

TLOA Lycan 741

Chapter 741 - REPUTATION TO KEEP

Lilac knew, the moment Serefina refused to shake hands with her, there was nothing would be normal between them. She could understand that. That was why she was here to straighten out the problem between them.

However, the atmosphere became very tensed when the witch, once again, refused to let her in and without a second thought, Lilac was too upset to listen to her logic and barged into her room anyway.

And the moment she realized it, it was already too late to retreat, and now they were in another tension situation again.

Lilac stood up after hearing Serefina's hypocritical words and approached her. "There is no need to lie. We both know that no one is happy in a situation like this," she said and met her gaze. "I come here to straighten out the misunderstanding between us."

"There is no misunderstanding between us," Serefina spoke solemnly.

"Maybe not now, but there will definitely be." Lilac looked around Serefina's bedroom. This was one of the largest bedrooms in this castle and Jedrek put her here. "I just want to make it easy for us, so that there is no awkwardness between us."

Serefina looked at her with a smirk on the corner of her lips and crossed her arms while staring at the guardian angel defiantly. "I am here to speak about the upcoming war, the prophecy and how do we end this. I don't have any intention to reminisce my past with Jedrek or create new memories with him. I can assure you that."

That was a lie and Serefina did it well. She was very proud of herself.

"I agree with the three things that you said; the upcoming war, the prophecy and how we end this." Lilac heaved a heavy breath. "But, what if I say; I will give up on Jedrek if he wants you."

Serefina kept her straight face when she replied that. "I heard you are raised by the moon goddess herself, so I assumed you should have known that you have to be with Jedrek." She tilted her head as her lime green eyes observed Lilac. "You and the other two guardian angels are gift for those Donovans." Derision leaked through Serefina's lips when she said her last sentence. "So, you should stay with him. That is what the prophecy says."

"I don't care about the prophecy. This is my offer to you." Lilac wanted to get the bottom of this.

"And I refused." Serefina shrugged her shoulder carelessly. "Stay with Jedrek, you look good together."

"Another lie," Lilac sneered.

"Just pretend you don't know that," Serefina said casually. "Just play our roles, the moon goddess is very generous to put us in this interesting situation." There was sarcasm laced in Serefina's words and Lilac could feel the irony of it.

After all, Lilac had said the same thing about role to Jedrek, not long time ago.

They held the other gazes for a few seconds longer before Lilac broke the silence between them. "When the other guardian angel will come?"

"They will come with their mates two or three days from now," Serefina replied.

"And their people?" Lilac watched as Serefina walked across the room to pour two drinks for them.

"Torak's people will come as soon as he orders, but Kace has a condition for Jedrek." Serefina put the bottle and picked the glasses as she walked toward Lilac again. "Since you are here, I want you to inform Jedrek about this." action

Lilac stared at the glass that was extended to her, but she didn't take it. "Why should I?" she raised her head and smiled harmlessly at Serefina. "Since you are good at pretending, I want to see more of your pretense."

Lilac ignored the glass that was offered to her, the same way Serefina had ignored her extended hand earlier.

"You can say it yourself to Jedrek over dinner." Lilac walked toward the door and said her last words before she closed the door. "I am sorry for disturbing you."

=====

Lilac walked out of Serefina's room, but it only took her three steps before she felt her heart became heavy.

She didn't mean to treat her that way, it was an impulse. She felt great when she did that, but not now. She felt horrible...

The only consolation that Lilac said to herself was; Serefina didn't treat her good too, so there was nothing to be sorry about.

When Lilac walked past the corridor on the second floor to reach Jedrek's study room, she watched Tordoff, walked out through the gates. He looked like he was going on a long journey.

Where is he going?

"My lady, the king wants to see you in his study room." Lyrus spoke from behind Lilac and this startled her. "I am sorry if I startled you," the general added.

"No, it's okay." Lilac waved her hands. "Actually, I am on my to his study room too."

Lyrus nodded politely and walked past her. If the Beta disliked her, then he was good at hiding it, not like a few generals, who bluntly showing their disrespect toward Lilac.

"Beta Lyrus," Lilac called him and waited until he turned around. "Where Tordoff will go?"

Lyrus glanced at the entrance gates and spotted Tordoff's figure disappeared in time before the gates were closed again.

"The king orders him to go to the eastern region because it had been a long time since the last time Killian reported back to us," Lyrus said politely, but then he stared at Lilac deeply. "You don't need to put your concern on him. The king will not like it if he knows about this."

"I am just asking. What is wrong with that?" Lilac frowned.

"There is nothing wrong with that, but your mating ceremony will happen within a week. You don't want to have a bad rumor circulate around you before that happen. Don't let your reputation tarnish. Not everyone is on your side," Lyrus warned her.

Chapter 742 - REJECT ME

"I was on my way to see you when Lyrus told me that you were looking for me," Lilac said as she sat down on the chair across from him. "What happened?" action

"Why were you looking for me?" Jedrek put down a document in his hand and put his focus on his mate now. The same document that he had inspected for more than an hour now.

"I visited Serefina's room," Lilac told Jedrek casually. "And she said your brother, Kace, has a condition for you before he is willing to bring his people here."

"Then don't. We don't need his people." Jedrek knew his brother, his demand would never be the pleasant one or tactful. Not like Torak, Kace would act out of impulse.

"We do need as many people as we can find." Lilac emphasized her words. Both of them knew this. It was just Jedrek, who was too arrogant to admit it.

Like Lilac, Jedrek also had issued an order to kill Kace's mate in the past and the last order from him that was interpreted wrongly by Maximus had injured him. Of course, that fact wouldn't help to ease the tense between them.

"What his condition?" Jedrek pinched the bridge of his nose. He didn't want to deal with this.

"I don't know." Lilac shrugged her shoulder. "I let Serefina to talk to you directly. We will have a dinner together."

Jedrek raised his head and looked at Lilac as if she had grown another head. "What?" he asked in disbelief. "I let her stay here because you said she will help us with the coming war."

"She will. I didn't say she will not." Lilac put on an innocent face upon facing the furious king in front of her. "This is just a dinner and we will discuss about our plan. Isn't that our original plan?"

At this point, Jedrek clenched his jaw tightly, until Lilac was worried he would crush his molars.

"We had agreed..." Jedrek started, but Lilac cut him off mid-sentence.

"Yes. You told me to stay away from Tordoff and I did." Lilac played with one of the documents in front of her, to avoid Jedrek's intense gaze. "But, I have never told you to stay away from Serefina, right?"

Jedrek stood up from his seat, round the table and sat on the chair next to his mate. "What do you want?"

Lilac bit her lips and stared out the window for a few moments before she could look at the king and said what she thought. "I give you a chance to be with her," she said grievously.

"We have agreed with this," Jedrek said rigidly. "What chance you want to give me? When I have chosen you."

Lilac lowered her head, she didn't want Jedrek to see her bitterness. "I know that she still loves you and so do you. You urged the mating ceremony because you want to strengthen the bond between us, so you can cast away your feeling for her, right?"

Lilac raised her head to see Jedrek, who refused to answer her question.

"You don't need to do that." Lilac smiled at him, but there was tears rolling down her cheek and this made Jedrek knitted his brows.

Lilac thought she could endure it, going along with Jedrek's plan to strengthen the bond between them with the mating ceremony. However, her selfishness couldn't overshadow her conscience.

She realized the feeling between Jedrek and Serefina the moment their eyes met at the entrance gates. No one noticed this, as both of them were staring at each other with longing.

"Your feeling for her is genuine." Lilac stretched out her hand and caressed Jedrek's face, "Not like what we have. We started it wrongly. There was so much hatred between us and disappointment. I don't even understand why the moon goddess paired us, when you look so perfect with her."

Lilac hated to admit it.

Lilac hated to admit that she loved him. After she learned more about Jedrek and what he had endured all this time, she only wanted him to be happy.

And if his happiness laid on Serefina, so be it. Lilac could never forget the way Jedrek stared at Serefina at the gates. Those eyes... held so much pain.

Just like what Eaton said; Jedrek had been hiding his true feeling for so long, until he forgot how to show it.

"Reject me," Lilac said softly. "Reject me and free us from this situation. There are much more important things we have to think about. So let's end the awkward situation between the three of us."

How they could talk about war ahead when they had their own war within themselves?

Lilac gave Jedrek a few moments to think about this, but when Jedrek didn't answer her or make any decision, she took his arms and heaved a deep breath.

If it was hard for Jedrek to do this and would be painful enough for him to reject her, then Lilac would do it for them.

"I reject you, Jedrek..." Yet, before Lilac could finish her sentences, Jedrek leaned over and sealed her lips with his. He stole the remaining words from her.

Lilac cry over their kiss and this stopped Jedrek.

"I will never reject you and you will be my queen. We will face the war ahead," he said firmly. "The problem regarding Serefina ends here. I don't want to discuss about this anymore."

Jedrek wiped the tears on Lilac's cheek and kissed her forehead.

This is the right decision. He thought, but more to convince himself.

=====

The night was dark, especially the place where there was no light, such as this corner of the castle.

But, it didn't bother a man in black cloak at all when he stood there, talking to himself. No. He was talking to his own shadow.

"The witch is already here and the other guardian angels are on their way," The man spoke in guttural voice. "We just need to wait."

Chapter 743 - I WILL LET YOU TO DECIDE

The dining room seemed very quiet, especially when the tension that surrounded the dining table was very strong.

Even the sumptuous, luxurious meal in front of them, couldn't prevent them from loss of appetite.

The food on the table was like necessity which gave them a reason to move and do something so the atmosphere didn't feel too awkward.

Well, Jedrek and Serefina did it flawlessly. Lilac could see how they both complement each other.

Serefina cut her meat with such perfection and looked so elegant, so did Jedrek while Lilac, who couldn't eat meat, stared at a bowl of vegetables in front of her and felt she wouldn't be able to eat all of these veggies with the same manner like the witch.

Actually, this was a trivial thing, yet Lilac was upset. She stabbed her innocent veggie and ate it silently. However, when the stillness was almost unbearable, Lilac spoke.

"Serefina, you said Kace has a condition for Jedrek, what is it?" Lilac looked at Serefina, who was sitting across the table.

Serefina put down her cutleries with a soft clink and wiped her lips, she raised her head and started to speak. "Right. Kace has one condition before he is willing to bring his people to join force in this war."

"He doesn't have people." Jedrek cut Serefina's sentence.

"Yes, but apparently, he knows many people, or shifters, who are willing to listen to him," Serefina said, but her eyes were on Lilac. "Such as centaurs."

"Centaurs?" Jedrek raised her brows. "They are extinct."

"No, they are still exist. I saw them before I came here." This time, Serefina shifted her attention toward Jedrek. "This is the condition that Kace wants."

Jedrek narrowed his eyes and didn't look very happy to hear whatever Serefina was about to say.

"Kace wants you to give back their land." Serefina took her cup and sipped her drink.

"If I refused?" Jedrek didn't want to give the centaur's land to them again.

Just like the guardian angel, the centaurs also had been assumed extinct for decades. The reason why Jedrek attacked their territory was because Janus needed more power, he was so insane at that time, but too good at pretending that he was not, and unfortunately Jedrek didn't have the courage to challenge him yet.

But, that was not the important thing. The fact that Jedrek was the one who had slaughtered their kind was undeniable and he knew how incredibly clever the centaurs were at making long-term plans.

Serefina shrugged her shoulder. "Kace doesn't want to take part in this war."

"He thought he could escape? When we lost the war, there would be no safe place for him," Jedrek spoke grimly.

"Apparently, he doesn't care much about that." Serefina started to cut her meat again. "Especially when he had been trying to escape from a certain someone who wanted to kill his mate." The witch bit her meat casually, as though she didn't say something that could possibly incur the certain someone's wrath.

Jedrek stared at Serefina hard, yet she ignored him completely.

The witch was upset. If she didn't want to look at the person in the eyes, she was pretending to be fine with the situation while hiding her annoyance. Jedrek knew about that and some part of him was glad that she hadn't changed as much as he thought. He still knew her.

"How Kace knew them?" If the centaurs met his younger brother, they should have killed him in the first chance given, but why they didn't do that? Even though, it was not Kace who issued an order to execute them, but their village was raided under Kace's attack.

"The centaurs have lived somewhere in the northern coven realm," Serefina replied. "Kace went there to heal his wounds that were given by Maximus," she glanced at Jedrek and smirked mockingly. "Thanks to you."

"Wounds? What kind of wounds that was given by Maximus?" Lilac, who had been silent during the conversation, talked with curiosity. Was that the same wound that Maximus gave to Jedrek too?

"A curse. Black magic. I had never seen that before." Serefina shrugged her shoulder and continued to eat.

"How is he now? Does he still have that wound?" Lilac was sure, it was the same wound that Jedrek had when he fought him.

"No, he has healed," Serefina replied.

"Jedrek..." Lilac was about to tell Serefina that Jedrek also suffered the same wound, probably she could see and tell them whether it was the same wound or not, but Jedrek grabbed her hand under the table and gave it a squeeze as a warning.

"What?" Serefina looked at Lilac suspiciously because she didn't finish her sentence.

"So, Kace wanted me to give back the centaur's territory to them?" Jedrek narrowed his eyes. He didn't like the idea to have the crafty creatures such as centaurs in his lands.

It would be safe to say that they had a hidden agenda for returning. The centaurs were not naive and they held their grudge really well.

Jedrek didn't believe them. After what he had done to them and all they asked was for him to give back their land? How noble they were...

"Yes." Serefina nodded. "That's what Kace's condition."

Jedrek shifted his attention at Lilac, who was stabbing her veggies absentmindedly. "What do you think?"

"Huh?" Lilac raised her head and cleared her throat to give her some time to think. "Well, like I said, we need as much people as we can find." She felt stupid for being caught brooding.

"Alright then, I will let you decide for this matter." Jedrek spoke as he pushed his chair and stood up. "I have to go now." Afterward, Jedrek leaned over and kissed Lilac's temple and walked away.

That act was not only surprised Lilac, but Serefina too. Out of instinct, she averted her gaze until Jedrek was no longer inside the room and it was only the two of them before she spoke to Lilac callously.

Chapter 744 - THE PREPARATION

"If he let you to decide, then I will assume you will agree with me." In one glance Serefina could tell what kind of answer Lilac would give. "Then, I think our discussion is over. So, excused me." The witch wiped her mouth and stood up from her seat.

With Jedrek and Serefina left the dining room, Lilac was sitting there alone with her food was barely touched.

This would be a long and hard journey for them.

=====

The night was glowing with the bright city lights and the starry sky. The scenery beautiful that Serefina could see from her balcony.

She had been here once long time ago when Jedrek visited this city with his father and Torak. They met in one of the inn and spent the night there. That happened long time ago and almost felt like all of those memories came from another life.

The witch stood there, basking with the light of the full moon. Tonight was exceptionally bright.

Full moon...

"D*mn..." Serefina cursed in low voice. She forgot this...

This would be another long night.

She needed to bar the door... thus, she walked with her hand on the wall, tracing her fingers while changing a spell in an ancient language over and over again.

And the moment she reached the door, she repeated the spell when the pain started to gnaw every inch of her skin and she was having a hard time to breathe.

Serefina hated this when she was in this state. It reminded her about how vulnerable she was.

She hated when she had to writhe in pain and begged for this to stop.

She bit her lips very hard when she trudged toward her bed. Even the comfort of it couldn't reduce her pain in the slightest.

She hated all of this..

=====

"The pure blood witch is here..." a man spoke in the darkness, to his own shadow and listened to what it whispered back to him. "Hmm..." he hummed and nodded his head.

The shadow reported to him what it knew and the man told him what he heard. They were exchanging information...

"So... it happened to the witch every full moon and it happened to the guardian angel when in a moonless night... hmm... I know... tell them about this... so do I, I can feel the hatred from the witch is growing stronger in every seconds she watch her ex- lover with his mate..." he kept talking for a little while longer until the shadow disappeared and left the general alone in the dark.

=====

Lilac was surrounded with a few servants who were asking about the preparation of the mating ceremony while Jedrek was out of sight most of the time and gave all the responsibility for the upcoming event, fully on her shoulders.

"Silver or gold?" Keira, the woman with blonde hair, red lips and killer body, asked Lilac, she was holding a note to write down everything that they should do according to Lilac's preference. "Gold looks regal, but silver is the Alpha color."

"Silver then..." Lilac sighed. She was boring. She had been sitting on this chair and propped her head lazily for more than an hour now.

The guardian angel couldn't understand why she had to deal with these unimportant things? They had devils out there, who wouldn't give a glance to wait, to tear them apart, not to mention a mating ceremony.

Lilac had talked about this thing since two days ago since Serefina arrived. She felt a little bit bad for having this ceremony in her presence, but none of Jedrek or Serefina gave a sign that they were not comfortable with this.

It was Lilac who was not comfortable with this.

Jedrek would insist for this to happen before anything else, as if his life depended on this and Serefina would only reward all the preparation with expressionless face. No one would know for sure what the witch had in her mind. She was hard to predict.

When Keira was asking about what kind of flower she wanted, Keira entered the room and stood across the table, crossing her arms arrogantly.

This was the first time Lilac was so happy to see her after two days straight being ignored completely. But, Lilac felt like they were playing hide and seek.

When Jedrek could smell the witch's scent from a mile away, Serefina would know where Jedrek was, with her magic. This situation was really frustrating.

"Leave us alone," Lilac said to Keira and the other servants. action

"But, the king said..." Keira didn't finish her words, she glanced at Serefina fearfully. The female werewolf heard about one or two stories about the witch and knew that what the people had said was true.

"What the king said?" Lilac asked, but Serefina was aware what order that possibly Jedrek gave to them.

"Your future queen said, leave us alone." Serefina pulled a chair in front of her and sat down. "That is a direct order."

"But..." Keira tried to argue with her, but Serefina cut her off.

"Disrespecting your queen, it means disrespecting your king. Should I remind you about the punishment?" Serefina looked at her long- polished nail thoughtfully.

"Go," Lilac didn't want to have another headache. If Serefina finally decided to stop pretending that she was not exist, then it meant there was something important that she wanted to discuss, and by all means, Lilac was more interested to hear what the witch wanted to say rather than Keira's endless suggestion.

"Yes, your grace..." Keira lowered her head, but took another wary glance at Serefina when she left the room with three female werewolves behind her.

"Your grace..." Serefina enunciated the title mockingly. "I like how it sounds."

"I offered you the chance to have it, but you didn't take it." Lilac shrugged and leaned her back against the backrest. "So, don't regret it."

"Nah, it doesn't suit me, I don't want to live in a golden cage." Serefina bit back.

It seemed, their meeting would not be complete without starting with a few sarcastic words.

Chapter 745 - THE WITCH WANTED TO KILL HER!

"What do you want?" Lilac shrugged off Serefina's sarcastic words and got to the main problem that brought the witch here.

"Torak and the other are only half a day away from here, they will arrive in the evening." Serefina started.

"I know that," Lilac said, she knew that they would come the same way she knew Serefina was already in this realm. "I have told Jedrek about that too. He didn't look excited, but he will come to greet them."

Serefina hadn't seen Jedrek again since dinner a few days ago. He avoided her, just like how she did. Maybe, that was for the best.

She thought she wouldn't be in more pain than this, but she did. The fact that Jedrek and Lilac would have a mating ceremony, was a big blow for her.

This seemed to solidify the fact that Jedrek was no longer hers. That it was time for Serefina to let him go for good.

Serefina really wanted to laugh out loud whenever that thought came around. Who did she want to fool? She hated the woman before her eyes.

"What?" Lilac frowned when she watched the hostility in Serefina's eyes. She didn't speak any provocative words, so why was she furious? "You came here only to tell me about that? Well, thank you..." Lilac didn't know what to say at this point.

However, when Serefina shook her head and looked at her again, the hatred in her eyes had disappeared. "I am sorry if I disturbed your important meeting about your ceremony, but I came here to know how your progress with your power."

"Do you want to see my power?" Lilac smirked.

"I know it is boring and your conversation earlier with your lady was more fascinating, but I need to see, how strong you are." Serefina smirked back at the guardian angel with repulsion on her face. "Don't let Jedrek down because you are too weak to handle yourself."

Serefina meant it when she said she didn't want to see Lilac to drag Jedrek down with her if she was too weak to fight. She would kill the girl herself if that happened.

Lilac frowned. She was not in the mood to fight, but to show her power, she was fine with that.

The guardian angel waved her hand on the table and in a blink of an eye, the surface of it was covered with red roses.

On the other hand, Serefina's jaw dropped. She didn't know whether she should laugh or cry. And with the same gesture that Lilac did, she lit blue fire, which burned all the flowers on the table, turned it into dark charcoal.

Fortunately, Lilac retracted her hands in time from the table before the flame could lick her fingers.

"Serefina!" Lilac bolted up and glowered at the witch acrossed the burning table.

With a flick of her finger, the fire went out. Serefina raised her legs and kicked it, the table collapsed as it became dirt and dust.

"Do you want to kill me?!" Lilac roared. Their relationship couldn't be said in a good term, but she didn't think that Serefina would use violence against her. "You should have warned me before you did that!"

"Do you think your enemy will warn you before they kill you? Do you think the devils will wait for you?" Serefina walked forward, stepping on the dirt that once a big table. "Or your flowers will protect you?"

Lilac didn't move or took a step back, she stood her ground and let Serefina approached her. Their gaze met and there were a lot of complicated emotion that they shared, more than they could express.

"I thought being raised by the moon goddess can help you to get stronger," Serefina sneered on her face. "But, all you can do is blooming some flowers?" she laughed mockingly. "I think too highly of you."

Lilac narrowed her eyes and clenched her jaw, when Serefina thought she would retort, the guardian angel smiled at her that put her in confusion.

However, before Serefina could understand her smile, she heard something slithered on the floor and coiled her feet.

In the next second, the witch was thrown across the room until her body hit the solid wall. The sound was very loud, one could say that Serefina would suffer a few broken bones.

Even the sound of it could be heard from outside of the door. Keira's voice travelled into the room, as she rapped her fist against the door.

"Everything is all right inside?!" Keira didn't dare to barge in, but the loud cracking sound from earlier made her worried.

Lilac was about to answer to that when she felt someone strangled her neck from the back and put a the sharp side of the knife close to her throat. action

"Lesson number one, don't put your guard down," Serefina said softly near Lilac's ear.

"How...?" Lilac was taken aback by the fact that Serefina was behind her. She glanced at the body on the floor that still writhed in pain. "But, there..." She pointed at Serefina's body, yet in the next second it disappeared. "Magic..." She scoffed.

"Yes, magic. They will not call me as a witch if I don't have a magic," Serefina rolled her eyes dramatically upon hearing Lilac's statement.

On the other hand, those servants and guards, who were outside became even more worried when Lilac didn't answer their call, thus they opened the door and found Lilac was being held by Serefina with a dagger on her neck.

The sight put them on edge as the three guards immediately shifted onto their beasts and charged forward, yet before they could enter the room, Serefina created barricade of blue flames that kept them away.

"Call the king! The witch wants to kill the queen!" Keira shouted.

Within ten minutes the quiet morning turned into a chaos after the two were being left alone inside the room.

"You are overdoing it!" Lilac glowered at the witch behind her.

Chapter 746 - SHAMBLES ROOM

When Serefina created a wall of fire that barricaded the room and prevented from the guard to enter, Lilac extinguished it and replaced with a wall of her own power, trees as big as the size of human body sprang from the floor and created a concrete wall.

Serefina drew back her dagger and pushed Lilac away from her.

"Oh, not bad." She clicked her tongue and looked at her provokingly. "Should we start now? I will not go easy on you."

Lilac scoffed.

=====

When a servant went to find Jedrek, the King already knew what happened. Someone had mind- linked him and break down the detail.

He was furious to say the least. What these women were up to?! Were not they in good term in these past days?! Needless to say, there would be another room that would go under some reparation.

With Eaton and Lyrus behind him, Jedrek ran as fast as he could, but it seemed his human form was not fast enough, thus he shifted into his beast form and leapt over the balcony and dashed toward the north wing, where the battle between two women took place.

Eaton and Lyrus exchanged look and did the same.

As far as they knew, both women were very hot- headed, no one could guarantee that everything would be all right with them wreck havoc inside the castle.

Even from afar they could feel the ground was shaking under their paw, therefore, they hastened their speed. There was a possibility if they were not stopped in time, they would bring down the whole castle with them.

=====

The white beast ignored all the servants and the guards there went he rushed past them and watched the trees had blocked the way into the room.

Rumblings sound resounded throughout the hallway and debris falling off from the high ceiling.

Jedrek was furious, with his massive- sharp talons, the white beast tore the trees apart.

The way how easy Jedrek did that, took all the guards and servants by surprised. They had tried to do that earlier, but the trunk didn't even scratch, yet the white beast did it as easy as a hot knife sliced butter.

Before the king's beast black eyes, he watched how Serefina and Lilac attack each other. Their dress tattered and there were scratches here and there on their fair skin. The smell of blood and dirt were in the air since both of them didn't have healing ability.

Sure enough, the room was in shambles, major reparation would be needed in this case.

Watching from where he was standing, the two women apparently didn't notice the king's presence, they were too engrossed with their battle.

The floor beneath Lilac's feet had gone up in flames, as the guardian angel was trying to stamp out the fire.

Meanwhile, Serefina had her blue flames on the tips of her fingers, as her eyes locked on Lilac with a smirk on the corner of her face, she was not in good condition too.

But then, there was a root slithered on the floor very fast and caught Serefina's feet. The root flung the witch across the room.

However, before Serefina's body could hit the wall behind her, the white beast had moved ahead and protected her.

Serefina shrieked and accidentally burned the white fur of the beast when she hit his side instead of the wall.

A low deep growl resounded inside the ruined room, but Jedrek shifted back into his human skin and roared when Lilac was about to launch another attack.

"ENOUGH!" Jedrek's voice managed to make the two women stop fighting each other.

The king was furious beyond words, even his eyes were still the color of blood when he watched the injuries from the two of them. action

Yet, because of Serefina's flame, he was injured too. His cloak was burned and his left arm, which was hit by Serefina, blackened and burned.

Fortunately, the moment he talked the charred started to heal as well.

"WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!?" his voice boomed and even Eaton and Lyrus, who came after Jedrek, lowered their head in submission.

Jedrek glared at Serefina, as he steadied the witch and inspected her wounds briefly. From the look of it, she would be fine.

After Jedrek checked on the witch, he stomped toward Lilac. His anger grew palpable, when he watched her fingers were dark and bleeding. It seemed she tried to shield herself from Serefina's fire with her barehands. What a stupid move!

"I am asking you," Jedrek growled. "What. Is. Going. On. Here?!" He enunciated every word clearly, forced the guardian angel, who seemed too scared to even raise her head, to answer him.

"I am..." Lilac stuttered. She hated to admit it, but Jedrek was very scary at the moment. "We just practice..." she finished her words softly. Her voice was barely a whisper.

"Practice!?" Jedrek literally pushed the words out from his gritted teeth. "What kind of practice is this?!"

Lilac fiddled with her fingers, she was no longer felt the pain, all she could think now was how to escape the king's wrath. She considered to run away, but Jedrek scooped her body and strode out of the shambles room, leaving Serefina, Eaton and his second in command behind.

Only when Jedrek was out of the sight with Lilac in his arms, Eaton and Lyrus approached Serefina.

The witch still had fire in her hands, ready to set ablaze in her command, thus the two lycans should approach her with caution.

"Serefina, come with me... we need to take care of your wound." Eaton called for Serefina as he inched closer toward her.

The former Beta of Janus had known Serefina for very long time and knew exactly what had happened between Jedrek and her.

However, Serefina ignored him. Her eyes were on the whole that Jedrek created when he clawed his way through the barricade that Lilac had made.

"No need." Serefina walked past the two lycan angrily and burned down the remaining trees on her way out.

Chapter 747 - A PROPER CONVERSATION

"What do you think you were doing?!" Jedrek roared once he put Lilac down on her bed in her chamber, he had mind-linked someone to call a healer and the old woman had been waiting for them right in front of the door.

"I was practicing with her!" Lilac snapped back at Jedrek. She didn't like the tone that he had been using when he scolded her along the way here.

She was aware, why Jedrek was angry, but... but she just didn't want to be scolded in front of Serefina.

"What kind of practicing do you think you were doing?! You had destroyed two rooms back then when we were still in the old castle and now, were you going to tear down the whole place?!" There was a possibility that would happen if Jedrek didn't rush there in time.

"Why are you just scolding me?! You can ask everyone there, it was Serefina who approached me!" Lilac shouted and then grimace when the healer coated ointment on her burned fingers.

Jedrek took a deep breath to content his anger. The way Lilac's face scrunched in pain made his angry words stuck in his throat. action

"How is she?" he asked the healer grimly. "Is it bad?"

The healer nodded her head solemnly. "Because she is not a shifter, the wounds will take time to be healed."

Upon hearing the healer's answer, Jedrek's face darkened. He glared at Lilac for being reckless, but the guardian angel only lowered her head and pouted her lips sullenly.

She had been endured the pain, so she didn't need for Jedrek to scold her too.

"How long it will take to completely heal?" Jedrek sat down beside Lilac, but she moved, so she wouldn't be too close with him. She was angry.

"Around a month," the healer answered gingerly and what she was afraid of happened. Jedrek was infuriated when he heard that. "She has a body like human, your majesty, so it takes time to heal completely, but it will not leave a scar if you apply the ointment regularly."

The mating ceremony would happen less than two weeks, but Lilac was injured now. However, that was not the thing that made Jedrek mad. The fact that he was worried about his mate up to the point he lost his temper, surprised him.

When the healer finished bandaged Lilac's fingers, she frowned at her hands, she wouldn't be able to use them for meantime.

"What should I do if I cannot use my hands?" Lilac grumbled, she didn't like the thought that Serefina beat her severely like this.

"You can lay down and stop making trouble." Jedrek stood in front of his mate and let the healer to leave them alone, despite of Lilac refusal.

She didn't want to stay in the same room like Jedrek. For some reason, Lilac was upset everytime she remembered Jedrek snapped at her in front of Serefina.

"Look at me," Jedrek ordered her, but Lilac refused it. She glared at the flower vase on top of the table, which she just put there in this morning. "Lilac, look at me."

"No," she replied curtly.

"Lilac." Jedrek tried to be more patient with Lilac, but everyday his mate kept testing his patient and the most frustrating thing was; he couldn't go all out and vented his frustration on her.

Apparently, the mate bond kept getting stronger and it stung when he watched Lilac was hurt. However, the feeling for Serefina was still somewhere around the corner of the king's heart.

Jedrek wouldn't take 'no' as an answer, he held her chin and tilted her head, so their eyes could meet.

"Stop destroying my castle," he said rigidly. Lilac was about to protest, but Jedrek leaned over and kissed her head. "Take a rest, Keira will be here to help with whatever you need."

After saying that, Jedrek let go of her chin and strode toward the door.

"You put her here to spy me, so I will not destroy my room?" Lilac shouted at Jedrek sarcastically.

Jedrek closed his eyes to content his temper, yet his beast purred with Lilac's defiant act. "I am afraid you will have a hard time to do so with your injured hands. Take a rest little flower."

Lilac murmured something grumpily.

=====

Orange light from her palm help the witch to close her wounds. She breathed heavily when a big wound on her left arm kept bleeding.

She ignored Eaton and Lyrus suggestion to get a healer for her. Serefina didn't need that, she could heal herself and all she wanted now was to be alone.

After a few moment, the orange light seeped through her skin and mended her wound, as it started to close in.

When Serefina heard the door was being opened she was about to snap, but then remembered the door had been charmed so no one could enter.

"Who is that?!" Serefina stood up and walked vigilantly toward the door. Her encounter with the devil in the forest, on her way here, had put her on alert.

However, the moment she saw who was there, she hoped it was Asmodeus instead of him.

"How is your wound?" Jedrek asked and welcomed himself to enter the room.

"How did you come in?" Serefina narrowed her eyes.

"Through the door," Jedrek said casually, he didn't meet Serefina's eyes when he took her injured arms and inspected them. Just like what he thought. The witch had healed herself, she had this ability, but still Jedrek needed to see with his own eyes that she was fine.

"I put spell there. How can you enter my room?" Serefina pulled her hands, but Jedrek had not yet done with his observation, thus he gripped them tighter.

"Forget? Your magic is useless against me," Jedrek mumbled and let go Serefina's hand when he was sure, there was nothing major with her wound.

"What do you want?" Serefina asked.

"I think this is the right time for us to have a proper conversation."

Chapter 748 - WHY DID YOU COMEBACK?

"What do you want?" Serefina asked. She totally forgot about the fact that her magic didn't work on any Donovan.

Seeing Jedrek inside her room and checked on her were the last thing that she thought would happen today.

The thought that he was still care for her, warmed the witch's cold heart. However, Serefina reprimanded herself to not let her hope went too high.

"I think this is the right time for us to have a proper conversation," Jedrek said with face that devoid from any emotion. He took a seat on the chair near a window, which showed the beautiful scenery of the backyard of the castle, where a small river streamed through a forest.

Jedrek nodded his head to the seat in front of him, as a gesture for Serefina to take a seat there, since the witch didn't have any intention to move an inch from where she was standing now.

"You enter my room without permission." Serefina criticized him.

"This castle and everything inside are mind, including this room." Jedrek pour two drink for him and Serefina. "Sit down and we will talk."

"So, are you done pretending that I am not here?" Serefina took the glass, but didn't sit down on the chair where Jedrek had pointed, instead, she stood beside the window and leaned her back against the wall.

Jedrek was very familiar with Serefina's temper. She would make everything difficult, whenever she was not in good mood, and now it was apparent that she wasn't.

"I was not pretending that you are not here, I just ignored you." Jedrek corrected her and this made Serefina scoffed disdainfully.

"I don't see the different," she said with harsh tone.

Jedrek had his own consideration. At first, he didn't want to have any conversation with Serefina, even a small talk such as a greeting, yet, doing that didn't put him at ease at all.

That was why, here he was, he wanted to clarify the air between them.

"What do you want to talk about?" it was a rhetorical question, which she didn't need to ask to find the answer. She was aware about what Jedrek was going to ask her ever since she left the realm. action

Serefina always thought about the question that Jedrek would gave her the moment they met, but she still couldn't find the proper answer for that, even after such a long time.

"You know what I am going to ask," Jedrek spoke grimly, despite a small smirk on the corner of his lips.

Serefina laughed dryly. "I can't read your mind like Killian did," she said mockingly.

"He can never read my mind," Jedrek scoffed. He had never thought there would come a day where he could talk to Serefina again. However, the misunderstanding between them had drawn them apart.

"Neither do I." Serefina felt stupid to beat around the bush when she talked to Jedrek now.

Jedrek clenched his jaw tightly before he spoke stiffly. "Where have you been? Why did you leave the realm? Why did you cast away what we had? Why you had never come to me even once? Where the rumors were true about you and Kace?" He listed all of the questions in his mind, but the most important question was; "Why did you come back?"

The last question stabbed Serefina right in his heart. She could feel the hatred that leaked from every word that came out from his lips.

Jedrek's last question was akin to him saying that he didn't want to see her again, and as much as she had expected it, the words still pained her nonetheless.

"Wow!" Serefina raised her eyebrows dramatically. "Those are a lot of questions..." she chuckled.

"I have plenty of time to hear every detail of your answer." Jedrek made himself comfortable on the plush chair, waiting for Serefina to start talking, telling him a bunch of lie...

They knew the other very well, up to the point they could tell when one of them was telling lie.

It was a comforting fact in the past, but not for now, it made them felt vulnerable and too open for the pain that they would face.

Serefina stretched out her hand and wiggled the empty glass in front of Jedrek. "Maybe if I get a little bit tipsy, I can answer all of your questions." She missed teasing him like this.

In the past, Jedrek would smirk and gave the bottle for her, but at this moment, he poured the drink to her glass without emotion. He treated her too formal for Serefina's like.

"Talk now." Jedrek put down the bottle and met her gaze.

Serefina gulped down the liquid and it felt bitter in her taste buds. "Where have I been? I have been in a village near northern coven realm, village named mystic river." She offered her empty glass again and Jedrek filled it. "And why I left the realm? Because I have my own reason."

"That is not the answer."

"I have never said that I will answer all of your questions." Serefina countered. "Your majesty." She added in mocking tone. "Why I left you? I have my own reason. Why I had never come back? I have my own reason."

"So, there is no need for me to sit here and listen nothing from you." Jedrek thought she would tell a lie. But, as it turned out she dodged all of the questions.

Jedrek was about to stand up when he heard Serefina spoke again.

"You are a fool if you think I was with Kace, he is less attractive than you," Serefina said softly. For a moment, she talked to him the way she always teased him long time ago. It was funny at that time, but not now, because Jedrek's facial expression barely changed.

"But, you stay with him all those decades, right?" Jedrek didn't miss how Serefina's breath became shallow when she admitted it. "So, why did you come back now?"

Chapter 749 - THIS IS OVER

"To guide the guardian angels." Serefina answered truthfully.

"I don't think they need you guidance," Jedrek said wryly. In the past, both of them rarely fought with each other, they were on the same page for almost in every way, but when they did it wouldn't turn out good.

The last fighting that they had was a moment before Jedrek issued an order to attack the village of angel and Serefina disappeared for a few months afterward.

Serefina kept asking about what secret that Jedrek hid from her, just like it had been mentioned, the two knew when the other were lying and the witch could see Jedrek clearly that he was hiding something from her.

They had a big argument that day and Serefina couldn't stand it, so she left. Jedrek didn't chase after her, because he needed time alone. The decision that he still regretted even now.

Some people said Serefina teleported to the village of angel and wrecked some havoc there to vent out her anger, after all that place had been destroyed and she, being helpful to add more destruction there.

However, Kace swore he didn't see her there. The fact was obscure at that point and no one could prove whether Serefina was there or not.

"Don't be so sure, you will not accept me here if you don't think I cannot help." Serefina flicked her hair behind her shoulder.

Her habit and Jedrek was way too familiar with that. There was a part in his heart that felt relieved that there was still something from their old days, which was still remained.

"Lilac managed to beat you up." Jedrek pointed out to her injuries and Serefina laughed arrogantly.

"This is flea bite. You will be mate less if I was serious to take her down," Serefina sneered at him.

Jedrek let out a deep low growl when Serefina said that and he even didn't realize that until he saw the look of pain crossed her eyes. The witch was hurt by his reaction and Jedrek didn't mean it that way... it was his instinct.

"Don't touch her," Jedrek said it. He had an urged to warn her, but it tore him when he watched Serefina looked at him with mocking eyes.

The witch took the bottle and gulped it down and the bitterness eased her tense. It would be better if it tasted more bitter.

"Don't worried, I will not touch your flower girl. You can rest assure." Serefina raised her hands. "She is your mate and less than two weeks you will mark and mate her. She will be your queen as she should be. And then what?" Serefina tipped the bottle and drank half of it. "You said you will choose me over your destined mate."

"I said it." Jedrek admitted.

"You know what? She came to me when the first day I was here and offered me her position as your mate. But I turned it down," Serefina was slightly tipsy now, but her it was not enough to dull her pain.

What a coincidence, Lilac made the same offer to him as well, but he turned it down. "It doesn't surprise me. You had thrown away the same thing I offered to you decades ago when you left the realm."

Jedrek walked closer toward Serefina and took away the bottle from her.

"But, here you are... arranging mating ceremony in my presence. Can't you wait until the war ended? Why are you in hurry to make her your queen? To flaunt her around in front of me?" Serefina gritted her teeth, as her attempt to not let her tears wetted her cheeks.

Jedrek looked at Serefina in the eyes when he said truthfully. "So, I can get rid of you from my mind."

"Get rid of me?" the witch's voice was shaking with emotion and Jedrek felt he wanted to hug her, giving her comfort, yet he didn't do anything except standing there. "So, I am still in you mind even now?"

"Yes," Jedrek admitted it and his beast roared in his head because he just betrayed his mate. However, how could he lie to Serefina? It was better to face it and get over it, right?

"So, this is the end of us?" Serefina wanted to make sure if there was nothing left for her.

"Yes," Jedrek's voice was hoarse.

And with that reply, tears rolling down her cheeks, it felt hot and uncomfortable as she could feel her chest was tightening.

Serefina was not someone who would cry easily, therefore, Jedrek remembered very well what kind of occasion that caused her to shed her tear.

And every time that happened, Jedrek would be there, just like now.

Yet it was not the past and they were no longer the same, despite a few of their habit, which didn't change, the situation didn't allow Jedrek to step forward and gathered her in his arms like he used to.

"Good," Serefin tried to smile and fail.

"I will see you at the gates when Torak and Kace arrived." Jedrek excused himself. He didn't want to stay any second longer than this. He wanted to find his mate and be sure that his decision was right.

"Jedrek, forgive me," Serefina said with her broken voice.

"For?" they had done so much when they were together, hurting each other, but in the end they would be happy again and there was nothing to be forgiven. However, apparently that wouldn't happen now.

"For leaving you," Serefina replied.

"But, you will not give me the reason why you were leaving?"

"No," Serefina said resolutely.

=====

Jedrek looked for Lilac as soon as he was done talking to Serefina, but she was not in her chamber like he had told her and the guard didn't even see her stepped out of her room.

Thus, Jedrek followed his instinct that led him to his own chamber and there she was, sitting on a plush chair while trying to move her bandaged fingers.

"Where were you?" she asked when Jedrek entered the room.

Chapter 750 - SLEEP WELL, LILAC

"Where were you?" she asked when Jedrek entered the room.

She was seen trying to bloom a flower on the supposed to empty vase. Jedrek had never been fond of flower since Serefina didn't like it. The witch had allergy to certain flower. Therefore, the old castle was originaly filled with bushes, trees and vines before Lilac came and changed that.

The guardian angel with the power of nature also did the same thing here, in this castle.

This place was usually barren, but now one could see blooming flowers everywhere, though it wasn't the season for them to bloom. And somehow, Jedrek didn't mind it a little bit. He felt a strange feeling of comfort whenever he saw them.

"I don't like red roses." Jedrek strolled across the room and watched the roses bloom under Lilac's touch. "They don't suit me."

"So, what do you like?" Lilac touched the last flower bud and it opened itself to her, unfolded its soft petals and spread its scent.

Jedrek fell silent for a moment, he gave some thought to her question before he answered with a low and hoarse voice. "Lilac."

Lilac chuckled upon hearing that, she closed her eyes when Jedrek leaned over and kissed her temple for a little bit longer. However, aside from the delicious spark on her skin, she felt something else from him. action

The moment Jedrek looked down to her, the guardian angel knew her guess was right.

"So, you like lilac now?" Lilac gave him a side look and continued to fill another empty vase.

"Your hands are injured." Jedrek pointed out the obvious, he frowned when Lilac kept moving them.

"I am practicing." She defended herself. "And you have not answered my question."

"I like Lilac now," Jedrek said as he sat down next to Lilac and took Lilac's hand carefully. "You should rest in your room and stop using your hands or it will take a longer time to heal."

Jedrek had never been too worried about her for trivial things, even though their relationship had started to grow and he had treated her very well ever since Serefina arrived at this castle, but her intuition told her that they were not as close as they seemed. There was still something between them. Either Jedrek's feelings for Serefina or the fact that they could no longer ignore the bond between them.

"I had been resting enough when you were gone," Lilac said. She raised her head and looked him right in the eyes. "And also, my question was; where were you going?"

"I visited Serefina." Jedrek didn't think twice when he answered her. This was his first intention when he looked for Lilac.

Lilac widened her eyes upon hearing the truth. The idea of Jedrek giving Serefina a visit crossed her mind, because no matter how cold he treated Serefina since the first time the witch stepped inside the castle or how he tried so hard to pretend that she was not exist, Lilac could see his brooding look whenever he thought no one paid attention to him.

However, to hear Jedrek gave her an honest answer was still surprised Lilac, yet she respected it.

"I expect it," Lilac mumbled. "You were looking for me to tell me that?"

"Yes," Jedrek answered curtly. He looked at Lilac deeply, trying to figure out what she had in her pretty little mind, yet Lilac was too calm and Jedrek couldn't read that.

"How is she?" Lilac asked after a long silence that was filled with them staring into each other eyes. "I hope I gave her wounds worse than this." Lilac nodded at her bandage hands. She would be upset if Serefina didn't even get a scratch when she had to be bandaged and scolded by Jedrek.

"She got a few injuries, but she's healed now." Jedrek smiled softly when he watched Lilac didn't really like what she heard.

"How could that be?" Serefina was not a shifter, so it was impossible for her to have that kind of healing ability.

"She used her magic to heal herself," Jedrek explained it plainly.

"Oh, right." Lilac rolled her eyes dramatically. "She has that power in her."

"You have your own power." Jedrek made his point.

"Not as useful as hers apparently." Lilac waved her hands in front of Jedrek's face, showing his pathetic bandaged hand.

Jedrek took her hands and helped her to stand up. "You need to rest," he said in finality, as he guided her to his bed.

"I will rest in my room." Lilac frowned when Jedrek pushed her to resting her head on a pillow that smell like him. It brought comfort to her.

"Rest here, so I know you will not wonder around the castle." Jedrek tucked her inside the warm quilt.

"What are going to do?" Lilac wrapped herself comfortably inside the quilt and it was only her head that could be seen.

"Work," Jedrek said, as he walked over to the table and picked a few documents to be brought to the chair near the window.

Lilac watched him in silent, but the comfort didn't manage to make her sleepy, thus she asked the question that she really wanted to know.

"Jedrek," Lilac called her, her eyes were downcast.

"Hmm?" Jedrek had a document on his hand, a good pretense to conceal his brooding mind.

"What were you talking about with Serefina?" Lilac stilled her heart to hear the worse, or maybe Jedrek wouldn't tell her anything.

"Nothing. A few arguments of the past. Many unanswered questions." Jedrek put down his pretense and looked at Lilac from across the room. "But it's over now."

"What is over?" Even after having this conversation more than twice and it would end up with Jedrek told her that he chose her over Serefina, but it couldn't completely convince her.

"The thing between us." The words sounded dry in his own ears, as if it was someone else who spoke in his stead. "Sleep well, Lilac."