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Aurora: 1

(After the flashback)

There was a stunned silence in the room. Lucien was silently crying, and it felt like he had lost Giana just yesterday.

His face was covered behind his palms, and then I felt stinging on my cheeks.

Goddess... I was crying too.

I was crying for the man who was the rogue king. Strong and fearless.

I was crying for the one who turned into a rogue when the love of his life was beaten to death.

The man who just tried to ra*pe me, now I was crying for him. I shouldn't feel this pain, this empathy for him, yet here I was, wanting justice for him. 2

My eyes went to Giana, who was sleeping peacefully... and now I knew what his beloved mate went through.

He fought everyone in his pack. His Beta. His Alpha.

He wasn't scared of anyone but couldn't even imagine to breathe if his mate was mad at him.





"Girl! How did you survive all this?" I asked the sleeping figure of the delicate girl whose mouth was slightly parted while she was snoring lightly.

The cruelty she was subjected to had pushed her back to her early years when she was a mere child and only wanted lollipops and candies.

I closed my eyes and let the tears fall down my face.

Goddess. How each one of them suffered.

The Crimson Claw Pack was involved, and that was the reason he burned it. That was why he was looking for the last survivor.

Wiping my face, I watched his shaking figure and got up from the bed. When I dropped to my knees beside him, his shoulders seemed to go stiff.

"Lucien," I touched his hand lightly, "Look at me... please..." He at last moved his hands away and wiped his cheek hard with the back of his hand.

"The Moon Goddess has given me healing power... I can try it on her," With a groan, he turned his face towards me and eyed me in disbelief.

I nodded at him with a small smile through tears, "I don't know if it will work, but... if you'll allow me, then ... what if..." I trailed off with a shrug.



A flicker of hope appeared in his eyes. Before he could say anything, Giana woke up with a scream, "No!"

When she shot up straight, her eyes were wide and wild.

Lucien jumped to his feet instantly, "Giana!" He called, reaching for her, but she stumbled back, shaking her head.

I got up and saw her standing on her mattress in panic. Her breathing was ragged as her eyes darted around, "D... Don't touch me!" She warned in a trembling voice.

"Giana... love... It's me..." Lucien tried to soothe her, walking towards her slowly, afraid he might scare her, "You're safe now, love... It's me... Lucien."

She jumped on the other side of the bed and backed towards the door.

"G... Giana.." I tried moving closer to her, but she started crying, "Stay away!"

I held my hands up, "You're safe, darling," My heart went out to her. I didn't know how Jai and Brian survived this pain.

Giana wasn't listening. She turned and bolted for the door.

"Giana, stop!" We ran after her.



I saw Lucien dash towards her and grabbing her arm, but she twisted it violently, trying to break free, "Let me go! Please, Lucy... they are coming!" She screamed, and her voice echoed in the quiet hallways.

"You'll hurt yourself, Giana..." I didn't know how Lucien dealt with it daily, but it wasn't easy to be this patient with someone.

She was fighting Lucien in raw panic, her nails were scraping Lucien's skin. I went ahead, trying to help,

"Hey, Giana... listen to me, darling..." I tried to calm her by cupping her cheek, but she suddenly turned and bit my hand hard, freeing herself long enough to push past us.

Just before she reached the end of the hallway, Lucien caught her again and wrapped his arms around her from behind, "No, no, sweetheart. It's okay. You're safe," He murmured against her hair as he tried to hold her still.

"No one's going to hurt you. I've got you, Giana. You're home."

She kept struggling, her cries turning to broken sobs until her strength finally gave way. Her legs trembled before giving out beneath her, and Lucien carried her back to the room, whispering over and over, "It's alright, love. It's alright. I'm



right here."

I was still shaking, pressing my hand to my chest. Lucien was now hugging Giana to him, who was trembling and crying silently. She was complaining to him about someone who slapped her, and she wanted to eat candies.

He was listening to her patiently, rocking her with him.

A few seconds later, the healer entered quietly. She went straight to Giana.

"Hey, Giana. See how many tears you've wasted. Aww..." Giana looked at her with a frown, and her face snapped to Lucien, who was looking down.

"My tears. Where are they?" She asked him.

Lucien kissed her cheek, "They are falling on the bed. Do you know how precious they are?"

The healer handed me a small vial, "Let her drink this after I feed her the medicines. It will send her into a deep sleep."

She then headed to Giana and gave a small drink to Lucien, "Make her drink this, please..."

Lucien held Giana's trembling face that was still covered in tears, "Just a little love," He coaxed her to take a sip of the bitter liquid.

She was shaking her head, and he was whispering something in her ear as if she were a child. She made a face and then opened her mouth obediently.

Her body was still shaking due to the hiccups.

At last, her sobs started slowing down until the only sound was her uneven breathing against his chest. Her fingers clutched at his shoulder, refusing to let go.

"It's alright, Gla," He whispered, brushing his lips across her damp hair, "You're safe. Sleep, my love."

Her long lashes fluttered against her cheeks, and then she went still. Lucien stayed like that for a long moment, holding her tight against him.

Then he bent and kissed the top of her head. After a few minutes, he lowered her gently onto the sheets.

I kept observing him as he covered her with a blanket and sat on the edge of the bed.

The rogue king.

He was not a cruel man.

He was a man in love.