

TLOA Lycan 961

Chapter 961 - I WANT TO BE WITH MY MATE

"What is that?" Bree's whisper-screamed at no one in particular, since she was too shocked to hear the sudden commotion.

"They are here," Lord Bayle said, a smirk appeared at the corner of his lips and his dull eyes shone brightly in this dimly lit room. "Finally, they are here!" If it was not because that he was too weak in this old body of his, Lord Bayle would jump and fist the air in thrill.

He looked like someone, who had lost his mind just because of a sudden burst of excitement.

Bree's eyebrows shot up and she found herself staring at the dragon lord behind standing the bars, not able to understand what he said, but whatever he meant didn't sound really good for her. She could clearly see that in his vicious smile.

"What do you mean by that?" Bree asked, but she heard someone calling her name, Rossie. From the sound of it, it seemed something important had happened.

"You all will be doomed now," Lord Bayle chuckled in an eerie tone, coupled with his appearance now, he looked utterly creepy.

Therefore, Bree didn't want to stay with this old man any longer as she felt an sudden urge to be with Rossie, all of her strange curiosity toward this dragon lord disappeared completely, but before she could leave that place, Lord Bayle stopped her by saying something that she couldn't discern well.

"You know little girl, our kind can recognize one another, stay here and maybe we can figure out, who you actually are," Lord Bayle said, he didn't laugh anymore, but tilted his head, staring at Bree with interest.

However, Bree didn't heed his offer and chose to leave that dungeon.

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Torak and Jedrek looked under the weather and dark when they entered the room, where many Alphas had been waiting for them with Kace sitting as the head of the table, leading the meeting.

"We can't send our people there," Alpha Ralph spoke in disagreement. "We need more people here."

That was what Torak and Jedrek heard the moment they entered the room and it seemed half of the people in this room, didn't agree with whatever idea that Kace had thrown on to the table.

Jedrek narrowed his eyes and nodded slightly when the other Alphas greeted him and Torak, before the two of them proceeded to sit down on the chairs beside Kace's.

"No, actually there is a way to end this war." Kace's voice was neither loud nor strict, but it was enough to make the other Alphas and the dragon lords, Theseus and Stephan, hold back their tongues and listen to him.

Not only them, even Jedrek and Torak looked at their brother sharply. He wouldn't dare say it in front of all these people, right?

After all, it was the life of his mate that was on stake if he indeed decided to reveal what they knew about how to end this war.

Moreover, no one could say that method would succeed, though Lilac had said it that was the most necessary thing to do, but they just didn't want to believe it.

How could they stand by and watch their mates die? That idea didn't settle well with them and they didn't even want to start thinking about it.

They just don't want to.

However, Kace proved that their suspicion was right when he spoke the next words.

"We know how to end this and this is the plan that we will talk about now," Kace said firmly, his voice laced with determination, he didn't even falter under the hard gazes that Jedrek and Torak giving to him.

Since when did his younger brother turn like this? Wasn't it him, who was always avoiding any chance to take the lead or speak directly like this? Didn't he know the consequences of his words?

"Kace!" Torak opened his mouth to prevent him from talking any further.

On the other hand, Jedrek shifted his attention to the other people inside the room before he spoke grimly. "Leave us now."

Lyrus and Calleb looked at each other, as they knew the truth along with what Kace wanted to say. However, they couldn't ignore their Alpha's order.

Yet, the two of them remained standing there and didn't even move an inch, even when all the people went out of the room.

"What are you waiting for?" Torak glared at Calleb and Lyrus. "Don't you hear our command to leave the room?" he narrowed his eyes.

However, Calleb sighed and looked at Kace instead, as if waiting for his approval to leave the room and this kind of gesture only irritated the Alpha further.

"Are you taking Kace's orders now?" Torak said in a deep voice, he was not in his right mind and mood at the moment, thus Calleb's defiance only piqued him.

"Torak, you know that is not what I mean," Calleb said, he didn't know what the right thing to say or how to calm Torak down, because that was something what Raphael could do, just like he always did in the past. Therefore, the only thing that he could do now, was to tell him what was inside his head.

"Then leave the room," Torak said through gritted teeth.

"Torak, you promised me the safety of my mate, not only my mate, there is Raphael's son also there." He could see Torak's clenched jaw tighten further. "With you being like this had made things turn even worse than they already were, and if you still refuse to make a different plan, I don't think Raine and Lilac will ever forgive the two of you even if you can keep them alive."

"Shut up!" Jedrek roared. He knew what Calleb said was right, that was why he was angry because he said it out loud. It only made them feel worse. He knew Lilac wouldn't forgive him if he continued his craziness.

Jedrek realized, so did Torak...

"Alpha, I am truly apologetic." Calleb slightly bowed his head. "But, if you keep doing things like this, I think you will understand my decision. Just like you, I too want to be with my mate."

Chapter 962 - THEY ARE COMING

Hurting their mate could considerably weaken a lycan, which was one of the reasons why it could be considered the fastest way to destroy a shifter and make him unable to fight

This way, they wouldn't function properly as they would be feeling devastated when the mate bond was torn apart. It would affect them and their beast greatly.

Torak watched with dark expression when Calleb and Lyrus walked out of the room, leaving the three Donovans inside to discuss this matter among themselves.

"Were you aware of the consequences?" Jedrek turned around to face Kace, his blue eyes had flickered into the color of red when he did that and there wasn't anyone more terrifying than an angry lycan.

However, Kace didn't budge.

A normal lycan would be trembling under Jedrek's vicious gaze which was directed at him, but Kace was one of the Donovans, though he was not an Alpha or King, blood was thicker than water. He was still one of them.

"Were you even aware of what we have been doing these past two weeks?" Kace looked at his brother straight in his eyes. "Sacrificing our own people!"

"To keep our mates alive!" Jedrek roared again. He refused to acknowledge his wrong doings. Even if it was wrong and he knew it. This was the only way he knew that could keep his mate alive.

Jedrek didn't care if he had to kill all of his people just to keep Lilac beside him, even if she resented him or harbored a grudge.

He could think about it later.

This was not the first time he did something out of his character for Lilac. Before, he was even willing to kneel down in front of the centaurs and devils, laid his pride to be trampled upon by them as he humbly lowered his head before his enemies, thus when he didn't even care about his pride, what else wouldn't he be willing to give up just to keep her alive?

Jedrek wouldn't agree with whatever nonsense that Kace wanted to say. He didn't want to hear him say anything that could change his mind.

"There will be a time when we can no longer sacrifice someone again, and what will we do when that time came?" Kace glared at Jedrek. "Watch those devils kill our mates right before our eyes?!"

It was a fact, if they didn't have any people to sacrifice anymore and it was too late for them to retaliate against those devils, as they didn't have forces that were needed to fight alongside with them. What would they do?

Even if they begged the devils to let their mates to be left alone and kill them instead, who could guarantee a promise from the devils?

It was bound to happen now or later, if they left the situation like this.

They would lose the guardian angels either way...

But, the difference was; whether they fought for it and won the war, or let it happen and lose the war eventually...

"The moon goddess had resurrected them when they went extinct," Kace said, he tried to make his point across. This was the same logic that Hope told him, Lilac would also say the same if she was given a chance to say it during her argumentation with Jedrek. "She can do it again this time, right?"

Kace looked at Jedrek and then Torak, who had not yet said a word since their people left them alone inside the room.

"Even if I have to wait for a few more centuries, I will do it," Kace said firmly. "But, if we lose this war, not even a million years of waiting could guarantee us a hope, to be with our mates again."

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"Bree! Where have you been?!" Rossie hugged baby Eddard when she finally found Bree near the door of the dungeon. "Don't tell me you went there again!"

Rossie was in panic and it was apparent from the way she reprimanded the little girl, but Bree didn't answer her question, though she was sure Rossie must have known that her accusation was right all along.

"What happened out there?" Bree asked, she looked around and didn't find any lycan warriors who were meant to guard the dungeon there.

It wasn't like this place was heavily guarded, because if that was the case, then Bree wouldn't be able to sneak inside.

"The vampires," Rossie breathed those two words, as her face paled. "They are coming here and the lycan warriors are trying to fend them off."

For now, those vampires must be around fifteen minutes away from this building, but given the fact that they lack people and those vampires came at full force, it would be only a matter of time before they could reach this place and slaughter them all.

"How could they find this place?" Rossie murmured and then flinched when she heard roars and snarls from afar.

Meanwhile, Bree glanced at the door of the dungeon...

It must be one of his plans...

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Raine followed her parents into the park and watched how her younger version laughed when they played carousel.

She didn't remember this moment, but she knew that it was real, as real as it could be, because when Raine approached her mother, the woman smiled at her before she went away to give the sausage in her hand to her daughter.

Raine was lost for words at that time... she wanted to tell the woman that she was her daughter, but it would be ridiculous...

However, Raine's attention was distracted when she heard her younger version was crying while staring at something behind her father's back in fear.

The couple tried to calm the baby down, but her cries only became louder. Now, the mother was panicking while the father was trying to find the reason behind his daughter's sudden crying, yet he failed to find it.

On the other hand, Raine knew what actually made the baby cry, because she could also see it.

Not too far from them, she watched as a Kanima approached the couple, tilting his head, curious about how the baby was able to see him in his beast's form.

Chapter 963 - THE END OF THE DARK TUNNEL

Raine stared with widened eyes, as the kanima moved closer and the cries from the baby became louder.

"No," Raine whispered in fear. What would happen to her? The kanima wouldn't attack her, right? Because, if something happened to her in the past, there was no way she would be able to live now.

But then, what would happen now? What did the Kanima want to do?

Out of instinct, Raine moved forward to prevent the worse from happening.

However, before she could walk any further, someone had already walked past her and approached the little girl with a blue cotton candy in his hand.

Raine just caught a glimpse of his broad back, as he wore grey jacket and walked straight to the crying little girl.

He talked something to Raine's father and mother, and somehow whatever he said, made both of them laugh.

Afterward, that man stretched out his hand to the little girl after he gave the blue cotton candy. Shyly, Raine's younger version stretched out her hands and hugged his neck when she was being carried by him.

That was the time when Raine looked at her younger self, their eyes met and Raine felt a rush of emotions that she couldn't explain. What were they...

It seemed, seeing yourself this way was not an occasion that would happen every day, that was why she didn't know how to react when the girl waved her hand at her.

However, the part that made Raine even more stunned was when the man turned around slightly and revealed his face.

Raine gasped loudly and her hand flew to cover her mouth, preventing her from saying his name out loud.

Aeon!

It was Aeon!

Impossible!

Raine was flabbergasted when she realized this. She knew that Aeon had been protecting her since she was young.

But, she didn't know that he had been protecting her since such a young age. How old was she now? Two years old? Maybe, not even two years old?

Raine's attention then shifted to the Kanima and watched how the Kanima was strangled by his own shadow and then turned into a dark smoke when it died.

Only then did Aeon return the baby in his arms and waved them goodbye, as he walked away.

Raine followed the shadow warrior with her eyes and watched him disappear when no one noticed him. action

It seemed he wasn't even aware that Raine was watching them since Aeon's attention was solely on her younger version.

For how long had he been doing this? And what else had he done for her?

Serefina opened her eyes and watched the white ceiling above her, before Lidya's voice greeted her ears.

"You have been out for days," Lidya said from beside her bed. "I thought you are dead, I was just thinking of burying you." She shrugged her shoulders when Serefina threw her a glare.

"Where is Nutdrouk?" She ignored her question.

Lidya didn't answer her, but she glanced at something behind her shoulder, indicating for Serefina to see it herself.

On the other bed inside the room, was the dwarf, with closely shut eyes as if he was sleeping. His breathing was even, though there was a small frown between his thick eyebrows.

"He is still like that." Lidya stared at the dwarf, contemplating. "Do you think Hope will let him go easily? She was still holding a grudge toward him from their last encounter."

Knowing what happened the last time they met and what the dwarf had forced her to do, Hope wouldn't go easy on him, right?

"No," Serefina said firmly. "Hope will not do anything to him," she stated.

But, Lidya frowned upon hearing that statement. "How do you know? I will vent out my anger on him if I were Hope."

"Because Hope is not you," Serefina said matter of factly, moreover, she had known the girl since she was born, seeing how she grew up until now.

In spite of the fact, Hope was a little bit reckless and stubborn, the girl wouldn't hold a grudge on someone just because of that. Maybe that was the trait of guardian angels, but it could be her true character too.

"Well..." Lidya rolled her eyes dramatically when she heard that. "That is obvious."

Serefina then walked to the other side of the room and stood beside Nutdrouk's bed. The witch stared down at the dwarf.

"How is Sterling?" Serefina asked.

"Barely alive," Lidya replied truthfully. If it was not because of the potion that Serefina had given to her, he would have died by now. "The pain of losing one's mate is really terrifying..."

Ethan and Calleb managed to survive after their beast's were silenced, because they didn't go through what Sterling had to experience then.

However, if something happened to Rossie at that time, maybe Calleb would also be in the same condition right now.

"Hm," Serefina nodded, acknowledging the information. "Guard this place and wait for my signal."

Lidya sighed. "Do you have to do this?" she couldn't understand, why Serefina had to make everything complicated for herself. "If you want to help them, you can tell them. Why do you make them misunderstand you and put yourself in more danger being with the devils?"

Serefina scoffed and looked at her old friend.

Lidya was the only close friend that she had, both witches had gone through many things together and she could understand her just like how Kace did.

However, Serefina chose to play this dangerous game.

"Is it worth it?" Lidya asked, frowning. Of course she didn't know exactly what was inside Serefina's mind or how she could escape from all of this unscathed, but again the other witch was really unpredictable, even for her.

"This is worth it," Serefina said firmly.

Since she had chosen to walk this path then she would walk it until the end.

It wouldn't take long now, since she had already seen the end of the dark tunnel that she had walked in.

It just depended on the guardian angels.

Chapter 964 - WHY HE DIDN'T COME?

When the two witches were busy contemplating about the situation that they had to face and were deep in their own thoughts, Nutdrouk groaned and opened his eyes.

He blinked his big eyes and looked around him, before he rasped. "I am back, now?" his eyes then met Serefina's and the scrunch between his eyebrows deepened. "Ugh! I don't want to see you the moment I open my eyes."

Ignoring the dwarf's complaint, Serefina asked him immediately. "How is it?"

"How long have I been out?" he tried to sit down and shake his head to clear his mind. What he had experienced was simply like a dream and if he didn't collect his scattered memories, he was afraid he would forget an important detail and taste Serefina's wrath.

"Days," Lidya said simply. "I didn't count. It can be a week or more." She shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly and received a glare from Nutdrouk. "I have been busy taking care the two of you and Sterling, you know." She felt defensive when she was rewarded with the dwarf's expression.

"Cut it out." Serefina intervened. "How is it?"

This time, Nutdrouk shifted his attention toward Serefina, grumbling like usual, but he told the two of them everything that had happened in the realm, where Hope had brought him in.

As Serefina possessed the same power like Raine, it was possible for her to predict this and Nutdrouk had been told beforehand.

The three Donovans were still inside the room, but the silence that engulfed them since half an hour ago, hadn't yet dissipated.

Torak and Jedrek were still struggling to accept the fact that Kace told them and were having a hard time to process how they could let their own mates walk toward their fate in order to stop the war.

There were a thousand 'what ifs' roaming inside their heads.

What if the moon goddess didn't bring them back and they had to lose them forever? The thought of it alone was very hard to bear, not to mention they had to plan all of this out.

It was akin to preparing their own funeral and this fact made them gloomier even more.

On the other hand, Kace didn't say a word after his enlightening speech, he knew that his other two brothers needed some time to discern this fact, they couldn't possibly agree right away with his idea and that was understandable.

Kace himself was quite surprised that he accepted Hope's idea quite easily, though there was still this little fear in his heart, but he didn't let it bloom into something that would trouble them in the future.

Right at the time Kace thought they would spend the entire day and night here, not talking to each other, Lyrus came into the room after slamming the door really hard.

The sound of it made three pairs of dark eyes to be directed at him, yet the lycan didn't startle because there was something more important that he had to tell them.

"The situation out there is not good," Lyrus said, his eyes flickered with fear and panic. action

"The situation has never been good for a long time," Jedrek replied, narrowing his eyes to see the urgency in his Beta's eyes.

"No, but this is worse." Lyrus shook his head and clenched his jaw.

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Whatever happening before her eyes felt like a movie, as if she was watching herself through the years, but somehow she didn't feel bored or tired of it, even after roaming here for years, she even felt like it only lasted for a blink of an eye.

Just like what Sereфина told her that time was indeed a manipulative essence of our life. Often, it might feel so short, but at the same time it could move so fast too.

However now, Raine didn't feel the time moving too fast or too slow, since she just stood there, at the side and observed how her parents loved her.

Raine watched herself through every birthday party that her mother would throw for her and how her father would pick her up when he just got home from a long tired day of working and how her mother would cook cookies that she loved.

It was incredible and for some reason, her life with Torak was slowly forgotten, as if that life had never existed before. That life with Torak now felt like a dream...

How could she experience the life in the mental hospital when all she watched now was her being surrounded with love.

Safe and sound.

No, it was not exactly safe for Raine, since she would encounter one or two creatures. However, there would be Aeon, who protected her from the dark.

The shadow warrior made sure Raine was safe and no creatures could harm her.

Raine watched all of that...

But, during that time, Aeon would act like he didn't see her, or maybe he indeed didn't see her... Raine was not sure about that.

She tried to approach him, but he would disappear into the shadows before Raine could touch him...

And then came this day...

The day when Raine got attacked by those two creatures, the day when she lost both of her parents, the day when everything turned down hill in her life...

Raine watched with wide eyes when the two creatures slipped into her house.

Right now, her parents were in the living room, talking to each other about their daughter birthday party that would be held two days from now.

Raine felt her body stiffen when the two creatures walked into the kitchen without her parents knowing it.

She could do something, right?

Raine tried to be strategic about what she could do to fight them. She looked around her, searching for the shadow warrior that would always come to help her. Find authorized novels in , faster updates, better experience, Please click #t-come_51300993765276496 for visiting.

And then, a sudden revelation hit her hard.

If Aeon always helped her through the years and kept her safe, where was he the night when all of this was happening? Why didn't he come?

Chapter 965 - THE FUTURE CHANGED

Raine felt frustration crept into her heart when she noticed that the two creatures had caught sight of her parents, who were sitting in the living room.

As if there was a tacit understanding between them, they started to walk toward them.

Seeing this, Raine couldn't help but remember every bloody detail that she witnessed when she found her parents lying dead in their own house ten years ago.

Everything came into her mind like a broken dam. Her fear, her despair, her hopelessness...

"NO!" Raine rushed toward the two creatures. "MOM! DAD! GET OUT FROM HERE!"

However, before Raine could reach them, she felt the familiar feeling that she always felt whenever this thing happened.

The time was stopped.

The whisper of the wind and the rattle of branches that always knocked on the window, stopped. As though the whole world stopped moving, everything became still, filled with an eerie silence that sent shivers down to Raine's spine.

Realizing this sudden change, Raine stopped running and stood only two meters away from the two creatures that were about to kill her parents.

The time was indeed stopped.

But, whose doing was this? Raine didn't think it was her doing, if it was her she would know it...

"Hi, Raine..."

A voice greeted her, a very familiar voice for that matter, but somehow she didn't want to hear it, especially not at a time like this.

Raine straightened her back and turned around to face the devil.

"Sloth," Raine said his name with venom on the tip of her tongue.

"Thank you for remembering my title," Belphegor chuckled when he watched how tense the guardian angel before his eyes seemed.

"How can you be here?" Raine asked through gritted teeth, she watched as the devil emerged from the shadows before walking toward the sofa where her parents were sitting. He was standing too close to them for her liking.

"The same way, how you can be here," he replied, shrugging his shoulders and staring at Raine with a lazy smile at the corner of his lips.

Raine then remembered what Lilac had told her about Serefina helping the devils to get the same power like them.

So, what was this?

Was this Serefina's scheme against her? The witch brought her here to watch all of this again and let the devil to be included too?

Did she fall into one of her traps?

Raine was confused. She still couldn't confirm whether Serefina was on their side or not. It was her sentimental feeling toward the witch that made Raine let her do what she wanted to do.

Raine thought that Serefina helped her. Did she over thought things?

However, seeing the Sloth here, she was not sure if her judgment was right.

Serefina... what do you want?

"What do you want?" Raine asked grimly. She didn't think she want to hear the Sloth's answer, but she definitely couldn't leave this matter slide without hearing what he had to say.

Belphegor shrugged his shoulders and shifted his attention toward Raine's mother, he stretched out his hand and touched a strand of her mother's hair.

"Don't touch her!" Raine roared, she took two steps closer, was about to pounce onto him if he didn't stop touching her parents.

Fortunately, the Sloth was not in the mood to aggravate Rainer any further, thus he retracted his hand.

"Why are you riling up so much?" Belphegor stared at Raine innocently. "You are aware that they will not be left alive after five minutes from now." He then directed his golden eyes at the two creatures.

Raine knew what he was trying to say. Tonight, both of her parents would be killed. action

However, it felt ridiculous for Raine. She was there and knew what happened, of course she could do something to prevent it, right?

"Are you thinking that you can kill the two creatures while the time is stopped?" Belphegor tilted his head, saying what exactly were Raine's thoughts right now out loud.

"I will kill them and you," Raine said sternly. She balled her hands into fists beside her body, as she felt the rush of anger scouring through her veins.

She really wanted to kill those who had hurt her and her family.

"You can kill them, but definitely you can't kill me." Belphegor nodded to his own statement. "But, everything will change."

Raine had heard those same words from Serefina before, but her anger clouded her mind, she didn't care what would change, what was important was now.

"Will you kill them? Knowing the future will change?" Belphegor asked, as he watched Raine rummaging through the kitchen looking for something.

This was her home, absolutely, even after years of not seeing or roaming around it, Raine could still remember everything clearly.

Therefore, she crouched down and opened the cupboard. Her father had a big blade, a gift from his friend, but her mother didn't want it to be displayed, thus she kept that thing in this cupboard.

Raine knew it because she saw it when her father checked on the big blade.

The moment she opened the cupboard, Raine could see it and without a second thought she grabbed it and rushed toward the two creatures.

Raine could feel her sudden adrenaline rush was making her head ache slightly and her heart thumped wildly against her ribcage, but she didn't want to think or consider the consequences of her actions for changing the past.

Serefina's words had been long forgotten, including her life with Torak... it was like a dream... it was not real.

The real thing now was what she was seeing. And Raine didn't want to lose her parents twice neither did she want to live the life after she lost them again.

That was too much...

The life in the hospital...

The life in the orphanage...

Those creatures...

No. She didn't want to live through those memories again.

"Kill them and get what you want... this is the life that you want, right?" Belphegor said. He watched the angry guardian angel slashing the big blade in her hand and kill the two creatures before they could kill her family. "Very good... now you feel better, right? Everything will be all right now."

Chapter 966 - THEY ARE AWAKE

Hope opened her eyes and found Ethan beside her. He was sitting next to her bed on a chair, with his head hanging low.

But, when he caught a small movement from Hope, he raised his head as his eyes widened in disbelief.

"Hope!" he exclaimed. He moved to sit down on the edge of her bed and watched her blinking her eyes sleepily. "Finally you are awake! I thought I will never get to talk with you again."

Hope tried to sit down and Ethan immediately helped her.

"How long have I been passed out?" Hope leaned her back against the pillows that Ethan arranged for her and observed her surroundings. She recognized this place. This was her room with Kace. "Where is Kace?"

"You have been passed out for almost two weeks," Ethan answered in a concerned tone. "How are you feeling now?" he asked again and stood up before walking to the table and poured a glass of water.

"I am fine," Hope said in a slightly hoarse voice as she received the glass of water that Ethan gave to her. "Where is Kace?" she asked the same question again. "Why is he not here?"

Hope thought the first person that she would see the moment she opened her eyes was her mate. Kace wouldn't leave her if it was not something very important, right?

But to think that some important issue came up at a moment like this, was a little bit scary, it wouldn't be a good news after all.

Ethan sighed deeply and sat down again on the bed. From his expression, it was clear to see that he was reluctant to tell Hope, especially when she just woke up from her coma state. "Take care of yourself first..."

Hope narrowed her eyes upon hearing that answer. Her guts told her that something was wrong. "Tell me now," she said. Hope didn't ask, but demanded an answer from Ethan. "Where is he? What is happening?"

Ethan tried to avoid Hope's eyes, but he couldn't keep this as a secret. Not even for a second longer.

"Kace and the other two Donovans went to the battlefield yesterday." Ethan finally admitted to her, and as expected, he could see a strong reaction from Hope.

"But, why? What happened?" Hope straightened her back immediately. If Kace chose to leave her here while Jedrek and Torak also agreed to join him, it meant something really, really bad had happened.

"The devils..." action

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"...the devils resurrected all the dead shifters that were killed in the battle and now they became their army along with the dark creatures from hell," Sebastian told Lilac, his voice and his expression turned dark when he let her know what exactly happened while she was unconscious.

"D*mn those devils!" Lilac cursed loudly and this startled the general.

Hearing Jedrek curse someone was something that he was used to hear after centuries of being with him, but to hear it from Lilac, it gave a different affect.

She looked fierce and bold.

Sebastian should have realized it since the moment Lilac made a grand entrance while demanding a meeting with Jedrek right after stepping foot in the King's castle, that this guardian angel was anything but weak.

However, the rumor about the guardian angels being weak that had been engraved in their minds had clouded his judgment and made him underestimate his own queen.

"Yes, that's why the King is not here. They went to the battlefield yesterday." Jedrek left him here to take care of Lilac and took Lyrus and Theo instead with him along with the other lycanthropes.

"What else?" Lilac glared daggers at Sebastian and he could feel a sudden urge to bow his head, under such a fierce gaze.

Even though Lilac was not angry at him particularly, but she was definitely livid right now, therefore for the sake of his own safety and before the queen decided to strangle him with her roots, he spoke the truth. All of it...

About the battlefield, the humans that committed genocide to kill all of the creatures that were of non-human existence without knowing that the real threat was something beyond their imagination.

At this point, the number of the shifters had decreased rapidly because they had to fight the devils, the humans and the vampires at the same time.

"We are facing problems in dividing our people to protect the four spots..." Sebastian told her again and went into details without Lilac having to ask him first.

They had to defend four locations all in all, which were shelters for the shifters who weren't fighting, such as; women, elders and children.

And now they didn't have enough people for that anymore.

The Donovans finally took this matter seriously, but Sebastian felt like it was too late for them to get back up, after seeing their situation turn like this.

Even when they stepped into the battlefield themselves while the dead shifters being resurrected continued, it didn't help a lot and they still had to think about what they had to do next to stop those creepy creatures from coming back alive.

"The sanctuary in the dragon shifter's castle have been surrounded for two days and it is only a matter of time before those vampires decided to breakthrough their final defense and slaughter them all." Sebastian gritted his teeth.

The sanctuary in the dragon shifter's castle was the place where they stayed before they were teleported to Rieka.

"Impossible..." Lilac murmured and shook her head in disbelief, the situation escalated faster than what she anticipated.

After Sebastian told her everything, there was a moment of silence before Lilac threw away the blanket that wrapped her body and tried to stand up.

However, because she had been laying down for so long, her legs gave up on her and she was about to fall down.

Seeing how Lilac was not stable, Sebastian immediately stretched out his hand and helped her to steady herself.

"Where are you going? I think you need to take some rest..." he suggested, after she regained her footing.

"No, this is not the time to rest. I have to go," Lilac said stubbornly.

She was sure that Hope should be awake right now, but she was not sure about Raine...

Chapter 967 - DARKER

"Raine is in her room," Ethan said. "She is with Calleb."

"I will go and see her," Hope murmured and tried to steady herself, but Ethan still held her elbow, just in case she would fall down again.

"Hope, I think you need to take some rest first, maybe I can ask someone to bring you food and after you eat, you can go and see Raine." Ethan suggested. Hope looked so pale and he was worried about her.

No, there were a lot of things that he was worried about; his father, who was still unconscious, based on what the dwarf told him and then his sister, Rossie was in danger again and he could do nothing.

The sanctuary was under siege. The vampires and the spell-casters could break through anytime, Calleb knew about this too, but the situation right now was simply a mess. action

They couldn't go there because those northern coven spell-castes had casted spells around the sanctuary that assured no magic could penetrate it. It meant, they couldn't teleport there and the people inside the dragon lord's castle couldn't get out from there by using magic.

It got the Beta frustrated and Ethan was not any less depressed than him. He wanted so badly to go to his sister and protect her, but with his current condition, where he lost his beast, what help could he provide? Calleb also felt the same...

Even after realizing this, the two of them still wanted to go... if only they could.

"No, I will see Raine now," Hope said with determination, as she staggered to the door. She was not worried about Lilac, because she knew that the other guardian angel would be awake by now, just like her, but Raine was different.

Hope couldn't reach her even when she was in her own realm. She just couldn't find her soul and that left her worried even after Nutdrouk explained it.

She hoped Raine could pass whatever she had to face now and wake up when she reached her room.

=====

Caleb grabbed his hair in frustration, his breath ragged with fear and anger. He felt like he wanted to smash something to vent out this feeling, but at the same time he knew it wouldn't help at all.

All he wanted was to be with Rossie. He wanted to talk to her. However, there was nothing he could do to reach her.

Even after he got a green light from Torak and was allowed to go with two hundred people under his command, that d*mned spell had been preventing him to do so.

The spell was very strong until Sybil and Belinda couldn't break through it, let alone bringing him and two hundred people with them.

Caleb felt useless.

His body kept shaking and he couldn't think properly, only when Belinda touched his shoulder did he realize that there was someone else inside the room with him. Were his senses also deteriorated? That rendered him unable to feel her presence? Or maybe because his mind was too clouded until he couldn't think about his surroundings?

Whatever it was, Caleb felt slightly better when Belinda offered him a glass of cold water.

"We will find a way to get to Rossie," Belinda said, as her eyes fell on Raine, who was still sleeping and didn't show any sign that she would wake up soon. "We will find a way," she repeated in a low voice, but Caleb didn't say anything.

Caleb just nodded and then stared at the empty glass in his hand. He hoped a miracle would happen and he could get away from this place to be with Rossie right now.

And when silence befell inside the room, someone opened the door and walked in.

Caleb recognized this scent, it was Lilac and Sebastian. He turned around to see the guardian angel entering the room with the general.

"You are awake?" Caleb was surprised and so did Belinda.

Their eyes immediately reverted back to Raine and stared at her sleeping face for a few seconds longer, as if they were expecting for Raine to wake up too. However, it didn't happen.

"I guess she is still unconscious," Lilac said in a murmuring voice, as she approached the bed and sat down on the edge of it.

Caleb stood up and approached Lilac. "How are you awake? How is she?"

But, before Lilac could answer his questions, Hope entered the room, with Ethan following closely behind her. As though she already knew, the first statement that she said was;

"She is still not coming back." Hope sat down beside Lilac and eyed Raine with a deep frown and this small expression didn't escape Lilac's eyes.

"What is it?" Lilac could feel another trouble coming at them.

"The dark aura..." Hope said in a small voice. She could see the dark aura around Raine darkening even further than the last time she saw her...

=====

Raine opened her eyes when the bright sunlight hit her face and a familiar voice caressed her ears.

"Wake up honey, you will be late for school."

"Hm?" Raine rubbed her eyes and caught the sight of her mother. She was stunned. "Mom?"

How could this be possible?! The last thing she remembered was killing the two creatures that were about to kill her parents and her encounter with Belphegor.

But, what now? Her mother was talking to her? And... she was in her bed.

All this time, she had only looked at her younger version from the sidelines, but now her mother looked at her right in her eyes...

"Why are you brooding like that?" her mother approached her and sat down on the edge of the bed, tucking a strand of her daughter's hair behind her ears. "Are you excited for tomorrow?" she asked.

"Tomorrow?" Raine asked carefully. She still couldn't grasp anything about the situation she was facing right now. "What will happen tomorrow?"

Her mother laughed again and the sound rang like a bell in her ears. "Do you forget about your birthday? You will turn nine tomorrow. We are having a party for you sweetie."

Chapter 968 - BRING BACK THEIR INNER BEAST

"A party?" Raine felt her mind was running very slow upon hearing this information. She couldn't believe it. How could she believe it?

Without a second thought, Raine jumped down from her bed and rushed toward the mirror inside her bedroom. It was a mirror that was as tall as her.

She stood there and watched her reflection with ragged breath and her heart thumped wildly against her ribcage, as if it would burst in the next second.

How could this happen?!

Raine looked at herself in the mirror. Her figure when she was eight years old.

If tomorrow was her birthday, then today was the day after that attack, the first day that turned her life upside down the day after her parents were killed.

But, no!

They were alive!

"Honey, what happened?" Her mother approached her and bent her body to look at her daughter's pale face. "You are pale? Are you sick?" she asked in concern.

The concern in her voice and the face that Raine thought had forgotten were right in front of her. Raine could even smell a tinge of cinnamon from her. The sweet smell that belonged to her mother, a small thing that she thought she had forgotten.

"Mom..." Raine called her mother in a very small voice. Her chest caved in with many unexplainable emotions that ran through her heart and mind.

"What happened, honey? Is something wrong?" her mother hugged her small body when Raine started sobbing before clutching her shirt hard. She didn't want to let go.

Of course, she didn't want to let go of this moment, she didn't want to go back to the endless fight and war.

Raine wanted to stay here with her family...

"Why are you crying, honey?" her mother patted her back and kissed her cheek softly.

Her body was warm and it made Raine feel at peace, but it couldn't stop her from crying because only now did she realize how much she missed her mother...

=====

Alpha Alec from Torak's pack, crushed the glass in his hand and the sharp shards penetrated his skin, dripping his blood to the floor, but he didn't feel the pain because even before the last drop of his blood could leave it, the wound had closed.

The Alpha's red eyes stared at the camps outside the high wall of this castle, where they were trapped inside without having the ability to fight against the dark magic.

Hell! They wouldn't be able to hold down their fort if those blood suckers decided to attack!

They didn't have enough numbers here and if the magic that prevented them to teleport to a different place was still in place, it meant no one could send a back up either.

"But, what are those vampires and spell-casters waiting for?!" Alpha Alec asked his Beta, Lark, who was standing beside him to see their enemies.

The perimeter that they built wouldn't hold them forever. It was only a matter of time before the worse would be happening...

"I don't know..." Lark shook his head. He didn't understand why they didn't attack when the victory was before their eyes to grab. "It seems they were waiting for a command." action

"Command from who?!" Alpha Alec would fight them to death without a doubt, but his concern was on the women and children that were sheltered in this place.

Not only that, he couldn't stop thinking about his mate and his daughter too. It was fortunate enough that they didn't come here with him and stayed back in their territory.

At least, they could hide inside the bunker of their house.

Ariana and Arabella... They should be fine...

"Dmtri," Alpha Alec hissed his name viciously. It must be him. There was no other vampire that was capable enough to mobilize these many troops.

=====

Three white lycans stood in the middle of the carcasses, scattered on the ground beneath their feet, as blood trickled down from their white fur.

However, the moment they felt something moving on the ground, they immediately leapt high and landed a few meters away from the spot where those dead bodies started to come alive once again.

This battle wouldn't end.

Those dead creatures couldn't be destroyed and the worst part was; the moment their people died, it meant it would only add more people to the devils' death armies.

[Jedrek, this will not do.] Kace mind- linked Jedrek beside him grimly, while Torak continued fighting before crushing the first dead creature that approached them along with two other lycan warriors. [We have to back down.]

If they lost more men, they would only provide more people to their enemy. And it seemed the whole city had turned into these despicable creatures, human or not.

Jedrek scoured his surroundings, they had been too far from their camps and went too deep, to the heart of the battlefield, where the craters were, but it seemed this was as far as they could reach.

It weren't possible to penetrate further than this. Moreover, even if they found the craters, what could they do? They didn't have the ability to close them and send those devils' minions back to hell.

Closing his eyes, the white lycan raised his head to look up at the dark sky and howled, calling for the others beast. [Retreat!] he said through the mind- link.

=====

"... it became darker..." Hope said in a small voice.

The room fell into silence, as no one spoke after what Hope said.

Even though Calleb, Ethan and Belinda could not quite understand anything about whatever Hope stated, but they didn't dare to break this solemn atmosphere.

All of them stayed like that for a few more minutes, shifting their attention back and forth between the two guardian angels, who seemed to be sharing a conversation that they couldn't hear, though what all they had done was just sitting there.

The silence stretched out until Lilac decided to speak. She stood up and looked at Calleb. "Hope, I think you can do something to them."

"What?" Hope retracted her eyes from Raine and looked at Lilac, bewildered. "Do what?"

"Bring back their inner beast." Lilac looked straight into Hope's eyes.

Chapter 969 - I AM AFRAID

"Bring back their inner beast." Lilac looked straight into Hope's eyes. "If you can speak to Kace's inner beast, it means you can find theirs too."

"What?" Hope stood up, she shook her head. "No. I can't do that."

However, Lilac grabbed her hand and spoke clearly. "You can do it and you will do it, because right now we don't have much time left." Lilac glanced at Raine and prayed that she could go through whatever things that held her back from being awake right now.

"Lilac, this is crazy, I have never done this before." Hope shook her head vigorously, as if Lilac just told her to go to the battlefield and win the war.

Probably she would ask that too, but in a different way and at a different time.

"How do you know I can do it?" Hope became even more terrified when she noticed the expectant looks swirling in Calleb and Ethan's eyes. They wanted her to do it, without knowing whether she had such a power or not. "You are talking nonsense, Lilac. This is very random."

"I'm not talking nonsense," Lilac said firmly. "And, I do know one thing; the power of guardian angels have no limits when it comes to what we are good at. If you believe that you can do it, you will be able to do it."

"How can you be so sure?" The way Lilac was looking at her, made Hope wanting to believe that she held that kind of power that could help them in this dire situation, but her hesitation was still in her way.

"Because I saw it. As a matter of fact, you can do more than this." Lilac had seen it when she looked into the stone the last time she was in the library, before she lost her consciousness.

However, just like Hope. She couldn't see Raine. Therefore, she was not able to see what she would be able to do with her power.

Raine was akin to someone who was lost in time. She was hard to find and not even their powers could reach her.

Lilac then shifted her eyes to Raine. No matter what happened, it would be great if she woke up soon, yet they didn't have time to wait... they were running out of time and the very guardian angel of time was out of their grasp.

Thus, they had to do whatever they could.

"What did you see?" Hope asked Lilac. She wanted to believe her words, but she was afraid to disappoint the two pairs of eyes that stared at her, with unconcealed hope.

=====

Raine was laughing when she saw her playmate, Diana who was trying to rub the cream of the cake on her plate on Sally's face, and the cream fell on her yellow dress instead.

Diana was crying and ran to her mother, while Raine and Sally shared a high-five. Both of them didn't like her. action

Today Raine turned nine years old and they were having a garden party behind their house with all her friends coming to congratulate her.

This was such a perfect day, with bright sunlight and beautiful decorations.

Though in Raine's nineteen years old mind, this was too childish, but she didn't mind it at all! No, she loved every second that she spent here. Glancing at a mountain of gifts that she received. She couldn't wait to open them all. This was such a blissful moment.

Raine even forgot that she had a best friend named Sally. They were practically glued to each other since they were toddlers.

At this moment, all of her memories about Torak started to fade away. She couldn't even remember the sensation that she felt when their skins touched with each other.

Raine was happy now and that was what matters most.

Right at that time, from the corner of her eyes, Raine caught a glimpse of something, but then it disappeared into the shadow as fast as it appeared.

And this didn't startle her, instead, it gave a sense of safety and protection...

=====

"Rossie..." Bree tugged Rossie's shirt as they stood near the window and watched how close those vampires got to them. "Will we be running away again like before?"

Rossie stared down at Bree and could see the fear in her eyes, while baby Eddard was in her arms, sleeping.

"I don't know Bree..." Rossie said softly. "But, I think Alpha Alec will think about some solution..." she said in a comforting tone.

However, Adair couldn't pretend as calm as Rossie, she had been walking around this room from one corner to the other nonstop. "This is impossible! Where is the back up!? Why did they leave us alone here without sending anyone to help us? Why would Alpha Torak treat us this way?"

Seeing how anxious Adair was; Bree became even more afraid. The little girl clutched onto Rossie's shirt tightly.

"Adair, stop walking around inside this room in circles!" Rossie reprimanded her. "If you can't calm down, go out of this room."

Upon hearing that, Adair threw them a glare and grumbled something incoherently before she slammed the door shut, leaving them alone.

However, the harsh sound woke up baby Eddard and now he was crying...

[Calleb...] Rossie tried to mind-link her mate, though it was a futile attempt since they were miles apart from each other, she couldn't even call him through phone now. [Please... I am afraid.]

=====

Lidya watched as Sterling's breathing became shallow, he almost lost it if they didn't do anything.

"Serefina, if we want to save him, I think I have to go now," Lidya said. She needed to teleport herself to Rieka and collect Hope's blood in order to save Sterling.

"Go and take Nutdrouk with you," Serefina noticed that the old friend of Kace was hanging onto the last thread of his life.

"No!" Nutdrouk immediately rejected that. "Why would you think I want to go to the middle of the battlefield?! No!"

"Then the deal between us is annulled." Serefina shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly.

Hearing this, Lidya wanted to ask what actually Serefina had promised the dwarf for him to obey her?

Chapter 970 - ANNULMENT

"Annul?" Nutdrouk raised his brows incredulously. "Are you kidding me?" he asked in a sharp tone. "I will not go this far just for you to find a random excuse to do that to me!"

Serefina shrugged her shoulders and tilted her head. "Then go with her." She nodded at Lidya.

Knowing that he didn't have any other options, the dwarf grumbled and walked out of the room, kicking the door before roaring in frustration.

"Will he go with me?" Lidya saw the dwarf's figure disappearing behind the door, but they could still hear his groan.

"He will," Serefina replied with certainty. "Do whatever you need to do there and I will give you the next instruction."

This time Lidya didn't answer Serefina, she lowered her head and knitted her brows, as if deep in thought.

"Hey, do you hear me?" Serefina flicked her fingers in front of Lidya's face. "We are running out of time, so gather your mind and move."

"Serefina," Lidya called her name with a complicated feeling. "I want to ask one question."

"I will answer you if I feel like it," Serefina said indifferently.

She was always like this and Lidya had grown used to it. Every time she would let it slide, but not now, she wanted to know the truth.

"What did you promise him?" Lidya asked, she narrowed her eyes, a gesture she would make if she was very serious with whatever she wanted to know. action

Serefina held her gaze, her lips formed into a thin line, indicating that she didn't want to answer that kind of question. "You don't need to know."

And without waiting for Lidya's response, Serefina walked out of the room, but before her figure could disappear, Lidya had grabbed her hand and pulled her back again.

"I don't want that answer, Serefina. I am not going this far just to hear that kind of excuse from you." Lidya glared at her. She had followed her blindly because she knew the struggle that she had gone through for centuries, but she didn't know that there was more into it. Something darker and deeper.

"So, what do you want?" Serefina swatted Lidya's hand that held her back, as she folded her arms. A defensive gesture.

"Tell me everything and I will decide whether I will help you with your crazy plan or not." Lidya mimicked her gesture. The two witches were being stubborn and no one wanted to back down at all.

=====

"I will leave you with Ethan and Calleb," Lilac said. She took charge to lead them, since the Donovans were not around and she was still holding the higher status as Jedrek's mate.

This didn't mean she like the role, but she knew more than what they should do.

"But, I don't know how Lilac." Hope's voice was almost like a whisper, especially when she was feeling such high pressure from Ethan and Calleb's expectant eyes.

But, Lilac pulled her into a hug and patted her back, while saying, "you can and you will find a way." After that, she looked at Belinda and Sebastian. "You two follow me."

And before long, Sebastian and Belinda were striding along the corridor, following Lilac. The two of them didn't know where Lilac would bring them, but they still followed her nonetheless, leaving Hope to deal with the other two and figure out what she could do with her current power.

Just like what they already know by now; they were running out of time and if they didn't take good measures to control the situation, nothing would be left of them.

Not to mention Raine, who was not yet awake, and Hope, who was struggling to tap into her power, Lilac also had to make sure that she could reach Jedrek to tell him what she knew.

=====

"Alright," Hope said when Lilac had gone with the others. "I need a moment to think about it."

Hope then sat down on the edge of the bed, while kneading her head. Why did Lilac give this task to her out of the blue? She couldn't think clearly under the pressure.

"Calm down, Hope..." Ethan sat beside her and patted her back. "Take your time, no rush."

However, after he said that, Calleb threw a look at him and Ethan frowned, shook his head slightly, as if saying; you will just make the situation worse if you pressed her even further.

Therefore, Calleb just closed his eyes and leaned his body against the wall. He felt that the time was ticking very slow and everything around him was just very irritating.

The Beta wanted to get into his beast again and find a way to go to Rossie's side. No matter what they would face later, he just wanted to see her again.

D*mn it!

Caleb felt his chest caving in, as they waited for Hope to figure out what she should do.

Five minutes...

Ten minutes...

And when it was over twenty minutes, Caleb couldn't take it any longer. "D*mn it Hope! Just do it what you have done to Kace!"

Hope was startled, but then she became angry. "I don't know! I don't know what I have done to Kace! It just happened!"

"There must be something that you have done to your mate that allowed you to go into his subconsciousness!" Caleb lost it. It was very rare to see him in this kind of state, as he was known to have the most easy going personality.

But then, no one could remember when was the last time they had some leisure time to be going easy on the situation.

"Me and Kace had a deep connection because he is my mate! For you two, it is different! I don't even know where I have to start!" Hope vented out her frustration.

"Then should I mark you like Kace did!?" Caleb was on the verge of taking every risk just to get done with it, but then he realized that he had talked nonsense.

"You are not serious with what you said," Ethan said impassively.

"Sorry," Caleb murmured.