

Betrayal

ISABELLA'S POV

I sat on one of the chairs on the balcony of the room where I was staying. My ngers lightly traced the embroidered patterns on the soft blue blanket, as I basked in the warm morning sunlight.

It has been three days since I gained consciousness and almost all my injuries have healed, only a few scars and scabs have been left on my body. And indeed, it has left me in awe just how fast my healing process was. It only proved that Raymond wasn't blung when he told me that we were carrying the blood of Urduvas, and that we have great healing abilities.

Everything felt surreal, yet despite the turmoil still swirling inside me, I was grateful. Grateful for having such kind of ability because it protected me, especially the little one in my belly.

I caressed my stomach softly. A strange feeling of warmth and comfort washed over me. I am not alone now; I have my baby with me. And I'll do everything to protect the little unborn child in my stomach.

But the thought of Xavier made me feel depressed for a moment. Despite everything... despite my decision to not tell him about the child... A part of me still hoped that he would come for me, that he would care enough to even at least nd out what happened.

In fact, I was still his mate. I can still feel the faint bond even though we were far away from each other. I was still the Luna of the Lunar Crescent Pack...

But as the days passed by without a word from him, reality settled into me.

Perhaps, my traces have been all erased from his life. Completely forgotten. He wasn't coming. He had chosen Sophia, and I was left alone, carrying our child without him knowing.

At rst, I still wondered how he would react if he found out that we're now having a child. But that hope has already begun to fade. Maybe it was a good thing that I disappeared from his life.

He would be happy with Sophia, while I'll do my best to move on... to stop dreaming of what could have been. For now, the little life growing inside me is all that matters. I need to be strong, not just for myself but for my baby. Because she/he deserve every love and care, even if it meant I had to do it all alone.

I would do my best to fulll those. To fulll everything.

My thoughts were interrupted when I heard soft steps entering the room, before a soft voice called me. I turned to see Hailey, my brother's mate, approaching me with a gentle smile on her lips.

"Good morning, Bella." She sat beside me. She's been calling me Bella as a sort of my nickname. Somehow, her presence had a calming and comforting feeling which was everything I needed now.

"How are you feeling?"

"I'm doing better," I replied to her softly, a smile hanging on my lips seeing the gentle and beautiful face that matched with her soul.

At least, the moon goddess gave such a wonderful mate to Raymond. They were such a match.

"I'm glad to hear that. You've been through so much." She reached out to hold my palm and I looked down, blinking.

"Somehow, I didn't expect to end up here. Everything just happened so fast." My thoughts were drifting to the three days I've spent here in the Bluemoon Pack. Everyone has been nothing but warm and welcoming, making me feel as if I originally belonged here.

"But I'm happy to nally meet my brother. To have met you guys."

Hailey pulled me into a hug, her hands gently caressing my back as if to comfort me.

"You're safe now, Bella. We'll take care of you."

LATER that day, Raymond came to nd me, and I took the opportunity to ask him about their pack's customs. Even though I've been staying here for a few days already, I in my room most of the time and only Hailey, Raymond, and some servants walked in to meet me.

"Our alpha is currently away for an emergency conference at the Council. He's been away for a week already, but he's aware that I've brought you in."

As he talked, I felt a growing sense of unease and nervousness, but then I took a deep breath, gathering my courage.

"Raymond, do you think I can stay here?"

"Of course, you can—" He suddenly stopped as if realizing something. "Wait, do you mean you want to stay here... for good?"

I nodded at him, nervous about the possibility of getting rejected. But all I heard was his laughter afterward.

"Of course, Bella. That's what I wanted in the rst place." He then smiled at me. "I was initially worried that you would want to leave. But now that you said that, I can't be happier."

"Hailey will be happy to hear this too. She's grown quite fond of you."

I chuckled softly, then started to speak again. "I want to stay here... But I also want to keep my identity a secret. I don't want anyone to know that I am the... former Luna of the Lunar Crescent Pack or that I'm Xavier's mate."

The words felt heavy as they left my mouth, but I found a new sense of relief through me after I managed to say that.

"I understand." Raymond's eyes softened with understanding. "We'll keep it between us. I promise you that. I'm really happy that you want to stay."

I smiled, relieved. His support meant everything to me, and I was grateful for that. But just as I was starting to feel at ease, a sudden, excruciating pain shot through my body.

It felt like something was tearing me apart from the inside. I gasped, clutching my chest and almost fell from my seat.

"Bella! What's wrong?!" Raymond rushed towards me. But I couldn't nd the strength to answer him at the moment.

It hurts all over...

"Call the pack healer!" I could also hear Hailey's voice as she arrived at the scene, but I was in so much pain that I barely kept my consciousness.

Within moments, I felt my body being carried up by Raymond before I was placed on a bed. Someone came assessing my body. I suppose it was the pack healer, Bethany.

"Bella, can you hear me?" I heard her ask urgently and I nodded.

"Do you have a mate?"

Her next question caught me off guard. But still, I nodded weakly with tears streaming down my face from the pain.

"The pain you're feeling is from the mate bond." She explained gravely. "We know that there are only two reasons this could happen: either your mate is in great distress or... he's with someone else."

Her words hit me like a truck. I froze on the bed, suddenly feeling numb despite still feeling the excruciating pain all over my limbs. But the fact that Xavier was probably with Sophia was almost unbearable.

I can't believe that he'd do this. I knew he loved her, but to feel this kind of betrayal, this tearing pain – made my heart break into millions of pieces. This was the only possibility why I was suffering like this. Xavier was strong and there was no way he could be injured.

"How could he do this to you?!" I could hear Raymond's fuming voice in the room before Hailey attempted to calm him down.

"Is there any way to make her feel better?"

"We can only wait until it stops." Bethany sighs.

Their worried exchange made me feel so small and pathetic. The pain, both physical and emotional, was too much to bear.

"Please," I barely managed to speak. "Leave me alone for a bit..."

Raymond and Hailey hesitated, but seconds later, I heard them sigh and nally left the room. As I heard the door close, I let the tears ow freely from my eyes.

My heart felt shattered. Everything was really over. I cried until I felt empty, the pillows soaked wet with my tears. My body was still suffering from great pain, but it couldn't compare to the huge ache in my heart.

The only thing that keeps me going is the life growing inside me.

It was the only thing to spark a tiny hope in me, while I was in a world that seemed so dark.