protect Lilac from the imminent danger. Ed was thrown away with bleeding hand.

However, Lilac didn't budge. She stood there calmly. The only movement that she did was to control the roots that surrounded her.

First, Lilac created a wall between her and the guards, to prevent them from intervening and then her roots slithered on the floor to meet with the brown beast and tackled her easily to the ground, yet she put up a fight really well and struggled for a few minutes before Lilac could tame her.

"Mommy!" Ed shrieked and was about to rush to get to his mother, but Lilac caught his body first and hugged him. "No! I want mommy!"

"Ssh..." Lilac hugged him a little bit tighter while talking to him. "Your mommy will be fine, she will not get hurt. I promise you."

However, the roar and howl from the beast made the little boy became more and more anxious. He was crying and trying to kick or hit Lilac, so she could free him.

The more the beast whimper and the harder Ed became. He didn't listen to Lilac and was very anxious to get to his mother, but Lilac couldn't allow that. Not now when Kaitsa was only a step away from wrecking some havoc.

In the end, Lilac put down the wall that she created between her and the guards.

"Bring him to the healer," Lilac said to one of the guards. Ed was too young to have the ability to heal himself like an a.d.u.l.t shifter, thus his wounds were still bleeding now. "All of you stay outside," she said sternly when no one moved.

"We are ordered to protect you, your grace." The guard who was carrying Ed answered Lilac.

"Do you think I need your protection?" Lilac asked. She stepped aside to reveal Kaitsa beast. "Thank you for your concern, but I am fine on my own. Now, stay outside until I call you."

After seeing how Lilac handled the beast, all of them looked surprised, especially when they only heard about what Lilac had done when she came to find Jedrek a year ago and didn't witness the event themselves.

"We will be outside if you need us." the guards lowered their head respectfully and walked out of the room.

Once, there were only her and Kaitsa's beast, Lilac approached her and crouched down two steps from her.

"I want you to shift back so we can talk," Lilac ordered her, but instead of listening to her, she snarled viciously.

Lilac sighed deeply.

"All right, if you want to have a conversation like this, I don't mind." Lilac waved her hand and covered the beast's snout with the roots, so she could stop snarling at her.

"Now, listen to me..." Lilac crossed her legs comfortably, as she sat down on the floor, ready for a long monologue.

Chapter 725 - THE BEASTS ARE FIGHTING

Raphael was staring at Hope and Raine, who were chatting with each other while Torak and Kace were on their side, mesmerized by how easy both of them interacting with each other.

On the other hand, Kace and Torak couldn't be said that they already warmed up with each other, because if they didn't fall into argumentation, they would ignore each other.

However, with their mates were having a good relationship, it lessened the tension between them.

Tomorrow, they would go to the other realm, they would go to meet Jedrek and it could also mean a family reunion for the Donovans.

Since Serefina had gone ahead, they predicted they would arrive two days after the witch.

"I am so excited to go!" Hope, who always became the cheerful one, squealed in delight and Raine giggled while resting her head on Torak's shoulder. "Aren't you excited to go too?" Hope asked Kace and elbowed him.

Kace grimaced, but not because of the pain on his ribcages, but because he didn't look forward to meet his older brother.

"Not really," he grumbled in annoyance. "If I could I will be more than glad to stay with the centaurs."

"The centaurs and my people will be heading to the castle once Serefina can convince them to give back the centaurs' land to them." Torak chimed in.

"You don't need to remind me of that again!" Kace was irked by Torak's words.

And the second Donovan only shrugged his shoulder while pulling his mate closer to kiss her temple.

"Just in case you forget."

"All right, you don't need to be sullen the whole day." Hope slapped his thigh. "If you don't happy to see your older brother, at least you can be happy for me because I am going to meet with the other guardian angel."

Kace let out grunt and growl when he stood up and was mumbling something while walking toward the kitchen with the sound of Hope and Raine's giggle.

Raphael stared at the interaction between Hope and Kace or Raine and Torak, somehow, he started to wonder, how his interaction would be if he finally met with his mate?

Since he smelled the scent that had put his beast anxious, Raphael was more eager to know when this woman named Lana would come. Even the name sounded beautiful in his ears and he liked to repeat it again and again in his head, more than he could remember.

"Aren't you bothered by the smell of this trash?"

Raphael heard Kace's voice from the kitchen, it seemed the youngest Donovan wanted to vent out his frustration to the trash bin.

"No. However, it is not strange since rogue smell dominates this house." Came Calleb's respond.

Raphael knew what would come, so he headed toward the kitchen reluctantly and watched the two lycans were staring dagger at each other.

"Calleb, come here, I need you to help me with something." Raphael beckoned Calleb to follow him and when he still didn't move, Raphael stepped in to drag him out of the kitchen, leaving Kace with the black plastic bag.

"Didn't Torak tell you not to mess with him?" Raphael crossed his arms and looked the Gamma, who was kicking the pebble beneath his feet sullenly, when they were in the backyard.

"I know," Calleb mumbled. "I am just saying the truth. His scent is awful," he scrunched his nose.

"No matter what, he is still our Alpha's younger brother, at least respect that," Raphael said.

"Understood?"

Raphael watched Calleb heaved a heavy sigh and raised his head. "Understood," he said. "Next time I will not keep that word inside my head."

This time, Raphael was the one who heaved a heavy breath. "All right... next time..." he didn't finish his sentence when he smell the same scent that had put his beast on the edge of his mind, only it was stronger now.

Raphael let out a deep growl that startled Calleb.

"What? I said I understood." Calleb thought Raphael was growling at him, thus he raised both of his hands, but the Beta turned on his heel and rushed toward the house. "Hei! Wait! What happened?" thinking there was something bad happened, Calleb followed him immediately.

On the other hand, Raphael barely managed to hold back his beast's anxiety. He couldn't even tell whether he was excited or anxious, all he wanted now, he needed, was to find the source of this intoxicating scent.

Raphael walked past Torak in hurry, he ignored the questioning look that the Alpha gave to him or the fact that Calleb called his name.

"What happened?" Torak asked Calleb.

Seeing everything was fine inside the room, Calleb was confused. "Huh?" he blinked his eyes. "I thought something happened here..."

But, then they heard another growl from Raphael from the front door. From the sound of it, it was not something good.

"Stay here," Torak said to Raine and Hope.

Meanwhile, from the porch of the house, Raphael couldn't hold back his anger when the first thing that came to his sight was the last thing he thought might happen.

Raphael swore, the girl was his mate. However, she was hugging another man and cried on his chest. In his furry, he didn't even think straight when he leapt forward, shifted mid- air and when he landed on the ground, he was on all four.

Out of instinct, feeling the intention of the beast that bolted toward him, Kace shoved Lana and shifted into his white beast just in time when the other beast pounced on him.

There was an ear- splitting cracking bone and snarl when the two beast started to dig their sharp claws and talons onto their opponent.

"What?!" Calleb was flabbergasted when he watched the two beasts were trying to kill each other, moreover, it was Raphael and Kace.

On the other hand, Torak who watched this immediately turned into his white beast, roared viciously, and leapt into the battle to stop them.

Chapter 726 - THE SAME WOUND LIKE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER

"The king is looking for you," Sebastian said when he met Lilac after the guardian angel was talking to Kaitsa.

For now, Kaitsa was mourning over her mate and was closely guarded so as not to harm herself, Lilac also gave an order to the guard to not give Ed to Kaitsa if she was not stable yet. Just in case she would hurt the young child like she had done earlier.

The conversation between Lilac and Kaitsa were not going pretty well, since Kaitsa refused to shift back into her human's form half-way during Lilac's monologue. Most of the talking was done by Lilac and Kaitsa didn't have any other choice except to listen to her because the situation did not allow him to speak up or fight back.

And when Lilac thought she had explained everything that Kaitsa needed to know or possibly wanted to be asked, she left her alone, mourning, with an order to the guards outside of the room.

"Why?" Lilac asked. "We will leave to the city now."

"You can ask him yourself." After saying that Sebastian walked past Lilac. "Lyrus and I will wait in front of the gates with the other guards," he said impassively.

With confusion, Lilac walked back toward Jedrek's chamber. He must have used a mind link to give his order to Sebastian.

Lilac walked under the scorching afternoon sun to across the yard and reached the king's wing. It took twenty minutes of walking and when Lilac finally arrived there, she was slightly panting and sweating. The dress that she was wearing, unfortunately, was not very thick, because she preferred something as simple as possible to make it easier to move.

The two guards, who were guarding Jedrek's chamber, nodded their head respectfully at her and opened the door.

Once Lilac entered the room, she found Jedrek was standing with his back facing her, in his hand there was a book with black cover.

"Were you looking for me?" Lilac asked, she leaned her shoulder against one of the four pillar of the bed while fanning her face.

Jedrek turned around and watched his mate flushed face, for a moment, the king didn't say anything and relished the sight.

"Why?" Lilac frowned upon being stared at. "Sebastian said you were looking for me?"

Jedrek put down the book in his hand and crossed his arms in front of his chest. He was wearing grey robe that covered almost all his body, apparently he just finished taking a bath, with a few droplets of water dripping from his wet hair.

He looked s.e.xy and this made Lilac's throat became dry.

"I want to know what you were talking to Kaitsa," Jedrek talked in soft voice. "You didn't allow anyone to be inside the room."

Lilac understood. He must be curious. "I said the truth. Maximus had been betraying you and took the devil's side, it was unforgivable crime. He challenged you for the Alpha position, so it was only right for you to take his life, since that was the rule, right?" She shrugged her shoulder.

Lilac didn't know the whole laws of lycanthropes, but she learned one or two things and a challenge for an Alpha position required that only one person could survive while the other would meet their end.

After that, Lilac explained a few things for five minutes before she concluded.

"That's all what I said to her." Lilac told everything to Jedrek.

"And what she said?" Jedrek walked closer toward Lilac and stood very close to her.

This close proximity, made Lilac slightly felt nervous. "Unfortunately, she didn't say anything." But, then she corrected her sentence. "She couldn't say anything."

Jedrek raised his eyebrows questioningly. "And why she couldn't say anything? Did you cut her tongue?"

"No. Of course not." Lilac cringed when she heard that. It was impossible she would do something horrible like that. "I tackled her down and covered her mouth so she couldn't snarl at me. So, I spent over an hour talking alone. I am sure she was listening." Lilac grinned.

"She must listen to you," Jedrek stretched out his hand and caressed her cheek tenderly.

Lilac could feel her face became warm and red. There was something about their closeness that made her heart thumping wildly and the spark between them only urged her to lean over to his touch.

"I have to go," Lilac said hoarsely, she blinked her eyes to look at Jedrek and watched his mate was looking at him intensely, the kind of gaze that she had never seen before.

"You will go with Sebastian and Lyrus, yes?" Jedrek wanted to make sure that Lilac stayed away from Tordoff.

"I will go with Sebastian and Lyrus," Lilac said.

And as if, this was a common thing for them to do, as if they had done this many times, Jedrek pinched her chin and tilted her head, as he bent his body and Lilac tiptoed to meet with his kiss.

It was an innocent kiss, only a peck on her lips, but it made Lilac's heart fluttered.

"Be careful," Jedrek whispered on her lips.

"I will," Lilac said. She opened her eyes and met Jedrek's concern gaze.

=====

In one of the dark corner of the castle, a man, was standing beside an open window, the same window where he was standing a few nights before. From the grey cloak with firebird encrusted on the back of it, one could say he was one of Jedrek's generals.

The general was waiting, waiting for the same muffling sound and when he could hear it, a smirk crept on his lips.

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

The whisper came from a shadow like a smoke.

"He is injured and the wounds don't seem to heal, just like his younger brother." He nodded and grinned. "The guardian angel will go to the city."

Chapter 727 - PERFECT

[SHIFT BACK!] Torak mind- linked the two furious beast. He used his Alpha's voice to subdue them.

In spite of the fact it was hard to do so, when on one side he had to face the same Alpha's blood as his and on the other side, was his supreme Beta, but Torak managed to do it.

[SHIFT BACK! NOW!] Torak roared, his voice dominated the two beasts' mind, even Calleb, who was standing in front of Raine and Hope, flinched because of the strong force.

Finally, after long growl and snarl, Kace and Raphael took over the control from their beast and shifted back into their human skin.

Torak followed afterward, when the two men had stood facing each other, glaring.

"What happened here?" Torak positioned himself between his brother and his Beta. "Why the two of you wanted to kill each other all of sudden?" Torak looked at Raphael, but his Beta ignored him, then he looked at his younger brother. "Kace?"

"Ask him!" Kace patted the dirt from his clothes. "He attacked me out of the blue!"

Torak frowned, that didn't sound like Raphael, the Beta that he knew, wouldn't attack anyone without a strong reason. "Raph?"

For a moment, Torak thought Raphael would turn into his beast again when his body started to tremble again, but he closed his eyes and controlled himself.

On the other hand, Raine and Hope peeked from behind Calleb, the Gamma insisted for the two girls to stay as far away as they could from the three men in the yard.

No one could guarantee, when they would lose their control again and the two Lycans would have his head if something happened to their mates.

"Tell me what all of this commotion about?" Torak asked calmly, but everyone knew he was nothing, but calm. The Alpha only didn't want to make another scene in front of his mate, so he tried to content his own anger.

"He touched my mate," Raphael said grimly.

There was silence that followed after Raphael said that, before Calleb was the first person who broke the tension.

"Your mate?" Calleb asked with frown. "Who?"

Only then Torak realized there was another person near him and when he turned around, all of the people's eyes were focus on Lana.

"Lana?" Hope was surprised to see her there, but then she gasped. "You are... his mate?"

Raphael groaned and marched straight toward Lana, he shoved Kace aside when he walked past him. "Come here," he grabbed Lana's hand and both of them walked out of the house, leaving the five people in shock and speechless.

After a long time of silence, Torak turned toward Kace. "You hugged his mate?" he narrowed his eyes at his brother.

"I don't know!" Kace threw his arms up while shaking his head. "I don't know if she is his mate. We have known each other for years! Do you think I will hug her with another mind in my head? I have a mate too!" Kace was agitated by the accusing look that Torak gave to him.

=====

"Stop!" Lana was screaming now when Raphael didn't even listen to her. This strange man had been dragging her for more than half an hour and he didn't look like he was going to stop any time soon. "Who are you? I don't even know you!" Lana swung her hand wildly, as she received many questioning looks from the people around them.

Finally Raphael stopped walking and turned around to face her. "I know you."

Lana swatted his hand and this time Raphael let her go. "Really?" she asked defiantly. She tried hard to hide her feeling.

Lana couldn't deny that she loved the spark between them, the tingling feeling that made her heart fluttered and put her mind in a mess. Was this how it felt when you met your mate? It was... astonishingly wonderful.

Lana took a closer look at Raphael and found she was enthralled that she was hardly noticed the people, who were looking toward their direction.

"You are Lana and you are my mate," Raphael said simply, but there was anger that laced in his tone.

Lana bit her lips when she heard her name on his lips. However, what Raphael said next, put her in ashamed.

"And I found you in another man arms in our first meeting." Raphael gritted his teeth.

At the same time, there was two men approached them upon seeing how Lana lowered her head in front of the furious man.

"Lana, are you all right? Is this guy bothering you?" He was the people in this village and they had known Lana for quite some time now, although she was often going to another city, but they remembered her as one of the teachers at the only school in this village.

"Scram." Raphael growled dangerously, he glowered at the two men with his dark eyes and watched as they slightly took a step back in fear. However, Lana touched his hand and smiled faintly at the man who asked her.

"It's okay. I am all right, we are just having an argumentation, but everything is fine," Lana tried to explain the situation to them.

"But, you said you don't know him." The other guy chimed in, but his eyes locked on Raphael warily.

"No, no." Lana waved her left hand awkwardly, yet she didn't let go of Raphael and this pleased him. "There is misunderstanding."

After talking a few more things with them and ensured the two men that she was fine, they walked away and left the couple.

In the entire conversation, Raphael didn't say a word, his eyes were focus on his mate. He loved to hear her voice and smelled her sweet scent. Or, the way she talked to them and moved her hand to emphasize her words.

Lana had short hair that only reached her shoulder. At first, Raphael thought he would like a woman with long hair and imagined Lana that way when he only knew her name, but now... he thought she was perfect.

Chapter 728 - WASTING TIME

"Don't you think we need to bring more guard?" Lyrus whispered to Lilac when they approached the people who gathered in the town square, asking for the king to show himself and explained to them about their missing family member.

"If we bring more guards than this, they will think that we surround them and when they think that they are outnumbered they will become angrier and harder to control," Lilac replied in low voice as they didn't even slow down when they walked forward through the crowd.

"This is not a good idea to let a woman," Sebastian halted to throw Lilac a disdain look, "a guardian angel to talk with these people."

The corner of Lilac's lips moved upward when she patted Sebastian's back. "Don't worry Sebastian, if something happened and these people got out of control, I will save you," Lilac insulted him with light tone, as if she was praising him.

Lyrus, who heard that too, pretended he was looking at the other direction, to hide his smile. This girl indeed had sharp mind and tongue. What a good combination...

Then he remembered about the mate that Torak had. The moon goddess indeed found a suitable soul to match with each Donovan. If Lilac was Raine, she wouldn't survive a day with Jedrek's bad temperament or silenced all the generals who went against her.

Lyrus was curious, what kind of mate that Kace had...

Lilac walked ahead before she could hear Sebastian's angry respond and stood in the middle of the people.

Ever since Lilac walked with, well known, Jedrek's second general and the royal Beta, every eyes were on her. They were looking with curiosity and would whisper to the people beside them.

Lilac didn't need to have hearing ability like those shifters to know what they were talking about. Those people were curious about her identity. The other day, she walked with the king and just a few days ago, she walked with the general Theo and now, she even walked with the king's beta and the second general.

Who is this young girl?

Lilac stood in the center of the people and looked at the beautiful vistas of the city. The bright light of the sun highlighted the colorful trees, the sight that Lilac would never grow tired of witnessing, and the buildings, creating shadow that encased on her.

However, in contrast, Lilac had to face the people who were asking for justice for their missing family member.

"We want the explanation from the king! Who are you?!" A tall, blond-haired man in the middle of the crowd suddenly shouted at Lilac and it followed by the ripples of the same questions from the rest of the people.

"Listen to what I have to say!" Lilac tried to shout as loud as she could, but her voice died down among the crowd.

"No one will listen to you," Sebastian sneered, but Lilac just glanced at him and ignored him completely.

"Do you want to silence those people?" Lyrus offered and this would go without saying that this offer would include brute force. That was the only way that worked on the shifter, they would only bow to someone more powerful than them.

"No need." Lilac turned down the Beta's offer and crossed her arms. "Let's wait."

And what Lilac meant with 'wait', they were literally waiting for the crowd to stop asking, shouting their question.

Lilac stood there unaffected, with Sebastian on her left side and Lyrus on her right side while the guards were standing closely, ready to take an action if it came to violence.

Lilac was staring at the people around her, looking at them one by one in their eyes, as though she was going to remember every faces that she saw at this very moment.

Five minutes have passed, but those people where still shouting at Lilac.

"What are you going to do?!" Sebastian was running out of patience.

"I said, we wait." Lilac enunciated her words firmly.

The second general groaned and felt stupid to have to follow this girl's order, he looked at Lyrus and asked him through his eyes, whether he knew what Lilac was up to, but the Beta didn't have any idea. He was at lost too.

But, after another ten minutes, the commotion finally died down, as they realized that Lilac didn't even try to talk to them, she just stood there and stared at them until it became awkward, as though they were shouting at wall, which didn't give any respond to what they wanted.

When the shrill scream reduced to a mere murmur and one man stepped forward to ask her with loud voice, Lilac finally opened mouth.

"Why don't you talk?!" the man shouted at her.

"If we all talk, then who will listen? I have heard you and now it's my turn to talk." Lilac looked at them and the murmurs died down. "I want you to choose three people that you can trust, as a representative of you. You can give your list of questions to these people and they will meet with the king two days from now. The king will answer your questions in the castle."

There were murmurs among the people, but they started to look at each other, trying to decide who would represent them.

"I hope to see your representative three days from now." After saying that, Lilac walked away.

"That's it?" Sebastian asked in disbelieve.

"That's it." Lilac gave the general a triumphant smile as she walked past the people, who was now distracted with the order that Lilac gave earlier.

Even though Lilac's method seemed very simple, it managed to calm the public. At least to avoid far greater riot.

"If you just wanted to say that, you shouldn't have come here, you can get one of the guards to deliver your message." Sebastian rolled his eyes in annoyance. "You waste my time."

Lilac stopped walking when she heard that. "Wasting your time? I don't even remember that I asked you to come with me. It is Jedrek who told you, to come with me to this city. And, just like those people, it is not about the message or the order, it is about WHO delivered it." Lilac smirked contemptuously at him.

"I think you should start to use your brain over your brawn and watch what you say. Next time I will not be very kind when you insult me in front of other people." Lilac gave a final warning, before she raised her hand to signal to the guards that they should continue on their way to the castle.

=====

"We need to talk somewhere," Lana hissed to Raphael as she looked around warily. The conversation between them wouldn't be something for human to hear.

However, the only thing that Raphael had in his mind was the fact that Lana didn't let go of his hand when she led the way toward a more private place, away from the staring eyes from the people in the village.

"Right, we have a lot of things to talk about," Raphael agreed. He let Lana to take him, wherever she wanted.

Chapter 729 - SHE IS ON HER WAY HERE

"Are they will be all right? Don't we need to go to find them? It almost dark and they have gone for hours." Raine looked worried about Raphael, just like Hope to Lana. She had not yet met her properly when Raphael took her out of the house to no one knew where.

"Don't worry, they will come back soon." Torak caressed his mate's head, but it didn't cease her restlessness. "I will ask Calleb to find them if they still don't come back in an hour."

"There is nothing to be worry about, that girl is his mate, no matter how angry he was with her, Raphael will not do something that will hurt her." Calleb added. "Moreover, tomorrow we will go to the other realm, there is no way they will not come back."

"Okay." Raine finally relented and rested her head on Torak's shoulder.

The three of them were sitting in the family room with the television on but no one was watching. Meanwhile, Hope was talking with Kace somewhere, having time for themselves.

Outside the house, the pale crescent moon shone like a silvery claw and under the infinity starry sky, Hope and Kace were sitting on the grass, leaning against each other.

"Do you think, Lana will be fine? The two of them still haven't returned until now," Hope murmured.

"You are worry for nothing," Kace sighed and lay down on the ground, relishing the cold evening breeze. He stretched out his hand and played with Hope's hair while staring at her back.

There was a comfortable silence between them until Hope spoke. "I know Lana has feeling for you," she stated and this made Kace froze.

The lycan was too ignorant to realize that Hope had known about this long ago. The reason why she kept quiet was because she loved both of them. No matter what, Hope always looked up to Lana as her older sister and Kace was definitely everything that she needed.

Thus, she was afraid to confront this issue bluntly. Knowing Kace would never betray her was an assurance for Hope to ignore Lana's feeling for her mate, though some time she would get jealous and stand up if Lana went overboard.

"I don't have feeling for her. You know that," Kace said sternly and started to play with her hair again. "I think of her as my younger sister."

Hope sighed deeply and turned her body so she could face her mate. "I know. Therefore, I am very grateful when she finally found her own mate." Hope flashed Kace a gentle smile and lay down on his chest. "I hope Raphael treats her well. She deserves to be happy."

Hope couldn't help but think about Serefina. The witch has a one- sided love too, but unlike Lana, who fortunate enough to meet with her mate, Serefina now was walking toward her ex- lover, who had a mate of his own. It was cruel to say the least...

"He will," Kace assured her.

"Kace?"

"Hm?"

"The war is getting closer, huh?"

"Yes."

"I want to stay like this forever."

"So do I."

"A war is going to kill a lot of people," Hope said sadly. That was a brutal truth about war. It didn't matter which party won, both of them would lose something.

=====

"New medicine?" Jedrek raised his eyebrows at a bowl that filled with red liquid and strong scent that Lilac brought for him.

"Hope this one will work," Lilac said as she sat down beside the bed and handed the medicine to Jedrek. "The healer still doesn't know about your wounds."

"It doesn't matter." Jedrek took the bowl from Lilac's hand, but he didn't drink it immediately. "I feel better now."

"You have to drink it while it is still hot," Lilac reminded him when she watched Jedrek put down the bowl. Although their relationship had shown some progress, but on the other hand, Lilac could see how much he distrusted others, including her.

Jedrek looked at Lilac and sniffed the red liquid. His nose slightly scrunched when the strong smell hit his nostril.

"Don't be a baby and bottoms up." Lilac crossed her arms, waiting for Jedrek to relent. It had been their routine now, as it would take more than thirty minutes for Lilac to convince Jedrek that the medicine was safe before he was willing to finish it.

"I don't need this." Jedrek gave back the bowl to Lilac and refused it. "This will not heal my wounds."

"No, we have to try. Who knows that this one will work, right?" Lilac frowned when she watched Jedrek stood up from the bed and walked toward the bathroom.

Not long after that, Lilac heard the sound of water and she could only sigh in annoyance. She decided that she would wait for Jedrek until the stubborn king drank his medicine, thus while waiting, she walked toward the balcony and felt refreshed when the cold evening breeze caressed her face.

Above her, the pale crescent moon shone beautifully among the stars and the tranquility managed to put the guardian angel's restless heart at ease.

When the wind rattled the branches it also brought a dry leaf on her hand. The leaf had travelled so far, blown by the wind again and again all the way up to Lilac, as it gave her a message...

The last pure blood witch was on her way to the southern region.

Lilac bit her lips, she felt nervous for the reason that she had already known it, but still it didn't make things easier for the three of them.

She turned around right in time when Jedrek just came out from the bathroom with droplets of water dripping from his hair with grey robe clung on his well- built body.

Lilac walked slowly to approach him and took the towel from his hand. "Let me help you."

"You are still here?" Jedrek frowned, but he lowered his head slightly to let her dried his hair.

Chapter 730 - I WILL SLEEP WITH YOU

"I am," Lilac said softly. "After all you haven't taken your medicine."

Jedrek groaned and raised his head, so Lilac couldn't continue what she was doing. "I said, I will not drink it," he said firmly, didn't leave any room for negotiation, and then he took the towel from Lilac and dried his hair himself.

Lilac followed him into the room and took the bowl that she had put on the table, beside the bed. "Why? Do you think I will poison you?" she raised the bowl to her lips and took a gulp under Jedrek stern gaze. "See? This is safe."

It was apparent that the king didn't appreciate what she had done. "Even if you drink it, I will not." Jedrek continued to dry his hair, ignoring Lilac's frustration grunt.

"Why? This is for you, how can you heal if you don't want to drink it?" Every time Lilac saw the gruesome gashes behind Jedrek's back, she would grimace. It looked very painful. How Jedrek could pretend that it was not?

Lilac knew that Eaton said that Jedrek had gotten used to hide his feeling, but still, Lilac wanted him to open up to her. To trust her more, but in the other hand, she couldn't rush things between them.

"Someone had been giving me a drink to heal my pain for decades and it turned out, it healed the pain, but it also did more damage to me." Jedrek looked at the bowl in Lilac's hand. "Moreover, that medicine will not cure my wounds. This is black magic, not something that can be cured by drinking random medicine," he said with finality. He was so adamant with his decision now.

"Maximus," Lilac said the name of the person who had given Jedrek the drink. "I am not Maximus."

"Of course you were not him." Jedrek knitted his eyebrows. "Eaton told you?" he guessed it right, because it was most likely Lilac knew from him.

"Yes," she said, nodding absentmindedly when she looked at him with inexplicable expression. "So, you will not feel the pain when Serefina left you."

After Lilac said that, the atmosphere turned tense and Jedrek stopped his movement. His eyes were on Lilac and the intensity from the way he looked at her, put the guardian angel restless.

"I didn't drink it anymore the moment I know what it was." Jedrek spoke rigidly and tossed the towel on the table and then walked to his bed. "I will rest, you can stay if you like."

Lilac was standing beside the bed, with the same bowl in her hand. "Jedrek," she called him softly.

"Hm?"

"When you lost Serefina, you turned feral. However, why Kaitsa didn't do the same when she lost Maximus?" this question had been on her mind this whole day. Kaitsa looked almost normal for someone who just lost her mate. Meanwhile, Serefina even was not Jedrek's mate, but why...

Jedrek didn't open his eyes and didn't reply her to question either. Hence, after a few minute of waiting, Lilac thought the king had fallen asleep or simply didn't want to answer her.

However, when Lilac was about to walk out of the room, she heard from behind her, Jedrek's voice.

"It depends on how much you love that person," He said in hoarse voice. "The mate bond will slowly lose it attraction over the time, but it will take decades for that."

Lilac gripped her dress tightly, but didn't turn around to face Jedrek. She looked at the door with intensity that could create a hole there. "When Serefina is here, will you go to her?"

"No, she left me," Jedrek said simply. "You are my mate and we have agreed about it."

Lilac smiled wryly when she heard that. It was not the answer that she wanted. "Get some rest, Jedrek," she said in voice that barely a whisper and walked toward the door.

"Lilac," Jedrek called her again when she just took her third steps.

"Hm?"

"You did a great job with the people in the city," he said proudly.

=====

Torak carried the sleeping Raine back to their room when Raphael and Lana entered the house.

From the look of it, it seemed both of them had settled down their matter and everything was fine, so after giving the two of them a brief glance, Torak walked away, leaving Calleb sleeping on the sofa.

The Gamma was not even aware when Lana turned off the television or her little conversation with Raphael.

"Go back to your room, I will come after I talk to Kace," Raphael said and kissed her temple.

"Okay," Lana smiled and went to her room. She was very happy that they were able to make up so quickly and the fact that Raphael was so understanding.

However, Lana wouldn't tell about her affection toward Kace. It was in the past. Raphael didn't have to know about that, moreover he was his mate now.

Only now did Lana fully understand how Kace felt about Hope.

When you had a crush with someone and when you were with your real destined mate, the feeling was so different.

"LANA!"

Lana was startled when Hope screamed and ran toward her. The girl literally threw herself at her, until she lost her balance and fell on the floor.

"Hope!" Lana reprimanded her, but Hope was laughing, still clinging onto her neck.

"I miss you! I am very happy for you!" Hope exclaimed.

"I know, I know..." Lana said helplessly and patted her back. "Now, get up. You are heavy!"

"I am not!" Hope raised her head from Lana's neck and pouted sullenly. "Come here! Let's go to your room! You have to tell me everything about what the two of you were talking, where are you and why are you just coming home now."

Hope was so excited that she didn't see Lana grimace when she spoke. "I will tell you later, why don't you go back to your room?"

"No, I will sleep with you," Hope grinned.