

TLOA Lycan 931

Chapter 931 - SOMETHING HIDEOUS

"You killed Reynold?" Lord Bayle narrowed his eyes at the bloody heart which had just stopped short after rolling on the ground. It didn't even cross his mind that Torak would disregard everything and kill the dragon lord before today, a very atrocious act on the latter's part.

It meant, in a fit of his anger, there was a possibility that he would kill him too.

All of a sudden, Lord Bayle could feel his blood running cold. "You killed Reynold, which means you lost the control over the earth dragon shifters. You need us now!"

Torak smirked. "I don't need creatures in my troop who would stab me on the first chance they were given." He nodded to his people and in the next second, the dragon shifter was surrounded by the lycan warriors.

A hundred of his dragon people weren't even capable of standing for ten minutes if Torak gave an order to attack. However, Lord Bayle still had one more card under his sleeves.

With a smile that didn't reflect his calmness, he looked at Torak and Raine. "I came here to collect the reward that Ethan promised to us. After we got the baby, we will leave in peace and even help you in the upcoming war with the devils."

"The baby won't be leaving this place neither will you," Raine said. She glared at Lord Bayle fiercely upon hearing they would take Raphael's son away. How dare them to post such a demand!

"You can't kill me," Lord Bayle said confidently. "If you still don't know, I will tell you that Ethan and I..."

"Have agreed upon a cross heart vow," Torak cut off his words. "Yes, I know."

The dragon shifter looked even more restless when he saw Stephan stepped forward along with his people. It was now clear as a day with the way the earth dragon shifters standing behind the lycans that Torak had won their loyalty by making Stephan as their new lord to replace Reynold.

What a bold move from Torak! Lord Bayle fell into a contemplation over this. He didn't even think that he would be facing such a complicated situation here.

Instead of taking away the baby by threatening Torak, it seemed that he was the person who was in danger now.

But why did he feel like the losing party in this bidding when he was the one who had the advantage of this vow?

This was simply ridiculous.

"If you have known that we made that vow, you should also know that Ethan should keep that promise and you can't do anything to me," Lord Bayle said, ignoring the angry glares from both Torak and Raine.

"I don't have much time to talk leisurely with you like this or deal with your insolent behavior for that matter," Torak said. "I want you to reverse the vow."

Lord Bayle laughed out loud when he heard what Torak suggested to him. The Alpha should have known better than to push his limits.

It was possible to ask him to lift the vow, but to reverse it? What exactly was in Torak's mind which said that he would be willing to do it? Discard his precious life for a lycan's?

To reverse the vow, it meant if something happened to Ethan, or if that young lycan died, he would lose his life as well. Regardless of the cause of his death.

No. Of course he would never do that.

"Alpha, are you sure that is your demand?" Lord Bayle asked Torak in the end of his laughter. "Don't you think that it is impossible for me to obey?"

"You will obey." There was no hesitation in Torak's words.

At this point, those dragon shifters were akin to someone who walked into their own grave willingly by visiting this place and incurred Torak's wrath.

They had already lost too many people and Raphael was someone important for the Alpha. Why would Bayle think that Torak would be kind enough to lower his head and meet his demand?

"What if I say no?" Lord Bayle looked at Torak provokingly, yet the same time with a palpable curiosity in those eyes.

"Then this is what will happen to you," Raine said.

Lord Bayle almost jumped out of his skin when he found Raine standing beside him. A loud gasp behind him indicated that those dragon shifters were too taken by surprise when the guardian angel disappeared and reappeared before their eyes in a split second.

"This is what will happen to you..." Raine said in a deep tone, as she touched the dragon lord.

Torak saw Raine walking toward the dragon lord before she stopped the time. He let her to do whatever she wanted to do, since he knew that she was still protected and within his reach if something went wrong.

But, moreover, he knew that Raine was more than capable to protect herself against this dragon people.

Not only Torak, Raine also felt the anguish overwhelm her entire being after losing Raphael. The Beta was someone whom she cherished the most, thus there was no way they would give up baby Eddard to these filthy creatures.

At first, Lord Bayle didn't understand why Raine grabbed his arm, as he couldn't feel any noticeable pain or something of the likes.

"Luna Raine, I don't think this is appropriate for you to touch me casually like this in front of your mate," Lord Bayle said, as he flashed her a smile.

"You don't need to worry about that but you better start worrying about yourself." Raine reciprocated his smile and as if on cue, the people behind Lord Bayle gasped in shock for the second time.

The dragon lord was confused, he didn't feel anything wrong with him or any pain. Raine wouldn't hurt him knowing that she would hurt Ethan too, right?

With a bewildered face, he turned around and looked at his people. Their eyes reflected fear and apprehension.

What was happening?

"You don't need to worry about death, as long as I live, you will live as well." Raine knew the dragon people were not immortal, their life was longer than any other creature, but they would grow old and die eventually. "In this way."

Dismayed, Lord Bayle lowered his head to check on himself, only then did he realize that Raine had done something hideous to him.

He saw his own fingers which now looked like thin sticks that were barely wrapped with wrinkled skin...

Chapter 932 - BLACK AURA

Lord Bayle stared at his bony fingers that looked like dry branches and then he touched his face with those fingers just to find his cheeks feeling hollow to the touch, as though all of his teeth had fallen off, not only that, the skin that he touched was not like skin at all, its texture was akin to a sandpaper...

"What..." his voice trembled with fear and confusion, he touched his eyes and they were bulging out off their socket. "What... what did you do to me..."

Lord Bayle was about to approach Raine, yet his legs gave away just after he took a single step and he fell to the ground with a loud thud. When his bony kneecaps met the hard stone, it sounded like he had cracked his own bones.

In a matter of few seconds, the magnificent dragon lord was nothing but an old man, who was no longer able to hold himself up, as he looked up at the guardian angel.

"What did you do to me?" his voice sounded like the howling wind, filled with sorrow and fear.

Raine looked down at him, her eyes flashed with despise. "You can live like this," she said. "How daring of you to ask for Raphael's son."

Lord Bayle shook his head like a rattle drum. "I am sorry... I am sorry for my brazen actions... I will revoke the vow, I will revoke the vow..."

"You will revoke the vow?" Raine asked him and then she felt Torak walking forward to approach her.

"I will revoke the vow... I will not touch the baby!" he wailed, forgetting his high status as the dragon lord. Who would want to be a lord with such a horrible figure which couldn't even support his weight to stand straight.

"Do you think with your current condition, you can still touch the baby?" Raine said sharply, she felt Torak placing his arm on her h.i.p.s, but she didn't hear him saying anything, as he let her to do what she wanted to do.

On the other hand, Stephan was flabbergasted upon seeing the horrifying scene in front of him. He wouldn't possibly think of connecting Raine to someone who was capable of withholding such tremendous power in her, if he didn't get to witness this with his own eyes.

He didn't take it seriously when Raine said he wouldn't like it when she lost her temper but now he believed her words. He wouldn't want to piss her off if she was capable of making the dragon shifter fall to that state.

It was worse than death! How could she do that?

"No, no..." Lord Bayle shook his head again.

"Then, tell us why do you want the baby?" Raine didn't want any harm to befall on Eddard, if this dragon lord took extra lengths just to have the baby, then there must be something important in it for him...

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Jedrek noticed that the flower inside the vase was withered, it was a flower which was created by Lilac using her power and no matter what, it would never wither.

However, now that Lilac was depleted of her powers, it looked like those flowers also lost their beauty.

Jedrek was still caressing her hair, while staring at Lilac's pale face. Her brows scrunched and her body felt freezing cold to the touch.

She looked very vulnerable and, maybe it was only Jedrek's mind that played trick on him, but every time she happen to endure a painful night like now, Lilac would look weaker than before.

Lilac whimpered again and Jedrek pushed her head softly against his chest.

"Is it that hurting this time?" Jedrek asked her. Seeing his mate in her current state, made him forget about the thoughts of Serefina, the fact that the witch had gone through a similar situation like Lilac. For only a while though...

"It hurts," Lilac said very softly, it was almost as if her lips only moved without making any sound.

"My little flower, is there something that I could do for you?" Jedrek was desperate, he wanted to do something to make her feel better, yet there was nothing he could do except for wishing this night would pass fast, so that Lilac wouldn't need to suffer any longer.

"No," Lilac said. "Just hold me..."

And that was what Jedrek did the whole night.

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"The baby is a hybrid from a very rare kind of fae..." The dragon lord spoke without hesitation about his motive to take the baby. "His late mother was half fae and half werewolf... the baby should have died, but his mother gave up her life for him..." he confessed without hesitation.

Torak listened to Lord Bayle's words, narrowing his eyes. He knew one such kind of fae and it was Purple...

[Purple?] Raine communicated with Torak, while listening to lord Bayle.

[Yes, but as long as I can remember, Purple is the only fae that is left of her kind.] Torak thought about it and he had never heard a report that said there was another fae like Purple.

[Could it be...that Lana and Purple... maybe some kind of relationship between them?] Raine looked at Torak, her eyes filled with unconcealed questions.

[I don't know, my love...] Torak said. [We need to let Purple see Eddard to know it, but I don't think we can bring him there.]

Rieka was in utter chaos and it wouldn't be safe for Eddard.

[We will bring him when all of this is over.] Raine really wished that she would be there when everything was over. [What you will do with them?]

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Purple led them out of the library and the phoenix soared to the dark and smoky sky, soon disappearing into the clouds, but it would reappear from time to time, indicating that it was still following them.

They didn't have to worry about the beautiful bird, because there was some other pressing thing that they should be worried about the most.

It was horribly dreadful outside the library. People ran rampant like headless chickens. They turned very aggressive after the crash of the planes and became hostile as they robbed a few grocery stores.

"These people became crazy," Hope looked around her and she could feel the hostility that emanated from them and for some reason, she saw the same strange black aura that once she saw on Raine.

What was that black aura?

Chapter 933 - WHEN ALL OF THIS OVER...

As it turned out, Lord Bayle wanted to take baby Eddard for his own advantage, since there was a possibility for the baby to inherit his mother's power, he wanted Eddard's life to be traded with his late mate's life.

His mate died in a rogue attack at his place and as the dragon shifter was tied down by their vow and it needed a great effort to break it like Reynold's case, some of them just simply couldn't pull it through.

Therefore, the moment Lord Bayle knew about Lana's origin, he thought about using baby Eddard.

His reason was understandable, but there was no way Torak and Raine would tolerate someone who had been vying for baby Eddard's life.

Therefore, to pay for what he did, Raine didn't return his original state to him and let the lycan warriors bring him away, to be locked up in one of the rooms inside this building after they reversed the vow.

And Torak chose Bayle's first son to lead the fire dragon shifters.

There was also a risk to let his son take the command, but they promised after everything ended and they won the war, they would give back his father before turning him into his original state.

For now, that promise was sufficient to tame the fire dragon shifters, but of course, Torak would fix his eyes close on him, just in case he had something up his sleeves.

Not only that, because of Raphael's untimely demise, the Beta's position was vacant, it was only normal for Calleb to take his position, while Jack was promoted to be a Gamma now.

"Should I congratulate you?" Raine came inside the nursery room where she saw Calleb staring at baby Eddard, who was now sleeping soundly in his crib.

"Don't, please! I don't feel that it was something worthy of getting congratulated," Calleb said sorrowfully.

"I feel the same," Raine said, as she crouched down and looked at baby Eddard closely now. "He will be all right now, we will not let any harm come to him. When everything is ended, I hope he can live a beautiful life with all of you."

"What are you talking about?" Calleb tousled Raine's hair. "You will be a part of his life too."

However, she only let a soft smile spread on her lips in response, as her eyes turned sadder... as if she knew something that others didn't, yet Calleb missed that and didn't think much about it.

"Nobody knows what would happen..." Raine murmured. "Everything is unpredictable now and I just want to be sure that he will not feel alone even though Raphael and Lana are not here to watch him grow up."

"Nothing will happen, we will win the war and everything will be okay once again." That was what everyone's wish and Raine didn't want to argue with him this time.

"I hope so," Raine agreed softly. "Rossie must be in so much pain after all the hardsh.i.p.s that she had been through."

"She is a strong girl, she will cope with her sadness in no time and moreover, Sterling is recovering under Lidya's care. They will reunite soon." Calleb took a chair and offered it to Raine, so that she wouldn't need to strain her legs.

"What about you?" Raine looked at Calleb again. "You still can't feel your beast?"

Calleb shook his head, even though he felt much better, but knowing that he couldn't connect himself to his beast was slightly worrying to him. In that case, he would be a burden in the upcoming war.

"I had a talk with Jedrek, as he also suffered the same thing, but he said it was Serefina who cured him," Calleb said. "At first, he thought biting his mark on Lilac will cure him since she is a guardian angel, but I don't think I can bite any guardian angel."

Calleb glanced at Raine, who was laughing softly upon hearing his lame jokes. "You can gladly choose whoever you want to face; Torak, Jedrek or Kace. See if it will work on you."

The Beta shook his head. "No thanks, I will lose my head before I can feel my inner beast."

Lilac woke up when she felt Jedrek's fingers combing her hair gently. Her long eyelashes fluttered, as she opened her eyes to find her mate's expression full of grief.

"Someone is dying?" Lilac tried to crack the dark atmosphere around them. She felt a lot better now, it meant the nightmare had ended. "Why did you make that kind of face?"

"My heart is aching to see you in pain," Jedrek confessed softly.

Hearing those words, a soft smile spread on her lips as she stretched out her hand and caressed his hair. "I don't know that you can talk sweet things."

"There is nothing sweet in my words," Jedrek frowned. He played with her hair between his fingers and murmured, "Your hair color has returned."

"Hm," Lilac hummed. "It means I am fine now."

Jedrek stared deeply into her eyes, but he didn't move to let her go, the king even shut the mind-link between him and Torak, so he could stay a little bit longer with her.

He knew it was selfish of him to let Torak handle a lot of things on his behalf, for he wanted to stay with Lilac, but he didn't feel bad for that.

"Shouldn't we get started on our journey now?" However, contradicting her own words, the guardian angel nuzzled against Jedrek's neck and buried her face in the crook of his shoulder.

Lilac just wanted to relish this moment with him for a few more seconds, because she knew, the moment they arrived at Rieka, all of their nightmares would restart again.

Rieka was the place where the first war took place and the devils dramatically chose the same exact place like before.

"When all of this is over, I want to show you the place that I'm most fond of," Jedrek whispered.

"Sure," Lilac said, but there was uncertainty in her eyes. "When all of this is over..." she didn't finish her sentence.

Chapter 934 - TO-DO LIST

They were ready to go to Rieka and all the preparations were in place.

For this journey, they didn't plan on taking a plane neither would they be willing to take the land transportation. Because, it would be very risky as the last piece of news they got their hands on told them that there were a total of five incidents where planes crashed into one another for no apparent reason leading to chaos.

It almost felt like the end of the world instead of the beginning of a war between the lycanthropes and the devils, or maybe thinking in such lines wasn't wrong either.

Therefore, they chose to make use of the witches and wizards who came with them. These spell casters would assist them by teleporting their people in small groups to Rieka.

However, it would take rather long, since they couldn't teleport all of them at the same time. And now, Belinda was needed to play a part in this since she was also a witch.

She would teleport all the three Donovan brothers and the guardian angels, and as for Sybil, she would teleport the Beta, Gamma and some of their lycan warriors. And, the rest would go with the other witches or wait for the remaining packs and their witches to come to fulfill the supreme Alpha's call.

But, before that Raine and Lilac wanted to see baby Eddard, since the baby would be left under Rossie and Bree's care.

It meant Calleb needed to bid Rossie a goodbye again, even so, at least for this time, he could be rest assured that she would be fine.

"Can I hold the baby?" Lilac asked, stretching her arms. For some reasons she didn't know herself, she was very fond of this baby, she liked the smell of milk that lingered on him. Even though, it was an undeniable fact that she didn't know Raphael or Lana for a long time, she cared for Eddard with all her heart nonetheless.

"Of course," Rossie said, handing over the baby to Lilac, while Raine stood beside the latter, mesmerized by how tiny the baby was. Eddard was awake now and his green eyes looked at them with curiosity.

"While you are with Eddard, I want to steal Rossie for a while," Calleb poked his head into the room and stared at his mate expectantly, just like a little boy waiting for his candy.

"I leave you with the baby for a while," Rossie said sheepishly.

But then, Calleb's face fell when Raine spoke in a teasing tone, "Bree, you can go with them."

"No, I want someprivate time with my mate, alone!" Calleb rejected Raine's idea and took Rossie's hand immediately, as if someone was about to steal the girl.

On the other hand, Bree tilted her head. "I don't want to go with them, both of them will glare at me."

Raine and Lilac laughed when they heard that. "Alright, maybe you can help us watch over Eddard then..." Raine said, caressing the girl's cheek and saw Calleb and Rossie flee from this room, not willing to wait for another second, just so they could be alone.

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Calleb took Rossie into a different room on the same floor and immediately kicked the door close, then he pinned her against the wall, taking her by surprise with a deep and passionate kiss.

The Beta didn't want to leave her, not even for a second after what had happened to her just a few days ago, and after what had happened to Raphael and Lana...

Calleb realized, in their current situation, no one could guarantee whether they would live to see each other again or not.

Death was an unpredictable event and it felt like it was prowling at the corner of their consciousness, as a reminder that any second could be their last moment.

However, no matter how hard Calleb wanted to stay or how hard he wanted Rossie to come with him, they knew neither of the two options were possible and they had to be separated once again, as it would be the best for them right now.

Rossie was not a fighter and Calleb couldn't feel his inner beast, he needed to sort out this matter first, or else he wouldn't even stand a chance to survive this long war, let alone fight the enemy.

Therefore, even for these few seconds, Calleb wanted to cherish every moment he had with his mate, savoring her presence and let her sweet scent linger on him, let his lips remember the softness of hers.

"I really want to mark you..." Calleb panted softly as he rested his forehead against Rossie's, he could feel the girl's erratic heart beat drumming against his own chest after their kiss.

"I want you to mark me too..." Rossie said softly yet boldly. She let Calleb know that she wished for the same thing, just like him.

Yet, that was only wishful thinking on their part which wouldn't happen any soon. Both of them knew it.

The mate bond would become stronger when Calleb marked her and it wouldn't go well with the fact they would stay miles apart only after a few minutes.

Therefore, both of them chuckled for mentioning something impossible.

"When all of this is over, that will be on the top of my to-do list," Calleb said, kissing her lips once again, and he felt Rossie smiling against his, as she nodded her head.

Rossie had never felt like this before, having a mate was a wonderful feeling and she was right all along. This was her dream since she was only a little girl, the only thing that she regretted was; her mother and her brother, Ian wouldn't be able to see her happiness...

Calleb ended their kiss when he noticed that Rossie was sobbing softly. "What happened? Did I hurt you?" he asked, concern evident in his voice.

Rossie shook her head. "I miss them..."

And Calleb didn't need any further explanation to know who Rossie was referring to. She missed her family of course, as she had to be alone once again. Ethan would go with them to Rieka and Sterling still didn't regain his consciousness.

"I know sweetie..." Calleb pulled her into a warm hug as he kissed the top of her head, while he caressed her back to soothe her sadness.

"Please, come back..." Rossie's voice was barely a whisper.

"Of course, I will." Calleb was determined to keep his promise. "After all, I want to have one or six pups with you, that was my second priority in that to-do list of mine."

And Rossie laughed heartily at that statement.

Chapter 935 - I WILL NOT LOSE YOU

"I don't know if you can see it or not, but I am seeing dark aura right now," Hope said, her voice was barely a whisper as her eyes locked onto the dark smoke like thing that was rolling up to the sky from the ground. "Tell me that I am not the only one who can see those things..."

Kace knew that Hope was able to see things that others couldn't see, just like how she managed to see the priestess's soul in the northern coven realm, but seeing her terrified expression right now, he realized that this aura she was speaking about was anything but good.

Nothing good was happening in these past few days and stumbling upon the news of Lana's death didn't make them think that was the end of it. Hell, they didn't even have time to mourn for her death properly and had to push that fact to the back of their minds.

It had just begun...

All of their nightmares had just begun now...

"No, Hope... it's just you..." Kace confirmed Hope's fear and then grabbed her hand. "Let's go, we need to find a shelter."

Kace didn't know where they should go from there, their mission for coming to this place was to find the phoenix and the fae, after which they intended to take the phoenix with them, because of some unclear reason, Purple couldn't leave this place.

It would be of no use to ask Torak's people to fetch the bird, because the phoenix wouldn't listen to someone who was not its owner, therefore, counting on the fact that the phoenix was willing to help Hope escape that frozen river, they thought Hope's presence could help them in retrieving the phoenix.

Who would have thought that something like this would happen as if the war was going to break out now itself! This place now reminded them hell, where the human world and the supernatural world fused into one.

"What the hell!" Kace cursed loudly when he saw three Kanimas in front of them and before the three filthy creatures could lay their claws on Hope, Kace had turned into his white beast and charged forward.

The phoenix above them dived toward one of the kanimas and burned the creature, while the white beast killed the other two easily.

Hope only came closer after the threat had been handled. The phoenix tilted its head, as it stared at her and stood on the ground.

Hope never thought that the phoenix could be as big as a full grown human. She always thought the phoenix was rather a small bird.

"How can we go back to the red river city?" Hope asked Kace and Purple. "Can't you teleport us to the red river city?" She stared at the fae expectantly, while caressing the head of the phoenix.

"I can't, I can't do that kind of magic, sorry," the latter said regretfully.

Hope watched Kace shifting back into his human form before he walked toward her. "But, you will come with us, right? We need to get out from this place." They couldn't leave Purple there alone, right? In this chaotic situation, there was a fat chance that something bad would happen to her.

Far from her predictions, Purple shook her head. "I can't leave this place... I bound to stay here. Even if I want to go somewhere, I can't."

"Why?" Hope's eyebrows creased. She was about to ask the fae to elaborate further when Kace patted her head.

"There is some kind of magic that we can't understand, Hope." Kace looked at Purple. "You are tied to this place because of your loyalty to Torak?" he asked the fae.

"Yes," Purple said. "Without a direct order from Alpha Torak, I can't leave this place."

Centuries ago, Torak took her with him when he left the realm after Jedrek subtly chased him out.

Maximus threatened to kill her. Because Maximus was very valuable to Jedrek at that time since he had all the support from the eastern region, there was no way Purple could live there when the vicious lycan was hellbent on taking her life.

After all, after Purple sealed the dragon shifters will to a vow that said they couldn't turn into their beasts, her life was not significant anymore, it wouldn't affect Jedrek in the slightest whether she was alive or dead.

However, years ago, Purple left this place without Torak's permission and met a werewolf...

"Where should we go then?" Hope looked around her and found herself being surrounded by many aggressive people who continued to destroy public facilities in their anger.

This place was very different from what she remembered before the planes crashed into one another, which was literally just a few hours ago...

"If news about these chaos reached Alpha Torak, he will probably come," Purple murmured. "There is one place that I'm sure he will visit if he teleport himself here."

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Caleb gave Rossie a forehead kiss, which lingered longer than necessary.

However, it was not only him, a few lycans, who had to leave their mates behind to follow Torak, were busy doing similar things, expressing their longing toward each other.

Around two hundred lycanthropes were ordered to go with Torak and Jedrek, while the rest needed to wait for the other witches and wizards to come and teleport them to Rieka.

"Are you okay?" Jedrek asked Lilac when he took her backpack and slung it on his shoulder.

"I am fine," Lilac said. "I can't imagine that we've already reached this point..." Her voice sounded as if she was contemplating about something.

"What are you thinking now?" Jedrek could feel it in their mate bond; Lilac was restless.

Actually, there were a lot of things that she was thinking about now, but all she could say was; "Nothing."

Jedrek stared at her for a bit longer before he pressed his lips onto hers and kissed her deeply out of the blue.

"What was that?" Lilac asked, feeling out of breath when Jedrek finally ended their kiss.

"Nothing," he replied using the same words. "I just want to kiss you and tell you that everything will be all right."

And also tell you that I will not lose you...

Chapter 936 - THE SAME DARK AURA

Rossie watched silently as the Donovans and their mates disappear from her sight, followed by Calleb along with his group and then Ethan along with his group.

And the last to set off were the dragon shifter people. People under both fire and earth dragon lords finally pledged their loyalty to Torak, after such a long dramatic scene and of course, threatening them also helped brandishing the magic.

Their former lord was replaced by a new one, specifically chosen by Jedrek.

For Stephan, it was because his brother suddenly tried to kill him, therefore they needed to act fast and killed Reynold first, as such Stephan became the new lord for earth dragon shifters.

And as for the fire dragon shifters, Lord Bayle had been imprisoned and his position was replaced by his firstborn.

Counting on this kind of loyalty was akin to a walk on egg shells, very fragile. Whether Torak and Jedrek would lift the vow from the dragon shifters which had been restricting them from shifting onto their beast or not, was up to them and they would decide what to do with it later.

However, this was not the end, at the very least, this was only the beginning of something big that would come their way.

Rossie looked beside her and found Bree standing close to her. "Let's go inside," she said, as she took the little girl's hand and walked into the house.

There would be more people coming here and all they needed to do was to accommodate those warriors before they were teleported to Rieka.

"Will we see them again?" Bree asked, she gripped Rossie's hand tighter than usual and walked into the house, their task now was to take care of baby Eddard, until Calleb and the rest came back, which was something that was out of everyone's predictions.

"Of course," Rossie said, sounding determined. "We will see them again, don't worry." Yet, it felt more like she was convincing herself.

Serefina watched the devastated scene through her lime green eyes, which looked dull.

In front of the witch, were a lot of people, running around with sharp objects in their hands and angry faces, shouting profanities and creating damage to anything and everything that they passed.

It was a terrifying scene to watch when it was coupled with the ear piercing cries and wails of children and women. Fear and helplessness wafted in the air thickly and death could be smelt from every corner of this city.

However, above all of it, the dark creatures slowly appeared out of thin air, from the ground, from the shadows and the very dreadful emotions of these uncontrolled people. It was very strange!

Those humans couldn't see it, but for someone like Serefina and the other supernatural creatures, it was crystal clear.

"This is what you call a masterpiece?" Serefina asked with a face that was devoid of any emotion.

"Why? You don't like it?" Lilith, who was standing beside the witch, watched the scene before her golden eyes proudly.

"It is messy," Serefina sneered, throwing a nasty glance at the devil.

"Just like you," Lilith bit back. "You are a messy witch. Can't you see that? You jump from one boat to another... and no one knew what exactly is your motive."

Serefina chuckled, yet one couldn't find any humor in it. "Keep trying to figure it out, maybe you can finally find it in your dead brain."

Lilith turned around, with raging fury palpable on her small face. "You will not come out from this alive if we found that you're trying to betray us."

"Alive?" Serefina scoffed. "I have never felt alive to begin with..." She stopped feeling lively ever since the moon goddess resurrected her.

She even felt like a dying corpse when she tormented herself by watching Jedrek and Lilac together...

Well, this was the path that she had willingly chosen for herself. She shouldn't complain but focus on her plan instead, yet why did she feel like the air that she breathed becoming heavier by the minute when all of this finally came to an end?

"It feels like the hell itself broke loose here," Hope murmured when they ran toward the hill behind the library building, avoiding the aggressive people who were busy ripping one another apart.

Those people looked like they wouldn't think twice as they continued to throw anything and everything in their reach at one another. They didn't even seem to notice the fact that Kace didn't even have a scratch after one man attacked him with a big rock, hitting the latter's head with full force.

However, Kace almost lost control and pounced on that man if it was not for Hope and Purple, who held him back.

'They are not in their right mind,' Purple said in hopes to calm down the enraged lycan and Hope could see it very clearly.

How could they be so aggressive like this? Even to the people that they didn't know? And that dark aura, kept oozing out of their shadows.

Hope wondered; if Raine had the same dark aura like that, would she also become like them? Reckless and uncontrollably aggressive? It was terrifying to even imagine the guardian angel who had control over time lose her self control and attack them, after she stopped the time.

"I am tired," Hope grumbled, she stopped running and bent her knees to catch a breath. She hated the fact that Purple and the phoenix could simply flap their wings once and covered ten of her steps, while Kace didn't even break a sweat and here she was, almost twitching like a dying fish, greedy for water.

"Purple, are you sure, Torak will come to that particular place you mentioned earlier?" Kace asked as he gave Hope a bottle of water. He looked around him and from what he could see, this city would be down to scraps before the next day could come.

"If Alpha Torak indeed came to this place, he will not use normal transportation knowing what happened to the last five planes which flew to this place." The only way possible was to teleport themselves here.

Kace looked at Hope, she wouldn't be able to climb the hill in her current condition, therefore, he crouched down in front of her and patted his shoulder. "Get on."

Hope, who was watching him closely doing all that, grinned happily. "I have been waiting for you to do this, why did you offer it to me only now?" she grumbled, while hopping onto Kace's back before resting her chin on his shoulder.

"You need to exercise more, girl," Kace retorted.

"No, I prefer to be carried like this," Hope said in her most spoiled tone.

Chapter 937 - OUTBURST

Raine looked around her after Belinda teleported them to Rieka, and from her surroundings she concluded that they appeared inside a castle like place, she almost mistook this place for the castle Jedrek had in the other realm back then, or was it Torak's? Since the latter said that castle was a gift for him from their late father.

"Are we in Rieka?" Raine asked Torak beside her and watched him nodding his head yes in answer. Only then did she hear something explode, shaking the ground beneath their feet rather violently. "We have to find Kace soon."

"No, we just need to wait, he will come to us," Jedrek said, as he walked toward the window and observed how the black smoke rolled up to the sky, from a few explosions in the distance.

It didn't look good...

As if on cue, someone opened the door and Kace appeared with Hope on his back and the fae, flying beside him.

Hope immediately jumped down and rushed toward Raine and Lilac while Kace approached Torak.

Out of the blue, Kace hit Torak hard until the latter fell to the ground with blood on his cracked lips. Raine, who saw this, shrieked before running toward her mate, as Hope did the same to Kace.

"What did you do!?" Hope tried to block Kace from attacking Torak again. Wasn't Kace fine just a moment ago? Despite their situation, he still threw a few jokes along the way here, in order to lessen Hope's fears. However, why would he fight Torak all of a sudden?

On the other hand, Raine helped Torak to stand up, but her mate pushed her behind him. "Step aside, my love," Torak said, as he gestured Calleb to take Raine and wiped the blood from his lips and the wound was healed almost immediately.

But, the guardian angel was stubborn to stay beside him.

"No!" Raine was agitated, she turned around and glared at Kace. "Why did you hit him?!"

"Why did I hit him?" Kace retorted in a mocking tone. "He deserves more than a punch for killing so many people in the castle!"

"It's not his fault!" Raine yelled at Kace. This was the first time Torak saw Raine getting all riled up. He was more worried about her rather than his angry brother.

"Raine," Torak warned her, as he put his hand around her shoulders, but the guardian angel swatted his hand away.

Meanwhile, Lilac crept closer to Jedrek and whispered to him. "Don't you want to step in? They are about to tear each other apart, and now, Raine is very angry."

Yet, Jedrek didn't look like he was panicked at all, he just folded his arms and watched what was going to happen with great interest.

"No, let Kace do whatever it's necessary to vent out his anger..." Jedrek said casually. Moreover, he really wanted to see what Raine would do, this guardian angel always tended to be very soft and quiet.

"Oh, yes! It's definitely his fault!" Kace threw those words to Raine, ignoring the warning look Torak giving to him and Hope's attempt to stop him. "He was the one who gave an order to leave the castle, if you didn't remember!" he sneered derisively.

Hope could understand how Kace felt, he always thought of Lana as his little sister. Hope also knew the story when they first met with each other, thus the relationship between them was quite deep, not to mention with the pact that Serefina made between the two, it made Kace to feel the anguishing pain upon losing her.

However, atop of all of that, the massacre in the castle reminded Kace of himself. His worst nightmare. The guilt that he felt when thousands of lives buried to the ground by his hands, under his command, in the first war.

It almost seemed like Kace was angry on his own self rather than Torak. Hope could understand that, but Raine didn't.

The guardian angel was very angry because Kace hit Torak out of the blue, and sure enough, Hope saw that thing again.

The dark aura that surrounded Raine. The more angrier she felt, the darker that thing became.

"Raine, calm down..." Hope tried to assuage her anger, as she couldn't take her eyes from black smoke like thing. "Kace didn't mean that."

"Oh, I mean it!" Kace didn't want to cooperate at all and no matter how Hope tried to warn him through the mind-link, he always blocked her and didn't let his mate to talk it out.

This only frustrated Hope further.

"Kace," Hope grumbled at him.

"You are judging him? Who would have guessed that the devils would attack at that time!?" Raine retorted. "You lost many lives under your command too, so how could you act like that?! You don't have the right to judge Torak!"

"Raine!" Torak called out her name sternly. What she said was a sour spot for Kace and he didn't wish her to say it to his brother's own face. What happened to his mate? She used to be quite, moreover she should have known that the punch meant nothing for Torak...

Yet, no one have time to think when Kace lost it to his beast and roared, as he charged forward in his lycan form.

Torak, who noticed the white lycan from the corner of his eyes, pushed Raine aside and leapt forward to meet with the former's attack.

On the other hand, Jedrek was taken aback, he didn't know that this matter would escalate to this extent.

What Kace felt about beating up Torak now was way different from his own outburst when he fought him. Kace looked more feral and aggressive. He almost looked like one of those crazy humans out there, running rampant to destroy every single thing that their eyes laid upon.

"That is why they shouldn't put two Alphas in the in the same place at the wrong time..." Theseus, the new fire dragon lord, Lord Bayle's firstborn, talked to Stephan, who was standing beside him.

Yet, Stephan ignored him. His focus was on Raine... she looked very fierce and out of her character.

The atmosphere in this place was simply very strange...

Chapter 938 - THE FLICKERING OF GOLDEN LIGHT

Before Torak and Kace could tear each other apart, Jedrek had intervened by punching and kicking both of his younger brothers, one each to the either sides of the room.

Lilac didn't stay quiet seeing this scene, she stepped forward and created roots that coiled around Torak and Kace's beasts, strong enough to make them stay still.

However, it was only a matter of time before they could break free, fortunately Torak and Kace still listened to Jedrek as they stopped fighting. They growled and snarled, but didn't make any attempt to fight each other again.

"SHIFT BACK!" Jedrek roared, as he appeared in his human form. Only when Torak and Kace had shifted back, did Lilac loosen the roots that chained them.

"F*ck with this war, I will tear you apart if you lay your filthy hands on my mate," Torak cursed, his red eyes glared at Kace, who reciprocated the same hostility.

"F*ck you with your mate! You thought you are always right with every decision that you made! You think just because you are an Alpha, everything will run smoothly as long as everyone followed your command!" Kace snarled at his brother while Hope struggled to calm him down, something surely triggered Kace for him to act like this.

"It's not your loss solely! We lost Raphael too!" Raine yelled at Kace and Hope watched as the dark aura that surrounded her grew thicker.

Hope wondered whether this was what the dwarf said about Raine's tainted soul. She looked around the room to find Nutdrouk and spotted him at the corner of this room, trying to be as invisible as possible in this heated situation.

She needed to talk to him about this. She was worried about Raine...

"Enough both of you!" Lilac interfered this time. She stared at Raine in disbelief, since she had never seen the latter lose her temper in such a manner.

However, this quarrel should end now. It was not only them in this room, there were other lycans and shifters too, it wouldn't be good for them to see their leaders trying to kill one another in a fit, it wouldn't bring unity.

And just like how the others had felt it, Lilac also could say that the atmosphere was very thick and tense. It gave an uncomfortable feeling for them. Something that they couldn't explain... like depression.

"Don't you dare to yell at me," Torak warned Lilac, but he received a glare from Jedrek from talking that way to the king's mate.

"Okay, enough!" Lilac screamed. She wanted this to stop. "No one is right or wrong in this matter, we made our own mistakes! Those people were dead, but we will lose more people if you kept trying to act like this instead of the Alpha you are!"

"I am not an Alpha," Kace mentioned it sharply. He didn't have many people for him to take care of. That was why, he cherished all the people that were close to him the most, his small circle of friends here and there was something that made him felt like he had a family. They were his family. On top of that Lana...

"Kace," Hope spoke to him. "I think of Lana like my sister too, it is not only you who feel the pain of losing her, but can you please calm down? What Lilac said is true, we will lose even more people at this rate."

The pain that Kace felt intensified by the strange atmosphere that surrounded them.

Right at that time, a popping sound was heard inside the room, indicating the arrival of another group of lycans that came to this place.

And it was Leon with a group of people.

His eyes immediately searched for Kace and once he found him, he raised his hand in a friendly manner. "Hi, Kace I came to help!" he said cheerfully and walked toward his buddy, yet when he felt the tension that surrounded them, he knew that something was wrong. "Did I come at a wrong time?"

Hope walked toward Raine, who still kept her eyes on Kace, under Torak's hard glare, yet she knew the Alpha wouldn't do anything to her unless she did something dangerous to his mate.

"Raine, are you okay?" she asked, but Raine shied away and stood behind Torak, then Hope saw it, a flicker of golden light in Raine's dark eyes.

How could that be?

"The existence of the non- human species have been uncovered, estimated numbers of those creatures were still unknown, but the government assumed it covers a quarter of the city's population. Among those numbers, there are names of influenced people, such as Mr. Gregory Dmatrio, Mr. Torak Donovan..."

Rossie switched the television channel that she was watching now, only to find some more similar news to the previous one.

"...from the discovery of the non- human species, the government declared that it is the reason of the aggressive behavior of the people recently..."

Rossie switched the channel again.

"...military sources confirm that the primary measures of defense against the non- humans are silver, as they appear to have fatal sensitivity to the aforementioned metal..."

Rossie changed into another channel, as she frowned darkly.

"...Tents are camped near every barricade throughout the city, a test will be administered to verify whether you are of human or non- human existence..."

And then the television was switched off when someone took the remote control from Rossie's hand.

"Stop watching such depressing news." Addair sat down beside Rossie and threw the remote away from her. "Don't watch anything on the television from now on," she said grimly. The situation outside was not really good to see, it only added to their anxiousness.

Not only the war with the devils, but they were also being chased down by the humans.

The question was; how could humans see them? They always believed that their existence was only a myth, moreover they couldn't be able to see them in their beast's form.

So, what now?

It seemed like the supernatural and the human worlds were on the verge of a collision...

Chapter 939 - TWO WORLDS

"It seemed like the supernatural and the human worlds were on the verge of a collision... " Jedrek said in a murmuring tone.

They had been here, in Rieka for a week now and the creatures from hell emerged from all over the places, not only in Rieka, but in other places too, though it was not as many as in here... The war had started...

"Yes," Lilac watched the battle from the balcony of their safety place, though it was very far from where they were standing, but since this building was on the hill, it was easy to see what was going on in the city of Rieka. "We are not only fighting the creatures from hell, but humans too."

Needless to say, they couldn't fight the human like they could do with the other creatures, because killing a human would weaken their strength and it was not a good sign for them. Moreover, no one knew this war would turn out like this.

The devils really learned from the first war and now they used every possible means to win this.

"But, how can they fuse the two worlds?" Lilac frowned deeply. She felt under the pressure because of what they were facing now.

"The weather," Jedrek said after he contemplated for awhile, he had thought about this for a long time, there was no way the weather and the disappearance of the sun was that simple. There must be something more into it and their current situation proved that he was right.

The two worlds have been merged into one.

"We need to close the craters..." Lilac said softly when she felt Jedrek's hand drew circles on her back in a soothing motion.

The craters were the three gates of hell that had been opened, the first one in the human world, was opened when Torak was killed and Aeon helped Raine to open it in order to find her mate, the second one was opened right inside the castle where Jedrek had killed his own mother, along with his father, so he could free himself from the devils.

And the last one was here, in Rieka.

Thanks to the devils who had fused their worlds, because chaos was no longer a word that could describe how the situation was right now.

Humans now saw them as a threat and they would kill both sides. The devils wouldn't lose much even though their underlings were killed since they could just revive them again and again as long as the gates of hell were left open.

However, it was not the case with Lycanthropes. Once they lose their life, they would die, or they would be used by the devils, as they could turn the dead into one of them.

Therefore, they had to make sure that once their fellow warriors died, they would burn them into ashes.

At this point, it looked like this is a war that they couldn't possibly win over. They were fighting in a losing war. Finally, they could see there were many loopholes in their plan.

The fact that the Donovans were not as solid as before, was an ultimate setback to them which they couldn't deny and it rendered them unable to unite; it was solely the result of being hostile to one another for centuries.

"Do you know how?" Jedrek asked Lilac, his eyes stared at the black smoke, as dark as the sky above. This gloomy atmosphere only made them feel more and more depressed.

Lilac thought about it for a while before she spoke. "I don't know, but I know how to find the answer..."

"Raine, you are avoiding me," Hope said when she saw Raine turning at the end of the corridor and it was very clear to see that the latter was trying to avoid her.

"I am not..." Raine said in a timid voice. Her fierceness from a week ago had totally disappeared now and she looked like her usual self.

"Yes, you are." Hope stopped right in front of her and tried to block her route to escape from her again.

In the end, Raine sighed and met Hope's probing gaze right in the eyes when she finally gave up. "I feel bad for acting like that to Kace at that time," she confessed what she actually felt.

At that time, Raine felt a surge of emotions that she couldn't control or understand, it was almost as if she couldn't think before what she said and just threw it at the lycan's face in a fit of her anger, the anger which seemed odd even to herself.

"We were not in our right minds at that time and don't say that what Kace did to Torak was right, I will act in the same way if Torak punched Kace all of a sudden." Hope tried to make her fellow guardian angel feel a little bit better.

Moreover, she wanted to know what exactly the dark aura that she saw on Raine was. She couldn't see it now, but maybe if she tipped her off again, that strange aura would reappear...

Hope was beyond tempted to try, yet she knew better than to turn the situation to worse than it already was, therefore she opted to talk it out with her head-on.

"I was not in my right mind," Raine agreed, chuckling wryly.

"I saw the dark aura around you at that time Raine," Hope said. "I remember that the dwarf said you have a tainted soul. Maybe, it has something to do with that?"

Hope could see Raine was confused with her statement, yet she tried to discern the information. "What do you mean with dark aura?"

Hope took Raine's hand, so they could stand near the rail of the corridor, where they could see the black smoke from the battle in the city.

"Those people there..." Hope pointed her finger at the direction of the city. "They turned aggressive and they have the same dark aura like you."

"What?" Raine gulped down hard.

"I saw the same thing when you fainted when we were in the castle, I saw it when the head of the centaurs took Lilac away." Hope looked at Raine straight in her eyes and could say that she didn't have any idea about it either.

Chapter 940 - WE DON'T HAVE MANY OPTIONS

"What does that mean?" her voice was akin to a whisper.

"I don't know, but Nutdrouk might know something about it," Hope said.

"The dwarf?" Raine said in disbelief. "I have not seen him since the last time I saw him here, and that was a week ago." Raine remembered that she met him again after the event in the frozen river, but the dwarf didn't say much and just walked past her.

Well, at that time Raine was filled with various emotions, thus it never crossed her mind to ask him anything, moreover she didn't have any question to ask the dwarf until Hope mentioned about the dark aura.

"Are you talking about the dwarf?" Lilac suddenly appeared behind them, she even seemed to overheard their conversation about Nutdrouk and the dark aura.

"Yes," Hope said, turning around and facing Lilac. "Where are you going?" Lilac looked like she was about to go somewhere.

"I will go to the library." Lilac approached the other two guardian angels and they could see Jedrek standing at the end of the corridor, talking to someone.

"You are going to the library with Jedrek? But, why?" Raine asked her. With the situation out there, there was no way Jedrek would let Lilac go without a good reason.

"There is something that I need to ask. I am sure you have seen the stone in the library." Lilac stated her purpose.

The stone would only answer one question for each person, thus since Raine and Hope had used their respective opportunities already, there was no reason for them to come with Lilac.

"What question do you want to ask?" Hope remembered her own answer when she was there, it was not the answer that she wanted, yet she hadn't talked about it again, with this tense atmosphere among the brothers, it would only bring more discord.

"How to close the gates of hell. We will never win this war if we can't stop those creatures from appearing time and again," Lilac said, her voice sounded like someone who was done with this nonsense and wanted to get over with it as soon as possible.

Actually, everyone felt those similar feelings.

Just like what Raine thought; it was something important, otherwise, Jedrek wouldn't let her go any near the battlefield.

Actually, when it came to this part, the three Donovans were on the same page. They wouldn't let their mates go out of this building, and even went to extra lengths to post someone to monitor every door and window, so none of the three of them would be able to escape this place.

It was insane! But, the three of them looked more determined to keep their mates alive instead of winning this war.

It must be because they believed that they tried hard not to believe that the guardian angels must die during this war. Their deaths were necessary to stop this war.

Yes, though Lilac, Raine and Hope didn't know how they knew about it, but they could feel it deep in their heart that that was the truth.

They didn't know since when they had this knowledge or started to believe it. However, they knew it was true, it almost felt like they were born with that understanding.

Yet, no one talked about it out loud, they assumed they were too afraid to discuss it. It would make everything become more clear, but the thought of death still scared them.

How could someone talk about their own death calmly? Though it was for a greater reason, such as stopping the devils from running rampant in this world and moreover to stop the war that had gone south from their predictions.

No one wanted to talk about it, especially the person who would die in this case.

Therefore, they chose to believe whatever their mates said and that they could protect them, that they could stop the war without sacrificing them.

However, as days went, their situation only proved otherwise...

Maybe, if they did something to help, it would take a little burden off the Donovan brother's shoulders... maybe it could help changing the outcome of this war...

"If you want to see the dwarf, you can ask Sybil to help. She can teleport you to wherever the dwarf is," Lilac said, she looked back and found Jedrek was staring at her. "But, I think you should talk about this with your mates first, they will be furious if they found out that you were gone missing."

After saying that, Lilac waved her hand and then approached Jedrek, who had been waiting for her with his men.

"I don't think Kace will agree to this..." Hope said grimly. She knew her mate better and Kace would make a fuss before they could even tell him their reason.

"I don't think Torak will accept it well either," Raine replied. "I wonder how Lilac can convince Jedrek to let her go to the library when that place was literally in the middle of the battlefield!"

The Donovans didn't partake in the battle since they said there were a lot of things that they should arrange here. However, they knew their priority was to keep their eyes on their mates.

Their overprotective natures didn't help with this war, but knowing your mate would die in order to stop the war, was not something tolerable either.

It was clear where they stood; they would let the war go on for centuries if that was what it would take to keep their mates alive, beside them.

However, how could Raine and Hope watch those people trying to kill each other when they were being protected here? And Lilac... it was clear to see that her intention was to stop this war, since the moon goddess sent her to Jedrek.

Even though Lilac didn't consider her relationship with Jedrek at first, still they couldn't deny the pull of the mate bond afterward...

"I think I need time to convince Kace to agree to this..." Hope murmured. "He must agree to this. We don't have many options left, right?" she looked at Raine beside her.

