

TLOA Lycan 781

Chapter 781 - THE TRUTH FROM THE PAST

Kace looked at Torak and Jedrek back and forth, he was not sure whether he understood with their current situation.

"Were not they left to the other realm and stayed there?" Kace frowned. "What do you mean with 'what happened to them?'" he looked at Jedrek. "What happened to them?"

"Tell us Jedrek," Torak spoke and sat down on his previous chair. "We can't go to the battle when we don't trust each other."

"I don't think I want to trust him," Kace complained, but he was rewarded a glare from Torak. "What? Do you want to trust the person who had hunted you down for years? Just like this? I am sorry, but I am pretty good on holding a grudge."

"So what do you want to do with that grudge of yours?" Jedrek sat down on his chair as well, leaving Kace was the only person stood up inside the room. "Do you want to get back at me?"

With his two older brothers were sitting, Kace felt like he was being inspected by them. This kind of feeling was pretty annoying. "Can I?" Kace asked defiantly.

"I don't think you have the guts to kill even a fly now," Jedrek commented rudely. "When Maximus cursed you with these wounds, you didn't kill him. And when Killian hunted you, you didn't kill him as well."

"What you had done, were disgusting," Torak gave Jedrek a look. "I would have you killed if you dare to touch my mate."

"You don't have any right to complain when you did nothing to help him." Jedrek glared at Torak. There were a lot of antipathy and bitterness between the three of them.

Torak knew about what Jedrek had done to Kace, but he had to admit that he didn't take his older brother's action into consideration. To put it simply, he didn't want to have anything to do with his brothers.

But the situation was different now.

"He didn't need my help if you didn't do what you had done in the first place," Torak glowered at Jedrek.

"Can we focus to the question; what happened to our parents? Instead of talking about me? I had been through all of that and I didn't need to be reminded again." Kace raised his hands and leaned his back against the damp wall. "I will even the scale with him the first chance given," he said.

"Do as you please." Jedrek didn't take Kace's words seriously.

After that, there was silence that fell among them before Torak posted the same question. "What happened to our parents? What do you mean when you said you had killed them?"

"What?!" Kace was shocked, he stood straight and glared at Torak hardly. "What do you mean..."

Torak raised his hand to stop Kace's blabbering. "You owed us explanation, brother."

It had been an ages since the last time Jedrek heard that word from Torak. In the past, before Jedrek drove him out of this realm, they were often talking to each other about a lot of things regarding this realm, since Kace was too young to exchange ideas with him.

"I killed them," Jedrek started and this stirred Kace's anger, yet Torak forced him to stay and listen to what Jedrek about to say. "To save you." He nodded to Kace.

"What do you mean to save me?!" Kace didn't seem to understand what Jedrek was saying. It sounded like he was talking in different language.

"Father wanted to kill you. So, I killed him," Jedrek spoke lightly, as if this fact was not a big thing for him.

"You are a liar!" Kace shouted. However, he couldn't help thinking that what Jedrek had said was the truth.

Despite being the perfect father for them and ruler for this realm, Kace could feel his father's resentment toward him, after all, he was the weakest and softhearted among the three, yet Kace didn't think his own father would kill him.

That was not true, right?

"You want the truth? That is the truth." Jedrek looked at his brother was in denial, yet he didn't budge or show his sympathy. "I don't think I need to hide it any longer. There are no consequences for me to say this."

"Father would never do that," Torak narrowed his eyes. He had prepared himself for the worse, but he didn't expect this. How could their father wanted to kill his flesh and blood?

Lycanthropes upheld kinship more than any creatures in the realms, thus Torak couldn't think the reason why their father would do that to Kace. "What his reason?"

"Mother," Jedrek replied to him truthfully and started to tell them in light tone, as if he was telling a story and the story didn't involve any murder or violence.

When Diana was pregnant with Kace, she was having a difficult labor on the day she gave birth. And ever since that day, her health started deteriorating.

Janus did everything to safe her and sought for help. However, he ended up asking the help from the devils. That was his first mistake that led them to another catastrophe.

Janus sold his soul to Mamon in order to prolong Diana's life and in return, Mamon wanted a huge sacrifice. It was the time when Jedrek went berserk and give crazy order to execute many creatures in the name to expand their territory.

Diana's health recovered, but it didn't take a long time before she was sick again. Kace and Torak were not completely aware about this because they were often out of the castle to execute Jedrek's order.

Meanwhile, their father would appear to always agree with whatever Jedrek's plan. He seemed like a supportive father, who taught his firstborn about how to rule the realm, when the truth; he was the mastermind behind all of that.

And when the deal with the devils didn't work any longer and Diana became very sick to even leave the bed, Janus met with a fae, who told him he needed the guardian angels.

Chapter 782 - THE TRUTH FROM THE PAST (2)

Janus needed the guardian angel in order to save his mate's life and at the same time, Jedrek received an order from Selene, the moon goddess, to gather all the guardian angel for the upcoming war with the devils and also for the reason that the rules, which was enforced by the shadow warrior was no longer could be tolerated.

The guardian angels were not supposed to be locked up in one place, they should roam around the realm, to abate the darkness. This was also one of the reasons why the devils managed to create such remarkable force after so many times there was no one could suppress the darkness that they spread.

However, the timing was not right. Janus heard that and forced Jedrek to let him see the guardian angel when he heard Jedrek's warrior managed to tackle down the village of angel and eradicated all the shadow warriors that had been protected them for years, only a day before the war.

Out of respect for his father, Jedrek allowed him to see those guardian angels without knowing his true intention

And the moment Jedrek learned about it, it was already too late for him to fix the damage. Janus had sapped those poor creatures' energy and left them with nothing, but soulless body with valuable bloods. This was the first reason why they died in the battle. Only Jedrek who knew about this.

He was conflicted with himself and was not able to tell a soul about this, including Serefina. Moreover, the witch couldn't be found after their big argumentation, just a day before the attack of the village of angel.

The second reason was because Jedrek ordered his people to use their precious blood too along the war, just like how the shadow warrior would use their blood whenever they went to a battle.

Those reasons were enough to kill the guardian angels and wiped out their existence from this realm.

Therefore, when Selene lifted their curse and gave them the guardian angels as their mate, Jedrek felt like it was a punishment rather than a reward for their accomplishment.

Selene must have known what Jedrek had done to her precious guardian angel and with the way she gave them as the Donovan's mates, it was almost like another form of a reminder about the decision that he had made.

After the war, things didn't stop there, it only got worse, and after all the things that Janus had done, Diana was still not fully recovered.

In the moment of desperation, even though the devil did not have enough strength because of their defeat in the war, they came again and offered the same thing to Janus.

This time in exchanged of Diana's life, Asmodeus wanted Kace's life instead, for another years of Diana's. It had gone too far and too dark. Janus was insane to accept that deal.

Jedrek had led his people to defeat the devil, but he couldn't do the same when the devils had rooted under their roof. His father had turned insane because of his obsession to bring their mother back to life.

It almost like they won the battle, but lost the war, for Jedrek.

The moment his father wanted to kill Kace for that, Jedrek challenged him for the Alpha's title.

Jedrek knew the consequences, but he was left with no other choices. Their father had gone too far and nothing that Jedrek said could reach him.

Therefore, Jedrek was forced to choose between his deranged father or his younger brother. Whatever his choice, was not an easy or pleasant one. However, he had to think of an option that dealt less damage.

Once Jedrek killed his father, he announced to the outside world that both Janus and Diana had stepped down from their throne and lived somewhere else.

The transition of power was not really a problem, since that title bound to be Jedrek's. It was his right birth after all.

However, the deal that Janus made with the devil turned him into a low creature. He was died, but his soul remained inside the castle, in the secret tunnel, in the place where Jedrek had killed him, while Diana was in coma state.

And the only way to end all the madness was to kill Diana, because Janus's soul bound to her.

"...and I killed mother for good," Jedrek said in completely unattached voice. He didn't show any emotion on his cold fa?ade.

Kace was sitting on the floor with his head hung low, there were a lot of emotions that flashed on his blue eyes. He was in denial. He was in disbelief. The information that he heard was simply too much for him to discern and too mindblowing to be believed.

"I will not say that my decision was right. Hell, I know my decisions were terrible, but that was the best thing I could think of at that moment and I don't want to regret it." Jedrek stood up from his chair. "I don't indulge myself in the past and neglect what we will face now. I wish the same thing from the two of you."

After saying that, Jedrek left the room, leaving his two brothers, who seemed wouldn't move for another hours.

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"Where have you been? Why did you just come back now?" Hope rushed toward Kace, who just entered their bedroom, but the look on his face stopped Hope from her blabbering. "What happened?"

Kace didn't say anything he just trudged toward her and buried his face on the crook of his mate shoulder.

Hope couldn't see it, but she could feel Kace's body was trembling.

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Raine didn't know what had happened to Torak, but ever since he returned from meeting Jedrek, he had acted very strange.

It had been an hour since Torak was standing on the balcony and stared at the distance, seemingly deep in thought.

Raine approached her mate and hugged him from back and slowly, his tensed muscle became relax. They stayed like that in blissful silence, under the moonlight and starry sky.

Chapter 783 - CAN I HAVE A HUG?

Jedrek stood alone under the moonlight, in the middle of the yard, feeling the wind caressed his skin and fluttered his cloak. The night was very serene. He wondered if he would feel this way two days from now when the mating ceremony took place.

However, even now he didn't feel at ease, the contradiction of his surroundings.

His last conversation with his brothers truly left a big hollow in his heart, though he tried to not show it on his expression, yet he couldn't help but thinking whether what he said was right? Or he said it wrongly and they misinterpreted that.

Jedrek would be lying if he said he wasn't worried about what his brothers thought after what he said.

He chuckled when he realized it. He shouldn't feel this way, especially after the way he had treated them during their separation and how he drove Torak away from this realm, forced him to create his own pack because Jedrek didn't want him to stay in the same castle where the soul of their dead father controlled his decision.

Aside from that, Jedrek wanted Torak had his own force, the people that he could trust.

"What are you doing standing there?" Jedrek asked without even turned his body. He had sensed her presence since a few minutes ago. He thought she would leave him and he would pretend that she was never there in the first place, but she stayed.

"What is bothering you?" Serefina should have known that she couldn't hide from him, but she was not able to bring herself to walk away from him when she saw how Jedrek was feeling down at the moment.

The sight of his back was so lonely and it made Serefina couldn't leave him alone.

"Many things," Jedrek admitted. "The list can go on for two days," he said exaggeratedly, but Serefina neither laugh nor mock him.

Perhaps, he was just saying the truth.

Jedrek heard the faint sound of Serefina's footsteps, walked over to him. However, he didn't budge or turn around to see her until the witch was standing in front of him.

"Something is bothering you." That was a statement not a question. Serefina looked at Jedrek closely and felt very familiar with the stoic expression that he wore right now. Her heart ached for him.

"Something is always bothering me," Jedrek admitted. He stared at the woman that he loved. The person that caused so much pain for him and left him when he needed her the most.

The cold wind blew again, rattled the branches and the leaves, yet it was not cold enough to make the two people sought for a shelter.

Serefina stretched out her hands. She shouldn't do this and make things became more complicated between them again, yet she couldn't help herself. She wanted to touch him.

How long it had been since the last time she could touch him? How long it had been since the last time they had this kind of conversation? Time went so fast and Serefina didn't feel like she was really alive.

However, before the tip of her fingers could touch him, Jedrek dodged it swiftly without breaking eyes contact with her. There was a warning in the way he looked at her and Serefina understood it perfectly.

The witch laughed bitterly and put down her hand. "I see," she said softly. "We have grown apart."

"You should expect this since you left without a word," Jedrek tried to sound indifferent, but the pain in his voice was palpable.

"You should have expected this since you hid something from me," Serefina countered. She wouldn't have gone to the village of angel to vent out her anger and got killed, if she was not very mad at him at that time.

Jedrek started to hide something from her and Serefina didn't like it. Especially, when she knew it was something very big that occupied his time and mind.

"You don't understand," Jedrek said in regret.

Serefina was always stubborn and didn't like it when she was being left in the dark, but Jedrek was not ready to share his burden at that time and the witch didn't have enough patience to wait for him to open up.

No one could be blamed in this matter, but it caused so much damaged for both of them.

"Make me understand," Serefina gritted her teeth. Suddenly, it was easier when she longed for him, but couldn't be with him, instead of seeing the disappointment in those beautiful blue eyes that she loved.

"Tell me why did you leave?" Jedrek asked without hesitation. However, when he looked at her reaction, he knew immediately that he wouldn't get the answer that he needed. "You can't answer that."

Serefina lowered her head. For a moment, she couldn't bring herself to look at him in the eyes.

"It couldn't be help, right?" Jedrek said in soft voice and stretched out his hand to caress her hair. "I never imagined that we would end up in this situation."

Serefina bit her lips and savored his touch.

"The mating ceremony will happen in two days," he informed her. "Tell me if I make a wrong decision.??

Jedrek tried to justify himself by giving Serefina the last chance to tell him the truth.

Yet, when the witch raised her head and looked at him, she was smiling softly and shook her head. "No, you make the right decision. Congratulation for the two of you."

"Thanks," Jedrek said coldly and put down his hand.

"This is it then," Serefina stilled her heart when she lost his touch. "Can I have a hug? The last hug." she asked in teasing tone, spread both of her arms, but the sound of her own voice sounded pathetic even in her ears.

However, Jedrek took a step back, avoiding her.

"Goodbye, Serefina." The king nodded slightly and excused himself, he even didn't turn around when he heard the soft sobs of the woman he left behind.

Chapter 784 - THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATING CEREMONY

"What are you doing out there?" Jedrek quickened his steps when he found Lilac was standing outside of her room, leaning her back against the door.

The guardian angel raised her head and stared at him through her long lashes. "I can't sleep," she said in low voice. "I was about to take a walk and approached you since you were standing alone there, but then I saw Serefina was staring at you from the distance."

Jedrek glanced at his left side and from here, he was able to see the spot where he was standing a few minute ago. The witch was no longer there now.

It was too far for him to catch Lilac's scent and too far for Lilac to hear his conversation with Serefina.

"I talked to her," Jedrek admitted.

"Hm," Lilac mumbled. Actually, she just watched the way Serefina was staring at Jedrek and then hiding here because she didn't want to see what would happen next.

But, thanked to Jedrek, now she knew that they had a conversation.

"Nothing happened," Jedrek tried to clarify the doubt in Lilac's eyes. "It is over between us."

"Yes, you said it before," Lilac murmured and then turned around to enter her room. "I think I will take a rest."

"You don't believe me," Jedrek said. He grabbed Lilac's wrist and turned her body to face him.

"I don't know what I have to believe now," Lilac replied truthfully. She didn't even know what to expect or what she wanted from this kind of relationship. This feeling was too complicated for her.

Slowly, Jedrek freed her hand and let Lilac entered her room.

"Good night Jedrek," Lilac said in soft voice.

Jedrek didn't answer her, but he stood there for a bit longer even after Lilac had closed the door and went to bed.

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"So, tomorrow is the ceremony?" Hope caressed the purple lilac, which Lilac chose for the decoration and now these flowers covered almost the entire castle. "I can't imagine how lively tomorrow's event will be."

Jedrek didn't invite many important people, but those who lucky enough to be invited just arrived this early morning.

The news about it had spread around the realm and many shifters and creatures had packed the city to celebrate it with their king. Apparently, it was a custom in this realm for the royal family to open the castle for the commoner in occasion like this.

It was a good opportunity to see their new queen, since most of them wanted to see Jedrek's destined mate, which was the guardian angel.

Even now there were a lot of people, who was still talking about how odd it was for their king to have 'the weak' guardian angel as his destined mate.

However, for some people, who had seen Lilac when she appeased the commotion about the missing people, they knew that the guardian angel was not like what most of the people pictured about them.

Lilac was young, but she had a calm aura that let people at ease to rely on her. The way she carried herself was fascinating.

Unfortunately, there were still many people, who didn't care enough to take a closer look on her and let their judgment clouded by the story about the guardian angel.

"Why don't we go out and celebrate it?" Hope stood in front of Lilac and Raine.

The three of them were inside Hope's room, talking about everything while their mates went to deal with a few things.

Caleb was in charged for the three of them and he looked bored staying inside this room.

"What do you want to celebrate? Tomorrow will be a huge celebration," Lilac said. "There is no need for early celebration."

"No," Hope shook her head and sat down beside Lilac. "What I meant is a bachelor party."

"What?" Caleb frowned. "Bachelor party is for someone who will get married. Tomorrow is a mating ceremony."

"It is the same," Hope replied stubbornly. "Why don't we go outside? It is very boring here," she suggested, but Raine rejected the idea immediately.

"But, we are not allowed to leave the castle," she looked worried. Especially when Lilac looked interested with Hope's idea.

"It had been a long time since I go out of the castle," Lilac rose to her feet, seemingly excited with the possibility to go out of this place.

"Come on Raine, we have not yet seen the city since we arrived here." Hope tried to persuade Raine, but she looked at Calleb for his opinion.

"I don't mind to go out of this castle." Calleb shrugged his shoulder. "There will be many people out there, as long as you promised me to not roam around without me and didn't cause trouble, I don't mind to take a walk for a while."

Raine hit his shoulder with her small fist. "You are just bored of being here, right?" she knew him. Calleb would choose to be with Torak and Raphael to deal with their people or talked about something that concern war, rather than to baby sit the three guardian angels.

However, Torak had said for Raine to stay with Calleb. Even though, he didn't specifically tell her to not go out of the castle, but it was not something that he needed to explain, since it was very obvious.

"I am not," Calleb said, trying to put a straight face, but failed miserably. The Gamma just hated to stay still.

"Come on Raine," Hope looked like she was about to jump excitedly. "We need to relax."

"Right, let's go!" Lilac had their cloaks in her arms and gave it to them, she even gave Calleb's cloak too. "I know a few places with delicious foods."

"Foods?" Calleb's eyes sparkled with the mention of food. Being outside to buy some food sounded more captivating than being here and listened the three girls chatted.

"Torak won't like this," Raine grimaced at Calleb.

But, he simply shrugged his shoulder. "Just kiss him and his anger will melt away."

Chapter 785 - THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATING CEREMONY (2)

"Good solution," Lilac said, but at the same time she wondered whether Jedrek would get angry to her if she went out of the castle now and disobeyed his order.

It would be nice if he got angry.

If Lilac kissed him, would his anger melt away as well? She pondered about it for a while.

"Right, problem solved, let's go!" Hope circled her hands around Raine's arm. "Just like Calleb said, you just needed to kiss him to appease him. Easy. Moreover, we will go out with Calleb, nothing will happen when the city is packed with many people. Not to mention that no one knows our faces, so it will be safe, right?" Hope turned to Calleb to for support.

"Right!" Calleb was beyond excited to the prospect of going out from this room and Raine could see the Gamma would agree to, literally, everything.

"Kace will angry to you," Raine was still trying to convince them that they shouldn't go out, yet she knew it was a futile attempt. If she was not able to make Calleb stayed, what she could do to the other two guardian angels, who were very vocal with what they wanted to do.

"Nah, don't worry," Hope said while waving her hand casually. "I know how to handle him."

"What about Jedrek?" Raine looked at Lilac, who was walking in front of them with Calleb, both of them were talking about which tavern that they should visit first.

"The best thing he would do was glare," Lilac shrugged her shoulder nonchalantly.

For now, they were walking on the corridor and a few guards were staring at them with curiosity, but no one dared enough to question them when they walked toward the north gates.

The moment they walked past the guard and the gates, Raine only could sigh deeply, she hoped nothing would happen to them in the city.

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"We will call it a day," Jedrek said and ended the meeting for today. The sky had turned dark since three hours ago, but the city was still alive, even more alive than the nights before. His people knew how to celebrate tomorrow event.

However, here Jedrek was, with his two brothers and their trusted people, holding a meeting about what move they should take or what new information that they got.

Apparently, at the moment, something weird was happening in many places in human realm and the crime cases were increasing along with the strange weather.

Not many people aware about this and thought it was only natural phenomena, but they knew it was not.

"Where are you going?" Kace asked Jedrek when he watched his older brother was about to leave the tent. All the people had left and it was only the three of them.

"Back to the castle," Jedrek replied, with the tone as if he was saying; what kind of question was that?

"Why do you go back to the castle?" Kace frowned and stopped Jedrek by standing in front of him.

"Tomorrow is your mating ceremony, we should celebrate it."

Indeed, mate thinks alike. In different place, Hope suggested the same thing to her fellow guardian angel, and now here Kace was, trying to throw small party for Jedrek. "I know good tavern around the city."

"So do I," Jedrek said. Of course he knew, this was his city after all. He knew every bit of this place.

"Let's go then," Kace waved his hand, gesturing for Torak and Jedrek to follow him.

"I don't want to go," Torak said, but Kace wrapped his arm around Torak's shoulder when he was about to walk past him.

"Why don't you want to go?" Kace asked.

"I want to be with my mate," Torak said while freed himself from Kace.

"This is just for one hour only. Raine will not mind to wait for one or two hours. You should give her time with the other guardian angel, so they can form a good understanding with each other." Kace tried to persuade him.

Since what Jedrek said to them yesterday in the dungeon, no one wanted to talk about it again, they needed time to adjust themselves, and chose to act as if there was nothing had happened.

It was kind of awkward at first, but during the meeting, the tension of planning something big together brought them to an understanding.

And here, Kace was trying to ease the situation between them.

"Let's go! This is a bachelor party!" Kace beat to Torak when he was about to protest. "I will ask the other people to come too!"

"Bachelor party for someone who is getting married. Jedrek has matting ceremony," Torak retorted.

"It's the same," Kace shrugged his shoulder. "We need to relax for awhile after these hard days and the days that will come."

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"I want to take a walk in the city," Lana said from her bed. She felt a little bit better, but her boredom was almost unbearable. She used to roam around many places, therefore, being stuck inside this room for days irritated her.

Raphael walked over to her bedside and sat there. He didn't know what to do with his high-spirited mate. Lana had been whining the whole day because Raphael wouldn't let her go and helped her in every small thing.

It looked sweet at first, but Lana soon found it quite annoying. Raphael even didn't let her to pick her own glass and fed her every time he could.

Well, Lana didn't mind when he fed her, because she started to feel hungry most of the time. However, she still hadn't told Raphael what Serefina had told her about the baby.

Usually, Raphael would sense it if there was something different with Lana, but maybe it was still in early stage, therefore the Beta was still clueless about this added that to the medicine that Lana had to take, thus if her scent changed slightly, Raphael wouldn't immediately realize it.

"I want to go," Lana sulked.

Chapter 786 - THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATING CEREMONY (3)

Lilac chose this tavern because this was the first place that Jedrek and she had visited during their very first walk in the city.

This place was quite memorable for her, therefore she took Raine, Hope and Calleb here.

Though the city streets were a little bit crowded, this place was an exception as it was almost empty with scarce number of people. Not many people went here because the location was not really strategize. And, this tavern was placed near the end of the alley.

If it was not for Jedrek, Lilac wouldn't have known this place.

"Why is this place empty? You said the food prepared here is delicious?" Logically speaking, if the foods available were appetizing, the place should be packed with people, but Calleb could see a few empty tables inside this tavern.

"This place is secluded, and not known to many people," Lilac replied. She led them to the further table from the entrance door and sat there.

Actually, she wanted to sit on the same table like before when she visited with Jedrek, but that table had already been occupied by someone else.

There was a woman, sitting alone with her hoodie covering almost her entire face and body.

"Wait," Hope mumbled. Her eyes locked on to the woman, who was sitting at the corner table. "Is that Serefina?" She asked with uncertainty.

"What?" Lilac followed Hope's line of sight and spotted the woman.

"Serefina!" before Lilac could confirm whether it was Serefina or not, Hope started calling the woman and went over to greet her.

However, before Hope could walk closer, the woman stood up and left her table.

"Serefina! Where are you going?!" Hope didn't stop there and chased after her. She grabbed her arm before she could walk any further.

"What?!" the witch swatted Hope's hand, but the girl hugged her instead and this only infuriated her. "Stop hugging me like an octopus!"

"Octopus?" Hope frowned and loosened her arms around Serefina. "You have never been hugged by an octopus," she protested.

Meanwhile, Lilac was staring at the duo bantering in disbelief. "It is really her," she mumbled.

What a coincidence... out of hundreds of places and taverns in this city, why should Serefina be here? This was an uncomfortable coincidence.

"Where are you going? Let's go inside. Join our table," Hope said cheerfully. She didn't even consider that this cheerful decision of hers could create an awkward situation for Serefina and Lilac if they were to sit at the same table, at the same time, at a moment like this.

The first thing Serefina did when the sun kissed the horizon was; runaway from the castle and from all the lilac flowers that covered the entire place. She regretted that she was the one who suggested it.

Every time Serefina eyes fell on those lilac flowers, she had an urge to burn it down along with the other decorations, thus to save herself from the trouble, she ran away and was roaming around this city all day mindlessly.

Serefina didn't want to stay and watch pathetically the ceremony that would be held tomorrow, giving a fake blessing that she would never mean it.

"No, I am done here," Serefina said. But, Calleb walked over and pulled her back. "What are you doing?"

"Let's enjoy this moment and forget everything," he said, grinning like a fool.

"What do you mean forget everything?" Serefina protested, but Calleb had already sat her down beside Raine and the Gamma placed himself on her other side, while Hope and Lilac was across from them.

"We need to relax once in a while, right?" Calleb wiggled his brows at the witch.

"Being with you just makes me even more annoyed," she grumbled.

Of course, Calleb knew about this, he just wanted to give the witch some hard time for what she had done when she was with them before. This wouldn't do any harm to her, right? It didn't look like Lilac would attack her or do something despicable. Well, the Gamma was quite petty at a time like this to get back at her in such a way.

"Being with us is better than being alone," Calleb retorted.

"I prefer to be alone," though that was what Serefina said, she ordered a drink when a young girl approached them as if she was not the one leaving this place earlier.

"So, what will we do now?" Calleb turned his attention and looked at Hope. This was her idea after all, thus she sure had something fun to do, right?

"What?" Hope tilted her head.

"You suggested this. We have ordered drinks and foods." Calleb waved his hand toward the two girls, who walked over while holding their order. "What other things should we do in a bachelorette party?"

Hope blinked her eyes and looked at him innocently. "I don't know, I have never attended one."

"What? So, this is just a regular dine out?" Calleb was disappointed and Raine chuckled.

"You have lived longer than me, why don't you tell us what we should do?" Hope countered, but Lilac was exceptionally calm.

"I have never attended a bachelorette party too," Calleb admitted.

Meanwhile, Serefina laughed at his honest statement. "You are helpless," she criticized Calleb and stared at Hope. "If you don't know what to do, so why did you even suggest doing this?"

"Let's play truth or dare?" Raine suggested when it seemed Serefina would cause trouble again with her unyielding argumentation.

"I don't want to," Serefina refused it immediately.

"Ah! Raph!" Calleb almost jumped from his seat. He could sense the Beta's presence even before he entered the tavern.

"Lana!" Hope waved her hands to the couple. "Come here!" she was very excited to see them.

Raphael had his arms around Lana's waist protectively when they walked closer to their table.

"Why are you here? Shouldn't you be resting now?" Serefina frowned when she watched Lana's pale face, but aside from that, she looked fine.

"I need to get some fresh air," Lana mumbled. "I will get sick if I lie down all the time."

"What all the time? You just slept for a day and half." Serefina drank her drink.

"Why are you here?" Raphael looked at Calleb. "Didn't Torak tell you to look after them?"

"He did, here I am." Calleb grinned foolishly, but then the two lycan looked at each other with knitted brows.

Chapter 787 - THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATING CEREMONY (4)

"Impossible," Raphael mumbled and Lana frowned beside him. Then her gaze landed on Serefina worriedly from where she shifted her attention to the door, as if she was waiting for someone to come.

"Why are they here..." Calleb mumbled. He sniffed the air and was very sure it was them. "Did you invite them to come here?"

"Invite who to come?" Lilac asked, but from their reaction, more or less she could guess, who they were talking about.

It didn't take long before some familiar faces walked into the tavern, but this time, the owner immediately rushed over to greet them.

Walking into the tavern were Jedrek, Torak and Kace. Not only the three Donovans, but also the leader of the hunter, Delta accompanied with the two Alphas from Torak's pack; Alpha Brian and Alpha Ralph.

On the other hand, Serefina and Lilac were caught out off guard with this strange coincidence.

Why are they all here?! And of all places, why here?! This was not good.

Lilac glanced at Serefina, but immediately averted her eyes when their gazes met. The witch also did the same thing.

"Torak," Raine rose to her feet when she saw her mate and pounced on him happily.

"Why are you here? Didn't I tell you to stay in the castle?" Torak reprimanded her lightly, but he was more than gleeful to see his mate here. His plan was to just have a glass or two and then head back to the castle, but Torak wouldn't have thought he would meet Raine here.

"Calieb coerced me to come," Raine pointed her finger to the Gamma, who widened his eyes in surprise.

It was true that Calleb had persuaded her to come here, but the way Raine phrased her words, it sounded like Calleb had done something bad to her and threatened her to come with him.

Of course, Torak's reaction was almost predictable. The Alpha glowered at him and was about to have one on one conversation, if it was not for Raine, who hugged him tightly.

Calieb grimaced, it seemed Raine was getting back at him because he didn't listen to her earlier. She became very good, creating misunderstandings like this with her angelic face and innocent eyes.

Well, this was not the first time Raine did this to him.

"It's okay, I think it is good for me to go out. I met you here." Raine tiptoed and kissed Torak's cheeks lightly.

"Right, Raine is right." Calleb didn't waste this opportunity to find an escape way from Torak's wrath. "If I didn't bring her here, you wouldn't have met her."

"I can meet her in the castle, any time I want," Torak said it in a matter of fact tone.

"Ah... that..." Calleb stammered and looked at Raine, asking for help, but the guardian angel only laughed upon seeing his troubled expression.

"Let's sit there, it is nice that we all are here at the same time," Raine coaxed her mate and pulled him back to their table, which was now crowded with a lot of people.

They needed to join three more tables, in order to accommodate everyone comfortably.

Fortunately, no one noticed the king was here, most of the people thought Jedrek was very rare to go out of his castle. Moreover, another reason why Jedrek chose to visit this tavern was because this place often didn't have many customers and was in a secluded place. It was perfect for someone like him.

Jedrek chose to sit next to Lilac while Serefina stayed where she was sitting before. However, it put her right across Jedrek. She cursed herself for agreeing to stay in this place. She should have left when she had a chance, now it would be awkward if she left just like that.

When she thought back to that, she couldn't take it any longer and was about to stand up to excuse herself, when she felt Kace's hand on her shoulder. When she turned to face him, she saw him asking her to stay with his eyes.

Both Kace and Hope were sitting at her left and right sides while grinning foolishly at her. Serefina really wanted to punch the couple really hard for making her stay, yet she didn't want to make a scene that would embarrass her further.

Next to Hope was Raine and Torak while Raphael sat on Torak's right side with Lana.

At first, the situation was quite awkward for all of them, but soon the tense air lightened when Kace and Calleb started to bicker.

"Why did you bring my mate out?" Kace glared at Calleb, who was sitting right beside him. "And why do you sit next to me? Find another chair."

"Can someone separate them before they flip all the three tables?" Raphael looked at Delta.

The hunter shoved both hot headed lycans aside and sat between them.

"Oh, please! It is your mate idea to have a bachelorette party when she herself even didn't know what it means," Calleb complained dramatically. "She invited us to come here."

"And why did you agree?" Kace glared at Calleb, but Hope just laughed at them. "You should tell them to stay and don't go anywhere."

"We are not some prisoners," Lilac chimed in. She crossed her arms in front of her chest, as she looked at Kace defiantly. "Why can't we go out sometimes? It is very boring to stay inside the room the whole day."

"See? I like her," Calleb spoke gleefully, he raised his hand and opened his fingers. "Give me five!" he asked for Lilac to do the same and the guardian angel giggled while raising her hand as well.

However, before their hands could touch each other, Jedrek had slapped Calleb's hand first, really hard until the Gamma whimpered clutching his hand to his chest.

"You want to break my hand?!" Calleb complained while massaging his wrist. He looked at Jedrek in disbelief.

"Your Gamma is too weak, you should train him more," Jedrek spoke to Torak casually while Kace smirked.

Meanwhile, Sereфина felt her heart caving in to see how Jedrek reacted to someone who wanted to touch his mate.

And then, they spent the entire night bickering.

Chapter 788 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY

"Do you need any help?" Lilac found Keira, early in the morning, in the throne room, checking the preparations for the ceremony that would take place in the evening, right an hour before the sun set. She was a dedicated Lycan. No wonder Jedrek gave this task to her. She was very detail oriented and simply a perfectionist.

Actually, Lilac didn't know much about the ceremony, but thanks to Keira, she gave her a rundown of the entire event and let her memorize it.

Though Lilac didn't feel nervous before, but seeing that this ceremony was actually going to happen tonight, made her slightly dizzy. Especially when she witnessed the enthusiasm from all the people in the city last night and a few important figures in this realm that had come to attend this ceremony.

Now, seeing how majestic the decoration in this throne room, she felt slightly intimidated and reluctant. If she was given a choice right now, she wanted to postpone this event as long as she could.

Lilac didn't think she wanted this.

"Oh, my lady, you woke up early. Or, should I address you as my queen?" Keira asked in a respectful tone.

"Can you just call me by my name?" Lilac asked. She didn't feel comfortable to be addressed in that peculiar way.

"Of course I can't do that," Keira smiled softly, but her eyes sparkled with enthusiasm. It was easy to see that she couldn't wait for the ceremony tonight.

"I guess so," Lilac murmured. This was not her first attempt to ask Keira to call her by her name only, but the female lycan rejected it every time Lilac asked her. "What can I do to help? I woke up early and can't fall asleep again, I hope there would be something that I can do here."

Keira looked surprised, but then she smiled softly and touched Lilac's shoulder. "Thank you for your offer my queen, but you shouldn't be here."

Lilac cringed with the way Keira addressed her, but didn't bother to correct her again, she wouldn't listen. "All of you seem busy, why can't I help?"

"You will do no such thing." Jedrek walked into the throne room with a man with blonde hair, who was staring at Lilac.

She didn't like the way he looked at her.

"Why can't I?" Lilac's brows furrowed. She didn't like it when Jedrek was so adamant about her doing or not doing certain things, but she did know that once he had made up his mind it was hard to say otherwise.

"The ceremony is for you, you will not do such things." Jedrek walked closer and Lilac needed to crane her neck to maintain eye contact with him. "Bring her back to her room."

Lilac's frown deepened. She felt like Jedrek wanted to usher her away from this place.

If Jedrek didn't want her to help with the preparations, she could understand, but what was this feeling that as if Jedrek wanted to lock her away and didn't want her to roam around the castle? Or, is it just her imagination?

"What is your name, my lady?" the blonde man caught up with Jedrek and looked at Lilac with interest.

"She is your queen, not your lady," Jedrek corrected him, but Lilac sensed something in the way he talked to this strange man. "And her name is Lilac."

"It suits you well," he complemented her. "You are indeed a beauty."

"Thank you," Lilac mumbled and Jedrek didn't seem happy to hear that too.

"I will see you at the ceremony tonight," Jedrek said in a light tone, but from his eyes, Lilac could see that he didn't want her to stay any longer there.

A young servant approached her and smiled timidly. "My queen, over here please..." she said in a soft tone.

Despite understanding Jedrek's gestures, she didn't feel like she wanted to go back to her room and stay there until evening. It was still several hours left before the ceremony.

Lilac folded her arms across her chest and took a step back, she tried not to feel intimidated under Jedrek's fierce glare. However, before she could protest, Jedrek had closed the distance between them and leaned over.

Other people would think he was kissing her cheek, but actually the king was whispering something in her ear.

"If I find out you are not in your room, you will regret it," he said with some force and his tone was laced with urgency.

Lilac was still trying to understand the message behind his words, and fought her curiosity to find out more, though Jedrek didn't really treat her nicely, but he never threatened her that way.

When Lilac still didn't move, Jedrek gently pressed a kiss against her temple and her nose.

"Go back now," he said and let her go.

The young servant immediately walked toward her and grabbed her arm lightly so that she could lead the way out of the throne room.

This time Lilac obeyed his order and let the young servant drag her to leave, but she made a mental note to ask about this when she was alone with Jedrek.

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The young servant stayed inside Lilac's bedroom to make sure her future queen wouldn't sneak out and cause any more trouble.

"You can leave now," Lilac said exasperatedly. At this point, she became familiar with Jedrek's method to keep her inside her room.

Before, he used Tordoff to look after her and then Warlock and now this young servant, who seemed too timid to even make a sound.

"I am sorry my queen, but the king told me to stay here and look after you if you need something," she said in low voice, lowering her head the entire time.

Lilac didn't remember Jedrek was saying something to her, but then she realized, they must have communicated through the mind- link.

How convenience to be able to do that.

"Do you know the man from earlier?" Lilac asked her, perhaps she knew something. She wanted to find out more about this man, since she couldn't get rid of the way she felt when that blonde man looked at her.

Chapter 789 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (2)

There was something bothering her about that man, even though the man didn't do anything outrageous and the fact that they had just met for the first time, yet Lilac couldn't help but feel nervous at the very memory of his odd stare.

She didn't like that man for some unknown reason.

"Do you know who is that man?" Lilac asked the young servant again because she didn't reply to her question before.

"I am sorry my queen, but I don't have any idea regarding that man. But..." she appeared hesitating to utter her next words.

Seeing this, Lilac came closer and led the young servant to sit down with her on the beautiful red rug.

"What is your name?" Lilac asked her softly, holding her hand lightly to calm her down so she wouldn't feel jittery like this.

"A...Ayana, my queen," the young servant stammered a bit.

Lilac grimaced hearing the title that she added at the end of the sentence, but she couldn't bother with that, because she had something more urgent than to complain about some overwhelming title.

"Ayana, look at me." Lilac put her finger under her chin and raised Ayana face.

Ayana hesitated for a moment, but in the end she did what she was told.

"Ayana, what do you know about that man? Who is he?" Lilac asked her again.

"He is Lord Bayle, he is a lord from the north region," Ayana replied in a very low voice. However, Lilac heard something that caught her attention.

"And what is he? Is he a lycanthrope too?" Lilac narrowed her eyes when she saw how Ayana bit her lips nervously.

"He is the lord of fire dragon, my queen," she replied.

"Fire dragon?" Lilac looked at her with knitted brows.

Fire dragon lived in the north region of this realm, but they were creatures that didn't interact with the other creatures pretty much, especially with lycans.

Since the vow between the lycanthropes and the dragon shifters had mentioned that the dragon shifters were not allowed to shift into their beast forms, both creatures were not on good terms.

There were four kinds of dragon shifters in existence and they all lived in separation from one another. Earth dragon shifters lived in human realm, fire and water dragon shifters lived in this realm while no one knew where the air dragon shifters were.

The last time people got to see them was when they took the vow, but after that they vanished and their whereabouts became a mystery ever since. Some people said they had been extinct because very few of them were able to survive the war. And, some said they were living in the other realm.

However, no one knew for sure. Their prolonged absence, thus, created a mystery on their very own existence.

That was all Lilac knew about the dragon shifters.

But, to have the lord of fire dragon shifters here, does it mean that the lord of water dragon shifters will also attend this ceremony?

It was a pity that they were not allowed to shift into their beast form, Lilac really wanted to see a real dragon in its majestic appearance.

"Does he often visit here?" Lilac asked again.

"No, my queen." Ayana shook her head. "I don't know him until I learned about the guest's names. Mrs. Keira told us to memorize the details of all the important guests."

"Oh." Lilac pulled her hand away from Ayana's chin and contemplated about the new found information. However, it didn't answer the uneasiness she felt when she met with the dragon shifter.

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Raine had two girls, who helped her to wear her white gown for the ceremony that would be held two hours from now.

They were already done with her hair, they chose to tie it up neatly on top of her head into a bun as if displaying her neckline, where Torak's mark would be visible for everyone to see.

When Raine felt embarrassed to showcase her mark by wearing a revealing outfit, they said this was necessary for the mated couple to show their mark in this occasion, to prevent other creatures from messing with them and have ideas they are not supposed to have.

Raine didn't know what Hope and Lilac's gown would look like, but she loved hers. Aside from the fact it was too open for her taste, she liked how the fabric hugged her body perfectly.

Raine felt beautiful in this white gown and wondered what would be Torak's reaction when he saw her in this.

One of the servants helped her put her earrings while the other was helping her to tie the belt behind her back, when they heard a low, deep voice from the door, prompting the two of them to step back. They did so while lowering their head.

"Let me help you," Torak said, as he strode across the room. His eyes were locked onto his mate's beautiful reflection in the mirror in front of her. "All of you can leave," he said as he reached for Raine's belt.

Torak was wearing the same white color as her. She thought, it would be weird for man to wear such a color, but somehow, Torak managed to pull it through and the color suited him well too.

Torak once said, white was the color for royal family in this realm, thus no one was allowed to wear this color during the ceremony except them. Therefore, for today, there would be only six people who would wear white color in the entire city.

Raine stared at Torak's reflection on the mirror, her mate looked lean and clean, but the most important part that she couldn't ignore was his strong presence and his dominating aura surrounding him. However, for Raine, it felt comfortable and protective.

"The words beautiful or gorgeous couldn't even describe you now, my love," Torak whispered in her ear and leaned over to kiss her on the mark.

The spark that erupted between them made her shudder in delight, as she smiled bashfully.

Torak pulled out a necklace with white diamond as the pendant and it was shining brightly under the final rays of the setting sun.

"It is so beautiful," Raine watched lovingly as Torak clasped the necklace around her slender neck.

"But, not as beautiful as you," Torak said in soft voice and smiled handsomely when he saw Raine bit her lips to prevent herself from smiling.

"This ceremony is beautiful," Raine said.

"Do you also want one, like this for us?" Torak asked.

Chapter 790 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (3)

"Wow! My man is the best!" Hope squealed in delight at the sight of Kace's appearance in his white clothes, yet his mate's cheerful compliment didn't chase away the grumpiness from his face.

The lycan looked sullen and was seen pulling the sleeves or the collar of his clothes a few times in less than a minute. He didn't even wear his cloak.

"Stop it," Kace said gloomily. "I don't like this." he threw the white cloak that he held in his left arm on to the sofa and to Hope's horror, she saw him lay on top of it recklessly.

"Hey! You will wrinkle the cloak beyond recognition!" Hope swatted Kace's chest and pushed him away to save his cloak.

With a groan followed by a deep grunt, Kace moved his heavy body and let Hope to have the cloak. The girl then glared at him viciously and completely disagreed with the way Kace was behaving right now.

"What's the problem with you?" Hope sat down next to him and Kace rested his head on her thigh. Her slender fingers ran through his nest like hairs and smoothed them.

"I don't like the ceremony," he said sullenly.

"But, I like it," Hope said in a light tone and looked at him innocently. "Don't ruin my happy mood," she warned him in a threatening tone.

"The only thing that I like about this ceremony is to see you in this beautiful dress." Kace touched the long sleeves of Hope's gown and smiled cheekily at her. "I will choose to stay here and look at you the entire night rather than attend the ceremony and sit there like some statue. "

Kace would have to sit next to Jedrek in the throne room during the ceremony where Lilac would be crowned as the queen.

"Behave," Hope said sharply while flicking Kace's forehead.

"Agh!" Kace touched the place where Hope hit him and whined. "Why did you hit me?"

"Stop being like a baby," Hope hit his shoulder instead this time. She knew that Kace was only exaggerating his reaction, there was no way he would be in pain. "You are a crybaby."

Kace put down his hands and looked at Hope sulkily. "Can we skip this ceremony and go somewhere else? I don't want to sit there." He had been complaining about this from the very moment he knew that he would have to sit next to Jedrek, in front of many people.

"This is your brother's ceremony, why do you even want to skip it?" Hope frowned at him, her brows knitted together. Sometimes, she couldn't even understand Kace's reasoning. He was simply being childish and unreasonable.

He seemed to avoid all the situations that required him to take the command and give other people some kind of order.

"I don't feel like it," Kace murmured, but his mind was elsewhere. There was someone else in his mind at the moment. "But, it's okay, I will come if you really want to attend the ceremony."

Hope sighed, actually there was something that bothered her. "What will happen after the ceremony?" she asked.

"Jedrek and Lilac will mark and mate," Kace said.

And that was the thing what was worrying her the most. Someone would definitely be hurt, knowing what had happened.

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Lilac paced around her room nervously. From the opened door of the balcony, she could hear the crowd and also their footsteps which seemed all over the place in this castle. It seemed that they had invited a lot of people to enter the castle.

She was even more anxious because Jedrek didn't allow her to go and see the final preparation, neither had he come to see her after he chased her away when they met in the throne room.

"That heartless and stupid jerk!" Lilac cursed under her breath which startled Ayana and the other three young servants that helped her to be ready for her ceremony. "Sorry," she murmured.

"My queen, don't crumple your dress it will be wrinkled," the servant named Sora put her hand on top of Lilac's to stop her from clutching her own gown.

"Can you tell me the rundown of the ceremony again? I am afraid I will forget what I should do next," Lilac tapped her feet anxiously while they fixed her hair.

"You don't have to memorize it, Keira will be there to help you," Sora said, but she did tell Lilac again what she should remember.

Lilac just had this sudden urge to hear someone talk to her to calm her nerves. She had asked for Hope and Raine to come to her room, but the two of them were in the same situation as her. As the mates of the Donovans, they should present themselves well, because their presence would be as important as hers.

Lilac really needed someone to talk to, only now did she realize that she had very few friends.

"Do you know where is Jedrek?" Lilac asked the other servant about their king's whereabouts.

"Ah, please wait for a moment, my queen." Ayana immediately mind-linked the guards around the castle to ask about their king.

It didn't take her a long time before she got the information about where Jedrek was.

"The king is in the main hall, entertaining the guests with the other generals," Ayana reported to her and resumed checking Lilac's dress.

Lilac huffed in annoyance. Why should she be the one who was trapped inside the room while Jedrek was free to go wherever he wanted?

This was unfair.

Lilac knew that Jedrek was in control of everything, but that didn't mean Lilac enjoyed being controlled.

With one final huff of annoyance, Lilac let the four servants to serve her and put everything that they wanted on her dress, body or hair, without a single complaint.

However, the final touch of them left Lilac speechless. She was beyond surprised to see her own reflection on the mirror. The woman in front of her looked stunning. And Lilac couldn't even believe that she could look that beautiful. This left her wondering what would be Jedrek's reaction when he saw her.

"You look very beautiful my queen..." Ayana and the four servants took two steps back to see the perfection of their future queen and Luna.

"I hope I won't ruin the ceremony," Lilac said.