

## His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 41 - Tips

A vampire attack now? That doesn't make any sense! I thought the former Alpha Black had chased them far to the North?! And Silver City is completely dominated by werewolf packs now, so what's the point of attacking us? It's suicide for them!

Damian is still yelling orders, and the boat is now going back full speed to the harbor. He comes back to me just when I am holding the rail not to fall. He looks very angry. He walks up to me, having no problem to walk despite the boat's speed, and puts his arms around me.

"I'm sorry, Nora, I gotta go back. It's a massive attack."

"It's okay, I know," I answer, nodding against his shoulder.

"You stay on the boat, I will..."

"No Damian, I'm coming with you."

"No!" He yells, making me jump, though I expected a refusal. I saw it coming the second I decided to go, too. His silver eyes have turned into an ice-cold stare, as he is fixating on me furiously.

"You stay there, Nora, don't you come an inch close to those bl00d-s.uickers. I'll handle it."

"You can't put me aside, Damian; I want to go! And it's not even your territory!"

"It's not yours, either! You don't have a territory, for now, Nora!"

Thanks for the reminder. Now it's my turn to glare at him. I know I don't have a territory anymore and that I can only walk on the Blood Moon and Velvet Moon Clans' turfs because Damian and Nathaniel allow it. Which means I'm a target anywhere else I step in. But this is my city, and I refuse to stand aside while it's attacked.

Damian realizes his words hurt me more than he thought, and shakes his head. "Sorry. But I just want you to stay safe, Nora. You stay there and that's final." He walks off, taking off his jacket.

I bite my lip. I don't want to stay back! I really want to go. What if someone really gets hurt or worse, killed? Vampires might be weaker than us, but they are still dangerous! It took years to chase them all out of Silver City. My eyes go to the harbor, trying to get a hold of whatever is going on there.

Elena, are you there yet?

On my way. But my friends told me there's a lot of them. Really a lot.

Is your pack okay?

For now. Our head Clan, the White Moon, is there, too, and some of the Sea Moon pack warriors joined, as well. But those damn vampires just keep coming.

The Blood Moon is on their way.

I figured so. Nate's guys just arrived, too.

What about the other clans?

They have to watch out for the other sides of the city. This might be a massive attack. I just saw some guys from the Gold Moon and Rising Moon packs heading south.

I didn't think of that, but Elena might be right. Vampires are known to be smart— they have been around for years for nothing. Those cunning creatures wouldn't attack recklessly like that. Not only must they have an aim, but they probably have a plan, too.

Our boat reaches the shore, and Damian takes off his shirt. He comes back to me and quickly kisses my forehead, his hands on my cheeks, before looking at me in the eye. "I'll be back, Nora. Stay in the harbor. Bobo and Tonia are coming to get you."

And with that, he turns around and shapeshifts in a split second. The big, jet-black wolf immediately starts running toward the North, growling furiously. Moon Goddess helps anyone who will stand in his way. The guy who served us dinner helps me out of the boat, but my thoughts are somewhere else. Elena's words got me thinking.

Didn't she say she could contact any Alpha? Then maybe I should be able to do so, too. But I only know one personally other than the Black Brothers. Gosh, I really didn't want to make use of this, but this is an emergency. I gotta try.

I feel my wolf inside, ready anytime I need. She's on edge, too. She felt the intrusion on the territory and doesn't like it. She wants us to go and help our mate.

I know, I want to go too, but there is something else we need to do first. I tell her. Then I call out: Vincent.

What the... Nora?

Gosh, it worked! And so easily, too. I feel like I can almost see his brown wolf, and mine growls immediately, making him submit right away. I was afraid he might try to refuse me somehow, but he shows no resistance to the mind-link.

Yes. Listen, there is a vampire attack in the North. Right now.

I know, just heard of it. I was about to give orders for our warriors to—

No! Stay there and guard the East forest. The White Moon, Pearl Moon, Velvet Moon, and Blood Moon Clans are already focusing on the North, but these might be multiple attacks. Our territory is the first line of defense in the East of Silver City, we can't leave it defenseless.

He stays silent for a while, and I feel his wolf being restless. ...Okay, it makes sense. I'll do as you say and send more sentinels to the East. If something goes through, we'll know.

If it happens, send a distress signal to the neighboring Clans. Everyone is on the look-out, so they'll help.

Got it. I just sent word to the Pearl Moon Alpha. She'll definitely help.

Okay.

Satisfied with that, I cut the mind-link. I can't believe I just mind-linked him! And it went well, too. I was fearing he wouldn't listen to me, but it looks like Vincent will keep his word.

I feel a bit better, knowing the other sides of Silver City aren't defenseless. Out of all the big Clans, almost all of them are going to defend their position or help somewhere. Though the packs usually fight a lot among themselves, werewolves are really quick to gather as one to fend off an enemy.

But still, I feel restless. This attack really makes no sense! The North is the easiest to defend, with the White and Opal Clans there, and they are close to the Blood Moon and Velvet territories, too. They are bound to have reinforcement in a few minutes once they request help. Why would the vampires choose this spot to launch an attack? That is suicide! Or are there really many of them, like Elena said? Could they outnumber us?

I'm starting to feel worried. And why are Bobo and Tonia not there yet? I've been waiting at the harbor for a while now! Did they get held up somewhere? Are they okay? While I'm worried about everyone, Elena's voice echoes again in my head.

Nora! Some passed through our defense! They are running through the city!

What? Where are they aimed to?

I don't know, but they are staying West on the Sea Wolves' turf! Following them now!

That's just North to my position! I can't stay there. I take off my heels, my jewelry, and my dress, leaving them on the ground. The waiter looks at me, standing in my underwear. Well, I'm a werewolf anyway, and I don't want to rip this dress! And there is no time for shyness or blushing now!

Okay, girl, time to shapeshift.

I breathe in and let my wolf take over. It's been a while, but it's as easy as closing my eyes. She is only too happy to make her appearance. I'm in my white wolf shape within a few seconds and start running as soon as my paws touch the ground.

Gosh, this is my second time going to the Sea Wolves' territory within a very short time. I hope they won't mind because I can't afford to fight them, too. I keep running as fast as I can, going up the shoreline. It doesn't take long before I start hearing growls and sounds of fighting ahead of me. They got even further into our territory than Elena thought! When I arrive at the scene, about twenty wolves are ganging up on about a dozen vampires.

Those creatures are taller and thinner than humans, with blood-red eyes and pale skin. All of them are dressed in black leather, and some of them are even carrying daggers or swords. I see them glowing in the dark. Those are made of silver! It explains why twenty wolves are not enough to hold them since everyone is being cautious because of those weapons.

I immediately jump on the one closest to me, who is about to stab a young grey wolf. Without the slightest hesitation, I bite off the hand that held a dagger. I may not be a warrior, but my wolf knows how to follow her instincts, and she won't show mercy for blood-suckers. He didn't see me coming and screams in horror. The wolf that was under him seizes the moment and aims for the throat directly. With a third wolf joining in, we finish this creature off, tearing it to limbs. While the other two end the job, I look around. We still have the upper hand, and no one seems to care about me coming there. I need to talk to the Alpha.

It only takes a second to notice him among his own. He is dark-grey, bigger than the others, though he looks old and has a lot of scars all over. I try to focus on him while staying cautious of my surroundings, establishing a mind-link. I see him react, raising his head.

Wait... Oy, who is that? He turns his head around, searching for a while, and his eyes fall on me. The white wolf? What are you doing here, kid?

I came to help. More are coming.

I know. My wolves are watching all over the harbor. Those b\*\*\*\*y vampires are all headed there. Bet they wanna stay close to the sea.

The sea! I didn't think of it earlier, but vampires are good swimmers! They don't need to breathe and their eyes don't mind the water, either. It would make a good escape route if things go badly for them. But then again, what is their aim?

I help another duo to fend off a vampire, and we kill it quickly. Even armed, a vampire is no match for three werewolves. What annoys me is that they keep coming. How is that possible? I wish I knew how Damian and the others are doing in the North.

Marina!

I turn around. A young female is pinned down by a vampire. Somehow, she got isolated from the rest of the group, leaving her almost defenseless. Using a wolf next to me, I jump off, and, with a big leap over several heads, I fall on her enemy. My fangs find his neck, but he immediately swings with his dagger to try and shake me off. I feel a sharp pain on my arm, but don't let go. The young she-wolf doesn't miss her chance, and furiously bites his shoulder, making him drop the dagger. As we are still struggling, another wolf that has exactly the same fur as hers jumps in and rips the vampire's head off with a single bite.

Ouch, silver really hurts... I feel blood on my paw, but I'm okay, I guess. I'm a slow-healer, anyway, so I guess this doesn't change much. The young she-wolf comes to me and immediately starts licking my wound. It's the first time someone did this for me... She stops once the bleeding slows down, and puts her muzzle to touch mine. I know she's saying thanks. The other wolf, probably a relative of hers, nibbles her ear quickly. We have to go back to the fight.

The three of us jump back into the fight, and for a while, we are doing good. Other than me, a couple of other wolves are hurt, but no deaths, unlike the numerous vampires who are already on the ground.

Nora, you were right! Vampires are coming from the East! But we can hold them off, for now. The Pearl Clan's warriors are here, too, and the Gold Moon pack is fending them off in the South.

I don't have time to answer to Vincent, but he didn't sound too worried. And the Gold Moon Clan is one of the strongest, too, so I know they can hold the Southern position for a while. What I'm more worried about is the North. If that many vampires are getting past our defenses, what is going on up there? Are Nathaniel and Damian okay? And Bobo and Tonia are still not here!

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This is my very first fight, and I don't have a second to rest. Though we kill many of them, the vampires keep coming. How come there are so many of them? Vincent and the other Clans are doing fine in the South and East, but I wish I knew what's going on in the North!

Elena! Are you okay?

Yeah, doing my best. I'm just a few blocks ahead of your position, but the situation's worse here.

My wolf tenses. She's in danger.

My wolf's right. I would have said so even without hearing her obviously tired tone. Moreover, every time she mind-links me, I feel she is not in her wolf, but in her human form. Why wouldn't she shape-shift now? Did she get hurt by silver or something?

Damn it! What is he still doing here?! Stubborn wolf!

Elena?

It's Bobo! I keep telling him to go to you, but he won't leave me! His sister is running to you, though!

I'm a bit relieved to hear about Bobo and Tonia, but what is going on? Damian definitely told Bobo to come to me, so why is he staying with Elena? But if she is not in her wolf form, I still feel better knowing my friend is with her. Maybe she's even injured, and that would explain Bobo staying with her. I can do fine on my own here, and the Sea Moon Wolves are cooperating with me like I'm one of them.

After a few minutes, Tonia indeed appears to join the fight here. She isn't injured, thank Moon Goddess. She is almost as big as her brother, though she's definitely thinner, and her arrival cheers up the tired Sea Moon Wolves. She jumps to me, and immediately takes a defensive position, growling at the closest vampires. I wish I could ask her about Bobo and Damian!

Nora, something weird is going on here!

Vincent?

All the vampires are... I don't know, something is attacking them!

What something? Is it against us?

No, it's... Actually, whatever it is, it's protecting my injured wolves! The... sh!t, I can barely believe it, but roots are growing from the ground to hold the vampires!

Roots? Like actual tree roots? Is he kidding? Did Vincent hurt his head or something? But he sounds fine to me. What is going on now?

...It's like the forest is attacking the vampires! They were about to get the upper hand on us, but all of sudden the trees have started pinning them down! The trees!

Our forest is attacking the vampires? What is this now? I hear Vincent exulting in my head, and I cut the mind-link. Well, at least now I can stop worrying about the East. Though I really wish I knew how the hell the forest is suddenly stepping into this fight!

But now, we are clearly getting the upper hand. A few Sea Moon Wolves are injured, but werewolves from another Clan stepped in, I'm not sure which. Anyway, these new wolves are clearly warriors, seeing how they attack the vampires without mercy and take them down one by one.

They are now enough to defend themselves. I leave this battlefield, avoiding enemies to head North. I need to join Elena, Bobo, and others.

Behind me, I hear Tonia growling, but I ignore her. I know Damian told me to stay back, but I never agreed to it. And the harbor isn't any safer now, anyway. She follows me, clearly unhappy, and we soon reach another fighting ground, more into the city this time, somewhere in-between the Port and the Latino District. I spot Elena right away: As I suspected, she is the only one standing in her human form, other than the vampires.

Even so, I have to say, she's obviously a great fighter. She is fighting with some sort of wooden pole, and her moves are like those fight choreographies you see in action movies. Not even one vampire can get close to her, because she is fiercely standing her ground. Plus, she has two wolves siding with her: one is Bobo, and the other is a smaller tawny wolf unknown to me.

Elena!

Nora! Are you okay? Moon Goddess, you're bleeding!

It's okay. Why aren't you in wolf shape?

Don't worry, I can defend myself fine this way.



That's not what I asked! But she obviously ignored my question, so I don't ask again. We have more urgent matters at hand. Elena didn't lie when she said they were not doing great here. The number of vampires is starting to grow, and there is only about a dozen werewolves.

I try to defend another wolf who having difficulty, but Tonia is hindering me by trying to protect me. Can't she let me fight by myself?!

Bobo, too, is fighting harder, trying to protect both me and Elena. Is it because of her heritage, because she is a mixed Royal like me? I feel like there is something else. He is also very protective of the other male wolf next to Elena, though this one is doing just fine. Elena and this tawny wolf seem used to fighting together, completing each other's moves like a synchronized dance. At least I can stop worrying about her, since she really is doing great on her own.

I, on the other hand, can't say the same. I've been keeping this up for a while now, and the exhaustion is growing on me. I'm glad I stuffed myself up with cake earlier, giving me extra energy for all I'm burning right now. But somehow, more and more vampires come at me one after another. My wolf and I aren't ready to back down, however. I ignore the pain in my arm, and jump with Tonia on a female vampire close to us.

Nora, there is something weird.

What is it?

I feel like they're targeting you!

What?

I look around, and though it takes me a few minutes, I realize she might be right. No matter how hard Tonia and I fight, it's like the vampires focus on our duo. As more keep coming, a lot of vampires do keep the other wolves busy, but I still notice a bunch of them aim directly toward us. That's why we have been doing triple work all along! Elena's right, there a lot more vampires lying around Tonia and me than anywhere else. And once I jump to another position, our opponents ignore Tonia to turn towards me. Why now?

I keep fighting them off, Tonia and Bobo helping me. For my first real fight, other than the duel, I never thought I would be fighting vampires alongside other packs! But there is a mix of Opal Moon, White Moon, Sea Moon, and

Velvet or Blood Moon wolves gathered all around, and everyone is doing their share.

Nora, we are pretty much done here! The forest stopped attacking the vampires a while ago, but we are finishing the job! We sent a lot of our valid warriors straight to the North to help now!

Finally! Vincent's good news is helping a lot, and I relay it to Elena, who immediately says she will relay it to her own Alpha and the Alpha of the White Moon Clan. Realizing she was talking with them all along, I ask her about the situation in the North while shredding a neck off.

Not good. Xavier said something odd is going on over there, too. The vampires are using some sort of poison, slowing our people. I know it sounds weird, but our river is attacking the werewolves. Tell the Sea Moon Wolves to stay far from the water, it's attacking the packs!

Seriously, the water now? I wouldn't have believed her a few minutes ago! I was glad some sort of force from the forest was helping out the Jade Moon Clan, but then how come the water is attacking us? And the Northern territory is right on a river, too! If this is what the vampires were relying on, it explains why they choose to attack from the North. I use the mind-link to pass the information to the Sea Moon Alpha.

We're good here, kiddo. No attack from the sea, but I'll tell the guys to be careful!

Whatever it is, it's only in the North now. But it's powerful enough to let the vampires dominate four packs allied together! Gosh, I hope Damian is fine! I ask Elena, but she says she doesn't know. It's probably too chaotic in the North, so no one can stop to look for a Black Wolf. I pray to Moon Goddess for him to be fine, and concentrate on my own fight.

Suddenly, next to me Tonia takes a violent hit from a duo who ganged up on her. I want to step in, but I'm already fighting off another one of those bl00d-s.uickers a few meters away. Bobo is too far away, too, helping the other tawny wolf. They managed to scatter our group somehow, this is not good. I hear Tonia whimper— she's really hurt. The second I turn my head to look at her is a mistake. I feel a vivid pain, and a kick throws me a few steps back. The pain blinds me for a second, and my wolf whines in response, the distress echoing in our mind.

HELP!

Nora, don't...!

For a second, all the wolves around me freeze and turn their heads to me. It's like they all heard me, and in a few seconds, they all fight harder than ever. I realize some of them are trying to fight off their opponent to come and help me, but it's useless. I'm too far from any of them. I'm on my back, and that damn vampire has a hand on my throat, pinning me down. He lost his dagger earlier in the fight, so he focuses on trying to hit me. I bite furiously anything that comes close. Gosh, those creatures are damn strong! I need to break free before he breaks my neck!

All of sudden, we hear a loud howl, and everyone turns their heads. A new pack has joined the fight! I hear Elena's cheer of joy in my head.

It's Lissandra Jones! The Purple Moon Clan!

It's my first time seeing her, and the dark wolf launches the attack as soon as she's here, starting by the vampire that was on Tonia. Their pack is small, but they are notorious fighters. The fight resumes, and this time no side has the upper hand. Lissandra's wolves are helping others, taking over for the hurt wolves. But they are not on my position yet, and I have to keep fighting the vampire on me. Just when I thought he was about to kill me, his hand tightening around my throat, I suddenly hear the vampire next to him, a woman, yelling: "i\*\*\*t, don't kill her! She needs us to take this one alive!"

What the...? Before I can realize what she just said, a dark form jumps over us, and a loud growl follows. I see a black fur above me, covering most of my sight. The furious wolf bites off the vampire's shoulder, pushing him off me, and attacks again. I struggle to get back on my feet. For a split second, I thought it was Damian, but I notice this wolf is a bit smaller than my mate and has reddish hair around his collarbone.

Liam!

He turns to me and helps me get up, his fur tainted with vampire blood all over. I probably don't look any better either...

Hey Nora, what's up?

Don't "what's up" me! What are you doing here?! Why aren't you with Nathaniel and Damian?

Don't yell, I sent them reinforcements already! But my brother was worried about you, so I went to you first. We heard your distress call! How the hell did you do that?

They heard my what? Oh Moon Goddess, did they actually hear me all the way to the Northern territory? I just mind-linked without thinking!

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I don't really have time to focus on anything else, as, despite our arguing, Liam jumps into the fight right away. I can actually catch some rest while he fights off my opponents, but I'm too worried about my friend. I look for her on my left side.

For some reason, the Purple Moon Alpha is protecting Tonia fiercely, not letting anyone approach her, though my friend is trying to push her off. Bobo, too, is busy defending Elena and her friend. Actually, I notice the tawny wolf got hurt, too. He is limping a bit, though I can't see any external wound.

Around us, the fight is slowly dying down. The arrival of the Purple Moon warriors totally shifted the power balance to our side. Liam, too, is exceptionally efficient. It's my first time seeing the youngest Black brother fighting, but he is really good, taking vampires on one-to-one, one after another without stopping. He even scares off a few of them.

Elena, how is she...?

The North is okay, they are almost done! The water stopped attacking them, and the wolves that were hurt are getting back on their feet, too. I don't know what it is, but whatever it was is gone.

We both start mind-linking our sides to check, but it's the same everywhere. Vincent is busy taking care of his injured pack members, and the Sea Moon Wolves are dispersing to chase the remaining vampires on the harbor and hunt them down.

Elena starts to check her friend's leg, frowning. "You're hurt... I told you to not shield me! i\*\*\*t!"

Though she sounds angry, she seems genuinely worried for her friend. Moreover, I'm observing Bobo, who is walking in circles around them, not coming too close or leaving them, visibly anxious. What is this, Bobo? I wish he would go back to his human form to talk to me, but he just walks up to me once he sees me. He whines a bit, bowing his head, putting his ears down.

Gosh, don't apologize Bobo. I'm okay, aren't I? I wish I could communicate with him, too, but instead, I just push him off gently with my muzzle. Once she's done tending her friend, Elena starts setting the vampire's corpses on fire, the usual thing to do. To my surprise, the Purple Moon Alpha then shifts back to her human form.

She's a tall, dark-skinned woman with long purple hair and lots of tribal tattoos. She obviously doesn't mind walking around n\*\*\*d, as she helps Elena with the fires. Once she goes back to Tonia, my friend growls furiously, obviously trying to fend her off. Didn't she spend the whole fight protecting her? What's with Tonia not wanting her close? I remember Bobo saying they have a connection, though he didn't get into the details. Well, it's probably not of my business anyway.

Liam walks back to my side. My brother is nagging me about you. They are coming here.

Are they okay?

Are you kidding? Nora, it's my brothers. Of course, they are fine.

Though his arrogant tone is a bit annoying, I'm finally relieved. I look around, and sadly, there are a few dead werewolves. Three from the Sea Moon Clan and one from the Purple Moon. Vincent said two of the Jade Moon Clan died, as well as one of the Pearl Moon warriors. I bet it's worse in the North. The Sea Moon Alpha joins us, and he shifted back to his human form, though he is clothed. He is an old man, rather short, with a sailor look.

"Jones, you little rascal," he says to the Purple Moon Alpha.

She waves back at him. "Hi, Old Man Seaver. How's your side?"

"It's not pretty, we lost a few good people. How's yours?"

"We're okay."

She won't say more. It must be hard on the Alphas whenever they lose people in a battle like this... And because of vampires, too. The Sea Moon Alpha turns to me. I can't really shapeshift now, I would be too embarrassed to stand n\*\*\*d, but it doesn't matter since I can communicate, anyway.

"Thank you for your help, young lady. I almost lost my daughter today, but you saved her. You helped a lot of my boys and girls. The Sea Moon Wolves have a debt to you, I won't forget it."

It's nothing. I did what I had to.

"No, no, a Sea Wolf pays his debts. Sooner or later. Anyway, which pack are you from? I haven't heard of a pack with a white Alpha."

Oops. How am I supposed to answer that? I can mind-link other Alphas because of my genetics, not because I'm a pack leader... I exchange a look with Elena, but she just shakes her head, telling me not to disclose my origins. I know. But I can't think of a good answer. I'm not the Jade Moon Alpha, and I don't belong to Damian's pack either.

But before I can answer, other wolves come running to us.

"Nora!"

In a split second, Damian runs up to me. He and Nathaniel took the time to shapeshift and put on pairs of dark jeans, though they are still bare-footed and their n\*\*\*d torsos are full of bl00d. It's quite a gruesome sight, making them both beautiful and scary, like angels of death. And to say I saw him in a perfect tuxedo not two hours ago... A dozen other wolves come following them, all looking a wreck.

My mate comes to me, putting his hands in my fur, checking for injuries underneath all the vampire bl00d. He soon sees my arm injury and growls in anger. The two other Alphas tense up immediately.

Stop it, I'm fine...

"I told you to stay right where you were!"

Yes, and if I did, I would have been alone fighting vampires, anyway! They ran through the whole harbor, Damian! I had better chances with the Sea Moon pack than alone.

He growls again, but doesn't talk back. We both know I'm right, and this is no time and place to argue. He stands up to face the others. The atmosphere totally changed since the two of them came. All wolves gather behind their Alphas, except the purple-haired woman, who is still by Tonia's side. Elena is also standing to the side with her friend and other Opal Moon Wolves that arrived I don't know when. I notice Nathaniel is stealing glances at her, but she ignores him, or doesn't see them, I'm not sure.

"The Black youngsters," says the Sea Moon Alpha. "I don't like seeing the likes of you on my harbor, but I guess this is what they call emergency situation."

"Indeed," adds Lissandra. "How is the North?"

"We are fine. The remains are being burnt as we speak, and we chased them far enough. The White Moon Clan is taking care of whatever is left," says Nathaniel.

Once again, he looks at Elena while mentioning the White Moon Clan, but she doesn't say a thing.

"What was that? They attacked at the South-East, too." Asks Lissandra, annoyed.

"They struck the North first. We received the Northern packs' distress calls early enough and went to help them, but there were about a hundred vampires."

"You mean only a hundred? How come the White Moon couldn't get rid of that? Did they get soft or something?"

Elena, her friend, and the other Opal Moon wolves present immediately growl at her, vexed by her words, but she ignores them.

"It wasn't only vampires. Something was helping them. I saw the water from the river catching and trapping wolves. Some were poisoned, too; we had many victims that way. Something was definitely off."

"Sounds like a witch to me."

All eyes turn to the old Alpha, Seaver, who is scratching his beard. Damian turns to him, frowning.

“A witch?”

“Witches are elemental creatures. If a Water witch was helping them....”

“It would explain how they got past the first defenses so easily...” Whispers Nathaniel.

“Then what drove her off? Did anyone get her?” Asks Lissandra, looking around.

“We didn’t even see one. Only vampires. But she could have attacked from further away. I don’t know how their magic works.”

“Send some people to look at the bodies. See if they find a witch among them,” orders Damian to some of the Blood Moon wolves.

I didn’t think of a witch... I know very few about those, as, like vampires, they were chased off Silver City years ago, and they are by far rarer than other creatures, too. All I’ve heard is that they look like human women and have mystical powers that they can use to cast spells or curses and manipulate elements, as old Seaver said. But then again, the presence of a witch could explain what happened. They are our natural enemies, like vampires, and have ways of hurting us. Would they ally with vampires?

“What about what happened in the South, then? That time, the trees helped the packs. I don’t think a witch would have changed her mind,” says Lissandra.

“And they can’t change their elements, either,” adds Nathaniel.

“What if there is another witch left in the South?” Asks the Sea Wolf Alpha.

“If there is, she helped us. She was on our side,” suddenly says Elena.

All eyes turn to her, surprised to hear someone else other than the Alphas talk. But they obviously don’t have time to discuss hierarchy now.

The old man sighs. “I don’t like the idea of a remnant witch here.”

“Me neither,” says Lissandra.



I don't blame them. Who wants to keep their natural enemies anywhere near? I see Elena frowning, exchanging looks with the tawny wolf. Is she worried about a witch being around?

"Let's send people to search for her in the Sou—" But before she can finish her sentence, Liam is loudly growling next to us, making everyone jump. I never heard him so angry before!

I will take care of it! Let me look for the witch!

His voice is echoing in my mind, but he is obviously talking to the Alphas. Why is he so adamant about looking for that witch? Damian and Nathaniel both put on the same surprised expression. Obviously, they didn't expect this. They stay silent for a while, but none of the other Alphas dare to speak anymore. The three brothers exchange looks for a while, and it's obvious they are mind-linking. Eventually, Nathaniel sighs.

"If you want, Liam, you take care of it. We have our hands full as it is with this mess anyway... Just ask if you need help. Don't take on a witch by yourself."

...Understood, brother.

He looks enthusiast about this, but I'm a bit worried. If this witch helped us, whoever she was, is it really ok to try to find her? But I can't express it here. I will talk about this with Liam later when things cool down.

After that, the Alphas keep talking, mostly about the casualties and damages. I exchange a look with Elena, who isn't listening.

Is your friend okay?

Yeah, he injured his leg, but it's going to heal quickly. I'm more worried about the rest of my pack... We lost some people, so I want to go there soon.

Why don't you go now?

My Alpha wants me to represent him here, seeing what the other packs will do. It's only the White Moon and Opal Moon Wolves to clean the mess up there now, so we gotta make sure we will get some help.

Saying this, she looks to Nathaniel, and their eyes finally meet. I can guess he is asking her if she's okay with his lips, but she soon shifts back, her eyes to the group.

Nathaniel will definitely help you.

Mhmm.

Her response is a bit odd. Why is she hiding so many things now? Not shape-shifting, avoiding Nathaniel... I bet he doesn't know she can mind-link other Alphas, either. I don't want to put my nose in a business that isn't mine, but I feel concerned whenever Elena's involved. Is it because I know we are related?

While I'm lost in my thoughts, the Alphas are done talking. The Sea Moon Alpha, whom someone called Patrick during the conversation, calls back his wolves. He nods in my direction, and with that, the Sea Moon Wolves head back to the South.

Lissandra turns to Damian. "It was nice, making peace to kick some blood-sucker's asses. But don't think I'm gonna get nice with you dumbasses because of that."

"Just get the hell back to your turf, Jones," growls Damian.

Seems like the short-lived alliance is over... And the Purple Moon Wolves have no intention to behave well because of what happened, either. Lissandra sends a kiss in Tonia's direction, who answers with a growl, before their pack leaves. Right when I think they will now talk with Elena, I notice her and her pack members are gone already. I didn't even see them leave!

"We are not on our turf either, we should go," says Nathaniel. "And then, Nora, maybe you can explain to us how you mind-linked the whole werewolf population of Silver City."

Oops. I had forgotten this detail.

Okay, I really wouldn't want to be you right now...

Gosh Liam, shush, you are not helping at all.

## **His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 44 - Tips**

Since I refused to shift back to my human form while we were still on the fighting ground (no way I'm getting n\*\*\*d in front of a bunch of people again), I won some extra time to think about an explanation to give to the Brothers. Of course, Liam kept mind-linking me all the way to the apartment. Though we kept talking telepathically all the way back, we both acted like nothing happened. Damian, however, seemed too busy himself to notice. He stayed silent, but I could tell from his frowning that he was mind-linking other people, too. Maybe Nathaniel, since he didn't come with us.

Aside from all of Liam's restless questioning, I was more worried about what to tell his eldest brother. I know Elena asked me to keep what she had found about us secret for now, and honestly, as long as it wasn't confirmed, I didn't want to talk about it either. What was the point in bringing to light what is nothing but a hypothesis for now?

But still, everyone heard me call for help, even all the way to the White Moon's Clan Northern territory. How do I explain this...?

Once we reach the apartment, before anything, Liam and Damian go to the apartment downstairs to take a shower and change. Bobo, Tonia, and I aim to do the same in mine. We ruined the cars with all that vampire blood, and truthfully, it's one of the worst smells I ever experienced. I use lots of shampoo to take it off my hair and cleanse my wound, too. Once in my human form, I realize it's not that terrible: just a clean, five- or six-centimeters long cut. It's not too deep either, and the bleeding even stopped already. But silver does sting...

Since it's late already, I change into my sleeveless pajama top and a dark legging and go back to the main room. Tonia is already there, in a bathrobe, inspecting her wounds. I join her on the couch. She's not really in good shape, though she won't show it. She has a black eye, a cut on her lower lip, several ecchymoses, a sprained ankle, and I would guess a couple of broken ribs. I quickly fetch the first aid kit from my bathroom and come back to help her take care of it.

"This is pathetic," she growls as I put some cream around her eye.

"It would have been better if you hadn't insisted on stepping between me and them," I scold her.

"For the reminder, protecting you is my job, baby girl."

I roll my eyes, but don't argue back. I don't feel like getting into this endless discussion now. Bobo comes back from his sister's room, too, wearing jeans. I'm glad he's back to his human form. He has a few bruises, like his sister, but overall, he looks fine. He joins us and looks at Tonia, frowning.

"It's been a while since you've been in such a bad—"

"Don't say it," growls Tonia. "It's embarrassing enough as it is."

Bobo sighs and takes a seat on one of the kitchen stools. He looks exhausted, with his dreadlocks in a mess. He rests his arms on the bar and closes his eyes. Right, it's past midnight now. I hear something vibrating, and he raises his head to take out his phone. He reads a text and smiles. Tonia sees it, too.

"I really want to smash you right now. Stop smiling. You do know the boss is going to k!!! you, right?"

"Apparently it was worth it," he whispers with an enigmatic smile.

"You left Nora alone, you selfish b.rat!"

"It's okay, Tonia, I really don't mind. I did fine by myself, and Bobo did protect me afterward."

"No, he was supposed to protect you, not that blondie!"

Bobo ignores her and so do I. I know Tonia, this can go on for a while. So, I just take care of her wounds while Bobo closes his eyes and rests next to us. I honestly don't mind, though I am a bit curious to know what happened back there. But then again, I trust him. He probably had his own reasons.

A few minutes later, I'm done treating Tonia as much as I can, though I still think she should go to the hospital. A couple of X-rays may be useful, but she doesn't want to, saying she will be healed in a few hours. So instead, I'm cooking some late dinner, since the fight basically left everyone tired and famished. I grabbed whatever I found in the fridge to make up a pile of sandwiches.

Liam warns me through the mind-link that he and Damian are coming up.

What about Nathaniel?

He's still there, taking care of the aftermath. I think it's more about his girl, though. Who knows?

...Elena?

Yeah.

The door to the apartment opens, and Damian enters followed by Liam. The two of them picked black t-shirts and jeans and, as Liam predicted, they both look perfectly unharmed and fine. Liam runs straight to the table to grab some sandwiches and starts eating right away before he even sits up. I can't blame him; I'm starving, too, and I'm not sure the twenty sandwiches I made are going to be enough to feed all the wolves in the room. Even Damian picks one before coming to sit next to me.

I was a bit afraid of getting into another argument with him, but he gives me a quick kiss on the forehead and sighs. "Sorry for earlier. I was a bit on edge... You did great, Nora."

"Hell yeah, she did. She couldn't even shapeshift one month ago and now she's fighting vampires like a warrior," adds Liam, his mouth full.

I smile. Indeed, I'm quite surprised with myself, in a good way. Seems like my instincts did their job tonight...

For a few minutes, everyone enjoys the silence and my sandwiches. It's been a crazy night, for sure. First, my birthday surprise, then an attack on the harbor, and now I'm having a tuna sandwich at 1 am. I think about the things that I left on the boat. I hope I can retrieve those later, I left my necklace and earrings there...

"There was something weird about this attack," suddenly says Tonia.

Damian nods. "It's like they just wanted to get inside the city no matter what. And I've never seen such a big group of vampires. There are a few Clans, but never that big."

"Could it be they had a commander?" Muttered Bobo.

"You're thinking about the witch?" I ask.

“Maybe. It’s not the first time a witch would have taken control of vampires. They do partner up sometimes,” says his sister, taking a new bite of her sandwich.

“...I think they were targeting Nora.”

All eyes turn to Liam. He stopped eating, his eyes far off. He takes a new sandwich and starts talking again. “When I arrived, one of them said they needed to take her alive. Isn’t that weird? Why do they care who they kill or not? And there were a lot of them after you, too. If you were their aim from the start, that explains why they went straight to the harbor.”

All eyes turn to me. I hesitate for a while, but eventually, I can’t hide things forever. I turn to Damian, who is staring at me. “Liam’s right. I’m not sure about being their target, but one of them did say they wanted to capture me.”

My mate frowns. “Why would they want you...?”

“I think... It might have to do with my lineage.”

“Your lineage? I thought you didn’t know who’s your birth mother?” Asks Tonia with a confused look.

“I still don’t. But... I think she might have been a... a Royal,” I confess, looking at Damian straight in the eye.

As soon as I drop that last word, they look at me with shocked expressions, except for Bobo and Damian. I wish I knew what he is thinking of this news, but as always, his silver eyes are indecipherable.

“...A Royal?” He murmurs.

I nod, waiting for his reaction. But he stays silent, looking at me like he’s deep thinking. After a while, I shift my eyes to Bobo, silently asking for help.

He sighs. “Someone from the Opal Clan mentioned it today. A family of Royals got killed in the North about eighteen years ago. And Nora has... well, white fur and blue eyes, so...”

I hope Elena won’t resent me for this...

“You think your last name is a Clan’s name?” Asks Tonia.

“I’m just saying it could be.”

“...That would explain a lot of things...”

I turn to Liam, who is scratching his chin, thinking. He points out his fingers one by one in his free hand, the other one still holding a sandwich. “Clan-like last name. The white fur and blue eyes combination thing. Your dad taking you away from your unknown mom. Your Alpha genes and obviously good fighting instincts. Your altered abilities, like no fast-healing but large-scale mind-linking.”

“Yeah, what was that by the way? Even I heard you!” Says Tonia.

I still don’t really know what I did! I just panicked and unconsciously asked for help. I didn’t think that would result in me sending out a large distress signal to all the werewolf population of Silver City!

Damian finally turns to me, reacting to Tonia’s words. “Did you know you could do that?”

“No, not at all. I just discovered tonight I could reach out to other Alphas, too. It’s like a door opened in my mind. As long as she has seen him eye-to-eye, my Wolf can talk to any Alpha, I think.”

Can you talk to me?

I can. See? Easy.

That’s interesting...

Damian smiles, but Liam catches us.

“Hey, no mind-flirting now, you two! We are still in the room.”

Damian playfully growls at his brother, but I just chuckle. He is one to talk, we spoke like that for the whole trip to here!

Tonia, too, wants to go back to the serious topic.

“Okay, so now Nora can mind-link any Alpha. That’s an Alpha ability anyway, right? But she mind-linked us, too, tonight. And to be honest, baby girl, it was more like a big siren ringing in my head than a nice talk.”

“Yeah, same for me. Felt like all I could focus on was your voice, it was loud and... mesmerizing,” says Bobo.

“It sounded normal for us Alphas, right brother?”

Damian nods. I remember Elena did advise not to make use of the mind-linking too lightly. What did she say again? Her pack members found it annoying. Maybe that’s what she meant if our voice sounds like what the Mura siblings described.

“I don’t think I could do it again now, anyway.”

“Well, don’t try. I already have a headache. Let’s keep the testing for another time, baby girl,” grumbles Tonia.

“But that’s good to know. Now even if Nora is in trouble, she can ask for help by herself as easily as that.” Liam winks at me and grabs his fifth sandwich.

He’s right, now not only we confirmed that I can fight for myself, but I can even warn Liam or Damian if I’m in trouble. Even Damian nods. He seems content about this news. Can I hope he is not going to be as overprotective as before, now?

“There is still that whole Royal theory we need to confirm,” says Bobo.

We exchange a look. I know. Elena wasn’t sure of anything, but if we could somehow find a way to confirm it...

“...What about a blood test?”

All eyes turn to Tonia.

Damian frowns. “You think you could check this with a blood test?”

“Wait, you’re telling us the girl spent a month in a hospital and you never checked her blood?” Says Liam.

“Because we didn’t think of checking her DNA! We were busy trying to keep her alive, for the record. And analyzing the werewolf gene is a really specific analysis. But yeah, it’s worth trying. If Nora is a Royal, we...”

“A Royal’s child,” I correct.



“Right, but even as Royal’s child, your werewolf genes should light up like a Christmas tree once we check your stats. I can ask Nana to help, I’m sure she would know.”

Damian nods, but to be honest, there is something else I would like to check. My eyes turn to Bobo, and he knows right away what I am thinking about. If we can do blood testing, I can even see how closely related Elena and I are!

Hey, Nora?

I turn to Liam. Why is he using the mind-link now? I don’t think anybody notices; Damian is discussing the blood-testing idea with Tonia, and Bobo is busy texting again.

What is it?

Could I get some of your blood, too? Don’t tell the others, but I think I know someone who could help you find more about your mother...

I agree, but this is a bit surprising. Who is Liam thinking about, and how could that person find more than Granny Ariadna will in the hospital? And more importantly, why is he keeping this a secret from everyone else...?

## **His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 45 - Tips**

He gives me an innocent smile, but I don’t buy it.

Who are you thinking about?

Top secret.

Why is everyone keeping secrets now?! Is it a trend or something? I glare at him but he acts innocent and ignores me, until Damian is actually the one who notices.

“Nora?”

“Nothing... Liam took the last tuna sandwich.”

My excuse is so lame, the youngest Black brother bursts out laughing. That is not funny! Now I look stupid, even though I feel like Damian doesn’t believe us. Neither do the Mura siblings. They all look at us with interrogating looks.

They know I wouldn't argue over a stupid sandwich with Liam... I get up to avoid their stares and go make some tea. Damian interrogates his brother with his icy gaze, but Liam ignores him and keeps eating his sandwich.

Nice one, Nora.

Oh, shut up.

When I come back with the tea, they already changed subjects back to the attack. Damian left Neal behind to oversee the Northern territory's defense issues with the White and Opal Moon Clans, and Tonia explains the situation at the harbor.

"They were so adamant about getting to the harbor... Doesn't that mean they knew where Nora was right away? Assuming she was her target, anyway."

"She definitely was," says Liam.

"But why? Why would they want Nora, why her in particular?"

"...Maybe it's because of this whole Royal thing?" Says Bobo.

I frown. What would be their interest in a Royal? Royals are specials for werewolves, but not for vampires... And it's not like I'm a leader of some sort or anything. I'm not even leading any pack or indispensable anywhere.

"Or it could be to destabilize my brother? He is known to be the Alpha of Silver City, even if it's unofficial. If they took Nora as a hostage, they could—"

Damian growls, but I put my hand on his to calm him down, and shake my head.

"I doubt it, Liam, no one really knows about me. Even tonight, people from the other packs had no clue who I was or which Clans I was related to. The Jade Moon Clan concealed my existence for years, and I only went out a few times in the last two months. Vampires should be even more clueless..."

"But what's their point in catching a Royal's kid?" Says Tonia, doubtful.

"Maybe not for the vampires, but for the witch..."

Once again, all eyes turn to Liam.

“What? Witches can do really weird stuff with blood and everything. Maybe she wants to try, well, using Nora for curses...”

“You got to be pretty damn sure of how useful she is going to be if you send a hundred vampires to a city full of werewolves just to get one!” Grumbles Tonia,

Damian growls again. I guess hearing about how a witch could use my body is not to his liking... I need to stop all this thinking before he gets too many ideas.

“Anyway, we are not sure of anything for now. We can only test my blood and see what’s right or not about this whole Royal theory.”

“And strengthen our defenses. Neal said they didn’t find any witch among the bodies, so she might try again to attack us again. I’ll hold a meeting with all the Alphas,” says Damian.

“I think we have some time before that witch can attack again. It must have taken some time to gather so many blood-suckers, and they almost all died or were chased by our packs. If it was an alliance, she is not going to find any Clans willing to cooperate with her for a while. And if she subdued them somehow, I would guess it’s going to take a long time to do it all over again, too,” adds Liam.

“That’s a lot of theories. And since when are you a witch expert, anyway?”

I have to agree with Tonia. I had no idea witches could subdue vampires, but Liam seems to know a lot more than I would have thought.

He shrugs. “I have to hunt one down on our territory. I should know the basics at least.”

“Catch her fast, Liam. We need to know if she’s on our side or if we have to get rid of her, too...”

“I know.”

I yawn without being able to hold back, and Bobo does the same two seconds later.

Tonia sighs. "Well, I guess you kids should go to bed. You're getting up early tomorrow."

"Wait, I have to go to school?" Says Liam, pissed.

"Yes, you do! Just because you came and fought a few blood-suckers, you think you can skip? Hell no, b.rat," growls Tonia.

I actually forgot about work, too. It's late but I can still catch some decent sleep if I go to bed now. Liam argues with Tonia for a while, before Damian intervenes. "Liam, enough."

With just those two words, the youngest brother stops complaining right away, though he is obviously pouting. Tonia smirks and I can't help but smile, too, at his childish behavior.

Damian throws him a key. "You're sleeping downstairs at Nate's place. Tonia, you're coming with me. Bobo, you stay there."

They all agree, but I turn to Damian, a bit disappointed. "You're not staying?"

"I have to go back. The White and Pearl Moon Clans need help, and I can't leave Neal and Nate to handle it on their own."

He quickly turns his eyes to the others, and everyone gets the message; they all exit the room quickly, leaving us alone facing each other. He takes my hand and kisses it softly, making me smile.

"Sorry... I know it's your birthday."

"It's okay, my birthday ended an hour ago. And I had the best one in my life, too."

I lean to kiss him, and he responds to it immediately. See? I'm getting b.raver and b.raver whenever we interact. Maybe getting to know more about his past helped a lot, too. He puts an arm around my shoulder, and we both lean on the back pillows, my head against his shoulder.

"I'm sorry for leaving you behind, but I'm glad you weren't in the front lines. I was worried enough with where you were."

"I know... I'm glad I can't defend myself now, but there is so much going on..."

“Don’t worry. We can handle a witch or two.”

“At least the others packs helped, too. I didn’t think they would.”

“Not all the packs. That’s another reason I want to talk to them, but you don’t need to concern yourself with that.”

Here we go again. Whenever it involves the other werewolves, he shuts me out. Am I not supposed to become his Luna someday? Shouldn’t I at least be interacting with his pack already? But Damian never lets me close to his pack’s affairs or members, except for his brothers and the Mura siblings. I don’t like being put aside.

Maybe Elena is right, and I should stay cautious...

“You look tired. I should go,” he whispers.

I nod, and he puts a quick kiss on my forehead before leaving. I stay alone for a while, lost in my thoughts without really falling asleep. I hear Bobo coming back, and he lays next to me on the couch, his head on my lap, like he always did as a wolf.

“Liam and my sis are gone. How are you?”

“Tired... How about you?”

“Same. But your sandwiches were really good.”

“Thanks, Bobo.”

We stay silent for a few seconds, and for a moment I wonder if he fell asleep after closing his eyes, but he starts talking again.

“I think it’s worth a shot. The blood testing.”

“I think so, too... I should ask Elena to do the same.”

“Don’t worry, she has someone who can do it for her.”

“...The tawny wolf?”

I just guessed randomly, but to my surprise, Bobo actually nods. I hope her friend is okay, though his injury didn’t seem too bad. But she mentioned they

lost friends from their pack... I probably shouldn't try to contact her now. They are probably either tired or busy. I suggest to Bobo we should get to bed, and he agrees. He changes back to his wolf form and comes to sleep on my bed.

I take a while to actually fall asleep, though. Once again, it was a big day. I would have had an incredible birthday, if it wasn't for the events that followed it... I remember my moon necklace and quickly text Damian about it. He replies right away, saying not to worry and that he'll send someone to fetch it. Reassured, I finally lose myself to slumber.

For the next two weeks, things got quite busy for everyone.

I kept working steadily at Nathaniel's restaurant, even if the man barely had any time to come and visit it himself. Somehow, I felt some tension between my manager, Narcissa, and him, though I had no idea what it all was about. Maybe I was just imagining it. Anyway, I decided to mind my own business and kept working as usual.

Moreover, since I demonstrated my fighting skills during our battle against the vampires, Damian finally agreed to lighten the surveillance around me. For example, Bobo didn't have any obligation to watch me while I was working at the restaurant anymore, so from then on, he usually just came to get me at the end of my shift. Also, Tonia stopped coming to the apartment as often as before and now only sleeps over a couple of times a week. Apparently, she is also the trainer for the youngest wolves of both packs and helps her older brother with his Beta duties.

As planned, she sent my blood samples to Granny Adriana, and now we are just waiting for the results. Liam also took some, though he never said who he would give it to, no matter how I insisted. He did promise he would let me know later, though.

Finally, Elena said her friend Daniel, the tawny wolf, was to run some tests on both our blood samples to see if he could find out about our kinship. Apparently, Daniel is a medical student, though his specialty is mental illnesses. But we have barely interacted since the fight. She seemed busy, and I figured her pack might still be busy with the aftermath of the attack.

Damian, too, barely had any time to meet with me. Seems like his Alpha duties kept him running from one place to another after this mess. He never shared with me whatever it was that he was busy with, though. As time passed, I asked less and less, but got more suspicious. Not only he was

obviously kept me in the dark, but because of this, I couldn't trust him, and our relationship wasn't making any progress either.

One evening after work, Liam, like often, came to the apartment to eat with Bobo and me after his classes. I was starting to doubt that he really was looking for the other witch that was supposedly in Silver City. He just went to school or skipped classes from time to time, got into fights here and there in the city, and dropped by unannounced when he was craving my cooking.

Like tonight. However, I was set on making him spill the beans about Damian. I knew Nathaniel and he knew much more than they wanted me to think.

"Why do you think my brother lets me meddle in his adult stuff? They both treat me like a kid!" Said Liam, sitting on my kitchen counter and eating cherry tomatoes.

"Don't act innocent when it suits you, Liam. I'm sure you know something and won't tell me."

"If I do, and I don't say I do, I'm not going to spill the beans. Sorry to disappoint you, Nora, but you are not nearly as scary as my brother."

So I'm just not intimidating enough now? I roll my eyes while fetching the basil herbs, and take the bowl of cherry tomatoes from him, just to annoy him. "I thought I could trust you!"

"Oh, you can! But still, not going to talk."

He is really annoying sometimes... I turn to Bobo for help, but he is busy texting again. He is glued to his phone these days! I stir up the sauce, trying to think of how I can convince him.

"Liam, I know there is something going on, and no one will tell me. All I do is go to work and come home."

"What are you talking about, you do go out sometimes."

"I'm talking about wolf stuff! I'm still without a pack, remember? It's been weeks! I can't just act human, I need to have a pack, hunt with other wolves, mind-link other people."

This is the biggest issue for me these days. I don't get why Damian still hasn't let me join his pack yet. He doesn't even let me meet them!

"Welcome to my life! I don't have a pack either, for the reminder. All my brothers do is make sure I go to school and don't get into fights."

"But you do get into fights," says Bobo.

"Yup, I'm a rebel. But that's not the point."

His finger heads to try my sauce, but I slap his hand and glare at him. No answers, no treats.

He pouts. "Gosh, you're starting to learn from my brother. You're almost as good as him at glaring now..."

"I'm going to do a lot more than glaring if you don't start talking. How about I tell Damian about my blood samples you took?" I ask.

He gasps. "Seriously? You're down to threats now?"

"Told you, my patience has its limits."

He frowns, and stays silent for a while, thinking. I leave him to his thinking and set up the table for three. Bobo finally puts his phone aside and helps me bring the food as we take a seat. Finally, Liam comes to sit, too, and looks me in the eyes.

"Okay... I can't talk, because I want a long life and a painless death, but I can give you a hint, as long as you promise not to tell my brothers I told you."

"I promise."

He breathes in and finally says it. "You should go to Damian's Company Christmas Party. There you go. ...Can I eat this plate of pasta now?"