

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 31[1,559 words]

Lyric

"So, you'll walk down the makeshift aisle. There will be people standing on either side, watching you arrive. Now, there will be thousands of people in all, all waiting to be awed by their new Queen. Try to ignore them if you can, and keep your eyes on Thane. Thane will be waiting for you at the altar with his father and me. Ronan will be officiating, as is tradition with each former King. As former Queen, I'll be handing over my crown to you."

I nod my head with a smile on my face when inside, I'm cringing. I've been having these lessons with Moira for the past few days, and I don't feel as though I've learned anything. It's all about etiquette, does and don'ts, what to wear, and what not to wear. I have to be careful of what I say in the presence of others and how I act in public. I need the people to both love and fear me but to trust they can come to me in times of need. I will have the whole Lycan and Werewolf world looking to me to guide them and help make their King stronger.

So, no pressure!

Goddess, I don't know if I can do this! I don't want to let Thane down, but I'm not sure I'm ready for this.

Moria smiles; kindly while sitting next to me. We're in the most prominent living rooms downstairs, near the front of the castle, and not either of our private chambers. We could have stayed in the West Wing. It is the King and Queen's Wing, after all. But Moria brought me here, saying it would be more comfortable, but I don't feel comfortable. I want to run back to my room and hide away for the next twenty years!

I understand Moria's thinking about being comfortable. The room is a lot more modern than I would have imagined. Sofa's, open fire, TV on the wall, wooden floor and colossal rug, etc.

You get the picture?

"I know all of this is daunting,"

"You could say that."

Moira smiles again, and I can see she's itching to take my hand in hers. But I'm not there yet, so I push my hands between my jean-covered knees.

"It does get easier, sweetheart."

"Does it?"

My whole life has changed so much since I came here. Now, I'm going to be crowned Queen, and I'll be ruling over hundreds of thousands of people. My head is all over the place!

"Yes," Moira smiles. "It wasn't easy for me either. I was the daughter of an Alpha, deep in the Scottish Highlands. Life was easier for shifters back then. Well, to a degree." She laughs. "There were no cars two hundred years ago, and everyone traveled by horse or boat if you were traveling overseas.

"I was eighteen when I met Ronan. The King, Ronan's father, William, was originally from England. He and his mate, Lucy, moved to America in the 1700s and settled here. Just a little info for when you meet them and wonder why they haven't lost their British accents."

I furrow my brow in confusion. "They haven't lost their accents in over three hundred years?"

Moira laughs while shaking her head. "I haven't lost mine either."

True, Moira still has her Scottish accent.

"Anyway, my father's pack, Kelt Paw, was the only Lycan pack in Scotland at the time. There were plenty of wolf packs, though. Father had received word that the King would be visiting with his sons and to be ready. "Mother put on a massive spread, and the whole pack celebrated with song and dance, food and wine."

"Wait," I hold my head up. "Since when did shifters drink alcohol?"

"We have our ways. Kathien is a plant found in the wilderness, and when crushed and added to alcohol, it allows shifters to get drunk. Well, at least be merry."

Huh. I've never heard of such a thing. All Dad ever told me was that shifters couldn't get drunk like humans because of our fast metabolism. Maybe I'll try this Kathien plant. Then again, maybe not.

"So, what happened?" I'm genuinely interested in Moira's story. Her telling me about her past reminds me of the stories Mom would tell Harmony and me. I like it; it makes me feel better.

"Well, the King arrived with his twelve sons."

"Twelve?"

Were they mental?

Who the hell would want that many kids!?

"Yes," Moira nods. "William had left his seven daughters at home with Lucy."

Nineteen kids!?!

In-fucking-sanity!

"My father introduced my mother, older brother, then me. As the eldest son, Ronan was the first to shake my hand. The moment he did, everything changed. Ronan growled, 'Mate!' He kissed me before I knew what was happening. We spent two days getting to know one another. I showed him my homeland, and he said that as beautiful as it was, nothing was as beautiful as me." Moira giggles like a schoolgirl, giddy in love, and I can't help smiling. I hope Thane and I are still as in love in two hundred years.

"But then he had to leave, and I had to decide whether or not to return to the States with him. I chose not to." What the?

How?

"I know what you're thinking." She chuckles. "I was afraid of leaving everything I knew behind. I'd only had two days with Ronan. He hadn't marked me because that wasn't how it was done back then. The King had to perform a marking ceremony, and the Queen would have to officially meet me first. Tradition." She shrugs.

"Anyway, I said goodbye to my mate, knowing we'd never meet again. I cried in my mother's arms, and she managed to convince me not to give up the other half of me. She said we'd see each other again and that nothing could keep a mother from her pup indefinitely.

"So, with nothing more than a small bag of clothes, and after saying goodbye to my family, I ran with all my might to get to the boat. I was so scared I wouldn't make it, but I did, just as the captain was boarding. I screamed, 'Ronan! Ronan, please answer me!' Even though I know they ended up together, I'm on the edge of my damn seat!

"My heart sank because it seemed he couldn't hear me. I feared I was too late, and Ronan no longer wanted me."

"What happened next?"

"I jumped off the boat and swept her up in my arms."

I twist in my seat and see Ronan walking into the room. He smiles at his mate with so much love in his eyes, kisses her, and then sits beside her.

"What I'm getting at," Moira looks at me. "Is that I had two days to learn even more than you are right now. Two days because that's when Ronan would take the throne from his father. Lucy sat with me as I am with you now, and she told me the story of how she met William. It felt right that I should tell you our story and how amazingly you're doing with all of this."

"Don't doubt yourself, Lyric," Ronan tells me. "It all seems overwhelming right now, and sometimes you'll make mistakes. But mistakes are a part of life, darling.

"Just remember, if there are times you're struggling, Moira will help you. Just as my mother helped my mate, just as I help your mate in times of need."

I smile at my father-in-law because I needed to hear that.

"Thank you, both of you. I feel much better about things now."

"That's what we're here for," Ronan winks, making me smile.

"Do you really have eighteen siblings?"

"I do, but I don't see them often. They're spread out all over the world, keeping an eye on the countries in which they reside. Well, apart from James, he stayed because he was my Beta. That's always been the way of things, right back to the first King. The eldest son will be King while the second-born son will be his Beta."

"James is Blaze's father?"

Ronan nods his head. "All my siblings and their families will be here for your coronation. But don't worry; they'll love you."

My stomach turns over. I don't know how I'm going to cope with all these people!

"Can I borrow my mate for a moment?"

"Thane!" I jump out of my seat and into my mate's arms. I didn't hear him come in, but I need him to hold me right now. "We'll leave you to it, Son."

The door closes behind Moira and Ronan, and Thane twists us and pushes me back against the wall. He pins my hands above my head while his lips attack my neck. My eyes roll to the back of my head, and my p.ussy gushes.

"Thane," I whine his name like a prayer.

His lips hit mine, our tongues battle for dominance, and I push my hips into his erection. Goddess, I want him!

"No!" Thane pulls away from me abruptly, raking his fingers through his hair.

What the hell?

How could he work me up like that and then stop?

"What the hell was that, Thane?"

Yes, I'm annoyed, but so what?

"Baby, I'm sorry. I want you so badly, but I need to tell you something really important. I don't know how because I know you're gonna go postal."

I fold my arms around my chest and roll my eyes.

"Right now, only two things would do that, Astro's here, or The Witch escaped. As neither of those things happened... What is it?"

"The Witch escaped."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 32[1,524 words]

Blaze

"Well, that's all of them." Thane scrubs his hands over his face with a sigh.

My cousin looks exhausted. It's been a long day, and Lyric's breakdown when Thane told her The Witch had escaped didn't help. The whole castle shook with her screams of anger. Goddess knows we all heard it on the training ground. I don't know what Thane said to calm her down, but he was here when he said he would be, so I assume Lyric is okay now. Maybe that's wishful thinking, but she's calm, at least.

It seems the fifteen dungeon guards left alive are all innocent. We interrogated them, pushing them for truthful answers, and not one person hesitated. None participated in the s.exual assault of prisoners, nor were they aware of anyone else doing so. None saw the masked, cloaked, and all-in-black person break in and take The Witch.

It makes no sense how they saw nothing. The guards stationed outside the building are one thing, they walk the perimeter, and the person could have kept to the shadows. But the guards inside? That is what doesn't make sense to me. They should have seen something, anything! Thane scanned them all for lies, but none were found. That both pleased and frustrated Thane. The guards were telling the truth, meaning we had no leads to go on at all.

Whoever took that woman got past every guard undetected. They had to be someone with the power to manipulate the mind. There are only two people I know with that power, and I'm going to kill them!

Of course, I need to make sure it definitely was them. I can't go accusing people of things without proof. Hence, why I haven't mentioned anything to Thane. I'm not sure he could take it, but if I am right, Thane will have to know the truth. I'm not looking forward to telling him, let me tell you. The man can be volatile at the best of times. Throw Lyric being upset into the mix, and sh.it will definitely hit the fan. Goddess, help us.

When I saw the person move into the room, I knew who I was looking at. It didn't matter that they were covered head to toe in black. I waited for Thane and Theo to notice and say something, but they didn't. How they didn't see what I did, I'll never know. But as I said, I kept it to myself because I had to be sure. However, I'm never wrong; that's why I'm so good at my job. Observation and tracking are my specialties. I notice every little thing, crime scene or otherwise.

When Thane finds out who did this, I'm not sure he won't kill the two involved. It won't matter that he loves them, all he'll see is betrayal, and that is something Thane will not forgive.

Then there's Lyric; that girl is a ticking timebomb. What happened to Thane put Lyric even more on edge, and no one will be safe once she finds out the truth. Goddess knows why those idiots did what they did, nor where they took The Witch, but I'm going to find out, and when I do...

"At least we know there are no more rapists in our midst."

"I don't think I could have handled it if there were," Thane confesses. "The families of those killed didn't take the news well."

"What did you tell them regarding how they died?"

Thane rolls his neck, and I hear the crack before he answers Theo.

"I told them their loved ones had been caught redhanded sexually assaulting a prisoner, and were put to death immediately."

That's not how we do things here; they're always a trial for something like this. Unless the person or persons involved are caught in the act, which is what Thane told the families about those men. Of course, the King has the right to do as he wishes. If Thane wants you dead, he need not tell anyone his reasons.

"Of course, they don't believe those men did the things they were accused of."

"Plus, they're not here to defend themselves." I shrug. "Think we'll have any trouble from them?"

"I hope not. We still have to deal with the Morris' and find The Witch. I don't think I have the energy for anything else right now. I could sleep for a week." Sadly, Thane looks as though he needs it.

Theo stands from his chair. "Well, if there's nothing else? Harmony has an appointment with the baby doctor, and I'd like to be there." "Of course," Thane waves him off. "Let me know how it goes."

"Will do." Theo nods to Thane and then me before leaving the room.

"This is a mess, Blaze. I don't know where to start in finding whoever took The Witch. The elders are gonna be breathing down my neck."

"Fuck them. You're the King; you outrank the old bastards." I sit forward in my seat. "We will find who did this, and they will lead us to The Witch."

Thane smiles at me. "I can always count on you, cousin. But I don't know where to start."

Thane would never admit such a thing to anyone else, not even his brothers. But with me, Thane confides the tough stuff.

"I need you and Tyler on this, Blaze. You're the only ones I can trust."

"You know you don't have to ask, Thane. Whatever you need from me, I'll do it, but I haven't seen Tyler since the day you were poisoned."

Thane nods. "I sent him on an errand. I wanted him to investigate any clues as to where The Witch came from. I'll get in contact with him later and let him know you need his help with this. I'll find someone else to search for clues. "She can't have appeared from nowhere; someone has to know something. The coven should know if they're missing one of theirs. But I think a woman should contact them. You know what witches are like with men." Thane rolls his eyes.

I do know what witches are like with men - nymphomaniacs and praying mantises all at the same time. Witches only want men for one thing, and once they're done with them, they kill the poor bastards.

"I agree. Anyway, I'll leave you to that while I get on with the job at hand. You get some sleep." I get out of my seat and head to the door.

"Blaze?" I look at my cousin over my shoulder. "Thank you."

"Don't need thanks, bud. You're my brother as well as my cousin."

"He smiles gratefully. "Same."

I make my way out of the castle and, under cover of darkness, follow the path into the woods. There's only one place those two morons would go. They have a secret hideaway about two miles from the castle and a five-minute walk from Tyler's cabin.

The cabin those two occupy has been empty for around ten years. My father owns the place; it used to be his and Mom's secret cabin. He'd take Mom there whenever they wanted to be alone before he built her the home of her dreams, a three-story house on castle grounds. They lived inside the castle before then, and I grew up there. But Mom wanted a place of her own, just her and Dad.

Mom and Dad visit their cabin now and again, but less often in the last few years. Dad would never notice if anyone had been there, but that's because everything is always put back in its rightful place.

I don't know what led me to Dad's cabin, but I doubt there's anywhere else they'd take The Witch. The cabin was always the place they'd run to when they were kids, hiding from punishments for being brats. They may know that no one will come here, but those two are not as smart as they think they are.

I get to the door and take a deep breath. If I've got this wrong...

'You haven't. My Lycan, Ace, tells me. 'I can sense them in there. They have a human with them, but I don't sense the girl!'

'Me either. Even if The Witch isn't there, I'm going to kill them for bringing a human here! When did they get so stupid?' 'Since they were born?'

'Touche.'

'You do realize 'The Witch,' as you all call her, isn't one, right? And when did the castle staff become so dumb? The woman masqueraded as a Lycan, and not one person questioned where she came from. No witch is powerful enough to pull that kind of stunt and fool the Royals. There are only three species older than Lycans who may have pulled it off.

'Dragons, Elves, and... My eyes widen. 'Fairies. Sh.it!'

'My thoughts exactly. Get to the girl before Thane and Lyric do. Find out what the hell her end game was, and beat some sense into those two while you're at it.'

I open the door using the handle when all I want is to kick the damn thing off its hinges. All eyes turn to me, shock evident in the way they're looking at me.

My eyes land on The Witch - Fairy, lying on the old brown couch, a blanket covering her shaking body.

"Well, well, well, what do we have here?"

"Blaze..."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 33[1,719 words]

Thane

"Come on, Lyric, talk to me."

My mate huffs and rolls her eyes. She's sitting at the dresser in our bedroom, brushing her long hair. When I got to our suite, Lyric had showered and dressed in a long nightdress of white and silk. It shows enough cleavage to have me drooling and sticks to her body like a second skin. I inwardly groan because my body is vibrating with need, need for her.

I watch as Lyric braids her hair over her shoulder and ties it off at the end.

"I know you're angry with me, baby. I am trying to fix it, I promise."

Angry is not the word for what Lyric was when I told her The Witch had escaped. Goddess, I thought the castle would crumble under the weight of her temper tantrum!

"I'm not angry with you, Thane." Turning in her seat, Lyric faces me. "I know what happened wasn't your fault and that you'll find her. I'm glad whoever broke The Witch out killed those vile pigs. We don't need people like that on our staff. But I don't understand how whoever it was could walk in, take The Witch, and walk back out like they owned the place!"

Lyric stands, and I try not to groan. Goddess, she's so beautiful. Even angry like this, she's the most beautiful woman I've ever laid eyes upon.

"Why did they even want her?"

"I can't answer that, Lyric. I just know that it was someone in the pack, and I will find them. When I do, I'll tear their damn throats out!"

"Ugh! I was so looking forward to burning that bitch!"

I chuckle while shaking my head.

"Baby girl," I tip Lyric's head up with my fingertips under her chin. Her eyes lock with mine. "The Witch will be found, and I promise you will have your moment."

Lyric nods. "I know. I guess I just can't get the image of you lying dead on that floor out of my head, Thane. It broke me. The thought that I could have lost you..."

I wipe the lone tear from Lyric's cheek with my thumb.

"I know, baby. I felt the same when I believed you were gone. I don't know what brought me back or if it will happen again. But we will find out, Lyric."

"What if our mating means I transferred my curse to you? I know I've asked that before, but I'm losing my mind!" Lyric's hands clutch at my waist. "My parents told me that you and me marking would mean you'd get my abilities, and I'd gain yours, making us stronger. But they didn't mention the curse."

I press my forehead to Lyric's and breathe in her unique scent of the wind through the trees and perfection.

"Try not to worry, Lyric. We'll figure everything out soon enough, trust me. For now, let us not think. I need you, baby."

Lyric smiles while biting her lower lip. "I love you, Thane. You know that, don't you?"

I close my eyes and breathe deeply through my nose, letting her words sink in. I will never tire of hearing Lyric say she loves me. I know she loves me, and it goes beyond the mate bond. The

Goddess knows I love my mate more than anything in this whole universe. Nothing will ever change that.

"I know, baby. I love you, too, Lyric, and nothing and no one will ever come before you."

"Not even our child?"

I lift away from Lyric and smile curiously. "You want us to have a child?"

Lyric isn't pregnant yet. I haven't sensed any pregnancy hormones, and nor has she. It's not unusual for Lycanesses to wait many years for pups. My parents waited over forty years before they had me, though that wasn't by choice. The royal physician told Mom and Dad that it was unlikely Mom could have kids. Dad told me it broke Mom, and she tried to get him to take a mistress who'd give him an heir.

Lycans don't take mistresses; it would cause their mate too much pain and could even kill them. Not that Dad would even contemplate that; Mom means everything to him. He told her that if they had no heir, then they had none, but he would never hurt her. Mom and Dad spent years ruling their kingdom and traveling the world. Mom had long given up hope of having a child, but then I came along. The rest is history, as they say.

Having said that, it's also not unusual for Lycanesses to become pregnant quickly, the way Harmony did. But it didn't happen for Lyric and me; maybe it never will. Or perhaps we'll end up like Mom and Dad. If and when it does happen for us, I'll be the happiest man alive.

Lyric takes my hand and leads me over to the bed. She sits down, pulls me with her, looks at me, and smiles.

"I love you."

I chuckle. "You said that."

"Because it's true. I never believed I'd fall in love, let alone have someone love me in return. Regardless of everything else, you and I,"

"Love each other wholeheartedly." I finish her sentence.

"That's right." Lyric emotionally whispers. "And when we're safe after Astro is dealt with, I want us to have a baby." She touches her hand to my face with a smile. "Think you can wait a little while longer?"

"As long as it takes. But maybe we should get some practice in?"

"You read my mind." She winks with a sultry smile on her face.

Lyric leans in and kisses me. I ravage her mouth as my hands roam over her body. She groans into my mouth as I lay her back on the bed.

Tearing my lips from Lyric's, I pepper hot kisses along her jaw, neck, chest, and arms. I grab the hem of her nightshirt and lift it above her waist, and I smirk because she's not wearing any panties.

"You naughty girl." Spreading her legs, I inhale the scent of her arousal. Goddess, Lyric's scent is like a drug filling my veins, and can't I get enough; I want more and more. One sniff and I'm hooked and can't tear myself away. "I'm your naughty girl."

"Damn right, you are. You're mine and mine alone, Lyric. Who do you belong to?"

"Thane... Ah. I belong to you, My King."

Goddess damn!

"That's right, Lyric, you belong to me. Stop squirming!" Grabbing her hips, I still my mate's body.

"Thane," She whines, even more aroused by my authoritative tone. Her pu.ssy gushes, and my eyes roll. "Please don't tease me; I need you."

I smirk before licking her front to back. The taste of her on my tongue, assaulting my senses, has my co.ck so hard, I could pound nails! Lyric's back arches, and I suck on her c.lit for a moment; it's engorged and throbbing on my tongue. I stiffen mine before stabbing it inside of her, licking her from the inside. "Thane! Fu.ck, please! Oh, Goddess, I'm gonna c.um! I'm fu.cking c.umming!"

I chuckle and continue to lick her cu.nt softly until Lyric's body relaxes and she's a puddle on the bed.

I lick my lips, savoring the taste of my perfect mate before stripping my clothes. I'm now so hard it's almost painful.

I climb in between Lyric's se.xy legs. But quicker than lightning, Lyric flips our position, straddling me and making me laugh.

"I want to be in charge."

"Anything you want, beautiful." I hiss with my head thrown back when Lyric impales herself on my c.ock, taking me in one push. "Sh.it!"

"Oh, Goddess," That's precisely what Lyric looks like, hands pressing on my chest as she moves up and down, back and forth. "I feel so full of you!" With a gasp and a moan, her head drops back.

I grab her pert tits in my hands and squeeze. Nothing in the world could feel as good as this. I let Lyric set the pace, riding me for all she's worth. But I can't take it; I want to pound the sh.it out of her; I want to fu.ck her into the mattress!

I grab Lyric's hips because I can't stop myself, and I thrust upwards. Lyric screams, falls forward, and slams her mouth against mine. She screams into my mouth at the ferocity of my thrusts, but I can't stop. My or.gasm is building higher, my balls draw up, and the coiling in my stomach is almost too much.

"Thane, I can't take it!"

I flip Lyric onto her back. With my co.ck still buried deep inside of her, I get to my knees.

"You're gonna take everything I have to give. Aren't you?" Lyric, looking dazed, nods her head.
"Answer me, Lyric!"

"Yes, My King, I'll take everything... you have to give. So give it to me, My King, please!"

I growl lowly, grab her legs and pull them over my shoulders. With one hand on her throat, the other holding her right leg, I thrust into her, deep, shallow thrusts.

Lyric's eyes lock with mine, and she whimpers as I smirk. Her cu.nt clenches around my co.ck, and I growl before fu.cking her as hard as I can. I won't last much longer; I'm too close to the peak. But I won't stop until Lyric cu.ms with me.

"Thane... I'm so close. Please let me c.um."

"Good girl. C.um for me, baby. C.um with me."

With two hard thrusts, Lyric c.ums screaming, pulling my orgasm out of me along the way. I pump my hips into her in short sharp bursts, making sure to spill every last drop of my seed inside of my mate.

When my body finally has enough, I lay my head on Lyric's shoulder, and she strokes the back of my hair. I came so fu.cking hard I can't open my eyes!

"Goddess," I mumble. "I needed that."

Lyric giggles. "You and me both. Maybe that's what we should do from now on. Each time we're angry, frustrated, or stressed, we have hot rough sex to calm us down."

"Baby," I laugh while lifting my head and hips, slipping out of her body. "If we did that, we'd do nothing else. Plus," I lie beside her. "I think it might kill me."

"There are worse ways to die. Besides, we'd only wake up a moment later."

I laugh at her words, pull her into my arms, cover us with the sheet from the bottom of the bed, and kiss her head.

'Thane?'

'Blaze?'

What a fu.cking time to mind link!

'I found The Witch.'

Well, sh.it, that was fast!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 34[1,503 words]

Blaze

"I can't believe this." I scrub my hands over my face in frustration.

"Blaze, we had to,"

"I don't wanna hear it, Tristan! Both you and Starr committed treason against the King, your brother!"

Why couldn't I have been wrong about Tristan and Starr?

Why did I have to work it out so damn quickly?

Why couldn't I have taken a day to think things through?

Because that's not me, that's why. My brain doesn't work like that; I'm always quick off the mark.

But why couldn't it have been someone else?

'You knew it was Tristan in that cell the moment you saw the footage.'

'I know, Ace. But Tristan and Starr combining their powers? That hasn't happened with none identical twins in over a hundred years. As for twins of the opposite se.x? It's never been recorded. They should have told us they were able to do that! How long have they been able to do that? Goddess, I have so many questions. There's more to these twins than meets the eye.'

'There is, and that's why you should trust their judgment, Blaze. There is no way Tristan and Starr would have broken that woman out if they had any doubt about what they saw in her mind.'

'Starr showed you the girl's memories, Blaze; she's a mess; she can't even open her eyes. So there is no way she has the strength to fake what you saw.'

'I know.' I sigh. 'But if what I saw is true... Goddess, Ace, we've all fu.cked up badly. We let those men and women do terrible things to her.'

'Most were doing their job, Blaze. What were they supposed to do? Go against the King? What those others did is not on us, not entirely. But how could anyone know this girl's truth when she said nothing? All anyone saw at the moment was red mist. Anger clouded their minds, and the girl suffered the consequences. It wasn't her fault, but she could have said something, Blaze.

'Let's just thank Fenrir that Thane didn't kill the girl when he had her throat in his hands. Also, thank the twins that they got her out before the execution.'

'Do you believe Starr when she said she sensed the girl's emotions, and that's what led her to do this?'

'Starr would never lie about something like that, Blaze. You know how powerful Starr is, and she loves the underdog. She loves coming to people's rescue!' 'Yeah. I chuckle because Ace is right.

I cut my Lycan off and look at my cousin's. "We need to take her back to the castle."

Starr shakes her head while standing from her position on the floor.

When I walked in here, Starr was sitting next to... Emori, stroking her dark hair back from her forehead. It seemed Starr had been caring for the girl, cleaning her up, and tending to her wounds as much as possible.

When Starr showed me Emori's memories, and I saw who her brother was, I almost lost my sh.it. If I hadn't seen what I saw when I did, I would have dragged Emori back to the castle and let Thane deal with her. Well, if I could have kept my anger in check and not killed her first.

However, all those vile things made me take a step back and reevaluate the situation. Emori's real reason for poisoning Thane made me question everything.

"We can't take her back, Blaze." Starr grabs my arm. "Someone needs to talk to Thane before he knows where Emori is."

"He needs to know the truth, and so does Lyric." Tristan continues. "If Starr hadn't realized something was off with Emori's aura and snuck into the dungeon and read her mind, Emori would have died a traitor. No one would ever know her truth, Blaze. It's up to us to put things right.

"Emori gave up who she was for Thane and Lyric. The least the two of them can do is listen. If, after they've heard the story, neither cares and still wants her dead," He sighs. "We won't interfere. But her story needs to be heard. Don't you think?" Goddess, this will all backfire; I just know it is! Thane won't understand, and I doubt Lyric will even listen. The woman is volatile, and I don't trust she won't attack in anger.

Regardless... "Look, I'll talk to Thane, but I can't promise he'll listen..." My eyes lock with the fairy now staring at me.

Starr turns to see what I'm looking at and instantly rushes over, kneels down beside the couch, and fusses over Emori.

Tristan comes to my side. "Emori won't and can't heal from her injuries." He tells me quietly. "She sacrificed her fairy self for Thane. She doesn't even know him, but she gave the final part of herself to keep Lyric's mate alive."

"What do you mean, 'She sacrificed her fairy self'? I've never heard of such a thing."

Tristan looks at me. "Use your power of projection and show Thane and Lyric Emori's memories; then all will become clear."

I sigh because using my power renders me useless for hours. I can't afford to be asleep for hours; I need to be on top of my game, especially now. Sure, Tyler could take over for me, but he's not here yet. Though if Thane contacted him, he'll be here soon. So, I guess there's really no excuse.

"I know what you're thinking, and I'm sorry to ask this of you. But there is no other way, Blaze. I doubt words will be enough to appease my brother. We didn't do this to defy or betray him, Blaze. We did this for a misunderstood, innocent person." Tristan turns to look at Emori. "She deserves to be pardoned. She forfeit her immortality for him, Blaze."

"Are you saying she's now human?" That would explain why Ace smelled human when we arrived.

"That's exactly what I'm saying, Blaze. What Emori did is not usual for fairies; everyone knows they're spiteful creatures. But Emori is different, and from what Harmony said, so we're Elena and Emily. Goddess knows how they ended up so caring when Astro is a complete bas.tard, but they did. Emori's love for Lyric meant she would do anything, even becoming human, to protect her from Astro and beyond.

"Emori should now start aging as humans do. I don't know her fairy age, but she looks around twenty in human years, but she could be thousands of years old for all we know. You know how slowly fairies age."

Yes, a century to them is like a decade to us. Fairies, Elves, Dragons, and Witches age slower than any other species. They also live longer than shifters, thousands of years, millennia for Dragons.

"So, by rights, she could have around eighty years with her mate. But with all the injuries Emori sustained, it's unlikely she'll make it through the next twenty-four hours. We've tried everything we could think of to help her, but it seems there's an untreatable infection in her blood. We couldn't risk bringing a doctor here because they'd mind link Thane as soon as they saw Emori. So, we're going on instinct."

I look over at Emori to see she's watching me. Her eyes hold so much sadness that it makes my gut ache. She didn't deserve all that was done to her, though I know she understands.

I can't imagine the loneliness Emori has been through all these years. Tristan may have worn a mask to hide himself from view when he broke her out of the dungeon. But Emori wore the real mask, forever playing two parts just to stay alive. Pretending to help Astro while protecting Lyric and Harmony. Living a double life must have been so hard. I don't know many who could have pulled it off. Now this poor girl will pay with her life.

I scrub my hands over my face in frustration again. I know there is no other choice but to tell Thane everything I've learned. I also know that I can't get around draining my energy if I do. Goddess, I could scream!

"You... Don't..." I move my hands from my face and look at Emori, who is still staring at me. "Have... to do... what is too... hard."

I smile even though I'm trying not to.

"Don't worry; everything will be alright."

"It won't, though, will it? She's dying, Blaze." Tears cloud Starr's eyes. "She doesn't deserve this."

"I know, and I said I'd talk to Thane."

"That isn't gonna save her, though, is it?" Tristan sighs.

"There is only one thing that would keep Emori alive. You know what I'm saying, don't you?"

"Are you mad?" I step closer with furrowed brows. What Starr is suggesting is utter madness!

"I'm not mad, Blaze; I'm desperate."

"What makes her," I point to Emori. "So special? Huh?"

"Because she's important to the future of our family."

Great!

Starr also has the power of foresight and premonition. They don't come often, but when they do, they always come true. "Emori will live if she's changed, Blaze."

"None of us can do that, Starr! Only if she has a mate can he turn her into a Lycan!"

"Would you?" Emori asks quietly.

"Would I what?"

"Change me?"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 35[2,667 words]

Lyric

"So, where is she?" I demand while folding my arms across my chest.

We've been in this room for five minutes, and Blaze hasn't said a word. Theo is sitting beside him, tapping his fingers on the armrest of his chair. Tyler, who arrived just as Thane and I walked through the door, stands by the window. I thought Tyler was over two hundred miles away and wouldn't be home until tomorrow.

Why am I the only one who finds that strange?

Yes, Lycans are the fastest predators on land, apart from vampires. Vampires may be able to run two hundred miles in two hours, but then they can teleport and wouldn't need to run. However, Lycans can't teleport, and they most certainly can't run two hundred fu.cking miles in two hours!

I know it should have been two hours because Thane contacted Tyler to come home. Tyler said two hours, but it was half an hour, and the man was home!

Am I missing something?

Why has no one questioned how it was possible?

The man doesn't have wings, so he didn't fly here. He's not a vampire, so he didn't teleport here, so how... Never mind, I don't even care right now. I want the information Blaze has on The Witch so I can kill her already!

I have a life to get back to, shopping to do, a ceremony to prepare for, and a gender reveal to organize.

How did I get roped into that?

Isn't that a human tradition?

Isla told me she didn't care where the tradition came from. Some of her best friends had thrown her a gender reveal party while pregnant with Ivy, and she loved it. Now she wants to do the same for Harmony.

I couldn't argue that Harmony wouldn't want a party because she would. My sister might not like being the center of attention, but she seems to love it when it comes to her baby. She's allowed to be excited and enjoy all the attention right now. "Well?" I prompt. Thane takes my hand, entwining our fingers. He's silently telling me to stay calm.

"I will tell you where she is and who took her, but first," Blaze shifts in his seat. "There are things you need to know. Too much for me to vocalize, so I'll have to show you."

"Are you sure that's wise?"

Blaze nods at Thane. "I know what it will do to me, but it's the only way, Thane."

'What is he talking about?' I ask Thane through the mind link.

'Blaze can project memories, be it his own or someone else's. He wants to show us what he learned about The Witch. I'm assuming that it will have more effect than just telling us! What the hell?

I didn't even know that was possible! I've never met anyone who could show others their memories, but then, I'd never met Lycans until Thane and his family. I'm in awe of Blaze right now. may as well show all of you at the same time."

"|

"Blaze," Theo shakes his head. "Showing four at the same time will drain your strength for days."

"Two," Blaze chuckles. "At the most. I guess I'll need a few days off, Thane."

"You can have as long as you need. Tyler will step up in your place."

Blaze tips his head in thanks.

"Everyone join hands." I narrow my eyes but follow Thane as he leads me around his desk by the hand.

We stand in front of Blaze with Theo on my other side.

"You too, Tyler."

I turn my head and look at Tyler. He's still looking out the window and seems miles away.

I wonder what's wrong?

"Tyler!"

He turns at Thane's authoritative tone. "Oh, right." Tyler walks over and takes Blaze's left hand and Theo's right. Theo then takes my right hand, and Blaze takes Thane's left, pulling us into a circle.

"I know you three have heard this before, but I'm saying it now because Lyric doesn't know the rules." Blaze looks at me. "You will see things that will both upset and anger you. Do not try to pull away because my ability could go haywire. We don't want that because it won't be good for any of us."

I swallow hard because I don't like the sound of that.

"What you see will be someone else's memories of things since passed. You will be nothing more than a ghost. No one will see you, no one will hear you. Please," Blaze's eyes sear into me. "Try to stay calm. It won't be easy when you see what's inside my head. You may want to shift and kill certain people. But you won't be able to call upon your wolf."

"I understand." I don't really, but I want him to get on with things. I'm getting old here!

"Very well. Everyone, close your eyes."

I close my eyes, and warm energy fills my whole body. Wind blows through my hair momentarily before Blaze tells everyone to open their eyes.

I open my eyes and am surprised to see we're in Valnor. I know we are because I recognize the blue trees from Mom's stories. I smile because I can see Mom and Emily dressed in their fairy finest. Their beautiful, waist-length white hair has three braids. Two are on either side of their head, joined by one down the center. They look so much alike that they could pass for twins. They weren't twins, but there was only a year between them.

'We can't agree to this, Emily!

I clutch Thane's hand tighter in mine. His thumb strokes calmingly over my knuckles, letting me know he's here, supporting me, and always will be.

'If we don't, then we can kiss Lennix and Spencer Goodbye, and I know you don't want that.'

'Of course, I don't. All I want is to be with Spencer. But what Astro is suggesting...

'Will not happen.' Emily takes Mom's hand in her own and smiles. 'Elena, Fairies, and wolves cannot procreate. We will never have a child, and Lennix is fine with that. All Lennix wants is me, and I'm sure Spencer feels the same?'

Mom nods her head. 'But what if we do have a child? Stranger things have happened.'

'Then let's hope if either of us does, by some miracle, have a child, that it's a boy! Emily hugs Mom.

The scene around us fades and returns to the same place. It looks like a field with different colored trees and horses roaming free. This time, there is someone else with Mom and Emily. I can't see the woman's face; she has her back to me. But she has long brown hair to her waist, but only two braids, not three.

'We will come back for you, I promise.' Emily lays her hand on the girl's face and smiles.

'I don't want you to go!'

'Emori,' Mom's baby sister!

Mom turns Emori to face her, and my gut drops to my feet. No! It cannot be!

'We have to go because it's our destiny. Don't you ever forget that we love you...

Emori pulls away from Mom and runs away in tears.

I look at Thane, whose eyes are wide. He looks down at me.

"The Witch... Thane's she's..."

"I know." He whispers softly as the scene changes again.

'They don't care about you nor love you, Emori.'

My skin turns cold at the sight of Astro sitting high on his throne.

'When are you going to get it through your thick skull? They. Don't. Love. You!'

Scenes flit in and out, showing Astro's brainwashing of Emori, severe torture the likes of which I've never seen because Emori dared to speak out. I have to look away because I'm scared I'll vomit if I don't.

When I open my eyes, I see Emori standing in a nursery in front of a crib that holds two newborn twins, one with black hair, one with white - Harmony and me. There's no one else around, and I just know Emori snuck into the room without being seen. Emori smiles and strokes the babies' cheeks, one at a time.

'You are both so beautiful. Elena is very lucky to have been blessed by the Gods'

I observe Emori lift my newborn self out of the crib. She kisses the baby's head.

'I wish I had been brave enough to leave with my mate when I found him. A hundred years ago, in the human realm, I came across a man in the forest. He was the most handsome I had ever laid eyes upon. He was my mate, and for a split second, I let myself believe we could be together.

'It wasn't to be because I knew my brother would use my mate against me. I could not leave Valnor, and I could not take my mate there with me. There was no way we'd ever be together, so I did the only thing I knew to push him away from me. I attacked him and left him lying there passed out, for I did not want anyone to know I'd found him.

'I have spent all these years wondering if he's okay out there. I hope he found someone to love and that he is happy now. He deserves that. I say him because I don't even know his name. I have hidden the memory of him deep within me so no one will ever know who he is. I have to protect him with all that I am because, even though I don't know him, I have loved him all this time.'

I can feel myself choking up from her confession. I can't imagine what it must have been like to find her mate and have to hide all those years.

'When you find your mate, if you find him before Astro convinces you to leave with him, don't push him away, Lyric. Embrace the bond and let him love you.'

'I have a gift for you, little one. There will be some incredibly tough times in your life, Lyric. There will be times when you feel you cannot go on. But you will because you will do amazing things, Lyric Ryker. So unto you, I give the gift of a Fairies immortality! What the hell is this?

'You may believe one day that you are cursed, but you are not, my precious one. I mean only for you to live. Emori opens her mouth slightly, and a pale blue light travels up through and out of her throat. The light enters the baby's nose, lighting up her little face, neck, and chest for a second before settling down.

Emori closes her eyes, and even though she's smiling, I can see the pain she's in. Doing what she did must have caused great physical pain. When she opens her eyes, she kisses the baby's head again.

'If you should be killed, accidental or otherwise, you shall awaken momentarily. No matter your death, life will never leave you. This is my gift to you, half of my Fairy immortality! Lifting the baby to her chest, Emori cradles her.

'Auntie Emori loves you, Lyric. No matter what you hear about me in the future, know everything I do, every choice I make is because I love you, baby girl.'

Emotion fills me again at her words. I shouldn't care about Emori after what she did, but I can't help feeling sad for her. I'm not cursed; my aunt blessed me because she loved me.

I watch as she places the baby in the crib, then lifts baby Harmony. With a smile, Emori kisses the baby's head.

'Now, my sweet Harmony. I cannot give you the same gift as your sister. Oh, how I wish I could. But I cannot render myself human. I have to help in the fight against my brother, and I cannot do that as a human. I won't stop until he's dead, but without my fairy, I'd die. I love you, Harmony, just as much as your sister. I don't ever want you to doubt that, baby girl.

'I may not be able to give you the same gift as your sister, but I have one for you, nonetheless. Before your parents realize I'm here, I give unto you the gift of Fairy cloaking. There will come a time when Astro will try to use you against Lyric, but with this gift, when Astro looks upon you, he will not see you. You will appear as someone else, but only to Astro's eyes and the eyes of those who seek to harm you!'

Emori brushes the pad of her thumb over baby Harmony's forehead. White light fills the little girl. Emori smiles, then hugs my sister, and the scene fades.

I don't know what to think. I had no idea Astro couldn't recognize Harmony. But it makes a lot of sense now, all those times he looked right through her.

I see the moment Astro informed Emori of Mom's death and how she stood there, not reacting, much to Astro's delight. But away from him, Emori's heart broke, and her sobs of anguish will stay with me always. It's the same thing when she's informed of Emily's death.

Then we see Astro telling Emori how she must kill Thane. We see how she gained access to Knight Castle and became a staff member. We see her sneak into The King and Queens chambers under cover of darkness.

Thane and I are asleep in bed, me lying on his powerful chest. Emori looks at me and smiles before leaning over Thane. I don't know how neither of us sensed her there, but neither did Jagger or Aspen. If they had, they would have woken us.

'My King' Emori whispers, but not loud enough to wake Thane. 'I was sent here to end your life, and I will, but the reason is not so you will stay dead. My niece needs you more than I need my immortality. She and her sister are my world, you see. I cannot have my mate, but I'll make sure Lyric keeps hers. So I am gifting you the other half of my Fairy immortality.

'I am doing this only because I know you are worthy. Forgive me for what I must do tomorrow; I mean only to activate my gift to you. However, if you should find me and want to punish me, I will understand and hold nothing against you. I will not fight back, though I could use what little of my fairy power I will have left. There will be no point because it will leave me within days, and I doubt you'd let me live that long, hopefully not long enough to render me human. But the sacrifice will be worth it in the end.' Emori opens her mouth, and the same pale blue light from before leaves her mouth and enters Thane's parted lips. His face, throat, and chest glow for a few seconds.

'It is done. Take care of my precious niece, King Thane Knight; for you will be together for a long time. Fight beside one another and rid this world and the next of Astro Lightfeather!'

The scene fades around us, but I don't take my eyes off Emori's smiling face until the dungeon appears. I clench my jaw as, moment after moment; it shows Emori's torture and sexual assault at the hands of the guards in Thane's employment. My stomach is churning, and I want nothing more than to rip the ghosts of the past apart! I'm suddenly grateful the man in black took Emori from the dungeon.

In an instant, we're back in Thane's office. Thane takes my face between his hands. I look at him with tears in my eyes. I'm shocked, confused, and brokenhearted.

"Thane, everyone in her life did awful things to her. She lost everyone, and all she had was Harmony and me, even if she didn't have us, and look what I did."

"No," Thane shakes his head. "You were not to know. Whoever let her out... Wait." Thane looks at Blaze, held up by Theo. "Who did let her out? And where the hell is she?"

"The twins." Blaze gasps out sluggishly.

"Thorin and Tane released Emori?"

Blaze shakes his head, his eyes rolling. "Tristan. Starr. Mom's cabin." Is all Blaze gets out before passing out in Theo's arms.

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 36[1,837 words]

Thane

Lyric clutches my hand as she stares at her aunt, lying on the couch, eyes closed and breathing shallow. The woman is so pale she already looks dead. I'd think she was gone if it wasn't for seeing her chest moving, even as she lies on her side. Starr cleaned the girl up and dressed her in whatever she could find: shorts and an oversized t-shirt. Tristan grabs a blanket and covers Emroi's cold body, Starr's blanket, from her room.

We came straight here after Theo took Blaze to his room. I mind-linked his parents to keep an eye on him. Theo and Tyler are with us. Thorin and Tane followed the moment they spotted us. It's none of their business, but they're nosy. They didn't say a word, but I know Theo filled them in through the mind link. I know I didn't, and Tyler doesn't seem to want to talk to anyone, so he wouldn't have told them anything.

As soon as I walked in, I could smell the fear coming off Tristan and Starr. They knew I'd be angry about what they'd done, but I couldn't bring myself to say anything, not after the things Blaze showed us.

Right now, Tristan and Starr are standing arm in arm, Tristan holding Starr tightly as if protecting her from me. They haven't moved from beside the couch, though, both of them keeping watch over Emori. "Thane," Tristan swallows hard.

"It was my idea," Starr says at the same time. "I'm sorry, Thane; I never meant to go against you. But I'm also not sorry because Emori did everything to protect Lyric and Harmony. I sensed her sad aura when the guards dragged her to the dungeon.

"I couldn't get it out of my head, and it took me two days to convince Tristan to help me. We had to practice for a while, combining our powers, which I will tell you about." Damn right, she will! "But only then could we break Emori out of the dungeon. We were trying to do the right thing..." "Why didn't you just come to me?"

"Would you have listened?"

I sigh because Starr has a point; I wouldn't have listened to reason because I was too angry after what happened.

"She doesn't have long." Tristan sighs sadly. "Perhaps you should have brought Harmony so she could say Goodbye, Theo."

"Maybe." Theo scrubs his hands over his face. "If Harmony doesn't get to say Goodbye, she'll never forgive me. But I'm scared of what seeing her aunt like this will do to her. I don't want the shock to send her into early labor."

I open my mouth to say something, but a devastated sob stops me and draws my eyes to my mate. All eyes are on Lyric as she walks over to the couch and drops to her knees. Slowly, she reaches out and moves a strand of hair away from Emori's battered face. She then gently takes Emori's hand and kisses her knuckles.

My heart breaks to see tears falling from Lyric's eyes. My strong girl is so vulnerable right now. But I won't have her blaming herself for this, which I know she's doing.

"I'm so sorry; I didn't know. Why didn't you tell me who you were? I've heard so much about you from Mom; she always said you were amazing. All those terrible things that have happened to you..."

'What's wrong with Tyler?' I hear Thorin in my head.

I look over at Tyler, standing at the back of the room with his eyes closed. His face has a pained look, and he's swaying slightly, side to side, as if trying not to pass out. 'Tyler? What's wrong?'

He shakes his head, a tear falling from his eye.

'What's wrong with him?' Theo asks through the mind link.

'I don't know. I mumble back.

"Lyric," Comes a broken gasp of joy, causing us all to turn to Lyric and Emori. "Are... you... really there?"

"Yes," Lyric nods and kisses Emori's knuckles again. "I'm really here. Oh, Auntie, why didn't you tell me who you were and why you were here?"

Emori smiles through the apparent pain she's in, too weak to move but keeping her eyes on Lyric.

"I had... to protect... you... and Harmony. I... am sorry for... everything." She closes her eyes for a second before opening them again and smiling.

"Don't say sorry. I'm the one who's sorry. I didn't know who you were. Please forgive me, Emori."

"Shh... There is... nothing to... forgive. Just... promise me... you'll de... destroy Astro."

"I promise."

"I didn't... want to do... those things... he made... me. I had to... pro... protect you all... My mate..." Emori whispers before closing her eyes, seemingly falling asleep. Lyric gasps, more tears falling from her eyes. "Wake up. Please don't leave me."

I make my way over to Lyric and place two fingers on the side of Emori's neck, checking for a pulse. It's faint, but it's there.

I crouch down beside Lyric and lay my hand on her face. She looks at me with such sad eyes, and all I want is to make this better for her, but I don't know how.

"Baby girl," I don't know what to say. She's hurting, and I'm hurting for her.

"I don't want to lose her, Thane. I just found her, and she's all Harmony I have in the way of blood family."

That's not true; she has her father's family. But Lyric hasn't mentioned them once since coming here. Though I know Harmony has been in touch with them, Theo told me. It's Lyric's choice whether or not she gets to know them, and I won't push the subject either way.

"He could save her," Starr gets to her knees on the other side of Lyric.

Lyric turns to look at Starr. "Who?"

"Her mate. You saw her memories? Blaze showed you?"

Lyric nods. "But we couldn't see his face."

"Emori told me she met her mate one hundred and twenty years ago. They kissed, but she knew they couldn't be together. He tried to make her stay, but she attacked him and ran away to protect him.

"She smiled while telling me how she'd dreamed about him all these years-his handsome face and mesmerizing eyes, and how they're seared into her brain. Emori spoke of her love for him, and though they only shared one kiss, her first and only kiss, she could never forget him and would have given anything to be with him.

"However, her biggest wish was that he'd find love and let it into his heart. The only thing that kept her going for over a century was thinking about her mate being happy and loved.

"She never knew her mate's name nor what pack he belonged to, only that she had to leave him. Astro would never allow a wolf in Valnor nor let Emori leave. If Astro had found out about Emori's mate, he would have killed the guy to teach Emori a lesson. "Emori knew she'd die before she allowed Astro to hurt her mate. That's why she locked away the memory of meeting him, so Astro couldn't look inside her mind and find him. She did that to protect the man she has always loved."

Alright, that's just sad on a whole other level. I don't know how it is for Fairies, but Wolves and Lycans don't do well without their mates. Whoever that poor sap was may have lived, but having his mate run from him could have driven him crazy. He could also have taken a chosen mate and saved his sanity, had kids, and lived happily ever after.

Wolves don't live as long as Lycans; they aren't immortal, though they live very long lives. Depending on their rank, they can live up to five hundred years. I don't know how old Emori's mate was when she met him, but it could be that he's already passed. I guess we'll never know now.

"The only way to save her," Starr continues. "Is to find her mate. He's either a Wolf or a Lycan; that's all she knows."

"That's nothing to go on," Tane grumbles. "We don't even know where she met this person. Do you know how many packs there are in America alone?"

"I know!" Starr snaps. "But from what we saw in her memories, they weren't far from here when they met. That tells me he's more likely to be a Lycan than a Werewolf. We have to find him and bring him here so he can change her!"

"Whoa!" I hold my hand up. "No one mentioned this to me."

No mate can change the other without the King's permission. One mate bites the other, pushing their venom into the bloodstream. However, they need a drop of my blood to complete the ritual, not to mention praying to the Moon Goddess, asking for her blessing. If Selene decides not to answer the prayer and my blood isn't given, the changeling turns feral within forty-eight hours and must be put down.

In cases of emergency, if the person is too far away, our resident demon flashes to the person, taking my blood with him. But only if I approve the change, which I rarely do. The person has to be pure of heart. Though it has yet to happen in longer than I can remember.

"Change her?"

Starr nods at Lyric. "In some cases such as this, one mate may bite the other, sending venom from their Lycan fangs into the bloodstream. This will change the one receiving the venom into a new Lycan.

"However, the King has to approve the change. He also has to give one drop of his blood while praying to Selene and Fenrir, asking them to allow the change. The blood is fed to the changeling, binding them to the King and stopping them from turning feral. "It can also be dangerous. There is no guarantee that Selene or Fenrir will give Emori a Lycan, only if they deem her worthy."

"And if they don't?" Lyric looks from Starr to me.

I sigh. "Then she dies as fate intended."

"But we have to try! Please, Thane. If Emori is to die, then she'll die, but at least try. Send someone to look for Emori's mate."

"Even if we did find him, and it's a big IF," I shake my head. "It's been over a century, Lyric. We don't know how old the guy was when they met. He could be dead already, he could have been killed in battle, or he could have taken a chosen mate to numb the pain of losing Emori.

"He could have kids, grandkids. Do you really think it would be fair to them? The man would be giving a part of himself to Emori, binding himself to her forever. He'd never be able to leave her. How would that be fair to his family? I know you're hurting, but I won't allow it, Lyric."

Lyric grinds her teeth, tears falling from her eyes.

"You... came." Emori gasps while looking across the room with unfocused eyes.

"Who is she talking to?" I don't know who Theo is asking, but I soon get an answer.

"Me." Comes a broken sob. "She's looking at me."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 37[2,050 words]

Tyler

Emori.

For one hundred and twenty years, I have wondered what her name was. I've gone through thousands of names. Every woman I met, I wondered if my mate's name could be the same. I've never met anyone with the name Emori before. I like it; it's different. Emori is still as beautiful as the day I met her. Even lying on her side on that old couch, looking like death, she's a Goddess. I don't like that she's wearing hardly anything, tiny shorts and a baggy T-shirt that's miles too big for her. Goddess knows whose clothes they are, but I'm hoping Starr's. I don't think I could take smelling another man on my mate. I hate that everyone can see my mate like this!

"Ty?" Thane takes my arm. "What's going on?"

"I thought she wanted you dead, that she was a traitor. It didn't matter how I felt when I saw her, she had to be punished. But what I saw... She was trying to keep you safe. She gave up her life for you."

Thane looks at me curiously. I know everyone else has eyes on me, but I pay them no mind.

"My... mate."

"I know," Lyric replies softly. "We're going to find him. I promise, Auntie."

"He..."

I close my eyes, and more tears fall. I can't stop them. I let those people do this to Emori because I was being loyal to my brother, my King. Oh, how I wanted to scream at Thane that day in the courtyard when he had Emori around the throat, 'Take your filthy hands off my mate!' But I couldn't because she was a traitor, or so I thought. Only she wasn't, and now, I'm going to lose her, in the forever sense.

I always wondered if Emori would come back to me. The kiss we shared bound us in a way that meant I'd always know if she was alive out there. I didn't know where or what she was, but I knew she was there.

That's why I waited all these years for Emori to return to me; now she has, and I'm losing her. I don't think I'll survive that, not this time.

'Tyler,' My Lycan whimpers. He's been weak since the day Emori was thrown into the dungeon. Where I knew the King was right to do what he did, Axel wanted his mate. I could barely contain him in the beginning. He fought me, and that's why I left. Though we were supposed to be miles away, Axel forced me home sooner than he should have. Axel gave up when I wouldn't give in and go to Emori. 'Please, don't let her die; I'm begging you! 'He's... here..."

"Here?" Lyric's head turns towards the door. "Where?"

"Here," I whisper, though everyone heard it, and all eyes are on me again. "I'm her mate."

"And you stood there and said nothing?" Lyric screeches.

At the same time, Theo yells, "What the fu.ck, Ty!? Oh, my Goddess. That's how you got that scar, isn't it?" He points to the scar on my face. "She attacked you?"

I nod my head. It's the truth, after all.

"How could you keep this from me of all people?!" Thane bellows, causing everyone but Lyric to bow in submission.

"I was hurt, Thane. I'm not talking about this," I point to my face. "I mean in here," I point to my heart. "Because she wasn't with me. I didn't know her name, and I didn't want anyone to feel sorry for me. I got on with my life and became the best I could be, waiting and hoping Emori would come back to me." "This is why no one has seen you with a girl for decades longer than we've been alive?"

I stare at Thorin and raise my eyebrow. Indeed, I haven't touched a woman since the day I met my mate one hundred and twenty years ago. Hell, I've never touched a woman, period.

How pathetic does that make me?

"Wow, and here we were, thinking you were a closet gay." Tane laughs.

He slams his mouth shut when Thane growls. "How the hell are you still standing here?"

"No! Please, no!" Lyric's screams have me dropping to my knees. Emori is gone, and I never got to hold her.

Why didn't I go to her?

Howls of sadness and pain rip from my throat, shaking the foundations. Too much talking is going on around me, crying women and men trying to get through to me. But I don't want to hear it!

With Axel up front with me, we crawl as fast as possible to get to Emori. As gently as possible, I slide my arms under her fragile body and lift her onto my lap. She's lifeless, and I sob as I touch her bruised face.

My tears land on her cracked lips. "I'm sorry, I'm so sorry."

'Do it now. Axel grumbles. 'She still has a tiny speck of life left in her body. Bite her; let my venom into her veins. Change her, Ty!'

Thane will kill me if I do this because I'll give him no choice but to hand over his blood, but first, I need Emori's permission. I don't care what Thane will do to me; I have to keep my mate alive, no matter the cost.

All my life, I have been by my brother's side. I may not have wanted to be his Gamma, but I have been loyal. I have done everything he ever asked of me and never asked for anything in return. I have always been selfless, but I'm asking, no, taking this one thing for myself. Consequences be damned!

I brush Emori's limp hair away from her bare shoulder, move my arm slightly so her head tips back, and lean in. "I don't know if you can hear me, but my name is Tyler. I am your mate, and I need your permission. There's only one way for us to be together, Emori. Let me change you so you'll be like me. Please."

Emori groans quietly, but I hear the faint "Yes." That's all I need.

"We will be together," I whisper in her ear. "One way or another. I love you, only you, always you, my Emori."

"I..." I close my eyes as she gasps so quietly I can barely hear her, even with my Lycan hearing. "Love... you... always."

A tear falls from my eyes, and I let Axel take the reins. My canines drop, and Axel sinks them into the flesh between Emori's shoulder and neck, her marking spot.

Lyric screams. Someone else grabs my shoulder, and I subconsciously let out my power to repel everyone in the room, knocking them all away from me.

'It's working, Tyler! The venom is deep in her veins and bloodstream. Now seal the wound.

Releasing my teeth from Emori's neck, I lick the wound to seal it. Because of her fragile state, the mark is nothing more than angry and raised. If this works, I'll put my permanent mark on Emori's neck one day.

"Did you just change her without her permission?!" Theo shrieks.

Changing one's mate without the mate's permission is punishable in any way the King sees fit. Changing your mate without the King's permission means death to you and your mate. I don't answer Theo because I don't have the chance. "What the fu.ck have you done?"

"Saved my mate. Did you think I wouldn't?" I look at Thane, towering over me. "I have always been loyal to you, always by your side, and I have never asked for anything. But I'm asking you now, as my brother as well as my King, please help me save her. I won't survive losing her like this. I won't last an hour; I promise you that." Thane groans while raking his fingers through his collar-length hair. "Please, Thane," Starr lets out a sob. "I don't want to lose my brother."

Thane looks from Starr to his mate. Tears stream down her face as she mouths, 'Please.' Thane groans loudly. He doesn't want to do this, but he's a sucker for his mate. What she wants, he'll provide.

He gets to his knees next to Emori's head, grabs her head, and tips it back. With his finger and thumb, he pries Emori's mouth open, bites his wrist, and forces blood into her mouth. More blood than the required drop, that's for sure.

Thane holds Emori's mouth closed, and I gently rub her throat, hoping she'll swallow. She does, and I breathe a sigh of relief.

Thane closes his eyes and begins to chant, asking Selene and Fenrir to bless my mate with her own Lycan. I don't know what I'll do if they disagree.

'Please,' I pray in my mind. 'Hear my prayer. Give unto my mate the chance to live as Lycan folk. For all her selfless sacrifices, allow her to live with love and honor.'

Without warning, Emori begins to scream, thrashing about while levitating in the air. Thane drags me to my feet, pulling me away. My mouth and eyes are wide in shock. I've never witnessed this before, so I don't know what to expect, but I know this is the moment Selene and Fenrir accept or reject Emori as a Lycan. "What's happening to her!?" Lyric's yelling is drowned out by Emori's screams, turning into howls.

Still flat on her back in the air, I watch as the ghost-like form of a beautiful white Lycan disappears inside Emori. It worked! I look at Thane, who's smirking while shaking his head.

'Take care of her, Tyler Knight.' My eyes widen because I can hear the Moon Goddess inside my head. 'The white wolf is rare and much sought after.' Lyric. 'But the white Lycan is more precious and will have powers most can only imagine.'

'For all her sacrifice and selflessness, Fenrir and I have gifted Emori our most precious child, Cosima. Watch out for her, Tyler Knight; I chose her, especially for you.'

'Thank you, Moon Goddess. Thank you, Mighty Fenrir. I won't let you down. I'll cherish her always!

'That is all we ask'

Selene's voice fades, and I shake myself out of thought. Just in time, because Emori begins to drop from the air. I rush over and catch her before she hits the ground.

I lower us to the floor, lying Emori down. I keep my hand over the back of her head. "Emori?" I stroke my hand down her cheek. The warmth is returning to her skin, bringing back her natural color.

Before my eyes, the cracks on her lips, bruises on her face, and injuries on her body disappear. Her hair becomes voluptuous, and her perfect blue eyes stare right at me.

A tear falls from my eye when Emori reaches up her hand and touches my face with her fingertips. "You're real." She whispers in wonder.

"So are you."

"Let me see her!" I growl as Lyric pulls Emori away from me, pushing me aside. "Auntie," Lyric gasps.

"Lyric!" They embrace, and I'm fighting every instinct not to tear Lyric's head off!

'Don't do that; Thane would kill us.'

'I don't give a damn, Axel!'

I clamber to my feet and snarl, causing Thane to growl at me.

"Tyler!" I turn my wide Lycan eyes to Theo. "Calm down."

I snarl again. I'm trying hard to keep Axel at bay, but it's not easy. Even though he doesn't want to piss Thane off, he wants Emori. "Give me my mate!"

"Lyric!" I hear Thane snap. "Step away from Emori!"

"But..."

"No. She is newly turned by her mate. If you don't move away, he'll attack, then I'll have no choice but to kill my own brother!"

"Ty, please calm down," Starr whispers.

A hand takes mine, and with wide eyes, I turn to look at Emori. She's shorter than my six-five in height. I'd say she was around five-eight. But even Lycan females are shorter than males. Though some female warriors reach a little over six feet. I'm not sure how tall Fairies are, having not met any other than Emori. But only a few species are as tall as Lycans. Dragons, maybe.

"Please don't be angry."

I pull Emori into my arms, holding her tightly without saying anything. I press my nose into her neck, breathing in her scent, and my eyes roll.

"I think we should leave." Thorin chuckles. I don't say anything; I've waited too long for this.

'You have two hours,' I hear Thane inside my head. 'Then I want you in my office. No excuses!'

'Someone's in for it.'

'Shut up, Axel!'

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 38[2,138 words]

Emori

I cling to the man I have dreamed about for the last twelve decades. I thought I was dreaming when I saw him standing there. I knew my time was coming to an end; consciousness kept taking me under, then releasing me momentarily. I thought my mate had come to bring me to my next life. I even believed Lyric was a figment of my imagination until she kissed my hand. I felt her lips on my knuckles, and I heard how sorry she was. But Lyric had nothing to be sorry for; she only did and thought what any mate would. She wanted the woman who hurt her mate dead. I heard my mate's words of sadness, him asking if I was willing to allow him to change me and how he loved

me. I know I was out of it and probably shouldn't have agreed to something I had no knowledge of, but 'yes' slipped out without any thought. My mate changed me, and now I am a Lycan. I'm no longer a Fairy and don't know how to feel. I'm scared of what's to come, and I have a lot to learn. I no longer have Fairy magic, and I'll miss Valnor, but it was never a happy place for me anyway. Here, in Lykos, with Tyler, I could be happy.

I know Astro would have felt the Fairy Bond break. He'll believe me to be dead because the bond between Fairy and King will only be severed if you are killed. I could use that to my advantage. I can train with the Lycans and learn to fight like one. Then I can help bring my brother down.

However, I also know how angry Astro will be that I'm gone. He always said I belonged to him, and my brother doesn't give up his possessions easily, or ever, actually. He won't let things lie, and there will be hell to pay.

I must tell Lyric and her mate everything I know about Astro and his weaknesses. I'll tell them everything and do whatever I can to help end that monster. It doesn't matter that Astro is my brother, I can't stand him, and I certainly don't love him. My loyalty is to Lyric and Harmony. I will make my sisters proud. If it's the last thing I do, I will make them proud.

I let go a shuddering breath when Tyler kisses my head. "I'm sorry I had to do this to you."

I lift my head enough without letting go of his waist to look at him. "Don't apologize; you only did what I agreed to. If you hadn't changed me, I would have died. Though I was prepared for that, I knew I wanted to live when I saw you standing there. I know everything will be different now; I am no longer a fairy..." I sigh and lower my head.

Tyler lays his hand on my cheek and lifts my head. I stare into his beautiful eyes and see the sadness for what he's done to me. I don't want Tyler to feel bad; this was my choice, just as it was my choice to give up my fairy self.

"I had to save you, Emori." I smile because hearing my name on his lips is everything. I have longed to hear it for too long. "Goddess, you have no idea how much I've struggled since seeing you in that courtyard.

"You have to believe me, Emori, all I wanted to do that day was run to you. But knowing, witnessing what happened to Thane, and thinking I'd lost my brother..."

"It's all right, Tyler." I lay my hand on his handsomely scarred face.

I don't want Tyler to beat himself up about this, it happened, and nothing can or will change that. We cannot live in the past; all we can do is move forward.

If I had known my mate was the Lycan King's brother, would I still have done what I did?

Would I have walked away from Tyler to protect him?

Of course. The Lycan King is mighty and could hold his own against Astro one-on-one. But there wasn't just Thane to think about; there was Lyric and Harmony.

Do I regret giving the other half of my fairy self to the Lycan King?

No, and I never will. Not only for Lyric but Tyler; he needs his brother, they all do. I may have lost who I once was and am now, something I don't understand, but I will learn how to embrace this new life. I will welcome this chance I have been given, my life, my identity, and hopefully, my mate.

Tyler didn't move on as I hoped he would. At least, I don't think he did, though he may have, and he was just saying it was always me to get me to agree to the change. No, I refuse to think like that. Tyler wouldn't have told me he loved if he loved someone else. "I understand why you walked away," I continue. "You thought I meant to kill your brother. I could have tried to explain things, but I didn't."

I won't tell Tyler that the look on his face, thinking he was disgusted with me, is why I didn't try to save myself. I wanted to die because I believed there was no point in living.

"You changed me because I agreed to it, Tyler. You didn't force me, though you could have, you wanted my approval, and that means everything.

"All of this is strange, but I know you'll help me through this transition. I love you, Tyler." He stares at me with tears in his eyes, and emotion fills me. "I loved you from our first kiss. I never stopped loving you, Tyler; it only grew stronger every day. I didn't even know you, yet I knew I'd always love you. I prayed that you'd find someone,"

Tyler shakes his head, cutting off my words. "There has never been anyone else for me but you."

My heart thumps hard in my chest at his honest words. He's a virgin like me; he doesn't have to say the words; I can feel them.

"Some would say waiting one hundred and twenty years, hoping your mate returns, stupid." He presses his forehead to mine. "But I would have waited an eternity for you." He takes my hand and lays it palm down on his chest over his heart. "This belongs to you; it always has and always will. I love you with all that I am, Emori. Please," He whispers emotionally. "Accept me. Let me love you for the rest of our lives."

I smile even though I don't understand why he would think I wouldn't accept him after everything. I didn't let him change me just to reject him and run away.

"Of course, I accept you, Tyler. You and your Lycan."

'Axel,' I gasp when Tyler's eyes cloud over midnight blue. 'My name is Axel, and you are perfect.

"Bast.ard." Tyler hisses under his breath, his eyes returning to their natural color. "I'm sorry, he took over, and I couldn't push him back right away."

"It's okay." I chuckle and then gasp as Tyler's lips hit mine softly.

I allow him to lead the kiss and moan shamelessly when his tongue caresses mine. I slide my hands along his thick chest, feeling the muscles under his thin shirt. My whole body is vibrating with need; I'm tingling from the tips of my toes to the ends of my hair! 'Feels good, doesn't it?'

I pull away from Tyler abruptly as if I'd been electrocuted. My eyeballs dart around the room while I press the heels of my hands to my temples.

"Emori?"

I can't answer Tyler; I feel like I'm going crazy!

'You're not crazy. I am your Lycan.

'M-my Lycan?' I answer in my head.

'Yes.' I sense the female voice in my mind smiling. 'What did you think turning meant? That you'd stay in this human shell and never transform? Selene told me you were smart! Cosima laughs.

'Are you always this much of a bi.tch?'

'Always. Now, pull your head out of your a.ss, and mark our mate already!'

'Give me a chance! I don't know if I'm ready for s.ex yet!'

Cosima laughs again. 'Girl, give it up already; you're two hundred years old. Now you're a Lycan with a seriously hot mate, and you're going to make him wait? He's a prince! That is not the point, but what I'm trying to say is that it is natural to mate and mark one another. It makes us whole, makes us stronger.

"Emori?" I blink away the fog and look at Tyler. My face is between his hands, and he's looking at me concerned. "Baby, are you okay?"

I nod and smile. "Yes, my Lycan was just introducing herself."

'Yeah, and I want to meet my mate ASAP!'

'Your mate?'

'Axel, you dimwit.'

"Her name is Cosima, and she's a royal bi.tch. I chuckle.

"Yeah," Tyler smiles. "Axel can be like that."

"Tyler, will you tell me about marking? I mean, I know what happens when Fairies mark one another, but I'm new to all of this."

I shiver and gasp when Tyler slides the tip of his finger over the skin between my shoulder blade and my neck. I don't know if I still have a bite there from earlier, but it feels sensitive.

"When you're ready, and only when you're ready, I will mark you here. This can be done during s.ex or just a makeout session. As long as there's an org.asm involved, it will feel good. We don't have to do any of that, of course. But it's easier, so I'm told, to feel pleasure while receiving the bite.

"I would never hurt you or pressure you into anything. I just want you by my side, Emori. I could never go back to being without you, and when the time is right, we'll become one."

I nod against him. I believe he'd wait until I was ready to complete the bond, and I'm so grateful. I want us to mate and mark more than anything, but I'm not ready. I need time to come to terms with everything that's happened since I came here. I just need a few days to recuperate.

"I just need a little time to adjust. Can you give me that?"

Tyler smiles. "As long as you want, beautiful."

"I do want us to mark one another, Tyler. The Gods and Goddesses know that all I've wanted for the past century is you." I slide my hands around his neck, and Tyler wraps his arm around my waist with a smile, pulling me flush against his hard body. "We're going to have a massive fight on our hands with Astro."

"I know, but we'll be ready for him.

"I'll do everything I can to help eliminate Astro, Tyler. I have no loyalty to him, I swear. With you and my nieces are with whom my loyalties lie. Nothing could ever make me turn away from you, Tyler. You're my whole heart, and I love you so much."

"I love you, too, beautiful. I have no doubt about your loyalties, but Thane will want to make sure. That's why we need to get back to the castle and see my brother. Once we're done, I'm taking you home with me so I can hold you in my arms all night long." I smile because I like the sound of being held safe in my mate's arms. It is long overdue. This is the start of our new life together; I just hope we outlive Astro. My brother is not stupid, and he is incredibly powerful. But even powerful men have weaknesses; it's all a matter of finding them.

Tyler and I walk toward the castle hand in hand. He points out his cabin home, telling me he'd show me around soon. I can't wait, but I'm worried about what Thane will say. He may have given his blood to aid Tyler in turning me. But that's not to say Thane is ready to pardon me for my crimes.

'Yeah, right,' Cosima snorts. 'If he doesn't, after what you did for him, I'll rip his di.ck off!' Selfish cu.nt!'

Hearing another voice in my head is taking some getting used to. I have to tell myself that this is normal now. But by the Gods, she is mental!

'Can you please calm down? Jeez, you are one angry Lycan.

'I'm not angry; I'm annoyed. Believe me; no one will like me when I'm angry. Anyway, if you let me out, I could get some with my mate, and yes, I mean Axel. That would calm me down because, mmmm, just the sound of his name makes me wet. 'For fu.ck sakes! Will you stop, you sl.ut?!'

Cosima laughs loudly inside my mind just as Tyler and I reach the castle's front doors.

"Try not to worry, my love. Everything will be all right."

I hope Tyler is right, for all our sakes.

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 39[1,797 words]

Lyric

"I can't believe this." Harmony's eyes are darting all over the room.

Harmony was awake and waiting with Ronan and Moira when we got back. She'd woken up, couldn't find Theo, and panicked. She was in Theo's arms the moment he strode through the door. Once Theo held Harmony, she calmed down.

I realized at that moment, as I looked at my sister, her head against Theo's chest, eyes closed, that she was safe. Well, as safe as she could be with Astro still around. But I could see how much Harmony and Theo love each other, and something settled within me. Theo will take care of my sister now, keeping her and their child safe from harm. It made me smile and my heart lighter. I can finally take a step back without feeling guilty.

Thane brought everyone into his office, including everyone at the cabin, minus Tyler and Emori. It's late, and all I want to do is sleep, but no such luck.

Thane explained everything that happened at the cabin to his parents and my sister. He told them about Emori and all that she did to protect us. Moira gasped upon hearing of Tyler's mate, how long he'd waited for her, and that he'd changed her to save her life. Ronan shook his head in disbelief, saying no one should take that step unless they're one hundred percent sure. Of course, Theo said Tyler asked Emori's permission, and she'd said yes. I hope she said yes because no one heard her say so. Harmony held her head in her hands. She was struggling to grasp everything our aunt had done for us.

I kneel down in front of my sister and take her hands in mine. She looks at me, her body is shaking as if she were cold, but it could be the shock. All our lives, even in our attic prison, we wondered about Emori. Harmony and I would make up stories about what it would be like if she turned up and took us away from Lennix.

We'd talk about how Emori would turn up at the packhouse and use her fairy magic to free us from our binds. She'd tell us how precious we were and how much she loved us. Emori would embrace us with a warmth no one else could offer but a mother. Emori would have been the closest thing we'd have to one, our mother's baby sister.

Emori would then take us far away. Not to Valnor because Emori would never subject us to Astro, but we wouldn't stay in this realm either. No, Emori would take us to Elyim, the realm of the Elves. We'd be safe there, and no one could hurt us.

I told Harmony that story every night. Each time Lennix and his minions hurt us, Harmony, in her weakened state, would ask me to tell her that story. It soothed her to sleep, though it would always leave me in tears because I knew it would never come true. But, in a way, it did come true. Emori, through her sacrifice and suffering, is here with us.

The Moon Goddess works in mysterious ways. She brought Thane to me, Theo to Harmony, and Tyler to Emori. She did that so we could all be together again, and I will be forever thankful.

"Harm, I'm sorry this has been a lot to take in."

"It has, and I'm overwhelmed. I guess I'm finding it hard to believe. She really did all those things?"

I nod and smile. "Emori loves us, Harmony, just as Mom said she would. Emori loves us so much that she led a double life and sacrificed one hundred and twenty years with Tyler, all to keep the three of us safe.

"She gave you and me part of herself. Then, after being ordered to kill Thane, she gave him the other half of her fairy magic to protect him. She locked away her memory of Tyler's face when they met so Astro could never use him against her. Emori is the most selfless person there is, and she's finally here with us."

"She's not a fairy anymore?" The emotion in Harmony's voice makes my heart ache. I smile sadly and nod at Harmony. "Tyler really changed Emori into a Lycan? She can really stay with us?"

"Yes," I whisper with a smile.

Harmony wraps her arms around my neck and sobs. I sit on my knees, wrap my arms around her back, and sigh.

"Everything will be okay, Harm. Emori is here with us now; no one can hurt her again. We'll deal with Astro; then we'll live peacefully."

I hope anyway.

However, I know peace doesn't last long when you're Royalty. There is always drama just around the corner, someone ready to attack. But we'll be prepared.

The door knocks, and I get to my feet as Thane yells for whoever it is to enter. I smile as Tyler walks in, hand in hand, with Emori. It looks as though they've showered; they're dressed differently. Emori is wearing gray sweatpants that look too big for her and an oversized T-shirt - Tyler's clothes. I can tell from the scent coming off them. Her brown hair is still wet but braided down her back, and her face is clean and fresh. I don't see a mate mark, so they haven't completed the process yet. Not that it matters; they've waited over a century; a while longer won't hurt.

Tyler is also wearing sweatpants and a white muscle-hugging T-shirt. His long wet hair is tied in a man-bun at the base of his neck. His eyes are brighter than I've ever seen them, and the smile he's sporting tells of how happy he is.

Tyler tips his head to Thane and me, respecting his King and Queen. He then turns to Moira and Ronan. "Mother, Father, I'd like to introduce my mate, Emori."

"Hi," Emori offers in a whisper.

"It's nice to meet you, Emori. I'm Moira, Tyler's mother. This is Ronan, Tyler's dad." "Emori, is it?"

"Yes, Sir."

"No, child," Ronan smiles. "Just Ronan. You two have a special bond; anyone can see that. Not many would have waited so long for each other. Know that you are welcome here, Emori; you're family now." Emori bites her lower lip while looking at Tyler with tears in her eyes. He smiles while pulling her into his arms.

"I didn't mean to upset her, Ty."

"You didn't, Dad. Emori never had anyone who cared about her after her sisters left Valnor. What you just said meant a lot to my mate." Ronan strokes the back of Emori's head with a smile.

It hit me just how lonely my aunt has been all these years. I don't know how old she is exactly, but even one day of loneliness is too much for anyone.

'She looks like Mom,' I hear Harmony in my head, and I turn to look at her. 'But with dark hair. How does she have dark hair when everyone else in their family had white or blonde hair.'

I chuckle. 'I don't know, Harm. I've got black hair; you have white hair, and we're identical twins. It happens.' I shrug. "Harmony?"

Harmony gasps while looking up at Emori. Harmony struggles to get to her feet. Theo smiles while helping her stand. Thane's arm comes around my shoulder. I smile while leaning my head on his shoulder, breathing in his scent. Harmony's eyes are filled with wonder as she looks at our aunt.

"You look just like Elena."

"So do you. Apart from the hair color." Harmony chuckles. "Lyric told me everything. Thank you, and I'm sorry."

"Sorry?" Emori furrows her brow in confusion.

Harmony nods. "For everything you had to do."

Emori smiles while standing directly in front of my sister. "No, my darling. You have nothing to apologize for because everything I did led me here. Finally, I am with Tyler, Lyric, and you. Everything I did is because I love the three of you more than anything in this world. I wish I could have gotten to you sooner, saving you all the pain Lennix put you through."

Emori couldn't have saved us from all of that. In her memories, I heard Astro tell Emori how he manipulated Lennix into doing what he did. There was nothing our aunt could have done to protect us from that.

"I don't care about that." Harmony reaches out and takes Emori's hand. "Everything happens for a reason. All I care about is..."

"What?" Emori asks softly.

"Is that you stay here with us. Don't leave us." Harmony sobs and Emori sighs while wrapping her arms around my sister.

Harmony is overwhelmed and doubly emotional, thanks to being pregnant. I don't know what my excuse was, but I cried just as hard. I even hugged Emori without thinking about it, cringing, or shying away as I usually would.

I was so lost in thought I didn't hear everyone leave the room. I shake my head and follow Thane as he leads me toward his desk. I sit beside him, and Tyler and Emori, the only people left in the room, sit in the chairs in front of the desk.

"I take it things are okay between you two?"

Tyler nods while entwining his fingers with Emori's. "Everything is fine between us, Thane. I want to thank you for what you did; it meant everything."

Thane grunts and tips his head. "Luckily for you, you won't be able to put me on the spot like that again. Anyway, I called you here because I want to talk to you about Emori's first shift. On the next full moon, the urge will take her, and she won't be able to stop it." Emori's eyes lock with mine, and I give her a small smile of support. I can see how scared she is right now. Shifting for the first time is challenging for everyone. But at least we all knew what to expect being born shifters. This is utterly new to Emori, and it will be even more challenging for her if she fights the transformation.

"You're going to need to be there, Tyler. You above all people because..."

"Because what?" Emori probes while shifting in her seat.

"This first shift for a changeling could kill them if they fight it. However, having your mate by your side to coach and comfort you will help immensely. Also, the family will be there to help. The more support you have, the better. I know it's easy for me to say, but try not to panic when the time comes."

'Really?' Thane looks at me and raises his eyebrow. 'Don't panic? That's your kingly advice? Of course, she's going to panic!' I scream through the mind link.

Goddess knows what I look like to Emori and Tyler, animatedly moving my hands to emphasize what I'm saying without speaking. But what Thane said was stupid!

'You know, you're fu.cking se.xy when you're angry!

'For fu.cks sake!'

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 40[1,450 words]

Thane

"Pick it up! Now do it again!"

My warriors continue sparring while I run my fingers through my hair. I'm worried about Lyric. She's shopping with my mother, sisters, her sister, and aunt for her ceremonial dress. I sent six guards with them, plus Tyler. He refused to stay behind, nor would he allow Emori to go without him.

By rights, Tyler should be here doing his damn job. But with Emori newly turned, Tyler's Lycan will need to be near her until she accepts his mark. Even with all those guards, I'm still worried something could happen. Lyric could get hurt or, worse, taken. Okay, she's not going to die, but that means nothing to me. That's why I'm being so hard on my warriors while training; I'm taking my frustration out on them when I shouldn't. But I'll be fu.cked if I care.

Theo was busy with the elders, filling them in on everything we had learned over the past few days. I should be the one talking to them, but I'm not in the mood - for anything if I'm honest.

Blaze is finally awake and here with me when he should be resting. My cousin is not at full strength, but the man listens to no one.

"Zane! Keep your back straight!" Zane turns his dark eyes to me, and though I can tell he wants to tell me to 'Fu.ck off!' he tips his head.

The man is thirty years old, which is young to me. But he's a good warrior, even if he does have a chip on his shoulder.

Zane's parents moved to Lykos from Africa sixty years ago. Zane's father, Mufasa, has been a fantastic asset to me ever since. Zane is a good warrior, but he seems to be slacking today, and that is not good enough!

I had my warriors training ten times harder today than usual. I don't oversee training as a rule; Theo and Blaze do. Perhaps they aren't tough enough on them. Though each man and woman did well at hand-to-hand combat today. I now have them sparring in groups of eight. I want to know how they cope in battle. There may be hand-to-hand in war, but I guarantee half a dozen will attack at the same time.

'You're pushing them too hard.'

"Not hard enough, Blaze." My cousin sighs.

"Thane, whatever has pis.sed you off; you shouldn't take it out on the warriors. They all work damn hard every single day. Neither Theo nor I let them slack on training. But we don't push them this hard, either. Six hours you've had them out here, Thane. Do you want them to crash and burn? What use to you will they be then?"

Blaze has a point, but I'm not satisfied.

"Halt!" All twelve hundred warriors stop moving, each one breathing hard. "Get some water in you, then shift! Twenty-mile circuit. Be back in half an hour. Last one back shovels horse sh.it for a week!"

"Yes, King Thane!" They yell in unison before guzzling water. They then strip and shift into their Lycans.

I watch as they run into the forest, leaving training equipment strewn all over the place. Messy bas.tards! They won't be taking a break until everything is cleared away.

"Thane, what the hell has gotten into you?"

I scrub my eyes with the heels of my hands and sigh.

"Look, I know I'm being a di.ck. I don't know what's wrong with me."

"You're worried about what's coming with Astro."

I scoff. "Who isn't? I don't like Lyric being away from me."

Blaze raises his eyebrow while folding his arms across his big chest.

"She's fine, Thane. Even if anything did happen, it's not like she'll die. It should be everyone else you're worried about. Stop being so damn overprotective, Thane."

Jagger pushes forward and growls.

'What would you know about mates?'

Blaze's Lycan flashes in his eyes. He'd tear out their throat if anyone else dared to stand up to Jagger like this. But Jagger has a soft spot for Ace. Goddess knows why because my Lycan has never told me. 'I know more than you think!'

Jagger laughs. 'You know nothing! Don't tell me what to do with my mate. Until you find yours, keep your opinions to yourself, Ace!'

'You selfish bas.tard!' Ace yells, stepping into Jagger's personal space. Not a good idea. 'I gave up everything for you because I know you wouldn't accept her!'

'Jagger, step back!' I yell at my Lycan.

Something Ace just said hit me upside the head. No one should give up their mate, not for me or anyone.

'Deal with him, Thane. Cousin or not, he raises his voice to me again, and I'll tear his heart out!'

Jagger steps back, and I instantly grab Blaze's face between my hands. Ace is still upfront; he hasn't relinquished control yet.

"Ace, what are you talking about?"

'My mate, she was everything. But Blaze...

"Blaze, what?" I can see my cousin fighting for control; his eyes keep changing from black to blue. "Ace! Blaze! Talk to me."

Blaze takes over, and a tear slips from his eye. I've never seen Blaze like this before. The last time I saw Blaze cry, he was four and had fallen over a tree stump.

"Blaze, what's going on? Why didn't you tell me you'd found your mate?"

He shrugs me off and adjusts his sword at his hip.

"Because I knew you wouldn't understand. Humans can't know about us, remember?"

"She's human?"

Blaze nods.

Great!

Why would Selene do such a stupid thing?

Humans can't be trusted; they spout their mouths off about our kind. Sane people don't believe them, and they end up shunned, classed as crazy, or locked in mental asylums. There are shifters

out there who end up with human mates. However, humans can't feel the mate bond as paranormal beings can and often run from their mates because they're overwhelmed and scared. They feel like they're losing their minds and just want out. Of course, there are those who fall for their mates and stay with them. But a Lycan rarely has a human-fated mate, and I'm not big on letting those people stay in Lykos.

"Did she know what you are?"

"Yes, something to do with her step-uncle being a wolf. I wasn't paying much attention. We met in a bar, and I knew she was mine the moment I saw her. I couldn't stop Ace from wanting to mate with her. We ended up in bed together, but I didn't mark her. I fought the urge, and I left before she woke up. I haven't seen her since, I swear to you."

I take a deep breath. "How long ago was this?"

"Two years."

I close my eyes and shake my head. Two years is nothing for us, but the pain and longing to be with his mate must be excruciating for Blaze. I don't want that for him; Blaze is a good man who deserves to be happy.

"Why didn't you come to me when you found her? How could you keep this to yourself?"

"Because I knew what you'd say." Blaze shrugs.

"You really think I wouldn't allow you to claim your mate? Goddess, I thought you knew me!"

"I do know you, Thane. You don't like humans on your territory, and I wasn't about to put you in a position to force your hand. I'm not Tyler."

"For fu.cks sake, Blaze!"

I'm angry that my cousin feels this way and that I made him believe I would be anything but supportive.

"It doesn't matter; I'll get over it, Thane. Tyler was okay for over a century. Besides, I couldn't bring her here even if I wanted to; it's too dangerous with Astro around. She's human, and she wouldn't survive if Astro attacked her. But give or take seventy or so years; she'll no longer be living, then I can move on."

"Blaze." I sigh because this is fu.cked up.

I don't want my cousin to pine for his mate for years the way my brother did. I know Blaze is correct in what he's saying about Astro. Bringing a human here would only be safe once he's sorted. But I don't know if I could allow a human into the castle either. This is beyond fu.cked up!

'And then some,' Jagger huffs. 'Trust Blaze to have a human mate. No one will ever accept a human here, Thane. They'd expect more from your Gamma, a Royal Prince of Lykos.'

'Jagger, please shut up. This isn't easy, and Blaze is hurting. We need to think about what's best for him, and if that's finding his mate, we will. When all of this sh.it with Astro is dealt with, anyway. I won't allow Blaze to suffer the way Tyler did. 'You're right; I'm sorry!

"You're mate is back." Blaze nods to the cars now pulling up outside the castle.

"We're not done with the conversation, Blaze. Not by a long shot."