

The Alpha: Claiming His Enemy's Daughter Novel Online Free,Chapter 491

491 I WANT TO GO HOME TOO, LUNA...

Iris was speechless when she heard what he was saying. Now, when she had composed herself a little bit better, she could hear the difference between Cane and Lu's voice, it was so fascinating how people could have different voices, especially in Cane and Lu's case when they were in the same body.

"I like you, Lu." Iris tried to appease this lycan. "But, there is something I need to talk with Cane." 1

"He is not available," Lu said curtly and then put his arm around her waist possessively, as he pressed his lips tightly, indicating he didn't want to continue this conversation.

In the end, Iris gave up and let Lu to occupy Cane's body a little bit longer. She believed, if Cane had regained her strength back, he could take over his body from Lu easily. 1

Silently, they walked toward the spot, where they would meet with Dean and Dyne, but it was not only the two of them alone, but there was Ethan and Aliana as well three young warriors, which one of them was Joel. 1

The young man laid on the ground, while his spirit looked so weak and this filled Iris's heart with dread. She freed herself from Lu's grip and immediately rushed toward him.

"What happened with him?" Iris demanded, she looked at Ethan for explanation, as she sat down on the ground, next to Joel. She was sure Joel didn't die, but she couldn't say he was in a good condition.

"He is badly injured during the fight against the Blue Moon pack warrior," Ethan explained, he sat down next to Iris, as he scrutinized her, looking for any sign of injuries, but aside from being a little bit dirty and disheveled, she looked fine, which was a relief. "His legs took the brunt and now he is sleeping. I found herb to help him sleep, so he will not be in pain, until his legs are healed." 3

From the sound of it, Ethan's voice didn't sound optimistic when he said that. They could see how bad Joel's legs were and they could only hope Grace could do some miracle with her healing power to the young warrior.

However, when they talked about it, all of sudden Ethan was being pushed aside, as Cane put himself between the gamma and Iris. 1

"Cane, what is that for..." Ethan was stunned when he was greeted by Cane's red eyes and the realization dawned on him.

He saw Cane earlier, but he didn't pay close attention to him, knowing he was walking and alive was already enough, thus he didn't see his red eyes earlier, especially when Iris frantically approached Joel and demanded explanation.

Ethan immediately looked at Haco and the old sorcerer nodded his head, as if to confirm his guess. "Hi, long time no see, nice to see you again." Ethan raised his hand as a greeting to the lycan and Cane's face frowned at him.

"Stay away from her."

"Sure, sure," Ethan said hastily and then stood up, taking a few steps back until he was standing beside Aliana, who looked confused. "We are okay now?"

"Hm." The lycan nodded in satisfaction. 1

"What happened?" Aliana asked in low voice to Ethan beside her. The alpha didn't act like usual and she could tell Ethan knew something about it.

"I will tell you later," Ethan whispered back to her and Aliana tactfully didn't say anything else.

Meanwhile, Iris's attention was fixed on Joel's spirit wolf, she wondered if the wolf died, would their human side also die? She asked this to Lu.

"Ah... you explain about this long time ago, but I forgot..." Lu said, he did not appear to have any sympathy for the young warrior and it was not surprising, knowing he didn't care to the rest of the people and shifters alike in this entire realm, aside from Iris. "Lu," Iris called his name sternly. She glanced at the cursed creature beside her. If he insisted not to give Cane back to her, at least, he could be useful to provide them with important information.

"They will be dead too. Some of them survived and lived, but what kind of life you have when you can't feel any emotions, as you lost your soul." Lu shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly.

"If the spirit is healed, will the body heal too?"

"You did that before. You did something with that little white light, but I don't know how you did it. I can't see spirit, neither I want to know how you waste your energy to save other people." 1

At this point, Iris was speechless, she wondered how a Serafim fell for this ignorant creature. (2

But then, somehow, she could understand. The Serafim literally gave all of her love and affection toward people around her, she should be selfless and be the giver, but she didn't get the same amount in return, as they relied on her heavily and with Lu's unconditional love for her, it filled the void. 1

This cursed creature, literally, would burn down the entire world only for her, without any judgment. The Serafim could be the devil and this lycan would be glad to be her companion.

"So, it is a possibility..." Iris mumbled to herself and Lu didn't like whatever thought that was running in her mind, but before he could protest, Iris had lifted her head and looked at Dyne. "How is it in the pack house?"

Dyne immediately gave her a brief rundown that the battle was over and it was safe for them to return.

"We will go back now," Iris said, as she stood up and looked at the other two young warriors. "Can you help to carry him carefully?"

"Yes, luna," the two of them replied simultaneously.

However, when they were about to leave, from the corner of her eyes, Iris caught the sight of him and this made her heart dropped. She saw Avid walked to ward her... 1

'I want to go home too, luna... please, take me home with you,' the spirit said.
15KEIKILVE IHE BUDY

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492 RETRIEVE THE BODY

Iris still remembered the first time she met with Avid. He was not in a good condition, as he was one of the warriors, who fell victim for the monster attack in the Blue Moon pack before they moved to the Howling Wolf pack.

She remembered how he cursed her out and told her how he didn't want to be touched by Gerald's daughter.

But then, this same warrior was so adamant to come with them to the black market, he asked for the gamma to take him.

It was still clear in Iris's mind how Avid got down on his knees and asked for her forgiveness in the inn. How remorseful he was for yelling at her. He realized, how wrong he was to see her in such bad light when as it turned out, she had been helping them during their time in the slavery.

It could be said, he was the first person, who approached her and asked for her forgiveness personally in such remorseful way.

Since that day, Iris would see him every now and then, until he was part of her daily life, someone that she would meet frequently. She used to see him...

It was also Avid, who approached her and told her how he saw her as the perfect luna for the pack, how his words brought tears to her eyes and as in a matter of fact, it only happened a few days ago.

He was the first warrior, who gave her the comforting words she wanted to hear. Something that she desperately wanted to hear from the pack member... this warrior had grown in her without she realized it.

But now, he came to her in his spirit and Iris knew unquestionably what had happened to him... it broke her heart like she had never been before. The feeling of lost and helpless were so strong...

She would do anything to get him back, but deep down, she knew it was not a possible thing to do.

'I want to go home, luna... take me back home, please.'

Iris fell to the ground, she clutched her chest, she felt like her heart was bleeding right now to see Avid stood in front of her. He looked fine, but there was nothing fine about the whole situation...

She couldn't even shed tears for him, as she was having a hard time to breath. Her reaction was so strong, this was even worst than when she saw those warrior spirits less than two hours ago.

The bond between the luna and her warrior had started to grow when it suddenly snapped...

"Iris, what happened?!" Ethan rushed toward her, but stopped himself when he saw Cane was already taking care of her.

The lycan said nothing, he only caressed her back, he was frowning because he didn't like to see her in so much pain, yet he didn't utter a single word.

"What happened? Did luna see something like earlier?" Eron creased his brows and Ethan approached him.

"Explain to me what happened?" Ethan still had his eyes on Iris and Cane, but he realized he missed a lot of information here, especially when Eron explained what happened near the river. Just like the rest of them, he was stunned to learn Iris held such power overnight. What actually was going on with them before they arrived? And now Lu took over Cane's body again. Was the alpha fine?

On the other hand, Aliana listened to the conversation silently, she tried to discern the situation on her own, while staring at Iris. She was not close with this luna and only saw her a handful of time, but she knew she was a timid person and didn't talk much from what she heard...

Therefore, Aliana was surprised when Iris suddenly stood up and gritted her teeth, her hands clenched tightly beside her body. "I need two people to come with me to retrieve Avid's body." "I will go," Aliana said immediately, volunteered without a second thought, she wanted to know more about this young woman. Currently, she didn't appear like how she heard about her.

"I will go too," Ethan volunteered as well.

"No, you stay with them and take Joel back to the pack." Iris didn't want them to delay and put Joel in more dangerous condition. He should see the healer

as soon as possible and Ethan should be there to lead them out of the forest safely, as he was the gamma. "Oliver, you come with me."

Iris chose Oliver because he had a bigger body than the rest of the warriors. 1

"I can go with you, Luna," Eron said, but Iris shook her head again.

"You can go with Dean to fetch Chrystal from the cave, take her back to the pack."

"You need more people to go with you," Ethan argued. "What if there is a monster attack?"

Iris glanced at Lu beside her. "Lu... Cane will be with me."

"Ah..." Ethan felt stupid to forget about this vicious creature, since he was worried about Iris and Cane's safety.

"We will leave now," Iris said in more calm voice, she sighed deeply and took Cane's hand to come with her and the alpha followed his mate without any scrupulous. He couldn't care less where they were going, as long as he was with her.

Oliver silently walked behind Cane and Iris, while Aliana caught up with him. Both of them were deep in thought, as they stared at their alpha and luna's back.

The way Iris delegated the task to them and how she could control her emotions, didn't suit the description about her that she had heard. She didn't look timid, neither weak in her eyes.

She had this natural instinct to lead and think fast.

Aliana thought, Iris would cry inconsolably and they need to carry her down the mountain, but as it turned out she handled her emotions well.

No matter what kind of power she had, she wanted to know more about her. 2

However, Oliver didn't have the same thought...

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493 IRIS LOST HER TEMPER

Redmond could smell Sofia's scent from behind the door of the luna's bedroom, but she was not alone, Maria was there with her to take care of her. The old lady had been taking a good care of her, especially after the death of Jemma and she didn't have anyone in this pack.

The dispute she had with Iris had sent Kaz and a few other pack members of the Howling Wolf pack to the dungeon and Kaz was the one, who was very vocal to support Sofia, ever since she arrived in this pack.

Redmond was glad Cane stood up for Iris, but he was not sure what to feel with Sofia's current situation. She still believed the baby was Cane's and it irked him to no end, despite what he said about not wanting to be a father. He didn't think, he would be a good one, thus it would be better not to try.

Currently, Redmond was standing outside of the door, holding a loaf of bread that was still hot. The pack was in shambles after the battle and countless people had died, thus they needed to strengthen the pack's protection and made a plan of what they needed to do.

The fact that the royal warrior had raised a fight against them, meant the king had opposed Cane blatantly. The greedy old king wanted his hand on the seven packs under Cane now. Redmond could see how Cane became a threat for the king.

"What are you doing here?" Maria suddenly opened the door and found Redmond. She had smelled his presence, since a few minutes ago, but because Redmond didn't make an appearance she decided to walk out of the room for a while, after she put Sofia to sleep. What happened earlier shocked her and she couldn't stop crying.

Redmond was startled, he was deep in his own thought and didn't notice Maria approaching him. "Nothing. I only want to give you this." He handed her a loaf of bread in his hand. "Make sure she eats it. There is not much food left because those bastards ruined our storage."

Maria pressed her lips tightly, as she received the loaf, but she couldn't help it and mumble under her breath. "Half of the bastards you were talking about was your people." She clearly drew the line between the Howling Wolf pack and the Blue Moon pack here. 1

What happened yesterday would only add more tension into the relationship between the two packs.

"And I have been here, since yesterday, risking my own precious life to kill my own people," Redmond said sarcastically, he stared down at the old woman. "Does it make you feel better?"

Maria lowered her head even more, she avoided his eyes. 1

"Next time, if you care so much about your pack, you are welcome to go out and fight with us, because it is so tiring to defend your ungrateful ass." 11

After saying that, Redmond left, his emotions were all over the places. He knew it was the right thing to do to kill his comrade for their betrayal and stood by the Howling Wolf pack people, but it didn't mean his heart was not aching when he killed his men with his own hands. He had known them longer than he knew the people in the Howling Wolf pack, who were still half accepting of him and Iris.

In this current bad mood, Redmond wouldn't sugarcoat his words. Hell. He didn't talk nicely with Cane either until recently, so a mere 'Maria', wouldn't hold any value in his eyes.

"Damn! I want to ask how is the baby!" Redmond grumbled begrudgingly because he forgot, but he didn't want to walk back and face that old woman again.

The four of them walked in silence as they went through a secret shortcut toward the pack house. Avid was on a mission to inform the warrior about the king's scheme and the fact their alpha was in danger. He was on mission to seek help, but he died on the way before he could accomplish it.

Avid was a dedicated warrior, probably this was his first and last mission that he failed to accomplish. 1

Meanwhile, it was only Iris, who could see his spirit right now. He looked sad and the sight of him squeezed her heart so badly.

"Are you sure this is the right way?" Oliver asked.

"This is the right path," Iris replied, without turning her head toward Oliver, but none of them realized this peculiarity, since they didn't interact with her much in the past.

"How do you know this path?" This was a secret path for a reason, only a few warriors knew about this.

"Avid is guiding us," Iris replied in a matter of fact tone, while the lycan looked so bored. He kept pulling her hair or twisted it between his fingers, he would only stop after Iris glared at him, but continued it again two minutes later. 2

Aliana watched everything and there was a deep frown between her brows, she knew Cane wouldn't act so childishly like that. There must be something more... she planned to interrogate Ethan once she reached the pack and wouldn't let the gamma go, before she got all the answer she wanted. 2

"Are you really able to see a spirit? I have never heard someone has that kind of ability before," Oliver started his own interrogation, because he looked doubtful toward her.

"Yes, me neither," Iris replied simply. She was too tired to read between the lines.

"What are you, luna Iris? How can you do that? Does your power have anything to do with... alpha Cane's condition? Is that the reason why he becomes like that?" Oliver's voice turned into an accusation, which made Aliana turn her head as well to warn the warrior.

Even though Aliana wanted to ask the same question, but she was wise enough to know this was not the right time to fire countless questions. All of them were so tired and they wanted to go back to the pack so badly.

Finally, Iris lost her temper. She was so sick to be accused having some kind of underlying motive when all she wanted was to help.

Iris stopped walking and turned around to face Oliver. Her blue eyes shone brightly under the sunlight. "Warrior, you can ask me at more appropriate time, I am not going anywhere, but don't you think it is really necessary to question my motive when I am here to help you to retrieve the body of one of your comrades? I don't know that you are this care less about your friend." 4

Oliver clamped his mouth real fast, he gritted his teeth, seemingly fighting back his urge to talk back, but he swallowed it down and apologized "My apologize, Luna Iris," Oliver said in hoarse voice, as if he was forcing himself to say the words and it didn't sound genuine at all.

"One more thing, Oliver. I am still your alpha's mate, the luna of the pack, no matter how you view me. I hope you can show a little bit of respect. I wish you will never interrogate me like a prisoner again."

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494 LET'S CUDDLE...

"I never mean to interrogate you like a prisoner, luna Iris," Oliver retorted. He lifted his head, but lowered it again when he met with Iris's eyes, somehow, he felt this uncomfortable feeling of fear for trying to fight her. "It's only in your mind," he added, because he couldn't confront the luna the way he wanted.

"I feel what I feel. Just because you said you don't, it doesn't mean my feeling is not valid. You will be given an explanation warrior, until then, I hope we can focus on the matter at hand." With that being said, Iris turned around and continued to walk. 2

Of course, Oliver and the rest would be given explanation, after all, they had witnessed something they shouldn't and it should be handled with care. This was a secret that shouldn't be known to many people.

Meanwhile, seeing the dispute, the lycan leaned over and whispered to her ear. "Should I pull his tongue and chop his limbs? You look unhappy when you talk with him." 2

"Lu." His name rolled off her tongue with warning.

"I am just saying." Lu shrugged his shoulder nonchalantly. Fortunately, neither Aliana nor Oliver heard about what he said. 1 It didn't take them a long time before they finally managed to find Avid's body. Somehow, there were more than five royal warriors, who managed to track him down, as he took the roundabout way, so they wouldn't know the whole path toward the pack

house, but he was being outnumbered greatly and as good as a warrior Avid was, he didn't stand a chance. 1

He managed to kill five of them, where their body scattered on the ground, but the rest managed to end his life. His enemy managed to claw his heart and leave a huge hole in his chest, which killed him.

It was a gruesome sight to be seen, but Iris didn't even avert her eyes from it. She hardened her heart to see Avid, probably this would be the last time she saw this man. His word of affirmation kept repeating in her mind and she couldn't be more grateful for what he said and how he saw her differently. 1

Iris knelt down on the ground beside Avid, as she took off her cloak and covered it over his body. She wiped traces of blood on his face with her barehand and whispered softly to his spirit.

"Rest in peace, my brave warrior. I will make sure to take you home," Iris said gently, as her palm lit up and you could see the white light appeared from it. 2

'Thank you, luna, I hope there will be another chance where we can meet in a better place.' 2

Iris couldn't answer that, her throat was constricted, as she held back her tears. But, she nodded and watched how the white light consumed him.

On the other hand, this was the first time for Aliana to see it and she was in awe, though she was not sure what Iris was going to do with it. For a moment, the white light floated in the air and then faded away before it vanished. There was nothing happened and this made Aliana frowned.

At the very least, that was what she saw from this whole thing.

"Oliver, take his body carefully," Iris said. She stood up and let Oliver did his job. She then looked at her surroundings and recognized their faces as part of the Blue Moon warrior. Her jaw hardened. She had this mixed feeling that the situation between her and the member of the Howling Wolf pack would never improve, if the Blue Moon pack joined hand with the royal to attack the Howling Wolf pack. "Aliana, do you know this place?"

"Yes, I do."

"Can you lead the way back to the pack house?" Because Avid's spirit had disappeared, there was no way she could find a way out of this big forest on her own. "Sure." Aliana took the lead from there.

Meanwhile, Iris found Lu was sitting under a huge tree, nodding off. It seemed, he had reached his limit and was barely able to continue walking again.

"Lu... Lu..." Iris shook his arm, calling his name softly. "We need to go, let's walk for a while, okay?"

Lu lifted his head. He stared at Iris with his sleepy red eyes. "I am sleepy..." He whined.

"I know. Let's go back and you can sleep more comfortably in the bed."

Lu blinked his eyes. "You will sleep with me?" 1

"Yes, I will sleep with you." Iris nodded. Aliana and Oliver were a little bit far from her, so they wouldn't hear this whispery conversation between the two of them.

"Only sleep? We are not going to do anything else?"

Iris was speechless, she really wondered how could the first Serafim fall head over heels toward this creature, though if this was in different situation, Iris would have blushed for that question. 2

"You are very tired Lu, let's cuddle, okay?" Iris coaxed him. 1

"Cuddle?" Lu thought about it for a while and then nodded. "Okay, let's cuddle." He yawned and then forced himself to stand up. If this lycan was this exhausted, Iris couldn't imagine how Cane was...

In the end, they walked silently toward the pack house again, as Aliana led the way and Oliver walked behind her with Avid's dead body on his back, his blood was still fresh, dripping to the ground and drenched Oliver's shirt. Iris, who walked with Lu behind him watched everything silently. She felt like there was an empty hole in her chest.

It didn't take long for them to reach the pack house, which meant, Avid could have made it to the pack house, if he let his enemy know about the secret passageway...

But, the truth was; the enemy had known about the secret passageway and Avid fought them, in hoped he could prevent them from entering the pack house, this was why, during the battle, Jace and Redmond were at lost about how their enemy had penetrated their defense and were in the pack house already.

Someone had leaked the information about the secret passageway in the Howling Wolf pack... 5

Iris and the other arrived at the pack house through the back yard and immediately went inside, where they met with Ethan and the other, who just arrived as well.

"How can you come so fast?" Ethan was surprised to see them were already there. "Secret passageway," Aliana replied curtly.

"I meet Jace and the other on my way here, they are looking for you in the forest and also retrieved more dead bodies of our warrior there," Ethan said this to Aliana and Iris.

"I will go and tell him we are already here, so he doesn't need to search for us," Aliana took the initiative.

"I will go with you too," Ethan said immediately. "It can be dangerous, we still don't know if there are enemies out there." 1

The gamma was about to follow Aliana, but Iris stopped him again. "No, you stay Ethan, there is an important thing I want to talk with you."

Meanwhile, Lu rested his head on Iris's shoulder, exhausted. "Let's cuddle..."

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495 IT'S NOT FUN

"Let's cuddle, you said we are going to cuddle..."

Lu was so damned tired after a long night of fight against the four hundred royal warriors and also the black magic from lady Cyan and her father. He only wanted to cuddle with his mate peacefully, before the annoying alpha took over again and wouldn't let him to get the control over his body.

More so, he didn't give a damn about what was going on with this pack and only wanted to have some alone time with his mate.

However, with Cane's absent, it was Iris, who had the full picture about what happened in the Goffa mountain, she also needed to communicate about Cane's current situation. The explanation for those warriors, who had learned about the connection between the lycan and Cane also couldn't be delayed.

Iris wanted to mourn and curl herself into a ball, she was also exhausted too, but there were a few things that must be done, where tardiness could only bring more problem.

Iris stretched out her hand to caress his head, so the lycan would stop whining and give her some time to talk with Ethan. "We will, just for a while." Lu huffed, but he said nothing, as he rested his head against Iris's shoulder and closed his eyes, her touch appeased him a little bit.

"There is important thing I want to talk with you, Ethan. Aliana, please take a few warriors with you for your protection when you are going to find Jace in the mountain."

"I will," Aliana said and then nodded politely before she left the area hastily.

Iris then looked at Oliver, Dyne, Eron and Dean. "The four of you please wait in the alpha's study, I will be there with Ethan in an hour. I will ask someone to bring you food and drink, you can rest there for a while."

Oliver looked at Iris sternly before he nodded. He didn't use to get an order from her, more so, it was so weird and felt so wrong to see how clingy the alpha was with her, or he could say it was the lycan, since he had those red eyes, but everyone seemed too worn out to notice that, more so, the lycan was closing his eyes right now.

He didn't like their current situation, but he was going to listen to the explanation first.

"Yes, luna Iris."

The four of them then went to the alpha's study room, while Ethan frowned. "Please, don't tell me this is another bad news. I think I have received so many bad news that could last for my entire life within a day." "Then, you can count this as a trouble for your next life," Iris replied with a small smile on the corner of her lips when she watched the gamma groaned. "I will go back to my bedroom for a while. I will see you soon before we talked to the other four warriors." 1

"Okay," Ethan said lightly.

"Oh, Ethan..." Iris called him again before he could leave. "Do you know where is Hanna? Is she alright?" She had witnessed so many deaths tonight and losing Avid still leaving a huge hole in her chest, she didn't think she would be able to take it if she was going to lose Hanna too, or if something bad happened to her.

"Don't worry, she is fine. She is with Will right now," Ethan replied.

"With Will?" Iris was surprised to hear that. She remembered the last time they still didn't talk with each other.

"Yeah... fascinating, isn't it? How he finally came out of his shell after learning Hanna might be in danger." Ethan wriggled his brows proudly. "I am the one, who dragged him out of the room." 1

Iris giggled with the way Ethan claimed his contribution. "Good job," she said as she turned around and took Cane's hand to come with her, right at the time the gamma asked her question.

"Iris, is that really the lycan? what happened with Cane?" Ethan knew the gravity of the situation, right now they needed Cane's guidance the most and what kind of decision he would make to get them out of this trouble. This was not the right time for the lycan to further confuse the situation. "Can we get him back soon?" 1

Hearing that, the lycan lifted his head and then growled at Ethan, which made the gamma took a step back and gave him the sweetest smile, sensing the danger came from him.

"Don't get me wrong! I like you, Lu! Love you so much! But, I need my annoying alpha, because there is a few things I need to ask him."

Ethan grinned. "Let's have a drink some time when the situation is already calm down, what do you think?" 3

Hearing that, the lycan dropped the matter, but he didn't answer him.

"Annoying alpha'?" Iris raised her brows. "I don't know you think that way about Cane." 1

This time, Ethan lowered his voice. He mouthed his words, knowing Iris could read his lips perfectly. 'You know, I only said that to appease him.'

Iris scrunched her nose. "Come to the alpha's bedroom in an hour, Ethan."

"An hour? Are you sure I am not going to see something that I don't suppose to see?" Ethan wanted to make sure of this, since he had to go to Cane's bedroom. "Okay, alright, I will be there in an hour." He raised both of his hands in surrender gesture when Iris threw him a dagger look. He was not sure, his timid luna could look so intimidating and scary like this. 3

But, when Iris turned around and left, Ethan felt there was something odd with the way he interacted with Iris, but he couldn't put his finger on it. 3

With that, Iris took the lycan back to the alpha's bedroom and lay him down on the bed, where he pulled her closer and hugged her close to his chest, burying his nose in her hair.

"Tell me that story..." Lu said sleepily, while Iris patted his upper arm.

"What story?" Iris asked.

"That... the monster and the girl," Lu yawned and nuzzled his nose against her neck. He licked her skin and bit her lightly, which made Iris's body stiffen. 7

"Lu..." Iris was sure, Cane would be mad if he got his control again when she let the lycan touch her like this. He had told her to stab the lycan if he was trying to even touch her, but how could she bring herself to do that?! "Lu, stop."

The lycan grumbled, but he stopped and went back to nuzzling her neck instead, yet his hand caressed down her spine, down to her bottom.

"Lu." Unhappy, the lycan sulked.

"I am going to tell you the story about the monster and the girl, okay?" Iris coaxed him, because she felt bad to see him like this.

"Cuddling is not fun..." Lu whimpered, but he agreed to listen to the story. 1

However, the cursed creature had fallen asleep into half of the story. His breathing became even and Iris removed herself from him carefully, so not to wake him up, where outside, Ethan had been waiting for her.

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496 THE EXPLANATION

Ethan grimaced when he came closer to the door, because the last time he was here, the strong smell of sex hit him so hard. He didn't want to walk into such situation again.

Therefore, he sighed in relief when the air was so fresh and delightful.

"I think she is not going to do it with the lycan even though they shared the same body..." Ethan mumbled to himself, since he knew how eager the lycan was to reproduce with her.

The gamma leaned his back against the wall, while waiting for Iris to come out. He tried to calm his mind, but it was so hard to do so when he knew this was only the beginning.

From the information he got from Haco, the king was dead along with his four hundred royal warriors, Sir Elijah and also... alpha Dristan. Koda must have not heard about it, because if he had, he would have raised hell by now.

"I thought after I am free from the slavery, I can get drunk, until my head exploded," Ethan sighed. He would have never thought, he would get drunk from the trouble that came to them without break.

"Why do you want to get your head exploded?" Iris asked, she heard that when she opened the door and found Ethan was deep in his thought, as he didn't realize her presence, until she spoke. 1

The gamma startled, but then he gave her his wolfish grin. "I want to know how it feels to get your head exploded." There were so many deaths today,

but Ethan still managed to smile a lot. It was not that he didn't feel anything, but people coped up with grief differently.

Iris frowned when she heard that. She didn't like the way he said the word lightly, it gave her a bad omen. "Don't say something like that again," Iris scolded him. She was so exhausted mentally and physically, she didn't need Ethan to add more into her misery with his reckless words. 1

"Okay," Ethan agreed readily, scared to see the way Iris glared at him. He didn't know there would be a day, she would scare someone else. It seemed, Cane's personality had rubbed her in the wrong way. "Why are you asking to talk in private with the four warriors?"

"They know about the lycan and I am not sure how to approach this matter," Iris said, she then proceeded to tell him briefly about what happened in the Goffa mountain, but she left unnecessary details that Ethan didn't need to know yet, such as her dream and her newly found power. She focused her story on the lycan and how the four warriors looked so blown away with the fact that their alpha was actually the cursed creature.

On the other hand, Ethan listened to her carefully. He already guessed it when he saw Cane's red eyes.

"I don't know how to talk with them, especially Oliver," Iris was being honest with Ethan. She felt Oliver had been trying to attack her and she could feel his dislike toward her.

"Don't worry, I am going to talk with them." Ethan understood Iris's position

Actually, there was not only four warriors, but there was Chrystal too, alpha Dristan's mistress, she was there and witnessed everything when Cane shifted into his lycan form.

However, she currently was not conscious. It would be a tricky conversation with Chrystal because she was not part of the Howling Wolf pack, she didn't have the same loyalty like those warriors. What if she freaked out and refused to cooperate? What should they do with her then?

Cane would have killed her to shut her up, but Iris felt uncomfortable with the idea, after all, she just escaped from alpha Gill's tyranny and was subjected under alpha Dristan's cruel treatment, but then, after the two alphas died, she was going to be killed just because she knew something that she shouldn't? 1

Iris would talk with her personally later when she had regained her consciousness. "Ethan, can you ask someone to look after Chrystal? Don't allow anyone to talk with her before I did and tell me once she is conscious."

"Who is Chrystal? Ah! The new mistress of alpha Dristan..." Ethan didn't pay close attention to that pitiful girl, but he felt bad for the way alpha Dristan treated her. Good thing the alpha was dead. "Will do." He then gave an order to the first warrior they met on their way to the alpha's study room.

Once they arrived at Cane's study room, the four warriors immediately stood up and greeted Iris and Ethan politely, they looked a little bit better after filling their stomach and rested.

Because the four of them went immediately to the front desk, where the alpha used to sit down and give them an order out of instinct, thus Iris went to Cane's chair and sit down there, while Ethan stood on her right side. Everything moved so naturally, as they assumed their position.

This was how it went when it was Cane, but the same thing happened when it was with Iris. Probably, their minds were too tired to think too much of the situation.

Meanwhile, Iris assumed Cane's chair because that was the perfect spot to see the four warriors, who were standing in front of the table, more so, she was so tired to stand up for long.

Ethan then started the explanation, he didn't beat around the bush. "First thing, let me tell you why alpha Cane affiliated with the lycan..."

The gamma spoke to them and answer their question for more than an hour, the situation was heated at some point, but Ethan managed to calm them down.

They were most likely angry because their alpha sacrificed himself that way and Oliver slipped a hurtful word, while glancing at Iris.

"The alpha will not need to do that if a certain dead alpha can keep his greed for himself." 2

But, Ethan shut him down and Oliver clamped his mouth. "And then, what are you going to do now? Wallowing for something that we can't change instead of facing the problem right before our eyes? Do something better and stop this

hatred campaign, don't you think this is getting old? He is dead and now we have living enemies that you can hate as much as you like." 2

Damn lady Cyan! She provoked and instituted so much hatred to the warrior only within a night the royal warrior stayed in their place. She really knew how to mess up with someone's mind. 1

After that, the conversation lasted for another hour before all of them left with a mixed feeling.

"Do you think they will loyal to Cane and will notdisc lose the secret?" Iris asked, her voice was akin to a whisper.

"They will." Ethan had a high hope for theirloyalty and Iris simply nodded, as she trusted his judgment. 6

"Have Grace seen Joel?"

"Yes, she is with him right now."

Iris nodded. She would visit him later. "Can you call Ameer over? I want to discuss about the funeral for the fallen warrior and tell Jace to see me once he returned." 1

"Iris."

"Hm?"

"I don't know if you notice this or not, but youhandle the pack and yourself really well, even without Cane." 9

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497 A FEELING OF RELIEF

Ethan could see the dim in Iris's eyes when Oliver tried to bring up the topic about alpha Gerald and blamed him for their alpha's misery, which in extent the warrior tried to vent out his frustration on Iris.

Just like some of the other member, they still saw Iris as a reminder of their gruesome days and it was hard to stand her presence.

However, Ethan could see how genuine Iris was and if there was the only thing he couldn't comprehend was; how alpha Gerald fathered someone like her. It felt like a nasty worm gave birth to a beautiful swan. The two creatures belonged to different world. 2

"I don't know if you notice this or not, but you handle the pack and yourself really well, even without Cane."

Iris didn't pay attention to Ethan's voice before, but she thought, his voice was very pleasant to her ears, especially when she could hear the genuine sound in it. Probably, his voice was the second best after Cane. This was silly of her to rate other people's voice, but this was something new for her. 4

"I..." Iris pulled her hair anxiously, flustered with the compliment and Ethan giggled to see her being her timid self again. "If someone complimented you, you should say 'thank you'."

"Don't talk to me like I am a child." Iris pursed her lips and this made Ethan's giggle turned into a laugh.

"Alright, I will call Ameer over." He then left Iris alone inside the study room.

Iris leaned her back and closed her eyes, her head throbbed painfully. Thanked to Grace's concoction, the tonic was really good for her body, or else, she would have collapsed long time ago with her usual strength.

However, Iris could feel she was going to reach her limit. The tip of her fingers felt so numb and her breathing became so heavy. This was the first time, her body had gone through such hardship.

But the thought Cane was still not available and she really wanted to make things a little bit easier for him, kept her going.

Not long after, Ameer came, she looked fine and Iris was glad to see the old woman.

"Come here, sit next to me," Iris said when Ameer greeted her. "There is something I want to ask you."

"Yes, what is it, luna?" Ameer took a chair and sat next to Iris.

"I want to know how you will hold the funeral in the Howling Wolf pack. I only know a little bit about it." She once wrote a poem for Cane's twin sibling and his baby son.

"With our situation right now, I think we just need to bury them all in the same place." Ameer was so sad, she held back her tears when she said that. "I don't think we have time for the ceremony, Luna..."

Iris understood what Ameer meant, since they were not in a good situation. Their pack was still in predicament. (1

"The ceremony doesn't need to be sumptuous, let's keep it cordial," Iris said softly. "They deserve a proper ceremony and farewell."

With their current situation and everything that was happening, it could be understood why Ameer thought the ceremony was not necessary, since they had to think about their safety first. They needed to think of those who survived.

However, Iris had a different opinion. Those fallen warriors had defended their pack bravely and even some of them were so young, but they didn't back down when death came closer, when they knew they could not survive their mission.

It would be a sad thing for them to not have a proper ceremony they deserved for what they sacrificed for those who managed to survive because of them.

Iris tried to explain what she thought about it carefully, but she was surprised to see Ameer was sobbing into her palms instead.

She was also surprised to hear the sound of someone else's crying for the first time, she thought that would be sounded like the sound of the waterfall, but not too loud. It was only a fleeting silly thought she had, since she didn't have time to process the fact, she finally could hear many sounds around her.

When the first Serafim cried, she mostly screamed or the tears would stream down her face, but she was not sobbing like Ameer did right now.

"Ameer, what happened? Did I say something wrong?" Iris asked, she caressed her back to ease her breathing, but all of a sudden, Ameer hugged her instead. She hugged her so tightly and it was so surprising for such an old woman to have this kind of strength. 1

And when Iris thought, Ameer was going to crush her bones, she let her go and wiped her tears, trying to compose herself.

"Why are you crying, Ameer? Did my suggestion istoo much?" Iris couldn't think of anything else, her head throbbed, demanding her to take some rest.

"No. No." Ameer shook her head and took both of Iris's hands. "Thank you... Thank you for your understanding... I do think the same, they need a proper farewell." Most of the fallen warriors were people that Ameer had known since they were little, she thought of them as her own children, so of course, she wanted the best for them, it was just, she tried not to get her hope high, because their situation was rather chaotic at this moment. She didn't want to appear greedy and demanding to have such thought.

But, she was glad, she was very relief when Iris was the one, who suggested that, that's why she couldn't hold back her tears.

On the other hand, Iris was also relief when she heard Ameer's reason of why she cried. "Help me to prepare for it, okay?"

"Absolutely, luna." Ameer nodded with a bright smile on her face. 3

Iris was in an odd situation with the rest of the pack after the incident with Sofia and Kaz, therefore, she was not comfortable to give an order to them, she felt so distance with most of the pack member now.

Therefore, she thought to have Ameer to help her. It would be more comfortable for both Iris and the pack member to have this old woman as the middleman.

After talking about how to make the last ceremony as simple as possible, but it didn't deduce the sacredness, Ameer left to prepare everything and gathered the people she needed. evening and they would need Cane for that, as he was the alpha.

Iris was a little bit worried about that part and hoped Cane would return soon, or else, it would be a disaster if Lu took the role.

Once Ameer left, Iris was about to walk out of the study room, she staggered a little bit and stopped walking, as the room was spinning, but she took a deep breath and continued to walk.

"Ethan?" Iris called for the gamma, but he was nowhere to be found. "Where is Ethan?" she asked one of the warriors.

"Gamma Ethan is talking with sir Koda, he is furious. Gamma Ethan is trying to calm him down," he replied.

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498 CANE'S CRAFTINESS

Koda must have learned about the death of alpha Dristan and now he was making a fuss, demanding an explanation about the whole mess, after all, it was the death of the alpha from his pack. Someone must take responsibility of it.

If the Howling Wolf pack, by any mean, involved in the death of alpha Dristan, it could cause discord between them, no matter what cooperation between them, it would turn into a bloody war between the two packs. 1

Howling Wolf pack was not in a good position right now, they couldn't afford another battle at this moment, knowing that, Koda was being very hostile and rude, all the polite pretense he showed during their cooperation in the Riverside pack and in the palace was dropped.

"My alpha is dead! It will be a pack problem! I want to know, who responsible for this!" Koda roared.

That was the first sentence that Iris heard when she entered the war room, where Koda blew his top on Ethan, the gamma looked like he was going to lose his temper too. Ever since the incident in the palace, the gamma could control his temper better, though it was not good to provoke him too far.

And right now, Ethan seemed on his wits end to be the receiving end of Koda's bullcrap.

Iris immediately approached him and put her hand on his arm, which surprised Ethan, but he looked slightly loosened up to see she was there. He was too deep in his plan to claw Koda's mouth apart in his mind to notice her presence. 2

"What is going on here?" Iris asked, though she knew what happened roughly, but she was not sure whether Koda knew the death of the king or not and what about lady Cyan? "Where is Jace?" she tilted her head toward Ethan.

"Jace is on the way here, he is with Lou, they are talking about something." The fact that Ethan didn't disclose what Jace and Lou were talking about, Iris assumed it was something that Koda shouldn't know.

"Iris! It's a good thing you are here, as the luna of the pack, I demand your responsibility and explanation about what happened to my alpha!" Koda said angrily, he was being disrespectful when he addressed Iris without her title.

"She is the luna of the pack, watch your mouth! Her station is above you!" Ethan barked back. His body was trembling, he was on the verge to make his imagination to end this old man's life come true, but Iris held his arm, to prevent him complicated the situation even further. 1

"Why are you so angry, sir Koda? We just got attacked by the royal warriors, it is not wise for you to seek trouble by losing your temper." Iris tried to make her voice even, while thinking what she should do with this situation. 1

What Cane would do if he was here? What kind of plan he had to turn the table around?

Iris tried, she really tried so hard to think like him, but she couldn't. She was not as cunning and calculative as him yet, she couldn't see a way out of this situation. More so, her head throbbed even more when she tried to think a little bit harder of the solution. How Cane's mind worked? She wondered...

"My alpha is dead!" He emphasized this. "Don't you think it's a great trouble for me and my pack?!"

Iris tightened her grip on Ethan's arm when she felt he was about to bark back again. Having spent her time with him for months, she knew whatever came out of his mouth right now would only escalate the situation to nowhere without solution.

"Hundreds of warriors from the Howling Wolf pack are dead too, sir Koda, if you have not yet noticed that and my alpha is not in good condition right now." Iris straightened her back, if worst came to worst, she only needed to unleash Ethan and the gamma would take care of him. After all, there was no way, she could get involved in the altercation with this old man. "I am sorry for

your loss, but it doesn't mean we survive the attack unscathed too. Countless warrior from the Howling Wolf pack is dead."

"They are nothing compared to an alpha!" Koda roared. He really overstepped his boundaries, by saying something like that. Just because the fallen warriors were not from his pack and he felt care less about them, it didn't mean, it was something you could say no matter what kind of situation you were in.

"And your alpha is nothing compared to those fallen warriors!" Iris snapped back, her blue eyes were ablaze with anger, she emphasized every word she said. 2

And probably because Koda didn't expect this runt to shout back at him, he was slightly taken aback and speechless.

Right at that time, someone else entered the room and a shock gasp escaped Iris and Ethan's lips upon seeing the person.

"Al- alpha? C- Cane?" Ethan stammered, he headed the thought it was Lu, who came to the picture. He was going to approach him when he saw his black eyes. "Cane? Is that you? Are you, okay?" He asked under his breath, only to be sure it was really him.

Now, the gamma was going to cry to see his callous eyes and cold demeanor when he didn't regard his question at all. He had never been this happy to be ignored by Cane. 5

It was not because he came to deal with Koda, since this old man was only a nuisance, but there were a lot of things he needed to report to the alpha and even more a lot of decision to make.

However, Iris had different thought from Ethan, as she approached Cane. "Are you, okay?" She could see how pale he was, but it was him. Probably, he was only sleeping for three hours at most, since she cuddled him to sleep.

"I am fine," Cane said softly, he rested his arm around her waist and kissed her forehead to smoothen the crease between her brows, only then he shifted his attention toward Koda. 1

Now, Iris and Ethan waited for what kind of plan Cane would concoct to get them out of this dire situation.

"Alpha Cane, I am happy to see you here," Koda tried to make a small talk with Cane, but the alpha didn't have time for that.

"Alpha Dristan is dead," Cane stated the obvious.

"Yes and I am here to demand an explanation and responsibility for whoever the person, who had killed him!" Koda was enraged, but Cane's reply shut him up.

"The king ordered lady Cyan to kill him with dark magic."

There was a moment of silence fell inside the room. "What?"

"Isn't it very obvious? With the king's royal guards attacked my pack and the two alphas, who possessed the only mines in this realm were in vulnerable state, do you think the king will not salivate the opportunity to get his hand on the two packs?" Cane was not telling a lie, but he wouldn't say the full truth. He would only say something that would benefit him from this whole situation.

"What?" Koda staggered back.

Meanwhile, Iris and Ethan glanced at each other, they were clueless about what kind of game Cane was playing right now. The alpha looked so calm, as if he had everything under his control and had thought about this carefully.

"But... but, where is the king now?"

Jace had not yet disclosed this matter yet, because this information was too shocking and he must tread carefully, he needed Cane's order about how to reveal the death of the king.

"He is dead." Cane stared deep into Koda's eyes when he spoke his next words. "Lady Cyan killed him." 2

Lady Cyan didn't directly kill king Aeon, but because of whatever spell she put on the king, rendered Aeon unable to move and feel anything when the monsters attacked them, which led him to meet with his demise. 1

"There is no way that happened... but... how?" Koda was utterly speechless. His mind went numb, he couldn't think of anything for a moment, and Cane filled it with a purpose.

"I have mentioned this before." Cane drew circle mindlessly on Iris's waist when he spoke languidly. "Lady Cyan is a dark witch, she used dark magic to move the warrior. If you don't believe it, you can check the dead royal warrior in the mountain, after all, dark magic left traces."

Koda's mind was running so wild. "What? What should we do now? What should I do now? The king is dead, alpha Dristan is dead!" He was in panic, as he was at loss and Cane let the news sink in first before he spoke again.

"You know what to do and there is no time for delay," Cane said in convincing tone, as if Koda should be smart enough to figure this out.

Not only Koda, who felt the tension and frustration, but Iris and Ethan were also curious what Cane was going to say.

"What do you mean? What should I do?"

There was this small smile on the corner of Cane's lips. "Your great grandson is the crown prince and his status has been acceded by the king. With the death of the king, your great grandson will need all the power the Red Claw have to support his claim to the throne. You should be his regent until he comes to age." 6

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499 DON'T DO THAT AGAIN 2

Iris and Ethan were dumbstruck by what Cane suggested. They were aware that an extreme situation demanded an extreme decision, but was it wise to put Koda in such high position? This greedy man became a king?

It would be a testament for the whole kingdom.

What was actually in Cane's mind? What he was trying to achieve by putting Koda on the throne? He could have snatched the throne by himself, no?

However, no matter what questions swamped their mind, Iris and Ethan didn't say a word and let Cane to handle the situation.

The alpha looked exhausted, but it didn't mean he came unprepared. They could see it in his eyes how shrewd he was to mess up with Koda's mind and

try to make him walked into the direction he wanted him to be by using his greediness for power.

"Take the body of the royal warriors and theremaining of the king's body, if there is any, to prove lady Cyan's dark magic, with the Serafim is on the way here, you can prove it to the whole world that the king was killed by the dark magic and if you are crafty enough, you can get the Holy Kingdom be at your back to support your great grandson claimed for the throne. You willneed as many powers as you can get to get rid the other princes in the palace, as they will start to have their eyes on the throne, once the news about the death of the king spread."

Cane's eyes became slightly darker with the mention of the princes.

"Be careful with prince Alan, because lady Cyanis still his mother. She must have something under her sleeve to put her son on the throne again." 1

Koda listened to what Cane said diligently, he looked like a student, who tried to absorb all the lesson from the teacher.

"Once you sat on the throne and secured yourgreat grandson's position, everything will be easier from there. After all, as a subject, we should oblige to the sovereign." Cane played with Iris's hair absentmindedly, twisting her curls between his fingers. "You need to move fast before the word about the death of the king gets out or lady Cyan managed to build her power within the palace and it will be hard for you to claim the throne."

Cane deliberately directed Koda to deal with the whole mess and also clued him what kind of power he could hold in his hand. As the regent, he literally became the king, the highest position in this continent. The throne was his until the baby came to his age, which would be eighteen years from now.As for Koda, even as someone that was so greedy for power, never in his wildest dream, he would imagine himself to sit on the throne. The thought of it thrilled him. He could feel the excitement rose in his mind and goosebumps on his skin, imagining himself wearing the crown...

And after what Cane said, Koda felt enlightened and could see the situation was in his favor. It was not a dead tunnel. It was a great opportunity! Why he didn't think about this earlier?!

Meanwhile, on the other hand, Cane did this because he needed all the distraction to make all the focus was central in the palace, so he could have

enough time to strengthen and stabilize his own pack. He could see how the Howling Wolf pack was in shambles and was in vulnerable state. 1

All it needed was one attack and they would fall into misery once again. 1

Not to mention the other six pack under him. Everything had not yet been reorganized yet. He still needed to visit a few packs and see the condition there with his own eyes. Let Koda handled the dispute between the royal and deal with the people from the Holy Kingdom, with that, lady Cyan would have a hard time too.

"I am going, I will get going now..." Kodamumbled under his breath. "You are right, you are right." He nodded to his own word and thenlooked at Cane, his eyes shone with greediness and determination. "I will fight for my great grandson's right! I will march the warrior from the Red Cla w pack to defend the throne! They will be furious once they learned about what happened to our alpha." 1

"Hm." Cane nodded, he caressed Iris's earlobethis time, which made her swatted his hand away from her ear. Her frowning face put a small smile on the corner of his lips, but Koda didn't notice that, since his mind was occupied by something else. 1

Meanwhile, Ethan really wanted to facepalm himself to see what his alpha was doing. How could he tease was being playful with his mate in this serious situation? Was this Lu, who tried to act like Cane? Or it was Cane, who got the lycan's bad habit? 2

"I need to go now." Koda looked anxious.

"Yes, go now." Cane nodded, encouraging him toleave.

With that, Koda didn't waste a second to leave the Howling Wolf pack, he needed to send a word to his pack and arranged everything, more so, just like what Cane said, he needed to gather a few bodies of the royal warriors and the king's as well, to prove lady Cyan was a black witch and gave the evidence to the Serafim, who would arrive within this week.Lady Cyan and her dark magic wouldn't be a problem then. With that thought, Kod a rushed out of the war room.

Once it was only the three of them, silence fell inside this room for a moment before Cane shift ed his attention toward Ethan and spoke in his hoarse voice.

"You can go also."

"But, I don't want to go," Ethan said. He had a lot of question and needed Cane's decision to do a certain task, yet the alpha didn't have patient for him.

"Gamma, you can leave."

Ethan flinched, he grimaced, because Cane wouldn't have called him by his title if he was not being serious, like super serious.

"Okay, okay, I know. I am leaving." Ethan scurried out of the room, giving a privacy that his alpha demanded from him.

"Cane..." Iris was about to ask how he felt when suddenly the rest of her words were swallowed by the alpha.

Cane pressed his lips against hers. He held her so close against his chest and this made Iris breathless, she could feel the room was spinning, she was lightheaded when his kiss was so demanding, showing his dominance. Cane was shaken up when he woke up and he couldn't find Iris. He thought, she had gone... it was a silly thought when he was calm enough and could feel the presence of his mate now, but the appearance of the man named Rei had messed up with his mind. 2

"Don't do that again..." Cane said against her lips, while biting them, as if to punish her. 3

Meanwhile, Iris couldn't understand what she had done. She didn't do anything, right? Aside from arranging a few things to make it easier for him. 2

"Don't do that..." Cane repeated softly.

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500 HIS FEELING 2

It was so insane when Cane realized how mortified it was to find he woke up alone and he couldn't find Iris anywhere. Her scent in the room and the pillow had faded, since she left for quite some time.

The first thing that came into his mind was; Rei. The man had taken her away and he had no clue where to find her. It also didn't help when her words kept repeating in his mind where she said this was not her home, that she wanted to leave... 1

There was a mess in his head until he found out she had been organizing a funeral with Ameer and currently was with Ethan to talk with Koda. Cane relaxed a little bit when he learned about that and completely calmed down only when he had her back in his arms. 1

It was so insane for something like this actually happened to him. His feeling for her like a broken dam and the lycan was responsible for opening the gate of his emotions that he had suppressed for a long time. 3

A lot of things happened in such short time and Cane was unable to control his feeling. He was overwhelmed with the thought he could lose Iris like the way he lost his destined mate if he was being reckless now they were in the throes of power struggle.

Not only from the palace, but the threat would come with this newly found realization that somehow, she was connected to the first Serafim. The Holy Kingdom would be on the list of trouble if he couldn't handle this situation well.

There was part of Cane that regretted to get the Holy Kingdom involved in this matter. Only if he knew sooner...

"Don't do that again..." Cane nibbled on her lips and caressed her back. He felt like he would never get enough of her.

Thankfully, Cane stopped himself just in time before Iris was out of breath, since the room was spinning and she had put her weight completely on him.

"Are you, okay?" Cane asked, he brushed his thumb on her swollen lips. He had kissed her too hard and now he could see the result of it. "Is it hurt?"

"Yes," Iris said softly. She pouted her lips and stared at him sheepishly.

"Sorry." This time Cane leaned over to lick her lips instead and he ran his thumb on her cheekbones, traced her jawline, to her earlobe, which made her squirmed and this made him smile.

"Cane, don't touch me ear," Iris protested and pushed him away. She put away his bad hand from her ear.

"They are cute, I couldn't help it." 1

Iris blinked her eyes when she heard that. It didn't sound like something he would say. She was sure, there was nothing change when Cane dealt with his opponent, he was callous and calculative like usual, but it definitely not the same when there was only the two of them. 1

He became a little bit more... affectionate? If she could say... Cane became even more open with his feeling.

"What is it?" Cane frowned because Iris kept staring at him with that silly look on her face without saying anything.

"Cane, are you sure, Lu doesn't affect you?" Iris thought his openness due to the fact Lu could take over his consciousness and somehow it rubbed on him.

"Don't talk about him," Cane said sternly. He looked like he was going to kill someone when Iris brought Lu into the conversation. "He will never come out again." 1

"But, we will need his knowledge to know more about the first Serafim," Iris mumbled to herself, but obviously Cane could hear that clearly. "Cane!" Iris screamed when she felt her body was being lifted. (1 Cane sat her down on the table and put his arms beside her body, trapping her. His face was so close and Iris could see his dark eyes looked a few shades darker if that even possible.

Being so close, Iris could see the scar on his face and felt her heart ached so bad, she couldn't imagine the pain from such scar. The shift er used to be able to heal themselves, therefore, if a wound left a scar, it must be so bad.

"He will never come out again, unless it's a new moon, even so you will not be there with me, understood?" Cane said sternly and Iris nodded. 5

But a second later, Iris was laughing, her voice was so clear and melodic in Cane's ears, though it didn't stop him from frowning.

"What is it?"

"Are you mad because I cuddled you into sleep?" (1

"You were with him, not me."

"But, it's you, not any other man, right?"

"No."

Iris chuckled, she felt this was so silly. This could be said as their first disagreement, but the topic didn't make any sense at all in some senses.

However, it brought comfort, since they argued about such mundane thing and forgot for a while about what happened and the dire situation they would face just right outside of this room. The deaths of the pack members, the fallen of the royal family, the people from the Holy Kingdom, the schemes... everything...

"Don't be angry..." Iris wrapped her arms around his neck and pecked his lips. "I was thinking it was you, whom I cuddled with." 1

Cane didn't seem pleased with the excuse, but a knock on the door and Ethan's voice interrupted them.

"Alpha, can you come out for a while? I swear, I will not disturb you if this is not urgent!" Ethan said hastily.

They were indeed being reckless, more than this they would be neglectful with the chaotic world out there and Cane's decision was really needed in this moment.

Cane closed his eyes and pressed his lips against Iris's before he put her down from the table. "Go back to our room and rest."

"No. I have a few things to do too," Iris said lightly.

Cane narrowed his eyes and stared at her pale face. He caressed her cheek. "You don't look well."

"I am fine," Iris smiled. "I will not be able to sleep too if my heart is not at peace."

Cane stared at her for a while, but once again he found himself inured in her caoin. Irie Chamma found himself in awe upon seeing Iris. She must not notice this, but she handled things really well without him. She slowly came out of her timid self and got involved more. She took responsibility and knew what she was doing, something that Cane had never expected her to do when he took her as his mate almost a year ago.²

She grew in person... 1

"Okay, but don't force yourself." Cane kissed the tip of her nose before he opened the door and met with his anxious gamma.

Iris was inside a tent that was built for those warriors, who were badly injured because of the battle, there were a lot of them and it would be easier for Grace if they were put in the same place.

The situation like this reminded Iris when there was an attack in the Blue Moon pack, the time when she met Avid for the first time and this brought a wave of sadness in her heart once again.

But, this time, instead of being a patient, he didn't make it... 1

"How is he?" Iris asked, she sat on the edge of the makeshift bed of Joel, while the young warrior seemingly had fallen asleep after he drank his medicine. "He is fine, right?" Iris wanted to be sure if Grace could heal Joel, but the look on the healer's face was not so promising.

"I don't want to give you hope, luna, but we need to prepare for the worst."

"What do you mean for the worst?" Iris glanced at Joel's wolf spirit, it looked sick, just like his human form.

Grace bit her lip anxiously, but then she knew there was not a nice way to say it. "There is a high chance he will not be able to walk again. In that case, he has to step down from his station."

Iris balled her fists tightly, she fought back her tears. This was not the right time to cry. "Is there something we can do to help him?" 1

"Let's see the wound on his legs for a few more days, let's hope the medicine works on him." Grace tried to smile and reassure Iris, but she couldn't feel it in her heart to be at peace.

"Where is Haco?" Iris asked Grace, as she immediately stood up.

"I don't know, I think the sorcerer went to the other tent to check on warrior there," Grace said, unsure.

Haco didn't know healing ability, but as a sorcerer, his knowledge should be able to help at time like this, more so, Iris had different question in her mind. 2

Without wasting for another moment, Iris immediately left, but Grace stared at her back for a while, she felt there was something different with the way they interacted, but she was not sure whether it was only her feeling or not. 2

However, when Iris came out of the tent to go to the next tent, Dyne and Eron had been waiting for her, along with the other five more warriors.

Iris didn't pay attention to them, but then she stopped in her track and turned around. "Why are you following me?" she asked in confusion, because she felt like she was on the head of a small entourage.

"The alpha appointed us to be your personal warriors, luna," Eron replied quickly. 1

Iris froze for a moment. "All of you?!" 6