122 CHAPTER 122

Lilith's Pov 1

A delicious coffee scent mixed with cheese and musk wafted through the air.

My eyes shut open, "impossible" I muttered,

But the feeling slammed into me again, Lena howled excitedly, pouncing up and down in my head.

"Mate" she howled, "Mate is near. I can feel him, let's go find mate"

"Impossible" I muttered, my mind must be playing tricks on me, yes that was it.

Not minding the fact that I was in a secluded part of the pack, one devoid of life, this could all be a ploy to stop me from meditating.

"Mate is near" Lena snarled,

"Shut up. We don't have a mate" I snapped.

"Go find mate" she insisted, snarling at me.

I shut her out, pulling up our mental wall. It barely contained her, she was banging against

it, trying to claw her way out.

I sat cross legged, forcing myself to suppress her. There was no way I had a mate, I scoffed.

Either my nose was playing tricks on me or something was wrong somewhere.

"You can't keep the wolf suppressed forever." Mercelyne's cold voice came through the bond.

"Don't tell me you believe this farce too."

"He's my mate as much as he is yours" she shrugged, "why can't you believe it"

My brain short circuited, did I really have a mate? "It's not that I don't believe it. But do you think mother would ever grant me a mate? I have come to terms with being alone. Lena will accept it soon"

She snarled in disagreement, I could feel her fury.

"She's angry" Mercelyne pointed out

"She'll calm down."

"When will you stop punishing yourself? It's been centuries now, you're no longer in the Celestial realm. Why not let go?"

"You know why. I don't need to explain it to you" I responded.

"It's exactly because I know why, that is why I find it difficult to understand. Even Zorya wants your happiness, why deprive yourself of it?"

"We have to be perfect Mer. That's the only way we can protect her, she's not cut out for the restrictions, she deserves to be happy and that happiness is exactly what I will give her."

"We both swore to protect her ever since that night." Mercelyne sighed, "I've not forgotten the promise, but you need to let go. We are no longer in the Celestial realm. You're frankly speaking a mortal now. Don't you understand what that means?"

"Enlighten me"

"The rules don't apply here. The works, all of it, none apply, we can be free. Even if only for the little time we spend here."

Sigh.

"It's not that I won't love to let go of Mer, but if I do what happens when we go back and can't protect her? What happens if the incident repeats itself and I can't do anything about it?

We have to be even stronger. The celestial realm will eat us alive. The dangers are not something we can face by slacking off."

Mer winced, I could feel the turmoil within her. We both wanted the same thing, but I knew, letting go now could ruin everything we've worked so hard for.

"There's really no other way?"

"I wish there was mer,"

"Mother gave us a mate for a reason. We don't have to fight this battle alone, having a mate may not be a mistake" she insisted.

"It's the bond speaking, it will only bring endless torture to us when I will have to return to mother's side. I'll reject him and be done with it. One day Lena will understand, I'm doing this for all of us."

"You saw them too?" she asked

"You mean Richard and the rest?"

"Yes. He's still your brother, vampire or not, you were once part of them. Will you acknowledge them?" She asked.

"Aella already has. There's no reason not to. But if we go acknowledging the family of our

last incarnations I fear we may be related to everyone,"

She chuckled, "each incarnation has a hundred year gap, so technically that's impossible. Beside we both know you have a soft spot for Richard, or you would have never let him find out about the reincarnation cycle"

"I only dropped hints here and there. He simply pieced them together. How was I supposed to know he would come all the way to find us?"

"You'll turn 25 soon. Do you think we'll survive it this time around?"

"Hopefully. But if we don't, we'll be back. But I have a strong feeling, this time is different. We have to survive."

"Will you ever tell her about the protection spell?"

"Maybe"

"Things are looking really troublesome."

"This time will be different. I can feel it."

Mercelyne sighed before retreating to the back of my mind, I could feel her longing for our mate, the bond hit us all. But I would rather save the poor wolf the torture of being with us.

"I really don't know what you were thinking in giving me a mate mother. You know I can't afford any distractions now, not when we're so close to ending everything.

The memories that kept me standing flashed through my head, I heard the blood curdling screams, how she screamed till she could no more, how she protected everything bravely despite the terror. The flames that burned everything.

That man was sealed now, but one day he would escape, we all knew, despite the pretentious smiles, mother knew, the other gods did too. And when he escaped he would come for all of us, I had to be ready by then, I had to be stronger.

"I never thought the day would arrive when someone would find and claim my spot" a voice said from behind me.

My pupils dilated, "Impossible?" My staff materialised instantly.

123 CHAPTER 123

Lilith's Pov 1

"Woah, not only did she rudely take my space. She's also planning to attack me" the intruder said, unfazed.

"How did you get in here?" I asked, not bothering to hide my killing intent.

"You would kill an ordinary member of your pack?"

"An ordinary member of this pack would never be able to get past the door, I won't ask twice."

"Put away the staff and maybe I'll tell you how I got past your little trick" amusement flickered in his eyes.

"Last chance"

"Mate" Lena howled once more, "fucking crazy wolf, tone down the desperation." I snapped at her.

"Don't fight mate" she snarled.

"And if I say I won't talk?" He eyed me, his eyes had an otherworldly calm in them, "what will you do about it?" Something about his tone

sent chills down my body, I could feel the hairs on my hands stand.

"What are you?" I asked, I never thought the day I'd feel such a pressure outside the celestial realm even as a mortal would come.

His lips titled slightly, "Sage. Nice to meet you" the feeling from earlier disappeared instantly, but the beads of sweat on my forehead told me what I felt was real.

"I never asked your name" I snarled, tightening my grip on my staff, his time was rapidly running out.

"Didn't you?" he raised a brow

"Are you always this crazy?" I snapped,

"Maybe. Put the Staff away" the words rolled off smoothly from his lips.

"And if I don't" I challenged myself.

He smirked, "Don't test me little one"

"Who the fuck are you calling little" I attacked,

He dodged all my attacks smoothly, his eyes flickering with amusement.

"Well, while this incredibly fun? I don't want to spend too much time playing with you"

he waved his hand and my staff disappeared.

"How.." my jaw dropped, "where's my staff?"

"Beg me and I might tell you."

"In your dreams."

"I'll be part of yours soon"

Did he have a loose screw? "what you are"

"A healer" he shrugged

"Yeah right" I rolled my eyes, wait, something dawned. "You've been in this pack?" I asked

"Obviously"

"Where is my staff"

"Don't you have it with you?"

"You" I pointed at him, but instead I felt a familiar weight in my hands.

How come I never noticed such a powerful presence. I kept a close watch on everything happening in the pack in case anything went wrong, how did I miss such a presence.

"Never knew healers have such a strong presence. You're not a wolf."

"Have you ever met a healer?"

"No, but.."

"Well that settles it then" he interrupted.

I gritted my teeth, who the hell did he think he was, my blood boiled from within, how dare he shut me up.

"What are you doing here?"

He looked at me, "Are you dumb? I literally just said this was my spot. I should be the way asking the question."

"It doesn't have your name written on it" I snapped, I wasn't about to give up this great spot I found for my training.

"You need to calm down kitten or you might have a heart attack."

"Don't call me that" I snarled.

"Whatever you say princess"

"Or that either." I snapped.

"What would you like to be called then baby girl?" He continued, unbothered.

I can't believe this, how the hell did I end up mated to such an infuriating being?

My nails dug into my palms, Lena's whimpering was already beginning to get to me

and it didn't help that the reason for it was so annoying that I just wanted to strangle him.

"I can't believe my mate is a ruffian." Good thing I already decided to get rid of this accursed bond

"I was beginning to feel our bond. Good thing you can too, saves me the unnecessary stress. Your sister is way more pleasant than you, although I can see how you both are sisters,"

"Stay away from my sister" I gritted out. "You know what, enjoy your fucking space. I'm leaving" I stood and began walking out.

If I spent any more time around him I may not be able to control myself from shutting that freaking mouth of his.

"Going so soon?" I heard his footsteps from behind me.

I ignored him, opening a portal with my mind, and disappearing into it. Soon I was standing in a field far away from him.

"Finally, away from that bad luck"

"Really? This is the best you can do? Put some muscles into it." I heard that annoying voice again.

I didn't even want to know how he followed, I directly teleported elsewhere.

He followed, "let's talk for a minute, after all we're still mates"

"I have no interest in talking to you. Stay away from me" I said, disappearing into my portal once more.

I went straight to my room this time around, I felt that familiar presence once more.

"Why can't you leave me the fuck alone? What do you want? Fine I shouldn't have intruded in your space, happy now?"

"Not quite."

"What is wrong with you?" I groaned, beyond frustrated now.

"Nothing," he shrugged. "Besides I'm merely trying to get to know my mate who is supposedly not an ordinary wolf." He said with a smile.

"A bond that was never meant to exist" I snapped. "Don't bother yourself with it, I plan to remedy it sooner than later."

The air in the room thickened, his pupils narrowed, his gaze turned dangerous, "what the hell are you talking about?"

"In case you didn't get the memo, I'm rejecting you Sage."

The pressure I felt doubled, I clenched my teeth, holding my ground.

"I dare you" his voice lowered, his pupils turning into a shade of purple.

"I Lilith Crane Rej...."

A gust wind slammed me into the wall, a sharp pain spread across my back, a hand crushed down on my wind pipe. Controlled, just enough that I could feel it with every breath.

I inhaled sharply, trying to steady my racing heart.

"You don't want to finish that sentence princess" his red and purple pupils peered into mine, like they could see the deepest part of me.

"Let. Me. Go." I managed to let out, my voice trembling. "I had no idea what he was, but I knew, I was no match for him, at least not this way."

"Beg me" his two pupils returned to their default colour — brown, the playful smile was back on his face.

My heart skipped a beat, this man was crazy, his figure towered above mine, his minty breath made me shudder subconsciously.

"Mate is so hot," Lena purred.

Why the hell did mother decide to punish me this way? First a wolf that has refused to think with her head and now a mate that was more dangerous than he was letting on.

"I'm still waiting, princess. Or would you prefer to beg on your knees?" His voice sounded playful, but I could see the seriousness in his eyes, he wasn't really going to make me beg. Was he?

"Never" I insisted, glaring fiercely at him.

"I was counting on you saying that" he smirked, maintaining eye contact, his free hand pressed down on my shoulders.

"On your knees princess."

124 CHAPTER 124

Lilith 1

"In. Your. Dreams." I spat,

He chuckled, "Do you know why I love brats?" He tucked my hair behind my ears, maintaining eye contact.

I scoffed, "And I'm supposed to care?"

He leaned closer, "Cause they make handling them so fun." His breath fanned my face, I shuddered.

"Don't make me repeat myself princess." He raised a brow, as if wanting me to challenge him.

My knees wobbled, Lena whimpered, Mercelyne vanished. Betrayers I muttered. No, I can't cave to this, who knew what more ridiculous demands he would come up with if I fell for this one? I steadied my resolve.

He smirked, then his free hand pressed down on my shoulders, "it's not that difficult princess" he mummered.

I tried to stand but my knees went numb just from the sheer intensity, how did I fall to

this extent? No. How did it spiral to this extent?

I held his hands, trying to pry them away from my shoulders, but they just wouldn't budge.

His eyes remained fixed on mine, watching as my knees lowered till they finally hit the floor with a thud.

Humiliation coursed through me, "how dare you?"

"You're already in trouble for being a brat, want to increase the punishment?"

I sneered, opening my mouth in an attempt to retort but no sound came out, betrayed by even my own body. Wow.

"Good girl. He nodded approvingly, "would've rewarded you, but you've been acting all bratty, running that pretty little mouth of yours" his hands traced the line of my lips.

He wanted a brat? I would show him what it meant to be one, opening my mouth, I clamped down, aiming straight for his fingers

"Tut tut tut" he wagged his, shaking his head, "that would only end badly for you" he gave me a look.

My lips tilted upwards, "What can I say? I love when things end badly. Runs in the family"

"Apparently."

"Let go of me. Or do you plan to keep me here forever? Satisfying whatever sick pleasure running through your head." I snarled, I could feel my knees aching from the cold tile, but the pain I felt came from my heart. I had never been forced to kneel, and before a man.

"Say please"

"Never."

"Then don't blame me for what happens next" he shrugged, "I'll try my best not to enjoy it though. No promises" he winked.

"Fuck You."

"Very soon darling." He said, "But you'll be the one begging for it" he completed.

My eyes darted around, I had to get out of here. I couldn't believe that I led a mad man to my room, something told me that things would soon go south.

I had better leave before then, it was painfully obvious now that teleportation would be quite the terrible idea, I had to do this the traditional way.

Find an opening and make a run for it.

"What are you cooking in that deliciously evil head or yours?" he asked.

"How to kill you" I smacked my lips, "say, how do you want to die?"

"In your arms." He responded, leaning down into me, "Won't be a loss. At least not for me."

"Wanna try?" I stared at him intently, the air around us getting heavier.

"As much as I love our little squibble, don't think I don't know what's going on in there"

I rolled my eyes, "You're free to think whatever you want"

"Firstly, never roll your eyes at me, unless you want them gouged out. They're too pretty for that though"

I could feel the color drain from my face, watching him examine my eyes like some lab product,

"Too bad. I think they look prettier on you than as my collections" he mused, face straight.

My heart beat erratic. Of course, mother had to pair me with a Crazy — no, an insane

creature.

"Disgusting" I spat, pushing down the wisp of fear that was growing in me.

I may be no match for him, but I'd be damned if I let some random stranger pluck my eyes out.

"See who you're craving." I snarled at Lena, letting the wall between us go down a bit. She was curled up back in my head,

"Mate is not a bad person." She said stubbornly.

"You.., fine, forget it. Keep thinking of your mate while he continues to think about how to flay your skin and use the fur for a coat" I spat.

"Mate would never" she whispered more like she was trying to convince herself.

"Yeah. Say it till you believe it." I shut her out, my attention returning to my surroundings. I had to find a way out, before this mad man did something that couldn't be remedied to me.

Suddenly loud laughter filled the air, "You really think I have a collection of eyeballs?" His gaze softened.

I looked at him, not bothering to hide the disbelief in my eyes.

"Come on princess. Besides if I wanted to keep a bunch of collectibles why would I keep eye balls? Yikes"

"you never can tell. Maniacs walk around in every form"

"Time will tell princess" he said, a smile on his face, "now, like I was saying. Stop those thoughts on how to escape. You're not escaping" he said flatly.

"And how do you plan on stopping me? Last I checked freedom was still a thing. Unless I have to wonder if it exists in your dictionary."

"Sharp mouth. I love" he bit his lips, then flicked his fingers, a gust of soft wind reduced me to my underwear.

Heat rushed to my cheeks, "You" I pointed at him, then quickly covered myself with my hands, "what do you want" I eyed him.

"Again doll, we won't consummate until you're ready. And you will be a pleading mess, believe me, it'd be a pretty sight."

"Again. You wish" I somehow found my voice, my body trembling with rage, but

beneath all that rage, I felt something else.

"You're scared of something" he peered deep into my eyes.

"Of you? Never."

"Of us." He mummered, seemingly lost in thought. "But that's fine, this is my specialty. We're going to have so much fun together."

"Let. Me. Go."

He caressed my face, hands soft and gentle. He pushed down into me, inching closer till the gap between us was non-existent.

My eyes shut of their own accord, what was he doing?

I felt his breath fan my nose, soon a wet lingering kiss on my forehead followed.

"Till you're ready princess. Have fun."

His voice suddenly sounded distant, followed by soft laughter, "don't keep me waiting for too long."

My heart beat rose and fell sharply, What the hell just happened? And why is my body tingling?