

## TLOA Lycan 901

### Chapter 901 - LOOKING FOR TORAK

Caleb looked at Lidya, who approached him lazily before crouching down in front of him. Out of instinct, the Gamma moved away from her, but his act was rewarded with a deep sigh from the witch.

"Where do you think you can go in this condition?" Lidya asked, as she leaned closer to Caleb. "If I wanted to kill you, I would have done it when you were asleep, not now."

Caleb didn't believe her immediately, after experiencing life and death, it was hard for him to let his guard down. On the other hand, what Lidya said was right. "Why are you here with the dwarf? Why were you not in the castle to ward off the curse?"

The curse that forced those shifters to lose their inner beasts and rendered them helpless to the state where they weren't even able to fight back.

"Do you think me trying alone was enough to ward off that curse?" Lidya asked, folding her arms in front of her chest, while staring at him. "Of course, I was in the castle, that was the main reason why you are still alive now."

Caleb squinted his eyes at Lidya's statement. "So, why didn't you help us then? You could do something." But, then he remembered something. "Where is Sterling?"

After asking that, Caleb immediately stood up and was about to go to find Rossie's father. If something bad happened to him, he didn't think he could face his mate.

"He is all right, he is in the next room," Lidya said helplessly and tugged Caleb's shirt, so he could sit down again.

It was easy enough to handle the Gamma in his current state now, because one move from Lidya was enough to send the now seemingly weak Caleb tumbling back down to his position from earlier.

The Gamma glared at her, but couldn't do much, especially when the exhaustion washed over his body. At least, he knew that Sterling was still alive.

"Who else did you save aside from me and Sterling?" Caleb asked again, fighting his sleepiness and weariness.

"No one," Lidya said simply and took a glass of yellow liquid from the tray which the dwarf had brought into the room earlier. "Drink this." She gave the glass to him.

"What is this?" Caleb asked suspiciously.

"Medicine, to strengthen your inner beast. The curse had done more damage than you can imagine," Lidya said and thrust the glass into his hand, as he grabbed it warily.

Caleb looked at the yellow liquid with a frown, but after looking at it for a few seconds longer, he decided that the witch could be trusted, though he didn't trust the dwarf.

"I have told you that the guardian angels were not supposed to be separated from each other, but your Alpha did exactly what I told not to," Nutdrouk said condescendingly.

Ignoring Nutdrouk sharp remark, Calleb focused on his urge to find out more pressing things.

"Do you know where is Raphael?" Calleb tasted the liquid and his frown deepened when the bitterness hit his taste buds.

"He is dead," Nutdrouk answered it for him before Lidya could say anything.

Jedrek grabbed Lilac's arm, pulled her away and to his side suddenly, making the guardian angel look at him questioningly. Nothing that could be determined as danger was around them, the massacre seemed to have ended a few hours ago, so, why did Jedrek look very strange?

"I feel there is something wrong with this place," Jedrek could sense that something was not right in the air and Sybil, the witch agreed with him.

"This is a curse," she said, raising her hand to feel the air. "The same curse that you had suffered, My king."

"The same curse?!" Lilac almost shrieked. It answered her question, why the dead bodies of the lycan warriors were in their human form rather than in their beasts'.

Lilac couldn't imagine how they could fight those intruders without their strength... It was completely a one sided massacre.

On the other hand, Jedrek balled his fists tightly and called out for Sebastian and Theo to comeback, through mind link. He couldn't afford to lose some more people now.

The death of these people in this castle and the city, not only made him lose his man-power, but also weakened their strength for the up coming war, since he had gathered half of his forces in this place.

It didn't take long before Sebastian and Theo returned. They looked fine, just a little bit exhausted. The aftereffects of the curse must be still in the air and it would affect them also if they insisted to stay any longer.

"We need to go from here," Jedrek reached out for Lilac's hand, but she refused to budge. Her eyes stared deeply at the carcasses that were lying in piles before their eyes.

"What about them?" Lilac asked, while gritting her teeth. It wasn't very long before she was crowned as their queen, but the first thing that she had done was failing them.

This city was empty. Lilac could feel it. Those citizens had died because of this...

However, another question soon probed Lilac's head when she realized those citizens gathered in the castle. It seemed they were coming here voluntarily...

What exactly had happened.

"We have to leave this place, now." Jedrek emphasized his words, urging Lilac to understand that they should took off from this cursed place as soon as possible.

He lost yet another castle and territory...

Jedrek couldn't sit well with this fact.

"There is nothing we can do for them." Even though his words sounded cold and harsh, but that was the truth. There was nothing they could do for them now, it was too late for them to return and save anyone.

"What about Eaton?" Sebastian asked in low voice. "At least we need to know if he is still alive or not."

Jedrek's face darkened. "If he is alive, he will find us." This time he pulled Lilac's hand with a little bit strength, he didn't want them to stay there any longer.

Lilac was still reluctant to leave them like this. They should give them a proper burial, yet she also knew it was impossible in their current state.

They didn't deserve this...

"Where are we going?" Sebastian asked when they started walking away.

"To the other realm. To find my brothers," he said darkly.

### **Chapter 902 - PAINFUL MEMORIES**

Caleb lowered his head beside Sterling's bed, he didn't believe the information that he received from Lidya.

It was impossible, right?

Raphael couldn't be dead...

It was impossible...

Yet, the pain in his heart told him otherwise. It was the pain that clearly indicated the bond that had been broken. The bond with someone who was very close to him.

Caleb had been with Raphael way before Torak had named him as his Gamma. The Beta was with Caleb when the latter lost his sister in the rogue attack too.

And now he lost him...

The feeling was almost the same like when Caleb had to accept the fact that his sister was no longer could stay with him.

The feeling was the same, because Caleb always thought of Raphael as his brother...

There were a lot of things that they had gone through... a lot of things...

"Argh," Caleb grunted softly, while clutching his chest. He lowered his head and a tear fell to the floor...which was followed by another, until the quiet room filled with his whimpers.

"Come on, Lana!" Sophie held her hand to help Lana climb a rock, while Keira pushed her from below. "You can do it."

Bree looked around her and her small face soon contorted in fear. She tugged Rossie's clothes beside her and pointed to the dark area.

"I see something there..." Bree said softly, her voice was shaking and her body was trembling. "I see eyes..."

Rossie looked into the darkness where Bree had pointed out, yet she couldn't see anything that could backup the little girl's fears. "It's okay Bree, there is nothing there. Your eyes just playing a trick on you..." she comforted her, yet she kept her eyes trained onto the same point, just in case...

On the other hand, Lana finally managed to climb the rock and they started to run again, as fast as Lana's legs could take her.

Since Lana couldn't shift into her beast, the rest of them chose not to shift in theirs. However, if the situation got any worse than this... Sophie didn't have a choice...

"We have to cross the river!" Keira panted heavily, as she helped Sophie to support Lana. "That's the only chance we have!"

Those beasts would easily track them through their scent and no matter how fast they ran, they would find them in the end.

Therefore, maybe by getting rid of their scent, they would have a bigger chance to survive.

"Where is the river? Is it still far?" Bree asked, her voice was like a whisper, since she was afraid that by talking loudly they would attract those beasts' attention.

"Not really..." Keira looked around her, it had been so long since the last time she was in this part of the forest, so her memory was slightly unreliable, but she was sure that there was a river around here. "The river must be ahead of us..." She sharpened her hearing in order to catch the sound of the current, yet aside from their footsteps and the wind, there was nothing she could hear.

Meanwhile, Lana's body was drenching with sweat, her vision started to get blurry by the moment as the pain in her head increased.

The only thing that was in her mind was to take one step after one to get away from this place, to deliver her son safely.

However, she wanted to do nothing aside from this single task ahead of her. Lana had to numb her feelings in order to keep her sadness at bay, and not allow it to intervene with her efforts to survive.

Lana didn't want to think about Raphael, despite the fact the pain in her chest couldn't be ignored, still she tried to lie to herself that nothing had happened to Raphael and she would meet with him soon.

Rossie walked ahead in front of the others, trying to catch the sound of the river flow. She didn't talk much ever since they left the tunnel. It seemed to it was her own way to cope up with her sadness.

They needed to survive from this first and they could mourn later.

"Blood," Bree said, she sniffed the air once again before her eyes landed on Lana. "I smell blood from her."

Upon hearing that, all of them stiffened. They were too focused on finding the river and were not aware that Lana started bleeding.

Ethan opened his eyes and let out a small groan when he felt the pain coursing through his entire body.

Every inch of his skin felt like being stabbed by a thousand silver needles. Added to the fact that he didn't wear anything when his n.a.k.e.d body writhed on the floor. He curled his body into a fetal position.

"You are awake..." a voice greeted Ethan and he heard some heavy footsteps that approached him.

Out of instinct, he tried to move his body to avoid this stranger, yet there was a wall that prevented him from doing so.

"You don't need to fear me," said that voice again.

This time, Ethan forced himself to open his eyes, despite the pain that was still gnawing his skin.

At first, he just saw the light from the torch inside this small room and a shadow of someone, who was kneeling down in front of him, but when the other person's figure got clearer, he could see a familiar pair of eyes staring back at him.

"Lord... Bayle..." Ethan said his name. He had met this dragon lord a few times during the training.

"Yes, me." Bayle smiled.

Raine was staring at the rain through the window, as she leaned her body against Torak. She was way calmer after crying her heart out now upon knowing the fact that Raphael was no longer with them.

Raphael was like a brother to her, just like Calleb. She felt as if a dagger kept twisting in her heart constantly. The pain tore through both her mind and heart at the same time.

Raine didn't need this bond between them to feel the pain of losing him.

She loved him more than one could love their own sibling...

And now he was no longer with them...

Raine felt even worse when she remembered all the interactions between the Beta and the Gamma. And now, she wouldn't be able to hear how Raphael and Calleb always argued upon trivial things any more.

### **Chapter 903 - BLUE FLAMES**

"Blood," Bree said before she sniffed the air one more time and her eyes immediately widened as she looked at Lana alarmed. "I smell blood from her."

Three pairs of eyes simultaneously turned toward Lana with fear clearly flashing in them when they realized what was happening to her.

"Lana, you are bleeding," Sophie said when she also noticed that the thick smell of blood was actually wafting from Lana.

Yet, Lana couldn't feel it. There were too many feelings, not to mention the unbearable pain which kept twisting her soul, therefore she was not aware about this before Bree mentioned it.

"Lana..." Keira looked at her anxiously because she didn't get any visible reaction, as if all life left her being.

"I will not make it," Lana said softly, her breathing turned uneven when she looked down and watched how blood flowed down before pooling around her feet. "I will not make it..."

"No, you will make it," Sophie said sternly. "We have to go now."

They could clearly hear the howls and snarls from their pursuers, who seemed to be approaching them very fast. If they didn't move now and reach the river before those beasts managed to find them, their chances to survive would be near zero.

Sophie looked at Rossie and Bree, and saw the panic in their eyes, along with the sadness in her daughter's.

"If the baby didn't survive... I won't want to live..." Lana murmured, she held her stomach, like the way she always touched her unborn son, like the way Raphael always caressed him. However, her feelings were very complicated now.

The movement of her baby was not very active like before. She could still feel him move, but she also clearly felt the baby's movements growing weak...

Something must have happened with the baby...

"I don't want to live... If something happened to you... I don't want to live..."

Lana bit her lips harshly to prevent herself from crying and shouting out her frustrations.

"No. You have to live and raise your son. Before that, we have to move again. Now!" Sophie looked more determined than before, as she held Lana even tighter and helped her to walk through the forest, which seemed to have no end.

"WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?!" Wrath shouted at the witch.

Before their eyes, the castle filled with countless dead bodies from the massacre earlier, was being burned down to the ground by blue flames which were akin to waves in the vast ocean.

The blue fire spread through all the corners of the castle, not even missing an inch. It was licking every part of the place, burning it down to the ground.

"Burning the dead bodies to the ashes," Serefina said innocently, as she looked at the devil beside her.

This devil was really up to his name 'Wrath'. He was always filled with fury and his golden eyes shone brightly when he witnessed how Serefina had diminished their plan.

They could have used those bodies as their army, especially the people that had a sentimental relationship with the Donovan brothers.

However now, when Serefina had burned them to nothing, they wouldn't be able to do so.

"DON'T YOU KNOW WE CAN USE THEM!?" Wrath snarled at Serefina.

Meanwhile, the witch raised both of her hands and moved a step back, but the smirk on her lips and the way she looked at him tauntingly, only angered the already furious Wrath further if it was even possible.

"Of course I don't know..." Serefina said in a happy tone. "You created your plan behind my back, remember? How am I supposed to know that you will use those dead bodies? I am here, doing a favor for you to clean up after your mess."

"YOU!" Wrath couldn't take the way Serefina talked to him and he charged forward, but before he could do something harmful to the hateful witch, Lucifer intervened.

Out of the blue, the morning star appeared between the witch and his fellow devil, as he held his neck to stop his movement and threw him away.

Wrath flew a few meters away from the ground and disappeared, before he reappeared right beside Lilith.

The seven devils were back to claim their new comrades, but who would have thought that Serefina would burn them all into ashes, which in turn forced them to suffer a great loss?

"What are you doing Lucifer?!" Mammon shouted at him as he glared at Serefina viciously. "Kill her!"

On the other hand, Serefina didn't even feel intimidated with the voices that wanted her death, as she knew her value in this small group of filthy creatures from hell.

"Oh, you want to kill me?" Serefina chuckled, crossing her arms defiantly. She was always been an arrogant person and no one would be able to scare her simply by threatening to kill her.

Well, she had heard all kinds of threats to the extent she even lost count of the people who tried to intimidate her.

Lucifer turned around and looked at the arrogant witch with a smile on his lips, but his golden eyes said otherwise.

"Don't be so sensitive because of what Wrath and Greedy were saying." Lucifer glanced at the blue flames and shifted his focus back onto the witch standing before his eyes. "Why did you burn it down when you already knew that we can use them?"

Serefina shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly. "Don't overestimate me, how would I know your plan when you didn't even say anything about it to me. You promised me that you will share all your plans, but in the end, you didn't even let me know about your onset."

Serefina was clueless, after all she just recovered from her 'painful night' and when she finally found out about it, innumerable lives were already lost.

"What will you do if you knew about it before?" Lucifer asked, he knew the witch was playing dumb. It was either she was upset because she was left in the dark or she was upset because they had slaughtered her friends.

Maybe she was not as careless as she portrayed herself in front of them.

However, Serefina laughed out loud upon hearing his question. "Of course I will join the party, killing one or a hundred lycanthes would be fun."

#### **Chapter 904 - YOU WILL BE FINE, HONEY**

"I need to go back to Torak," Calleb murmured when he sensed Lidya entering the room, where he had been waiting for Sterling to wake up.

Based on what Nutdrouk told him, it was Sterling, who had saved him by throwing his body on his, to save Calleb from the worst possible outcome when those beasts were about to bite and claw their flesh before the dwarf and the witch could save him.

And, because Sterling took the brunt, he was still unconscious now. His life was hanging by a thread and they could lose him in any second.

It seemed, Sterling was dead serious with his words about; he didn't want to see his only daughter mourning for the loss of her mate. He literally too kit upon himself to watch over Calleb's back.

On the other hand, Calleb had been waiting for him for god knows how long, and he couldn't do much but continue sitting beside Sterling's bed, as he didn't know what happened to Rossie and the rest of Sterling's family. For the time being, this was the least that he could do to him.

He knew Rossie was still alive out there and he was more than grateful to know it. However, he had to make sure of it by seeing her alive and kicking with his very own eyes.

Moreover, he had to find Lana.

The thought of Lana opened another wound in his heart. He couldn't help but think about Raphael's unfair demise and how he couldn't hold or see his son.

"What are you going to do?" Lidya walked across the room and handed him the same potion she gave him the last time.

Calleb didn't feel any better when he drank this, yet he would feel very weak and exhausted if he didn't drink this.

Lidya said it was because his beast was badly injured and his human form was still unable to get used to it.

"Is that even a question?" Calleb glanced at Lidya, that wasn't even a question, she should have known that he couldn't stay here and do nothing when people dear to him were still out there and he didn't know whether they were safe or not.

Calleb received the potion and drank it, while Lidya sat on the edge of the bed and checked on Sterling.

"You don't have your beast," Lidya remarked. "What possibly can you do to help?" the witch glanced at the lycan.

Calleb was slightly taken aback by Lidya's statement, but it didn't waver his decision. "I can do anything and everything to help."



Lidya could see that no words would be able to change his decision, thus she shrugged her shoulders and spoke, "Torak and his people are going to return to that realm, since he and Raine could feel the demise of Raphael they realized that there was something going on in the castle."

Caleb nodded and stood up. He was about to leave, when he turned around suddenly and looked at Sterling.

"How is he?" he asked, worry flashed in his eyes.

"He could die at any second," she said truthfully.

"We have to cross the river!" Keira shouted. She didn't bother to keep her voice low, as their pursuers had finally found them.

They could see their blood shot eyes and their sharp talons, as they were now tailing just a few meters away behind them.

Meanwhile, Lana was panting heavily, though the bleeding had stopped now, still her scent was very strong giving away her course of direction to their pursuers. It was very easy to chase her down.

Sophie looked at Lana, Bree and then her own daughter.

They wouldn't make it even if they managed to cross the river. Those beasts would easily outrun them and catch up to them in no time.

Unless, she did something to slow them down...

They stopped on the riverbank. This river was quite wide and the current was slightly stronger than what they thought.

"Rossie, help her," Sophie gave Lana to Rossie and let her daughter support the latter.

At that moment, Rossie didn't think too much and helped Lana to walk through the river, but when the water reached her knees and she noticed that her mother didn't even move from her earlier spot, she immediately knew there was something wrong.

"Mom?" Rossie turned around, her small face showed fear. She hoped what she thought was wrong. However, she knew her mother very well. She would do anything for her family.

"Go and don't turn around," Sophie choked on her words, trying to put a brave front before her daughter.

Yes, she was doing this without any hesitations, because she wanted Lana to be able to see her own child, at least giving her a small hope that they would survive, but on top of that, she was doing this for her daughter.

She had lost one of her family member and she didn't know who was that til now.

Therefore, she would do everything to save her only daughter. Rossie was always the apple of their eyes. The twins loved her so much, so did Sophie and Sterling.

Thus, Sophie wouldn't live to see her only daughter being mauled by those dirty creatures. As long as her breath didn't leave her, she would do everything for her, to ensure her safety.

In spite of the fact that was only a glimpse of hope, she was more than willing to bet her life on it.

"Go and don't look back," Sophie said again, firmer than before.

"Mom, no..." Rossie started to cry again. "NO!" she yelled at her mother. How could she handle this when her mother gave an order to abandon her? "I will not leave you!"

"Keira, bring her away from here. Keep them safe." Ignoring her daughter's cry, she shifted her attention toward Keira, yet the omega shook her head.

They had gone so far, why had Sophie come to this decision all of a sudden.

However, she could understand, Rossie was also aware that crossing the river wouldn't ensure their safety for long, since the beasts were too close for their small entourage to shake them off.

"Mom, you can't do this to me..." Rossie's voice was barely a whisper between her sobs.

"Find your brothers or... your father... and you will be fine, honey..." Sophie said as she shifted into her grey wolf.

## **Chapter 905 - BE STRONG, ROSSIE**

"Find your brothers or... your father... and you will be fine, honey..." Sophie said as she shifted into her grey wolf and charged toward the beasts that had been chasing them.

"NO! MOM!" Rossie shouted out loud and was about to go after her mother but Keira held her back in time.

"No!" she said, her voice was slightly shaking when she said that, but she looked more determined than ever. And she continued speaking, "You go and hide somewhere, I..." she stumbled on her own words. "I will help your mother and find you when we have dealt with those beasts."

It was a lie. Of course it was a lie. Who would believe that?

Both Sophie and Keira had never received any kind of proper training. And of course, even if they dared to fight now, it was solely because they could rely on their beast's instinct, which wouldn't help much in this case. Only a miracle would be able to save them and make them fortunate enough to leave this battle alive.

Rossie knew that. Even Bree could sense it too...

The little girl walked toward Rossie and looked at her with her big teary eyes before she hugged her. She couldn't offer any comforting words, because she knew there were no words that could comfort you enough when you realized you was about to lose someone important to you...

Bree had felt it before. She lost the two people whom she considered as her parents with all her heart and also Chiron, the centaurs and people from the village.

Since Bree lost her parents, she stayed with them and now she grew to love them.

Meanwhile, Lana couldn't say a word. She herself didn't know what she felt or what she wanted right now. Everything seemed earthshakingly terrifying in her eyes and the way she was forced to numb her feelings made her feel like she was not herself anymore.

The Lana now was just following her four companions, she was just going wherever they were taking her. In fact, it seemed that she was just in a daze and appeared completely normal outwardly.

Unlike someone who was forced to endure this hardship; facing this cruelty and desperation. This was the way she was coping up with her feelings; she detached herself from reality.

Therefore, when she heard that Sophie and Keira would sacrifice themselves in order to give them a little bit hope to get out from this nightmare, she didn't give a proper reaction.

She just stared blankly at the grey wolf that charged toward the beasts before hearing a painful cry from Rossie. She was in a way too different zone where she felt nothing for anything and everything surrounding her.

"We will come back to look for you," Keira said with a sense of urgency. Another lie. "Be safe."

Keira held Rossie's shoulders at her arms' length and looked at her in the eyes. She hoped the way she looked at her could give some courage, which she needed too.

And then, the omega turned around and shifted into her brown wolf and dashed toward where Sophie had been surrounded by seven beasts.

"NO!" Rossie was about to go after Keira and her mother, but she felt someone holding her back and the moment she stared down, she found Bree was looking at her with big tear-filled eyes.

"Rossie, I am afraid..." her voice was trembling and her body was shaking. Bree clutched onto Rossie for her dear life.

Rossie looked at the little girl and then at Lana, who kept silent for the entire time. When Rossie looked at the water around them, she saw how the water around Lana turned into red color. It seemed, she started bleeding again.

Rossie wanted to cry and shout out loud to the world in hopes to release the pain in her heart. She wanted to wail and yell until her heart was no longer in pain about this unfairness.

Yet, she chose not to do that.

No one would come and they would all be dead within the blink of an eye, if she didn't act quickly.

Sophie and Keira would die in vain...

Therefore, with one last glance at the grey and brown wolves that were fighting far from them, Rossie steeled her heart and grabbed Lana's waist, as she supported her to walk through the current of the river.

"Bree, hold Lana's hand," Rossie said. She felt her own voice seemed very foreign now. It sounded rigid and strange, even to her own ears.

Bree moved to Lana's right side and circled her small hand around Lana's. She kept turning around her head to watch how Sophie and Keira fought against eleven beasts that kept pouncing upon the comparatively smaller wolves.

It wouldn't take much long before they succeeded in mauling the two smaller wolves...

Bree watched the gruesome scene. Her heart started beating really fast when she watched how one of the beast managed to bite down the brown wolf's neck. The whimpering sound of her wail filled this dark night.

"Bree. Don't look." Rossie glued her eyes to the other side of the river, as if that was her goal, which she must reach as soon as possible at all costs. ??Look ahead."

Bree didn't hear her, as she kept watching how the grey wolf used her hind legs to kick the beast that attacked her.

"Bree!" Rossie shouted, which startled the little girl. "Look ahead!"

Only then did Bree turned around and looked toward the endless forest across the river with tears staining her cheeks, but no sound could be heard from her trembling lips.

On the other hand, the fight wouldn't last longer this time around, since Sophie could feel her body started to grow weak just after receiving a few blows.

However, the beast in her head growled loudly, urging her to stand up and don't give up. At least, she could give a few more seconds longer for her pup to be able to survive. Those few precious seconds...

Snarling and growling, Sophie pushed herself to her four limbs, despite the blood that kept flowing down from her neck and ignoring the sight of Keira's dead body, she glared angrily at the beasts that surrounded her.

In spite of the reality that it was impossible for her to beat them all, but the fact that she managed to fight longer than she could imagine, gave her a bigger relief, especially when she noticed that her daughter managed to cross the river.

Before her red eyes were eleven bloodl.u.s.t beasts, attacking her at the same time.

## **Chapter 906 - THE BABY**

"If you want to go, bring Nutdrouk with you," Lidya came out from the room, where Sterling was still asleep. "You will need him."

"Why should I go with him?"

"Why should I bring him with me?"

The two them asked simultaneously, didn't seem to be satisfied with Lidya's decision.

"Because you can't shift into your beast, meaning; you will be in great danger if something happened on your way to find Torak," Lidya explained.

"And why should I go with him? To be his body guard?" Nutdrouk raised his eyebrows questioningly. Didn't liking the sound of it at all.

And in this case, Calleb was on the same page as him, since it would hurt his pride if he had to bring the dwarf as his protector.

"No, because you are more useful if you go with him instead of being here," Lidya leaned her back against the door behind her.

"Why don't you go with him instead if you are very worried?" Nutdrouk stomped his short feet and huffed in annoyance.

"Because I need to stay here to take care of him." Lidya nodded at the room behind her. "And you just have to remind him to take the potion on time while you are with him."

Nutdrouk glared and even Calleb scoffed at her idea. "I can remember the time very well when I have to take the potion. Thanks, but no thanks. I will not take him with me."

"I don't want to go with you too," Nutdrouk sneered.

"Can the two of you cooperate for awhile? You are not enemies with one another," Lidya sighed helplessly, seeing the two of them being impossibly immature even at this juncture.

"Don't you think there will be a possibility that we will kill each other before we even found Torak and the rest?" Nutdrouk asked dramatically.

"You mean, I will be the one, who will kill you?" Calleb raised his eyebrows at the dwarf provokingly. Despite he was not able to shift into his beast, he was confident that he would be able to kill the dwarf.

However, before Nutdrouk could retort his words, there was an ear-piercing cry that came from the room where Sterling was currently residing.

The sound of it was very pitiful, as if someone was trying to skin him alive.

Without wasting a second longer, Lidya immediately opened the door and rushed into the room with Calleb and Nutdrouk following closely behind her.

It was impossible to have an intruder, since Lidya didn't feel the spell around this place being broken and also there was no way someone could enter this room because this was a windowless bedroom, the only way was through the door.

Yet, when they were finally inside, they couldn't find any threat or someone, who could be the devil or his minion. The only thing that they saw was; Sterling, who was now writhing in pain on his bed with his eyes closed.

"What happened?!" Calleb asked frantically, when he saw the lycan clutching his chest tightly.

The lycan didn't seem to be awake though. But the painful expression on his face couldn't be mistaken, and it couldn't be a nightmare either?

Lidya shook her head, she was also clueless about what happened to him.

But, it was Nutdrouk, who spoke in the end. "It seemed he lost a bond," he said in a light tone. "I have seen many shifters lose a close bond and looked exactly like this."

"Lost a bond..." Caleb repeated that words as fear flashed in his eyes. He clutched his own chest, if Sterling lost the bond, it must not be Rossie, right? Because he didn't feel it, since she was his mate, he must felt something...

Then, who...?

Raine looked out into the rain outside of her window, while leaning her body against Torak and even though Torak didn't say anything, Raine could still feel it through their mate bond that he was not in a good state.

Who would be? When you heard your Beta, the person that was very close to you for so many years, more precisely some hundreds of years, had left the world just like that.

There was one feeling that was very obtrusive, but Raine couldn't put her finger on it. What was that? Sadness? Regret?

Raine had never felt this kind of feeling from Torak, he couldn't even manage to mask his thoughts from his mate.

His mind was too crowded with many things that he had to think and Raine couldn't catch up with all of that.

Yet, this obtrusive feeling was very strong...

Torak was in regret...

"Alpha, our sources told us that the castle had been burned to the ground and he was sure, no one inside would be able to survive." Jack said when he put down his phone after someone called to notify him about this information.

Raine fidgeted.

Those people had died? They were all dead? The people that she met inside the castle...

"And also, the king is coming to meet you, Alpha," Jack added.

Rossie tried her best to ignore all the feelings of anguish that gnawed her heart when Sophie breathed her last.

She stumbled and picked herself up again and started to run for her life, for Lana and Bree.

They had to keep running, they had to keep moving, or else, those beasts would catch up to them and there was nothing they could do to escape from their sharp talons and claws.

However, right at that time, Lana fell to the ground, hugging her stomach before wailing in pain. Her pale face contorted and she seemed in so much pain.

"What happened Lana?" Bree asked, she and Rossie knelt down beside her and caressed her back to soothe her pain, while looking around them anxiously.

Yet, Lana just shook her head, she panted heavily.

"The baby..." finally she managed to say it.

"The baby?" Rossie looked at Lana, with fear evident in her eyes.

"The baby is coming?" Bree finished the sentence and Lana nodded her head weakly.

"Oh, no..." Rossie mumbled. Panic gripped her heart when she heard that. "The baby is coming now?"

"Can you delay it?" Bree asked innocently. Right now their utmost priority was; to escape.

## **Chapter 907 - THE BABY (2)**

Rossie found a place where they could hide, where Lana could deliver her baby and none of them both knew a thing about what exactly they should do, except for giving Lana some comforting words.

Even Lana had to bite a thick piece of cloth to prevent herself from screaming out loud; to prevent those filthy beasts from finding their location.

This time, the universe seemed to help them, as the rain started pouring down the ground suddenly, washing away their scent completely. And, this aided them in confusing their pursuers and they were finally able to breath in relief.

The thunder and the sound of rain accompanied their struggles, and it was only the three of them left now, seeking shelter under a big tree with its lushful leaves canopying over them, yet this too wouldn't last for a long time.

Because when the rain started to pound harder, they couldn't keep themselves dry for long.

Blood, sweat and rain mixed together in the process of delivering the baby and Lana had to fight different kinds of pain simultaneously, the pain in her heart coupled with the aching of her entire being when she struggled to push the baby out into this world.

Lana was scared, fidgeting hopelessly. She was scared because it took so long for her baby to come out, leading her to think whether something was wrong with him. She had no one to turn to and was completely powerless.

The only warmth that she could feel in this dreadful situation; was having Rossie and Bree beside her, who were holding her hands firmly without any intention of letting her suffer this alone.

"I... I will check the baby..." Rossie stammered. It wasn't clear whether it was due to the cold rain that wetted her body or her fear to think about what she was going to witness. She had never seen someone giving birth before, thus she didn't know what she should expect.

Clumsily, Rossie let go of Lana's hand before she moved to sit near the latter's legs.

However, when she looked into Lana's eyes once more, it was almost like it was in her nature, as if the knowledge was already ingrained in her veins and she knew what she needed to do next. And, Rossie relied solely on her instincts to help Lana.

Rossie lifted her cloak slightly and spoke to Lana, whose face was already as pale as a ghost. "Push Lana."

=====

Hope felt her chest caving in, but she was not sure what was this feeling, whether this was sadness, anger, regret, or some other feeling, but she couldn't put a finger on it.

There were so many emotions which were overwhelming both her mind and heart at the same time and this left her gobsmacked as she didn't know what she should do to lessen the intensity of this feeling.

"Hope?"

Someone was calling her name and from the sound of it, she could sense concern for her being laced in his tone.

Who was that?

"Hope? Wake up."

Someone shook her body lightly.

Was she dreaming? Were these feelings not real?

"Wake up, Hope!"

Only then did Hope open her eyes and looked around her to see the person who was talking to her and Kace's face loomed in her vision.

"What happened?" his blue eyes were filled with worry.

"What happened?" Hope repeated the same question, as she didn't know what exactly did Kace mean by asking her that.

"You are crying," Kace blurted out confused as he wiped the tears from Hope's cheeks.

"Crying?" Instinctively, Hope raised her hand and touched her cheek to wipe the remaining tears on her face. She frowned when she saw the tips of her fingers being soaked with her own tears. She was indeed crying.

Was she crying in her sleep?

But, why?

"What happened?" Kace asked in concern.

Hope shook her head. "I don't know."

She didn't remember her dream that caused her to cry so profusely, but the painful feeling was still palpable in her heart.

"Are you okay?" Kace's brows knitted together.

"Yes," Hope answered, unsure if she was fine or not. "I think so."



Kace looked at Hope for a while, but their conversation was cut short when they heard an announcement saying their plane would land in a few minutes.

They would arrive at Rieka and meet with the fae.

=====

The baby in her arms looked so tiny and almost otherworldly beautiful.

Lana had never been mesmerized so much at the first glance and didn't know that this tiny baby would look so precious like this.

The feeling of seeing her own flesh and blood in her arms couldn't be described by words alone and Lana couldn't think that there was a word to portray correctly how glad she was to finally able to hold him in her arms.

However, one thing held both Rossie and Bree from saying their congratulations.

The baby was not crying.

"Shouldn't the baby start crying by now?" Bree tilted her head and peeked at the small baby, laid comfortably in Lana's arms, on top of the bundled wet cloak of Rossie. They didn't have anything warm with them and since the rain was pouring down endlessly, they couldn't keep their clothes dry.

Rossie put her finger in front of her lips to make Bree stop talking.

She knew... well they both knew that the baby didn't make it.

The baby didn't even move when Rossie pulled him out and cut his umbilical cord with her sharp claw. However, at this moment, Lana finally seemed to be at peace, as she caressed the baby's small face with her trembling fingers and Rossie didn't want to pop the bubble that Lana created for herself.

Just give her a moment... That was what Rossie thought.

When Bree sensed that Rossie wanted her to keep silence, she didn't talk another word and sat beside Lana quietly, who put her baby on her bare chest, in order to share some warm with her newborn.

"Doesn't he look so cute?" Lana asked in a hoarse voice. Her lips had turned purple.

"Of course he is," Rossie responded to her question. "He is the cutest baby that I have ever laid my eyes upon."

"Right?" Lana smiled softly.

It would be perfect if Raphael was with her now and they were not in their current situation.

Previously, Lana imagined herself that she would deliver her baby in a warm room with the help of some people and Raphael holding her small hand in his, the whole time during the process...

### **Chapter 908 - I WILL KEEP YOU SAVE**

Kace and Hope were standing in front of a sky high building, equipped with hundreds of stairs. Now the only way they had to reach its terrace; to climb all these steps.

And when they were halfway to the entrance, they saw a woman, with hair as black as the night on a New moon, which only reached her shoulders and her brown eyes reminded hot chocolate to Hope.

The woman's body was as small as Hope's : the perfect description of this fae Hope obtained from Raine.

Upon a closer look, Hope could see her wings, folded loosely behind her back, were composed of various shades of blue and yellow akin to a dragonfly's wings, only this pair of wings were much bigger in comparison.

The fae named purple waved her hands and smiled brightly at her two guests. She looked kind and adorable.

However, Hope's focus shifted to something behind the fae, more precisely the fae's companion, which now spread its beautiful wings and flew toward Hope as soon as it laid its eyes on Hope. A red haze swished past the couple before it swiftly but gracefully landed short behind the guardian angel.

And when Hope continued to walk ahead, the bird also walked closely behind her as it would occasionally rub it's beak affectionately on the guardian angel's right shoulder.

"Oh, she likes you," the fae chirped, as she clapped her hands happily. "I have received the news about your visit from Alpha Torak's people."

Hope didn't hear the rest of her words as all of her attention was now glued on to this breathtakingly beautiful phoenix. This was the exact bird that she saw under the frozen river and the one that helped her to escape the grip of death.

This bird was truly beautiful when she saw it again.

"This is yours?" Hope asked Purple when they finally stopped in front of her with Kace on her left, who was now staring at the bird with a deep frown between his eyebrows.

"I thought the whole phoenix species has gone extinct," Kace murmured.

"Just like how you thought the centaurs had gone extinct?" Purple quipped, smiling softly at the lycan. "Long time no see, Kace Donovan. The last thing I heard about you is quite interesting; you became a rogue to be with your beautiful mate."

Kace looked straight at Purple blankly, his expression was very hard to read.

"Do I know you before this?" Kace asked, with curiosity brimming in his eyes.

"Maybe you don't know me, but I know you quiet thoroughly," Purple nodded her head humbly.

"Really?" Kace eyed the phoenix that perched its head on Hope's shoulder while flapping its wings softly, that creature looked very docile, but it would burn you without waiting any second if it sensed you would endanger its master's safety. "How do you know me?"

Purple could understand the look Kace was giving to the phoenix, therefore, she stretched out her hand and the bird flew toward her, leaving Hope's shoulder alone. "Actually," she started. "The vow that binded the dragon shifters from shifting into their beast's form is my magic."

It meant, despite her younger looks and bubbly character, the fae had lived long enough through the first great war and helped the Donovans to tame the dragon shifters.

"You?" Kace couldn't comprehend this. "Wasn't that the witch's doing?"

Purple shook her head. "No, it was me," she said. "They spread the rumor that way so no one would come looking for me."

"Why? You are in Torak's territory, who would be so daring enough to do something to you." Hope tilted her head, but her eyes were staring at the phoenix, as the creature reciprocated the same gesture.

It was almost like the bird also took interest in her and wanted to be close to the guardian angel.

"No, that is not the only thing that I should keep a secret," the fae fluttered her wings and walked into the library, which was almost empty with not too many people now.

"Another secret," Kace murmured, there were a lot of things happened during the last few centuries when he and his other brothers chose their own paths.

"Actually, this is not a secret..." Purple shrugged her shoulders and walked beside Hope, while the phoenix flew above their heads. "Just like the spell casters and the shifters, the fae also has many kinds, just like organisms belonging to different sub-species that look quite similar to us and was mistaken to be the same."

"What do you mean?" Hope asked, they walked in the empty corridor.

"Our kind." Purple shook her head and corrected herself. "People from my kind could see the spirits, that was why, only our kind was able to have the phoenixes as our friends," she said in simple terms.

"Not many people knew about this, but Alpha Torak definitely knew it somehow. And now, I think only I'm left in my kind."

"Why? Something happened?" Hope frowned.

"Aside from our ability to tame a phoenix, we have a far more beneficial ability that many shifters wanted from us that caused us to be hunted down. Just like how they used guardian angels a long long time ago," Purple explained.

"You can save one's life by exchanging it with yours," Kace spoke. "I heard about a kind of fae, who can do this. That was why, there was even a time when the witches and wizards from the northern coven realm, chased you down."

Purple's expression became slightly gloomy as she nodded her head solemnly. "Yes, you are right. Those people wanted to use us for their magic."

Hope grimaced when she heard that fact. Why had this world turned so cruel, forcing the weaker to fight just to keep their life going?

"Lana, we have to go..." Rossie said softly, as she saw that Lana was just sitting silently, while holding her baby. The latter had closed her eyes and leaned her back against the tree behind her. "Give me the baby..."

Lana didn't give any reaction when Rossie was about to take the baby from her, but the latter didn't want to force her, thus Rossie tried to talk to her again.

"Lana... those beasts will find us if we stayed here any longer..." Rossie tried to persuade her, but the she-wolf didn't budge from her position.

She was sitting so still that people would mistake her for some statue. It was only her shallow breathing which was giving away the fact that she was a breathing creature with life.

"Lana..." Bree nudged her shoulder. She looked at the cute baby in her embrace and felt sorry for him. "Lana, shall we go?"

However, when Lana opened her eyes again, she just took a deep breath and sighed deeply, as if she wanted to get rid of all her sadness and burdens.

"Leave me here and take the baby with you..." Lana said, as she gave her son to Rossie. "I will keep you safe."

### **Chapter 909 - EMOTIONLESS LIME GREEN EYES**

"What?" Rossie couldn't believe what she heard. Why would Lana want to be left alone here and give the dead baby to her? She couldn't understand.

No, there were a lot of things that she couldn't comprehend at this moment. "The baby is dead, Lana... I will help you bury him," she said as softly as she could in their current circumstances, afraid to offend the former.

Rossie couldn't take it anymore, she couldn't deal with yet another craziness. She just wanted to survive and find the rest of her family, and after that mourn peacefully for her mother's demise. She was tired and so wanted to give up on everything.

Yet, if she did that, it would only waste all of her mother's sacrifices and that was the last thing Rossie wanted to do to her mother.

"Take him," Lana spoke in a very low voice, as she handed over the bundle of baby Eddard to Rossie. "Take him and go now."

"No!" Rossie shook her head, but out of instinct she took the baby in to her embrace, and cradled the little thing carefully, as if he would wake up if she didn't treat him gentler.

"Lana, you can still survive from this... you..." but, Rossie's words were cut off when she felt the supposedly dead baby in her arms move his body lightly, as if he was feeling uncomfortable with the way Rossie held him. "What?" Rossie let out a shriek when baby Eddard squirmed again.

Though his movements were very subtle, but still Rossie was sure the baby was moving. What was happening? Wasn't the baby dead? This couldn't happen, right?

"Go..." Lana urged weakly, she took a look at the small bundle in Rossie's arms and smiled softly. At the very least, she could do this for her son. She just hoped, he would have a beautiful life.

Live for us, Eddard...

Lana whispered silently in her heart, before she took her last breath and the life in her eyes soon died out...

"Lana?" Bree shook her body when she saw that Lana's shoulders stopped moving, in other words the she-wolf stopped breathing altogether.

On the other hand, Rossie took a glance at the baby and watched as Eddard put his small thumb into his mouth, wanting to eat something, yet he didn't make a sound or even cry like a normal baby.

Rossie was totally clueless about what was going on, but to find the explanation of this was the last thing on her agenda.

Right now, they needed to go.

"I promise, I will keep your baby safe," Rossie leaned over and kissed Lana's temple, as a flash of memories surged into her head.

Rossie's family had known Lana for a few years from the time she, Hope and Sereфина moved to mystic river village. Rossie also knew Lana as one of the teachers in their high school.

They had always been like a family and losing Lana pained her beyond words could describe.

"Bree, let's go." Rossie stood up and waited for the little girl to follow her.

Once again, Rossie looked at Lana's body for one last time before she ran ahead. She didn't know where she should go, but they had to continue moving in order to survive.

"I just heard about your visit, but I don't know what was your purpose to see me," Purple said, as they walked into a room with a warning note on its door; staff only.

"Is it fine if we go inside?" Hope looked around her surroundings as she noticed that they hadn't met a single person after they entered this library.

"It is fine." Purple nodded. "Literally speaking, this place is owned by Alpha Torak, but something happened recently and it had been a while since I've last seen the sun."

Purple glanced at the gloomy sky outside, even though it was not the night time yet, still they couldn't see a single ray of light from the sun above and this condition had been the same for almost two months by now.

"I think the war is coming... many things were happening now," Purple said and tilted her head to see the phoenix, which had flown ahead of them. "You even managed to find the phoenix."

"I think she is the one who found me," Hope said. "The phoenix helped me."

"Did you know what was beneath the frozen river?" Purple asked. Her expression darkened when she saw Hope nodding her head in answer.

"Is that creature still alive?" she asked again.

"I don't know..." Hope fidgeted uncomfortably when she remembered that moment. That was the most terrifying moment in her life. "I didn't see anything except for the phoenix."

"Hmm," Purple hummed and the rest of their walk was filled with silence, until the sound of Kace's sharp gasp startled them.

"Kace?" Hope looked at her mate as he fell down to his knees, while clutching his chest. "Kace?!"

Hope knelt down beside him and tried to look around, afraid if they were being ambushed, but the corridor was still as empty as before.

"Something happened to Lana..." Kace said softly. He felt the vow that they made nineteen years ago being nullified all of a sudden.

It had vanished and there were only two possible reasons behind it: it was either Serefina's interference, where the witch herself had lifted the cross heart vow or.....Lana was dead.

Amidst the white mist that clouded this particular area, which could confuse the beasts that were under the devil's control to chase down the escapees from the castle, a red haired witch walked slowly as if she was searching for something.

She seemed to be ignoring the fact it was hard to see ahead of her, as she walked with certainty toward a particular direction.

Serefina only stopped walking when she found what she was looking for. It was Lana's body, which was now leaning against a big tree amidst this white mist.

The witch took a step closer and crouched down beside her. She squinted her eyes and gritted her teeth. "I was telling you about this, not because so you can use it this way," she said in regret.

Serefina stretched out her hand and tucked a few strands of Lana's hair that covered her face before she chanted something and then blue fire appeared on Lana's body.

As she watched Lana being burned into ashes unblinking, the blue fire reflected on Serefina's emotionless lime-green eyes.

## **Chapter 910 - TO FOOL THE FOOL**

Watching the blue fire dancing in front of her, she remembered the very first time she met this girl.

Back then, Lana was very young, arrogant and had always been straightforward with her words.

Just like the fire before her eyes, Serefina could also remember the fire that always burned in those little girl's eyes. Her will to survive against all odds and how she strived to love the man that was not meant for her until Raphael came along.

The witch watched how Lana grew up, from a clueless little girl, who would defy everything that she thought not suited her heart, to the grown up woman now, who was wise enough to carry a lot of responsibilities.

Serefina watched how Lana took care of Hope when she was still a little girl herself and how she learned very fast to fit herself in all sort of conditions and situations which came her way.

Serefina remembered how she felt worried for Lana to walk in the same path as her when she noticed the familiar struggled feelings in the latter's eyes for Kace for the first time.

Serefina chuckled when the blue flames started to extinguish, leaving only ashes on the ground. She had never known that she would grow so attached to her.

In spite of the fact that their relationship was slightly complicated and they had never really said to be on the same page, still they had been relying on each other for the past nineteen years, call it for the sake of raising Hope or any other assignment the she-wolf received from Serefina.

Lana had completed almost all of her assignments, except the last one; to find her mother, or... any of her kind.

Lana just needed more time, but her time was up and nothing could be done now...

When the blue flames were finally extinguished, the thick white mist also disappeared from Serefina's surroundings and the air in that place was now clear to see again.

Since the strange mist had dispersed, those beasts could now pick up their prey's scent again.

Not too far from where Serefina was standing, there were five beasts that were growling and snarling, as they charged forward in their attempt to find Rossie and Bree, also another new scent that smelled very sweet.

Ignoring the witch they rushed ahead with their sharp talons protruding out to the world to see and their claws that dug deeply into the ground.

Meanwhile, Serefina watched as those beasts ran past her and stared at them for a few seconds as if studying them before she raised her hand and made a slash movement.

In no time, those beasts found their own legs were being cut off and they fell to the ground, wailing and howling in anguishing pain, but still they weren't dead.

Serefina watched with the same emotionless eyes as the beasts writhed in enormous pain, it was impossible for them to give a chase for their prey now.

Slowly, the witch walked toward those beasts and stopped when she was only two steps away from them, and watched them slowly bleeding to death. It was not an easy death.

There was no way they could survive, but death was coming very slow and painful for them.

Whether they were under the control of the devils or not, Serefina couldn't care less about that. She just did what she wanted to and let them taste the feeling of death that they had brought with them.

"If the devils came to know this, they would think that you avenged the people in the castle."

A gruffy voice sounded from behind Serefina as she was busy watching the first beast dying from excessive bleeding and stopped all his movements altogether.

"I avenged my apprentice," Serefina said. She didn't need to turn around to see, who was talking to her while sneaking behind her back.

Dorian glanced at the big tree over his shoulder and noticed in time the ashes being blown away by the wind. "You still think of her as your apprentice when you already crossed the bridge and betrayed them."

"That didn't change the fact that she was once my apprentice," Serefina said when she saw the second beast stilled with his eyes bulging out from their sockets.

"You are being very sensitive for someone who is known as heartless," Dorian walked over to see the third beast leaving his last breath, and stood beside Serefina.

"You trust rumors so much," Serefina scoffed. "Did you spend all these centuries being resurrected by the devils to find out more things about me?" the witch glanced at the shadow warrior. "I am honoured." Thick sarcasm dripped in her words.

Yet, Dorian just chose to ignore every single word from her. "The devils would know this eventually."

Once again Serefina chuckled. "What make you think that they didn't know it already?" she raised her eyebrows. "Don't you know that we are playing a game?"

Soon the witch could see a deep crease forming in between his eyebrows.

"We are now playing a game, don't you know that?" Serefina crept closer to the shadow warrior. "...sometimes we have to play the fool to fool the fool, who think they are fooling you."

Serefina winked at Dorian and walked away, but before she could move any further the shadow warrior growled at her. "Do you think you can fool me?! I killed you once and I will kill you for a second time or even a third time if it was necessary. In simpler words, if I saw you ruining this plan to kill those Donovans!"

"Yes, you killed me, but as long as I can remember, you are dead too. Don't be so arrogant to flaunt around that fact," Serefina quipped and turned around to face him. "Don't get yourself involved in this game if you are not smart enough. You will only get yourself killed for the second time."

"WHAT!?" Dorian leashed the shadow around him, which spread like tentacles around his body within no time.

Upon seeing that, Serefina just smirked and didn't bother herself to count his actions seriously. "Your life don't have any value for the devils, definitely unlike mine."

After saying that, Serefina snapped her fingers and teleported herself somewhere to do some hunting, but before that she set out those beasts' dead bodies on fire, burning them down like how she burned the entire castle into ashes leaving nothing but a dark spot on the ground.

Meanwhile, Dorian stood there with malice in his eyes.

He would kill the witch at the first chance he got.