

TLOA Lycan 791

Chapter 791 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (4)

Keira was walking beside Lilac in a slow and orderly pace, lightly holding her elbow, so the guardian angel wouldn't trip over her own long white gown. Slightly behind her, was Ayana, wearing a gray dress, the same color like what Keira and the other servant girls' wearing. It was just like a uniform for them.

Keira handed Lilac a beautiful white stick with a white ribbon around it, which was of only an arm's length and was slim enough for Lilac to carry it with one hand, while her other hand was holding a goblet of red liquid, which she thought was blood at first glance, but Keira calmed her down by saying it was just red wine.

All the guards along the hallway and all the guests behind them, were staring at Lilac intensely. Very intense, that it almost made her hard to breathe.

Lilac had never been in a situation where she had become the subject of public attention, that was too in such a high profile. And, she was internally struggling, since she didn't know what kind of expression she should show to them.

Should she smile to them? Or, just ignore them, as if she didn't see anything? Or, should she wave at them? Lilac didn't think she could do the last option, as her hands were full of many things.

In the end, she chose to press her lips, which she hoped that it would look like she was smiling rather than maintain a blank expression like someone who was really nervous.

At this point, Lilac thought how desperately she wished that Jedrek would see her before the ceremony and had talked to her to help calm her havoc wrecking-nerves.

The guardian angel was really terrified just at the thought of messing up and ruining the tranquil atmosphere with her ignorance. The atmosphere had the most settling reverent air to it.

Lilac couldn't help, but marvel at how serene the ceremony was taking place.

Right now, the only thing that she could hear was her clumsy footsteps and the rustling from her white silken robe, as the train of it was ridiculously long and was now dragged along the floor. The robe that she was wearing, have long trumpet sleeves and it almost resembled a wedding dress.

A head piece adorned with moonstone and shimmering gems was placed atop her head. The crushing weight of it was constantly reminding her of her calling and her duty as the queen of this realm. The lycanthropes realm.

"Breathe, my queen," Keira whispered softly when she saw how nervous Lilac was.

Lilac followed her advice and took a deep breath, blinked her eyes to train her focus undividedly on to the long path ahead of her, which seemed as if it would never end.

If she knew beforehand that she needed to face something like this, then Lilac would have refused the very idea of the mating ceremony when Jedrek suggested it for the first time.

The actual feeling of being the center of attention was way too intense and this was beyond any wild imagination of hers.

The walk specifically required her to raise her chin with a straightened back, but now, the only thing that Lilac wanted was to shy away from these intense stares and hid herself in a secluded place. She wanted to be anywhere but here.

Lilac took a shaky breath when Keira asked her softly before they stepped into the throne room.

"Are you ready?" Keira looked at Lilac, smiling brightly.

Ready? Ready for what? Lilac felt her mind stop working.

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Serefina was sitting on the river side, dipped her fingers inside the cold water while writing something on the surface of it mindlessly.

She didn't know why she ended up on this side of the city, sitting alone like a complete fool, avoiding the crowd because there was nothing that they talked about except the ceremony today.

Above her, the moon shone brightly, which irritated Serefina even further. She felt like the moon goddess was mocking her.

No. She felt like everything that she saw was mocking her; the people, who were happily attending the mating ceremony and talking about their future queen. The breeze of night that grazed her skin coldly. The calm of the river, which didn't suit her internal struggle at all.

Serefina despised all the things that she saw right now, even herself for feeling this way.

"Do you want to take my offer now? I think you need my help."

A soft voice sounded from behind Serefina, but she didn't need to turn around to know who was talking to her.

Who else would come to offer their help at a time like this?

"Go away while I am still being nice," Serefina murmured, but she was sure Asmodeus could hear her perfectly. She didn't want to waste her breath on talking to the devil anyway.

"I think you are being too nice now," Asmodeus walked closer toward the witch, but she was cautious enough to fend off Serefina's attack if the witch decided to strike her. "If I were you, I will turn the ceremony into a funeral."

Serefina sighed irritably. It seemed there was nothing good that would happen to her today. Meeting Asmodeus was the last thing she wanted.

Slowly, Serefina raised her head to meet with the devil's gaze.

"Unfortunately, I am not you." Serefina blinked her eyes and smirked mockingly. "I should feel grateful to know that," she spoke lightly.

"You are grateful when the love of your life being with someone else after what you had been through?" Asmodeus flashed the witch a pity smile, which stirred Serefina's anger. "I think you are not a witch. You are a saint." Asmodeus chuckled when she saw how Serefina balled her fists and stood up.

The witch walked closer to the devil with an expression that was devoid of any emotion.

However, in the next second, the place where Asmodeus standing, was exploded. The sound of it echoed through the forest and sent all the night creatures running away, looking for a safe haven to hide, while the birds that perched on the branches, flew away.

A big crater appeared in the place where Asmodeus was standing a minute ago. However, the devil couldn't be seen anywhere.

She was gone.

Yet, Serefina's ears perked up when she heard an eerie whisper, just like a passing wind.

"Just one drop of her blood and I will make Jedrek yours."

Chapter 792 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (5)

For the ceremony, the entire floor of the throne room had been turned into a very large but shallow pool, which was filled with cool water.

The pool was shallow enough so that the water couldn't even reach their ankles when stepped into it. And, all the guests arrived were barefoot as they discarded their footwear outside in respect to the ceremony.

Because it was a sacred ceremony, and only the most important people were invited. Unauthorized people were prohibited from entering the occasion.

The atmosphere was full of serenity and majestic tranquility.

Raine was holding Torak's hand, trying not to trip over her own gown while Torak helped her to step up the three royal stairs toward their designated seats, right next to the thrones of the king and queen. The place was clean of water, thus at the very least, Raine wouldn't have to wet the edge of her gown, unlike the other guests below the throne.

All the guests were wearing grey cloak on top of their colorful clothes or gown and with their solemn expressions as they awaited their future queen to make an appearance, it only brought out more serenity to the sacred ceremony. The room was filled with a harmonious silence.

However, when Raine and Torak reached their seats, she realized that something was off. She took a quick glance around the room only to find that Kace and Hope were nowhere to be seen.

[Where are Kace and Hope?] Raine mind-linked Torak, because it was inconvenient for them to make a sound in this quiet room.

[They will not attend the ceremony.] Torak replied to her and helped Raine to sit down on her seat, which was made from the skin of a white alabaster.

[Why?] Raine looked at her mate in confusion. [Why will they not attend the ceremony? Where are they?]

Raine remembered how Hope was very excited about this event. To say the truth, she was even more enthusiastic compared to Lilac and of course Raine didn't really like to be in this crowded place. Fortunately, those people's attention was not on her.

[They went to find her.] Torak replied while squeezing her hand to calm her down.

[Who?] but, even before the question was fully formed in her mind, Raine could immediately guess who they were searching for.

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"Why don't you change your gown?" Kace complained when he saw that Hope was lifting her dress, careful as to not step on it while running.

"I like this dress!" Hope glared at him and Kace could only sigh and slow down his very own pace to match hers. "We are not attending the ceremony, at the very least let me enjoy wearing this."

Upon hearing that, Kace grumbled something incoherently.

This was not his idea. It was right that he suggested it, but in the end, it was Hope who decided not to attend the ceremony because she was very worried about Serefina.

However, why couldn't she change her gown into something more comfortable? It wasn't like Serefina would roam around the castle to make it easy for them to catch her, because ever since two days ago, when the actual preparations were started, she had disappeared from there.

The witch hated flowers and now the whole castle was covered with them. Of course she wouldn't be there, it would be like the whole set of decorations were collectively testing her patience.

Yet, they knew the true reason why Serefina had disappeared and for that very reason, Hope wanted to look for her.

"You know, we can go back to the castle if you really want to see the ceremony," Kace said as his frown deepened at the sight of her endless struggling with the whole outfit. Hope was having a very hard time handling her own gown.

In the end, he crouched down and tore it until her ankle to ease her movement.

"Arrghh!!" Hope shrieked and hit Kace's shoulder. "What are you doing!? You ruined my dress!"

Kace stood up and threw aside the remaining fabric that he had torn apart. "Don't be silly!" he knocked Hope's head lightly. "If you want to attend the party, we will go. But, if you want to look after Serefina, you can't wear this," Kace said sternly. Sometimes, Hope was so childish making it hard to understand her line of thought.

"Don't be angry," Hope whined. She threw herself onto him and hugged her mate tightly.

And the most important thing was; she knew how to appease his anger whenever he got angry at her silly actions.

From afar, they could hear the sounds of bells from all the four towers in the four directions. The first sound indicated that the queen was walking towards the throne room to meet her mate.

"All right," Kace patted her head and Hope grinned foolishly. They started to run again in search of Serefina after the small debacle.

"Are you sure, it is this way?" Hope looked around when they reached a place where they could see nothing but a large number of tall trees.

"Hm, I can smell her scent stronger here, " Kace said and heard Hope murmuring something like; 'it is easier this way.'

However, right at that moment, they could hear a fairly loud explosion.

"What is that?" Hope frowned. The sound came from the direction where Serefina's scent could be smelled and it could only mean one thing; the witch was the cause of the sound of the explosion.

"I don't know, but it definitely didn't seem anything good," Kace said in annoyance. Did Serefina try to burn down the entire forest? "Let's go." Kace grabbed Hope's hand and quickened their pace.

Kace didn't need to voice out what was inside his mind, because Hope had the same thoughts as him.

Indeed, Serefina was not the kindest creature Hope had ever met, but she saw the witch as someone closer to a mother figure for her, as she didn't know her family.

Kace cringed when Hope told him her reason, he said Hope gave him goosebumps because she could think of Serefina as a mother figure, the witch was miles away from that figure.

Moreover, it was Serefina and Lana, who had been taking care of her ever since she was only a baby, when Kace had to run away from Jedrek's people, who wanted to catch him.

However, both of them had the same concern for her. Lana also would be here to look for Serefina if it was not because she was too weak to look for her.

The night before the wedding, when they gathered together in the tavern, had tired her out and forced her to get a proper rest.

Therefore, knowing what Serefina was going through now, made both of them very worried.

Chapter 793 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (6)

Lana opened her eyes feeling groggy when she heard the loud sound of a gong. She looked around her and found Raphael who was sitting beside her, on the sofa that he had pulled near her bed.

From the dark sky out there, Lana realized that she had been sleeping throughout the entire day.

"Raph," Lana's voice was raspy when she called out for him. Raphael, who was reading a book, immediately put it down and moved closer to his mate.

"Hey, you are awake," Raphael spoke softly while caressing her pale face.

"I have slept for so long," Lana said. She cleared her dry throat and Raphael immediately poured some water in a glass and gave it to Lana as he helped her to sit down, so she wouldn't choke while sipping the water.

"Yes, you slept very long. I miss you already," Raphael said in a whining tone, but his expression said otherwise like he was someone who was very relieved. As if, all of his troubles had disappeared just at the sight of his mate opening her eyes.

Lana attempted to roll her eyes, but she ended up closing them while she drank the water. Raphael let her head rest on his shoulder, as he carefully held the glass to her lips.

"You missed the ceremony," Lana said after drinking the water when it finally registered in her now awake mind, what exactly the gong sound from before represented. In the throne room, the ceremony must have started already.

"I don't even care about the ceremony," Raphael replied truthfully. There was something more important for him and it was to take care of his mate.

"How about your Alpha?" Lana asked. "Didn't he want you to attend it?"

"Torak knew better where I am supposed to be. I will not leave you alone here even if he himself asked me to do so." But, fortunately for him, Torak was considerate enough not to ask Raphael to do so, since he knew very well how unsettled one would feel when their other half was not in a good condition.

Well, Torak had gone half insane when Raine was sick back then before Sereфина came to help them.

"Moreover, Calleb is with him. He will not need me there," Raphael put down the glass and tucked a loose strand of hair behind her ear.

The Beta didn't know how to put it into words, but he know one thing for sure that he would never get tired by looking at his mate. He could do this all his life and would still feel that one life was not enough to look at her lovely face. Now he understood how Torak felt about Raine.

Raphael couldn't even imagine if something bad happened to Lana. He couldn't even remember how he had live his life before he met her. Everything seemed dull in comparison to what he had now.

With Lana by his side, he felt like he owned everything that he needed in his life. How even a little thing looked so perfect in his eyes.

Adding to that fact...

"Do you know about it?" Raphael asked Lana when he helped her to lay back on her bed.

"Know what?" Lana blinked her eyes. She stared at the perfect man beside her. How grateful she was?to meet him.

Raphael had been really good to her, he did nothing but to make her happy. Even Lana could feel it; she smiled more often whenever she was with him.

Despite they just met with each other not too long, the connection between them was something that couldn't be described in words. Lana felt like she had known him for her entire life and could easily say that he was too feeling likewise.

Now, when she thought about her crush toward Kace, she would find it very silly. Lana's feelings for Raphael now, were miles apart from what she used to feel for Kace.

"You don't know this?" Raphael moved his hand to her still flat stomach and grinned foolishly. His green eyes flashed with pure happiness. "You are pregnant," he said in a very low voice that sounded like a whisper.

Raphael just realized it in the afternoon when he felt something different with Lana's scent. Her scent became ripe and sweeter.

And when he confirmed with the healer, she congratulated him.

However, because Lana was still fast asleep, Raphael didn't know how to react to that news, moreover, no one was there for him to share his happiness.

Even at that moment he missed his mischievous Gamma and wanted him to be there so bad.

"Yes, I know..." Lana said timidly, she placed her hand on top of Raphael's on her stomach and looked at her mate affectionately. "Sereфина told me when I visited her last time. But, because I still couldn't feel anything, I didn't tell you."

Raphael bent down to give her a lingering forehead kiss which lasted for a few seconds before he stared right into her deep eyes dotingly. "You should have told me."

And now, Raphael realized that the attack almost cost, not only his mate's life but also their unborn child.

"I am sorry," Lana raised her arms and hugged Raphael's neck. "I just couldn't believe....."

Raphael hugged her back and kissed his mark on Lana's neck. He loved this woman with everything he had.

And at that very moment, Lana whispered to him.

"I love you."

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"This way," Keira said as she led Lilac into the throne room.

Lilac stepped through the door, into the room and her barefoot were greeted by the cold water on the floor.

She had been told about this, but was still surprised when she watched the large shallow pool of water before her. The water was not too deep, but it would wet the long train of her gown that she wore. However, that was the essence of it.

The water was the symbol for a new life, which represents the new journey that the king and the queen would go through together, starting this very moment. The ceremony that would bind, not only their soul and body, but the whole people, together.

They meant to rule alongside each other.

The water covered the entire floor of the room and she realized all the people present were barefoot as well.

Lilac took a deep breath when she walked through the water and Jedrek did the same.

When Jedrek's eyes met Lilac's, his cool collected expression didn't change, but his eyes seemed to glow with affection as he walked closer.

Chapter 794 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (7)

"Serefina," Kace called her name when he spotted the red haired witch, standing absentmindedly on the river bank, staring with an unfaltering dull gaze at the crater that she had created a few moments ago.

Kace and Hope ran toward the witch. However, it seemed she didn't even realize that they were coming toward her.

"Serefina, are you okay?" Hope touched her sleeves cautiously. In her whole nineteen years of this life, she had never seen Serefina like this. She was akin to someone who lost their soul. She stood there as if a lifeless doll which made the hearts of people looking at her tremble with agony.

As of that moment, the four bells rang through the entire city, indicating that the queen had entered the throne room to unite with the king.

"It's really over... it's really over now..." Serefina mumbled repeatedly in a devastating yet trembling tone.

"Go on," Keira slightly pushed her waist, so that Lilac could take another step forward to meet Jedrek. This slight push broke the spell between them. "Go to the king," she whispered again in an encouraging tone.

Lilac unconsciously moved her hand in an attempt to clutch the fabric as if she wanted to lift her dress, in order to save the gorgeous material from getting wet, but Keira stopped her hand. Lilac seemed to forget that both of her hands were busy, holding something in all her nervousness.

"Let the dress drag in the water. It's a symbolic which indicates unity and acceptance," Keira said prompting Lilac to let go of the soft fabric. Lilac abandoned the thought of saving her dress from getting wet and took a deep breath to calm herself down.

Lilac ever so slowly stepped into the pool of water with her heart hammering in her ribcage. Immediately, she felt several gazes piercing into her. And, as soon as she stepped in, the soft white material soaked into the cold water, restraining Lilac's movements and slowing her pace even more.

Lilac was completely unnerved, as a constant thought that all the people present were watching her every move, kept resurfacing in her mind. She took one more deep breath to calm her racing heartbeat and continued to take one small step after one toward Jedrek, who was staring at her through her entire walk.

Jedrek outstretched his hand toward Lilac, as soon she reached an arm's distance from him and a reverent silence fell upon the already quiet room.

They watched their king and queen solemnly when they joined in the middle of the room in Lilac's way to go to the throne.

Lilac felt her heart skip a noticeable bit when she watched Jedrek's outstretched hand in front of her without blinking her eyes. When keira noticed that their queen was stunned silly in front of her very own mate, she nudged Lilac forcing her to realize what was going on here.

Lilac threw a grateful glance at keira and pushed the goblet of red wine in her left hand into keira's hands. Afterward, Lilac turned around to face Jedrek and accepted his hand. And, together they walked toward their thrones.

The moment their fingers intertwined, Lilac let out a silent breath of relief and became more relaxed when she finally felt that she wouldn't be alone.

Jedrek's hold was steady and it gave Lilac a calming sense of courage.

However, Jedrek didn't led her all the way to the royal seat, they stopped right below the steps and he turned around so that they could stand face to face.

Meanwhile, Torak stepped down from the steps along with Eaton and Sebastian. The three of them made a circle around the king and queen.

Torak glanced at his mate over his shoulder when he turned around and faced the couple. He took both of their hands and with a white ribbon that he was holding, he tied them; left hand of Lilac to Jedrek's right hand.

"Lilac, do you promise to be just and put the needs of your people before your own?" Torak asked, looking at the sweet guardian angel that soon to be the queen of this realm, just like how Diana had been.

"Yes," Lilac replied in a soft voice. In this quiet room, the sound of it was very clear and pure.

Jedrek noticed that Lilac was beyond nervous when her fingers dug deep into the skin of his hand-back. She was terrified of making a complete fool of herself and ruining the tranquility of the sacred ceremony.

"Lilac, do you promise to devote yourself to your mate and to the moon goddess until your final day in this realm?" Torak questioned her again.

This was the line that Torak had to ask and the duty that he had as Jedrek's brother. If Kace was here, he should have been the four person, who witnessed this union together with Eaton and Sebastian, yet he had chose to be somewhere else.

However, it seemed both Jedrek and Torak knew where he was.

"Lilac do you promise to devote yourself to your mate and to the moon goddess until your final day in this realm?"

"Yes," Lilac replied. Her black eyes stared straight into the blue eyes of her mate in front of her and it seemed that she didn't have any intention to avert them and likewise.

The spark that Jedrek felt between them when he touched her skin was one of many things that he cherished of being with his mate.

But, that feeling even couldn't be compared when every time Lilac said 'yes' in her angelic voice to every Torak's question.

His heart trembled just from hearing her acceptance.

He didn't know when he started to feel this way toward Lilac. Was it through the one year that he had put her into a deep sleep? Or, was it when she fiercely voiced out her thoughts whenever she felt Jedrek made a wrong decision?

Or, was it when Lilac said he could choose Sereфина over her with sincerity in her voice, though Jedrek had killed her in the past. That was the most outrageous decision that he had ever made, out of countless brutal actions that he had done.

He was thrilled with the very fact that their fate was sealed together for the eternity, that the graceful, kind and strong hearted woman before his eyes would be his.

"Lilac, do you accept this role along with the blessing to become queen and to be sealed to your mate for eternity?"

This time Lilac didn't answer Torak immediately, she stared at Jedrek and this made the latter worry.

To be sealed as his mate and the queen in this realm... yet, at this moment Jedrek remembered all the things that he had done to her.

Everything flashed before his eyes and he questioned himself; did he deserve to get her devotion and love?

As silly as it sounded, Jedrek didn't want her to reject him.

Not at a time like this, when he realized his feelings for her. Perhaps, it was because of the tranquility that surrounded them, or maybe it was only his genuine feelings for her, but at this particular moment of time, all he wanted was to make Lilac as his.

But, the guardian angel didn't say a word until a beautiful and pure smile bloomed on her cherry lips.

"Yes," she emphasized her words, chased away Jedrek's fear of losing her when all he needed now was her.

Chapter 795 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (8)

"It's really over... it's really over now..." Serefina mumbled repeatedly in a devastating yet trembling tone. She raised her head and looked at Kace deeply. A sorrowful tear fell on her cheek when she bit her lips in order to keep her emotions from resurfacing, yet she failed miserably.

Her breathing became uneven when Serefina tried to understand that the only thing what she ever wanted, but she knew she would lose it eventually. This was the price that she needed to pay for being alive once again.

Now, when she finally came to think of this once again, she didn't know whether it was the right decision that she made back then with Selene, the moon goddess. If it was even worthy?

The pain was almost unbearable for Serefina to bear and her knees went weak as she fell to the ground with a raging heart.

Everything seemed dull in her eyes and nothing was important now. The knowledge of losing someone, who was so dear to her heart, didn't cease her pain at all.

Her ears were ringing with the third sound of the bells from the towers. This bell indicated that the king and queen had sealed their fate together for the eternity. Jedrek and Lilac had united as the rulers for this realm.

Didn't that mean that one of the tasks had been completed? But, why didn't Serefina feel that she had accomplished something important?

Back then, the only thing that she wanted was to see Jedrek again, but now her greedy heart wanted more.

Serefina clutched her aching chest and gritted her teeth. It almost felt like someone stabbed her right through her heart but she couldn't even bleed. She couldn't cure this kind of wound neither could she think that she could heal from it ever.

"Serefina, are you okay?" Hope asked in concern. She looked at Kace and asked him what they should do? Serefina had never been like this before. No matter how hard the situation that she had to face, she would raise her head arrogantly and throw one or two sarcastic words while keep going.

Knowing Serefina for years and seeing her in this state now, it was like the witch had turned into completely someone else.

"Serefina..." Hope called her name urgently when she watched the witch dug her nails into the solid ground and hurt herself. "Stop it..." she didn't realize it when her own tears started falling on her cheeks to witness the strongest woman that she had ever known crumbled because of her own uncontrollable sorrow.

"Serefina stop." Kace said sternly. He reached out to her, but the witch struggled from his grasp, didn't want to be touched.

"Leave me alone." Serefina expended the remaining of her strength to muster those words. She felt weak, but filled with anger at the same time.

"No." Kace pulled Hope to his back, as he knew what would come next.

"I said. Leave. Me. Alone." Serefina emphasized every word and glared viciously at Kace when the lycan didn't do what she told him.

Serefina hated the fact that some part of his face resembled Jedrek. Especially those blue eyes. The three Donovan shared the same blue ocean eyes, but Jedrek's slightly darker. Serefina remembered that tiny detail of him.

"Step back," Kace told Hope in low voice and she nodded before moving away from the two of them. Things wouldn't be pretty if Serefina's current mood got worse and more so with Kace's stubbornness.

No matter what Serefina said, they wouldn't leave her alone in her current state.

"Serefina, you know this will happen..." Kace tried to talk to her, but she shook her head vigorously, kept pulling and twisting a few strands of her red hair.

"I know. I know. I know!" she shouted in the end. "So, why? I don't even have the right to feel this way!?"

"Come here." Kace moved closer and stretched out his arms, but Serefina pushed his chest away.

"Don't come near me or I will burn you alive!" Serefina screamed, she looked as if she went crazy and a mad woman would be in a better state than her.

Yet, Kace didn't heed to her warnings and hugged her instead, despite of her attempts to free herself.

The front of Kace's shirt burned because of the heat Serefina had released while scalding his skin in the process. He groaned in pain, but didn't let her go.

"Kace!" Hope was terrified when she watched this, but Kace warned her to not come any closer.

"No! Stay there!" he said between his gritted teeth. "D*mn it! Serefina! Stop it!"

"LET. ME. GO!" Serefina screamed on top of her lungs. She hated this painful feeling and what more was the fact she couldn't let it go.

"Serefina stop!" Hope shrieked when a blue flame circled around the two of them and Serefina's screaming was the only thing that she could hear.

The flame was burning brightly until Hope couldn't see the two of them. She was panic stricken when she couldn't even stand within two steps from it.

What happened? Did Serefina burn them alive? Did she kill Kace? What exactly had happened?

Hope's body was trembling in fear and her mind froze with the thought of the worst possible thing that could happen to the two of them.

"Kace! Serefina!" Hope shouted to the blue fire, but the only reply that she got was the screams of Serefina. At least she knew that the witch was still alive. However, how about Kace? "Stop it please..." Hope sobbed and fell to the ground when her knees went weak to support her body.

It felt like forever when finally Serefina stopped screaming and the blue flames snuffed out, leaving another crater.

And then, Hope could see Kace, who was still hugging Serefina's body. White smoke appeared from both of them and their clothes were torn and burned in some parts, yet the sound of a soft grunt from Kace told her that he was still alive.

And like that, Serefina cried her heart out in Kace's embrace. The sorrowful cries pierced into Hope's heart, as if she could feel her pain and this made her crying for what the witch was going through.

Chapter 796 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (9)

Jedrek looked at Lilac, eyes filled with pure affection. He felt his racing heart skip a bit once he heard her last vow. With a single word which meant she accepted him while smiling beautifully at him, she could relieve him from all of his worries.

"Jedrek, do you promise to always cherish and protect your mate?" Torak had shifted his attention toward his brother now.

Jedrek looked directly into her eyes and remembered how he had killed her before. "Yes," he said in solemn voice as he regretted his previous actions. He would protect her from now onward.

"Jedrek, do you promise to stay by your mate's side all the same, through the times of both light and darkness?" Torak asked his brother again.

Jedrek had put her in the dark and tried to chase her away from his life, but Lilac always found a way to him again.

"Yes," Jedrek replied.

His blue eyes bore into Lilac's. He silently promised to himself that he would give her everything. Everything he ever had, he would offer it to her.

Torak then nodded to Sebastian and Eaton as the two of them crouched down to scoop some water into their cupped hands before they splashed it on Jedrek's and Lilac's shoulder, which wetted their clothes and dress.

Lilac shuddered lightly when the cold water cascaded down from her shoulder to her spine.

Afterward Jedrek stretched out his hand and pulled Lilac closer to him, he raised their entwined hands and turned around to face their people.

"Long live the king!" Torak's voice boomed inside the throne room.

"Long live the king!" the mass of people repeated.

"Long live the queen!" Torak spoke even louder.

"Long live the queen!" the people followed after him.

Jedrek kept Lilac closer to him until the echo of the audience faded. However, this was not over yet. The next thing that was going to happen was what had been worrying Lilac the most.

After the echo of the people hailing their names died down, Jedrek turned around to face Lilac and ever so gently cupped her face between his big palms and lowered his head to kiss her lips.

His broad back, slightly covered Lilac's face while she closed her eyes and relished their kiss. The kiss didn't last for long time, but it took Lilac's breath away.

Jedrek finally gave her a peck in the end of their kiss before pulling backward and smiled softly at her. Lilac had never seen him looking at her this way before.

Did he truly love her now?

Jedrek brushed his thumb against Lilac's lips, he looked at her deeply when she bit her bottom lip nervously.

Afterward Sebastian and Eaton stepped forward and untied the white ribbon. They took Jedrek away from Lilac, creating a distance between them and Lilac didn't like it when she lost the warmth of her mate.

This was the only part of the long ceremony that Lilac couldn't understand why they have to follow this kind of cruel tradition?

Sebastian and Eaton brought Jedrek a few meter away from Lilac and practically ripped off Jedrek's shirt, leaving his molded torso exposed.

Lilac found herself unwilling to rip her eyes away from Jedrek's perfect body. His body was rippling with muscles, though he didn't look like a muscular man, she could clearly see that he was absolutely a man in good shape. If Lilac was not too nervous or for the fact that she knew what would happen next, she would have drooled over those juicy abs. That was truly a s.e.xy sight to behold.

However, this was not the right time for all of that. With her meager knowledge, she couldn't even appreciate the sight before her eyes without being worried.

Another three men came into the throne room, through the door where Lilac walked in. They brought a round plate made of metal which carried a white sizzling metal rod on top of the burning coals, from which white smoke could be seen floating into the air, indicating how hot it was.

Lilac fidgeted when the three men walked closer and finally stopped in front of Torak, who was standing next to Lilac. They put down the round metal and then they walked away to the other side of the room.

Torak moved forward to take the white hot metal rod and walked toward Jedrek.

On the royal seat, Raine stood up and looked at the scene unfolding before her. Unlike Lilac, who had been told about the rundown of the event, Raine was completely clueless about what Torak was about to do until his voice, once again boomed in the throne room.

"In the name of the moon goddess!" Torak shouted as he pressed the rod onto Jedrek's left shoulder.

Upon seeing that, Raine covered her eyes and yelped. She didn't know what she was going to do, but she wanted to stop Torak from doing that.

Her mate now was lifting the rod and rotated it. She saw him pressing it again against Jedrek's left shoulder.

"Jedrek Donovan!" Torak shouted loudly and the people inside the room repeated after him.

Raine was about to move forward when Calleb held her elbow and kept her in place. He whispered to her urgently.

"Raine, you can't do this," Calleb loosened his grip because he didn't want to hurt her.

"Call, Torak is torturing his brother," Raine protested in low voice, her eyes locked onto Torak's figure, who once again lifted the rod and pressed it again against the same spot on Jedrek's left shoulder.

"Lilac Donovan!" Torak's voice echoed throughout the room along with the other people's voice.

"No, Raine." Calleb shook his head. "This is their tradition."

Raine turned around and looked at Calleb sternly. "This is a torture," she hissed and grimaced when she watched Lilac's worried expression. It seemed the other guardian angel was aware about this, thus Raine relented.

On the other hand, Lilac wanted to avert her eyes when she watched how the hot rod marred Jedrek's shoulders. Her fear escalated when she realized that the rod was actually made of silver. It wasn't metal, but silver! How he could do that?!

When the rod stroke his shoulder for the fourth time while Torak shouted something that Lilac couldn't comprehend, she lifted her eyes and her gaze met with Jedrek's. His blue eyes stared intently at her.

Lilac could see how Jedrek's muscles tightened and contracted violently against the silver, but his steely gaze didn't falter from her face.

She really wanted to rush over and scream at the top of her lungs at Torak to stop this!

Chapter 797 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (10)

Yet, Lilac just stood there, unable to move an inch. She squeezed her own dress until it wrinkled.

'He is doing that for you, my queen,' that was what Keira had told her when she let her know about the rundown of the mating ceremony.

'I don't want him to do this for me.' Lilac thought to herself, but she couldn't voice out her words in front of everyone.

She would've never imagine that it would be very terrifying just to witness it, though Jedrek didn't utter a word, but who wouldn't feel any pain when a hot rod was being pressed against your skin?!

'It is ceremonial and it was necessary for the king to go through this.' Keira answered when Lilac asked why they had to do this brutal ritual?

A custom of this realm for the royal mating ceremony.

'You shouldn't stop him. Whatever you feel about it when you watch him go through it, you must not stop him.' Keira emphasized her words.

However, right before her eyes, Lilac watched Torak pressing the rod once again against Jedrek shoulder.

How many times had he been doing that already? Five times? Six times?

Keira said Torak would do that for eleven times, but how could they perform such a cruel ritual like this? Lilac didn't want this.

Lilac hugged herself, she felt chills running down her spine. She wouldn't agree to the ceremony in the first place, if it was her decision to make. She couldn't continue to watch this. This was way too cruel for her to watch, yet she couldn't avert her eyes away from him.

Another strike landed on Jedrek's shoulder.

Now the skin around his shoulders had turned red and his veins were noticeably bulging on his neck.

Lilac bit her lips, her entire body was trembling like a leaf.

"The uniting has been completed!" Torak ended his torture by saying those words and the others chanted the words after him like before.

Afterward, Torak put down the rod on the metal plate which was filled with coal. He stepped back and let Jedrek walk toward his mate.

Actually, Kace had asked to perform this task. He really wanted to do it. 'Shoving the hot silver onto Jedrek's skin would be a satisfying sight to see,' he said it before with a voice laced with revenge.

He would enjoy it and no one would say otherwise, knowing what Jedrek had done to him. This would be the only opportunity to hurt Jedrek in the name of helping him to complete the ceremony and the big brother couldn't hold a grudge against him in this case.

However, Kace gave up the opportunity and chose not to attend the ceremony completely.

Meanwhile, in spite of being tortured in that way, Jedrek could walk toward Lilac steadily, as if he was not the one who had received those chars a few moments ago. He didn't even flinch when he raised his injured left arm to wipe Lilac's silent tears.

The guardian angel leaned her face into his palm and sobbed softly. She couldn't even hug him in fear of hurting him. What if it got worse when she tried to touch him?

Jedrek, then took her hand and together they walked toward the balcony, from where they would have to greet their people as the next step of the ceremony.

Jedrek led her mate to stand on the large balcony that overlooked the front yard of the castle, where many people had been waiting for them.

Lilac's heart almost skipped a beat when she saw countless faces looking up at her from below and the crowd of the gathered people which occupied the whole front yard until the main gates and extended onto the streets too.

Lilac took a shaky breath and looked at Jedrek beside her, but the man seemed aloof with the overwhelmed attention that he was receiving from his people when he raised his hand, which held Lilac's and spoke loudly:

"Kneel before your king and queen!"

And with that being said, thousands of people fell on to their knees and lowered their heads, even people inside the room behind them, did the same.

It was only Torak and Raine, who didn't do it since it was not an obligation for them to do so as they were of the same rank as Jedrek.

However, the sight was not something could please Lilac in anyway, she was not used to have people kneeling before her, and she didn't think that she would get used to it in the future.

From afar, the bell rang throughout the city once again, indicating that the ceremony for the queen and the king was accomplished.

When Lilac glanced at Jedrek, she squinted her eyes at the red and inflamed char on his left shoulder. The burns of it formed a symbol. It was as if he had been branded with that symbol.

And the symbol that was seared onto his very shoulder resembled a lilac flower.

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Hope sobbed silently when she watched how Kace's skin started to heal while Serefina was crying relentlessly, mourning over the loss of the love of her life.

In the end, Hope crawled over to them and brushed the red hair that covered the witch's face aside.

Her cheeks were flushing with a bright color of red, while her eyes turned bloodshot. Her lips were trembling uncontrollably. Dirt and ashes from the flame that she conjured earlier, had stained her face and left her dress tattered.

"Serefina..." Hope cried for her and she felt bad for what the witch was going through now. She was happy for Lilac, she was with her mate now, but she didn't want Serefina to be like this.

"I want to be alone..." she spoke in a shaky voice as she tried to free herself from Kace once again.

"Please, leave me alone..."

At this moment, the fourth bell rang through the city and Serefina closed her eyes, her body continued trembling. The ceremony had reached the end and there was nothing she could do now.

When the night fell, Jedrek would mark and mate with Lilac to strengthen the bond between them. It was too late for her even if she wanted to change her mind now.

However, the truth was; even if she didn't want this to happen or how much she wanted to have Jedrek for herself, she couldn't do it.

Serefina couldn't break the vow that she made with the moon goddess when she got resurrected.

Chapter 798 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (11)

"Jedrek, why would you let them do that to you?" Lilac ran her fingers on the burning skin on Jedrek's left shoulder, which was now seared with a symbol of lilac flower. Her brows creased tightly.

Jedrek was wearing his white robe now, but from their proximity, his mate could see the symbol on his skin and looked very worried about it.

The rod was made of silver, so even the skin around it had starting to heal, the burns that formed a lilac flower would be etched forever on his skin.

"This is part of the ceremony," Jedrek said, tucking a strand of Lilac's hair behind her ear.

"This is cruel," Lilac said through gritted teeth. She didn't like it, not even a little bit, though the symbol on Jedrek's left shoulder represented her.

"This is not a big deal," Jedrek grabbed Lilac's hand and pulled her toward their chamber.

The guests had already dispersed and the night began to fall deeper as the moon shone brightly in the dark sky. All the omegas and the servants had already begun to exit and started to help clean up the ceremony.

"Shall we go back to our room too?" Torak stood up and offered his hand to help Raine up.

"I want to walk in the yard for a while, is that okay?" Raine asked timidly, she looked around her and saw that there were only a few people that stayed behind and were busy chatting with each other.

The ceremony completion was marked by the release of continuous lively fireworks and afterward, everything gradually became less hectic than before.

"Of course," Torak kissed Raine's temple and guided her to the other side of the door, which led to the front yard.

"I am glad that you don't have to do this kind of ceremony," Raine said softly, feeling the night breeze that softly brushed her skin. The image when Torak brandished that hot rod against Jedrek's shoulder still engrained deeply in her mind. She couldn't imagine if it was Torak. "I wouldn't want you to do that, no matter what you said." Raine sounded unreasonably stubborn when she said that.

Torak smiled softly at her and wrapped his arms around her slender waist, to keep her warm.

"Well, it means you still want a ceremony, but without a hot rod, am I correct?" Torak asked her playfully. "Once we ended this madness, we will have one, what do you think?"

Raine glanced at Torak and at the same time the Alpha winked at her teasingly. She laughed upon seeing that gesture and hugged him. She loved this man.

"Okay," she said solemnly.

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"We look like beggars," Hope complained when she saw her, once beautiful dress, had now turned into a mess, covered with a lot of dirty and mud, not to mention the fabric which Kace had ripped off earlier in order to help her move freely.

Hope glanced at Kace, who didn't look any better himself, his clothes were all tattered and burned.

"Nonsense," Kace scoffed. "There is no beggar as beautiful as you," he winked at Hope playfully.

"Of course, I am beautiful," Hope replied arrogantly and puffed her chest, as she twirled a strand of her hair coquettishly and winked back at Kace.

The lycan laughed at her gesture and tousled her hair instead, messing up her already messy hair.

"Well, there is no beggar as handsome as me, too," he said proudly and laughed even louder when he saw Hope rolling her eyes.

"You are always full of yourself," she criticized him.

The moonlight lit up their path, thus it was not difficult for them to walk through the dense trees in this comfortable silence, listening to the sound of crickets or the rustling leaves when the wind blew.

"What are you doing?" Hope asked with a frown when she saw that Kace was actually tearing his already tattered clothes.

"This is more comfortable," Kace said as he threw away his clothes and walked shirtless.

"You have no shame," Hope murmured, but she glanced at his perfect body once again to observe how perfect he was.

"What?" Kace pinched her soft cheek and stood in front of her, blocking her view from the world except him. "So, you, who would steal glances at me every now and then, have a shame?" he asked, challenging her playfully.

"I don't have this peculiar habit of walking shirtless," Hope pointed out and swatted Kace's hand from her cheek. She could visibly see how Kace stiffened for a moment and soon after heard a faint growl rumbling from his throat.

"I will sew the dress onto your skin, if you dare to do that," he said dangerously.

Upon seeing his mood turn sour, Hope laughed and tiptoed to peck on his lips. "You will never do that, you know that I don't like needles," she said.

Kace cupped her face and kissed her again while saying; "Well, I will lock you up inside our room for the rest of your life then," in between their kisses.

=====

"We need to treat the burns, it looks very painful," Lilac grimaced when Jedrek took off his robe and showed her his bare shoulder.

Now, when she saw it again, the symbol appeared clearer since the skin around it began to heal.

"I feel just fine," Jedrek said lightly.

"Jedrek, please. We need to call a healer to look at your wound," Lilac implored. She couldn't feel at ease, as her eyes would unconsciously land on his shoulder for every few seconds and made her feel uncomfortable.

"There is no need for that," Jedrek walked closer toward Lilac and sat down beside her, pressing a soft kiss below her ear.

Her body stiffened when Jedrek whispered in to her ear as his hot breath brushed against her skin.

"I want you to bear my mark too," he confessed.

Lilac looked down, biting her lips nervously. She felt her heart fluttering when she heard that.

At this point of time, the atmosphere suddenly became thick and awkward, at least that was what Lilac felt.

As their bond was strengthening, their need for each other became vivid. They wanted to be near each other all the time.

These new emotions that consumed the two of them were so raw and uncharted.

"I want you to mark me too," Lilac said softly.

Chapter 799 - THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY (12)

Selene had paired the two souls for a reason and no matter the extent of the bitterness they had been through or how much effort that Jedrek had put through to break the red string between them, they were still made for each other.

It felt like a hundred years had passed since the first time Lilac held a grudge toward Jedrek, or how he was torn between wanting her and resenting the mate bond between them.

And here they were, wanted to be close to one another. And, claimed their mates in front of everyone, for all of them to see whom they actually belong to.

Even though the ceremony had already ended and the sky was turning darker, this was just a new beginning for the two of them.

"I want you to mark me too," Lilac said softly. She bit her lower lip nervously, yet she knew there was no point to prolong the inevitable. They were made for each other.

Though her voice was barely a whisper, Jedrek could hear the sincerity in her voice.

Jedrek could understand if Lilac wanted to wait or she needed some time to adjust her feelings for him, but hearing her consent calmed his tense nerves.

Yet, there was a warning that Lilac should know in case she was clueless about this and Jedrek didn't wish for her to be in pain without knowing what she would face.

"The process of marking is not easy. It will be very painful," he said in a soft tone, which was very rare to hear from him. "The pain is unavoidable." Jedrek caressed her face.

Lilac took a deep breath. At this point, what else could she do? Avoiding their fate? And moreover, since she knew that Jedrek's wound could be healed by marking her, just like how it healed Kace's, this reason alone was enough for her to still her heart and be more certain with her decision.

"We can wait until you are ready," Jedrek said when he saw her slightly anxious eyes. "This is not something that we should rush."

However, Lilac had other thoughts about it. She stretched out her hands and cupped his face between her small palms.

"I know," she said softly. "But, I am ready now."

Jedrek narrowed his eyes as if searching for any sort of hesitation in her black obsidian ones. However, aside from the nervousness, his mate appeared determined in her decision.

"If you want me to stop, just say it." Jedrek reached for her headpiece and removed the glittering and beautifully crafted crown gently, and placed it on the bed beside them.

Lilac's hair, which was as black as the night sky and as soft as the most fine silk, cascaded down on her back. She looked so graceful at the same time so perfect. Jedrek couldn't believe himself that he had missed to realize this earlier.

An even more unpleasant thought that tried to creep into his mind right now was the very fact that he had killed her in the past, yet that was not the thing that he should focus on now.

He took everything slowly and waited for Lilac if she wanted to change her mind, but it seemed she didn't intend to do so. His mate was staring at him with anticipation and those bright pair of eyes were like a spell that trapped all of his senses, making him want nothing, but savour this moment.

Jedrek slowly untied her robe and kissed her exposed shoulder, his lips softly grazed the curve of her neck, the sweet spot where he would put his mark on her skin, he placed gentle kisses along Lilac's delicate skin.

Yet, he didn't mark her right away.

Jedrek teased her until he could truly feel Lilac to start relaxing against his touch.

Pulling back, Jedrek laid her down on the soft bed, his hands moved to her shoulders, removing her dress.

Lilac whimpered softly under his heated gaze, as she felt exposed.

"It's going to be all right, I promise," Jedrek consoled her while kissing her temple and felt her nodding in agreement slowly.

Jedrek waited and peppered small kisses along her jaw lines until he saw the tension slowly leave Lilac's body before he continued.

=====

Theo opened his eyes when he felt that there was someone else who entered the room, he was immediately on alert before her scent hit him.

It was the witch's scent.

And just like what he had thought, his eyes found Serefina as she slowly walked into his room and rested on the sofa where she used to sit down.

Theo was not surprised to see the witch in his room, this was not the first time that she had visited him and he didn't mind it at all.

Unfortunately, because of the silver that was shoved into his throat, even though his life was no longer in danger and he just needed to rest a few more days to get his strength back, he lost his voice.

The damage was severe and the healer couldn't help him to get his voice back again. Therefore, he was no longer able to talk.

And this was the only reason Serefina often visited him; because he couldn't talk.

When Theo asked her why she would always visit him, the witch replied casually by saying; "I need someone to accompany me, so I will not feel lonely, but most of them would start to ask about what happened with me and I don't want to answer it," and then she looked at Theo, "But, you can't ask me anything, so I like it."

That was a rude comment, but somehow Theo could understand that. However, he was slightly annoyed by her next statement.

"I was the one who helped you, if it was not because of me, you would have already turned into ashes by now. Therefore, think of this as if you are repaying me."

That was what Serefina said and since then, she would come to his room and sit on that seat while staring at the window absentmindedly.

Knowing that the witch just needed his presence, Theo was about to close his eyes when he realized her tattered dress.

What happened to her?

Theo got up from his bed and dr.a.p.ed a blanket over her shoulder.

Chapter 800 - MARKED AND MATED

Serefina pulled her legs closer to her chest and hugged them as she rested her forehead on her knees. She felt utterly exhausted and empty.

But, then she felt someone draping a warm blanket on her shoulders and adjusted it, so it could cover her cold body.

Even then the witch didn't move, neither did she need to raise her head to see who it was, she knew it must be Theo, since she was inside his bedroom and he was the only person here.

Serefina thought after covering her body with the blanket, Theo would go back to his bed, yet she felt the sofa beside her dip down, indicating the general decided to sit there.

For some reason, Serefina didn't mind it because Theo wouldn't ask her anything, thus she continued to sit in that position.

The two of them stayed silent the whole night and Serefina didn't say anything.

However, this was all she needed at a time like this.

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When the first light of the sun kissed the horizon and fell on Lilac's pale face, Jedrek frowned once again upon seeing how fragile his mate seemed now.

Just like what Kace had told him, marking his mate could heal the wound on his shoulder, but he ended up sapping all of Lilac's power, not to mention that the marking process itself would consume a lot of her power and inflict pain on her in return, to put it simple she was not in a good shape now.

Jedrek glanced at the freshly embedded mark on her neck and fell in love with the sight that he was offered. He stretched his hand to touch her tender skin gently. The wound was almost healed, but Lilac had been sleeping for two days straight, without any signs of waking up soon and this almost turned him insane.

He lowered his head to hear Lilac's steady heartbeat. But, the faint sound of it only increased his worries.

The sound of Lilac's heartbeat was just like the sound from a newly born bird trying to flap it's inexperienced wings; shallow and slow. However, it would be scarier if the sound actually stopped.

Jedrek sighed and thought how ridiculous he was. The mate bond was so strong that he couldn't even bear to leave her alone. He could not in her current condition at the least.

It almost felt like the very meaning of his whole existence depended on her.

"Please, wake up..." Jedrek pleaded, as he ran his fingers through her silk like hair and felt the soft strands between his fingers. He had never done something so gentle to her before.

No, he realized that he had never done anything nice to her at all, and now all he wanted to do was experience every small thing with her.

"Tok. Tok."

Someone interrupted Jedrek's moment, his mind was too occupied with his mate's condition that he couldn't even sense that Torak had been standing in the doorway for a few minutes already.

"May I interrupt you?" Torak raised his brows, though it was unbelievable to see Jedrek like this, but Torak could see his past self in his brother's behavior now, at that particular moment when he marked Raine. That was not a pleasant memory at all, yet he loved the aftermath of it.

"You have already interrupted," Jedrek growled and Torak welcomed himself to enter the room. "What do you want?"

"Excuse me?" Torak folded his arms in front of his chest while staring at his brother in disbelief. He scoffed, "you have a kingdom to run and a few battle plans that you have neglected for quite some time."

"I will deal with that once Lilac wakes up," said an annoyed Jedrek . "You can..." his sentence was cut short by Torak.

"I am not here to run your errands or your kingdom," Torak said sternly. He understood how Jedrek felt now, but he couldn't comply with his decision to stay with Lilac the whole day.

It had been two days, since Torak had been the one to handle the matters regarding the kingdom while Kace went to the camp, to talk to the other Alphas, in the absence of their brother. Today, some other lycanthropes and werewolves from Torak's pack would come and join the force.

Kace had been very annoying and in complete denial, every time Torak asked him to go to them, and he needed Raine to talk to Hope, to persuade his little brother in order to make him to do as Torak wanted. This almost made Torak go crazy.

However, Jedrek did nothing but staying beside Lilac.

"Look," Torak sighed and glanced at Lilac's pale complexion. He have to admit it, if he was in Jedrek's position now, he wanted nothing to do, but stay with his mate, but... things became more and more complicated. "I know how you feel, but you can ask someone to stay here to inform you right away when she wakes up."

Jedrek shook his head. "This is crazy," he murmured. "The thought of her never waking up scares me," he admitted it.

Torak was surprised upon hearing his brother's statement, this was the first time that he happened to hear Jedrek talking about his feelings after such a long time during which they stopped seeing each other.

"Don't worry, she will." Torak looked at Lilac once again. "You said it yourself, she is strong." He reminded him in an encouraging tone.

Jedrek sighed and put his hand atop of hers. "Yes, she is."

"At least you had it done in a proper way," Torak said as he pulled a chair and sat down. "You have the ceremony, marked and mated with her with her consent."

Jedrek smiled faintly. He knew what happened with Torak's and Kace's situation, when they marked their respective mates.

"I almost killed mine when I marked her." Torak eyes met Jedrek gaze. "And Kace was forced to mark his mate in order to keep her alive."

Torak and Kace had told him the details of their story when Jedrek almost went berserk after he realized that he had sapped up all of Lilac's power.

"You have told me this." Jedrek threw him a look. "Do you want me to feel bad?"

"Yes," Torak replied without a second thought. "You have to feel bad because you neglected your responsibilities."

"You did too," Jedrek retorted.

"I am not a king, I am a businessman and I don't care if I have to fore sake some profits in order to be with my mate," he said in a matter of fact tone.

Jedrek scoffed, "Do you really think that I did nothing at all? Get that envelope beside you."