The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 56

A large group gathered outside the palace of the west dragon kingdom. The king and queen of the fairies, Tyler and Lilly were there along with Tristan. The King and Queen of the werewolves, Wyatt and Freya stood there with Jason and Jin next to them. The dragon King of the west Titus (His queen Lila was still at her brother's kingdom) stood next to The Great Sage, Leviathan and Rhea along with Cody and Kelsie. Then there was a very angry younger generation in the group. Aiden, Derek, Justice, Raine, Micah, Alexis and Brian.

"Everyone needs to relax." The Great Sage spoke in an authoritative calm tone. "I know everyone is ready to go to war but remember what we are dealing with here. The only one who can do anything in this situation is Levi here."

"I won't sit around and do nothing!" Derek yelled angrily. "I can't, I'm going crazy right now."

"Easy Derek. We all feel the same way. That's my baby out there." Wyatt said in a low growl. "We saw the devastation from both an original demon and from a tier one deity. We are nothing to them. I've even sparred against Levi here... a group of us... he didn't even break a sweat."

"If it is who I am suspecting it is then you are no more annoying than a gnat. That's why this is something the deities have a problem with. It is why they originally had a problem with me being with Rhea." Lee rubbed Rhea's anxious shoulders. "The problem will be finding her. Where is that demon soul at? The one with the djinn connected to her?"

"He went off looking for her on his own." Derek sighed angrily. But at least someone was searching for her. They were just sitting here. And he couldn't take it.

"What are you going to do? Just go running around blindly? You'll never find her like that." Levi said seeing Derek's agitation. "We also need to be smart here. This could all be a clever diversion for the witch. I'll go looking for Lucy."

"Let me come too. Please, I can help." Alexis watched as her father's eyes darkened looking at her.

"Absolutely not. For all we know he is trying to lure you out. Remember the premonition. You are grounded and are to remain inside the castle." Lee said as he watched Alexis shake her head angrily.

"I can't just sit here. I can't take this. You have to let me help. You can't go off on your own. If something happens to Lucy…" Alexis looked up as warm salty water trickled down her face flowing freely.

"We can't risk something happening to you too." Lilly said calmly.

"Screw the fairy princess role. I feel like that is all everyone cares about." Alexis snapped.

"That isn't true. We can't ignore the premonition Alexis. Your father is right. You are not to leave the castle." Rhea understood how her daughter was feeling. None of them wanted anything to happen to Lucy. But Alexis over all of them was one who couldn't get involved.

"If something happens to you because you went looking for her… Lucy would never forgive herself." Freya said with a sympathetic smile.

"I'm not weak or fragile. I'm the second strongest here. I shouldn't be getting locked up." Alexis hissed angrily as she swatted the tears away from her face. She looked at everyone's eyes. No one was in agreement with her. Even Derek and Aiden disapproved of her going. "Lucy wouldn't be looking at me like this. She would have let me help." She looked over at Micah and Raine who dropped their heads to not make eye contact with her. "Wow… so I have no one in my corner." She grit her teeth and yelled angrily, "If something happens to Lucy you might as well kill me as well because I'll be dead inside! Knowing I could help and you didn't let me."

"Lex, calm down. We aren't going to let anything happen to Lucy. You aren't the only one who feels that way." Justice growled. He was Lucy's guardian and he failed her. His existence was now about protecting Lucy… and he already failed during his short time as a guardian.

"So what is the plan for now?" Titus asked, looking at Levi. Everyone knew he would be the one making the call here.

"Derek, see if you can call the half-demon. Maybe with his help he can give me a general location. A master-servant relationship is bonded. So much that you can usually summon them from any location. So we know she is in some sort of a barrier… she must be right?" Levi dropped his shoulders with a sigh and looked up at Derek.

"Abaddon, if you can hear me please we need your help." Derek hoped his connection to the servant would be enough to override his drive to find Lucy. And to his surprise, the man appeared at his call. "Aba! Any luck?"

Abaddon shook his head sadly. "But I can feel her so I know she is alive and okay."

"Come with me. Help me search for her." Levi said with a commanding tone.

Abaddon looked at Levi, the deity who wanted to join forces with him. "I'll try... but the connection is distorted. It's like when I try to appear to her I get bounced to a random place that is even farther."

Levi scowled hearing this. "Maybe I can bypass it... Come. Let's find your master."

⸻

Lucy charged into the brick wall and her fawn-colored wolf collided with the bricks again. They still weren't budging but she wouldn't give up. Her body was battered and she was exhausted.

"I've always wanted a pet... much to my surprise I now have a lycan." A voice snickered out.

Lucy lifted her gaze at the man and snarled, baring her teeth.

"Now now. You shouldn't bite the hand that feeds you." Erebus chuckled as food and water appeared on two large silver trays. "Now, if you would be so kind as to shift back..."

It wasn't like Lucy could do anything to him in this form. And she knew she needed to play her part here. Her goal was to survive and escape. She shifted back to her human self still wearing the black dress from the ball.

"Here you go. You can wear these." Erebus tossed her a large shirt and joggers. "You're going to be here for a while so you might as well get comfortable."

"I've been marked by another. There is no way this other mate will still come for me." Lucy said as she gulped the water down. She needed to keep her strength up if she was going to escape. And it didn't make sense for him to poison her when he could easily kill her. So she grabbed the food and bit into it.

"You are an interesting one. I figured you would starve yourself for days in protest." Erebus leaned onto the back wall. A glint of humor flickered in his eyes as he watched her fearlessness.

"Why bother poisoning me when you could easily kill me?" Lucy watched his lips curl upwards.

"Clever fairy…Like I said before… this is a game. I don't know if he will come for you or not. But it is something to pass the time. And like I mentioned, he may have just wanted you to be immortal." Erebus studied her. "You really aren't what I was expecting at all…"

"I'm curious why you are here? You said you were curious about how I would handle isolation."

Erebus chuckled. "I am… but I am also curious about you. And after watching you throw your battered body into the wall again and again… well you've piqued my interest. Which is hard to do." He pushed off of the wall and walked over to her. His eyes trailed over her body. He watched as she stood there unwavering looking at him with defiance. "Are you going to change?"

"Not with you in the room." Lucy looked at him as if he was crazy.

"Princess… you don't have anything I haven't seen before." Erebus said with an arrogant grin.

"Perhaps not but you haven't seen me." Lucy said flatly. She watched as his eyes darkened. He suddenly reached his hand out and grasped onto her lower jaw holding it in place firmly.

"You know… women don't act like this around me. They are either cringing in fear or throwing themselves at me to take them." He growled, closing the distance between them. He squeezed her jaw and pressed his lips into hers roughly.

Okay… Lucy knew she needed to survive and be as compliant as possible. However, on this issue she couldn't. To hell with the consequences. She tried pushing him off of her but it was futile. So she did the only other thing she could think of and she bit onto his lip roughly drawing blood.

"You b***h!" He growled, swinging the back of his hand to collide with her face.

The force flung her to the wall with a thud. Lucy could feel her face swelling and the taste of her blood trickling in her mouth. She lifted her eyes up at him and struggled to her feet.

"What? You expected me to just allow you to touch me?" Lucy turned her head to the side and spit her blood out bitterly.

"I think you fail to remember who is in charge here." Erebus growled lowly.

"Oh, I know. I know you can kill me. But if it is a choice between dying or letting you touch me… I'll gladly accept death." Lucy raised her hand to her split lip and wiped it. The sound of his laughter filled the room and she stared at the maniac who seemed to be enjoying himself.

"Oh what fun you are Lucy. I wonder if I should just keep you for myself."

"You gave your word that if someone comes for me then I am free to go." Lucy reminded him coldly.

Erebus clicked his tongue. "I did, didn't I? But that doesn't include escaping and finding help princess. There is nowhere you can run where I can't find you. So your choice is just to wait here obediently."

Lucy touched her cheek and wondered why she wasn't healing. She could still taste the blood trickling in her mouth and that wound should have healed. That's when the realization hit her. She stared at the food and drink then and back at him.

"Such a clever girl. You are right. I wouldn't poison you. However… I can't have you shifting and hurting yourself either. It is just a minor block. Nothing major. But you may not heal like you are used to. Given your situation, you can hardly refuse to eat and drink. I think we are going to be together for quite some time. And who knows… soon you may want me." Erebus said smugly.

"I made a blood pact with my mate. I won't want anyone but him." Lucy spat at him watching his eyes dance in amusement.

"Oh well if that is all that is stopping you I can fix that. I am close with some witch doctors who could easily break a blood bond. They specialize in dealing with blood potions." Erebus watched Lucy's eyes that had a fire in them. He grinned widely and chuckled. "Oh, Lucy. You just don't get it, do you? IF I decide I want you, you are already mine. I can easily have those sweet memories of yours altered. I can even have you looking at me as your mate." He cackled loudly as his eyes looked wildly at her. "But what is the fun in that? I would much rather see if I can tame you…first. Lucky for you I haven't decided how invested I am yet. Besides… breaking you would also be breaking him… and that sounds like a lot of fun."

Lucy swallowed hard at this. She was trapped by a crazy deity and was powerless against him.

Erebus winked at her. "Well princess, I'll be seeing you soon. Sweet dreams."

She watched as he vanished and collapsed to the floor. Where was the moon goddess at now? If she was really on her family's side couldn't she help her out here? Or is she afraid of getting overly involved again? The situation was becoming more and more desperate. The only thing she had going for her was her Uncle Levi. It was clear that Erebus didn't know that she had a deity in her corner and wouldn't be counting on him looking for her. And she knew he would but even then… how long would it take for him to find her?

This Erebus must be obsessed with the Kraken. So much that he knew nothing about her. Nothing about the fairy princess or her lineage. Had he done any research he would have known that the fairy princess would be a demi-god. This worked out though… he thought he had the one and only fairy princess. She just had to have him keep thinking that. She would protect Alexis by becoming her shield.

She lowered herself to the ground and wrapped her arms around her knees pulling them up to her chest. She was powerless. She was worried about Derek and how he was holding up. She hoped he wasn't thinking of doing anything stupid. He couldn't come for her. He needed to stay far away from this lunatic deity. Thinking about her mate made her heart hurt. Would she get to see him again? She leaned her head down onto her knees and felt her eyes burn. Quiet tears trickled down her cheek and for the first time… she was all out of ideas. All she could do was wait for someone to find her and hope the lunatic kept his word.

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 57

Erebus clicked his tongue. "Just look at you. Covered in blood and bruises. You are very unsightly."

"And whose fault do you think that is?" Lucy said tiredly struggling to her feet when the deity entered the room.

"Yours of course. Your disobedience is the cause of your pain and suffering. Like now… you still refuse to put the clothes on that I have given you. I'm sure your mates' scent has almost disappeared completely from the dress you have on. No sentimental reason to leave it on."

"I'd rather wear this old dress that smells than to wear your clothes with your scent on them."

"Oh, Lucy… I'm going to have to teach you another lesson…" Erebus walked up to her, grabbed her by the neck, and slammed her back into the wall. "I hate doing this to you princess… but you need to be trained properly." He took his free hand and traced it over Lucy's lips. "I think I am going to make this a new hobby of mine. Finding a spirited woman and seeing how

long it takes to break them. I'm afraid none will compare next to you though." He gripped her tightly now with both hands forcing her to hold still. Then he licked her neck all the way up to her cheek. He chuckled as she struggled against him in vain. "Still being disobedient I see… I'll have to discipline you again."

He took his hand and slapped her across the face. He curled his lips up angrily as she shot her defiant green eyes right back at him. He growled and clenched his teeth. "Quit fighting me!"

She felt his hot humid breath and spit beat against her face. She continued to look at him challengingly. "I'll never stop fighting you."

Erebus chuckled. "You will, though princess. I just haven't broken you enough yet. But… You. Will. Break." His lips curled up as he pressed himself against her. "You feel that… you are making me excited princess. The more you fight… the more I want you. So keep fighting. Keep exciting me. It will make the release all the more worth it."

Lucy felt bile rise up in her throat. She could feel his excitement pressing on her and it repulsed her. She turned her head away from him. It had been a week since she was taken. A week of being in hell. Every day he worked on breaking her and training her. Her body was bruised and bloodied. She was dirty. Yet, she continued to fight. She wouldn't let him see how affected she was actually getting from all of this. The emotional toll it was taking on her. And she was beginning to feel dirty.

Erebus has forced his kisses on her. He had trailed his hands over her. He hadn't forced himself on her more than that… yet. He is still banking that she will eventually want him. He wants her to ask for it. Like hell, she ever would. But she wasn't sure if she was still worthy of her mate anymore. Another man had touched her body and her lips. They were supposed to only ever belong to Derek… She still wanted to escape this place. But she wasn't sure now about where she would go. She couldn't become Derek's queen now. He deserved better. She could make a deal with the witch doctors and break the blood bond. It was probably better that way. She was tainted now. How could he want her after this? She could imagine his thoughts after seeing hers and what she had been through. She didn't want to feel his disgust. She didn't want the man she loved more than anything to feel repulsed by her.

"Well, I guess that is it for today's lesson. See you tomorrow." Erebus gave her a smug smile and stepped back from her. Then with a wink, he vanished.

Lucy tried to get her breathing under control as she felt herself panicking slightly. There was no escape. No one would find her. And she felt disgusted with herself for feeling so weak and desperate.

She slid down the wall as her heart raced wildly. She had never felt so vulnerable and weak. Her chest squeezed tightly together making it harder to breathe. Her lungs were constricting and she wasn't getting the oxygen she needed. Her vision began to tunnel until finally, darkness overtook her.

——

Another week has passed...

"Damn it." Abaddon cursed as he and Levi stood in an empty building. It had been two weeks since they last saw Lucy. TWO WEEKS! They couldn't find her though. He could feel her but couldn't get close to her. During that time he and Levi had been searching nonstop. They had been spending a lot of time together and they had formed a passive-aggressive relationship. But there was a trust between them now.

Lee groaned and leaned his hand against the wall. "We can't keep going on like this. The family can't continue like this either."

"Neither can Derek. He is leading the vampire army viciously looking for the witch. He is breaking with every day we can't find her. I can't imagine what Lucy is going through. I can only tell you she is alive. But that's all I can feel." Abaddon sighed, the creases on his forehead showed the worry he was feeling for Lucy.

"Alexis isn't speaking to any of us. She hates being locked up but she isn't alone. Aiden is stuck under house arrest with her. I think he is also getting more and more agitated by the day. It is only a matter of time before they both rebel." Lee sighed angrily. "Damnit where did he take her?!"

"What exactly is the separating factor between deities and demons? Just curious because it looks like there isn't much of a difference. One is considered automatically evil just because of their name."

"You know I don't know anymore. I really don't." Lee shook his head sadly. He was working with a half-demon. Jin was the sweetest demon he ever met. And Harley, who was the son of an original demon, had been a great help and mate to his niece Destiny.

"What do you th ink he is planning by taking her?" Abaddon asked quietly.

"If Wicker is Erebus..." Lee frowned and shook his head. "He probably took Lucy because he thinks she is Aken's mate... thinking about the premonition he must already know Aken is mated to the fairy princess. And Lucy is a fairy princess... Lucy would never tell him she wasn't the one he was looking for either. No matter what he does to her..."

Abaddon looked darkly across the room. They needed to find her but how. All they could keep doing is searching in the area that drew him the most. He knew she was in a general direction but that was it.

"Let's keep looking. I can't take even taking a breather." Abaddon growled out and watched as Lee nodded his head in agreement. "What will you do if you find this Erebus?"

"I'll disintegrate him. A dark deity, even a tier-one, can't be stronger than a light deity. At least not on their own merit."

"What is the Kraken... Aken?"

Lee frowned. "He was a light deity who went dark. And ended up cursed and forced to remain bound to the sea. He is only able to roam the earth now because his life is still linked to Tyler. He was cursed to remain in the sea from the other deities. Aken rose up against the other gods... but before that... well he had some run-ins with Erebus. There is a history there between the two of them. This has become a personal vendetta for Erebus. But that bastard is involving my family in his feud with Aken." He balled his hands together. "He doesn't realize it yet but he just created another enemy. I don't forgive those who mess with what is mine. I'll kill Erebus or he will have to spend eternity running from me. For what he has done to Lucy... and what he plans to do to Alexis I will end him."

—

"What is going on here? Why have the vampires and dragons descended upon us?" Beryl asked angrily from her hidden location.

"I don't know but they seem angry. We haven't even done anything yet but the way they are fighting now is different. It is merciless and unyielding." A dark elf said nervously seeing the witch's anger.

"I am so close. I didn't go through everything I did for nothing! And of course, those damn cowards haven't shown themselves yet." Beryl clicked her tongue and paced madly across the floor. "What set them off? Something must have

happened…" What was she going to do now? It was only a matter of time before she was found. If she was going to go down then she might as well at least take one member of the Locke family down with her. Yes… even if it was only one of them…

She just needed to hold out and stay hidden. The opportunity would arise to at least destroy one of them. She had waited so long already and she wouldn't lose out now. She would disappear until things calmed down some. Yes… she just needed to disappear for a bit longer.

"Deploy the next two units. Let's keep them busy." Beryl said with a smirk looking at the dark elf. She would use this moment to escape deeper into the darkness… for now.

—

Jasper wiped the damp beads off his forehead. They have been scouring through the lands looking for the witch and any sign of Lucy. It was all they could do. They could only continue to fight and wait. It was torture. He looked at a nearby tree where Derek was leaning his forehead against it. He was worried about him. He was breaking little by little. He walked up to him and placed his hand on his shoulder.

Derek glanced at the hand for a brief moment before closing his eyes. Where was his Lucy? How was she? Was she okay? It was his job to protect her… he failed her. How could he have let her fall into dangerous hands? What kind of mate was he? It hurt so much. It hurt that he lost her when she was right in front of him. It hurt knowing how weak he was that he couldn't get her back. It hurt. It hurt. It hurt.

"Hey… we are going to get her back." Jasper said gently.

"We? We aren't going to do anything because we aren't strong enough to get her back." Derek spit out bitterly.

"Don't do this to yourself…" Jasper whispered out.

"If anything happens to her…" Derek stifled a sob and felt Jasper's arms wrap around him.

"Don't. Don't think like that. She is coming back to us. So let's get rid of this witch. It will be one less thing for her to worry about, right?" Jasper felt Derek's body tremble slightly. He had been forcing himself in front of everyone to look strong. Their strong and fearless leader was actually shattered.

"Jasper... listen to me." Derek straightened up and turned to look at his cousin. His wet eyes met with him head-on. "Just listen, okay?" He watched Jasper nod slowly. "If... if something happens to her... I'm giving you the throne. No words Jasper. I can't go on without her. I won't go on without her. Gosh, Jasper do I even deserve her anymore? I let her down. I told her she was safe with me."

Jasper's face was crestfallen as he stared at the red watery eyes of his cousin. "You didn't let her down Derek. There was nothing anyone could do. Who could fight against a deity?"

"Another deity. Maybe that's what Lucy really needs. Someone strong enough to protect her." Derek swallowed bitterly the sting of his own failure burned him.

"Derek!" Jasper grabbed onto his cousin's shoulders gripping tightly. "You need to be strong right now for her. She is going to need you and your strength when she comes back. Be the man she needs. You can't afford to break. I know you want to because it sucks. And it hurts like hell. I want to destroy the world looking for her." He gripped Derek's shoulders tighter as his own eyes watered up. "I depended on her too much. I took for granted that I would always have her light around." He grit his teeth and shook his head slowly with his eyes closed. "We don't know what kind of hell she might be going through and when she comes back she is going to need our light this time."

Derek's bottom lip quivered and he nodded his head as wet droplets escaped to the ground. "My poor little mate..." He breathed out in a whisper. When Jasper looked up the two men locked eyes. "You're right. I'll be whoever Lucy needs me to be. I just need her back."

"I know you do." Jasper gave him a weak smile. "We all need her back."

Derek straightened up. He would do everything in his power to fight now. It was the only way he could fight for Lucy. And if something tragic happens to her... he already decided. He wouldn't go on either. He would also die. Because life without Lucy would not be a life at all.

"Incoming!" Chaz yelled from the distance. "And there are a lot of them."

"Good." Derek said coldly. "I need to take this aggression out on something."

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 58

Lucy opened her eyes to the darkness of her mind. She had been here before, she looked around expectantly. Sure enough, a familiar glow appeared.

"I didn't think you actually cared." Lucy spat out angrily.

"Not now Lucy, this isn't the time. Where are you? What does it look like?" Selene asked quickly. "Hurry, there isn't much time. I can't find you. I am barely able to visit your mind now."

Lucy's breath caught. She was trying to help her. "I'm surrounded by the ocean. I'm in a tall stone-like tower. There is only one window but all I can see is the water." She watched as the light of the woman flickered and vanished. Did she hear her? Was she able to make out what she said? It seemed that Erebus made this area very well sealed. Especially if even Selene was having a hard time.

Lucy blinked her eyes and was no longer in the dark. The sunbeams from the window streamed onto her face. She winced as she tried to sit up. It had been two and half weeks since she was taken and yesterday's lesson had been incredibly painful. She was pretty sure she had a couple of broken ribs that were not healing because of whatever he was giving her.

After she first found out he was lacing her food she refused to eat. But that only got her punished and he forced it into her mouth. She didn't have a choice. She would ingest it by choice or by force. She eased herself against the back of the cool brick wall. She listened as the water crashed against the tower she was in. She closed her eyes and inhaled slowly because of the pain in her side. She wondered if that was a desperate dream or if Selene really did try to reach out to her.

"I've decided today is the day." Erebus said as he appeared in the room with an arrogant smirk resting on his face.

"The day for what?" Lucy snapped her gaze up at him indignantly.

"Today is the day you are changing your clothes. Your dress is disgusting." Erebus sneered at her dress in revulsion. It was getting hard to find her appealing in her stinking dress.

"I told you I don't want to wear anything that smells of you." She growled as she stood on shaking feet. She held her side to support her broken ribs.

"Oh, what fun… that's what I hoped you would say." Erebus said as he walked up to her. He slapped his hand across her face making her split lip start bleeding again. Yet, she snapped her defiant gaze right back at him. "It's like this. You'll wear these clothes… or none at all."

He reached his hand in front of him grabbing the fabric of her dress. With a quick movement, he ripped the material exposing the strapless bra she had on through torn pieces. And he ripped it again… this time shredding her lower half of the tattered gown away. The gown lay shredded around her waist. Her bare legs trembled slightly but she continued to stand against him defiantly. "We can do this the hard way… or the easy way. Either you take the dress off or I will. Of course, the hard way is more fun for me…"

Lucy saw red and swung her fist up connecting it with his chin. She knew she shouldn't have done it but this man had disrespected her in more ways than one. When his dark eyes set on her she knew she was in for it. She was slammed back into the wall as his foot collided with her stomach. She heard the sound of a crack… another rib had broken. She coughed out fresh blood and spit it onto the floor. She watched as he marched towards her to hit her again. Then a loud thunderous noise was heard. And the next second the whole top of the building was gone. Pieces of stone crumbled around her and there was a gray cloud of dust blurring her view slightly.

She watched as someone crashed into Erebus sending his body into the stone floor creating a hole below him. A man stood over his body breathing heavily. It was a young-looking muscular man with brown hair and green eyes. His green eyes bore straight into Erebus with a malicious glare.

"Sooo you've finally found us. I've been entertaining your mate here for you." Erebus said as he looked up at the man.

"What exactly do you think you can do here? You think YOU can beat me?" Aken scoffed with an arrogant smirk. "You've lived among the demons for too long. But I can remind you which one of us is stronger."

"I don't need to be stronger than you Aken. I just need to be stronger than your weakness." Erebus gave him a smug look and nodded over to Lucy.

Aken's eyes fell onto Lucy. His eyes softened as he met with her green weary emeralds but as he trailed over her his jaw clenched. He took his shirt off and marched over to Lucy gently placing it over her body to cover her exposed skin. She whimpered slightly as he pulled the shirt on her and he squeezed his fist together. His eyes stared at her battered face and he felt his anger rising.

"You'll never be able to touch her again, Erebus. Do you have any idea who you just provoked? You didn't just mess with me moron." He turned and faced Erebus. "Selene has gone to Rogio... because you have interfered with the vampire prince's promised bride. Why do you think I haven't claimed her as my mate?" He smirked as he watched Erebus eyes widen in fear. "He will be hunting you now... he will kill you when he finds you. But why should he get the honors?" Aken glowered at Erebus and watched the flighty reaction of the despicable deity.

"No... I have a better idea. I'll just kill you now." Aken snarled and shot a powerful wave of energy towards Erebus then met his fists into the man's body.

Erebus retaliated back with a strong blow of his own. Both men rose into the sky and a colorful battled ensued. Lucy watched from the bottom but through the clouds, she often lost track of their movements. She watched as Erebus connected a powerful punch into Aken. Crashing colors of energy smashed together creating strong winds that beat down on Lucy. A black energy surged towards Aken who skillfully avoided the blast. It hurled downward into the ocean creating a dark hole. The energy manage to part a section of the ocean in that moment. The waves splashed backwards in retreat and a loud noise rippled into the air as it made impact. Soon the hole was swallowed up by the waves again. This was a deity's strength. This was a power she had no way of defeating. She could only helplessly watched from below.

Aken sent his own blast of white blinding force towards the other man. Erebus shot his darkness into the light energy making it split into tow sections away from him and into the sky. He charged behind his darkness using that moment of blindness to reach his opponent. Erebus smashed his fist laced with energy into Aken. This was intense and terrifying. They were both incredibly strong and Lucy was worried now for Aken. She looked at him in horror but was surprised to see a resting smug look on his face. The man didn't look the least bit affected by the hit. In fact... there was enjoyment in his eyes now. As if he was only testing out Erebus.

Aken reached up and touched the small droplet of blood that emerged from his mouth. A smirk rose over his lips as he kept an arrogant gaze on Erebus. "Not bad. Someone has gotten stronger... and yet... not strong enough." He flashed into Erebus grabbing onto the man so he couldn't escape. He would show him the real difference in their strengths now and began to beat him mercilessly.

Aken didn't give Erebus a chance to fight back; he just kept the barrage of deadly attacks coming. "You like hitting women? How does it feel to be hit, you sick bastard!" He landed another powerful punch that ended up sending Erebus flying down through the sky almost hitting the ocean below. Aken followed after him but Erebus used this moment to escape. He vanished. Damn. Aken clenched his jaw angrily and shook his head. He was hoping to kill the a*****e right there.

Aken returned to the exposed tower and landed his feet on the ground. He looked at Lucy quietly for a moment. His eyes traveled over her battered body and he walked over to her. She had blood running from the cut on her lip. Her right cheek was red and swollen from where she had been hit. And before he put the shirt over earlier her he noticed the deep angry purple and crimson skin around her ribs. He reached his hands out to her and very carefully lifted her body into his. He could feel her body shaking from the pain. As carefully as he could he fully lifted her form into his arms. In another instant, they were surrounded by woods.

"I don't understand... why?" Lucy whispered out as she leaned against the heat of the man's bare chest.

"Alexis..." He whispered out quietly "I can't stand her pain. She is a wreck right now. For her... I would part the seas... I would give her everything. I had to find you."

"He thought that I was Alexis. I didn't tell him. I just let him believe..."

"Shhh shhh shhh. Good girl. You did well." Aken said in a calm soothing tone.

"I had a premonition that he would kill her." Lucy said in a whimper, feeling the muscles of the man tense.

"As long as he thinks you are my mate he won't touch her. I need to make sure I stay away from her and keep her safe from him. And as for you..." Aken said as he effortlessly held Lucy in one hand and used his other to wipe some of the fresh blood from her face. "He won't ever touch you again. Selene has gone to Rogio. He is the deity that protects the vampires and let's just say he is someone you don't want on your bad side. He has the council in the palm of his hands. Trust me... I know... I angered him once and it got me cursed... Rogio had been sleeping for a while now though so no one has felt his wrath lately. However, Selene has woken him up and his rage will be directed to Erebus. And you will now be under the direct protection of Rogio."

"Why did Selene go to you? And..."

"Well she didn't come out and say it but I know why she came to me and not Leviathan. It is because she is still protective of your aunt. And just in case Erebus got the best of him it would kill your aunt as well. I was the one she deemed an acceptable casualty. Especially since I have been refusing to claim my mate."

"You know she wants you right? She plans to have you one way or another." Lucy took in a calming breath. She was free. She was safe. And having a normal conversation felt incredible. It was helping to keep her thoughts away from what had happened...

Aken chuckled. "Yes, I know. I hear her talk sometimes. She comes out and talks to the darkness thinking I can hear her... well I guess she isn't wrong. I watch her often. But I need to keep my distance from her. Even more so now. Right now Erebus thinks you are my mate. I can't have him knowing who my mate really is..." He frowned as he gently eased Lucy back to her feet. "Are you okay?"

Lucy looked up into his green calm eyes. He just had to ask the question that would break her tough exterior. Her eyes began to blur as they filled up with water. As she began to sob quietly he pulled her into his arms patting her back.

"I'm so sorry. Thank you for what you did for Alexis. I'll never forget it ever. Ever." Aken looked up as two people materialized in front of him. His eyes met with the cool blue eyes of the dragon deity.

She felt a hand land on her shoulder and she looked back to see her Uncle Levi. Aken lowered his arms from Lucy.

"Gently with her. She is beaten up pretty good. I think she has a few cracked ribs. He must have been giving her some sort of block."

"Aken... thank you." Levi wrapped his arms around Lucy's trembling shoulders.

"Don't thank me... the bastard managed to escape. But Rogio will be after him now. Selene has seen to that..." Aken looked down at Lucy. "She will be safe from him now. And as long as Erebus thinks she is my mate Alexis will stay safe."

Lee nodded his head in understanding. "We need to hunt him down then. Because my daughter needs you."

"She doesn't know what she needs. I'm the one who needs her... but I will protect her. She deserves better than me." Aken sighed. "Take care of her for me."

"Aken wait..." Levi said, causing the man's green eyes to flash up to his.

"I know about the premonition. Even more reason for me to avoid her, especially now. Lucy could have freed herself by saying who her mate was. Erebus would have had no interest in her then. Instead…" Aken squeezed his eyes shut tight and shook his head. He opened his eyes looking at Levi. I don't know what he has done to her. But from the looks of her clothes…

Levi clenched his jaw and squeezed his eyes tight. She was wearing Aken's shirt, it was obvious from the smell and the man's lack of shirt. If that is the case… He couldn't think of what she must have gone through. And he felt guilty because she was protecting his daughter.

"How did you find her?" Levi asked quietly.

"Selene. Apparently, I am more expendable than you are." Aken chuckled. "Get her the medical attention she needs…I'll be around."

"Aken!" Levi shouted but the man had already left. "Damn him…"

"Lucy…" Abaddon whispered as he slid to his knees next to her. He looked down avoiding her eye contact. "I'm so sorry. I couldn't find you. I'm sorry."

She peered away from the chest in front of her to look down at the half-demon. Her servant… and her friend.

"Don't… this isn't your fault." She gave him a weak smile. She could see how exhausted he was. It was obvious they were searching tirelessly for her.

Lee stepped back from her and looked at her face. His eyes flickered darkly as he examined the handprint across her swollen cheek. Her bloodied lip… "I wonder if your grandmother can heal you through this block…"

"If it is blocking her own healing abilities I don't think we can heal her magically at all. The demons used similar blocks against other demons… we have to wait until it drains from her system." Abaddon rose up to his feet. Lucy's eyes looked dark and tired. Her aura was dull and there was a sadness in her eyes.

"Let's get you back," Levi said as he took hold of Lucy.

"Uncle Levi… I can't handle a crowd right now. Honestly… I just want to be alone." Lucy watched as her surroundings changed. She was now in a wide room at a place she recognized.

"It's my pad at the top of the palace. No one will come up here. Okay? Your parents will want to see you. They need to see you, Lucy. And your grandmother is a doctor… so let's have her take a look at you. And I'll have Derek brought here as well. You both need each other."

She turned to object but Levi was already gone. She held her side and felt Abaddon come next to her, helping support her. He helped her over to a chair and then he grabbed a blanket off the back of the couch. He lowered the blanket over her to help cover her better than the shirt and almost nonexistent dress that clung to her. Then he sat next to her quietly.

She appreciated him. He wasn't trying to talk to her he was just being a comforting presence. Who would have thought that the demon who her aunt killed would end up being the one who was giving her the most comfort right now? Her body hurt all over and was fatigued. And her eyes drooped with exhaustion.

Abaddon felt her head plop onto his arm. He glanced down seeing her closed eyes. His eyes wandered over her bruised face and split lip. He felt liquid flowing from him and he reached up with his other hand in shock. There were tears. It was like the first rain after a drought. His heart was broken and the liquid flowed down in constant streams. For Lucy… he cried.

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 59

The voidless kept marching and marching. The bodies piled up and yet there was no stopping them. The vampires were beginning to tire. It was fatigue that was becoming the real enemy. Derek knew something seemed off but there wasn't time to think as they continued to smash against them.

A blue energy shot over the voidless. And the exhausting battle instantly came to an end. Derek watched as Levi materialized in front of him. This was the strength he was missing. This was the strength that took Lucy. Who could battle against that? What was tiring his army out, Levi instantly combusted them. Damn… deities were scary.

"Levi!" Jasper called as he ran over to greet the deity beside Derek. He glanced over at Derek and could see he was anxious as well. If Levi was here that means he had news of Lucy. But he didn't have her with him…Which didn't seem like a good sign.

"Thank you. We were starting to wear out." Derek said as he panted to catch his breath. His amber eyes were locked onto Levi studying his face.

"We have her." Levi said quietly.

"You found her! Thank goodness." Jasper sighed and patted Derek's back.

"Aken found her. He saved her." Levi answered quietly while keeping eye contact with Derek.

"Take me to her."

"I will… just…" Levi frowned. "Derek… I want to prepare you."

Derek felt his chest squeeze in pain. And he waited with bated breath for what Levi was going to say. He felt Jasper squeeze his shoulder showing him that he was there for support.

"I don't know what she has been through. But physically she is in bad shape. She has broken ribs, bruising and cuts. She has something in her that won't allow herself to be healed by her magic or any magic. And… I don't know what else he did to her. Aken had to give her his shirt to wear… As her soul mate, you are going to see and know what happened to her. You need to be prepared for what you see… Lucy will need your strength. I've never…" Levi shook his head and closed his eyes at the memory of seeing his niece. "I've never seen her look like that…"

Derek clenched his hands together so tight his knuckles turned white. "What about the man who took her?"

"He got away. But he won't come back for Lucy. Selene has woken up Rogio… Rogio will make sure nothing happens to her or your kind. Erebus will not dare come near you because that is one deity he does fear. He fears his power over the council. Don't worry Derek. I will continue to hunt Erebus down for what he did to Lucy. And Aken will as well. Lucy protected my daughter… if she would have just confessed that she wasn't Aken's mate… But she didn't. I'm sorry Derek. I'm so sorry…"

"Derek!" Ryan jogged over from the side. "Has she been found?" He watched him nod his head. "Thank the heavens. I've got things covered here. You and Jasper go." When Derek had ordered the full assault on the witch Ryan took his rightful place as the head of the elite soldiers. And now they had built up a relationship. It was his job to lead the soldiers and they already

respected him before thinking he was the prince. It was a bit of an adjustment to realize who is the prince and who is the soldier. But now Derek could take care of what was important.

"I can bring you both back but... Lucy doesn't want to see anyone." Levi said quietly.

"Wait... when you say anyone..." Jasper said, glancing over at Derek.

"As I said... we don't know what she has gone through. But if there is anyone she needs it is Derek. If you are ready to handle that..." Levi met with the amber eyes of the young prince.

"Whatever happened doesn't change anything for me. I'll be there for her and will help her through this. I'll give her the time she needs and just be there for her. This soul bond will really come in handy. She won't be able to hide what she is feeling. I'll be able to give her exactly what she needs."

"It's also why you need to be prepared and careful. Expect the worst. And you know what I mean by that... Your feelings flow through each other. And if you feel like you need to walk away to let your feelings out then do it." Levi watched the calm amber eyes in front of him.

"Levi, whatever happened would never have me thinking anything bad about my Lucy. I may feel like killing someone. But none of that matters. I just want to be near her and smell her. I can't help it though. I'm probably going to bawl like a baby when I see her." Derek rubbed the back of his neck with a small smile. He already felt like crying just in relief hearing they found her. "Ryan... take care of things here. I'm going to Lucy."

"Don't worry. Everything is in good hands." Ryan said as Derek nodded to him appreciatively. He wasn't too worried since Levi had wiped out the voidless army. It would probably be quiet for a while.

"Okay, Levi. Take me to her." Derek said firmly. Instantly Levi had taken them back to the castle. He brought them near the bottom stairs to his upper pad. Standing there was all of the family except for Lilly, Freya and Wyatt.

"Jasper, wait here." Derek said with a small smile.

"Take care of her for me..." Aiden said quietly. He didn't know how she was but for Lucy not to want others around... she must be pretty bad.

Derek nodded his head and Levi immediately transferred him up the stairs.

"I'll be at the bottom waiting with Rhea…" Levi said and left Derek standing in the room. He glanced up to see Abaddon standing there staring at a closed door.

"How is she?" Derek whispered. He was shocked to see Abaddon's red puffy eyes. It was obvious he had been crying. And this made his stomach turn anxiously.

"She's been beaten up pretty bad. She hasn't talked to anyone about what happened… but some of it is obvious." Abaddon shook his head. "She fell asleep on me. She was so exhausted that even when her parents arrived she didn't wake. Her father carried her into the room there. Her grandmother is examining her." He nodded to the door.

"Go and relax. I know you have been searching non-stop for her. I'll handle everything from here. Jasper is downstairs. Why don't you go and stay with him?" Derek watched Abaddon nod his head and turn to leave.

Derek took in a deep breath and slowly pushed the door open. Freya was sitting near a bed while Wyatt had his hand leaning on the wall with his head pressed into it. Lilly was finishing wrapping a bandage around Lucy when she lifted her eyes up to his. He walked in closer and his eyes landed on Lucy.

She laid there in the bed with her eyes closed. Her lip was cut and she had a red swollen mark across her face. Her lower body was covered with a sheet but her arms had bruises of all different shades. From older-looking bruises to fresher colored ones. To the side of the bed, he saw the shredded dress that he last saw her in. He turned his eyes away from it and walked closer to the bed. Lilly immediately got up to make room for him to be closer.

"She has four broken ribs and needs to stay still until she can be healed. When she wakes you'll be able to see what happened through her thoughts. Instead of us talking to her about it you can come out and tell us later. It will be less stressful on her this way." Lilly watched as Derek sat on the bed next to her.

"Wyatt… Freya… why don't you two come back with me. Let's have some tea. You two need to rest as well. There is nothing more to be done here. Let's leave the rest in Derek's hands. He will come and talk with us when things are settled." Lilly understood the soulmate bond. Derek would know everything and he would know exactly what Lucy needed. And they couldn't help her more than he could.

Wyatt looked at Lucy, his eyes full of pain. He was also struggling with not being strong enough to rescue his own daughter. It made all of them realize that no matter how powerful they were there was another level of strength above them. He felt Freya's warm hand intertwined with his and she nodded at him in understanding. Slowly he allowed her to lead him out of the room.

The door shut leaving Derek alone with Lucy. He shifted slowly in the bed so that he could lie next to her. He just laid there staring at her. He missed her so much. His sweet precious little mate. He felt his eyes burning as hot liquid began to seep from his eyes. The tears kept coming as he looked at her. Deep down he was terrified he would never see her again. And seeing her now flooded all of the weeks of worry out of him.

He reached his hand up and smoothed her hair back from her face. His fingers ever so slightly brushed against her face and he felt the surging tingles rush from the contact. Lucy had felt it too because her eyes fluttered open.

Green stared into amber. No word. Just silence. Their lives, their hurt, their pain... their everything flashed between them. She knew his pain and his worries. He knew hers. He saw her memories and how she was beaten. How she fought and how Erebus forced his kisses on her. But that was all he had forced on her. He didn't take her completely. And yet he could feel how Lucy still felt tainted because of it. Instantly they knew it all. And they knew how the other felt about it. Absurdity from both ends. Lucy didn't blame Derek and Derek didn't think any less of Lucy. They both wanted the other completely.

"I love you, my little mate." Derek brushed his thumb against her cheek. "Everyone is here. They are all worried about you."

Lucy reached her hand up and met with his hand. Their fingers tangled together and she closed her eyes enjoying the touch of her mate. "I didn't know if I would ever see you again."

Derek squeezed her hand and breathed in deeply. He understood her feelings there. He had also felt them.

"I would kill for a shower." Lucy said with a chuckle.

"Sorry baby. I'll get a washcloth and wash you but you need to stay still. You have four broken ribs." Derek felt his heart sting. His sweet Lucy had endured so much. A smirk played across his lips as Lucy's thoughts entered into his mind. "Don't even you little temptress. Strictly a pure wholesome sponge bath. That's it. But once you are healed... I plan to make sure I mark every single part of your body. Leaving my scent on every inch of your skin."

He watched her close her eyes as she rested quietly. He scooted into her more and leaned his head against hers. He kept a hold of her hand with their fingers interlaced together. This was enough. They both just needed to be near the other. All their worries and concerns instantly vanished. They could see exactly how their mate felt. They needed this quiet moment together. Breathing in one another's scent and feeling the other's touch. Something so simple and yet so powerful.

Derek leaned up and brushed his lips over her forehead before leaning it back into her to watch her face. He felt as her body drifted back into unconsciousness. His eyes watered as the flood gates released. All of his emotions flowed out of him as he watched over her. And for the first time since Lucy had been taken he also felt relaxed. He had been tirelessly fighting and hardly sleeping. So with his head against hers, their fingers intertwined they both slept. Two halved souls… finally reunited.

The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 60

Derek opened his eyes to see Lucy still peacefully resting. His eyes wandered over her swollen face and he felt his chest tightening. She had endured so much. He wished there was a way he could take it on himself. Let him take the pain and the wounds. If only the soul mate bond would allow such a thing. He would do it in a heartbeat. He stayed there watching her for a few more moments before he eased himself away, crept to the door, and shut it quietly behind him.

"Aba." Derek said quietly.

"I'm here." Abaddon said as he materialized in front of him.

"I want you to watch over her in case she wakes up. I'm going to go and talk with her family. I'm sure they are anxiously waiting to hear how she is. If she wakes, come and get me immediately." Derek watched Abaddon nod his head. "Thank you, Aba… for going above and beyond trying to locate her." He smiled at Abaddon and walked past him patting the man on his shoulder. A simple gesture but spoke volumes between both men.

Derek made his way down the winding stairs and back to the main floor. His eyes widened in surprise, shocked to see all of her family sitting there waiting. The younger generation took to the floor on bean bags and blankets. While chairs were brought in for everyone else. Everyone was waiting for him to tell them about Lucy. They did even want to leave the lower door because of their concern for Lucy. A smile crept over his face. They all loved his little mate so much.

Jasper jumped to his feet followed by Aiden and Justice. Wyatt and Freya also stood up and stepped closer to Derek. Everyone was quiet and was waiting anxiously to hear his report.

"She's resting again." Derek said softly. He sighed and rubbed the back of his neck. He had seen Lucy's memories and it made him nauseous having to recall them. Better him though than Lucy.

"He had been forcing her to ingest a magic blocker. And when she fought against him or was disobedient he punished her. His punishments mainly consisted of hitting her and choking her. He was trying to condition her... He did force his lips on her as well..." Derek shook his head as he breathed out angrily. "But thankfully he was so conceited that he didn't force it more than that. He expected her to want him and was waiting for that. She stayed defiant and spirited though. All the way up to the moment Aken rescued her."

Derek watched as Alexis' lips quivered and she turned into Raine. Her mate had saved Lucy. He risked his own self to save her cousin and all because he knew Alexis was hurting. And Lucy endured all of that just for her. Derek was sure that this was emotional for Alexis in more ways than one. Especially since Aken had stressed again he would be avoiding her.

"She's okay though. Besides her physical wounds... surprisingly her mental state seems much better. In fact, it felt the same... at least as of now. The moment everything flowed between us she was okay. She's strong... stronger than me." Derek said with a quiet sob. To see everything she went through and he couldn't have done a thing about it. Even if he was there he wasn't strong enough to save her. The punishment his sweet mate took... it was senseless and cruel. And seeing her memories of what happened... they hurt him. And now that he was away from Lucy he was letting some of that pain out.

Jasper walked up to Derek and clutched the back of his head. He leaned his forehead into him and they just stood there quietly like that.

Cody pulled Kelsie into his chest as other couples quietly held their partners close. Freya leaned into Wyatt and quietly cried. Jin also wept into Jason's chest while Rhea stood there with Lee holding her close. Lilly and Tyler stood next to each other holding hands. There was a wide range of emotions. Relief and anger being the primary ones. They were all worried about how Lucy would be affected after what happened. No one knew exactly what she had been through and how she would handle it.

Brian, Aiden, Micah and Justice were angry. They didn't like the idea of having to wait until this Erebus was caught. They all wanted to see the man dead now.

"I know there is a lot of anger about what happened to Lucy. But we must leave that up to Levi and the other deities." Titus finally spoke slowly but with a deep resonating belief. "But there is something that the dragons can focus on now. And that is

this witch. I will be heading up a small group and going to search for her. I will also have Brian leading another group. I know he has some pent-up frustration to let out."

"Hell yeah I do," Brian growled.

"You wolves continue to stay out of this fight. Our family has had enough pain these past two weeks. We won't risk anymore by something happening to any of you." Titus looked over at Wyatt. "I'll send Reese and a couple of others to the Diamond pack for now... so please stay here while Lucy is recovering."

Wyatt didn't put up a fight. Reese was a strong dragon and right now he couldn't leave his daughter already. Not yet, not after everything that had happened. "Yes... we will stay here." He felt Freya nod her head against his side. She didn't want to leave Lucy either.

"One more thing. It seems Erebus plans to claim the witch's soul after her death. We are going to have to think about how we wish to handle pursuing her..." Derek looked at the nods in the room.

"Well, we at least need to capture her by any means necessary. We can't have another threat on the loose." Wyatt sighed this was something else they would have to think about.

"I want to see her," Aiden whispered out looking up at Derek.

Derek nodded his head. He knew everyone wanted to see and talk with her. "I'll talk with her and I'll let you know when she is ready. We could use some button-up shirts for now while she is still mending. As well as some other clothes so I can get her cleaned up. How long will it take for her to regain her healing or for someone to be able to heal her?"

"I tried to heal her and it wouldn't work at all. I honestly don't know. But we will keep trying. My best guess is it should only take a couple of days. But Abaddon would probably have more experience with this stuff than me." Lilly admitted. It was weird referring to the half-demon and even depending on him for information. But she had seen the difference and this Abaddon was not the same. This was not the demon that had hunted the fairy princesses. And after seeing his back story she actually felt sorry for him.

"I want to get back to her before she wakes up... Jasper... for now you can stay here. I know you want to be able to see her too. In a few days though I would like for you to return to head up the vampires in battle and the search for the witch." Derek watched as Jasper nodded his head in understanding.

"In a few days, he won't need to be in battle. I'll have that witch's army burnt to ashes and have her captured." Brian snorted with a smirk.

"I hope you do." Derek said with a tired smile as he turned to head back up the stairs. Upon entering the room again he saw Abaddon sitting next to the bed watching over Lucy who stirred. Her eyes opened and she glanced around the room. Derek quickly made his way over to her.

"Is there anything I can get for you?" Abaddon asked, wanting to be of some assistance.

"Food." Lucy said with a smile. "I'm starving."

Derek chuckled and brushed her hair back from her cheek with the back of his hand. The satisfying sparks and tingles surged through him. He had really missed that feeling. "Food sounds incredible. Everyone is wanting to see you whenever you are ready that is."

"I'll see anyone who gets me out of bed rest." Lucy said with a cheesy smile that both Derek and Abaddon were not amused by.

"Sorry, Lucy. You have to heal the human way for now." Derek grinned as he listened to her aggravated thoughts.

"I'll bring up some food and fresh clothes." Abaddon lowered his head in a slight bow before he vanished from the room.

"It feels so weird not having my powers. I can't even shift right now." Lucy said with a pout.

"It will be good for you to rest and take things slow for a couple of days. And I will be right here by your side. I promise." Derek eased onto the bed next to her and helped adjust her upwards into his chest.

"Don't do this Derek, please. There is nothing you could have done. And if anything you could have gotten killed. I'm not glass. I'm okay. I'm angry and frustrated that a deity can be that powerful. But I'm okay. We are okay." Lucy whispered as

she played with Derek's fingers. She could feel his protective vibe seeping into her. He was going overboard with it. Thinking he would never leave her side. It wasn't practical. Though for now having him constantly next to her was exactly what she wanted. It was what they both wanted and needed.

"I can't ever lose you, Lucy. I can't live without you. I won't live without you."

"I need you too." Lucy felt him lift her hand up to his mouth. He planted delicate feather-like kisses over her fingertips. "You know I have been moving around just fine even with broken ribs. I don't need to lay in bed."

"Nice try, little mate. But it isn't going to happen. Besides, you have an army of family members down there that will kill me if I let you up to walk around." Derek chuckled. "You have an amazing family Lucy. They are all just sitting at the bottom of the stairs. All of them. Just waiting to hear how you are doing. They are all here for you. They love you."

"I know." Lucy smiled. "They really are the best. After I get cleaned up they can come up. I'd at least like to get this dried blood off of me. And to have clothes on. Besides... I have something I want to give Alexis." She looked up at Derek and he chuckled slightly already knowing. That soulmate bond was simply amazing.

"Here are your clothes." Abaddon said, appearing in the room. "And they are having dinner prepared for the two of you."

"Tell them to have a family dinner prepared. I'd like to eat dinner with everyone." Lucy said and watched as Abaddon's eyes lit up.

"They will be very happy to hear this. I'll let them know."

"That includes you too, Aba." Lucy watched as his eyes flickered slightly. They appeared to have watered but that quickly it was hidden. He nodded his head with a smile.

"Aba. I'm going to be getting Lucy cleaned up. So if you need us make sure to use the door." Derek winked at him and Abaddon chuckled, nodding his head before flashing out again.

"Are you sure you are up for everyone at the same time?" Derek asked.

"Yes. It will be nice for everything to feel normal." Lucy sighed and looked at herself. "I really want a bath bath."

"I know you do. Let's start with this for now okay? You'll be healed in no time and will be able to get that bath you are dreaming about. I'm feeling a little bit jealous. I think you missed the bathtub more than you missed me."

Lucy giggled and winced. "Don't make me laugh."

Derek leaned forward and kissed her forehead. "I'll be right back."

Derek brought back a basin with water and sat it near the side of the bed. He pulled the sheet down from her and unbuttoned the shirt her father had left for her when Lilly was tending to her wounds. He sucked in air through his teeth as he looked her body over. His eyes met with hers and began to water again. His poor little mate.