

TLOA Lycan 851

Chapter 851 - THE DAY OF THE EXECUTION (3)

This was the first time for Lilac to see such a cruel punishment and she forced herself to watch how those five people burned to their death.

She could see the fear in their eyes, but also determination. The two emotions mixed together along with the flames that burned the haystack inch by inch until the fire licked their hooves spreading faster to their bodies.

For a moment, the commotion from the crowd had died down leaving everything in utter silence, as they solemnly watched how the traitors received their punishment.

The scene before their eyes instilled soul gripping fear in their hearts and was too brutal for those young souls to watch. Their mothers had to cover their children's sight and turn them the other way from the cruel sight.

Most of the female centaurs couldn't bear to watch the people that they had been together through thick and thin to meet their end in this way. They turned around and sobbed silently.

Some of the women from the mob of the citizens, turned their heads away and frowned, but they didn't feel any sadness as they thought as traitors they deserved such punishment.

Meanwhile, the hunters couldn't do anything, but feel regret for what Chiron and Carina had done, also for the three centaurs, who were dying along with them.

They understood that betrayal held the highest sin in this kind of situation. They couldn't blame Jedrek for this, as it was his mate, who was held captive, yet if they had to think back again; centuries ago, wasn't Jedrek had done the same thing toward those centaurs' mates?

It was a miracle that there were still a few female centaurs who were still lucky enough to survive that ordeal and could produce the younger generations.

However, two wrongs didn't make a right.

Everything seemed blurry now when the right and wrong mixed up together and nothing was fair enough for anyone.

As a King, it was Jedrek's duty to make sure that the justice was served without any hiccups. On the other hand, he couldn't possibly let them live after the kidnapping.

Also as a King, if Jedrek didn't use some force and enforce this kind of punishment, those lycanthropes would start to question him as their sovereign and this was a dangerous thing for him to be questioned by his subjects.

And, it was common knowledge that most of the lycanthropes tend to lean toward their beast's character, which was utterly savage and brutal. They would only pledge their loyalty to the most powerful one ever and if Jedrek didn't prove himself as such, and couldn't meet their expectations, things wouldn't go very well for him.

"Does it really have to be like this?" Lilac asked, keeping her eyes fixed on the five centaurs, who started to groan in pain, struggling to free themselves from the chains which kept them bound to their place, but to no avail. The pain marred their expressions and this got engraved in Lilac's heart.

"This have to be done like this," Jedrek said, emphasizing each and every word. He could feel Lilac's anxiety and bitterness for what they had to suffer, yet this was not the right time to show them some mercy and forgiving them was another thing entirely.

At that time, they heard someone singing among the grunts and growls of pain. It was Carina, she was singing something.

"For she was his secret treasure
She was his shame and his bliss
And a chain and a keep are nothing
Compared to a woman's kiss
For hands of gold are always cold
But a woman's hands are warm action
For hands of gold are always cold
But a woman's hands are warm
And there he stood with sword in hand
The last of Darry's ten
And red the grass beneath his feet
And red his banners bright
And red the glow of setting sun
That bathed him in its light
Come on, come on the great lord called
My sword is hungry still
And with a cry of savage rage
They swarmed across the rill
And with a cry of savage rage
They swarmed across the rill
He rode through the streets of the city
Down from his hill on high

O'er the winds and the steps and the cobble

He rode to woman's sigh

For she was his secret treasure

She was his shame and his bliss

And a chain and a keep are nothing

Compared to a woman's kiss."

Carina's voice rang beautifully through the centaurs, at first it was only her who sang that song, but then Chiron started to sing as well, followed by the other three centaurs and then the rest of the centaurs joined them.

It was their last farewell to their fellow centaurs and also counted as paying their last respect to their chief. Even Zarrn had to ball his fists beside his body as he couldn't help but sing along with them, as they watched their bodies being engulfed by the thick flames and their voices faltered from the pain they had to endure, but they kept singing.

The song of the centaurs made whoever hearing that shiver in the sadness and bitterness of the way their voice portrayed it.

Meanwhile, from the throne seat, Lilac had to bite her lips to hold back the tears that pooled in her eyes threatening to fall at any moment, she squeezed Jedrek's hand tightly to suppress her emotions, especially when Carina started to cry in pain, as the fire had reached her face now and covered her in bright flames that would turn her into ashes in a matter of few minutes.

The pain must be unbearable even for the male centaurs as they stopped singing and started crying in extreme pain.

The agony they felt was too much to take in, and Lilac couldn't bear it anymore. She stood up letting Jedrek's hand go, as she moved her hands into a flow motion and sure enough the flames extinguished instantly, as tendrils covered the part of the platform where those five centaurs were being burned.

People gasped when they saw this and the centaurs stopped singing as every single pair of eyes darted toward Lilac.

They thought she had saved them, but when they took a closer look they could see that that was not her intention.

Chapter 852 - THE DAY OF THE EXECUTION (4)

Because when they took a closer look, some kind of a sharp object was seen piercing through their hearts killing them in an instant. They were nothing but the wood splinters from the very punishment poles holding them captive.

And just like that, they died a much quicker death.

At the first glance, it was cruel and terrifying. But from a reasonable perspective, Lilac released them from their suffering, giving them a swift death. She killed them instantaneously so that they wouldn't suffer any longer and feel humiliated by screaming and crying in agony.

This could be considered as a form of forgiveness from Lilac to them. After all, she was a guardian angel. Although, she was now in her human form, the unique soft hearted feelings possessed by the guardian angels were still embedded in her soul and personality.

And apart from this, it was her first time to kill some one, keeping aside the fact about the small demon that she obliterated as a part of her duty when she was still with Selene.

It felt heavy to take someone's life, not to mention that she took five centaurs' lives at the same time. However, this was possibly the only way in this kind of situation to satisfy both parties, preventing the lycanthropes to question their leader and also release those poor souls from a torturous death.

After she shutting the five centaurs for life, Lilac moved her hand again and the ground beneath the platform cracked splitting into two, making all the people on the platform ran down from that place before they were too swallowed by the dark pit created by Lilac.

A round of loud gasps heard among the people as they moved back to avoid falling into it and the situation turned slightly hectic when they witnessed the power that their new queen could wield.

This could be perceived as a chance that Lilac was making good use to introduce herself properly once again. She didn't want to appear weak and mindless after being kidnapped.

She wanted all the people to see what kind of a queen they were going to serve, also to break the stigma about the weak guardian angels, which had been engraved deeply into their bones.

Aside from that, she wanted to show them that she was their queen not because she was Jedrek's mate, but because she deserved their respect.

It was true that she has a soft heart for not being able to see those five centaurs sufferings, but she wanted to make it clear that she didn't go against it, and prove that she didn't confront Jedrek for the decision that he made in anyway.

In front of them, the ground started caving in again, as it swallowed the whole platform along with the five centaurs, leaving now a big empty space, where the big platform was supposed to be.

Loud murmurs echoed among the people, but when Lilac raised her hand, they stopped talking and turned their full attention toward Lilac.

"This will serve as an example for those who are trying to turn their back against us!" Lilac's voice was neither very loud nor vicious, instead it was soft, carrying a lot of emotions. "I hope not to see this again, but it will definitely not be the last if there are still people with a hidden agenda."

After saying that, Lilac strode back to her seat and sat down gracefully next to Jedrek, she appeared hard on the outside, but the moment she reached out for Jedrek's hand, he could feel her tiny hand trembling.

[Well done, my little flower,] Jedrek mind linked Lilac and this slightly startled her as she turned her head and watched as Jedrek smiled softly at her and kissed the back of her hand.

However, from the corner of her eyes, Lilac could see someone staring at her intently, although he was smiling softly, it didn't reach his eyes and this made her uncomfortable for reasons unknown to her.

It was Lord Bayle from the north region, the lord of fire dragons.

It was Lilac's first time seeing him again after the day of the mating ceremony, yet their short encounter managed to leave a deep impression on her.

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Hope cried silently when she heard the song of the centaurs, that was the song that Carina had taught her a year ago, when she was sick and very weak. She would sing whenever she was busying herself with her treatment. And as for Chiron, he would come to her tent to check on her condition, talking about the stars and everything until she fell asleep, dreaming blissfully.

Chiron and Carina were important people for Hope. They were like family. Chiron's warm and calm voice, while Carina may show a cold demeanor, but she was caring enough to look after her for months. How could Hope forget about them?

From afar, the song sounded full of sadness and bitterness. She wanted it to stop, she wanted to beg them not to kill Chiron and Carina, but how could she do that when she was fully aware about what they had done and the consequences if they didn't punish them the way they did now.

"Hope..." Kace sat down in front of Hope, whose body was trembling. She was sitting behind the door of their bedroom, hugging herself into a fetal position, as if trying not to break apart upon hearing the faint song from the entrance gates of the castle.

"Come here," Kace said, his voice cracked when he watched how deep this hurt his mate.

Kace pulled Hope closer to him and caressed her back as she rested her chin on his shoulder and cried her heart out. Her tears dripped on to his shoulder, wetting his clothes.

"They are gone..." Hope sobbed harder to the point she was having a hard time to breathe.

And the most painful thing that Kace realized now was, he couldn't do anything to alleviate her pain, as he too felt the same sorrow when he heard their cry like song.

And right after when the song stopped abruptly, Hope's eyes widened at the sight before her eyes, which left her dumbfounded when she spotted Chiron and Carina standing right in front of her, but their bodies were like faint white smoke, behind the two of them, there were another three centaurs, who were familiar to Hope as well.

Chiron walked toward her and bent his body to kiss her temple as he whispered to her softly; "Don't cry little angel..."

Chapter 853 - YOU ARE HANDSOME

"Feeling better?" Jedrek asked Lilac when she finally stopped sobbing and her body no longer trembled like it did half an hour ago.

The execution had ended on a bad note for Lilac, it was her first time killing someone. Not to mention, she killed five people at the same time, yet even if she done nothing, they would die anyways, she just alleviated their pain.

Nonetheless, she still felt bad for everything that had happened earlier, and it had drained her energy, emotionally.

Therefore, here she was; after putting down her strong facade, she broke into tears once she was alone with her mate.

Lilac didn't answer him, but she hugged him even tighter and buried her face against his chest. She wanted nothing more at this moment except to forget everything and fell asleep.

However, those two things were absolutely impossible for her right now.

The scenes repeated in her head continuously and the centaurs' song kept ringing in her ears, even now. Lilac bit her lips and relished the touch of her mate, who was caressing her back in a soothing rhythm.

"Sleep my little flower, a good thing will happen tomorrow." This was what Jedrek had always been repeating to himself while he was still enduring the darkest days of his life, under the clutches of the dead soul of his father and the devils back then.

He kept repeating that, but he finally reached a point where he got to face the reality that it was all a huge lie that he told himself to escape the reality.

However, at this particular moment, he wanted nothing but for that to come true. At least for the little flower in his arms. He didn't want her withering away just because of a small snitch, because there would be a lot more gruesome things that would happen in the near future.

She couldn't break down just because of this.

She could cry now, but when the sun rose again tomorrow, Jedrek wanted her to return to her stronger self and rule with him like she did during the execution.

"Sleep my little flower," Jedrek coaxed her, and then he decided to hum the only tune that he ever heard when he was little, though the memory of it was obscure about who used to sing this melody for him.

This was a first, for him to persuade someone to stop crying or lull someone to their sleep, yet he did it for her and the king hoped this was enough.

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Just like what Jedrek had planned previously, though it was a little bit delayed because of what had happened with Lilac, two days later however, when she was finally strong enough to go on a long trip, she and Jedrek decided to go to eastern region.

It had been weeks since the last time they heard anything from Killian and Tordoff. Something must have happened to them and Jedrek had to go himself to know it.

Not only that, he had to see it for himself, whether he could get the eastern people to fight along his side in this coming war, or if he had to fight them also.

It could be concluded when he visited them later.

And he needed his queen. Not because he wanted to hear what were her thoughts or opinion, but above all that, Jedrek felt safe if Lilac was near him at all times.

He could be less worried if his mate was within his arm's reach and in his sight. The last event had taught him that.

Meanwhile, the matters about the kingdom, Torak was entrusted with them, despite his reluctance and refusal here and there, he knew there was no one Jedrek could trust this heavy responsibility aside from him, since Kace would rather choose to flee or play dead, if he had to be burdened by those things which had anything to do remotely with their monarchy.

Jedrek left Eaton by Torak side, while he took his last two generals, Sebastian and Theo with him.

When all the necessary preparations were accomplished and Jedrek was about to go to the entrance gate where all the people and his sweet mate had been waiting for him, he felt someone rushing toward him and out of reflex he dodged it.

It was not really someone with evil intentions he thought, it was just a little girl, who was staring at him curiously. Her eyes reminded Jedrek of a stray cat.

They stared into each other eyes for about two seconds longer before Jedrek decided to go and meet his mate.

Yet, the little girl followed him.

"What do you want?" Jedrek asked without turning his eyes toward the girl, but he knew she was following him. Her noisy footsteps were very clear to hear.

"Are you the king?" she asked.

She was with Rosie earlier, but she spotted Jedrek, thus she rerouted her course of steps and went after him. This was the first time for her to see the king, thus she was a little bit excited to find out more.

Jedrek didn't answer that question. He fastened his pace and the little girl was running now to catch up with him. This girl was fearless.

"Are you the king? Why are you running away?" she kept asking, panting, in order to catch up with Jedrek.

However, her long dress made it hard for her to run and in the end, she tripped over her own dress and almost fell face first.

Fortunately, Jedrek had good reflexes, he caught the girl's shoulder and pulled her back on to her feet.

"Are you the king?" She asked again, ignoring the fact that she almost fell.

"Apparently, yes," Jedrek finally replied, he looked around to see whether there was someone who was looking for this noisy little girl.

"Wow!" her cute lips formed into an 'o' and she clapped her hands. "This is my first time to see a king so close."

"Now you have seen me, you can go back to wherever you come from," Jedrek said, he was about to walk again, but the little girl clutched onto his cloak. "What again?" Jedrek asked irritably.

"You are handsome!" she said with a wide smile on his lips.

"Hm?" Jedrek tilted his head in curiosity. "What is your name?"

"Bree," she said.

Chapter 854 - YOU SHOULDN'T BE PARTED

At the entrance gates, everyone was waiting for Jedrek, but the king had not appeared yet.

"Should I check on him?" Lilac said, slightly worried because Jedrek told her that he would just take care of something for a while before they could start, but it was already time to go, yet he was still nowhere to be seen.

Since the execution, she noticed that she began overthinking things, but she couldn't help it, though Jedrek had tried to stop her from doing so.

"You don't have to worry about him, he probably ran into something. He will be here in no time," Eaton reassured Lilac.

Raine could see that Lilac became a little bit tense and would easily startled at smallest things after the execution day. Although, she acted like nothing had happened, but Raine, as the sensitive person she was, was able to sense it.

"Don't worry, too much," Hope said, smiling as cheerful as ever, she hugged Lilac and giggled.

Everyone was trying to act as normal as they could, but what had happened till left a scar in their hearts and it was not an easy thing to accept all at once, yet they would have to overcome it one day.

It was only a matter of time, before those guardian angels' soft heart could be at ease and got used to their current situation and adapted to their predicament.

"Why was he bringing Bree with him?" Kace frowned when he spotted his older brother carrying Bree in his arms.

And when the entourage of people at the gates turned their heads in the direction Kace pointing toward, they found the approaching King, carrying little Bree in his arms, while the girl chatted happily with him, giggling occasionally.

"I'm not seeing it wrong, right?" Calleb elbowed Torak beside him and blinked his eyes a couple of times, the Gamma came to see them off, since Raphael had a lot of things to do.

Beside him, Torak was also frowning. He didn't even remember when the last time Jedrek spared time to get along with children.

"I think having a mate really changes you," Calleb murmured, but standing next to him, Raine elbowed him too.

"Said someone, who just found his mate and will always find a chance to skip babysitting me to go to his newly found mate," she scoffed playfully.

Calleb didn't have anything to retort that and just scratched the back of his head, because he knew Raine wouldn't talk about it with Torak, thus these past two days, he would always find an excuse to go to north wing to see Rosie, but of course he would do that if Raine was with Raphael or Lana and was well protected.

"You what?" Torak turned his attention toward Calleb as he narrowed his eyes dangerously, but Raine came to his rescue and linked her arms with her mate while talking about other things to distract his attention from Calleb.

On the other hand, Jedrek stopped walking and put Bree down before he moved closer to Lilac and kissed her temple.

"Where have you been?" Lilac asked.

"You must be the one, who was responsible for his delay, right,?" Kace said to Bree and messed up her hair, which had gotten long now.

The girl swatted Kace's hand and moved to hide behind Hope, whining. "He messed up my hair again," she said irritably, while trying to fix her bun.

"Come here, I will fix it," Hope laughed and fixed it for her.

"Hey, why did you go with him? Aren't you afraid he will chew you?" Kace pinched Bree's cheek and the girl bit his hand.

Fortunately, Kace was fast enough to retract his hand or else, her small teeth would be embedded into his skin by now.

"Of course not," Bree said. "I want to see the king, he said I can be a princess."

"How come you can be the princess?" Kace scowled. "I am not even a prince."

"You are a rogue," Calleb chimed in and he was rewarded with a glare from Kace.

"But, the king said I can be the princess," Bree retorted stubbornly as she touched her hair when Hope was done fixing it for her. "Right?"

"Right," Jedrek agreed.

Everyone raised their eyebrows at him, even Lilac didn't know that Jedrek had a soft spot for children. Or, maybe it was Bree, who was very skillful to melt a cold mountain like Jedrek.

"I think it's time for you to go," Torak said after a short moment. "Are you sure, you will just bring these numbers?"

There were only around two hundred people that Jedrek wanted to take to the eastern region.

"I'm going to talk terms, but if things go south, I assumed you have prepared everything," Jedrek looked at his younger brother, who was mumbling 'I know'.

Kace was still reluctant to take charge upon those people and their army, but the choice was either this or to act as the king in the absence of Jedrek.

Of course, he decided it was best to choose the bad over the worse.

"Let's go," Jedrek said.

As if on cue Lilac, Raine and Hope hugged each other, they had just met, but had to part again due to circumstances. No one could predict when they would come back.

Even their promise to train together couldn't come true now, especially when Serefina was no longer with them.

"Stay safe," Raine said to Lilac and kissed her cheeks followed by Hope.

After that, Jedrek helped her to get on the carriage before he went inside as well. When everything was in place, Sebastian talked a few things to Eaton before he too embarked in another carriage, with Theo on his tow.

Lilac waved her hand from the window and the others stood there until Jedrek's entourage couldn't be seen anymore.

"You shouldn't be parted."

A voice rang from behind the seven standing people and, abruptly, all the lycans could smell a strange scent, as they turned around, their stances were on alert, protecting the girls among them.

However, what they saw made their eyebrows scrunched up in surprise.

"You?" Raine recognized him.

It was the dwarf that she had met back when she, Torak and the others had to escape from the people in her hometown.

Chapter 855 - THE DWARF

He was the same dwarf that had told Raine that she had a black soul, that was why she couldn't control her power yet, because she had been touched by something dark. He was also the one, who helped them when they have to leave the city.

The creepy dwarf looked exactly the same the last time Raine saw him. His big green eyes looked at Raine intensely and they still made Raine afraid to look into them straight.

"Do you know him?" Hope asked, whispering to Raine because she found the dwarf was quite disturbing with the way he looked at her. No wonder Torak stepped forward in order to shield his mate, halting the strange creature on his tracks.

"We met once in the past," Raine said.

"Oh, where are my manners," the dwarf started to jump up and down with excitement. "I forgot to introduce myself to you, another Luna," he said, his big green eyes shifted in Hope's direction and the guardian angel found herself trying to force a smile on her lips.

"I am not a Luna," Hope said. Kace didn't consider those people, who followed him here as his pack, therefore, he was not an Alpha, so Hope also was not a Luna.

"You are still a Luna in my eyes," the dwarf bent his body until ninety degrees in order to give Hope his utmost respect.

"Cut the crap," Kace growled. He knew him because he had met with the dwarf two or three time in the past, but there was nothing good that came up from meeting this particular creature. This creature always loved to talk nonsense.

"What are you doing here?" Torak asked sternly. "Caleb, take the girls inside," he said to his Gamma.

"Let's go," Caleb said to Raine and Hope, but Raine refused to listen to him.

"No, I want to talk to him," she said. In the past, Serefinia prevented the dwarf to talk to her when he was about to say something important, thus she wouldn't let this chance go away like that anymore.

"Raine," Torak reminded her. "You don't need to listen to his nonsense." He stopped her from going any closer toward the dwarf.

"Oh, the Luna wants to talk to me," the dwarf clapped his tiny hands. Whether he was mocking Raine or it was indeed just his way to express himself, but people would misunderstand him with the way his cunning green eyes staring at Raine expectantly.

"I don't want you to talk to him," Torak said sternly to Raine, but the look in his mate's eyes told him that she wouldn't listen to what he said, at least not at this moment.

"No, Torak, I need to talk to him," Raine said, her voice neither loud or stern, but the determination in those beautiful eyes couldn't go unnoticed.

"You can't trust his words," Torak tried to argue with her.

"I will decide whether I can trust him or not after I heard what he said," Raine looked at Torak, pleading for her mate to understand why she needed it.

It was rare to see Raine wanted something and defied his words, therefore when Raine shook her head and stood her ground, Torak didn't have any other choice, but to let her do what she wanted.

"I will let you talk to him, but you still have to stay within my sight," Torak said sternly.

The dwarfs were well known for their unparalleled cunningness, when the war broke out centuries ago, they indeed didn't take any sides, but they sold information from one to another and made full use of the chaotic situation.

They did find the secret of the enemy, but that information won't completely reliable, some of it was, but some of it was not, since they would do everything to the one, who benefited them more.

They could be a double agent or even triple.

Therefore, Torak didn't want Raine to talk to him due to their natural traits. Knowing her soft hearted nature, Raine would be an easy target for the dwarf to spill nonsensical things.

"Alright," Raine agreed to Torak's insistence and then smiled softly.

"Luna, why don't you talk to me too?" the dwarf looked at Hope expectantly. "I have some useful information for you to hear too," he said.

"Why don't you just talk here in front of us then?" Kace narrowed his eyes at the cunning dwarf, completely disagreeing for Hope to go with this unreliable creature.

"You know the rule for the dwarfs," the dwarf said, rubbing his hands together, as if he wanted to show him that he was nervous of something, but of course that wouldn't be able to fool them, they could see clearly the excitement in the dwarf's eyes.

"I will be fine, you can still see me from afar," Hope said, as she patted Kace's shoulder to ease his tension. "Let's go."

Under their intense gazes, Hope, Raine and the dwarf walked a little bit further, but it was still within their sight, thinking those lycanthropes wouldn't be able to hear their conversation.

"Bring her back to Rosie," Kace said, as he passed Bree in his arms to Calleb.

Of course, upon hearing Rosie's name and getting an excuse to see her, the Gamma was beyond happy, but he was still worried about Raine.

Calleb looked at Torak hesitantly and the Alpha nodded, giving him his consent. Since Torak, Kace and Eaton were in control of the situation, it was highly unlikely that something bad would happen to Raine and Hope, right?

With that thought, Calleb walked with Bree in his arms to find Rosie, who must have been worried because she couldn't find the little girl.

However, when Bree rested her chin on Calleb's shoulder, her eyes darted toward the dwarf as she looked at him in interest.

"I like the dwarf," Bree said softly after moment.

"You don't know what you are saying girl," Calleb said, not taking her words seriously.

Meanwhile, when it was only the three of them, Raine questioned the dwarf. "Now, tell me what exactly do you mean with your statement?"

Chapter 856 - OUR PLACE, OUR RULE

The dwarf looked at Raine and Hope back and forth through his green eyes, which looked too big for his small face.

"Now tell me what do you mean with your statement that implied I have a tainted heart?" Raine asked impatiently. She had been wondering about his answer ever since her last disturbing encounter with this creepy creature. If Serefina didn't stop her or she had the same amount of courage then, like she had now, Raine wouldn't have left without hearing his answer on that very day.

"First, let me ask you two," the dwarf looked at Hope and Raine with a cunning smile on his lips. "Do you still feel trouble controlling your power? How far did the two of you progressed in utilizing your power?"

When Raine was about to answer, the dwarf raised his hand. "let's hear it from you first," he said, nodding his head at Hope.

Hope looked at Raine and the crease on her brows showed that she wasn't really sure about talking it with the dwarf.

"Do you think I have a tainted heart too?" Hope asked, crossing her arms in front of her chest.

"Yes," the dwarf nodded profusely.

"Why do you think so?" Hope asked again. She didn't want to give any unnecessary information to someone that she barely knew, while Raine didn't want to interfere with whatever Hope believed.

If Hope didn't trust the dwarf, she wouldn't ask her to believe otherwise, but then again, Serefina had gone and Lilac was not here to help, thus it was almost impossible to find someone who could teach or guide them about the power that they held.

Therefore, the appearance of the dwarf was just right in time.

Raine had been desperate to grasp control over her power and how to use it properly. It was purely luck that she managed to use it when Chiron was about to kill Lilac. However, she was aware that she couldn't always rely on something called luck.

"I can see it," the dwarf shrugged his shoulders.

He dressed up differently from the last time Raine saw him, this time he was wearing a dark blue cloak, which looked bigger for his small frame.

"That doesn't explain anything," Hope said, narrowing her eyes.

"Yes. Since you refused to answer my question, let's do this in another way. Why don't I say the things you have done and you tell me whether it is right or wrong, to ease everything for us." The cunning smile on the dwarf's lips only got wider and wider as he continued to talk like he knew every single thing.

"You are the guardian angel who can see the spirits, am I right?" the dwarf asked. Hope didn't say anything, but from her expression, he knew that he had said the right thing. "You are the guardian angel

who can control the time." He looked at Raine. "And the one that just left with the king is the guardian angel who can control nature."

The dwarf's cunning smile turned into a smug smile as he looked very proud of himself.

"Your point?" Hope asked impatiently. "Almost everyone knew that and it didn't make you more knowledgeable than the other people."

"But, did they know that you heard something from under the frozen river?" The dwarf reminded Hope about her last visit with Serefina and Lilac to the apricity river. There, she indeed heard something.

And then he turned to look at Raine. "Or, have you ever wondered why it was only the two of you, the king, Lilac, the rogue, the alpha and his gamma, who could move when you stop the time?"

The dwarf referred to the time when Raine stopped the time during Lilac's kidnapping.

"How do you know that?" Hope narrowed her eyes, she was very sure that during that time no outsider was present who could provide such information for the dwarf.

"I have my own way to gain information dear," he said, chuckling eerily. "Now, do you trust me?"

Hope looked at Raine and as they exchanged looks, the dwarf spoke again.

"I know my worth and you will need me here," the dwarf said, as he reached for the backpack that he had been carrying and reached into it for something. "This is for you,"

The dwarf gave Raine and Hope one copper coin each, but this only added to their confusion. What did he meant by this?

"That will be enough to pay my rent here, after all there is still the information that I can provide for both of you. I will not stay for free, therefore let's get comfortable with each other." The dwarf then slung his backpack over his shoulders again. "I will find my own room inside this castle, you don't have to bother with me."

After saying that, the dwarf walked away.

However, before he could take a second step, Hope stretched out her hand and pulled the dwarf back to his place. This brash action left Raine gasping in surprise and the lycans, who were watching them, became alert.

"You are not going anywhere until you tell us what do you mean with; we have tainted souls." Hope grabbed the back of the dwarf's cloak and didn't let go even when he struggled to free himself. "Tell me first or I will ask Torak to kick you out from this place."

"Torak is not your mate!" the dwarf was upset upon being treated that way.

"But, I don't think he will refuse that idea," Hope said and made the dwarf to turn around to face Torak and Kace. "can't you see that? They were really tempted to kick you out of their sights."

Raine chuckled when she watched the way Hope handled things, if it were her, she would agree with whatever the dwarf wanted.

"I don't like you!" the dwarf glared at Hope and tried to bite her.

However, Hope moved swiftly and pushed the dwarf away from her until he fell on his butt.

"Do you think we like you? You come out of nowhere and spout nonsense and now you want us to follow your rules?" Hope raised her eyebrows incredulously.

The dwarf then looked at Riane, asking for support.

"Our place, our rules," Raine said simply.

Chapter 857 - NUTDROUK

Meanwhile, Kace leaned over to Torak and whispered something to his brother.

"Don't you think that they look hot while confronting someone?" Kace said, proudness dripping from his voice.

"Hm," Torak hummed, agreeing with him. His blue eyes stared at Raine dotingly, though they couldn't listen to their conversation, but from the looks of it, it seemed the two of them were not taken for granted by the dwarf and it reassured them.

Torak still remembered how was Raine back in the day, when she didn't even dare to talk and look at him in the eyes. However now, she could voice out what she wanted and what she thought, and Torak couldn't be more proud than this, watching her growth and progress.

Slowly, but surely she became the Luna that he needed.

On the other hand, the dwarf's smug smile slightly faltered when he picked himself up from the ground and dusted the dirt from his body.

"Do you remember that dream you have? The dream that make you sick? The blood that was drawn from your body without your consent and the kiss from the devil?" the dwarf looked at Raine sullenly. "You have three reasons for not being as pure as those guardian angels in the past. One thing from those three had tainted your soul, but you have faced all of them. You are the most impure guardian angel among you three," he explained it very fast, grumbling here and there.

Hope remembered Kace's explanation, when they talked about her being a guardian angel and the blood that was taken from her from the hospital when she was sick.

Lilac too, her blood was taken from her without her consent, but what about the other two for Raine...?

"A kiss from the devil?" Hope looked at Raine in confusion. "And, what dream?"

Raine remembered all of that and couldn't help but stagger back when the dwarf told all of that out loud.

"The devil kissed you?" Hope pressed this matter. "When?" but then, she remembered. "That was the reason you fainted that day?"

"Stop it," Raine said sternly. She didn't want to remember that moment. And the look on her face coerced Hope to stop bothering her with that question.

"See? You admitted it," the dwarf smirked triumphantly because he managed to pique the two guardian angels' interest.

"What will happen then?" Hope asked the dwarf again, yet he shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly and spoke smugly.

"I have been traveling for four days straight to get to this place from another realm, can't you at least show some concern about my well being and let me rest before bombarding me with a lot of questions?" the dwarf looked at the copper coin that he gave to Hope and Raine. "And, I have already paid to stay."

Simultaneously, Raine and Hope threw back the copper coin to the dwarf and turned around after Hope saying her piece.

"Take back your money, we don't need it. You can stay here as long as you prove yourself worth it, but if we ever came to know that you tricked us, don't even think about walking away unscathed," Hope said coldly. She learned this from Serefina and every time she wanted to be mean with someone, she would remember how the witch had raised her.

She missed her...

"Don't worry, you need me dearly since no one can teach you how to survive in this war, seeing that the witch left you," the dwarf said, he looked at Hope in the eyes, as if he could read her thoughts.

Hope squinted her eyes at him and grabbed Raine's hand before they both walked away toward their mates, yet the dwarf said something in a low and creepy tone.

"Do you still remember, what you see in the stone inside the library, when you went to Rieka?" the dwarf asked Raine. "Whatever you saw in it, will come true and I assume you already know what will happen to you. So did Lilac." Then the dwarf shifted his attention to Hope. "But, I am not sure about this, whether the witch had told you or not."

"Tell me what?" Hope asked, she looked at the dwarf and Raine back and forth questioningly.

"That we will die in order to win the war," Raine answered her solemnly.

Hope frowned. "I have heard that. But, why do we have to die in order to win the war? In what way would it help with gaining an upper hand?" she didn't really believe whatever she heard about this.

She heard the story about how the guardian angels were extinct centuries ago, from Kace, but from her knowledge, it was because Jedrek was being manipulated and those guardian angels were being treated poorly, thus they became the sacrifice for the war.

However, aside from that, it was not necessary for them to die in order to win the war.

"Your understanding is still shallow. Once you know the depth of this problem, you will understand that everything you see is not always the same thing that actually happened," the dwarf spoke in a deep voice. There was no mocking smile or smug look on his face now, he looked very serious when he said that.

"I hope you can enlighten us, sir...?" Raine ended her sentence in a question mark.

"You don't have to call me sir or know my name. I have known your mates for centuries and they didn't even bother to call me by name. You know, they didn't care for little things like these," there was a hint of sarcasm in his voice.

"I am not my mate and I do want to know your name," Raine said softly. She knew what it felt when people around you didn't even care to know your name or even your existence.

The dwarf widened his big green eyes and his smug smile returned to his face. "Nutdrouk."

"Sir Nutdrouk," Raine said.

"I am not a 'sir'," protested the dwarf.

"Nutdrouk," Raine corrected herself. "I hope you will keep your words to help us."

Ignoring what Raine said, Nutdrouk spoke. "It was nice to hear my name being called again."

Chapter 858 - UNEXPECTED VISIT

Casey and Connor fought again, but this time, Connor lost it and he slapped Casey until her lips split and bled.

"Next time you said that word again I will punch you hard enough for you to know your place!" Connor flared. He didn't even feel sorry to see the girl that he had been in love with for five years now, sitting in the dirt and crying her eyes out, while holding her cheek.

After saying that, Connor went away, leaving the girl in her miserable state alone.

Casey was sitting on the ground, in the front yard of her house, staring at the man that she had loved with all her heart, but now she realized that his shadow alone disgusted her.

She wiped the blood from her lips and it stained the back of her hand. Her lips stung when she touched it, as she could taste the metallic tang from her blood.

Casey blinked her eyes in confusion and slowly, she licked her lips again. To her surprise, she liked it.

She liked the taste of her own blood. She had never known that blood could taste so refreshing like this and...would be so addictive.

Casey frowned, her pain was long forgotten as she looked at the stain at the back of her hand, she pondered for a while before she decided to lick it.

She felt as if she was not normal when she tasted her own blood, but at the same time there was something that made her become more relaxed for the first time since months...

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Raine shivered in her sleep, the cold wind caressed her skin waking up her. She moved her body to look for her mate's warmth, but then she frowned.

Torak was not there and when stretched out her hands, she found the place beside her was empty and cold. It meant, it had been a long time since Torak left her alone.

In an instant, Raine opened her eyes and her sleepiness was gone.

She looked around her cautiously and felt slightly relieved that she was still inside her room. Sometimes, because of her power, when she woke up in the middle of the night like this and couldn't find Torak beside her, she would be scared silly that there was a fat chance she used her power without even realizing herself and threw herself to different time again like what had happened a few times in the past.

However, when Raine realized she was still in their room, she knew that Torak only went out of the room to receive a report from someone, and he wouldn't stray too far.

Raine got off from her bed and walked toward the door barefooted, from behind the closed door, she could hear Torak muffled voice. He was talking to someone in the corridor, just like what Raine had thought.

Raine didn't want to go back to her bed and sleep, thus she waited for Torak just behind the door. Leaning her back against the wall, she reminisced what happened today.

However, what her mind mostly thought at this time was the fact that the dwarf had come to this realm, wanting to help them.

It sounded odd, but Raine really wanted to know what she could do to get a hold of her power. For now, everything seemed to be calm, since the execution day.

However, no one was truly able to forget what actually happened that day, though Lilac and Hope had never mentioned about it again, but Raine could see the sadness in their eyes every time they encountered the centaurs in this castle.

And the worse thing was; this could get even more nastier than this.

The things that the dwarf told her also left her feeling unease and it felt like the more she wanted to know it, the more complicated the answer was turning out.

Raine played with her hair, while thinking and waiting for Torak to be done with his conversation, yet it didn't take a long time before Torak opened the door and found his little mate standing there in a daze.

"Did I wake you up?" Torak approached Raine and hugged her. He felt the little angel gingerly nuzzling against his chest and her soft voice could be heard.

"Yes," she said.

"I am sorry," Torak scooped her in his arms and carried her back to their bed.

"It felt so cold without you," Raine said in a teasing tone, as she felt the soft mattress against her back and Torak hovered above her.

"Were you trying to seduce me?" Torak pecked her lips and watched as the hue crept up her cheeks attractively.

"Yes," Raine said softly.

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The dwarf chose to reside at the far end of the north wing, where he found an empty small building like a cabin, which was almost the same like the one he had lived previously.

By saying that he was there with the permission of the Donovans and that the guardian angels told them to help him, the dwarf managed to make the guards to do his work.

This place was not the best, but at least he could sleep peacefully now.

Well, that was what he thought when his sleepy eyes caught a glimpse of a woman, who was sitting on the table in front of him.

"Arrghh!" the dwarf screamed, but his voice was muffled with a flick of the witch's finger.

Nutdrouk jumped on his bed and stomped his feet angrily, while moving his arms frantically to gesture at the witch to get rid her spell.

"I will do, but you need to calm down," Serefina said, staring at her nails uninterested.

Stomp. Stomp.

Nutdrouk didn't want to hear that and Serefina didn't care, but when the dwarf started to try to hit her with a pillow, she flicked her finger again and he fell butt first.

"Calm down!" she hissed irritably, her lime green eyes glared at him.

"What do you want?!" Nutdrouk whisper- shouted at Serefina, he thought he could have a peaceful night after the long journey, but what the hell that made this crazy witch to come and visit him here?

Chapter 859 - STRANGE WEATHER

It took Jedrek's entourage two weeks to get to the eastern region. On normal days, the entourage would reach this place within a week or less, but since Lilac was with them and Jedrek was still concerned about her condition, they had to rest from time to time, adding to the fact that the weather was not really good.

Rain continued to lash out from the dark sky, and though it was supposed to be day, the sky above was gloomier than night time.

Large droplets of rain that fell on the carriage made Lilac frown, it felt like she was being thrown at, with pebbles.

Jedrek, who was sitting beside her draped a blanket around her shoulders and pulled her closer making her lean against his chest, while he rested his chin on the top of her head.

"Do you think they are still alive?" Lilac asked softly. She stared blankly at the red curtain that covered the window of the carriage.

Jedrek had told her about the eastern region and gave her a rough description about what was happening there.

Maximus held strong influence over the east and that place was filled with witches, in that case, Jedrek had brought a few witches as well with them, while Lidya had to guard the main castle.

And as for the other witch with red hair...

It was like a taboo between them that they wouldn't even think of touching that subject. They both avoided the conversation to talk about Serefina's betrayal and when they seemed to remotely get anywhere near that conversation, they would stop themselves and pretend like nothing happened, just like how they treated the issue with Chiron.

They had not talked about that since Lilac broke down after the execution, even when there were only the two of them.

"They shouldn't kill them if they want something from us," Jedrek played with a strand of Lilac's hair and kissed her head lightly.

Lilac didn't reply to it and soon slipped deep into her thoughts.

If the eastern region was filled with witches and, in worse case, they didn't want to cooperate with Jedrek because he had killed Maximus, then what can they do?

Witches were Machiavellian creatures with magic that could kill you if they wanted to, especially when you encountered the dark witches.

Therefore, if they lost their support and those witches joined forces with the devils, Jedrek had planned to roast them alive and destroy the eastern region with the help of Lord Bayle, the dragon lord of fire from the north region.

However, another problem that aroused her was Lilac didn't trust that man, neither could Jedrek. There was something that not felt right with that man and this disturbed her constantly. The way lord Bayle looked at her on the day of the execution... those eyes...

Though the dragon lord was under a pact with Jedrek and the latter had assured her that he was not a threat, yet who was Jedrek lying to? Lilac could sense his distrust just from the way he mentioned his name.

"But, if they don't want to?" Lilac murmured.

"Then we will be the ones to kill them." It was either they chose them or the devils, but if they leaned toward the latter, then they must be destroyed.

Jedrek wouldn't wait for them to join forces with the devils and strengthen their power to go against him.

Actually, Lilac wasn't really fond of that decision, she hoped their visit wouldn't come to that disclosure, but if it did end that way, what else could Lilac do? She knew the importance of this matter and her likes or dislikes wouldn't lead them to win the war.

"It will kill them..." Lilac murmured. "The witches, Killian and Tordoff..."

Jedrek cupped her chin when she finished saying the last name and looked at her intensely. "Are you worried about Tordoff?" He asked rigidly.

Lilac frowned when she sensed Jedrek change of mood, but then realized what she said wrong. It seemed Jedrek had grown a suspicious thought about Tordoff's feelings toward her, though his guts said that he was not wrong either, but Lilac thought Jedrek's reaction now was a little bit too much.

"I am worried about many things and yes, he and Killian included." Lilac said decisively.

Jedrek narrowed his blue eyes and spoke in a deep tone. "I am sure you also know that he had grown fond of you, I let it pass because he had never done something outrageous, but if he dared..."

Lilac cut his words with a kiss. "He wouldn't dare," she said quickly. For now, she didn't want to hear about killing people again.

"Hope he doesn't," Jedrek replied curtly, as he stared deeply into his mate eyes and hugged her, as if she was his most precious possession.

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It was raining since last night and the gloomy sky made Hope felt anxious for some reason that she couldn't put a finger on.

Maybe it was just her, but she felt that everyone that she met also appeared restless, especially the guards and the shifters with lower rank, like the Omegas.

"You feel it too, right?" Lana approached Hope, she was holding an apple and chewed on it.

Hope's eyes landed on her and she couldn't help but stare at her swollen belly. The shifter had a short pregnancy time, they would only spend four months of pregnancy before the labor.

And now Lana was half way there and the baby had already started to move. Of course, Raphael, as the expectant father would be very protective toward Lana, but sometimes, she found Raphael's overprotectiveness was way too troublesome.

"Feel what?" Hope smiled and touched Lana's stomach, contemplating.

"It feels a little bit off..." Lana bit another chunk of the red apple in her hand.

"Hm, maybe because of the weather," Hope mumbled, she then shifted her focus back to the bunch of people that were training. The lycan warriors. Their countenance was brutal and fierce, yet somehow it brought comfort for Hope that they were on their side and strong enough to protect them.

"I hope so," Lana said, staring up the sky.