

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 11[2,201 words]

Lyric

"But what if your mother doesn't like me?"

"Harmony," Theo chuckles. "My mother will love you. She knows how long I've waited to find you, and she will cherish you just as I already do."

His mother might love Harmony, but I guarantee she won't be able to stand me. I'm not the most approachable person, and it's easy for anyone to see the moment they meet me.

After almost losing it at the hospital earlier, Thane decided it was time to leave. If it weren't for Harmony calming me down, I would have lost control.

Harmony promised to keep in touch with Alisha, but I can't see myself doing the same. I'm not angry with the woman for trying to find us. It was nice that she cared enough to do so, but I'm not in a place where I need anyone else in my life. There's a lot I need to deal with and many thoughts I need to get out of my head before I can have a normal life.

I hadn't realized we'd need to take a plane to get to the island of Lykos. It was a four-hour flight, then two hours of driving. We still have yet to reach the castle, but Thane said it wouldn't be much longer.

The driver pulls up outside a gatehouse, and I stare out the window. I can't help gawping at the castle on the hill. It's an actual fucking castle! I didn't think Thane meant a real live castle when he explained where we'd be living.

'Oh, my Goddess!' Harmony's voice fills my head. 'It looks like Hogwarts!'

"Hogwarts?" I ask out loud. "Really, Harmony?" My sister giggles, and I can't help chuckling because she's such a child sometimes.

"What's Hogwarts?" Theo asks as the gates open, and our driver moves forward.

"Hogwarts is the castle named in the popular book about a boy wizard, Harry Potter," Harmony explains to her mate and mine. Theo and Thane look thoroughly confused.

"So a witch wrote a book about her world?"

"No, Theo," Harmony shakes her head. "A human wrote the story. It's fiction, her idea of what the wizarding world would be like. It's a great story. Our mother read the books to us when we were kids; then we watched the movies when they came out. They were brilliant!"

Harmony is right, and we loved those stupid movies. The last thing we ever watched was Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince. We haven't seen TV since Emily died. "Wait, there's a movie?"

"Eight." Harmony clarifies, and Theo shakes his head. "Because the seventh book was made into two films. They were huge when they came out. They may have come from the human world, but our mother allowed us to see them. It was something special we shared with her."

Theo wraps his arm around Harmony and kisses her head. "Then we shall find these movies and watch them together." Harmony screeches in excitement.

I watch her momentarily, confused at how she can be so at ease when I'm still so uncomfortable with this whole thing. I guess I'm a little envious. "Brace yourselves," Thane mumbles. "Mother is on the doorstep."

Oh, Goddess!

My stomach turns over, my heart bangs, and my mouth is suddenly dry. The woman standing outside the massive oak doors is stunningly beautiful. She doesn't look much older than Thane, but that's due to Lycan genes. Lycans do not age past twenty-five, and werewolves between twenty-eight and thirty, depending on their rank.

Thane's mother has long auburn hair, falling in waves down her back. She's tall, probably five-eleven, wearing a beautiful burgundy dress with long sleeves and hitting the floor at her feet. She's wearing an intricate necklace that sparkles even from this distance, and her bright blue eyes are mesmerizing.

Theo exits the car first, then helps Harmony out.

"Try not to worry, Lyric." Thane smiles as I look at him. "You are Queen here, and no one is above you. You are worthy, so command the respect you deserve from all around you. Do not be afraid, Lyric."

"You have too much faith in me. But I'll try to be the woman you need me to be."

I don't want to embarrass Thane. But all of this is new to me, and I'm bound to mess up sometimes.

"Listen to me," Thane takes my hand in his, something that would freak me out if anyone other than Harmony were to touch me. However, I like that I don't fear Thane's touch. He's my mate, and it would be awkward if his touch repulsed me. "I have faith in you because I can see your worth, Lyric."

"I'm not going to pretend everything will always be easy. We're royals who rule Lycans and werewolves the world over, so there will be hurdles for us to jump many times. But the fact remains that you are my Queen, and I wouldn't have it any other way." I smile; shyly because I can't help myself. It's nice to be appreciated.

"Now, are you ready to meet my mother?"

I nod, even though I am in no way ready. But there's no time like the present, so they say.

Thane helps me out of the car, and my eyes instantly land on my sister and the fact that Thane's mother is hugging her like a mother welcoming home her daughter.

The woman pulls away from Harmony and immediately hugs Theo. "I can't believe you finally found her."

She's British. I wasn't expecting that.

'She's Scottish Aspen laughs.

'That's still British, Aspen.'

'Call her that, and she'll probably smack you. This woman is, Goddess only knows how old, probably two hundred, so she'll want to be known as Scottish. Don't you know Scottish people fought the English for their freedom?'

'How would I know that? When would I have had the chance to learn?'

'You're hopeless. My wolf mumbles. 'The name Thane originates from Scotland.'

'How do you know this stuff when I don't?'

'Guess I'm smarter than you.'

'B.itch!'

"Thane, my darling."

"Mother," I watch as they embrace. I hear Thane whisper in his mother's ear, but it's too low for me to make out, even with my wolf hearing. His mother nods, pulls out of his arms and looks at me with a smile. "Mother, I'd like you to meet my mate, Lyric. Lyric, this is my mother, Moira." "It's nice to meet you." I offer a smile, but not my hand.

Moira smiles. "It's a pleasure, wee one. Both my sons met their mates at the same time, twins at that! I never thought such a thing would happen. Goodness, wait until your father gets home; he'll go nuts! Anyway, I must prepare for dinner. I'll see you all in a while." I watch, amused, as she lifts the skirt of her dress, turns her heel, and rushes inside the castle.

Thane chuckles.

"Theo, take your mate to your room, settle her in, and prepare for dinner. Blaze?" The man Harmony said was Thane, and Theo's cousin appears out of nowhere. "Go catch up with your parents, then meet us at dinner." Blaze tips his head and then walks away.

Thane takes my hand and leads me inside; Harmony and Theo have already disappeared. The castle is beautiful, with all gray stone, high ceilings, intricate designs, and paintings of old. Harmony is correct; it resembles Hogwarts Castle, minus the moving portraits, witches, and wizards.

Are there secret passageways in this place?

'I don't know, but finding out will be fun. My wolf answers my thought.

Thane leads me down the super long hallway, past the spiral staircase, and into a glass elevator. The doors close with a whoosh, and I close my eyes as soon as the elevator moves. I'm not scared of elevators, but I've never been in one that's see-through, and it isn't very comforting!

Oh, Goddess, I feel sick!

"Hey," Thane places his fingertips beneath my chin and tips my head up. I open my eyes slowly and look at my mate. "There is nothing to fear, my love."

"You say that, but you're used to this; I'm not. My legs feel like jelly, my stomach is falling out of my ass, and I feel like I'm having a heart attack!"

Thane chuckles while wrapping his arms around me. I snuggle into his chest because his scent soothes me. "This is our private elevator to our floor, and no one else is permitted to use it. But you never have to use the elevator if you don't want to. However, just so you know, the stairs to the royal suite might take some time, and you'd probably want to take a break halfway up."

"Very funny," I mumble at his sarcasm.

The elevator comes to a halt. When the doors open, my eyes widen in shock because I see a room as big as a house! What the fuck?

On one side of the room, there's a living room area. There's a sofa, TV, coffee table, etc., and looks super cozy. French windows open up to a large balcony, and I can't wait to sit out there and watch the sun go down. On the other side of the room, there's a gaming system, a real man cave, as my Dad would have called it.

Thane then leads me further into the room and through a white door. The bedroom is gorgeous, but I gulp at the size of the four-poster bed. It looks like you could sleep half a dozen people in that thing! All the fixtures and fittings in this place are fantastic, a little olde worlde, a little modern-just my taste.

Thane points out another door, which leads to the bathroom. I gulp because everything in the royal suite is massive. The bathtub, which I can't wait to sink into, is big enough for two. Then there's the shower, so large you could fit four people in the cubicle at the same time. There are two side-by-side sinks and a toilet so sparkling you could eat off it - well, you know what I mean.

We walk back into the bedroom. "What do you think?"

"It's definitely something," I mumble, eyes still looking all around, drinking in everything I'm seeing. "Thane,"

"I know," He smiles. "You're not ready for physical contact, and I'm okay with that. You need some mental health help, and I will ensure you get that, Lyric."

"As for everything else, whenever you're ready, baby. But I need to be near you, even if it's just sleeping in the same bed. I promise I won't touch you, but Lycans don't do well away from their mates once they find them. Can you give me that one thing?" I cross my arms over my chest. "Fine, but no s*x."

Thane holds his hands up and smiles. "Promise. Now, why don't we get ready for dinner? I want to introduce you to my family." I nod my head. "The left side of the closet is yours, and you'll find it fully stocked."

"What? How?"

"I called ahead and had someone go shopping for you and Harmony. There's perfume, makeup, and what-have-you on the dresser. Underwear and nightwear are in the drawers; whatever else you need is in the bathroom." "Wow." Is all I can say because I am in awe; the man has gone all out for me!

Thane allowed me to shower first after showing me how to use it, and he went to speak to someone. I didn't wash my hair because I already did that today.

I exit the bathroom to find the bedroom empty, thankfully giving me time to pick a dress for dinner. I see a beautiful midnight blue knee-length dress. It's cut above my b****t, so it doesn't show cleavage, which I love. It's also long-sleeved and feels fantastic against my skin.

Underneath all the clothes in the closet are rows and rows of shoes. I find a pair that matches my dress perfectly. I've never worn makeup, so I don't bother with any; I'd probably end up looking like a clown. I wouldn't know how to apply it right. I tie my hair in a high ponytail, spray some perfume and stare at myself in the mirror.

"You look beautiful."

"Shit!" I spin on the spot. "Thane, you scared me!"

"I'm sorry, baby." He kisses my forehead, and I close my eyes and let the sparks rush through my veins. "Let me shower, and we can get out of here."

I watch him leave, hear the shower start, then groan when the door knocks. I realize it could be Harmony, so I open the door.

The woman in front of me is not my sister.

"Can I help you?" I ask the blonde. She's pretty with brown eyes and a bright smile. She's also holding a baby around a year old.

"Hi, I'm Isla, and this is Ivy. We heard Thane was back, and I'm a little confused about why he didn't come to us as soon as he arrived."

"Okay?" Obviously, I don't know the answer to that because I don't know anything about the place.

"I'm not sure why you're in the King's room nor why I had to knock on the door. The door is never locked for me."

"I'm sorry, but who are you?"

"I should be asking you that!" She snaps, but before I can answer her, she tells me, "I'm the King's wife, and this is our daughter. Now, get out of my way; I want to speak to my husband!"

Wife?

Daughter?

Husband?

What?!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 12[1,295 words]

Lyric

I stare, unblinking, at Isla. I think I'm a bit in shock.

She did just say that she's Thane's wife, right? That the baby in her arms is Thane's daughter? What the fuck am I supposed to do with that?

How could he bring me here, knowing his wife would seek me out?

Did Thane think he could keep us apart forever?

That I'd never meet his child?

That I wouldn't feel it if he was intimate with Isla?

Why did he make all those promises?

Call me his Queen?

'None of this makes any sense, Lyric.

'I know that, Aspen. Goddess, I am so confused. Why would he lie to us, Aspen?'

'I don't know, Lyric. I wish I did, but I don't. Can't you sense any lies coming from this woman?'

I swallow past the lump in my throat while trying to read Isla for lies. But I feel as though I'm stuck; my power isn't working, no matter how hard I try. Perhaps it's because I feel like the bottom just dropped out of my world.

Maybe I've lost my ability to read people and know when they're lying. I was collared in silver for years, not to mention pumped full of wolfsbane. That could be the reason I can no longer tell when someone is lying to me. It would make sense as to why I didn't know Thane was lying to me. Unless I imagined that, it doesn't make sense that I could read Alisha and know she wasn't lying.

Goddess, why did I believe him so easily?

I'm usually so cautious around people, but I let my guard down with Thane because he's my mate.

What will this mean for me now?

I won't stay mated to a man already married, and he shouldn't have assumed I'd be okay with this. For Goddess's sake, the man has a child!

Does he have more than one?

It's possible at his age. Maybe he gave up on having a mate, so he took this woman as his chosen mate. It's not unheard of, though they wouldn't have a bond as true mates do. That doesn't explain why she isn't Queen, though. I would have thought she would be, as she's his wife. Perhaps she is Queen, and Thane plans to divorce her and have me take her place.

What if she is his fated mate, and I'm just another mate the Moon Goddess gave him?

No, that doesn't make sense. But then again, I don't know how things work for Lycans as opposed to werewolves. There are so many questions swimming through my mind that I can't keep up with them!

What am I going to do now?

Speak to Thane, obviously. But I will not take Ivy's father away from her, and I won't be Thane's mistress. Harmony is happy with Theo, and though I don't want to be without my sister, I cannot stay here now. The awkwardness is something I can do without. I suppose the logical thing for me to do is reject Thane and leave. Sure, I'll be a rogue, but even that would be better than the alternative.

"I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name. Who are you, and why are you in the King's room?"

I open and close my mouth repeatedly. I want to tell this woman who I am and what her pig of a husband did. She deserves to know what he had planned.

But where would it get me?

This woman doesn't deserve to have her heart broken.

'Oh, but you do?'

'I've known him a day, Aspen. I'll get over it as soon as we sever the bond and get out of here.

'But that will weaken us for I don't know how long, Lyric.'

'We'll be fine, Aspen. Trust me.

'But what about Jagger?'

'What about him? He's as bad as Thane, Aspen; he kept this from us. We cannot stay here. Please tell me you understand?'

Aspen sighs inside my head. 'I understand. Who knows? Maybe we'll find a second chance mate!

'Maybe.

"Isla!" I startle where I stand upon hearing Thane's booming voice. He sounds so happy to see Isla, and he's not even worried she may have told me who she is. "Why are you standing out there? Come on in,"

She pushes past me without a word. I don't move from my position by the door, but I do look at them out of the corner of my eye. They hug, and Thane laughs while taking the baby from Isla.

"Hello, my little princess. Did you miss me?" The baby squeals happily, and I have to tune them out; I don't want to hear anymore. If they notice me slip out, they neither say anything nor stop me.

I walk in a daze along hallways and corridors, not knowing where I'm going because I have yet to be given a tour of the castle. I won't need one now because I'll be gone by morning.

I walk aimlessly until I come to a door ajar. I look inside, thankful that the room is lit, even if by wall lights, and grateful the room is empty. It's a library filled with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, Victorian-style furniture, and an open fire burning in the hearth. I'm instantly in love with the room, and when I notice the reading nook, I feel like I've died and gone to heaven. It saddens me to think this is the one and only time I'll set foot in this room.

I sit down next to a small, high window and stare at the fire in front of me. I find the flames hypnotizing.

I feel like the world's unluckiest person right now. I should have known it was all too good to be true. At least Harmony's mate isn't married - I hope. But I can't see us both being that unlucky. I've seen the way Theo looks at Harmony, so full of love. They may have only just met, but I know they will be very happy together. I only hope she can forgive me for leaving.

I kick my shoes off and lift my feet onto the chair, tucking them under me. With my arms around myself, I stare at the night sky out the window.

I wonder what's out there in this strange-to-me place. I'm curious if there's a pack out there somewhere that will let me join, though I doubt it. Unless they're mates, two unrelated Alphas in the same pack is a big fat no! "There you are,"

I startle in my seat. I was so lost in thought that I didn't hear anyone enter the room.

I look at the man taking a seat in front of me. Blaze stares at me, and I notice the man is handsome, just like Thane and Theo. Not as stern as Thane, but not quite as playful as Theo.

"Thane is looking everywhere for you."

"Evidently not. If he was, he would have found me. How is it you did, and he didn't?"

"I said I'd check this side of the castle while he walked Isla to the dining hall."

Of course, he did.

Why wouldn't he ensure his wife got to dinner before he came looking for his mate? "Why did you take off?"

I shrug. "Felt like a walk. I needed to clear my head before I rejected your cousin."

Blaze narrows his eyes before leaning forward in his chair.

"Reject him? Why would you do something so stupid?"

I snarl at him. He has no right to call me stupid! What's stupid is everyone knowing about Isla and thinking it's okay to act as if it's normal; we all live together like one big happy family! "Calm down," Blaze holds his hands up in surrender. "Tell me why you want to reject Thane."

"Because I don't fancy being his mistress, that's why. A mate, a wife - What's next? A harem?"

Blaze smirks. "A harem? That's one way to put it."

What the actual fuck?

A harem?

Oh, fuck this, I'm out of here!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 13[1,216 words]

Thane

"How have you been?"

Isla shrugs. "Fine, we all have. It wasn't the same with you gone for three months, though. I missed you."

I smile at the baby girl, now touching my face with her tiny fingertips. Carrying Ivy wasn't easy for Isla, and she almost lost the baby more than once. That's why Ivy is so precious to all of us. "She's certainly grown since I've been gone."

"Three months will do that." Isla chuckles. "It's her first birthday next week. I was thinking of throwing her a little party. I know she won't really know what's going on, but it'll be nice, don't you think?" "Whatever you want, sweetheart." I notice Lyric is suddenly missing, and I feel like a dick for forgetting she was even in the room. "Where did Lyric go?"

"Lyric? The girl who opened the door?"

"Yes, my mate." I hand Ivy to Isla and look around my suite. I know Lyric isn't here, but wishful thinking and all that.

Where the hell could she be?

If she wandered off, she'll get lost somewhere in the castle.

'Lyric?' I call her through the mind link, but it doesn't seem to be getting through.

What the fuck?

'Blaze?'

'Yes?' He answers instantly.

'I need you to find Lyric.'

'Lost her already?' He chuckles.

'No! Look, she wandered off somewhere, and I need help looking for her. I'd ask Theo, but I don't want to worry Harmony! 'How do you know she isn't with Harmony?'

'Because my mother already informed me Theo and Harmony are in the dining hall. I snap. 'Please just help me find Lyric.'

'Okay. I'll take the south and east wings. You check north and west.

'Thanks. Let me know if you find her!

"Thane?" I cut Blaze off when Isla says my name. "That girl was your mate?"

"Yes, Isla. Lyric and Theo's mate, Harmony, are twin sisters."

"Oh, crap!" She gasps while pulling Ivy closer to her chest.

I narrow my eyes. "What did you do?" I know it's something; it always is with Isla.

"I thought she was one of your women. You know how clingy they get. I didn't see you in the room, so I assumed she'd somehow broken in and was hanging around, waiting for you. Or perhaps you knew she was still here from whatever you'd done with her, and you were waiting for her to get the message and leave."

I narrow my eyes again. It's true that in the past, one or two women became clingy after we slept together. They didn't want to leave because they hoped I'd claim them. But that hasn't happened in a while, probably because I haven't slept with anyone in months. But for those women who didn't want to leave, I would have to physically throw them out. Though once or twice, Isla stepped in and got rid of them.

"Thane, I'm so sorry. I swear I didn't know she was your mate."

"What did you do, Isla?"

"I told her I was your wife."

"What!?" The room shakes, Ivy starts screaming, and Isla shrinks away from me. "Do you have any idea what you've done?"

"Please don't be angry with me, Thane." She shushes her daughter, who quietens because she's a good little girl. "I honestly didn't know. How could I? I wasn't there when you arrived home. I didn't even know Theo had a mate. I love you and believed she was just someone who wouldn't leave."

I sigh and scrub my hands over my face. I'm not proud of how I used to treat women. Don't get me wrong; I've never physically hurt an innocent woman. But I would use them for s*x. I'm one hundred and fifty-seven years old; I couldn't have been expected to be a d.amn monk all my life. Though I regret every woman since finding Lyric.

I never promised any other women anything but one night and never slept with the same woman twice. I didn't want to give them the wrong idea. It was a one-time thing if they willingly came to my bed because they always had to be willing. But Isla is correct, sometimes they believed they could have me falling for them, and I'd make them my queen. No one but Lyric will ever be my queen!

"How the hell am I supposed to fix this?"

"Tell her the truth. I'll speak to her also."

"You've done enough, thank you very much." Isla bows her head, and her shoulders sag. "Just go to dinner. Don't mention Lyric taking off; Harmony will freak out. After everything those girls have been through, the last thing Harmony needs is to think her sister left her." "What have they been through?"

"Terrible things," I shake my head. "Torture, rape, starvation, humiliation, just to mention a few things." Isla gasps, and I see tears in her eyes. "I don't have time to explain things properly, Isla. Just know that their lives were hell. This was supposed to be a happy place for Lyric."

"I'm sorry."

'Thane, I found her'

'Blaze, thank Fenrir. Where is she?'

'Well, I checked the south wing, but she wasn't there. Then I caught her scent in the west wing and found her in the library!

Okay, I should have used my nose. The West Wing is the King's wing, so Lyric hasn't gone too far.

'I think you should hurry, Thane. I'm afraid I've made things worse. Lyric wants to reject you.

No!

I rush away from Isla without a word and arrive at the library in less than a minute. Lyric is curled up in my favorite chair, staring out the window. My gut clenches because I feel her anger and sadness. Blaze sighs and stands from the chair opposite Lyric.

"Has she said anything?"

"Just that you're a lying, cheating b.astard, and she hates you."

I smile, despite what she said about me. Always visit FindNovel.net for more novels and updates.

"She said she wanted to reject you because she didn't want to be your mistress."

My gut drops, and I think the shock I feel is written all over my face.

"I asked her why she thought that, and she mentioned you had a wife, a mate, and a harem. I thought she was joking, Thane, so I laughed and said a harem was one way to put it."

"You let my mate think I had a harem of women?"

"I was being sarcastic, Thane. Then she withdrew into herself. Even when I told her you didn't have a wife or a harem, I don't think she heard me. Why would she even think you had a wife?"

"It's a long story." I sigh. "Ivy and her stupid ideas of chasing women away from me."

"She told Lyric she was your wife?" I nod. "That's sick. I think I might throw up!"

I grit my teeth. "Shut it! Goddess, what a fucking mess. Go to dinner, make up some excuse as to why Lyric and I aren't there, but make sure everyone eats."

"Of course,"

'You better fix this because I'll kill you if she leaves.'

'You can't kill me, Jagger. Goddess, I'll fix things.'

'Don't test me, you c.unt! That beautiful girl over there didn't need this s.hit. Don't you think she's been through enough?'

'It wasn't my fault, Jagger!'

'Yeah, because nothing's ever your fault, is it? Just make things right. Grovel at her feet if you must, but you only stop groveling once Lyric forgives you. If she doesn't? I'll take over and throw you off a fucking cliff!' 'Alright, dickhead!'

Goddess, help me!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 14[1,676 words]

Thane

I wait for Blaze to leave, then make my way over to my mate. I take the seat Blaze vacated and sigh.

"I'm sorry, baby."

"Don't call me that!" She hisses while looking at me.

I can see the tears in her eyes, tears she's fighting back.

"Why did you bring me here, Thane? To humiliate me?" "No, Lyric, I would never do that."

"Right." She scoffs while rolling her eyes.

"First off, Isla isn't my wife; she's my sister."

A disgusted look crosses Lyric's face, and I can't say I blame her.

"Why the hell would your sister pretend to be your wife? That's the most disgusting thing I have ever heard. Not to mention it's weird as hell!"

I nod my head. "I agree, but there's a reason why."

I explain to Lyric why Isla said what she said. All the while, Lyric keeps her eyes on me, reading me for lies.

"I know you're probably mad; I've been with others and didn't wait for you. But I'm one hundred and fifty-seven years old, and I'd long given up hope of finding my mate."

"I don't care that you slept with others. I didn't expect you to be pure; I live in the real world, Thane. Besides, it's not like I've never had sex."

I growl from my chest. "That's not the same thing, Lyric, and you know it!"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 15[1,974 words]

Lyric

Two days passed, and I did nothing but sleep. I needed it because I didn't even wake up to use the bathroom. I woke mid-afternoon, dragged myself to the bathroom, did my business, and showered.

I walked out of the bathroom to find Thane sitting on the edge of the bed. He looked handsome in a gray suit that matched his eyes. His long hair was slicked back, and he smelled amazing. He looked right at me and smiled. I smiled back but realized I was naked and rushed to the closet to get dressed.

I paired leggings and a forest green t-shirt with white sneakers. Thane mentioned the other night about training. He said we'd work out in the in-house gym. Once I gained strength, I could work out with him and his warriors.

I was shocked, but Thane said a queen of Lyko's needed to know how to fight. Every queen who came before me did so, for they needed to be able to protect their people, just as I would. I agreed and was happy when I woke up today because Thane said we could start.

Thane was honest with me the other night, saying his people wouldn't be happy about me being a hybrid. That's why we won't tell anyone unless we have to, not yet, at least. Thane didn't think throwing the hybrid thing, as well as me being a wolf, would sit well with people.

Thane also told me not to worry because the people would accept me as their queen, and all would come to love me. I couldn't see it myself, especially when we kept the truth from them. But we'll do things Thane's way; he is King, after all.

I tied my hair in a high ponytail and returned to find Thane had changed into shorts and a white t-shirt with black sneakers. He'd tied his long hair in a man-bun. My eyes widened, and I took a deep breath through my nose. How is it fair that he looks so good?

His shirt was tightly fitted, and I could see his eight-pack, taut pecks, and bulging arms. He has thick thighs, and every inch of him is well-proportioned. My mate is every inch the King he was born to be, but it was nice to see him out of his suit and in clothes that made him look more relaxed.

"See something you like?" I heard the humor in his voice, but I was too busy staring at his body to see the look on his face.

I nodded my head, then instantly shook myself out of the trance I was in.

"What? No!" He laughed while I huffed and folded my arms across my chest. "Whatever, Jerk. Are you taking me to the gym or what?"

"I will, but first, I want you to eat an apple and drink some juice. You haven't eaten in days. You can't go to the gym on a full stomach, but you can't go on an empty one, either. You need some fuel; I don't want you passing out on me." I agreed. Even though I wasn't hungry, I knew Thane was right.

Now, we're standing outside the in-house gym, four floors down from our floor. I can hear laughter coming from inside. My sister sounds happier than I have ever heard her.

Thane pushes open the double doors, and my eyes widen. Harmony has her arms wrapped around Theo's neck as he holds her around the waist and off the ground as they kiss. They're both in shorts and t-shirts; Harmony's don't leave much to the imagination. Since when does she dress this way?

I know I've been asleep for two days, but what the fuck?

Did I miss something?

Kissing and tight clothing, I wasn't expecting that any time soon!

'While you slept, Harmony was getting therapy and growing closer to her mate!

'I can see that!' I mumble to my wolf. 'She can't have moved on from what happened in two days, Aspen. Even if she has spoken to a therapist several times, it's not that easy!

'Why don't you spend less time worrying about what Harmony is doing and sort your own life out?'

I ignore my wolf because I know she's right, and that annoys the crap out of me!

"Lyric!" Harmony rushes toward me, wrapping her arms around my neck. "I was so worried about you."

"I'm fine, Harmony; I just needed sleep."

Harmony pulls away from me, full of smiles as she flips her ponytail. She looks so healthy, and she's even put on a little weight. It's not hard to do when you're a wolf and eat like an elephant. I imagine Harmony has been taking advantage of eating what she can. That makes me happy because she needed to eat more.

The sparkle is back in Harmony's eyes, making my heart happy. Whatever help my sister still needs, I know she'll get. I can't keep questioning why she's so at ease in her mateship. Harmony has the right to do whatever she wants, and I will support her. "Right. Shall we?"

I nod at Thane and let him lead me to the middle of the room. He has me use the treadmill, the light weights, and the punching bag. He makes it look so easy, but my muscles are screaming. Goddess, I am so unfit! "Right. Why don't you and Harmony spar?"

I shake my head at Theo. "Absolutely not."

"Why? Scared she'll throw you on your a*s?" He laughs, but I do not.

"I will not fight my sister. I don't care if it is only sparring."

"It's okay, Lyric; I don't mind."

"I do, Harmony!" She lowers her head in submission. I hate that! "Why don't we spar?"

Theo raises an eyebrow and smirks. Thane shrugs and crosses his arms over his chest. He's not going to stop me, which is good.

Theo stands in front of me, getting ready to attack. "You sure about this?"

I don't answer; I attack. How stupid of me; Theo instantly flips me over his shoulder, and I land on my back on the mat.

The wind is knocked out of me!

I take Thane's hand when he offers it, and he hauls me to my feet. I narrow my eyes at Theo; the prick is smirking at me. Harmony is sitting on a weight bench, eyes wide, and watching us.

'My brother has next to no weaknesses.' I hear Thane in my head. 'Theo has been training since he could walk.'

'So, I stand no chance, even when sparring! I knew that, but still, it's annoying.

'No, even though Theo will go easy on you. When an enemy or even a sparring partner is taller than you, go for the mid-section.'

I nod my head and then get back into position. Theo and I circle each other, then he pounces, and I manage to dodge. I wouldn't stand a chance against a Lycan in a real fight, but that doesn't mean I'd ever give up. Theo is relentless in his assault. I hit him in the stomach several times, but he doesn't flinch.

"Come on, tiny wolf, at least try!"

My eyes widen in anger. I hate being mocked!

"Don't call me that!"

"Why not? That's what you are, right? A tiny weak wolf."

I grit my teeth, anger rushing through my veins. I am not weak! I'm untrained, but I am not weak.

'Lyric, be careful!'

I ignore Harmony's mind link. I'm not about to lose control of my fairy power.

"Come on, Tiny," Theo smirks while flexing his fingers, wanting me to attack.

Who's fucking idea was this?

'Yours. My wolf laughs.

I do not because I'm sick of being thrown around like a rag doll! Theo hasn't let up even for a moment, and now he's trying to rile me, bait me into attacking.

My father used to say a smart warrior closes his ears to the pointless words of others. The enemy will try and bait you, make you angry enough to attack. But that would only lead to the enemy getting the upper hand. Never let the enemy get the upper hand. I smirk slyly, and I notice Theo's eyes narrow slightly.

'You know what Mom used to say,' Aspen laughs.

'That I do.'

I charge at Theo, faking a right but dodging to the left. Theo reaches for me, but I'm faster. I slide between his parted legs, jump to my feet, and kick him in the back. He staggers forward before spinning to face me. "Not bad, Doggie."

Harmony gasps behind me. I'm sure she remembers Astro's attack and how he mocked our father before he killed him. Astro called our father a dog and laughed as he died.

'Don't think about the past, Lyric.

Aspen is right; I can't let the past get to me.

I can sense Thane's breathing increasing. He's not happy with how his brother speaks to me, even if it is just for effect. I know it's the mate bond; it makes us all protective.

"I think that's enough for one day." Theo nods at Thane before holding his hand out to me.

I bite back a smirk and take his hand, moving closer. "One thing my mother taught me," I bring my knee up and slam it against Theo's crown jewels.

Mom always said that if they're getting the better of you, go for the crown jewels.

"Fuck," He mumbles. He doesn't fall to his knees as I thought he would, though he does cup himself with a wince.

"Never let anyone get the better of you. Next time you call me a dog, I'll castrate you."

I suppress a growl when Harmony rushes to Theo's side. "Baby, are you okay?" I roll my eyes, not caring who can see.

"I'm fine." Theo wraps his arm around her waist and kisses her forehead. I watch Harmony's eyes close with a contented smile on her face.

Theo shoots me a warning look, and Thane's loud growl shakes the ground.

"Don't ever look at her like that again. This is your one and only warning!"

Theo bows his head in submission. "My King," He then turns to me. "My Queen." Without another word, he takes Harmony's hand and drags her away from me. She smiles at me apologetically and leaves with her mate.

I look at Thane, staring at the door with narrow eyes. I open my mouth to say something, but Thane walks away.

I stand and watch as he hits the punching bag with so much force I'm sure it will explode any moment. He stuck up for me, he put me first, even above his brother, and I can't help smiling. Apart from my parents, sister, and aunt, no one has ever done that for me. 'He's our mate, Lyric; he will always stand up for us and put us first.'

'It made me feel all sorts of things I wasn't aware I could feel. Is that even normal, Aspen?'

'Yes,' My wolf chuckles. 'He's perfect, Lyric. I know you've been hurt badly in the past, but Thane is your future. Trust him, Lyric. Don't let the past dictate the future because it's bright, I promise!'

'But how can I get close to him when I know I'll lose him?'

'You won't lose him, Lyric. Don't you know that your mate will make you stronger? I'm not suggesting you mate and mark right now. But once you do, your powers will transfer to him and his to you. The two of you will one day be invincible, Lyric! 'How do you know that?'

'The Moon Goddess told me.'

What the?

'How?'

'It's not important right now. All you need to know is that man over there already loves you. Trust me.'

I nod, cut her off, and make my way over to Thane. I'm nervous and a little scared about putting myself out there. But Aspen is right; Thane is my mate, a gift from the Moon Goddess. We are stronger together. I don't have to rush into anything, but I don't have to push him away, either. I can do this; I know I can.

Either that, or I'll fall flat on my face!

Lyric rolls her eyes. "Look, I don't care, okay? I don't wanna hear about the women you've slept with, as much as you don't want to know who I've had s*x with."

Only because none of that was willing. Though I would like to hear her story if she wants to speak about it one day.

"I'm okay with you not being a virgin. But what Isla said hurt me, Thane. I thought that finding you, and coming here to be with you, meant that I was finally getting the life I deserved. I wasn't expecting a fairytale, but a mate is supposed to be precious." I sigh while dropping my head forward for a second. I could strangle Isla!

"I thought you wanted your cake and to eat it whole, to have your wife and mate get along like sister wives. How was I to know you weren't married? I'd been locked up for years, never knowing what was happening in the pack or the outside world.

"I thought I'd lost my ability to sense lies. I know I sound pathetic, but for a while, I thought my life was finally looking up and that I had a mate who would care about me. Then Isla tells me she's your wife and Ivy is your child, and I got the wind knocked out of me."

I understand where she's coming from. But she's calmer than I would be if the roles were reversed. Goddess knows I would have ripped the guy's head off if I thought he was Lyric's husband.

"I'm so sorry, Lyric. Even though it was sick, my sister thought she was helping me out. I should have told her about you, but I didn't, and this happened.

"You have to know that Isla and I would never deliberately hurt you. You haven't lost your ability, Lyric. You were shocked by what Isla told you that you couldn't tap into your power."

I get out of my seat and crouch down in front of her.

"Baby, I am so sorry."

"Technically, you didn't do anything wrong, Thane. I get that your sister wanted to protect you, and I have to move on from what happened. I will; I just... I'm so tired, Thane. The past six years have been nothing but drama and pain. I just want a couple of days' peace. Is that too much to ask?"

I smile while cupping her soft cheek in my hand. Thankfully, she doesn't pull away; she leans into my touch.

"Nothing you ever ask will be too much, Lyric. How about we go back to our suite? I'll call someone to bring dinner for us. Once you've eaten, you can get changed, climb into bed, and sleep for as long as you need." "Will you stay with me?"

I take a deep breath and let those five words sink into my brain.

"For as long as you want me, baby."

The smile that lights her face warms my heart. "I'd like that."

"Come on then, beautiful." I get to my feet and scoop her up bridal style, making her giggle.

"I can walk, Thane." There's humor in her voice, and it's good to hear.

"Why walk when you don't have to?"

"Touche. Maybe I'll get every man I meet to carry me from now on."

Jagger growls before speaking through my mouth. 'Any man who touches you will be torn apart!'

"Is that so? Well, perhaps I'll let the men I can't stand touch me, then I can stand back and watch you do your worst. There's nothing wrong with killing those who deserve it."

What. The. F.uck?

After Lyric and I finish eating the steak and potatoes with cornbread, a servant delivered, I shift in my seat. Lyric ate like a sparrow, which didn't sit well with me.

Jagger reminded me that Lyric wasn't used to eating big meals. My mate rarely ate, and when she did, what little food she had, she gave most to Harmony.

I can't have my mate eating like that. It will take time for Lyric's stomach to stretch, allowing her to handle a full meal, but I know it'll happen with time. But I need to make Lyric understand that eating what and as much as she wants is okay.

No one will stop my mate should she want to rummage through the fridge anytime. Lyric never has to worry about her or Harmony starving because it will never happen again.

I know Lyric is tired, but I really need to speak to her about something, and it can't wait.

"Before you go," Lyric was about to leave her seat at the table for two on the balcony. She looks at me curiously while retaking her seat. "There's something I need to speak to you about." "Oh?"

"Astro," Lyric's eyes widen. "I know what you are, Lyric."

She swallows hard. "How?"

"Yuri told me right before he lost his life. He told me how the Fairy King wants you as his wife. How he killed your parents, and how Emily lost her life. He even told me why Lennix did what he did."

"So? Where are you going with this, Thane? I'm part fairy, and my uncle wants me as his wife. I lost my parents and my aunt because of that monster!"

I lean forward in my seat, looking Lyric in the eye. She holds my gaze. "I know what he did, Lyric, and what he wants - you. The question is, how do we stop him?"

"I don't know the answer to that, Thane."

I scrub my hands over my face.

How would she know?

It's not like she had time to look into Astro and his weaknesses.

"I won't sit around and wait for him to take you from me. I'll kill the b.astard if he so much as looks at you!"

Lyric smiles while trying not to.

Is she laughing at me?

"He can't take me from you, Thane. Astro cannot kidnap me because the only way for me to be his is willingly, and that will never happen."

"Willingly?"

"Yes," Lyric nods her head. "There are rules even Astro cannot break. The law is centuries old, Thane. Yes, in Valnor, it's normal for high-ranking males to take their nieces as brides. They do so because they believe it keeps the bloodline pure." I snarl because that's vile. Incest may have been believed to keep the bloodline pure hundreds of years ago. But nowadays, it is simply incest!

What century are these Fairies living in?

"However," Lyric continues. "Astro's grandfather, after taking his niece as his bride, outlawed forcing such pairings. His niece wanted to marry her uncle, and Carid, Astro's grandfather, swore their marriage was perfect, unlike his parents. "My mother explained all of this to me when I was thirteen. Mom wanted me to know Astro could not lay hands on me, nor could his minions, if I refused. Astro would be weakened for many years if he tried to take me by force.

"Carid used his power to place this curse upon all of his descendants. There are no exceptions. Astro believed by killing my parents after I refused to be his bride, that I'd change my mind to save my family. For a moment, I thought about it." "Why?" I'm not mad that she thought about leaving with Astro; just curious.

"He told me if I didn't, he'd kill Harmony next, making it slow and painful." She shrugs. "Then my aunt came out of nowhere, screaming at me not to listen. Emily said that Harmony would only be safe if I were with her.

"I listened to my aunt and knew I couldn't leave with him. Astro said he would find me and take everyone I love until all there is left is my grief and need to be with him. I don't know what made him think that if he killed everyone I love, I'd want to be with him. The man is a lunatic!

"Anyway, I used my fairy powers to send Astro back to Valnor, but his words about finding me stayed with me. He did find me, and my aunt and I fought hard against him. We managed to push him back, but he yelled that he'd know the next time I used my fairy magic, and anyone I cared about would die."

I nod. "That's why Harmony stopped you?"

"Yes. I told her everything when we were kids, and she swore she'd help me control myself. So you see, Astro cannot take me, Thane. But we must protect those who mean the most to us because those are the people Astro will go after."

I reach my hand to Lyric's. She looks at it, smiles, and takes my hand.

"We'll protect them, baby. We'll work the rest out. Everything will be okay; you're safe here."

"I am, but is my sister?"

"She will always be safe; Theo would kill for her."

"And my hybrid status? Where does that leave me with your people?"

"Ah, that..."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 16[2,462 words]

Thane

I could have killed Theo! Sure, I allowed him to spar with my mate. I didn't interfere when he threw her around the room. But calling her tiny, weak, and a dog angered me. When Lyric kneed Theo in the balls, I held in my laughter. But scowling at his queen like that?

No!

I could barely contain Jagger. He wanted to beat Theo into submission. If Theo hadn't bowed, I'm not sure I could have held my Lycan back.

I should have spoken to Lyric once Theo and Harmony were out of the way. But I was angry and didn't want to lose it with her.

'Should have let me knock his teeth out!'

'No, Jagger. Theo should have more respect, but Lyric kneed him in the balls.'

'So? It's not an excuse! And calling her names? How old is he? I don't care if it was for effect. Aspen told me that Astro called Spencer a dog before killing him. Can you imagine the memories that brought back to our mate?' 'Theo wasn't to know that, Jagger.

Small hands touch my back. I stop hitting the punching bag, chest heaving, and close my eyes as Lyric presses herself against my back.

"Thane," Lyric whispers my name while lying her head against my back.

She initiated touch. I've wanted to touch her from the moment I met her. Apart from carrying her a couple of times and holding her momentarily at the hospital, I've not touched her.

It was hard not to stroke my fingertips down her cheek while she slept. I didn't even wrap my arm around her because I had made a promise and intended to keep it.

"Please don't be angry with me."

I turn around and look at my beautiful mate. Her hand grips my t-shirt as though it were a life raft. I grit my teeth and fist my hands by my sides, fighting the urge to touch her in ways she's not ready for. "It's okay; you can touch me."

My hand instantly cups her cheek. She bites her lower lip, closes her eyes, and leans into my touch.

"I'm not angry with you, Lyric. I was angry with my brother. If I scared you, I'm sorry."

"You didn't scare me, Thane, nor did Theo." She snorts. "He's annoying, but he doesn't scare me. But I feel like I upset you and don't like how that feels." She wraps her arms around my waist.

"Baby, you didn't upset me. You did well today, Lyric, and I'm proud of you." Her smile is bright as she looks up at me. "You have your first therapy session in an hour," She groans in annoyance. "Then you'll be meeting the rest of my family. I know it's a lot, but it needs to be done."

Lyric nods. "Okay, but only if you kiss me."

My eyes widen, and my nostrils flare.

'Kiss her, you moron!'

I run my thumb over Lyric's lower lip, and she gasps. Her arms come around my neck, and she jumps into my arms. Instantly, I cup her pert backside as she presses her forehead to mine.

"Baby, you don't know what you're asking."

"I do." Her breath fans across my lips.

I can't suppress the groan that escapes me. My c.ock is rock hard, and all I want is to take Lyric right here and right now. But I can't; I won't because I know it's too soon. Lyric isn't ready, and I will never push my beautiful mate into anything. "Just one kiss, Thane. Show me I mean something to you."

"You mean everything to me." Lyric smiles, and our lips meet for the first time.

Every cliché in the universe is mine. I hear nothing but our hearts beating in time with each other. Fireworks go off inside my head, her taste assaults my senses, and every sinew in my body entwines with Lyric's. If I died right now, I'd die a happy man. Lyric pulls out of the kiss, gasping for air. She smiles, eyes glazed, and I can smell her arousal. I'm fighting to be a gentleman, but it's not easy.

"I think I'm going to like it here."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah," She nods. "Maybe we could do that a lot more."

"Baby, I'd kiss you all day if you'd let me."

"If we did that, we'd never get anything done. We can't have the King out of commission because he can't keep his lips to himself, can we?"

I smirk against her mouth before kissing her again. Our tongues entwine, her hands fist my hair, and the fucking door bursts open!

Lyric startles, and I set her on her feet. My eyes narrow at seeing my youngest sister staggering into the room. Esme has yet to notice Lyric and me, and I wonder why she isn't in school.

Esme's hair is a mess, her lip is split, and her face is full of tears. Esme rushes to hide, finding nowhere before four girls run through the doors.

"Why you running, runt?"

"Please, leave me alone."

"No can do, runt."

"What did I ever do to you?"

"Your sister fucked me over, and you have to pay for it."

It seems the foursome hasn't noticed us either.

AAA-RRR-ooooo!

My Lycan roars, shaking the room, and the girls fall to their knees in submission.

'Let me out!'

'No, Jagger. Calm down!'

They've been hurting my baby girl. I won't let it stand!'

'Nor will I, so let me deal with this!'

"What the hell is the meaning of this?"

"My King..."

I growl, shutting up the blonde ringleader.

"Esme?" She looks at me through glazed eyes, and my heart breaks. I hate seeing her so upset. "Did they do this to you?"

Esme doesn't answer; she hangs her head, shoulders shaking as she sobs.

'Callen?' I call one of my trusted warriors.

'Yes, my King?'

'Bring someone with you to the gym. I have four bi.tches that need taking into custody!'

'Be right there.'

"My King, please let us explain."

"You have no right to ask the King anything!" Lyric snaps. "Your King wants to know what happened, and I suggest you tell him!" Lyric's Alpha tone washes over the girl's, and the redhead on the left is the first to fold.

"Esme was walking towards her locker at school, and Ren tripped her up." She tips her head to the blonde as if to say, that's Ren.

The two brunettes are staring wide-eyed at the floor. They're terrified of being in front of me, but they should have thought about that when they chased my sister!

"Ren grabbed Esme's hair and dragged her into the restroom. We all shoved Esme around, but Ren kept hitting her, trying to get her to shift. We knew that was stupid, but she wouldn't stop. Ren kept punching Esme in the face and ribs until she eventually got away from us."

I growl, trying with all my might not to let Jagger out and rip these bi.tches to shreds.

"What were you doing at the wrong end of school?"

Lykos school houses children from five to eighteen. Two buildings are adjacent, the first for children five to thirteen, and the other is the high school. That's where Ren and her friends should have been, not where the kids were!

"We were looking for Esme."

They sought out my baby sister in a place they shouldn't have been!

"Why?"

"Ren was mad because Starr embarrassed her in front of the whole school. Ren can't fight Starr, so she took it out on Esme."

"It took four of you to bully Esme?" Lyric yells.

Callen and George barge into the room. Callen's eyes land on Esme, then he looks at the girls.

"Take them to the dungeons. I'll deal with them later."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

The girls whimper as Callen and George drag them away. I don't give a s.hit how scared they are or how sorry they feel for themselves; this is the least they deserve!

I scrub my hands over my face in frustration.

Just how long has this been going on?

Esme isn't like other Lycans. She's not weak but doesn't have her Lycan yet because she's too young. So she can't fight as others can; she's timid, an Omega, which is rare for a royal. Maybe we've babied her too much, but she's eleven, not eighteen! Esme is also a beautiful girl inside and

out, with light brown hair and hazel eyes. Her sweet smile would melt the heart of even the hardest bastard.

Esme sobs, bringing me out of my thoughts. Those sobs cut through me like a knife to the heart.

"Esme," She runs to me, and I bend to catch her. Arms around my neck and feet off the ground, I kiss her head and rub her back. "It's okay, sweetheart. Everything is gonna be okay."

"I tried to fight back." She always tries.

"I know, baby girl."

'Who is this girl?' Lyric asks through the mind link.

I look at Lyric and smile. I forgot she was there for a moment, which was terrible for me.

'She's my baby sister'

'What? But she only looks about nine!'

'She's eleven. No one expected her to be born, especially when Mom had Starr and Tristan seven years previous. They were a surprise after Thorin and Tane ten years before them, so you can imagine what a miracle Esme was. But being pregnant with Esme almost killed Mom.

'This little girl survived a horrific pregnancy and a traumatic birth. Perhaps we've babied her too much, but there are over a hundred and forty years between us. But Esme is such a gentle soul, Lyric, and she hasn't learned to stand up for herself yet. Omega Lycans are incredibly rare.

'She's an Omega?' I nod, then focus on Esme; she's my priority now.

I stand my sister on her feet while crouching in front of her.

"Why did they follow you today? They should be in high school, not the junior building."

Esme nods her head while wiping tears from her eyes. "Ren said Starr called her names in front of a boy she likes, so she had to teach me a lesson. It hurts, Thane."

I scoop her up with gritted teeth and rush her to the infirmary. Being an Omega and not having her Lycan yet means Esme doesn't heal as she should.

"My King," I lay Esme on the examination table. "What happened?"

"She was attacked at school."

She was only sent to that damn place because Mother thought it would be good for Esme. I, Theo, Isla, and Tyler never went to such a place; there wasn't one when we were young. The place was only built thirty years ago. Thorin, Tane, Tristan, and Starr were the first to attend because Mom wanted them to learn from the modern world.

Worst idea ever!

Thorin and Tane were a nightmare, always causing trouble and playing pranks. Tristan is always in a fight, and Starr rules the school.

Why couldn't they go to school and behave?

'Because that would be too easy!' Jagers laughs.

"Thane, don't leave me!"

"I won't, baby girl," I kiss her forehead. "Dale, she's in pain."

"Don't worry; I'm on it. We're going to need your father to help her heal."

"Daddy," Esme sobs quietly.

My father is the only one who can heal Esme when she's hurt. Lycan fathers with Omega children have the ability to heal their wounds. If they didn't, Goddess knows how long it would take for those kids to recover from their injuries. 'Dad?'

'Yes, my boy? Finally bringing your mate to meet me?' He chuckles.

'Dad, it's Esme; she's hurt. We need you at the infirmary! He doesn't answer, and the link cuts off abruptly.

"Esme?" Esme stops crying and looks at Lyric, who smiles kindly. "My name is Lyric."

"You're Harmony's sister," Esme winces when Dale inserts an IV into her left hand. "And Thane's your mate."

"That's right," Lyric smiles.

"You're very pretty."

"Thank you, so are you." Lyric takes Esme's hand while I stroke her brown hair from her forehead. "I know you're in pain, so I'd like to show you a trick. Would you let me?"

Esme smiles excitedly and nods.

Lyric hovers her hand over Esme's feet. Pale blue light emanates from her palms as she moves her hands along Esme's body until she reaches her head. Esme gasps and the light disappears, leaving Esme clear of injury.

Dale looks at me, mouth agape, and I shrug. I don't know what the hell that was, but Lyric wouldn't risk using her fairy power. Wolves don't have the gift of healing; that power belongs to the Royal Lycans. So what the fuck?

"Thane," Esme gasps while smiling up at me. "It doesn't hurt anymore. Daddy!"

I hadn't heard my father enter the room, but I felt the wind in my hair as he rushed to Esme's side.

He kisses her head. "Baby girl, where does it hurt?"

"It doesn't hurt anymore, Daddy."

"She doesn't look injured. What's going on?"

"It seems my mate has the gift of healing."

"But that's not possible."

"It happened, my Lord. I witnessed it with my own eyes." Dale nods his head, still shocked by what he saw Lyric do.

"So this is your mate. One who just happens to have the ability only afforded to Royal Lycans?"

Lyric shifts beside me, uncomfortable at my father's accusatory tone. I get it, it doesn't make sense, and we'll have to look into Lyric's past to see what we can find. But there's no need to point the finger! I wrap my fingers around Lyric's waist, and she moves closer.

'We'll discuss this in private. Esme needs you right now; she was beaten at school by girls Starr's age.' I mind link my father.

'What? Why were they even in the same building?'

'Something to do with them punishing Esme because Starr embarrassed the ringleader. So four girls set about Esme. Those girls are locked up and will be dealt with, so they can't hurt Esme anymore! "Where's my baby?!"'

"Mommy!"

Mom rushes to Esme's side, dragging her out of bed and holding her close. Dad must have mind linked her to let her know what happened. I should have done that, but it didn't even cross my mind.

"I will not stand for this, Ronan! I won't put up with anyone attacking my baby!"

And Esme is Mom's baby. Mom can't have any more pups after how much she suffered to bring Esme into this world.

"Mom," She turns her bloodshot eyes to me. I hate that she's upset; it makes my gut churn. "I'm dealing with it, I promise. No one is going to hurt Esme again."

"Is that supposed to bring me comfort, Thane? Because Esme is a little different, does it give others the right to abuse her? She is a Royal Princess of Lykos and should be treated as such, regardless of her rank! I won't put up with this, Thane; I just won't." Mom clasps the back of Esme's head, turns in my father's arms, and cries.

"I'll make sure it doesn't happen again."

I take Lyric's hand and walk away.

"Are you okay?" She asks as soon as we're out of the building.

I nod once. "You need to get changed; you have a therapy session to get to."

It's going to be a long fu.cking day!

'When isn't it?'

'Touche, Jagger, Touche.'

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 17[1,642 words]

Lyric

I can't sleep. I haven't been able to sleep for days because nightmares plague me. Thane has barely spoken to me, busy with royal business, so his father told me.

I haven't seen Harmony since that day in the gym, and the therapy sessions are wearing me out. It's hard for me to talk about all that happened within Hell Howlers Pack, though Chrissy, my therapist, is patient and understanding.

I attend breakfast with Thane and some of his family members. I still have to meet Tyler, Thorin, Tane, Tristan, and Starr. Thorin and Tane have been away on business, while Starr and Tristan are always out with friends or at school. I don't know where Tyler is; it has been a while since anyone has mentioned him.

Isla apologized for what she did, and I forgave her. There's no point in holding grudges; they don't get you anywhere. Isla also told me that Harmony and Theo were busy with something, but they were still in the castle. I should have gone looking for her, but I don't have time with everything I have to do each day. I'm not worried about my sister because I don't feel any fear through our sibling bond.

Thane's dad still hasn't let go; of the fact I have the power to heal. He said something didn't make sense and would look into my family's history. I didn't answer him; he can do what he wants. My ability must have come from my mother; there's no other explanation. There are many things I can do that I can't explain. I could never explain because I wasn't aware for a long time that I could even heal anyone. I doubt I can heal any significant injuries. I would have healed my parents and aunt before they died if I could. I couldn't heal Harmony in that attic prison because of the silver

choker I wore. I could take away her pain in the beginning. But as soon as that choker was around my neck, all powers and abilities were blocked.

I wasn't sure I could heal Esme, not knowing if my ability would work so soon after everything. I'm glad it did because that little girl didn't deserve to be in so much pain.

No one has seen Moira and Esme since the hospital. Ronan said they needed time together, so they're in Ronan and Moira's suite, and we should all leave them alone. Moira is fiercely protective of Esme, having almost lost her more than once while pregnant. Isla said Ronan had forced Moira to stay in their suite with Esme because Moria's Lycan was filled with rage. If Morag broke free, she'd kill those girls and their whole families. I'm not sure about killing their families, but the girls, I understand that need. Speaking of those girls, their parents requested a meeting with the King. Thane was furious, but Ronan made him see that those people had a right to plead their case, and as King, Thane needed to listen.

The girls, Ren, Amy, Phillipa, and Kerry, are eighteen and have their whole lives ahead of them. They also have their Lycans, and they injured an eleven-year-old without her Lycan. A princess! Whatever these people say, I don't think Thane will listen. I offered to be there, but Thane just grunted and walked away from me. I let him have his little tantrum, but he will not treat me like that and get away with it! I am his mate and won't stand for him treating me like that!

I grab the orange juice from the enormous black refrigerator and slam the door closed.

"What did that fridge ever do to you?"

I growl at the man smirking at me from the doorway. No, there's not one but two of them, identical in every way, and both looking at me.

Am I hallucinating?

"Nope, we're identical twins." The one on the left tells me as if he read my mind.

I have to admit they're handsome. Tall, dark, and handsome, and they remind me of - "You must be Thorin and Tane." Thane's younger brothers.

It makes me chuckle because all six sons' names begin with T.

"That's us. I'm Thorin," The twin on the left tells me. "This is Tane."

They're tall and built like Thane but maybe Theo's size. Their hair is shorter at the sides and longer on the top, and hazel eyes like Esme's. They're wearing the same clothes, jeans and a black muscle-hugging shirt with boots on their feet. I wonder if all the Knight brothers are handsome. I suppose I'll know once I meet Tyler and Tristan, but I can't see them looking much different than the others.

I would have met them all by now, even Starr, if I hadn't missed dinner that first night. I know they were all there, waiting for me.

"Nice to meet you."

"You too, my Queen." They answer in unison, making me smile.

"You can call me Lyric. No need for the 'My Queen' crap."

"As you wish," Tane says with a smirk. "So, what's got your panties in a knot?"

I shake my head and chuckle. "It's not important."

"Our bonehead brother giving you shit?"

A deep growl rumbles from behind the twins, and both turn around and come face-to-face with Thane.

"Brother. We were just..."

"I know what you were doing. Now, leave!" He bellows, and the boys scurry away with their tails between their legs.

"What was that?" I snap while slamming my hands on my jeans-covered hips.

Thane's nostrils flare, and I gasp when he charges toward me. He grabs my waist and lifts me onto the countertop. My eyes widen as he pushes my legs apart and stands between them. Sitting on this countertop puts us at eye level. He looks into my eyes, holding my gaze. "You can't be alone in this castle with unmated males, even if they are my brothers, Lyric."

"Why? I'm not going to do anything with them, Thane."

He growls low in his throat. One eye changes to black, and I swallow back my saliva. Jagger is present with Thane right now.

'You cannot be alone with unmated males, even if they are family! Thane and Jagger speak as one, and my heart is pounding. I'm not scared, but it's uncomfortable. 'We cannot control the rage when it comes to you. We will never hurt you, but we will not hesitate to kill when it comes to you! You are ours!'

I bite the inside of my lower lip, trying not to laugh. This isn't funny, but it is a little amusing. Not that I want Thane to be possessive of me, and I won't have him telling me who to be around. But it makes a girl feel good when her mate is demanding, to a degree, at least. I also know you should never provoke a Lycan, much less the King.

"Thane, Jagger, I have to have friends. It's unfair for you to expect me to always be alone when you're not around."

He growls again, but I press my fingertips to his lips.

"I promise, I won't deliberately be alone with unmated males. Sometimes it may happen, like if I walk into a room and a male is there. But that can't be helped, and I swear, I'll walk away if it will make you feel better. It's also unrealistic to think it will never happen. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Jagger retreats, and Thane sighs.

"I get it, Lyric. It's hard because I don't want anyone taking you from me."

I giggle and wrap my arms around his shoulders. "Idiot. No one could do that, Thane. I'm your mate, and there's no one I'd rather be with." He smiles, and it's so beautiful it warms my heart. "Besides, you're the hottest man I've ever seen."

Without warning, I press my lips to Thane's and moan as his tongue touches mine. I might not be ready for s*x, but I love the way he kisses me, and it's addictive. I'm beginning to understand why Harmony can't stay away from Theo for ten seconds. Thane and I haven't mated or marked one another yet, and I hate being away from him. Goddess knows what I'll be like when we complete the bond.

I pull out of the kiss and press my forehead to Thane's. I can feel his erection pressing against my core, and it feels so good. But I'm not ready, and I don't want to tease him because that would be cruel.

"I love kissing you."

"Mm," I chuckle because Thane seems lost in pleasure, and all we've done is kiss. "I'm sorry, baby, but I have to get to this meeting to decide what to do with the girls."

I smile slightly. "How long will you be there?"

"Hopefully, not long. I'm sorry I keep leaving you alone, but I've had so much on the past few days. I promise I'll be as quick as I can."

"Can't I come with you?" I'm going to be Queen once I'm crowned. As Queen of Lykos, I want to be involved.

Shouldn't I be part of these things?

"I don't know..."

"Aren't I Queen? Isn't that what you keep saying? How will anyone take me seriously if I don't get involved with these things?"

Thane smiles while stroking the back of his hand down my cheek.

"You're right. You should be there." I screech in excitement. Thane holds up his hand to silence me. "But if you come with me, you must leave things to me. Having you by my side is all people need to see you as my equal." Me?

Keep my mouth shut?

Now, that might be difficult, especially when it comes to injustice. However, I have to try because Thane is King, and Esme is his sister, so it's up to him to put this right.

"Okay, I'll leave it to you. Thank you for letting me be there with you."

A scream startles me. Not just any scream, one of sheer terror.

What the fuck was that?"

"Starr!"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 18[1,769 words]

Thane

"Starr!" I yell my eighteen-year-old sister's name while running into the courtyard. Lyric is right by my side, just where I like her.

The Royal Knight flags flap against the flag poles in the wind. The courtyard is full of people all standing around Starr. Tristan is in front of Starr, trying to wipe what looks like green goo from her hair. "What is the meaning of this?" I bellow, causing everyone but Lyric and my siblings to bow in submission.

"Look what they did to me!" Starr screams, shoulders shaking. "I'm gonna kill them!"

"Tristan, explain."

"Thorin and Tane pranked Starr. They must have rigged up the bucket earlier. We were walking back from school, got to the courtyard, and when Starr stepped under," Tristan above us. "This happened."

I look up at the flag pole just behind Starr. For the first time, I notice a bucket upended with remnants of green slime dripping from it. The rope proves the boys rigged it and pulled it once they saw Starr in the correct position. You'd think Thorin and Tane would have grown out of this sort of thing at twenty-eight.

"Why is it always me!?" Starr screams. "Thane..." She whines while elongating the A in my name.

"For the love of Fenrir," I roll my neck and sigh. "Starr, go inside and get cleaned up; I'll sort Thorin and Tane. The rest of you, go about your business!" The crowd disperses, and Tristan leads Starr away.

I'm going to kill Thorin and Tane!

Why can't they grow up?

As if I don't have enough to deal with, now I need to reprimand my siblings!

"So that was Tristan and Starr?"

"Mm."

I walk towards my office, Lyric following. I shouldn't have been sharp with her, but I'm annoyed with my siblings. They're Royals and should behave as such! It's as though they don't care how much embarrassment they bring down on the Crown. I will be having words once I'm done with this meeting.

"Thane, I know you're annoyed, but it was just a prank."

I sit in my leather chair behind my oak desk and sigh.

My office is large, with a wooden floor, a large rug, chairs for guests, a couch, and an open fire. There are paintings on the wall, a portrait of my parents, siblings, and me. I can't wait to have a portrait of Lyric and me hanging above the fireplace in here. I want them hanging all over the castle - A King and his Queen.

"Please talk to me."

I look at Lyric, grab her waist, and pull her into my lap. She laughs and wraps her arms around my neck.

"They drive me nuts, Lyric. They always pull pranks on each other as if they were still kids. This was payback for Starr putting chili sauce in Thorin and Tane's drink a few weeks ago. They never retaliate immediately; they like to make the prankster think they've forgotten what happened.

Theo and I were traveling at the time of Starr's prank. But Tristan filled us in when he called to let us know how things were going."

It's been the same thing since Starr and Tristan were six. Thorin and Tane were sixteen and should have known better. But they went out of their way to put a spider in Starr's bed. She retaliated by spraying shaving foam all over Thorin and Tane while they slept. It was everywhere, in their eyes, noses, and mouths.

Thorin and Tane came back with glue on Starr and Tristan's bedsheets, which meant it took an hour to free the kids from their beds. To which Starr and Tristan turned Thorin and Tane into bug burritos. And so it continued for years. Goddess knows when or if it will ever end, but I'm at the end of my rope!

"They sound like fun."

"Mm. They've always had that rival twin thing going on. Thorin and Tane believe they're the superior twins because they're identical. Starr and Tristan believe they are because a male and a female, two halves of the same coin, are stronger because they know both sides." I chuckle while shaking my head.

"There's nothing wrong with a little friendly competition. But I can see how it might drive a person crazy."

"They're Royals, Lyric. It's one thing to act like kids around the castle. It's quite another to act out in front of our subjects. It's not on, and I can't allow it to continue."

The door knocks, and Callen walks in, bowing in respect. "My King, My Queen. The parents have arrived."

I stand from my seat, standing Lyric on her feet next to me. I move my chair to the left and grab another, placing it next to mine for Lyric.

"Thank you," She smiles. I kiss her forehead just because I can.

"Show them in."

Callen bows and then motions for the parents to enter - four men and four women.

"Your Majesty, I am Ren Collings' father, Harold, and this is my mate, Linda."

Harold is dressed in a dark suit with his blond hair slicked back. His blonde mate is wearing white suit pants, a pink silk shirt, and a white blazer.

I read reports on each family, and the Collings are wealthy and run several businesses in Lykos city. I should have recognized the name, but I was too angry to give it a second thought.

"We're Stephan and Susan Holton, Amy's parents."

I've had encounters with Stephan Holton; he's a lower-rank warrior. His wife works at the high school, and I can't believe she didn't know what was going on.

Susan, dressed in blue pants and a white blouse, takes her husband's gray suit-clad arm. The smell of fear is rife in the room. Good, they should fear me.

I note each woman is dressed respectfully, while each man is dressed as though they were going to a board meeting. I know what they're thinking, hoping I'll believe they're respectable people and their children are misunderstood. The only thing I believe is that their children are assholes, and they won't get away with what they did lightly.

"Thomas and Ann Logan. We're Phillipa's parents." The brown-haired Thomas tells me.

"And we're Darrly and Sandra Cole, Kerry's parents."

I nod.

"I'd like to introduce you all to my mate and your Queen, Lyric."

Each person bows respectfully. "My Queen." They all reply in unison.

I can sense Lyric's smile at being introduced officially and respected by these people.

"Take a seat." They all do, in various seats in front of my desk. Lyric and I follow suit. "You all know why you're here." Each person nods. "What your daughters did was despicable!"

"I

I agree, my King." Stephan nods. "None of us are disputing that. But, Your Majesty, our girls are just children."

I narrow my eyes at the audacity!

Lyric lays her hand on my thigh, squeezing, silently telling me to stay calm. Easier said than done.

"And my sister is eleven years old! Your kids knowingly and willingly sought out my sister, their princess, and attacked her!"

"Please," Sandra shifts in her seat, tears falling from her eyes. "Have mercy on my little girl. I know what she, they, all did was wrong. I swear I'll make sure Kerry stays away from the others. I'll even send her to my parent's pack in Ireland. But please, don't execute my baby, I beg you."

All four women snivel while looking at me expectantly. Whatever they think crying will achieve, it won't, and speaking out of turn and without permission is not on! I would have had their heads if they were anyone else. However, they're parents, and all they want is to save their children, so I'll let it slide this once.

"My King," Howard wraps his arm around his wife's shoulder, and she leans into him. "We understand the severity of what the girls did,"

"Do you?" I snap as Jagger pushes through. He's now upfront with me, and everyone gasps. They know my Lycan is not forgiving. I try to regain control, but Jagger throws me back, taking over my body. 'Your daughters will not be released and will be sentenced to death.'

'Goddess damn, Jagger! You don't get to decide these things!'

'F.uck you. I'm King as much as you are!'

'You know damn well that Esme doesn't want the girls put to death or kept locked away forever.'

'I do know that, but she's eleven. One day, she'll understand why these things have to happen the way they do. No one is permitted to commit a crime against a member of the Royal Family without serious consequences, Thane, and you know this!'

He cuts me off before I can reply, and I grit my teeth. I'm well aware of our laws, having written many of them myself. But it is also down to me to decide which route to take, not my Lycan! I always speak with the victims, if they survived what happened, and ask their opinion on the punishment of those who wronged them. Esme is eleven, but that doesn't mean I wouldn't give her the same respect as everyone else. I'm angry enough to gut those girls, but I know that wouldn't be right, especially if they can be re-educated. But if Jagger has his way, they won't live to see tomorrow.

Jagger stares down at the people in front of us. The smell of fear is now so thick in the air that it's almost sickening, yet Jagger breathes it in and relishes it.

'Your daughters committed treason. Did you not teach them as pups the punishment for attacking a Royal?'

"Of course, Your Majesty," Stephan swallows hard. "What they did was wrong. But, my King, they are just children, and children do stupid things without thinking."

'But they are not children, Stephan; they are adults, two weeks away from graduating high school. Do not pull the child card with me. Had they fought someone of their own age, we wouldn't be having this conversation. Had they fought Starr, someone their own age, though she is much stronger, and it wouldn't have been a fair fight, we wouldn't be here now. But they didn't confront Starr; they went after an eleven-year-old without thinking of the consequences!

Whimpers reach my ears, and I sigh. There's nothing I can do to calm Jagger when he's like this, and even I can feel the heat of his anger in the room.

'They hurt my baby girl,' Jagger continues. 'Now I'm going to rip them to shreds!'

"No!" Ann sobs. "Please don't, please!"

Everyone starts talking at once, begging for their child's life. Jagger laughs, and I want to strangle him! Yes, these people needed to know there would be punishments for their children, but frightening them until they almost piss themselves isn't the way to go about things!

"Your children will not be executed."

'What the hell, Lyric!?'

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 19[1,244 words]

Lyric

'Calm yourself, Jagger'

'What do you think you're doing?'

He's angry, but I don't care. I won't sit here while Jagger sentences those girls to death. Execution should be a last resort unless it's during war; then, killing is the only option. I understand what happened to Esme hurt Thane as much as his parents, but he must put that anger aside and look at the bigger picture.

'Jagger, Thane,' I have to speak to both of them. 'I know how hurt you are by what happened to Esme. But you must keep your head and take a moment to think.

'Do those girls deserve to be punished? Without a doubt. Do they deserve to die? Do these people deserve to lose their children? I don't think they do.

'I understand the need for vengeance. Esme didn't deserve what happened to her. That beautiful little girl should never be afraid, nor should she cry. She should be laughing every day, smiling because she's happy.

'Ren and her friends should be punished, and I will stand by your side while that happens. But killing them won't make things better. All you'll be doing is causing four families immense pain. At the moment, killing them will feel good, but once it's all over...' Thane and Jagger keep their eyes on me. I can see they're arguing, but we don't have time for this!

'For Goddess' sake!' I snap. 'This is ridiculous! Get your head out of your a*s, swallow your pride, and do the right thing.

'I'm not telling you to let them go, but let them live. If not for them, for their families. Put the girls through therapy, change their way of thinking, and throw them out of Lykos if that's what you want! But please think of the bigger picture, and don't do anything in anger!'

Everything is silent for a moment. My heart is pounding, and all I want is to get out of here. I need to let Aspen out; it's been years since she was able to run free. I feel awful that I've kept her locked away since we've been here. 'It's okay, Lyric!

'It's not, Aspen. I'm so sorry. But I promise we'll go for that much-needed run once we're done here!'

'Thank you, that would be amazing!

'You're going to be a wonderful Queen.' I hear Thane's voice in my head, cutting Aspen off. 'What you're trying to do shows more compassion than any Queen that came before you!'

I smile because I can't help myself. I didn't say what I did for praise, but it's nice to be acknowledged, nonetheless.

Thane turns to the people staring at us with wide eyes.

"You're daughters will not be executed." Every person lets go of the breath they were holding. "That isn't to say they won't be punished. What they did isn't something I can ignore." "We understand." Harold nods.

"The girls will remain in custody for a month. During that month, they will undergo therapy to help them understand their wrongdoings and hopefully change their thinking. They need to be aware that bullying will only lead to their demise.

"If after a month, they've worked hard enough to change their way of thinking, they've apologized to my sister, and I believe they've changed, they will be released into your care."

The relief those eight people are feeling is evident. I can see their auras have changed from gray to white, showing their happiness.

"I must impress that just one slip, and I won't hesitate to behead whichever one of your kids steps out of line. Publically."

I even swallowed hard at what Thane had just said. I wasn't expecting that.

'He is King, Lyric. Thane has to show he means business. His people need to know there will be consequences for their actions, or they will never take him seriously. Thane would be a laughing stock. Thane is feared throughout our world because he's unwavering, but he relented for you.

'So, I'm the weak link?!' I yell at my wolf because that was what it sounded like!

'Of course not, Lyric. You can only make Thane stronger. There's more to being King than being feared. With you by his side, Thane will be more than the King he is now!

"My King," Susan swallows hard. Her fear is the most potent, and it's a bit nauseating. "Are we going to be able to see our children while they're in custody?"

"I'll leave that decision to your Queen."

What!?!

My eyes snap to Thane. He looks at me; his expression is unreadable.

'You are my equal, Lyric! His voice fills my head. 'I know I told you to leave it to me, but you've proven to me that not only can you talk sense into me and my Lycan,' I smile while trying not to laugh. 'But that you are a fair and just Queen. That is why I will let you decide if those girls deserve to see their parents.

'Thank you.' I whisper.

What Thane said and his faith in me means everything to me.

I turn to the families and take a deep breath through my nose. I've never been given responsibility like this. I like it.

"You will be permitted to see your daughter's once you leave this room." Each woman smiles excitedly while the men sit a little straighter. "However, I can only allow you ten minutes, and you will not tell them what was said in this room.

"The girls are not to know they will be released in a month. I want them to work hard with the therapist, and if they're aware of their release, we might not get the truth from them. They'll tell us what we want to hear, knowing they'll be going home soon." "Of course, Your Majesty." Harold bows.

'Thane, could you have someone take them to their children?'

He clasps my thigh under the desk as his eyes cloud over. He's calling someone to do as I asked, and it isn't a moment before someone knocks and enters. A tall woman, full of muscle and dressed in a warrior uniform of blue and gold, walks in. The warrior bows to Thane and then to me. "Your Majesties."

"Amelia, could you take them to the dungeons?"

"Of course, my King."

"Have the girls taken to the visitor's room, and give them no longer than ten minutes with their parents."

"I'll see to it, King Thane."

The parents thank us before following Amelia out of the room. As soon as the door closes, I jump on Thane. He makes an oof sound as I straddle his waist and slam my mouth against his.

He grabs my waist, guiding me to rub against his obvious erection. My eyes roll behind my lids, and my p.ussy clenches.

I can't help gasping against his mouth. "Thane,"

"I know." He presses his forehead to mine. "It's okay, baby girl."

"It's not. I want to be with you, Thane, and I'm trying to be ready."

I feel awful making him wait to complete the mate bond. It's unusual for wolves to wait, and I doubt it's any different for Lycans.

"No," Thane shakes his head and looks me in the eye. "Don't ever force yourself to be ready for anything, Lyric. The day we complete the mate bond will happen because you were ready. But only when it comes naturally to you. I don't ever want you to regret us, Lyric."

Is it any wonder I'm falling for him when he's so sweet to me?

I smile while cupping his handsome face between my hands. "I will never regret being with you, Thane."

'Lyric, I need to speak with you. It's urgent!

Harmony!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 20[1,902 words]

Theo

"I'm scared, Theo."

"There's nothing to be scared of," I stroke the back of Harmony's long white hair as I sit beside her on the edge of our bed.

"Lyric is going to be so angry with me, Theo."

From what Harmony has told me, Lyric is the boss, and what she says goes. Harmony follows Lyric's lead because that's the way it's always been. However, now that I've marked her, Harmony is no longer an Omega Wolf. She's a Beta like me because once a Lycan marks his mate, she takes on his status if his rank is higher than hers. It's the same for females; if they outrank their mate, he will take on her status.

Lyric will have to get used to the fact she can't boss Harmony around any longer. Sure, Lyric is an Alpha, and soon she'll be Queen, but Harmony is not weak, and I won't let Lyric treat her as such.

Lyric was unhappy that Harmony seemingly had no problems accepting me as her mate. But Lyric doesn't know how hard it was for Harmony to put her trust in me.

Harmony suffered horrendous nightmares when she first arrived, and it would take me over an hour to calm her down. Even with the therapy and letting go of some things that haunted her, Harmony is still scarred by her ordeal. Nevertheless, she wanted me to hold her each night because she claimed the nightmares weren't as bad when I did.

Before Harmony's heat and around her therapy sessions, I took her for walks, began training her, and listened when she wanted to talk. Though I know Harmony hasn't told me everything that happened to her, what I have heard both angered and hurt me. No one wants to think of anything terrible happening to their mate.

Too often, I've wondered if I'd gone to Hell Howlers a couple of years earlier, would I have been able to save Harmony some pain. Then I have to tell myself that everything happens as it's intended.

When Harmony's heat hit, I tried to stay away. My father had me locked up, so I couldn't get to my mate. I would never want to hurt her, and rushing to her in that instant, I wouldn't have been able to control myself.

I was doing it for her, but Harmony begged, cried, and pleaded with anyone who would listen to bring me to her. Through the mind link, she begged me not to leave her in that state. I tried to explain that I couldn't be near her because my Lycan would force me to mate and mark her. Harmony sobbed, telling me that's what she wanted.

It was what she wanted at that time because she was in pain. Much like a Lycaness, a she-wolf will do anything to stop the pain. I would never take advantage of my mate. I wanted her to be sure and ready before we mated.

Didn't she realize what it was doing to me being away from her?

Isla mind linked me, screaming that Harmony was trying to claw out her heart. It's not natural to stay away from your mate while they're in heat. The pain can become so much that she will harm herself in any way she can, hoping to numb the pain of her heat. Often, they can end up dead, which is why hardly anyone denies what the female wants.

I couldn't leave Harmony like that; it was destroying me, thinking I'd lose her over this. So, I broke out of my restraints, kicked the door open, ran to my suite, and ripped the door off its hinges. I rushed into the bedroom and jumped onto the bed.

The moment I touched Harmony, she calmed down. She straddled my waist and kissed me as if she'd died if she didn't. Everyone rushed out of the room and locked us in.

Never go near a Lycan and his mate when in heat. The male is liable to kill you.

I grabbed Harmony's face and asked, 'Baby, are you sure about this? Because once I claim you, there's no going back.'

To which she replied, 'I only want to move forward with you. Please, Theo, I know what I'm doing.'

And so, we mated and marked, fucked, and made love for days. As Harmony's heat began to die down, we bathed together, ate, and laughed about unimportant things. Not once did I see regret in Harmony's eyes, only love.

The problem was that I knew she was pregnant the moment I first took her. Lycans, like werewolves, get pregnant very quickly. Though Lycans can tell immediately that their mate is pregnant, it takes a couple of days for wolves to scent pregnancy hormones. Werewolves are pregnant for four months, while Lycans are pregnant for a maximum of ten weeks. Depending on the child, some come as early as six weeks.

This is all too soon, and Harmony freaked out when I told her. She had a panic attack when she sensed the pregnancy hormones and again when the doctor confirmed her pregnancy this morning.

Now, we're back in our suite, and Harmony is scared of how Lyric will react to the news. I'd hope she'd be happy for her sister, but from what I've heard, that girl is never happy about anything.

"What exactly is she going to be angry about? That you gave into your heat? That we marked one another? Or that you're pregnant?"

"All of it," Harmony looks at me. "She won't understand how I could be this way with you after everything. I don't understand it myself; I just know I don't regret it, Theo. I love you so much, and I don't care how soon it all is."

I tuck her hair behind her ear. "I love you, too, baby, so much. I never knew I'd love you this much. It isn't too soon, Harmony; that's how the mate bond works. I understand you're worried, but..." I sigh and look at my leg.

I don't want to force Harmony to have our child if she really doesn't want it. But abortion is not the Lycan way. Children are gifts from the Moon Goddess, and Lycans treat them as such.

"Do you not want our baby, Harmony?"

She looks at me with narrow eyes that soon widen. "Oh, Theo," She takes my hand and kisses my knuckles. "Of course, I want our baby. I want it more than anything in this world." Relief fills me. "Nothing, anyone says would make me regret this child. But my sister won't understand. My uncle could hurt me and our baby to get to Lyric. She would never want that."

"It won't happen, Harmony," I tell her with conviction. "He won't get near you or our child. I will do everything I can to protect the two of you. You are my life, Harmony." I lay my hand on her stomach. "You and our baby. I love you, and nothing else matters. I will keep you safe, I promise."

Harmony wraps her arms around my neck. "I love you, and I trust you."

"Let's talk to Lyric." "Okay."

Within five minutes, Lyric barges into our room, looking harassed, Thane hot on her heels. Harmony and I stand, and my mate brushes down her white, knee-length dress.

"What's wrong?" Lyric asks while grabbing Harmony in a fierce hug. She sniffs the air and pulls away from my mate, her eyes zeroing in on Harmony's mate mark - a Lycan and his little wolf under the full moon. "What the hell have you done to her!?" She bellows at

me.

"Lyric,"

"No, Thane. Now you," She points at me. "Tell me why the hell you did this! Oh, Goddess," She looks at Harmony, eyes filled with sorrow. "Did he force you to have sex with him? You can tell me. There's no need to be afraid."

I groan because I knew Lyric would think that. Thane looks at me with a questioningly raised eyebrow. I shake my head, annoyed because my brother should know me better than that. Thane nods in understanding, letting me know that he knows I would never do something like that, not what Lyric is accusing me of.

"No, Lyric," Harmony grabs her sister's hands. "Theo would never do that. I was in heat and wanted us to complete the mate bond."

"Heat? What the f.uck, Harmony? You wouldn't have been in your right mind! You can't possibly have consented!"

"Well, I did!" Harmony screams, and my eyes widen while Lyric takes a step back as if she'd been slapped. "Why do you always have to think the worst of people? Why do you act as if I don't have a mind of my own?" "Harmony,"

"No," My mate shakes her head and leans into me. I wrap my arm around her, lending her my strength. "For once, you're going to listen to me. I wanted to be with Theo, and he never took what I wasn't willing to give. He tried to stay away from me, but I wouldn't let him. Theo is my mate, and you will stop disrespecting him! I'm sorry what happened to us didn't fuck me up as much as it obviously did you."

Thane's eyes widen, and his nostrils flare. He's angry with my mate for talking to his mate like this. But Harmony needs to get this out; she's bottled it up all her life. Harmony has always let Lyric dictate what happens, and that stifled her.

"I know we haven't been here long, but while you wallowed and slept your life away, I was working on fixing myself. I will not be made to feel guilty for moving on with my life. You might be content to live in the past, but I took control of my life. "I love Theo, and you will not make me feel guilty for completing the mate bond, Lyric. Nor will you make me feel guilty about my baby!"

"Baby?" Lyric looks at me, then Harmony, and Thane groans.

"Yes, I'm pregnant, and this baby already means everything to Theo and me. I know you're going to tell me how stupid I am, that Astro will use my baby against me to get to you. He'll use my baby to blackmail me into getting you to be with him, but Theo won't let that happen.

"Why you don't just go with Astro, I'll never know. Because it's clear that poor man over there will never know the real you. You'll string him along, never completing the mate bond, and everyone around him will die. He won't be able to protect them when you know marking him will make you both stronger in the war against our uncle. But you're selfish, Lyric, you always have been!"

"Wow," Lyric whispers, tears in her eyes. Both Thane and I have our mouths hanging open in shock. I knew Harmony needed to get things out, but I wasn't expecting that! "Harmony,

'Don't, Theo, please, just don't. Harmony turns in my arms and cries. I don't know what to say.

"I'm so sorry." Lyric whispers while backing up. She bumps into Thane, who reaches out to grab her, but she bolts from the room.

'You better give your mate a good talking to, Theo. I swear to both Fenrir and Selene that if Lyric runs because of this, I will kill your mate!' Thane walks away before I can say anything.

As I kiss Harmony's head, I pray I can convince her to speak with Lyric. Thane doesn't make idle threats, and that scares me more than anything else.