

The Alpha King\'s Huntress: Hunt The Red Lycan

Chapter 43: CHAPTER 41 The Red Lycan

CHAPTER 41 The Red Lycan

"My warriors can help reinforce the borders. With the rogues working with Hunters from time to time, this could be a play to push Lily where they want her," Garrett offered.

Ethan nodded. He appreciated his friend's help but knew it wasn't just Lily at risk. However, that was a conversation for later. "Your offer is gratefully accepted, Garrett. We need all the help we can get."

Turning his attention to Deanna, who stood near the window with her arms crossed over her chest, Ethan said, "Deanna, let me know if you receive any pushback from Garrett's warriors. They're here to help, not hinder our efforts."

Deanna's gaze met Ethan's, and she nodded in understanding. "Understood, Alpha. But while we're on the subject, I recommend we intensify our training. I think we need to push ourselves even harder."

Ethan considered her words. The balance between protecting his people and keeping them prepared was a delicate one, but he trusted Deanna's judgment. "Very well," he agreed, his tone decisive. "Begin immediately."

"Of course, Alpha," Deanna replied, standing straighter and bowing her head in respect. Turning on her heel, she strode from the room.

Janet, who had been quiet until now, glanced around the room before approaching the door to Ethan's office. She pressed her ear against it, listening for any sounds that might indicate someone was outside. When she was satisfied they were alone, she engaged the sound-muffling feature in the room.

"Okay, we should be safe to talk now," she assured Ethan, her eyes reflecting the gravity of their situation.

Ethan nodded, his brow creased in worry. "It's not just Lily I'm concerned about."

"Is it about Kasia?" Garrett asked, his face a mix of curiosity and concern. "Because you haven't marked her, she should be safe, right?"

"Marking her wouldn't be enough to protect her from what I'm about to reveal," Ethan said, his voice barely above a whisper. "What I am about to say cannot leave this room." He looked at both Janet and Garrett, ensuring that they understood the seriousness of his words.

"Kasia is a red Lycan," Ethan finally admitted, watching as shock registered on Garrett's face while confusion clouded Janet's features.

"How? She has a wolf. Lycans don't have wolves, not in that way," Janet stammered, trying to make sense of what Ethan had just told them.

"That should be impossible," Garrett added, his voice strained with disbelief. "Lily and her grandmother are the last."

Ethan sighed, running a hand through his jet-black hair. "I don't know how it happened, but I think those experimental pills the Hunters are using may have something to do with it."

"Pills? Don't tell me they've been experimenting to try to become us." Garrett questioned. It was ridiculous. The only way humans could be turned was by a curse, and then they would become mindless beasts or be turned into vampires by a vampire.

"Yes, it seems that is what is happening. Those pills we confiscated from Kasia were only supposed to give her enhanced speed and strength, but after prolonged use, a human would slowly turn," Ethan explained, and Garrett got up, pacing.

"Do you know what this means? Do THEY even know what this means?" Garrett questioned.

"I doubt it, but it is ironic that they are turning themselves into the very thing that they say they hate," Ethan replied.

Janet frowned, her mind working furiously as she tried to piece together the puzzle. "We need to find the nearest Hunter's base."

"What are you thinking?" Ethan asked, his eyes narrowing in anticipation.

"We're not going to know for sure if they are experimenting with turning humans into Lycans or Kasia is just a fluke unless we see for ourselves," Janet explained.

"You mean to attack the base?" Ethan asked, and Janet nodded.

"Attacking their base would mean war," Garrett interjected, his expression grim. "Are we sure this is what we want? We have done everything to make sure not to start a war."

"They started this, Garrett. You of all people should understand that," Janet snapped. "We're already at war with them. Just because they haven't made any moves since the catastrophe at the Moonlit Sanctum does not mean they don't have something planned. I think it's about time we strike them back for once instead of being reactive."

"No matter if we're well within our rights, I am just saying we need to be fully prepared for the consequences of this. We need to make sure we are making decisions with a clear head," Garrett countered.

"I am calm, Garrett. I get that you're worried about putting Lily in danger, but we are already in a dangerous situation. If this is all part of their plan, we need to make a move when they least expect it," Janet explained.

"Then, tell me, how do you plan on finding out where the Hunters base is?" Garrett questioned.

"We will ask Kasia. She's no longer human. She has no reason to remain loyal to them," Janet rationalized. Kasia had been faced with contradictions left and right when she got here. It only made sense that she would help them.

"Don't be so quick to think that she would easily tell us that. Kasia is more conflicted about her situation than you think she is," Ethan pointed out. "She may have accepted that she isn't human anymore, but she still sees them as her family. They took her in at her lowest. That's not something you can easily let go of."

"You have a point," Janet said slowly. "We can ask Lana."

"Kasia will not like that we are involving her sister on this. She just now has gotten over the fact that she was a double agent," Ethan added.

"We don't have a choice. But if these experiments continue, more lives will be at risk—not just Lily's or Kasia's but countless others. We will make her understand that we're only trying to protect our people," Janet countered.

"Fine," Garrett agreed.

"Then it's settled," Ethan declared, his tone resolute. "We'll approach Lana and ask for her help."

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Chapter 44: CHAPTER 42 Why Me?

CHAPTER 42 Why Me?

The steam from Milo's coffee rose lazily, twirling and dissipating like the thoughts that haunted him. He sat, hunching over his cup, lost in the memory of Kasia's face. It had been three weeks since he'd seen her with the Alpha King. The sight of them together only slightly exceeded the shock of finding her alive. Why was she with him? Didn't she know that being around him would put her in danger? Clearly, she didn't know or she didn't care.

Milo wanted to tell her more about the situation instead of leaving it on such a bad note, but Milo knew not to linger. His gut twisted at the thought, but he knew he wasn't the only Hunter lurking around at the time. If they saw him talking to her, it would have blown his cover. He had to get away as quickly as possible, hoping she heeded his warning.

"Coward," Milo muttered. He remembered watching from a distance when she almost fell off the rollercoaster. Milo knew it was going to happen but could do nothing about it. Thankfully, the Alpha King wasn't as dumb as the Hunters believed him to be.

Now that another hunter had seen her, Milo couldn't feign ignorance and act like he didn't know about her. It would be better if it came from him than from someone trying to twist the situation.

"Long time, no see," Nadia's voice cut through his thoughts. She walked in confidently, her dark hair cascading over her shoulders. She slid into the seat across from him, their knees almost touching under the small table.

"Hey!" Milo greeted her without looking up, his golden eyes still fixed on his coffee. He felt the warmth of her lips against his cheek, a fleeting sensation that left him unsettled.

"Report," Nadia said plainly, folding her hands in her lap, her sharp features set in determination. It was clear she didn't have time for pleasantries. "It has been almost a month since our last meeting. I am sure you have much to tell me." Her tone alerted him to the fact that she knew something and was testing to see if he would lie to her.

"Kasia is alive," Milo said, finally raising his gaze to meet hers. He could see a flash of surprise in her eyes, but it vanished just as quickly as it had appeared. 'So, that wasn't what she knows,' he thought.

"Is the target neutralized?" Her voice was cold, devoid of emotion.

"No." Milo hesitated for a moment, his mind racing. "I couldn't do it."

Nadia studied him carefully, her gaze piercing. "You let your feelings get in the way, didn't you?"

He wanted to protest, to tell her how much he cared about Kasia and how he couldn't bear the thought of hurting her. But instead, he said, "Is that how you speak about your former protege?"

"The key word here is former. She knew what it meant to go against orders. We're at war, Milo. We don't have time for weaknesses," Nadia said.

"But, still," Milo started, but Nadia raised her hand to stop him.

"Still nothing. Remember, Milo," Nadia warned, her voice softening slightly. "When given a mission, you complete it or you'll end up dead just like her. I will not report you this time, but don't let your emotions misguide you again."

"Understood," Milo said, taking another sip of his cooling coffee and letting it calm his nerves.

"Is there anything else to report?" Nadia asked, her tone all business once more.

"Nothing," Milo replied, but his response was met with a disapproving frown from Nadia.

"You didn't think a sighting of a red monster on the Alpha King's land wasn't important information?" She asked, arching an eyebrow.

Milo's heart skipped a beat. He had not heard about this. From his shocked expression, Nadia realized that he was truly unaware. "There isn't another. There was only one. The one called Lily Bray."

Nadia leaned in closer, lowering her voice. "There's definitely another, and a Lycan, in fact. Curious, don't you think?"

"Why does it matter?" Milo asked. His question shocked Nadia, and this time Nadia did not hide her expression. "The werecommunity has made moves to stay away from humans. Why does it even matter?"

"Why does it matter? Why does it matter? What is going on with you?" Nadia was questioned in disbelief. Milo did not say anything as he watched her, waiting for her to give an explanation.

"See, this is your problem. You want to work and live in the gray area. There is no gray area. It is only a matter of time until they become a threat again," Nadia sneered. "The only reason they're docile now is because we eradicated the majority of their Blessed Bloods, or whatever they call them. And now we're close to leveling the playing field and taking back land that belongs to us. We don't need them getting a leg up on us."

Milo kept his face neutral, even though he was deeply disgusted by her unwarranted hatred of his kind. As a werecat himself, he knew the true nature of their people and how much they could care less about humans. Milo took another sip of his coffee to help him focus on not extending his claws. He had worked too hard to blow his cover now.

"I want you to find this red beast," Nadia said.

"Why me?" Milo asked, trying to sound nonchalant.

"You've proven yourself to be resourceful, and you get results. And I need someone I trust to make sure this job gets done without anyone finding out," Nadia leaned back in her chair, studying him intently. "And when you find this monster, I want you to kill it before it starts breeding. We can't afford to have any more of their kind running around."

Milo's stomach churned at the thought, but he managed to keep his expression impassive. "Understood," he said quietly, already dreading the task ahead.

"Good," Nadia replied, standing up and straightening her jacket. "Keep me updated on your progress."

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CHAPTER 43 The Missing Young Adult

Kasia stumbled backward, the metallic taste of blood filling her mouth as it trickled from her nose. Gritting her teeth, she wiped the blood from her face with the back of her hand and glared. The young man had a cocky grin on his face, clearly pleased with himself for landing a blow.

"Let me at him," Deva, the wolf inside her, urged, her voice low and primal. Kasia could feel her anger within her as she approached the young man, her hazel eyes locked on his.

"No. Remember, I'm supposed to be a lycan. They can't know about you," Kasia answered.

"Hit him back harder, then," Deva growled.

"Alright, come on then," he taunted, raising his fists and preparing for another attack.

With a snarl, Kasia deftly dodged his attacks, moving with a grace and speed that only a werewolf could possess. She swiftly delivered a kidney shot, causing him to double over in

pain. Seizing the opportunity, she pinned him to the ground, her knee pressing firmly against his chest.

"Enough!" he gasped, struggling for breath under her weight. With a nod, Kasia released him, her eyes still burning with intensity.

"Excellent work, Kasia," Deanna called out, clapping her hands in approval. She stood nearby, watching their sparring session with keen interest. "Your progress in the past three weeks has been nothing short of remarkable."

"Thank you, Deanna," Kasia replied weakly, wiping away the last remnants of blood from her face.

Deanna's smile broadened. "I have no doubt the Council will approve of you. You're proving yourself to be a valuable asset to our pack."

Kasia managed a faint smile before excusing herself to return to her room for a shower. As she walked down the hallway, she noticed the Lycans bowing or nodding their heads in respect towards her. Even though she wasn't a Luna yet, they treated her as if she were already one of them.

"Is this what I truly want?" Kasia wondered, the weight of her newfound responsibilities and loyalties heavy on her shoulders.

As she navigated the familiar hallways, Kasia's eyes fell upon Ethan engaged in conversation with a young woman. Her heart clenched involuntarily as she observed the woman leaning closer to him than necessary, her hand resting on his arm. An unwelcome surge of anger coursed through Kasia.

"Control your emotions," Deva warned. "He must maintain appearances."

Kasia knew this was true, but it did little to quell her rising jealousy. She forced herself to take calming breaths and continue walking, intentionally avoiding eye contact with Ethan. However, she could feel his gaze on her as she passed, and her stomach twisted in knots.

"Focus on something else," Kasia told herself, deciding to postpone her shower and head straight to her office instead. The duties she'd taken on as part of her Luna training would help distract her from the unsettling emotions threatening to overwhelm her.

Entering her office, she closed the door behind her and flopped down at her desk, immediately burying herself in the growing stack of documents that awaited her attention. As Ethan's administrative assistant, Kasia found herself handling an array of tasks that ranged from scheduling meetings to reviewing reports.

"Maybe if I lose myself in work, I can forget about my feelings for him," she thought bitterly, her pen moving rapidly across the page as she made notes and corrections.

Kasia's eyes scanned the documents, searching for anything that required her immediate attention. As she flipped through the pages, a report caught her eye—another missing young adult. Her heart sank as she realized the gravity of the situation.

"Deva, how many is that now?" Kasia asked inwardly, her brow furrowed in concern.

"Seven," Deva responded solemnly. "And half of them have been found dead."

The fact that innocent lives were being lost weighed heavily on Kasia. She knew it was her duty to help protect the pack and find out who or what was behind these disappearances.

Lost in thought, Kasia barely registered the knock on her office door. Before she could even respond, the door swung open, revealing Ethan. He strode in, his brown eyes filled with an intensity that sent shivers down Kasia's spine.

"Hi," Kasia managed to stammer, quickly standing up and walking around her desk to greet him.

Ethan wasted no time, immediately reaching for her and pulling her into a passionate kiss that made her knees go weak. He pressed her against the desk. His hands roamed her curves, possessive and hungry, as if he couldn't get enough of her. She arched her back, inviting him closer, her breath catching in her throat as the head of his length grazed her entrance. His dominant growl sent shivers down her spine and a thrill of desire and anticipation coursing through her veins.

In that split second before their union, a knock on the door shattered the intimate moment they had created. They both froze. Breathless, they stared at each other, hazel eyes wide with panic and lust-filled brown orbs reflecting the same inner turmoil. They should've known it was too good to last.

"Fuck!" Ethan hissed under his breath, and with a final searing kiss, he reluctantly stepped away.

Kasia scrambled to pull up her shorts; her cheeks flushed scarlet as she readjusted her hair in an attempt to appear unruffled. "Come in!" she called out, her voice unsteady and her heart still pounding in her ears.

The door creaked open, and an omega entered, bearing a crisp folder in his trembling hands. He didn't dare meet their eyes, but Kasia could smell his curiosity and perhaps a hint of jealousy in his scent. He bowed stiffly and extended the report toward her. "Here's the file you requested, Luna. I mean, Kasia."

"Thank you," she managed to say, plastering on a business-like expression as she took the folder. "You may go."

The omega's steps were heavy with reluctance as he left the room.

Kasia cleared her throat, walking back to her desk and perching on the edge. "I need a minute," she said, her voice shaking.

Ethan nodded tersely with his fists clenched at his sides, and she could practically see the war waging within him. "I'll be outside. We'll... talk later." With that, he turned on his heel and left, slamming the door behind him.

With the mood thoroughly ruined, Kasia sighed and walked back to her chair, sitting down to review the report. Her eyes widened as she saw the name of the young adult now missing: Aimee.

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Chapter 46: CHAPTER 44 How Are You Holding Up?

CHAPTER 44 How Are You Holding Up?

"Just tell us how to get there, Lana. We've been through this already. You're not coming with us," Janet pleaded once again. How many times was she going to have to tell her that she couldn't come? Since they came to her three weeks ago, Lana has been firm about not telling them until they agreed to take her. They were wasting time by arguing like this.

Lana stood with her arms crossed, her expression firm. She stared at Janet as she made her case. She knew Janet was the only one who opposed her plan, but she couldn't risk anyone's safety by allowing them to go alone.

"Janet, I understand where you're coming from," Lana began, trying to appeal to Janet's rational side. "I know I can be a liability, but trust me, the only way I'll help you get to the hunters' base is if I go with you. It's not safe for anyone to go alone."

"There are traps everywhere laced with silver. If you fall into even one of those traps, that's it. You'll get swarmed," Lana insisted. "I know exactly where they are. I even know a back entrance that will catch them off guard. I can guide us through safely. I am more of an asset than a liability."

Deanna, who had been silently observing the exchange, finally spoke up. "Look, she has been with us for three years. She has shown her loyalty to the Alpha and to the pack. I think we should let Lana come with us," she suggested. "This would be a great opportunity for her to prove herself as a valuable member of the pack."

Lana knew Deanna was referring to the time she had bravely defended Kasia when Aimee tried to attack her from behind. The memory of the incident still made her heart race. She recalled the fear that she felt for Kasia and not for herself. That fear made her move to stand in the way of Aimee. But despite her courage that day, most of the pack members still thought Lana was useless because she was a human. And it hurt- more than she cared to admit.

"Even though Lana saved Kasia, people still doubt her place in this pack," Deanna continued. "If she can help us navigate the traps, then we have a better chance of succeeding and could help with the political route."

"Political route?" Janet asked.

"Our Alpha is pushing the message that we should not be prejudiced against humans because of one cult-like organization. Lana would be a great representation of that. She was a hunter and chose not to walk that path because she saw how damaging being a hunter was. Her leading us to the base would strengthen that approach," Deanna explained.

Janet sighed, still not entirely convinced. "I still don't think this is a good idea."

"For the love of the goddess, why the hesitancy, Janet?" Deanna groaned, slamming her hand down on the table. "We've been having the same conversation for three weeks now. We're wasting time now. There has to be another reason as to why you don't want her to come with us, because this does not make any sense."

"Because we swore an oath to not endanger our pack members," Janet responded. She couldn't tell Deanna the truth; she couldn't explain to Deanna why Lana couldn't come, as Deanna didn't know that Lana was Kasia's sister. If something happened to Lana under her watch, Kasia would go scorched earth.

"I think we should let her come," Lily chimed in. "It could potentially minimize casualties."

As she said this, Lily opened a telepathic link to Janet and whispered her thoughts directly into her mind. "Lana is just like Kasia. She will sneak off and follow anyway, so it's better to agree and keep her protected or risk her getting hurt because no one knew she was coming."

At Lily's words, Janet groaned in frustration. She knew how stubborn and determined both sisters were. They shared a fierce loyalty to those they cared about, and Lana wouldn't hesitate to put herself in danger to help others.

"Alright, Lana, you're in," Janet said, trying to hide the worry in her voice. "Let's start talking strategy." As Janet, Lana, and Deanna began to discuss their plans, Lily excused herself and left the room.

Lily knew that it was time to check on Kasia. She had noticed earlier that Ethan had another female visitor- a tall, raven-haired woman. The woman's presence had been the talk of the pack, as she came from a well-established Lycan pack, and Lily couldn't help but feel that Kasia would be upset about it.

As she walked through the dimly lit hallway towards Kasia's office, her mind wandered to the complicated relationship between Kasia and Ethan. The fierce hunter and the Alpha King of werewolves and Lycans were two sides of the same coin, both driven by loyalty and duty yet struggling with their growing feelings for one another.

Lost in thought, Lily almost didn't notice Ethan walking towards her. He was so absorbed in his own thoughts that he didn't realize she was there. He was clearly wrestling with something; his brow furrowed and his jaw clenched tight.

"Hello, Alpha Ethan," Lily called out gently. "How are you doing today?"

Lily watched Ethan walk past her without speaking to her; his expression was troubled and distant. He didn't even see her.

As Ethan disappeared around the corner, Lily decided to make a detour to the kitchen to bring Kasia tea. Reaching Kasia's door, Lily hesitated for a moment before knocking softly. When there was no response, she pushed the door open slowly and stepped inside. The room smelled of lust and frustration.

'So, they did get into an argument,' Lily thought.

Kasia sat at her desk, going through documents with a furrowed brow.

"Kasia," Lily said softly, announcing her presence. "How are you holding up?"

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CHAPTER 45 The Summer Solstice Celebration

Kasia's head hit the desk with a soft thud, her dark hair splayed around her like a halo of frustration. She closed her eyes, trying to block out the image of Ethan hovering over her, holding her hips. Kasia shouldn't feel this way about Ethan, she scolded herself.

"Take a break, Kasia," Deva, her wolf, urged softly. "We've done all we can for now. The scouts are out there, searching for any clues about the rogue wolves."

"Deva, I can't," she muttered under her breath. "I have to stay focused and get through this paperwork."

"Look," Deva replied, her presence calming and steady. "We've already sent out scouts to investigate the situation. There's nothing more we can do for now. You should focus on the upcoming Summer Solstice celebration."

Kasia groaned at the thought of a celebration. It was a reminder of the progress she had made in her training and the expectations that weighed heavily on her shoulders. She had been trying to avoid the event as much as she could, but there was no escaping it. The summer solstice would be her chance to show everyone how far she had come.

"Fine," she relented, giving in to Deva's insistence. "But I still don't like it. I still think all of this is stupid."

"Nobody said you had to," Deva agreed, her tone gentle yet firm. "But it's important for you to succeed, and that means letting go of your feelings for Ethan, even if just for a while."

"Ugh, I know," Kasia groaned, rubbing her temples. "But how am I supposed to relax when all I can think about is the Summer Solstice celebration? It's just another opportunity for me to screw up in front of everyone."

"Firstly, you need to calm down. If you keep getting amped up, I am not sure if I am going to be able to restrain myself from forcing a shift. If you think you're frustrated, think about how I feel," Deva fussed.

"Sorry," Kasia muttered.

"Secondly, you won't screw up," Deva reassured her. "You've made significant progress in your training, and you're fully equipped to manage any challenges that may arise. Third, it's important for us to be at the celebration. Even though you won't accept that you will be Luna, we still need to show everyone- including Ethan- that we're a vital part of this community."

Kasia sighed, knowing Deva was right but still feeling the weight of expectation bearing down on her. She couldn't shake the nagging fear that she would falter in front of everyone, revealing herself to be undeserving of her place among them. And worse, she worried that Ethan would see her as weak and unworthy of his affection.

A knock on her door interrupted Kasia as she was trying to concentrate on the papers strewn across her desk. Annoyed by the interruption, she chose to ignore it. However, the door to her office creaked open, revealing Lily standing in the doorway with two mugs of tea in her hands.

"Kasia," Lily said gently, announcing her presence. "How are you holding up?"

Kasia looked up and smiled at her friend, attempting to hide the frustration etched on her face. "How did you know I needed that?" Kasia asked, gesturing to the tea.

"I could tell from how Ethan came stomping down the halls," Lily replied, stepping inside the office and placing one of the mugs on Kasia's desk. "Want to talk about it?"

Kasia sighed and shook her head. "No, it's not a big deal. It'll be fine," she replied, trying to dismiss the topic. But Lily wasn't so easily deterred. She pushed for more information, her eyes brimming with concern.

"Is it about the new woman visiting Ethan?" Lily inquired, her voice soft yet probing.

"Twenty-five now," Kasia muttered under her breath, bitterness creeping into her tone.

"I didn't know you were keeping count," Lily remarked, raising an eyebrow. "You shouldn't be bothered by it."

"Eventually, he will have to make a decision," Kasia said, her jaw clenching as she tried to suppress the emotions welling up within her.

"Are you worried he won't pick you?" Lily inquired, her gaze never leaving Kasia's face.

Kasia didn't say anything for a moment, struggling to come to terms with her own feelings. She had gotten used to this uncertainty, but she couldn't deny that the mate bond

was pulling at her, demanding her attention. "No, not at all," she finally responded, earning a frown from Lily.

"The Summer Solstice celebration is coming up. There will be more potential mates there," Lily added, trying to reassure her friend. "And I know you'll be ready."

Kasia attempted to change the subject, but Lily stopped her. Taking on a nurturing tone, she leaned forward and placed a comforting hand on Kasia's arm. "Listen to me, Kasia," she said softly. "I know Ethan, and I know the mate bond. He won't choose anyone else. If you can't trust him, trust me."

Kasia hesitated for a moment, studying Lily's earnest expression. She wanted to believe her friend; she wanted to trust that everything would work out in the end. With a slow nod, she finally acquiesced, hoping that Lily's faith in the bond was well-founded.

"I have an idea," Lily announced, her eyes sparkling with mischief. "How about we get out of here for a bit? I can take you into the city for some pampering and shopping. It'll be a nice distraction."

Kasia raised an eyebrow, surprised by Lily's sudden suggestion. The thought of leaving the confines of the pack house and immersing herself in the city was tempting.

"And no carnivals this time," Lily joked as she knew about the near-death situation when Kasia first went to the city.

With a hesitant smile, Kasia nodded. "Alright, let's do it," she agreed, feeling a flicker of excitement. This was a chance to get her mind off Ethan and just do normal things.

"Great! We'll make a day of it," Lily declared, already envisioning their adventure ahead. "Get ready for some serious pampering and retail therapy."

