

## **TLOA Lycan 821**

### **Chapter 821 - YES, HE DID**

Jedrek statement aroused many criticizes and disapproving voices from the centaurs and hunters, while the lycanthropes only creased their brows and looked at each other, couldn't understand why would Jedrek make such a statement.

Weren't they here to join forces to fight the devils? Why would he want to kill all of the centaurs again? Did this king wanted to create a fuss before the war? Did he turn crazy and want to exterminate them again? Just like what he did in the past?

Despite the fact that the lycanthropes didn't get along with the centaurs or the people that Kace had invited to come to this realm, but in long run, it would be a disadvantage for them to lose those creatures that way.

"Jedrek!" Kace snapped at him when he heard that, he forced his brother to face him. He didn't even falter with the way Jedrek glared at him viciously, as if he would tear his face if he kept insisting to defy him. "You promised me you will never hurt them! Your problem is with Chiron and not all of them!"

"I will not hurt them if they told me where is their f\*cking chief!" he cursed loudly. His entire body was shaking in his attempt to keep his beast at bay.

"I will not tell you anything about Chiron!" Zarrn stated. He didn't know what the problem with this king, but they wouldn't let him have his hands on Chiron if he threatened them this way. "Kace you told us that you would ensure our safety after we agreed to come here and join the war with you!" Zarrn looked at Kace in disappointment.

However, Kace snapped at him instead. "SHUT UP!" He roared. "If you don't know anything, shut up!" What Zarrn said, it would only trigger Jedrek further and the bad situation now would only become worse.

Zarrn was slightly taken aback with the way Kace told him to shut up. He growled and stomped his hooves hardly on the ground. This action was followed by the other centaurs. This was a sign that they were ready for a confrontation.

"Stop doing that!" Kace grabbed Jedrek's shoulder with the help of Raphael. "Carina! Talk something! You tell me where is Chiron now!" in his struggle to stop Jedrek, Kace glared at the female centaur. He was more than upset with her silence.

"Don't say anything Carina!" Zarrn spoke beside her. "Go back to our people."

At that time, Jedrek finally spoke. His voice laced with aggravation and as cold as an ice block. If words could kill, maybe the king's next words could transform into a million sharp blades that would cut them.

"Your chief has kidnapped my mate." Jedrek stopped struggling and stood there, glowered at Carina, who kept her head very low, in order to avoid his eyes.

That statement created another wave of voices among the creatures.

The Centaurs and the hunters denied that accusation, while the lycanthropes voiced out their anger, after all, hurting their mates was a bottom line for them. As the most possessive creatures, no one should mess with their mates.

"LIAR!"

"You are a liar!"

"There is no way Chiron would do that!"

"He is trying to defame our chief!"

Many angry voices aroused from Jedrek's statement, as the sound of their hooves became even louder and aggressive. However, on the other hand, the lycanthropes didn't just stay in silence, they snarled back at the centaurs.

If this situation was left like this for a little bit longer, there would be another bloodshed here and Jedrek didn't mind it at all if those lycanthropes finished off those wretched centaurs. All he needed now was Carina.

If he couldn't make her open her mouth willingly, then he would force her to do it with any way possible.

"STOP IT!" However, Kace wouldn't let that happen. He had enough watching several dead bodies of the guards in the front yards, though their bodies strangely disappeared when he walked out of the castle, but that wasn't his main concern right now. "ALL OF YOU STOP IT!"

Kace's roar managed to assuage the anger from both parties, but it didn't take a long time for a hush to fall over the place. They were surprised by the Alpha's tone that Kace used, since they had never heard the young Donovan being a dominant.

"You don't have the right to stop us while letting your brother to defame Chiron! Have you forgotten about the kindness that we offered you when you lived with us!?" One of the centaurs shouted at Kace from the back of the crowd.

The situation was almost getting out of hand right now.

"I DO NOT STAND HERE TO DEFEND ANYONE! WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER!?" Kace yelled at the centaurs, as his voice sounded very powerful, demanding respect from all of them.

Raphael, who heard that, was slightly surprised see Kace now, because as far as he could remember about him; the younger Donovan sibling was someone who didn't want to get involved in any conflict.

However, Kace now, almost looked like an Alpha, someone who deserved the Donovan name.

"IF YOU DON'T TRUST HIM OR ME, ASK HER WHETHER IT IS A LIE OR NOT!" Kace snarled at Zarrn.

In an instant the voices died down, even the snarls from the lycanthropes couldn't be heard anymore. All of them looked at Kace and then shifted their attention toward Zarrn and Carina.

"Tell them Carina! Tell them that was only his another disgusting accusation to defame Chiron!" Zarrn glared at Jedrek, while talking to Carina. "He just wants to kill us!"

However, Carina didn't reply to him. She balled her fists and bit her lips. She didn't think it would be like this. She just wished for Kace to help her to stop Chiron from the thing that he would do, which now, she was aware that it was too late.

This matter had escalated very fast.

"Yes, he did," Carina finally said.

### **Chapter 822 - WHY DID YOU DO THIS?**

"Yes, he did," Carina finally said, her voice was soft and steady. "Chiron has taken the king's mate." The female centaur raised her head and looked at Jedrek.

This statement raised another wave of uproar between the centaurs and the lycanthropes. The former didn't believe what their fellow centaur said, while the latter was too eager to finish them off for the atrocious act that they committed.

"You have to kill them!" roared one of the Alphas.

"They can't be forgiven!" the other suggested the same thing.

"Give your order and we will finish them off!" one of the Alphas stepped forward and demanded a command from Jedrek.

Upon hearing all of that, Jedrek's blood seared with eagerness. He really wanted to see those wretched creatures' blood streaming down this road.

However, a small part of him, which was still able to think properly, knew that was not the right thing to do now, because every second was important. No one could guarantee Lilac's safety.

Not to mention she was with two of his big enemies.

F\*ck!

"Carina, tell us the truth. What is actually happening?!" Zarrn hissed, he grabbed Carina's hand, so she could face him.

"You heard what she said!" Alpha Romulus approached them with heavy steps, elongated claws as his eyes flickered to black. He wanted to kill them. "Give us the order and we will kill them right away!" he said to Jedrek.

Meanwhile, the other centaurs, eventually backed away. They protected the children and women, forcing them in to the middle as they moved nearer to the gates.

On the other hand, the hunters tried to protect them as well, though they shouldn't drag themselves in to this chaotic situation, but they had been living alongside with the centaurs, thus they couldn't abandon them at a time like this.

"KACE!" Delta called out for Kace. He didn't say anything except his name, but from the look on his face, Kace could understand that they reached for his help.

"Jedrek, don't do this," Kace shifted his attention to his brother, his eyes were still red and this was not a good sign at all. One order from him, and those lycans would be more than willing to kill them all.

The centaurs and the hunters moved toward the gates that they had busted down, one small step at a time. However, the distance between them was too far, therefore, the lycanthropes easily blocked their way and now they were trapped inside this city.

On the other hand, Zarrn looked at the lycanthropes that surrounded him and Carina viciously. In their position, there was no way for them to escape, especially when they were separated from their people.

"Tell me where your chief took my mate?" Jedrek asked coldly looking at Carina, while the female centaur kept looking over her shoulder to her group, which now had been surrounded, without a way to escape.

"I will bring you to him, only if you promise me their safety," Carina demanded.

"You ask me to not kill your kind?" Jedrek scoffed derisively. "I will not kill your kind as long as I can get my mate unscathed. However, if my mate suffered any injuries, I will kill one from your kind for each injury that marred her body."

Carina gasped loudly when she heard that and Zarrn balled his fists, he couldn't understand, why Chiron had to do this? Hadn't he already gotten over his grudge against Jedrek? Therefore, why had he done this when they were only a step away from returning to their land?

If Chiron's betrayal was true, he had risked the lives of hundreds of them for a single grudge. Was it worth it?

Zarrn shook his head to clear his mind when he heard Carina.

"Kill me first then," she said without fear.

"Carina!" Zarrn shrieked, but there were no other words to confront her statement.

Before their eyes, a devilish smirk appeared on the corner of Jedrek's lips. "It will be my pleasure." After that, he turned his attention toward the lycanthropes. "Arrest them all!"

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Lilac felt the hard and cold ground when she fully regained her consciousness, but she didn't immediately open her eyes.

She remembered what had happened as her consciousness came back and forth all this while, from the moment she felt Chiron taking her into his arms and carried her away from the castle.

However, she was not sure, whether what she had seen was true or not when she watched, through her murky mind, when Serefina drew her blood and went to join the devils.

She wouldn't do that, right? There was no way she would betray them. It was not possible for her to betray Jedrek. Right?

Lilac let out a small and soft grunt when she tried to move her body, but all she could feel was the aching pain that prevented her from moving around recklessly, especially her neck, the spot where Jedrek's mark was imprinted, was burning like a hot rod had been pressed there.

But, the images during the time while they marked and mated, flashed in her mind and made her blush, or at least that was what Lilac thought, since she was too pale to have tinges or red on her cheeks.

'This was not the time for that,' Lilac grumbled internally and tried to focus her mind elsewhere, trying to use her senses to feel her surroundings.

Lilac had a plan to pretend to sleep until she was sure that she figured out a little bit more where she was or who was with her.

However, when she felt soft hooves approaching her, she knew it was Chiron, especially when he spoke addressing her.

"You are awake," Chiron said with the same tone that he always used.

At this moment, there was no point for Lilac to keep her pretense, thus she opened her eyes slowly and spotted the centaur, who was bending his front legs while holding something in his hand.

"Drink this first," Chiron helped Lilac to sit down first, then bringing a wooden goblet near her lips.

Yet, Lilac tilted her head side ways and avoided it. She narrowed her eyes at him. "Why did you do this?"

### **Chapter 823 - HE WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE**

"Drink this first," Chiron repeated his words and brought the wooden goblet near Lilac's lips again, but the guardian angel raised her hand and swatted it away with all her might.

Chiron sighed and stopped trying, he rose and took three steps away from her.

Lilac struggled to sit down, but this was much more difficult than she thought, finally after a few attempts without any result, she gave up and rolled her body, so she could face Chiron. A layer of sweat appeared on her forehead and her breathing became shallow.

"Why did you do this?" Lilac asked again.

Only now, could Lilac see this whole place clearly. Apparently, Chiron took her to a meadow. The velvety grass beneath Lilac's body felt a little bit cold because of the beads of dew, it seemed Lilac had been here for a whole night.

In the distance, the peak of the mountain looked as if it could touch the starry sky above it. This wasn't the sight that couldn't please the senses. The sound from the whispering wind, the smell of the grass and the sky were out of this world, it was simply a feast for the eyes.

If Lilac was not in her current condition, she would be amazed by what she was seeing now. Unfortunately, she didn't have time to appreciate it now.

Before her eyes, Chiron still refused to answer her question and kept staring at the sky, as if he was deciphering what the stars told him.

"Do you want to kill me?" Lilac asked him again. Though they just met not too long ago and the conversation between them was very short, the guardian angel would have never thought that the chief of the centaurs would do this.

Chiron still refused to talk to her.

"Do you know that what you have done will put your people in danger?" Lilac tried to engage him in some conversation, she really wanted to know, what the thing that triggered him for doing something like this, knowing Jedrek, he wouldn't let this pass easily. "Don't you care about them?"

"What I am doing right now, has nothing to do with them," Chiron finally gave some response to her.

When Lilac heard that, she really wanted to scoff at his face, what kind of statement was that? Didn't he know how Jedrek would usually react? Was he just pretending not to know that or he was just being a hypocrite for believing that Jedrek wouldn't hurt them?

"Do you think Jedrek will care?" Lilac grunted again when she felt a searing pain burned her neck once again, the very place where her mark was imprinted. "He will kill them if he has to."

Chiron shifted on his feet and looked at Lilac. In his eyes was a reflection of the sorrow and painful memories that he felt deep in his heart, the feeling that he had buried for so long, until he thought, what he did now was necessary, as if this was his goal in this life.

"Then he will live to suffer the same pain," Chiron said coldly. This was the first time such a cruel words escaped his lips. "Witnessing how I took the essence of his very existence right before his eyes."

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After recovering the spells that surrounded the castle, which had been broken by the devils when they invaded this place, Lidya found Raphael and Lana in one of the room by following the white butterfly.

"Where are the other people?" Lidya had a bad feeling from the moment she saw the countless dead bodies in front of the entrance gates and her feeling became more prominent when she couldn't find other people as she roamed around this huge place to put some spells.

Raphael saw Lidya approaching them when he was talking to Lana, discussing about what they should do now.

"People disappeared from this place," Lidya mumbled as she sat down on the sofa next to Lana. "Where is Serefina?"

Raphael and Lana looked at each other.

While Lana lowered her head, still shocked with the fact that Serefina had betrayed them, Raphael explained what Raine had told them to Lidya.

"She betrayed us," Raphael said coolly. He looked at Lidya when her expression morphed into one of a shock. "Serefina helped the devils to get Lilac and now she is with them."

"Impossible," Lidya whispered softly in disbelief. "You will not believe that, right?" she looked at Lana. The girl had been with Serefina for years and she was the closest person to Serefina that Lidya come to know of.

"I don't want to believe it too," Lana said in soft tone, she touched her flat stomach out of instinct when she felt uncomfortable.

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Raine grabbed the white beast's fur tightly, as the beast moved gracefully fast, but steadily, crossing the forest while it swiftly avoided the falling trunks and the trees.

[My love, are you all right?] Torak mind- linked her and felt the girl nodded her head gently against his scruff.

Raine was still weak from what happened to her, but she was adamant about Torak bringing her to the meadow that she had seen in her vision.

Raine didn't explain further about it, she just told them that Serefina had crossed the bridge and was with the devils now.

Of course, this news was something that, even, Torak hardly could believe. If it was not Raine, who told him this thing, he wouldn't believe it.

Torak had fought neck to neck with Serefina and quarreled with the witch countless time, yet he never thought, she would do that.

However, on the other hand, Raine wouldn't tell lie.

Therefore, Torak and the others thought, Raine wanted to go to the meadow to find Serefina. They didn't know how she was able to know her location, but since this was her vision, something that only she could see, they trusted her nonetheless.

Alongside with Torak, was another beast with Hope on top of it, sitting in the same position like Raine, following closely behind Torak, while keeping his eyes on Raine, in case she fell from Torak's back.

## **Chapter 824 - KNEEL BEFORE ME**

"I don't want to believe it too," Lana said in soft tone, she touched her flat stomach out of instinct when she felt uncomfortable. "But, the guardian angel wouldn't lie about it."

"Who? Hope?" Lidya frowned.

"No, Raine," she replied.

"Where are they now?" Lidya looked around the room, hoping that she could find Raine and confront her about it, whether she was saying the truth or not.

"She left with Torak and the others," Raphael answered her this time.

"Where? Do you know where they are going?" Lidya hopped from the sofa and was about to run toward the door, but Raphael shook his head.

"I don't know, Raine just said she wanted to go to the meadow." Raphael narrowed his eyes at the witch.

"Maybe she wanted to find Serefina?" Lana suggested with uncertainty evident in her voice.

That witch had been her tutor since she she was a child and saved by kace. Though their relationship was a little bit rough, which Lana was sure that Serefina had rough relationship with almost everyone. The witch had never hurt her and taught her everything that she needed to learn, including how to protect and stand up for herself.

Serefina taught her rudely, but effectively. She wouldn't be like this now, if it was not for her.

Where is she now...? What plan did she concocted...?

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"You are endangering your own peoples' lives for your personal grudge," Lilac spoke softly, her breath became even more shallow than a few moments ago. The cold wind was caressing her skin making her shudder nonstop.

When Lilac thought Chiron wouldn't talk anymore and was about to give up her efforts to engage him in some conversation, she heard his low monotonous voice, very faintly, as if he was just murmuring to himself.

"Brynzin," Chiron spoke. "...I had been waiting for my firstborn... My mate and I... we had even prepared a name for him. Brynzin."

The wind howled as if it could feel this certain creature's pain.

"He would be a boy. A healthy child... that's what the healer told us..." Chiron shook his head. "The healer was wrong. My baby didn't even got a chance to be born and had his name called... my poor child... I can't protect him and my mate... and my people..." his voice cracked.

Lilac was not sure if she heard it right or not, but from the shaking of his shoulders, she could feel the emotion behind every word he said.

"You don't know how it feels to lose something more precious than your life... not even your mate," Chiron gritted his teeth. This was the purest emotion that he allowed to resurface after years he had been holding it back.

"Your people..." Lilac was about to remind him again the life of the people that would suffer with his decision now.

"My people..." Chiron spoke before her. "Death is more promising than living with a grudge that you can't get rid of and your mate should suffer the same fate as I did..."

"You will kill me....." Lilac concluded softly.

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The two white beasts approached a meadow they found in the place to where Carina had led them. Not only the three of them, but also Zarrn and Eaton went along with them, while Sebastian would take care

of the city and lead the rest of the lycanthropes to go to the castle along with the captured centaurs and hunters.

"You can shift back now," Carina said. She stopped running, when they reached the middle of the vast meadow with starry sky and moonlight above their heads.

Jedrek and Kace shifted back into their human skin, but Eaton stayed in his beast form. The beast kept himself low to the ground, in a position ready to fight if the circumstances require him to attack.

"Where is he?" Jedrek asked grimly, sniffing the air and looked in all directions searching, yet he couldn't catch any sign of his mate or the centaur.

Meanwhile, beside his livid brother, Kace had a complicated emotion regarding this situation. He didn't want this meeting turn in to another battle between the lycan and the centaur, since he didn't want to take a side.

However, if the situation forced him to do so...

Kace hoped Chiron wouldn't do anything stupid to Lilac.

"He should be here," Carina murmured and then she fished out a small thing from a small bag hanging onto her h.i.p.s and put it on her lips.

As soon as she blew that small thing, they could hear a melodious sound rung through the vast meadow for a few seconds before Carina put it down.

It was the same thing that she used to call the other centaurs when she was in danger back when she was with Hope inside the forest of the northern coven realm.

Only then, their attention gathered at one point as the wind brought the two different scents.

They recognized both scents and for Jedrek, one of the scents was much stronger than the other, as it managed to calm his anxiety a little bit. He couldn't help himself, but running toward the source of it.

There was nothing more important for him to have his mate in his arms, safe and sound now.

Watching Jedrek rushing toward the possible location of Chiron, Kace and the rest of them followed him closely, and this would be the fateful moment which would unfold what the king was going to do with their current situation.

"Give her to me," Jedrek said grimly when he was close enough to see Lilac in Chiron's arms. Her eyes were closed shut, but when she heard his voice, her eyelashes fluttered.

"Chiron!" Kace called his name, but it sounded like he was pleading for him to stop whatever he was doing now.

Even Zarrn lost for words when he witnessed with his own eyes that their chief, indeed, had kidnapped Lilac. This was beyond his wildest imaginations.

"Why should I?" Chiron asked calmly.

"Because I will let you see with your own eyes while I skinned your people alive, if you hurt her." Jedrek's whole body was shaking out of immense rage.

"If you want her," Chiron glanced at Lilac in his arms. "Kneel before me."

### **Chapter 825 - DISMAY**

As a king, kneeling before someone was completely unacceptable and a degrading act for a royal like Jedrek, the first born of the Donovans and the king of the lycanthropes in this realm.

Not to mention, if he consented to the disrespectful request, then he have to kneel before the other creature, Jedrek wouldn't even lower his voice in front of anyone. Not his people. Not his brother. Moreover, in front of his enemy.

Not only he had to lower his pride in front of Chiron, but there was other people there as well; Carina, Zarrn, Eaton, Kace... and Lilac.

Jedrek could see Lilac shaking her head faintly, as tears streamed down her beautiful face. Her face turned absurdly pale. She looked even more sickly than the last time he saw her, yesterday morning, before he went out of the city gates.

His beast clawed at the edge of his mind, wanting to break free for such disrespectful request and his Alpha's blood seared with anger with the very thought of him bending his knees before a lowly creature.

"CHIRON!" Kace roared as he took a step closer. "That's enough!" his hands balled into fists beside his body. "You have gone too far!"

Chiron put Lilac down, but because the guardian angel was too weak to support her body, she lost her balance and was about to fall to the ground if it wasn't for Chiron, who immediately pulled her back and held her around her neck.

However, that was not the thing that made Jedrek and Kace growl in animosity, but the fact that Chiron dared to point a sharp dagger to Lilac's heart. One strike and it would stop her heart beat forever.

"Chiron!" Zarrn widened his eyes in disbelief. He still thought that Chiron wouldn't go that far. If he wanted to humiliate Jedrek, he could understand, but to kill the innocent guardian angel, it was something totally different from his wildest imaginations. "We are already here! We got our land back! Why do you want to ruin all of that?! You are shoving all of us into harms way!?"

Chiron didn't budge, his expression didn't even change when he heard that.

"Have you forgotten what he had done to our people?" Chiron asked calmly, as if there was nothing that could affect him anymore and this made Kace feel cold, he had never seen this side of Chiron before. "He gave us the land, but in exchange, forcing us to join the war. The war that had nothing to do with us!" Chiron looked at Carina, who was standing between Zarrn and the beast, Eaton.

"Chiron, this is not you..." Kace said in a hurting tone. He felt like he was betrayed by someone, who he trusted with all his heart. He remembered all the conversations that he shared with him.

"This is me, Kace... I am sorry that this has to end like this..." Chiron flashed him a sad smile before he shifted his focus back to Jedrek. "Kneel before me. Kneel, so they could see, how high you put your pride. What kind of king you are. What kind of mate you are."

Kace looked back at his brother, he was baffled by this side of Chiron before his eyes. It almost felt like he had become someone else, someone strange that he had never known.

"Jedrek..." Kace called out to his brother, but he didn't know what he had to say further. If it were him and that was Hope, who was being held as a hostage and was in danger, he would kneel without a second thought, although the beast inside of him wouldn't do that willingly.

However, Jedrek was different. He wouldn't put his pride aside and save his mate, would he?

"If I kneel, you will release her?" Jedrek asked, his voice was very calm, eerily calm, with his face devoid from any emotion. No one could possibly guess what thoughts were running inside his mind right now.

"If seeing you kneel before me can assuage my grudge toward you, I will release her," Chiron said.

"Chiron! Enough!" Zarrn roared, he walked forward and stood beside Jedrek. "Release her! There are children among our people! You think he will not harm them if you hurt his mate?! Think about the children!"

However, Chiron scoffed derisively, but there was a deep sadness in the way he looked at Zarrn. "Of course, he will harm them, no matter what I will do now. I have already come to this point, there is no turning back. He will harm the children. In the past he didn't even care if he had to kill most of the female centaurs that we have. Along with my unborn child."

"Chiron you are insane!" Zarrn gritted his teeth. He respected Chiron all this time. If it was not because of him, they wouldn't be able to escape from this realm centuries ago. But, now they had a chance to get everything back, he should put aside his personal grudge. There were still their young generations that they had to think of.

Joining the war was the only way they could achieve a peaceful life, because there wouldn't be able to live in peace if the demons were to rule them. They did this not only for Jedrek, but for themselves too.

Why couldn't Chiron understand this simple logic?! Zarrn thought in frustration.

"I knelt before him, pleading for the life of our people, but he didn't even bat an eyelid, and he ordered his people to kill them mercilessly," Chiron looked at Jedrek and watched the way the king was staring back at him. "I want to see, how far will you go for your mate now?"

Jedrek was actually watching Lilac's face, she was crying. She was crying for him while saying 'no' faintly.

She was so stupid, right? Why should she cry and ask Jedrek not to do that when the one in danger was herself?

At that time, from behind Chiron, there were a few figures that appeared out of thin air.

"We almost missed this opportunity to see the king bend his knees..." it was Lucifer, who was talking. He was standing among the other six devils and one witch. The witch with red hair...

Jedrek didn't know whether seeing the seven devils or watching Serefina along with them shocked him the most.

### **Chapter 826 - GIVE MY MATE BACK**

Serefina was wearing the purple cloak, which concealed her own scent. The hood of the cloak covered her red hair and concealed a bigger part of her body, but one look, they knew it was her.

"Serefina?" Kace was dumbstruck. He didn't even get over the fact that Chiron betrayed them and now to see Serefina had crossed the bridge as well, made him speechless.

Kace thought he knew Chiron, but he had to come to terms with the fact that he didn't, but for Serefina... d\*mn! He had known her for almost his entire eternity, so what happened now?

"What are you doing with them?!" Kace shouted at Serefina, he was about to walk closer toward her, in anger. However, Jedrek grabbed his arm and stopped him. "She is not supposed to be there!" Kace yelled at Jedrek in frustration.

"Your friend was not supposed to be holding my mate as a hostage either!" Jedrek said coldly. His red eyes burned with animosity and a lot of emotions that was hard to describe. His shock turned into rage.

He had enough of having a group of traitors breathing under his neck. Jedrek could line up people who had betrayed him and it would fill the entire city. Seeing Serefina now, shouldn't be a surprise... but, still there was a part of him that wanted the answer about why she did this?

"So, will you kneel?" Belphegor asked lazily as he folded his arms and his golden eyes stared at Jedrek in anticipation.

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The white beast stopped running and the other beast also did the same. In front of them was the meadow, which Raine had mentioned earlier.

"We are here?" Hope jumped down from Calleb's back and approached Raine to help her get down.

Carefully, the white beast lowered his body and let Raine to scramble down from his back with the help of Hope.

Torak shifted back into his human form and readjusted his mate's cloak, which was slightly crumpled.

"Are you all right?" Torak asked with concern in his eyes and watched as Raine nodded.

"I smell Jedrek and Kace's scents..." Calleb murmured. His nose raised as he sniffed the air.

Only then Torak realized there was indeed his brothers' scents near, since his focus was on Raine, thus he didn't really pay attention to his surroundings.

"But, I don't smell Serefina's scent..." Calleb added. They thought Raine asked them to come to this place to meet Serefina. "Oh, there are other scents too... Lilac... Eaton... and another two centaurs."

"Why we are here, my love?" Torak asked Raine.

"I saw Chiron killing Lilac in my vision," Raine answered hastily as she walked toward the meadow.

"What?" Hope and Calleb shrieked simultaneously. "Impossible!"

Faintly Torak and Calleb could hear Chiron's voice saying; "kneel before me."

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Chiron never thought the devils would come to this place. This was not their agreement after all.

They were supposed to leave him alone to deal with Jedrek himself, but why would they came all the way to see him humiliating the king?

Chiron wanted to laugh internally. That was why you shouldn't make a deal with the devil...

"What are you waiting for?" Mammon asked impatiently.

If someone asked the king about whom the person that he hated the most... the king would answer; his mate.

He knew that one day his mate would be his greatest weakness and he hated it the most when his enemies got hands on his weaknesses.

If someone asked the king about whom the person that he was grateful for most... the king would answer; his mate.

Lilac came when he thought he had numbed his feelings and filled the void in his cold heart, when he himself couldn't realize that he needed her.

Jedrek had never thought his life would be a lot of worthy when Lilac, against all odds, forced herself into his life and stirred something in his heart again for the first time after such a long waiting.

If someone asked the king about the person whom he want to apologize to... the king would answer; his mate. He wanted to apologize to her from the bottom of his heart.

He gave her nothing but pain. He had done everything that a mate shouldn't do. He hurt her by his reckless decisions, cowardness and enmity.

If someone asked the king what was the best moment in his life... he would answer; the moment when Lilac, accepted him as her mate while beautifully smiling at him. Marking her and mating with her were the following best ones, that he was willing to exchange with everything he had to get his mate back.

If someone asked the king what was the scariest moment in his life... the king would answer; now. Right now.

Watching a sharp dagger pointed against her chest, which could end her life right then and there, and he was being helpless...

Therefore, mate bond or not... Jedrek needed his mate in his life. He couldn't picture himself without Lilac beside him...

At this very moment, there was nothing easier for the king aside from kneeling before Chiron and the devils.

If by doing so, he could save Lilac's life, so be it. He could do it a thousand times.

Slowly, but surely, the proud King lowered himself in front of his enemies. In front of the smirks and triumphant laughs of those wretched souls. Under the hot and complicated stares of Chiron and the centaurs and his own brother.

Jedrek put aside everything that he held tight all this time.

From the corner of his eyes, he caught Serefina gasping softly at what she was seeing now. There was no way the Jedrek, that she knew of would do something like this.

Yet, here he was... bending his knees until they touched the velvety grass, while staring into his mate's beautiful, but sad eyes.

Tears spilled from Lilac's eyes like a small river...

Behind him, Jedrek could hear Eaton's beast snarling in disagreement for having his king lowered himself. However, he knew there was nothing he could do...

Jedrek shifted his eyes to Chiron and said, "you got what you want, now give me my mate back."

### **Chapter 827 - AGGRAVATED**

Torak couldn't believe what was unfolding before his eyes now, even Calleb, who always had a thousand comments for everything that he came across, was lost for words now.

Before their eyes, Jedrek Donovan, lowered himself until his knees touched the ground. The proud king reduced his pride and prestige to nothing in front of the traitor and their enemies.

However, this humiliation didn't make his brother embarrassed. His red eyes fixed at his mate, who was in danger right now, filled with determination.

Behind Chiron, the seven devils laughed triumphantly. Enjoying the view.

On the other hand, Chiron didn't show any emotion, whether he liked it to see Jedrek this way or not, it was hard to tell.

Meanwhile, Carina and Zarrn had the same shocked expressions as Kace. They didn't think that Jedrek would actually do what Chiron had asked him to do.

"You got what you want, now give me my mate back," Jedrek said in low and toneless voice. Even in this position right now, the Alpha's tone and aura around him couldn't deny that he was still the respectful Donovan.

Torak and his small entourage were standing a little bit faraway from Jedrek and the others. He was not sure, whether they didn't realize that they were near or they were simply too occupied with what was happening in front of them, either way, Torak's presence didn't change the fact that Jedrek was pleading the centaur for his mate's life.

Somehow, this made Torak angry, but the other part of him understood why Jedrek had done this. He would have also done the same, if it was Raine, who was being pointed by a dagger at this moment.

Raine could feel Torak's grip around her waist tighten and she knew what was in his mind.

"Now you plead for your mate's life..." Chiron spoke, he sounded as if he was daydreaming. "Now, you are in my position from centuries ago."

From behind, Mammon walked closer and put his hand on Chiron's shoulder. The proximity between the devil and Lilac, made Jedrek growl in anger.

"Ssst..." Mammon put his forefinger in front of his lips and shushed Jedrek mockingly. Just like the other devils, he shared the same golden eyes similar to the rest of them, but he had long hair like the guardian angel, in the color of silver. "Are you satisfied with what you are seeing right now?" he asked Chiron.

The centaur looked at Carina, who was staring back at him with fear palpable in her eyes and then Zarrn, who shook his head while mouthing 'stop it' to him.

And then Chiron looked at Jedrek, who was staring at Lilac, as if she was his entire world.

Jedrek had tried to reach Lilac several times through mind-link, since he had marked her, but he couldn't. There was something that blocked him, this feeling was almost like when the castle was being intruded by the devils yesterday.

"How is it? How do you feel now?" Mammon lowered his head and whispered to Chiron, the whisper of the devil... "He just sits there and does nothing, and you let him go easily just like that? Did you forget about what he had done to your mate? To your people?"

"Stop it," Lilac gritted her teeth, she felt weak, but the anger that boiled her blood upon watching how they were humiliating Jedrek, gave her some strength to throw a nasty look at the devil. "Is that all you can do? Manipulate others?" she sneered in disgust.

Mammon tilted his head and looked at Lilac with interest before a devilish smile cracked at the corner of his lips, as he replied proudly. "Yes," he said haughtily. "Do you want to see how far my manipulation can go?" The two of them talked in low voices which made it difficult for the other parties involved to hear them properly. "Watch and learn."

Right after Mammon said that, he pressed his hand on Chiron's shoulder harder, as the eyes of the centaur flickered to golden for a few seconds.

Mammon moved closer toward Chiron and whispered something in a strange language that Lilac couldn't understand, but she felt Chiron's arm around her neck tightened as the sharp point of the dagger pierced through the cloak that she was wearing.

Fortunately, Chiron stopped in time before it could pierce Lilac's skin.

However, his eyes focused on Carina, as he spoke to her calmly. "Carina, this is the time."

They didn't understand what Chiron meant by that, yet before they could comprehend it, Carina had moved faster and attacked the beast beside her.

In a blink of an eye, Carina made a slash move and clawed the beast's neck.

Thankfully, Eaton had the agility that managed to save his life as he dodged her attack quickly and the sharp things under Carina's nails only grazed the side of his face.

The beast maneuvered immediately and roared angrily as he leapt onto Carina's body, but before he could cut her open, Zarrn had bumped his body against him.

The beast's claws only grazed Carina's left arm before he landed on the ground, ready to make second attempt to finish both of the centaurs.

"If you stand up and shift into your beast, she will die," Mammon said merrily, when he saw that Jedrek was about to shift into his beast, he enjoyed what he was seeing now. "I love to be in control like this... you know what? I controlled your father like this too."

"You hurt her and you will have nothing to hold me back," Jedrek was aggravated.

Upon hearing that, Kace snarled loudly. His eyes turned red, but he didn't dash toward the devil, instead he moved to block Eaton's next attack.

"STOP!"

This was the first time that Kace used the Alpha's tone authoritatively on the other person and it had a great affect on him.

Kace subdued the beast as he couldn't even move to go against Kace's order.

"You!" Kace pointed his finger at Zarrn. "Keep your eyes on her, if she tried to attack one more time, I will be the one who will finish her off for good!" He was livid now. "And you as well!"

## **Chapter 828 - CHAOS**

"Do you need my help to tame her?" Asmodeus asked coquettishly, she twirled a strand of her long hair and glanced at Serefina beside her, who didn't show any emotions on her face. "Serefina, you really have a bad taste in men. He slept with countless red haired witches when you and she-" she nodded at Lilac. "-weren't around."

Asmodeus watched Serefina face closely for any change in expression, but there was nothing on her face which indicated that her words had hurt her.

"Cih," she clicked her tongue. "You are not fun at all."

Meanwhile, Mammon whispered something into Chiron's ears, his voice eerily low, but whatever he said, it made him very happy, perfectly aligning with the idea in his mind.

"Why don't you give him a taste of his own medicine? Let him suffer in the same way he has made you suffered all this time? He deserves it." Mammon chuckled when Chiron's grip on Lilac's neck tightened. "You lost your mate, he ordered someone to kill your mate and your people right before your eyes, why don't you let him feel it too?" Mammon tilted his head and glanced at Leviathan, who began to approach them and stood on the other side of the chief of the centaurs.

"Don't you envy him? He had everything that you don't; a beautiful mate, a territory to rule, people at his back and call... but, what had he done to deserve all of that?" Leviathan whispered to Chiron. "He is the cruelest and most bloodthirsty person that you ever know, but he got everything that he didn't deserve..."

The two of them kept mumbling words after words, until the end of it, they simultaneously whisper-talked to him.

"Kill her, let him suffer..."

"Kill her, like the way he killed yours..."

"Kill her..."

"Kill her..."

The sounds of their voices were very annoying in Chiron's ears, but they voiced out what was inside his mind and heart.

All of that was true...

He should do it, right?

Right.

He didn't deserve a mate, right?

Right.

"No, don't listen to them, you are not like this," Lilac's soft voice couldn't manage to reach Chiron, no matter what she said.

Under the influence of the muttering sounds in his ears and his murky mind, Chiron raised the dagger high, his roar thundered in that clearing and his expression contorted painfully.

Seeing what Chiron was going to do, Jedrek didn't even have time to think when he leapt forward and shifted into his white beast, while behind him Kace, the beast and the two centaurs were shouting something that he couldn't comprehend.

His ears ringing and his heart thumped thunderous in his chest, when he realized he wouldn't make it in time...

No...

He couldn't lose his mate this way.

Not after when he realized he needed her.

Selene... this is too cruel...

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On the other side of the meadow, Raine closed her ears with both of her hands and closed her eyes when she saw Chiron raising the dagger in his hand and was about to stab Lilac right in her heart.

This was what Raine had seen in her vision.

But, what was the point now when she couldn't prevent this from happening?

Stop...

Stop.

Please stop!

Raine didn't want to see anyone getting hurt again, especially not the person that was so dear to her. She wanted to stop this!

She must do something, but what? She didn't even have any courage even to open her eyes. To watch another life slipping right in front of her and she was helpless to do something.

Please stop all of this!

"Raine?"

Raine felt someone shook her body and faintly calling her name.

"Raine!"

Her voice got a little bit louder, but Raine still refused to open her eyes.

"Raine!"

This time Raine's eyes fluttered open and she found Hope's face in front of hers. She was talking about something hastily.

"...did it?" Hope asked when Raine put down her hands from covering her ears.

"What? Did what?" Raine frowned, she didn't catch the first few words of her question.

"How did you do this?" Hope asked excitedly, as she moved aside revealing what was happening behind her.

In the meadow, not too far from them, the place where Chiron was holding Lilac as a hostage and the two devils whispering in to his ears, Raine could see three white beasts rushing forward in a flash, until they looked like a streak of white haze.

And one of the white beasts, which Raine was sure that it was Jedrek, took Lilac away from Chiron's grip.

However, that was not the thing that made Raine dumbfounded, but the fact that aside from the three white beasts and Calleb's beast along with the three guardian angels, no one could move.

The seven devils, the centaurs and also Eaton's beast, froze in their place, as if the time was stopped only for them.

"I stopped the time again?" Raine muttered to herself.

"You have done this before?" Hope asked in awe, her eyes widened in amazement when they watched how Lilac was saved and Jedrek shifted back to his human form as he carried Lilac away from that place.

However, it happened very fast, and before Kace, Torak or Calleb dug their sharp talons onto the devils' flesh, the time started ticking again and everything went as normal as it would.

The two devils backed away just in time before the two white beasts could attack them and the chief of the centaur stabbed the dagger onto his own stomach, since Lilac was no longer in his hands, he was too late to realize it and was not able to stop himself in time.

An earth- shattering wail could be heard when Chiron fell to the ground from the injury that he made by himself, it was Carina, who immediately rushed to the front and was about to reach for Chiron, but Zarrn stopped her.

Everything happened too fast and turned chaotic, to the extent Raine and Hope were left dumbstruck to focus their attention on any particular person or any particular person's move.

At the same time, the first light of the sunrise started seeping through the trees behind them, illuminating the meadow in it's wake.

### **Chapter 829 - WHY DON'T YOU KILL THEM?**

"Why do I feel like you were treating those centaurs and hunters as prisoners?" Raphael asked Sebastian when the lycan walked into the room with the rest of the people while guarding them tightly.

Some people were delegated to stay on the other side of the gates. And, since the strange dark rain had stopped, they had started rebuilding the gates which they had busted down yesterday, the first thing in the morning along with a few people from the city.

Meanwhile the rest of them were guarding the hunters and centaurs in a circle around them, as they walked them into the castle. The dungeon wouldn't be enough to hold all of them at the same time, thus they used one of the big aula to gather them in one place.

That room would be guarded heavily and no one was allowed to enter without permission from the general.

"The king's order," Sebastian said coldly. He was pretty annoyed with the fact that Jedrek didn't give a direct order to kill those wretched creatures, when their chief had taken their king's mate.

Though he had not grown fond of Lilac yet, since the mating ceremony had taken place and she was their queen now, it was an insult for them to have other creatures creating such a mess.

On the other hand, Raphael could understand why Jedrek gave such an order, therefore he didn't ask further about this matter and chose to take care of other things.

For now, since Serefina had gone, Lidya took charge of securing the city, especially the castle, from outsider's dark magic, or anything that could possibly harm them from any unprecedented situations.

It was a mess, even inside the castle, as the three Donovans were not present to take control, hence, it was a little bit chaotic.

Not to mention, that the people present were from different areas and lived under different leaders, they didn't really get along with each other.

There would be a few quarrels here and there, now and then.

=====

Raine and Hope's attention turned to their respective mates, who were snarling viciously at the seven devils and Serefina. The witch didn't even flinch when she heard those thunderous growls.

Raine and Hope assumed Serefina's betrayal had hurt them the most compared to Chiron. It hurt the two guardian angels too, since it was literally Serefina, who had helped them all along the way to reach this point in their life, despite her snarky comments and bad attitude.

However, now the witch had let go of their hands and turned her back against them. It was hard to believe, but the fact was right before their eyes. It was impossible for them to find any comfort to think that it was one of Serefina's plan, wasn't it?

If it was, Serefina would have already indicated something, anything, that could make them understood why she had done this.

Raine shifted her attention from Torak to Serefina, who was staring back at her, she wanted to ask 'why', but it seemed the witch couldn't understand the meaning behind her gaze, as she turned around and disappeared alongside with the other seven devils, leaving the spot where they were standing empty. Only the golden color of the sun glittered in that empty spot.

"Come on Raine," Hope broke Raine's reverie and tugged her to approach their respective mates, since the situation was no longer dangerous for them.

Hope let go of Raine's hand when she was close enough to Kace and pounced onto that man and almost made the lycan staggered back before he could steady himself, scolding her lightly.

Meanwhile Torak approached Raine unhurriedly and caressed her hair gently, as he leaned over and kissed her temple.

"You did a great job," Torak said proudly.

"I did nothing," Raine replied as her eyes stared at Jedrek, who had walked away with Lilac in his arms, seemingly he didn't care about anything anymore, even killing Chiron and Carina was no longer interested him.

The only thing that he wanted now, was to take Lilac back to the castle and make sure that the treatment that his mate needed was provided to her. Behind him, Eaton, in his beast form, followed closely, guarding the king and queen.

"If it is not for you who stopped the time at the most appropriate moment, then Jedrek wouldn't have been able to save Lilac in time," Torak said softly. He wanted Raine to be more confident with her own power.

However, for Raine, she was still clueless about how this power worked. It didn't seem like she could stop the time at her will, or jump to a different era as she wished.

"What about him?" Raine didn't want to dwell with Torak's flattery and nodded at Chiron, who was sitting on the ground in a weird position, since he injured his stomach and waited for the wound to close in.

At the same time, Carina managed to free herself from Zarrn's grip and rushed toward Chiron.

Torak and Kace immediately pushed their mates behind their back, they didn't want for those two creatures to come close to their women, while Calleb glared to the two creatures.

"Chiron..." Carina knelt next to him and started sobbing while resting her head on his shoulder.

From behind them Zarrn walked closer and approached the two Donovan brothers and the two guardian angels.

"What will you do to them?" But, Zarrn immediately corrected himself. "What will you do to us?"

=====

Serefina heaved a heavy breath.

She watched how Jedrek put aside his pride and bent his knees in front of his enemies to save Lilac's life. Not only that, he didn't spare her a single glance when he took Lilac from Chiron's grip and carried her away, even though he knew Serefina was merely a few steps away from him.

Yes, Serefina realized that Raine had used her power and stopped the time.

Probably, if Jedrek threw her a nasty look or disgusted by her presence, it would put her at ease, but he didn't. He completely ignored her after the initial shock when he realized that she too had crossed the bridge.

"Why didn't you kill the three guardian angels?" Serefina asked Lucifer.

"We need them alive," Belphegor replied simply.

### **Chapter 830 - LET JEDREK DECIDED IT**

"Why didn't you kill the three guardian angels?" Serefina asked Lucifer, who was walking in front of her.

They just teleported themselves to the main castle, which had been ruined with dark clouds over its spires, in the city center that had been abandoned.

It was Belphegor, who replied to her question simply. "We need them alive," he said while walking past her.

"For what?" Serefina scoffed and folded her arms in front of her chest. "You got their blood already, you don't have to keep them alive any longer."

Mammon, who was walking in front of Serefina, stopped all of a sudden and the witch almost bumped onto him.

"Sh\*t!" she cursed loudly. "Can't you walk properly?!"

Mammon chuckled. "I think you will make a good pair with Wrath rather than that pathetic Alpha king," he said casually, but the rest of the devils chuckled with him. "And yes, we still need them alive... it's no fun to kill the three of them very fast. Don't you think so?"

Serefina jeered, "What are you planning to do with them, keeping them alive?"

"You are not here to question us," Wrath said grimly as he walked past Serefina, but he didn't forget to bump into her shoulder and incurred the witch's wrath. "Did you think that we will trust you that easily?"

Not just the shifters, which loved to play with their prey, the devils apparently had the same obsession too.

"You two whispered to the centaur to kill the guardian angel, but now you are saying you want to spare their lives? Can't you be more consistent with your own decision?" Serefina spoke, her voice dripping with heavy sarcasm.

"I didn't say that I am against killing the guardian angels, but apparently, our dear Lucifer has other plans for actually keeping them alive," Mammon chimed in. "Of course, it is good if they are dead, but it is even more better if they are alive." He shrugged nonchalantly.

"Alright, enough." Lucifer raised both of his hands and stopped Serefina and the wrath from wreaking some havoc in this already crumbled place.

"I don't think we have any use to have the witch with us," Beelzebub said to Asmodeus. The two devil women stared at Serefina as they whisper-talked with each other.

"No, I don't think so... let's see what she can offer to us..." Asmodeus replied in a daydreaming tone. "Moreover, it is very interesting to see how that guardian angel stopped the time, don't you think so?" she elbowed Belphegor beside her.

"Hmm," the sloth hummed lazily.

"Will you really give the king back to her? Though it was very clear that Jedrek had already fallen head over heels to his mate?" Beelzebub still couldn't understand why Asmodeus brought Serefina with them and promised that stupid thing to the witch.

Asmodeus shrugged her shoulders and giggled coquettishly. "If Jedrek died in our hands, I can pick him up from tartarus and she can have him for herself." She winked at the Gluttony. "In the end, I didn't lie."

=====

"Why don't we kill them all?" Calleb suggested, he threw a nasty look at Chiron and Carina, who were on the ground.

"As you wish," Chiron replied in a low voice. The dagger he used earlier was given to him by Lucifer, it seemed this weapon had been dripped in some kind of poison. A wound from a small dagger shouldn't weaken him into his current state, but the pain said otherwise, he felt his consciousness slipping away and the cut didn't heal as fast as it supposed to be.

At this point, there was no point to beg for his life and after what he had done, even after watching Jedrek kneel before him with his own eyes, Chiron still felt empty.

He felt like, he accomplished nothing.

"No, Chiron..." Carina whimpered as she hugged the centaur, her whole body trembling, as she sat in a weird position to support Chiron's weight.

Meanwhile, Zarrn didn't have a word to say. He couldn't justify what Chiron had done, but to see his chief and Carina being killed before his eyes, was too cruel for him if he didn't even do anything, even it was pleading.

"Can you please forgive them?" Zarrn stepped forward and pleaded for the two of them. "Chiron was not in his right mind when he decided to kill the guardian angel."

The moment Zarrn mentioned it, Torak, Kace and Calleb became even angrier.

Zarrn immediately realized that he had said something wrong, thus he quickly corrected himself. "You saw it for yourself that the devils manipulated him, they whispered to him. You know what it meant when the devils whispered to you..."

Right.

However, if that could justify what Chiron had done to Lilac, then the same reason could be used to justify Jedrek's decision to kill those centaurs centuries ago, he didn't decide that on his own too.

But, then... when would this circle stop?

Kace shook his head. "I don't want this to end this way."

"Let Jedrek decide what he want to do to them..." Torak shifted his attention to Zarrn. "And you as well."

=====

Halfway to the city behind the gates, Sebastian had sent out around thirty shifters to receive Jedrek and their queen, thus Lilac's condition could be treated faster, since they knew what they had to prepare the moment Jedrek and Lilac arrived inside the castle.

Lilac had not opened her eyes since Jedrek took her away from Chiron's grip, but from the way she curled her fingers weakly on Jedrek's front cloak and how she whimpered when Jedrek was about to put her down on their bed, he could sigh in relief that his mate was conscious enough to feel his presence.

"I am here little flower, I am here. No one will ever hurt you again," Jedrek coaxed Lilac to let go of his shirt, so the healer, who had been called beforehand, could check on her.

Yet, Lilac snuggled closer when she lost the warm from his embrace.

In the end, Jedrek had to cradle her when the healer checked her thoroughly. Not only the healer, Lidya also took a part of checking Lilac as well.