

## His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 51 - Tips

“Baby, are you awake?”

I feel mom’s hand, caressing my hair. Will she continue if I pretend I’m sleeping? I hear her chuckle.

“Don’t pretend. I know when my baby boy is awake.”

I raise my head and look at her. She smiles. My mom is the prettiest. She is very thin, but her hair is shiny like the sun and she smells like flowers. I yawn because I am still a bit sleepy. I look at my watch. It’s six o’clock! I took too big a nap on mom’s bed!

“Mommy, I have to go! Big brother is waiting for me!”

“Okay. Here, take this.”

Wow, chocolates! She gives me three big bars. I love chocolate! I take my school backpack, put on my shoes, and I run to mom to give her a k!ss on the cheek.

“Bye, baby. K!ss your brothers for me, sweetie. And tell them to come to see mommy, too, okay?”

“Yes mommy, bye mommy!”

I run out of the room because I’m late. But I have to slow down in the corridor, because I shouldn’t run in a hospital, and the old nurse lady scolded me last time. So I walk, but very fast, until the entrance of the hospital. My big brother is there, so I run to him, and show him proudly my chocolate bars.

“Look, mommy gave it to me! One for each of us!”

He smiles but shakes his head. “You can eat it, I don’t like chocolate.”

“Liar! I saw you eat chocolate one time.”

“Maybe. But I have an allergy now, so I won’t eat it, anyway. You eat it.”

Yes! Lucky me! I take his hand, and we walk down the street. My big brother is taller than me, but that is because he is older than me. He is fourteen, and I

will be eight years old very soon. But I look a lot like him! Mom said it, too. While walking, he asks me how was school. I like going to school. I get good grades and it makes my brothers and mommy happy. I like sports and maths. And I have friends to play with, too.

When we arrive, he gives me three big coins from his pocket. “Go. And do your homework, okay?”

“Can I get a hot chocolate? The one with marshmallows on it?” I ask.

“If you do your homework, I’ll buy you one tomorrow, when it’s Friday. Friday is the day for the marshmallows, okay?”

I frown. I want the marshmallows now. Why do I always have to wait for Fridays...? He pats my head, but I push his hand away. I don’t like him messing my hair!

“Tomorrow, okay, Liam?”

“...Okay.”

So, I go inside the café. Nina, the nice granny, knows I have to wait for my brother here. She always saves me one of the seats facing the harbor so I can see my brother. Damian works there after school all the time, but I don’t like it because I have to wait until he is done and he always finishes really late. It’s annoying to watch, too. All he does he carry around big boxes, and more boxes with fish inside.

Sometimes he waves at me because he can see me behind the window. But I wait for a really long time.

Nina comes back, and she gives me my diablo. We have a secret: She always gives me free diabolos, so I can keep my coins! Sometimes, when I have enough of them, I can buy one of the cupcakes from the counter! But not today, because today I take out one of my chocolate bars and eat it.

When Damian comes back, it’s really dark outside, and I finished all my homework. I frown, because my brother smells like fish... He buys sandwiches from Nina and takes my hand.

“Come on, let’s go home.”

So we walk home. Our house is really far, and sometimes I'm tired, so I ask him to carry me, but not today. We walk home together, but Damian doesn't speak. He looks tired. When we get home, my brother Nate is there in the kitchen. Damian gives him the sandwiches and a big envelope, and I give him the chocolate bar, telling him mom gave it to us. He takes it and starts eating it.

"What about Damian's?"

"He said he is allergic to chocolate, so I ate it!"

"What? He is not... Damian, you..."

"I'm allergic to chocolate, Nate, you forgot?"

I see my oldest brother frowning, and the other one sighs. Damian ignores him and takes off his shoes. I take my shoes off, too, and I run to Nate, who is now eating his sandwich while writing in his little notebook. He puts the envelope with money in a box with the notebook and puts it in the secret closet.

"Mom said she wants to see you guys."

"Really? I'll go and see her tomorrow," says Nate.

"Damian, you too!"

But my oldest brother shakes his head. "I can't go see Mom, Liam."

"Why?"

"...Because I'm ugly."

What is he saying? He is not ugly... He looks a lot like me, so if he is ugly, I'm ugly, too, and mom said I'm handsome. "You liar! Come and see Mom! Mom said she wants to see you!"

"Stop yelling. Eat your sandwich, Liam," says Nate.

I don't want to eat this stupid sandwich! I want him to go see Mom in the hospital! Why does he never go to see mom?! It's always just me, and brother just works all the time... I'm really mad, but I still eat the sandwich, because

I'm hungry, and go to our bedroom. I start playing with my toys, but I hear my brothers talk again.

"Seriously Dam, let me do this and go take a shower, you reek of fish."

"I'm going, I'm going. There are mackerel and salmon in the bag. Can you put in the freezer?"

"Yeah, just go."

After that, I hear the shower running. Nathaniel comes to the bedroom.

"Take your pajamas and go shower with Damian, Liam. Hurry."

So I go shower with my big brother. I don't really like it, but Nate said hot water is expensive. After the shower, I put on my pajamas, and I want to start playing, but I hear the door's bell. Nate and Damian get up immediately, super-fast like ninjas.

"Liam, stay with Nate."

"Who is it?"

"Stay here, I said!"

He goes out, and Nate asks if I want to play Power 4, so I say yes. I win three times, and Damian comes back.

"Sam?"

"Yeah. He asked if he was here."

"Seriously? sh!t, he must have gone to the..."

"I know. Don't worry."

"Damian..."

Nate has a very worried look, but Damian ignores him and smiles to me.

"What are you playing? Power 4? You want to play against me?"

"Yes!"

This time, I play against big brother Damian, but he is so bad I win again until I'm bored. I yawn, and Nate looks at the clock on the wall. Damian nods, and puts the Power 4 back in the closet.

"Liam, time to go to sleep. We are playing go under the bed."

"What? No!"

I don't want to play that stupid game! It's not funny at all! I don't like that game! All I do is sleep under Nate's bed! It's stuffy and hot, I don't want to go!

"Come on, Liam, it's like pretending you are a mouse."

"No, I don't like this stupid game! I want to sleep in my bed! Can't we play another time?"

"Liam, no, we are playing tonight. Now, go."

"No! I don't want to! I'm not playing!"

I hate their stupid game! It's just funny for them! They are so mean! They make me sleep under Nate's bed and Damian takes my bed! I want my own bed! Damian says he is okay with sleeping on the floor, so why does he take my bed now? I don't want it! I want my bed!

"Liam, stop it!"

"I don't care! I want to sleep in my bed! You're mean!"

"You don't want to?" Asks Damian.

"No!"

"Even if I get really, really mad?"

"No, I don't care! I want my bed!"

I see brother Nate looking at him. Damian looks angry, but I don't care. He is not scary at all! He is frowning, but now, he looks at the clock on the wall and sighs.

"Nate, hold him."

What? Why is brother Nate holding me! Let me go, you stupid brother! I try to break free, but my brother Nate is bigger than me, too, and he is stronger. I try to pinch him and bite him, but he doesn't let go! I want to yell at him, but before I do, Damian takes my mattress out against the wall and suddenly kicks my bed.

"Stop it!"

He kicks it again really hard, and the wood breaks. Why is he breaking my bed?!

"Stop it, you meanie! I hate you!"

But he is not listening to me! Nate is holding me, and Damian is breaking my bed! I don't want him to break my bed! I'm crying, I'm mad at him! I hate him! When he stops, my bed is now just broken in big pieces.

"Now, you hurry and get under Nate's bed!" He yells.

"I hate you!"

Nate takes his mattress up, so I go in the hole under it. I hate being under his bed, it's all dark! I keep crying, but Nate puts the mattress back, and I can't see them anymore. But I can hear them.

"Damian..."

"It's okay. I'll save money and buy another one next time."

"I can ask Mom..."

"No, don't tell Mom. Go to bed now. I'll take this out."

I hear him move things around, but I don't care. I'm still mad at him! I'm not talking to them again, I hate them! I want to stop crying and sleep. But it's hard to sleep in here! It's so tiny, I have to curl up. I hear my brothers walking around, but after that, I feel Nate going to bed above me.

Sleep, Liam, says Nate with his wolf voice.

I hate you.

I know. Go to sleep now.

I want to go to sleep, stop talking to me! But I don't think I said that with my wolf voice. It's hard to make the difference sometimes. Damian and Nate are really good at using their wolves, but not me. They say it's because I'm too young. I don't care. I want to be a big wolf and beat them! I'm starting to feel tired now.

Suddenly, I hear a loud bang. Dad is here... I curl up a bit more. I'm a bit scared now.

Liam, we are playing hide and seek. You stay where you are, okay?

I don't answer, because I'm scared I will speak with the wrong voice. I cover my mouth. I hear dad's steps. Someone burps loudly.

Damian...

Shut up, Nate.

I hear a loud sound again, it's our bedroom's door. I don't move at all.

"Where is he?! Where is that damn little...?"

"He is not here! Now get out of here!"

"You little bastard! Where did you hide him?!"

Boom! I hear a really scary sound again. Is Damian okay...? I want to go out and see, but I'm really scared to.

Nate, don't fvcking\*g move.

I know, I know. Liam, stay there and don't speak.

A lot of booms and bangs again. I hear dad yell a lot, but I cover my ears to not listen, because Nate said I shouldn't listen when adults are yelling.

Damian yells at him, too, and it's really, really loud in the room, even if I cover my ears. I start crying again, but it's because I'm scared. I try not to make too much noise. What is going on? I hear a lot of noise... Like things breaking, or something punching against the wall. Big brother yelling and our dad, too. I close my eyes and cover my ears really hard to make it go away. It's too scary...

I hear a loud bang again, and the sounds stop. I stay without moving for a very long time. Is it okay to speak now? I don't hear my brothers...

"...Nate? ...Damian?" I whisper, really quietly.

I want to get out, but is it okay? I try to find my wolf to speak, but I don't feel him. What do I do?! I want to see my brothers... I wait again, but after a while, I push the mattress up a bit. I hear their voices! I step out of the hole and walk very quietly to the entrance of the bedroom. I take a look in the living room.

Nate is there, and Damian, too! They are sitting on the floor, next to the couch. But Damian is injured... Nate is helping him wipe off blood from his face. Damian looks up and sees me. He sighs. "Liam... What are you doing here?"

I run up to him. He looks very, very bad... His eye is all black, and he has blood on his forehead and on his lip. His cheek has a weird color, too. His arms don't look good, either, so I sit very close to him but don't touch him. He pats my head.

"Are you okay...?" I ask, because I'm worried

"Yeah. It's not painful at all. You are not scared?"

I take a look around us, to be sure. "Dad is not here?" I ask.

"No, he went out again," says Nate.

"Okay, I'm not scared then."

Damian smiles. "Good boy. Hey, can you get the ice cubes from the freezer? Like when Nate makes lemonade."

I get up and go get the ice cubes in a little plastic bag. I accidentally spill a bit of water on the floor; I hope it's okay. I walk back to my brothers, and Nate is doing something with a black string.

"What are you doing?" I ask.

"Don't look. I'm stitching Damian's arm."

"Why are you explaining if you tell him not to look?" Asks brother Damian, laughing.



“Oh, shut up...”

I keep looking at them, and Damian puts the bag of ice on his eye. It looks painful.... I frown. Nate is bandaging him, and I ask him if I can try to do it. They let me try, and I have fun playing with the bandages until Nate asks me to stop because Damian looks like a mummy, but we laugh.

After a while, I turn to Damian. “Can I sleep with you tonight?”

He nods. “Okay. But no snoring.”

“I don’t snore, you snore!”

They both laugh at me. I turn to Damian, but he really doesn’t look good like that. He sighs and makes a grimace to me. “Told you, Liam. I’m ugly.”

After Damian is covered in bandages, we go back to the bedroom, and he puts my mattress on the floor. I come to sleep next to him, but the mattress is really tiny with the two of us on it, so we have to sleep on our side, facing Nate. Damian’s feet are even on the floor. I still feel better than in the hole, though. Nate falls asleep quickly, but not us.

“...Damian?”

“Hm?”

“Can I sleep with Mom at the hospital?”

“...I don’t think so, Liam.”

“Oh...”

I stay silent for a while, a bit disappointed. But after a while, I feel Damian patting my head.

“You know what?” He whispers.

“What?”

“When we are rich, we will buy the hospital. That way, you can sleep with Mom all you want.”

“Okay, then.”

I like that idea.

I fall asleep thinking of when I can sleep with Mom.

## **His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 52 - Tips**

The next morning, I wake up with a very annoying headache. I'm a bit disoriented, and for a while, I have no idea where I am. Until I remember last night. The party.

Gosh... I wish I had forgotten a bit longer. I get up. Oh right, Daniel gave me his bed. Their apartment only has a room with two beds, so he slept on the couch. I walk into the main room, but it seems like I'm the last one up. Elena is curled up on the couch, and Daniel is busy making hot chocolates behind the kitchen counter. It's still pouring outside, and so dark, it's hard to say what time of the day it is.

"Good morning, cousin," she says with a smile.

I can't help but smile when I hear that. It does sound good... I sit on the couch with her, and Daniel brings us the cups.

"So, everyone decided to wake up early," sighs Daniel. "What is the program for today, ladies?"

"Waiting for Bobo, for now," says Elena. "And I'm not going anywhere with this rain and this hellish nausea."

"...How is the baby?" I ask.

She smiles. "Fine, thank you. I think..."

But before she can finish her sentence, the doorbell rings. She smiles at Daniel, who is slightly blushing. He rolls his eyes and gets up to go open the door. Bobo appears, carrying a little paper bag that smells terribly good. Daniel, still blushing, tries to avoid looking at him in the eyes, but Bobo grabs him around the shoulders anyway and kisses his forehead.

Oh my Goddess, Daniel is so red, it's like his hair is about to change color, too.

"S...stop it. Just... come in. Wh-What's with the ba...bag?"

Next to me, Elena laughs behind her cup. “I never see Daniel stutter like this, unless Bobo is there. Never. It’s so cute,” she whispers to me.

Indeed, it’s too cute and funny to watch. Bobo’s eyes are fixated on his beloved with a little smile, while Daniel is really clumsily trying to ignore him, despite being red like a tomato and his eyes blinking way too many times. He goes to the kitchen, but still stumbles halfway. I can’t help but chuckle, too. I didn’t know there was someone who could be worse than me around their mate...

Bobo walks up to us, and Elena opens the bag with hungry eyes. “Croissants! Thank you, Bobo, we didn’t get any breakfast yet,” she says while taking one.

“It’s from Nathaniel, actually. Did you tell him about...?”

But Elena shakes her head while he’s trying to find his words. “No, he doesn’t know about the baby yet.”

“Oh, okay. Well, he was a bit worried about you. You should give him a call.”

“Mhmm.”

But she doesn’t say anything else and starts eating her croissant. Too soon, I guess....

Then, Bobo comes closer and sits just next to me, on the floor. He is so tall that it’s doesn’t really make a difference, though.

“Hi, Nora,” he says with his usual smile.

“I’m mad at you, too, you know.”

My wolf raises her head, a bit annoyed at me. Why are we mad at Bobo? She likes Bobo; she is not really mad at him. We should be just mad at our mate, shouldn’t we? But I decide to ignore her.

Bobo and Tonia kept things from us, too, remember?

“I know. I just came to check on you. How are you?”

“Are we talking about my feet or my feelings?”

“Both.”

“My feet are fine.”

Not the rest, though. I’m really hurt by their lies. I still can’t believe none of them told me anything. About Damian’s engagement. About that woman, Alexandra King, whoever she is. Do I mean nothing in their eyes? Don’t I deserve to know the truth? Even Bobo didn’t say a thing... I sigh. “I don’t know, Bobo, I can’t get what Damian’s thinking. He... He said he loves me, but...”

My voice breaks, and I feel tears coming. I don’t know what to believe anymore... I love him, I really do. Nothing to do with that stupid mate thing. I just love Damian. His silver eyes and the way he looks at me. His voice, so deep. How he treats me like I’m so precious, his large hands, and gentle touch. I don’t want to lose him.

Bobo puts his large hand on mine. “He loves you, Nora, a lot more than you think. He really does. If you had seen him after you left yesterday...”

“But what about this engagement then?!”

Why would he get engaged to another woman?! And he knew I existed, that he had a mate, for years! If he was searching for me, what was the point if he planned to marry someone else anyway? I start crying silently and I hate it.

I hate feeling so lost and powerless. I have no idea what to do, what to say to them. Am I supposed to make decisions now? My mind is in such a mess! I don’t want to.

Elena starts patting my back. “Hey Nora, it’s okay. Why don’t you take a couple of days to cool off, hm? I think you might need a little break to think things over. Stay here for the weekend, with us.”

I look at Daniel and Elena. Is that okay? I do feel like I really need a break right now. “What about Daniel? You are not going to keep sleeping on the couch...”

“Daniel can sleep at my place,” says Bobo immediately.

“You...your place?” Stutters the concerned Daniel, blushing again.

“Great idea!” Says Elena with a big smile.

“What a great idea! I haven’t agreed to it. ...Yet. Maybe I... I like the couch,” mumbles Daniel.

“Oh, please. I’m done with you complaining about Bobo staying with Nora all the time, so now you enjoy your man all you want and I’ll spend time with my cousin. Come on, baby, you know you want it,” says Elena, pushing him gently with her feet.

“Elena!”

But we both laugh at his offended look. Daniel is so red and embarrassed, it’s way too cute, even for me. Bobo starts whispering something into his ear that no one else can hear, and Elena winks at me. A few seconds later, Daniel is red like a tomato again and pushing Bobo away.

“Okay, okay, okay! I’m coming, but please, stop that! Where did you learn to say such... stuff?!”

He steps away from his boyfriend and comes to grab a croissant, before sitting between me and Elena, who teases him again. I know this whole scene is also to help me cheer up a bit. Bobo joins us, sitting on the floor next to me again.

While Elena is arguing with Daniel about some sweatshirt that she apparently took from him, Bobo comes closer to me. “He canceled the party yesterday.”

I stare at him, surprised. “...Really?”

He nods. “Right after you left. He sent everyone home, and he didn’t want to see anyone, either. It took a while to calm him down.”

I remember Damian’s eyes yesterday. Usually, they shine with assurance, but all I saw last night was confusion, and even fear. He was truly panicked. I play with my pendant between my fingers for a while, remembering the night he gave it to me. I finally raise my head to look Bobo in the eye. “...So, he really doesn’t love her... Alexandra?”

He shakes his head and gently tightens his hand around mine. “No. Trust me, Nora. I may not be the closest one to the Boss, but one thing I’ve seen is the way he looks at you. The way he is with you, he isn’t like that with anyone else. Before he found you, he was like a machine. The only ones who could approach him without any fear were his brothers. You are immune to the

Alpha's aura, so you don't notice this, but for anyone else, Damian Black is the most terrifying being in this city."

This is strange, hearing it all from Bobo's mouth. It's like I was blinded for a while. I know how much Damian tried to protect me, but along the way, I also forgot what kind of man he was, and the responsibilities that come with it. And how lucky I've been so far...

Without Damian, I would be dead, killed by my own brother's hands. He gave me everything I needed, and way more. For two months, I have been living without any worries about where to sleep or what to eat. Compared to the last ten years of my existence, it's... It doesn't change what I saw yesterday, but I can't just blame Damian and forget everything he's done for me either. That would be too unfair of me.

"I need time, Bobo. Thank you for talking to me, but this is still too fresh for me. No matter Damian's reasons... He kept it hidden from me, for weeks. He should have told me. I've had too many secrets in my life already. I want to be able to trust my mate. For real."

He nods. "I understand. I just wanted to tell you. And, um... Liam wants to talk to you, too."

"Liam?"

He suddenly takes something out of his pocket and gives it to me. My phone! Oh right, I left it at the party last night... I open it. Six missed calls from Damian, and two from Tonia. He left a message on the voicemail... I hesitate and decide I will listen to it later. Not now, not in front of these three. And whatever he said in that message, I'm not ready to listen to it for now.

Liam left me a text, though, so I open it. He apologizes for last night, though he feels I deserved the truth. He says he wants to talk to me, face to face. "No surprises this time."

I reply back, a quick text to say we can meet tonight.

I finally feel a bit better now. I take a sip of Daniel's delicious hot chocolate, warming myself up from the outside a little. Elena is right. All I might need right now is a bit of time.

Since the downpour should continue all day, we decide not to go out. Daniel has to prepare some exam coming up and surrounds himself with lots of enormous books. Apparently, he wants to specialize in psychology. Elena is a business student, but she doesn't feel like studying today. She goes to shower first and changes into baggy jeans and an oversized top. She then says she will wait for me to do the same, and lends me some of her clothes.

But when I come out of the shower, it turns out that she fell asleep on the couch while waiting, despite the radio station playing in the kitchen.

Daniel raises his head from his books. "Don't worry, it's like that since she learned about her pregnancy. She will wake up from her mini-nap in ten minutes or so."

"Is she okay?"

"Yeah, it happens to some pregnant women. She feels sleepy all of sudden, and within a minute, she's napping. But don't worry, she's perfectly fine."

I nod. Elena is curled up on one corner of the couch and one of the boys covered her with a blanket. Bobo is sitting at the opposite corner, while Daniel is on the carpet, bent over the little table with all his books and a computer.

I make myself some tea and come back, sitting next to Daniel. "Can I ask you something?"

"Sure."

"How did you meet Elena?"

He smiles and takes off his glasses to look at his sleeping friend. "When we were really young, like five or six. The same pack, but we didn't really fit with the other kids. I would always get mocked by the other boys for being tinier, weaker than them. Elena was an orphan, so she was ostracized, too. But unlike me, she was the one who would come and beat those kids once they were done kicking my a\*s, saying they were weaklings." He chuckles at the memory. "She made the boys cry a lot. She was a real little punk, even picking fights with kids bigger than her. She hated when they picked on others."

"So she helped you?"

“Oh no, she kicked my a\*s and called me a weakling a lot of times, too! But after that, she would always come and share her cookie with me or something. She was like that. Even when she lost and got beaten up, Elena would never hold it against them. She moved on and trained harder. So, I trained harder, too.”

“Pfft... You cried whenever I trained you.”

Elena just woke up and is looking at us with a grumpy look.

Daniel sticks his tongue out to her. “That is not how I recall it, mama. And for the record, you were a violent, thick-headed little punk.”

“Not going to deny that...”

I laugh. It’s funny to see them interact. They are best friends, but also like brother and sister, bickering non-stop. I suppose Daniel will always be there for her, even if she decides to part ways with Nathaniel...

And here I am thinking about Damian again. He brought more people into my life than I thought I could ever have. Bobo is like a big, protective brother to me. Liam is a bit of a b.rat, but he still is someone I trust and like having around. Tonia, too, is like an older sister. I never had anyone like those three in my life before.

Elena was right about the downpour. It rained all day, but despite that and everything else, we had a good day. Those two basically listen to music all day, and they even danced around sometimes. They made me cook for lunch, and in the afternoon, I trained a bit with Elena, while Bobo helped Daniel review his notes for his upcoming exams. We couldn’t do any boxing or shapeshift because of her condition, but she did show me some new workout exercises and moves. She also explained to me some meditation techniques to help me interact better with my inner wolf, things I had never tried before. It was like opening a new door, and at the same time, seeing things differently, better.

The training helped me empty my mind for a while, and it felt really good. Also, I had no time to be anxious before Liam’s arrival, though it came quickly.

As planned, he showed up around eight, alone. “Hi, Nora. Ready for our little date?”



I smile and grab the coat Elena landed me.

“Yes. Where do you want to go?”

“Since you met with the Sea Moon Wolves, how about the harbor? There is a little café by the docks I used to go to a lot when I was a kid, and the lady there makes mean hot chocolates...”

## **His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 53 - Tips**

Liam takes his favorite black bike, and since it's only the two of us, we arrive quickly at the docks. As we enter the Sea Moon Wolves' turf, some wolves come immediately. But they recognize Liam and me, and agree to let us through after a few words. As we had fought side by side only a couple of weeks ago, they have no real reason to argue with us. Not today.

He finally parks his bike in front of a family restaurant, a large one facing the sea. The whole building has been built in what was formerly one of the dock's warehouses but was entirely renovated to give it a seventies decoration, with leather seats, neon lights, and a retro feel.

Once we enter, a few heads turn to check us out, mostly sailors and dockers, but nobody says a thing to chase us. I guess the word must have been given because everyone quickly ignores us to go back to their meal. However, a waitress runs up to us, a plump woman in her fifties. She smiles at Liam, visibly happy to see him.

“Liam, boy! It's been a while, sweetie! Moon Goddess, you are so grown up already! How old are you now?”

“Eighteen, Nina! How is my favorite waitress? I missed you!”

“Oh, you little sweet-talker...” They quickly hug, and the adorable lady turns to me. “Did you bring a girlfriend this time?! Hello, darling!”

“Hi, I'm Nora.”

“She's my brother's girlfriend. I stole her for a date,” says Liam with a wink, putting his arm around my shoulders.

Nina laughs and adjusts her red hair, before grabbing two menus. “I see, I see, well, come on, I got your favorite table available, sweetie.”

She takes us to a great spot, a little table with a view on the ocean. Giving us the menus, she is still looking fondly at Liam. “Oh sweetie, I feel so nostalgic seeing you there again! You know, darling, this boy used to come here every single day when he was a kid! Oh, Liam, I remember you doing all your homework on this very table, with that little mint diablo you always had.”

“And you gave me free refills anytime, Nina. Can I get that diablo today?”

“Sure, you can, sweetie! And what would you like to drink, young lady?”

“I’ll have the same as Liam.”

“Okay! Take your time, I’ll come back for your order. Our special today is the fish and chips; I would recommend it!” She takes off quickly, and Liam sighs with a smile.

“She loves you a lot,” I say.

“Nina is the sweetest waitress in the world. She didn’t just give me refills, you know. Most of the time she didn’t take any money for those diabolos.”

“So, you really came here often?” I ask.

Liam nods, but before saying anything else, he is absorbed in the menu, and so I am. When Nina comes back with our diabolos, I order the fish and chips, while Liam chooses the biggest burger on the menu. Once she leaves us alone again, he starts playing with his straw and looks at me. “So, how are you?”

“I’m fine, I guess... Better than last night.”

“Looks like it. I was a bit worried. Well, a lot actually. I was afraid that might have been a big blow for you.”

I frown and push my drink aside to lean closer to him. “Why did you take me there, Liam?”

I want to know what he was trying to achieve by bringing me there. After all, he was the only one among all the others who chose to do so.

He takes on a serious face, and sighs. “To be honest with you, Nora, I didn’t do it for you. I did it for Damian. That engagement is total bullsh!t, and I don’t want him to be unhappy and tied to a b\*\*\*h like Alexandra King.”

He says her name with so much disgust, I do feel a bit better.

“But why did you bring me to the party, then? Couldn’t you just talk to him before all this? Liam, now that it’s done, I’m... It’s just plain painful for me!”

Does he realize how much I suffered last night? Seeing Damian with another woman... No matter the reasons Liam had, I still feel like I was just brought there to watch this nightmare and suffer. Why use me in all this?

Does he realize how much I suffered last night? Seeing Damian with another woman... No matter the reasons Liam had, I still feel like I was just brought there to watch this nightmare and suffer. Why use me in all this?

Liam stays silent for a while, apparently thinking. After a while, he turns his head to the docks, and a soft smile appears. “...You know, my brother is a big liar.”

What does he mean now? Sometimes it’s hard to decipher Liam. One minute he is acting like a kid, and the next one, he is there acting all mysterious and plotting behind his brothers’ backs... He points to the docks, and I turn my head to follow his finger.

“When I was young, Damian used to work right there. He started when he was ten. After school, I would go see my mom at the hospital and then Damian would take me to this restaurant. I did my homework and drank diabolos while he was working. He worked, on this very dock, for five or six hours straight every day. He carried huge boxes back and forth from boats to the dock. Whenever he stopped, he just came here to check up on me, and he went back right away.”

I try to imagine a young Damian, working there, sweating under the weight of heavy containers. It’s hard to imagine how his youth was like...

“Those boxes were awfully huge, and heavy. It was a job even a lot of adults didn’t want because it was hard. But the old man Seaver let my brother work there, because he never complained, never took a day off. And when he was done, if I just said I was tired, he would carry me home. Whenever I asked, he lied, saying he wasn’t tired.”

He must have been. How could he have not been, after working like that... And Liam and Damian have a six-year age difference. No matter how young Liam was, he must have been heavy for Damian to carry...

Liam chuckles. “He lied all the time. He made me believe for ten years that he was allergic to chocolate because our Mom often gave me chocolate for the three of us and I loved it. So, Damian always said he didn’t want it, and I ate his share without knowing.”

I can’t help but smile, imagining a young Liam happily eating chocolate... I thought Damian didn’t like sweets, though. Maybe he just has a soft spot for chocolate, then. Our plates arrive, and after thanking Nina, Liam goes on.

“Nate and Damian always hide stuff from me. I learned very late that they had to work because our father didn’t give us any money. We ate fish that Damian would bring back from his work for years. They both dropped out of high school to work full time. Yet they never let me see any of the hardships we were facing. Every time, they made it look like a game.”

Now I know why they are so adamant about Liam going to high school properly... They are truly caring for their youngest brother. The three of them had to protect each other, but they protected Liam more because he was the youngest. It’s a miracle they turned out the way they did, given their family situation... Liam suddenly stops eating to play with his fork.

“You know, I suffer from moderate claustrophobia because of them. When I was a kid, they made up a game where I had to sleep in a hole under Nate’s bed. I hated that game! It was a stupid hole, where they just put a blanket, and Damian took my bed whenever I had to sleep in there. Nate’s mattress was above, so I couldn’t see a thing. I thought for years that they were messing with me, the kind of stupid jokes you would play on your younger siblings, you know?”

Liam shakes his head, frowning at the memory. Why would they put him in a hole? I don’t see Damian or Nate, from what he told me, playing this kind of mean jokes on him just for fun.

“It took me a long time to realize. Every time I was in that hole, it was a night when our father would come home.”

Oh, Moon Goddess. Does he mean...?

“Yes Nora, you got it. Nate and Damian hid me in that hole so our father wouldn’t hit me when he was drunk. Most of the time, I fell asleep fast and didn’t hear a thing. But when I grew older, I started to realize Damian and Dad fought when I was in that hole. Nate used the mind-link to tell me to stay

hidden until it was over. And when it was over, I would come out and find my brother beaten up really bad. Nate, too, sometimes.”

Liam looks very sad when telling this. He plays with his fork with a sullen look, bending it and putting it back. He has the same frown as Damian when he's conflicted. All of sudden, he looks at me, and from his eyes, I feel like he is holding his tears.

“You know what's worse? The one our father really wanted to beat up was me. Every time, he came looking for me. But Damian never let him touch me, so he would beat Damian instead. And my brother resisted, but he let our father hit him until he was satisfied. Because once he had enough, he would go out again and stop looking for me. You have no idea how many times I found Damian soaked in blood, Nora. He was strong, so my father never held up. But Damian never complained, not a single time. Instead, he just smiled at me anytime he saw me, saying he was fine. Lying again, to protect me.”

I feel tears coming from hearing this. Liam had already told me that Damian fought with their father, and confronted him a lot, but... This all sounds way too real. And Liam's voice is breaking, too, from reliving all this. What kind of mess did they grow up in!? I hate their father so much. He was a monster, to his own kids. Liam wipes away a couple of tears and drinks a bit before going on.

“Damian is that kind of guy, Nora. He never shows how hard it is for him. Do you know he almost never visited our mom in the hospital? Because most of the time he had bruises and cuts, all from our father's beating, and he didn't want our mom to see it. And he is doing exactly the same with you now.”

I frown. What does he mean with that? Damian's engagement, that whole situation, how is it related to me?

Looking more serene, Liam takes a serious tone. “Nora, you are the most important person in my brother's life. He would do anything, and I mean anything, to protect you. Just like he did for me, for our mother. And sometimes, that i\*\*\*t is willing to make very stupid decisions, sacrificing himself for this.”

“...Like the engagement, you mean?”

He takes some fries and nods. “Exactly. He accepted the Gold Moon Clan's proposal because he believed he could protect you, and us, with it.”

I don't get it. I shake my head. "Liam, you're going to have to be a lot more precise if you want me to believe that Damian got engaged to another woman for my sake."

"Nora, Damian has treated you like a little princess, shielding you from whatever is going on in Silver City right now. But trust me, my brother is going to need a lot of help from now on, and I don't agree with getting it from that King b!tch."

"What are you talking about? What is going on in Silver City?"

Liam smiles and eats another portion of his burger. Why can't he answer me first before stuffing himself? It's nerve-wracking! After a few very long and annoying bites, he takes a gulp of his diablo, and just when I'm about to lose patience, he smiles at me.

"A war, Nora. Forget vampires and witches. Silver City is about to get in a mean, violent, and b\*\*\*\*y war between all the werewolf Clans if we don't do something soon."

## **His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 54 - Tips**

I stare at him, totally confused.

A war in Silver City? The last war happened not ten years ago, when Damian killed their father to take over the Blood Moon Clan! Why would another one erupt now? I thought the Black Brothers were unmatched in terms of strength, so why would anyone choose to start a war now?

"Liam, I don't get it. I thought..."

"We were the untouchable Black Brothers? Well, that part is true. But a Moon Clan isn't all about its Alpha, Nora. Sure, Damian is the big bad wolf in town, no questioning that. If he had to single out any Alpha in the area, he would win. Easily. But what if he had to fight fifty wolves at once?"

He's right... The Black Brothers are feared by many because they win in terms of power, dominance, strength. No one would be stupid enough to force them into a duel. If anyone wanted to overthrow them, it would have to be in a massive attack, with enough people to attack not only Damian but the whole pack. I turn to Liam, worried.

“You’re telling me other packs want to attack the Blood Moon.”

“We are not popular, Nora. Our father’s reputation did a lot of damage, and for most of the population, Damian is just as fearsome.”

“But Damian is not your father! He is not looking to fight the other packs! He—”

I stop, realizing I started yelling a bit too loudly in the restaurant. A lot of eyes are now staring at us, and I mumble some apology before turning back to Liam. That i\*\*\*t is smiling, mocking me.

“So cute... You are so prone to defend my brother; I’m feeling reassured now.”

“Oh, shut up! Tell me, who wants to fight the Blood Moon?”

Liam takes three of the sauce pots, placing them in a triangle.

“Right now, the situation is like this: the three main Clans are ours, the Blood Moon, the Gold Moon Clan, and the Sapphire Moon Clans. In terms of power, number, and wealth, those three clans hold the most power. But those two are still behind us. The Gold Moon is large, but their Alpha and warriors aren’t that strong. As for the Sapphire Moon, it’s the other way around: they got strength, but they are not as numerous or wealthy.”

“If those two are still behind, what is the problem, then?” I ask, confused.

I already know that through the Black Corporation he established, Damian made sure his Clan and the Velvet Moon had the most possessions in Silver City, maybe thirty percent of the total area, leaving the seventy percent left to be split between the other ten or so packs. But Liam suddenly moves several fries, placing them behind the sauce pots.

I observe his pattern for a while, before realizing. “The Clan alliances?”

He nods. “Exactly. The other Clans are not going to grow any bigger until years now. However, some of them started to understand that having allies might be much more profitable and efficient than waiting. Ironically, they took the idea from the Velvet Moon Clan. Unlike the Opal Clan, who is a branch of a bigger Clan, the White Moon, the Velvet Moon is its own entity, moving along the Blood Moon. Guess what the other Clans did once they understood that this was how Damian and Nate beat our father?”

“...They would start seeking alliances,” I whisper.

Liam nods.

This is crazy... Werewolves are usually secluded to their own packs. Outside of our packs, we may be “friends” with other wolves, but not only it is very rare, but it also doesn’t involve any exchange, unless necessary. Like the Jade Moon and the Pearl Moon. I have always seen the two packs being friendly, but we never acted along them. They had their own fights, and we would never interfere. The most we exchanged was information about possible rogue attacks, but we never acted together against them.

I turn to Liam.

“How are things, then?”

He smiles. “You understand quickly. Actually, we weren’t sure of anything, until two weeks ago. The only clear thing was that the Rising Moon Clan had agreed to ally with the Gold Moon Clan. But we had no idea about the others.”

“Until the fight against the vampires, right? All the packs had to react, so the alliances naturally showed.”

I start recalling the events. That’s right. The Blood Moon and the Velvet Moon rallied the White Moon and Opal Moon in the North, but the Gold Moon Clan headed south with the Rising Moon Clan, confirming those two are allies. Also, the Pearl Moon Clan moved to help the Jade Moon, so Vince probably has an alliance going with their Alpha. Then, I recall one crucial detail.

“The Sapphire Moon. They are the only ones that didn’t move.”

Liam nods. “Exactly. But the truth is, they are not the only ones. The Violet Moon also didn’t make a move, while their branch Clan, the Purple Moon, came to help here, the Sea Moon.”

“But the Sea Moon Clan is neutral, isn’t it?”

“Yes. My guess is Lissandra acted against her father, the Violet Moon Alpha’s, orders, to help old man Seaver. She is not one to miss the action, and I bet she didn’t like being told to stay on the sidelines.”

“If that’s so, the Violet Moon and Sapphire Moon Clan are allies...”



Which means that their power would now be equal with the Blood Moon and the Velvet Moon Clans! The Jones family is a powerful line of Alphas, and their Clan holds a lot of people. too. Not to mention Lissandra's warriors! I've seen them in action, and they are real war machines. I try to make the maths in my head, but no matter how many times I try to think of it, the Sapphire Clan, if allied with the Violet Moon, really is more powerful than the Black Brother's Clans...

"...And they hate the Blood Moon Clan".

"Exactly, Nora. William Blue, the Sapphire Moon Alpha, had a long feud with our father, and it didn't die with him. He wants nothing to do with us and thinks Damian is not the right Alpha King for Silver City. So, he is waiting for an opportunity to overthrow us at any time."

The pieces of the puzzle are finally assembling, letting me see the larger picture. I can't believe I didn't know any of this earlier. How could I be so blind?! Seeing all the packs work together to fight off the vampires, I had no idea so many people were making their moves in the shadows. I look up to Liam.

"So, the Gold Moon wants to ally with Damian?"

He frowns but nods, eating the fries he had left on the table.

"Exactly. They were the second most powerful clan after us, but now, the Sapphire Moon bested them by allying with the Violet Moon, and the Rising Moon is nowhere as good as the Jones. So instead, they came to Damian with this proposal."

I finally get it now. If the Sapphire Moon is after them, they have to change alliances quickly and assert their position to avoid a war. But why an engagement for that?! I'm still so mad! I understand that the Gold Moon Clan would be the most powerful Clan to ally themselves with, but this condition is... Gosh, I'm annoyed just thinking about it! My wolf is furiously growling, too. I'm not okay with this! We are not fine with any of this! I wish I could...

"Hey, hey, Nora, calm down. Your Alpha aura is scaring everyone, girl," whispers Liam.

I look around. Oh, he's right... Everyone is staring at us, and some people instinctively backed away a few steps from our table. Did I do that? My wolf

was really angry, but I never noticed I could let others feel it... I calm myself down a bit, really embarrassed. Liam, however, is laughing.

“Wow, first time I see you acting like an Alpha. Except for that time with the Jade Moon weakling Alpha, I mean. Girl, you do have fangs after all!”

“It’s not funny, Liam! I don’t even know how I just did this...”

“It’s an Alpha thing. If our wolf gets mad, other wolves will feel it and react to it. But it’s funny, even I felt it... other Alphas are usually immune. Guess it’s your Royal side acting up, too.”

“We are not sure I am a...”

“Oh, stop it, Nora, you know damn well you are now. Who needs those stupid tests?”

I shake my head. I’m not having this discussion now, and we have more important matters to discuss. I try to think calmly about this alliance with the Gold Moon Clan. Wasn’t there any better option?

“What about the other Clans?” I ask.

But Liam shakes his head. “We tried, but those who don’t fear us, hate us. A lot of the Clans will choose to remain neutral, but honestly, it’s better they do, because otherwise we probably wouldn’t be their first choice anyway.”

“What about the White Moon Clan?”

“Same, Nora, they want to remain neutral. They were grateful we helped them, but they have a long history with the Sapphire Moon, and they are not going to betray them. And they hate the Gold Moon Clan, too.”

I can’t believe it... This situation is impossible. I try to think it over, but for now, I don’t see any way to help Damian. The Jade Moon Clan is nothing compared to the others, and I won’t bring Damian any help with this.

“So, you’re telling me their only way out is for Damian to marry that... girl?”

Liam growls, annoyed. “I don’t like it and Nate doesn’t either. We tried to talk Damian out of it, and trust me, our brother doesn’t want it either.”

“Why didn’t he tell me then?!”

“Because they were already engaged when we finally found you, Nora! And Damian doesn’t want you to throw you in the middle of this mess! If the war explodes, guess who they will attack first to hurt Damian?”

His Luna. That’s who they would attack first, to weaken the Alpha, especially if that Luna is his fated mate; it will hurt much more. I’m stunned. That explains his words... “You won’t be my official Luna”. He didn’t mean to have me as his mistress, but to hide me from people who would want to hurt him. I’m... I’m nothing but a weakness to Damian now! My wolf whimpers, too sad from this thought. Why are we so powerless?!

“I told you everything, Nora, because I don’t want Damian to make a decision he would regret. And because even if he doesn’t want you involved, I think you might be the solution to all this.”

I look at Liam, dumbfounded. The solution, me? I’m just a powerless mate! I only have ownership of one of the weakest clans around, what could I possibly bring Damian that he doesn’t already have?

Liam clenches his fist and looks at me right in the eye. “Nora, I know it’s hard. But my brother loves you. He has loved you, and only you, for ten years. ...Ten years ago, one night, my father came home really, really drunk and angry. He started hitting Damian. Harder than he had ever hit him any time before. I was terrified. It was so bad that Damian told Nate to run with me. As always, Nate obeyed, and even if I struggled to stay, the last thing I saw behind Nate’s back was my oldest brother being beaten to the ground by our father. I was certain he would k!ll him that time, Nora. I cried so much because I was sure, so sure my brother was going to die back there.”

I see him looking infuriated for the first time, clenching his fists. “When we came back, our father was gone. But Damian was gone, too. All was left was bl00d, all over the floor, so much bl00d. We thought he had been k!lled. Nate panicked; he couldn’t feel our brother’s wolf anymore. I remember I ran, went through every room of the apartment, yelling his name. He was gone, Nora, and I was terrified.”

He stays silent for a while and, to my surprise, a gentle smile suddenly appears. “For a full week, Nate searched for him everywhere. Even for his body. He went through all the territories, despite the risks. Our father didn’t come back either, and we had no idea what had happened. But suddenly, after eight days, Damian reappeared. And he was perfectly fine! No wound,

not even scars. I thought he was a ghost, but honestly, I didn't care. My brother was back. But you know what was the first thing he said?"

He raises his eyes, looking into mine, smiling.

"He told us a little princess with the most beautiful blue eyes had saved his life."

## **His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 55 - Tips**

...A little princess with blue eyes? Damian meant me? Is that when the two of us met, during those eight days? I can't remember any of it... And how could he come out perfectly fine and well? If their father's beating was as hard as Liam said.

"What else did he say?" I ask, impatient.

But Liam shakes his head. "Not much. Damian never told us the details about your encounter; I don't know why. He just talked about his little princess all the time, his fated mate. I never saw him looking happier than the days that followed. Sometimes, he would just close his eyes to feel you, even if you couldn't feel him, and smile. But after that, he realized he couldn't find you anymore, and that's when we all started looking for you. He was desperate, Nora. Sometimes, he would get so angry, because he could feel you getting hurt. He became crazy. It's like he was closing his heart all over again. He was obsessed with finding you because he knew you were in pain."

I know. It's all I could think of once I knew Damian had been linked with me since my childhood. Every time I got hurt, he was on the other end, feeling the blow and my pain with it... And to think he looked for me for ten years...

Suddenly, I feel the need to be close to my mate. I want to see Damian, be in my mate's arms again. To look into his silver eyes. I don't care for all those power struggles, the Clans tactics or any battle. I want him.

I fight to calm my wolf, to silence my urge. I massage my temples. What is wrong with me? Liam looks at me, intrigued, but I just shake my head as if it was nothing. We resume eating, and I take a few bites before talking again.

"You have a plan, don't you? You wouldn't have sabotaged this engagement party and brought me there otherwise."

He smiles. "It's more an idea than a plan, for now, to be honest..."

"Are you going to actually tell me about it, Liam?"

"...Are you going to reconcile with my brother?" He replies right back.

What game is he playing now?! I don't like his little smirk. So, what, he won't tell me anything unless I forgive Damian? How can he toy with my feelings right now?! I growl at him, but he ignores me and keeps eating, waiting for my answer.

"I'm still mad at him, you know!"

"I know."

And yet he keeps smiling like some mischievous kid. I really don't like his attitude! He is acting like I'm so gullible! Who said I was going to forgive Damian so easily?! He got engaged to another woman, for Moon Goddess' sake! Whatever reasons he had, how am I supposed to get over this, and it hasn't been two days, either!

While I'm fighting with my emotions, my wolf is fidgeting, too. She wants to see our mate, really badly. She is angry, but she misses him a lot also. Can't we go see him? I want to tell her to shut up, but I know she is me, too. A part of me that longs for her other half.

I'm still thinking it over and over when Nina comes to take our empty plates away. This time, Liam chooses the desserts for the two of us without even looking at the menus, and I don't mind it. I'm too busy fighting my inner turmoil to argue over desserts right now.

"Talk with Damian."

I glare at Liam, annoyed at him.

"I'm serious, Nora. Talk to him, at least. You two love each other, don't you?"

I hate that look he is giving me right now. Why does he have to be always right? And so sure of himself, too.

"I still don't understand how I can help Damian."

“Nora, you are much stronger than you think. You don’t realize it yet. And I know you, you are not going to let that girl get Damian.”

My wolf starts growling. Hell no, he is our mate, ours! It takes me a few seconds to calm her down. I wish I were better at taming my inner wolf, but that whole fated mate thing doesn’t make it easy.

Nina brings our desserts, crepes topped with fruits and chocolate, with two hot chocolates covered with marshmallows. Gosh, how can Liam eat so much? He practically jumps on his dessert like he hasn’t eaten in three days.

I sigh. “Okay, I will talk with him. Just talk. I don’t promise anything else.”

“Mhm,” he replies, his mouth full.

I start eating my dessert, too, and though it is delicious, my mind is still lingering somewhere else. What am I supposed to say to my engaged mate? Liam just gave me a lot of information about whatever was going on, but I really need to hear it from Damian. Last night, I lost all trust I had in him, and now, it’s like picking up the pieces of broken glass. It’s sharp and painful, and I know the cracks will remain. I don’t want to go through something like this ever again.

I’ve had enough with all the secrets.

Liam raises his head, and I realize I subconsciously used my wolf’s voice to talk. He heard me. He smiles and puts his spoon back on the table. His eyes wander outside, watching the rain and the sea.

“You know, I overheard my brothers’ last secret yesterday,” he says.

What is he talking about now? He keeps talking, his eyes still looking outside.

“There was a reason my father hated me. Why I was the one he always wanted to beat up most. Our mom... She got sick because of me.”

Because of him...? I thought their mother had died of a sickness. They never gave me details about whatever she had, but I know she died slowly, very weakened. Liam’s eyes are undecipherable, but he won’t stop from gazing outside.

“Our father already fought a lot before I was born. Mostly against vampires. There were several Clans here, in Silver City, a few years ago, constantly fighting with werewolves for territories. One day, he attacked the wrong one. He killed a vampire’s loved one, so... that vampire took revenge on him.”

“...He attacked your mother?”

Liam nods. “Vampire bites are poisonous to wolves. Usually, we can survive if we don’t get too much of their venom, and our wolf form will heal it for us, but... When that vampire attacked our mom, he wanted to kill her. Our mother was a strong wolf, though. She should have been able to fight him off, but... From Elena, you probably know that pregnant werewolves can’t shapeshift, right?” He asks, finally turning to me.

So that’s it... Their mother didn’t die of sickness, but from a vampire’s venom. Because she was pregnant with Liam, and couldn’t fight back at that time, or even shapeshift to take her wolf form. Hence, she had no choice but to get poisoned. Past a certain level of venom, our wolf abilities can’t do anything; it’s too late. Their mother was infected, and it slowly killed her, over the years, like a silent poison.

“You didn’t know?”

He shakes his head. “I just thought our mom was sick. They never said a thing, and neither did she. But it does explain a lot of things.”

It really does... Even their father’s hatred for vampires, why he chased all of them out. I think about Liam, and his brothers, hiding him the truth. Why they did it...

“It wasn’t your fault, Liam.”

He nods. “I know. I already had that talk with Nathaniel yesterday. He and Damian choose not to tell me so I wouldn’t be hurt or feel guilty. My mom probably felt the same, too. And whatever the reason, it doesn’t change the fact that our father was a monster, even if I was partially responsible for his insanity. But...”

He turns to me, and grabs my hand, looking at me very seriously.

“It made me realize how much they have overprotected me. Again. And this time, Nora, I’m not willing to let Damian make all the sacrifices again. I want to

be the one to protect my brothers this time. And I'm going to need your help with that. So please, don't abandon Damian."

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Much later, I'm back in Elena and Daniel's apartment, though the latter is now gone, off to spend the night with Bobo. So, I'm left with my cousin, who fell asleep quite quickly a few minutes ago. But I can't sleep at all.

Everything Liam and I talked about today keep circling in my mind, and I can't shake it off. How many more hardships will the brothers have to face from now on? This war that is coming... Damian, how is he going to face it? I keep seeing him, next to that woman. Remembering that scene still hurts. But I am a werewolf. I need to start thinking like one, and that includes everything that is going on for the Clans right now. I need to start making decisions.

I get up silently, trying not to wake up Elena, but she seems to be sleeping soundly. In the living room, the clock indicates it's one in the morning. It's still pouring outside... I grab one of the blankets and sit on the couch. I take a few minutes, calming myself and observing the rain. This is going to be hard...

I finally take out my phone and look for Damian's voicemail to listen. He left it about two hours after I left yesterday. I take a deep breath.

For a few seconds, the message is completely silent. So much I have to check several times if it's really playing. But after a while, I suddenly hear some sounds. Oh my gosh, is Damian... crying?

I feel my heart tightening. It's muffled, but I'm almost sure this is what I think. I feel my own tears running down my cheeks, hearing my mate's pain. He breathes in, and finally, starts talking, slowly, with a broken voice.

"Nora... I'm so sorry, Nora.... I'm really sorry. I... I know I should have told you, I... I'm such an i\*\*\*t. Nora, I never know what's the right thing to do when it comes to you. Nora... I want to protect you so much. You're the most important thing to me. I love you, Nora, I love you. I love you so much it hurts because I never know. I don't know how to make you happy, and I don't know how to protect you. I... That engagement, that woman, they mean nothing to me, Nora. They are nothing. I swear. You're the only one in my mind, you've been the only one forever. I... I need you, Nora. I don't care about any of the rest. My Clan, my people, my brothers... I can't do this without you, Nora. My wolf will go mad, and I... I can't take it. I need you. I really need you. Nora..."



He breathes in, and I do the same, not holding my tears back anymore. But there's more, Damian's voice comes in a whisper.

"...I love you. I love your blue eyes, the way you look at me and make me feel like a better man than I am. I want you, in my arms, every single second that goes by. Nora... I don't want to lose you, and I love you. I...I'm so, so sorry. Please, Nora. Don't leave me, please. I... Can we talk? I want to explain to you. I know it's late, but..."

He goes silent again, but I can hear his breathing, calmer than before. After a while, he chuckles.

"I'm a fvcking\*g idiot... And I'm always too late when it comes to you, aren't I? I... I don't want to lose you again, Nora. I can't. I don't know how long it will take, but... I just hope you will forgive me. Tell me what it will take, I'll do it. I just want you back, Nora. I'm sorry. And I'm a dumba.ss."

I can't help but laugh between my tears when he says that. I never heard Damian pronounce that kind of word. A long silence, again, but I can hear his breathing, so I keep listening until he starts talking again.

"Nora.... I hope you will listen to this. I don't even feel stupid, talking alone here. If I just imagine you are listening to this... I already feel better. I know, I should feel bad, but I... Damn, I miss you already... I love you, Nora. I should have told you sooner, not in that stupid elevator, not like this... Told you, I'm always too late... But I'll say it again. I love you. I'll say it as many times as it takes, as many times as you want to hear it. I love you, Nora Bluemoon, I love you."

I burst into tears, listening to his voice whispering those three words again and again.