

TLOA Lycan 871

Chapter 871 - THE MYSTERY OF TIME

When Jedrek returned to the tent, he saw that his mate was still fast asleep and her brows creased tightly as her body shivered from the cold wind which was blowing in when Jedrek opened the tent's curtain.

The king immediately closed it and kept aside his cloak before he laid down beside Lilac.

However, the coldness from his skin, which came into contact with her n.a.k.e.d body, woke up Lilac, she opened her eyes and the wrinkle on her eyebrows deepened.

"Why are you so cold?" she asked sleepily, as Jedrek put the blanket between them, so she wouldn't feel his cold skin.

"Sleep," Jedrek said in a coaxing tone. He didn't want to explain anything to Lilac nor did he wished to recall what had happened earlier.

However, Lilac was not pleased, her curiosity got the best of her, as she pushed back her sleepiness and forced herself to open her eyes.

"What is it?" Lilac stretched out her hand and touched Jedrek's face as she tilted his head in her direction, forcing him to look at her. "Were you outside just now? Something happened?"

The first thought that came into her mind was; something might have happened with the wizard from the eastern region.

She would have never thought it was something else entirely.

"No, little flower, just sleep," Jedrek said, kissing her palms and met her curious gaze. However, when he noticed the way she stared back at him, the king knew that his mate didn't want to let go of this matter without an answer.

"Tell me," Lilac pleaded, she could see the complexity in his eyes and this made her feel unease. "You promised to share everything with me and won't lie."

Yes, Jedrek did said that, but it was easier to say.

"I met the devil," Jedrek said in a passive tone.

Upon hearing that, Lilac's eyes opened wide, she propped herself upon her elbows and looked down at Jedrek. "How?"

"There was a scent that I am familiar with, so I went out to check on it," Jedrek said truthfully. He caressed Lilac's small face and tucked a few strands of her hair to ease her mind.

"Then, what happened?" Lilac asked again. She placed her hand on top of his when he cupped her face.

"Nothing," Jedrek replied. "I tried to kill her, but you know it yourself that we can't kill the devil," he said lightly.

"Her? was it Beelzebub?" Lilac asked again, she rested her head against his chest and heard his heartbeat, while Jedrek caressed her back. She loved it when he touched her soothingly.

"No, Asmodeus," Jedrek said.

And, silence stretched between them after Jedrek said that. Both of them relished this moment, as the spark between them offered consolation and peace for their complicated minds, but then Lilac asked softly.

"What kind of scent that made you went out to look for it yourself?" she remembered Jedrek mentioning that it was a familiar scent.

Jedrek was silent for a moment before he answered with the same passive tone, "Citrus."

Lilac bit her lips, she didn't know what kind of scent that 'she' had, since she didn't have the same strong senses like Lycans, therefore she asked in a low voice.

"How does her scent smell like?" she waited for Jedrek's reply, but he had never answered her and the night just passed like that, filled with perturbation.

The peaceful spell was broken and both of them felt complicated when they thought it was best to not say it out loud, yet the freckle of this apprehension would only pile up.

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Raine watched in horror as the nine heads of those enormous snakes appeared from under the frozen river and their mouths started to screech in anguish. The sounds of that creatures' cry were terrifyingly deafening.

Raine scrambled back to put some distance as far as possible she could, between her and those monsters, but her body seemed like it didn't want to coordinate with her mind.

She had never seen something like this. She couldn't move an inch and sat dumbstruck with her eyes wide open.

And from behind her, the phoenix flapped its wings as it let out a warning cry and flew very low to attack one of the nine snakes' head. It swiftly pecked its eyes and flew away after making sure that that snake went blind.

Raine gasped as she watched the same thing happening for the second snake and then the third snake.

Because of the distraction from the phoenix, none of the snakes were interested to even glance in Raine direction and she was grateful for that.

She continued watching until the raging bird blinded the fifth snake, as the phoenix avoided the counter attacks swiftly, its agility amazed Raine, only if she was not dumbstruck like right now, she would have been cheering jumping up and down in joy, encouraging the phoenix.

However, as Raine sat on the ground dumbfounded and was seemingly in a daze, even forgetting to stand up, she heard someone whistling from behind her and she saw something flash before her eyes in high speed.

Startled, Raine came to her senses and tried to stand up. She didn't want to be an easy prey for whatever creatures that appeared now.

Yet, when she noticed that it was someone familiar to her, Raine was stunned silly.

She knew her. No, they met once in the past!

It was the fae from the library in Rieka! The library, where Raine got the magical stone to answer her questions about the future. A dreadful future.

It was her, and Raine was sure about it!

What happened here?

In between her conflicting thoughts, Raine breathed her name. "Purple..."

She knew it was quite confusing, but it was the same fae she saw in the library and the lovely creature's reaction told her that her guess was right.

The fae named purple turned around and blinked her eyes at Raine, she frowned and flapped her wings, which were akin to dragonfly's wings with various shades of blue and yellow.

The friendly smile that Raine remembered was nowhere to be seen now, but she knew the fae wouldn't hurt her. Yet, her question confused Raine even more.

"Do I know you?" she asked.

"Yes, we met before!" Raine summed up a little bit courage that surged in her being as she stood up.

"We have met before."

However, even before the fae could deny it, Raine noticed a familiar feeling, as realization finally hit her.

Chapter 872 - THE MYSTERY OF TIME (2)

Once again, Raine travelled out of her time. This place indeed looked the same, but what was happening around her now was different from all her past visits to this place. The time flow now was different!

Was it after or before the attack on the village of the angel? The frozen river streamed passed that village, right? How far could this river go? Was the village of the angels still exist now? Or, it had been destroyed by the lycans.

"I don't think so," the fae said curtly, she scrutinized Raine for a moment before she decided that she was not her enemy as she looked weaker than her. "If you want to stay alive, you should go away from this place before this fight becomes even worse," she warned her.

However, Raine shook her head stubbornly. "No, I will stay," she said.

The fae creased her eyebrows, but she didn't have time to argue with her. "As you wish," she said.

The fight between the nine snakes against the phoenix continued, but over time, though the phoenix managed to blind six snakes out of the nine, those creatures were still alive and tried to bite down the beautiful bird down.

And over time, the phoenix grew tired as well, its wings flapped weakly and its movement was not as agile as before.

It was a great opportunity for the snakes to tackle it down.

On the other hand, the fae, who watched all of this happen grew restless, she knew the phoenix wouldn't be able to fight any longer, therefore she whistled to call the bird back.

"We need to get out of here," she said to Raine this time. "I don't know why you are here," she added, as she glanced in Raine direction and shook her head. "Are you a guardian angel?" she asked.

And for the first time, Raine was glad that she was recognized as one. "Yes, I am," she said.

"Didn't you came too far from your village? Where is your shadow warrior?" she asked, but her eyes kept straying to the phoenix, as she raised her hand to receive the bird before they proceeded to run away from the snake monster.

Raine's heart skipped a beat when she heard that. Was that mean during this period, Aeon was still alive?

However, she didn't have time to think about that when the bird flew toward the fae's hand, yet the snakes followed him along , continued to screech. Their nine heads rose up high until it seemed like it touched the clouds in the sky.

And only then did Raine realize that, in spite of having nine heads, those were all connected to only one monstrous body. It was a single monster but with nine heads!

"What is that monster?!" Raine shouted in fear when the nine heads of the snake tried to get the bird that blinded six heads out of it's nine.

"Hydra," the fae said between her labored breathing. "Let's go!" she caught Raine's hand and started to run, while the snake followed behind them.

"Watch out!" Raine pushed Purple away, as she jumped to the side as one of the snake's head plummeted from the sky and pummeled the ground where the two of them were standing moments ago.

Seeing that, the phoenix rose up high into the sky and dived down straight into the river, which lured the snake away from the fae and in to the river.

It was unprecedented. And, it was unimaginable what would happen deep down in the ice cold water. Whether the phoenix would survive or not, turned into a mystery as not even a single sound could be heard from the water.

"No!" the fae screamed dreadfully as she flapped her wings and flew up in the air. She looked down toward the frozen river's water, which had now turned into the color of red. "No," she muttered, while shaking her head like a rattle drum.

And with that, the fae started to cry and flap her wings violently until it created harsh winds around the are surrounding the river.

"Purple, stop it!" Raine tried to get the fae, flying high in the sky to get down, but apparently it was a futile attempt to calm her down by only words.

It was almost as naive as Raine tried to convince herself that the phoenix was fine before she watched in horror as the color of the river water turn red.

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Hope felt something touch her and with her last bit of consciousness, she saw a beautiful bird swimming toward her.

She must have gone crazy, how could a bird swim in this frozen river? But, she had seen it with her own eyes!

Its wings flapped against the current of the river before that creature crashed into her and wrapped her in his claw. Hope thought, at the very least, she would get hurt because of it, but apparently the bird wrapped its claws around her cloak and brought her straight ahead to the surface.

If Hope could make any sound, she would have screamed when the bird's beak crashed the hard ice and flew up from the water along with her tugged to its claws.

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After the short conversation last night about where Jedrek had gone to, Lilac acted a little bit more formal toward Jedrek and the later could feel it from the way she avoided his eyes.

Therefore, after Lilac helped Jedrek to wear his cloak and finished buttoning it with her head hanging low, Jedrek caught her hand just as she was about to go out of the tent.

"Tell me," Jedrek said.

"Tell you what?" Lilac asked, trying to release her hand from his tight grip, but it only prompted Jedrek to pull her even closer.

The king hugged his queen from back and rested his chin on her shoulder, trapping the guardian angel in his arms.

"What is bothering you?" Jedrek didn't want to talk about what had happened because he didn't want their relationship to take another step back after what they had gone through. However, at the same time he wanted to keep his promise not to lie to her.

Lilac bit her lips and held Jedrek's hands, as she felt his warm breath brush against her neck and the lycan nuzzled his face against his mark.

"Do you think I went out of the tent because I want to see Serefina?" he asked.

Chapter 873 - THE MYSTERY OF TIME (3)

"Do you think I went out of the tent because I want to see Serefina?" he asked. That name was like a trigger for many unpleasant memories between the two of them, they hadn't talked about her since that day.

However, Jedrek didn't want to intensify any misunderstandings between them and create another problem that could distance them from each another. He was starting to love these serene moments when he was with Lilac. Even though Serefina's matter was still at the back of his mind, still Jedrek didn't want to bet his relationship with Lilac, which had now improved.

"Wasn't it?" Lilac asked softly, her eyes casted down, she was not sure whether she wanted to hear Jedrek's answer or not.

Whether he would answer her honestly, which would hurt her if he said 'yes', or he would lie to her, which would hurt her as well. Neither of the answers would make her feel better and Lilac hated feeling like this when there were a lot of things that they should sort out.

"I thought it was her, but it was not," Jedrek said. "The devil tricked me with her scent."

"It didn't cover up the fact that you were looking for her last night," Lilac murmured. She felt her anger boiling up in her stomach, as her throat pained when she uttered these words.

"There are a few questions that I have for her and I need the answers," Jedrek said truthfully.

It would be a lie if he said that he could accept Serefina's betrayal just like that and didn't even have a single question that had been bugging his mind.

He had many questions to help him understood what were her motives and the most important thing that Jedrek wanted to know was; was it him that had forced her to side with the devils? Was it the relationship between him and Lilac that coerced her to decide on turning her back on him?

No matter what everyone said and regardless Jedrek's feelings toward Serefina, he couldn't simply believe that the witch changed sides because of something which she already knew that it was inevitable. Moreover, this was what she chose for the two of them.

Jedrek knew her for a long time, through up and down of his life, and could even vouch that she wouldn't be that shallow to follow a reason like that for betraying him, or Kace. The younger Donovan was like a brother for her.

Jedrek had tried to understand her standing, but she shut him out after what she had done to him centuries ago.

That was what Serefina chose for them, yet why would she that?

"Regardless of my feelings, let's talk about you," Jedrek said and turned Lilac around, so she could face him. "You have some questions for her as well." He ended his words affirmatively. It was not a question, but a statement.

Lilac lowered her head.

"What matters now is," Jedrek put his finger under her chin and lifted her head. "During this time, we shouldn't question each other."

It was the time when even the smallest insecurity could turn out to be a biggest mishap for them. The devils would play their roles nicely in that small gap.

"Many people had turned their backs against me, but I don't wish for you to embark that list nor do I want to do that to you," Jedrek said solemnly as he kissed her temple.

Torak was fuming mad. He wanted to vent out his anger by killing those useless lycans for not doing their job properly.

However, after thinking about it again; who would have thought that the dwarf and the witch would teleport themselves out of this castle? "What do you suggest?" Torak asked grimly, as he stood near the bed of the dwarf and scoffed when that cunning creature scent, hit his nose.

"We will wait," Kace said, he too didn't look any better than Torak, but at the very least, he was able to contain his anger and think more clearly than him this time.

"Wait?!" Torak growled. "Anything could happen to them out there!" his temper flared again. It seemed his cool was completely out of the window, from the moment the news of Raine went missing reached his ears.

"And do you know where to find them?" Kace asked irritably. "They could be anywhere."

"That's the best solution that you can give me?" Torak sneered, the edge of the table was cracked under his strong grip in order to calm himself.

"At the very least, they are with Lidya," Raphael said.

Meanwhile, Calleb who had been silent since he heard that Raine had gone missing again, finally spoke. "How much do you trust that which?" he asked in a strange tone.

Of course, the Gamma was feeling immensely worried about his Luna. The guardian angels could be exposed to unknown dangers and they didn't know where they were.

"I trust her enough not to betray us," Kace replied after some time.

"Like how you trusted Serefina?" Calleb questioned straight to the point. Even Serefina whom they thought was on their side had betrayed them, thus how could they trust the other person who was literally close to her?

The situation would turn messier if the two of them didn't come back.

"Call the head of the hunters and the centaurs here, I want to talk to them," Torak spoke to Jack, who was standing at the door.

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Raine tried to cover her face from the harsh wind that the fae was creating, while asking her to stop.

She couldn't see anything with the dirt and pebbles swirling around her, but after some time, everything became normal and she even heard Lidya's voice.

"Raine, are you okay?" Lidya's voice was very close and then Raine felt someone shook her body lightly.

Only then did she put down her hand and Raine could see that she had returned to the time where she had left.

"What is going on?" Raine asked, she was in a daze.

"You disappeared for a few minutes," Lidya said in distress.

But, at the same time they heard the sound of ice cracking again and as they both turned their heads toward the frozen river, their eyes were greeted with a scene beyond their wildest dreams.

Something or more precisely some creature emerged from the ice cold water after breaking the icy surface apart. But that thing was too fast to decipher what it was as it flew straight into the sky like a lightning bolt. Yet, this bolt was red in color!

Chapter 874 - THE MYSTERY OF TIME (4)

It was the 'phoenix' and grabbed in its claw was Hope, the bird of the size as big as a regular human's body, loosened its grip on the guardian angel when they both were completely out of the cold water, making her fell on her back, while gasping for her breath.

Hope coughed violently, greedily breathing in the cold air. She didn't know how long she had been down there and was surprised that she was still alive.

"Hope!" Raine was the first person, who ran toward her with Lidya following behind her closely. "Are you alright?" she helped her up to sit down and hugged her soaked body, in order to give her some warmth, ignoring the fact that act would wet her own clothes.

"What have you done!?" Lidya glared viciously at the dwarf and immediately squatted down beside Hope. She touched Hope and Raine with her palms and the heat from her hands, helped to warm-up their freezing bodies a little.

"You did it," said the dwarf lightly, he let the blue lizard to scramble back in to his hoodie and hide in it. "Both of you did it," he emphasized his words excitedly.

However, to their surprise, Raine stood up and slapped the dwarf's cheek very hard, the sound of it rang through this clearing, the brutal force of it sent the dwarf falling on to his back while holding his burning cheek.

"What do you think you were doing!?" the dwarf flared, but the way Raine looked at him, forced him to swallow the rest of his protest.

Raine was glaring at him murderously. "IF YOU DID THAT ONE MORE FREAKING TIME, I WILL MAKE SURE YOU WILL REGRET THAT YOU EVER GOT TO KNOW ME!" she yelled loudly at him.

Forgetting her nearly death experience, Hope's jaw dropped open when she saw Raine losing her temper. This was the first time for her to hear the guardian angel raising her voice. The sweet girl that she had ever known, turned into a violent woman.

Not that Hope wanted to complain, actually she liked this side of her more.

"If I didn't do that, you will never be able to tap into your power," the dwarf spoke rapidly, trying to justify his actions.

Yet, it only annoyed Raine even further.

At the side, even Lidya didn't dare interfere with the dispute between Raine and Nutdrouk. She stayed with Hope, hugging her to make sure she was warm enough after being frozen under the ice for some time.

"Should I be thanking you for that?" Raine lowered her voice, but it sounded as cold as the wind that was blowing around them, while approaching the dwarf and squatted down so she would be at the same eye level with him.

"You should," the dwarf said bravely. He didn't want to let her know that he was intimidated by her, yet he already knew deep inside that he shouldn't mess up anymore. His gut feeling told him there was something bad would happen.

"In that case, let me thank you by showing what I have got," Raine said grimly as she stretched out her hand and touched the dwarf's hand that was still holding his cheek, which was slapped hard by Raine earlier.

The dwarf prepared himself for the pain that he would experience, he thought Raine would do something brusque to him or even slap him harder, yet none of that happened.

At first, nothing happened, everything seemed normal for Nutdrouk until he heard Hope and Lidya gasping in surprise. That was when he understood that this fuming guardian angel might have done something bad.

Nutdrouk looked at Lidya and Hope in confusion, he was still unaware about what was happening, his brows creased and his nose scrunched upon seeing their expressions.

"What is it?" only when he was about to swat Raine's hand away from his face, did he notice his other hand and screamed at the top of his lungs.

His hands were shriveled and wrinkled, like an old creature! Which only left him looking feeble with skin stuck to his very bones.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME!?" Nutdrouk immediately scrambled away from Raine, keeping distance as far as he could before he scrutinized his own hand and touched his face. The skin felt so dry and wrinkled, until he couldn't believe it was him.

And when Nutdrouk looked at his reflection on surface of the frozen river, he got the idea about what was going on.

Dwarfs had a long life span, they wouldn't grow old easily and once it happened, it meant their time was close, as they were not immortal.

Thus, when Nutdrouk saw that he had grown older and shriveled in only a matter of few seconds, he freaked out, shaking his head in disbelief as his heart palpitated violently against his chest.

This was impossible!

"What have you done to me!?" Nutdrouk shrieked and raised his head, staring at Raine, asking for explanation.

However, what he saw was Raine, who looked at him with a face that was devoid of any emotion.

Raine had been through enough of this already. The method that Nutdrouk used for them to push them to their limits, reminded her a lot about Serefina's.

If the witch were here herself, this was what exactly she would do, without any second thoughts. Despite knowing the result was actually worked out for them, as Raine could tap into her power, but the feeling of being forced to witness something that once broke your heart again and again, and constantly being scared under the pressure, those feelings just suck.

She knew she should be grateful, but she couldn't oversee the fact that she and Hope have to nearly face their deaths if it didn't work out.

"Raine..." Hope approached her and tugged her hand, so she could focus on her. "I think he got what you mean already," she said softly. "Let him go, will you?"

Raine looked at Hope, but her eyes were still hard, yet when Hope caressed her back to ease her tension, she finally sighed and approached the dwarf again.

Nutdrouk was afraid by her touch, but he knew he should let her if he wanted to turn normal again.

"I hope you remember what I am capable of doing now, thanks to you, but no more," Raine said.

Chapter 875 - RETURN

Raine's touch turned the dwarf into his previous state, the wrinkles on his skin disappeared along with his bony fingers, which now looked more fattened.

Only when Nutdrouk felt he had gone back to his usual figure, could he sigh in relief and wiped his face harshly.

Actually, the dwarf wanted to scold and protest, but Raine was still annoyed, thus he didn't want to aggravate her any further and worsen the situation even more, therefore he bit his tongue to prevent himself from ranting out.

"Let's go back to the castle," Raine said to Hope.

However, this time, she didn't wait for Nutdrouk or Lidya to take them back to the castle, instead she teleported herself and Hope.

This surprised the two people even more.

"Do you believe that?" Lidya walked over toward Nutdrouk, watching in awe when the two guardian angels disappeared before their eyes. "She teleported herself."

"I saw it," the dwarf grumbled while looking at his body and touched his face, he was afraid there was part of his body that had not yet returned to normal.

"How could she do that?" Lidya frowned. "She can't control her power at all before, but now it seems like she had mastered it for years."

"If you ask me, then who should I ask?" Nutdrouk groaned when he felt the harsh winds wiping his face, as he tightened the cloak that he was wearing. "I just followed what she told me," he said.

Whether it was good for the guardian angel or not, the dwarf didn't care much. He was already upset enough to be tricked by her this way to do her bidding like a dog.

Lidya glanced at the dwarf beside her and spoke languidly. "I am not sure if you are aware about this, but as an old friend, I just want to tell you the truth about what will be waiting for you once you return to the castle."

"What?!" the dwarf snapped irritably. He didn't think he want to hear something bad anymore.

"Two angry lycans and the whole pack that were waiting to chew you alive," Lidya said in a mocking tone and laughed loudly when she watched how the dwarf's expression changed instantly. "Don't tell me that you are expecting that you can come back as you wish and receive nothing after you had literally taken the two lycan's mates away for hours."

The dwarf stomped his feet angrily and grumbled something incoherently. Before he spat out. "F*ck them!" he tidied his cloak and raised his eyes to meet with Lidya's gaze, as he said. "You take care of the rest, I don't want to get involved in this anymore!"

And with a loud sound, the dwarf teleported himself from them, but for sure it wouldn't be to the castle.

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The time that Jedrek gave to Swan and the other spell casters was up and now they should give Killian and Tordoff back to them, yet instead of surrendering to the order, the spell casters lined up beneath the hill and busied themselves chanting spells after spells for their protection from the wrath of the lycanthropes.

However, they didn't have any idea what would come after them for their arrogance and self-righteous hypocrisy.

"If you don't want to see this, you can go back to the tent, I will ask someone to stay with you," Jedrek said to Lilac when they walked toward the hill, where they met Swan yesterday.

Even from afar, Lilac could see around five hundred spell casters standing just at the foot of the hill, to defend their city.

"No," Lilac shook her head. "Actually I need this to vent out some steam."

Jedrek raised his eyebrows when he heard Lilac's words. "What do you meant by venting out some steam?"

However, the guardian angel just groaned something incoherently and walked faster than him.

Yet, Jedrek caught her hand and pulled her back, he put his finger under her chin to lift her head, so he could see her straight in the eyes. "What are you upset about, little flower?" he asked with mirth in his eyes.

Jedrek knew what flared his mate's temper to this awful condition, he just wanted to hear it straight from her lips.

But, Lilac decided to respond in a different way, she swatted his hand away from her face and tiptoed in her attempt to look more dominant than the king, needless to say that was a futile attempt. Nevertheless, Jedrek was bemused by her effort.

"I will be fine, I can handle myself," Lilac said sternly and walked ahead of him, but she was still able to hear Jedrek's voice.

"Of course, you will my wild flower," Jedrek chuckled.

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Raine returned to the cabin that Nutdrouk had resided for a few days, she thought that this place would be empty, but she should have known that her overprotective mate would be there to look for her after she disappeared for hours without telling him anything.

Once Raine's eyes spotted Torak, she was already in his arms in the next second, being hugged so tight until she was having a hard time breathing.

"Torak, you are suffocating me," Raine, tapped his back to let him know that he was about to crush her bones.

"I am sorry," Torak murmured and let her go. "Are you alright?" he pulled back a little and scrutinized her closely at an arm's length of distance.

Meanwhile, Kace was reprimanding Hope for being so reckless. Even so, he already knew for sure that this would happen. The lycan was very certain that it was Hope's idea to follow the dwarf's suggestion.

After all, Kace had known her since she didn't even know how to utter a word properly. It was easy to guess who was the perpetrator of this commotion.

"Can you stop scolding me? I almost died, you know..." Hope grumbled and this tensed up the lycan instantly.

"What happened? Something happened to you?" Kace froze, he looked around to find Lidya and Nutdrouk, but it was only Hope and Raine, who returned. "Where are those two d*mn people!?" he seethed.

What did it mean that Hope almost died?!

Chapter 876 - A MYTH

Kai was listening to the news on the television while laying still on his bed, the voice of the news reader felt like a fading background in a different horizon and he was unable to catch what she was saying.

The fatigued feeling that Kace felt a week ago, was now becoming worse and worse with each passing day. He didn't even know what was wrong with his body.

Both his parents had taken him to see a doctor, yet the doctor couldn't find anything wrong with him.

And even after the third visit to a different hospital, the result was same ; he wasn't sick in the first place, or was he? they stopped trying to find what's wrong and left Kai to lay down on his bed, staring in to the dark sky in a daze.

Most of the people couldn't remember when the last time the sun shone clearly past these dark clouds. It almost felt like the sun had completely disappeared from their lives.

This situation didn't just bring the negativity in a human's life, but apparently this affected most of the citizens' mental health too.

People tended to become more sensitive and negative in this kind of situation.

And no one knew what was the actual cause or when this would finally end.

Kai sighed when he heard the news reader saying that there would be a solar eclipse soon. What was different from an eclipse now? Since the sun couldn't even be glimpsed, there wouldn't be any difference whether it was a solar eclipse or not.

Kai moved his hand to reach the remote control and turned off the television. He felt awful and far from his useful self.

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"What are you going to do now?" Lilac looked down at the spell-casters down the hill, who were staring at her viciously.

They were talking something to Jedrek, but the king completely ignored them as he focused on what Lilac was saying.

"Kill them all, of course," Jedrek said, with a tone that almost sounded like; is that even a question?

"They outnumbered you," Lilac pointed out the fact. She had tried to use her power, but for some reason, it became difficult for her to break through their protection.

Though, it was not impossible, but it would drain her energy, while the result wouldn't satisfy her. Those witches must have added another layer of protection to tackle her power.

"Really?" Jedrek raised his eyebrows suggestively.

And at the same time, from the dense trees behind them, they could hear a buzzing sound.

Lilac looked at Jedrek questioningly, but the lycan just smiled back at her. When the sound got louder and louder, Lilac turned around right in time to witness thousands of faes emerging from the trees, flapping their wings, armed with scythes.

Lilac was amazed by the number of faes, but then she remembered that the house where she had been put into a deep slumber for a year, thanks to Jedrek, was near the village of faes. However, she wouldn't have thought of seeing these many faes at a time before.

"When?" Lilac was flabbergasted as she watched those faes flying above their heads as one of them flew toward Jedrek.

Her blue wings stopped fluttering as her barefoot touched the ground and she greeted Jedrek. "Your majesty," she nodded slightly to Jedrek and Lilac. "My queen."

Lilac returned her kind gesture, but she still couldn't stop wondering when did Jedrek was able to contact them. How could he be this certain that the meeting with the spell-casters would come to this?

Aside from spell-casters, faes' magic wasn't something that could be trifled with and with these many faes, the five hundred spell-casters shouldn't be a problem for the two hundred lycanthropes.

[I have this all planned, even before we left the city.] With Lilac beside him, Jedrek would not slack about taking all the necessary precautions. He indeed didn't bring many lycanthropes with him, but he had another army that would back them up.

A perfect army to handle the tricks of the spell-casters. Find authorized novels in , faster updates, better experience, Please click /book/the-love-of-a-lycan_13952362506619705/a-myth_50295075632107149 for visiting.

[And you didn't tell me,] Lilac mind linked him sullenly, but Jedrek just grinned, before he turned serious and addressed the fae.

"Be ready."

"On your command, my king."

=====

"I think the phoenix belong to purple, the fae that guards the library in Rieka," Raine said to Torak after she and Hope finished telling them what actually happened when they were teleported to the frozen river.

From the expressions on their faces, they could clearly tell that their mates were beyond pissed right now to know that the girls were being exposed to such a dangerous situation.

Kace didn't stop to scold Hope for being so reckless for not telling them that the dwarf suggested to go to the frozen river.

Meanwhile, though Torak didn't say much, Raine was pretty sure she would get a piece of his mind once it was only the two of them.

However, right now, filling them with this information was the priority. It could be something important.

??Yes, the phoenix belongs to her," Torak replied without doubt.

"How do you know that for sure?" Kace asked him.

They were still inside the cabin, listening to the guardian angels' story, but at the same time Torak and Kace also waited for the dwarf to return.

Even though they didn't say it out loud, but it seemed that the two of them had a tacit understanding regarding this matter; the dwarf should learn from his mistake, so the next time he would remember before messing around with them.

"Because the fae belongs to our pack," Raphael said simply.

And it was a well known fact that a phoenix was one rare creature which would only serve a single owner for its lifetime.

So, it was very possible that the creature flew back to its owner. And, from what Raine said about the possibility of other creatures residing deep in the frozen river, like the nine-headed snake: the Hydra. They would need that phoenix.

"It happened long time ago when purple lost the bird during that fight," Torak told them. "She thought the bird was dead when it submerged into the ice cold river water along with the hydra, but if the phoenix managed to survive, so did the other creatures."

"Hydra, I thought it was a myth," Kace said contemplating.

"I also thought all of you are a part of some myth," Hope replied, but she was rewarded with a glare from Kace.

Chapter 877 - DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

The phoenix was a very loyal creature, so once it recognized someone as it's master, then it would serve that particular person, it's master for the rest of its life.

Thus, it was not in the question that the majestic bird would seek for the fae's whereabouts and needless to say, it would find her eventually. The bird itself was a magical being.

"We need to go to Rieka," Torak said.

"I can go to Rieka," Raphael interrupted. In his opinion, there was no need for Torak to go there all by himself, moreover, if he did left, the Beta wasn't sure he could trust Kace fully on running this Kingdom.

The youngest Donovan was already doing everything half-heartedly, coming to this realm to the training, then taking the responsibility to command over the other warriors like what he had done centuries ago, yet expecting him to run the kingdom would be a little bit farfetched outlook.

He would either dump all the responsibility or mess up everything in the kingdom entirely.

"No, you should stay here," Torak rejected his idea, because he had some other person in his mind that he thought was best for dealing this situation.

"If you leave everything behind, who was capable of taking charge here?" Raphael voiced out his concern.

Kace immediately raised both of his hands and glared at Torak viciously. "Don't tell me you will leave this responsibility on me! I'm not going to bear it no matter what you say!"

"No, you are coming with me," Torak said calmly. He really wanted to knock some sense into Kace's head, so he could see how silly his reaction was just now.

Torak was aware about Kace's reluctance to take charge over things, but they didn't have time to deal with it now. Whether he was willing or not, they had to do something that they must have done in order to handle the upcoming trouble.

Actually, it wasn't that Kace couldn't do it, he just kept dodging the responsibility only because he thought he couldn't.

It didn't matter whether he liked it or not, there would come a day when he had to put aside his childishness and face the reality.

"Why would I go with you?" Kace frowned.

"Then who was going to take charge here?" Raphael asked, the two of them blurted out their dilemma almost simultaneously.

"Because I need you to find the fae in Rieka," Torak said simply, as if Kace should have known about that and there was no need to ask about it.

"What? I don't even know this fae," Kace said matter of factly, yet Torak didn't have time to argue with him on this.

"We have to move fast and I have to see the earth dragon shifter," Torak explained about his plan curtly.

Those dragon shifters had tried to defy him even before the war had started.

And, he could only think of dealing with them with the most primitive method that came to his mind right now, just like how Jedrek dealt with the people from the eastern region; if they couldn't be your ally, then it was best to destroy them entirely, in case they strengthen your enemy behind your back.

Moreover, those dragon shifters had crossed Torak's bottom line, by ignoring his call.

"I am sorry, but I don't understand it even a bit," Hope chimed in. "Why should we find this fae and get this phoenix? The monster is in the frozen river. Whether that creature is alive or not, shouldn't we go there and kill it before it could harm us?"

"Hydra is a monster with nine heads, it was very hard to kill that creature, because every time we cut one of its heads, it would grow one back again," Kace explained to Hope.

Hope's eyes widened in disbelief. "I thought that kind of things only exist in movies," she gasped. "D*mn. I didn't know that those monsters are real."

"Watch your words, girl!" Kace flicked her forehead lightly because she was cursing. It had been a while since she did that, but actually it sounded nice in Kace's ears. It felt like there was someone, who still found the existence of supernatural creatures was fascinating in her own way.

Kace knew that Hope was mesmerized by the fact that those creatures were alive in real life. However, she just didn't know yet, how terrifying to face them.

"Does kraken also exists?" Hope crept closer toward Kace and whispered, though it was only Raine inside this room, who was not able to hear her.

"You can't leave this place without appointing someone capable in charge Torak," Raphael voiced out his own thought. It was not that he wanted to drag behind the Alpha's plan, but who would take charge if both Donovans were out of the realm?

"You will stay here with Calleb," Torak said as he nodded at Calleb.

"Torak, no." Raphael raised both of his hands and looked at Torak incredulously. "You will not give me this kind of task, this is too much. Those hot headed Alphas would flare up within seconds if a Beta gives them a command."

"Supreme Beta," Torak emphasized.

Yet, Raphael kept shaking his head. Those Alphas only listen to him just because he was under Torak, but if Raphael agreed to take charge on all of them, he would be doomed to face those eyes full of dissatisfaction.

"You can do it," Torak said firmly. "Caleb will be here to help you."

"He will only add to my stress," Raphael grumbled.

"What do you mean by that?" Caleb hit Raphael's shoulder, annoyed. The Gamma was grateful that he was left behind, because he felt reluctant to leave Rosie.

For God sake! He had never spent some proper time with his mate since the first time they met! It was either Sterling, her twin brothers, Bree or Raphael, who would always find something to ruin his perfect dates with her.

However, despite his relief, Caleb was also worried about Raine.

"You will take Jack with you, right?" Caleb asked Torak. Jack was the first person that was tasked to protect Raine when she was separated from Torak for the first time.

Raine's anxious gaze softened as she realized what Caleb was thinking and she teased him. "Why? Do you worry about me?" she chuckled lightly to make the atmosphere less tensed. "Don't worry, my hubby will protect me well," she snuggled into Torak's arms beside her.

"Your public display of affection doesn't affect me anymore, I have my own mate now," he said proudly.

Chapter 878 - SHALL WE?

"You can't do this to us, Jedrek!" Swan roared and his voice boomed in the clearing. He wouldn't have thought that Jedrek would bring a lot of back up with him.

The fairies!

How on the earth did he succeed in persuading those creatures to side with him?! The faes had been avoiding confrontations like this for as long as he could remember and chose to live in seclusion, in their own village of fairy.

"Oh, I can," Jedrek smirked viciously, even Lilac was startled a little bit when she noticed how devilish he looked right now. "And I will show you how I can," the king said calmly.

He had already given enough chances to the spell-casters from the northern coven realm to remember their place, but even now, they were still acting ignorant of the possible dangers which they had brought upon by themselves by rejecting to follow his order.

Swan thought he could hold the Alpha back with his protecting spells as long as he could handle Lilac's power with their own magic, as they thought that they could now understand how Lilac's power worked

when she destroyed their city with ease. How foolish of them to realize that they were totally wrong from the beginning?

Meanwhile, Lilac's eyebrows slightly creased when she saw how eager those spell-casters waiting to fight Jedrek. From her standpoint, it was indeed true that the spell-casters had the upper hand because of their magic, coupled with this barrier, which restricted the lycans from crossing over.

Yet, when Lilac noticed how calm Jedrek was, she was starting to wonder; did he have some other plan that she didn't know of? Like how he planned the faes' surprising entrance.

"Last chance, Swan!" Jedrek's voice dripped with authority, just like the king he was. "For the sake of your contribution in the past, I will give you one last chance to give back my people to me." Jedrek's eyes turned black when a low and deep growl erupted deep from his chest.

Lilac, who was standing next to him, could feel it clearly.

"Jedrek, what you will do about the barrier? Were the faes able to go through it?" Lilac asked in low voice, which could only be heard by Jedrek.

In spite of the fact, this was day time, still the sun refused to shine and the cold winds that blew from the north left Lilac shivering a little bit.

Jedrek noticed that.

The king wrapped his mate in his cloak to prevent her teeth clattering from the cold winds. Lilac appreciated this gesture and her heart felt even more warmer than her body. "No, I will break the barrier," Jedrek replied to her.

"How?" Lilac tilted her head and looked at Jedrek questioningly.

And, instead of answering Lilac's question, Jedrek raised his right hand, which was not holding Lilac's body.

Lilac followed his movement with her eyes and watched how Jedrek raised his hand in a beckoning move, as if he was calling someone, or... something.

A little while later, small burning flames appeared on the tips of his fingers and formed into a bird before landing smoothly on his palm. It was as big as a falcon, with majestic feathers that fluttered brightly like a bonfire.

Lilac recognized this small creature as the famous firebird.

"Firebird," Lilac gasped in surprised, she totally forgot that the Donovans had these firebirds?within them, aside from the monstrous beast of lycan.

The mystical bird soon left Jedrek's palm and flew above their heads. It left dust of fire when the bird flapped its wings and moved toward the barrier, the one that was erected by those spell-casters.

The bird let out a cry when it opened its small beak, as it started breathing fire out.

Lilac and most of the people, who had never seen it, were startled when they saw how the small creature could create such majestic flames despite of its small frame.

But, Sebastian and Theo didn't even look surprised, they smirked triumphantly upon knowing that Jedrek finally let out one of the legendary firebirds, which were only owned by the three Donovans.?

The flames didn't even spread ten meters far from the bird, as if there was something that blocked their path, but after a few minutes, something started to crumble, just like a haystack that was being burned. The whole invisible barrier came crashing down after being burned by the firebird's magical flames.

A wall of fire was created and it depicted the size of the barrier, it showed how gargantuan the invisible wall of protection that those spell-casters had created to prevent Jedrek and his people to come closer.

"Shall we begin?" Jedrek tilted his head toward Lilac beside him and smirked when the wall of flames started to fade away. It meant the barrier already crumbled. It was only a matter of time for them to go through this hurdle.

"Sure," Lilac replied merrily when she saw how the spell-casters' faces twisted, horror-stricken as their eyes widened in fear. Now they knew what was coming for them.

Raphael felt a headache coming upon hearing what Torak proposed earlier. How could the Alpha expect him to take care of the whole kingdom on his own and entrust Calleb with those lycan warriors?

The lycan warriors were slightly different from them, they were brutal and brash, it needed more than a title to calm them and on top of it, Raphael was not sure if Calleb could handle them all.

Before this, there was him and Kace, who helped oversee the training, sometimes Sterling too. But, with Kace's departure, he was worried about what would happen later.

At the very least, on rare occasions, when those lycan warriors were hard to control, Kace would subdue them with his Alpha's tone and that was the only effective thing to stop the brawl and scowl.

"Your mind is very loud." Lana stood in front of Raphael, who was sitting on the edge of the bed. She cupped her mate's face between her palms and kissed him tenderly. "If Torak trusts you with this, it means; you are capable enough to do this."

Lana could hear Raphael's thoughts through mind-link and she knew what troubled him the most.

Meanwhile, Raphael closed his eyes to calm his nerves as Lana's sweet scent helped him to feel more at ease, along with the two beating hearts.

Chapter 879 - SOMETHING WAS AMISS

Jedrek did not let Lilac stay on the battlefield before he charged forward with the rest of the lycanthropes and the faeries. He managed to convince the guardian angel to stay behind with Theo and Sybil.

The general did not seem happy with the fact that he was left out. However, what choice did he have when it was a direct order from the king himself.

Not only that, even before he went to wreak havoc, Jedrek used the same method that he had used in the past, which left Lilac speechless...

Hadn't their relationship improved greatly? So, why did he still have to make her aggravated again? Did he lose his mind?

However, seeing how serious he was to prevent her from taking part in this fight, forced the guardian angel to relent reluctantly.

Lilac didn't want to make an unnecessary scene at a time when they were pressed to complete a crucial thing first.

Therefore, here she was; hiding behind the Lycan warriors, waiting for this battle to be settled quickly.

Since the day Theo's neck got slit by that other general, he was no longer able to say even a word. The healer said; he lost his ability to speak.

Honestly, Lilac pitied him, but because Theo didn't let out anything from his rigid expression, sometimes, Lilac forgot he was once able to speak if it was not for that incident.

Yet, she liked Theo, who couldn't talk. Heartless or not, she liked not to hear any snarky comments.

Far from them, the battle was still on full swing. Under the hills, dark and red colors filled the air from the magic spells of the fairies and the spell-casters.

Lilac's eyes were focused on a certain beast. That particular beast moved very quickly just like a white haze, meticulously dodging the attacks and curses from the spell-casters.

But, even when one or two spells hit him, it was not enough to take him down.

Lilac just remembered the fact that she came to know about the white beast body's otherworldly defensive nature. Most magic tricks and spells couldn't affect them.

Upon this realization, Lilac was a little bit relieved as she tried to focus on assisting the other Lycan warriors and the faes to reach the city.

They aimed for their last ground, but it was still difficult to get rid of those spell-casters.

Meanwhile, Sybil tried to ward off any curses that went astray and came in their direction.

Blood continuously splattered on the ground, limbs were being torn apart from their bodies, as their owners bled to death.

No one knew for sure, how this battle would end...

But, when Lilac looked toward the far end of the gigantic walls, she felt something was amiss... her instincts told her that this battle shouldn't even happen in the first place.

"Are you sure, we should leave this place?" Raine looked at Torak with a deep frown between her brows. "Why don't we just continue to wait for Jedrek and Lilac to come back before we leave this place under Raphael's control?" Raine asked again, she did not like the fact that the three of them had to be separated for a long time.

Though it sounded ridiculous, Nutdrouk's words kept resounding in her head about them shouldn't be going on separate ways.

Raine didn't say anything about this, since she knew Torak was quite irritated every time she mentioned the dwarf, and having an argumentation with Torak was the last thing that Raine wanted now.

And as for Lidya, she returned a few hours after Raine and Hope's return.

"Raphael can handle this," Torak said, he leaned over and kissed her forehead to ease her worries. "I can hear your mind, buzzing in my head."

Total tucked a strand of her hair behind her ears, and looked at her intensely.

"Don't worry too much about this, we will return as fast as we could." Torak tried his best to persuade her, but he was still not able to get rid of the cloud that overshadowed her face.

Both of them walked toward the gates where they had sent Jedrek and Lilac off just a few days ago.

Raine could already see that Hope and Kace had been waiting for them, with another two couples; Raphael and Lana, Calleb and Rosie, along with little Bree, who looked quite small among those a.d.u.l.ts.

Lana was talking with Hope when Raine and Torak arrived near the small group, while Kace grumbled something about them being late, which was brushed off by Torak ignorantly.

On the other hand, once Raine was within Calleb's arms-length, the Gamma pulled her closer for a hug.

At first, Raine was surprised that Calleb acted ignorant in front of his mate, but when Raine glanced in Rosie's direction, she noticed that the latter didn't seem to mind it at all.

Yet, there was still another person, who expressed his displeasure by letting out a small groan.

That was a sign for Calleb to let go of Raine and of course after doing so, he grinned foolishly at his Alpha.

If it was someone else, they would have lost all his limbs by now...

And not too long after this small squabble, Eaton and Sterling too came to send them off, also to talk about the final assignment of their tasks when all the Donovans left the castle.

It was a rare occasion, but Torak trusted Raphael to handle everything, and the Beta was determined to meet Torak's expectations.

Torak's adjustment wouldn't go wrong, right?

While the men were busy talking about their strategies and everything that involved fighting and bleeding, Raine turned her attention to Lana's bump.

Her stomach looked bigger than the last time she saw her.

"Can I?" Raine asked for permission to touch her stomach and Lana nodded happily.

"Of course," Lana moved closer to let Raine touch her stomach. "Maybe you can see his future," Lana said.

Gently, Raine put her hand on top of Lana's stomach. "I will try," Raine said with a small smile on her lips.

And then, when she concentrated on the baby, everything faded away before Raine's eyes, as she watched a boy, around the age of four, waving his hands and calling someone 'daddy' excitedly!

Raine smiled when she thought that the boy was calling Raphael, but Raine frowned slightly when she saw Calleb coming closer to the boy.

Why did the boy call Calleb as his father and not Raphael?

Chapter 880 - HE MISSED HER TERRIBLY

"How is it?" Lana asked in curiosity. The small frown between Raine's eyebrows didn't escape her eyes, thus she was slightly worried. "What do you see?"

The image of the boy and Calleb didn't last for long time before it faded away and Lana's expression came to her vision.

Raine took a second longer to smile back at Lana, giving the expectant mother a reassuring look. "He is a healthy child," she said.

Only after hearing that, did Lana let out a small sigh in relief and caressed her stomach indulgently.

"See? I told you, you just think too much," Hope said, as she hugged Lana. "The baby is going to be a great child! I hope I would be able to return before you deliver the baby."

Raine heard Hope and Lana chatting happily, but her mind was elsewhere. She didn't say anything about Calleb in her vision earlier.

The image of Calleb and Lana's child was very short and there was nothing that was affirmative from that.

Raine only managed to tap into her power just recently, thus she was still learning how to get a proper hold of it. Probably, if the glimpse lasted longer, she would be able to see why the boy called Calleb as his father, instead of Raphael, who was nowhere to be seen in the vision.

Everything was possible, since Raphael and Calleb were very close. It could be a prank or something else.

Raine didn't want to read too much into something that she was not sure about and just brushed it off as a false alarm.

Yet, she couldn't lie that it was bothering her and added another concern to her mind.

"Take care all of you," Lana said, pulling Raine closer for a hug.

"You too, please take care," Raine said, returning the hug a little bit longer until Torak called her that they should leave now.

=====

Most of the spell-casters faced death during the fight which lasted until the sun was completely down, leaving everything in pitch black darkness.

In the end, those spell-casters were forced to go back to the city and close their gates to prevent the lycan warriors and the faes from barging in.

They casted another collective spell to prevent the fairies from flying over the high wall.

Thus, when the dark day turned into night again, Lilac walked over to the city with Sybil and Theo beside her.

From afar, Lilac could see the white beast which was covered in blood and dirt, snarling viciously at the closed gates.

However, once his eyes met hers, the beast walked over, and as he closed the distance between them, he had turned into his human skin again.

Jedrek took her hand and nodded at Theo to relieve him from his duty, as for Sybil, the witch, he gave her another task.

"Figure out a way to go inside," Jedrek said in his trademark rigid tone, as he took Lilac to the tent that was built for them, since they had to figure out how to penetrate those spells first, to walk past those walls.

Once they were inside, Lilac immediately voiced out her thoughts.

"I think I can break down the wall and for the spell, why don't you... Jedrek?" Lilac stopped short her speech as she saw Jedrek collapsing onto the bed, groaning softly. "What happened?"

Lilac quickly approached him, but Jedrek pulled her closer and hugged her tightly instead. He held her head against his chest and felt her steady breath.

"What happened to you?" Lilac struggled to raise her head, so she could see his face clearly.

Under the faint light in this tent, the guardian angel noticed how pale her mate was and how labored his breathing became.

"I just need to rest for awhile," Jedrek said softly.

If it was not Lilac in front of him, Jedrek wouldn't have shown this weak side of him. It was a weakness and experiences taught him harshly not to show any weaknesses to other people, thus it was all he had been doing all this time before he met her.

"Why? What happened?" Lilac asked worriedly, but Jedrek caressed her back to calm her down.

"This is just the side affect," he said softly.

His hard and cold demeanor, and his emotionless expression had vanished the moment it was only the two of them.

"Side effect?" Lilac touched his face and felt his cold skin under her fingers. The king looked vulnerable at this moment.

"Hm," Jedrek hummed, as he closed his eyes.

Using firebird to take down and burn the barrier of protection that those witches had created had exhausted him completely, not to mention he had to go on the battlefield, and as for the bird, it had to breath out fire continuously to make way for them.

And being hit countless times with the curses, which came in his way.

It was indeed didn't affect him any badly it should have, but still, he was not totally immune to those vicious curses.

"You don't need to worry, I just need to rest for a bit," Jedrek said with his eyes still closed, and then he rolled the two of them onto the bed until Lilac laid on her side, while Jedrek hugged her from behind, burying his nose in Lilac's nape to smell her intoxicating scent, which could help his beast to calm down more and stop bothering him for vengeance on those spell-casters.

If Lilac was not here, Jedrek would be out there, figuring out the fastest way to tear that wall down and take back his territory, ignoring his condition.

But, he couldn't do so, thus here he was now, recuperating with his mate beside him. It was the best feeling that Jedrek had ever felt.

It didn't take a long time before Jedrek started to fall asleep.

It had been a week since the Donovans left the city and it was the toughest week of his life. The training became even harsher than before when Jedrek's people from the other region came to train together.

However, Calleb's heavy heart felt a little bit lighter when he saw his mate waiting for him on his way to his chamber. They had not seen each other for three days and needless to say, Calleb missed her terribly.