

TLOA Lycan 921

Chapter 921 - OVERWHELMING

"You felt it too, right?" Jedrek talked to Torak when they were having lunch with their mates and two Alphas from Torak's pack who just arrived last night with some people from the red river city.

"The firebird," Torak said while cutting the meat on his plate and when he was done, he changed his plate with Raine's.

And Jedrek did the same for Lilac. The king had never done something like this before, but a few days with Torak, he learnt one or two which could make his mate a little happy in these gloomy days.

Even so, Jedrek would never admit that out loud for the world to hear it.

"Something is calling our inner beast." Jedrek cut the meat for himself and started to eat.

"If the fire bird is your inner spirit, it can be Hope," Lilac joined the conversation after giving some thought about it. "But, why did she call? Does something happened in Rieka?"

Lilac looked at the two Alphas and one of them spoke about the information which they got their hands on. "The electricity in Rieka was cut off because two planes crashed into each other and ruined their power lines in the process."

"Two airplanes crashed into one another?" Jedrek frowned, it sounded strange. "We need to go there immediately."

"Let's postpone until Calleb and the rest are here," Raine said softly and five pair of eyes stared at her questioningly. "They will arrive soon, together with Raphael's baby," she said.

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"Calleb!" Jack approached him when the latter was still inside the car, even Lyrus followed closely behind him. They could smell his scent the moment he came into this property.

Calleb hit the breaks when Jack just jumped in front of the car and opened the door. "You want to die?!" he roared irritably.

"Being hit by a car will not kill me, buddy!" Jack immediately pulled him into a hug and patted his back, the gesture was more like he was trying to hit him though. "I am glad you are here and alive."

Calleb grinned and returned the hug. "So do I." Yet, it pained him when he remembered he couldn't say the same thing about Raphael.

"Who else did you bring?" Asked Lyrus, as he sniffed the air. He had been away from the castle for so many days, so he didn't know many people who came there recently.

Meanwhile, Ethan got down from the car and opened the door for Rossie, who was holding baby Eddard in her arms, followed by Bree and the dwarf.

"A dwarf?" Lyrus and Jack scrunched their noses at the same time at the sight of that stunted creature, didn't even bothering to hide their unpleasant feelings.

"Yes? Is there a problem with that?" Nutdrouk gave them a contemptuous smile and walked toward Calleb. "See? I told you, it will be better if I don't come here."

Calleb rolled his eyes. "Don't be so cranky," he grumbled and walked toward Rossie, as he swiftly took the baby from her arms. "This is my mate!"

Despite the atmosphere didn't really suit Calleb's current mood and it wasn't really a great time to introduce Rossie, but the Gamma was very happy and excited to let them know that he had found his other half.

"You are his mate?" Jack frowned and stared at Rossie up and down. "But, you are beautiful," he murmured, as though Rossie was far from his expectations about how Calleb's mate would look like.

"What are you looking at?" Calleb stepped in front of Rossie to block this unmated lycan's sight from seeing his mate too much.

Jack was about to protest when he caught sight of the baby in Calleb's arms. He shrieked dramatically while covering his mouth, like an old lady. "That's your baby?! You just gone for a few weeks and you already have a baby?!"

Calleb was really tempted to kick this warrior. "This is Raphael and Lana's baby," he said grimly.

And then the light atmosphere became heavy with the mention of the late Beta and his mate's names.

"Let??s go inside, the wind outside is very cold, the baby will get sick," Lyrus said to break the ice among them, as he walked first into the dragon shifter's mansion.

"Belinda and a few people from the pack are here too, she will be excited to see Raphael's firstborn," Jack muttered after clearing his throat as he eyed the baby in Calleb's arms with interest. "Can I hold the baby?" he asked curiously when the baby stared back at him with the same green color eyes like Raphael's. action

"No," Calleb replied shortly.

Jack grumbled when he heard Calleb's emotionless answer and struggled to take few more peek sat the baby while they were walking toward the building.

Meanwhile, Calleb was holding the baby in one hand and Rossie's hand in another, as Ethan, Bree and the dwarf walked behind him.

Once Calleb was climbing the stairs, leading to the terrace, he could hear a high-pitched woman's voice from inside the mansion along with the sound of her hurried footsteps.

The sound of it, made Calleb feel a fuzzy warm feeling in his cold heart and brought a smile on his face when he saw her figure in the middle of the door frame.

"Calleb!" Belinda squealed and rushed down the stairs with her arms opened wide, ready to squeeze the day lights out of the Gamma before she stopped abruptly, as she caught sight of the baby in Calleb's arms. "This..."

"Raphael and Lana's first son..." Calleb didn't know how to continue the rest of his words, as the very mention of the late Beta's name brought a mix of emotions that burst in his heart, especially when Belinda started to cry very hard.

They couldn't control the anguish, when their memories of Raphael resurfaced. Every tiny bit of the memory of the Beta came back to them all at once.

He would always be missed...

Standing at the door behind Belinda, Calleb saw Raine, with her eyes filled with tears and Torak beside her, staring at the baby with a rare smile and soft gaze.

Chapter 922 - I LOVE TO SEE YOU HOLDING OURS

Raine cooed the baby in Lilac's arms, as Belinda left them to make a bottle of milk for Eddard. She was very excited to see the baby, but at the same time, there was a deep sadness in her eyes.

They could understand that, Belinda had always thought of Raphael and Calleb as family and pain from losing a family member was something that wouldn't heal within a day or two, the feeling would remain forever.

"He has his father's eyes," Lilac said and Raine nodded.

There was a feeling of regret that Raine couldn't put into words, she should have known this would happen when she saw the vision the moment she touched Lana's stomach, but she chose to be ignorant.

They would have done something to rectify the situation if she was a bit more quick and witty enough to realize there was something wrong with the vision she got to see.

Raine knew that Torak blamed it all on himself for giving such a command of leaving the castle in Raphael's hands, as they walked straight into the devils' trap and caused this tragedy. However, it was not entirely his fault alone, there were many variables that couldn't be explained which later led them to this situation.

Yet, the feeling of guilt still remained.

Meanwhile, Rossie and Bree were off to rest in the rooms provided for them and Calleb was with Jedrek and Torak, just across the room from Raine and Lilac, discussing about something.

Ethan and the dwarf were nowhere to be seen, Raine assumed that the two of them also needed some precious time alone after what they had been through, especially Ethan.

Raine and Lilac felt bad for Rossie and Ethan's loss, but there was nothing they could do to ease their grievances except giving their unconditional support.

"His fingers are very small," Lilac murmured, fascinated by the baby's fragileness.

"That is why, he is a baby," Raine said, grinning while cooing baby Eddard again when Lilac laughed softly.

Eddard was a happy baby, despite the circumstances in which he was born and the hardship that he had to endure since the first moment he was brought in to this world.

It didn't take a long time for Belinda to return with a bottle of warm milk and gave it to the baby who sucked it happily.

Based on what Rossie told them, they learnt that baby Eddard didn't eat much, since Rossie didn't know what to give to him except water and fruit starch. It was incredible enough that the baby could survive all that mess.

Yet, they knew it was one of the sacrifices that Lana had made for her firstborn.

When the three of them were busy watching the baby sucking his milk, the guardian angels' mates approached them.

"Come, we need something to do and need your view point," Torak said, as he approached his mate, a soft kiss landed on Raine's forehead when he was close enough to her.

"Give the baby to me, I will take good care of him, just focus on what you have to do..." Belinda said and stretched out her arms to receive the baby from Lilac.

Carefully, Lilac gave him to her and baby Eddard was in Belinda's arms now, his green eyes looked at his surroundings curiously for a moment, but in the next second, he didn't seem to care at all.

Jedrek approached Lilac and placed his hand on her h.i.p.s, as he led them out of the room, leaving Belinda all alone with baby Eddard, but of course not forgetting to station a few guards to protect them.

"Where are we going?" Lilac asked curiously. She didn't get to roam around this place much, thus she slightly frowned when Jedrek took them in a different direction to where she always walked in.

"To meet the dragon people," Jedrek said curtly. action

"Hm," Lilac mumbled and nodded her head. The problem with the dragon people hadn't been resolved yet and they needed some closure about this matter in one way or the other. Whether they would be a foe or a friend.

"Lilac," Jedrek called her, his voice was barely a whisper, thus out of instinct, Lilac leaned over to hear what he was about to say. "I like the sight of you holding the baby."

Lilac's breath hitched when she heard that.

"But, I love to see you holding ours," Jedrek continued, ignoring his mate's body stiffening or the fact that her face turned red, yet there was a soft smile on her lips.

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"Hope, what was that?" Kace was flabbergasted when he watched half of the corridor had turned black because of the fire that the firebird had breathed.

Hope was also blinking her eyes when her sense came back. "I don't have any idea..." she said pensively.

She was not sure whether whatever happened was her doing or not, basically it was not her who had burned half of this corridor, but she did felt something when her anger tried to consume her and all she wanted was for the devils to disappear from her sight.

"Was that me?" Hope asked in a daydreaming voice.

Meanwhile, the firebird had vanished and the phoenix clamed down, as if the bird knew the threat was gone. It folded its wings and nuzzled her beautiful head on Hope's shoulder.

"Yes, I think you did it..." Purple tilted her head to look at Hope and then smiled. "I don't know that a guardian angel has such a power..."

"I don't know it either until recently," Hope said truthfully, as she scratched the bird's head.

"We have found the bird, I think its time for us to leave," Kace narrowed his eyes at the chaos outside. Blaring sirens could be heard from where they were standing as people came out from their houses to witness those huge flames that blanketed most of the residence.

"But, before that, I want you to see something." Purple walked forward and opened one of the rooms. "The Supreme Alpha told me to show you this."

Purple stepped into the room, while Hope and Kace followed behind her.

"What is it?" Hope asked curiously. The phoenix had to wait outside, since its big body couldn't fit the frame of the door of that room.

Chapter 923 - THE VOW

Jedrek, Torak, and their mates along with Calleb went to the third floor, where Torak's people kept Reynold and Stephan locked up, while the rest of the dragon people were in other rooms.

"What are we going to do here?" Lilac asked Jedrek before they entered the room.

"Ethan happened to agree upon a deal with the fire dragon shifters and we are due to know whether we should keep them alive or not." Jedrek pushed open the door and entered first.

"What kind of deal?" Raine looked at Calleb, who was walking behind her. Calleb brought Ethan with him, so it must be him who told them about the deal.

"I don't have any idea..." Calleb shook his head. Ethan didn't know any details about what the deal meant for the dragon shifters as they didn't explain anything useful, leaving him in the dark while they kept pressuring him with Rossie's condition.

Ethan, who had lost Ian, was not in the right mind when he agreed, so all he thought was they would help him save his little sister. It was understandable.

At first Jedrek didn't agree to it, but then Torak insisted that they had to take care of this matter first before they set off to Rieka, since it involved Raphael's son.

According to Torak, he had failed Raphael and his mate, so he vowed to himself that he wouldn't let anything happen to their firstborn, but of course Torak wouldn't say it out loud, yet Calleb had never seen Torak being this adamant about matters that didn't concern Raine, for a long time.

In the end, Jedrek had to relent, as Torak wouldn't budge from his decision and this forced them to postpone their trip to Rieka.

They could only hope that this was not some other mishap in disguise that would lead them to another setback.

[What happened between you and Torak?]

Raine almost yelped when Calleb mind-linked her all of a sudden, when they just entered the room. It was very rare of them to use mind-link, since they were not used to hide anything from Torak.

[Why?] Out of instinct, Raine looked at Torak's back. He looked pensive and was always deep in thought recently.

She didn't mind it, though. But usually, Torak would hold her hand and wait for her to enter the room first, and not give her his back like this and walk in without looking at her again.

[You know, why.] Calleb replied, even he himself realized these slight changes in Torak. [Torak was not used to treat you this way.]

Raine stood beside Torak and glanced at him, but his eyes were fixed on the two dragon shifters who were tied to the chairs.

[He is all right,] and then she added, [He just had a lot of things on his mind now.]

Raine stretched out her hand and intertwined their fingers together, only then did Torak turned his head to her and smiled, while pulling her closer to him.

"Jedrek... long time no see." Reynold tilted his head and looked at Jedrek. "When was the last time we got to see each other?" he scrunched his face, as if he was trying to remember. "Was it when you forced my grandfather to succ.u.mb to the vow that they not wanted?"

"They chose it for themselves," Jedrek said simply.

"Or, it's more likely that you will kill them if they didn't," Reynold scoffed.

However, Torak stepped forward, leaving Raine with Calleb behind them before pulling Jedrek by his shoulder to talk to Reynold. His patience toward this dragon shifter had run thin when he tried to fool him.

"Do you know about the cross heart vow?" Torak asked Reynold directly, since that was the name of the vow that Ethan had to take when he agreed to handover Raphael's son to the dragon shifters.

They didn't know about this vow and Belinda didn't have any idea about this either, therefore they didn't know what exactly were the consequences of breaking it.

"Even if I know something about it, I will not tell you," Reynold snickered before he glared at Torak.

"Calleb, ask someone to bring the dragon shifters here, I will kill them one by one until he was willing to talk." Torak didn't bat an eyelid when he said this.

On the other hand, Raine could only lower her eyes, not wanting to see Stephan's pleading gaze. She knew it was a cruel decision to kill their people, which didn't leave any difference between them and those devils.

It was the same thing what the devils did to them in the castle, they turned those innocent people against each other leading to a horrifying massacre in order to get what they wanted.

Yet, at the same time Raine couldn't argue with Torak, she remembered what Raphael had told her about this a long long time ago.

Their world was a world that needed cruelty and sometimes bloodshed, in order to keep everything in place or make it right.

It didn't take long for Calleb to come back with three lycan warriors, each of them holding a shaking dragon shifter.

They pushed the three shifters to the ground, making them kneel.

"Talk now or I will start to kill them," Torak said, there was no emotion in his eyes or any kind of expression which said other wise as he meant each and every word that he said.

Reynold didn't seem to budge at Torak's threat, as he continued to glare at the latter provokingly.

However, he should have known better than showing his defiance in front of Torak, especially when he was in this state of mind.

"Kill them one by one," Torak said with a face that was devoid of any kind of emotion.

Raine's body turned stiff, even after witnessing countless deaths with her own eyes, she still couldn't get used to it.

She could hear the three people wailing and pleading for their lives as they watched the warriors closing in on them with their extended talons, ready to end their life.

"ENOUGH!" It was Stephan, who roared viciously at his brother. "Can you stop relying on those devils? I have enough of your stubborn self being fed with their lies and false hopes!" It was Stephen's first time to raise his voice against his brother.

Chapter 924 - THE VOW (2)

In the midst of all those loud noises from the outside, Purple led Hope and Kace into a huge room which gave the illusion of the presence of an additional library behind this door.

It felt so, probably because of the size of it which was almost on par with the previous room they had entered, as if the building was built with two sections of library; one for public while the other for private use only.

Hope could even smell the earthly scent from this place and this kind of scent was very calming to her already tensed nerves because of everything that happened outside.

Unfortunately, Hope was not really fond of reading books, if she were, this place would have felt like a heaven to her.

"If Raine happen to be here, I bet she will love this place," Hope murmured, relishing the sight around her and how amazing this place seemed as they walked to the center of this private library.

Purple smiled softly at Hope and spoke. "Luna had been here once with the Alpha and this one was the thing that Alpha Torak had showed to her then."

Hope frowned, became very curious now. "What is it?" she looked at Kace beside her, but her mate seemed to be unaware of whatever it was.

"You can see it yourself," Purple said, as she led them deeper, into the central part of the room.

It took some time for them to reach the middle of this seemingly large chamber where Hope saw a huge stone, standing tall right in the middle of this huge room.

Its height was around twelve to thirteen meters, with a thickness equal to Hope's two arms stretched out.

"What is this?" Hope breathed out her question in amazement, it surprised her to see this kind of stone in the middle of the bookshelves.

This stone looked old, a stark contrast to its surroundings.

"This stone looks like someone had thrown it in here," Hope commented.

"This is the stone that could tell you everything," Kace answered it for Hope, as he walked closer and touched the rough surface of it. "This is real."

"Yes, Alpha Torak kept it here," Purple said.

"D*mn it Torak!" Kace cursed quite loud, as he huffed in annoyance.

"What happened?" Hope asked, couldn't understand why would Kace be irritated all of a sudden like this.

"This stone was supposed to be in the castle, Jedrek was throwing a tantrum when he realized that one of the precious things which was under the possession of royal family had disappeared." Throwing a tantrum might not be the correct phrase to portray how livid Jedrek was, but Kace would keep the details for himself.

Hope raised her eyebrows, sometimes she couldn't understand the relationship between the three Donovan brothers, they have this tendency to take the dispute between siblings to another level.

"If Raine was here before, then what did she do with the stone?" Hope asked in curiosity and moved closer, feeling attracted to the stone.

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"ENOUGH!" Stephan roared viciously at his brother. "Can you stop relying on those devils?! I have enough of your stubborn self being fed with their lies and false hopes!" it was Stephen's first time to raise his voice against his brother.

Out of instinct, Raine turned her head to see what was happening and she caught sight of a hopelessly angered Stephen, which was a first.

"They haven't done anything that could backup their promises, but lie through their nasty way out every single time and you still trust them?!" Stephan glared at Reynold, who was glaring back at him, couldn't believe that his timid brother had just talked back to him.

"They had our last female and this lycan did nothing to get her back!" Reynold reminded his brother, yet Stephan wouldn't buy it anymore.

"She must have been dead by now! No, maybe a long time ago! Do you really think you can trust a devil's promise?!" Stephan found himself feeling sick to realize that they were being fooled by those filthy creatures from hell.

"Enough both of you!" Torak didn't have time to listen to them and could only cut off their quarrel. "Tell me what is the cross heart vow?!"

"I will never tell you!" Reynold struggled to free himself from the chain that bound him, but without their beast power, they were nothing. Unfortunately, their beast had been locked up because of a vow that their grandfather had committed. "Give us our last female and I will be on your side, if not... you can go and f**k yourself!"

Right after saying those cursing words, a kick landed on Reynold's chest, which sent him flying across the room and hit the wall, leaving a big dent on its surface.

"How about you? Do you know what is it?" Torak asked Stephan instead.

The young dragon shifter looked back and forth between Torak and his brother, he was placed in a difficult position.

"I will release you from the vow that your grandfather made centuries ago if you agree to share this with us," Torak stated.

"Torak!" Jedrek warned him. [We had never agreed to this!]

Yet, Torak shut the mind link and didn't allow Jedrek to interfere with his decision. At this point, he wouldn't let anything happen to Raphael's son.

However, for those people who were close to him and knew him very well, this kind of recklessness was way out of his character.

Torak indeed didn't show how much it pained him to know that his Beta was dead under his command along with his mate, thus if something happened to their child, Torak would be d*mned for eternity out of his self blaming guilt.

This was his way to cope up with his sadness, since it was hard for him to express this kind of emotion to anyone, including Raine.

However, the consequences of releasing them from their vow was also a big bet. This was why Jedrek was concerned about Torak's seemingly careless decision.

"You cannot do this Torak, we didn't agree on this!" Jedrek hissed at Torak and held his shoulder, forcing him to turn around and face him. "You don't have the fae who can break the vow, with you."

It should be the same fae who made it; to break this kind of vow, but Jedrek didn't know that Torak had her.

"Of course I have the fae," Torak said.

"I will tell you!" Stephan spoke up.

Chapter 925 - DRAGON BEAST

"Of course I have the fae with me," Torak said.

"You have the fae with you?" Jedrek hissed in disbelief. All this while, he thought that the fae was gone, like dead or in complete seclusion... he didn't know, he just couldn't find her, yet Jedrek was not really looking for her as well, since he had a lot of things that he needed to sort out.

And of course he had nothing to do with the fae after the vow, the fact that she just disappeared all of a sudden, didn't bother him much to say the least.

[I think there are a lot of things that we need to talk.] Jedrek mind-linked his brother grimly.

[No, I don't want to talk about it.] Torak replied and shut him out of his mind, when he thought about a certain thing.

Indeed, when Jedrek chased him out 'ultra gently', Torak brought a few things with him.

"I will tell you!" Stephan finally spoke up and in the next second he got a fierce glare from his brother, the former could even feel the intensity of it on the back of his head.

"YOU ARE WEAK!" Reynold roared in anger. He tried to get up and rush toward his brother when Jedrek gave an order to restrain him.

"Take him away," Jedrek said darkly. The younger brother wanted to confess, so Reynold's outburst would only get in their way.

"No!" Reynold struggled to get away from the two lycans that approached him. "You will end our family bloodline!"

"What if they are saying the truth!?" Stephan roared back at his brother. He had had enough of his brother's nonsense!

Reynold seemed to be out of his mind recently, the brother that he knew was not like this! Or... probably he was, if one remembered correctly, he used Stephan to hide from Torak after he killed one of his pack members.

"YOU WILL END OUR FAMILY BLOODLINE!" Reynold yelled the same thing again like a crazy man.

"The devils were only using you, have you not realized it yet?!" Stephan retorted.

However, in a fit of rage, Reynold did the least expected thing that his kind were forbidden from doing. He shifted into his beast.

The transformation was very slow, since the dragon shifter had to fight the vow that his older generations had made. It was almost like fighting yourself to let yourself lost in your beast.

The process was painful, yet dumbfounding.

Reynold's body hunched forward as he bent his legs in an odd position and placed both of his arms against the floor, as something protruded out on the back of his neck, soon similar things followed suit in a straight line, along his back. action

They looked something like triangular bones that came out from his spine and broke through his skin.

After that, a pair of odd bony structures broke through the skin on his upper back, one on either side of these neural spines and as if there was an explosion, the bones turned out to be a pair of wings, which flapped vigorously and caused some damage around the wall around him, along with breaking the roof above them.

His body turned as big as a hut and his skin covered with scales, which seemed as if no sword could pierce through it.

The transformation was almost ended and they were caught off guard at Reynold's rash decision...

It could be counted, as the second time he did this, forsaking the vow completely, but that wasn't the most shocking thing now, because once the transformation was completed, he was breathing fire and was about to kill Stephan.

How could he do that when the most precious person for him was his brother, when he doted on Stephan the most, but now his mind was clouded and he wanted his brother to die.

What was happening?

Was this what you got when you involved yourself with the devils? You would lose your mind along with your soul?

On the other hand, Stephan was too surprised by what he was seeing and added to the fact he couldn't move because he was tied very tight to the chair, it was only a matter of time when he would turn into nothing but ashes.

When the fire was gathered in his mouth and the dragon was about to burn his own brother, all of a sudden, everything became still, they couldn't even hear the howling wind from the night.

"What is happening?" Calleb spoke, breaking the silence around them.

As though Jedrek and Torak just got their senses back, the two of them suddenly shifted into their respective beasts and charged forward at the beast in front of them and attacked its heart at the same time.

Once the two white lycans landed on the floor, their fur stained with blood, which spurted from the hollow chest of the beast, no one could discern which one of them had taken the dragon's heart.

Everything only happened in span of a few seconds, or so, as no one could measure it with time since the time itself had stopped, but those few moments were crucial.

When the time was ticking again, the dragon beast had lost his life and with the fire in his mouth that had not yet unleashed, the dragon fell back and burned himself in the process.

Lilac, who had been silently watching the turn of events, waved her hand and blanketed the burning dragon with her tendrils, as those things helped to put off the fire.

At this moment, Stephan could only watch his own brother die before his eyes with his body trembling. He was very pale and was not able to utter a single word, while the three dragon shifters that were brought into this now shambled room, could only witness their lord die with eyes wide open.

"Release him," Jedrek said after he shifted back into his human skin and tried to wipe away the blood on his hands by using a curtain hanging near him.

The lycan warrior, who was standing close to Stephan, seemingly had not yet regained from his shock as he didn't listen to the king's order, after all, this was the first time that he watched a real dragon.

"What are you waiting for?" Jedrek frowned. "Release him."

"Oh... yes, will do, your majesty," the lycan stammered and hurriedly opened the chain that held Stephan to the chair with clumsy fingers.

Chapter 926 - DID YOU SEE THIS TOO?

Once Stephan was released, he fell to the ground and started to vomit. He was a sobbing mess, trembling violently. However, what hurt him most, was not that he had lost his brother, but the realization that his brother was very lost until he didn't even hesitate to kill him, his own brother.

Raine turned her head to see Stephan, she tried to ignore the fact that there was a dragon, as big as a house, lying in the background, dead. And, with half of the room crumbled down and showed the night sky behind them, everything seemed to stop for the people inside the room.

For a few minutes, the room was only filled with the sound of Stephan grieving. The two Donovans were kind enough not to interrupt with it.

But, in the next minute, Raine walked toward him, Stephan was her friend, if she could still say it that way. Raine didn't know what his real motives back then when he agreed to look after her in the university for Torak, but it didn't matter now.

[Raine, don't come over,] Torak warned her from across the room when he saw his mate walking straight toward the dragon shifter.

Torak and Jedrek were standing at the far end of the room, with a dragon heart near their feet and the dead dragon beside them, while Stephan was kneeling on the ground in the middle of this messy situation.

[It's okay, Torak,] Raine said, her steps didn't falter. Behind her, she could feel Calleb following her closely to make sure nothing bad to happen.

Meanwhile, Stephan was too shocked to realize that Raine actually came close to him, only when Raine's hand landed on his shoulder did he raised his head and saw her very close after a long time.

"Can you see?" Raine waved her hand toward the dead dragon, who was his brother, but her eyes were fixed on Stephan. She didn't want to continue seeing such a bloody scene. "That's what the devils did."

Stephan averted his eyes from Raine and tried to turn his head, to hide his tears, it felt very shameful for him to cry in front of her.

This girl was the girl, who was too timid to even raise her head and talk to him just a year ago, very easily scared and was very clumsy even though she was a Supreme Luna with hundreds of thousands of strong lycans behind her back.

However, now she was crouching down before his eyes and saw him in his most miserable state, when he was crying his eyes out for something that he didn't have control over.

"My brother is dead!" Stephan growled and he received an even more vicious growl from behind Raine's back, which was Calleb's.

"I didn't say he is not." Raine, a year ago, would be frightened when she heard this kind of growl, but now, she didn't even bat her eyes upon hearing that. "He is dead, that's the fact."

"So, what do you want from me?!" Stephan shouted at her and from behind him, he could hear Torak's footsteps approaching him, yet he stopped a few meters away from him and he knew why. Raine asked him to stop.

"He is dead and you are still alive, Stephan," Raine said. "Your brother will not come alive even if you cry your eyes out for seven days and seven nights straight and we don't have that much time with us."

Torak watched his mate talking to the dragon Lord's brother. He didn't know how Raine could make this crybaby shifter to take the lead of his people without his brother, but he wondered how this would turn out.

"If you keep crying like this I will assume you love your brother so much and want to accompany him in the afterworld rather than fight the true perpetrator who had turned your brother evil," Raine said, patting his shoulder again and stood up.

"You don't know how it feels!" The burden to be the only living royal member of the earth dragon shifters and had to lead those creatures was too much for Stephan to bear.

Yet, Raine scoffed. "Trust me I do." She folded her arms in front of her chest. "How old are you when your brother dead? Forty? A hundred? Two hundred?"

Raine looked down at Stephan, who was glaring back at her.

"I was eight when those filthy creatures killed my parents and left me alone with only myself to rely on, but you still have your people with you." Raine said. "Pull yourself together. We are fighting the same enemy. Let your people know that they were going fight along side a decent leader who was worthy to fight for."

Stephan gritted his teeth, but his eyes were on Raine. He felt humiliated by her words, but what she said was true.

"You don't need to be worried about your last female, but worry about the world that would disappear once the devils won this battle, after that, even if you got your female, there would be nothing much for you to do except being a slave to the devils," Raine said in her calm and deep voice.

After saying that, Raine and Stephan looked at each other deeply, until Torak stepped forward and put his arm around his mate's shoulders.

"Let's go." Torak pulled Raine with him as they left the room.

Not long after that, Jedrek and Lilac followed suit along with the rest of the lycan warriors. They left the door open and didn't restrain the three dragon shifters again.

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"Do you think he will change his mind later?" Torak asked, kissing his mate's neck, while hugging her from behind once they were alone and inside their room.

"Yes," Raine said, smiling gently. She loved this Torak, who didn't distance himself from her.

"How can you be so sure?" Torak turned Raine, so that she could face him. However, she saw that something was still bothering her mate.

"I can see it," Raine said confidently. "He will help us with the war."

"And what else do you see?" Torak pushed her against the wall and caressed her cheeks. "Did you see this coming too?" he lowered his head and kissed her lips softly.

Chapter 927 - UNEXPECTED QUESTION

"If Raine was here before, then what did she do with the stone?" Hope asked in curiosity and moved closer, feeling attracted to the stone.

"Alpha Torak let her ask a question," Purple said and stood beside Hope.

"A question?" Hope tilted her head. "What question?" At this point of time, she had a lot of questions in her mind, but she was not sure which one she wanted to ask first. Was it possible for her to ask more than one question?

"Whatever that is bothering you the most," Purple answered again.

"But I have a lot, should I choose one? Or, should I ask them all at the same time?" Hope needed to make sure that she didn't ruin this chance.

"Actually, the question will come to you naturally when you stand before the stone," Kace said and caressed her head. "You will know what is bothering you and it will show you the answer."

"You explained it better than me," Purple said, smiling softly, but then she looked up at the roof. "I think you have to make it quick. I don't know what is happening outside, but I don't think it is something good. The people in this place have been behaving very weird recently."

"Try it," Kace nodded to the stone. action

"Okay," Hope spoke in a tone which sounded like a whisper and turned around to look at the huge stone. She frowned. "Where should I stand?"

"In the middle of it," Kace said. He knew because he had done this.

"Have you done this before?" Purple asked, but her eyes were fixed on Hope, even if the lycan didn't give her an answer, the fae had her own assumptions. "What did you ask?"

"Something trivial," Kace answered this time, shrugging his shoulders. "Asking about the result of the first war and this stone only showed me another scene that I hate the most about a battlefield." He continued to explain it shortly when he felt Purple's eyes continued staring at him intensely.

Kace remembered that the stone only gave him a flash about him, standing with his two brothers among thousands of carcasses.

"Didn't help much in my case," He murmured again. At that time, Kace wanted to know how they ended the battle and that was what the stone showed him.

That one war itself took a long time and Kace had had enough of seeing those kind of scenes.

"I wonder whether Alpha Torak and King Jedrek had ever asked a question, since you can only ask once in your life," Purple mumbled to herself.

Kace didn't know about Jedrek, but he saw Torak standing in front of the stone centuries ago, with a complicated look on his face.

Meanwhile, Hope took two more steps closer to the stone and stood at what she deemed as the middle of it.

At first she didn't know what she had to do and just put her palms against the rough surface of it and looked back toward Kace and Purple, who were nodding their heads to give her courage.

Hope turned around again and looked at the stone, closing her eyes and let the question cross her mind.

She didn't know which one, but was surprised when the first thing that crossed her thoughts was; how she, Raine and Lilac would survive this war.

She heard about what kind of fate the guardian angels had met in the first war, but didn't really think about it seriously until now.

Somehow, that was the first question that she wanted to fire and the stone showed the answer to her.

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In the morning, or one could say what seemed as sometime in between morning and afternoon, since there was no sun out there and the gloomy sky was still the only thing that they could see, Raine almost screamed when Stephan approached her without a word or making any sound.

She was preparing for their departure to Rieka after the fire dragon shifters' visit, which would happen around an hour from now.

Raine could only see those dragon people coming to this castle, but didn't know what the result of their meeting later, yet she was a hundred percent sure, Torak wouldn't let any harm befall on the baby.

Despite the fact that Torak was a little bit overly obsessed to protect baby Eddard, Raine could understand his motives. It was his way to atone for his mistake.

Yes, Torak was still thinking that was his mistake when Raphael, Lana and thousands of lycanthropes had to face death that night.

Even though Torak didn't say it and refused to talk about it, Raine was still able to detect that just by looking into his eyes alone, even their moment together couldn't manage to make him forget about that disaster.

"If Torak came to know you are here, he will kill you right on the spot," Raine said, glaring at the dragon shifter in front of her.

"Raine, I need to talk to you," Stephan said.

"I figured out you did." Raine continued to stuff her clothes into a backpack, so it would be easier for her to carry, since they weren't going to Rieka for a picnic. She couldn't see it yet, but something big would happen there.

Stephan didn't talk immediately, instead, he sat down on the floor beside Raine and leaned his back against the bed.

"Do you really think I can handle my people?" he asked in a very low voice, until Raine had to ask him to repeat his question, as she didn't have an exceptional hearing ability like these shifters.

"If it is not you, then who will?" Raine replied, not even sparing a single glance at Stephan while she busied herself with her own task.

"So, you are saying that I don't have a choice?" Stephan scoffed, those were not exactly the comforting words that he needed.

"Of course you have," Raine disagreed, she then put down the clothes and turned around to look at Stephan. "You can be like this, hesitating for the rest your life or you can go out there and see for yourself what you can do."

"You think you understand me, but it's not like can think in my perspective since you aren't in my position." Stephan rolled his eyes.

"Indeed, but will you be here and ask my advice a year ago?" Raine raised her eyebrows questioningly.

Chapter 928 - THE ANSWER TO HOPE'S QUESTION

"Indeed, but will you be here and ask my advice a year ago?" Raine raised her eyebrows questioningly.

"People change. I changed."

A year ago.... Not to mention about Stephan coming to her and ask her some advice like this, this dragon shifter even looked down on her and used to think of this guardian angel as a weak creature and casually teased her for being very timid and spoke very little of her every time.

However, everything changed now, including people along with circ.u.mstances. And, here he was, being saved by Raine from that crazy brother of his, who wanted to burn him down to ashes last night.

"You see the point?" Raine turned around and shifted her attention back to her clothes and small stuff that she wanted to bring along. "I also got a choice to be that fragile creature who I was back then, but I

don't want to stay in that timid shell anymore. I love people around me and seeing them die without knowing what to do is the most annoying thing that I have ever felt."

Honestly, she didn't want to remember them again, but their faces and the moments that they shared together crossed her mind even before she could attempt to stop them from invading her just settled chaotic mind.

There was a moment of silence between them after what Raine said, until Stephan spoke. He still didn't want to admit that Raine had changed for better.

"You are still a timid person," he mumbled.

Raine glanced at him, giving him a criticize look. "You don't want to know what I can do when I lost my temper," she said in a warning tone.

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In the initial few seconds, nothing noticeable happened, but then Hope felt chills running down from her palms, creeping to every single inch of her skin before they finally spread to her entire body.

Hope shivered involuntarily, yet she kept herself steady with her eyes closed shut, and she found herself watching something.

The colour blue filled her vision and she shuddered inwardly when she realized what she was looking at.

It was fire, everywhere, blue flames which rolled high up to the dark sky emitting white smoke that could make one unable to breath.

Instead of being in the library with a strange huge stone, Hope was standing in the middle of what seemed like a huge bonfire, watching herself and Lilac, lying motionless on a seemingly vast, dry land.

The ground here was very barren, until there was no vegetation that could be seen anywhere in her near sight. No, Hope was sure, nothing could live in this kind of place, except the vultures which were now circling above their heads.

But, why were they here? And where is Raine?

"Are you sure, you want to do this?"

Someone was talking behind her and it prompted Hope to turn around to realize that her guess was right. She was way too familiar with her voice until she was sure that she could recognize its owner even in her sleep.

Serefina...

Her heart mentioned her name the moment she saw the red haired witch. Someone that she thought more than a family for her, but for some reason she didn't know, Serefina had betrayed them and crossed the bridge to the devils' side.

"Prove your loyalty and I will spare your life," Lucifer talked to Serefina in an angry tone. action

For someone who knew this devil very well, it was a rare occasion to see him losing his temper like this. It seemed this time, the witch had successfully got on his nerves.

However, there was more to see.

Hope had to close her mouth to prevent herself from screaming out loud.

Hope had never seen Serefina in this kind of state. Her hair was disheveled and her clothes were worn out, as if she had some very rough weeks, with dry blood on her head and her lips which were now split open.

Someone had beaten her really hard and she was not in a condition where she could put up with a fight with the devil before her eyes, but Hope should have known those wounds wouldn't prevent her from giving Lucifer a deadly glare.

Hope covered her mouth, afraid that she would make any sound and attract their attention, but she was not sure if they could hear her, since she was not really there at that moment of time.

No, Hope didn't really know when this would happen. She just watched her own body along with Lilac's on the ground, seemingly sleeping, yet there was no way she would sleep peacefully in this place.

Moreover, where were their mates?

"You don't need to spare my life, you are not the person who I will beg for life," Serefina sneered contemptuously. She didn't hold back when she showed her disgust toward the devil.

That answer was replied with a backhand blow and Serefina let out a vicious hiss when Lucifer grabbed her tangled hair and lifted her head so she could see him right in the eyes.

"You will beg me for life after this," Lucifer said viciously. "Now, kill her."

The moment Lucifer ordered Serefina to kill someone, he nodded at Hope and glared at her, as if he would do it himself if Serefina refused to do it for him.

After that, Serefina shook her head and pushed Lucifer away from her, as she looked at Hope with the same scary gaze like the devil.

What? They can see me? Impossible... Hope muttered to herself. They shouldn't be able to see her, right?

However, how would she know, since this was the first time she was being here and using that stone.

"Raine, come here," Serefina waved her hands in a beckoning motion.

Raine?

Hope looked around her, but she couldn't see Raine. Right at that time, her body moved on its own, as she walked slowly toward Serefina. Hope was dumfounded, she looked at her own hands and saw that small wounds. Raine had these vague scars on her skin that she got from the mental hospitality.

What? She is Raine? But, how could she be in Raine's body when her own body was there, lying on the ground beside Lilac?

"Come here, Raine," Serefina beckoned her again.

However, once she was close enough, the witch made a slash movement with her hand and set her on fire. The same blue flames which surrounded them, engulfed her entire being within seconds.

Chapter 929 - IT FELT FAMILIAR

Hope screamed at the top of her lungs when she watched Serefina set her on fire, in addition to that, the look in her eyes reminded her of someone who was in despair.

What happened to Serefina? Why was she injured pretty badly and even bruised? If it was true that she was with the devils, why did Lucifer look so mad? Had Serefina done something atrocious that incurred the devil's wrath?

There were a lot of questions which started rummaging her head.

However, just a few seconds later, she realized that the fire didn't really hurt her like she thought it would, Hope opened her eyes and saw Serefina again, who was now staring at her with such intensity that Hope couldn't understand.

She seemed to want to talk about something, but she just couldn't do it.

Hope had known Serefina for as long as her memory lane could take her back. The witch was the first person she had acknowledged as her family when her memory started to solidify and was there with her during her first nineteen years of life, thus she knew that look. She wanted to talk to her.

But, Hope was in Raine's body now, therefore, was it Raine that she wanted to talk to?

Hope held the witch's gaze for a few seconds longer before everything faded away before her and she was back inside the library again, standing in front of the stone with shock written all over her face.

"Hope?" Kace's voice could be heard from behind her back, thus she turned around and stared at her mate. "Are you okay?" action

Kace walked forward, stretching his hands to reach her and cupped her face between his palms.

"I don't think so," Hope replied with uncertainty. "I feel awful," she said with a deep crease between her brows.

In the midst of this, they heard yet another deafening explosion that shook the ground.

"We need to go, something is not right here." Purple didn't even bother to hide her fear.

"What is this? There is a war outside?!" Kace grumbled, as he helped Hope to step down from the stone and followed Purple out of that place.

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Meanwhile, Stephan and the rest of the dragon shifters agreed to go with them. He had told Torak everything that he knew about the cross heart vow.

As it turned out the vow wouldn't harm the baby, but it would take an account for the person, who took it.

Actually, it was the same vow that Kace and Lana took years ago, which let Kace feel the same amount of pain that Lana felt when her mate left this world.

It meant, they couldn't harm the fire dragon shifter, or else they would harm Ethan too.

Despite the fact that Ethan's well being didn't mean anything to Torak, but he was Rossie's brother, thus everything that hurt the girl would hurt Calleb too.

"Lilac what happened to your hair?" Raine looked at Lilac in bewilderment. This was the first time she saw her like this.

Jedrek noticed that Lilac's hair had turned white when they finished their dinner.

Based on Raine's vision, the fire dragon shifters would come around this time, but Lilac's condition would prevent her from attending that meeting.

Lilac saw her white hair which was cascading down beside her face, and felt Jedrek tucking her hair behind her ears before pulling her closer to him.

"I don't think I can attend your meeting with the fire dragon people." Jedrek noticed that Lilac started to close her eyes sleepily.

She would be like this once in a month where she would lose of all her power and since they had many things that kept them busy in the past few days and they lost the track of the day and night as the sun and the moon were no longer could be seen, Lilac didn't see this night coming.

"What happened to her?" Torak narrowed his eyes at Lilac.

"It's nothing, she will be like this once in every month."

Torak looked at Lilac more intently. Why did he feel like he was familiar with this kind of thing? "Did she lose her power during this particular day?"

"Hm," Jedrek hummed, he let Lilac drink some water before carrying her in his arms to head back to their room. "You can do everything to Bayle that you see fit with your demands."

The fire dragon shifters were people from Jedrek's territory, thus it was only right if Torak asked the king for his opinion, but since Jedrek said he was all right with whatever Torak deemed fit, then he would do what he needed to do.

"Once in every month?" Raine murmured and when Jedrek walked past her, he could hear next sentence. "Why does it remind me of Serefina?"

Serefina? What happened to her?

However, his line of thought got distracted when Lilac nuzzled against his neck, looking for a more comfortable position.

The world seemed to be falling apart when chaos broke out in every part of the city, it almost felt like people had suddenly turned more aggressive and more brutal than ever.

They were dissatisfied with everything. The government that was clueless about their condition and these strange gloomy clouds that had been hanging over their heads for weeks now, the unpredictable weather that brought more catastrophes for the farmers, and not to mention the unstable economy of the country since the Donovan company had fallen and brought a lot of changes that they could ever possibly imagine.

Everything seemed out of order and place.

"This is what you want?" Serefina asked Lucifer beside her as she stared at the burning building in front of her with a boring gaze. "Ruin the human world? What is this? A new strategy?"

"No, I have been thinking about it since the first war... if only the Donovan didn't ruin my plan, this world will be so beautiful and on fire like this." Lucifer watched someone killing the person next to him after a quarrel about a trivial issue, with a proud gaze.

"Should we head to Rieka?" Serefina had enough of seeing this and turned around to head back. It was too crowded and loud for her taste.

"Of course, lets meet with our old friend, or should I say your ex lover?" Lucifer teased the witch, yet the latter couldn't take it well.

Chapter 930 - EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS

Jedrek was heartbroken when he noticed that his mate was whimpering in her sleep, as her body had already turned cold. He tried to make her more comfortable and warm, but no matter how much effort he tried to put in, it couldn't even make her feel any better and the king could only hate himself more because of this.

It was like a reminder for his atrocious decisions in the past. He didn't know that this would backfire on him in such a way that made him wanted to kill himself for seeing the pain on Lilac's face.

However, while cradling Lilac in his arms, he remembered what Raine said to Torak in the dining room earlier.

Serefina also suffered like this? She had the same condition like Lilac? What did that mean?

Jedrek tried not to think too much into it, but the more he tried not to do that, the more he found himself wanting to know the reason.

It would be a lie if he said that he had gotten rid of the witch's thoughts clearly from his mind. Serefina was still at the back of his head, the place where he buried the memories of his father and those atrocious years he spent under the control of the devils.

But, she was still there...

The memory of her was still somewhere in that dark place and Raine's words made those memories resurface along with his question that Serefina had been avoiding to answer.

Why did she left him?

They had an argumentation when she left, but it was not enough to make her leave him for the past few centuries and avoid him.

So, what exactly had happened?

As if Lilac could feel Jedrek's faltered heart, she sobbed softly and Jedrek's attention was shifted back to the present, where he had his mate in his arms, whimpering because of his stupid actions.

If Lilac was being like this because Jedrek had killed her and she was resurrected by the moon goddess, then... was it the same case for Serefina? action

Someone killed her and she had been resurrected too? But, for what? The guardian angels had their own mission to accomplish, what about Serefina?

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"Why are you staring at me like that?" Rossie was holding baby Eddard in her arms when Calleb entered the room, but the Gamma did nothing except for staring at her from the doorstep where he was standing.

"You look beautiful," Calleb said with a sigh, as he walked inside the room.

Rossie could feel her face reddening, but she murmured while shifting her attention to the baby in her arms. "Why did you say that all of a sudden?"

Calleb approached Rossie to stand behind her and hugged her, resting his chin on her shoulder while relishing her scent.

"I am just starting to voice out what I always think about you." At this moment of time, every second could be their last moment together.

Everything was simply unpredictable.

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Torak watched lord Bayle and around a hundred of his men walking through the gates, as he stood right at the foot of the stairs which led to the terrace, with Raine beside him.

"Alpha Torak, it is good to see you again," Lord Bayle spoke with his hoarse voice, a smirk appeared at the corner of his lips when he saw Raine. "Luna Raine... I am glad to see you two all right."

Raine held his gaze, but didn't say anything.

"I am surprised that you are still alive while the rest of the people in the castle died," Torak reciprocated his greetings. His expression was devoid of any form of emotion, despite the fact that his blood boiled with anger at the way lord Bayle was staring at Raine.

"I am very fortunate that I can survive along with my people," he replied humbly. "And also managed to save one of your people." He didn't forget to mention his merit, which was only wishful thinking on his part that it could cover up the fact he had ran away from the battle. "May I know where he is now? He promised me something."

"Which I don't think he will give you," Torak couldn't tolerate the dragon lord's pretense any longer. They didn't have much time for this small talk. "What do you want Bayle?"

"Alpha Torak, I just came here to collect the reward that had been promised, there is no need to be hostile toward me," he said, waving his hand and glanced at Raine again.

[Torak, I don't think you can offer the same thing you offered to Stephan to this shifter.] Raine mind-linked Torak.

Stephan was different. He was a simple man, but the creature before her, was someone who was unpredictable, even Raine could feel something was off about this shifter's stance if they gave him the same offer they presented to the earth dragon shifters.

[I know,] Torak replied and caressed her back to soothe her worries.

"I thank you for what you have done to Ethan, but I don't really appreciate your decision to run away from the battlefield." Torak folded his arms in front of his chest. "Honestly speaking, I am quite upset to know this news."

"My apologies Alpha Torak, but you didn't make things any easy for us." Lord Boyle slightly lowered his head, yet it mostly felt like a mocking gesture for the one who saw it. "You wanted us to fight when we can't even shift into our beasts."

Torak laughed dryly when he heard that kind of excuse. "Do you think I will believe such an excuse from you? You, dragon people, will not exist to this day if you just relied on your beast."

"Just like you, I needed to save my people but unlike you, I don't have many of my kind that were left." Lord Bayle raised his head and looked at Torak in the eyes before stealing a glance at Raine. "What should I do then? Should I break the rule and shift to fight those beasts?"

When Lord Bayle was busy pushing his luck, Calleb stepped forward and successfully attained the former's attention.

Lord Bayle noticed that Calleb was actually carrying something in his hands when he thrown it up into the sky, out of the blue. Once that thing rolled in the air, the clothes wrapping around it unraveled and revealed something which was covered with blood.

It was a dragon heart.

"That is what happened to the last dragon shifter, who tried to break a rule," Torak said icily.