

TLOA Lycan 731

Chapter 731 - IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE

The door opened even before Raphael could knock it and from behind it, Kace poked his head. "What? Want to apologize?" he asked while raising his eyebrows. "I will not forgive you unless you treat me something. I am hungry."

Raphael chuckled. "Let's go."

"I will get my jacket," Kace said quickly and closed the door right in front of Raphael's face. It didn't take long time before Kace appeared again with his leather jacket and grinned from ear to ear. "I just want to tell you, my forgiveness is not cheap."

"Don't worry, I can afford that, don't you know that Donovan's company is one of the biggest company in this realm?" Raphael asked arrogantly.

"D*mn you," Kace cursed under his breath and both of them walked together.

However, when they reached the family room, Calleb was awake. He rubbed his sleepy eyes and stared at the two of them.

"You already come back," Calleb asked and yawned. "Where are you going?"

"Find something to eat," Raphael answered.

"His treat," Kace added and the Beta gave him a look.

"Food? Raphael's treat?" Calleb sprang on his feet. "I will go with you guys!" he exclaimed. All of sudden, his sleepiness disappeared.

"Are you sure, you want to go? Don't you hate a rogue like me?" Kace asked sarcastically upon seeing Calleb's enthusiasm.

"Don't worry, I will resent you until my heart content when my stomach full," Calleb said casually and took his jacket.

"Don't you have any dignity?" The corner of Kace's lips twitched. "Didn't you say Donovan company is one of the biggest company in this realm? Then why he acts like no one ever feed him?" he complained.

"Don't count him. He will do anything for free food." Raphael didn't even wait for Calleb to put on his shoes when he walked out of the house.

"Wait!" Calleb hastily tied his shoelace and caught up with Raphael and Kace.

When they reached the car, Raphael mind- linked Torak that he brought the two chatter lycans with him and the Alpha was fine with that as long as he could make sure the two of them didn't create unnecessary trouble and come back in time because they would leave early in the morning.

After several quarrels ended about who would sit in the front seat, finally Raphael relented and let the childish Calleb to drive and the immature Kace to tour guide them.

"Yeah! Tour guide Barbie!" Calleb exclaimed as he started the engine and Kace growled deeply at him.

The Beta started to regret his reckless decision to bring the two of them with him. They just didn't stop arguing along the way to whatever place that Kace would bring them.

As this was almost late at night and the village was not like the hustle city, some of the shops had closed and not many people in the street.

"Are you sure we can find something to eat here? This place is like a ghost town," Calleb started to complain.

"Don't worry pup. I know this village. There is one place with a good food here." Kace ignored Calleb hard glare when he heard he called him pup.

It didn't take a long time before Kace told them to pull over. Calleb then drove them into a parking lot as per Kace's direction.

"Hm, it turns out, not as dead as I thought..." Calleb mumbled when he watched the parking lot was almost full.

"It seems it we are not the only ones who hungry at this time," Kace replied.

When Calleb finally parked the car, the three of them got off. From outsider perspective, all they could see was three handsome men, walking confidently while talking or hitting each other back playfully.

Raphael would look like a good- looking businessman and Calleb looked like he was an heir from a respectable family, while Kace, some of the people in this village knew him, he looked nothing less than a rich man, after all, the house that Serefina owned was the biggest house in this place.

All eyes were on them, not to mention girls, even men would take a second glance at them. Their aura was too dominant to ignore.

The restaurant was painted with blue color and crowded, but a waitress managed to get them a table and guided them to their seat with her lips curved into sweet smile.

"What can I get for you?" she asked, pulling out a pen and pad. She blinked at them, mesmerized by the sight before her eyes.

The waitress took the order from the three of them and asked a few, unnecessary questions, just to stay there longer and took the advantage of staring at them. After all, it was so rare to see men like them in this remote village like this.

And when the woman swayed her h.i.p.s away to get their order Calleb sighed dramatically. "Gosh! I thought she will never leave us!" he turned toward Kace, who was sitting beside him. "You come often in this place?"

"I will come here with Hope or Lana, both of them will take care of those women, I don't really care what they look like as long as I get my food." Kace rolled his eyes, but then added hastily when he got a hard look from Raphael. "I think of Lana as my little sister. No less, no more. I have known her since she was little!"

Calleb snickered and provoked Raphael. "But, you have known Hope since she was baby, yet you fall for her anyway."

A spoon was thrown at Calleb's direction, but the Gamma was quick enough to catch it.

"She is my mate, you d*mn lycan!" he glowered at Calleb, who was laughing heartily.

When the same waitress came, she served the foods and drinks that they ordered, but she slipped a paper under Raphael's utensils and winked at him.

"A phone number!" Calleb pointed the paper. "I will tell Lana about it!"

Raphael was annoyed and looked at Kace. "Would you like to join me to give him a lesson or two?"

"It will be my pleasure..." Kace smirked.

Chapter 732 - MARKED AND MATED

"Hey, guys!" Calleb raised both of his hands. "It was just a joke, just a joke. Don't take it seriously!" he laughed dryly when no one laugh with him.

Calleb felt bitter since it was only him who didn't have a mate. Their journey tomorrow to Jedrek's place would be awful. The three of them had their own mate.

Maybe it sounded odd, but Calleb hoped Serefina was there... at least he wouldn't feel too bitter when he was surrounded by those couples.

Even Calleb didn't believe with what he wished. Was he that desperate?

"You will know how it feels when you find your other half," Raphael said, forked his spaghetti.

"What do you think his mate is doing right now?" Kace asked Raphael after putting down his glass.

The Beta shrugged his shoulder nonchalantly. "She is probably, flirting with some guys and messing up somewhere."

"Hell, no!" Calleb exclaimed, his fork fell onto the plate with a loud clink.

Kace and Raphael laughed hard when they watched how furious Calleb was. He literally turned red as he fumed.

"She better be at home and buried her cute nose in a pile of books and study hard!" the Gamma huffed and puffed. "I hope she gets strict parents who will give her a curfew."

"Don't you think he would be a bad mate?" Kace elbowed Raphael.

It was almost unbelievable if one thought back to what had happened. Early in the morning, the two of them tried to kill each other, but now they were partners in crime to attack their fellow lycans who were still mateless.

"Worst," Raphael said curtly and continued to eat his food while the two of them argue about one thing to another.

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The three of them returned late at night, they thought all of the people would be asleep right now, but the house was still so bright.

It was Calleb, who entered the house first and found Lana was standing in front of the door with Hope beside her.

"Where were you going?" Lana asked, narrowing her eyes dangerously at Calleb.

"We were eating," he said, raising both of his hands. "It was them, who invited me to join them." Calleb pointed at Raphael and Kace behind him with his thumb.

"No one ever invited you," Kace scowled at Calleb.

"Where were you going?" Hope frowned at Kace, who came second followed by Raphael. "Why don't you ask us to go too?"

"My lovely baby girl," Kace said in sweet voice. "I thought you were sleeping."

"Which restaurant did you visit?" Hope asked sullenly. "Is this the same restaurant you always visit? With the waitress named Miranda?"

And from behind the couples, Calleb exclaimed. "Oh, that is the name of the woman who gave Raphael a phone number!" but, then he realized what calamity that he had created. "I will go to my room." Calleb murmured and retreated to his room as fast as his feet could.

He had run his mouth recklessly again.

"I swore! I threw away the paper!" Raphael shook his head in his attempt to convince Lana.

"I know Miranda, she is beautiful, isn't she?" Lana crossed her arms in front of her chest. She was upset.

Raphael stretched out his hands and caressed her cheeks with his thumbs. "Compare to you? She is nothing." He leaned over and kissed the girl's lips.

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"Stop staring like that..." Lana groaned and pulled her jacket so it covered her neck, to hide the freshly mark on her skin. It was still swollen, but probably because Lana was a shifter too, her healing ability made the wound heal faster.

"Why are you still able to do everything as usual?" Hope asked in disbelief. "When Kace marked me, I was on the verge of death. He brought me back to life, but I still remember very clearly that the marking process was very painful." Hope grimaced when she remembered that.

Kace accidentally sapped her energy and she was too weak to even stay awake for long time, not to mention to move around as if there was nothing happened, just like what Lana did now.

"Me too," Raine chimed in. She shuddered when she remembered how frightening her marking process was. Torak was in his beast form and it was very fortunate of her that he didn't take a chunk of her flesh too. "Torak almost killed me, as he marked me when his beast was in full control." Raine whispered, she didn't want Torak to hear this, even now, he still felt bad about it.

The three women were waiting for the men, who seemingly had another matter to discuss before they went to Red River city, where the portal of the other realm located.

They could see the four of them were talking seriously in low voice near their cars.

"Tell us, how Raphael marked you." Hope shook Lana's arms and stared at her expectantly. "Our stories are not pleasant to hear."

"Yes, tell us. Our marking process is a horror story..." Raine grimaced.

Lana laughed awkwardly, but when she watched Raine and Hope were serious about what they were asking, she felt her throat became dry. action

"Well, we did what all mates did..." Lana gulped and stared at Raphael, but her mate was too focus to what Torak said. "We marked and mated..." Of course, Lana wouldn't break the detail for them to hear.

At first, there was no reaction from Hope or Raine, but then both of their eyes widened.

"Mated???" Hope covered her mouth when she gasped.

"Mated you mean... both of you 'did' that?" Raine was staring at Lana without blinking.

The fact astounded Hope and Raine. "That's so fast..." both of them said the same thing simultaneously.

"No. Actually, it is normal for our kind to mark and mate at our first meeting..." Lana waved her hands vigorously and hastily explained it to them.

"Really?" Hope asked in disbelieve.

"If I remember correctly, Calleb had explained that to me in the past..." Raine mumbled.

"So, you mean it's us who are not normal," Hope stated sullenly.

Chapter 734 - SEREFINA (2)

There was an emotion that flashed in Serefina's lime green eyes, but it disappeared in a blink of an eye, leaving her with stoic expression.

Serefina continued to walk, ignoring the devils, but Asmodeus kept walking behind her.

"Wait, what her name again? The young guardian angel? Let me think..." Asmodeus enjoyed this little game to annoy Serefina. "Lily? Lilian? Lalia? Oh, right! Lilac! Her name is Lilac!" she clapped her hands happily, as though she was five years old child.

Serefina clenched her jaw tightly, but she continued to walk. She didn't want this devil got what she wanted, yet for someone like her, it was hard to hold back her anger. She was too hot-headed for being patience.

"I remember how angry you were when Lilith tried to seduce your man," Asmodeus mumbled, but loud enough for Serefina to hear it clearly. "I have to admit, she didn't do her job well. She couldn't sway Jedrek's devotion for you."

Serefina closed her eyes and tried to not hear whatever Asmodeus said, but it was hard to do since it was only the two of them in this forest and the devil determined to not stop until she got the reaction that she wanted.

"But, it seems his destined mate could. He is ready to settle down and crown the girl as his queen. How are you feeling?" Asmodeus walked in light step, she was very happy, even one was able to hear it from her voice.

Serefina could feel the anger started to rise in her throat and her breath became erratic.

"I am sure, you are not feeling well now. Don't you think Selene is not fair to you?" Asmodeus plucked some berries and ate them. The sky was covered with dark smoke, thus it was hard to tell whether the sun had set or not. "You were helping Jedrek to kill all the shadow guards and captured all the guardian angels to use them against us during our war... but, what you got?" she asked rhetorically.

Of course Serefina remembered that. The shadow from the shadow guards pierced through her heart and killed her.

"You die..." Asmodeus said dramatically.

This time, Serefina stopped walking and so did Asmodeus. The witch relived that moment in her head.

At that time, she was having argumentation with Jedrek, so she went to the village and wreck havoc there, since she knew Jedrek had ordered his warriors to march there because the shadow guards refused to hand over the guardian angel.

There was something in Jedrek's mind until he didn't realize that Serefina had disappeared. It was Kace, who followed her to the village of angel.

However, the moon goddess erased his memory when she resurrected her.

"And now, you are forced to see the only man that you love misunderstood you? And be with another woman?" Asmodeus pointed out. "Then what's in it for you to be resurrected?"

Furiously, Serefina turned around and glowered. "What do you want?!" She balled her fists until blue fire enveloped both of her hands, she was ready to burn this devil back to hell, if she needed to.

"What I want?" Asmodeus asked innocently. "I just want you to be happy. After what you have done, at least Selene could spare you to be with someone you love. The moon goddess knows you love him. You will not be here if you are not. If I can speak honestly, I envy the love that you have for Jedrek."

Serefina sneered. "A devil talking about honesty?"

"I just point out the truth." Asmodeus shrugged her shoulder. "Did I say something wrong? I will ask you then... what you get from guiding those guardian angels?"

Serefina didn't answer that, but she glared at her.

"Do you think this is a blessing because the moon goddess resurrected you, so you can meet with Jedrek again? And in exchange you do all the work for her, even though you don't want it?"

The blue flames in Serefina's hand grew brighter, she was ready to launch her fire at the devil if she didn't stop talking.

"Let's be honest. Deep down, you really want to kill this guardian angel who has stolen Jedrek from you, right?" Asmodeus walked closer toward Serefina, kept talking with her enchanting voice. "Don't you ever think that this is not a blessing but a punishment for you and Jedrek?"

Asmodeus stopped right in front of Serefina and stretched out her hand to brush away the witch's hair.

"The punishment is because Jedrek wants to deny his own soul mate, so he can be with you and you, for imposing selfish desires on one of the goddess's creatures." She tucked strands of Serefina's red hair behind her ears. "This is not fair for both of you. You love him and he love you, so why the two of you can't be together?"

Serefina lowered her fiery gaze and watched the ground beneath her feet, missing the smirk that appear on the corner of Asmodeus's lips.

"The guardian angel is only an obstacle for the two of you to be together." Asmodeus leaned over and whispered on Serefina's ears. "I know you hate her for stealing him. I know there is a part of you that want to kill the guardian angel." She smiled triumphantly when Serefina didn't respond to her. "Join us and I promise you to get what your heart desire..."

Asmodeus then planted a kiss on Serefina's cheek before she stepped back. action

"So, what do you say?" The devil raised her eyebrows and stared at Serefina eagerly.

Serefina finally raised her head and smiled softly. But, in the next second, she threw fireballs from her hands that burned Asmodeus within seconds.

As the devil's body collapsed to the ground and turned into ashes, her voice echoed in the forest. "Just a single drop of Lilac's blood... and we will take care of the rest..."

Serefina didn't bother with that voice and continued to walk away.

Chapter 735 - SEREFINA (3)

Serefina sheltered herself under a tree and she had to use her power too, so she wouldn't get wet. The witch was just being stubborn to not teleport herself straight to the south region. She wasted her time.

Above her, behind the thick smoke, which Serefina had seen all the way since she arrived at the castle, the sky was pitch black.

The sky spat out beads of water and puddles began to form under Serefina's feet as the rainfall became heavier.

The murmuring of the rain through the leaves was akin to angry bees in Serefina's ears, but she refused to help herself from this chaotic weather

Even though Serefina could save herself from the vengeful heavy rain, but she couldn't stop the coldness that the wind brought every time it wh.i.p.s her body.

Occasionally, an unearthly caterwauling sound filled the air.

The witch raised both of her hands and blew warm breath to her freezing palms. She created her own fire to keep herself warm.

And after two hours had passed and the rain still had not stopped, Serefina was too tired to stand up, in the end she crouched down, looking at the mist created by the heavy rain.

Serefina lowered her head and rested her forehead on her knees as she cried silently. She felt pathetic and helpless for crying like this. For feeling like this.

Serefina remembered the last time she felt very devastated like this was when her father left her. She didn't come to the forest where she usually met Jedrek for days.

But, one day, when she cried silently among the blue flowers in the meadow, near her house, Jedrek managed to find her by following her scent, at that time also, she realized that the lycan was immune to some of her magic.

Jedrek sat quietly beside her and patted her shoulder, but didn't ask anything until Serefina told him about what had happened. He listened to her.

He promised her that he would stay with her. He would never leave her...

Well, that was a lie...

Their situation now was more complicated than what they thought. Everything was not the same and both of them had been through so much. They were no longer their younger selves, who were too naive to understand that much would happen in the future, including things that they didn't want.

Jedrek thought, as the future King, he would get everything that he wanted, be with whomever he desires, yet things got complicated when Diana gave birth to Kace and her health began to decline.

It was not normal for lycan to be sick...

Serefina had known Kace since he was born. One night, Jedrek took Serefina to see his younger brother, in his nursery room and let Serefina held baby Kace.

And years after that, when Jedrek was too busy with his journey with Torak and their father to visit their other domains, Serefina would play with Kace.

It was one of the most beautiful years she had ever had.

Serefina closed her eyes and let the puddle wetted her dress. She would dry it later when her heart was no longer in a mess.

The rain was incessant, it snapped and crackled and continued to pouring down this realm, unfurled slowly all the flowers in the meadow. action

The same rain also pouring down on the south city, it dark clouds hanging low on the top of the castle tower.

When someone was crying under the rain, on the other side of this realm, there was someone, standing silently while staring at the mist and relishing the petrichor that emanating from the drying grass.

The smell soothed the king's nerve, but also brought back memories.

"Wear this," Lilac draped warm cloak on Jedrek's shoulder and gave him a warm cup of tea. "It is storm..." she mumbled while looking at the heavy rain outside and thunder in the dark sky.

"Hm," Jedrek sniffed the tea before drinking it. It had become a habit.

"It is terrifying. It's my first time seeing a storm like this." Lilac tried to engage a conversation with Jedrek.

"The rainy season is coming," Jedrek replied.

After that, they shared a comfortable silence while drinking their hot tea to warm their body. Even after an hour, it didn't seem like the rain would stop.

Both of them were standing in the corridor, where the big windows lined up.

"Tomorrow the three representatives will come," Lilac reminded him. "Are you feeling better now?" she asked, concern laced in her voice.

"I am fine," Jedrek put down the tea cup at the table beside him. "Come, I will take you to your room." he stretched out his hand for Lilac to take.

Lilac smiled and put down the empty cup beside his and took his hand.

The corridor almost empty, there were only a few servants and guards that were still there and all of them would lower their head when Jedrek and Lilac walked past them.

"The mating ceremony will be held in two weeks from now," Jedrek informed Lilac.

The guardian angel didn't really anticipate this event, but Jedrek seemed determined to do so as soon as possible. Perhaps, one of her reluctance was because she knew the true reason behind it. "Don't you have to deal with the problem regarding Maximus and your people first?" Lilac asked. "I don't think this is the right time. After all, this is not very important."

Jedrek stopped walking in front of Lilac's room and opened the door for her. "This is the right time and this is important." He held the door for her. "Now, take a rest."

Lilac entered her room, but she stood in the doorway. Raising her head, Lilac stared into Jedrek's blue eyes as she spoke. "Serefina is only two days away from here."

After hearing that, Jedrek didn't answer her immediately, but then he leaned over and kissed her temple. "Goodnight," he said, as if Lilac never mentioned anything.

Chapter 736 - UNFAIR

The kiss didn't linger as long as the other nights and Jedrek waited until Lilac closed the door.

Lilac stood in front of the closed door and knew that Jedrek was still standing at the other side too.

Lilac wanted to see his reaction when she said that, and no matter how hard Jedrek tried to hide it, she was able to notice the emotion behind his cold eyes and nonchalant demeanor the moment she mentioned Serefina's name.

She lowered her head and trudged toward her bed. She was too tired to think about all of this and needed time to rest.

Meanwhile, outside the door, when Jedrek heard Lilac heavy steps and the soft sound when her body lay on the bed, only then he walked away.

On her right side, Jedrek watched the heavy rain that was still cascading down from the eerie dark night and Lilac's words echoed in his head.

'Serefina is only two days away from here.' action

Then it meant, Jedrek would meet her in the next two days... however, he didn't feel like he wanted to see her now, yet the other part of his heart knew, that was only because of his fear for what would happen if he met her after centuries of waiting.

Jedrek had never felt very restless like now, even his beast couldn't help it, but whimpered on the edge of his head.

He guessed it would be another sleepless night...

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"You have been avoiding me," Tordoff said accusingly.

The general managed to find Lilac before she went to the throne room, to accompany Jedrek to meet with the representatives of the people, who were asking about their missing family member.

"Huh?" Lilac whipped her head when she felt Tordoff grabbed her shoulder to stop her. She was too distracted to realize that Tordoff had been calling her. "No, I am not. It is just, I am too busy lately."

Tordoff sighed and narrowed his eyes. "You should try harder if you want to lie to me."

"I am not lying," Lilac said, rolled her eyes upon his accusation. "I am really busy."

"Busy such as taking care of the king?" There was a mocking tone in his voice. Tordoff didn't hide the fact that he was upset.

"That's also included," Lilac said lightly.

"Lilac, I want to ask you something," Tordoff said, as he walked ahead and stopped in front of Lilac.

Lilac gave him a smile. "But, I need to go to the throne room. We will talk later, okay?"

However, Tordoff refused her idea, he shook his head. "You and I know, there will be no later. I only want to know if I offended you somehow?"

"Why do you think like that? You never offended me." Lilac frowned, but then she realized what Tordoff meant. "I am not avoiding Tordoff. Don't think too much. You have always been very good to me."

"Or, this is the king's order?" Tordoff saw the shift of emotion in Lilac's eyes and he knew that he had guessed it right. "So, it is really the king's order..."

"Look, listen to me..." Lilac sighed.

"You hate him," Tordoff stated. "You have never listened to him." He remembered vividly that Lilac had disobeyed Jedrek's orders more than any of the generals had ever done. "You have changed."

"Things have changed." Lilac corrected him. "You know that I am his mate."

Her last words hardened Tordoff's eyes. "Yes, but he hurt you."

"He did." Lilac nodded, agreed with him. "But, a few things happened and I can't explain it to you. Moreover, war is coming soon, I want a small problem like this not to interfere with what we will face later."

Tordoff looked into Lilac's eyes and he loved the fiery and determination behind those beautiful obsidian eyes that she possessed. "Understood." He nodded and tucked strands of her hair behind her ear. "I just don't want him to hurt you again."

"He will not," Lilac assured him, as she moved slightly to avoid his touch, she didn't want to hurt Tordoff. She knew his affection toward her and this was one of the reasons why she avoided him, aside from Jedrek's order. She didn't want to make things become more difficult. "You don't need to worry."

"Alright." Tordoff put down his hand, aware with Lilac's uncomfortable gesture, but he smiled anyway. "Tell me if I can do something for you."

"I will," Lilac said casually. "I will go now."

"I will walk you to the throne room." Tordoff was about to follow her, but Lilac shook her head.

"It's okay, I know that room." Lilac hoped her rejection didn't offend him. She smiled brightly and waved her hand.

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Lilac arrived at the throne room a little bit late, but she could keep up with the conversation between Jedrek and the three representatives.

All in all, the three of them gave the king twenty questions, which Jedrek answered flawlessly. He and Lilac had discussed about this.

Not only this meeting could appease the anger for the families, but this also as an announcement that the war between the lycanthropes and the devil would happen once again.

Of course this piece of information shocked them, added to the revelation about Lilac's identity as the guardian angel. Everyone knew about the prophecy of the resurrected of the guardian angel.

Their wrath built up when Jedrek told them that the devils were behind the missing people, which was true. He even let them to bring back the dead bodies of the shifters that he had slaughtered not so long ago and said it was the devil, who did it.

A little bit truth and improvise were needed in this difficult time. This was the best solution that they could think to solve their problem now.

It was not fair or the best decision, but some time they had to choose it, to avoid the worse outcome.

Jedrek couldn't afford to have his own people turned their back on him at this time. That was what the devils wanted.

Chapter 737 - WAIT FOR MY REVENGE

Brann, Jon and a woman named Yara, would be the representatives of the people started from today.

"All of you are invited to come, one month from now for further discussion." Jedrek stood up and Lilac did the same, she was sitting right beside Jedrek, on the throne that would belong to her soon. "There will be guards, who helped you to bring back the bodies and my deep condolence for your lost."

Brann, Jon and Yara lowered their head in gratitude and grief.

However, when they raised their head, there was determination and wrath in those eyes. The anger for the devils that had caused this to them.

"Thank you, your Majesty, we will be forever grateful for what you had done for us," Brann said in deep voice.

"And congratulation for finding your destined mate," Yara said fondly as she looked at Lilac.

They knew now that Lilac was a guardian angel, but Yara was there when Lilac stood unfazed in the middle of the people, who were shouting at her, asking for answers.

Yara could see that Lilac was not a timid and weak guardian angel like what rumor had said. Moreover, she would be their queen some day, thus she should be treated as the queen that she deserved.

Unfortunately, not many people had the same point of view like her. The two man at her left and right, mumbling their congratulatory only for mere formality.

After a few words, Jedrek finally dismissed them.

"I am glad this doesn't turn out so bad," Lilac talked behind him when all the three representatives had escorted to the backyard, where they would retrieve their fellow shifters' dead bodies.

"Hm," Jedrek murmured and turned around to stare at his mate.

"It is already noon, let's have lunch," Lilac said and grabbed Jedrek's hand. However, Jedrek twisted her hand and pulled his mate closer. "What are you doing?" Lilac frowned when Jedrek started to sniff her shoulder and hair.

All the guards inside the throne room lowered their head to avoid staring at something that they shouldn't.

Jedrek's nose was so close, until Lilac could feel his warm breath brushed against her skin bare skin on her neck.

"You met Tordoff," Jedrek said in rigid voice.

"Yes, I met him," Lilac admitted it. There was no way she could lie to him about this. Tordoff's scent must have lingered when he touched her. "But, this was not what you think."

All of sudden, Jedrek released her body and this made Lilac almost lost her balance, thankfully she regained her footing quickly, but that was the last thing she had to worry about now.

"I met him when I am on my way here," Lilac tried to explain.

"That is your excuse why you were late?" Jedrek narrowed his eyes and his voice sounded boring.

"That is my reason. Not an excuse," Lilac corrected her.

"I have told you to stay away from him," Jedrek said rigidly. "That's what we agreed on, right? Have you forgotten that?"

Lilac crossed her arms in front of her chest and somehow her defiant acted only amused the king. He liked it the way she rolled her eyes or how she clenched her jaw in annoyance.

"Of course not. I remember it perfectly. But, it was a coincidence, we didn't make a promise to meet with each other," Lilac said in frustration, especially when Jedrek didn't seem to believe her. "We are living in the same castle, so there is always a possibility that we will run onto one another."

At first, Jedrek didn't respond to it, but then he started to climb down from his throne, leaving Lilac alone in confusion.

Only when he had already half- way crossed the room, Jedrek turned around and frowned at Lilac.

"Didn't you say, you want to have a lunch?"

"Huh?" Lilac was still unable to understand Jedrek's fickle mood now. "That's it?" she didn't believe he would let it slide easily.

"You said you met him because of coincidence. I trust you and I will take care of that so called coincidence." Jedrek tilted his head and gave her a meaningful smile.

"What do you mean you will take care of that?" Lilac walked down the stairs while staring at him suspiciously. "Jedrek?"

However, the king refused to answer that.

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Torak and the other arrived at the raven village when the sun set and was greeted by the whole pack house, who were curious to see Kace and the guardian angels.

Despite this was not the first time Raine was here, but this was the first time they knew that Raine was a guardian angel.

Some of the shifters were old enough to know Kace, they exchanged hug and patted each other back.

Apparently, they treated Kace more like a friend, but of course with respect that he deserved as the member of Donovan's family, because no one would dare enough to approach Torak that way.

"Oh, my dear!" Belinda literally screamed when she saw Raine and hugged her tightly before her interest switched to Hope. "Who is this? Kace, is this your mate? The other guardian angel?" Belinda slapped Kace's shoulder, didn't even bother to greet him properly.

"Yes, she is my mate. Beautiful isn't she?" Kace rubbed his shoulder, but said that proudly.

"You are lucky to have her as your mate!" Belinda gave Hope a big hug and then said to her. "I hope he is not a disappointment for you, my dear."

Hope chuckled and shook her head, she liked this woman immediately.

Belinda also ecstatic when he found out that Raphael had found his mate, she greeted Lana with another big hug and then glared at Calleb. "So, when you will find yours?!"

"I have the same question too! Do you think it is easy to see them all lovey dovey in our entire trip?" Calleb snapped back at her. "I will flaunt her in front of you when I found her, just wait for my revenge," he said sullenly.action

Chapter 738 - HE IS MINE AND MINE ONLY

Raine was taking some snack from the kitchen while Hope and Lana were waiting for her on the top floor, where Torak and she stayed.

Raine missed this place, this was the first place where Torak had brought her. She remembered how coward she was back then, thinking anyone would hurt her and how she wasn't able to speak a single word. No friends or family.

Raine also remembered the first word that came out from her lips after years of being silence, was; Torak. Even though, the story behind it was not the pleasant one, but still... it was something that would always etch in her mind.

However, now here she was... she had been through so much and had lost a lot of things, yet that was all worth it.

Now, Raine had a few people that she could call as friend and family, though they were not blood related to her, but they were family nonetheless.

And whatever would happen in the future, as long as she had them, Raine would be forever grateful. Torak, Calleb, Raphael, Hope, Lana, Kace, Belinda and a few people in the pack, they were all the people that so dear to her.

Even the annoying Adair...

"So, you are come back?" a voice as sweet as sugar sounded from behind Raine.

She didn't need to turn around to see who was there, thus Raine continued to fill the bowl with snack. Since the men were inside Torak's study room for another discussion, the girls would spend their night watching movies until they felt sleepy.

And the best companion for that activity was; a few snack, chocolate and drink.

"As you can see, I am here," Raine said casually. She was also remembered how Adair had destroyed the sunflowers that she and Belinda had planted, and how she claimed that she was Torak's baby girl. This girl was really annoying!

"Yes, I can see you and the other guardian angel," she sneered. Adair was still upset because of their last encounter. "And now you are being ordered around. I can't see how you could possibly become a Luna for this Pack. You have no pride."

Raine plopped a peanut into her mouth, putting another bag of snack and picking up the tray. She lost the bet with the two of them, so she should take the snacks. It was very simple, but why the way Adair said it, it became very complicated? What did this have to do with pride? Raine didn't understand...

"Move," Raine said in a bored tone.

Adair was standing in front of the door and blocked her way.

"Why? You will call the Alpha?" Adair crossed her arms in front of her chest. She didn't like the fact that they had a guardian angel as the Luna of the pack. No. She didn't like whoever became Luna.

"I will if I have to," Raine said. She was upset with Adair, but didn't want to force her to do something stupid, because she knew, she wouldn't stand a chance if Adair really wanted to hurt her, moreover, at this hour, there was no one in the kitchen.

"See? You are a coward." She mocked her.

Yet, Raine shrugged nonchalantly. "You can say everything that you want about me, but that still will not change the fact that I am Luna in this pack."

"Do you think everyone respect you as Luna? They respect you because you are Torak's mate," Adair said grimly, but seeing her provocation words didn't seem have the effect that she wanted, she became more upset.

Raine was standing there, with a tray of food, staring at her calmly and didn't even bother to talk back or defend herself.

"You are weak and pathetic." Adair insulted her.

There was an awkward silence after what Adair said and Raine was still with her calm facial expression until she spoke again.

"You haven't liked me since we first met, so no matter what I say, it will only waste both of our time." Raine smiled softly at her. "I don't have time to explain myself to you, if you believe me as a weak and pathetic Luna, please believe it. That is your privilege to believe whatever you want."

"See? You are so weak!???" Adair sneered. This time, she moved aside and let Raine to walk past her. "I pity Torak for having you as his mate."

Raine walked past her and turned around to grin at her. "And I pity you for thinking that you are better than me, perhaps yes." She shrugged her shoulder nonchalantly. "But, we live in reality and no matter what you say, the fact that I am your Luna and Torak's mate and everything you could ever want, is undeniable."

"You are so pathetic!" Adair snapped. She was upset because Raine didn't seem to take her words seriously.

"I am, I am..." Raine said casually and walked away when she felt Adair yanked her shoulder and forced her to turn around.

Raine narrowed her eyes when she watched Adair raised her hand.

"You know what the punishment for someone who hurt their Luna?" she said rigidly. "Slap me, and you will know how weak and pathetic I am."

Raine didn't break the eyes contact with Adair, thus the lycan could see the threat in her eyes. She was serious with what she said.

It sounded weird, but Adair stopped her hand mid- air. There was something in the way Raine looked at her that made her bones chill.

"Try to stop your impulsive act or it will lead you into trouble." Raine shrugged her shoulder to free herself from Adair's grip. "Next time, I will not be so nice to you and talk with you like this, if you don't give me the respect I deserve." action

Adair gritted her teeth, she wanted to talk something, but somehow... she was afraid.

"And one more thing." Raine stepped closer. "Stop staring at Torak. He is mine and will be mine only."

Chapter 739 - THE RED HAIR WITCH

The day was so bright, with cloudless sky and the wind that caressed their skin.

They were ready to go to the other realm and all the lycan warriors would wait for Torak's signal to move as well, because they would need as many people as they could find.

Kace also had made a contact with a few people, the people that he knew, which surprisingly there were many of them. They would also wait for his signal to come along and helped the preparation for the upcoming war.

However, those were things that would happen in the future, for now, Hope just wanted to enjoy the warm sunlight on her face.

The Raven village was very nice. She had never seen there were many shifters in one place, especially the one that stayed in one place like this. They called this a pack and the biggest building where they stayed last night was a pack house.

It was very interesting to know that this big community led by Torak as their Alpha. Of course Hope knew all of that, but knowing and seeing with her own eyes were two different things.

This morning, they were having a breakfast together in a big room like a hall in one big table with many chairs. It felt like she was having a big family.

This village, the pack house and having breakfast together were a few things that Hope just discovered and looked very amazing, yet, even though Kace was not part of a pack or an Alpha, and Hope knew he wouldn't be one, since he hated it the hierarchy, Hope would choose to go back to their house in the mystic river village, together with Sereфина and Lana.

Moreover, Kace was too adventurous to stay in one place. He promised her that he would bring her to many places when all of this over and Hope looked forward to it.

"Hope! Come here, we will go soon!" Raine waved her hand at Hope from the front yard and Hope grinned while stepped down the stairs that were on the porch.

On the other hand, Kace was standing not too far from the new mate, Raphael and Lana, who were kissing each other whenever they got the chance.

"Your PDA is awful," Kace stared at them sullenly. He would love to do that with Hope too, but the girl would definitely kick him if he kissed her in front of many people like this. Almost all the people in the pack were there to see them off. His girl was just too shy, though it was a normal act for shifters to show their affection in the public.

"I can kiss his lips if you want to see," Lana said, she just gave Raphael a peck on his cheek when the Beta helped her to carry a bag for their journey ahead. action

Kace groaned. "No, thanks."

At that time, Torak called Raphael, but the Beta didn't forget to give the younger Donovan a warning glare before he left Lana with him.

"Oh, please, I will not eat her," Kace grunted again.

"You know how possessive a male shifter." Especially the one who just found their mate. Lana didn't say the last sentence, because it was a common knowledge for their kind. She crouched down and checked the bag and made sure there was nothing she forgot.

"Nice hickey." Kace grinned when he looked down and spotted Lana's mark. Her short hair and her position now didn't help her to hide it.

"This is not hickey!" Lana hissed, she stood up and tried to kick Kace's leg, but he dodged it swiftly and laughed. "Uhm, Kace..."

"Huh?" Kace's laugh died down when he looked how awkward Lana about whatever the things that she wanted to say. "What?"

"I am sorry about what I did in the past..." she started, but Kace waved his hands frantically.

"No, no, no. Don't talk about that, it's so awkward. Let bygones be bygones," Kace said. He knew what Lana wanted to say, but he was not in the mood for Lana's apology.

"Thank you," Lana said softly. She was about to hug Kace, but he dodged her again.

"No hug. Your boyfriend will attack me again." Kace frowned, but his eyes showed how happy he was for her. "Are you happy now?"

??Very," Lana grinned.

"Good." Kace stretched out his head and tousled Lana's head, like what he always did when she was little.

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Serefina finally arrived at the castle. The south castle.

Her feet became heavier with every step that she took, and the enormous building in front of her, with gigantic gates, intimidated the witch.

However, she carried herself just fine for all the people to see. She would never show weaknesses. Not now. She had been strong for centuries and this was not the time for breakdown.

Though, Serefina couldn't hide her trembling hands.

The thought of seeing Jedrek again and knowing he was on the other side of the gate, scared her.

But, she was not the only person who felt like that...

Lilac walked toward the gates, with knowledge that Serefina had entered the city and was approaching toward the castle.

She didn't know what to feel or what to say to the witch or how the witch would look at her, after all, Lilac had heard about how in love both Serefina and Jedrek in the past...

Beside her, Jedrek didn't show any emotion. His face looked solemn, but only he knew what kind of turmoil that he felt now.

"Open the gates," Jedrek said to the guards, he grabbed Lilac's hand and smiled at her. The kind of smile that didn't reach his blue eyes.

Lilac reciprocated his smile, but she tried to wriggle her hand from his, yet Jedrek didn't let her to do it. He held her hand firmly.

And when the gates finally opened, they could see the red hair witch, standing there with her lime green eyes stared at them.

Serefina...

Chapter 740 - YOU NEVER KNOW

But you'll never know unless you walk in my shoes.

'Cause everybody sees what they wanna see, it's easier to judge me than to believe.

You Never Know –Blackpink-

Actually, Jedrek didn't need to come and met her, but he didn't want to hide. What was the point of him hiding when eventually they would meet with each other? Serefina would stay inside the castle and there was no way to avoid her forever.

Therefore, he chose to confront it. At least, he had his mate now...

Jedrek smiled at Lilac, but his eyes were dull. He was not in the right mind to appreciate the spark between them when he grabbed her hand or the way she smiled back at him softly.

Because the moment he ordered to open the gate, he watched the woman he had been missing for a long time. She was standing there, within his arm- length.

Jedrek could walk toward her and touch her the way he wanted. He could walk toward her and pull her into his arms, hugging her like he had dreamed for these past centuries.

His heart betrayed him. The mate bond between him and Lilac was not strong enough to stop his desire for Serefina.

Jedrek grabbed Lilac's hand even tighter when Serefina entered the castle and Lilac squeezed back his hand.

She was still the same as the last time Jedrek saw her. The same self- confidence and arrogant aura that surrounded her, two of the many things Jedrek loved about her.

Jedrek's eyes locked on Serefina. All of his senses told him about their proximity, reminded him that this was what he wanted... centuries ago...

But, now...

"Welcome back," Jedrek greeted Serefina with formality that sounded weird, even in his own ears.

"Glad to be back," Serefina said, she then shifted her attention toward Lilac. "You must be the king's mate. The guardian angel."

Serefina was surprised that she managed to keep her own voice steady, despite the turmoil that she felt.

"Nice to see you," Lilac spoke, as cheerful as she could, and gave the witch a smile that she hoped was sincere enough. "I am Lilac."

Serefina reciprocated Lilac's smile and the guardian angel thought everything would be all right between her and the witch, until Serefina spoke again.

"I am sure you know who I am," she said curtly and this made Lilac's smile faded away.

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Serefina was sitting on the floor, next to her bed while leaning her back against the wall, which she hit the back of her head against it too.

What happened in the last thirty minutes was the worst thing that had ever happened in her life.

Serefina didn't mean to be hostile toward Lilac. She had thought about this over and over again that she wouldn't be a jerk for Jedrek's mate. However, she couldn't help herself.

Her anger reached her throat and her eyes stung the moment she watched the way they were holding their hands.

The voice in her head told her, repeating the same pathetic words.

'It should be her who is standing next to Jedrek. It should be her who is standing next to Jedrek.'

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became and the feeling didn't help at all when her tongue chose sarcasm as a way to talk to Lilac.

Great!

Everything just out of control.

Good start, Serefina. She thought bitterly.

After all, being a hateful person was her way to protect herself. So, no one would be able to see her vulnerability. She had prepared herself for long time since she knew this day would come, but all of those days and nights, where she had to hide her tears and her feeling, poured down the drain, the moment she met Jedrek in flesh.

Unfortunately, when Serefina wanted to be left alone, someone knocked on her door

At first, she chose to ignore it and let them know it was a terrible time to disturb her, moreover she had said she didn't want to have a visitor, yet it seemed no one listened. The person didn't go and the knock on the door annoyed her.

In the end, reluctantly, Serefina stood up and trudged toward the door. She yanked it open to let whoever there, knew how upset she was.

The witch was just about to growl when the person she saw was the last person she hoped to meet soon.

"Can I go inside?" Lilac asked politely.

"No," Serefina replied curtly.

However, despite the rejection, Lilac still entered her bedroom anyway. The guardian angel found a single sofa in the corner of the room and sat there. action

"I remember that I said 'no' when you asked me whether you were allowed to enter my room or not." Serefina narrowed her eyes and chose to stand.

"This chat shouldn't take more than half an hour." Lilac met Serefina's gaze calmly and the witch had to admit she had never met a guardian angel as fierce and determined as her.

"I hope so," Serefina replied to her with formality. The sign that she didn't want to be attached or became close to her, so did Lilac. "What is it that you want to talk about that forces you to grace me with your presence?"

Serefina scolded herself internally for being such a jerk!

"I just want you to know that we are here for the same goal, regarding the war that will come." Raine started, but Serefina raised her hand.

"I know that. That is the only reason why we are here." Serefina then corrected herself. "Why I am here. You don't have to worry about what had happened between me and Jedrek in the past. It was over now."

Lilac smirked. "I have not even said anything about your and Jedrek's past and you can't wait to talk about it."

Serefina smiled harmlessly, this girl was something... "I am just happy that he finally found his destined mate."

Lilac stood up and approached her. "There is no need to lie. We both know that no one is happy in a situation like this."