

## **TLOA Lycan 831**

### **Chapter 831 - HEARTBREAKING MOMENT FOR HOPE**

"How is she?" Jedrek asked Lidya and the healer, from the look on his expression, it was clear that he was barely holding back his frustration.

The king had never been in such a condition, where he lost his composure and showed exactly what he was feeling right at the moment.

And what he was feeling right now, was not any lesser than frenzied worry. He was worried about his mate, forgetting that an hour ago, he was forced to kneel in front of his enemies, his brothers and also in front of Serefina...

Even the fact that his ex lover had betrayed him, overlapped his worry for Lilac's well being.

The healer tried to touch Lilac's neck, wanting to see her mark, but she retracted her hand immediately when Jedrek growled deeply.

"Apologize your grace, I just want to see the mark," the healer fidgeted under Jedrek's sharp glare.

Because Lilac's long hair was covering the area where her mark was imprinted, Jedrek wiped the few strands of her hair gently and showed a beautiful mark, which still had a few bruises around it, but it had formed into an intricate white teeth mark just like a tattoo.

The healer didn't want to startle Jedrek again, thus she stretched out her hand more slowly this time and touched the area.

However, because of the pain, Lilac whimpered softly and this caused Jedrek to knit his brows. His eyes were still the color of red and his beast was barely under his control, therefore when he heard his mate whimpering, he quickly pushed away the healer's hand.

"What is it?" he asked grimly.

Around the room, there were a few guards, whom Sebastian had delegated here and also Eaton, who was standing close to the bed. Lilac was already kidnapped once, there was no way they would let the same mistake happen once again to her.

"She will be all right," the healer said. "She just needs a few days to recuperate, everything is fine and her mark also started to heal."

"Right, I don't see any dark magic lingering on or around her, but just in case, I will put some necessary spells around this room," Lidya said and she walked out of the room, because she had other things to do.

The witch nodded slightly at Jedrek then excused herself.

And after a few words from the healer and some questions regarding Lilac's condition, the healer also left the room to concoct a medicine for Lilac.

"I will be outside if you need me," Eaton said to Jedrek before he walked out of the room, yet the king only nodded without even sparing him a glance as his eyes were completely focused on Lilac's sleeping face.

There was a soft thud when Eaton closed the door, leaving the king and the queen alone.

"I am sorry, my little flower... I am sorry to cause you another harm." Jedrek laid Lilac down when he felt her breathing became even and the clutch on his front cloak had loosened.

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"Lock them inside the dungeon," Torak said to Alpha Brian. "Keep your eyes on them," he added, throwing a nasty look to Chiron and Carina.

The white clothes wrapped around Chiron's stomach had now turned the color of red because of the blood that kept oozing out from the wound.

The dagger that the devil gave to Chiron was indeed coated by poison, if it was Lilac who got stabbed instead of him, in her current condition, she would have died and the situation wouldn't be as calm as now.

Jedrek would have wreaked some havoc and Torak and Kace wouldn't be here to talk to the other lycanthropes.

"I understood," Alpha Brian's replied to his supreme Alpha. "What about him?" he tilted his head toward Zarrn.

"Lock him in a different dungeon." It was Kace who told Alpha Brian.

The Alpha was about to retort, but the look on Kace's face made him stop and he could only nod slightly without extending the matter.

Kace was fully blown from witnessing everything that conspired today and he was still trying to adjust his feelings.

On the other hand, Zarrn didn't protest when a guard pushed him to follow him into the cell where he would stay until god knew how long. If he was lucky enough, he would live there for eternity, but if what Chiron had committed couldn't be forgiven, this realm should put the centaur inside the list of the extinct creatures.

And Zarrn thought it was more likely for the latter to happen, he didn't have much hope for the former.

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Absolute silence engulfed Kace and Hope while they walked back to their bedroom, both of them only needed the accompany of each other.

And once it was only the two of them, Kace locked the door and pulled Hope closer to him as he hugged her from behind, resting his head on her shoulder, relishing her delicate scent, savoring the only moment that could put his heavy mind at ease.

Only at that time, he felt Hope's trembling body. She was crying. However, Kace didn't need to ask what was the reason of her tears, because he already knew it.

This was the first time Hope experienced a betrayal and the worst part was; it came from the person who was very close to her.

Hope always thought of Serefina more than her guardian, she was a mother figure for her and the witch had been raised her well enough to overcome all hurdles the life threw on to her path and stand next to her mate as her present stronger self.

She truly loved her...

"We..." Hope stuttered. "We... we have to fight her?" She bit her lips, this thought alone made her want to cry and shout out loud for the reality that she had to face.

"Yes, my hope..." Kace replied matter of factly, he didn't want to sugar coat the thing that they had to face sooner or later. There was no point in doing that.

"Why did she do this?" Hope asked, sobbing. She leaned her body against Kace's sturdy chest while covering her face with her palms. "Is it because Jedrek chose Lilac?"

#### **Chapter 832 - WHY DON'T YOU DO IT?**

"She is not that shallow..." Kace said, refusing to believe that was the reason behind Serefina's decision. Maybe it was only their denial, but it was enough to calm their raging emotions.

Today was a hard day for all of them, but it didn't mean that all of this craziness would stop tomorrow.

"We need to take some rest," Kace murmured next to Hope's ears and he moved swiftly to carry the girl to the bed, laid her down real smooth and cuddled her affectionately.

This was all they needed for now.

Because this was just the beginning, they still had a long way to go before the real war started. Sometimes, it was easier to beat down one's enemies, but things would get really ugly when you realized the people that you used to know were not exactly the person that you believed them to be.

"I don't want things escalate to the point where we have to fight Serefina... I don't want something bad happen to her..." Hope whispered softly, her voice sounded very pitiful until Kace had to hug her even tighter, afraid that she would break down again.

"So do I," Kace replied, but he couldn't promise her anything, he himself was feeling utterly lost.

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Someone knocked on the door and after Jedrek muttered his permission to let them in, the healer walked into the room with a young servant, she was holding a bowl of medicine.

"She needs to drink it while it is still warm," the healer told Jedrek and the king nodded his approval, waved his hand dismissing them. He wanted more alone time with his mate.

After seeing that gesture, the two women excused themselves and left the two of them alone again.

Jedrek picked up the bowl, which was filled with brown liquid, he sniffed it before tasting it. And, only when he was sure that it was not something that could harm his mate, he tried to wake up Lilac.

Jedrek didn't trust anyone else to try the medicine for his mate.

Watching Lilac at the brink of death had put Jedrek in the same position as well. His heart would have stopped right then and there if the dagger managed to pierce her heart.

Just the thought of it made him tremble with terror.

"Lilac..." Jedrek called out her name softly. "Drink your medicine first..." He tried to wake her up as gentle as he could.

"Hm..." Lilac m.o.a.ned as she curled her body under the blanket when Jedrek shook her shoulder lightly.

"Wake up for a while and drink this first," Jedrek said in a soft persuading tone, he put his hand under her head and lifted her up so he could cradle her in his arms. "Come, drink this..."

Lilac's eyelashes fluttered and she watched as Jedrek brought the bowl near her lips, and how he clumsily tried to help her drink the liquid.

However, because Jedrek had never fed someone as sick as Lilac, he didn't really know how to do it gently. He never encountered someone who was very sick like her now, and even if did, he had never done something delicate like this; to feed them medicine.

Therefore, when Jedrek lifted the bowl, in order to will the medicine to flow in to her mouth, he overturned the bowl quickly and it caused Lilac to choke on it.

"I am sorry, I am sorry..." Jedrek immediately put down the bowl and cursed under his breath for his lack of competence for not being able to feed his own mate properly.

"It... it's okay..." Lilac wiped the liquid from under her chin, but it tainted her gown, thus she needed to change it. "Use spoon," she said weakly. It was hard for her to even stay awake, her eyelids really felt heavy. She felt like her whole body was being afloat.

"Oh." Jedrek felt stupid that that simple idea didn't even cross his murky mind.

The king immediately mind-linked the guard outside to get a spoon for him, thankfully everything returned to normal since Lidya had lifted whatever spell that the devils used to mess up with their way to communicate with each other.

"We need to change your dress," Jedrek said when he saw that Lilac was feeling uncomfortable with the liquid that wetted her dress. "I will call the servants."

"Will you go if they come inside?" Lilac asked, as she rested her head on Jedrek's shoulder.

"Of course not, I will stay here," Jedrek replied almost immediately. He wasn't willing to stay more than three steps away from Lilac.

"If you are going to stay..." Lilac heaved a deep breath, this long sentence tired her. "...why don't you change my dress yourself?"

Honestly, Lilac didn't feel comfortable with someone else being so close to her. She needed her mate and wanted nothing but for him to stay with her.

Upon hearing what Lilac said, Jedrek's eyes turned dark, but he agreed anyway. "Alright."

Jedrek put Lilac down on the bed and immediately took a white dress and towel from the wardrobe and comeback to her.

The king sat down on the edge of the bed and slowly, unbuttoned the dress that Lilac was wearing. As Jedrek was fully engrossed in what he was doing, the guardian angel opened her eyes and looked at him while he undressed her.

Her black eyes turned misty when she watched his brows knitted together in concentration. he was being absolutely focused on the matter at hand.

"You knelt for me," Lilac said when Jedrek revealed her chest, she shuddered when the cold air caressed her bare skin.

Jedrek immediately used the towel to wipe the remaining liquid on her delicate skin. "What do you expect me to do? You thought I would leave you?"

"For a moment, yes," Lilac replied truthfully. There was a moment that she thought Jedrek wouldn't do what he was asked to and he would leave her to die in the hands of the centaur.

"Don't be silly," Jedrek grumbled as he tried to concentrate on something else except her half n.a.k.e.d body, but her question only disturbed him further. "I would never do that."

"Because I am your mate?" Lilac questioned the same thing that Raine and Hope had been wondering the most.

### **Chapter 833 - YOU ARE MINE**

What if she was not his mate? Would he do the same?

Jedrek knew exactly what Lilac meant by her question, but it didn't make him fathom what the right answer for that, therefore he answered what he felt right now for Lilac.

"I don't know the answer for that question. Whether it's because you are my mate or not, whether the mate bond that urged me to do something impulsive and put aside my pride to bend my knees. But, all I know is; at this point, I will do everything to keep you safe."

Jedrek unbuttoned the last button from Lilac's dress and revealed her n.a.k.e.d body. This would be the second time he got to see her n.a.k.e.d, but in a totally different condition.

"You are my missing piece." Jedrek cradled Lilac in his arms and she closed her eyes under Jedrek's smoldering gaze upon seeing her body, but the sound of his voice soothed her ears. "You make me want to be a better version of me."

Lilac felt her dress slid away under her body.

"You are my obsession." Jedrek's touch felt hot on Lilac's skin when he helped her to put on her dress.

"You are my soul mate."

Lilac opened her eyes and watched as Jedrek slid the white dress on swiftly and pulled her long hair from inside it before he buttoned it up again.

"You are my angel." Jedrek's fingers danced on her body when he buttoned all the three buttons on the dress front, covering her delicate skin again.

Afterward, he arranged the pillows behind Lilac, so she could rest against it. When he was done, he tucked the few dangling strands of her hair behind her ears and leaned over to kiss her temple gently.

"You are mine," he said softly.

Lilac felt surreal when Jedrek said all of those things to her. If it was two years ago, she wouldn't have believed any of it.

Just like what Jedrek said earlier; whether this was the mate bond or not, Lilac felt she was loved by him right now. The way he said what he felt about her with every touch on her skin, made her shudder in delight.

"And you are mine?" Lilac asked softly.

Jedrek grabbed her hands and kissed her knuckles while saying, "And I am yours."

The bright sun streamed down from the window, illuminated the room, indicating a new day had begun and made woes and misery from yesterday appear like some long time memories from the past in comparison.

This was not the end, they still got a lot to fight for and a war to win.

It might be hard and almost impossible to achieve, but they would go through it together.

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"Jedrek still didn't want to go out from his room?" Hope asked, she had been following Kace since this morning and it would be lunch time soon, but this lycan wouldn't let her go even for a second.

Kace insisted that Hope should follow him around and be within his eyesight.

Being betrayed by Chiron forced Kace to look at his life in a different perspective, maybe it was only him, who was over thinking things, but now he could understand Jedrek and his skeptical behavior a little bit.

Kace would have gone crazy if he were Jedrek, living in the same roof with those people who were ready to stab you in the back once you put your guard down for a mere second.

At this point, Kace was curious about the possibility that Jedrek chose to drive him and Torak away from this realm, might be because of this very reason, since he knew everything that their father had done from the beginning.

"No," Kace said grumpily. He took Hope to the entrance gates to observe the situation, but saw that Torak and Raine were earlier than them, and now they were busy talking to Sterling and Alpha Ralph. "Since that night, he will never let Lilac out of his sight."

"Yeah, so did you..." teased Hope.

"Me?" Kace turned around and glared at Hope incredulously. "Of course not."

"Said the person who was banging the door hysterically because I took two minutes longer inside the bathroom," Hope reminded him and Kace just took her hand as he quickened his pace, while the girl giggled upon seeing his reaction.

However, it was not only Kace and Hope, or Jedrek and Lilac, because Torak became more protective toward Raine as well. The girl was seen following Torak in every meeting that he joined with the other Alphas from early in the morning.

On the brighter side, it was a good thing for Raine to be exposed to more people and be known as Torak's mate, but aside from that, the girl literally must be at an arms length near Torak all the time.

Raine waved her hand to Hope when she saw her approaching toward them with Kace in tow, but Sebastian stopped them intending to talk to Kace.

Meanwhile, Calleb came over and grinned at Raine. "Why don't you come with me to eat lunch?" He talked to Raine first before he gave Torak the information from the city gates.

Apparently, Jedrek's people would come from another area of this realm and they would help them to rebuild the gates again, make it stronger if possible.

"Are you hungry, my love?" Torak asked, with concern evident in his eyes.

"Not really," Raine replied.

"Give me five minutes and we will have lunch together." He kissed her cheek briefly before he continued to talk with Sterling and Alpha Ralph again.

"Have you seen a tiger shifter?" Calleb conversed with Raine, while Torak was busy talking to the other people. "I met one at the city gates, I think he came for Kace, he looks skinny and pitiful as a shifter..."

Raine knew, if Calleb started rumbling like this, all she had to do was listen and she was good at it. He wouldn't stop until he reported everything he had done to Raine.

Therefore, when Calleb stopped mid- sentence and perked her ears, as he turned around groggily, Raine frowned.

"Call, what happened?" Raine asked, she watched as Calleb closed his eyes as he sniffed the air greedily.

### **Chapter 834 - ROSIE...**

Raine felt that Calleb tensed up all of a sudden. She tried to follow his line of sight, but saw nothing in that particular direction.

Meanwhile, Torak stopped talking to Sterling and Alpha Ralph. He looked at Calleb, who was anxious, as if he was trying to look for something... or, someone?

"Torak, what happened to him?" Raine asked, she was worried seeing Calleb's strange behavior.

Torak squinted his eyes, he seemed to have his own guess, but still wasn't sure and wanted to see what would happen.

"Call?" Raine became more worried about him, especially when the Gamma appeared as if he couldn't hear her well and chose to walk away, following the sweet scent that was beckoning his senses.

Right at this moment, from the corner of the building, half-running toward them were the twins and Rosie, Sterling's children.

"Father!" Rosie called out for her father, her cheerful voice rang beautifully in Calleb's ears and the way she carried herself, left the Gamma dumbfounded. He had never seen a girl as beautiful and sweet as her.

However, Rosie stopped running when she felt something bother her. It wasn't an uncomfortable feeling, but quite the opposite.

And when she scoured her eyes around to find who was staring intently at her, she found Calleb's green eyes.

From the way that man looked at her, it stirred something within Rosie, she felt there were a thousand butterflies fluttered their colorful wings inside her stomach.

Her lips felt parched for no apparent reason, but there was a soft whisper that escaped her mouth.

"Mate."

"Mate."

They spoke simultaneously and looked at each other as if they got lost in each other eyes and didn't care about anyone around them anymore when they started to walk closer to each other.

Not only Raine and the other people around them, Kace, Hope and Sebastian also started to realize the oddity of the situation until they got to hear them claiming each other as their mate.

Calleb was surprised. No. He was shocked and speechless, he had never imagined that he would find his mate in this place, in such a situation.

Finding his mate would be the last thing that he thought would happen today. But there she was, looking all beautiful and gorgeous. Her eyes were so big and looked at him innocently, and was that curiosity that he could see in those eyes?

Calleb gulped down hard. He couldn't believe what he got to find today. Selene chose this fateful day for him to meet his other half. Today of all the days when he just returned from the city gates, drenched in sweat and dirt, with his nest like hair adding to his insecurities.

Oh, Selene... couldn't you find another day or moment for me to meet her? At least, the time when I wear something decent and not smelling like a stray dog. Calleb whined in his head.

However, it couldn't reduce his excitement to see his mate.

The girl walked forward to approach him and Calleb, with his insecurities, stood there like a fool. He took a step forward, but it was not quick enough for her, thus she took the initiative to approach him first and hastened her steps.



However, before they could relish in each other's presence and feel the wonderful tingly feeling that several lycans always talked about whenever they touched their other half, one of the siblings interfered and pulled the girl away, only three steps before they could close the proximity between them.

Out of instinct, Calleb growled loudly and sent him a dagger look for taking his mate away from him. But, the other siblings came to the rescue and now both of them hid his mate behind their backs. This annoyed the Gamma greatly.

"Give me back my mate!" Calleb snarled viciously at the siblings, who were trying to save their dearest little sister.

"No way! She is not your mate!" Ian snarled back at him and glared, while Ethan lowered his upper body, ready to shift into his beast form if necessary.

"You heard that!" Calleb took another step closer, at this rate a clash would be unavoidable if there was no one to intervene. "She is my mate! So, get the hell out of her!"

On the other hand, when Sterling heard that Calleb was yelling at his children he jumped forward and roared. "Don't you dare to yell at my children!"

He was like an angry father, who was dissatisfied because his children were being ganged upon, while in fact it was quite the opposite.

"I want my mate!" Calleb shouted stubbornly, as his eyes wildly looked for the girl behind the siblings. He wanted to call her, but then he remembered that he didn't even know her name! D\*mn!

At a distance, Kace, Hope and Sebastian walked over to see the commotion that the newly mated lycan had created and saw that Calleb was ready to clash head on head with Sterling.

"Don't you want to stop them?!" Kace glowered at Torak, because his older brother did nothing to prevent this commotion.

"Why should I?" Torak raised his eyebrows questioningly, as if Kace's question was very foolish to hear.

"He is your Gamma," Kace said in frustration.

On the other hand, Raine also felt uncomfortable to see the confrontation before her eyes. She was afraid that something bad would happen to Calleb, after all Sterling appeared taller and bigger than Calleb.

"Torak," Raine whined. "They will start to kill each other."

However, Torak just chuckled and kissed her temple, while saying with certainty. "They will not. You don't have to worry about it."

"I don't know how you can stand him, Raine," Kace grumbled and approached the two shifters, who was about to bit off each other's neck.

"Alright, enough!" Kace pushed Calleb and Sterling away from one another and then shifted his attention toward the twins. "Bring Rosie here," he ordered them.

"No, she is my daughter!" Sterling rejected it immediately.

"I didn't say that she is not." Kace rolled his eyes dramatically and knocked Ethan and Ian on their heads for not listening to his order.

Meanwhile, Calleb was fascinated upon knowing his mate's name.

Rosie...

### **Chapter 835 - I CAN MARK HER**

Rosie...

That beautiful name kept ringing in Calleb's ears, ignoring the quarrel between Kace and Sterling, also the unreasonable twins, his green eyes searched for the girl's petite figure wildly, as he craned his neck.

"Sterling, you don't have to overreact like this," Kace said in frustration. "She is his mate, what are you trying to do? You want to keep her away from her mate?"

"Yes," Sterling replied without a second thought and stood tall between Ian and Ethan, who were unwilling to move either. They protected Rosie, as if Calleb would take her away and wouldn't return her again.

What a stupid thought!

"Move!" Calleb was about to rush forward, yet Sebastian held him back, if they engaged physically, the situation wouldn't get any better.

On the other hand, Raine was worried to death about Calleb, she had never seen him lost his cool like this and him being very impulsive was out of the question.

However, when she looked at Torak beside her, she saw her mate smiling faintly as he dr.a.p.ed an arm around her shoulders leisurely, as if he was enjoying the events unfolding in front of them.

"Torak," Raine called him as she tugged the hem of his shirt to get his attention.

"Hm?" Torak hummed and looked at his mate adorable worried expression before he chuckled lightly and kissed her cheeks. "What is it?"

"Don't you want to help Calleb? It looks like he will be in trouble." And then Raine added. "Your brother too." She looked around, but couldn't find Hope anywhere. Where did she go?

"Do you want me to help him?" Torak asked in a teasing tone. "Kiss me and I will help him."

"Torak!" Raine shrieked. In front of them, there were a few people about to fight, but here was Torak, asking for a kiss? Ugh! Could he be anymore less overbearing?

Torak chuckled and pecked her lips softly, he didn't even bother himself to think that the situation in front of him was serious. ???Don't worry, my love, they will not kill each other."

Right after he finished speaking, Hope appeared with a beautiful woman, who rushed toward the small commotion and immediately approached Sterling.

Everyone gasped loudly when the newcomer, all of sudden, kicked his knees and glared viciously at him. However, the most surprising part was that Sterling just whimpered and glared at that woman, but didn't dare to say one more word when she stood with her arms akimbo.

"She met her mate, why do you have to prevent her from seeing her mate?!" Diana yelled at her mate and frowned at her sons.

"Mom, Rosie is still very young to be with her mate," Ian complained. Despite of his mother's sharp glare, he wasn't willing to let his little sister to go to Calleb.

"He is rude to us," Ethan protested.

However, the two of them only got hit on their heads when they tried to make an excuse for their overreaction. It was clear to see that it was them who were being rude toward Calleb for not letting him to meet Rossie.

"MOM!" Ethan and Ian shrieked, while covering their heads with their both hands, when Sophia lifted her hand to hit them one more time.

"Move!" Sophia positioned her arms akimbo while shooting daggers at the men in her family.

Complaining and grumbling, the three men finally moved aside and revealed Rosie. The girl looked around her anxiously, she didn't really know what she should do now. Her curiosity to know her newly found mate was profound, but her father and brothers' reaction made her hesitant.

"You are smart," Kace whispered to Hope. Sophia was the right person to tame the three of them without any problem.

Standing beside Kace, Hope crossed her arms in front of her chest and spoke to her mate proudly. "You must solve problems like this efficiently."

Kace chuckled and pinched her cheeks.

"Come here Rosie," Sophia called her daughter and stretched out her hand.

Hesitantly, Rossie took her mother's hand and moved closer, she peeked at Calleb shyly, who was standing behind her mother.

"Rosie doesn't want him," Ian said grumpily, but very low, so it was only Hope, who could hear him. Hope along with Kace was standing next to these two disobedient twins.

"You know she does," Hope said with certainty while giving him a nasty look for being a busy body. "All she would ramble about since we were in the school was that it was her dream to meet her mate and today her dream comes true."

"Cih," Ethan clicked his tongue, annoyed.

"But, because of certain people, her beautiful dream was about to turn into a nightmare," Hope added, throwing a meaningful glare at the two of them, which they ignored altogether by pretending to study the shoes they were wearing as if those were the most intriguing things they had ever come to know.

Caleb had never been this happy, excited and nervous at the same time, he walked forward to approach his mate, whose name was Rosie. He kept repeating her name again and again inside his head and loved the way it sounded.

Yet, before the Gamma could get closer, Sophia stepped in between them and stared at him crossly, she folded her arms in a defensive position.

"I let you be with her because you two are mates, but..." her voice turned sharp and serious. "She is still underage and I'm not expecting grandchildren any soon. Understood?!"

"Mom..." Rosie stiffened when she heard what her mother was saying and felt her face turn beet red.

On the side, Ian and Ethan cheered at their mother's words. "You go mom! Tell him everything is off limits!" They were feeling shamelessly giddy at the thought of Caleb being unhappy with the words said.

However, Caleb just tilted his head and smiled innocently. "No mating, but it means I can mark her, right?" he asked boldly.

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Serefina was staring at the gloomy sky. Whether it might be day or night, the sky above this castle was always murky and stormy.

She knew this castle like the back of her hand, but she had never thought she would comeback in such a situation and would hate it to her core, just to be here.

Because every corner of this place reminded her the memories of him, the beautiful yet short lived memories from the past. Not to be reminiscent!

"Why do we need to keep you here?" Lilith appeared out of the blue and questioned the witch. She didn't bother to hide her hostility toward the witch in her voice in the slightest.

"Because all of you need me."

### **Chapter 836 - YOU NEED ME**

"Because all of you need me," Serefina said in a matter of fact tone, she leaned her back against the pillar and stared at the withering away trees and flowers. There was nothing in this place that she could relate to life. Everything is dead, even the air was stalemate and suffocating.

The last time she was here, there were no flowers near the castle, since she hated them, Jedrek had never planted them when she moved here and lived with him.

However, though those flowers could no longer survive this wicked atmosphere, the witch could see that this place originally was filled with flowers. Those were decorated in every corner of this place.

No need to ask, who had done that. It must be that flower girl.

"In what way do you think we need you?" Lilith didn't look a little bit happy when she learned that Serefina joined their camp and no one bothered to raise an objection.

Serefina just scoffed at the question, without giving her any answer.

"I heard that the centaur failed to kill one of the guardian angels." Lilith didn't stop to talk and now she was trying to provoke her. "I will not be surprised if in the end we figure out you have something to do with it."

"What do you mean I have something to do with it?" Serefina raised her brows, but her expression didn't give away what was inside her mind. "You want to say that I am the one who stopped the time?"

Lilith squinted her eyes. She had heard about the guardian angel who could stop the time and it was Raine, after all they had met several times in the past.

So, it was her who had stopped the time and saved her fellow guardian angel...

"You taught her how to do that," Lilith spoke, her tone was dripping with accusation and this only made Serefina laugh loudly.

"You are very funny, aren't you?" the witch sneered and gave her a pity look. "Stopping the time, controlling the nature and seeing the spirits are those guardian angels abilities."

Lilith gritted her teeth. She didn't like it when this witch acted like this, as if she knew everything and the devils didn't.

"They were born with that gift from Selene herself, as the guardian angels. It has nothing to do with me. Fortunately, Raine is still not able to control her power. Can you imagine if she takes full control of it and you can't move a single finger because the time froze around you?" she kindly informed the succubus. "You said, you don't need my help, but you don't even know about this? What a pity..."

"Of course I know about their abilities!" Lilith was very angry because Serefina had underestimated her knowledge.

"And then? What else do you know?" Serefina smirked. "What will you do when she froze the time again? Let yourself being killed?" The witch then covered her mouth. "Ups! I don't think it will be possible, since you can't die, right? Then maybe, let them play with you while you can't move?"

The thought of it pissed Lilith off. That would be the greatest humiliation if that really happened and Raine managed to do that to them.

"You should kill her before you join us to prove your loyalty," Lilith scowled. "You are very close to her and even had been protecting her for years now."

"Why should we kill her when we can use them?" it was Lucifer, who suddenly appeared out of thin air, and was standing right behind Serefina now and from the moment he started talking, the witch could feel the coldness from his presence. "This witch over here will help us with it, right?"

Even if Serefina did feel something, she didn't show it on her face, instead she spoke calmly and ignored the coldness that ran down her spine.

"As long as you give me your trust, let's see what I can do for you," she said simply.

"For that, you should prove yourself." Lucifer walked in front of Serefina and gazed down at her. "What can you do for us?"

"Do you have what I asked for?" Serefina flicked her red hair behind her shoulder. Both of them stared into each other eyes, ignoring Lilith's presence near them.

"All the witches and vampires from the northern coven realm are yours to control." Lucifer stretched out his hand and caressed Serefina's cheek, and the witch had to muster all of her strength not to shudder out of disgust. "As long as you can make us immune to Raine's power."

Serefina swatted Lucifer's hand from her face and smiled harmlessly. "What are you waiting for? Let's do it then."

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"Were you out of your mind?" Kace scowled, he shook his head in disbelief while walking behind Calleb, who was being comforted by Raine and Hope. "'I can mark her', you said?!"

"Don't yell at him." Raine frowned at Kace over her shoulder. "He is not in a good mood now."

Sophia totally lost it when Calleb threw that thoughtless remark at her. She lashed out at the Gamma. One should know that female shifters could turn scarier than an angry beast when it came to their pups.

And unfortunately, Calleb picked the wrong line to say. Just like what he always thought, his mouth could be the death of him and he felt like dying now when he watched his mate being taken away by her brothers, while he could do nothing to stop them.

"Brother, did you pick the right Gamma?" Kace turned to look at Torak beside him. "Why is he very clueless?" he asked in disbelief.

"Some people need to learn it in the hard way to truly understand the value of something." Torak said casually, as they walked toward the castle for lunch.

"You really didn't help at all," Kace sneered.

All of sudden, Calleb stopped walking and turned around to face Kace, his expression was very miserable.

"How long do you think Sophia will remain angry with me?" Calleb asked expectantly.

Kace's brows creased. "Don't get your expectations too high, she likes holding grudges for long-terms. Like really really long-terms" He patted his shoulder in sympathy.

### **Chapter 837 - WAKING UP**

"Hei, you don't know that she is rogue, do you? You don't like rogues, remember?" Hope reminded him. She remembered the very first time they met, Calleb was a little bit mean toward her and later she got to know what was his problem.

"Right, you don't like a rogue," Kace chimed in and gave the gamma a dirty look.

"Hey, that's not true..." Calleb grumbled. His voice was so low, as if he was unsure with his own answer.

In the past, yes, he disliked rogues very much, since he lost his little sister due to a rogue attack, but it didn't mean he would reject his mate because of that.

Though, he still hated rogues in general, he got along with Hope and Lana just fine, as both of them would never do something harmful like usual rogues. Moreover, Lana couldn't be called a rogue anymore as she was already mated with Raphael now.

On the other hand, Hope sneaked her arms around Kace's waist and looked at Calleb teasingly. "She is my junior in high school and we are very close just like siblings, what do you think she will be thinking if I said you hate rogues?"

In an instant, Calleb's eyes filled with dread. He raised his hands in surrender, as he shook his head vigorously. "No, no, no!" He said hurriedly. "Why do you have to make that sound so awful? I don't hate them."

"Yes, but you dislike them, what's the difference." Hope shrugged her shoulders, enjoying the sight of a flustered Calleb who was sweating profusely.

"Raine... help me," Calleb turned to Raine and pleaded for her help.

However, Torak put his hand on her shoulder and took her away. "Don't bother my mate," he said curtly, which was rewarded with a playful slap on his chest from Raine. "Let's see how much effort he will put into it," Torak retorted upon seeing Raine's disagreeing look.

Raine contemplated for awhile and then giggled. "Good luck Call," she said cheerfully.

"Not you also..." Calleb sighed miserably.

=====

Lilac woke up when she felt a spark on her arm, neck and cheek, as Jedrek caressed her skin lightly. When she opened her eyes, the bright sun shone through the window and illuminated the room, and forced her to close her eyes again.

Lilac let out a small grunt and immediately after that, a shadow casted upon her.

"You are awake."

Jedrek's voice rang in her ears beautifully and when Lilac opened her eyes again, she saw her mate's face, looking down at her with worry.

"Good morning," Lilac murmured and the worry in his face cracked into a soft smile as he placed a kiss on her temple.

"Good morning," he replied to her. "How do you feel today?"

Lilac snuggled closer, seeking for warmth from Jedrek's body and closed her eyes, seemingly wanting to sleep again. This morning was very comfortable; bright sun outside the window and her mate beside her, it was perfect, and Lilac didn't want this moment to end.

Seeing his mate like this, Jedrek chuckled lightly and caressed her soft silky hair. Lately, this was his favorite thing to do now. He simply loved doing it.

"Don't fall asleep again, you need to eat something," he said.

"I am sleepy," Lilac said dreamily, as she nuzzled his chest.

"You have been sleeping for two days straight," Jedrek protested. He had been on the edge the past two days, filled with anxiety and fear that Lilac wouldn't open her eyes again, which he knew that it was only his silly thought.

This time, Torak and Kace didn't bother him, they would just come a few times to discuss about something and let the guardian angels stay with Lilac, as they conversed, but after that they would go and didn't ask him to leave her side.

Even if they did ask, Jedrek would absolutely not agree to it, whatever they might say.

"Why? Do you miss me?" Lilac asked, she buried her face on his chest, so Jedrek couldn't see what kind of expression was on her face.

On the other hand, Jedrek didn't answer her immediately and continued to caress her back, until Lilac raised her head and looked at him with narrowed eyes, since he didn't answer her question.

"I will answer it if you get up and eat," Jedrek tried to bargain with his little mate.

"I will not get up and eat if you don't answer me," Lilac countered.

Upon hearing that, Jedrek laughed until Lilac could feel the rumble from his chest. "Can't you just agree with me once?"

"No," Lilac answered shortly.

"Yes, I miss you," Jedrek answered. "Now get up and eat something." He moved away and released his embrace around Lilac. "I will get your food."

Lilac was more than happy to see that Jedrek had warmed up to her, especially with the way he treated her now was a thousand times better than he did in the past.

Jedrek now, looked like someone different entirely. He looked less grumpy and was easier to approach. It was still fresh in her memory how Jedrek despised her the first time they met.

Is it because of the mate bond?

Absentmindedly Lilac touched the soft skin on her neck, which stung when she touched that spot. However, she knew it was his mark.

A soft smile appeared on her lips, but when she watched Jedrek's back, she remembered about what had happened in the meadow.

What was Jedrek planning to do with the centaurs? Or, more precisely what would he do to Chiron?

Probably, she should ask him later, before he made a hasty decision and regret it for life.

However, there was one more question she was afraid to ask, which concerned Serefina...



Jedrek had seen Serefina in the meadow, right? It was impossible for him not to see her, right? Then, what would he do now, since Serefina had taken the devil's side?

Lilac herself didn't want to believe it, but she clearly saw Serefina had taken her blood and it meant a great deal to them.

The witch probably knew what would happen to let the guardian angel's blood fall into the devils hands, right?

### **Chapter 839 - I WISH YOUR DEATH**

"Congratulations, the baby seems very healthy," Eaton said casually to Lana when she stood beside him, with his eyes on Lana's stomach.

However, his casual remark made the surrounding conversations die down and the three guardian angels, along with Calleb turned their heads toward them.

"Baby?"

"What do you mean by baby?"

Their questions echoed inside the room and gradually their focus shifted to Lana.

"Are you pregnant?" Calleb asked Lana, he moved closer to her and started to sniff her before Raphael pushed him aside.

"What are you doing sniffing my mate as you wish?" Raphael asked grumpily, he shoved Calleb away and pulled Lana closer to him.

Calleb ignored the hostility in Raphael's voice toward him as his eyes widened in surprise.

"What is it?" Raine asked immediately, approaching Lana with Hope in her tow.

They knew that the shifters had a sensitive nose, thus it was not surprising if they could smell something from Lana if she was really pregnant.

"She is really pregnant!" Calleb exclaimed loudly and looked at Lana in disbelief.

"Really?" Raine and Hope squalled, even Lilac clapped her hands happily and congratulated Lana from her bed, since she was still not feeling better enough to get off of it.

"You didn't realized it until now?" Eaton looked at Calleb, how could he be so dense to not realize something like this, when they met a few times already.

"No, I was not aware that her scent changed..." Calleb shook his head absentmindedly. He felt bad for not realizing this immediately.

"But, isn't Lana and Raphael just met only for around two months? But, Lana is already pregnant?" Hope looked at Lana and Raphael in confusion. "Wasn't that very fast?"

Raine also looked at them, asking for explanation.

And it was Eaton who fed the guardian angel's curiosity. "For shifters like us, the pregnancy will only take five and half months," he said. "And most of us, shifters, would mate and mark as soon as we found our other half, because right after we mark our mate, the female shifter would go through heat and it was the perfect time to have pups."

That sequence, was indeed true for a normal couple, where they mark and mate right after they met, but it was quite different for Raine, Hope and Lilac.

Though Lilac had went through all of the aforementioned events and was just waiting for her heat to come, but Hope and Raine had gone through heat, yet their mates didn't do the things that must have been completed.

"You better stay close to Jedrek, as your heat will come within days," Eaton said teasingly to Lilac and the guardian angel chose to avoid his eyes by looking at Lana.

And then, they spent the rest of the day by talking about a beautiful name for Lana and Raphael's firstborn.

At this time, the atmosphere felt very light, as if every moment was only filled with pure happiness, as the bright afternoon sun streamed down from the open window and illuminated the room, it felt warm and gentle, as though what had happened a few days ago had never occurred in the first place.

They should cherish this moment, because they would have a hard time to even smile in the near future, when everything fall apart and the situation turned worse.

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Jedrek waved his hand and the guard opened the cell immediately upon seeing that his king and the other Donovan brothers came to this place.

Inside the cell, Chiron was held captive, chained in place. He was forced to sit on the ground with chains locked around his wrists, ankles and his torso.

The chief of the centaur looked beat and the wound on his stomach had festered, yet Jedrek didn't felt an ounce of pity when he saw it.

If Raine hadn't stop the time, it would have been Lilac in his place, suffering from that wound, or worse; she could have already been dead by now, thus Jedrek didn't have an ounce of sympathy for him. He could bleed and die for all he cared.

Jedrek waved his hand again and the three guards, who were guarding near the cell, left them.

Chiron raised his head and his eyes met Jedrek's. The chief of the centaur didn't say anything, as if he knew what Jedrek would ask him and he was ready for that.

"What did the devils offered to you for bringing my mate to them?" Jedrek asked in deep voice. He looked down at Chiron, who was sitting on the ground in a weird position, since his lower body which a resembled horse's back, was bent in an odd angle.

"Your death," Chiron said in a matter of fact tone.

Torak narrowed his eyes and Kace gritted his teeth, balling his fists beside his body. This was not the Chiron he knew.

"Are you disappointed to see me alive now?" Jedrek asked again.

"No," Chiron said. "You didn't face death yet, but you will die eventually," Chiron said in ambiguity.

"You mean I will lose the war?" Jedrek raised his eyebrows, he didn't mind to kill this creature right then and there, but he had some other idea in his mind.

Lilac would most likely not agree with his punishment, but she couldn't take this away from him. He had spent torturous days and nights staring at her sleeping face, wondering when she would wake up.

And now, when her condition got better, Jedrek would do anything that he thought Chiron deserved to receive it.

"Either that one, or you will live the rest of your eternity while wishing you are dead instead," Chiron spoke calmly in the same tone that he always used, despite the wound that he suffered, he didn't look like he would back down at all, his eyes looked at Jedrek sharply.

"You are very sure about that," Jedrek sneered.

"The devils got the blood from the three guardian angels and your mate's blood was taken by the red haired witch herself," Chiron informed them. "And you know that the witch knows more about the guardian angels than you do, yet she is no longer on your side."

#### **Chapter 840 - YOU WILL LOSE THEM IN THE END**

The three Donovans listened to what Chiron said, but there was no change in their expressions. Their faces didn't give away what they were feeling right at the moment.

They did know that Serefina had betrayed them by siding with the devils and the possibility that the devils had taken Lilac's blood was most likely, but the fact that it was Serefina, who had done that was something else entirely.

How could she do that when she knew exactly what that meant for them? Just like what Chiron said, Serefina knew better about the guardian angels than the Donovans.

"Do you think her love for you can endure all of that? Your mate, your mating ceremony, seeing and helping you every time when you don't even choose her," Chiron said, panting. It was hard for him to speak a long sentence like that, but he still forced himself to do so.

"Don't talk something that you don't know," Jedrek replied coldly.

It was Serefina, who had chosen that path, she didn't say a single word about why she left him centuries ago and now she came back as she wished, but pushed him away giving him nothing.

And now if Chiron said it was Jedrek's fault. The king didn't want to take the blame. It was ridiculous.

Though somewhere, a small part in his heart, still kept asking 'why' and ached for her betrayal, yet he pushed that thought to the back of his mind, as he had more important things to do.

Moreover, his relationship with Lilac was getting a lot better than their first encounter, in all honesty, Jedrek was glad for that.

"I think you will get your punishment sooner or later," Chiron spoke rigidly, there was a smirk on his lips.

Kace was slightly taken aback when he watched Chiron's expression, this was the first time he got see a different emotion on this centaur's face aside from his usual self, who was always wise and calm. His smirk itself reminded him the smile of those devils, filled with malice and hostility.

Kace didn't know whether it was him who was too dumb to realize that Chiron had this side, or it was Chiron who was very smart to conceal his true intentions. Kace couldn't understand this...

"All of you know it very well..." Chiron stared at the three Donovans in front of him intensely, there was madness behind his eyes. "In order to win the war, the guardian angels must die... you will lose the war and you will lose them eventually and that's your punishment."

And, Chiron made it worse by taking Lilac with him to get her blood drawn.

"They will not die," Torak said in low voice. He leaned his back against the wall and reciprocated Chiron's stare, his blue eyes emitted nothing, but enmity. "We won the first war and we will do it again. You can watch this from hell and we will send those devils back to Tartarus to accompany you."

The atmosphere became intense and this damp dungeon turned even colder than it already was.

"We will see..." Chiron smirked. He was like someone who almost lost his mind. Maybe it was because of his wound? The poison in that dagger that made him lose his sanity? "I will laugh at you and your mates in Tartarus."

Jedrek lost it and charged forward, yet Kace stopped him in time, while Torak didn't even budge from his place.

"Jedrek, he is not in his right mind!" Kace argued with his first brother. "Torak, don't you want to help me!?" he shouted to his second brother.

"I don't care if he is dead or alive, but I will assure you he would have died long time ago, if he did what he had done to Lilac to my mate," Torak spoke nonchalantly.

"Jedrek!" Kace pushed his brother even harder, when he realized that Torak wouldn't intervene with this. "If you kill him now, you will have the whole centaurs turn their backs against you!" Kace tried to reason with him.

"Do you think I care about a whole bunch of wretched creatures to betray me?!" Jedrek snarled. "I will burn them all along with their chief!"

The smirk on Chiron's face didn't even falter when he heard that. He had totally gone insane! What had those devils done to him!?

However, Kace couldn't let that happen, he pushed Jedrek harder and roared. "Are you going to settle this matter like what you did in the past?!" he moved closer and grabbed the collar of Jedrek's cloak as he hissed. "You know we need them, we have a lot of trouble to deal with already, no need to add this!"

Jedrek growled deeply at Kace and swatted his hand away from him as he walked out of the cell. He got what he needed, but if he had to stay longer there, he would surely lose it and kill that wretched creature.

"We will burn him tomorrow, in the public," he said without a room for negotiation.

Upon seeing Jedrek leaving the place, Torak followed behind him, leaving Kace and Chiron alone.

The third Donovan looked at Chiron with complicated emotions, but they didn't say a word, even until Kace took his leave as well.

The chief of the centaurs only stared at his retreating back and lowered his head, but in the next second, his laughter filled the entire dungeon.

He laughed like a maniac.

=====

"Hope, can't you help me?" Calleb was sitting beside Hope, pleading to the girl to help him. "I want to meet with Rosie."

Hope sighed irritably. Calleb had been bothering her since two hours ago, and now that Lilac had fallen asleep, he was openly bothering her with his pleas.

Raphael and Lana, who were sitting across from them only chuckled upon seeing Calleb miserable state, while Raine was fast asleep beside Lilac and Eaton had left because he had something to do.

"You shouldn't have said that," Hope scolded him lightly.