

His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 21 - Tips

I can't believe it.

Damian's lips are on mine, and he is kissing me so passionately, my breath can barely keep up. And yet, I want more. I respond to his kiss, my hands on his torso, my whole body on fire. His grip on my waist bring me even closer to him, actually sitting on his lap, and his fingers in my hair are making me crazy. I'm losing control. I need him like I need air, and I crave for more each second his lips are on mine.

It's not a sweet, innocent kiss. Damian is passionate, claiming his hold on me, wanting me. Our bodies entangle dangerously, and I can feel a wildfire igniting inside me. I'm... Gosh, I'm going insane. I didn't even know I could be so indecent, but here I am, responding to Damian's kiss with all my might. My clumsy hands are on his neck and on his bare torso. It's almost like my wolf has taken over. I'm so... reckless, and hot all over. The taste of his lips, his hard breathing, and his hands all over my body are driving me crazy.

All of a sudden, he stops our kiss, and he pushes me on the bed, holding my wrists down. We are both panting, looking into each other's eyes.

"Okay, stop, stop Nora. If we keep going..."

I nod. I know, I felt his wolf going crazy. I can barely hold mine, too. She might be ready, but I don't think I am. I mean... I'm not sure about it. I just know I feel like I went through Hell and Heaven altogether, but I know my wolf is also doing her share, too. She is so excited that I don't know how I feel myself anymore. I need a clear head, and for now, I'm just dizzy. I need to catch my breath. Gosh, I must be so red from blushing...

"Sorry, I..."

But I don't know what to say. Everything's so confusing right now. Damian leans on me and kisses me, a quick, innocent one this time.

"Stay there. You need to eat something now. I'll go get Tonia."

He could just use their mind-link to ask her, but we both know it's best to put some distance between us for now. He exits, or should I say escapes, the room quickly. I'm such a mess right now! I must be red from blushing, and I

can barely catch my breath. I sit up, adjusting Damian's t-shirt, and put my fingers in my hair to try and brush it roughly.

Oh my gosh, I can't believe what just happened. I feel like I just got off an emotional roller-coaster. My heart is beating like crazy, and my wolf is not acting any more decent either. I can't stop smiling. I'm happy I finally managed to get Damian to understand and trust me, but... I didn't expect what followed! I was so glad to show him my wolf form, but I couldn't possibly have imagined he would... k!ss me next!

"Nora?"

Tonia just came back, carrying a table tray. I feel so embarrassed facing her after what just happened, and I can't help but glance down. Oh gosh, I forgot I just had a t-shirt on! It's big enough to cover up to my th!ghs, but still! I go to grab a new outfit from one of the wardrobes and run to the bathroom, making Tonia laugh.

"Nora, I know where I've seen that t-shirt! You naughty girl!"

This is so embarrassing I could die.

I try to ignore her laughing while I get dressed up. I grabbed a blue denim skirt and a white top that actually match my taste. Once I'm a bit more decent, I take a look at myself in the mirror. My hair is a bit all over the place, and my cheeks are bright red, but it's not that bad.

When I exit the bathroom, I flee straight to the bed and stubbornly concentrate on my lunch to ignore Tonia's amused glances.

"Well, happy to see you feeling better, baby girl. Bobo was worried, too, you know."

At least she doesn't look like she will try to ask difficult questions.

I catch a bit more rest in the main room after eating. I am still tired from my hunger strike, after all, and Damian needs to go to work, anyway. He said goodbye with a surprisingly innocent and swift k!ss, but just remembering it makes me blush, too. Bobo volunteers to accompany my nap on the couch.

When I wake up again, it's dinner time. Bobo is snoring loudly at my feet, curled up like a giant, furry ball. I get up and join Tonia in the kitchen, but to my surprise, she is not alone.

Nathaniel smiles at me as soon as I come in, standing next to the counter. He is dressed in a formal shirt and dark jeans, his blonde hair shining like he just stepped out of some magazine. How can the Black brothers be so handsome, all three of them?

"Hello, princess. How are you feeling today?"

"Much better, thanks. Are you staying for dinner?" I ask as I walk over the counter to check what's left in the fridge.

"No, princess, I'm just dropping by. I was hoping we could talk a little."

I frown and close the fridge. What does Nathaniel want to talk about? He may be smiling, but I can tell he's actually pretty serious. I walk over and sit at the table next to him. Tonia brings us drinks, and I know she wants to listen, too.

"What do you want to talk about?"

"Remember you mentioned you wanted to work?"

I nod, intrigued. I did more than mention it, considering the argument I had with Damian that night, but I didn't think Nathaniel would be the one to bring that matter on the table again. But the second brother gives me a reassuring smile.

"Well, I've discussed this with Damian, and I wanted to know if you would be interested in working at my restaurant, La Rose Argentée. You could have a trial period there and see if you like it."

"Are you serious...?"

I'm so shocked, I can barely breathe. I can't believe Nathaniel is offering me a job! He laughs at my surprised expression.

"Yes, I am, Nora. I happen to be short on staff at the moment, and as we both know, my brother wants you somewhere we can watch you. My restaurant is

secure enough for that, and I know you have a knack for French cuisine; so isn't this perfect?"

"But, you've never seen me at work before! And to get such an offer..."

Even I have heard of that restaurant! Of course, I didn't know who it belonged to, but La Rose Argentée is famous for being one of the top, first-rate restaurants of Silver City. I only have experience as a waitress in a pub and cooking for a pack! But Nathaniel laughs at my confused expression.

"Don't worry, Nora. As I said, just give it a try! No pressure, princess, it's all up to you. You can take your time, and when you've made your decision, you'll give me your answer next week, okay?"

I nod, but I'm still going to need some time to process this. It's like having my dream job served on a plate! It feels too good to be true, and in a certain way, it is. But I know of Damian and his brothers' influence. It is not an exaggeration to say they own half of the city. Liam did mention his brother had several hotels and restaurants to manage. Finding me a spot in one of them probably was a piece of cake. But still, it is hard to believe how lucky I am! If I can make it, though. I really want to make the cut.

"Nora? There is something else we need to discuss."

He looks a bit more serious this time. He puts his hands before him, taking a thinking pose for a second, searching for his words. Then, he looks at me in the eye, not smiling for once.

"We are facing a... rather odd issue since we met you. Damian and I have been looking into the city records for a while, as we were trying to get to know more about you."

He means when they were searching for my Clan, I suppose. It is probably no surprise, either, that they can freely run through the city's classified documents to get information on someone. It must be as simple as walking in a library for them. But what would be the problem with my legal information? The city records mostly hold every citizen information, such as our birth date, the city of origin, and parents. The night creatures like werewolves also can access some particular information such as our family trees, the Moon Clans we are related to, and rank data through the city's records. But I don't see where there might be an issue on any of these.

Nathaniel frowns, and takes out several documents that I have never seen before.

“When you told us your name was Nora Bluemoon, we started looking for you. My brother knew your birth date, and I originally thought we would be able to discover your background information quite easily. But we didn’t.”

What? I don’t get it. How could they not find a single piece of information about me? I look at the documents scattered. Register of births from 1995 to 2003, list of family names established in Silver City since the eighteenth century, several Clans registers, and a few family trees with names similar to mine.

“What do you mean?” I ask, confused.

“That means there is absolutely no trace of your existence, nowhere, Nora. Legally, you have no records in any of these documents. You should be in at least half of them, but you are not. No girl named Nora was born in 2000 or any of the years around it. There is no family name like Bluemoon registered in Silver City, and you are not even mentioned as part of the Jade Moon Clan!”

I look at him, dumbfounded. How is that even possible? I have never lived anywhere else as far as I can remember, so how can this city be completely unaware of my existence? I check the documents he’s brought, trying to find some clue, anything to prove he’s wrong, but after a few minutes, I have to admit Nathaniel’s right.

I don’t appear anywhere.

“...How is that even possible?” I ask.

Nathaniel frowns.

“I’m not sure, princess. It seems like your existence has been concealed from the very first moment you were born.”

“But why would someone hide her birth?” Asks Tonia, perplexed.

I have no idea... The Jade Moon Clan was simply ignoring my existence so they could use me as a slave, and could have not been bothered about it. But

I should still have some legal existence somewhere, shouldn't I? If so, then what is this?

"...What about Alec?" I suddenly ask.

Nathaniel frowns.

"Isn't that your brother's name?"

"Yes. Alec was born in 1997, did you find any trace of him?"

"Not in the Jade Moon Clan's registers, but we can find him somewhere else..."

He grabs the 1997 births register, and we quickly go through it, when I finally spot him.

"Here! In October 3rd, Alec... Blackwood?"

That's the right birthdate and first name, but why is his last name different? It doesn't make sense. I know my last name! Bluemoon, Nora Bluemoon! I grab the 2000 births register, thinking I may have missed something. Maybe my name was misspelled, or I was registered as... Blackwood, like Alec. But after checking twice, still nothing. No name even remotely similar to Nora Bluemoon or even Nora Blackwood. There is a Luce Norwood, born in early October, and a Janice Bell in January, but those two are the closest I could find.

"Alec Blackwood," reads Nathaniel, who's still looking over the 1997 register. "Firstborn son of Stephen Blackwood and Alice Blackwood, born Alice Forst. It says your parents got married in June the same year."

I nod. Those are the names of my parents! So why am I not registered under their names like Alec? I can't believe it!

"Do you know of the Blackwood family?" I ask Tonia.

"There are a few Blackwoods, in the Gold Moon and Rising Moon Clans mostly. It's a rather common last name for werewolves."

Nathaniel and I both grab each Clan's register and start looking. I find it first and show them. My parents and brother are indeed in the Gold Moon's Clan register, along with a long line of ancestors.

“Do you remember living in this Pack?” Asks Nathaniel.

But I shake my head.

“No, I was too young. Our parents died when I was seven. I don’t remember much before that.”

The trauma of my parents’ death is still lingering somewhere in my mind, but I really don’t want to think about it now. All of this is unbelievable! How can I be totally omitted from all of those documents? Did my parents not record my birth? If we were part of the Gold Moon Clan, I should have been recorded like any of their pack’s children!

Nathaniel sighs, and grabs those documents back. He tries to give me a reassuring smile, but I’m really too confused right now.

“Don’t worry, princess, there must be a logical explanation. For now, let’s not focus on this, ok? I will try to look deeper into this. At least we now know your parents’ names, and we are still looking for your brother. Maybe he will be able to help you understand some parts of your story you didn’t know about.”

I nod, but I still don’t know what to believe about Alec. I didn’t mention to anyone yet that my brother tried to sell me to Marcus. I don’t know what Liam actually understood from my conversation with Liz, but for now, Nathaniel and Damian don’t seem to know about it, and I think it might be best to keep it that way until we find Alec. He is still my brother, after all. I hope he is still in the area and we can actually discuss things.

I get up, trying to process everything that just happened, and Tonia and Nathaniel are thoughtful enough to give me a moment. They start chatting about trivial matters, making it obvious they are changing the topic on purpose.

I make myself some herbal tea, trying to calm myself.

“Nora? I still have one more thing to discuss with you, princess.”

I come back to Nathaniel, my cup in one hand, and he smiles as I sit facing him again. Tonia gets behind me and starts braiding my hair for some reason.

“About?”

“The Jade Moon Clan.”

I had forgotten about that matter. Nathaniel did leave them with an unambiguous warning, and summoned Vincent as the Alpha for a fight in five... No, four days now? This is going to be serious. People from other Clans might even come and watch, and our turf is exceptionally well located, and thus, envied by others.

“You challenged Vincent for the Alpha position. Are you going to fight him yourself? Do you really want to take over our Clan?” I ask.

He has an intriguing smile for a second, and looks at me with a mysterious expression. What is he thinking now?

“No, Nora. I was thinking you would fight this Alpha to take over the Jade Moon Clan.”

.... Excuse me?

His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 22 - Tips

I keep punching, aiming right at the targets like Tonia told me. I'm sweating like crazy, as I have been at it for two hours now. But I'm genuinely feeling great. I finally got back to the gym, and I really missed our morning workout sessions. She lets me hit a couple more times the target, encouraging me all along. When we finally stop, I'm panting.

“You're doing great, baby girl!”

“I still feel this is never going to be enough, Tonia. Nathaniel is crazy.”

She rolls her eyes and helps me take off the gloves. We are both wearing dark workout outfits, but that makes the difference between us all the more visible. Tonia is one head taller than me, and she shows a lot more muscles under her tan skin. Even if I did gain a few new pounds and can now last longer at training, I still feel like I'm lacking and weak. How am I supposed to defeat a grown man, an Alpha to boot?

“No, it will be enough. It's all in the head, baby girl. What you need is to work on is your willpower, and to avoid being hurt.”

Here we go. They both have this crazy theory that I would have some Alpha potential, enough to be able to make Vincent submit. I know he is not the strongest Alpha around, but still, I'm just a teenage girl who's only known how to take a hit before! I shake my head.

"Tonia, you overestimate me. I can only stand Damian's gaze because he is my mate, not because I can actually dominate an Alpha!"

"Not only the Boss, Nora. Do you realize you've done it with all the Alphas you know? Even Liam asked about it. None of his friends can talk back to him like you did. I couldn't, and my family is pretty strong! But we are wolves, and wolves stick to their ranks. And I tell you, your wolf should never have submitted to that pathetic guy in the first place."

I feel a growl inside. My wolf agrees with her. She never wants to submit again, and she's quite angry about it. What, you've been hiding for years, and now you're ready to go all claws out against Vincent? I sigh. The new mystery about my birth that unexpectedly arose since Nathaniel came has me thinking a lot, too. I remember my parents. I know I looked a lot like my dad, and he loved me lots. My mother, on the contrary, was more distant, and Alec took mostly after her. They fought a lot, even if I don't much remember what it was about. While thinking it over last night, I remembered something Alec said: "Whose fault is it that I am an orphan?"

What could he mean by that? We both lost our parents in the most tragic way. I still remember that day vividly, but Moon Goddess, I don't want to reminisce. I've already lost most of my childhood memories because of that memory... But because of that, I can't remember meeting Damian, either.

I haven't seen him since our kiss yesterday, but I understand he's working. I called him this morning to thank him for the job at Nathaniel's restaurant, and let him know I was feeling a lot better now. It felt great, being able to communicate normally with him, though I blushed the entire call. He even said I should go out shopping with Tonia. I feel like they have something planned, but I don't mind.

When we go back to the apartment, I take a well-deserved shower, as usual, and take my time dressing up for once, since we are going out. We're now at the end of November, so I go for white pants, a pretty cobalt blue sweater, and some brown leather heels. I'm still inspecting myself in the mirror, unsure about my choice when Tonia comes in. She is wearing her black leather

pants, an assorted jacket, and a sexy white top with only one strap. She whistles when she sees me.

“Hello, baby girl,” she says with a playful smile. “Damn, I wish I was as thin as you, you look like some princess from a fairy tale! Oh wait, you need some accessories. Let me pick some for you.”

“I look like a fragile child,” I sigh while putting on the silver earrings and bracelets she gives me.

I’ve always hated my thin and small build. Maybe it’s from malnutrition, but I’ve always been one of those petite, slender girls. I wish I had some more curves and muscles like Tonia. Damian looks so tall next to me! Thinking about his build makes me reminisce the touch of his hands on me... I get a hot shiver. It still seems so unbelievable. Damian always treats me like I’m some precious flower, yet when I look in the mirror, all I see is this horrendous scar on my face...

“Nora?”

Tonia is looking at me, worried. I unconsciously brought my finger to touch my scar, following the long red thread, running from my right eyebrow to my jaw.

“Sorry, I was thinking.”

“Your scar... You never talk about it. How did you get it?” She asks while sitting on my bed.

What do I say? An accident? It was not precisely an accident... I bite my lip, trying to look for some explanation that won’t leave her too shocked. I really don’t want to get into the details, but I don’t want to lie to Tonia again, either.

“It was some sort of... domestic incident, I guess? With a knife. But that’s from when I was very young. But I don’t want to talk about it, Tonia, sorry.”

She nods, still frowning. But I don’t want to talk about this memory. Not now and not here. I put on a smile, and grab a coat.

We head outside, with Bobo following us as usual. I’m starting to wonder if I will ever see him in his human form at all. The elevator takes us to an underground garage, and Tonia heads for a black SUV that looks brand new.

Bobo jumps on the back seat while Tonia and I take the front, and she starts driving out.

I'm so happy to go outside again! I aim to open my window, but Tonia closes it as soon as I do.

"No, no, baby Girl. Too dangerous."

I frown. Why can't I open the window? It's not like some sniper is after me! I pout, but I don't want to argue with Tonia when we just barely exited the building. Now that I think about it, the car does seem to have tinted windows. They are not kidding about my security... It's almost like I can see Damian's shadow surrounding us.

"Tonia?"

"Hm?"

"What is Damian's job exactly?"

She thinks for a while before answering me. She looks so severe while driving, but she put on some aviator glasses and rock music on the stereo, which also makes her look totally cool.

"Basically, a businessman. The Boss runs the Black Group along with his brother Nathaniel, so that includes a few companies. He is the CEO and main owner, so he has to show up to meetings every now and then. He's really good, but he hates going to those and always says they don't need him. He sends our brother, Neal, to replace him sometimes, but according to him, they all go crazy when the Boss is not there."

"Is that why you always call him Boss?"

She laughs at my question and plays with her ring while waiting for the light to go green.

"Sort of. It's Bobo who started, actually. Since we are werewolves, there are always big internal struggles with the money, deeds, and who gets more power and stuff. It's like a Mafia, and the Boss certainly works that way. He never forgives anyone who oversteps their boundaries or tries to double-cross him. He has them all shaking whenever he enters a room. Thanks to that, it's going smoothly, but trust me, some guys can never sleep well."

This doesn't come as a surprise to me. Saying that it works like a Mafia doesn't only apply to Damian's group, but all the packs as well. It's all about power between werewolves. We learn to respect and submit to the strongest, and fight to survive. The wars for territory are no joke. Some packs are known to be more peaceful than others, but no one wants to step a foot on the wrong turf.

Considering this, the Blood Moon Pack needs just as many assets to strengthen its power over Silver City. Being a strong wolf means nothing if you have to beg others for money, or don't have a proper place to let your pack live in. But from what I've seen so far, Damian doesn't have this kind of problem... I wonder how and when he got that powerful.

Tania finally parks in front of a colossal shopping mall I've never seen before. She is smiling so brightly it's almost blinding.

"Here we go! Shopping time!"

Bobo lets out a low growl, and I'm pretty sure he's not as enthusiastic as his sister.

And I soon understand why. It was nice for the five or six first shops we visited. Tonia loves to try lots of different things, dress me up like a doll, and run around to see what she might have missed. Her shopping technique is a bit scary, as I've never seen someone pick out clothes so fast. And only brands too! I feel a bit shy standing in the middle of such high-class items, but Tonia clearly is used to it. I wonder how she gets the money to pay for all that, though she only buys one-tenth of everything she tries. I try to keep her from buying me things, too, as my wardrobes are already full, but she doesn't care. She even buys some clothes for her brothers. When we are exit our tenth shop, I'm carrying more shopping bags than decent, and my feet are killing me. I have to beg Tonia for mercy.

"Tonia, I'm just going to grab something to drink. Can you meet us at the café we saw upstairs earlier?"

"Sure, sure. But stay with Bobo!" She says while looking into a pair of jeans.

"Promise."

The big wolf is only too happy to accompany me to the third floor and escape his sister's shopping marathon. We walk away side by side and, once again, I

wonder how come nobody says anything about the enormous beast walking around in broad daylight.

We find a table in a corner, and Bobo hops on the bench. I order two lemonades since I've seen him drink some at home. Gosh, I'm so tired! I don't know how Tonia can run around on her heels all day.

The mall is actually not so crowded. It's a Tuesday, after all, so no surprise there. I like this place, it's all white, rather neat, and clean without being too pompous. There are three floors, the two upper ones being open so we can see downstairs. I like to look around to watch what people are doing. It's mostly early Christmas shoppers, I would say. December is already starting next week, after all.

I wonder if I should get a Christmas present for Damian... The only person I got a gift for each year was Alec, but he always rejected it. Even if I couldn't take part in the party, I liked Christmas with the Jade Moon Clan a bit. Mostly because I could spend all day in the kitchen to prepare the Christmas dinner.

But what should I get him? He must be so rich, and I have yet to make any money! Damian owns buildings, companies... What could I possibly offer him that he can't get himself?

While I'm lost in thoughts, I suddenly get a chill. My wolf starts growling, and I instinctively get on my guard, too. I feel like someone's observing me. I look around, but aside from us, the café barely has more than a couple of customers. I still can't shake off this uneasy feeling. Something's off.

"Bobo?"

He has started growling, too, and steps back until he's against my leg, in a defensive position. We wait, looking all around to understand what's going on, but for a while, nothing happens. The uneasy feeling gradually disappears, and after a couple of minutes, I see Tonia running towards us.

"Nora! What's wrong? Bobo said something was happening!"

"I don't know. I feel like someone was watching me. I'm not sure, and we saw no one." I answer while looking nervously around me.

Tonia looks all around us, too, but everything seems normal. I'm sure someone was staring at me, and it gave me the creeps. My wolf instincts don't lie.

"Whatever it was, it's gone... But I don't like this. If someone's watching you, that's no good, Nora."

"Could it be someone else Damian sent to protect me?"

But Tonia shakes her head.

"No. He only trusts Bobo and me for your security. He would have told me if anyone else was supposed to watch you. And Bobo didn't pick up any familiar scent either; it's definitely not someone from our pack."

She sits, still on her guard. But I think whoever it was is gone... Tonia then grabs one of the bags and gives it to me. I frown while opening it, and turns out it contains a small box wrapped with a Christmas-themed paper. She gives me a smile.

"Sorry, it's for your birthday, but they only had this kind of wrapping. An early birthday present, though you should have had one sooner."

I open the present, curious to know what it is. It's a brand-new smartphone! I know this Korean brand, and it's the latest model, too! Tonia even picked a white case and some very girly and shiny stickers so I can decorate it. It's already on and unlocked, and in the contacts, she already put her number, as well as Damian's.

Without warning, I can't help but let out a few tears.

"Nora! What's wrong, baby girl, why are you crying? Don't you like it? Should I have picked a different model? Or is it the color?"

She is so panicked about my tears that I can't help but laugh at her questions. I wipe out my tears to answer, a bit embarrassed to be crying in public.

"No, no, Tonia, it's awesome, really. I... I just... I haven't received a present in a while. It's been years, so I'm really touched. Thank you so much."

"Oh Nora, you are so cute..."

She comes and gives me a h.ug. I really am sincerely touched. Back in the Jade Moon Clan, nobody cared about my birthday—most of them didn't even know when that was. Even Alec gradually forgot about it, since he didn't care anyway.

Tonia orders a coffee and takes her time showing me how it works since it's my first time using one. Her phone is the same as mine, except that she chose the gold model and even put small diamond stickers all over it. Tonia explains the most basic features to me but suggests I get a mailbox and some games on it later. Apparently, she uses her own phone a lot.

“Does Bobo have a phone?”

She nods and takes a second phone out of one of her jacket inner pockets, a black one. This one is an older version and looks used.

“I keep it for him most of the time. He doesn't like using it too much anyway, except for listening to music. He loves Latino stuff, like reggaeton.”

“Really?”

It's funny to imagine that this big, lazy, and aloof wolf loves dancing music! Tonia nods with a smile while petting her brother's fluffy ears. I noticed Bobo really loves to be pet, like a house dog.

“You should see him dancing! It's the only time he doesn't want to sleep. Put the big boy on a dancefloor, and he becomes a real k!!ler. We will take you out dancing someday!”

“I want to see that someday, Bobo!”

We laugh a bit, but then I focus again on the smartphone. Tonia shows me a few more things, and I think I understand quickly enough how it works. She lets me use it for a while as she drinks her coffee, and I even download and try a cooking game for a bit.

“Okay, enough playing Nora. How about trying to make a call?”

Her smile speaks volumes about who I should try to call, and I blush immediately. To call Damian? Out of the blue? What am I supposed to tell him?! What if he is busy? I ponder for a while, but I really do want to try calling him. Okay, but if I'm to call him, I need some intimacy! I get up and exit the

café to stand in the hall, and Tonia and Bobo can still clearly see me from the glass wall, as I'm barely a few steps away.

I try to ignore the fact that Bobo will probably be able to hear me since he is in his wolf form, and I call Damian. It rings for a while, and I wonder if he might be busy, like in a meeting or something. But all of sudden, someone picks up.

"Who is this?"

I frown. It's a masculine voice, but not Damian's. I don't think it's Nathaniel either, and I don't recognize that tone at all. Did Tonia put the wrong number?

"Hum, hello, is this Damian... I mean, mister Black's phone?" I mumble, confused.

"It is. I asked who are you?"

"Oh, sorry, it's Nora, Nora Bluemoon."

"Nora? Oh, sorry; wait a second."

His tone changed completely as soon as he heard my name! I hear someone immediately pick up the phone, and this time, I hear Damian's voice.

"Nora?"

"Damian! Hi... Sorry, I... Tonia got me this new phone, and I wanted to try calling you. Are you busy?"

Gosh, I'm sure I'm so red right now. Calm down, Nora, calm down.

"No, no, it's okay, sorry about that. Neal usually answers when it's an unknown number. I'll be sure to save it for next time. How are you? Everything okay?"

Oh, so that voice was Bobo and Tonia's older brother! I forgot he was Damian's Beta. What's with him and having others answer his phone, anyway? Last time it was Nathaniel, too. So intimidating!

"Yes, yes, I'm fine. Tonia took me to this really big mall today, so we are out shopping. It's nice to go out. Oh, but Bobo is with us, so don't worry."

"I know, Tonia texted me. Did you find anything you like?"

“A few things, yes. Tonia is good at choosing for me; actually, I don’t know how she can pick so many clothes so fast!”

“You should choose things you like, too, Nora. Don’t let Tonia do it all for you.”

“I choose a few things... But I... I don’t really have any money yet, so....”

“Who cares? I own this mall. Pick whatever you like, Nora.”

Ohm Moon Goddess. Of course, he owns this mall, too... That’s probably why Tonia picked this one in the first place. For some reason, I feel so embarrassed now. I blush and nod, before remembering he can’t see me. Let’s just change the topic.

“...Are you at work?”

I hear a sigh on his end.

“I am. Getting ready for a meeting.”

“Tonia told me you... scare your associates.”

“I do. People work faster and better when they think I will kick their a.sses if they don’t.”

I chuckle a bit. We both stay silent for a while, and I find myself brushing my hair with my fingers absent-mindedly.

“...I love to hear your voice.” He suddenly says, making me blush

“I love to hear yours, too,” I whisper, embarrassed. “When can I see you again?”

“I’m busy with work, for now, since I missed a lot recently... And Neal is glaring at me right now, so I guess it will be hard to take some time off. But you can call me anytime.”

“Okay, I’ll do that, then.”

“I gotta go. I’ll call you later.”

He hangs up, and I can't help but feel a little bit disappointed. I know he is busy with work, but still. I feel like we only talked for, like, two seconds. I bite my lip.

While I was about to go back inside the café, my eyes suddenly catch a movement in the corner. I turn around, and I see him. He is wearing a black cap and a large jacket. He is looking straight at me from across the hall.

Alec.

His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 23 - Tips

I can't believe my own eyes. He looks thinner and messy, but it's definitely my brother, Alec. And he is staring at me, too. What is he doing here, of all places? Is he looking for me? What do I do? He doesn't look like he wants to approach me. More like... He is glaring at me.

I run back into the store, panicked.

"Bobo, Tonia, my brother's here!"

Both of them jump on their feet and follow me outside. But Alec isn't in sight anymore. I run to the place I spotted him, but there is no one. Damn! Where did he go now? I look down to Bobo.

"Did you pick up his scent?"

"He's not sure. There are too many different smells, it's a public place after all... Nora, are you sure it was your brother?"

"A hundred percent sure. He was definitely standing there, and he saw me, too, he was watching me."

"You think he was the one watching you earlier?"

I would not be too sure about that. The feeling was... Different. I shake my head, looking at Bobo who is still inspecting every inch of the floor. Tonia asks me how he was dressed, and picks up her phone to give out orders. She is sending out people to look for Alec, but I can't help but feel nervous. I keep looking around, hoping to spot him somewhere among the crowd. I don't like the way he was looking at me, so full of hatred... Even worse than before.

I shiver, and it has nothing to do with the temperature. Bobo notices it, and comes to lean against me. My wolf tells me he means it's okay, not to worry. I just nod, too anxious to speak. Why do I feel so nervous all of sudden? I don't like this situation. Something's off.

"Nora? You okay?"

Tonia comes to put a hand on my shoulder, but I shake my head.

"I want to go home. Now." I just say while staring where Alec stood

"Okay. Let's get back to the parking lot, then."

I don't say a word for the whole trip back. I know Tonia keeps glancing at me, but I ignore it. I just feel anxious for some reason, and I can't shake this weird feeling off. I really wish Damian was here. I'm nervously playing with my phone, but I can't bring myself to call him. I know he's busy, and I don't want to bother him for something so trivial. Maybe it's just me being paranoid.

Once we are back at the apartment, Bobo is stuck to me. I know he is trying to reassure me, and I'm thankful for that. For a second, I wonder what to do, but I decided to go change into one of my gym outfits and grab my boxing gloves from my room. Without asking Tonia anything, I just head to the gym upstairs, with Bobo following me, as usual.

I don't like this feeling. I try to punch it off on the sandbags, irritated. What is Alec planning? He clearly wanted me to see him, so what now? I never know where to stand with my brother... Alec has never acted like a sibling to me. He was the worst back when we were still in the pack, and he showed no remorse hitting me. Yet I could never completely resent him. Because he is my brother, and because what happened to our parents messed him up a lot. Maybe I was blinded all along.

I remember the last time I saw him. He was ready to let Marcus r**e me, and to k!!! me. I'm sure he would have if Bobo and Tonia hadn't intervened. I throw a couple more punches, with all my strength. What is wrong with him? Why does he hate me so much? I feel like I'm missing something here.

But I can't let it go anymore. I need to settle things with my brother for real. For good.

I keep the punches coming and even fail to notice Tonia entering the gym. I only realize she's there when she starts talking.

"I see someone needed to blow off some steam."

"Did you find him?" I ask, panting.

She shakes her head, and bring me a few black-and-white pictures. I take off my gloves to look at it while she puts my hair into a ponytail.

"The surveillance cameras caught him at the west entrance of the mall, but that's all we could gather. What do you want to do?"

This is the first time she is asking for my decision. I take a while to think, but I already know what should be done. I give her back the pictures.

"Find him. I need to talk to my brother, seriously. You have his full name, and we know he's still in town. Without a Clan, I doubt he would go anywhere on other Clans' turfs, and I think he is watching me. He's probably somewhere in the Blood Moon Clan's territory."

My wolf agrees with me, though she wants to go find him herself. But that would be reckless, and I promised Damian I wouldn't do anything dangerous. And somehow, I feel Alec is up to no good following me. But I just can't leave it like that. Tonia nods with a big smile.

"Now that's an Alpha talking!"

I roll my eyes. Since we discovered this whole mystery about my secret birth, Tonia and Nathaniel have been going on about my hypothetical Alpha genes whenever they get an opportunity. I don't really want to have to think too deeply about it. This whole matter about my non-recorded existence is already enough of a headache as it is. But, as a matter of fact, I also believe my brother may be able to enlighten me about that. All the more reasons to get ahold of him.

A couple more days pass, but no sign of Alec.

It's nerve-wracking. I try to chase my worries away by keeping myself busy, switching between my studies and workout sessions, but it's no use. We still can't confirm his location, and I have no idea what he wants. Moreover, I wish

I could ask him some questions, about our parents and the mystery surrounding me.

Damian barely has any time to call me at all. Seems like he really is as busy as Tonia said because I can only manage to have him on the phone a few minutes a day. Apparently, they are about to reach an agreement with the Rising Moon Clan, but that makes the neighboring packs uneasy, and thus, some conflicts are bound to rise.

“My brother said you had made your decision,” says Damien.

“Yes. I’m not really sure this is a good idea yet, but... maybe it’s worth trying. I need to end things once and for all with the Jade Moon Clan.”

I’m sitting on the couch, brushing my hair with my fingers while holding up the phone. It’s almost midnight, and Bobo is sleeping like a baby against my legs. Damian sounds dead tired, yet he gave me a call, as promised.

“You can do it, Nora. Put that scum back into his place or I’ll come and do it for you.”

I can’t help but smile. I’ve noticed Damian is less polite when he is tired.

“I’ll do my best.”

“We’re still looking for your brother. He really knows how to stay under the radar. Nathaniel even gave the word to our allies, but no one has spotted him yet.”

I have been thinking about this matter a lot. Recently, I had an idea about how to get ahold of Alec, but I’m not sure this will work.

“Damian, I think I know when we can catch him. But I’m going to need help.”

“Tell me.”

“I think he will be there at the duel against Vincent. Alec is rancorous. Peter and Vincent banished him, so I’m sure he will want to be there to see the Alpha being demoted. He will definitely find a way to see the fight, and that’s when we will have a chance to catch him.”

“We can have people watching the grounds. Two days is more than enough to gather them; I’ll ask Nathaniel to take care of it.”

I leave out a sigh. Why do I feel this will be our last chance to catch my brother? If he has been watching me recently, why is he staying away? Does he already know my connection to the Blood Moon Clan? I haven't told anyone that Alec was the one who tried to strangle me that night, and I'm not sure if I should say it. Damian might seriously kill him if he knows...

We discuss a bit longer about what preparations should be made to be sure to catch Alec, but I still feel uneasy. What if we do catch him?

"Damian, can you promise me something?"

"What is it?"

"When we catch Alec... I want you to promise me you won't attack him."

"Nora, what is this about?"

I know he suspects something. He probably wonders why I would be worried about him hurting Alec, but I can't possibly tell him the truth. However, I can't be sure that Alec won't talk and spill the beans. Moreover, Alec is always so harsh while talking to me, and Damian is not the most patient person...

"Just promise me, please."

He stays silent for a while.

"...Okay, I promise."

That's one last thing to worry about, at least. I sigh, tired by all the anxiousness. I rest my head on the sofa and close my eyes for a second.

"I miss you," I whisper.

"...Same here."

"I wish I could see you right now."

"Same here."

I chuckle a bit. He really is tired.

"Are you just going to keep saying that?"

He stays silent for a while, and I'm thinking we should hang up to both catch some sleep, but I hear his voice before I can talk.

"...I want to come all the way over there and k!ss you again."

I blush, embarrassed, and hide my face with my hair even though he can't see me.

"...Same." I whisper.

The next day was the last one before the duel against Vincent.

To be honest, I was not as worried over the duel as I was about Alec's matter. It felt like my brother held all the answers I was looking for, and I was worried we might miss him again. Even the siblings felt my anxiety and stayed next to me all day. Tonia even trained me for a few hours, though it didn't help me blow off all the steam.

However, when we got back to the apartment, to my surprise, both Nathaniel and Liam were there. As elegant as ever, Nathaniel was simply standing still in the kitchen while discussing with his younger brother. Liam, however, was lazily lying on the couch and just sat up as I entered the room. He casually waved at me.

"Hello, princess," says Nathaniel.

"What are you both doing here?" I asked, worried.

The two of them coming to the apartment didn't seem like a simple, friendly visit. And I know I can't trust Nathaniel's smiling face. Liam rolls his eyes and leans on the couch, leaving the explanation to his older brother.

"We just wanted to come and see you before the duel. How do you feel?"

"I'm fine," I answer honestly.

It's true. Since I've been living away from my Clan for a whole month, Vincent doesn't seem as threatening as he once was. I'm not exactly overconfident in my fighting abilities, given that I have only shape-shifted a couple of times before, but I don't intend to hold back and act scared either. It's just wishing for that matter to be settled for good.

“Good! Well, Liam and I will be there tomorrow, as well. Damian wants to make sure his princess doesn’t run into some... unnecessary trouble.”

He means if the Jade Moon Clan attacks me. They could try to hurt me before the duel, or even find someone else to challenge me if I win over Vincent. Moreover, during a fight for the Alpha Position, a Clan is usually weakened, making it easier for Rogues and other packs to launch an attack. However, none of the local packs would dare to do such a thing if the Blood Moon Clan is there. And with Liam and Nathaniel present, the Jade Moon pack members will have no choice but to acknowledge whatever is the duel’s result.

“Thank you. Did you talk to Damian?”

I’m sure the two of them already discussed the matter of Alec. Nathaniel nods with a smile.

“Yes. Don’t worry. We will prepare accordingly to be sure to catch him.”

“Just focus on your duel, Nora. Trust me, my hunters won’t miss your brother,” adds Liam.

I feel better knowing the Black brothers will be there. As expected, Damian most likely won’t be able to come, but I know I can trust these two. Even if no one from the Jade Moon Clan will be on my side, they will.

“What of Marcus Sickels?” I ask.

That is a matter that no one dared to bring back on the table for a while, but I need to ask. I’m sure Nathaniel was on it, and I need to know if there is a chance he will show up, too. But he just shakes his head.

“Still no trace, sorry princess. We are still looking into it.”

If I stabbed him, he couldn’t have gotten very far without help. And I remember how much blood there was, it was no light wound!

No, for now, I should just focus on the upcoming duel with Vincent. While I go to sit on the couch next to Liam, Nathaniel keeps talking.

“Your birth matter is still a blur. Your parents were indeed part of the Gold Moon Clan, both of them. It’s not a pack we are on good terms with, but I still managed to get some information. Apparently, the Blackwoods got married in

their mid-twenties after your mother got pregnant with your older brother, and moved in together to start their family. It seems like they estranged themselves from their Clan's matters after that, but more importantly, no one remembers them having a daughter."

To be honest, I don't remember living among a Clan before the Jade Moon, either. But it is not totally uncommon for young couples to detach themselves from the matters of their pack to focus on their family. Especially those with young pups.

"What happened to them, then?" Suddenly asks Liam.

All eyes converge on me. Of course. I bet Nathaniel already knows, if he was looking into it. He probably already told Damian about his findings, too. But now that Liam is asking me, and with the siblings present, I can't really hide it anymore. I really don't want to say too much, and my memory isn't too good either. I might as well keep it to what Nathaniel should know, as it is all in the police report.

I take a deep breath, and answer with all the composure I can gather.

"They died. About ten years ago. When I was seven, my... my mother killed my father and then took her own life."

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Liam and the siblings look at me, dumbfounded. Only Nathaniel acts very calmly, going to the kitchen to grab drinks for everyone. Liam is the first one to react after a minute of heavy silence.

"Wait, what?"

"It's as I said. Our mother was... mentally unstable. She was often depressed or anxious. She had been ill for a few months before it happened, and she had a sort of... crisis. She went mad and... aggressive. She stabbed my father."

"The police report did mention that Alice Blackwood was under serious medication for her mental health."

I just nod. I really don't feel like reminiscing any further, so I'm not going to give any detail. This is the darkest memory of my seven-year-old self, and I

don't want to linger on it any more than necessary. It seems like Nathaniel already dug up all that there was. Liam seems about to ask something again, but he is kept from it by a click of the tongue from his brother.

I take a cup of tea Nathaniel prepared and drink from it, letting everyone stay silent for a while. Bobo and Tonia are looking at me, but I don't want to seem pitiful. Liam, however, is frowning with an odd expression.

"What's with your last name, then? You told us you were named Bluemoon. Isn't that odd you don't even remember being called Blackwood at all? What about your brother? Did you guys never used either name at all?"

"I never had to. Since Vincent picked us up, I... I spent my all life in the main house. I never had to do any official documents; I just assumed everything already was in order, or that Vincent or Peter took care of it for us. Before Nathaniel brought it up, I never imagined there was absolutely nothing about me!"

"What about the school, then?"

I shook my head.

"I never went to school. The pack just gave me tasks, one after another, and no one ever brought it up. I knew how to read and write, that was enough. I just studied whatever books were in the basement with me."

They look at me, clearly shocked.

I remember spending hours reading old books no one wanted over and over again, like *Wuthering Heights*, *Metamorphoses*, or *Hamlet*. *Treasures of Literature* with beautiful covers, yet no one ever looked at them. No one cared for the dusty, massive bookshelves since screens and video games were available upstairs. There were also full collections encyclopedias and dictionaries, and I just read them all to complete my vocabulary. I would even pick up history books when I was bored or couldn't get to sleep.

"...Lucky you." Mumbled Liam, but Nathaniel gave him a tap behind the head

I can't help but chuckle over his grumpy teenager face. I wonder if Liam skips school often. It feels like his brothers are keeping a close watch on him, and I can't help but feel a hint of jealousy. But Nathaniel soon turns to me.

“I can’t believe they didn’t even bother to send you to school... It is intriguing, however, how the Jade Moon Clan also never cared about your legal existence at all. I wonder if they know anything about your origin.”

“I doubt it... Vincent found us in the streets. I guess he was only too happy to find a useful pair of orphans.”

“But he never treated your brother like you?”

I brush my hair with my fingers, absentmindedly, trying to remember our first days with the Jade Moon pack.

“A bit, at first... But Alec just imposed all his chores onto me and seeing I never complained, Vince didn’t really care. My brother blended more easily into the Clan, I guess. Vincent scolded him once, and Alec tried running away. He couldn’t get past the warriors, but after that, Vincent officially admitted us into the Clan so we wouldn’t escape anymore. Alec was ecstatic to have joined the Clan, and I... I was compliant, so that was it.”

Liam growls, visibly pissed.

“I can’t believe you submitted to such a weak Alpha... You should have just let me k!!! him the other day, Nate.”

But his brother shakes his head.

“Don’t be so reckless, Liam. After all, Nora needs to get back at him for all she endured. Let her give him what he deserves herself.”

“You better kick his a*s tomorrow!” Says Liam.

I’m definitely not as enthusiastic as he is. They are all eager to see me get my revenge, but that’s not my state of mind at the moment. Sure, I have past grievances over Vincent, but I don’t have that thing for revenge. I just want to settle things once and for all, and sever my ties to the Jade Moon.

My main objective will be to get ahold of Alec. I really do hope we can catch him tomorrow, as planned. The brothers didn’t really tell me what kind of preparations they have made, but it mostly must be asking a lot of people to chase after my brother once he shows up. The more I think about it, the more I’m convinced he will. I just hope I’m not wrong.

“Nora, are you still okay with beginning next Monday?”

I look at Nathaniel. That’s right. I told him I would accept the job. I may not be confident, but I do need a job, and I have to give it a try.

“Ah, yes. Do I need to do anything specific?”

“No, not really. Liam will come and pick you up to bring you there. For the first day, it’s okay if you just stay close to Sofia, the manager, and watch how everyone works.”

“All right, then.”

After discussing some more, Liam and Nathaniel actually stay over for dinner. Since my future boss was here, I did my best cooking, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Liam insisted on giving me pieces of advice about the fight, making me curious about how experimental he could be. For a high-schooler, he does seem prone to fights. Apparently, he’s also taking boxing classes weekly, and was happy to discuss it with me. Obviously, Liam is the most hot-bl00ded of the three, while Nathaniel always seems h.ugely calm and rational. He stayed quiet for most of the dinner, but I did notice he spent a lot of time texting on his phone. The second brother’s face never shows what he is really thinking. He smiles easily and can appear quite charming and polite. However, I won’t forget how he was definitely the scariest one back when facing Vincent.

How can I be worried when I know those two will have my back tomorrow? As I go to bed, I look blankly at my phone’s screen, wondering if I should call Damian or not. Nathaniel did mention he was busy, and... Well, he knows what is waiting for me.

I wake up early.

The only one who is up before me is Liam, who’s having breakfast alone in the kitchen. I salute him when entering.

“Did you have a good sleep?”

“How could I? Bobo snores like a pig.” He growls. “I have no idea how you can get any sleep with him in the same room!”

I can’t help but chuckle as I grab the tea.

“I’m used to sleeping with a lot of noise. The basement I was living in was directly under the recreation room, and there was always someone to watch TV or make noise until really late. I had to get used to it. And Bobo’s snoring isn’t that bad.”

He looks at me like I’m some alien, but I ignore him and sip on my cup of tea. We both stay silent for a while. He is on his phone playing a game, and I’m just watching the sunrise behind the glass wall.

“Nate is on his way.” Says Liam out of the blue

“He didn’t sleep here?”

They explained to me last night that the apartment downstairs was actually one of Nathaniel’s places. He didn’t sleep there often unless he had to work until late in one of the close restaurants, so Liam would use it every now and then.

He shakes his head.

“No, he slept with one of his women.”

So, Nathaniel is a player... You really can’t judge a book by its cover.

“I thought he had a mate already...”

I didn’t really intend to say it out loud, but Liam did hear me. He just shrugs.

“He had one. An older woman. But she was already married, and he was a nobody then. It was before brother took over the Clan. Nathaniel didn’t really have anything, and that woman was with a rich guy, with the dream house and everything. She said he wasn’t worth the trouble, and rejected him.”

What? How heartless! I bite my lip, feeling bad for Nathaniel. How did he endure such a rejection? I can’t imagine how I would have felt if Damian had rejected me... I suddenly feel something fluffy on my legs and realize Bobo is up. He casually walks past me to put his head in the fridge.

“Don’t tell him I told you, okay? He doesn’t like people talking about it. And he’s over it now; it’s been years.”

I nod and take a new sip. Being a player now doesn’t necessarily mean he forgot what happened... I feel bad for Nathaniel all of sudden. Now I

understand better why he's the type to hide his emotions. What a heartless woman! I feel angry just thinking about it.

After everyone woke up and had breakfast without rush, I head back to my room to dress up. Knowing what day it will be, I choose a comfy and sporty outfit. I will shapeshift and get dirty, no need to pretty up today. I put my hair up in a ponytail, and pick a tank top and large pants. I choose a dark sweater, and Tonia gives me a pair of sneakers, easy to take off.

I want to go upstairs and train some more, but Tonia keeps me from it, saying I should save my energy for tonight. But I don't want to do anything either. It's actually Liam who ends up spending most of his day keeping me company. He brought his school backpack, and for some reason, we ended up studying together for most of the afternoon. Solving exercises and writing lessons had the benefit of keeping me too busy to think about the fight. Around four, we paused our maths exercises and started getting ready to go.

Nathaniel meets us downstairs in the garage, wearing his usual smile. He went for a more casual look than what he usually wore, so I suspect he will be ready to shape-shift at any moment, too. Liam, however, didn't even bother changing and is already in his wolf form, like Bobo. Like last time, we take two cars to go.

I start to feel nervous on the way. Tonia casually talks to me, and I suspect she's just trying to distract me. We discuss the music on the radio, what weather to expect for the coming days, and clothing. None of the three are really interesting for me, and I just try to think about the fight.

I wonder a few times why Nathaniel picked East Point Ground. It's a large plaza in the middle of the industrial area, covered in graffiti and on open grounds. It's a place where bikers or delinquents could gather at night to drink. However, it is not usually crowded, unlike tonight. When I exit the car, I'm shocked. There are over three hundred people!

And I suddenly get why Nathaniel specifically selected this spot: It isn't part of any turf. Hence, a lot of people from neither the Jade Moon or the Blood Moon Clan came to watch our match. Duels for the Alpha position are usually private matters inside a pack, but here it is obvious the Black brothers want to make this public. Once again, I feel that Nathaniel has a lot more in mind than he let on.

A lot of people are eyeing me as I exit the car, most of them who I don't know or recognize. With both Bobo and Liam in their wolf forms next to me, however, I don't feel as intimidated as I could have been. On the contrary, I can't help but look at the crowd.

People from other Clans came to watch the fight. I recognize people wearing markings from the Sapphire Moon Clan, the Gold Moon Clan, or the Rising Moon Clan. To my surprise, even a few members of the former Snow Moon Clan are there, too. Don't they have a terrible history with the Blood Moon Clan? But they are clearly harboring the White Moon marking... How odd.

Of course, almost all of the Jade Moon Clan is there, too.

Almost all of them are glaring at me. I suppose that's what I should expect, considering the situation. Most of the Clan is supportive of Vincent, of course. He is a carefree leader, letting his people do whatever they want most of the time, as long as they didn't cause any trouble. He only focused on his hunters and warriors most of the time.

I finally see him among the crowd. He is discussing with his wife and a young man who must have been chosen as Peter's replacement as the Beta. He looks tired, has dark circles under his eyes, and his beard is messy. When his eyes find mine, he frowns and ignores me. I wonder if he is having regrets now...

Nathaniel's arrival causes a lot of people to react. I see a lot of people suddenly staring, and they move to not be on our way to the center of the plaza. The only ones that didn't move are people of the Blood Moon Clan, and others with a red moon mark that must be Nathaniel's Velvet Moon Pack.

I see him smiling. Is he excited about the fight? Or because of the large crowd? I don't understand why they made sure a lot of people could see it... I realize that Bobo is moving his head non-stop, and I realize he must be scanning the area, searching for Alec. I had almost forgotten about my brother. I'm still clueless about how many people are actually going to help us catch him. I start looking around, too, but Nathaniel walks up to the center of the plaza.

"Good evening, Jade Moon Clan. I see you didn't dare to run away from this."

"I'm not going to run away and leave my turf in the hands of a b.rat," growls Vincent.

“We will see that with the outcome of this fight, won't we? So, do you recognize that if Nora wins, you will let her entirely decide of your pack's fate?”

Vincent looks at me, seeming hesitant. He must be wondering if I really do have a chance to defeat him. Honestly, I don't feel too confident right now. I don't trust my Alpha blood as Nathaniel and Tonia do. I don't have much experience shape-shifting, and I've barely started learning how to fight. For most people, this would seem a lot like suicide.

However, inside, my wolf is already growling. The battle has already begun, though nobody else can see it. Vincent and I are staring at each other, judging our strength, testing our wolves. I know what his wolf looks like. I know he must be growling just as much as mine right now. It is way too late to back down.

“I will, only on the condition that you guys let us have a fair fight. No interference of your people to help her. She must fight me alone.”

Nathaniel puts on a shocked expression, looking a bit too dramatic to be true.

“Oh, you think we would actually cheat?”

He steps closer to Vincent, and I can tell the Alpha is fighting hard against his instincts not to step back. They may both be Alphas, but the difference is clearly showing. Anyone watching can tell who has the upper hand.

Nathaniel whispers to answer him, but somehow everyone can clearly hear him.

“If we wanted to cheat, we would not bother to organize a fight here and now. If we wanted an easy win, I would have taken my warriors to kill your pathetic lot of dogs on the day Nora lead us to you. You wouldn't have a chance to answer back, and you wouldn't be standing on your two feet.”

Vincent is obviously shaking with fear. The ice-cold look in Nathaniel's eyes is terrifying, even for him.

“So now, you're going to be a good boy and let our precious princess beat you all she wants to settle for everything you have done to her. And I can predict you're going to think this is heaven compared to what my brother and I have in store for you once she will be done.”

His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 25 - Tips

Being in the middle of a crowd is nothing reassuring. It's even worse when you know half the people present are wishing for you to get killed. All eyes are directed at me, or at Nathaniel. I feel grateful to Bobo for standing close to me. His enormous figure attracts attention, and a lot of people seem surprised by his appearance, too. He is almost twice the size of a regular wolf, and those who are there in their animal form are showing signs of nervousness. I would be worried, too, if he wasn't my bodyguard.

Nathaniel's threats to Vincent are quite effective. Some of the Clan's warriors have started growling, but I also see a lot of them slowly step back. Liam is walking, circling us while growling at anyone who dares to approach this invisible circle. Tonia is standing at the back, arms crossed, and I notice she now has a wireless earbud in and she's talking to someone. I wonder who she is talking to.

Now, it's only me, Nathaniel, and Bobo, facing Vincent and his new Beta. Everyone else is watching us, waiting.

"She is just a kid. She won't win," says the Beta.

"Shut up," says Vince immediately, annoyed. "Go with the others."

The guy gives me a mean look, but he can't help but obey. I turn to Nathaniel, too. It's time. He just smiles at me and turns back to join Tonia. I put my hand on Bobo's back, and his green eyes turn to me. I give him a smile. I know he's reluctant to go.

"Don't worry, Bobo. Go."

He lets out a short sound and goes, too, but not without growling at Vincent. He's so loud, the Jade Moon pack's Alpha jumps from surprise. If Bobo had Alpha potential, he would be unstoppable... But I guess it's obvious that despite his size and strength, his temper is more Beta-like.

I'm left alone with Vincent. He considers me from head to toe with a sneer. I try to be as unreadable as Nathaniel, hiding my emotions.

"You will regret it, Nora. Did you think you suddenly got big because you have a strong back-up?"

I ignore his remarks. My wolf is growling like crazy, and she's the only one I intend to rely on tonight. I might lack experience, but I know I'm tenacious and strong-willed.

I wonder if I should take off my sweater now, but it's still chilly. We both step back to a ten-foot distance between each other and start walking slowly. Everyone tenses up around us, feeling the battle's about to start. I wish Damian was here. I would be even more confident with him behind me. But he's not. It's just going to be me and you, girl.

I mentally recite all of Tonia and Liam's advice. Mind the distances. Watch his eyes, the way he moves. I'm weaker, but I'm faster and smaller. Liam told me every weak point I should aim at, for his wolf form and his human one. Duels between werewolves don't really have rules, aside from being one-to-one and no weapons are allowed. We can shape-shift whenever we want.

I have tried shape-shifting a few times, and Tonia immediately pointed out my strong point: I can shape-shift extremely fast. I have to make use of that. Liam said the best outcome for me would be a short fight. I need to take advantage quickly.

We take a few steps, walking in a circle while observing each other. I tried to guess when he is going to attack. Liam predicted that he would definitely take the initiative to launch the first attack. Vincent won't want this to take long either, as he is worried for his pack.

And he does. I see him suddenly shift his balance and run towards me. Try not to take any hits, said Liam, you are too weak to endure several injuries. I dodge his fist at the very last moment and slide under his arm to stand behind him. I immediately kick behind his knee as Liam showed me.

It works! He can't help but bend and get on his knee. Don't miss an occasion. I go to launch my fist, aiming for his jaw, but before I can reach him, I see a leg expanding and I'm suddenly kicked in my stomach. He pivoted at the last second, and I couldn't do anything to stop him. I'm ejected a few meters back and fall miserably on the ground. Wow, that really hurts... I feel like throwing up. It's been a while since I've taken such a hit, but Tonia's advice comes back to mind immediately. Never stay down. I get up, ignoring the pain.

"Are you trying to get killed, Nora? What is the point? Do you think you can be an Alpha all of sudden and win my Jade Moon pack over like this? Or is it that you want us all killed and at His feet?"

“Do you think you can call yourself an Alpha, Vincent?” I ask.

He looks at me, frowning, confused by my question. I take off my sweatshirt and tighten my ponytail.

“What now, are you going to complain about how we treated you again? Are you playing the pitiful girl now that you have found your knight in shining armor?”

“I’m not talking about myself. You are weak, unable to make decisions and ready to bow to other Clans at any occasion just so you can take it easy. You don’t control your young ones and let them roam freely as long as they don’t cause trouble. You don’t train them. You don’t care about others. You mind your own business as if you were a Rogue.”

He starts growling.

“Careful with your words! Don’t you insult me!”

“Oh, do you really wanna have the conversation about insults? Mockery?”

He growls even louder but doesn’t talk back. Instead, I see him look towards where Nathaniel is. But he hasn’t moved. He appears very relaxed, sitting on a bench next to Tonia. Only Liam is standing, and Bobo is now the one walking in large circles around us. Liam was right. Having the Black brothers watching us will not let him concentrate on the fight. I know I can take my chance. This time, I jump at him while he is still staring at Nathaniel, and throw a punch to his solar plexus.

He saw me coming at the last second, and to my surprise, he doesn’t dodge. He takes the hit, contracting his muscles. Does he want to show he is stronger than me? I won’t have it. I still throw my fist as hard as I can. And he regrets not protecting himself immediately. I’ve learned how to throw a punch now. His breath is cut short, and for a second, he is choking, falling on his knees and desperately looking for air. I hear growls and angry voices raising around us, but I don’t listen. I knew this kind of things would happen, and I trust the others to control the crowd one way or another.

While Vincent seemed to be choking, I take a couple of steps back and get ready to hit again. But my wolf warns me just in time. He is shape-shifting.

Indeed, it takes about two or three full seconds to Vincent to turn into a dark-brown wolf. That is way longer than me, but still. Facing a wolf is way different from facing a human man. I adjust my position and throw a kick at the right moment to send him away. He falls a bit further, but I know I was just lucky his shape-shifting took long enough for me to be able to prepare my kick. Now, I will be facing a wolf, and that's a whole different thing. I need to shape-shift and let my wolf take over, too. But at the right moment.

I take a couple of steps back, and I feel my wolf getting impatient. Just a few seconds, girl. Wait for it, wait... And there he goes. As expected, he jumps as soon as he can get on his feet again, running towards me. I stand ready, carefully waiting for the right time. He runs closer, and when he's almost at me, all fangs out, I shape-shift.

I erase my human self, letting my wolf completely take over. It's even shorter than a split second for me. The sudden change brings my wolf-self right at the perfect spot to attack his exposed neck. She bites furiously, and he lets out a plaintive whimper. Her fangs on his throat are powerful, and I can already smell the fresh blood. He fights for a while, trying to kick her off him, but she won't let go. She's clenching her fangs hard, not giving the slightest care for his pain. Around us, people start yelling loudly, calling me names or telling their Alpha to free himself. Not a chance. I'm not letting go. We won't. He knows what he has to do, and he just doesn't want to. He tries fighting for a while, but I can now taste blood in my mouth. He is running out of time. My wolf wants him to submit or she will kill him. His pack encourages him not to give up. Are they blind? I'm biting his throat! I could kill him with just a snap, though I don't want to kill anyone. Is he counting on it? I won't. I can control my wolf perfectly; she and I are one. I'm not like some of us who can't resist their beast instincts and attack randomly.

All of sudden, I feel a vivid pain to my flank, and let go by instinct. I don't know what happened, but he probably managed to scratch me deep enough. I feel the blood flowing from my injury, but not enough to worry me. We are not done yet.

I trust my wolf. I know she can keep up a fight. I let her take control so I can concentrate on the crowd. A lot of people have started cheering, but others are all stunned by my appearance. I hear comments on my blue eyes and white fur. Liam seems overexcited, leaning forward and growling loudly.

Stay with your wolf.

Vincent suddenly attacks, and the voice in my head surprises me enough to almost not see him coming at me. I react at the last moment, throwing my fangs at him.

Don't let him dominate you.

Who is guiding me? I listen to her, anyway, and start fighting him off. I growl loudly and don't let him take the upper hand. He is bigger, but I'm starting to understand his tactics. I can dodge some of his moves easily, and manage to bite him back for every time he manages to injure me. I can see he obviously hasn't fought for a while. He tries to get a hold of me, but I won't let him anywhere near my back. I'm being careful not to let him too close or get on top of me. But I'm starting to get tired. It feels like this goes on for a while before I finally see an opening on his flank. I aim for his shoulder with no restraint and bite as hard as I can.

Take him down.

I use my strength and his sudden reaction to the pain to push him down to the ground, laying on his side. He is still fighting me off, but his shoulder and throat are obviously painful for him.

Go for his neck.

The voice in my head is guiding me all the way, but I don't have any time to wonder who is mind-linking with me. I fiercely bite Vincent's neck and hold him down. This time my fangs won't let go, and he can barely move while trying to get away. I'm smaller, but my front legs are on his back, and the pain keeps him from fighting with all his strength.

You got him.

I hope she's right and hold my position. The crowd's getting louder, but I don't care. I'm waiting for Vincent to recognize his defeat. I'm tired, I want to finish this soon. His pack keeps encouraging him but some are starting to yell at him for being weak. The other Clans seem to have lost interest in the fight, the outcome is clear now. They are patiently waiting to see it.

Finally, Vincent submits. He stops fighting, extends his legs starting to whimpering. This is it.

I slowly let go and retreat a few steps back. Tonia comes up to me to give me my sweatshirt so I can cover myself when shifting back to my human form. This is quite embarrassing in front of so many people, even if it is for a split second! Thankfully Bobo stands in front of me, too, and I suppose the best anyone got was a quick peek at my b.utt.

I stand up and look at Vincent. He takes his time shifting back, too, and his wife brings him a pair of jeans to put on. I wish he would hurry up, I'm freezing with my bare legs.... Gosh, while looking down, I just noticed I'm bleeding from under my sweatshirt, probably my flank injury. And I got some on Bobo's brown fur, too, as he is standing right next to me. I try to gently push him away.

"Bobo, I'm bleeding on your fur, move..."

It's like trying to move a mountain, he doesn't care one bit. He is focused on Vincent, growling at him and his pack, making sure no one dares to come at me. Meanwhile, I see Nathaniel walking up to me. He smirks at Vincent.

"So?"

Vincent growls, but bends one knee and lower his head. His neck is covered in blood... I can't believe I really did this. He is visibly furious, but with so many witnesses, he has no choice.

"I acknowledge my defeat. Nora Bluemoon is now free to lead the Jade Moon Pack if she wants."

A lot of unhappy pack members growl, but they don't have a say in this matter.

Vincent raises his eyes to look at me, filled with hatred. I look around. Is that right? I see Nathaniel smiling, but Liam is still fiercely growling. A few pack members have come to gather behind their Alpha.

Vincent might be a bad Alpha, but his Clan still values him very much. The Greene Family is an old one, though they only took over the Jade Moon Clan a few generations ago. I sigh. What do I do now? I could take over and they would have no choice but to obey me, but...

"Do it, Nora. Isn't it what you wanted?" Says Vincent.

I realize everyone is waiting to see my decision. I turn to Nathaniel, but he just smiles mysteriously, leaving me to decide. I breathe in.

“I don’t want to be your Alpha. That will only be an excuse for you guys to hate me more than you already do, and you will turn on me on the first occasion. I don’t want to have to fight every day until one of you gets to k!ll me.”

Everyone is looking at me, surprised. They probably didn’t expect me to reach such a decision. I see the beginning of a smile on Vincent’s face. Oh no, you won’t get away that easily.

“However, I have conditions.”

Now everyone is back at growling again, but other than the Jade Moon pack members, everyone is staring at me, all ears, waiting for it. I look straight at Vincent’s eyes.

“The Jade Moon Clan will pledge full and complete allegiance to the Velvet Moon Clan from today on. Your turf will become part of their territory, and your Clan members will follow the same rules as theirs.”

“What? What kind of condition is that?!” Yells Greg.

I look at him, starting to get annoyed by their att!tude. I take a step forward, and Bobo follows me, growling loudly at them.

“I just dominated your Alpha, I’m free to do whatever I please. You guys never cared about training properly, so it’s high time for things to change. Your turf is one of the first grounds outside of Silver City. If anyone launches an attack on the area, you will be the first wall of defense. Do you want to stand on the frontlines being unprepared like you are now?”

They look at me, dumbfounded by my words. I turn back to Vincent.

“And you, you are going to start acting like a real Alpha. You will train the young ones properly, watch the border, and make sure everyone in your Clan is treated fairly. Am I clear?”

But my apparent calm may have led him to think he could answer back. He starts growling at me.

“Who are you to decide what kind of Alpha I should be? Aren’t you washing your hands of my pack? You are giving us to Him, and now you get to decide what we....”

“PROTECTING THEIR PACK IS THE DUTY OF ANY ALPHA HERE!” I start yelling. “Stop being so lazy and do what you were named Alpha for! You may have their respect, but you are worse than a dog if you think you can sit comfortably and relax just because of that! Any Clan could overpower yours, and yet I’m giving you a chance to keep your turf and pack, and turn them into a proper one! IF YOU DON’T LIKE IT, ALL OF YOU LEAVE!”

A long silence befalls on the assistance.

I’m fuming, pissed at their attitude and Vincent’s ignorance. But all of sudden, I feel an arm around my waist, and a familiar smell surrounds me.

“...Seems like my coming here wasn’t necessary.”