

Fated To The Cursed Lycan Prince

Chapter 1321

Crystal's POV:

Lying in Rufus' arms, I felt my body getting colder and colder. My heartbeat was also slowing down, which told me that I didn't have much time left. I tried to breathe in deeply, but I wasn't strong enough to support my heart and pulses beating

Even though I was on the verge of death, I didn't feel sad. I just felt lucky that the people I loved could live on, though I did feel a little reluctant to leave Rufus.

I knew that he could take care of our kids alone, but I doubted he could take care of himself.

My death would probably upset him for a long time.

But time would heal all wounds, and the responsibilities on his shoulders would definitely urge him to move forward.

One day, I would become a thing of the past.

Tears fell from my eyes. I used the last of my strength to raise my head and k**s his lips for the last time. "I love you, Rufus. Death may not be the end, but the beginning of something new.

Rufus' eyes turned red and he could no longer hold back his tears. He cried sadly, wailing, "Don't leave me...

I couldn't help but chuckle weakly. I wiped his tears with my trembling fingers, whispering,

"You're the great werewolf king. Don't cry."

"What's the point of being king of the werewolves? I'm useless. I can't even save my beloved mate." Rufus kissed my hair and held me tightly. "I want to be with you forever."

Don't think like that. You're the hope of the werewolves, and you have to think about our children." I could hear my voice slurring as I spoke. My mind was slowing down, and Rufus' voice sounded so far away.

After a while, a thought suddenly occurred to me and my vision became clear again, I grabbed Rufus' wrist with all my strength and said, "I want to take one last look at Beryl."

Murray immediately rushed over with Beryl in his arms. "Don't worry, Grystal.

She's fine."

"Thank you, Murray. For everything." I smiled at him with difficulty and reached out to touch Beryl's soft cheek. "I want to hug her."

Murray nodded and carefully laid Beryl's warm body on my lap. The wound on her neck had almost recovered completely, and some color had returned to her face.

I touched her soft curly hair and said softly, "I'm so sorry, sweetheart. Mommy can only accompany you until here. Sorry for not leaving you with enough good memories. Fortunately, you still have Daddy.

Daddy will love you as much as Mommy does-maybe even more. Grow up well, my love... And Arron— fortunately, he's not here. Otherwise, he'd definitely be crying right now..."

"Crystal, stop. I'll get the doctor. Maybe we still have a chance." Rufus held my hand tightly, as though he was clutching onto the last glimmer of hope.

I coughed painfully and beckoned at him to lower his head. He obliged. I raised my hand to touch the back of his neck and found that the black thorn on his back had unknowingly spread to a spot behind his ears, just like five years ago.

But at least this time, I could save him permanently.

I kissed the tip of his nose and whispered, "When I die, the black thorn on your back will also disappear. If possible, I hope you'll forget about the past. At least that way, you'll feel less pain,...

"

At this point, my consciousness began to blur, almost as though I was drunk.

Rufus hugged me and Beryl tightly. Hot k****s fell on my face one by one. He said in a pained voice,

"Crystal, is there nothing I can do? Let's figure out a way, okay? Don't leave me!"

I couldn't speak. I could only hold his hand weakly. "I'm sorry, Rufus, but this is my fate," was what I wanted to say.

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Chapter 1322

Rufus' POV:

Crystal gradually stopped breathing in my arms. I held onto her lifeless body in disbelief, unable to move a muscle. I could vaguely hear Murray's voice echoing in my ears, saying, "Crystal's gone..."

At that moment, I felt like I had gone mad from the overwhelming pain in my heart.

I wanted to pick up Crystal and rush to the nearest doctor, but I couldn't stand up no matter how hard I tried. Even though her body was alarmingly limp, I couldn't believe that my beautiful, lively Crystal was gone

Her hands hung feebly by her sides, and no matter how hard I cried for her to wake up, there was no response. She was like a ragdoll, trapped in eternal sleep.

"Crystal, wake up. Talk to me. Didn't you say that you wanted to see the cherry blossoms with me this year? They're going to bloom in a few days. Can't you wait a little longer?" I trembled uncontrollably, and the sadness from the depths of my soul made it so difficult to even breathe.

"You said I'm the hope of the

werewolf race, I'm both a father and a son, and a lot of people depend on me.

But I just want to be your husband and be with you for the rest of my life. Why do you push me away again and again? And now, you've completely abandoned me!"

Crystal's heart stopped beating, and so did mine.

There was nothing I could do but stare stupidly at the lifeless Crystal in my arms.

I could vaguely hear the sound of hurried footsteps approaching, followed by a loud bang as the door was kicked open. Arron's small figure appeared at the doorway, with Laura behind him. Before even seeing us, she asked, "Rufus, are you there? Where's Crystal? Arron insisted on seeing her—"

Laura paused midsentence when she saw us. She looked at Crystal, who was lying limply in my arms, and asked in a trembling voice, "Rufus, what's going on?"

What happened to Crystal?"

I didn't say anything. I just held Crystal tightly, trying to preserve the last of her Mommy

"Rufus, what the hell is going on?" Laura asked shakily. Adults naturally weren't as naive as children, so she couldn't believe that Crystal was just sleeping. But oh, how I wished I had Arron's innocence at this moment. If only I could believe that Crystal was just asleep...

Murray sighed heavily. "Crystal is gone."

"Gone? What do you mean, 'gone'?" Laura turned pale at Murray's words. She looked at me in a daze and asked,

"Crystal... is dead? How's that possible? What happened?"

The word "dead" brought me back to reality. I pressed my cheek against Crystal's cold face and started muttering hysterically, "Crystal's not dead. She's just asleep. Yes, of course. She's not dead."

Laura walked over quickly and placed her hand in front of Crystal's nose to see if she was breathing. The next second, she collapsed to the floor, disbelief written all over her face. "How did this happen? How did she die?" Arron seemed to understand something and imitated what his grandmother did.

He stretched out his tiny fingers in front of Crystal's nose, and after a while, he burst into tears. "Mommy's not breathing! She's asleep, right? Why isn't she breathing?"

My vision suddenly became blurry, whether from tears or exhaustion, I couldn't tell. I could no longer see clearly and could only make out blurry outlines as I gently touched Arron's soft head. "Yes, your mommy's just sleeping. She'll wake up soon."

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Chapter 1323

Laura's POV:

Rufus was devastated by Crystal's death.

My mind went blank.

How could this have happened? Just a few days ago, Crystal and I had spent an afternoon together and planned a vacation on an island.

I had thought that Noreen's problem would be solved once and for all, but I didn't expect the solution to result in this.

I recognized the wizard who was standing at the side. His name was Murray and he was Rufus' confidant. He had golden hair the last time I'd seen him, but now, his hair was completely grey. He held Beryl in his arms with a desolate expression.

"Murray, what is going on? What happened here?" I approached Murray, took Beryl from him, and cuddled her in my arms.

Beryl was fast asleep, her face flushed. She looked much better than before. And I couldn't sense any external power in her body. Had Noreen truly left Beryl's body?

"Hubson knew that Noreen resided in Beryl's body, so he broke into the palace and bit her. Crystal transferred all her black witch power into Beryl's body to save her, and ended up dispelling Noreen's soul," Murray explained briefly with a sigh.

"Transferring all the black witch power is practically a death sentence, so..."

Hearing Arron's sobs, Murray couldn't continue. He simply dropped his gaze to the floor.

So Crystal was dead? still couldn't wrap my head around the fact that she was gone, but right now, she showed no signs of life.

"Rufus, are you okay?" I watched Rufus worriedly, afraid that he would break down and choose to die with Crystal.

Rufus had a vacant expression on his face. He held Crystal tightly to his body as if he couldn't hear anything else.

My heart ached for him. It wouldn't be right for me to comfort him any further.

After all, he had lost the love of his life forever.

Although Arron was young, he was smart and couldn't be fooled easily. He seemed to know that Murray was a wizard. He tugged on Murray's wide robe and pleaded with a sad face, "Sir, can you help my mommy? Please help her!

She is so cold."

I wrapped my arms around him and said, "Arron, let's step out. Let's give your daddy some space."

"No, I don't want to leave! Mommy..." Arron's mouth twitched and tears streamed down his face. "Why doesn't Mommy wake up? In the past, she would wake up whenever I called her."

My eyes turned red and I replied in a shaky voice, "Your mommy is very tired.

She needs a good rest."

Arron wiped his eyes with the back of his hand and sobbed pitifully.

On the other side of the room, Rufus stood up. He held Crystal's body in his arms and said to me,

"I'm taking Crystal back to our room to rest. When she

wakes up, I'll bring her to see Arron." Then he stumbled toward the door.

I called him several times in a concerned voice. Arron also cried out for Daddy and Mommy, but Rufus just ignored both of us.

When he reached the door, he suddenly came to a halt. He swayed a few times before falling down with a loud crash.

I was shocked.

"Help!"

The soldiers around us immediately rushed to Rufus and carried him to the bed.

Murray also hurried to examine him. After a moment, he announced, "He is fine, but he has suffered a severe mental blow, which made him lose consciousness.

I'll give him some pills to calm him down.'

I heaved a sigh of relief and instructed a maid to assist Murray in taking care of Rufus.

“Your Majesty, what about Miss Crystal’s body?” a soldier came close to me and asked in a quivering voice.

I pondered for a while before replying with a sigh, “Set up the mourning hall for now. We’ll discuss the rest of the details once Rufus wakes up.” Arron was weeping so hard that he nearly passed out as well. I called the doctor to check on him.

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Chapter 1324

Laura’s POV:

Murray brought the large bowl of tranquilizer he had just concocted to Rufus and made him drink every single drop of it. Only then did Rufus’ agitated power gradually stabilize. Still, it was understandable how unbearable the pain that was inflicted upon him must have been.

As Rufus slowly calmed down, I hovered next to Crystal’s body and wiped dry the sweat and b***d off her face with a handkerchief.

A lot had changed in Crystal in the past few years. She had gone from being a not-out-of-the-ordinary werewolf to a powerful Alpha. Even so, there had been no drastic change in her physical appearance. Who would have thought that someone blessed with such a petite body would have courage bigger than her physique to block in front of everyone and protect the people she loved?

She was meant to enjoy the love she was supposed to share with her mate in the best years to come, but she had no chance to do that now.

Rufus’ heart probably went with Crystal the moment she died. It was the cursed side of having been bound to one’s mate for life; the connection was too strong and powerful.

As if I were the one who lost the love of my life, a searing pain lined on my chest and churned my guts with something indescribable. I was short on breath and was nearly smothered as a lump slowly blocked my throat, tears welling up in my eyes. In silence, I promised Crystal I would try my best to take care of her two kids until my last breath.

I was never a believer of the idea that we had a soul that would tread the path of life after death. But if it were ever true, I hoped Crystal's soul could come back to pay her loved ones a visit every once in a while.

I settled Crystal's hand flatly and drew a deep breath.

"Your Majesty, I already refined these pills, but their effects aren't perfected yet.

If Beryl has the same intensity of power as the king, you have to let her take one."

Murray handed me a black velvet pouch and further reminded me, "I will stay in the imperial palace for the time being. If anything happens, just call for me."

"Thank you." I took the pouch of pills and escorted Murray to the door.

The whole palace

was brightly lit, and the light exposed the

casualties: vampires' bodies were scattered lying in the hall on the first floor.

Imperial soldiers buzzed in and out, carrying and transporting corpses in bags.

Without exception, the hearts of these dead vampires would be gouged, out before they were to be buried deep in the forbidden forest, giving them no chance to resurrect.

At dawn, almost all the corpses had been cleaned up, the hallways almost clear of any trace that something wreaked havoc. The guards had caught many vampires who were alive and sent them to prison.

For the whole night, the imperial palace had been cordoned off because of the vampires' invasion. If the invaders had not been found out as soon as they did, grave danger would have surfaced.

We had kept Crystal's death under the rug, but who were we fooling? It would not be long before it would spread like wildfire. After all, we had to hold an elaborate funeral and a solemn farewell ceremony for Crystal.

However, all of these needed Rufus' approval. Another problem atop covering Crystal's death for the meantime was that Rufus was still in a coma. Grief burdened me. Three days had passed, but Rufus still had no signs of waking up.

I tucked Rufus in and murmured, "If you don't wake up, Crystal's body will perish in no time. You love her that much, so I guess you don't want to see her without a decent funeral, right? Death cannot be reversed. When Crystal was still alive, she wanted you

to live well. Wake up, Rufus. Your kids need you, and so does your kingdom. Don't let Crystal die with regrets."

Suddenly, a rustling sound came from the door. Slowly, the door opened a crack.

I turned my head and saw a little silhouette.

"Arron, come in," I called gently.

A head poked in, and its curly hair waved rebelliously.

"Grandma," Arron called me in a low voice. His dark green eyes, as beautiful as Crystal's, drooped listlessly.

"Come here, sweetheart." I beckoned for Arron. He crossed the room and rushed towards me, climbed up my knees, and nestled in my arms obediently.

"Is Daddy still sleeping? Why hasn't he woken up yet?"

Arron paused and asked, sadness lingering in his voice, "Will he be the same as Mommy?"

I rubbed his head lovingly. "No. Your daddy will soon wake up. We just have to wait patiently."

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Chapter 1325

Rufus' POV:

I felt a stifling pressure surrounding me. It did not help how dark the place was; everywhere I looked, the shadows were the only thing that greeted and welcomed me.

I let myself be swallowed by the endless night as I walked. There was nothing I could make out of the shade, not even a single sound. I heaved a heavy breath and forgot who I was, like a traveler struggling to survive in the middle of the desert.

In the midst of my wandering, a cry got caught up in my ears. It seemed all the nerves in my body stopped functioning. My mind became clear of the fog that muddled me and colors began to slowly seep through my eyes.

A girl clad in rags on the bed turned around, her face drenched with tears. The moment she saw me, she was even more aggrieved. "Rufus, why would you leave me alone? I can't find you."

"Sylvia..." The voice that croaked from my throat was hoarse and unfamiliar and it was shaky, like a child who had just learned to speak, calling the name of the person he loved

My mind was a blank slate, but the moment the girl materialized before my eyes, everything seemed to have become natural. The resonance deep in my soul made me call out the girl's name. I knew that she was my mate.

I opened my arms wide, but when I was close to hugging her, the image of her suddenly vanished and the space morphed into something else.

A girl in a gorgeous dress was smiling brightly at me. My dead heart seemed to come back to life as I felt it beat against my chest.

"Rufus, why aren't you saying anything? You think I'm a bad dancer, don't you?" The girl shot me a dagger stare, stood on tiptoe, and hit my chin with her forehead

When I came to my senses, I found myself holding the girl's hand and we were in the middle of the dance floor, surrounded by people in magnificent dresses.

Ethan and Laura were looking at us with a smile from a distance.

Everything was just like before. Ethan was still alive, and Laura's hair was not yet gray. She still had the love of her life by her side, smiling beside her.

The scene changed again. This time, I was back at the palace where I used to live. Under the grapevine, the girl whose belly was obvious with a bump was quietly alight on the rocking chair, sleeping soundly. Judging from her belly, it was most likely that two babies were healthily growing inside it.

I sneaked up on her, habitually crouched beside her, placed a k**s on her forehead, and blocked the dazzling sunlight for her.

The pain that surged through my veins earlier evanesced. Life became peaceful and happy.

"Daddy, why are you crying?" Someone unexpectedly tugged one of the legs of my trousers. I looked down and my eyes found Beryl.

The scene around me changed again before I could even savor it.

“It must be because Mommy ate Daddy’s cake.” Arron was standing behind Beryl with his hands clasped behind his back. His little face, which was a carbon copy of mine, was wearing a very serious expression.

“No, it’s not like that. Daddy doesn’t like cakes. He hates sweet food the most. It must be because Mommy went to a party with Auntie Flora and didn’t come back to sleep here last night.”

“No, you’re wrong, I don’t believe that’s the reason why Daddy’s sad. It’s because he didn’t get a bite of the cake.”

“Arron, you fancy cakes, right? You keep mentioning it.”

It was as if the boy was a deer caught in the headlights, and he was stunned. He snorted. “Well, I don’t want to talk to you. I’ll go play with Mommy.” I stood there, not moving a muscle and just watching them run away from me.

Those faded memories were no longer blurred and gradually became apparent.

It dawned on me that I had forgotten so much. It seemed I had forgotten the very core of my life.

The wind became

fierce, and the air was filled with the stench of b***d.

Another dose of pain shot through my chest. I opened my eyes and saw Noreen’s distorted face. Not far from me was Sylvia’s scream, ringing in my ears.

“Rufus, move aside!”

I didn’t budge and only watched Noreen take out my heart.

The scenes suddenly stopped playing.

I woke up from the dream. I finally recollected the memories I had lost.

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Chapter 1326

Rufus' POV:

I stumbled out of bed, pulled off my shirt, and looked at my back in the mirror.

There was no sign of the black thorn.

Just as Crystal had expected, the curse of the black thorn was lifted now that she was dead. And I had regained all my memories, which meant that... Crystal was really dead.

The mere thought nearly made me collapse on the spot. The pain of losing her was so unbearable that I wanted to take my own life so that I could be with Crystal.

"Rufus, calm down. Have you already forgotten what Crystal told you before she died? You have to live and take good care of your mother and two kids," Omar said, trying to talk some sense into me. He too remembered everything we had forgotten, and he also felt the same unbearable pain I felt. "Crystal left you five years ago to keep you alive. You owe it to her to live on. Otherwise, Crystal's sacrifices will be in vain."

I slowly loosened my grip on the hilt of the sword. My eyes were bloodshot and swollen from crying, but there were no more tears flowing out. It was as though I had run out of tears to shed.

"Omar, what am I going to do? I can't live without her. The full moon curse didn't hurt as much as this. Just thinking about her lifeless body resting under the dirt makes me want to die!"

I fell to my knees and buried my face in my palms. I felt like a caged wild beast; my only options were to wait and suffer until I died or to take my own life.

"Cheer up, Rufus. Crystal said that she'd always be with you..." Omar's steady voice suddenly broke. He had always been rational, levelheaded, and brave. It was the first time I had ever seen him so fragile.

He probably felt too sad to function just like me.

I lost control and transformed into my wolf, smashing everything in the room.

Did people really have souls? If the answer was yes, then why couldn't I feel Crystal's presence? She wasn't here with me. She was dead. She had no soul. I couldn't see her smiling at me. I couldn't see her beautiful eyes. I couldn't hear her sweet voice, nor could I feel her warmth.

She was a liar! She abandoned me again and again, making sure I could never be with her.

The only thing she left with, me was a depressing loneliness. I just wanted to hold her, to k**s her-but she wasn't here anymore.

Hearing the commotion, the guards outside rushed in and looked at me with fear in their eyes. "Your Majesty, you've finally woken up..."

I turned around and grabbed one of them by the collar. "Where is Crystal?"

Where is she?"

"Y-you Majesty, Miss Crystal is.." the guard faltered. In the end, he misunderstood and answered literally, "Miss Crystal is dead."

I smashed him against the wall violently. "Don't you think I know that? Now, where is she?"

"Miss Crystal is in her coffin," another guard answered in a low voice.

I picked up the sword and pressed its blade against the guard's neck. "Say that again."

The guard knelt down shakily. "I'm sorry, Your Majesty. Miss Crystal... She's receiving her last farewells in the mourning hall. She's about to be buried." I was so angry that I almost slashed his throat on the spot. "Who said you could do that? Did I give the order to have her buried?"

"It was the Queen Mother who gave the order. You've been unconscious for a whole week, Your Majesty. She said that it couldn't be delayed any longer and asked us to let Miss Crystal rest in peace," the guard explained in a trembling voice.

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Chapter 1327

Laura's POV:

It rained for several days straight. The sky remained overcast and gloomy. It was as though the universe also mourned Crystal's death. I put on a black dress and a gauze hat and went to the mourning hall.

I only informed Crystal's closest friends of her funeral. As soon as they heard the news of Crystal's death, Flora, Harry, and some others all came as quickly as they could.

Several days had passed, and none of Crystal's friends had left the mourning hall. They had all stayed by Crystal's side unwaveringly.

I had planned to bury Crystal as soon as Rufus woke up, but as the days went by with no sign of Rufus waking up, I began to worry that Crystal's body would decay. Crystal had lived a hard life, so I hoped she could at last leave the world in a decent way.

Today was

the last day of her funeral, and everyone had gathered in the mourning hall.

"Let's begin." I sat on the bench wearily, motioning for the priest to start the funerary service.

The priest held up his Bible and began to pray. "Death is not a sad thing. After all, her soul is now with Father in heaven. So don't feel sad for her..." All of a sudden, a wail broke out in the crowd. I turned to look in the direction of the sound, only to meet Harry's bloodshot and swollen eyes. "How can we not feel sad for her? She's our friend, our family! I still can't believe that she's really dead."

Then the others burst into tears. No one could accept this.

No one wanted to believe that Crystal had died so suddenly.

The priest couldn't finish his prayer, and I wasn't in the mood to let him continue, so I made him leave first.

Sniffling, Harry walked up to the coffin and put a white rose in front of it. "I'm not angry at you anymore for going to the border without telling us. We understand why you did it. It's okay, Crystal. You can rest now."

Joanna, whose eyes were also red and swollen from crying, silently laid down her white rose.

Just then, a tall figure walked into the hall. It was Blair. He had come all the way here from the border.

“Come and say goodbye to Crystal.” I sighed at him.

Blair was in a trance for a moment. Holding a bouquet of white roses, he stared at the coffin unmoving for a long time. I didn’t know what he was thinking, but when I saw his shoulders quiver slightly, I knew he was in immense pain like Rufus.

“Don’t worry, Crystal. The border is fine. I swear I’ll keep it guarded.” Blair’s voice was very soft. After so many years, perhaps something had changed in him.

Arron stood beside his mother’s coffin silently.

Seeing his little, quiet figure, I felt bitter in my heart. Kids usually had years to grow up. But sometimes, they could grow up in a single moment. Arron was still a child, and he loved asking Crystal for cakes every day when she was still alive. But ever since Crystal died, Arron not only stopped asking for cake, but he had completely stopped smiling.

I held Beryl, who was sobbing hysterically. “Beryl, your mommy’s just asleep.

Don’t cry.”

She had woken up yesterday. The moment she woke up, she said she wanted to see Crystal. I didn’t have the heart to tell her the truth, so I just said that Crystal had been attacked by black witch power and would sleep for a long time.

“Grandma, Mommy died because of me, right?” Beryl sobbed, her whole body trembling violently, her hair a complete mess. She whimpered, “Mommy got very hurt. I saw it. Mommy saved me.”

I couldn’t help but burst into tears. Touching her soft head, I whispered, “Honey, don’t cry. She’ll worry about you if she sees you like this.” Beryl cried even louder.

“Mommy, if you’re really worried about me, just wake up!”

“Don’t cry, Beryl.” Arron walked up to us and gently wiped his sister’s tears with a handkerchief. “Mommy will be sad if she sees you like this in heaven.”

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Chapter 1328

Flora's POV:

I stood behind Harry, looking at Crystal's lifeless body silently. Everyone in the mourning hall was crying-that is, everyone except me.

My heart seemed to stop beating. It felt very heavy in my chest, like a stone.

When I first heard about Crystal's death, I thought it was a prank.

Rufus loved Crystal with all his heart. How could he let her die?

"Flora, you can cry if you feel sad. It's okay."

"Warren cupped my cheek and

looked at me worriedly.

I shook my head. I opened my mouth and spoke in a voice so hoarse, it was as though I hadn't spoken in years. "I can't cry," I croaked.

Because until now, I still couldn't believe that Crystal was dead, even though her body was right in front of me.

Five years ago, Crystal had faked her death. This time, maybe she was lying to us again.

I forced a smile and said, "Warren, look! Crystal has just been sleeping for seven days. I think she's still alive."

Warren held me tightly and said in a low voice, "The forensic expert has already checked on her. She... She's not here anymore, Flora."

"No, no, that's impossible. She wouldn't die so easily. She has both the werewolf power and black witch power. How would she die so easily?" I refused to accept the facts and shook my head almost hysterically. My eyes and throat began to sting, and uncontrollable sadness enveloped my heart.

I grabbed Warren's arm and ordered in a trembling voice, "Call the doctor! We need a doctor!"

I knew I was talking stupid, but I still couldn't wrap my head around the idea that Crystal was dead.

Warren pulled me close and rested my head against his chest. He said sadly,

“It’s no use, Flora. We confirmed it again and again when we first arrived at the imperial palace. The reason why her body still looks alive is that Laura put some witchcraft medicine in the coffin to preserve her body, but it can only last for seven days. Her body will begin to rot after today. That’s why we’re in such a hurry to bury her.”

I didn’t say anything for a long time. When I finally calmed myself down, I stood straight and said calmly, “I still don’t believe that she’s dead.” Then I went to the ice coffin, took Crystal’s hand, and said to her, “Crystal, I’ve always believed in miracles, just like five years ago. You’ve always been so strong. You’ve always been able to think of a way out whenever you’re backed into a corner. So you can do it again this time, right? Wake up, Crystal. Are you really willing to leave Rufus and your kids behind?”

Tears streamed down my cheeks as I spoke. I felt choked with sobs. Crystal was such a great person. Why was God so unfair to her? She had suffered a lot in her short life on this earth.

Harry also came over and squatted beside me, following suit. “Crystal, this isn’t funny. Wake up!”

“Enough. Let her rest in peace.” Laura made me and Harry stand up. “It’s time to cremate her.”

“No, we can’t just do this! We should at least let Rufus see Crystal for the last time!” looked at the others and said, “Rufus loves Crystal with all his heart. If he misses his chance to see her for the last time, he’ll go crazy.”

“Rufus is still unconscious. We can’t wait any longer. We need to let Crystal leave with dignity,” Laura said tiredly.

I wanted to say something more, but Warren pulled me aside and said, “Flora, enough. Everyone’s mourning. Just let Crystal rest in peace.”

I pursed my lips and refused to agree with the fact that Crystal would be cremated so hastily.

But I couldn’t do anything but watch as Laura ordered guards to cover the coffin.

Another group of guards came in, ready to carry the coffin to the royal tomb to have Crystal cremated.

Just then, an ear-piercing roar came from the door. “Who dares to touch her body?!”

I was so excited that my extinguished hope was rekindled.

It was Rufus! He rushed in like a furious beast, frightening everyone. His eyes were bloodshot, his hair and clothes messy, and the back of his hands were stained with b***d. His murderous gaze swept across the hall, sending chills down everyone's spines.

"Who said you could bury her without my permission?"

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Chapter 1329

Rufus' POV:

The guards were so scared that they didn't dare to look me in the eye. "It-It was Queen Mother who gave the order," one of them stammered.

"He's right." My gloomy-looking mother came over. She looked at me sadly and said,

"Rufus, you've been unconscious for seven days straight. No one could tell when you'd wake up. Would you have wanted us to wait until Crystal's body starts to rot?"

My throat tightened, rendering me unable to speak. I could do nothing but clench my fists.

"Crystal's body would start to decay if we waited any longer. I had no choice." Laura sighed. She had more grey hair on her head than I could remember. "The dead cannot be brought back to life."

She looked at me tiredly with a sense of understanding in her eyes. After all, she too had lost her beloved husband. After she finished speaking, she nodded at the soldiers to continue.

They picked up the handles on the coffin again and were about to move it. Blinded by rage, I pulled out my sword and pointed it at the soldiers, roaring

"Did I give you permission to move the coffin? Get out! Now!" Anger boiled in my chest. Rot? So what? Crystal would always be Crystal, rotten or otherwise, I would always love her.

The soldiers didn't dare to touch the coffin again. Laura had no choice but to ask them to leave first, knowing I'd react violently if she insisted on Crystal's cremation.

She seemed to want to say something more, but in the end, she didn't. Instead, she asked everyone in the mourning hall to leave, giving me some time to say goodbye to Crystal.

Crystal was my wife, my other half. Even if I didn't want to cremate her body, they couldn't take her away from me.

I knew I was crazy. Hell, I felt my sanity vanish the moment Crystal stopped breathing.

I stood in front of the coffin like a restless patient, gnashing my teeth angrily

"Crystal, you're such a terrible person. I remember everything now. You lied to me time and time again. Who gave you the right to seal my memories? Who gave you the right to die and leave me alone? You haven't made up for the five years you owe me. Now, you want to leave me so abruptly? Oh, you wish! Even if you're dead, I will still hold you firmly. I won't let them cremate you. I know that the black witch race has witchcraft medicine that can keep the corpse from rotting for a long time. I'll make you stay with me forever. Just you wait and see.

You won't be able to get rid of me so easily."

I took a step forward and reached out to touch the ice coffin. Just as I was about to open the lid of the coffin, I withdrew my hand as though it was made out of burning hot coal.

Any semblance of courage or strength left me at that moment.

I was too scared to look at Crystal's lifeless face. Gritting my teeth, I started pounding my head with my fists to make myself forget what Crystal looked like when she died.

Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected that Crystal would die right in front of me, and that I'd be powerless at the face of her death.

I had always said that I loved her, but in the end, I couldn't even die for her.

"Rufus, just take one more look at her. Maybe she's just asleep. If you keep her company, she might wake up soon. You'll be the first person she sees when she opens her eyes. So we can't cremate her. Once we burn her body to ashes, she won't have a chance." Omar's voice echoed in my mind. He encouraged me to take action, even going so far as to claim that Crystal was just sleeping. What a stupid wolf!

My legs buckled from underneath me and I fell to my knees in front of the ice coffin. I felt unprecedentedly lonely and sad. My chest seemed to have been hollowed out, making it hard to breathe. I stared blankly ahead and muttered,

“No, Omar, we’re just deceiving ourselves...”

Maybe Laura was right. We should let Crystal leave this world decently.

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Chapter 1330

Laura’s POV:

Three days had passed, and the gate of the mourning hall had never been opened since Rufus drove everyone away.

During this period, Rufus

“didn’t say a word and didn’t ask for something to eat

or drink, nor did he allow anyone to enter the hall.

I frequently came back to the other side of the door, but every time my ears came into contact with the door, I couldn’t hear any sound of some sort from the inside. It was hard to guess if Rufus was even moving or if he was still alive.

I understood how painful this loss was for Rufus. The death of a loved one would send anyone at one’s wit’s end. I acted nearly the same as him now when Ethan died then, but now, what I was more afraid of was that Rufus would take his own life for love. Rufus was a person who felt deeply. I could bet that in his heart, Crystal was peerless.

But, of course, he was also bound by his oath and duty to his people; he was the king of the werewolves and it meant he should lay his personal feelings second to his responsibility as a leader. As a king, he couldn’t act on his own will since lots of people would be affected by how the course of his life would turn out.

When the food sent in was returned untouched again, there went the patience and stability I had been trying to keep together. I asked the guards to open the door to the mourning hall.

However, Flora stopped me. "Laura, let's give him some more time. I don't think he wants to see anyone now. Not even you."

"But do we really have to leave him like this? So many days have passed, and Crystal's body is going to perish!" The anxiety crept within me and it masked my face. On the one hand, I was afraid that Rufus would indulge in grief, and on the other hand, I was growing worried of the circulating speculations. Rufus had been out of the public's sight for a long time. The nobles and the alphas of the other packs were now entertaining the possibility that something had happened to Rufus, and they were eager to know if he was still alive.

Flora sighed and took a step back, as if to get out of my way.

The door was locked, so I had to let the soldiers open it forcefully. The moment the door swung open with a loud thud, a raging voice bellowed from the inside.

It was clear that the person inside was unhappy with the sudden invasion. "Get lost if you want to live!"

"I'm your mother. You can't even tell me apart from the others i w?" With a bang, I shut the door of the mourning hall again.

The hall fell silent. I scanned the inside and wherever I looked, the darkness matched the gloom Rufus was emitting. The air was filled with the smell of wood wax, the residual fragrance of the burnt candles.

I took two steps forward 'and as my eyes slowly adjusted, it became clear that Rufus was sitting in front of the ice coffin. His beard was long and ragged, his hair was unkempt, and his expression was blank, his eyes lackluster. In general, he looked like a person who was nearing his death.

If it went on like this, there was no doubt he would take his own life sooner, if not later.

The sight of him in that state summoned distress and anger within me. "Look at yourself! Do you really want to die?"

"If possible, I want to." Rufus hadn't drunk water for days, so his voice was hoarse and his lips were cracked.

"You can only think about it. You're not supposed to die right after Crystal!

Think about your empire! Hubson's gone and vampires began to riot, taking advantage of his absence. Some of them claim to be taking their revenge for Hubson, and some just want to take advantage of the chaos to get benefits.

Several vampire families want to invade the border at the same time.

Fortunately, Blair is holding the fort well. He came back to the imperial capital to attend the funeral and then hurried back to the border to handle the pandemonium that's happening outside these doors. What remained of Hubson's subordinates are in the imperial capital now. They're killing your people."

Rufus did not budge. He remained unmoving like a wax figure. I didn't know if he had heard me or not or if my message even got through to him.

I softened my tone and added, "Rufus, one's death can't end the pain. Crystal did all these for you and your two kids. What she wants the most is that you and your kids can live a happy life."

After a pause, I began to feel pensive. "Think about your two kids, Rufus. You haven't seen them since you woke up. You can't imagine how worried Beryl and Arron are about you. They often steal small visits to check on you, fearing that you would do something stupid and leave them too. Crystal will be very disappointed in you if she sees you like this."

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