

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 41[1,456 words]

Lyric

It's safe to say I'm exhausted. We've been dress shopping all day, and I found nothing! Everyone else found their perfect outfit, but nothing caught my eye. Marco, a very flamboyant dressmaker, promised to design and make something unique for me. I can't see him being able to do that in three days, but whatever. Goddess, I will end up wearing a trash bag at this rate!

"Is Daddy going to like my dress, Mommy?"

I smile at Esme, sitting beside her mother in this stretch limo. Thane thought it best we all travel together in style, meaning Tyler is stuck traveling with a bunch of women. The guard's Thane sent with us are all in an SUV behind us. Guards aside, Tyler wouldn't allow Emori to go anywhere without him. He hasn't marked her yet and is massively overprotective. If another man so much as smiles at Emori, Tyler is ready to rip them apart!

Watching Tyler's eyes widen with lust every time my aunt came out of the dressing room was nauseating. Though it made me smile each time, he said she was the most beautiful thing he'd ever seen. Not to mention Emori's flirty giggling.

Isla banged on all day about Ivan, her mate, and his return from Russia today. He's been gone two months on business. He missed his daughter's first birthday, but it couldn't be helped. Isla has missed Ivan like crazy, and after my ceremony, they're going away for a while, just the two of them and their daughter. Good, fewer people to worry about when Astro turns up.

I will also talk to Thane about sending Moira, Starr and Esme somewhere safe. I couldn't bear it if anything happened to them because of me. Besides, this will be no place for little ones in the coming weeks. "Daddy will love your dress, baby."

Ever the little girl, Esme chose a pale pink party dress; she looked adorable, and I loved that Ivy's dress matched. Harmony and Emori went with lilac, and Isla and Starr chose lavender. Moira went with cream as it's tradition for the Queen Mother, or so she told me. The men will all wear light-colored suits, while Thane and I will wear white. If I ever find an outfit.

There are going to be a lot of people at this party for Harmony and Theo tonight. Thane said the Vampire King would be attending. I've never met Aidan Harrington, but Thane assured me they're friends. They met when Thane was ten, and Aidan was still the prince of Dalore, the Vampire Kingdom.

Thane spoke fondly of the vampire who saved him from a rogue so many years ago. There is now an alliance between kingdoms, which gave me an idea.

Where better for Starr and Esme to stay?

If the Vampire King is as strong as Thane says, then surely he can handle two young girls?

I have to make sure they're safe; I don't know what I'd do if anything happened to them. It would destroy my mate and the rest of the family. Having the girls staying here will be like a red rag to a bull when it comes to Astro. The man made sure I knew he'd kill everyone I love, and I do love those girls.

I'm hoping Moira will go too, but deep down, I know she won't want to leave Ronan. Moria is a force to be reckoned with, and there's no way she'll go into hiding while the men fight.

I'm all for girl power, and if Moira wants to stay, I won't say anything to oppose that.

Thane said he'd speak to Aidan when he arrived. He didn't see it being a problem and even thanked me for the suggestion. He doesn't need to thank me for anything.

Once this party is over, we have to prepare for my coronation. I'm both nervous and scared about that. But it's not just the coronation I'm worried about; it's the fact the full moon is the same night. This means Emori will be shifting for the first time. She's going to need all of us there for support. There's no way I'd let her go through something like that alone.

All being well, Emori will shift without too many problems. She and Tyler will then go do their thing while the rest of us see the girls off with Aidan.

Goddess, I pray nothing goes wrong. It will be the longest day of our lives, but we'll be able to sleep for a couple of days afterward because we're going to need it.

Then there's the secret I'm keeping from everyone. I'm not bothered about others, but I shouldn't be keeping things from Thane. It's not that I want to, but I have to keep us all safe. He can't sense a lie coming from me because I'm blocking him from doing so. I just hope I can keep it up for a while longer.

"Ready for your gender reveal tonight?"

I think Isla is more excited than Harmony about this damn gender reveal. We were all forced to pick dresses for that too. In five hours, I'll know if I'll be an aunt to a niece or nephew.

Harmony smiles while stroking her huge baby bump. "Yes, I am also ready to meet this little one."

"Harm," I shake my head with a chuckle. "You've only been pregnant a few weeks."

"Yeah, and I've lived a whole pregnancy in that time. Do you have any idea what it's like to get morning sickness, backache, swollen ankles, mood swings, and cravings all in a few weeks? Do you?" Everyone stares wide-eyed at Harmony's outburst. I don't take the mood swings to heart; it's just her hormones.

I sigh when Harmony bursts out crying. I switch seats with Starr and wrap my arms around my sister.

"I'm sorry." She sobs in my ear.

I smile and kiss her head. "It's okay, Harm. I know how much it's taking out of you. Everything will be okay, and soon, you'll have your little one in your arms."

She nods against my shoulder. "I love you."

"I love you too."

Within ten minutes, the driver pulls up outside the castle. I jump out of the car and rush inside with my bags. I know Thane was making his way over to us, but there's something important I need to do. 'Lyric, where are you going?'

I smile when I hear Thane's voice in my head. I'm already in our room, unpacking what I bought.

'I just need an hour. I have to do something, then I'll call for you. I have a surprise for you, so make sure you clear your schedule for the next couple of hours!'

'What are you up to?'

'You'll see.'

I cut the link and set about getting ready. I don't know what's gotten into me, but I couldn't stop thinking about it all day. I dreamed about it last night and though this could have waited until tonight; I don't want to wait; I want Thane's eyes to pop out of his head! After a shower, shaving all the areas a woman needs to shave, I get ready. I blow dry my hair, then braid it down my back. I cream every inch of my body, use deodorant, and a spritz of perfume. I don't bother with makeup; I rarely do because it irritates my face. Though I will wear it for Harmony's party. I slip on the white stilettos while humming to myself.

I look at myself in the mirror and smirk. The virgin white underwear is perfect. The lace bra pushes my boobs up my chest, the panties don't leave much to the imagination, and the garter and suspenders, holding up my stockings, make me look... 'Thane is going to have a heart attack when he sees you!'

'I hope I'll be giving him more than that, Aspen. Much more.'

'He's in trouble and doesn't even know it. Aspen laughs inside my head, and I roll my eyes with a smirk.'

'Think I'm doing the right thing?'

'Don't get cold feet now. You've gone to all this trouble; now own it, girl.'

'I know, but dominating him se.xually? What if I mess up?'

'You won't mess up, Lyric. You're going to drive Thane crazy. Give him what he secretly desires, and that's to be at your mercy!'

I laugh and nod at myself in the mirror. I can do this; I have nothing to worry about. Thane will love every moment of what I have planned. I cut Aspen off just as Thane walks into the room.

Thane's eyes widen. "What the... Lyric, you look..."

"Lock the door."

He swallows hard, locks the door, then walks closer to me. "Lyric,"

"Ah, ah, ah..." I wag my finger, stopping him from coming any closer. "I'm in charge. Think you can handle that?"

He looks me up and down. "Just this once."

Just this once...

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 42[1,740 words]

Lyric

Thane stands in the middle of our bedroom, his eyes constantly on me. I can see the cogs turning in his eyes, the anticipation of what I might do to him shining brightly.

"Take your shirt off." Slowly, he takes his shirt off. Goddess, his body drives me insane; he has so much perfect muscle tone.

I slide my hands around Thane's body as I circle him. I keep my eyes firmly locked with his as I unbuckle the belt on his pants. "Take them off."

I like this; I like having power over him, the power of him doing what I say. Goddess, it's the biggest turn-on I have ever had.

I don't know what's gotten into me, but my whole body is zinging.

As soon as Thane's pants are on the floor, I clasp his throat in my hand, and I lean into him. It's becoming increasingly hard to control my need for him. I want him inside me so badly, but I want to tease him for as long as possible. He handed control over to me just this once, and I want to take full advantage of that.

"Lose these," I whisper against his mouth while pulling at the waistband of his boxer briefs. Within a second, and without bending to remove them, Thane's boxer briefs are on the floor beside him.

I take a step back to admire the perfect view that is my man. Again, I walk around his body, and my fingertips slide over his perfect backside. Fu.ck, you could crack walnuts on that thing!

I clasp his shoulders from behind and briefly lean my forehead against his back. It's becoming so hard to keep standing. Every muscle in my body feels tight, I'm tingling all over, and I think I might cu.m just from looking at him.

"Lyric," He whispers my name as I kiss his right shoulder. As much as I want Thane right now, I want him to know I'm in charge.

I lift up and away from him and grab the chair beside me. "Sit down," I gently push Thane by the shoulders down into the chair now beneath him.

He sits quietly, watching me seductively move my hips while sliding my hands over my body. I then walk in front of him, smirking at the fact his co.ck is rock hard and standing to attention for me.

Thane lifts his hand to touch me. I slap him so hard across the face that it turns his head.

'That's one way to show Thane you're not afraid to dominate him.'

'Shut up, Aspen!'

"Put your hands by your sides right now!" Instantly, Thane does what I've told him to do. "How dare you touch me without permission?"

"I'm sorry." He whispers.

I smirk to myself. "Do you like my new underwear?" I ask as I hold onto Thane's knees and lean into him.

He breathes in my scent before his eyes follow the length of my body greedily. Thane bites his lower lip seductively and nods his head. His breathing spikes to a new level, making me smile.

"I bought it especially for you," I whisper in his ear. "You want to touch me right now, don't you?"

"More than you know."

My eyes close, and I smile before slowly kissing him, just a light kiss to his lips. I pull at the tie in my hair, allowing the braid to unravel. I lift and turn away. I slowly sway my body for him with my hands in my hair. I look over my shoulder and smirk at the look on Thane's face. His eyes have so much l**t for me, and I feel so powerful.

I bite my lower lip when I see the pearl of pre-cu.m seeping from Thane's co.ck, and my heart hammers in my throat, right down to my cl.it.

I unclasp my bra and drop it to the floor before turning to face Thane again. I lean into him and take his hand in mine. I smirk and lick my lips seductively while pushing his hand between my legs. "Rip them." I let go of Thane's hand when he fists my panties and rips them from my body. Goddess, he's so powerful. "Good boy," I gasp.

I straddle his lap, hovering over him while clasping his neck tightly. "Put your hand on me. Feel how wet I am for you."

Thane's hand is between my legs, feeling my soaking wet folds. My eyes roll to the back of my head, and I'm fighting so hard not to c.um too soon.

"Put your fingers inside me." He slides two fingers into me, and my back arches. "Oh, sh.it!" My legs shake as I try to force back my org.asm. "You see what you do to me, Thane? You see how hard it is for me to stop myself from cu.mming when you touch me? Nobody in the world could make me feel this way but you."

"Baby," He groans, still his fingers pump me vigorously. I can feel my arousal falling from me like a fountain, dripping all over Thane's hand. I've never been so wet!

"What's wrong, Thane? Is your co.ck throbbing?"

"Yes."

"You're going to cu.m before I've touched you. You can't cu.m yet." I take his face in one hand and clasp his shoulder while still riding his fingers.

I pull Thane's fingers from my body and slip them into my mouth, sucking my arousal from them, causing him to groan loudly.

"Clasp the sides of the chair." Thane does as I tell him. I clasp his shoulders and smile as he looks at me while I rub myself along his long, thick co.ck. "You're such a good boy," I kiss his neck, mate mark, throat, and lips. The sound of his groans sends shock waves throughout my whole body.

I grab the front of Thane's hair and pull his head back sharply. The feeling of his co.ck growing harder against my pus.sy is too much to bear. I can't take anymore; as much as I want to do this for him, I can't hold on; the wanting him inside me is too much. "Tell me what you want right now."

"I want you to ride my co.ck, hard. I want to touch you so badly because you're driving me crazy."

"I'm going to fu.ck you so hard." I breathe against his mouth. "Put yourself inside of me."

I gasp and moan as Thane takes his co.ck in his hand and pushes himself slowly into me. I lower myself onto him until I've eventually taken every inch of him into my body. Oh, my Goddess, it feels so good.

I move my body fast and hard against Thane's, and with so much aggression, I imagine we sound like wild beasts fuc.king!

"Lyric, please. Please let me touch you."

"Touch me."

Thane grabs my waist, pulling me down harder onto him. My body feels like it's going numb; I'm so high that I feel as though I'm floating somewhere in the sky.

"Can you feel me? Can you feel how high I am right now? Because I can feel you. I can feel how high and hot you are and how badly you need to cu.m. Can you feel me, Thane?"

"Yes. Goddess, yes, I can feel you."

I've never felt anything like this. This is everything I ever imagined it could be with Thane. My mate, my perfect man, my everything.

"Touch me here." I grab Thane's hands and place them on my breasts, my fingers flexing against his. "Hold me as hard as you can."

He looks at me curiously. He seems a little scared in case he hurts me, and I love him for that, but I want him to hurt me like this.

I smile at him. "Don't be afraid," I whisper while I stroke Thane's face and still my body. "You won't hurt me any more than I want you to." I gasp loudly with a groan as he squeezes my breasts between his hands. "Harder," I cry as I move my body against Thane's. "Harder, Thane! Fu.ck." I can feel my breasts bruising beneath his fingertips. "Fu.ck, yes! Oh, Goddess!"

"Lyric, fu.ck, I can't hold on any longer!"

I hook my hands around Thane's neck and ride him even harder.

"Let go," I whisper before smashing my lips against his. Our tongues entwine ferociously, Thane's arms wrap around my waist as we both cu.m violently around and inside of each other at the exact same time. I can't stop my body from convulsing. I shake hard against Thane, thudding like crazy.

I lay my head on his shoulder. Thane holds me so close to him and kisses my head. I moan softly at his fingertips, stroking my naked back gently.

I lift my ass without moving the rest of my body, pulling Thane's co.ck out of my body simultaneously. I then snuggle back into him.

"I'm sorry."

"Baby, don't ever be sorry. Goddess, you have no idea what you've done to me."

I lift up to look at Thane with a smile on my face. "I wanted to do this for you, Thane,"

"Then what's wrong, baby girl?" Thane strokes the back of his hand down my cheek.

I look into his eyes, unsure now is the time to tell him what I'm hiding from him, from everyone. There will be a time I can't hide the truth. Goddess, I don't know how I'm doing it now, but I am.

I have nothing to fear, I know that, but I'm nervous. Now isn't the time to spill my guts, especially not after s.ex. I'll wait a little longer and tell Thane the truth. I hope he understands why I did what I did.

I cup Thane's face, and he smiles, making me fall deeper in love with him. "I love you so much, Thane. I didn't know I would feel this way about you," I swallow back my emotions, and Thane tucks my hair behind my ear. "I don't know what I would do without you." Thane smiles again. "Lyric, I love you. You mean everything to me, don't you know that?" I nod my head without hesitation. This man has been good to me; he keeps me safe and shows me love, as no one else ever has. "I love you, and I know without a doubt that I always will."

"You kinda don't have a choice." I laugh.

Thane playfully rolls his eyes. "I love you despite the mate bond, Lyric. There won't be a day when I don't love you."

"I love you too, my King."

Please don't hate me for keeping things from you. When I tell you my reasons why, I hope you understand.

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 43[2,063 words]

Thorin

"Theo will sh.it a brick when he realizes." Tane laughs.

While pulling pranks is our specialty, I was a little worried when Tane decided we should mess with Theo's gender reveal. But the idea was too good to pass up. We might well end up losing our balls for upsetting Harmony. But it's just a little fun, and we'll fix things almost instantly. Almost.

"Yeah, but the look on his face will be priceless," I smirk and high-five my identical twin.

We look around the room at the faces of many here to celebrate with Theo and Harmony. This is all overkill, but Isla has always been the over-the-top type.

The room is decorated with all sorts of weird baby sh.it of pink and blue. There are cards on a table at the far end of the room. Isla set it up with two ballot boxes, one pink and one blue. Everyone has to write their name and whether they think the baby will be a boy or a girl. At the end of the party, one name will be chosen from the correct box, and the winner will receive a prize of a weekend away.

There are different colored balloons all over the room, banners, and cupcakes - blue and pink, of course. There's a bar and tables and tables of food.

Every woman is dressed in her finest, each man in a suit, and kids are dressed like little princes and princesses. A bit much if you ask me.

But what would I know about stuff like this?

The giant black balloon in front of the French doors catches my eye, making me smirk. Not long now.

Dad's parents arrived ten minutes ago, and already they seem enamored with Lyric. Lyric is smiling, but it's easy to see she's uncomfortable. I've got to admit, Lyric looks stunning. Her hair is fashioned in a bun at the back of her neck, and the long, silk-black dress she's wearing matches her hair color. Harmony is dressed the same as Lyric but in white.

It makes me chuckle because Tane and I always dress the same. Most people can't tell us apart, aside from family, but even they struggle sometimes. It's easy to tell Lyric and Harmony apart because of their hair color; even if featurewise, they are identical. "What the hell is he doing here?"

I look over to where Tane is nodding. Great, Aidan Harrington is all we need. The King of Vampires, dressed in his finest, is now standing with Thane. They're having a hushed conversation, and the Goddess only knows what they're up to now. Thane and Aidan have been friends since Thane was a kid. There's an understanding between our kingdoms. They help us; we help them. I don't much care for him myself, but I know not to make enemies.

"Thane must have invited him." I shrug like it's nothing because it isn't, not to me, anyway.

I close my eyes when the scent of tulips hits my nose. That smell has assaulted our senses at every party over the last six months. Ours because The Moon Goddess saw fit to give Tane and me the same mate. I don't know what Selene is playing at doing something so dumb.

It's rare for twins to share the same mate. Though it usually only happens with identical twins, two males could end up with one female and two females with one male. It has something to do with the egg splitting to make two babies, sharing one soul. Tane and I discussed what sharing a mate and everything involved would mean. It's not like we haven't shared a woman before, a woman we both fell in love with and wanted as our mate.

Charlie was everything to us from the moment we met her at six years old. At sixteen, the three of us entered into a secret relationship. We were each other's first everything; all we cared about was being together. But two years ago, Charlie's brother, our resident demon, found out about the three of us and sent Charlie away.

It's been hell without her, and Tane and I have struggled with this whole mate thing. We decided that Charlie wasn't coming back to us, and we should give our mate a chance. The only problem with that is not having a damn clue who she is. Now and then, Tane and I will scent her, but we never find her. At every party, we go around, checking every woman, but ours is never around. She hides from us, and it's clear that she doesn't want to be with us because she knows we're her mates.

As much as we'd like to, we can't force her, but she could at least face us and reject us instead of leaving us hanging like this. It's time we spoke to Thane and asked for his help. This cannot go on, and he must know which families bring young women with them. He'll help us narrow it down; he'll help us find her so we can put an end to this sh.it

"She's here."

"I know, Tane. But we can't do anything about it now; Theo and Harmony are about to pop the balloon."

"Not sure I'm up for this prank now."

I nod because I know how Tane feels. Knowing our mate is out there and avoiding us for the umpteenth time has taken the fun out of the joke.

"We'd like to thank everyone for coming today. It means a lot to both myself and my beautiful mate."

Theo smiles at Harmony, and she looks up and smiles back.

Ugh, nauseating!

"I think we've waited long enough to find out what this little bundle will be." Theo lays his hand on Harmony's swollen stomach.

Standing on either side of the balloon, Theo hands Harmony a pin. The excited smile on Harmony's face will be wiped off any moment now.

"Three," Everyone yells in unison, excitement in the air. "Two, one!" Harmony pops the balloon, and confetti litters the air.

The cheers began turning into gasps, and Harmony's tear-filled eyes look around the room. Theo has a face like thunder, and I press my hand to my mouth so as not to laugh out loud.

"What does green mean, Mommy?"

"Erm..."

"A sea monster!"

"Tristan!" Mom snaps.

"You two!" All eyes shoot to Tane and me. "What the hell do you think you're playing at?"

"Why are you blaming us?" I move my finger between Tane and myself.

"Yeah," Tane folds his arms across his chest. "This is something Tristan and Starr would do."

"Don't blame us," Starr scoffs. "Even we're not this cruel. Gotta say, boys, this was evil." Evil?

For the love of...

"Fine," I roll my eyes. "It was us, but it was a joke."

"Well, it's not very fuc.king funny!" Lyric's Alpha tone ripples through me, causing Tane and me to bear our necks in submission. "This moment meant everything to my sister, and you ruined it with your selfish games!" Everyone in the room has their necks bared, even my parents and grandparents, all but Thane. Yeah, this woman is more powerful than any of us imagined.

"Let me tell you something," Lyric comes closer, and I feel Tane stiffen beside me. "You ever pull something this stupid again, and I'll tear your balls from your bodies and feed them to you!" Fu.ck, she's mental!

"Where's the real balloon? And don't even think about lying to me because you'll regret it, you little sh. it's!"

Little sh.it's?

We're older than she is!

"Closet."

"Fetch it, Thorin, and hurry up!"

"Yes, my Queen."

I knew everyone would be annoyed, but damn. I thought Lyric was going to take my head off!

I bring the balloon back from the closet in the hallway and hand it to Theo. He snarls at me while Harmony sniffs. I get the joke wasn't funny, but damn, all the tears are a bit over the top. 'She's pregnant, your moron! I told you not to do this and that no one would find it funny. But you never listen.'

'Shut up, Decker!'

My Lycan scoffs but stops talking. Good. Like Tane's Lycan, Dolton; Decker is an as.hole!

"I swear, if we burst this one and yellow confetti pops out..."

"It won't." Tane rolls his eyes.

Harmony pops the balloon without warning, screaming in excitement when blue confetti fills the room. Theo scoops her up in his arms, and everyone cheers. A little boy. Nice.

I tip my head at Tane. He nods and follows me out of the room. We make our way to the courtyard because I need some air. I'm not bothered by how people reacted. Tane and I are used to disapproving looks and head shaking. But I can't breathe in that room. The smell of our mate, not knowing who she is, and being confused over Charlie is making me crazy. Charlie is the real reason we haven't pushed hard enough to find out who our mate is, and maybe that wasn't fair to our

mate. But it's not like she's sought us out. "I wonder why she hides from us?" Tane sits on the fountain's edge while I lean against the nearest tree.

"I don't know, Tane."

"Maybe she thought you wouldn't want her."

Our heads snap up, and our eyes lock on the girl biting her lower lip. She's dressed in black, a dress to her knees with long sleeves. Her long blonde hair is in a French twist, and she is utterly beautiful.

"Charlie."

Our little demon girl is standing right in front of us, and she is our mate!

How did we not know this?

Why has her scent changed?

Did Luke keep her from us?

Luke is Charlie's big brother. Demons are not good people, but Luke is not what people think he is. Sure, the man is evil, but he was raised with Lycans and is loyal to Thane. He's an asset to the Royal Pack and has never given anyone any cause to think otherwise. Just how long has Charlie been back?

Why did she hide from us?

We were in love; I thought that meant something!

"It's good to see you."

"You've been hiding from us. Why?"

I lay my hand on Tane's chest as he steps forward. "Easy, brother."

Tane is the hot-headed, quick-to-his-temper one. I'm more laid back and use my head.

"It wasn't my intention, Tane. Luke kept a barrier up so you couldn't find me. I begged him to drop it the moment I came home and sensed you were my mate's. But Luke wouldn't budge; he was worried you'd reject me. It didn't matter how many times I told him how much we loved each other, regardless of the mate bond. He was trying to protect me, I guess.

"But in doing so, Luke accidentally made me question everything. I was taught how to control my demon when he sent me away. I did well, and Luke allowed me to come home six months ago. Then he kept telling me how I had to be careful, that it didn't matter if you were my mates; Thane wouldn't allow us to be together. I'm a demon; who could honestly want me?

"Even though I was terrified of rejection, I watched the two of you from afar. I soon realized that you could smell my scent, and it confused me because Luke said you wouldn't and that my scent had changed. But I couldn't keep away from you; I just wanted to be near you. Tonight, I couldn't fight the need any longer."

"Charlie," I sigh. "Have we ever given you the idea we think any less of you because we're not the same?"

Charlie shakes her head. "I'm sorry, Thorin. I didn't know what to do, and I'm so scared that I've lost the two of you."

'She's ours, Tane. Our wish came true; the Goddess finally answered our prayer!'

'I know. Goddess, I can't believe it, Thorin. Little Charlie is our mate!'

I chuckle, and we make our way over to Charlie, engulfing her in our arms. She clings to us, sniffing back tears.

"You are ours, Charlie. You have always been ours. Are we yours?"

She nods against my chest. "Since the moment I met you. I love you both so much. I always have."

I close my eyes and breathe deeply. "We love you too."

'Thane isn't going to like this, Thorin.'

'I don't care what Thane thinks. Charlie is ours, and I, for one, won't give her up. Thane will just have to get used to it.'

'And if he forces us to give her up?'

'Then we take her and leave.'

Nothing and no one will tear us apart; I'll make sure of that!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 44[1,979 words]

Thane

"Wait, so he's dead?" Theo asked the question I was about to ask. "Does it look like he's dead?"

"Yes! Voldemort just killed him! What was the point of this story?"

"I don't know, Theo; I've not watched this movie before either. Goddess, can't you just watch the movie without asking so many questions? You can't possibly enjoy the story or even get what's going on if you don't shut up!" Lyric chuckles at her sister's words.

Lyric and Harmony have forced us to watch all eight Harry Potter movies for the past few days. It's taken days because we've been working on training and plans for when Astro arrives. Blaze and Tyler have been doing a lot of the work I should be doing. But Theo figured Harmony and Lyric needed this time with us before everything goes to sh.it.

Two movies a day, though?

I'm losing my damn mind! It's not my thing, but I've pushed through it for my mate.

'So, does he die?' I ask through the mind link.

'Kind of,' Lyric chuckles back.

'What would be the point of the story if the main character dies?'

'Not everyone lives in a fight for survival, Thane, including the main character!'

'I gathered that when he lost his parents, Sirius, Dumbledore, Tonks, and Lupin, not to mention half his school friends.

Lyric snickers and continues to watch the movie. Harmony gasps at specific points, and I roll my eyes more than once. But Jagger reminds me how much Harmony and Lyric love both the books and the movies. Plus, they missed out on a few, and they're seeing the last movies for the first time, as Theo and I are. It makes sense as to why Theo wanted to screen them in the cinema room and not on regular TV. He wanted to give our girls the cinema experience. I would have been happy watching it on TV. Who'd have thought a seventy-five-inch TV wouldn't be big enough?

I smile when Lyric lays her head on my shoulder. I kiss her head and lay mine against hers.

'I smell something!

'What are you talking about, Jagger? All I smell is Lyric.

'It's faint, as though someone is blocking us from...! Jagger growls. 'Aspen says she's allowing me to smell as much as possible. But she can't unblock what Lyric did fully. Lyric is hiding something important.' 'Why and what would Lyric be hiding from me? We tell each other everything!'

'You might wanna check again.

What the hell?

Lyric wouldn't keep things from me, but Jagger wouldn't lie either. He has no reason to lie to me; we're a team. But I thought Lyric and I were a team, and now I find out she's keeping stuff from me.

I don't know what happened in the last half hour of the film; I couldn't concentrate. All I could think about was what Jagger said.

Perhaps there are some other powers Lyric hasn't told me about. Maybe she's worried about something she doesn't know how to talk to me about. That could be a number of things. The coronation is tomorrow, plus Harmony looks as though she's ready to pop any day. The size she is, I doubt she'll make six weeks. Or maybe she will; she's not that far off now.

I didn't hear Theo and Harmony leave; I was lost in thought. I can't get my head around this secret-keeping thing. I thought we had an understanding after everything that happened before. No more secrets, that's what Lyric said. I didn't have my mate down as someone who'd keep things from me. I scanned her for lies while she watched the movie. But I didn't find any, so I'm even more confused now.

"Thane? Thane!" I turn my head to Lyric. "Did you not hear me calling you?"

"Evidently not."

Lyric furrows her brow at my bored tone. "What's wrong with you?"

"There's nothing wrong with me, Lyric. What's wrong with you?"

"Thane. What the hell? You're being weird."

I roll my eyes and get out of my seat. I'm annoyed that she's keeping things from me and clearly has no intention of saying anything!

"Wait! Thane, please tell me what's wrong. Have I done something to upset you?"

I take a deep breath and rake my fingers through my hair. I have better things to do than waste my time on this. But I also don't want to act childish toward my mate. I want Lyric to trust me and come to me when something is bothering her. I want her to tell me in her own time what she's keeping from me. But I'm also not a patient man.

I turn to look at Lyric standing behind me. She really doesn't know what's wrong, and why should she? It's not like she can read my mind. Though she can read my emotions, she doesn't need to with the way I'm acting.

"What are you keeping from me, Lyric? And don't say nothing; Jagger already told me you are."

"I... I..." Mouth agape and eyes wide, Lyric struggles to articulate what she wants to say. "How does he know? No one should know!"

"Know what, Lyric? What aren't you telling me? Baby, whatever it is..."

"I'm sorry, Thane. I'm so sorry."

I sigh and pull Lyric into my arms. She sniffs while rubbing her cheek against my chest.

"I didn't mean to do it, Thane. I know I shouldn't have, especially not from you. But I was scared. I still am."

"Scared of what? Tell me, and I can make it all better."

"We have to keep it a secret for as long as possible. I'm using every bit of magic I can spare without it drawing Astro here."

I grab Lyric's shoulders and push her away from me. "You're using your fairy magic? Are you crazy?"

"Don't yell at me! I don't care if I'm crazy; this is too important. I'm not using enough for Astro to notice, Thane. Even I was; I just want it to be over."

"We all want it to be over, Lyric. I'm sending my sisters and yours away to the fuc.king Vampire Kingdom to keep them safe. My parents will be without their children, Theo will be without his mate and child, and you're playing with their lives! Fu.ck!"

I hiss when a crack echoes across the room; the second Lyric's hand connects with my face. Sh.it, she hits like a man!

"Don't you ever speak to me like that again. How dare you accuse me of playing with our family's lives? Who the hell do you think you are?"

"I am your mate and your king!"

"Yes," Lyric nods. "You are both of those things, and I am your mate and queen. You want my respect? It works both ways, Thane. You were the one who said I was your equal. Well, it's time you started treating me as such."

I close my eyes and take a deep breath. I know Lyric is correct in what she's saying, and I'm not being fair. Lyric would never put our family in deliberate danger; I know she wouldn't. It was Lyric's idea, after meeting Aidan, the Vampire King, to send our siblings to his castle.

Aidan was quite taken with Lyric and instantly agreed to protect our loved ones. He didn't ask for anything in return, which would have been his right, and he swore to protect them with his life.

Isla will be leaving with her mate and Ivy after Lyric's coronation, leaving for a place they'll be safe. Starr and Esme will also be going after the coronation with Aidan. However, Harmony refuses to leave until after the baby is born. Even though Lyric gave Harmony their parents warning, my brother's mate won't budge. I could order her to go, but I don't want to cause the girl more stress than is necessary.

Emori won't leave Tyler, though having her here would greatly help. No one knows Astro the way Emori does, and her input would help immensely.

Mom flat-out refused to go anywhere and wouldn't hear another word on the matter. She won't leave Dad, just as Grandmother won't leave Grandfather. I'm not happy about that, but I won't force either of them.

"Do not slap me again... Outside of the bedroom." Lyric raises an eyebrow while trying not to smirk. "I'm sorry, okay? I know you're doing everything you can to protect our family. But you said it yourself. Using your fairy magic means Astro will find you." "Losing control of my fairy magic will draw Astro here. I'm using the equivalent of a drop of water worth a day. I've spoken to Emori about this without telling her what I'm hiding. I just needed some advice. That's how I know Astro doesn't know anything. We still have a spy to flush out, Thane, so I had no choice. I would never have done this if there was any other way."

"Any other way to what, Lyric?"

Lyric lets out a long, shaky breath while taking my hands. "To hide our baby."

"Say what now?"

'Pup!' Jagger yells so loudly inside my head that I stagger back a little. 'Lyric is having our pup, Thane!'

'Did you have to shout? You almost deafened me! I can't smell any pup, Jagger. Are you sure Lyric is pregnant?'

'Breathe in, Thane. Lyric dropped the shield for us, so you'll be able to scent our pup now!'

I breathe in, and my eyes cloud over. The scent of my child inside its mother fills my senses. I feel the warmth of love filling me for my pup. Oh, Goddess above!

"How far along?"

"Not even a week."

I close my eyes for a moment. I don't know how to process this information!

"How did I not know instantly? Lycans always know, Lyric."

"I can't answer that, Thane. Perhaps you did, but it didn't register after our talk about waiting. I don't know; all I know is I sensed it a few days ago and instantly blocked everyone from knowing."

"It was a knee-jerk reaction. I didn't know what to do! After Emori told us about the spy sending information about me back to Astro, I panicked. I was scared, Thane! We don't know who that person is yet, and I won't risk anything happening to our child. I didn't even know I'd want it this much, but I do, and I'll do whatever it takes to keep this baby safe. No matter what it takes, Thane, even if that means using my magic."

I stare at Lyric for a moment, her eyes shining with tears, and I fall deeper in love with her. She already loves our child so much she'd do anything for them. She kept things from me, but she did what she thought was right at the time. However, "How long would you have kept this from me, Lyric?"

"Until tomorrow night. I was going to wait until after the ceremony and surprise you. We would have to keep it from everyone else for a while, but I swear, I was going to tell you. But it's all ruined, and now you hate me."

I don't sense any lies. Everything Lyric just said is the truth.

'Lyric is upset, and so is Aspen. Jagger growls.

'That's your fault for outing her!'

'Shut up! Make her smile.

I stroke the back of my hand down Lyric's soft cheek. "I don't hate you, Lyric; I never could. I love you with all that I am. I was hurt that you felt you had to hide this from me. But I do understand."

I place my hand on Lyric's stomach and close my eyes. I can feel my baby in there. I'm going to be a dad!

I lean my forehead against Lyric's. "Can you allow me to keep feeling this, Lyric? I don't want to be blocked from this."

Lyric nods her head against mine. "I promise I won't block you out. But you can't act differently, Thane. No one can suspect anything until I can no longer hide it. Can you do that?"

"Yes. I'll do anything for you, Lyric, you and our baby."

"I love you, Thane."

"I love you, too."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 45[1,999 words]

Lyric

I am so nervous! It's been a long morning, and for a while there, I didn't think I'd have a dress for my coronation. Marco still hadn't turned up, and I was having a panic attack.

Moirra called the man. But apparently, he was having problems finishing my outfit and wouldn't make it on time. I knew it was too good to be true! I almost had a breakdown, even with everyone telling me we'd sort it out. Sort it out?

There I was in my bathrobe, makeup done, hair down and curled slightly at the ends and no dress!

How could that be sorted?!

I felt lost for a few moments. I didn't know what to do or where to turn. I had to have a ceremonial dress, and nothing else would do. Then Lucy walked in, full of smiles and a dress bag in her hand.

"My darling, don't be upset. Grandma has just the thing."

Lucy opened the dress bag to reveal the most stunning druid-style dress I had ever seen. Silk bust and flowing bodice, with lace under bust and split long sleeves, all white and gorgeous. I was so shocked at its beauty that I couldn't close my mouth! I got to my feet and reached out to touch the dress. It felt so soft between my fingers, and I couldn't help biting my lip while giggling.

"Lucy,"

"This was my coronation dress. I had hoped Moirra would wear it for her ceremony, but her mother had something more traditional to their Scottish roots in mind." Lucy cupped my cheek and smiled kindly. "I have waited for this day for many years. "Regardless of your Wolf and Fairy heritage, you are perfect for my grandson. I may not be your grandmother by blood, and regardless of still looking like I'm in my twenties," I laughed as she playfully rolled her eyes. "I love you, your sister, and even your aunt as though you were my granddaughters. So, as your grandmother, it would be my honor if you'd wear my ceremonial dress."

I couldn't help myself; I threw myself into her arms. She had no idea how much I needed to hear that. This woman loved my sister, aunt, and me so effortlessly, and we loved her just as much.

"Oh, Sweetheart." She kissed my head.

"Thank you so much. This means everything to me, Grandma."

"You're welcome. Now, let's get you dressed. It's almost time!"

Now, I'm standing alone, taking deep breaths before making my way to Thane. I feel sick! Thousands of people are out there, and they'll all be looking at me.

Oh, Goddess! I can't go out there!

"You look as though you're about to run. You wouldn't be planning to run out of my brother on one of the biggest days of your lives, would you?"

I look at the man in front of me and scowl. "Of course not, Tristan. I'm freaking out! I don't know if I can go out there by myself."

My young brother-in-law, looking handsome in his cream three-piece suit, smiles. "That's why I'm here, Gorgeous. Starr and I wondered if you'd like me to walk you down the aisle?" "Really?" Tristan nods with a smile. "Oh, my Goddess, thank you!"

I'd hug him for his kindness, but I can't bring myself to do so. Though I take his hand and squeeze, my way of showing affection.

"Shall we?" He offers his arm, and I slip mine into the crook of his elbow with a giggle.

I take a breath, trying to settle the butterflies in my stomach.

'That's not butterflies, Lyric; that's our pup.'

I smile while unconsciously laying my hand on my stomach. I have a slight bump already, but I'm not worried about anyone noticing. The tiny amount of magic I'm using will prevent people from seeing and scenting my pregnancy.

I know it was risky to use my Fairy magic, but I didn't have a choice. I can't risk Astro knowing about the baby because he'd do something to cause me to lose my child. I'd rather die than let that happen.

I'll do whatever it takes to keep my pregnancy hidden until I no longer can. Thane and I hadn't planned on having children until Astro was no longer an issue. But we were reckless, so it was bound to happen.

I spoke to Emori about Astro and my magic without letting on about the baby. Emori said that now that the connection between herself and Astro was broken, it would weaken him for a while, as it did with Mom and Emily. Each death left him unable to do much for almost two months each time. We have around that long to prepare but never become complacent because doing that would be stupid. We should never underestimate Astro's will to succeed.

When I asked about using my Fairy magic to conceal a person, Emori said using a small amount wouldn't draw Astro's attention. Concealing one person would be okay. However, I wouldn't be able to hide myself from him more the pity. I went overboard, blocking the baby from Thane, and thankfully, he forgave me.

"You're not gonna throw up, are you?"

"No," I chuckle. "I'm fine. Let's go. Thane is waiting."

Walking down the flowery makeshift aisle, I keep my eyes on Thane, waiting for me on stage. I can't help smiling. I've never seen Thane look so handsome, almost angelic. His crisp white suit and matching dress shoes, slick-backed hair, the intricate crown on his head, and that bright smile - my perfect mate. I swallow back my emotions when I see a tear fall from his eyes.

Mom used to say you'll know your man loves you when you walk towards him on your special day, and he sheds a tear. He will because he won't be able to believe his eyes. To him, you are the most beautiful creature he has ever seen, and he will feel like the luckiest man in the world.

I know I'm the luckiest woman. Everything I ever wanted in a mate is standing right in front of me. Thane Knight, Lycan King.

'And you are about to become his Queen, officially!'

I don't take my eyes off Thane, even though I know everyone is looking at me.

'They're in awe of how beautiful you look in this dress!

'Too many people, Aspen.'

'Just stay calm.

Tristan leads me up the steps to the stage altar. He places my hand in Thane's and then bows slightly.

"Tristan?" He looks at me with a devastating smile, and I see just how handsome he is. "Thank you."

Tristan smiles, tips his head, then leaves to take his seat next to Starr. I look at Thane, smiling at me, and I can't help but smile in return.

'You look stunning. You've taken my breath away, baby!' Thane tells me through the mind link.

'You don't look too bad yourself, handsome.'

"Ladies and Gentlemen," Ronan's voice rings out through the surround sound speakers positioned around the grounds. Thane told me it would help the thousands in attendance to hear what's going on. There are also jumbotrons for those who can't see the coronation up close. "Royalty from across the globe, honored guests, family, and pack members of Lykos. We are gathered here today to welcome an extraordinary young lady.

"As you all know, my son, your King, recently found his mate. A young lady who will today become your Queen. Lyric Knight!"

My heart pounds as thousands of people cheer. I close my eyes for a second and absorb this feeling. I'm a little overwhelmed, but I'm happy. The people of Lykos have accepted me, and though some might not agree, I am their Queen. "Lyric," I look at Ronan. "Please repeat after me,"

So I do.

"I, Lyric Knight, accept the position of Queen of Lykos, ruler of Lycans and Werewolves worldwide. I promise to be fair and just, to put my people first, and to be a mother figure to all. I swear to stand beside my mate in all things until the Goddess takes us." Thane smiles widely. 'Well done, baby.

I blush at my mate's praise. Not that I needed it, but it's nice nonetheless.

"If you would both give me your right hands."

I swallow hard and hold out my hand to Ronan. Even though it stung, I don't gasp when he pricks my finger with a platinum dagger. That dagger looks thousands of years old!

Ronan holds my hand over a platinum bowl that matches the dagger, squeezing my finger and allowing four drops of blood to hit the liquid inside. He releases me, and my finger heals instantly. He repeats the process with Thane, then sits the bowl on a tall podium. "Lyric, if you could turn to face your subjects."

Oh, Goddess, please don't let me throw up!

I do as Ronan asks, and everyone is staring at me!

"As former Queen of Lykos, it is now my duty and great honor to pass the crown to Lyric."

Moirra stands beside me, holding a crown that matches Thane's crown but is more feminine and not as large in her hands. I swallow the lump in my throat when she places it on my head, and the crowd cheers again.

Thane takes my hand, also facing the crowd. Moirra then hands Thane a golden goblet, which he drinks from. As he removes the goblet from his mouth, Jagger flashes in his eyes.

Moirra takes the goblet and hands it to me. She tips her head as if to say, 'Drink' I drink, feeling the tang of blood on my tongue, mine and Thane's blood combined. Moirra takes the goblet the moment I swallow, and Aspen pushes forth.

I pray Ronan doesn't ask me to shift. Everyone knows I'm a wolf, not a Lycan, and they seem to accept us. They don't know about the Fairy side of me yet, and I'd like to keep it that way. However, these people cannot know Aspen is the white wolf, not yet.

"Jagger and Aspen, join hands." Jagger takes Aspen's hand without looking away from the people before us. "Your souls are entwined, and you are the backbone of our King and Queen. Your people will look to you in times of peril. Do you both swear to protect our people forsaking all others?"

'We do.' They answer in unison before stepping back and handing control over to us.

"Now, by the power vested in me by the Moon Goddess Selene, and our Mighty Fenrir, I pronounce you, Lyric Knight, Queen of Lycans and Werewolves!"

The mind link opens up as howls rent the air. Thousands and thousands of voices fill my head, welcoming me, overwhelming me, and causing pain in my head all at once.

I gasp, my heart pounding, and I'm starting to sweat. Thane takes my face in his hands, and the voices stop.

"Are you okay?"

I nod. "It hurt a little, all those voices at once."

"It will get easier, baby. You will learn to block them out and when to let them in." I nod and accept his soft kiss.

Thane leads me back to the castle, into the throne room where the party is set up, and people follow us.

Two medieval platinum thrones sit on the stage at the back of the room. The intricate Lycan designs are something else. The padding of blue and gray, the Knight colors, are stunning. Thane helps me to the throne on the right; only then does he take his seat. I look around the vast room filled with family, Royals from around the world, and different species here to celebrate this day with us. Outside, the lower-ranking subjects will be partying the night away, watching the goings on in this room on the jumbotrons. Everything has changed today. I am no longer just plain old Lyric Ryker. I am Lyric Knight, Queen of Lykos!

'You were never plain old Lyric Ryker. You've always been a Queen to me.

I chuckle at my wolf. 'That was so cheesy, Aspen. But thank you, I love you.'

'I love you too. Enjoy this night, Lyric. The war is almost upon us. It cannot be avoided. But I will be with you till the end, my friend.'

'To the end.'

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 46[1,959 words]

Thane

"You were wonderful out there."

Lyric smiles at me as I sway us on the dance floor. "I was terrified." I won't tell her that it was evident to me. Every else seemed oblivious. "I love you, Thane."

I smile and kiss her softly. "I love you, too."

The party is in full swing, and Lyric and I do the rounds. Meeting Alphas and Luna's from packs far and wide, Lyric is wonderful. She commands the room as a Queen should, and all bow respectfully.

"Thane?" I look down at my baby sister, looking precious in her party dress, smiling up at me. "Will you dance with me?"

How can I refuse that little face?

"Go on." Lyric chuckles and kisses my cheek. "I'll talk with Starr until you're done."

I kiss Lyric, then hold my hand out to Esme. She takes it with a smile and leads me to the dancefloor. All eyes are on us, but Esme seems oblivious. She's too short, so I pick her up, and she giggles while laying a hand on my cheek as I move us around the dancefloor. "Thane?" "Yes, my pretty princess?"

"I'm going to miss you when I go away."

"I'll miss you too, Esme. But you understand why it has to be this way, don't you?"

Esme nods her head. "Because you want to keep me safe." "That's right."

This is challenging for me, too. I've been away from my family many times, but I always knew they were safe in the castle. Now, I must rely on someone else to look out for my youngest sisters. I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't trust Aidan with my life. "I'll be able to come home soon?"

I smile. Esme is looking for reassurance from her big brother that this isn't forever.

"Of course. It's just for a little while, sweetheart. Once all of this is over, I'll come get you myself and bring you home."

Esme wraps her arms around my neck and lays her head on my shoulder. "I love you, Thane."

"Not as much as I love you." I kiss her head while rubbing her back.

"What about us, short stuff?"

Esme lifts and looks at Thorin and Tane. "I love you guys, too." She reaches for Thorin, who takes her from me.

I still need to have words with the two of them about Charlie. I don't know how I didn't realize they were mates. I'm not about to demand they give Charlie up; that would be vile of me. If they're okay sharing, then it's none of my business. However, as King, it's my duty to give them my blessing. Twins having the same mate is rare. But the Moon Goddess knows what she's doing - I hope. Besides, it's not like Throin, Tane, and Charlie weren't a throuple for years before Luke sent her away.

Ah, they didn't and don't know I knew that. But I know everything that happens around this place. Nothing goes on without my knowledge.

Why didn't I say something years ago?

I was waiting for the boys to come to me. Plus, Lycans live a very long life, and not everyone finds their mate at a young age.

Who was I to stop them from having fun while they could?

I leave Esme with the terror twins and make my way over to Lyric. She's laughing at something Starr is saying. But my eyes land on Tristan. He's looking off into the distance, and it's easy to see something is bothering him. Someone else I need to speak to before long.

"Baby?"

"Hey!" Lyric's bright smile brings one to my lips.

"Let's go meet people. Starr."

"Go on, steal her from me." Starr laughs, and I playfully roll my eyes while steering Lyric away.

There are one or two people I'd like to introduce Lyric to. She's met Aidan before, but Xale and Brody have yet to meet my mate. We need allies in this war against Astro; those two would be a force to be reckoned with. I have a few others in my corner, but a king can never have too many allies.

I lead my beautiful Queen toward Xale and his wife Lia, or Xylia, as is her real name. Lia is a beauty to behold. Long auburn hair falls with her natural curls around her shoulders. She has the beauty of the purest angel, but Lia is not a woman to be messed with. Then there's Xale, seven feet in height, which is typical for his kind, Dragons. As is being built like a bolder. Over twelve thousand years of age, both still look to be in their twenties, and they are immortal.

Brody stands beside, Xale. Brody is a big bas.tard of a man, as tall as Xale and bigger built than the two of us. Bear shifters are massive, but Brody is the King of Bears, so he's the biggest. He's also a formidable opponent, and I need his help. I need both of them right now. The more Kingdoms I have under my belt and at my disposal, the better.

"Ah, Thane," Xale gets out of his seat and walks around the table, bringing Lia with him. "I wondered when you'd bring your Queen to meet us. Hello, dear, I'm Xale, King of Dragons, and this is my mate, Xylia. But you can call her Lia." "Everyone calls her Lia." Brody snorts. "My name is Brody, Bear King. Nice to meet you."

"Nice to meet you all." Lyric shakes hands with Xale, Lia, and then Brody. "You didn't tell me the King of Bears and the King and Queen of Dragons would be here."

"Sorry?"

'That's your way of an apology?' Xale's voice booms in my head, and Lyric's, if the gasp that came from her is anything to go by.

'Don't worry; it's a gift of ours.' Lia's soft British accent washes over us.

Xale and Lia are older than dirt and have always spoken with the same British accent. The accent of evil, as Thorin and Tane call it, which never goes down well with our grandmother. She takes great offense.

"After nine thousand years together, I still haven't gotten used to him doing that."

"You're how old!?" Lyric screeches in shock, drawing all eyes to us. I flick my hand, silently ordering everyone to mind their own business. "I'm sorry." Lyric mumbles.

"No need to apologize. We are ancient." Xale laughs. "We're Dragons, little one; we tend to live forever."

Dragons can only be killed by their own kind, though there are ways to injure them. Injuring them could leave them in hibernation for many years while they heal. They can also die if they lose their mate. Because they've been together for so long, a broken heart will take them. There are some magic spells out there that can kill a dragon, but it would take something extremely powerful.

Xale is the son of the first Dragon, a monster of the water, a demon of sorts, The Leviathan. That is someone nobody wants to mess with, but if I could convince him to help, he'd take Astro out in a heartbeat. However, Leviathan does not help anyone, so there's no point in bringing it up with Xale. I'm hoping Xale agrees to help.

On the other hand, Brody is not easily persuaded into helping fight wars that don't concern him. Brody is a powerful man, strong and dangerous. Having him on our side would help immensely.

"Well, you two are thousands of years old. Thane is one hundred and fifty-seven, so how old are you?" Xale chuckles when Lyric points to Brody.

Brody smirks. "Not as old as these two fossils. I'm eighty."

"Ooh. So where's your mate?"

"I'm not mated yet."

Something in the way Brody said that has me wondering. I think Brody knows who his mate is, and either they aren't old enough to feel the mate bond yet, or they rejected him. Maybe he rejected them. It's none of my business either way.

'I wondered if I could have a word with the two of you?' I speak to Xale and Brody through the mind link. It's not hard to talk to others this way when you're King.

'Now?' Xale narrows his yes.

'It's important, Xale. It concerns my mate's safety.'

Xale looks at Lyric and smiles. She and Lia are talking as if they've always known one another. I'm surprised because Lyric doesn't seem to make friends easily. 'Fine, let's go to your office!'

"Lyric?" She turns to me with a smile. "Could you wait here with Lia for a moment?"

"Why? Where are you going?"

"I just need to have a word with Xale and Brody."

'It's imperative, and I need to do it now. I continue through our mate link. 'We need their help in this war against Astro. Both Xale and Brody are formidable opponents, Lyric. Yes, we have Vampires, Demons, and Witches. But we need the Dragons, Bears, Elves, Lions, Kelpies, and even the Deities. Is that overkill? Maybe. But Astro isn't playing, and nor am I.

"Okay." She whispers.

I kiss her softly. "I won't be long, baby."

'Tristan, keep an eye on Lyric until I return.' My brother tips his head from across the room.

I lead Xale and Brody to my office. I close the door behind me and offer them a seat while I take mine behind my desk.

Xale brushes down the lapels of his light blue suit jacket. "So, what's this about?"

"The Fairy King."

"Gods, is that bastard still alive?"

"Unfortunately, Brody, yes."

I sit and explain everything that's happened since meeting Lyric. I tell Xale and Brody of my mate's connection to the Fairy King and what he wants from her. I even tell them about Emori, all she did, and how Tyler changed her. Their eyes widen now and again. "As you can see, I need all the help I can get."

"It seems you have plenty of help, Thane. Now you want Dragons and Bears at your disposal?"

"They're hardly disposable, Xale. None of you are." I look at Brody, who nods slightly. "I have many on my side, but with you there to help, Astro wouldn't stand a chance."

"That's all well and good, Thane, but this isn't our fight."

"Brody is right. Blue Fire Clan has enough problems of our own. I'm out."

"Me too. The people of Nightshade won't be easily convinced to help."

Well sh.it!

"Just like that? Both of you?" I look between them, and Brody nods his head. "Xale," I sigh. "I know you don't owe me anything, but..." Lyric will kill me for this, but there is no other choice. "Lyric is pregnant."

"Your mate isn't pregnant; I would have sensed it. Her sister is pregnant."

I sigh. "Yes, Harmony is pregnant. But so is Lyric. Look, this stays between us, but Lyric is using her Fairy magic to conceal the pregnancy from everyone but me. Of course, I was concerned because she'd previously told me using her magic would draw Astro to her. But apparently, a small amount won't.

"We can't risk Astro knowing anything, so it has to be this way. You have kids, Xale; you know you wouldn't let anything happen to them." He nods. "That's why whatever I have to do to keep them safe, I'll do it. Even if that means tying myself to the both of you, yours to do whatever you want with."

"Calm down, Hercules." Xale chuckles. I hate it when he calls me that! "I understand what you're saying, but still..."

'Xale! Thane!' Lia's panicked voice comes through the mind link like a fog horn blasting away. 'Come to the gardens quickly. Somethings happening with Lyric!'

I take off with a speed I didn't know I possessed to reach my mate. Too many scenarios are playing out in my head.

Astro is here.

Someone attacked Lyric.

The traitor has her cornered.

Something happened to our baby.

My heart is in my throat, and my gut is by my feet. Whatever is happening, I'm ready to fight. I cannot lose Lyric; I just can't!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 47[2,363 words]

Lyric

"Yes, we've known the Lycan Royals since their conception. It wasn't until William took the throne that peace was made between our species. Lycans Kings before William had always been arrogant, and we were once enemies."

Lia has been telling me about Thane and Xale's friendship. It was interesting, to say the least. Now, she's telling me what as.sholes Lycans once were. I had to hold in the laughter because I didn't want everyone looking at me like I was crazy.

But I do find the Dragon Queen amusing. I really like her, and I hope we'll be good friends. She looks a little older than me, but the woman is thousands of years old. Lia has seen so much in her lifetime, many terrible and wonderful things, the changing of the world, and yet, Lia seems so grounded.

Lia also has eighteen children. Eighteen! The eldest is over eight thousand years of age, the youngest at just three. I was gobsmacked when Lia told me, but then I realized it is quite normal for someone who has lived as long as Lia has. "The day I met Lucy," Lia continues. "It was instant friendship."

I smile because I understand that feeling well. The moment I met Lucy, we immediately connected. Lucy is a wonderful woman, my new grandmother, and I already love her dearly.

"I was there at Lucy's coronation and at the birth of her firstborn. Ronan was such a beautiful baby. I was also there when Thane was born. Now he was precious."

'Mommy,' My eyes slide around the room, trying not to be noticeable. The sound of a small child calling for his mother can be heard in my mind. I didn't even know anybody had brought children with them!

'Levi, what's wrong?'

I furrow my brow while looking at Lia.

How am I hearing this conversation?

'Mommy, come quick!'

'Levi, where are you?'

'In the garden with the fountain.'

That's the private gardens! No one is permitted to go there.

Lia rushes away, and I automatically follow. I push past people, trying to keep up with Lia, yet no one pays us any attention. Not that I want them to, but who doesn't bat an eyelid when two Queens rush through a room? Whatever, it doesn't matter.

"Where are the damn gardens?" Lia stops running and, in a panic, grabs my hand. "Please. My baby needs me; he's just three years old."

"Follow me." With Lia's hand in mine, I lead her to our private garden.

As soon as we get there, I see a little blond-haired, blue-eyed boy standing beside the water fountain. He is the most adorable baby I have ever seen. He's wearing a cream three-piece suit, and his hair is slicked back, making him look like a little gentleman. "Levi!" Lia lets go of my hand and

rushes over to her son. Sliding to her knees, she wraps him up in her arms. "Baby, what's wrong? Are you hurt?"

"No, Mommy." Goddess, he has the sweetest voice! "Someone keeps calling me, but I can't find them."

"Calling you?" Levi nods at his mother. "What did they sound like? What did they say?"

"It was a little girl. Her spirit was calling out to me. She said I have to find her..." Levi stops abruptly. He's looking at me and smiling curiously.

I furrow my brow as he walks toward me. I sit on the stone wall surrounding the fountain. I hadn't even realized I was moving backward until the back of my knees hit the wall. I can't take my eyes off the little boy now standing between my legs. "What is your name?"

"My name is Lyric."

Levi smiles widely. "I hear her."

"Hear who?"

I gasp when he reaches out and lays his tiny hand on my stomach. "It's okay; I am here now. I will protect you, I promise." He leans down and kisses my belly.

A strange warmth fills me, and a beautiful blue light surrounds us. The world around us fades, and all I see is the little boy in front of me. He knows I'm pregnant. I don't see how this is possible; he shouldn't be able to know anything! Goddess, I am so confused, but at the same time, I feel unbelievably calm. Levi is doing this, keeping me calm. I don't know how I know that, but I sense it.

"What are you doing?"

"She needs me."

"Who, Levi?"

"She doesn't have a name yet; you haven't chosen one." He smiles sweetly. "Your daughter, she needs me."

"My-my daughter?" A lump forms in my throat and tears sting my eyes. "How do you know about my baby?"

Levi shrugs his little shoulders. "Fairy magic doesn't work on me."

What the fu.ck?

How could this baby know I used Fairy magic?

Goddess, nothing makes sense!

"It's okay; I won't tell anyone your secret. My grandpa gave me special powers. Do you know my grandpa? Leviathan?"

Leviathan?

"The water dragon?"

"Yes! He's a God who can grant his descendants special powers."

I'm struck dumb by how well this three-year-old can speak and how smart he is. I mean, the kid speaks as though he were hundreds of years old! To be fair, he is being raised by parents older than Jesus. "Your daughter's spirit calls to me. I am her mate."

"Mate?"

What the hell is this?

My child hasn't even been born, and she already has a mate?

What kind of bullsh.it is this?

"Yes. Grandpa says that once in a while, two souls bond upon first meeting, even if one hasn't been born. Something calls one soul to another, and they cannot rest until they are together.

"Grandpa says it could be because those two souls knew one another in a previous life. I feel like we did know each other long ago. I was meant to be here today. I was meant to find you, so I could find her."

I close my eyes and take a deep breath. I don't know how to process all of this!

"Don't worry; I will protect her with my life and never let her down; our souls are entwined now."

I don't know what any of this mean! I feel sick, but I smile when Levi wraps his arms around my waist and lays his head on my stomach. I stroke the back of his hair while he hums a soft tune. The blue light around us fades, and the world returns to normal. "Lyric!" Thane rushes to my side and takes my face in his hands. "What the hell happened?"

'Levi,' I speak through the mind link. 'He said that his soul is connected to our baby, that he's her mate, and he will protect her.

'I don't know what it all means, Thane. But Levi said Fairy magic doesn't work on him. Leviathan granted him some sort of power to repel magic, I guess. Now our baby girl is soul bonded to a dragon!

'Girl?' I nod. 'I can't believe it, but I can believe Levi and our baby are bonded, that he's her mate!

'But he's a child, Thane! Our baby hasn't even been born!'

'It's incredibly rare, Lyric, but it happens. The Gods and Goddesses clearly have plans for our child and Levi. Who are we to question them? Our baby girl will be mated to a Royal Dragon, a descendant of Leviathan. She's going to be just fine! 'I don't like this, Thane; he's a baby!'

'He won't be forever, Lyric. They will grow and learn together and even fall in love!'

I guess I'm just going to have to get used to this. It's not like I can change the future.

Thane kisses my head and pulls me into his arms.

"Levi just told us." I hear Xale say. "I know you're probably freaking out, but this isn't a bad thing."

"You think!?" Lia screeches, causing me to pull out of Thane's arms and look at her. "I'm not leaving my baby here, Xale!"

"Lia," He sighs while taking her by the shoulders. "I know this is hard for you. But this is the way of things. Levi is soul bonded with Thane's child. You know how rare and unique it is for someone so young to know who their mate is.

"Levi won't be able to rest unless he's near Lyric. At least until the baby is born. Levi will need to hold the child to complete the bond. After that, we'll take him to my father for training."

Training for what?

My heart hammers as I look at Levi in Brody's arms. No matter the reason, I cannot take a child from their mother. It's also not safe here for a child right now.

Lia is now crying, and my heart is breaking for her. I don't even want to imagine what she's feeling right now. I only know that if I had to leave my child with strangers... Well, I wouldn't do it, simple.

'Thane,' I speak through the mind link. Thane turns away from the scene before us and looks at me. 'I can't allow this. I won't keep a child from his mother. Even if I could, it's not safe here.'

'You're right; it isn't. But Levi will need to be near you for a while. His dragon could become feral otherwise.

'He has his dragon already?'

What the hell?

How can one so young have their other half already?

'Levi can't shift yet, obviously. But as a descendant of Leviathan, he has his dragon spirit, and they can communicate. It's how he heard what he did and how he knew it was our child's soul calling out to him. It's why he'll need to be here until she's born!' Great. Just fuc.king great!

'Can't Lia stay here with us then? I know she's the Queen of Dragons, but surely it would be alright for a while? She's powerful, right? So she should be okay if Astro turns up!

Thane gives me a slight smile and cups my cheek. 'I think that's a great idea. I'll talk to Xale now!

I look at Levi and Brody when Thane gets to his feet and walks over to Xale and Lia. Levi whispers something in Brody's ear, and Brody sets him on his feet. Levi giggles and runs into his mother's loving arms.

Brody looks behind himself, growls lowly, then walks away. I narrow my eyes when I spot who Brody is marching toward. Anger floods me when Brody grabs the person's arm and drags them around the corner of the folly, away from prying eyes. What the hell is that about?

Thane is still talking with Xale and Lia, so he doesn't notice me leave. I rush after Brody, hoping he isn't doing anything he shouldn't be. He might be King of Bears, but he's on my territory now, and I won't have him harm one of my pack members. "I don't care!" I hear Brody growl as I plaster myself to the wall and peek around the corner. "You stay away from me. I mean it."

"I was nowhere near you, Brody."

"You came out here deliberately to antagonize me!"

"I did not! You grabbed me, not the other way around."

"To warn you,"

"To warn me? Look, I get it; you're embarrassed. But we're mates, Brody."

Well, sh.it. I did not expect that!

"Shut up!" Brody hisses between his teeth. "We are not mates, little boy."

"You may not want me, Brody, but we are mates. The Goddess paired us for a reason. Fu.ck. Do you think this is easy for me? Being paired with the King of Bears? It isn't, and I don't know what to do."

"Forget about me; that's what you do. Never mention this to another living soul if you know what's good for you! Forget this ever happened. Do you understand me?"

"Then reject me, Brody. Don't walk away from me and continue with your life, sleeping with whoever just to cause me pain. That would be unfair, don't you think?"

"You have no idea what unfair is. Stay away from me. This is your only warning." With that, Brody walks away.

What a fuc.king as.shole!

Soft crying has my feet moving. "Tristan," I call his name softly.

Tristan swallows hard, lip quivering, eyes full of tears as he looks at me. "How much did you hear?"

"All of it?" I don't know why that came out as a question, but Tristan nods in understanding. "I'm so sorry. How long have you known?"

Tristan sniffs while wiping the tears on his sleeve. "Since he arrived this morning. That's the first time we've spoken, though. He doesn't want me, Lyric, but he wouldn't reject me, and I don't know what to do now."

My eyes soften, and I sigh. "Oh, Tristan." I wrap my arms around him. He leans down and rests his head on my shoulder, and sobs.

My heart is breaking for Tristan. His mate doesn't want him but won't reject him either.

What the hell is Brody playing at?

"Can we keep this between us?" Tristan pulls away from me and wipes his eyes. "I don't want Thane finding out, especially when he needs Brody's help."

"I will keep it between us for now. But, Tristan, I can't keep it from him indefinitely. Brody is being unreasonable, and it isn't fair to you. But give him some time to get his head around this. Perhaps having a male mate has shocked him." Tristan scoffs. "Brody is known for sleeping with both men and women. He doesn't discriminate, Lyric. Brody likes people, no matter who they are."

"And you?"

Tristan shrugs. "Never slept with anyone. But I guess I like men and women just the same."

"Don't be disheartened, Tristan. Maybe it's the age thing?"

Tristan smiles, but I can see the utter sadness in his eyes. "We should get back to the party. The Queen is the bell of the ball, after all."

"Fine, but remember that I'm here for you, Tristan. Whenever you need me, no matter what. Okay?"

He smiles again. "Okay."

'Lyric, where are you?' Thane calls for me through the mind link. 'I turned around, and you were gone!'

'With Tristan. Sorry for taking off; I thought you were busy!'

'I'm sorry, baby. We have a lot to talk about, but that will have to wait. The sun is going down, the full moon is almost upon us, and we must get Emori to the forest.'

Emori's first shift!

'I'll be right there.'

Goddess, it's been a long day, and it's not over yet. But I have to be there for my aunt, she needs me, and there's nowhere else I'd rather be.

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 48[1,814 words]

Emori

My stomach feels like it's falling out of my as.s with nerves!

Today has been amazing, and I couldn't have been more proud. Elena, Spencer, and Emily were looking down on Lyric today; I know they were. I could sense their presence and see them in my mind's eye, smiling down on their daughter.

The party was lovely, everyone dressed to impress. I wore my lavender cocktail dress with a crisscrossed back, showing a little cleavage. I had my hair in a chunky French braid that sat over my right shoulder.

When I walked down the stairs this morning, I wasn't expecting the reaction I got. Oh, it wasn't bad. In fact, it was everything.

Tyler was waiting for me at the bottom of the stairs, and he looked so handsome in an ivory suit with his hair tied at the base of his neck. I took a deep breath before attempting to descend the stairs, hoping I didn't trip on the heels I was wearing. I'd never worn such shoes before other than for practice, Moira insisted on. Thankfully, I stayed poised.

"Oh, my," Tyler's mouth dropped, and I couldn't help giggling. He reached his hand out to me, and I took it, allowing him to pull me into his arms gently. "I have never seen anyone as beautiful as you right now." Tyler's words touched my heart because he meant them.

Despite being the Prince's mate, I tried to keep my face hidden as much as possible. Astro's spy is still out there, and I didn't want to be seen. It's better if my brother believes I'm dead. I no longer have my Fairy glow, and it seemed I was safe from unwanted eyes. But I digress.

I'm now standing deep in the forest, hand in hand with Tyler. My feet are bare, and I'm worried about being naked in front of all these people. How stupid is that?

I'm about to transform for the first time, and I'm worried about being naked? Pathetic!

On the other hand, the party is still in full swing back at the castle. I'm worried people will notice that most of the Royal Family is missing. Thane and Lyric, Ronan and Moira, Willian and Lucy, Thorin, Tane, and Theo are all here with me. Theo left Harmony with Starr, Tristan, Esme, Isla,

and her mate at the party. Harmony wanted to be here, but Theo was worried it wouldn't be safe with her being pregnant. I agreed; Harmony shouldn't be here.

'Try not to worry, Emori; we got this!

'I'm trying, but it's not easy, Cosima. For the first time in my two hundred years of life, I'm going to transform into something else.

'Yeah, into me.' I roll my eyes because I can hear Cosima sniggering inside my head. 'Just remember, this is really going to hurt!

'Oh, gee, thanks, Cosima! That makes me feel so much better! Not! I get that it's going to hurt, I'm ready for it, but I don't want to be naked in front of all these people.

'You're ridiculous, do you know that? It's natural, Emori. I know you weren't born a Lycan, but you are one now, and you need to get used to the way things are. No one will be looking at you in a sexual way. They've seen dozens of people naked. It's normal to them! 'But my in-laws...

'Same applies. Besides, Tyler will be right in front of you, shielding your virtue.' I sense Cosima roll her eyes. 'Goddess, I might jump him.'

'You will do no such thing! Tyler is mine, Axel is yours, and you better not touch him either. You promised to wait!

'Whatever, bi.tch.'

"Baby?" I look at Tyler with scared eyes. "Everything will be okay. I am right here with you."

I am terrified right now. I've been building myself up for this since the night Tyler changed me. But now the time has come; I'm falling apart! I'm shaking with fear of the unknown. I've embraced Cosima; she's part of me. It's the transition I'm scared of. Every bone in my body is going to bend and break! I've suffered physical pain many times in my life, but this sounds excruciating!

'Don't think about it; it's not like you can wish the pain away. Though having Tyler close will help.

Tyler. My everything. We're finally together, and everything is perfect between us. We have yet to mark one another, but after tonight, we will. We've been staying at the castle in Tyler's old room. Thane said it would be safer for now. But soon, we'll move into our cabin when all threats are gone.

Tyler treats me well, we're equals in all things, and we love each other more than I could say. I need him right now; I cannot do this without him.

I lay my hand on Tyler's stubble-covered jaw. "Please don't leave me. I can't do this without you."

Tyler smiles while stroking my hair. "I will never leave you. You are my world, Emori."

I smile but scream when pain tears through my stomach. I hunch over, falling to my knees, and people all around me encourage me to let it happen.

'This is it! Don't fight it, Emori; just breathe through the pain.

I don't answer Cosima because even my brain is filled with pain. I can't concentrate. I cannot think! I hear voices, but they sound far away. Nothing seems to be registering.

I claw at the ground, screaming in agony. Tyler uses his claws to rip my clothes from my body, the only way he can when I'm like this. I know it's him because his touch is soothing for a moment. For over an hour, my body twists and bends unnaturally. 'What's taking so long?' I scream at Cosima, but she doesn't answer.

Where is she?

How could she abandon me?!

"Breathe, baby. Push through the pain and let it happen."

"I'm trying!"

What the fu.ck does it look like I'm doing!?

'Shh. It's going to be okay! I hear Lyric in my head.

Then I scream when my leg breaks. I can't stop screaming because my back, wrists, and hips break. The pain is all-consuming, and I feel like I'm dying!

Suddenly, everything is dark, and no sound can be heard. There is no pain anymore, only peace.

Cosima

Fu.ck yes!

I'm free!

Damn, it's been so long since I saw the world through these eyes. Too long.

What's it been, two-three hundred years?

I lost count years ago because I hid from the pain. The last human I was attached to, Merida, was gorgeous with her long blonde hair and big blue eyes. But she was weak-spirited, too kind for her own good. She went against my advice and trusted someone she shouldn't have.

A shady Alpha by the name of Joe tricked Merida into believing he was her mate. At sixteen, Merida wasn't old enough to feel the mate bond, so she believed Joe blindly. Once the bas.tard got what he

wanted, her body, he slit her throat where she lay. The cowardly bas.tard killed my Merida. I couldn't help her because Joe was part warlock and used his magic to bind me.

I ended up back with the Moon Goddess, mourning Merida for many years. The Goddess promised me a second chance, but only when the right person came along. It was a long wait, but finally, Emori emerged.

Emori may look similar to Merida, but they are very different. Emroi is strong-willed, not afraid to stand up for herself, and she's smart.

We've been building up to today, practicing for when the time comes. I warned Emori that it would be challenging, but she did better than I thought she would. I've got to admit; I love Emori. I didn't think I could put my heart on the line again after Merida. I didn't want to get hurt again. But Selene was right; Emori is my perfect other half.

"Cosima?"

Damn, he's fine!

'Tyler Knight. It's nice to meet you officially. I want to thank you for caring for Emori. But that will have to wait; I want to meet my mate."

I've been dying to meet Axel in the flesh. We've spoken before now, but this will be the first time we've come face to face. "That can wait."

I turn my white head to face the King and his Queen. Everyone seems so tiny when I'm this tall, not that I know how tall, but I assume over nine feet. Bigger than I was last time. The people around them are staring at me in awe. I can't say, as I blame them, I am magnificent.

I bow. 'My King. My Queen.'

"Auntie." I smile at Lyric. "You're so beautiful."

'I know. I chuckle.

"Cosima," I look at Thane once more. "Do you swear your allegiance to me? Do you promise to be loyal to the crown, your King and Queen, and the people of Lykos?"

'I do'

"Do you swear to stand beside your mate as his equal?"

'Always. There is no doubt in my mind.

"I hereby officially welcome you into the Royal Pack. I also dub you Princess Cosima, Princess Emori."

Power, as I've never known, surges through me, binding me to these people as they welcome me as one of them.

'Cosima,' Emori gasps inside my mind. 'We have a home, finally with people who care about us!

'Was there ever any doubt? Now, close off your subconscious mind while I finally run with my mate.'

'How do we change back, Cosima?'

'I'll let you know when the time comes. I cut off my human and look at Tyler. 'It's time, Tyler Knight. Bring forth my mate!'

In less than a second, a twelve-foot black Lycan stands before me.

'Axel!'

'My love,' He reaches for me, and I go willingly. Axel sniffs my neck, and I purr against him. This is all I ever wanted - a mate who will be true to me and love me as a mate should.

Playfully, I nip at Axel's front paw and then take off running. Axel chases after me, and we run for hours. We play and frolic through the forest, and I have never felt so exhilarated! The wind through my white fur, my mate at my heel, nothing could compare to this.

Well, mating would make this perfect, but I promised Emori I would only do that once she completed the bond with Tyler. But, fu.ck is she slow! I would have jumped his bones and screwed his brains out a hundred times over by now.

I stop at the lake's edge, Axel coming up beside me.

'It's so beautiful here, Axel.'

'Not as beautiful as you. I love you, Cosima. By the Goddess and Fenrir, I love you.

I let his words sink into my very soul, and I smile. I nudge my head into his neck with my eyes closed. 'I love you, Axel. I will always love you!

We snuggle for a moment before Axel growls threateningly. 'Who the hell is that?'

Axel takes off before I can stop him. My eyes lock on the girl he's now chasing, and Emori screams in my mind to stop him.

'Save her, Cosima! Please!'

Sh.it!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 49[2,032 words]

Thane

"Where did you say you found her?"

"By the lake. She was watching Axel and Cosima." Tyler tells me as I stare at the Fairy huddled in the corner of cell four. "Ace would have ripped her apart, but Cosima begged him not to hurt her. So we brought her here. It's weird, though." "What is?"

"She didn't fight, Thane. She didn't use her Fairy magic; she just gave up and allowed Axel to drag her here."

Strange.

'Think she's the spy?'

"What else could she be, Jagger?"

'Someone looking for Emori's body? The Fairy King could have sent her to retrieve his sister.'

'Then he'd be a fu.cking fool to think Emori's body would still be retrievable.'

'Yes, but it could have been a ploy to find information on what happened to Emori.'

'Does Emori know this girl?' I ask Tyler, still with my eyes locked on the Fairy. She won't be able to use her magic down here, but her mocha skin still shines as if it was natural. Her long black hair is braided to her waist, and her clothes are not of this world. However, she's dressed like a male Fairy warrior in dark pants and an intricate jacket. She has no weapons, which is weird.

Tyler sighs. 'Yes, she knows the girl.'

'Well? Who is she?'

'The Fairy King's illegitimate daughter.'

'The fu.ck?'

That sick fu.ck sent his daughter here to spy?

Knowing she could be mauled to death by Royal Lycans?

After what he believed we did to his sister?

Does Astro not care about this girl at all?

Poor girl, her own father fed her to the wolves, not caring if she made it out alive.

'Emori recognized her immediately. Axel chased her down because she was clearly spying on us. He felt she was a threat, but Cosima didn't. Axel caught her, and that's when Cosima told him who she

was. Luckily, the girl only saw Cosima, and Emori is knocked out because the shift took too much out of her.

'I don't know, Thane. Emori was so upset thinking we'd execute the girl. Emori said her niece would never hurt anyone, that Astro would have forced her to do this!

'That doesn't excuse anything, Ty. Once I've interrogated her, she'll be put to death.

Tyler disagrees; I can tell by the way he sighed. But I will not allow this spy to live, no matter who she might be related to. That's not how this works! 'The Fairy is Lyric's cousin.'

'I don't care, Jagger!' I cut him off.

"Open the door." Gary, the guard on duty, nods and opens the door using the panel on the wall. The doors slide open, and the Fairy, using the wall to steady herself, gets to her feet. Her eyes are wide but on me the whole time. "Do you have a name? Or do I call you Fairy?" "Taylen. My name is Taylen."

"What business do you have on my land, Taylen? Don't bother lying; I'll know." "My father."

"The Fairy King."

Taylen nods. "He sent me to find my aunt. He knows that you captured and killed her; he felt it. But he wanted to make sure we could bring her body home. He said we needed to give her a Royal burial. I tried to explain that you wouldn't have kept Emori's body this long, but he wouldn't listen.

"I know that's not the real reason he sent me. Astro didn't care about Emori; that man cares for no one, not even me."

"The real reason?"

"He wanted information on Lyric."

Anger fills my veins like molten lava. "You've been spying and taking back information?"

"No," Taylen shakes her head vigorously. "Someone else was spying. But they weren't doing their job fast enough, so Astro killed them. He sent me in place when he felt Emori's light go out. He said, as family, I'd be able to find her body faster than anyone else. "I'm not a bad person; I swear I'm not. I didn't want to do this, King Thane. I didn't want to come here. But the only person who ever loved me," The Fairy swallows hard as a tear falls from her eye. "My aunt is dead. I just wanted to make sure..." "What?" I push when she fails to continue.

"That it was true, that my aunt was truly gone. I wasn't going to give Astro any information on Lyric. I saw her, she's beautiful, her and Harmony. They look just like Aunt Elena. I would never do anything to hurt them. I'm not like my father; I swear I'm not." I wish I could sense lies from the girl. It would make killing her easier, but I don't. It won't stop me from killing her, but Lyric might have other ideas. This girl is another family member, a member she knew nothing about. Maybe I won't tell Lyric about this. 'Then Emori will. Don't be a fool, Thane, don't break Lyric's trust. Whatever the reason this girl is here, I don't think it's to hurt Lyric. Sure, she's strong, but there's something not right with her. 'What do you man, Jagger?'

'I know she's in a magic-suppressing cell. But I don't think this Fairy has magic as other Fairies do!'

'She's Astro's daughter, a Fairy Princess. She'd be stronger than most, Jagger.' 'Hmm...'

"You will be sentenced for your crimes tomorrow." With that, I walk away.

"What about my mate?!"

I know not to engage with prisoners. They will say anything to keep you talking and get into your mind. They will do anything to make you feel sorry for them and connect with them, so you'll let them go. Regardless, I turn to face the Fairy. "Why should I care about your mate? You should have thought about them before you came here looking for trouble."

Tylen walks closer to the cell bars. "My mate is one of you." I squint my eyes. "We haven't come face to face, but he scented me just as I did him. I'm not just a Fairy; I'm half Lycan."

"LIAR!" I bellow even though I know she isn't lying. I couldn't sense it before, but I smell the Lycan within as I breathe in.

Why didn't I sense it before?

I wasn't looking for it, that's why. The smell of Lycan on the girl came from Tyler when he grabbed her.

Besides, why the hell would anyone think this girl was part Lycan?

She lives in Valnor with her messed-up father. He doesn't allow anyone but Fairy folk to live there.

What made this girl so special?

Why must Astro breed with Lyric if the man already has a daughter?

Nothing makes sense!

"I'm not lying, I swear to you. I know you have many questions, and you also don't care for the answers. But my father is not a nice man. My mother was a warrior for the Lycan King, for you."

My eyes widen, and anger fills my veins once again. If one of my warriors slept with that monster and bore his child, I'll kill them! Because if that person is still here, they could be passing information to Astro!

"I know what you're thinking, but my mother wasn't with Astro willingly. Astro attacked her from behind, so she stood no chance against him. I don't know what happened between when Astro took my mother and my birth. All I know is I ended up with Astro, and my mother was gone.

"Why he took me, I'll never know because he hated me. I was an abomination, a mistake he has to rectify. He threatened to kill me constantly, tortured me, and swore he'd come here and find my

mother if I didn't do as he said. Only this time, he'd kill her in front of me. I don't even know who she is, but I have always dreamed about her.

"Astro didn't care about me. All he cared about was finding Lyric and killing anyone who got in his way. The only person who ever cared about me was Emori. When she died, it broke me. Astro was livid, and he sent me here to find out what you'd done with her and any weakness surrounding Lyric.

"I came in hopes that I'd see my mother. I don't know what she looks like, but I hoped I'd know her if I saw her. Astro doesn't know I know anything about my mother or where she came from, but I do. But you see, Astro didn't care what happened to me when he sent me here. He sent me here, knowing you could kill me. That's how little I mean to him."

'Thane, Tyler speaks through the mind link. 'Do you remember years ago when Amelia went missing for weeks, and no one could find her? Then she suddenly turned up on our doorstep, battered and a shell of herself?'

I don't like where Tyler is going with this, but the thought had occurred to me too.

"How old are you?"

Taylen looks at me, eyes darting all over the place. As long as she doesn't say... "Forty-eight!

Sh.it!

'Thane, you don't think...?'

'Find Amelia. Now!' Tyler rushes away, and I turn to Taylan. "As for you, you'll stay here until I figure out what to do with you."

"Please, King Thane. I know I won't get to meet my mother, but please, let me meet my mate just once."

"No idea who he is." I shrug like I don't care. Probably because I don't.

"He's really tall, like, six-seven. He has skin the same color as mine, but he has blue eyes, not brown like mine. He's a warrior, but that's all I know."

"Don't know anyone like that." Which is a fuc.king lie, but I don't have time for this sh.it.

I walk away and leave the girl in a pool of her own frustrated tears. Like I care!

After ordering guards to ensure no one enters the dungeon, I make my way to my office. Tyler mind linked to say he was there with Amelia. This is not going to be an easy conversation.

"My King," Amelia bows.

I wave my hand. "That's not necessary, Amelia. Please take a seat." She does, brushing down the length of her black dress.

When Amelia is not in uniform, like right now, it's easy to see how undeniably beautiful she is. With dark skin and darker eyes, Goddess-like beauty is all hers.

"What's this about?"

"I wanted to talk to you about what happened almost fifty years ago." Amelia shifts in her seat and swallows hard. "After you disappeared and returned, you never spoke about what happened. Why?"

Sadness fills Amelia's eyes, and I see how much pain she's still in all these years later. The day Amelia arrived home, I went to the infirmary to check on her. Physically she was fine, but mentally; Dale wasn't so sure. Amelia wouldn't tell me what happened, only that someone attacked her and kept her prisoner, but she never saw his face, so she couldn't give us a description. Once the man was done with Amelia, he dumped her in the forest and walked away. We never found any sighting, and we looked for days. Amelia never mentioned any baby, and I'm hoping Tyler and I have it wrong, and Amelia isn't Taylan's mother. If we don't, then I have failed Amelia big time.

'How do you work that out?'

'Because I'm King, Jagger, I should have sensed something. I should have pushed harder for answers!

'It wouldn't have made any difference, Thane. If there was a child, there must have been a reason Amelia kept it to herself. I think that had more to do with Astro than you.'

Jagger is right, but it doesn't make this any easier to swallow.

"Amelia," I sigh when she fails to answer. "I know whatever happened to you left you with child. But where is that child now?"

Amelia gasps so loudly it's almost deafening. She looks between Tyler and me, mouth opening and closing like a fish out of water. She's both scared and shocked that I've worked things out after all these years.

"It's okay, Amelia." Tyler soothes his oldest friend. I can feel my brother's pain for Amelia. The girl is like a sister to us. "Do you have a child by the man who attacked you?" Reluctantly, Amelia nods at Tyler. "What happened, Amelia? Tell us, sweetheart. Please don't shut us out anymore; we're your friends. You're safe here."

"He killed her. He killed my baby."

Oh, no...

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 50[2,129 words]

Amelia

My breath shudders out of my body. I have kept this secret from all around me for almost fifty years. My mate rejected me a week after meeting me because he couldn't break down my walls. I'd lost my baby a year previous, and I couldn't give him what he wanted. But then I guess the mate bond wasn't that strong if he could walk away from me so easily. Thank the Goddess, we never completed the mating process.

In the romantic sense, I have been alone all these years. I wasn't looking for love because I didn't need it. I had enough people to care for and keep my mind on anything besides what I lost.

Even as a child, I worked hard to become the warrior I am today. I worked even hard after the attack. I never wanted to be in a position again where anyone would catch me unawares. Growing up, I was good friends with Thane, Theo, and Tyler. Tyler was my best friend, and we got into a lot of trouble together. When my parents were killed in the Rogue Wars when I was fifteen, Moira and Ronan took me in, and they loved me as an Aunt and Uncle would.

When Thane took the throne, I was by his side, a high-ranking warrior, and I excelled at my job. But almost fifty years ago, I was ambushed from behind by a strong magical being. I had no chance to fight back, and the man took me to a strange place. The man used and abused me in ways you wouldn't wish upon your worst enemy. He tortured, raped, and abused me in every way imaginable. I was barely conscious the whole time, and most of what happened felt like a bad dream I couldn't wake up from. He fed and watered me now and again, telling me every time that I would die soon. I tried to fight back in the beginning, but he used his magic to keep me in line. As strong as I was, the pain became so much that I soon stopped fighting back. I also stopped trying to reach my Lycan because she had long since abandoned me. I wished for death every day, but it never came.

I lost count of how long I'd been in that hell hole. One day blended into the next, and nothing ever changed. Then came the day a doctor came by and confirmed with my tormentor that I was pregnant. I sobbed because I didn't want to have his child; I just wanted to go home.

I knew without a doubt that people would be looking for me. The Royals would never believe I'd taken off without telling them. They wouldn't give up on me. I also knew they'd never find me. I was no longer in Lykos or even the same realm as them. It was easy to know that when everything around me was so different from what I was used to.

I wasn't treated well during the pregnancy. But whenever I was alone, I would talk to my baby and promise them I would find a way to get us out of there and back home. I'd grown attached to my child and wanted nothing more than to keep them safe. I told my baby that soon, we'd be with people who loved and cared for us.

But that was never to be... After a practically nasty beating, I went into premature labor. No one came to help me, though my tormentor stood by and watched as I gave birth to the most precious, tiny little girl I had ever seen. I reached for her with a smile on my face, but the bastard, with his magic, lifted the child in the air. I begged and pleaded with him to hand her to me. But with a flick of his hand, the child exploded in a flash of light. I screamed in agony, but that monster merely

laughed before leaving the room. I was in a world of hurt. I don't know how long I lay there, thinking of a way to end my miserable life. But just like every moment in that dark, dank room, there was no way to end things.

Then just as the darkness was taking me, an angel bent down in front of me. Of course, she was no angel; she was one of them. But she wasn't like them, and she got me out of that hell hole. She hid us to the best of her ability until she got me to Lykos. She told me how sorry she was that she couldn't get to me sooner, but she didn't know I was there.

I don't know why, but I knew she was sincere, and as she hugged me, I clung to her. She told me not to let what happened destroy me and to live despite everything. Then she was gone, and I was home.

I kept things to myself and somehow fooled Thane into believing what I told him. Even though he sent warriors to search for anyone suspicious, no one was ever found.

It took a month for me to recover enough to pull myself together. After that, I worked a hundred times harder, and no one ever snuck up on me again.

As I tell Thane and Tyler my story, both seem shocked. I don't know what possessed them to ask about this now. But in a way, I'm glad they did. I was tired of having this on my shoulders, and it was time someone else knew the truth. I may finally find some peace. "Oh, Amelia," Tyler sighs. "I'm so sorry you went through all of that alone."

"It's okay, Ty. I'm okay now."

"Are you sure the child died?"

I furrow my brow at Thane. "I saw him use his magic to kill her. She disappeared right before my eyes."

"He who?"

I swallow hard because Thane is going to be so angry. I should have told my king the truth as soon as Lyric came. But I didn't and still didn't come clean when Emori showed up. I hadn't even met the woman because I was scared she'd out me. However, I can't keep this in any longer.

"Astro. I'm so sorry, Thane. I know I should have said something, but I was scared."

Thane nods once. "Who released you from his prison? Do you remember?"

"I didn't until I saw her the other day."

"Who?" Tyler presses.

I look at him, my stomach turning over. "Emori. Emori brought me home. I swear, I didn't know it was her until I saw her again." "That's why you've come up with every excuse in the book not to meet my mate? Because you were worried, she'd tell me the truth?" I nod.

Thane huffs. "I figured as much. Were you aware Tyler captured someone spying on him and Emori last night?"

"Bolton mentioned something."

"The girl he found is Astro's daughter. She claims she's part Fairy and part Lycan. She also claims her mother is a warrior within this pack." No!

No, it cannot be! I saw her die; I know I did.

But what if I saw only what Astro wanted me to see?

That cruel, evil bas.tard!

"Thane," The door bursts open, slamming against the wall. I turn in my seat and gasp as Emori walks into the room with an angry-looking Lyric.

Emori's eyes land on me, wide and shocked. "It's you."

I get out of my seat and nod my head. "It's me."

Emori runs to me, wrapping her arms around me. I hug her back. She pulls away and smiles. "I always wondered if you made it home. You look so healthy. Oh! Have you told her?" Emori looks at Thane, but he seems to be mind-linking with Lyric. Thane's eyes are clouded over.

"Told me what?"

"About Taylen. Oh, Amelia, I tried to take care of her for you, and I didn't want to leave her. But I couldn't go back for her with what happened here."

What the fu.ck is she saying?

'Amelia, she's talking about our pup! She's alive, Amelia, our pup is alive.'

'Amara, can this be true?'

'It is; I feel it. Oh, Amelia, our baby! My Lycan sobs in my head. For too many years, we have both grieved our pup.'

I look at Tyler with tears falling from my eyes as he nods, letting me know Emori is speaking the truth. "Where is she?"

"She's in the dungeon. They won't let me see her." Emori tells me.

"Thane?"

Finally, he looks at me while getting out of his seat and walking around his desk. He wraps his arm around Lyric, who lays her head on his chest. Whatever he told her, she seems content with. But if the girl in the dungeon is my baby, I need to go to her. I don't know what she's doing here or how she even got here. But I pray Thane doesn't take her from me.

Then again, if my little girl came here with ill intent, I will have no choice but to stand by while my king executes her. It will hurt like hell, but my loyalty is to Thane, not a young woman raised by a monster.

'You'd really stand back and watch Thane kill our pup?'

'What choice would I have if she is a traitor? And it's highly possible she is, Amara. I don't know if my heart could take it. My Lycan whimpers, but she knows I'm right in what I'm saying.

"I'll take you to see Taylen." Emori's eyes light up, but Thane holds up his hand. "This is risky, Emori. If she sees you, Taylen could find some way to let Astro know you're still alive."

Emori shakes her head. "She won't. For one: I trust Taylen with my life. Two: I cast a gagging spell over her when I first held her in my arms. I did so because I wanted to tell Taylen about her mother. I knew I couldn't without the spell because Astro would have known, and I didn't want that.

"With the spell, Taylen couldn't tell her father what we'd spoken about, and he wouldn't be able to pry it out of her by force. She also wouldn't be able to tell him if she'd seen me somewhere I shouldn't have been. I know it probably sounds cruel, but it was necessary."

"But you lost your Fairy magic," Lyric points out, but all I can think about is my baby in the dungeons.

Taylen.

I chose that name but never said it out loud in front of Astro. I didn't want to give him any more ammunition to use against me. The only person I said it to was... Emori. She heard me and somehow convinced Astro to name my baby Taylen. My stomach flip flops, and my heart is banging too hard.

"Surely any spells cast broke when that happened?"

"No," Emori smiles. "Fairy magic doesn't work like that."

"Right, well, I guess I'll take you down there. But just remember, this doesn't pardon the girl. I may never let her go."

I nod because I wouldn't expect anything less from Thane.

I'm so nervous; my body is shaking all the way to the dungeons. I doubt anybody knows anything, but wondering eyes are making me paranoid.

Thane leads us to cell four, and tears are streaming down my face. Emotion is almost drowning me. I see her standing close to the bars, wide-eyed and looking at Emori.

Taylen is so beautiful, and thankfully, she looks nothing like Astro, even if she does dress all Fairy.

"Auntie! Auntie, how are you here?"

Goddess, she sounds just like my mother once did!

"Oh, Taylen. Please, open the doors."

The doors slide open, and Emori rushes in, wrapping Taylen in her arms. Both of them cry while Emori explains how she's still alive. They talk a mile a minute, Thane and Lyric joining in now and again. But I can't speak; I can't take my eyes off the girl who reminds me so much of my mother.

Taylen's eyes lock with mine, and her mouth drops in shock. "Mama?" There is so much hope in her voice.

I slam my hand over my mouth, trying to push back the sobs stuck in my throat. Tyler lays his hand on my back, trying to comfort me.

I pull myself together enough to walk into the cell. I can feel the bond only a mother could have with her child. All Lycans will know their kin upon first sight, and it's stronger with children. Taylen is my child; there is no doubt.

"Mama? Is that really you?" She asks, and I nod while swallowing back my emotions. "Mama!" She screams, sobs, and throws herself into my arms.

I can't stop the sobs as I hold the child I have mourned for too many years. "My baby. Mommy's got you now, and I'll never let go."

But then, a colossal growl shakes the cell...