

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 31

“And this is my roooooom.” Lucy’s voice trailed off as she looked in her room. There was a set of bunk beds and a sleeper couch moved into her room. On top of that, she saw Jasper’s luggage in there. She turned from her room to see Aiden trying to slink away. “WHAT IS THIS?!”

“Oh yeah... about that. Well, you see... we are going to be bunking with you. It is a safety measure for all of us. I knew Jasper was planning on staying with us anyways. So Justice and I thought it would be fun for us all to stay together.” Aiden chuckled, giving her a cheesy grin.

“By invading my privacy? Look at it. And now it’s going to smell... Nope no no no.” Lucy shook her head angrily.

“Lucy, I’m not about to leave you alone for a second. And this way it isn’t weird having a guy sleeping in your room.” Jasper said quietly.

“No, I’m going to have three.” Lucy folded her arms over her chest and glared up at Derek.

He raised his hands up innocently. “I honestly didn’t know a thing about this. However... I can’t say I disagree either. I think this is a good idea.” He watched her gaze darken. “In a numbers is safety sort of way.”

Lucy gave him a poisonous smile. “I see. So it’s okay for me to change my clothes in front of Jasper then?”

“If he looks at what is mine, I’ll burn his eyes out.” Derek growled.

“Hey!” Jasper said, shielding his eyes from Derek.

“Oh, Lucy, don’t be dramatic. You have a bathroom attached to your room. You can change in there.” Aiden said, shaking his head. She was trying to play mind games with her mate’s head. But that wouldn’t work on him. He was her brother and knew her too well.

“Do you guys think I am going to sneak out in the middle of the night or something?” Lucy arched her eyebrow and frowned.

“Lucy... I just want to be close to you. I’ll feel better. And honestly, it makes the whole scenario better if Justice and Aiden are in the room too...” Jasper carefully spoke hoping not to anger her further. “You almost made my heart stop once Lucy... please? It’ll be like old times? A camp-out only inside.”

Lucy lowered her shoulders in defeat. “Fine. But it is my room. Which means we watch only Lucy approved movies.” Her poisonous sweet smile reached Aiden.

“Oh no...” Aiden groaned. “Maybe we can have a competition for a special slasher day?”

“Oh Aiden, we won’t be here that long. We will be leaving for the welcoming ceremony in a couple weeks. And then after that we will be leaving again... wait you don’t plan on bunking up with me everywhere we go, do you?” Lucy watched as Aiden grinned and rubbed the back of his neck.

“No way. I’ll bunk up with Alexis and Raine. That is where we will be heading next right? The west dragon kingdom?”

Aiden sighed. “Yes, that is the plan. I think it will be fun to hang out with our cousins there. Plus, Micah can help Justice in the guardian role there. He knows how hard it is with controlling the guardian power.”

Lucy turned and looked back at her room. Her lips were curled down and she sighed sadly. She felt warm hands land on her shoulders slowly pulling her into a rock solid chest. Soothing tingles spread over her body as his arms moved from her shoulders to around her front. He held her gently.

“It is all temporary Lucy. All of this. Just a small hiccup to get past.” Derek’s tone was low and soothing. “I’m sorry about all of this. If I could just stay by your side now...” From the corner of his eye, he could see Aiden holding his hand up giving him the thumbs up motion. He then smirked and slowly backed away with Jasper. At least he wasn’t completely oblivious to give the two of them some time alone.

Derek leaned in close to Lucy’s ear. His breath beat against her skin and he smiled as he felt her shudder from in. “What do you prefer, Lucy?” His lips hit the tip of her ear. He dragged his bottom lip over her earlobe. “Top... or... bottom?”

He smiled and dropped his arms from her. He ran into her room and hopped onto the top of the bunk bed. He grinned mischievously at her and watched a smile spread over her lips. She walked into her room and she plopped on her own bed.

“Neither.” She said looking at her fingernails acting uninterested. “I find both boring. I like to experiment and see what works the best for me.” Her eyes flashed up at him. She watched him swallow a lump down. “I’ve tried waterbeds, memory foam, gel... but it’s my adjustable bed that I love the most. I can always change the position to suit my mood.” She let her fingers trail over her bed as a faint smile played on her lips. She listened to the deep throaty chuckle from Derek. She watched as he hopped off the bed and walked over to her slowly. His eyes were fixed on her like a predator.

“You win. I can’t win games like this against you.” He walked up in front of her and leaned into her. Sending her backwards on the bed with his body coming on top of hers. His lips crashed into hers as he greedily attacked her. His hand wandered over her side while his other hand reached up to hold her head captive. He moaned as she pulled on his bottom lip with her teeth. “I really can’t win against you.” He panted into her lips. “I love you Lucy.” He said between kisses. His fingers trailed over her neck.

Derek suddenly threw himself backwards off of Lucy. He backed up a few steps and gripped his fingers tightly. The want and desire of not only his but Lucy’s was taking over him. He could feel her desire flashing in. It was almost too much to control. In fact, he was worried he wouldn’t be able to control it. He didn’t want to control it. But if he was going to mark her he wanted to do it right. A time when she hadn’t just recovered. And a time when he would stay with her afterwards. Now, unfortunately, wasn’t the time.

He panted heavily as he watched Lucy sit up. “Soon Lucy. I’ll be back to finish this very soon.” He took in a deep breath. “Baby, I don’t know how this is going to work after we mark each other. This is already intense. Feeling your feelings even in fragments drives me insane.”

“The funny thing about soundproof rooms... They don’t work if the door is open.” Jasper said with a small smirk.

Lucy looked at her open door mortified. She closed her eyes and bit her bottom lip. She could feel the heat rush over her face. Derek glared at him angrily.

Jasper raised his hands. “Easy there. I’m doing you the favor. I mean...” He made a motion to the downstairs insinuating there were other people around.

“Well they know what mates are and what naturally happens. I won’t be ashamed of wanting my mate.” Derek said confidently.

“Of course not. Though I am sure Aiden doesn’t want to hear you defile his sister either.” Jasper smirked and winked back at Derek.

“Hey Jasper.” Derek said with a serious tone. He looked up at his brown eyes. He glanced over at Lucy who was now looking up at him curiously. “Thank you for looking after her for me. I know you want to be able to fight too... but-”

Jasper waved him off. “Are you crazy? This is where I want to be. Who wants to get splattered in the blood of unknown creatures? Besides, if Lucy is being kept out of the battle, I guess it is only fair that I should be as well.” He winked over at Lucy. It was nice having a sense of camaraderie. They both wanted to fight. It was actually killing him that he couldn’t be next to his prince’s side when he needed him most. But he understood. When it came to protecting Lucy there was no one else better to be by her side. Only Derek himself would be better. And because he was the leader as Ryan, that couldn’t happen. Not this time... not in the middle of this mission. Trust was vital and the elite soldiers were a close-knit group.

Lucy turned and looked over at Jasper. A small smile rested on her face. She didn’t think about that. She was only thinking about her babysitters. She didn’t stop to think about how Jasper would actually want to be fighting too. And honestly, she didn’t see why not. She was going to be safe. She would be tucked safely in the dragon kingdom. There was no reason Jasper needed to stay with her there.

“When I get to the dragon kingdom can’t Jasper join you then?” Lucy asked looking back at Derek. “It isn’t like anything will happen to me there.”

Derek shook his head but Jasper spoke before he could.

“Lucy, as the future vampire princess and queen it is customary to have a guard. You are a vital part to the vampires now. It’s quite rare to have a royal pairing. And instead of keeping a stranger around you who you don’t know...” Jasper shrugged with a grin. “Besides, it’ll be fun spending time in the dragon kingdom. And there will be other fights I can join in on.”

“Shouldn’t you also have a protector then?” Lucy tilted her head over at Derek.

“That is a different situation. It is his job to prove himself worthy of the position he will be taking. Double standards I know but when you think about how far vampires date back these old fashion traditions make sense.” Jasper said with a small shrug.

“I don’t think that seems very smart to do.” Lucy furrowed her brows. “That isn’t how it is going to be later. No son of mine is going to get put on some dangerous trial just to prove him an adequate leader.”

Derek grinned. “You going to give me a son?”

“I don’t know. Not sure if you know how to make babies or not. I was talking about my son. Not sure who the father will be yet.” Lucy smiled, biting her bottom lip.

“Okay I am shutting the door before another x-rated sound show starts.” Jasper quickly shut the door.

Derek chuckled and shook his head. “You planning to shake tradition?” Derek asked as he lifted Lucy up to stand into his chest.

“Well isn’t taking me as a mate already breaking tradition?” Lucy asked, raising her eyebrow challengingly.

“Mmm... it is.” Derek leaned his head down and kissed the tip of her nose. He then moved lower and pressed into her lips slowly. His lips moved against hers as he savored the taste of her. Slowly, he dipped his tongue into her mouth. Massaging her tongue with his own. Lucy began to suck onto his tongue, keeping it a prisoner in her mouth.

“Mmmm.” Derek growled into her lips. He bit onto her bottom lip and pulled it into his mouth gently nipping and sucking at it. He pulled away and looked down at her. His fingers traced over her face. “It’s an amazing feeling... isn’t it? The mate bond... soulmate bond... our bond. It just feels so perfect.”

Lucy smiled up at him. “It does. I never thought I would ever get to have this...”

“I need to do something real quick...” Derek said looking down at Lucy’s face. He smiled and pulled her out of her room. “Jasper...”

“You raaaannnggg?” Jasper said from the floor below.

Derek led Lucy down the stairs to where Aiden and Jasper were sitting. “Can you watch her for just a few moments.” His eyes glazed over as he had a private conversation with Jasper.

“Alright. But when you get back we are going to hook up the game system. Let’s race.” Jasper said with a challenging smirk to Lucy.

Derek chuckled. He looked down at Lucy’s disappointed face. He inwardly smiled at this. He loved that she didn’t want him to leave her side. “Baby, I won’t be but a few moments. I promise.” He kissed her lightly on the lips.

“I’ll walk with you.” Aiden suddenly said. “You are new here. I don’t want pack members to get jumpy.”

Derek nodded to him and the two men headed out the door. Lucy walked over to the couch and sat down.

“Awe, don’t go pouting Luce Luce.” Jasper chuckled and tossed a small bag of chips to her.

“Where is he going?” Lucy pouted not caring about hiding it.

“He is checking on our soldiers, Lucy. You know... responsibilities and all.” Jasper chuckled. “He will be back soon, princess.”

“Come on.” Lucy said, tossing a controller over to Jasper. “We might as well get a few warm up sessions in.” She grinned and waved the controller in the air.

Jasper laughed. “I won’t go easy on you. Your status means nothing to a vicious competitor like myself. Bhahaha.” Jasper said with his fake villain laugh.

Lucy giggled. “Good. So, when I beat you, you will really understand the difference in our skills.”

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Lucy smiled brightly when she saw Derek and Aiden walk in through the door. She dropped the controller and walked over to greet them. Well really Derek.

“I told you I wouldn’t be long.” Derek said and pulled her into his chest.

“Luce Luce.” Aiden said waving a paper. “Mom and Dad are staying the night in Elysium. We are under strict orders to stay in the borders at all times. If we step one toe outside of the borders...”

“Heads will roll.”

“Heads will roll.”

Aiden and Lucy said giggling at the same time. Yep, they knew their parents well.

“Are you guys coming? I am all warmed up.” Jasper said, looking over the couch to them.

“You any good at this game?” Aiden asked Derek.

“I just played this against Lucy. I was in first the whole time but she overtook me on the last lap.” Derek gave her a wry grin and she smiled innocently up at him.

“She is sneaky like that. She purposely let you lead.” Aiden said with a wink. “She was anticipating something happening to you... let me guess a blue seeker shell?”

Derek nodded slowly and watched as Aiden’s lips curled upwards. “Yep, thought so.”

Derek smiled down at Lucy. “Clever my little mate. I’m afraid I can’t go easy on you during this next battle.”

Lucy batted her eyelashes up at him with a fake pout. “Even if I asked you to? What if I just asked you to only target Aiden and Jasper?”

“That would be cheating.” Jasper yelled from the couch.

Derek chuckled. “Of course, if that is what you really asked for I couldn’t deny it.”

Lucy giggled. “No, I want you to bring it. So when I beat you you know you were outmatched.”

“Savage, isn’t she?” Aiden said with a grin.

“Perfect... that’s what she is.” Derek kissed the top of her head and looked down at her with pride.

“Ugh, mushy mate stuff. Gosh, am I going to turn into a sap like that too?” Aiden chuckled.

“You will.” Derek laughed. “But it’s worth it...”

“You haven’t even gotten to the good parts of having a mate yet either.” Jasper chuckled peering over the couch.

“Okay, let’s get this match started.” Lucy didn’t like the direction the conversation was shifting in.

Derek snatched her hand and twirled her back into his chest. He cupped her chin with his thumb and covered her lips with his own. He moved against her slowly, tasting and enjoying her. “It’s all the good parts Jasper... all of it. Every moment with her.” He leaned in again and kissed the tip of her nose. His heart felt so warm and full. He felt so good on the inside as if his chest was about to burst. She was everything and more. He looked into her green eyes and her pink stained cheeks. It was still hard to believe that she was his and she was his soul mate.

Aiden grabbed a controller. “Just watch how fast she turns on you once you enter the track. There is no mate pull in the game. Only the will to win.”

Derek grabbed a controller and pulled Lucy down beside him. “I’m afraid I will have to unleash my real powers against you. I hope you are prepared?”

She giggled and turned her face up to him. “Show me what you’ve got.”

“Let the games begin!” Aiden said as he cracked his neck to each side.

Each one of them took turns dominating. They were all scattered all over the board in the place they took. They decided on one last race and whoever took first was allowed to claim victory. The four of them were all neck and neck on the last lap.

“Uh oh Lucy look out!” Aiden yelled as a black speck landed on her leg. Lucy dropped the controller and began brushing her leg in panic.

Derek instantly dropped his controller and grabbed the black speck off of her. He held it out in his hand and rubbed her back soothingly. "It's okay Lucy."

Lucy looked at the black piece of fuzz and turned to look at Aiden and Jasper snickering together. She arched her brow at them and then jumped up and quickly turned the television off.

"Aww Lucy!" Jasper whined.

"Don't you aww Lucy me. Aiden! That is not fair. That is cheating!" Lucy growled as she pointed at the black fuzz. She had a near heart attack thinking that she was once again under attack by the spider assassin.

Aiden shrugged, giving her a cheeky grin. "All is fair in war."

"When we were kids and we used to play, I remember once when you refused to go on the patio because of a spider. I think it is adorable... some things don't change." Derek kissed the top of her head and pulled her body into his.

"There is nothing adorable about it. Soon you will see that. If there is a spider in the shower, in the corner, within a one mile perimeter of pack borders... it's 'Aiden there's a spider! Daddy there's a spider!' I'm thankful that the torch will soon be passed to you." Aiden chuckled while Lucy shot him an annoyed look.

"I'll be your spider champion my princess." Derek said with an over exaggerated bow. He grinned and playfully winked up at her.

"Now you're poking fun at me too." She furrowed her brows down. "You guys can believe what you want but I'm telling you they would eat us if they were big enough. And I know they are still testing out their strengths." She listened as the three guys chuckled at her.

The main door to the pack house opened and Gia popped her head inside. "Lucy." She bit her lip and looked at the stranger in the room. She then looked back at Lucy. "I'm glad you made it back in one piece."

"Sorry about leaving you then..." Lucy stepped away from Derek and walked up to her cousin. She noticed she was acting a bit strange. "Is something wrong?"

“Well...” Her eyes darted over to the three guys. Kyle is here to see you.

Lucy’s eyes bulged open. When you say here...

I mean here here. Like right outside here.

Go play with him then. I’m busy. I found my mate. Lucy watched Gia’s eyes widen in shock.

I think he is determined to see you... Gia shrugged and looked over at the stranger again. The one she presumed was Lucy’s mate. Not bad Lucy. Not bad at all. And you get to keep him?

It’s a long story. But yes, I am keeping him. Lucy sighed.

“Knock knock.”

The sound of Kyle’s voice entered the room. Lucy looked up in shock at the guy looking in the door.

“Hey Lucy!” Kyle said with a wide grin.

“I thought I made myself clear.”

Lucy heard Aiden’s deep low growling voice from right behind her.

Kyle nodded his head respectfully to Aiden. “I just came to check and see if Lucy wanted to go to a party with me.”

“Oh... I’m sorry. For one I am not allowed to leave the pack. I’m under lockdown. And two...” Her eyes drifted over to Derek and Jasper who were now by her side. “Um this is my mate, Ryan.”

“Wait? Your actual mate?” Kyle lifted his nose a bit to take in his scent. He frowned and looked at Lucy confused. “So how is that going to work out?”

“Lucy is my soulmate. So, there is nothing to work out.” Derek said, putting a possessive arm around her. He locked eyes onto Kyle. He did not like the way he was looking at Lucy. Like she was a prize he wanted to obtain.

“How does that even happen? How does our princess get a vampire as a soul mate?” Kyle said with a small scowl.

Aiden chuckled darkly and placed his hand on Derek’s shoulder. A sign to let him know he would handle it. He walked forward and pushed Lucy backwards more. He wanted her distanced from Kyle. “Is there a problem? Lucy is my sister and I am fine with her choices. So if there is something you want to say here-”

Kyle raised his hands up in front of him and plastered on a fake smile. “Not at all. If this is what Lucy wants then I support her. I only came to invite her to a party...” He looked over at Gia. “You interested?”

Gia’s eyes lit up and she nodded her head. “Yes.”

“You can go but you have to take a couple pack members with you.” Aiden said, looking from Kyle to Gia.

“That’s fine with me. I’ll wait for you by the car.” Kyle said as Gia dashed outside quickly. He looked behind Aiden to meet with Lucy’s eyes. “I guess there is one dream I won’t get to fulfill.” He grinned and winked at Lucy. “I hope for your happiness.”

“Thank you.” Lucy said with a faint smile. She could feel Derek’s grip on her tightening, and she was certain he was fighting the urge to kill Kyle.

“Make sure my pack members get back here safely and in one piece.” Aiden said in a low warning.

Kyle nodded his head to him and smiled. “Sure will.” He glanced at Lucy once more and then left, closing the door behind him.

“Who was that?” Derek asked in a low deadly tone.

“That’s the guy who tried to kiss Lucy before.” Jasper said in annoyance.

“But he didn’t and I wasn’t going to let him.” Lucy immediately added.

“I don’t like the way he looks at you. Who is he?” Derek snapped his gaze to Aiden.

“He is from another pack. Don’t worry I’ll keep him away.” Aiden said in a matter of fact tone.

“Because I am such a delicate female who can’t possibly do anything against him. Good thing I have males around to protect me from throwing myself at every male around.” Lucy scoffed and walked away. Aiden would keep him away? He didn’t do anything. Besides, be the ONLY person who ever looked at her like a woman before. She didn’t like his low opinions of vampires. But she actually found herself getting along well with him before.

Derek grabbed onto Lucy’s shoulder and spun her to face him. “Tell me. Do you have feelings for him? If you do, I would understand. I just...”

Lucy’s was floored. “What? Feelings for him? I only knew him for a couple of hours.” She looked at him like he had an arm growing out of his forehead.

“I don’t like the way he was looking at you...” Derek squeezed his fingers into a ball “He looked at you like you were his.” He looked back at Aiden and Jasper who nodded in agreement.

“He has a reputation of getting what he wants. But he won’t be getting my sister.” Aiden said glaring at Lucy. “I never said you can’t take care of yourself or that you threw yourself at men. My job is to protect you and that is what I am going to do. Luce...” Aiden tilted his head and raised his brows to her.

You know the way he is looking at you is inappropriate, right?

Are you going to go out there and teach him a lesson? The only guy who ever came to ask me out to a party? What about the way that girls look at you? Is that inappropriate? Lucy folded her arms over her chest and she raised her eyes up challenging her brother.

Why do you have to go and start throwing logic at me? Can’t I just win an argument? Aiden chuckled, shaking his head.

“Gosh, you are such a moron sometimes.” Lucy lifted her hands up and rubbed her face. “I’m not going to see him again. I only hung out with him for a couple of hours while EVERYONE else was busy. Let it go.”

“Alright, Luce.” Aiden sighed. “So popcorn and a movie?” He smiled trying to change the topic.

“Yeah... just give Lucy and I a few moments to talk first.” Derek said gently, taking her hand in his. He led her up the stairs and back to her room where he slowly shut the door.

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Derek turned and looked at Lucy. His eyes were focused on her as a fire lit behind them. He stepped into Lucy and wrapped his arms around her. He pulled her by her waist holding her flush against his body. His eyes met with hers and continued to blaze. “Mine!” He said in a low growl before smashing his lips against hers. He pressed against her lips roughly as the beast inside of him demanded to claim her.

Lucy felt a bit shocked by his reaction. He was holding her body so tight against his but at the same time she felt like she was melting into his arms. She felt him deepening the kiss as his tongue prodded her lips open exploring her mouth. She moaned into his lips as he gripped her behind tightly trying to push their bodies even closer together. She could feel the evidence of his arousal between them as her fingers locked into his hair. Deeper. Urgent. His kisses were making her delirious and hungry...for more. The sweet sparks were no longer satisfying now there was a deeper desire. A stronger burn screamed for him from her lower body.

Derek pulled apart, panting against her lips. He reached his hand up to gently cup her cheek. “I never thought I would want to hurt someone so much for just looking at you.” He said lowly while he took in deep breaths inhaling her scent to calm him down.

Lucy met with his amber eyes as she tried to get her breathing under control. The electrifying moment had her feeling a bit foggy. She leaned into his chest and wrapped her hands around him. “I’m yours. I’d never allow anyone else to touch me. Even before... I knew you were my mate. I never...” She felt his fingers trail over her cheek. He teased her with the tips trailing them down to her neck.

“I know Lucy. I believe you and trust you. I need to reign in the emotions. I have never felt jealousy before... and...” He let out a dry chuckle. “I think I am a savage when it comes to you. I could easily rip someone to pieces and not even think twice about it when it comes to you.” He leaned into her and began peppering her with light tender kisses. He started on her forehead and moved down to her cheeks. Finally, he lightly pressed into her lips.

“I needed this to calm down. I figured I would spare the other two...” Derek smirked and winked down at her. “Ready for that movie?”

Lucy gnawed on her inner bottom lip and met with his eyes. If they watched a movie how long after would he have to leave? “What time... when do you need to leave?” She watched as a wide smile formed on his face.

Derek leaned in and he tilted her chin up with his thumb. He leaned in close to her mouth still smiling. “Tomorrow morning,” he whispered into her lips.

“Really?!” Lucy said excitedly. When he nodded she jumped into his lips. She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him excitedly. “Thank you.”

“Baby, don’t thank me. I don’t want to leave you either. When I left earlier it was to send the others back. I told them I would meet them tomorrow. I just couldn’t bear to tear myself apart from you already. Though I know I’ll never be ready to leave you, but we haven’t gotten to spend a lot of time together.” He brushed her cheek with his hand. “I have to keep reminding myself that we will be together for eternity. That I can get through this short time apart.”

She leaned her cheek into his hand and brought her hand up to cover over his. “I just want to be with you too. It isn’t natural for mates to be away from each other.”

Derek leaned his head into hers still looking into her eyes. “If it was any other enemy Lucy... if it wasn’t for this witch who is plotting against your family... I can’t lose you. As hard as it is to be away from you it is more terrifying thinking, I could lose you. I love you, my little mate.” He smiled into her lips and brushed against them once more. “Come on, let’s enjoy our time now. Let’s not be sad about what will happen tomorrow.”

Lucy nodded her head. It would be a waste to think about being apart while they were together. She felt his arm slide around her and he opened the door up to her room leading her back downstairs.

“Have a nice soundproof chat?” Jasper said with a smirk.

“I remembered to close the door this time.” Derek said with a smug grin. “So what are we watching?”

Aiden grinned. “Jasper and I already picked the movie since you two took so long. I hope that’s fine.”

“That’s fine with me.” Derek said and pulled Lucy next to him on the couch.

Lucy however did not like the flash of evil in her brother's eyes. And the moment the movie started she understood why. The title came up... Itsy Bitsy. Oh no. She could handle most scary movies but scary spider movies... nope. She moved into Derek's side deeper.

"We don't have to watch this Lucy." Derek whispered.

"Oh yes, she does. It's only fair." Aiden said with a wink. "Besides a movie like this with Lucy... I'm doing you a favor." He winked at Derek and chuckled, turning his attention back to the television.

Lucy felt Derek's embrace tighten around her. "Don't worry Lucy. I'll protect you. Always." She felt his lips land on the side of her head sending soothing tingles over her body. Okay, maybe she could watch the movie in the arms of her mate....

Nope. She couldn't do it. It didn't matter that it felt amazing being in her mate's arms she could almost feel bugs crawling on her. She turned her head and tucked it in Derek's side. She felt his gentle vibrations from his chest as he chuckled at her. Then she felt his hand slowly begin to trace over her side. Her breath hitched as his fingers found the edge of her shirt. She shivered when his fingers touched her bare skin slowly swirling on her stomach under her shirt. If he was trying to make her think about something else, it was working. Or he might just be being a guy who found his mate... in either case she wasn't thinking about the movie. She was thinking about his sweet smell and his chiseled hard chest under her hand. And how just his fingertips could make her body desire him. Okay... maybe this wasn't a good thing to be concentrating about. Especially in a room where her brother and like a brother could easily smell her arousal. Something she couldn't hide from their keen noses.

She pushed away from him and glanced up to see his dark lustful eyes. She bit her lip and felt her cheeks heat up. "I'll be back. I'm getting a drink." She whispered, getting up. She quickly hopped out of the area and headed towards the kitchen. She rubbed her face slightly and opened up the refrigerator, grabbing a bottle of water. She downed the whole bottle and smiled, shaking her head. Just a couple of days ago she never thought she would be capable of these feelings.

Suddenly there was a commotion going on inside of Lucy's head. It was a lot of communication from the pack mind link but she clearly heard Sam's (her father's beta) voice boom in that there has been an attack on one of their pack members. She heard Aiden jump up immediately and they made it to the door at the same time. Jasper and Derek were there too though they didn't know what was going on.

"Stay here Lucy!" Aiden growled.

“You stay here.” Lucy growled back and darted past him. The moment she reached outside she quickly shifted running towards the upper territory. He was just as in danger as she was. He didn’t get to act like he was protecting her. She was protecting him as well.

She heard Aiden’s wolf right behind her and the sound of Jasper and Derek dashing next to them. They came up on a small group. Winston (Wyatt’s Gamma) and Adam (Wyatt’s Delta) were there ordering pack members to return to their homes. Sam was kneeling next to a body on the ground. Lucy shifted back to her human form and knelt down next to the injured pack member. She looked up at Sam as Aiden reached their side.

“He is going to be alright.” Sam said. “He was with patrol group B... they said these pale creatures came out of nowhere and attacked them. They were heading right for our pack borders...” Sam’s eyes looked a bit worried.

Derek knelt next to Lucy and put his arm around her waist guiding her up so he could hold her against him. “I’m going to have another band of soldiers join us, Lucy. They won’t get past my men. This only happened because we left... escorting you back here. They won’t get close to your pack again.”

“How can I leave my pack when it is in danger?” Lucy whispered out. She looked at Aiden and could see he was thinking the same thing.

“It won’t happen again. Hey Lucy... look at me.” Derek said, lifting her chin up to him. “They will never get close to your pack again. I already sent Chaz to go and request more soldiers. We will have this area under our protection as well.” He looked down at Aiden. “Trust me...”

“It’s not that we have a choice anyways. Mom and Dad are not going to change their mind.” Aiden said with a scowl.

“Wyatt filled me in briefly on everything. We appreciate your assistance. We can’t have anything happening to our royalty.” Sam stood up and looked over at Adam who walked over. “Help me get him to the infirmary.”

“Will do Sam. Then Winston and I are going to go and collect Gia, Kurt and Jamie. They are at a party.” Adam sighed, lifting up the body with Sam.

“We will double patrol sizes for now. There is nothing for you two to worry about. I will personally see to the pack’s safety until your father returns.” Sam looked between Lucy and Aiden.

“You two should probably stay close to the house until your father gets back.” Adam said not liking leaving the two of them out here.

“We will.” Aiden nodded his head for them to go on.

Lucy leaned into Derek’s chest as she watched them carrying the injured soldier away. “Dad is not going to like this at all.”

“Lucy, please don’t just dart off like that.” Jasper finally breathed out in annoyance. “I know this is your pack but at least explain what is going on. You are going to give us a heart attack.”

“Sorry I didn’t have time to type up a memo Jasper.” She shot him an annoyed look that quickly fell to concern. “There hasn’t been an attack on our patrol in a very long time. This is big news... It is going to be unsettling for pack members. I’m worried how anxious they will feel about Aiden, and I being sent away.” Lucy frowned, biting her inner lip.

“I think they will be relieved to know you two are safe.” Derek said quietly. “Speaking of safety... let’s go back to the house.” He looked at Aiden who nodded his head looking around.

They were lucky there were not any casualties this time. But this was Lucy and Aiden’s pack... their home. It was hard thinking they wouldn’t be there to help defend it if the need arose. Lucy took in the scent of her mate... it was amazing how it helped comfort her. His warm arm around her was a weighted comfort. She was glad she had him by her side right now.

Jasper... Derek linked to him as they walked back to the house. He rubbed his hand over Lucy’s shoulder in soothing motions. I want Lucy to go and stay in the vampire kingdom until after the ceremony. It will be safer for her there.

Jasper looked over at Lucy and nodded his head. It wasn’t him he needed to convince. Though they think Wyatt would understand especially after this. And Justice could just plan to meet them in the dragon kingdom afterwards. It would give him more time to hone his skills as a guardian too.

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 34

Lucy came down from her room, she had gone up to change real quick. She put on a black tank top and a pair of shorts. She looked at the guys all hovered around the table as Aiden pointed to something and laughed.

“What are you guys doing?” Lucy asked as she came closer to investigate.

“Just giving your mate here a tour down memory lane.” Aiden beamed widely.

She watched as Derek lifted something up. And she realized what they were doing. They were going through their photo albums! Aiden was also showing him pictures from his phone. Derek smirked and waved a picture at her.

“He said I can keep this one...” Derek held up a picture of Lucy in a pink sleeveless dress. It was a picture of their school prom.

Lucy smiled and shook her head. “That one was from prom.” She felt mildly embarrassed as he stared at the picture. She watched his brows furrow and then grow serious as he lifted up another photo.

“Who is this? Your date?” Derek asked, lifting up another picture of Lucy in the same dress next to a very tall muscular guy. It was someone he didn’t recognize. The guy had black hair and light blue eyes and was half lifting Lucy up into his chest. He could feel his blood boiling mildly seeing someone holding his mate so close. Way too close.

Lucy bit her bottom lip and smiled. “Yes, that was my date. You turned me down and Jasper was busy.” Technically it was his double that turned her down.

“You two seem close.” Derek said as his eyes darkened on the photo.

“That’s only a picture of one moment. I believe those two ended up in bed together that night.” Aiden said with a smirk.

“Aiden.” Lucy hissed.

“What? You did!” Aiden grinned widely.

Derek’s eyes lifted up to Lucy. There was a menacing possessiveness meeting with hers. And the aura of a killer started filling the room. “Where is this guy? I want to meet him.”

Lucy laughed. “I know you are strong but don’t bother. You can’t beat him in a match.” She looked over at Aiden who started laughing.

“Gotta let that one go. Lucy is right, he would take you down...” Jasper smiled and patted Derek on the back.

“Oh look here it is...” Aiden said, pulling another picture out.

“Aiden don’t!” Lucy squealed and tried to leap for the picture but Derek quickly snatched it into his own hands. Lucy watched his body immediately tense. His muscles flexed and his hand trembled slightly. “Now wait a minute... let me explain...” She said calmly. It was cute seeing his jealousy but it was unwarranted.

“You can explain this?” Derek said, turning the picture so she can see it more.

She knew exactly what picture it was. It was a picture of her and the guy under the covers in bed together. Aiden had ran in and snapped a picture as they held up their hands trying to block themselves from the picture.

“Do you have feelings for him?” Derek asked in an icy tone.

“Wait let me explain-”

“Do you?” Derek asked tersely.

“Of course I do but-“

Derek’s dark gaze snapped onto Lucy. There was something crushing about his gaze and almost smothering. But more than that she could feel him hurting. The suffocating drowning sensation started filling her up again. She walked up and cupped his face in her hands. “Will you listen to me? Turn the picture over.”

Derek looked into her eyes and back to the photo. This all happened before they were mates so it shouldn’t bother him but she told him she never touched anyone. His mind continued to race as he slipped the photo over. On the back was written ‘Lucy and Micah caught hiding from Alexis after pranking her.’ He looked back to Lucy who still had his cheek cupped in her hand.

“Aiden don’t tease him.” Lucy looked over at him and scolded in agitation. “There has never been anyone else.” She smiled at Derek and brushed her hand over his cheek. She felt his breath as he took in her scent, calming himself down. “Since I

couldn't go with you and Jasper, my cousin Alexis's guardian Micah took me to prom. At the after-party, Micah and I tricked Alexis into eating a ghost pepper. This picture was us hiding from her wrath and Aiden outed us."

"I'm sorry..." Derek muttered embarrassed at himself.

"Aiden was provoking you the most. It's okay." She stepped into him and wrapped her arms around his neck. She played with the hair near the back of his neck with her fingers. She held his gaze with her eyes. In their case, it would really be a good idea to be marked as soul mates. She could see many misunderstandings not happening in the future because of it.

"Maybe you should just mark her now. It might help you get control of that jealousy." Jasper snickered. "Come on, Aiden. Let's finish the movie."

Aiden chuckled and slapped Derek on the back. "Sorry, it is like a right of passage for a brother to do these things." He winked at Derek and Lucy and followed Jasper into the living room.

Lucy bit her bottom lip and smiled up at him. "Do you want to go ahead and mark me now? It may prevent further misunderstandings."

Derek leaned his head down and growled into her neck. "I don't think your room is soundproof enough... Not with the moans I will make come from your mouth."

Lucy giggled. "This is soundproof for werewolf mating. Don't use a lame excuse like that."

Derek nibbled on her neck letting his tongue flick over the spot he would mark her. "I'll be back to mark you, Lucy. When I can stay with you afterwards for a few days. I want to be there with you through everything. We are both very special cases... and I'm a bit terrified of after the marking to be honest. I'm afraid I won't be able to pull myself away from you afterwards. And yet I can't leave you unmarked either. We will both be stronger because of it. But it will make being parted... torturous." He moved his lips to her cheek and buried his nose in her hair.

"Stay with me now... mark me now." She said quietly. She felt his fingers dig into her and he quietly groaned into her hair.

"Maybe that is a good idea." Derek's breath became more ragged and he pulled her body flush against his. He grabbed her chin and tilted it up crashing into her lips. He felt almost frantic now as he kissed her. He plunged his tongue into her mouth

trying to take her as deep as possible. Her fingers tugging into his hair and pulling him towards her only encouraged him more. He pulled away, his dark eyes gazing into hers. "Let's go to your room." He watched as she breathlessly nodded her head. He smiled down at her. They both wanted it. Sometimes the best of plans couldn't wait for what nature intended. He lifted Lucy up into his chest bridal style and began to move to the stairs.

A knock was heard on the pack door just as they reached the first step. He halted and turned. They both watched curiously as Aiden and Jasper went to the door. Sam stood at the door.

"I ran into him by the pack territory. He needs to speak with Ryan." Sam motioned for the person behind him to come inside.

Derek slid Lucy down to her feet. "Lenny?!" He walked up to the guy as he walked in. His eyes glazed over as a conversation between the two of them took place.

Voidless are heading in different directions to different packs. I think they are trying to provoke the king and queen of the wolves to respond. Lenny reported to both Jasper and Ryan (Derek).

s**t. Derek pursed his lips together.

You are going to need my help until the other soldiers come. Jasper looked at Derek. I'll come back and take Lucy to the vampire kingdom right after the situation is under control but for now... you are going to need me so don't argue. Or I will pull rank on you. Jasper gave him a serious look. They didn't know that Derek was the prince and only the prince could outrank Jasper, besides their king and queen.

What is everyone doing currently? Derek asked looking back at Lenny.

They've broken up in groups of two and are trying to eliminate as many as possible.

Derek nodded his head. Go... He looked at Jasper and nodded his head. Go too. I'll catch up.

Jasper and Lenny both blurred away while Derek turned to face Lucy. He could see the concern in her eyes. He wished he could have had their moment together first. He took commanding steps into her and grabbed her arm pulling her to a secluded area of the house.

“Baby, I’ve got to go.” He cupped her cheeks and looked into her eyes.

“What’s wrong? What has happened?” Lucy pleaded with her eyes as she felt her stomach drop. For him to have to leave like this it must be something big.

He rubbed her cheeks with his thumbs and smiled. “Everything is going to be fine. The voidless are spread out and heading for other packs. It’s a trap to lure your family out. I’m certain of it. We will take care of it. It isn’t more than we can handle. But I’m going to have to personally see to this.” The look in her eyes was breaking his heart. He could feel how much she wanted to go with him.

“But what if...”

Derek leaned forward and pressed his lips into hers, silencing her. Their lips moved together as he enjoyed the quick taste of her lips.

“Listen to me, when Jasper comes back, he is taking you to the vampire kingdom. Please just go with him for now. And after the ceremony, you can head to the dragon kingdom. I will see you soon.” He squeezed her body into him tightly with one hand while the other tilted her chin up to him. He crashed into her lips urgently and desperately. His last taste of his mate before he would have to leave her. “I love you Lucy. Stay here and wait for Jasper...”

Lucy couldn’t breathe... a mixture from both of their strangled emotions. She could feel her eyes watering slightly which caught her off guard. She didn’t imagine she was going to feel this way when they had to part. Though to be honest this was very unexpected. She squeezed her fingers into his shirt. “I love you. Please... be safe and come back to me soon.”

He brushed his lips against her forehead and inhaled her scent deeply. He then squinted his eyes tight and pulled away from her. When he reached the door, he turned his head to Aiden. “Take care of her for me.” His voice croaked slightly. His eyes met with the watery emeralds of his mate. He felt like his heart was shattering. It was taking everything in him to fight against his instincts in order to leave her. He forced a smile. “I love you... my little mate.”

Lucy watched as he disappeared from the room. Sam left as well shutting the door giving her privacy. She felt Aiden’s arm wrap around her shoulder as her liquid crystals escaped from her eyes. Inside she felt a heavy pressure on her chest. Her nose and eyes burned. The farther his scent trailed away the heavier the pressure became. Part of her soul was gone, and it was a shocking feeling.

“Let’s binge movies all night. We will set up a fort in the living room and fill it with snacks.” Aiden knew he couldn’t do anything to help her. But he could at least stay with her and not leave her side. Seeing his sister’s tears hurt him... because he couldn’t fix this. He looked up at the closed door with a frown, “Come on Lucy,” he said gently as he led her away.

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 35

Lucy woke up laying on the couch. She felt a fuzzy blanket covering her body. She wasn’t sure at what point she fell asleep but there was new morning light streaming in from the window. She looked over and saw Aiden was sleeping on the recliner next to her. He had stayed with her all night. She smiled as she leaned up. He was a really good brother. He did his best to keep her distracted last night.

She inhaled a deep breath as she sat up. This was unnatural. She needed to be by her mate’s side. She should be there helping him fight. She wasn’t the type to sit idly by while the guy, her mate, saved the day. Though, neither were her parents and they are planning to stand down for now. She didn’t know much about Meryl (Beryl’s grandmother). She only knew what she was told but she could tell her parents were cautious.

Inside she felt a hole that never existed before. The absence of her mate was something she had never experienced in the past. And even though she wouldn’t do it she wished to bring the barriers up again. She missed him... missing him was only a shallow way to describe the depth of her feelings. She hoped he was alright.

“I need foood. Pancakes Lucy! Pancaaaakkeeess.” Aiden whined with eyes closed.

Lucy giggled and shook her head. He was still trying to distract her by making her cook. “Alright, I’ll whip us up some pancakes.”

“Eggs and sausage too. Oh and wheat toast.” Aiden mumbled and turned his head to the side, still keeping his eyes closed.

Lucy smiled as she quietly walked out of the room. Usually, she would chastise him but not this time. He had a poor night’s sleep just so he could keep watch over her. And even though he benefited from it he was using cooking as a distraction. Even asleep he was still aware of her. Well at least cooking was comforting to her. It was therapeutic and would keep her distracted... for now. She couldn’t wait for Jasper to come back and give her a full report.

Soon the aroma of the different mixtures of cooking food filled the air. The scent lifted Aiden up and beckoned him into the kitchen. “Banana pancakes and chocolate chip pancakes? And is that stuffed French toast?” Aiden eyed a plate that she was dusting with powdered sugar.

“Yes it is. Just my little way of saying thank you for staying with me last night.”

“Well I expect this every day now. Since I’ll be staying with you every night for a while.” Aiden said with a wide grin.

“Cute Aiden, but consider this a future down payment as well.” Lucy giggled and stacked the pancakes on a plate.

“Eh, I’ll take it. You think you made enough?” Aiden said looking over all the different plates of food.

Lucy giggled and shrugged. “Guess there is plenty.” Her and Aiden sat the many plates at the table. She watched as her brother filled his plate up with a bit of everything. And soon he was shoveling food into his mouth.

“Mmmm, these are fantastic Lucy.” Aiden was in pure heaven.

Lucy smiled and poked at her food slightly. Her mind was on Derek and Jasper. She wondered if they had gotten to rest. Was the fighting over? Did Derek miss her as much as she missed him? Or was she just being pathetic? Her first boyfriend sort of deal... A heartsick puppy.

“Eat.” Aiden said tersely. He lifted his eyes up to Lucy with a stern look.

“This is dumb, isn’t it? Shouldn’t we be fighting too?” Lucy finally said hastily.

“I agree. It’s dumb. But this one must not be our fight. If this witch has really decided to target us then for once we are the ones who shouldn’t be fighting. I don’t like it. But this witch doesn’t have the means to destroy everyone. She isn’t a real threat like the demon war was. But she could cause a big problem if she kills either of us. With your death the vampires lose their queen. And with mine the wolves lose their king.” Aiden scowled a bit. “I don’t like it either...”

When did Aiden know how to talk responsibly? She was looking for her cheerleader but instead got wisdom. What a way to let her down, she thought wryly to herself. “He wants Jasper to take us back to the vampire kingdom immediately.”

“Hey, it’s not a bad thing. Think of it as an adventure. You know with everything going on here we would be under lock and key. At least we will be safe to walk around there? And it’s a good way for your bro to assess the place for you. And a way for you to really get a feel for it. Since it is going to be your home soon.” Aiden looked up at Lucy and smiled. “I like him. I didn’t think it was possible to find a vampire better for you than Jasper but... I was wrong. He fits with you.”

Lucy blushed slightly and nodded. “He does...”

“We aren’t going to girl talk about it or anything.” Aiden said with a smirk. “But I wanted you to know I approve.”

“There really isn’t much girl talk at this point anyways.” Lucy said with a shrug. “Did Gia and everyone get back alright?” She had fallen asleep so she wasn’t sure.

“Yes, all are back and accounted for. And for now none can travel without one of the current leaders or will need special permission from mom and dad. At least those are the orders Sam put in place.” Aiden glanced up at the door and smiled. “Well speaking of mom and dad...”

“I could smell the pancakes from out here.” Wyatt said, walking in with Freya by his side. Freya’s eyes immediately landed on Lucy as they walked to the table. “Sam filled us in already... on everything.” He said looking at Lucy.

“How’s Justice?” Aiden asked.

“It’s a lot to handle right now. It’s different when you grow up with the power but getting it all at once like he did will take some getting used to. Alexis and Micah are staying in Elysium so that Micah can help train him. Between all the guardians there they will be able to get him sorted out.” Wyatt said, stuffing a large piece of pancakes in his mouth.

“How are you doing?” Freya asked, looking over at Lucy.

Lucy tilted her head to the side with a crooked smile. “How do you think?”

Her mother nodded her head. “I figured as much. It’s hard being away from your mate. But everything is going to be fine, Lucy. And this will all be over before you know it.”

“Titus (dragon king of the west) is sending patrols out. They have been ordered to take out any voidless they see. This will help the vampires greatly. Plus, they will report anything unusual to Titus. With their help we should be able to end this quickly.” Wyatt winked over at his daughter. They all knew that with the dragons’ aid it was a done deal. It wasn’t a matter of if it was a matter of when. There was a reason the demons feared them.

“They are already taking measures against the premonition too.” Freya smiled over at Lucy. “Everything is going to be fine. So just do your best to push it all from your mind.”

Lucy pointed to all the food on the table. “I was trying to do just that.”

Wyatt chuckled. “We will be eating well then.”

“Actually... about that.” Aiden said looking up at Lucy. “Lucy’s mate wants Jasper to take us to the vampire kingdom when he returns.”

Wyatt and Freya exchanged glances. “Honestly... that is probably a good idea.” Wyatt sighed. “I like having you two close but for the first time it will be safer if you aren’t here. Between the vampire kingdom and the dragons... they are the safer places. I’ll send word back to Justice so he can stay and train longer. Jason and Jin are coming back already tomorrow. You know how nervous Jason gets being away from me. I tried to get him to stay and train with his son longer, but he wouldn’t budge. He originally planned to stay the week but I guess started feeling anxious.” All this time and Jason was still incredibly protective of Wyatt. Just like Cody was of Rhea. And soon how Justice would be of Lucy. It was just a guardian’s nature.

“I can see you are still picking at your food.” Freya said, looking over at her daughter’s plate. “Okay enough. Let’s go. Aiden, clean up.”

“What’s going on?” Lucy asked.

“We are going to train. I’m going to keep that mind so busy you are not going to be able to mope.” Freya gave her daughter a half smile.

“Oh poor Luce. Mom’s training sessions are brutal. Yes, momma. I’ll clean up. I don’t mind at all. I love you so much. You’re the best mom ever.” Aiden said with a cheesy smile.

“After you are done cleaning you and I are going to have our own workout.” Wyatt said with a low chuckle.

Aiden’s eyes fell and a big pout formed. “Maaaaan.” Aiden stood up collecting plates. His dad wasn’t as grueling as his mother, but he didn’t hold his punches back. He was going to be hurting after this.

—

“Lucy! Hold those daggers higher.” Freya barked loudly.

Lucy panted as she wiped the beads of sweat off of her forehead. They had been out in the sun training for hours. Her mother was unforgiving with her training. You did it until it was perfect. And then you continued to practice it perfectly.

Her mother dashed at her with her daggers drawn. Lucy spun and raised a dagger up silver clashing with silver. She then pushed backwards doing a flip landing in a defensive position. She used her forearm to block her mother’s kick and pushed back into her leg. Using her mother’s own momentum against her. She found her moment to strike back. In a pile of dust both bodies were on the ground with each having a dagger at their opponent’s throat.

“Well done, Lucy,” Freya said, panting heavily.

“Good thing the voidless don’t fight like you two do or we would be done for.” A familiar voice said from the distance.

Lucy turned her head to see Jasper standing at the edge of the clearing. He looked completely fine. She smiled widely and jumped to her feet. She sprinted over to him, and he wrapped his arms around her.

“You weren’t worried were you, Lucy?” Jasper said in a playful tone as he patted her back.

She looked up at him with bated breath. She was dying to hear about what happened and of course... Derek.

He smiled down at her warmly. “Everyone is fine. Everyone. We had no casualties except for the voidless. Also, we got some unexpected help. A few fire breathers took out a massive army all on their own. Very convenient of them huh?” He looked up at Freya who only shrugged with a smile.

“In either case everyone is fine. I dropped a bag off at the house for you... from Ryan. It’s a shirt of his...” Jasper looked up at the sky and winked down at Lucy. “He said you’ll sleep better wearing his scent and so will he.”

Lucy giggled. It was a possessive move trying to cover her body with the scent of another male. But he was right... his scent would help her sleep. “He’s okay though?”

“Physically he is fine. I think he is already missing you like crazy though. But who wouldn’t?” Jasper grinned. “Except maybe now. You are grossly covered in sweat.” He teased playfully.

“Mom has kept me out here for hours.” Lucy groaned looking at her mother from the side.

“You are reprieved. Let’s go get showered up.” Freya watched her daughter smile brightly as she trotted back to the house. She walked up to Jasper’s side as they slowly strolled back together.

“I’m taking her with me.” Jasper said quietly.

“I know...” Freya whispered quietly. “Keep my babies safe...”

“Always.”