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"He wants you" she watched me closely, curiosity tinged at her gaze. 1

I scoffed, "of course he does. Is that why you called me here? To capture me for him?"

"No" she shook her head, "he's after you. Didn't say why."

"Typical." I shrugged, "Let me clarify your position first," I watched her squarely.

"Azrathul may seem like a saviour, a helpmeet, but I'll tell you what he is. He is nothing but a dark hearted miserable monster, he's not your ordinary predator, if other predators will leave you with a bone at least he will consume all until there's nothing left. Not even a drop." Her expression cracked, but she quickly covered it up

"Shut up" she snarled

"He doesn't do mercy, he has no heart, and you know the most wonderful part of it all, selling your soul to him means not even the moon goddess can claim you in your death. You belong to him for all eternity, cursed to never reincarnate but to remain sealed with him,

forever." I finished.

My words sank in accompanied by the silence, her calm facade finally broke, she no longer looked composed, or comfortable, her cheeks flared.

"Stop saying what you don't know" she forced out, her breath quickening.

She's scared. Good. At least she understood what she had risked for temporary pleasure.

"I'm leaving" I stood but suddenly fell back on the Chair, my legs going numb almost instantly, my eyes narrowed, "what did you do?"

The panic in her face slowly morphed into delight, her long manicured nails gripped my chin harshly, "You talk a lot brat"

"You're the brat," I spat.

"Shut it" her nails dug into my chin, the pain fading as quickly as they came, but I could smell that familiar coppery scent.

"Let go of me"

"Oh Lilith. You're really a naive sweet thing. Too bad you won't be making it out of here alive"

I tried teleporting but found myself still seated, my body limp and unable to move.

"Mer" I called, "Lena"

Silence.

"Don't bother reaching out to your wolf, all your powers are gone darling" she brought out a pill from her sleeve and popped it into her mouth.

The antidote.

"Bitch" I cursed. My brain working 360, trying to figure a way out.

"The incense" I snorted, my eyes quickly spotting where it was placed, just by the window.

Close enough for the scent to get to me, but not close enough for me to sense something amiss.

"You forget I trained you" She raised a brow, a smug look on her face.

"No, I just forgot you were once a wolf, with all the experience in the world, this is still what you end up as? All you will ever amount to" I taunted.

"Shut up"

Pah

My head turned to the side, my chin burned, "You slapped me" I mumbled, my stupid heart stinging in place of my face.

"Did I spoil you so much that a single slap makes you feel so indignant?" She scoffed. "Well, I do need to commend my parenting skills" she mused.

"You know. Of course you do, he handed you such an important task, how won't you know? Why would he find me despite getting reincarnated over and over again. It's you" my body trembled.

"You're the one giving him information, keeping him updated."

"Bingo" she smacked her lips.

Fuck.

I was such a fool, Mer was right about her all along.

"I do hope you rot in hell"

"Being there, done that, nothing new darling" she toyed with my hair, voice soft.

"I'll drag you back myself" I snorted, "fuckin —"

Bile rose up my throat, I spat out a mouthful of blood. My eyes turned dizzy, I stood with all difficulty, my staff materializing and using it I steadied myself.

"How—" she glared at me, surprise written in her features.

I chuckled, "funny thinking that a little drug will render me useless. Even with half my powers defeating you is not impossible Andrea" I struggled out, readying myself to launch.

"Surrender your heart blood Lily, and no one has to get hurt"

"Over my dead body" I snarked, with a growl, I smashed the incense, giving me a minute to think without its scent clouding my nose.

Andrea waved her hands and rogues rushed in, fangs bared and growling, ready to attack.

"We will take what we came for Lilith. Dead or alive" she smirked.

"I'll love to see you try" I snarled, somehow I have been disconnected from both Mercelyne and Lena all at once. Andrea was incapable of that, it seems he really did prepare to use her

against me. Well, he has underestimated me, thinking I couldn't hold on my own without them will be their biggest mistake.

Using my staff I stabbed my palm, the pain forcing the dizziness I felt away and reducing the effect of the drug.

Without waiting I directly attacked, ignoring the numbness that hit right at my core, I bit down on my lips, my staff slashing through the rogues.

"Ahh" I felt a sharp pain on my thighs, I stabbed its neck, flinging it away, that temporary weakness gave the other the opportunity to attack together.

One directly leaped, it's fang aiming straight for my head, I shot my staff into its teeth locking it down, and wedging it with my own hands,

Something coiled on my legs, it lost sensation, sending me face flat on the ground.

Shackles.

My hands were still locked on the rogue, I could feel the killing intent from it, the others circled us now, none attacking, the shackles froze my legs in place.

Tut. Tut. Tut.

"Should have let me take this on your own without all this stress, this will hurt like hell. But hold on, it's still too early for you to die" I heard Andrea's sickening voice, close to me.

My heart sank, I didn't need to be told what she was about to do,

"Ahh" I screamed, Red stained my cloth and poured it into the container she held. My body trembled from the pain of a knife diving straight into my chest, my pupils rolled back.

"Shit. What the hell is happening" I heard Mer's voice.

"Get me out of here" I said weakly, my arms were already losing motion.

She teleported us, and I found myself falling into Aella's room.

Eros, Aella and Sage were all in the room, I finally let go. I'm so sorry sister.

"Who? Did.This.?" the growl reached my ears before I lost consciousness.

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Lilith's Pov 1

Back to the present.

I was in a dark endless void, alone and wandering aimlessly. My feet moved on their own, as if heading for a certain direction.

I could hear hushed whispers around me, but I couldn't make out who or what they were saying.

Shit.

I felt like I had been drenched in a bucket of muddy slime. The harder you tried to get it off you the more it stuck sinking you deeper and deeper.

"Lena?" I called out. "Mer"

Nothing. Silence. Just like earlier. I remember Mer sending me away from Andrea's grasp.

Weird.

Even if I was wandering aimlessly I should be able to connect with mer at the very least. Something was off. Wasn't I in my subconscious?

My eyes could not roam around, I just let my feet go deeper down the path it was heading towards, it had been walking for hours, but surprisingly I didn't feel any pain.

Soon I heard the sound of leaves rustling, followed by the sound of water falling rhythmically.

My brows furrowed, "A water fall?" In my subconscious? That's new.

Now I was fully active, walking even faster than when my feet sluggishly pulled me along, my curiosity a driving force.

I saw a light at the end of the darkness, a tiny light, almost like it was calling to me. I ran to it, clearing the leaves that appeared out of nowhere like a stumbling block.

I froze, my entire body paralysed at the sight before it, my body shivered subconsciously, I could feel the hairs stand on my body.

Before me was a woman, her hair cascading down her waist, her ethereal silver garment flowing around her, she was crouched by the water, a sharp contrast from the woman I knew.

"Come" the words breezed past my ears,

My feets moved once more but this time I stopped just right before her, "Greetings Goddess" I bowed, suppressing the urge I felt to bolt. There was no escaping this.

My neck remained bowed, hands clasped together weirdly, having not done this for centuries a thought clawed at the back of my mind. What if I was doing it wrong?

" Relax Zareal. I don't bite" She said softly, not turning once to look at me.

It all made sense now, she must have been the one that called out to me, it also explains why I can't reach Mer or Lena.

A sigh left her lips. "At ease"

"Thank you, Goddess"

A hollow laugh left her lips, "You don't call me mother anymore."

"This servant wouldn't dear" I said, eyes lowered to the ground beneath my feet.

"Forget it. It's all my fault. You know why I'm here, don't you?"

My nails dug into my palms tightly, enough to draw blood but my body couldn't even produce a single drop of it. Of course I knew

what she was talking about, only one thing or rather one person would make the goddess leave her palace to come here.

"I'm aware" I mumbled, "His wisp is in the mortal realm. The seal is weaker now."

"Then I assume you know what that means?" Her icy voice cracked a bit, she may not be as rattled as I was but he had almost the same effect on us all.

Sometimes I wonder how she was able to cope after everything, she had it worse. He broke something in her, turned her into whatever this was.

"He's breaking out" I stumbled out, my voice lower than it ever had been, my breath shortened, coming out in short succession.

My mind flashed back to the war back then, how the entire celestial realm had to band against one man, led by mother, how they successfully sealed him up.

You'd think that sealing him up would have been a piece of cake, but he cost the entire realm the lives of the elder gods, every last one of them, wiped out, the walls of an ancient realm cracked for the first time since its history.

He had been a terror not just to the moon goddess and her family but to every immortal and god out there, he brought an end to the immortal race, although we had our suspicions about some of them surviving, suspicions were not facts.

He was only successfully sealed after mother and some of the other gods, even the dragon god sacrificed part of their powers to craft the Eye of Zoros as a prison specially custom made for him.

I could still remember those fiery eyes of his locked on my teary ones, my tiny hands clutching tightly unto Zorya, "I'll be back sweetie" he had whispered before his eyes finally shut for good.

Mother had never been the same after that, centuries later and he still left his mark on all of us. Something coiled in my guts, sending me back a few steps.

I had to force my legs to stabilize, but the weakness I felt on them was none like I had felt before. There was no escaping this, I was going to face him.

"Calm down" a chilly hand touched my shoulders

I flinched, distancing myself quickly, colour draining from my face, "I'm sorry Goddess" I quickly apologised.

Something that looked like hurt flashed past her silver pupils that mirrored mine, but it was gone as fast as I saw it. That was definitely a mistake, she can't feel anything, I must have been mistaken.

"You need to strengthen the seal" she regained her composure, "The realm can't handle another war now." She added.

My veins bulged, "I know Goddess." I said, "I'll depart for the Dark immediately. I'm stronger."

She shook her head, "Depart after your punishment, Zorya—"

"Doesn't remember" I cut her off, my voice sharp, "And I intend to keep it that way."

She sighed, "You can't protect her forever, at some point she will need to rise up to her responsibilities."

"No, but I can protect her as far as my powers can go, just like back then."

"When will you let go of your self guilt Zareal" she snapped, voice rising.

"Maybe I won't need to go this far to protect my sister if her mother had protected us both. But the world is not a fair place is it?" I could feel my blood boiling.

She was so quick to hand out punishment to keep her precious rules, but where was she when it actually mattered?

Her voice lowered, "You still haven't forgiven me I see."

"I dare not carry a grudge against the goddess" I replied, my voice steeling.

"My time is nearly up, it's time for you to wake up. I will be awaiting your return by my side."

"As promised mother, I will fulfill my own side of the deal, but don't forget your mother. You promised to leave her out of all this"

She nodded "I know" then with a wave of her hand the space around me distorted. I shut my eyes welcoming the darkness.

(Scene after Lilith left)

Selene's Pov

A silver tear slipped down my eye lids and onto my palms, I couldn't let my tear fall fully.

I laughed self mockingly, to think my own daughter would never call me mother.

She still blamed and hated me for the incident back then, it was all my fault after all.

I watched the makeshift waterfall I had created, one day they would understand. All this was for them, even if they would never look at me the same again, I would make the same choice over again without so much as a blink.

I let the tears roll down, how I would have loved to fight this battle on my own, but unfortunately we all had our personal battles, and this was Zarael's own.

"I hope Sage breaks through the icy heart I created" I whispered. The ache in my heart widened