

## TLOA Lycan 941

### Chapter 941 - THIS IS INSANE!

"No," Kace rejected Hope's plea outright, just exactly what she thought he would do, thus it didn't surprise her much, yet she was still determined to get an 'yes' from him.

"Look, Kace, you can't keep me here, while those filthy creatures from hell were wreaking havoc and killing our people, the people that we know." Hope folded her arms stubbornly.

"Basically, we don't know them, they are people brought by Torak and Jedrek, not our people," Kace retorted.

This was the problem with them, there was no unity at all. How could they go to a war when they were not on the same page with each other and felt like they weren't accountable to one another?

This was incredulous. Instead of thinking as one, they wanted to win this war in their own way.

"Just because we don't know them, doesn't mean you can justify your actions of letting them die, right?" Hope said irritably because of his ignorance. "Some of them were people that come willingly to help you Kace, your old friends, even though you insisted on saying that they are not your friends, that didn't change the fact that they are people you once knew,"

Hope could see that her words hit the right spot in his heart, Kace would always distance himself from other people. He was still the same Kace, who was reluctant to take over the command and order those people to march for their own death.

Hope thought Kace had managed to handle it and that she had helped him to overcome the hurdle within himself, while the truth was; Kace was just very good at hiding his feelings and pretending that he was already fine.

"Leon and his sister came here because they want to help you," Hope didn't want to say Abby's name, since that girl always liked to get on her nerves.

She knew that the witch only came to see Kace and didn't want to have anything to do with the war, yet to have her here and teleport as many people as she could was still a form of help too, meanwhile, Hope did nothing, but keeping herself from harms way, just like what Kace wanted her to.

That fact alone frustrated her.

Not to mention Abby who would throw her curly- chestnut hair with arrogance every time she met Hope in the corridor, or wherever they chanced upon each other. Hope hated that girl.

"You can say whatever you want, Hope..." Hope could see his jaws tighten, as the atmosphere became more intense. "I will not let you go anywhere."

However, Kace should know better that Hope couldn't be threatened that easily. At this moment, Hope really wanted to thank Serefina for raising her this way. The witch was the reason why she had this attitude when it came to what she wanted, she taught her well to become more stubborn and stand her ground no matter what.

"I will go with or without your permission Kace," Hope said. "You can go with me to find the dwarf or I can go alone."

"Torak will not allow Raine to go," Kace was certain about this. They didn't know where the dwarf was now, therefore they wouldn't know what was waiting for them when they went to look for him. action

This was more dangerous than what Hope could imagine, at least that was what Kace thought. There were many things that happened recently and he was feeling under the pressure. To have Hope away from him, was not an option and he didn't even want to discuss it at all.

It seemed like they reached a stalemate in their argumentation.

"Kace, think about it..." Hope softened her tone, hoping it would knock some sense into him. "The war will not end if..."

"The war will not end as long as the guardian angels were alive because your resurrection is solely meant to stop this war," Kace said, finishing her sentence.

Hope was about to retort him, when his words made her realize one thing suddenly, and this scared her to say the least.

"Kace..." Her breath hitched. She didn't want to say it, but she needed to make sure that whatever crossed her mind just now was wrong. "You keep the war going, so we can live?"

Hope was waiting for Kace to deny it, yet Kace did nothing to make her believe otherwise.

This was insane...

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Raine was walking in the corridor when she met Theseus, the new fire dragon lord, whose father was being held captive by Torak after he was subjected to her power firsthand that rendered lord Bayle from doing anything, since he was 'too old' to do something.

Every time she met him, Raine felt like his eyes were trying to bore a hole into her being and she didn't like the way he stared at her like that. It was the same way how lord Bayle looked at her when he confronted them to take baby Eddard.

"Luna Raine," Theseus greeted her with utmost respect and Raine nodded her head slightly to reciprocate his greetings.

Raine didn't stop walking, as she didn't have any intention to have a chat with him, but the problem was; the young dragon lord blocked her way.

"What do you want?" Raine raised her head to look at him, but she didn't let her guard down, especially when there was no one around them. How come this corridor was empty at a time like this?

"I don't want anything my Luna." Theseus smiled at her.

"I am not your Luna and you are not a member of my pack," Raine bit back, she realized that her voice was a little too harsh, but for some reason she didn't regret it. Somehow, her emotions were all over the place recently.

Yet, Theseus didn't seem to mind her harsh tone and kept smiling, as if he didn't hear her reluctance to talk to him. "I just want to know that I will get my father back once the war is over. Am I correct?"

"Yes, you will." Raine's voice was very tight. She knew she could defend herself if Theseus wanted to do something outrageous.

"But, what if this war doesn't end?"

### **Chapter 942 - REALIZATION**

"But, what if this war doesn't end?" Theseus asked the question that deepened the frown on Raine's forehead. action

What did he mean by the war wouldn't end?

"What do you mean by that?" Raine didn't appreciate his gesture at all and moreover, she couldn't treat this conversation as something funny when the young dragon lord chuckled.

"You don't know, do you?" he snorted. The way he stared at Raine kept bothering her as it left her feeling restless for reasons she didn't know herself.

Theseus had his own way to know something like this, especially when it was his people out there that fought those filthy creatures, which didn't seem to stop coming any soon. They could die at anytime, but those Donovans didn't even bat their eyes to sacrifice them.

They didn't even step their feet out of this place, to keep their eyes on their beautiful mates. Theseus might be young, but he was not a fool. He learned about the guardian angels and the whisper of their purpose for being resurrected.

"Know what?" Raine squinted her eyes dangerously at him and caught a glimpse of Calleb when he walked past the corridor, yet when he saw Raine was talking to Theseus, he halted and approached them instead.

Sensing someone was approaching them, Theseus cleared his throat and walked past Raine. However, he whispered to her as he walked.

"Why don't you ask your sweet mate?" he said and didn't even look back again when Raine turned around, seemingly wanted to ask him a further explanation.

"Everything is okay?" Calleb approached Raine before he watched Theseus walk away.

Raine felt slightly relieved when Calleb came to her aid, but she wanted to know why Theseus was talking that way?

"Where is Torak?" Raine felt an urge to talk to her mate. Something was wrong, totally wrong.

"He is in the meeting room..." Calleb said, but before he could finish his words, Raine had started walking away. "But, they were in a meeting now..." Yet, Raine had already turned at the corner of the corridor and disappeared from his sight.

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"Kace, you are crazy..." Hope's voice was akin to a whisper. "You can't prolong this war... lots of people will die in vain out there!"

Kace opened his mouth, but he shut it again, he seemed to want to say something, but those excuses didn't seem convincing even to himself.

Jedrek and Torak didn't say that they would prolong this war, but the three of them knew what was necessary to end it.

No, not to end it...

With the recent turn of events, something that could give them a high chance to win it.

However, that something was a choice that they were absolutely not willing to take.

They didn't need to talk about it out loud, but there was this tacit understanding among them and this unspoken plan would continue for as long as possible.

"Hope, we will find a way... but, it's definitely not something which will make me lose you..." Kace shook his head vigorously. This was very hard to imagine, even the idea of losing their mate had them on the verge of going insane.

Hope looked at Kace right in his eyes, this was the latter's first time to see such intense disappointment in his mate's eyes.

Kace couldn't explain how hard it was for him to stand there and look at Hope, while he was trying to make her understand, to justify their actions.

"A week ago you was very livid because of Torak's order which had Lana killed. However now, you don't even feel ashamed when you talk to me about all of this nonsense?!" Hope had never been so angry at Kace like this.

They were playing with those innocents' lives and sacrificed them for their own mate? Just to prolong the inevitable?!

She was scared of death, but to live and know every breath that they took was a last breath of the other shifters that died in the battle... how could they live with a fact like that?

"You talk about your fear of not wanting someone else's life to be your responsibility, but you are willing to put those responsibilities on me?!" Hope's voice became louder, as she tried to get away from Kace, who was approaching her and trying to calm her down.

"I know, I know!" Kace grabbed his hair frutratedly. He didn't want to do this, but it was either this or losing Hope.

Therefore, he chose the former. He wouldn't mind it much since they didn't know all the people dying out there... right? Yet, his conscience said otherwise...

"Kace, you are such a hypocrite..." Hope's voice was neither loud nor harsh, but the way she said it, made him feel an intense pain as if his heart was being stabbed with a sharp silver dagger.

At this time, he really wanted for his beast to take over, so he could retreat to his own safety and let the beast do what it needed to do to keep their mate safe.

And that was what he did...

The moment, he raised his head and stared at Hope, his eyes were as red as the color of blood.

Raine opened the door of the meeting room and found Torak who was talking to Lyrus and a few Alphas in his pack, but she didn't see Stephan or the fae that came with Jedrek.

"Raine," Torak was flustered when he watched his mate walk straight toward him, from the look in her eyes, he knew something was not right. "What happened, my love?"

Raine glanced at the map that was spread open on the table, it showed the places that were under the control of the devils and surrounded by human's defense forces, and then she stared at the five people inside the room, one by one.

"Everyone out," Raine said. Her voice laced with authority, it held the same amount of pressure like Torak's. "Including you," she said to Lyrus. "I want to talk with your Alpha."

The way Raine talked, Torak knew he had to prepare some explanation for whatever she wanted to ask him, since she had never been this serious before.

Once there was only the two of them, Raine walked to the table and started to talk to him.

#### **Chapter 943 - YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWER AGAINST ME**

"You are sending these many people to defend this place when you know the real problem is not here," Raine said as she studied the map on the table that showed how the Donovans distributed their forces.

Being with Torak, Raine learned a few things that could add to her knowledge about how it should be done, thus with the information she had, she knew that there was something wrong with the plan made by the Donovans.

"You don't know about this, my love." Torak walked around the table to approach Raine, he tried to calm her, though she didn't look like someone who was angry, but the vibes that she was giving now was telling him that it was more than that.

However, Raine avoided his touch and moved to the other side of the table. She took a deep breath, as if preparing herself to say something that would hurt both of them.

"Torak what have you done?" Raine asked in a whispery tone, she looked at her mate with eyes filled with disappointment. "You don't want to end this war..."

"I do," Torak replied grimly, yet even after he said that, there was no further explanation whatsoever.

"How?" Raine asked. She knew that Torak was aware of the answer for it, but she needed him to say it.

"In a way that wouldn't lead to sacrifice you," Torak said. His dark eyes stared directly at Raine with determination.

"But, how?" Raine looked at him sadly.

The blood of the guardian angels was what was needed to fight the new powers of the devils, where they could control time, soul and nature, the same powers as the guardian angels.

But to have their blood being sucked out of their body to accommodate the entire army, was nothing different from a suicide. The fact that their blood could be used to strengthen their power was an indisputable factor that could be counted in order to win the war.

However, how could the Donovans let that happen?!

Torak had never been this angry at Serefina for helping the devils to gain control over such powers! They haven't used it yet, but them delaying the obvious didn't mean they wouldn't take benefit of this in the right time.

Yet, when was the right time for them? They didn't have any idea about this.

And as for the three craters that were opened in different locations, from where the creatures from hell had been appearing, they weren't left with another choice but to close them.

But, Torak didn't think he wanted to know how they could close those gate to hell. He remember all too well how Raine opened that gates with the help of Aeon in order to get him out of there, he had a bad feeling about how to close it again...

"Torak tell me how you are planning to win this war," Raine spoke in a hard tone, her eyes looked at her mate hardly. "Tell me what your exact plan is."

It was rare for Torak to have a fight with Raine, even if they were not on the same page, most of the time, Raine would listen to him in the end, or Torak would be willing to bend his own will and rules for her.

However, not this time.

It seemed this was the only time when they stood on two different sides of a problem and no one was willing to back down from what they believe.

"We will find the solution, I just a little more time," Torak said, he tried to reach for his mate, but Raine raised her hand to stop him from coming closer to her.

"Time?" Raine backed away from Torak and she could see the pain in his eyes. She needed space and being close to him wouldn't help her to straighten her mind. "You feed those creatures from hell with your people, in order to give you time?"

Raine couldn't understand why Torak was in a state of depression like this and was readily willing to sacrifice his own people...

No, Raine had this bad feeling ever since they arrived in this building. There was something with the atmosphere here that could make people feel more desperate and couldn't think clearly.

The Donovans were being driven by their impulsiveness to save their mates, at all costs.

It was only one week that they were through their grief for the losing their people, that they shed tears for their loss of Raphael and his mate, but now Torak and the other two Donovans were doing the same exact thing that made them restless just a week ago? That didn't make any sense.

"Torak, if you really want to stop this war, help me find Nutdrouk, there is something I want to ask him," Raine said in a stern voice and prayed in her heart that Torak would agree to it.

"No," Torak rejected her immediately and saw disappointment flashing on her face.

"Why?" Raine frowned, though his answer was not unexpected.

"I don't want you to go anywhere near the dwarf. I don't trust him," Torak said matter of factly. Aside from the fact that he had indeed been of handy to help Calleb bring Raphael's son safely, the Alpha still didn't trust him.

The dwarf had a hidden agenda, everyone could feel it, they just didn't know whether it was a good thing for everyone involved or not.

And now Raine wanted to see him? Of course, the answer would be a big 'no'.

"I will go and see him myself," Raine said. The determination in her eyes said that even Torak couldn't stop her.

"I don't want you to die Raine, I can't lose you." Torak moved to block her way. "I told you from the very beginning, I don't care how many people I have to give up as long as you are safe, that's what matters to me the most."

Raine shook her head, "I can't live with that fact, Torak."

She walked past him and was about to open the door, when Calleb came from the other side of it.

"Arrest her!" Torak said.

"What?" Calleb stared at the couple, dumbfounded, he didn't understand why Torak wanted him to arrest Raine...

"You can't use your power against me and Calleb, my love." action

#### **Chapter 944 - I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU**

Calleb was confused why he had to arrest Raine, thus he did not do what Torak told him immediately and just stared at Raine, befuddled.

"Arrest her," Torak said again, this time his tone was firmer, as he stared right in Raine's incredulous eyes.

"You can't do this to me Torak," Raine said in angry tone, her fists balled beside her body and her jaw clamped tightly.

Torak had never seen Raine being this upset, especially at him. Moreover, they had never been in an argumentation this intense before. An argumentation that sowed discord between them.

"I just want to keep you safe," Torak said in the same tone. "I just want to keep you safe, Raine."

"But, you are killing them in order to keep me safe," Raine spoke slowly, so her words could sink in Torak's conscience.

"Kill who?" Calleb was confused, he didn't understand what they were talking about. Torak and Raine had never been in a quarrel like this before, but seeing how angry Raine looked right now and how determined Torak was, it seemed this was more than a quarrel.

The Beta was in charge of his own duties and the Donovans were running their plan smoothly, thus not many people knew about this. action

Moreover, all the lycanthropes wouldn't question their Alpha, this fact alone was enough to keep them oblivious of their horridious plan.

However, the fire dragon lord, Theseus was different, he was as shrewd as his father, and immediately knew there was something wrong with the arrangements the Donovans made for this war.

"You didn't even plan to keep your promise to Stephan," Raine said in disbelief. "I don't know who you are, Torak. The Torak I know will not do something like this."

The Donovans had promised Stephan that they would break the vow with the help of purple since it was the fae that had tied them to that vow, which rendered them unable to shift into their beasts.

However, that didn't happen until now.

"You can't use your power against me and Calleb, my love," Torak said grimly.

Only then did Calleb realize that everything around him was still, as if the time had stopped. It was not a surprise for him since this was not the first time he experienced this.

"Take her to her room," Torak said.

However, Raine had reached the handle of the door, though she was not fast enough and Calleb held the door with his own body, he still didn't know what to do with the two people.

"Get out of my way!" Raine shouted at Calleb and the Beta raised both of his hands, but didn't move.

"Wait, wait..." he said in confusion. He was not sure, whose order he should follow now.

"Take her to her room!" Torak used his Alpha's tone on him and made the Beta lowered his head slightly in obedience.

"Raine, I am sorry," Calleb said regretfully, as he couldn't go against Torak's order. "Please, don't make this more difficult."

Raine looked at Calleb with hostility, she swatted his hand that was about to touch her. "I can walk by myself," she said, anger evident in her tone.

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It took two hours for Lilac to get to the library safely, Jedrek had escorted her himself all the way to it. He didn't want Lilac to be suspicious, so he could only show his cooperation as much as possible.



"Torak really took this thing with him," Jedrek murmured in an agitated tone when he saw the stone which had been missing for so many centuries once again.

Beside him, Lilac chuckled when she heard that.

"What?" Jedrek turned his head to look at his mate, he didn't know what was very funny for her to laugh like that.

"The three of you are really funny, you are trying to annoy one another," Lilac said, shrugging her shoulders nonchalantly. "I don't have siblings, so I don't know how siblings should be interacting with each other, but seeing the three of you, it looks very interesting."

The corner of Jedrek's lips twitched. "You wouldn't say that if you were in my shoes," he said in a firm tone. He didn't think that he would choose Torak and Kace to be his brothers if he could, unfortunately, he was stuck with them.

Lilac laughed heartily when she watched Jedrek's expression. "I will go now," she said.

However, before Lilac could take a step onto the stone, Jedrek pulled her closer to him and hugged her tightly. "You know how it works?" he asked, his voice was barely a whisper in her ears.

"Yes, I know." Lilac nodded. She felt a little bit off with the way Jedrek hugging her now, it seemed like he was trying to hide something from her. Moreover, she could feel it through the mate bond that they shared. His beast was restless for some reason.

"I will be back," Lilac said, wanting to free herself from Jedrek, but the king just wanted to hug his queen for a little bit longer. "Jedrek?"

"I don't want to lose you," Jedrek said, his voice filled with sincerity. He buried his face in the crook of her shoulder, knowing that she would hate him the moment she found out what Jedrek was about to do.

It was inevitable that the guardian angel would know it sooner or later.

"You will not lose me," Lilac said softly, kissing his head. Was this what left Jedrek feeling restless?

But, Lilac knew perfectly what Jedrek was implying?and what laid ahead of them... they just didn't talk about this.

They knew the end of this horrible path, the purpose of the guardian angels' resurrection and the purpose of the Donovans. The three of them bound to protect the guardian angels in order to win the war.

Yet, Selene had never said something like happily ever after to them...

If they thought about it again, it was as if the happiness that they felt upon being bestowed with their own mates was something temporary only, just like a brief breather, after that, it was not exaggerating to think of this as their punishment being resumed when this war took their mates away.

**Chapter 945 - I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU (2)**

"Hi, lovely..." Kace spoke to Hope in a delighted tone, his face shone brightly with excitement while his eyes were bloodshot red.

For a moment, Hope was stunned but then she realized what was going on. It had been very long since the last time Kace lost to his beast, but now, Hope was a hundred percent sure that Kace let his beast take over deliberately, since he didn't want to deal with an angry Hope.

"Not this again," Hope grumbled. It was lovely to see this side of Kace, but she needed his human side to think rationally at this time, as his beast would be more than happy to trap her here.

"You don't like to see me?" Kace folded his arms and scowled at her with a hurt expression. "I am disappointed. I am also Kace."

Well, that was true, but it was a little bit complicated to explain. However, right now Hope didn't want to talk with the lovely Kace.

"Nice to see you again, but I have something to do," Hope said, as she walked past Kace.

Yet, even before she could reach the door, Kace had already beat her to it and leaned his back against it. "I think I agree with my human side's decision this time."

"Which is?" Hope wouldn't back down from showing her stubborn side either.

"I don't think you can go to find the dwarf," Kace said firmly.

"I can go wherever I want to," Hope spoke in a stern voice. She folded her arms, mimicking Kace's gesture, because she didn't want to feel intimidated. "And I don't agree with whatever side of you that was telling me that you will continue this war just to keep me alive whatsoever."

"I will keep you alive at any cost." Kace seemed determined as if he didn't want to leave any room for negotiation from the way he spoke now.

"We can think about how to end this war first and how to keep me alive later," Hope said. It was ridiculous. There must be a way for them to survive this alive, right? The moon goddess wouldn't be so cruel to separate them, they just needed to find a way.

If ending the first war could make them be endowed with mates, then by ending this war the goddess of the moon would grant them with the same thing, right?

The Donovans just had a strong reaction upon this which clouded their judgment.

Unfortunately, they didn't think in that direction. "We can think about how to keep you alive now and end this war later," Kace said.

"If we didn't find a way to end this war soon, how will you keep me alive by letting those filthy creatures from hell running rampage in this world?" Hope spoke in a matter of fact tone. "Not to mention about the humans that have been chasing you down!" she said harshly.

They were no longer fighting the devils alone, but since the supernatural and the human worlds have collided, they had to fight both sides.

Humans didn't care about which side was good, they just know this as a war between the human and non-human sides.

That was all they could see in their eyes.

"We will figure that out eventually," Kace stopped smiling and looked at Hope hardly. "Do you think it is easy to accept a possibility of losing your mate?" he asked, his expression turned mad serious now.

At this moment, Hope felt like she was talking to his human side instead of his beast side.

"The pull of mate bond you feel is not as strong as how we, the shifters usually feel." He gritted his teeth. "You will be sad if we are gone, but you can carry on with your life, but that wasn't the case for me... I have been waiting for you, for as long as my sanity could take.

"And after I finally found you, I spend my days cradling you in my arms, watching you grow up, hearing your incoherent words while you were still learning to utter a complete sentence, saw you take one little step after one and become a beautiful woman like now..."

"I have never been so grateful in my entire life to be able to witness all of that, though I am not able to stay beside you every day of the year because I have to leave you in Sereфина and Lana's care for your own safety. I will be forever grateful for that regardless, as not many shifters would be able to meet their mates at such a tender age.

"You don't even have any idea how much you mean for me and now I have to be tolerant when I have to lose you because of this shitty war? action

"Hell! Even if they turn this world upside down, I will not care. As long as I can keep you by my side and ensure your safety, I will just close my eyes even if the devils want to burn all this down to the ground.

"I told you from the very start, I'm not really fond of being a part of this war," Kace finished voicing out what was in his mind, something that his human side wouldn't ever let his mate know, since he had a lot of things to consider before telling the truth about how he felt about this war.

His human side's conscience wouldn't concede to say that he didn't care about the deaths of the people, out loud. However, his beast side didn't even give a tiny f\*ck about it.

Meanwhile, Hope didn't know how to react upon hearing his confession. It sounded right from seeing this matter with his eyes, but at the same time, it was very wrong if she agreed with him.

"Kace, I will hate you if you think that way." It was not the Kace that she knew.

"You can hate me for the rest of eternity, as long as you are alive." Kace's red eyes turned sad, there was a small frown between his eyebrows, as if the thought of Hope hating him had already hurt him.

Hope placed her hand against his chest and closed her eyes, in order to think about this clearly.

However, the moment she opened them, she was not in the room, where she was with Kace a moment ago.

**Chapter 946 - LET THIS HAPPEN FOREVER**

"Raine, I am truly sorry, but you know that I can't go against his direct order..." Calleb looked at Raine regretfully, he didn't know what else to say to her. If he could, he wouldn't do this to her, ever. "What was happening between the two of you?"

Raine stood in the middle of her room and stared at Calleb impassively. The way she stared at him, made the Beta grimace, he didn't like it when Raine acted very distant with him.

"You know about their plan?" Raine asked him directly, she didn't have enough time if she had to deal with Calleb too.

"What plan?" Calleb asked Raine, frowning.

"Their plan to prolong the war," Raine blurted out.

"Prolong the war?" Calleb didn't have any idea what Raine was talking about. "Raine, there must be a misunderstanding between the two of you." He tried not to conclude this matter in a rush.

"So, you don't know it either..." Raine could see the genuine confusion in Calleb's eyes when he said that.

"Raine, there is no way Torak would do such a thing," Calleb said.

"He had already done that," Raine replied grimly, if she didn't confront him directly and knew him well, she wouldn't be able to tell it either. "Go and ask your Alpha, why he scattered all our forces in various places to fight the creatures from hell instead of dealing with our main problem; how to stop those creatures from coming."

Just like the other Alphas, Calleb didn't question Torak's decision. However, if Raphael was still here, he would be able to tell if there was something wrong with Torak. Unfortunately, he was no longer there to keep the Alpha in the right track.

Seeing that Calleb was lost for words, Raine closed her eyes to control her anger, she could feel her fury gnawing at her skin, making her heart beat faster. "Leave me alone, Calleb. I want to be alone now."

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Everything went utterly blinding the moment Lilac touched the stone and the only question in her mind was; how to end this war.

And the stone showed it to her.

She opened her eyes after the blinding light dimmed a little, just to find herself standing at the edge of one of the craters, she fell on to her knees, not having any idea what the moon goddess had planned for her to give this kind of fate.

In spite of the fact that she didn't know it beforehand, she could still feel the seriousness of the outcome the moment Selene told her the purpose of her life, but to face death head on was a different feeling from what she could ever imagine.

Not because she would be burned down to nothing but ashes, but to think she had to leave the love of her life was a different thing entirely.

She felt like her heart broke into a million pieces, but at the same time, her mind told her that it was the right thing to do, that it was something that she had known from the very beginning.

That was what she thought when she stood at the lip of the crater, the hottest place that she had ever been, sweating.

A small gasp escaped her lips when a tear fell on her cheek.

Lilac gazed at the lava beneath her and then turned her head to see the white lycan, not far from her, facing hundreds of creatures from hell, alone.

She knew her choice. She knew it beyond the shadow of a doubt, she felt it in her soul about what was the necessary thing to do, to end this war and to save his life.

Her heart began to race when she stood up.

It needed a great amount of courage to avert her eyes from the white lycan behind her and put her attention back to her impending end before her eyes.

And now, all she could see was fire, it swirled and bubbled as if it was a mirror of her own anxiety.

And then a thought came to her mind; she was just a nobody, the only essence of life that Selene kindly gave to her and she should be grateful enough to know the love that Jedrek showed to her...

So Lilac did what she thought she had to do, with the roar of the angry lycan behind her, she stopped thinking and lost herself in the swirling fire...

Lilac closed her eyes and felt her body dove into the pit of fire, but then she heard someone calling out her name as the roar of the white lycan and the crackle of the flames faded away in the background.  
action

"Lilac?"

She knew his voice, thus she opened her eyes to see his blue ones.

"Lilac? What did you see?" Jedrek was standing behind her, he noticed how Lilac's shoulders shook with emotion and the faint sobs that escaped her lips.

Lilac turned around and a tear fell down her cheeks, seeing this Jedrek approached her hastily and wiped her tears for her.

"What did you see my little flower?" Jedrek asked, even though he could roughly guess what was that. He just hoped for a different answer when he brought her here, but he knew that it was his wishful thinking the moment he found the answer in her eyes.

It was the end that he didn't want to think about, the end that he didn't even want to know.

"You will be all right, I will keep you safe." Jedrek hugged Lilac tightly when he heard another explosion from afar.

"No one can keep me safe, Jedrek," Lilac said, her heart was aching with this raw emotion. "This is the purpose of my life."

"No," Jedrek said firmly. "Your purpose of life is being with me. The moon goddess had given you to me and I will not let anything take you away."

Whether this was a mate bond, or a genuine feeling that he felt for her, Jedrek didn't want to let her go. No, he couldn't lose her.

"But, how?" Lilac whispered.

"If war is what keeps you here, with me, then let this happen forever," Jedrek stated.

### **Chapter 947 - WHY ARE YOU HIDING HERE?**

Lilac widened her eyes in horror when she heard Jedrek's determined statement, she couldn't believe that he could say such a thing.

"No," Lilac said in confusion, as she backed away from him. "How could you say that?"

"Lilac, I don't want to talk about this, trust me and let me handle this," Jedrek talked to her in an impassive tone, he knew this would be her reaction. "You don't have to do anything, just stay with me."

Lilac shook her head vigorously. "Jedrek, do you even understand what you were talking about right now?" her voice was barely a whisper in her shocked state. "You want the war to be prolonged? Do you realize what you were asking for?"

Everything seemed very strange, Jedrek looked like a crazy man when he said that he wanted the war to continue longer than necessary. It shouldn't be like that...

"I know," Jedrek said, he didn't seem ashamed when he admitted that, as if that was the right thing to do in his eyes right now. "You can pretend that you don't know about this." Jedrek walked closer to approach his mate, but Lilac backed away from him, as if she was afraid of the king.

"How can I pretend that I don't know?" Lilac asked grimly, she looked around her and watched the gloomy and dark sky outside.

This strange weather must have something to do with the people's odd behavior. The Jedrek she knew wouldn't say something very egoistic like that, right?

She had been having a bad feeling about the weather ever since they couldn't see the light from the sun and now people were turning more and more weird...

"Let's go back and forget about what the stone showed you." Jedrek then added, "Whatever it showed you, just forget about it, okay?"

Upon hearing his words, Lilac laughed wryly, yet there was no humor in it, and her eyes looked at her mate sharply. "No, Jedrek, you are out of your mind."

"Lilac," Jedrek called her name and it sounded like he was pleading her. "Don't look at me that way."

"How should I look at you then?" Lilac narrowed her eyes and sighed deeply. "You have to stop this craziness Jedrek."

But, then Lilac realized something.

"Did the other Donovans know about this? Were you three in this together?" She asked him in a hard tone.

"Torak, I don't think you can treat Raine like this," Calleb talked to Torak when he left Raine's room and let Jack console her. "Moreover... is what Raine said true?"

Torak shifted his attention from the map on the table to his new Beta. "Just do what I said," he said firmly and didn't leave any space for negotiation. action

Calleb narrowed his eyes. "So, what Raine said is true?"

"She is your Luna!" Torak shouted at him, he looked more frustrated than ever. He didn't want to fight with Raine and couldn't believe that she gave him a very strong reaction, though he should have known it coming.

"Yes, she is my Luna, but she is also your mate, why don't you listen to her?" Calleb tried to fight the urge to lower his head submissively, he needed to make his Alpha understood that he was behaving oddly.

When Torak heard that, he turned around and glared at Calleb that forced him to avert his eyes, as his beast whined in his head.

"You will not question me like this, Beta." Torak made sure to emphasize every word that he said. "Now, you can go and make sure Raine is still inside her room, or else, you don't want to know the consequences."

Calleb murmured, "yes, Alpha." However, he still stood there, as if there was something else that he wanted to say.

"What is it?" Torak asked irritably.

"What about Raphael's son and Rossie?" If Torak went all the way to keep his mate safe, then he wanted to know about the safety of his mate too, what was more, Eddard's safety wasn't something he could take lightly. Eddard was Raphael's precious son, Torak wouldn't let anything happen to them, right?

"They will be safe. There will be someone who will bring them to the safest place and you can meet them there eventually," Torak said. He knew Calleb's concerns and had thought about this thoroughly.

"Okay..." Calleb nodded his head and walked out of the room, but before he got out, he turned around and looked Torak right in his eyes. "Will you really sacrifice those people until you can find a way to save Raine?"

This time, it was Torak, who averted his eyes and looked at the gloomy sky. "Yes," he said firmly. "Until I can find a way to ensure her safety."

Sometimes love could make you do crazy things and desperation only made it worse.

Hope closed her eyes, but the moment she opened them, she was not in the room, where she was with Kace a moment ago.

This place was bright white, as if the walls were painted in white color, or maybe there were no walls in the first place.

"What is this?" Hope was flabbergasted upon finding where she was. "How can this be...?"

The first thought that came to her mind was; she had been teleported, but then she didn't have such power to do so and then she thought about Raine, maybe she teleported them to a different time, but she didn't see Raine even after looking around her.

Instead of Raine, Hope spotted a boy, who buried his face between his knees, while hugging his legs tightly.

The moment her eyes laid upon his lonely figure, she realized that this was not a new place, she had been here before, along with the recognition, came a familiar feeling which flooded her veins.

Hope approached the young man with light steps and crouched down in front of him.

"Hey, are you okay?" Hope nudged his arm to get his attention and when the young man raised his head, Hope smiled brightly. "We meet again," she said in a relieved tone. "What happened now? Why are you hiding here?"

#### **Chapter 948 - I AM SCARED**

The young man looked like he was in his seventeens or eighteens, but no one knew what was his exact age, at least not in this place.

Hope also couldn't tell what was this place actually , she just knew this was the place where she met the younger version of Kace. His subconscious self, the side of him that he wanted to hide from the whole world, where he usually behave very vulnerable. action

It had been very long since the last time something like this had happened, it meant, Kace had been fine until Hope tipped him off about the Donovan's plan to keep the war going up to God knows when.

Of course she didn't want to die, but it didn't mean she was okay with the idea to let everyone else lost theirs. That was something that never crossed her mind at all until Kace slipped his tongue and mentioned it.

"What happened now? Why are you hiding here?" Hope tilted her head, she sat down in this bright white place and crossed her legs. She loved Kace's younger version. No, actually she loved everything about him...

"I am scared..." Kace said, his eyes welled up with tears, and he looked at Hope straight in the eyes.

There was one thing that Hope could say for sure after talking to him here; this version of Kace would always speak the truth.

"What are you scared of?" Hope leaned forward, and she could see the tears that wetted his long eyelashes. How could he have such long lashes that could even make her, his mate envy him?

Kace didn't answer her immediately, he stared at Hope, as a tear fell down his cheek.



"Hey, you can tell me..." Hope stretched out her hand and wiped the tear away for him. "I am here to listen to you. Did the beast make you feel scared again?"

Kace shook his head and hugged his legs even tighter. "No, the beast is less mean to me now. In fact, he is so good."

"So?" Hope raised her eyebrows questioningly. She looked very patient. Despite them looking the same age, Hope usually see Kace as an eight year old boy in this place, because he did look like that during their first encounter in here.

"I am afraid that you will die." Kace said those words in an almost whispery tone and another tear spilled from his eyes, but this time he wiped it away with the back of his hand harshly.

When Kace said those words in his angry state earlier, Hope's reaction was to defend herself, because he was trying to tell her, being all dominant, thus the first thing that Hope did was to resist him.

However, when Kace said it again with that tearful face and soft gaze, Hope's heart melted, as she realized how much fear that he had been put through with the thought of her leaving him alone.

She loved Kace, that went without saying, but for Kace it was more than that. Hope was the meaning of his existence, the essence of his life.

How could he lose her when he had done everything just to be with her?

"Come here," Hope said softly, she opened her arms and waited for Kace to approach her.

Without a second thought, Kace loosened his arms around his own knees before leaning over to hug Hope, he rested his chin on her shoulder and then when he could no longer hold back his tears, he buried his face in the crook of her shoulder and cried.

On the other hand, Hope hugged him even tighter, as if by not doing so would leave Kace falling apart, breaking into pieces.

Her own tears stained her cheeks following the sound of Kace's pitiful sobs...

Kace was afraid and Hope could feel it in every inch of his being...

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Kace watched in horror when Hope's body fell to the floor like a leaf, it was a great thing that he could move very fast to prevent her head from banging to the ground beneath her.

"Hope!" Fear could be seen in his red eyes when he caught her body.

Kace didn't know what was wrong with her. The last thing Hope did was to place her hand on his chest, but the moment she closed her eyes, which Kace assumed to contain her anger, she fell unconscious out of the blue.

"Hope!" Kace brought her body to the bed and tried to mind link Torak. [Come here now!]

Torak stood in front of the door, behind which he kept his angry mate locked. He didn't know how angry she was with him, but the truth was; this was the first time they were having a fight like this.

Torak didn't even have the slightest idea how to make this better or how to let her know about his fear. In spite of the fact that he could understand why she got mad, he was still trying to justify his actions.

It was his own selfish self that wouldn't let anything happen to her, he couldn't bear it and he didn't even want to think about it.

With a heavy sigh, Torak pushed open the door and walked inside the room, the two guards who were guarding her room stole a glimpse at their Alpha. They didn't know that their supreme Alpha Torak, could look so much in trouble because of their Luna.

Yet, they didn't dare let their mind wander off and kept their cold expression intact, even when Torak had closed the door.

Irritating the Alpha at a time like this was akin to courting death and they still wanted to live.

Once inside the room, Torak was greeted with Raine's back, she was staring at the scene behind the big window, just from the tension in her shoulders, Torak could tell that her anger was not any near to receding for the time being.

"Raine," Torak called her name softly. This was inevitable and he couldn't help it. If Raine was indeed very angry at him, then so be it, but there was no way he could avoid her.

"How many people died out there?" Raine asked without turning around. Her voice sounded just like what Torak remembered, soft and gentle, but he knew there was more into it now.

## **Chapter 949 - SPEECHLESS**

Hope hugged the younger version of Kace for God knows how long... she didn't even know for sure how long they had been in that position, as she lost track of time and didn't know what else she could do to alleviate the sadness he was feeling.

Kace didn't even let her go when Hope wanted to free herself, he hugged her even tighter, as if he was afraid his mate would disappear and he wouldn't have any chance to see her again.

"Kace you will not lose me," Hope finally said, she couldn't stay like this any longer. She didn't know what was happening in the real world, the other Kace must be frightened by now if she didn't wake up soon. She knew him all too well to guess that. "I am still here and I will not go anywhere..."

"But, you will die," Kace whimpered. "I don't want you to die. I need you."

"I don't want to die too," Hope replied. "But, we can't let those people die in order to keep me alive. I can't live like that."

"You can pretend that you don't know," Kace retorted. He whimpered again when Hope wanted to let go, but this time, Hope really released herself from his tight hug.

"You know that I can't do that..." Hope frowned and that made Kace lower his head, he felt ashamed of himself for wanting that, but in contrary, he couldn't help it.

"You have to..." he murmured.

Hope cupped his face and lifted his head. "Kace, we will find a way. I don't want to leave you either. You are everything that I want and I cherish you the most. You have been there for as long as my heart can remember. You are part of my life, but you know what you are doing now hurts me. You know this is wrong."

Kace averted his eyes stubbornly. "The beast will not let you go."

"I know," Hope said softly and kissed his forehead. "But, you will."

"How many people died out there?"

That was the question that greeted Torak the moment he stepped his foot inside the room, as if Raine had been expecting his visit.

It was not strange, knowing her power, she would know it.

Torak sighed deeply and walked closer to her, yet Raine avoided him and turned around, giving him a hard glare.

"Answer me, how many people died out there?" she asked the same question again. Her tone was neither harsh nor loud, but it was enough to make Torak stand rooted in his place, not knowing how to handle her.

"My love..." Torak was lost for words about how to let her know what he was feeling right now.

"If you love me, you will not let me be burdened with their lives," Raine said in a hurt tone, pain was palpable in her eyes.

"The burden and sins are mine to bear," Torak replied.

He had done far too many atrocious things in the past for the reasons that he himself was not sure about, but right now, he knew what he wanted and he wanted his mate to live, thus he wouldn't mind doing this sinful act again...

That was what he thought, yet a tiny part of his conscience was still screaming at him that he must stop.

Raine shook her head when she heard that. "Torak..."

However, she couldn't finish her words when she felt something was wrong as her hand immediately clutched her chest.

The uncomfortable expression that Torak saw on Raine, made him strode over to her quickly.

"Raine, what happened?" Deep worry was written all over his face. Right at that time he heard Kace's cry for him to come over.

"Something happened to Hope," Raine said, she could feel it.

Jedrek saw Lilac glaring at him hardly while she tried to avoid him.

"You can't avoid me forever," Jedrek spoke to Lilac in a light tone. He didn't want to argue with her, but this was unavoidable.

"I will stop avoiding you if you stop acting crazy," Lilac retorted. "You know, Jedrek. You can't stop me."

The moment Lilac said that, roots emerged from the ground, breaking through the tiled floor, coiling in her hands like snakes.

Jedrek watched all of this in disbelief. "D\*mn, Lilac!" he cursed out of frustration. "Can't we talk?! Why are you always trying to fight me?!" This scene was way too familiar to him.

The very first thing that Lilac did during their first meeting was to fight him and after that, whenever they were not on the same page, she would do the same exact thing, and now she was doing it again.

Their relationship only showed some improvement recently.

Why did the moon goddess pair him with a stubborn woman like Lilac? It would have been better if he got a more obedient mate, but then again, Jedrek couldn't see himself with someone else except her. Very annoying...

"Because you are out of your mind and I have an urge to knock some sense onto your head!" Lilac yelled at him.

"I don't want to fight you," Jedrek said grimly. "So tone it down."

"Fine, but let's go back to discuss what I have seen with the others and you have to cooperate," Lilac spoke lightly, she didn't put her guard down at all. action

"NO!" Jedrek rejected her idea almost immediately. "There is nothing to be discussed!"

"It means I have to find my own way," Lilac said and walked toward the door, but Jedrek moved faster and blocked her way.

As an answer, Lilac made a slashing move and the root in her hand whipped Jedrek's cheek, causing a cut on his skin.

It was not a deep cut and it healed almost immediately, but Jedrek was speechless with Lilac's brazenness. It had been a long time since she showed this temper to him. What kind of mate did he get himself?

"Lilac!" Jedrek shouted in disbelief. "There are two hundred people out there just to stop you."

"I am their queen!"

"And I am the king!"

"Then act like one!" Lilac was furious.

## **Chapter 950 - HOPE'S DETERMINATION**

For a moment, Raine forgot her pique toward Torak, as they hurriedly walked toward the room where Kace and Hope were staying in.

Through mind-link, Kace told Torak that Hope had fainted all of a sudden and didn't explain further as he was too panicked. He just asked for Torak to come.

On the other hand, Raine could feel that something was wrong with Hope and insisted to come over along with Torak to see Hope's current condition.

In this case, Torak couldn't refuse her. He didn't want to aggravate Raine even more by preventing her from seeing Hope, moreover if Hope lost consciousness all of a sudden, maybe Raine would be able to tell what happened to her, since they both were guardian angels, there must be some connection between them.

Therefore, here they were, already walking through the door to Kace and Hope's room. Even the atmosphere felt tense when they entered, as they could see Sybil standing beside the large bed where Kace sat, cradling Hope in his arms.

From his brother's expression, Torak could see that Sybil was not able to do anything to wake the former's mate up.

"What happened to her?" Raine immediately sat down on the edge of the bed, next to Hope with Torak beside her.

"She fainted all of a sudden," Kace said grimly, his eyes were red, as he clenched his jaw tightly. "I don't know what happened, we were having an argumentation..." his voice became tight when he spoke about it.

And Raine didn't need to ask to know what they were arguing about, she had this gut feeling that it must be the same thing like what Raine and Torak had discussed not too long ago...

"Maybe you have aggravated her too far," Raine said lightly as she held Hope's hand, it was warm and she looked like someone, who just fell asleep, without any indication and whatsoever that she was in pain. "After all, despite being a guardian angel, we are just humans... you know, you enraged her and she couldn't handle it."

Raine didn't know why she said that, but she just wanted Kace to feel bad. It surprised her that she was holding a grudge toward Kace for what he did to Torak a week ago and now she knew that the three brothers were in this together, thus she couldn't help herself from being a little bit snarky with her comments.

"Impossible," Kace murmured, unsure. "She was angry, but I don't think she was feeling under pressure until she fainted."

Kace and Hope were used to having a few quarrels here and there ever since she learned how to talk, therefore he knew a little bit argumentation wouldn't cause her to feel this aggravated, right?

Raine shrugged her shoulders. "A lot of things happened recently. You can't say it for sure. Maybe the pressure is too much for her to handle."

Torak squeezed his mate's shoulder when she said that, indicating for her not to say such a thing, it sounded like she was jinxing herself. "So, what happened to her?" Torak turned his attention toward the witch, who came with Jedrek. He didn't want to hear Raine talking that way, she sounded more like Serefina when she did that.

Sybil shook her head. "Honestly, I don't know what is going on with her, she doesn't look like she was sick or she is under some kind of dark magic or curse."

When Kace heard that, he couldn't help but thinking of the worst. "What if this is the devils doing? Raine fainted at that onetime too, right?" action

Raine stayed silent as she stared at Hope, contemplating.

"It is different, the devil was there when that happened," Torak replied.

"But, Hope could do something to make her conscious again, maybe you can do the same thing to her," Kace said, looking at Raine expectantly.

Raine shook her head. "We have different powers and I can't do something that she could." And otherwise, Hope wouldn't be unable to stop the time like how Raine could. "Has she ever been like this before?"

Kace thought about it for a moment and he remembered something. "Yes," he said. "It was the time when she talked to me." The time when Hope met with his innerself for the first time.

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"I don't want you to die," Kace said softly, his tears streamed down his cheeks again as he sobbed pitifully. "I want you to live."

How could she be angry with him when he was being like this? She could argue with Kace when he was so stubborn to force his own idea, but this time, he showed her his vulnerable state.

"I will live." Hope cupped his face and kissed both of his cheeks. "I will live and we will win the war, so you have to help me."

Kace looked at Hope for a few seconds longer before he shook his head. "No, they said you will die in order for us to win the war."

Hope bit her lips, not really knowing what she could say to him, since she was also not sure about their future, but...

"I have died before in the northern coven realm, Raine had died before, but Torak brought her back to life and Jedrek had killed Lilac too," Hope spoke softly. "And, against all odds, here we are, still breathing and alive."

Kace looked at Hope hardly and she knew she could convince him.

"Don't fret, no matter what's going to happen or how far I go, I will try my best to return to you..." Hope didn't know how she got this kind of belief and where she found those kind of words, but she just believed it.

They would be together.

As if there was someone that guided her, and as if she had done this before, Hope stood up. She knew what she had to do.

"Please, I want you to go back," Hope said, as she looked around her.

"Will you come back with me?" Kace stood up as well.

"Not now, there is something that I have to do first," she said.