

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 61[2,011 words]

Tristan

It's so peaceful here. So much green, so much space, clear blue skies, and the lake in front of me. The air is so fresh, and I never want to leave. "You have to leave, Trist."

"Not without you." I turn my eyes to my twin sister, sitting beside me on a fallen log beside the lake.

The moment I entered this place, Starr was waiting for me. She ran into my arms, and we held each other tight. The relief inside was unexplainable. I don't know why we're both in white, but we are. My mind is a little jumbled about how I got here. But I don't care how I got here; all I care about is that I'm with my sister.

"You can't stay here, Tristan."

"I won't leave you, Starr."

"You don't belong here. You're not dead, Trist."

"Nor are you. So why I have got to go, and you stay."

"Because I don't know how to find my way home, Tristan. I don't know how to find my way home." Tears fall from Starr's eyes, breaking my heart.

I wrap my arm around her shoulders and bring her head against mine. "We'll find our way home, Starr. I won't leave you here alone, I promise."

"Look over there." Starr points to the left.

Two small children around six years of age chase each other. Laughter falls from their lips as two identical teenagers run after them, pretending to be monsters and making the small kids laugh louder.

"Do you remember that day, Tristan?"

I nod.

I remember every moment of our time together. Wherever we are now, scenes from our past keep flashing before our eyes. We've already seen so much, and it seems the visions aren't going to end any time soon.

'Quick, Tristan!' Six-year-old Starr yells while grabbing six-year-old me's hand. 'We must hide from the evil troll twins!'

'Did you just call us evil troll twins? She just called us evil troll twins, Throin!'

'You know what that means, Tane?'

'Yeah, these evil troll twins are gonna gobble the munchkin twins up!'

Starr and I laugh at sixteen-year-old Thorin and Tane as they grab our six-year-old selves and pretend to eat us.

"I didn't realize how often they played with us."

"Starr, they tormented us more than played with us."

"Yeah, but they loved us."

"They still do."

The scene fades, and Starr and I get out of our seats.

"Look," Starr points, and we're suddenly inside the castle. Mom and Dad's bedroom, to be exact.

I smile at Mom, sitting up in bed, holding a newborn Esme in her arms. Dad is sitting beside Mom with his arm wrapped around her shoulders. Thane, Theo, Isla, Tyler, Thorin, and Tane are all standing near the bed, smiling. Seven-year-old Starr and I are on the bed, staring at the baby.

I remember this moment like it was yesterday. After a complicated labor, Mom gave birth during the night, and we'd yet to meet the baby. Thane had woken us early in the morning and brought us to meet our new baby sister. 'What's her name?' Starr asked.

'Her name is Esme Willow Moira Knight.'

'She's small. I chuckle at my seven-year-old self's words.'

'That's because she's brand new.' Dad smiles. 'We have a very important job for the two of you!'

'Job?!' Starr screeches. "But we can't work; we're only seven!"

Everyone in the room laughs, and Dad shakes his head with a smile on his face. 'No, my sweet girl. This job is to take care of your baby sister. Do you think you can do that?' 'But we're only little.'

'Yes, Tristan, you are little. But the two of you won't be little forever. This little girl is going to look up to you, and you'll be able to teach her so many wonderful things!

I smile at the memory of Dad handing Starr the baby and me kissing her head.

That scene fades, and others flit in and out. We see ourselves pulling pranks on Thorin and Tane, their retaliation, Esme growing up, and us starting high school. We see our many ups and downs in life, Thane and Theo bringing Lyric and Harmony home and the day Esme's bullies were released from the dungeons.

Just leave it, Starr.' 'I will not!'

I remember rolling my eyes as Starr grabbed Ren's arm and pinned her against the wall beside the bakery in town. I sighed because we didn't need to do this, but Starr was angry that Ren was walking around town without a care in the world. 'What do you want, Starr?'

Starr growled. 'Shut the fu.ck up and listen. You can swan around acting like you're a saint all you want. But we all know what you really are. I don't give a damn how long you were in that dungeon; it wasn't long enough. Do you have any idea the damage you've done to my sister's mind? Do you even care?'

'I know what I did, Starr. I had enough time in that hole to think about it. I shouldn't have done what I did, and I honestly am sorry, Starr. I just want to live my life. Please let me go!

I watch as past Starr releases her hold on Ren and steps back. 'Just stay away from my sister. I hear you've so much as looked at Esme, and I'll kill you. Do you understand?' 'Yes'

Starr tips her head. 'Leave. Ren scurries away!

'You're scary, do you know that?'

I watch past Starr laugh before hugging my past self.

Again, scenes flit in and out. Every holiday, birthday, and special event in our lives. Nothing is in sequence, but all of it shows how close Starr and I have always been.

We see when Starr comes to me with her plan to help Emori. All of the pain Emori went through flashes in front of our eyes and the moment I rescued Emori from that dungeon.

'Who are you?' Emori mumbles as I carry her to my uncle's cabin. I was covered from head to toe in black at this point, the mask still in place. 'Where are you taking me?' I don't answer her questions.

I get Emori to the cabin and lay her on the old couch, where Starr fusses over her. "Emori, I'm sorry. We got you out as soon as we could.

'Why are you helping me?'

'Because I know you didn't hurt Thane for any other reason than to help him.'

'Who are you? Emori asks me again. I remove my hood and mask, and she gasps. 'You look like him.

'Him who?' Starr presses, but Emori falls asleep without answering.

We see the moment Thane called us to his office and demanded we tell him how we combined our powers. Starr and I had been able to do that since we were thirteen, though we kept it to ourselves. It happened by accident while we were climbing trees in the forest. I fell from a tree, Starr jumped with me, and our powers joined, saving us from a nasty accident. We became almost invincible once we'd trained ourselves to combine on demand.

Thane wasn't happy with us, not at all. But Tyler burst into the room and hugged us, telling us thank you and that he loved us. Tyler had never hugged me before, but I loved it.

The scene fades and returns with me running to my room on the day of the coronation. Lyric had just found and spoken to me about Brody. I was hurt and couldn't take that he didn't want me. Of course, Starr felt my pain and followed me.

'Why didn't you tell me?' My past self spins on the spot and comes face to face with Starr.
"Tristan,"

'Don't, please.' Starr wrapped her arms around me and held me while I cried. 'He doesn't want me. I'm not good enough!'

Seeing myself like that churns my stomach. I look so pathetic!

'You are good enough, Trist. Brody is just shocked, is all. He'll come around, but the question will be, do you want him to, and will you forgive him?'

Starr and I talked until she left for the Vampire Kingdom. We'd never been apart before, and I didn't know how to cope without her.

Even more, scenes flash in front of us-Starr's time with Esme at Harrington Castle. Then I see the nightmares Astro forced into Starr's head, how she tried to fight them, but they were too much. He stands in front of her now, a smirk on his face. He's not really there; it's just a dream, but I can feel Starr's fear.

'I will make a deal with you, Lycan. Take Lyric's place, and all will be well.

'If I willingly go with you, you'll leave my family alone?'

'Yes.'

"Did you believe him?"

"No," Starr clutches my hand. "I didn't believe a word he said. But something compelled me to agree, even though I didn't want to. I knew he'd use me to get to Lyric, and I couldn't stop him!"

I can't watch the scene now in front of me. Starr's screams rip through me. My heart hammers inside my chest, and though I know this is the past, I want to kill Astro!

Then I hear my own screams. The screams that fell from me when I felt Starr's light go out.

"Why are we seeing all of this, Starr?"

"Look." I force myself to turn and look at what Starr is pointing at.

I take a shuddering breath when I see Esme sneak into my room. No one else is in there, so they must have been outside. My baby sister climbs onto my bed and lies beside me, taking my hand in her own. I'm asleep, but this must be resent. 'Tristan, please don't leave me as well. I don't want you to go. I miss Starr; she went to heaven without me. If you go, I want to go too.

"Oh, Goddess!"

"Esme needs you, Tristan. They all do. I can't be with them yet, but you can."

"How am I supposed to be there without you?"

Starr turns to face me and smiles. "It won't be forever, Tristan. I will find my way back to you." With my hands in hers, Starr kisses my knuckles. "I don't know how long it will take but don't give up hope. Never give up hope, Tristan."

"I don't want to be there without you, Starr. Let me stay here with you. We'll find our way back together."

"No," Starr shakes her head. "You don't belong here, Tristan."

"Nor do you!"

"I know that, Trist. But I can't return yet, no matter how much I may want to. My body is out there somewhere, and my spirit has to find it before I can come home. I need you to take care of Esme. If you don't wake up, I'm scared of what she'll do to be with us. Please, Trist."

'Please wake up,' I gasp and look around, trying to find the voice, but there's no one around. The voice is coming from somewhere that isn't here. It's all around us. '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.

"He's calling for you. Brody needs you."

"He doesn't want me, Starr."

"Then why is he with you right now, begging you to wake up? Go home, Tristan. It's your choice whether or not to forgive Brody. Take care of Esme for me until I can be with you both again. Be strong, and never give up hope that I'll be home one day."

I pull Starr into my arms and hold her tight. I don't want to let go, but I know she's right. I have to return and find her. Starr is out there somewhere, and I will keep going until she's home.

"I'll never give up searching for you, Starr. I will find you and bring you home, and I will take care of Esme until you return, I promise."

"I love you so much, Tristan. Not just my brother but my best friend. Now one will ever mean to me what you do."

"Ditto. I love you, too, Starr, always and forever. Keep that in your heart until you're home again."

"Always and forever." Starr's voice fades, and life fills my sleeping body once more.

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Lyric

"What the hell do you mean?"

"Exactly what I said, Thane." Leviathan snaps at my mate. "I can't bring your brother out of this. No one can because he doesn't want to wake up!"

Leviathan has been trying for the past ten minutes to help Tristan wake up. But nothing has happened. Leviathan pressed his hands to Tristan's head, closed his eyes, and chanted in a language I didn't understand. I held my breath, hoping and praying whatever Leviathan was doing would work. But it didn't work, and now everyone is even more disheartened.

"Nothing is going to work. Is it?" Brody asks sadly.

Xale clasps Brody's shoulder and shakes his head. Brody's shoulders sag in defeat. He does want Tristan; he just didn't realize it until now. Brody doesn't deserve any sympathy for being a jerk to Tristan. But they are mates, and I don't even want to imagine what this would feel like. If the mate bond doesn't work, nothing will.

'Maybe if Tristan had been marked, Brody would have been able to wake him.'

'I was thinking the same thing, Aspen!'

"There has to be something else we can do, Leviathan."

"Pray to your deity, Thane. Only he can help you now."

Thane snarls and growls at Leviathan.

Leviathan smirks and folds his arms across his chest.

"You could always evoke an audience with Selene. Perhaps she'll have an answer for you. I wouldn't hold my breath, though."

I don't know much about Fenrir; I haven't done much research. Terrible of me, but I just never seem to have the time. I know Selene made werewolves, but every wolf knows that. I read in a book in the library that Fenrir made Lycans, and Thane confirmed that to be

true.

I'm not a Lycan, so I was never taught about their deity when I was a kid. But now that I'm here, I at least know that Lycans worship Fenrir and that he's their deity. Lycans do pray to Selene also, which I don't understand, but whatever.

My mate is getting angrier, and I'm worried. Though I know, Thane is incredibly strong. Being King affords him powers others could only dream of. However, even the Lycan King wouldn't stand a chance against the Dragon deity. 'Thane, calm down. Leviathan is trying to get a rise out of you, and you're letting him.'

Thane's angry eyes snap to me. 'Do not tell me to calm down! This is nothing to do with you!' He screams at me through the mate link.

I take a step, shocked by the way he just spoke to me.

'Nothing to do with me? Is Tristan not my family too?'

Thane's eyes widen, then narrow in anger. 'Pull back the attitude, Lyric. I'm not in the fuc.king mood!' He turns away from me, cutting off the link so I can't yell back.

Oh, my Goddess!

I know Thane is upset, but he has no right to speak to me like that! I'm his mate, not one of his subordinates! Goddess, I am so angry with him.

Just who does he think he's talking to?

"What do we do now?"

"I don't know what to suggest, Brody." Xale shakes his head.

I look at Thane. He's breathing hard and fighting his Lycan. Jagger wants to take over, and if that happens, someone is going to get hurt. I don't know how to calm Thane when he won't let me anywhere near him, and I feel like the worst mate in the world. Why am I so stupid?

'You're not stupid, Lyric. I know I keep saying that Thane is going through a lot, but he doesn't mean to hurt you.

'Aspen. Please, just stop making excuses for him. Don't give me a load of spiel about the mate bond, either. I've given Thane some leeway due to Starr's passing, but I'm not a verbal punchbag for the Lycan King. So don't ask me to be.'

A colossal gasp and a scream have all eyes turning to Tristan, now sitting up in bed.

What the hell?

"Tristan!" Thane rushes over to Tristan, pulling him into his arms as the room fills up. Everyone is talking at once, but Tristan looks out of it. He's not responding to anyone, and his eyes are darting all over the place. "Everybody take a step back and let the boy breathe."

All eyes shoot to Leviathan, who raises his eyebrow. Before anyone can respond, Tristan pushes Thane away from him, jumps off the bed, and bolts from the room. Tristan is wearing nothing but sweatpants, no top, not even socks on his feet. Everyone rushes after Tristan, wondering where the hell he could be going. Too many people are yelling after Tristan, and he isn't responding.

Did these people believe that if Tristan woke up, everything would be normal with him?

That there wouldn't be some issues with Tristan's mind?

His ability to think clearly?

I know everybody has been praying for this, staying by Tristan's bedside and begging him to wake up. But Tristan was never going to come out of this unscathed. I don't know much about Status Sleep, but I know from what the elders said that if Tristan ever woke up, he might never be the same.

"Tristan, what are you doing?" Lucy tries to grab Tristan's arm, but he turns and growls so threateningly the ground shakes. "Oh, my Goddess. What's happening to him?"

"I don't know." Thane mumbles while everyone else takes a few steps backward, giving Tristan and his now visible through his eyes Lycan some space.

"Tristan?" Tristan's black eyes turn to Brody. Brody takes a step closer with his hands held up in surrender. "Tristan, it's okay."

"Tristan?"

"Esme, go back to your room!" Thane yells, causing Esme to startle and Tristan to growl even louder.

More yelling, more growling, and this whole thing is a fuc.king sh.it show! Guards now surround us, here to protect their King, even from his brother.

"Back off!" I warn them. Bolton tips his head, then motions for his crew to wait for his command.

Goddess, this could turn very nasty very quickly.

"Tristan," Esme touches Tristan's hand with no fear in her eyes though I see much sadness.

Tristan instantly sucks in a deep, harsh, rattles the chest breath. Dropping to his knees, he grabs Esme and pulls her into his arms. He cradles her head while rocking her from side to side and crying. I can't help the tears in my eyes for this sweet moment. "You came back to me! You didn't leave me, Tristan!" Esme sobs.

"I will never leave you, Esme, never ever. I'm so sorry, baby girl, I'm so sorry."

I swallow my emotions and wipe tears from my eyes, watching brother and sister. This family has so much love that I can't believe it sometimes. There was love within my family, but it was never this intense.

"Move!" Moria literally shoves Theo and Tane out of the way to get to Tristan. Not that I can blame her; she's been desperate for this moment. Dropping to her knees, Moria wraps her arms around Tristan, sobbing and kissing his head over and over again. "My baby boy. Oh, Goddess, I thought I'd lost you too!"

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

I watch Ronan crouch down on the other side of Tristan, hugging him close. I look over at Thane, but he doesn't spare me a glance.

I turn and walk away, needing a moment to myself.

'Maybe we should go back to our room?'

'I'm fine, Aspen. I just need some fresh air.'

'Yeah, but...

'No, but, Aspen. I just... nothing!'

I cut my wolf off and take off into the forest. The air is calm tonight, and it feels good to breathe it in. I smile when a rabbit pops out of its burrow and runs across the forest floor. Winter is coming, and soon the forest will be void of wildlife that hibernates. I wonder if the Bear King hibernates in the winter. I laugh at the absurdity of what I'm thinking.

Brody hibernating?

He's a Bear shifter, not an actual bear!

But what if Brody's bear sleeps through the winter?

Would that make Brody human for the winter months?

'I think you're losing the plot, Lyric!

'Why? Have you never thought these things, Aspen?'

'No, Lyric, I haven't. Maybe we should turn back now. I can feel your pain.

'It's just a twinge, Aspen. I'm fine.

'You're not fine. Stop pretending this isn't happening! You lied to Harmony earlier, and you know it! What are you going to do when Aurora's head slips out of you? Pretend it's not happening?'

'Of course not, Aspen. Why is this happening now? Why couldn't she wait a while longer?'

'Babies wait for no one, Lyric. They come when they are ready, like it or not!

I shouldn't have lied to Harmony, but I wasn't ready to admit this might be happening. I thought I was having practice pains, but I'm not, and I should have told Thane.

But how could I do that when he's done nothing but talk to me like sh.it for days?

I blow out a shuddering breath as a contraction shoots through my body. Aspen is right; babies come when they want, not when we do. But I'm scared it's happening too soon. Too much has happened lately, and I haven't had time to breathe. Now this, and I'm terrified of all that's to come afterward. I am so scared that what Astro told me about taking Aurora the moment she's born will come true. I know Harmony said she wouldn't let anything happen, but I worry that no one will be able to stop him. 'Thane?' I call through our mate link more than once. But Thane doesn't answer me, and I don't know what to do.

On shaky legs and clutching trees for support, I slowly make my way back to the castle. The place seems to be deserted, and it doesn't make any sense. Where the fu.ck is everyone?

"Oh, ouch," I clutch the bottom of my back with one hand and my bedroom doorframe with the other. These contractions fuc.king hurt like hell!

I manage to get to my knees and lean against a chair. I can't get to the bed; I'm in too much pain to move any further.

Goddess, I want my mom!

My mom isn't here any longer, but someone close to her is.

'Emori, please help me.

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Lyric

"Maybe we should get you on the bed?"

I shake my head at Emori while rocking back and forth. I'm so hot; sweat is pouring out of me. "Babe, you'd be more comfortable."

I shake my head at Harmony this time and clutch her hand. When Emori rushed to my side, Harmony was with her. I don't know why they were together, and I didn't ask because I didn't care. They helped me sit back on my a.ss. Emori piled cushions and pillows behind me while Harmony helped remove my panties. The last thing I wanted was for my aunt and sister to check things between my legs. But at the same time, I didn't give a sh.it. Fu.ck, Harmony never said it hurt this much!

I'm not kidding when I say that, my bo.obs, back, stomach, a.ss, and vag.ina hurt like hell!

Fu.ck me; I am never doing this again!

'Thane...' I whine into our mate link. 'Why won't you answer me? Please, I need you. I'm scared!' "She's crowning."

The seriousness on Emori's face makes me laugh. I don't know why, but I can't stop. Of course, laughter is infectious, and Harmony and Emori laugh with me. But my laughter soon turns to tears, and Harmony pushes my sweaty hair back from my forehead. "It's okay, Lyric."

I shake my head because nothing is okay, not without Thane. He promised he'd never leave me and that he would be here when the baby came, no matter what. But he's not here, and my heart hurts. Thane is going to miss the most important moment in our lives, a moment we can never get back.

There's a reason they're called firstborns. It's because it's your first time bringing a life into the world. You may have many children in the future, but you can never get back that wonderful moment when you become a parent for the first time. "Lyric..." Emori sighs.

"Lyric!" The door crashes against the wall, and I sob to see Thane rushing toward me. I reach out my hand, which he grabs while dropping on his a.ss beside me. His arm wraps around my shoulder, and he kisses my head. "I'm so sorry."

"I kept calling for you, but you didn't come!"

"I came as quickly as I could. Forgive me, baby."

I don't answer Thane. He does not get off treating me like the enemy that lightly. I want to smack him in the mouth! But that will have to wait.

"Ow!"

"Push for me, Lyric. That's it."

"Where the hell is Dale?"

"Lyric didn't want him here." Harmony replies to Thane. "And we don't have the time, nor is this the place for you to have a tantrum."

I squeeze Thane's hand, grunting while pushing and trying to keep Thane calm at the same time. Harmony is annoyed with my mate, and I don't have the mind to care. Thane doesn't deserve to be let off the hook. Plus, I'd be doing much worse than snapping at Theo if the tides were turned.

"That's it, Lyric, just one more!"

I nod and push with everything I've got. It hurts so much, and it feels never-ending! But suddenly, the pain is gone. Everyone is silent, and I don't hear a baby crying.

What's going on?

I reach my hands out. "Give her to me. Please."

Emori looks from me to Thane and back again.

"What's wrong? Why are you looking at us like that?"

"Emori, what's wrong with my baby!? Oh, no!" My breath shudders in my throat, tears fill my eyes, and I can't close my mouth.

"Shh, Lyric. Lyric, calm down. There's nothing wrong with your baby."

"Goddess, Emori! You scared the sh.it out of us all!" Harmony snaps while stroking the back of my head.

"I'm sorry. It's just..."

"Just what?"

Emori looks at Than and sighs.

"Will you just tell me what the hell is wrong!?" I yell and sob at the same time. "Please, Emori. I want my baby. I want my little girl."

I just want to hold my baby in my arms. I want to kiss her head and tell her how much I love her.

"I'm sorry, but your little girl," She holds up my baby, and everyone gasps, including me. "Is a little boy."

"What the fu.ck?" I'm not sure if Thane is asking a question or not, but I nod my head because I'm just as confused. "How is this possible?"

"I don't care how it's possible! Give me my son right now."

I reach for my baby, and a smile spreads across my face when Emori hands him to me. Harmony tears my shirt in half, and I giggle-sob while pulling my little man to my chest. Oh, Goddess, he's perfect. Ten tiny fingers and toes, pouty lips, and a button nose. I didn't know love like this existed, but I'm overflowing with it.

I'm not even disappointed that my baby isn't a girl, though it is a little confusing. Levi was adamant the baby was a girl.

How could he have gotten it so wrong?

There are so many questions rushing through my mind. But I'll think about them later. This moment belongs to Thane and me.

I kiss my baby boy's head and breathe him in. "Hello, my baby boy. Oh, Thane," I look at my mate, staring at me with tears in his eyes. "Look at him. Isn't he beautiful?"

Thane strokes his finger over our son's cheek. "He's perfect." He kisses my lips, then our son's head.

I open my mouth to say something, but a sharp pain rips through my stomach.

"Lyric?"

"Oh, wow, it hurts."

"Thane, take the baby." Harmony demands.

Thane takes the baby from me, kissing his head and holding him close.

"Ow, ow!" I throw my head back and lift my a.ss off the floor, trying to breathe through the pain tearing through me.

What the fu.ck is happening to me?!

"Thane..." I whine.

Thane quickly hands the baby to my sister and rewraps his arm around me. I lean into him, breathing harshly. "Oh, my..."

"Emori?"

"Thane, erm..."

"Oh, my Goddess!" I scream so loudly, my body naturally pushing whatever is trying to crawl its way out of my body.

What the hell is going on with my body?

"Lyric," I flick my eyes to Emori. "I know this hurts, but you're about to give birth again."

"What the fu.ck are you talking about?!" I scream at my aunt.

Giving birth again?

What plant is this bitch on?

I can't be giving birth again. Nobody said anything about two babies!

"Push for me, Lyric!" I push with all my might until Emori tells me to stop. "The baby's head is free. When I tell you to push, I need you to give me a big one. Okay?" "Okay." I gulp and nod my head.

"Push, Lyric!"

I grab onto Thane, screaming as I push with all that I've got, and I don't stop until I feel the relief of pain leaving me. My baby's newborn cries fill the air, and Emori immediately lays the child on my chest. "Your daughter."

"Oh," I sob with my eyes closed and my lips pressed against Aurora's head. I really thought she'd been a figment of Levi's imagination. I hadn't realized how badly it hurt, thinking I'd never meet her until she was placed in my arms. "My baby girl." "Aurora." I look at Thane, and he cups my cheek and presses his forehead to mine. "She looks just like you."

I laugh. "And our son looks just like you."

"Poor kid. What are we gonna call him?"

"What name do you like?"

Harmony hands our son to Thane while Emori hands us both a small blanket to wrap around our children. She then lays one over my legs.

Thane wraps his arm around my shoulders. "What about Sebastian?"

"Sebastian and Aurora. I like it."

"Let go of me!"

"O-oh, looks like Levi knows Aurora is here."

I laugh, and Thane rolls his eyes at my sister. "Let him in."

It isn't three seconds before Levi bursts into the room, Lia hot on his tail.

"I'm so sorry,"

I shake my head at Lia and smile. We all knew this was how Levi would be once Aurora was born. Levi pushes Harmony out of the way and kneels down beside me. I turn Aurora in my arms so Levi can see her, but he holds his arms out to take Aurora. I look at everyone in the room, staring at me and shrugging.

"Lyric, I'm sorry. I know this is awkward, but Levi needs to hold Aurora. Only then will he calm down."

He's a little young to be holding the baby. But if it will settle this constant nagging inside of him, then I guess I don't have a choice.

"Levi, you have to come closer."

Little man scoots closer, and Lia kneels behind him. That sets my mind at ease, knowing she's close by. Many hands around my little girl mean she won't be dropped.

As gently as possible, I lay Aurora in Levi's arms, not moving mine entirely, just to be safe.

"Hello, my Aurora. I am so happy you're here." I smile when Levi gently kisses Aurora's head. "I am always going to love you. But now, I have to protect you."

"What the hell!?! " Thane snaps, startling everyone in the room.

My eyes and mouth are wide in shock as white light surrounds Levi and Aurora before they disappear in the blink of an eye!

"My baby!"

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Thane

"Where the hell did your son take my daughter!?" I growl in Xale's face.

He sighs. "I don't know, Thane. I've never known a child so young to have a mate, let alone take off with her as soon as she's born."

"My daughter wasn't even ten minutes old! You're the damn Dragon King and Levi's father. So track him!"

"I'm trying, Thane."

"Do you have any idea what this is doing to my mate?"

Lyric went into shock and wouldn't speak to anyone. Harmony walked Lyric to the bathroom and helped her shower. Dale wanted to check Lyric over, but she had spaced out, and Harmony told Dale to leave.

Emori bathed and dressed Sebastian because I needed to find Xale and have words. My mom and grandmother are with Lyric, Harmony, and Emori. I didn't want to leave Lyric alone, though I knew I should be with her. She needs me, but I need to find our daughter. I won't be able to settle until I bring Aurora home.

'Why do you suddenly care about Lyric? You've been a bas.tard to her lately. She needed you, and what did you do? Took the pain you were feeling out on Lyric. I know you were hurting over losing Starr, but that was disgusting, Thane.

'You promised Lyric you would never hurt her, but you did. Do you think Lyric is just going to forgive you? Because, believe me, you don't deserve her forgiveness.

'Jagger, please get off my back. I know what I've done, and I'll fix it. But right now, we need to concentrate on finding Aurora. Our newborn pup is out there, Jagger, and we have to find her.'

'You're right. I'm sorry!

"I can only imagine what this is doing to your mate." Xale scrubs his hands over his face. "This doesn't make any sense, Thane. My son is three years old. He shouldn't have been able to do what he did. Dad,"

I try to suppress a growl when Leviathan walks into my office unannounced. Theo and Tyler stand behind me while Blaze stands by the window. I don't know why the three of them followed me or why they felt the need to be here. They should be with Tristan; he's only been awake a few hours.

Though Isla informed me that Tristan still has yet to leave Esme's room. He wouldn't tell us why he was clinging to our youngest sister. But Tristan kept mumbling that Starr was still alive and he was going to find her.

Dad said Tristan is grieving and to leave him alone; he'll get the help he needs soon enough. However, Brody said we should listen to Tristan, and there might be some truth in what he's saying.

I ignored the Bear King. If Starr was still alive, I'd know. I'm the Lycan King and Starr's big brother. I would feel her life force, but I don't; she's really gone.

"I think I know where Levi has taken Aurora."

I lean forward in my office chair. "Where? Where the hell has that boy taken my baby girl?"

"To Belvore."

"What the fu.ck?" Blaze moves forward. "Your grandson took my Princess to the equivalent of Dragon heaven?"

With a nod of his head, Leviathan tells me, "He's trying to protect her from what is to come."

"I don't care!" I slam my fist down on the table while getting out of my seat. "Fetch my daughter! She needs to be home with my mate. This is all wrong, Leviathan, and you know it!"

"It is wrong. But Levi's Dragon will not allow Levi to bring Aurora home until the threat from the Fairy King is dealt with."

I rake my fingers through my hair and pull. This is fuc.king insane!

"What the hell!?" Theo snaps. "Aurora should be with her mother, bonding, being breastfed. This could send Lyric into depression. Do you know what that could do to a wolf? Who the hell is even looking after the baby? Levi is three years old; he can't possibly care for a newborn. He can't even look after himself! You Dragons might be used to this shit, but we are not!"

"He's right, Dad. This is ridiculous. We must go to Levi and bring Aurora back to her mother."

Leviathan rolls his neck. "Fine, you and I will go. Let Lia know we'll be leaving right away." Leviathan turns to me. "I don't know how long this is going to take. But I suggest you get your house in order, Lycan King." "What the hell do you mean by that?"

"A brother recently awoke from Staus Sleep, and his Bear King mate; moping around."

I pull back a growl. I'm not in the mood for a damn lecture. I know a lot is going on, and I don't need it pointed out by this Dragon pri.ck!

"Your mate gave birth this evening to twins - one child she wasn't expecting. You've been an as.shole to her since your sister passed away, and instead of comforting and taking comfort from Lyric, you act like she's the enemy.

"You have the damn Fairy King on his way to take your daughter, which is why Levi disappeared with her. Levi wants to keep his future mate safe. I know you're grieving, and you're worried about your daughter. But you have a mate and son up there," He points to the ceiling as if pointing to my room. "Who need you now more than ever, Thane."

"I will bring your daughter home. But you need to pull your head out of your as.s and sort things before Astro turns up on your doorstep. Believe me; he will not go easy on any of you."

'He's right,' Jagger sighs in my mind. 'We need to sort everything while Leviathan and Xale are collecting Aurora, and we need to start with Lyric!'

"Don't worry about what's happening here," Tyler clutches my shoulder. "Just bring my niece home!"

Leviathan and Xale disappear in a cloud of blue smoke. I close my eyes and take a deep breath. My baby girl, I didn't even get to hold her before Levi took off with her. Goddess, I let that crazy little Dragon brat hold Aurora first! My beautiful little princess, who looks so much like my mate.

My mate!

I push Tyler away from me and rush out of my office. It takes me only a short time to get to my chambers. Everyone turns to look at me when I enter the bedroom.

"Everyone out."

No one says anything as they walk away. Good, because I'm not in the mood for anyone trying to drag me into conversation.

Lyric is sitting in a chair by the open balcony windows, looking out at the city. She looks lost in thought, and I can feel her sadness mingling with my own.

I turn to look at my son asleep in his basket bed beside our bed. He's wearing a little baby blue sleepsuit with a matching hat on his head. I smile and walk over to him. I stroke my finger down his super-soft cheek. We weren't expecting this little man, but I am so glad he's here.

Why didn't we sense his heartbeat?

Or was it his heartbeat we heard?

Why didn't Levi know Sebastian was in there, but Aurora, he did?

Okay, Levi sensed Aurora because she's his mate, but it still confuses me that we didn't know about little man. I haven't even heard him cry yet, but I imagine he had when he wanted to feed.

"Everything will be okay, Sebastian; your sister will be home soon. Daddy is going to fix everything." I press a kiss to my fingertips and then touch Sebastian's forehead.

I sigh before turning to Lyric and making my way over to her. Leviathan was right when he said I'd been treating Lyric terribly. I don't even know why I was doing it; all my mate tried to do was be

there for me, and I pushed her away. I did the one thing I promised never to do, and that was hurt her.

I sit down in the seat opposite Lyric. She hasn't looked at me or even acknowledged I'm here.

"Lyric?"

Lyric looks at me while wiping a tear from her cheek. "How did a three-year-old manage to steal our little girl, Thane?"

"I don't think Levi sees it that way, Lyric. He thinks he's protecting Aurora by taking her away from here."

"B-but, I ne-need her he-here, Thane."

I get out of my seat and lift Lyric from hers. I take her seat, sit Lyric on my lap, and hold her while she cries.

"I'm sorry, baby. I know how much this is hurting you. It's hurting me too. But Xale and Leviathan have gone after Levi. They'll bring Aurora home before you know it."

"I just want my baby back!"

"I know," I kiss her head and hold her tighter. "I know."

We sit in silence for a few moments, me rocking Lyric gently and her sniffing back tears.

"I wanted to go look for Aurora. But Lia told me that Levi had taken Aurora out of this realm. How could I follow when I didn't know how? What kind of mother doesn't search for her child?"

"Lyric," I sigh. She lifts her head and looks at me with red eyes and swollen lips. "You are already a wonderful mother. What happened with Levi was not your fault."

"Just everything else." Lyric mumbles, loud enough for me to hear.

"No," I shake my head.

Goddess, this is all my fault. I made my mate think I blamed her for what happened to Starr. Through my grief, I pushed Lyric away. I have hurt her more than I realized. Now all of this with Levi taking Aurora... Fu.ck, I don't know how Lyric hasn't thrown herself out of a window!

"I am so sorry, Lyric. I'm sorry I've made you feel like this. I pushed you away without realizing what I was doing. I had no right to yell at you, and I wish I could take it back, but I can't. All I can do is work my as.s off to prove that I love you.

"I don't deserve you, Lyric. But you are mine, and I am yours. You gave me two beautiful babies, Lyric, not one but two, and I have never loved you more than I do right now."

Lyric stares at me with a raised eyebrow. "You think that lets you off the hook after what you did?"

I shake my head. "No, but I do love you. More than anything in this world, I love you. I am sorry, and I swear, I will never treat you so appallingly again."

"I just want you to talk to me, Thane. We're mates, a partnership, and I love you. If you're struggling with your emotions, I am the one person you don't have to shut out - not me.

I press my forehead to Lyric's and close my eyes. My emotions are threatening to spill over. My sister is dead, and my daughter is missing, and there is nothing I can do about it. I feel helpless for the first time in my life, and I hate it!

"I will never shut you out again, Lyric. I promise."

"Thank you. Is Leviathan really going to bring Aurora home?"

"Yes. We just have to be patient."

"I don't know if I can."

'Thane, come quick!'

What the fu.ck now!?

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 65[1,718 words]

Xale

"My Lords!" Tomin yells as Dad, and I walk through the halls of Belvore Palace.

Belvore is Dad's realm, and as Blaze said, this is Dragon heaven. This place was built around my mother and her vision of heaven. A small town surrounded by greenery and water, trees, and flowers as far as the eye can see. Dad says that before he found Mum, this place was dull and lifeless, a place he stayed merely to keep himself hidden from the world. Mum came along and brightened up his world. He would give her anything her heart desired, so Belvore became a place of beauty and light.

I grew up in this palace with my mother and father. Nothing was ever out of my reach because my parents gave me everything. Though I was trained from an early age how to be the ruler of Dragons. Dad was strict when it came to me learning all I needed to know. Some children would resent their fathers for being tough, but I loved mine because I knew he had my best interests at heart. "Tomin, is Xale's room ready?"

I didn't expect I'd be staying, but apparently, I am. I thought we'd come here, get the children, and leave. I do not like being away from Lia for too long. Right now, she's hurting because her youngest

child has gone AWOL. I want to bring Levi home to his mother; then, we can deal with this obsession he has with Aurora.

"Yes, my Lord." Tomin bows to Dad, who then waves him off.

"Were they expecting us?"

"Yes."

"How can you be sure Levi came here, Dad?"

Every Dragon related to Leviathan can enter Belvore with ease. This place is our safe haven when things get tough. I may live in another realm now, but this will always be my home. "Because your mother contacted me to let me know Levi had turned up."

As if he'd conjured her, Mother walks towards us, looking like an angel as always, with a beautiful smile on her face. Mum's long blonde hair is half up and half down and hanging down her back. Her long green dress hits the floor as always, and her smile is bright. Mum is a happy woman, and I don't recall ever seeing her sad. Of course, she must have been sad sometimes, but she never let me see it.

"Xale, my sweet baby boy." I playfully roll my eyes at the way she still speaks to me after all this time. Mum wraps her arms around me, and I lean down to hug her. Mum isn't short, she's six foot, but I'm over seven foot, so I still have to lean down some. "Charming." Dad grumbles, making me chuckle. It's always the same, Mum hugs me first, and Dad complains about it playfully.

"Oh, hush, you know I love you." Mum laughs and walks into Dad's arms. "I've missed you, my Dragon."

"I've missed you, too, my beautiful Elf."

My mother met my father many thousands and thousands of years ago. They met after Dad was sent to Edrana, the Elven Kingdom, to aid them in fighting Demons. Dad hadn't wanted to go, but the other deities had their reasons for sending him, and that reason was so he could find Sorella, my mother, though Dad calls her Ella.

Mum and Dad had only one child, me, Xaleius, or Xale, as everyone calls me. My parents were never upset with having just one child. It was written many years ago that Leviathan would never procreate. But Dad proved every deity wrong, even if he had just one son. Where my parents had one child, Lia, and I had eighteen, much to Dad's shock. Some say we're crazy, but we didn't have our children one after the other. Our children are spread out over the nine thousand years Lia, and I have been together, many years between each child. Levi was a massive surprise after having Zenon six hundred years before him. We had believed Zenon was our last, but then Levi came along. Levi...

"Mum, where's Levi?"

"In his room. But listen to me, Xale. Levi is not himself."

I furrow my brow. "What do you mean?"

Mum pulls away from Dad and takes my hand. "Levi has somehow tapped into both his Dragon and Elvish powers."

My eyes widen this time. "But that's not possible until we're one hundred. Levi is three years old."

"It's unusual, not impossible, Xale. Levi is my descendant, after all. What is Levi using his powers for, Ella?"

"To keep everyone from touching the baby. He has a dome shield around himself and the baby, and his Elvish light shines in his eyes. Anyone who tries to enter the dome shield gets burned, and that's not easy when we're talking about Dragons. "I called you home, Leviathan, because you and I are the only ones able to bring the dome shield down. I know you're strong, Xale, but this is beyond even you."

I nod because I understand that.

"Mum, the baby needs feeding. She's not even wearing any clothes. Aurora should be at her mother's breast, not locked away with Levi. This is crazy! We have to get her back to her parents."

"Levi allowed me to feed the child, though he sealed the room so I couldn't escape. I couldn't even use my powers because Levi somehow blocked them. He did allow me to dress the child; then he shoved me out of the room with a flick of his finger." "What the?"

We are powerful beings; there is no denying that. But at three years old, Levi should not be able to do such things.

"It's the mate bond."

"Dad?"

"What happened to Levi, finding out Aurora was his mate while still in the womb, is rare, Xale. The last time something like that happened was thirteen thousand years ago."

I fold my arms across my chest and wait for Dad to continue. I'm not familiar with what he's about to tell me, though I'm sure I've heard the story a long time ago.

"Kadmus was the son of a Dragon Lord, five years old and more intelligent than most his age back then. Lord Vandon encountered a Dragoness in a small village, pregnant with her first child, a daughter.

"From his seat in the carriage, Kadums heard the soul of the unborn call to him. Kadmus refused to leave the pregnant woman until the baby was born. Lord Vandon had no choice but to leave his son with the woman and her mate.

"As soon as the little girl was born, Kadums held her in his arms and disappeared with the child. He left devastation in his wake, and for twenty years, no sign was ever found of Kadums and the girl.

"The child's mother died from her grief, killing herself by tearing out her own heart. The child's father went mad with his grief and locked himself away in a mountain, never to be seen again.

"Then, like strangers in the night, Kadmus and the girl he named Marinda walked hand in hand to the once prosperous village. Finding her parents no longer around, Kadums took Marinda back to his home. It turned out Kadmus wanted to protect his mate from an up-and-coming war, which lasted twenty years. Only when Kadmus felt the earth shift did he know it was safe to return home. Though they returned to a changed world."

I stare at my father and shake my head. "I'm meant to believe a five-year-old clothed and fed a newborn and raised her to be his mate?"

"Don't be a fool, boy. Of course, Kadmus didn't do that alone. Kadmus took Marinda to Zandirin, and there, he manipulated the Witch Queen, Zelena, into helping him raise Marinda and himself.

"The point I'm trying to make is that these kinds of mateships can be dangerous. The male will become obsessed with keeping his mate safe. Right now, Levis is scared that Aurora will be taken by the Fairy King, and it kicked his Dargon and Elf side into acting fast. Levi is doing the only thing he knows to keep Aurora with him."

"So you're saying there's no way to bring Aurora back to her parents until Astro is dealt with?"

"I wish I could tell you differently," Dad sighs. "But I can't."

"But you promised Thane!"

"I will take his daughter back to him, Xale. It just won't be yet."

Fu.ck this!

I storm away from my father and up the stairs. I cannot believe he's doing this! I can't let this go on, and I will do all I can to take Aurora back to her parents. But perhaps I need to help Thane destroy Astro. With my help, they can't fail.

I open my son's bedroom door and gasp. He's sitting cross-legged on the bed, Aurora across his knees, asleep. Levi's eyes are shining white, and his hair is blowing in the wind caused by his powers.

My boy is more powerful than I ever anticipated. Aurora will be safe with Levi from now until they leave this world. But that doesn't make what he's doing right. As soon as all this sh.it is over; I'll put my son to sleep for a while. It's the only way to calm him until I can teach him how to control the urge to be near Aurora.

I can't walk further into the room; as Mother said, Levi is blocking me. I can't get past the shield, and I'm starting to worry.

"Levi?"

"Minar vostura ec mein van." Levi speaks in Drakon, Dragon language, telling me to leave.

"I can't leave, Levi. You took Aurora from her mother, and she needs to go home."

Light shoots from my son's eyes, hitting me in the chest and slamming me against the wall. "No one will take Aurora from me. She is mine to protect. Destroy the threat, and I will return Aurora to Lykos." Levi's voice is not his own, his Dragon spoke with him, and it sent chills down my spine.

Destroy the threat. That is what I have to do if I wish to send Aurora home. Dragons do not get involved in wars not caused by themselves. However, I made a promise to Thane that I would be there when the time came. But maybe I need to draw Astro out; then, finally, we can all put this behind us.

"Levi, will you not let Aurora's mother see her for a few moments?"

"Daminotavista!"

"Fu.ck!"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 66[2,179 words]

Lyric

"Why the hell are you yelling through the mind link?"

Tyler sighs. "Sorry, but I had no choice. Astro is here!"

"What!? How far out?"

"Eastern border, he'll be here any minute."

I gasp and hold on to Thane's hand. I'm not ready for this! I gave birth today and had my daughter taken from me. I haven't got my head around any of that, and now Astro is here. I told Harmony that Astro would know when Aurora was born and that he'd come for her. He's here for my little girl!

'Well, Aurora isn't here, is she? So Astro has no hope of taking her. Aurora is safe with Levi, and as much as you're hurting, that's a good thing. Once this is all over, she will be home!

'No! Xale and Leviathan went to fetch her. They'll be back with her before we know it, and Astro will take her. What about Sebastian?'

'Sebastian is safe with Moira, and if Xale and Leviathan return, we'll send Aurora to be with her brother. Astro cannot get into the castle; I promise they will be safe.

'I hope you're right, Aspen.'

'I am. Now, let's concentrate on ending that Fairy Pri.ck!'"

A startled scream leaves my lips when Xale materializes in thin air, slamming against the wall as if someone threw him through a portal.

He's alone.

Where's my baby?

"Xale?"

Xale picks himself up off the ground and brushes down his clothes. He looks at Thane.

"Sorry about that."

"What the hell happened?"

"To cut a long story short, Levi just used Daminotavista. On his own father!"

"Dami... What?"

Xale looks at Tyler. "My three-year-old son just banished me from Belvore. That's what Daminotavista means, to banish one from Belvore. Levi shouldn't have been able to do that, but he did, and he won't return Aurora until Astro has been dealt with." I should be angry, but I'm not. If Aurora is in Belvore, Astro cannot get to her.

'That boy is powerful. That could be problematic in the future.

'Yeah. Is all I reply to my wolf with.

"Isn't there somewhere we should be?!" I snap because we don't have time for this!

"What's going on?"

"Xale, Astro is here." Thane pulls me closer. "I've already mind linked every warrior to get into position. Though I didn't need to because Blaze has that covered. I've also got Luke rallying every ally within a twenty-mile radius."

"And I've linked Isla and Emori. They'll take Mom, Esme, and Taylen to the safe room." Tyler looks at me, and I can already tell I'm not going to like what he has to say. "Harmony is refusing to go with them, no matter what Theo says to her."

I close my eyes and take a deep breath in through my nose. I knew this would happen!

"Mom has Adam and Sebastian; she'll keep them safe."

Purple light fills the hallway. It came from outside. Astro is letting us know he's here and he's waiting for us. He got past the wards and protective spells all around Lykos. None of it fazed him. He's here to kill, and he won't stop until he gets what he came here for, and I am terrified of what will become of my family.

Theo, Ronan, Thorin, Tane, Tristan, and Brody run towards us.

"Thane," Theo rushes out. "It's chaos out there. Astro brought Demons, Witches, and fuc.king Trolls! Aidan and his coven are trying to hold them off with our warriors. But we need to get out there and help!"

"Fu.ck it all!" Thane screams. "Lyric..."

"Don't even bother saying it, Thane. There is no way I'm staying behind, so don't suggest it because I'm going. You know I can't die, so there's no problem. I can help, Thane. I'm not weak."

Thane takes my face between his hands and kisses me softly. "I would never think you're weak, Lyric. You're the strongest woman I know. Just be careful out there. I know you can't die, but that doesn't mean I want you getting hurt, either." "Ditto. Be careful out there, Thane. Remember that I love you."

"I love you, too." With one last kiss, Thane pulls away from me. "All of you, be careful out there. This isn't a drill; this is the real thing. Astro will tell you anything to make you crumble. He'll try and get into your head and twist your mind. He'll use your mates against you, but remember; they are safe.

"For those of you whose mates are out there, they are strong and don't need you jumping in front of them. Keep your mind on what you're doing, and try not to get distracted. Don't play the hero, but kill everything that doesn't belong to us. Remember that I love you all, and I'll see you once this is over."

I can't help the smile creeping across my face when the brothers all hug. The love between them is beautiful to witness.

"I still think you should stay here."

"Fu.ck off, Brody. I don't need your permission." Tristan mumbles before walking away. Brody sighs and chases after him.

I don't know what's going on between the two of them, and I don't even care right now. Tristan says he's able to fight, then that's good enough for me.

All around me, women and children are running towards the safe room. Thane screams at them to hurry up and get to safety, and I pray Moira keeps Sebastian safe. I can't lose him too. I don't want to leave my baby boy, but I have to face the monster who has haunted me my whole life. Only then will we be free.

"Xale?"

"I'm with you, Thane. My warriors will be here soon enough. Now, let's get out there and end this once and for all."

Exiting the castle, my heart slams against my rib cage. The sight that befalls me is the stuff of nightmares. Gigantic Lycans, Werewolves, Trolls, Witches, Demons, Fairies, and Goddess knows what else are engaged in a battle to the death. Goddess, I've never seen anything so horrific outside of a movie!

A massive howl rents the air, and I turn my head to see Thane in his Lycan form. Twelve feet of magnificence, fighting off anything and everything that comes his way.

Jagger is perfect.

'They both are.' I cut Aspen off with a gasp when an ugly-looking Witch, the stuff of every child's nightmares, throws spell after spell at me.

There is no need for me to hide my Fair powers any longer; Astro is already here. So, I pull my arms back and gather enough energy to crush the Witch where she stands. I push my arms forward, slamming it into the Witch, evaporating the hag instantly.

A blur flies past me, jumping over my head. Blaze, I realize when he slams into a Troll. They wrestle for a moment, but my attention is drawn elsewhere.

Two Fairies in the most elaborate warrior uniforms equipt with a helmet of gold charge at me. Lefty instantly gets a hit in, slashing my back with his sword. I stagger, wondering why the hell I didn't grab a weapon when I had the chance.

The sound of screams and metal clashing is almost deafening, but I can't let it distract me. My eyes wolf over as Aspen heals the wound on my back-the Fairy who slashed me charges at me. My hand shoots out, grabbing him around the throat. "That was a very silly thing to do."

He struggles in my grip, unable to get away. He splutters, blood spitting from his mouth. "The King..."

"Is pathetic." With that, I snap his neck and drop his body to the ground.

The other guy charges toward me, screaming in anger. But I jump high enough to land on the other side of him. Idiot didn't even feel me take the dagger from his side.

I turn, as does he. Face to face, he sneers at me. "Astro wants you alive, so I can't kill you. But he never said anything about hurting you."

"You could try, but it wouldn't get you anywhere."

He raises his hand, creating wind, which suddenly turns into ice. My eyes widen when a large shard of glass-like ice turns into a spear, spins in the air, then shoots into the chest of the Fairy. His eyes widen before he falls to his knees, then backward, dead. I turn my head, my mouth agape, to see Harmony standing to the side with a smirk on her lips.

What the fu.ck?

Harmony smirks again, tips her head, then runs back into the fray. I don't know what the hell that was, but it was awesome!

My eyes search the carnage for Astro. He has to be here somewhere, but that spineless bas.tard is nowhere to be seen.

Every death on our side, I feel it through the pack link. It hurts like hell and almost brings me to my knees. But I keep going because there's no stopping what's about to happen.

I can't see Thane anywhere. I know he hasn't died and come back; I've felt nothing. He has to be here somewhere. Goddess, I hope he's okay.

'You can't think about Thane right now. I know you're worried about him; I'm worried about Jagger. But we have a job to do, and Thane has his!

'You felt members of our pack die, Aspen. What if we've lost family members?'

'That would suck, but everyone knew what they signed up for. Everyone knew what was at stake, Lyric!

'I know, but...

"Well, well, well, finally, we meet in the flesh."

A shiver runs through me, and I slowly turn to face the monster that is Astro.

"I wondered how long it would take you to show your face. But I shouldn't be surprised you'd let your people die rather than fight yourself."

Astro chuckles while nodding his head. He's not even dressed for war; he's wearing similar robes to the ones he had on when he dragged me into my subconscious. Pompous Pri.ck!

"You shouldn't worry about what I am or am not doing. What you should be worrying about is the fact your mate is dead. Killed by my hands and left you here all alone."

I swallow the lump in my throat as my gut churns.

'Don't let him get inside your head, Lyric. You haven't felt Thane die. Even if he did die, he'd wake up again, so don't panic!

Aspen is right, and a smirk plays on my lips.

"What's so funny? Your mate is dead!"

"So he's dead." I shrug. "What? Did you think I'd crumble? Fall at your feet? What?"

"You sick little doggie."

Bas.ard!

Astro starts laughing with his head thrown back. All signs of laughter are gone when he looks at me, and his eyes shine black.

"Where is my future bride?"

"You don't have a future bride. If you're talking about my daughter, she's in a place you'll never find her. All of this," I swing my arms around, pointing to the carnage around us and realizing I'm in a bubble. This bas.tard has covered the two of us in a Fairy bubble, so nobody can get in, and I can't get out.

Great!

"Goddess, you're crazy. Why couldn't you try dating a woman instead of forcing her to be with you?"

"Where's the fun in that?" Astro takes a step closer, but I don't move.

I am no longer scared of this man. I was once, but then I looked at my children and realized there was nothing to fear. Once, just the thought of Astro's name scared the hell out of me. But in the words of Hermione Granger, fear of a name only increases fear of the thing itself. That's all Astro is, a thing, but not one to be feared. When you're no longer afraid, you regain the power they once believed they had over you.

"You killed my daughter,"

I roll my eyes. "We're back to this? Your daughter is dead, and you killed my sister-in-law. We're even. No matter what you do, you're not getting your hands on my daughter. You can kill everyone here for all I care, but you will never find her."

Astro's black eyes widen, his nostril flaring.

"You think you can beat me?"

"I know I can. You don't scare me, Astro."

"You should be very scared, Lyric." In a flash, he's behind me. "Look around you, Lyric. Your pack, your friends, they're all dying, and it's all your fault."

I take a shuddering breath because all around me is death. The ground is littered with bodies, blood, and destruction. I can no longer see my family out there, and my head feels tight with grief.

"Come with me, and all this ends right now. No more of your family members have to die because of you, Lyric."

A tear slips from my eye. I can't let this continue. I can't let anyone else die because of me. My entire life has been leading to this moment, and I can do nothing to stop it. My children will never be safe if I don't do something. "Come with me, and I'll leave your daughter alone. I swear to you, become my bride, and your daughter will always be safe."

What else can I do?

I nod my head.

Astro walks around me and holds out his hand.

I reach out my hand and sob. I don't want to do this, but there is no other way.

"Lyric, no!"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 67[1,728 words]

Thane

"The head, Hendrix, the head!"

My brother nods before jumping and landing on the Trolls' shoulders. The vile creature roars, swinging its arms and failing to reach Hendrix. With one arm wrapped around the Trolls forehead, Hendrix plunges his claws into its eyes. The Troll screams; its jaw drops, and I sever its head with the ax I took from Demon after I killed him. The Trolls body falls to the ground, and Hendrix lands on his back paws in front of me.

The best thing about being a Lycan is that you can take the form of a wolf or that of a beast. It certainly makes fighting easier.

Hendrix tips his head before darting off to help Blaze with his Troll problem. Two wolves, not even half my size, jump on me, but they stand no chance. I've torn them apart before they know what hit them.

I look around the battlefield. Too many are dead, but the enemy seems to be growing. It's as though they're multiplying. Kill one, and three take their place.

My brothers and cousins move with the speed of light, killing and leaving nothing but destruction in their wake. I turn my head, and Brody's fifteen-foot Bear, Kota, slays anything within his reach, and he has a long arm. He doesn't need my help, even with ten or so rabid werewolves pouncing on him.

Xale is fighting Witches and Demons in his human form. He deflects spells and throws them back at those who cast them.

I jump back into the fight, hacking and chewing on those who get near. I howl when a Goblin jumps on my back, sinking his claws into my flesh. Fuc.king vile little bas.tard!

"Mine, mine, mine to kill." The Goblin laughs, though he is not laughing for long.

I stretch my arm back and grab his neck. Goblin screams when I pull him close to my face. "Mine, mine, mine to..." I laugh sarcastically, throwing his taunting words back at him. "Tear apart." With his head in one hand and his legs in the other, I rip the little green bas.tard in half. Green goo, Goblin blood, splatters across my face. I snarl and throw his body parts across the field.

The fighting continues, trees burn, and smoke rises. My warriors fight valiantly, but I can see how tired they are becoming.

'Keep going!' I yell through the pack link. 'Don't give up. Don't let these motherfuc.kers take us with ease!' Growls of agreement fill my ears.

A whimper to the left draws my attention; it's familiar and filled with pain. I race to the left, killing a Witch as I go. There beneath a tree that isn't burning lies Amelia. No! She's naked, having transformed back to her human side. Blood pours from a gaping wound in her chest. Slashes across her stomach tell me she was attacked by something much stronger than she.

Amelia is one of our best warriors, but it wasn't enough. Fu.ck!

'Let me take over for a moment.'

It's not wise, but I allow Thane to take over, transforming into his human side. Thane gets to his knees beside Amelia. She coughs up blood while looking at us.

"Amelia. Fu.ck! We need to get you out of here."

'How do you intend to do that, Thane? It might have escaped your notice, but we're in the middle of a fuc.king war zone!'

'Shut up, Jagger! Now isn't the fuc.king time for you to be an as.shole!'

I growl, fighting the urge to shift. Sadly, Amelia is hurt, but there is no time for sentimentality. We must keep our wits about us. Yes, Amelia will more than likely die, but that's what happens during battle. People die; we lose loved ones and friends, but we can grieve once the fight is over.

"Th-Thane," Amelia grabs Thane's hand. She is in so much pain that she can barely catch her breath. Her dark eyes flit from looking at the sky to Thane. "It's t-to la-late for me."

"No, no! I'll get help." Thane looks around frantically, searching for someone to help. But there is no one; everyone is engaged in their own fight.

"Ple-Please listen t-to me. This w-was al-always going t-to be-be my end. A wa-warriors death."

"No, Amelia, you have to keep fighting. Why the fu.ck aren't you healing!?"

"P-Poison. Fairy poison. I-it's too la-late for m-me, Thane. D-Don't g-give up fi-fighting. P-Please, take c-care of my-my ba-babies. Tell th-them I lo-love them. Tell-Ta-Taylen to sta-stay in the li-light."

Amelia takes a shuddering breath while looking at the sky.

"It's beau-beautiful. The Mo-Moon Goddess is-is waiting f-for me. Tha-Thank you, Thane, for ev-everything. I-" She looks at Thane. "I am pr-pr-proud to ca-call you m-my King, my fr-friend." Amelia leaves this world for the next with one last smile and her last breath. Thane sobs a little while kissing her forehead. The pain of her passing rips through the pack bond and my heart.

"Thank you, Amelia. May you rest with the Moon Goddess and Mighty Fenrir." Thane steps back and allows me to take over once more.

Killing is second nature to me. But by the Gods, it's never-ending. Attacks come from all sides. I roar as spells hit my body, almost taking me down. Blood pours from wounds I hadn't realized I'd got until the pain suddenly hit me. Fu.ck!

"What's wrong, mutt?" A warlock mocks.

"Looks like he's in pain." Another laughs.

Pain is my fuel; it spurs me on. These fuc.kers won't get away with their lives. Suddenly, I'm surrounded by Demons, Warlocks, and Witches. I sigh because I know this isn't going to be easy.

'We have to get out of this, Jagger. We need to find Lyric; something doesn't feel right!

'We'll find her, Thane. But right now, we need to concentrate on the task at hand. Only then can we get to Lyric!

Thane sighs in my head, but he knows I'm right.

Dammit, we aren't getting out of this unscathed. Spells fly toward me, and Demons flash past me too fast for me to keep up. Hits land all over my body. I get a few in myself, slamming my claws into the nearest Demon. He screams and combusts into dust. I chuckle; inwardly because movies would have you believe that only happens to Vampires. Vampires don't turn into dust when you stake them through the heart. Bast.ards don't even die; they simply fall into a death-like sleep until the stake is removed. Once it is, they wake up, feed, and become even stronger.

A spell hits me in the chest, causing slash marks to appear. The attack throws me back with force. I dig my claws into the ground, skidding backward on my feet. I lift my head just as blue fire rains down on my would-be assassins. A smirk rides my lips as screeching fills the air.

I look to the sky. Dozens of Dragons of all colors fly through the sky, breathing fire that reaches no one but the enemy. I don't know how they're doing it, but I am awed.

Then I see him, Xale, Dragon King, son of Leviathan, gigantic, midnight blue with a red underbelly, swooping down. His wing span is humungous and spans the length of the battlefield, casting a shadow over all still alive. Many stop fighting and look up at the Dragon King, mouths agape as the Demi-God cleans house.

'Hot damn, I've never seen anything like this.'

'Me either, Thane. But look over there.'

On the right side of the field, Aidan mesmerizes Witches and Warlocks into killing one another. Smart. I should have known he wouldn't want to get his hands dirty.

'Little unfair, don't you think? The man is covered in blood.'

Thane is right, of course. But I don't reply.

I look to the left of the field to see Brody's Bear trampling Goblins as if they were mere bugs beneath his feet. Tristan's Lycan is tearing into Fairies left and right. Hendrix, Ace, and Locke, Blaise's Lycan, are tearing into the last of the Trolls. Dad, Vic, Uncle James' Lycan, and a few others, including Luke, are tackling the Demons. I don't see Harmony anywhere, but I know she's out there doing her bit.

My eyes land on Ivan. My sister's mate is struggling with an Oni. The little red bas.tard has brought Ivan to his knees while it feasts upon his shoulder from behind. Oni's are disgusting cannibalistic creatures who have no other urge than to kill.

"Fu.ck!"

I charge over there, hoping to get to Ivan before it's too late, but I know I won't. If my sister loses her mate, we could lose her. I cannot lose another sister!

I tear the Oni away from Ivan, who drops face forward onto the ground. I don't have time to check on my brother-in-law; the Oni's eyes are trained on me. It charges toward me. I leap in the air, jumping over its head and landing on the other side of him. Angrily, the Oni turns to me, claws out, razor-sharp teeth bared, and ready to kill.

'Jagger!' Shade calls my name, but I don't answer. I don't take my eyes off the creature in front of me.

It moves toward me, but a jet-black Dragon swoops down out of nowhere and literally eats the Oni. The Dragon tips his head back and swallows the still-screaming Oni. The Dragon then looks at me, and my eyes widen.

"Ricon?"

"At your service."

Like Lycans, Dragons can speak in shifted form. Xale's eldest son tips his head before taking flight once again. The Prince of Dragons might just be as sick as me.

'We need to find Lyric! Thane mumbles. 'I mean it, Jagger. Something is very wrong; I can feel Lyric's fear and panic through our bond.'

He's not the only one. I hadn't concentrated on anything other than the fight. But now we're winning; the opposition has lost more than we have. Okay, having the Dragons helped boost our status. Without them, I don't know if we would have come close to winning. But not once have I seen Astro through all of this. Though I'm not surprised, the coward would hide and wait for the right time to pounce.

'Jagger, where are you?'

'Hendrix. I'm near the east side. Ivan is seriously wounded. Get someone over here to help, now!'

'Fu.ck! We're on our way.

"Lyric, no!" Someone screams, pulling my attention to the north of the field. Lyric stands before Astro, his hand held out to my mate, hers reaching to take it. Over my dead body!

"Lyric, don't you dare take his hand!"

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 68[1,743 words]

Lyric

"Lyric, don't you dare take his hand!"

My mate's booming voice breaks through the fog in my brain. I gasp and pull my hand back, making Astro growl.

What the fu.ck just happened?

'You let this Fairy pri.ck into your head. He was twisting your thoughts, and you were letting him!'

'I wasn't letting him, Aspen!'

'Yes, you were. I told you to focus, but you didn't. Your mind is all over the place, and he easily got to you. I tried calling and calling you, but I was blocked!'

'Aspen, I'm sorry!'

'Don't apologize, just get us away from this bas.tard!'

I need to clear my mind. Regardless of how I feel about losing others, I must bury it until this is all over. I can grieve, then. But until then, I have a war to win. I'll do it for my babies and for Starr.

"Lycan King," Astro laughs. "Come to witness your mate become mine?"

"Over my dead body!" Jagger growls, snarling at Astro, who looks unfazed.

"Come, Lyric. It's time we were leaving."

"I'm not going anywhere with you! You told me Thane was dead." Even though I knew he wasn't.

"Semantics." Astro shrugs, and I scoff.

I also gasp when Jagger starts to attack the bubble surrounding Astro and me with his claws as if he'd gone mad. His eyes shine red like blood, showing just how angry my mate is. However, no matter how many times Jagger hits the bubble, it does nothing but make a thudding sound with each hit.

'Jagger,' I call through our mate link. 'Please, calm down. I'm not leaving with him. Remember what I said? Astro can only take me if I'm willing to go with him. I will never be willing!'

Jagger's eyes lock with mine, chest heaving, but he's no longer bashing the bubble.

"I want you out of there, now!" He yells out loud.

"Stupid Lycan," Astro scoffs. "And I was told the Lycan King was smart. You can't break a Fairy bubble."

"He can't, but I can." Something hits the bubble, breaking it on impact.

Astro's eyes widen, and my eyes land on Taylen. Oh, no. I now know that was the person who screamed my name before Jagger did. This isn't going to be good. She's supposed to be in the safe room with everyone else, hiding from Astro. How could Taylen be so stupid as to come out here?

Does she want to die?

"Taylen, there you are. And you told me she wasn't here." Astro raises an eyebrow at me.

"And you told me my mate was dead. I guess that makes us even."

Astro scoffs before turning back to Taylen. "You're just in time, Daughter."

"I'm not here to help you. I will never help you again."

"Huh." Astro nods.

I step backward slowly, hoping to reach Jagger before Astro notices. I don't get far before Jagger grabs me and lifts me from the ground. I wrap my arms around his neck and close my eyes for a second. "So, this is where you've been hiding. Hiding from your father is a terrible thing to do, Taylen."

I pull out of Jaggeer's arms. He reluctantly sets me on my feet, and I turn to look at Taylen. She stands with a bow and arrow aimed at Astro.

"I wasn't hiding; I was getting to know my mother."

"Pity the bitch is dead. It didn't take much for me to end her miserable life."

Shock rushes through me. 'Jagger, is that true? Is Amelia dead?'

'Yes.' Jagger says no more and continues to stare at Astro and Taylen.

A slight movement behind Astro catches my eye. But I can't make out who it is. They're wearing a cloak with the hood pulled up. I don't feel any threat towards my mate and me coming from them, so I say nothing.

"If my mother is dead," Oh, Goddess, I can feel Taylen's pain. She only just found her mother, and now she's lost her. "She died protecting her people, and I will celebrate her life once you are dead."

"My sweet little Taylen," Astro's eyes flash, and his hand shoots out, magically grabbing Taylen around the throat and lifting her three feet off the ground. Taylen struggles with Astro's invisible grip. "You always were a disappointment. I should have kicked you out of that worthless bit.ch when I had the chance."

"Let her go."

Astro doesn't let Taylen go, and my heart is beating too fast. He's going to kill his own daughter! Astro turns his head just as the mystery person drops the hood. No! No, no, no!

"Emori," Astro gasps and instantly drops Taylen to the ground. My heart is now in my throat!

What is Emori doing here?

"This cannot be. You died; I felt it."

"I was reborn."

"You!" Astro turns on me, walking with purpose. He wants my blood, and nothing will stop him this time.

Or so he thinks.

'Now, Lyric!'

I don't know how I know what Emori wants me to do, but I do. I leap and transform in midair, allowing Aspen to take over.

"The white wolf," Astro mumbles without taking his eyes off Aspen.

In the midst of this battlefield, now is the time to end this nightmare once and for all.

Astro pushes his hand out toward me, but nothing happens. He tries again but with the same outcome. Aspen snarls while moving closer.

"What's wrong, brother? Can't tap into your magic?" Emori laughs.

Through Aspen's eyes, I see Taylen, Luke, and a bunch of other magical beings all chanting, binding Astro's powers. This is the opportunity Emori and I need to end this. "Emori,"

Oh, my Goddess, is he scared?

Can crazies like Astro be scared?

'He's something.' Aspen snickers.

"You wouldn't let them kill me."

"What's the matter? Are you scared of the white wolf, Astro? Wasn't it your elders who foresaw your death? What was it they saw?"

Astro laughs. "This is priceless. You know what they saw, Emori. But it was all crap! I don't see a white Lycan anywhere. All I see is..." "Look again," Emori whispers before transforming right in front of Astro's wide yes.

"No, this isn't possible!"

"Now, Lyric!"

Aspen leaps at the same time Cosima does. Aspen tears into Astro, taking chunks out of him, while Cosima takes his head in her hands.

'For all you have done, you must pay!

'Please... I am your father.'

Aspen stops tearing at Astro and looks at Cosima. I hadn't told Emori about what Astro told me, and I never wanted to. That bas.tard just had to pull that card, hoping to furrow his way into Emori's heart. But instead of falling for his pleas, she does something I never expected. Cosima leans down and whispers, 'I know. before crushing his head, killing him instantly, and I am gobsmacked.

The mess that was Astro is all I can see. Even when I shift, I can't take my eyes off his destroyed body.

I gasp when three sets of arms surround me, heads against mine. Harmony, Emori, and Taylen all cling to me. The four of us are finally free, and so much terror has been lifted from my shoulders and theirs too. "It's over," I whisper.

"It is, and nothing will ever threaten us like this again." I nod and lean my head closer to Harmony's.

"I know you all just heard what he said about me."

"Emori, it doesn't matter. It doesn't change who you are."

"I'm so sorry," She sniffs while I reach out and wipe a tear from her cheek. "I always knew, but I didn't want to admit it."

"You're my sister." Emori nods at Taylen, then wraps her arms around her tightly. "You're my sister!"

"I love you, and I will always be here for you. I am so sorry about your Mom."

"Baby!" We pull away from each other when Theo, Tyler, and Bolton snatch up their mates.

I get to my feet and run into Thane's arms. "Thane!"

"I've got you, baby, I've got you."

"Is it really over?"

"Look," Thane tips his head, and I turn to look at the battlefield. The fight is over, many are dead, and those enemies left alive are bound and being transported to the dungeons. Thane and I will deal with them later.

So many of our people are dead, and my heart breaks for them. I will make sure each one of them gets a hero's funeral.

Somebody hands Thane and me clothes. I pull on the sweats and t-shirt, willing my aching legs not to give out on me.

"Sebastian!" I pull away from Thane, not caring about anything other than getting to my baby. I pass Ronan on the way, and he smiles, but I don't. I don't stop running until I get to the safe room.

Tristan is already there, letting everyone know the war is over. Women and men who didn't fight are told that their loved ones have died. I can't bear the screams of sorrow; it's too painful right now.

I spot Moira holding Sebastian. I grab him and hold him close to my chest, stroking the back of his head and kissing his forehead. "My baby boy. Mommy's here now; Mommy's here." "So is Daddy."

I turn to Thane and smile. I reach for him with my free hand, and instantly, I'm pulled into his arms. Thane holds Sebastian and me, rocking us gently.

"Lyric?"

I turn and face Lia, my mouth agape. "Aurora. My baby!" I hand Sebastian to Thane and take Aurora from Lia. I smother her little face in kisses. "My baby girl, you're home. How is she here?"

"Levi felt the moment Astro ceased to breathe. At that moment, he appeared here with Aurora. He said he kept his promise." I follow her line of vision. Levi is in Xale's arms, laughing at something his father is saying. I'll speak to Levi later. Right now, I just need to be with Thane and our children.

"Thank you, Lia." She tips her head and walks away from me. "Thane," He's looking at me with tears in his eyes. I place Aurora in his arms and take Sebastian from him. This is the first time my mate and daughter have been together like this.

Tears of happiness fall from my eyes when Thane lets go of a sob and kisses Aurora's head.

"Hey, baby girl. Daddy has missed you so much. I'm never going to let you out of my sight again."

Thane holds his arm out to me, and I lean into him. "You're never going to let Levi near her again, are you?"

"Nope."

I chuckle. "They're mates; you can't keep them apart forever."

"We'll see. Let's go to our room. I want to be alone with my mate and our children. Everything else can wait until tomorrow."

"Whatever you want, love of my life."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 69[1,818 words]

Thane

It's been six months since Astro was put down, and things have settled down. My family is no longer walking on eggshells, scared of what will happen next.

My children are growing and are already crawling. Shifter children advance faster than human children, and it wouldn't surprise me if Sebastian started walking soon. He's already pulling himself up against furniture and walking around it while holding on. The future King of Lycans is a hot-tempered little man. When he wants something, you'll know about it.

Aurora is the total opposite, calm and laid back. She rarely cries, and there's always a smile on her face. If I'm having a tough day, I look at my daughter, and everything is alright again. Aurora is a dead ringer for her mother, and my girls are my everything. Of course, Seb is my little buddy, following me everywhere. I'd take that boy everywhere I went if I could.

Lyric is enjoying life now; she has no crazy Fairy King trying to get to her. She's a wonderful mother, Queen, and mate. I'd be lost without Lyric, and that's the truth.

Xale brought Levi to see me a couple of days after the war. They walked into my office, Levi looking at the floor.

'Levi? Can you look at me, please?' I said while getting out of my seat and walking around my desk.

I crouched down in front of Levi as he looked up at me. Just looking at that little face, all the anger I felt at him taking Aurora melted away. This little boy, just three years old, had protected and possibly saved my daughter's life. How could I be angry with him for that?

I smiled and held my arms out to him. Levi giggled and ran to me, wrapping his arms around my shoulders.

'Thank you, little man.

'I will always protect Aurora.

'I know you will.

At that moment, I knew Levi would be the best mate any girl could ask for. I mean, the kid banished his father from Belvore for merely trying to convince him to return Aurora to us, and Xale wasn't a threat!

Yes, Levi is the perfect mate for my daughter, and Goddess help anyone who crosses him in the future.

Theo and Harmony welcomed another little boy, Christopher, three months ago. My brother was over the moon with joy. The little man looks just like Theo, and Harmony laughed while saying they'd keep trying until one child took after her.

Ivan survived his injuries, but it was touch and go for a couple of weeks. Isla sat by her mate's bedside for two weeks, begging and pleading with him not to leave her. I hadn't realized just how much Isla loved Ivan until that moment. Stupid of me, really; mates can't help but love one another. Though it's more than that with my sister and her mate, they're genuinely in love regardless of the mate bond.

Ivan eventually woke up and spent a further three weeks in physiotherapy. Isla was there with him, encouraging him every step of the way. Isla also had another child, a little boy named Isildur. Yes, my sister is obsessed with Lord Of The Rings. She also kept the I names for her family. We were all worried about Isla carrying her son when she almost died having Ivy. But her pregnancy with Isildur went without a hitch.

Tyler and Emori have a son, Mason. The day Tyler found out Emori was pregnant, he ran around the castle, whooping and cheering. I'd never seen Tyler like that, and I thought he'd gone mad until he told me he was going to be a father.

Tristan still hasn't forgiven Brody, though the Bear King isn't giving up. Perhaps he should; it's ridiculous how he's always here.

Esme is doing well, though she still pines for Starr. Mom and Dad act as though they're okay, but I know they're not. It doesn't help that Tristan is forever banging on about Starr being alive. He took off a few weeks ago to try and find Starr's body because it has never been recovered. It's not the first time Tristan has been out there searching, and it's not the first time he's returned deflated.

A week after the war with Astro, we held funerals for our fallen comrades. Hundreds died, and it took over a week and too many funerals per day to count. Amelia, however, her funeral was massive. Lyric wanted to give our friend the best send-off, so that's what we did.

It's been hard for Taylen and Bolton losing Amelia. But Emori has been a rock for the two of them. They're expecting their first child any day now.

Thorin, Tane, and Charlie are off-traveling the world. It took Luke a while to come around to their mating, but I had words and made him see this is the way of things.

Luke also believed Tristan's claims that he'd seen Starr while he slept and that she was alive out there somewhere. Luke wouldn't hear me when I said to drop it, and he asked me to allow him to try and find her. What did I have to lose?

So, for months, Luke has been using his Demon abilities to track Starr. So far, there has been no sign. I was right not to get my hopes up, but I think the time is coming for me to put a stop to this folly quest. Tristan is slowly losing his mind, and I can't have that. It's time my little brother came to terms with the fact his twin is gone.

We held a memorial for Starr a few days after Astro was dealt with. Mom needed it, and I think everyone else did too. It was a sad day, and many tears were shed for the beautiful girl Starr was. I pray she's with the Moon Goddess, safe and happy. "What are you thinking about?"

I look up from my paperwork and smile at Lyric. She walks toward me in her nightdress and climbs into my lap. I wrap my arms around her waist and rest my head against hers. "Starr."

Lyric wraps her arm around my shoulders and kisses my head. "I know it hurts, baby. I wish I could fix this and bring her home for you. But I can't; she's gone, and she's not coming back." When will the pain end?

How bad is it for Tristan if it still hurts me this much?

I close my eyes and breathe in Lyric's scent. "I feel like I failed her, Lyric."

"Baby, you didn't fail Starr. What happened was awful, but there's no one to blame other than Astro. He took something precious from us, something we'll never get back. But he's gone, and he can't hurt anyone else."

"I know." It doesn't stop these feelings, though. I don't think anything ever could. "The kids asleep?"

"Yeah, they went down without any problems, as always. They're as good as gold. I don't know what we did to deserve such good babies."

"Must have done something right in a previous life." I chuckle and lift my head to look at Lyric.

Her eyes sparkle, and desire fills me. I don't know who kisses who first, but we're kissing as if we'll die if we don't. I stand up and place Lyric on the edge of my desk, my hand finding its way under her silk nightdress. "Thane, please," She whines.

"What do you want, baby?" My fingertips dance across the edge of her panties, and I can smell her arousal. I greedily s*k in her scent through my nose, and my eyes roll.

"Please, Sir, I want you inside of me."

Goddess above!

I tear Lyric's panties from her body and slide my fingers along her pu.ssy. "Your cu.nt is soaked."

"Mmm. You make me so wet. Please, Sir, please, I need you inside me."

I press my nose to her neck and sniff, then I lick her mate mark, and Lyric groans loudly.

"My good girl doesn't want to play?"

"Later. Right now, I need to feel you. I want you to fill me up, Thane. Make me feel it the way only you can."

I growl while releasing my co.ck from my sweat pants, thankful I'm not wearing boxers beneath. I rub my rock-hard di.ck along Lyric's wet folds. She moans while clutching my shoulder through my t-shirt. I kiss her with a passion I didn't know I possessed. "Is this what you want, baby girl?"

"Please, please, I'm begging you, give it to me."

Fu.ck!

I line myself up with her wet hole and slam home. Lyric screams, and I grunt at the invasion. Hot damn, she's so tight! My thrusts become frantic as she clings to me, whimpering and telling me how good it feels.

"Fu.ck, I'm gonna cu.m." I grab the back of Lyric's neck and hold her cheek to mine. "Lyric..."

"Thane! Oh, Goddess, I'm cu.mming!" And she does so hard it rips my orgasm from me before I know what's happening.

Once my hips stop slowly pumping into her, Lyric giggles and lets go of my shirt. I pull out of her and pull my sweats up. Lyric fixes her nightdress after grabbing a tissue and cleaning herself up.

She jumps off the desk. "I love you, do you know that?"

I smile while stroking her cheek. "I love you, too. I thank every deity up there for the day they brought you to me."

"You say all the right things, don't you?"

"I speak the truth."

"Thane!"

"What the hell!?" I snap at Luke when he barges into my office like he owns the place. "Don't you know how to knock?"

"I'm so sorry; I didn't realize..." He shakes his head. "This can't wait, I'm sorry, but I have to tell you what I found."

"What are you talking about, Luke?"

Luke shakes his head at Lyric and closes the door. My office is soundproofed, so whatever Luke has to tell me, he doesn't want anyone to hear.

"Well? Get on with it, Luke."

"I found her, Thane. I found Starr."

"What?"

"What?"

Lyric and I gasp at the same time.

"I know this is hard to believe, but I got through to her. I swear to you, Thane, it's Starr."

"But how?"

"It wasn't easy, and it took months. But I used my magic to tap into Starr's powers so I'd know if she ever used them. Earlier on, I was meditating, and I broke through. I saw her, I spoke to her," "Wait." I hold my hands up before scrubbing them over my face.

"I'm sorry; I know it's a lot to take in. But she isn't far away, Thane."

"Where? Where is she?!"

"You can't go rushing over there, Thane. Starr doesn't have any memories of who she is. If you storm the pack, she'll be frightened."

"I don't care!" I slam my fist down on the desk.

Lyric takes my hand. "Please calm down. I know this has shaken you, but Starr is alive, Thane. Tristan was right all along! Oh, Thane!"

I pull Lyric into my arms as she cries.

"Where is she, Luke?"

"You're not going to like it."

"Tell me!"

"The Wild Pack."

The Lycan King's Hybrid Queen - Chapter 70[1,487 words]

Starr

I felt it the moment Astro ceased to exist. The fear I held inside vanished, and I thought I'd return home. But I didn't return home; I'm still stuck wherever this place is.

I have tried so many times to get out of here. But nothing and nowhere I turn lead me out of this place. I thought once Tristan left, he'd find me, but he hasn't. I don't blame my brother; no one knows what Astro did with my body. However, I have no doubt Tristan is out there looking for me.

I know my twin, and I know he'll never give up searching until the day he finds me. I only hope it won't be too late.

Having Tristan here meant everything to me. But the trouble was Tristan refused to return home. He had no choice, and I had to make him see that he needed to go. Having to show him our past memories was the only way to get through to him. Tristan didn't want to leave me, and honestly, I didn't want him to leave either.

But Tristan couldn't stay with me; he was alive, only sleeping. I pray my brother made it home. I don't know what I'll do if I return and he's not there.

Why am I here?

Who saved my spirit?

The Moon Goddess did. I don't know why, but I do know that I wish she hadn't. It's so lonely here. The place is beautiful, with so many trees and sunshine. There is always a light breeze in the air, and it's refreshing beyond compare. No houses or other people are here; it's just me alone.

I'm never hungry or thirsty, but then I don't know if I'm really living or if I'm dead. I don't know how long I've been here, either. It could have been hours, days, weeks, or months. Hell, I could have been here a century, and I wouldn't know. But it feels like hours to me. A few very dull, very long hours all alone.

"It has been a little over six months."

I spin on the spot and come face to face with the Moon Goddess in all her ethereal glory. "Selene."

Selene opens her arms to me, and I run into them. Her hug is warm and calming, as my mother's used to be. I miss my mother so much right now. I miss how she would hug me and stroke my hair and how she would tell me she loved me. I miss her Scottish accent and those funny words she'd use when angry about something.

Mommy, I need you.

I also need physical contact. I've been alone all this time, and I've hated it. I was raised with eight siblings in a castle filled with people. My life was never quiet. Silence can be even more deafening than in a room full of people all talking at once.

If I have been here over six months, Lyric would have had her baby, and I missed it. I wonder if Emori and Tyler have a child yet, and how Adam is doing.

How big is he now?

Is he saying Mama and Dada yet?

What about Ivy?

I bet she's grown so much. She'll be walking and talking now, and I'm not there with her or any of them.

I wonder if Tristan did forgive Brody and if they are together now. Knowing Tristan, he's making Brody work for it. I know my brother; he won't let Brody off lightly.

I hope Thorin and Tane are doing well, and Charlie too. Maybe they have children now, or perhaps not.

I miss my father and his warm hugs. The way he used to kiss my forehead, even when I had been bad. Daddy would tell Tristan and me off for pulling pranks on Throin and Tane. But he wouldn't be mad for long; he would laugh when he shouldn't have, and he would hug us tightly.

My little Esme must be so upset. The Goddess knows that little girl means the world to me. I left her with Aidan when I went with Astro. I left her, and I hate myself for breaking a promise.

Then there's Thane and Theo, my big brothers, who I looked up to. I always wanted to be strong like them. They were my heroes, and I want to be home with them, with all of them.

"Shh." Selene breathes against my hair while holding the back of my head as I cry. "Everything is going to be okay, Starr."

"I don't understand why I'm here." Reluctantly, I pull away but don't let go of Selene's waist. "If I'm dead, why aren't I in heaven?"

Selene cups my face and smiles. "You aren't dead, Starr. I saved you because you are important. I have defied Destiny and Fate to save you."

"Why?"

Why would the Moon Goddess do such a thing?

"I hand-picked you the day you were born."

"Hand-picked me? For what?"

Why must she talk in riddles?

Why can't Selene get to the point?

"Come sit with me, Starr." Leading me by the hand, Selene and I take a seat on the fallen log beside the edge of the lake. "The day you were born, I felt such fighting spirit within you, Starr. There was something so wonderfully perfect about you, and I knew you were the one I'd been waiting for."

"I don't mean to be rude," I swallow hard. It isn't easy for me to speak to the Moon Goddess, but I have to be honest with her. "But why am I here? Will I ever be able to go home?"

Selene reaches up and tucks a loose strand of hair behind my ear. "You will be able to go home, Starr."

An excited smile spreads across my face but fades when Selene looks at me sympathetically.

"What aren't you telling me?"

"I cannot return you to your family right away. There is something you must do before that." My shoulders drop. "I knew there would be a catch."

"There is no catch, Starr. I cannot send you home to your family because your physical body is almost broken."

"Can't you fix me?"

"I cannot intervene with Destiny and Fate any further. However, there is one person who can heal you."

"Who?"

"Your mate."

What the hell?

I don't have a mate!

"I know what you're thinking," Selene might be smiling, but inside, I'm fuming. "But you do have a mate, Starr. He is a special person, special to me. He will love you so well, and you will finally be free. In order for you to get home, you must find your mate."

"This doesn't make any sense! You said my body is almost broken, so how am I meant to find my mate so he can fix me?"

"I will guide you. I will not abandon you, Starr."

What do I have to lose?

I don't want to be here any longer. If I leave now, I'll find my mate. He can heal me, then I can go home to my family, to Tristan.

"Okay, send me back to my body." Always visit FindNovel.net for more novels and updates.

She takes my hand in hers, her white hair flows in the breeze, and her blue eyes shine. Her long Grecian robes with elaborate gold trim resemble something from another world. I laugh inside because the Moon Goddess is from another world. Though she is stunningly beautiful, the likes of which have never been seen in real life.

"When you return to your body, you will have no memory of who you are, nor where you came from."

"What? But how the hell will I get home if I can't remember anything?"

"This is the only way I can send you back, Starr. You won't have your memories, but that

doesn't mean you shouldn't fight to regain them. It might initially seem scary, but your mate will help you find your way."

"How can you be this sure? What if he hates the sight of me? What if I never remember who I am?"

"I can't answer the third question; that is something you'll have to figure out for yourself. As for your mate, he will not hate you, Starr." Selene cups my face again. "And I'm sure because I know the man personally. He is someone close to my heart, and I chose you, especially for him. Now, are you ready?"

I swallow my saliva and nod my head while blowing out a long breath. I'm nervous and a little scared of what's to come. I will forget everything and everyone, and I'll have to work hard to remember them. But I won't give up until I'm home, no matter how long it takes or what I must do.

"What about my Lycan?" I can't feel her with me and haven't since the day Astro took me away from my family.

Selene stands, and I follow. "She will return to you soon." She kisses my forehead, and everything begins to fade.

I'm freefalling with no way of stopping myself. The wind hits my ears, and my stomach turns over repeatedly until suddenly, my spirit hits my body.

I bolt upright with a huge gasp, and the world around me spins.