

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 51[1,571 words]

Lyric

The Fu.ck?

'What the hell is Bolton doing?'

Thane doesn't take his eyes off Bolton, being held back by Tyler and Blaze. I don't know where Blaze came from. The man is like a fog that appears out of nowhere. Thane also doesn't answer me. "Bolton, calm yourself and your Lycan."

"Mine!" Bolton growls through gritted teeth. One blue eye turns black while the other stays blue. His Lycan is upfront with him, and they haven't taken their eyes off Taylen. She's still in her mother's arms but looking at Bolton with tears in her eyes. What the hell is going on?

'We just added three new members to our growing family, Lyric.!

'Yeah, and right now, I don't trust any of them. Taylen is Astro's daughter.'

'She's Amelia's daughter too.

'That means nothing to me. Taylen could be the Moon Goddess's daughter for all I care. She has Astro's blood running through her veins.

'So does Emori, but you trust her!

'She proved herself time and again, that's why.'

I can't believe I'm here right now; I'm exhausted. I sat with Emori while she slept after her run. The party had wound down, and Moira and Ronan ensured everyone had left. Starr let me know that Lia and Levi would be staying for a while. Xale had to leave but would return once he'd dealt with things back home.

I asked about Brody, which got me a curious look from Starr. She said he'd left but pledged to help in the war against Astro. I was annoyed; only because I had wished to speak with Brody about Tristan. I couldn't force Brody to take Tristan as his mate, but he couldn't leave Tristan hanging, either. If Brody honestly doesn't want my sweet brother-in-law, then he must reject the man. Tristan deserves to be free to find love. He does not deserve to forever be connected to a man who does not want him. I guess our chat will have to wait.

It didn't take Emori long to wake up and less time to tell me about Taylen. Of course, I was shocked and skeptical of Taylen's intentions here. Then Emori explained the truth of Taylen's life, that it was never good nor happy with Astro.

The girl was just a possession, a mistake he once made. Astro kept Taylen only to serve him until he found his Queen - me. Once he had me, he'd dispose of Taylen, for she would no longer be useful to him. I felt sick upon hearing this. That pig really is something else!

Then came the confession of Taylen's mother and that she was a member of Thane's Royal Guard. I didn't know who the woman could have been, but I felt so sad for her. I can't imagine having my little girl taken from me now that I'm pregnant. The mere idea made me murderous, so Goddess knows how that poor woman has coped for so many years.

Emori explained how she raised Taylen with love and tried to keep her heart pure regardless of Astro's influence. Taylen is more Lycan than Fairy, and though she has a Lycan, Taylen has never shifted. She had to forever make Astro believe she had no Lycan for fear of what he'd do if he knew.

Of course, I asked Emori why she never mentioned Taylen before. She smiled sadly and told me it hurt too much. Though Emori got to be with Tyler, Harmony, and me, she had to face reality, Taylen was lost to her, and her heart broke.

But seeing Taylen in the woods, she knew Astro had made a grave mistake. He sent Taylen here as a spy and led the girl back to Emori and her mother. The two of them could bring Taylen into a loving family and prove there is no loyalty to Astro. I don't know if I believe that.

But if Emori could prove she had no allegiance to her brother, who was I to say his daughter was any different?

Emori begged me to give Taylen a chance and to stop Thane from ordering the girl's execution. If anyone could make Thane listen, it's me.

Reluctantly, I nodded, and we rushed to his office. I knew that's where he was because my mate's scent was the strongest there. I was shocked to see Amelia, but it made sense once Emori hugged her.

I couldn't believe it, Astro attacked our trusted warrior and friend, and he stole her child. My heart broke for all Amelia had been through. But if I could help bring her some peace, I would.

Thane and I had a short discussion through the mind link. He agreed, thankfully, to give Taylen the benefit of the doubt. He'd give her one chance to prove herself, but one slip, and he'd kill her without question. I had no problem with those terms. Thane brought us to the dungeon, and I watched the sweet moment between mother and daughter. Then Bolton storms in like a dark avenger, and I'm getting headrush from all the drama!

'Are they mates?' I ask Thane through the mind link.

'Yes.' He replies as Taylen drops to her knees.

"Is she a traitor?" Bolton asks quietly.

"Misunderstood." Thane mumbles.

"Let me go." Bolton growls.

Thane nods once, and Tyler and Blaze release him. I watch Bolton walk into the cell and drop to his knees in front of Taylen.

'Thane, what the hell is this? Some kind of joke?'

'What?' His confused tone makes me sigh.

'I thought Amelia was Bolton's mom? That would make Taylen his half-sister. Surely that's incest? And I'm sorry to say, but I am not down with that!' Thane chuckles inside my head. "This is not funny, Thane!" 'Baby, Amelia isn't Bolton's biological mother.'

'She isn't?'

'No. Amelia took him in when he was eight after his parents died-usually, kids who have no other family end up in the orphanage. But Amelia begged me to allow her to take him home. I had never known the woman to ask for anything in her life. But Bolton's biological mother, Maisie, was Amelia's good friend, and she wanted to take care of her friend's child.

'I realize now, after all these years, that it wasn't just wanting to care for her friend's child. Wanting Bolton close was because she'd lost Taylen two years previous. Amelia needed something to love and nurture. I'm glad I allowed her to keep the boy. He calls her Mom because that's what she became.'

'Thane,' I sigh in annoyance. "That still makes her his mother! This is weird and disgusting!"

'Bolton isn't blood-related to Amelia or Taylen, nor were they raised together. The Moon Goddess paired them; now it's up to them whether they accept or reject one another.' Thane cuts me off from further discussion. As.shole!

"Please don't hide from me." Taylen raises her head, and Bolton smiles. "There you are. I've been looking everywhere for you."

"Are you going to reject me now?"

"Why would I do that?"

"Because we share the same mother. Mama said you were her son."

Amelia gets to her knees beside her children. Sh.it, this is so weird!

"Taylen. I am Bolton's mother but by choice. I'm not his biological mother, sweetheart. Bolton's biological mother, my friend, died when he was eight years old. I took him in because I loved him so much. He started calling me Mom a year later. But you mustn't worry because the two of you are not blood-related."

Not that it would matter where Taylen comes from. All Fairies are inbred, marrying and procreating with their relatives.

"If there is anybody I trust as your mate, it's Bolton. But it's up to the two of you. No one can make this choice for you. If having me as your mother is too awkward, then reject each other. But remember that no matter what you choose, I will always love the two of you more than anything in this world."

"I won't reject you." Bolton lays his hand on Taylen's face. "I can't. You were made for me. It's not a problem for me that we both call Amelia Mom, she is our mother, and that won't change. But you and I are not siblings. So please..." He leans his forehead against Taylen's.

"I accept you," Taylen whispers right before they kiss.

Ugh, gross!

"Taylen," She pulls away from Bolton, and he helps her to her feet. All eyes are now on Thane. "I'm putting you on probation. You are granted a stay as Bolton's mate, Amelia's daughter, Emori's niece, and your Queen's cousin. You will give any information you have on Astro to Tyler and Blaze. If you are found to be contacting Astro, I'll kill you. There are no second chances. No one here will save you from what I'll do should you betray me."

Taylen looks between her mother and Bolton and smiles. She turns to Thane, walks closer, and gets down on bended knee, bowing her head.

"I pledge my allegiance to you, King Thane. I don't belong in Valnor; I never did. Here is where I belong, just as Emori always said. I belong with my mother, mate, aunt, and cousins. My life is yours."

"Rise," Thane says. "I am giving you the benefit of the doubt. Don't let me down."

"I promise."

There's something not right here. I have a terrible feeling this girl is playing us all. I seriously hope not because she'll be breaking many hearts. But my gut tells me she's up to something. If I find out she is, I'll kill her myself! 'Quick!' Theo's voice fills my head. 'Harmony is in labor!'

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 52[2,260 words]

Theo

"I feel like a beached whale. I can't even see my feet!"

I chuckle while shaking my head at Harmony. "You look beautiful."

"Even though I'm fat?"

I roll my eyes and sit beside her on the couch. Harmony turns off the TV and sits the remote beside her, then smiles at me.

I can't believe how lucky I am sometimes. Every day, I look at the beautiful creature beside me and fall deeper in love with her. I know the mate bond draws us together, but the bond only helps us fall in love faster than average. Harmony is everything to me. Now, she's having my baby, and I couldn't love her more if I tried.

"Harmony, you are not fat." I lay my hand on her swollen stomach and smile. My son kicks against my hand as if saying, 'Hello, Daddy, and my heart hammers with joy. "You're pregnant with my son. Goddess, you've never been more beautiful." Harmony giggles and lays her hand on my face. "Have I told you lately how much I love you?"

"Hmm," I smile. "Only four times today. But," I lean in and kiss my beautiful girl. "I love you more than anything in this world. I'll never stop loving you."

"Would you do anything for me?"

"Anything, Harmony."

"Would you rub my feet if I asked you to?"

I playfully roll my eyes. "Harmony, didn't I prove that last night?"

Harmony had me rubbing her sore feet for over an hour before she would let me go to sleep. Not that I minded. It made my mate happy, and I live for that.

"True. Would you feed me if my arms were too tired?"

I cup Harmony's cheek. "Any time you needed. Like those moments when you're breastfeeding our son, and all your attention is on him, not the food in front of you. I will hand-feed you every mouthful. I'll make sure you get all you need, I promise." "That was the sweetest thing you could have said to me, Theo. You really love me, don't you?"

"More than anything."

"Enough to get this couch cleaned and not let on that it was me who ruined it?"

I narrow my eyes because I don't know what she's saying. There's nothing wrong with the couch.

Regardless, "Of course. Harmony, what are you getting at?"

"Theo, I don't want you to panic, but my water just broke."

"What!?!"

Don't panic?

Don't panic?

When the hell has that ever worked for anyone?!

I jump to my feet, moving left and right, not knowing what I'm doing. I can't think straight; my mind has gone blank!

"Theo," Harmony giggles. "Calm down. Nothing is going to happen just yet. But I do need to get to the infirmary."

I pull my fingers from my hair. "Infirmary. Right." I nod, scoop up my girl, and run to the infirmary as fast as I can. "Dale!" He comes running as if his ass was on fire. "She's in labor!"

"Already?" Dale shakes his head. I know this is a little early, but it's happening. "Follow me."

Dale leads us down the hall. All the while, Harmony groans and pants. Dale pushes open the doors to a private room. A nurse helps him, and I lay Harmony down on the bed. Her back bows, and she screams. I don't know what to do!

Debbie, the nurse, rushes around, helping Harmony out of her clothes and into a hospital gown. I pace the floor, biting my fist while Dale does his thing. He checks how far along Harmony is, and I have to swallow a growl. Having another man seeing my mate's intimate area is hard to swallow. I want to rip his head off his shoulders! However, I also know Dale is doing his job; he's not looking at my mate in a way he shouldn't.

'Very mature of you, Theo!

'Dad's been coaching me for a couple of weeks, Hendrix. You know this. If he hadn't, I'd have killed Dale already!

'You could have just requested a female doctor to be here instead of Dale?'

'We don't have a female doctor at the moment. I should have hired one, but I didn't, and it doesn't matter now!'

I cut off my Lycan and take Harmony's hand, kissing her knuckles. She's flustered, sweating, and gritting her teeth. I clench my teeth when she squeezes my hand so hard I feel the bones crack!

I send a group mind link to let everyone know Harmony is in labor. I may have been a little panicked, but whatever.

"Theo," Harmony groans while turning on her side to face me. She closes her eyes with a whimper while clutching my fist to her chest. I lean over and rub her back, and she all but purrs. Dad told me he did this for Mom, which helped ease things.

As time progresses and labor progresses, Harmony's groans and screams get louder and louder. She sits with her feet on the bed, legs apart, while Dale rechecks things.

"Oh, sh.it, it hurts." Harmony whimpers.

"I know it does, baby, but it will be over soon. Then we'll have our boy in our arms."

"Where's Lyric? Why isn't she here yet?"

"I'm here! I'm here!" Lyric rushes through the door right on cue.

"I thought you weren't coming."

Lyric grabs Harmony's free hand. "I'm so sorry, Harm. I had to deal with something, but I'm here now."

"Harmony," Dale looks up from between my mate's legs. "On the next contraction, I need you to push, okay?"

Harmony nods.

"Theo, please."

I know what she's asking without hearing the words. I kick my shoes off and climb onto the bed behind my mate, with my legs on either side of Harmony's body. She leans back against me.

I lay my hands on her stomach, feeling the tightness as another contraction hits.

"Push, Harmony!"

"I am!" She screams at Lyric.

The contraction ends, and I'm gritting my teeth because her nails are so far into my skin; she's drawing blood!

"What are you groaning at?" I hadn't realized I was loud enough to be heard. "You think this hurts?" Harmony wiggles her nails against the backs of my hands. "This is nothing! You don't know pain, you miserable bas.tard! You did this to me, you as.shole! You are never touching me again! I hate you!"

I look at Lyric, who's trying not to laugh.

Dad told me about this and how Mom threatened to castrate him when she was in labor with Thane. Mom told Dad she hated him, that she didn't want him as a mate anymore, and he was evil for doing this to her. Then Dad laughed at the shocked expression on my face.

He said, 'Son, as my father told me, women will say all sorts when they are in pain. Labor is a pain no man can handle. Women are amazing creatures. They stand by our sides through war, take care of us because it comes naturally to them, and they would walk through fire to save us.

'They carry our children with a heart full of love. When the day comes, and the pain the likes we'll never know wracks their bodies, they say things they don't mean. Harmony may well blame you and tell you she hates you. But remember, she won't mean those horrible words. Pain makes people say things in the heat of the moment.

'Besides, Harmony will instantly apologize if she's anything like your mother. Just remember that she loves you, and don't take her harsh words to heart!'

I smile and kiss Harmony's head. "I know, baby girl, it's all my fault."

Harmony screams while pushing, clutching my hands tightly. I grit my teeth but don't make a sound.

"That's it, Harmony, push. You can do this."

"Shut up, Lyric! You try pushing something the size of a watermelon through the stretched opening the size of a plum and see if you can do this! ARGH!"

Lyric looks at me and smirks. Good, she's not taking Harmony's harsh words to heart, either.

"Harmony, the baby is crowning." My eyes are wide as excitement fills me. "Relax for a moment, and give it all you've got on the next push."

"I can't," Harmony shakes her head. She's trying hard to fight the fatigue, but it can't be easy. "It's too hard. It hurts too much."

With my hand on her face, I turn her to look at me. "I know how much this hurts, and I'm so sorry,"

"No, I'm sorry. I don't hate you; I love you so much."

"I know, and I love you too. But you have to do this for our little boy. I know it's a little early, but he can't wait to meet his beautiful mommy." Harmony's eyes sparkle with tears. "You are the strongest woman I know. You can do this, Harmony, love of my life." She nods, turns away, and with a scream, bares down. I hold my breath, even when Dale smiles. Harmony stops screaming and giggle-sobs. My eyes widen as Dale holds up the most beautiful baby I have ever seen. My son. My boy. "Lyric, if you could pull down Harmony's robe,"

I growl.

What is this sh.it?

"Easy, Theo. It must be done so I can lay the baby on Harmony's chest. It's paramount for their bonding."

I don't have time to protest, Lyric already has Harmony's gown unwrapped, and Dale is laying our son on her chest.

"Oh," Harmony sobs while kissing the baby's head. "Hello, my baby. I'm your mommy, and I love you so much. Look, Theo. Look what we did."

Tears fall from my eyes as I wrap my arms around my mate and son. I stroke his tiny dark head. "I'm your daddy. I'm your daddy." A sob of joy escapes me.

I knew I'd be happy when the day arrived, but this feeling is something else. Nothing in the world could compare to this moment - nothing.

"He's beautiful, Harm." Lyric kisses Harmony's head while stroking the baby's head. "Well done, and congratulations."

"Is he okay?"

"Yes," Dale nods at me. "I was a little concerned when you got here. But I don't sense any problems. We'll check him over just to be sure, but I don't think there's anything to worry about."

Good.

"Why don't you take him to meet our family while I get cleaned up?"

I take a deep breath and nod.

"Let me just check him over; then you can take him."

I climb off the bed, and Dale takes my son.

I help Harmony sit back against the bed. "You did so well, baby girl. I am so proud of you."

"Thank you. I'm so sorry for the things I said. I didn't mean them, Theo."

"I know. Don't worry about anything right now. Let Lyric help you get cleaned up. I'll take the baby to meet everyone; then I'll be back."

Harmony shoots me a tired smile. "Okay, handsome. I love you."

"I love you too, more than you'll ever know." Until my dying day.

It only takes a few minutes before Dale declares my son healthy, and Debbie brings him to me.

"He's wearing a diaper, but the blanket is the only thing keeping him warm. You didn't bring any clothes with you." She smiles apologetically. "He'll need feeding soon. So if you have him back with his mother within ten minutes, we can get him latched on to the b****t." "Right." I tip my head and take my boy for the first time in my arms. I am feeling so much right now it's overwhelming.

"If you'd like, you can hold him against your naked chest before you go out there. Skin to skin with Daddy and baby is just as important as with Mommy, Prince Theo."

I want that; I want to bond with my son the way Harmony did.

Debbie removes the baby's blanket and tells me to lift my shirt. I do, and Debbie helps me slip my son underneath. I'm chest to chest with my son, and all the love in the world fills me for him.

When I kiss his head, I pray that he feels my love. Nothing, and nobody will ever hurt him. I will protect him with my life, for he is my life, just like his mother.

I look back at Harmony as Lyric helps her to the bathroom. "I won't be long, beautiful."

"Take your time, handsome."

I head out the door with my son still against my chest under my shirt. All of my siblings are here, my parents and grandparents.

"Oh, Theo!" Mom gushes while kissing my son's head.

"Everyone, I'd like you to meet Adam Spencer Theo Knight. My son."

My family crowd around, congratulating me until Adam lets out his first cry.

"I think someone needs a feed."

"I think you're right, Mom. I best get this little man back to his mommy."

"Just a second." Thane hovers his head over my son's head. A golden light shines from his palm. "Welcome to the family, Prince Adam Knight. May you have a prosperous life, and may the Moon Goddess and Mighty Fenrir always favor you."

My heart swells with pride. My brother, the King, has blessed my son, and I couldn't be happier.

Lyric leaves Harmony's room. "Mommy would like her little boy back." I nod and turn to go, but Lyric takes my arm. "Thank you." She whispers.

I nod again and keep walking. I didn't need Lyric's thanks, but knowing she's finally accepted me meant a lot.

"There you are."

"I'm sorry, sweetheart." I remove Adam from my shirt, lay him in Harmony's arms, and kiss her head. She's clean from her shower and sitting in a chair. Debbie helps Adam latch onto Harmony's

breast. I sit beside her, this gorgeous creature using her body to nourish our sons, and I breathe deeply. There's pain in my heart because I will have to send them away, and though it's for the best, it hurts.

"I'll always love you."

"Ditto, man of mine."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 53[1,790 words]

Lyric

Every night for the past month since Harmony left, I have had the same dream. I'm standing inside the castle; only it's not the Knight Castle I know. This castle is dull and lifeless, cold and dank. Everything is covered in dust and cobwebs, as though the place had been abandoned long ago.

I walk the castle halls like a ghost, calling Thane's name, though he never answers. It's always cold here, but I don't feel it, even though my feet are bare. I wear the same long, flowing white dress that hits my feet every night. The long sleeves touch the backs of my hands. My long hair is tied half up and half down, with curls hitting the base of my spine.

I don't know what the dream is trying to tell me, but I hear someone whispering my name every night. I follow the sound, but it leads me nowhere other than back to where I started. It's like I'm in a maze, and there's no way out.

The screams in the distance put me on edge the most. There's something so familiar about it, but I can never put my finger on why.

I always wake up confused, even more so when Thane asks me what happened to make me wake up gasping for air. I'm confused because I open my mouth to explain everything, yet nothing will come out at all. Like literally nothing! It's as though there's a block in my throat, or a padlock with a lost key, never to be found.

Why couldn't I tell my mate about my dream?

But I couldn't, so I'd shake my head and tell him it was nothing. Thane had no reason to doubt me, even if he did the first night. I took his mind off things with hot, steamy sex. Thane stopped pushing for answers after that night. Thankfully, because I couldn't give him any if I wanted to, and I did want to.

My days are filled with making plans for when Astro finally shows his face, hiding my pregnancy, and spending time with my new family. I've spoken to Harmony a couple of times. Little Adam is beautiful, and Esme looks happy. I can tell, though, that Harmony isn't doing too well. She's

missing Theo like crazy, and we've never been apart like this before. I have to reassure her every time that we'll be together again soon. Each time we end our calls, I end up in tears. I blame hormones, but it's more than that. Today, I went to bed early, feeling much more tired than I ever have before. It didn't take me long to fall asleep and less time to end up in this same dream.

Why the hell does this keep happening?

I'm sick of walking through the same halls and getting nowhere. I open the doors but find nothing inside. Then there's that voice again that calls me. 'Lyric. Though it comes as a whisper to my ears, I finally know the direction from which it's coming. I turn and follow the sound, walking through the dull and eerie halls for what feels like hours. The voice gets louder the closer I get to the dream version of Starr's bedroom.

"Lyric," I hear someone sing-song from behind the door.

Curious.

Why would my dream lead me to Starr's room? Oh, well.

I open the door and step inside. My eyes land on Starr, asleep on her bed. Though she's laid out like a dead body prepared for burial rather than someone asleep. She's dressed exactly as I am, barefoot and wearing the same hairstyle. What the hell?

Why am I dreaming this?

"Because it's not really a dream."

I gasp, spin on the spot, and come face to face with the monster who has haunted me my whole life. "Astro."

He smirks, and my heart hammers in my chest. I don't know why I'm seeing him, perhaps because killing him is always on my mind. But even in my dream, seeing him has shaken me. It's alright saying you're not scared of the man who seeks to take you as his bride. But only a fool wouldn't be shaken by finally coming face to face with him.

This bas.tard took my parents and my aunt from me. If Emori hadn't blessed Harmony, Astro would have taken her from me too. But Harmony is safe in the Vampire Kingdom; I don't have to worry. Even if she was here, this is just a dream, and I need to keep reminding myself of that.

"You look confused, niece."

"No," I cross my arms over my chest and sigh. "Just didn't expect to see you in my dream."

Astro smirks while flicking the bottom of his white robe behind him. "You think this is a dream? That's sweet. This isn't a dream. Well," He huffs. "Not quite. This is your subconscious, Lyric, and I brought you here in your sleep because it was the easiest way to get to you."

"What?" What the hell?

How is that even possible?!

I'm asleep!

"You are asleep." Bas.tard read my mind! "Your mortal body is resting back in the living realm. But you will not wake up this time. For you see, the moment you walked into this room, your soul became mine."

"I will never be yours!"

Astro laughs while raising his eyebrow.

Anger fills me, and I grit my teeth. Nothing about this is funny! I can't speak to Aspen, she's not with me here, nor can I contact Thane. I'm all alone here with no way out! "Here's the thing, Lyric. Your soul belongs to me until I decide to free it, and I will when I get what I want. But that is not you any longer."

I furrow my brow.

If he doesn't want me, then why the hell am I here?

"I can answer that," I growl because I hate that he's reading my mind. "But I'll get to that in a moment. First off, you and your fuc.ked up Lycans killed my daughter."

"I doubt that; I don't even know who your daughter is." Taylen isn't dead, their bond isn't broken, and I won't play this stupid game.

"You've already forgotten Emori?"

Emori?

She's his sister; why would he refer to her as his daughter?

This man is even more mental than even I realized.

"She'd be very sad to hear that if she were alive."

"Emori was your sister, not your daughter, you freak!"

Sicko chuckles. "I guess you could say she's both." He shrugs, and my stomach turns over. "Let me tell you a little story of a Fairy Queen and her son."

"No," I shake my head. "I don't want to hear this!"

"There was once a beautiful Fairy Queen," I open my mouth to protest, but I can't speak. This monster took my voice! "She gave the King three children, a boy, and two girls. They were the pride of the Kingdom. The girls were the apple of the King's eye, and he spent all his free time with them, neglecting his Queen. She sought solace in her son's arms, and they became lovers."

And I wish I was deaf! Astro is possibly the sickest bas.tard I have ever met! I'll never be able to get this sh.it out of my head, nor the smug look of pride on his face.

"For eighty years, they lived in bliss. Laying in each other's arms after hours of lovemaking. The lovers entwined whenever the King was away, becoming one in all things. Until one day, the Queen confessed she was with child. She and her son had created life, binding them together forever."

I'm going to be sick!

"I cast a spell so the King would believe the child was his. But how could it be when they hadn't been intimate for many years?"

I don't know if that was a rhetorical question or not. But as Astro paces the floor, I have to wonder if he placed a spell upon his mother to force her to be his lover. Or perhaps that's what she did to him. Either way, they were sick and twisted!

"A beautiful baby girl was born, and we named her Emori. Everything was fine; I pretended Emori was my sister as Mother wished. Though Father became curious as to why I loved the child so much. I was not that way with Emily or Elena, but Emori was my heart, and I couldn't help showing it.

"However, I played Father's curiosity off as Emori being much younger than the rest of us. It sated him, and Mother and I continued our affair for many years. That is until the day Father caught us."

He sneers like he was so hard done by. I can't and don't want to imagine what the Fairy King walked in on that day. I always knew Astro was vile, but sleeping with and having a baby with his mother is something else!

"He murdered the love of my life in front of me!" My eyes widen when his turn red. "I wasn't fast enough to stop him, but I made him suffer. I killed that bas.tard where he stood!"

Then he took it all out on Emori, not to mention Mom and Emily. Disgusting.

"You and your Lycans took my daughter from me. You killed the only part I had left of my mother! And if that wasn't enough for you, you took my youngest daughter. Where is she?!"

Air rushes from my throat, and I'm finally able to speak.

"Yeah, we killed Emori," I smirk, and his eyes widen in anger. "You shouldn't have sent her to kill my mate! Sadly for you, she failed because I caught her. Maybe you should have chosen someone smarter. But you didn't, and she was executed for her crimes. She screamed, you know? She screamed and begged, and my mate took great pleasure in tearing her apart!"

"You bit.ch!"

"Tut tut, Astro." I walk backward, closer to the bed, closer to Starr. I'm scared that she's really there. This is my subconscious, and Astro is capable of anything here.

"You took my parents from me, so I took Emori from you. As for your other daughter, I don't have a clue who that is. But you're stupid and sent another child into the Lycan's den. I don't know where she is, but if my mate finds her, she'll be dead before you can blink. If she's out there, call her home."

I shrug and roll my eyes.

His eye twitches, and it hits me. "You can't, can you? Emori's death weakened you too much. That's why you dragged me here like this. Because you don't have the strength to do much in the real world. Oh, Goddess, this is priceless!" I laugh loudly. "Let's see how funny you find this!"

Light emanates from his outstretched hand, heading toward the bed.

I turn my head in time to see Starr twist and scream. She's really here! "Starr!"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 54[1,950 words]

Thane

"Do we have to talk about this now?"

"Yes, Blaze, we do. Now, stop pacing and sit the fu.ck down!"

Blaze rolls his eyes, pulls out a chair, and slams himself into the chair next to me.

Blaze, Theo, Tyler, and I are in my private library. It's early morning, and training just ended. We could all do with a shower, but while I had Blaze, I wanted to talk to him about his mate. He may have avoided the topic for weeks; we all have because we've been busy lately. But there's no avoiding me right now.

"Right, now tell me why Theo thinks your mate rejected you."

"What?" Blaze looks confused. "Why would you think that, Theo? And why did you go running to Thane! I would have told him myself if I wanted him to know anything! Not that there was anything to tell." "Blaze," Tyler takes Blaze's arm and shakes his head. "Calm down."

Blaze snatches his arm back and shoots Theo a death glare. This isn't like Blaze, the moody attitude. Sure, he's a violent fu.cker when he starts, but he's the silent brooding type, not this angry person I see before me.

"I didn't run to Thane, Blaze. All I told him was what I saw. Now I find out your mate is human, and you met her elsewhere. So who was that woman I saw you with, and why'd you let me believe she was your mate and that she'd rejected you?"

"You assumed, Theo, and I didn't correct you." Blaze shrugs. "That girl was a friend of Bella's," Blaze's younger sister. "I smiled because I was happy to see her. I hadn't in months because she'd been staying with family in Ireland.

"I was upset because she'd found her mate, and he'd rejected her. I was livid and wanted to kill the guy. I only didn't because Amelie asked me to leave it. She went off to find Bella, and I went to the gym. But you stopped me on the way, assumed what you did, and I let you because it kept my true mate hidden. You weren't supposed to tell anyone, so I didn't correct you."

Theo looks at me with furrowed brows, and I shrug. I don't like that Blaze kept his mate a secret, but it was his choice.

"You didn't verbally reject your mate?"

Blaze shakes his head at me. "I know I should have, but I couldn't bring myself to. I am truly sorry that I kept this from you, but my head was a mess. I didn't know what to do for the best." "So, you just left your mate?"

"Yes, Tyler!"

"How could you do something so stupid?"

Blaze growls at himself while raking his fingers through his hair.

"She's human; it would have been nothing more than a one-night stand to her."

"But you said she was raised in a wolf pack, that she knew what you were. She'd know all about mate bonds, Blaze."

"But she wouldn't feel it, Theo, and I didn't tell her that's what we were. Goddess, I was doing fine until..."

"Until what?"

"Until you and Theo met Lyric and Harmony. Then Emori came back to Ty, and I just kept thinking that I'd made a big mistake. I don't even know her, but she was mine, you know?" Stupid fool.

Blaze should never have walked away from the girl. Bringing her here may not have gone smoothly, but I would have understood his need to be with her eventually. I would have allowed the girl to stay.

If Blaze decides to go after his mate, he'll have a lot of groveling to do. She's human, so the bond won't be strong for her, but that doesn't mean it won't be there. Once the girl sees Blaze, something will be there for her. It will be her choice whether or not to forgive him.

"Listen to me, Blaze," He looks at me. "Stop beating yourself up like this. Go and find your mate and bring her home."

"To what, Thane? For me to watch her grow old and die? I'd rather carry on without her than have to witness that."

Goddess, why do these three always know how to pull on my heartstrings?

"No," I sigh. "I don't expect you to bring your mate here so you can watch her die."

"What? You'll let me bring my mate here, get her permission, and then change her?" He scoffs.

"Yes, Blaze, that's precisely what I'm saying."

"Thane,"

"It's okay, Theo. It wouldn't be right that I allowed Tyler to change his mate, freaking Astro's sister, of all things!"

"Hey!" Tyler yells, making us all laugh.

"The point is," I continue once the laughter dies down. "You deserve to be happy, Blaze, as much, if not more so than anyone else. Go do what you have to do and bring the girl home. What's her name?"

Blaze smiles dreamily. "Her name is Rain."

"Thane!"

"Mom?" Each one of us jumps out of our seats when my mother stumbles through the door, Dad hot on her heels.

"He took my baby! He took my baby!" Mom throws herself into my arms, clinging to me, sobbing and shaking. What the fu.ck?

"Dad?"

"Astro took your sister. He took Starr."

My eyes widen in shock.

"What the hell?" Theo blows out a breath. "How is this possible? How did he get past Aidan? Oh, Goddess, what about Harmony?"

"Aidan just called," Dad swallows hard while taking Mom from my arms. She clings to him, still sobbing. "He said Starr went out even though he'd warned her never to go alone. Aidan said Starr had been acting strangely for days.

"When she didn't return, Aidan sent men to look for her. His guards said they weren't able to get to her before the Fairy Warriors dragged her away. My baby girl." Dad's eyes water, still on me, and I don't know what the fu.ck to say; I'm in shock! "Aidan said that Harmony won't wake up; it's as if the Fairy King somehow put a spell on her."

"No!"

Tyler grabs Theo's arm. "Calm down. Let Dad finish, Theo."

"That's my mate! Sh.it, what about Adam? Dad, what did Aidan say about Adam?"

"Adam's fine, so is Esme. Aidan is on his way here with the kids and Harmony. Your mom needs Esme here. Goddess, they weren't safe, Thane! Where's Lyric?"

"She's sleeping. Sh.it!" I bolt from the room, everyone chasing after me. But I suddenly have a terrible feeling. If that bas.tard was able to get to Harmony, a woman he wouldn't recognize if he looked directly at her, then he could have done something to Lyric. I burst into our chambers to find Lyric lying flat on her back on the bed, just as I left her hours ago.

"Lyric?" I call her name, but she doesn't stir. I climb on the bed and reach out my hand.

"No! Don't touch her!"

I turn my head to see Emori rushing through the room with Taylen. Theo, Tyler, Blaze, Mom, Dad, Bolton, and Amelia all stand watching. I do not allow others in my room! I can't believe these people think it's okay to... Whatever, it doesn't matter right now. "What are you talking about?"

"Please don't touch her," Emori repeats. "Tyler mind linked to let me know what happened. Lyric is like this because Astro has pulled her into her own subconscious mind."

"So, if you touch Lyric, it could kill her." Taylen swallows hard.

I leap off the bed, my left eye changing as Jagger joins me upfront.

'You said Astro was too weak to come for Lyric yet!' Jagger growls.

"Yes," Emori nods. "Astro's body is too weak in the flesh, but his mind is strong. He sent his henchmen to collect Starr as punishment for what he believes you did, killed me. Astro has used this kind of trick before, invading someone's subconscious mind while they slept. This is what he's done to Lyric through her dreams. Why didn't you tell me Lyric was pregnant?"

Mom gasps, but I don't take my eyes off Emori. Everyone can see Lyric's baby bum because the spell seems to have broken. With Lyric asleep like this, she can't keep the protection shield up.

Goddess, dammit, all to hell!

'This bitch is too nosey for her own good.'

'Pull back, Jagger; we don't have time for this.

My Lycan steps back, allowing me to take over entirely.

"That's none of your business, Emori!"

"Don't yell at her, Thane. This isn't Emori's fault."

"Shut up, Tyler! You," I point to Emori. "Tell me how your sick brother managed to do this."

"Because Lyric is pregnant. Using her magic didn't cause this; the pregnancy itself did. All the stress she's been under left her mind open to him. If Taylen and I had known about the baby, we could have helped keep Astro out of Lyric's mind." Great, just fu.cking great!

No, I won't allow myself to be angry about Lyric's decision. Our baby means absolutely everything to Lyric. If my mate had known what could have happened, I know she'd have told Emori.

"Where does Harmony come into this?"

"I honestly don't know, Thane. That's the one thing that doesn't make sense to me. But maybe it's because Harmony is connected to Lyric with them being twins." "Mommy! Mommy!"

"Esme!"

Esme jumps into Mom's arms. Dad takes Adam from Garrick, and Aidan rushes into the room with Harmony in his arms. He lays her next to Lyric, and I notice he wrapped her up and wasn't touching any exposed skin. Goddess knows how he knew not to touch her. "Harmony,"

"Don't touch her, Theo." Aidan shakes his head. "If this is what I think it is, it could be dangerous."

It is what Aidan is thinking, though I have no idea why or how he'd be thinking it.

"Thane, I'm so sorry; it all happened so quickly. Here." He hands me a note from his pocket, and I read it to myself.

Dear Thane,

By the time you read this, I'll be long gone. It wasn't easy to come to this decision, but in the end, I knew it was the only way. Astro has somehow infiltrated my mind. He sent me visions of a future where every one of you is dead, and all that's left is me. I don't want to live in that world, Thane. I can't live without all of you.

Astro said there was a way to erase that future, and that's if I traded places with Lyric. I know he could be lying, and he could still come for her. But isn't it worth taking the chance that he might be telling the truth?

I have to believe that giving my life for everyone will work out for the best. Know that I went willingly, and I did it for you. Please don't hate me, Thane. Please. I am loyal to my King, my brother, my hero, and I love you so much.

Tell Mom, Dad, Theo, Tyler, Esme, Isla, Ivy, Adam, Lyric, Harmony, Emori, Blaze, and all of our uncles, aunts, cousins, and grandparents that I loved them all. Tell Thorin and Tane that even though they were shits to me all my life, I loved them so much. Could you do something for me, Thane?

Please take care of Tristan for me. He won't understand why I'm doing this, nor why I had to leave him. But tell him that even in death, he will always be the other half of my soul. I'll always love him, and I hope he'll forgive me one day.

I love you, Thane. You will always be, in this life and the next, my King.

If my sacrifice is for nothing, remember never to give up until you kill that bastard Fairy King! Kill him in the worse way, Thane!

Don't blame Aidan for what I chose to do; it was my choice to make, Thane. It was no one else's doing but mine.

Goodbye, Big Brother.

Oh, Starr, what have you done?

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 55[1,772 words]

Lyric

"Let her go! Please, let her go!" A sob gets caught in my throat.

Astro smirks while holding Starr suspended off the ground. "This one came to me willingly. Silly girl believed all those lies and visions." He chuckles evilly.

I look at Starr, looking at me. She smiles, and my heart breaks. "It's okay." She mouths, but I shake my head.

I know without asking that Starr did this for me, for our family, and now she'd going to lose her life. I can see it, and so can she; Astro will not let her go.

I can't let this happen to Starr. That sweet girl who likes to pull pranks on their older siblings with her twin should be doing just that right now. Starr should be at home with Tristan plotting their next revenge move on Thorin and Tane. Now they have a mate; all five of them would probably be up to no good.

I don't know how Astro did this. After all my research on Fairy magic, dragging some into their subconscious mind never came up. All of those damn books never said anything about this! So, of course, Astro being able to hurt me or anyone else in my subconscious has thrown me for a loop.

I don't know how to get out of here or save Starr. Nothing comes to mind, and even if it did, this lunatic would probably know before I could do anything. I can't even believe he was able to bring Starr here. I am so confused! Would Astro really be able to kill Starr here?

If he kills her here, does that mean her body in the real world dies?

"That's exactly what it means." Astro laughs at the fury on my face. I hate that he knows my thoughts! "What do you think I should do with her, Lyric?"

"Send her back to her family. Please." [Read more at FindNovel.net.](#)

"Is that what Emori said when she begged for her life? Please let me go home to my family? But the Lycan King didn't let Emori go; he killed her!"

"Because she tried to kill him!" I scream in retaliation. "What did you think would happen, Astro? That Thane would forgive and forget? He's the Lycan King, for fucks sake!"

"He took my baby girl!" He bellows, and I sigh because this is getting us nowhere. Astro isn't listening to reason. "Well, there's a saying even you wolves will know. A life for a life!"

"NO!" My breath catches in my throat as I try to reach Starr. She screams, and in a flash of light, she's gone. Ash falls from the air like snow on a winter's day. Tears fall from my eyes, and I think I've forgotten how to breathe. That didn't really happen, right?

Astro didn't just kill Starr, right in front of my eyes?

No, it can't be true. I'm asleep and dreaming, and all of this is a bad dream, a nightmare, and I'll wake up soon and laugh this off. Or have nightmares for years to come.

"This is all very real, Lyric. When I eventually let you out of here, if I let you out of here, you'll see."

If this is real, then Starr is really gone.

Oh, Goddess, why?

Why take that sweet girl from us?

How will we ever find her body to give her a proper funeral?

"I want Taylen back. Now, or I'll take another of your mate's siblings. The end will be the same for them; you mark my words."

"Are you mentally deficient?!" I rub my forehead with my fingertips. Anger and sadness fill me to the brim, and I'm scared I'll explode! "This is ridiculous. You murdered my innocent sister-in-law," I swallow back the urge to cry, though tears slip from my lashes. "In revenge for Emori's death. You're a monster!"

"I don't know who Taylen is, and I don't care. If you want her back, then send your minions to find her; that's if she isn't just hiding from you. You said you don't want me anymore, so let me go."

As the monster circles me as if circling his prey, my stomach turns over, and I fight the urge to vomit. I've never felt so repulsed by anyone in my life. Yuri and Lennix came a close second, but even with all they did, it doesn't compare to Astro.

"You're right; I don't want you." My skin crawls with him standing behind me, speaking in my ear. Gooseflesh rises on my skin, and I fight the urge to scream. "Why would I want a tainted Lycan's who.re like you?"

I try to pull away from him, but I'm unable to move. My limbs suddenly don't work, and I'm frozen in place. I cringe when his fingers skim my shoulder, pushing my hair away from my neck and touching my mark.

"Get your slimy fuc.king hands off me!"

His deep chuckle rumbles through me. "Don't fear, Lyric; I'm not going to touch you. I need you healthy."

Both hands slide over my stomach, and my eyes widen. My baby bump is visible! No! This can't be happening. My protection spell; it's supposed to be working!

"It doesn't work here, Lyric," I growl because I hate that he knows what I'm thinking! "Well done for trying, but you couldn't hide her from me forever." With his cheek against mine and his hands stroking my stomach, I close my eyes. He wants my baby!

No, no, no!

Goddess, help me, please! Don't let this monster take my baby from me.

I have never loved anyone or anything the way I love this baby. I would do anything to protect her, no matter what it costs me. I thought I'd done all I could to hide her from Astro, but I failed. Something went wrong with the shield, and Astro fed on that. All I did to hide my little girl from this pig failed.

"I'm going to keep you here until my future bride enters the world."

"And you really think I'll stand by and let that happen?"

Astro walks around my body until he's in front of me. "You won't have a choice. See, I don't need you anymore, Lyric. Your daughter is about to take your place."

"You're crazy! You can keep me here all you want, but my body is back with Thane. My child will be there with him."

"Yes," Astro nods. "For all of three seconds before she appears in my hands. Yes," He smirks at my wide-eyed expression. "I am almost at full strength. By the time she's born, I'll be ready."

"You will never..." Hands wrap around my throat, squeezing and cutting off the air supply to my lungs.

"Do not test me, Lyric. I could kill you right here and right now."

He could, but it wouldn't do him any good. He doesn't know I'd wake up almost instantly - I hope.

But what would it do to my baby?

I can't risk anything happening to her; if I lose her, I may as well be dead. My baby is my world, and I'd do anything to save her.

"My baby," I manage to force out. "P-Please."

Astro sneers in my face before angrily letting go of me.

I greedily pull air into my lungs, and finally, I can move my hands. Hurriridly, I clasp my stomach, rubbing my hands in circles and trying to calm my little girl as she kicks hard against me. 'It'll be okay, baby girl.' I speak in my mind, hoping my baby can somehow hear me. 'I'll get us out of this and home to Daddy, I promise!

Goddess knows how I'm going to get us out of here. But I can't give up; I'll never give up.

"You know, I don't need you alive to take your child, Lyric."

"You are so deluded. By now, my mate will know something is wrong. He'll have all sorts of people looking into why I won't wake up. The Knight's will have felt Starr's death, and..." "Exactly!" Sicko laughs while clapping his hands excitedly. "Those Lycan freaks will be in so much pain; they'll have taken their eye off the ball."

"Or they'll have tightened security around the family."

This man is so stupid it's unreal! Thane would never give up on me, nor will he leave me alone. Yes, he'll be in pain after losing Starr, but that will only make him more determined to stay by my side until he has a reason for all of this. Thane is intelligent and will, by now, know something is wrong.

Goddess knows what Thane is going through right now. His sister is dead, and his mate is locked in sleep. I wonder if Emori and Taylen understand why I won't wake up. If they've figured things out, and they may well have because they know Astro the most, then perhaps they'll know how to get me the hell out of here.

I really hope someone knows how to help me. I do not want to die here. I want to go home to my mate; he needs me now more than ever. Thane is a strong man, but he just lost his sister. I don't know what that feels like, but I know what losing a loved one is like. It hurts so much sometimes that it's hard to breathe.

"Smoke rises, Lyric, and it chokes before anyone realizes what's happening. I'll be back to full strength in just a few days."

"So soon after losing your so-called daughter?"

"Losing my daughter was painful, but I have something important to do. Killing you and taking my future bride. All I need do is slip like smoke past your mate and take your body back to Valnor.

"Yes," He nods without looking at me. "That's what I'll do. It couldn't be any easier." Astro cackles, and I have to think he's really lost the plot. The man is a lunatic of the worse kind!

'Lyric,'

My eye twitches. Someone just whispered my name! I look at Astro, but he's still pacing, so hopefully, he doesn't realize what I'm doing.

'Who's there?' I heard them in my mind, so that's how I answered.

'I'm coming for you.' The feminine voice whispers inside my mind. 'Hold on just a little longer; I'm almost through.'

I don't know who the hell this person is or if I can trust them.

But what do I have to lose?

"I think I'll name her Sephora. It will suit my future bride, don't you think?"

I open my mouth to speak when a gust of wind circles around me. Astro's eyes widen, and someone wraps their arms around mine from behind. "NO!" Astro screams.

The person behind me throws their hand out, lightning strikes Astro, and he flies across the room.

"Let's go home."

I smirk at her words, nod my head, and disappear into a cloud of smoke.

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 56[2,106 words]

Thane

"Please wake up, baby. I need you; Adam needs you. I've lost my sister; I can't lose you too. I can't be here without you, Harmony. Please don't leave me."

I close my eyes and breathe deeply through my nose. I don't know how much longer Theo and I can go on like this. It's only been a day, but it's one day too many.

I'm keeping it together for both of us, being strong because Theo can't right now. But it's not easy. When Lyric was shot, and I believed she had died, I knew it was final, or I thought it was. Yes, I was grieving, but in my mind, there was no hope she'd come back. Now she's sleeping, locked in a place I can't follow, and I'm lost.

I slide my hand over Lyric's swollen stomach. Emori said it would be okay for me to touch Lyric over her clothes as long as I didn't touch her skin. Whatever that means, I wasn't listening past touching her over her clothes.

I don't know what's going on with our baby, but she hasn't moved since Lyric fell asleep. It is as though our daughter is sleeping too.

Of course, I was worried, so I got Dale to come to our chambers. He didn't need to touch Lyric to check our baby girl or sense her heartbeat. I can hear her heartbeat; we all can now. But I needed Dale to use his ability to sense illness or whether anything was wrong with our unborn child.

Thankfully, Dale said the baby's heartbeat was strong, and he couldn't sense any problems. He couldn't tell me why she wasn't moving without giving Lyric a physical examination. I couldn't allow that, so Dale left.

I put Blaze in charge of Royal duties for now, even though I know this is hard for him too. Mom and Dad are so broken; I don't know if they'll ever be okay again.

My beautiful, sweet baby sister died today, murdered by a madman! Every member of my family felt the moment Starr's light went out. We all fell to our knees and howled to the sky in pain. It wasn't long before the howls of every Lycan and Werewolf in Lykos joined the sad lament. Our world now knows of their lost Princess.

If losing Starr wasn't bad enough, Thorin came running into the room an hour ago, yelling about how Tristan collapsed. Tyler ran out of here as fast as his legs could carry him. Blaze came by a short while later to fill Theo and me in on what was happening. Tristan had been with Thorin, Tane, and Charlie. The three were trying to comfort Tristan over the news that Starr was missing.

In all of this drama, I didn't even think how Starr being missing would be affecting Tristan. What kind of brother am I?

Blaze went on to say that Tristan's Lycan spoke through his mouth, his eyes the color of midnight, and screaming how Starr had gone. Shade knew seconds before everyone else as if he felt it first. Tristan sobbed that Starr's light had gone out, and Tristan's soon followed. As Tristan gave up fighting, Shade said, 'Forever sleep!' causing Tristan to collapse as though he were dead.

Tristan's Lycan threw my brother into Status Sleep to protect him from pain. Tristan will not awaken until Shade releases his hold. Shade won't release his hold because the pain of losing Starr will never leave Tristan. If he was awake, we could help Tristan grieve. Goddess, we've already lost Starr, and now we're going to lose Tristan. He will never wake up from this, and if he doesn't? He'll die. A Lycan can last for up to a year in Status Sleep before they fade away.

I honestly don't know what the fu.ck to do to help him. If Tristan had a mate, they might be able to help. But then again, maybe not. If Tristan dies, I don't know what this will do to my mother. Seeing her fall to the floor when Starr died, I felt a piece of my mother die with my sister. I should check on her and Tristan, but I can't leave Lyric.

How can one man have caused so much devastation?

A knock on the door has me lifting my head. Aidan walks through the door with Xale. I breathe a sigh of relief. I asked Blaze to send for Xale, even though he had just returned to his Kingdom, to check on things. But if anyone can help me break the Fairy King's hold on Lyric, it's Xale.

"Thane, I got here as quickly as I could. Aidan filled me in on what's being going on. Gods, I'm so sorry."

I tip my head, not knowing how to respond.

"No, no, no!" Levi tries running into the room, and Lia tries to hold him back.

We'd tried to keep Levi away from everything because I didn't think seeing any of this would be good for a little boy. Seems he's found out something is wrong.

But then, how could he not have heard the mournful howls of my city?

Levi's eyes begin to shine with a blinding light, and I have to shield my eyes. The light dies down when Lia gasps and sets Levi on his feet.

"My mate," Levi growls viciously, turns, and runs, jumping onto the bed. I reach to remove him, but there's suddenly an invisible barrier around my mate and Levi. "What the hell is he doing?!" I yell and look at Xale while getting out of my seat. "If he touches Lyric, she'll die!"

Xale shakes his head. He holds out his hand, light emanating from it, forcing the barrier down.

Levi literally flies through the air and into his father's arms. Screaming his little lungs out and fighting Xale as if they were equal.

"Let me go! I want my baby! She needs me; she's scared!"

"Goddess above." Theo shakes his head while looking at Levi and how distressed he is.

The boy is strong for one so young, physically and mentally. I'm not sure about Dragon Young and their capabilities, but this young prince is something else. "Kiencah." Xale breathes, his dragon breath instantly sending Levi to sleep.

"What the hell, Xale!?"

"It had to be done, Lia. Levi was becoming hysterical. Regardless of why, now isn't the time for his theatrics!"

Stern-faced, Lia takes Levi from Xale and storms out of the room.

"Thane, I apologize. Levi hasn't been himself since he Soul Bonded with your unborn daughter. It's as if his Dragon is trying to break free to protect her."

I don't have a clue what this Soul Bonding stuff means. I haven't had time to look into it or speak with Xale and Lia about it. But it's a lot of pressure for a three-year-old to deal with. Not to mention him being my unborn baby's mate is weird as hell! "Thane!"

"Theo!" Come the voices of our mates, shocking me.

"Lyric!" She's sitting up in bed and reaching for me. I grab her, wrapping her up in my arms and breathing her in. Goddess, I've missed her! I kiss Lyric's head over and over. "Thank Selene! You're okay; you're okay."

Lyric pulls away from me, and with tears falling thick and fast from her eyes, she tells me, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I tried to stop him, but I couldn't get to Starr on time. He..."

"Shh..." I shake my head. "You're telling me that Starr was with you in your subconscious?"

"She was already there. I don't know how he did it."

I wipe the tears from Lyric's cheeks with my thumbs. "We can talk it all through in a little while."

Lyric nods, hands clutching at my wrists as I hold her face between my hands.

"How did you get out of there? Emori said there was no way unless Xale knew anything. That's why I called him here."

Lyric doesn't say anything; she pulls my hands away from her face and stands from the bed. I don't want to let her go, but she's already moving toward Harmony and Theo.

My brother has his forehead pressed against Harmony's. Tears fall from his closed eyes, and the relief is evident in the way he's smiling. My family is going through so much right now, and I don't know where we go from here. There is much to deal with, and I'm not sure it can wait.

"Harmony?" Harmony pulls away from Theo and instantly wraps her arms around Lyric. "I don't know how you did it, but you saved me."

"Wait, what?" Lyric and Harmony turn to look at Xale. "How was this possible?"

"The moment Lyric found Astro in her subconscious, I felt my soul bending." Lyric walks into my arms, laying her head on my chest and closing her eyes. "I'm not sure how, but I felt this power surge through me. My Fairy magic woke up." Lyric gasps and looks at Harmony. "It did?"

Harmony nods. "I could feel your fear even though you were trying so hard not to show it. I put myself to sleep on instinct, not thinking about anything else. Something inside was calling to me. It was your soul, Lyric. While Astro had you there, he tried connecting your soul with his."

"He said my soul belonged to him."

I growl and pull Lyric back against me. That motherfucking bas.tard! I'll kill him. If it's the last thing I do, I'll destroy the Fairy King!

"No," Harmony smiles. "He was just trying to get even further into your head. I instinctively knew I had to break the hold Astro had on you. It was hard because the hold was like a strong barrier all around you. But I did it, broke it down, and brought you home." "After you blasted Astro with lightning that shot out of your hand."

Theo looks at me with wide eyes and a smirk.

"Harmony, he saw you."

"No," Harmony smiles again. "I was cloaked all in black from head to toe. The hood of the cloak covered my face. He saw nothing other than me take you and ruin his plans."

"You're amazing." Theo pulls Harmony against him.

"I am utterly gobsmacked. I have never known anything like this in my years on this Earth."

"What do you think it means, Xale?"

"I think, Thane, that it means Astro better look out because those two," He points between Lyric and Harmony. "Are something out of this world."

"You got that right. Lyric?"

"He said he would take our baby, Thane. Astro said he'd take her the moment she's born!"

"No," I shake my head. "He won't get near our baby, Lyric. Luke is putting Demon wards all around the castle. He has friends helping him, Demons, Witches, Warlocks, and such. I have to keep our family safe, especially you and the baby. Nothing is going to happen to her, I promise." "Okay. But what if he gets to me again when I'm asleep?"

"He can't," Lyric looks at Harmony. "I broke the connection, Lyric. He won't be able to pull that stunt again unless he wants to expel more energy than he can afford. If anything does happen, I will find you, I promise."

"Thank you. I'm so sorry I didn't tell you I was pregnant; I was scared of Astro finding out."

"It's okay, Lyric, I understand, believe me. I know now, and I can't wait to meet your little girl."

Lyric moves to embrace Harmony but gasps and grabs her stomach.

"Lyric!" I help her sit on the edge of the bed while I crouch down in front of her. "What's wrong? Is it the baby?" Lyric nods while letting out a long breath. "Is it labor?"

Fu.ck, I hope not! It's too soon!

"No, it's not labor. This happens when I'm away from Levi for too long. I know this all seems strange to you, Thane, but we can't change what the Goddess wanted. Levi was right," Lyric half shrugs. "This is the baby's way of saying she misses him." "Damn."

"What?"

"Just before you woke up, Levi burst in here, trying to get to you. He said the baby was scared and needed him."

"We couldn't risk him touching you, Lyric. Any touch to your skin could have killed you." Xale takes a deep breath through his nose. "I had to put him to sleep." "Why!?"

"Because he was fighting me, Lyric. He could have hurt himself."

"Okay, I understand that. But could you please wake him? The baby is really going crazy right now. I know she won't calm down until Levi speaks to her."

As Xale leaves the room, Lyric lays her head on my shoulder. I wrap my arm around her and kiss her head. She's back with me, and I'll be damned if anyone, including that Fairy Cu.nt, touches her again!

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 57[1,551 words]

Lyric

"They wouldn't let me stay with you." Levi sniffs while stroking his hand over my stomach.

As soon as he came running into the room, he climbed onto the bed beside me. I was leaning back against the headboard, trying to calm my baby. Harmony had left with Theo to see Adam, so it was just me, Thane, and Xale in the room until he collected Levi. The moment Levi lay his head on my baby bump, my baby settled down. I don't know how he does it, but my child certainly knows who comforts her, and it doesn't seem to be me. I know it won't always be this way. Baby girl just needs Levi for now. 'Until she's old enough to feel the mate bond. All she'll want then is Levi.

'Please don't start, Aspen; I'm too tired for this.'

'Sorry!

I stroke my fingers through Levi's blond hair in hopes of comforting him. "I'm sorry you were upset, little man. But you couldn't touch me then, and everyone just wanted to make sure you were safe as well as me."

"My daddy was mad with me." He sniffs again. I look at Xale, who closes his eyes and shakes his head with a sigh. "I just wanted to be near you so Aurora wouldn't be scared anymore." "Aurora?" Levi nods against my stomach. "You named my baby?"

He shakes his head. "She told me."

I look at Thane, who is looking at me with raised eyebrows. 'Our baby told Levi her name? Really?'

I shrug. 'I don't get how this works either, Thane. But it's not a terrible name.' I reply through our mate link. 'Unless you don't like it?'

'It's not that. Of all the names Levi could have come out with, it had to be Aurora? Aurora is my grandmother's middle name. So the fact Levi just came out with that name is curious. 'Lucy's middle name is Aurora?'

Stupid question?

Maybe, but Thane does have two grandmothers. The name could have come from either of them. I just took a guess at it being Lucy's name rather than his grandmother in Scotland. Thane nods. 'Yes, Aurora is Lucy's middle name!

'Well, I don't hate the name. Lucy is amazing, and I love her a lot; she's always so kind to me. What do you think, Thane? If you don't want to name our daughter Aurora, then we won't.' "But that's the name she wants, she told me."

Both Thane and my eyes widen while Xale chuckles.

"Sorry, guys, but Levi could hear your internal conversation. You might find it hard to believe your unborn child's soul speaks to Levi. But he can hear her soul calling to him. They don't have conversations as you might think. It's your daughter's soul, her spirit, that speaks to Levi. Levi feels it when she's afraid, as she was when you were with Astro. When she's happy, he'll feel that too. Knowing her name? Her soul told him.

"Is this crazy? Insane? Unbelievable? Without a doubt. However, my son is a descendant of Leviathan. Levi is a God in his own right, a child with abilities the likes most will never see. Why

does Levi know Aurora is his mate when she hasn't been born yet? It's a gift and a curse my bloodline carries.

"My father knew my mother was his mate the moment she was conceived. He felt her soul connect to his that very moment. Though he stayed away until she was eighteen because he needed her to mature. I knew Lia was my mate the day her mother gave birth to her. Her soul called to mine, and I knew I would do anything for her, no matter what that was.

"So, you see, it's not unusual for us to find our mates so very early. Levi won't feel the mate bond in the romantic sense until Aurora comes of age, and she can feel it for herself."

Okay, that answered a few things and put my mind to rest. I'm not fond of my daughter's life and mate bond being set before she's even born. She won't have a choice in where her life goes. She'll never experience life before finding her mate because he'll always be there.

'Aurora will have a mind of her own, Lyric. She might not even want Levi in the future!

'She'll grow up with him, know he's her mate, and fall in love with him, Aspen.' 'Then what's the problem if she won't know any different?'

'I guess there isn't one. But if Aurora decides she doesn't want to be with Levi, that will be her choice. I won't have any influencing her decision either way. Whatever Aurora decides, I will stand by her through it all! 'As will I.'

Levi falls asleep against me, and Xale takes him to his room. Thane climbs onto the bed beside me, lying on his side. I turn onto my side and look at him. I see so much pain in his eyes that it's almost overwhelming.

I know Emori is waiting to see me, but she'll have to wait. Thane needs me more than ever right now, and I'm not going anywhere.

I lay my hand on his stubbled cheek, and Thane closes his eyes. "I'm so sorry, baby," I whisper while stroking my thumb under his eye. Wetness hits my fingertip, and I have to pull back the urge to cry. My nose burns with emotion as tears fall from Thane's eyes. My big strong King is broken over the loss of his sister, and my heart breaks for him.

"She's gone," He mumbles. "She's gone."

"I know, sweetheart, and I am so sorry."

My heart breaks into a million pieces when he wraps his arm around my waist and buries his head in my chest. I lock my arms around him and kiss his head as he sobs uncontrollably.

I rock him back and forth, tears falling from my eyes, and I'm trying not to sob out loud. This isn't about me; it's about Thane and what he's lost. I'm so proud of him for not hiding his pain from me. Thane is a strong man and would never show this side of himself to anyone. But he can fall apart in front of me; I'm his mate, and I will always be here to hold him strong when he can't do it himself.

"Did - did she scream?" Reluctantly, I nod my head against the top of Thane's. "Did she beg?"

"No, she didn't beg, Thane. Starr was a fighter till the end. I know you're angry that Starr sacrificed herself for me..."

"What?" He cuts off my words while lifting his head on the pillow beside me. "I am not angry about that, Lyric. I am so proud of Starr for trying to... I just wish she could have told me about Astro and what he was doing to her mind. Perhaps I could have helped her." I don't have the heart to tell Thane that it probably wouldn't have made any difference if Starr had told him. Astro had control over the girl and wouldn't have let go easily.

"Will you tell me what happened in that place?"

I don't want to talk about this yet, but Thane needs to hear it. So, I tell Thane everything that happened, every word Astro spoke, and the threats he made. I don't leave anything out because I don't want to go over it all again. I know others will need to know, but it can wait one night.

Thane doesn't take his eyes off me the whole time I speak. He holds my hand against his chest and wipes the tears I shed away with his thumb.

"Nothing is going to happen to our baby, Lyric. We will end Astro and his reign of terror. No matter what it takes, he's a dead fairy walking."

"I was so scared, Thane," I admit with a hard swallow. "I tried to get through to you, but nothing worked. If it hadn't been for Harmony coming for me, I dread to think what Astro would have done to me."

"Don't think about it, Lyric. Let's take a bath." Thane helps me off the bed and into the bathroom.

I stand watching my mate as he fills our bath made for four with bubbles and hot oils. Gently, he strips me naked and helps me into the tub. He removes his own clothes and climbs in behind me, pulling me back against him and wrapping his arms around me. "I love you, Thane. More than anything."

"I love you, too. I can't do this life without you, Lyric. I thought I'd lost you again there for a while. Then Starr's light went out, and I was just waiting for the moment yours did too."

"Shh. I'm here, Thane, and I will never leave you. I promise."

"Tristan needs me, Lyric. He's in Status Sleep, and I don't know if he'll ever wake up. My parents won't cope losing Tristan as well as Starr."

I kiss his forearm. "We'll be there for them, Thane. We'll help them in any way we can. I am right by your side, always."

"Thank you."

"Don't thank me, handsome. You don't ever need to thank me for anything. You're the other half of me, Thane, and there's nowhere I'd rather be than here with you. We'll go see Tristan and your parents once you've slept a little." "Stay with me."

"Always."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 58[1,926 words]

Thane

Tristan lies unmoving in his bed. Mom didn't want him in the infirmary, not when he could be in his own bed. Tristan is bare-chested under the sheet covering his lower half, and he's so pale he already looks dead. Dad lay Tristan on Starr's pillow, hoping her scent would help wake him. So far, nothing.

I sit beside Tristan's bed, holding his hand. All of our siblings, bar Esme, their mates, my mate, and grandparents are here. Dad took Mom to lie down. She isn't coping with this at all, she's a shadow of the woman she once was, and Goddess knows if she'll come through this. Losing one child is bad enough, but two must be sheer t*****e on the soul.

"Trist, if you can hear me, I need you to wake up now. Shade? You have to release the hold. Mom needs Tristan here with us, not sleeping away his pain."

There's nothing, not even a flicker of Tristan's eyeballs moving behind his lids. My words haven't gotten through to him, and he won't wake up.

"Thane?" I scrub my hands over my face before looking at my grandmother. "We will find a way to help Tristan. The elders are looking into Status Sleep and what it means."

"Tristan lost the other half of his soul, Lucy." Grandfather sighs. "If he had a mate, she could maybe have brought Tristan out of this."

I close my eyes. Tristan hadn't found his mate, and there was no way of us knowing who she was. We couldn't just walk up to the girl and tell her that she was Tristan's mate, even if we did know who she was.

"He does have a mate." All eyes shoot to Lyric, sitting beside me.

"What? How do you know that?"

Lyric looks at me. "I saw them together at the coronation."

"What the hell!?" Lyric startles when I yell. I didn't mean to, but she kept this from me! "Why didn't you say anything? How could you keep this to yourself?"

"I..."

"Because the girl, whoever she is, obviously rejected Tristan."

"I know that, Theo! That doesn't explain why you kept it from me, Lyric."

"Tristan begged me not to say anything. He was upset, and I promised not to say anything. I did tell him that I wouldn't keep it from you forever. I wanted to give Tristan the chance to sort things out in his own way. I'm sorry, Thane, I was only doing what Tristan asked of me until he was ready."

"It's okay, sweetheart. Thane Knight, you take that scowl off your face right now!" I roll my eyes at my grandmother and look away. "Do not roll your eyes at me, young man. Now, Lyric, did you see who Tristan's mate was?"

"What does it matter, Gran? The girl rejected Tristan, and even if we brought her here now, it wouldn't help."

"Anything is worth a try, Tyler."

"There was no verbal rejection." I turn to look at Lyric. "Will that make a difference?"

"What was said to him?" I shift in my seat and turn Lyric to face me. "Tell me what was said."

"Just that Tristan was a little boy. His mate demanded Tristan stay away, and they didn't want him as a mate. I think Tristan's mate is bothered by the age gap." Lyric shrugs.

"She's older than Tristan?"

Lyric nods. "About sixty-two years."

"That's nothing!" Isla snaps. "Thane is one hundred and thirty-seven years older than you. Does it make a difference?"

"Not to me. But it obviously did to Tristan's mate."

"Who is Tristan's mate? If she didn't verbally reject him, the bond is still intact, and we have a chance."

Lyric looks from me to my grandfather and back to me before sighing. "Brody." "Brody, what?"

My grandfather growls. William is not a man to be messed with. I remember when I was a teenager, and my mother's parents came to visit. My mother's father, Dermot, sat telling me how mates make you weak and not to take a destined mate if one came along. Reject her and take a chosen mate. With a chosen mate, there is no bond like that of a destined mate. If the enemy came for my queen, it wouldn't hurt as much if she died, not like it would with a true mate.

The man was delusional, and I wondered if he ever treated his mate right or if she even was his mate. It was never confirmed or denied whether or not Mom's parents were destined or chosen mates, but I assume the latter.

William overheard the conversation and hit the roof. My grandfathers came to blows, and my mother's father was forced to apologize. William told me outright not to listen to Dermot, and when I find my mate, treat her like the gem she will be.

My upbringing may have been strict, but my siblings and I had much love in our lives. We saw it all around us, though Theo and I were warned we'd have to work twice as hard to keep our mates safe because of our status. However, Dad told us to never underestimate a woman. They're stronger than any man believes, and she should never be held back or tied down.

"Are you saying the Bear King is Tristan's mate?"

Lyric nods at William. The women gasp, and my brothers shift uncomfortably.

Me?

I think I'm in shock. Brody nor Tristan let on they were mates. Brody sat in my office with a smile on his face, hiding the fact he'd walked away from my brother! I'll kill him!

"I'll call him," Tyler growls before leaving the room.

I don't want Brody here because I fear what I'll do. But, on the other hand, if having Brody here helps Tristan, then here is where the bas.tard needs to be. Brody doesn't owe me anything, but Tristan is my brother. If Brody refuses to see Tristan, the war with the Fairy King will be nothing compared to the hell I'll rain down on the Bear King!

'Brody has the right to refuse his mate, Thane.

'I don't care about that, Jagger! Brody doesn't have to take Tristan as his mate. But if there is any chance he can help my brother, then Brody needs to come here. He needs to give enough of a sh.it about Tristan to help him!'

'I know.'

I get out of my seat, kiss Tristan's forehead, and leave the room without a word to Lyric. I shouldn't have walked away from her, but I'm angry that she kept something so important from me. I need some air; I can't breathe with all those people around me.

I check in with Blaze, wondering if I should get someone else to cover Royal duties for a while. I'm putting a lot on his shoulders, but Blaze assures me he's okay. If he needs a break, he'll take one. Blaze doesn't want me to worry; his younger brother, Blaine, is helping him with everything. James and his mate are with my parents, taking care of them. Esme. Goddess, I haven't checked on Esme yet, so that's where I head next.

I find Esme in her bedroom, lying on her bed, curled up with her teddy bear. Melissa, our resident Nanny, tips her head and leaves the room. Melissa has been with us since Thorin and Tane were

born. She's always been there for my five youngest siblings, and right now, Esme needs her more than ever.

"Esme?" She's facing away from me and hasn't moved to acknowledge she heard me. I walk around her pink canopy bed and sit in the seat Melissa vacated. My eyes close momentarily before opening them to see Esme staring at me. "Hi, baby girl." "Hi." She whispers.

"I know you're sad right now, and I'm sorry everyone seems busy. But I want you to know that I am always here for you. Okay?"

"Okay. Why did Starr go to heaven? She promised never to leave me, but she did."

"Oh, Esme." I sigh and lift her onto my lap when she reaches for me. I've never seen her look so sad, and it fuc.king hurts like hell. "You know that some things happen and people die as a result?" Esme nods. "Remember what Mommy told you about those people and how they would never leave if they had a choice?"

"Starr didn't have a choice?" I shake my head. "She didn't want to leave us?"

"No, baby girl. Starr didn't want to leave us. Something happened that took Starr away from us, but she's with the Moon Goddess now."

"She'll be safe there? And happy?"

I nod, even though I don't know if that's true. "Starr will always be watching you, Esme. Always remember that, baby girl."

Tears fall from Esme's eyes, and it breaks my heart in two. She's just eleven years old and shouldn't have to deal with the death of a loved one this early in life.

"Tristan is going to die too. Isn't he?"

I swallow back the lump in my throat while stroking the back of Esme's hair. I wish I could tell this little girl that Tristan will be fine, but I can't. I can't lie to Esme and say everything will be okay. Because if I do that and Tristan dies, Esme will see me as nothing but a liar. She would never trust a word I said again.

"I honestly don't know, Esme. Hopefully, when his mate arrives, Tristan will wake up." I pray to every deity up there that this works. If Brody refuses to help...

"Will my mate always come to me when I need them?"

I smile and kiss Esme's head. "Of course, baby girl. Your mate will always come when you need them."

Esme snuggles into my chest, and I wrap my arms around her. "I hope Aidan is my mate."

"The Vampire King?"

"Yes."

What the fuc.king hell!?!?

"He is so nice and kind to me, Thane. When I was at his castle, he played games with me and watched any movie I wanted. He took me horse riding and swimming and even baked cookies with me. He didn't even get cross when I broke one of his favorite vases!" "You broke a vase?" That doesn't sound like Esme.

"Yeah," She nods. "It was an accident. Starr and me were playing tag, and she was chasing me. I ran into the stand the vase was on, and it fell and shattered. Starr said we might be in trouble because the vase was hundreds of years old. I was very scared Aidan would be mad with us."

"What happened?"

"Marcus, Aidan's friend, said we had to explain to Aidan what happened. When Aidan came, he asked me why I was crying. I told him I didn't mean to break the vase and was very sorry. He crouched down and smiled at me. He said I shouldn't be sad and was proud of me for being honest. But it was just a vase that broke; it wasn't the end of the world, and everything was okay. Then he hugged me, and it was nice. That's when I asked the Moon Goddess to make him my mate. Everyone should have a kind mate like Aidan..." Esme's voice trails off as she falls asleep in my arms. Maybe this is just a little girl crush, but I need to keep an eye on Esme as she gets older. I'd hate for her to fall for the Vampire King and be disappointed when he turns out not to be her mate. She'd be heartbroken, and that I won't stand for. I think it's best Aidan stay away from my little sister until after she finds her mate.

'Thane, Tyler's voice fills my head. 'Brody is here.'

Truth time.

Goddess above, please let this work.

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 59[1,559 words]

Lyric

"He didn't mean to snap at you, Lyric. Don't let it get to you so much. Thane is going through a lot right now. They all are."

"I know," I mumble with little effort while looking out at the city from my balcony.

I'm not upset because Thane yelled at me. He's upset, scared, and angry. I did think he'd let some of his pent-up emotions out the other night. But I guess it wasn't enough. Maybe I should have told Thane about Tristan and Brody, but I made a promise. I didn't want Tristan to think he couldn't trust me. I also made a mistake in not telling Thane the truth when Tristan fell into Status Sleep. But it honestly didn't occur to me or even come to mind that Brody might be able to help Tristan.

I didn't follow Thane when he walked out of the room. I knew my mate needed some time alone. I kissed Tristan's head and came back to my room. Harmony followed, asking if I was okay. None of this is about me, and I'm trying to hold it all in, but I'm failing. I want to be strong for Thane, for our family, but I'm suffocating, drowning in my own sadness. There's too much on my shoulders right now. I feel like a thousand pounds of stress is weighing me down, and I don't know how to relieve myself of it. "It's okay to be upset, Lyric. I don't want you to hold everything inside; it's not healthy, Lyric."

"She died because of me, Harmony." I turn to look at my sister.

"Starr didn't die because of you, Lyric. She died for you."

"But she shouldn't have, Harm. If I hadn't come here, Astro would never have hurt Starr. Everyone would be safe if I'd just rejected Thane. All I've done is put everyone in danger, including my daughter."

"Listen to me," Harmony grabs my upper arms. "If you'd have rejected Thane, we wouldn't be together now because I wouldn't have rejected Theo. I have my son because of my mate, and I wouldn't change a thing about it. You're going to be a mother, too, thanks to Thane. You can't honestly tell me you regret being with Thane because I'll never believe you."

"You cannot hold on to misplaced guilt, Lyric, because it doesn't belong here. None of this is your fault. This is all on Astro, Lyric; he's crazy, and we have to stop him. There will always be casualties in war. We'll lose loved ones and friends, but what we never ever do is give up. Because the moment those thoughts enter our heads, we've lost, Lyric."

"I'm not giving up, Harmony; I would never give up." I blow out a long breath. "But it feels like this is never-ending. I don't want my daughter born in the middle of a war, but I know there's no choice to be had; it's happening whether I want it to or not. But all I want is for this to end so our family will be safe. I couldn't bear to lose anyone else, Harmony. Then there's Thane. My mate is in so much pain, and I don't know how to help him."

"Just be there for him, Lyric. Even when he yells and pushes you away, you push right back and tell him you're going nowhere."

"I think he blames me," I admit; quietly while moving away from Harmony and sitting at the balcony table.

"Did he say that?" Harmony asks while sitting in the seat opposite me.

I shake my head. "Of course not; it's just a feeling, Harm. I understand grief; I've felt it too many times myself. I will be there for him even if he thinks he doesn't need me. But the feeling he blames me hurts, Harm."

"Thane doesn't blame you, Lyric; he's just in the angry stage of grief. Thane loves you, Lyric, and he will need you before long."

I close my eyes for a moment and stroke my aching stomach. My whole body aches right now. After Astro pulled me into my subconscious, I haven't felt right.

"Lyric, are you alright? You look as though you're in pain."

I open my eyes. "I'm fine." I shoot her a small smile. "I'm not in pain; it's just uncomfortable. There's not much space in there. Goddess knows how I'll manage another few weeks. It feels like there's an elephant in there already." I chuckle. "Are you sure?" She doesn't believe me; I can tell by her tone.

"I'm only six weeks gone, Harm."

"That doesn't mean anything with Lycan pregnancies, Lyric. Gestation is between six and ten weeks, and you know it."

I shift in my seat and try not to growl. I hate when she thinks she knows better than me. It's my body!

"I'm fine, Harmony. I'm not in labor, so drop it!"

"Okay." She holds her hands up in surrender. "I best go; it's Adam's feed time. I'll check on you later." She walks away, and I sigh. I didn't mean to upset her; I'm just agitated. I'll find Harmony later and apologize.

I sit on the balcony for a while, just looking out at the beauty of Lykos. There is so much I have yet to see of this beautiful land. The castle grounds are vast beyond anything I have ever seen. I really should check out the marina. Harmony told me how amazing it is down there with all the yachts and boats. Then there are the stables with dozens of Royal horses. Harmony said the horses were magnificent and like none she'd ever seen. They take part in competitions, and we should take part one day. I don't know why I've put off seeing these things, but I'll check them out soon.

"I'm going to bed now."

I turn my head and smile at Levi. It's the same thing every night. Most would probably be annoyed having a three-year-old following them around all the time. But I love this little boy; he brings a smile to my face in times of sadness. "Did you sneak into my room again?"

Because I know Levi should already be in bed. It's past his bedtime, which means his mother already tucked him in, and he snuck away as soon as she left the room. As I said, same thing every night. It shouldn't make me smile, but it does. "I just wanted to say goodnight."

"To me or Aurora?"

Levi giggles. "Both of you."

I smile and hold my arms out to him. Levi's shy frown turns into a big smile, and he runs to me. I lift him onto my lap, and he instantly lays his head on my stomach. Aurora kicks, making Levi giggle.

"I love you, too, Aurora." He kisses my stomach.

I open my mouth to say something in response to Levi's words when a strange man flashes onto my balcony. Tall, tanned, blond, and wearing elaborate robes. "Who the hell are you?"

I don't have the energy to fight an ancient being, which I can tell this man is. But that doesn't mean I won't protect Levi with all that I am.

"Grandpa!" Levi jumps off my lap and runs to his grandfather, who lifts him with a smile and kisses his cheek. "You came!"

"I did. You know I'll always come when you need me."

So, this is Leviathan. I don't know what I was expecting, but it wasn't a man as stunning as the one in front of me.

"So, you're the Lycan Queen." It was a statement, not a question.

"And you're Leviathan."

"That would be me."

"Not to be rude, but why are you here?" I get out of my seat, feeling small in this man's presence.

"Levi called for me, said his mate's uncle needed help."

Levi asked Leviathan to help Tristan?

"I must say, I was shocked to find out Levi already knows who his mate is. My son hadn't informed me of such a finding."

"It was a shock to all of us," I confess.

"She's inside Lyric's tummy, Grandpa. Her name is Aurora, and I'm going to take care of her always."

"Good boy." Leviathan rubs Levi's back, his eyes grow heavy, and his head falls against his grandfather's shoulder.

I furrow my brow.

"What the hell did you do?"

"Nothing for you to worry about, Lycan Queen. Which room is he staying in? It's best if I lay him down; I have work to do."

I don't say anything. I highly doubt Leviathan would hurt Levi. I suppose he did the same thing Xale did and put Levi to sleep to keep him calm.

I show Leviathan to Levi's room and wait for him to exit.

"Dad?" I turn to see Xale walking towards us. "Why are you here? Is something wrong?"

"Levi called me here."

"Levi? What the..."

"Leviathan!" Lia giggles while rushing into her father-in-law's arms. He smiles and kisses her head. "We weren't expecting you." "Levi called for him." Xale sighs.

"Little man mentioned his mate's uncle. He couldn't give me much information other than the man is dying and would I help."

How ridiculous is this?

A three-year-old called a damn deity to help Tristan all because he's worried about Aurora. The boy is going to take wonderful care of my daughter in the years to come. She's not even here yet, and he's already trying to make her happy. But Levi shouldn't have had to do this; it was down to the family to find a solution to Tristan's predicament.

"Can you help Tristan?"

"Only one way to find out."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 60[1,456 words]

Thane

"How did you even know?"

"Because you forced Tristan to keep it a secret?" I growl at the Bear King. "Someone saw your little exchange with my brother." "Who?"

"Not that it's any of your business. But my Queen both saw and heard you. She spoke with Tristan. It's not like he could deny what she'd heard. You're a bas.tard for what you did, Brody." "Like I've never heard that one before."

As soon as Brody arrived, he was brought to my office. He gave me attitude, but I didn't expect anything else from Brody Maddox. The look on his face tells me that he'd rather be anywhere than here right now. I have a horrible feeling he's going to refuse to help my brother.

'You think he came all this way to not help Tristan? Why would he have bothered?'

'I don't know, Jagger. But look at him; Brody doesn't look like a worried mate. He looks like he couldn't care less about Tristan!'

'Just try and keep calm. We need Brody on side. If he flat out refuses to help, I'll tear him apart.'

"Look," Brody sighs. "You think it was easy for me? Do you think I didn't instantly want to go back and apologize for every horrible thing I said to him? I'm the King of Bears, he's a Lycan Prince, and he's over sixty years younger than me. We'd never work!" 'Have you noticed Brody hasn't once said Tristan's name since he got here? Don't you think that's strange?'

'I had noticed, Jagger'

Jagger growls inside my head.

"You didn't even give Tristan a chance!" I snap at Brody after cutting Jagger off. "The age thing is the most ridiculous excuse I have ever heard. I am over one hundred and thirty-seven years older than my mate. It never entered my head to reject her because of my age.

"If it's the Lycan - Bear thing, I'll admit it's unusual. I've never known it before. But you were paired with Tristan for a reason."

"And I don't care what that reason is, Thane. No matter what anyone says, I won't take him as my mate."

I scrub my hands over my face. My body is tingling from head to toe with the need to kill the fu.cking Bear King. My fingers buzz with the urge to grab Brody around the throat and squeeze the life out of him!

Why can't this bas.tard listen to reason?

I don't want to lose my brother, and I will do anything to bring him out of Status Sleep.

But how can I do that when our only hope of that happening refuses to help? 'Can I kill him now?'

'Not yet, Jagger.'

"You don't have to take Tristan as your mate. Just be near him, Brody. He's locked away in sleep because he lost his twin sister. Tristan is in so much pain that his Lycan did the only thing he knows to save him. But he won't survive long, Brody. My parents have already lost their daughter. Please don't let them lose their son too."

I'm not above begging, though it's not someone I would do in normal circumstances. But even the Lycan King isn't too proud to beg when it comes to saving one I love.

I can see a war waging in Brody's eyes. He feels the mate bond being this close to Tristan. It's the natural order of things. But he's fighting it because of the most stupid reason.

Why can't this as.shole just be honest with himself?

"What exactly is it you want me to do, Thane?"

"See Tristan. Be near him, let him know you're there, anything to try and bring him out of this."

Brody's eyeballs dart from side to side.

"Why are you fighting this, Brody? Why can't you bring yourself to say my brother's name?"

"Just show me where he is so we can get this over with. I have a kingdom to run."

I lead the miserable bas.tard to Tristan's room. All eyes turn to Brody, who tips his head in acknowledgment. He looks at Tristan lying there, unmoving in his bed. I thought I'd see some emotion in Brody's eyes, if not on his face. But there's nothing. 'Are you sure this as.shole is Tristan's mate?' Theo's voice fills my head. 'I've never seen anyone with less of a reaction to their mate than this pr.ick!'

'Shut up, Theo! I don't care how he reacts as long as he helps Tristan.'

'And if Tristan wakes up? What do you think will happen when Tristan realizes his mate still doesn't want him? It could send him crazy, Thane.'

I sigh because Theo is right. This could blow up in our faces. Tristan could become feral if he wakes up and realizes Brody still doesn't want him. Sh.it, I don't know what's worse, a sleeping Tristan or a feral Tristan.

"What am I supposed to be doing here?"

William growls at Brody. "Get on the bed next to him. Hold his hand, anything! Pretend like you give a sh.it about the boy for five minutes!"

"Watch how you speak to me, old man. You need me more right now than I will ever need you!"

Growls fill the air as every person in the room, but me crouches into a fighting stance. Every Lycan is upfront with their human half. Brody's Bear is also upfront.

I scrub my hands over my face before yelling. "Enough!" The growling stops, and now all eyes are on me. "How dare you do this here!?" My family members bear their necks in submission. "As for you," I round on Brody. "You might not care about Tristan, but he is your mate. You're a cold-hearted bas.tard, Brody Maddox. At least pretend to care a little. Would it kill you?"

Brody's Bear retreats and he sighs. "You think I don't care? That this is easy for me? It's not! I'm fighting my every instinct not to pick Tristan up and get him the hell out of here. I want to take him back to Nightshade where he'll be safe from the sh.it the Fairy King will bring to this place. But I know that it wouldn't do Tristan any good. He needs you all more than he'll ever need me. But don't stand there and tell me I don't care!"

If this is Brody caring, I'd hate to see the uncaring side of him.

'At least he said Tristan's name.'

'I suppose.'

"Just get on the damn bed, Brody. We're wasting precious time!"

Brody reluctantly moves his jacket and drops it on the bottom of the bed. He climbs onto the bed beside Tristan and leans back against the headboard. He's uncomfortable with all these people watching.

'All of you need to leave the room.' I tell them through a group mind link. 'Don't bother arguing,' I shake my head at them all. I know they want to protest, but there's no time. 'Just wait outside for a moment. I'll call you back in soon! 'Fine.' Theo mumbles into my mind.

Everyone leaves, and I turn to look out of the window to give Brody some privacy. But I can still see Brody and Tristan's reflection. I see Brody reach his hand to Tristan's face and cup his cheek.

"Please wake up," Brody whispers. If I were human, I wouldn't have heard him. But with my Lycan hearing, I heard. "I know I said some horrible things that were uncalled for, and I'm sorry. I also know you're in immense pain after losing Starr. But your family needs you, Tristan." My heart is in my throat. As the minutes tick by and nothing happens, I begin to lose hope that this will work.

Brody slips his arm under Tristan and pulls my little brother against his chest. He holds Tristan's hand flat against his chest and kisses his head.

I close my eyes, leaning my forehead against the cold glass.

What am I going to do?

What if this doesn't work?

And it doesn't seem to be working thirty minutes later. There is no movement, no sign of life from my youngest brother.

Is this really it?

Are my family really going to lose another child?

This can't be it. Astro can not take Tristan from us because this is all down to him!

'What else can we try, Thane?'

'I don't know, Jagger. I'm all out of ideas. I thought having Brody here would help Tristan. But I was wrong, and I don't know what to do now!'

The bedroom door opens, and I turn to tell whoever it is to Fu.ck Off! But my eyes widen instead.

"Leviathan. What are you doing here?"

Leviathan looks at Brody. "I'm here to help or try to. Now, why don't you put him down and let me take a look."

My eyes lock with Lyric's. She smiles; slightly, then frowns when I don't smile back.

Did she do this?

Could this work?

Please, Goddess Selene, let this work. Give Tristan back to us.