

His Blue Moon Princess Chapter 61 - Tips

Hanging around and having a cup of tea with Elena and Daniel definitely makes me feel better.

I explain to the three of them in detail what had happened with Alexandra earlier. Though Bobo stays silent, Elena is proud of me for standing up to her, while Daniel happily details what a selfish, self-centered, and egomaniac woman she was. Though he probably exaggerated a lot, I still did feel better afterward.

Plus, we made sure to change to lighter topics, like my work at the restaurant, Daniel's exams, or this nightclub they absolutely want to take me to. I'm seriously considering the offer, but I doubt Damian will be happy about it...

I ask about Elena's baby, too, but she doesn't seem to want to talk about it. Probably because she still has yet to talk to Nathaniel about this pregnancy. I wonder how the future father will react? Whenever his name is mentioned, my cousin seems conflicted. How is their relationship at the moment? Is Elena really avoiding him for now? I wish I could help somehow, but this is probably none of my business I guess. At least Daniel is by her side, constantly keeping an eye on her with a worried look, like a mother watching her pup. So much that I wonder if Elena is all right sometimes, but she just acts normal.

Overall, it feels great to be simply enjoying a cup of tea while chatting with my friends. For ten years, I never had any friends to hang out with. All I had was my abusive brother and a pack that hated me. But now, I can freely talk about trivial matters, and Bobo will listen to me, Elena acts like a sister to me, and Daniel adopted me as a friend just as quickly as that. And I have Tonia and Liam, too.

When Bobo takes me back to the car to head back to work, I feel a lot better already. I'm playing with my necklace, watching the scenery. Bobo, too, is humming to some Latino music coming from the stereo.

"Bobo? How did you meet Daniel?"

I've been curious about it for a while now, but I kind of forgot about it with everything that was going on. He smiles at my question.

“In a nightclub, a few months ago. I was supposed to be working, delivering documents to someone there. But after I was done, I saw him just when I was about to leave.”

This is the first time I see Bobo smiling so much. Seems like this is a very happy memory for him, so I’m all the more interested.

“What was it like?”

“...Love at first sight. He was dancing, and I just fell for him right there. It was the first time I ever felt like this. Nothing else mattered, it was as if he was the only one in the room. I still remember it all perfectly. The music, his clothes, everything. I just thought, I wanted this guy, really bad, right then and right there. I would have kissed him in the middle of the crowd if we hadn’t been total strangers.”

I laugh, a bit amused by that last sentence said with such an honest face. That’s my Bobo, so straight-forward and blunt. He keeps driving, but I want to know more now.

“What about Danny, then?”

He sighs. “It took a while for him to accept me. He didn’t want a younger lover, so he tried to ignore me, but it was my first time wanting something or someone so much, so...”

“You were persistent?”

“Quite so. He eventually gave up after a few weeks.”

A few weeks? Oh my gosh, Bobo sure is persistent! I chuckle, imagining Bobo’s relentless pursuit of Daniel’s heart. The two of them are just so adorably cute when they’re together... I totally get why Elena teases Daniel so much about it. He is the only person I know who can blush redder than me!

Bobo smiles at me. “What about you? And the Boss?”

“We are fine, I guess. I just wish I could overcome my fear of physical relationships once and for all...”

Bobo is the only one I talked to about this. He was a bit disappointed about me not telling him the truth about Marcus in the first place, so I eventually told him everything about what I remembered, and how I was traumatized by it.

“You want to be with him?”

“Of course, I do. But, every time we start... touching each other, I just get those cold shivers, and bad memories come back. The worst part is, I don't even remember exactly what happened, how far Marcus went and when I... supposedly stab him. I know he didn't r**e me, but, whenever Damian wants more, I just...”

“Nora, it's okay. With what happened to you, it's completely normal to be scared. Just take it slow, treasure yourself, and build your trust with the Boss. Nora, put yourself first. You deserve it, okay?”

I feel tears coming back again and I don't hold them back. Bobo notices, and parks on the side of the road. Without saying a thing, he lets me cry all I want. After a while, I breathe in, trying to calm down.

“What if that woman is right, Bobo? What if Damian was better off with her instead of a mess like me?”

“What, you are going to let King have him now?”

“No way! I don't want to break up with Damian, ever! It's just... sometimes I can't help but wonder how could the Moon Goddess pair him up with someone as powerless as me. I know I am a Royal's child now, but that's it. You know why I was so mad, earlier? Because that woman was right, Bobo. I don't have a Clan backing me, no money. I have no way to be useful to my mate.”

Bobo sighs and pats my head gently. “Sometimes you are too mature, Nora. Maybe you don't have all the answers yet. Anyway, you are a Royal's child, that means you are powerful enough on your own. You are equal to any of the Alphas out there. I don't think King can say the same, and she knows it, too.”

While Bobo speaks, something suddenly came to mind. I might not be powerful or anything, but I do have some other options now... Well, one actually, but that might help a lot.

“Mmm... Bobo?”

“Yes?”

“Sorry but, could I ask you to leave me alone in the car for a minute?”

He looks at me, not hiding his surprise. I know, my request is really odd and coming at a totally unexpected time. How do I explain this?

“Please...?” I ask again, trying to look sorry.

He sighs, and point out the little café across the road.

“All right, but just a couple minutes. I’ll go grab some coffee. You want something?”

“I’m good Bobo, thank you.”

He goes out, and I’m finally alone in the car. I watch him cross the road, making sure he is not looking, and grab a strand of my hair, agitating it. The little b.utterfly, annoyed at all this rampage, flies away and goes to land on my hand. I breathe in. My idea might be really, really stupid, but...

“Okay, Magic Butterfly. I hope you can understand me, because I could really use some help now. I need to contact your owner, the witch. I’ll accept our alliance if she can give me some help. How do I contact her?”

Gosh, I really hope it gets it, because otherwise, I’m probably looking really stupid talking to a b.utterfly. I wait for a few seconds, and suddenly, it starts flapping its wings. Actually, they change colors, to green. What does that mean, green? Is that a good sign? Or not? Does it mean I can talk or something? I suppose a b.utterfly can’t talk, anyway, but I have no idea how a witch’s powers work... Okay, I can still try, I guess.

“Witch, if you can hear me this way, I want to ask you a favor. I’m trying really hard to stop this war, but I think I just added oil to the fire, so I’m looking for other options. Can you give me a hint, anything? I stood up to King as you said, but I’m not sure that’s going to help. If we can’t trust the Gold Moon Clan, then who? I tried to think of options, but I don’t know where to start! Could you help? You said we were allies; how can you help me?”

I wonder what else to say, but my mind is too confused for now. But all of sudden, the b.utterfly takes off, flying away from me for the first time. Where is it going now? Did I annoy him? Or did he get the message? He flies around

for a few seconds in the vehicle interior but it doesn't make any sense. His wings turn red, then blue, then red again. What now? Did I break it or something?

Just when I'm wondering what I should do, Bobo is already back. So soon? The witch's b.utterfly keeps flying around but Bobo still doesn't see it.

"It was closed. Are you... done?"

I sigh and nod. I don't know what else to do, anyway. I feel a bit stupid now. Bobo starts the car again, and I'm angrily staring at the b.utterfly that won't stop flying around. So annoying and useless.

When we are back at the restaurant, a few minutes later, as I step out of the car, the b.utterfly suddenly takes off. What? I see it fly away, headed to the south. Where is it going? Did the witch get annoyed at me or something? Should I follow it? But it doesn't seem to be waiting for me...

"Nora?"

Bobo is waiting for me, looking at me staring at what seems like nothing. I sigh and follow him into the restaurant to resume working.

We have more reservations than when I left and, as expected, the restaurant is quite busy. I keep running from one table to another and then to the kitchen, as both Narcissa and Chef Michel keep asking for me. I'm doing fine, though, and it's going smoothly so far.

"Nora, do you know when I can get my desserts for table seven? The customer said twice he is in a hurry..."

"It's at the pass, Elise, you can get it. Did you open the wine for table three?"

"I did. What about the couple at table four? They still aren't ready to order and it's been a while already..." She whispers, looking worried.

"I will go see them for you, just go to the kitchen and ask Chef Michel to—"

But before I can finish my sentence, a huge racket can be heard from the entrance. A few customers scream in surprise, as a dozen wolves suddenly barge into the restaurant. What the...?

"Nora! Nora!"

It's Damian's voice, calling my name. I see him running in, still in his dark suit, obviously looking for me. What's going on? I drop whatever I was holding in Elise's hands and run up to him across the restaurant. He is accompanied by Bobo, Neal, and Nate all in their human forms and looking very serious. All of them seem restless, but Damian's eyes are absolutely furious. Everyone has stepped out of their way when they came in, and a few customers even already ran away in fear. His Alpha aura is probably going wild right now, scaring everyone left in the room.

"Damian?"

When I walk up to him, he finally sees me. To my surprise, my mate runs to me, and takes me into his arms, hugging me tightly against his chest.

"Nora, thank Moon Goddess you are fine..."

"Damian, what is going on? What happened?" I ask, worried.

But instead of answering, he turns around and starts yelling orders.

"Neal, I want this place empty and closed, right now. Nate, take the staff out, too. Everyone here gets the fvck out!"

The wolves start growling, and all the customers run away in a panic, emptying the restaurant in a few seconds. I watch the scene, completely lost about what is going on. This is too unreal. Damian looks absolutely furious; I've never seen his eyes so cold before, like he has metal inside. He growls at everyone, and people even fight to get out of the place. I grab Damian's arm, trying to get his attention.

"Damian, tell me what's going on!"

But instead of him, it's Neal who walks up to me, while still watching the wolves taking everyone else out of the restaurant.

"Your apartment was attacked, Nora."

Oh, Moon Goddess. Attacked? Attacked how? By who? Damian suddenly puts his arms under my thighs and pulls me up, carrying me as he walks across the now almost empty restaurant. Before I can say a word, he takes me to the Staff Room. Behind us, Nate and Neal are following closely, while

the wolves stay there, guarding the entrance. I notice Narcissa and Chef Michel are the only ones left of the staff— everyone else was chased out, too.

When we enter, Damian puts me down, but his arms stay firmly around my waist to keep me close to him. Gosh, I've never seen him so agitated before.

“Damian, calm down, I'm okay. What happened?”

“Liam noticed something was wrong when he came back from school. When he went to check your apartment, he said the door was wide open, and the whole place has been sacked.”

Nate walks up to me, handing me his smartphone. I take a look at the pictures. Oh, my Goddess... I can barely recognize my apartment. Someone splashed every room with a red liquid, and a lot of the furniture was destroyed. The whole place was sacked, I can't believe what I'm seeing.

“Oh, Moon Goddess....”

The last picture was taken in my bedroom. My wardrobe is on the floor, and a lot of my clothes were torn apart. Even the bed was shredded. But, most of all, on the glass wall, a message in the red liquid was left.

“YOU WILL BE MINE.”

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I feel like I'm going to be sick. I feel nauseous, looking at those words. Seeing my shocked expression, Damian takes the phone away from me, throwing it back to his brother, and gently kisses my forehead to comfort me. He is just as agitated as me, but I can tell he is trying hard to control himself right now, so I keep him close, my hands on his chest.

“It's okay, Nora, I'll find who the hell did this, I swear.”

His words are burning with anger, but he is still worried about me. I shake my head, slowly processing everything I just saw and heard.

“I can't believe it... Is Liam okay?” I ask, trying to control my breathing.

“He is okay, Nora, no one was there when he came up,” says Nate.

"It happened in the afternoon. Everything was normal when I went there earlier," Bobo says.

Bobo is right; he went back to get me clothes only a few hours ago. Chef Michel takes the phone to look at the pictures and so does Narcissa. Meanwhile, Neal is apparently busy texting, and he is frowning and growling a lot while doing so.

"The surveillance cameras didn't give anything. Someone disconnected them."

"How the hell did they get in? What about security?" Growls Damian.

"Liam said the door's lock was... shot. ...He found silver bullets."

I gasp. Oh Moon Goddess, this is serious. Someone armed with a g*n to k!!l werewolves actually broke into my place. What if I had been there? Or if they had met Bobo? Or Tonia, or Liam?

"And the bl00d?" I ask. "Is it really bl00d?"

Gosh, I hope it isn't. So much of it would be really, really bad news. But no one can actually give me an answer. Neal is now busy taking one call after another, speaking so fast I can't understand a thing, and Nate is reading texts, too. I turn to Damian, and once again, his eyes are totally scary. My mate looks like he is about to k!!l someone. However, he can't scare me, so I just lean onto his chest, and I feel his hand in my hair a second later.

"What do we do now?" I ask.

"You're coming with me; I'm taking you back to my place. Neal, find as much information as you can, and get my brother somewhere else to sleep."

"He said he already has a place to crash," says Nate.

Damian immediately growls at him, annoyed. "I don't give a sh!t, Nate. I want to know where Liam is, and you bring his a*s back to the headquarters whether he likes it or not. We are not playing games now. Bobo, you and Tonia go help Neal, too, Nora will stay with me. And I want the full Clan gathering in two hours, no exceptions. Clear?"

Everyone agrees and disperses right away, leaving the two of us alone. I turn to Damian, but before I can say a thing, his arms surround me, and he is carrying me again across the restaurant. I would probably be quite embarrassed if the situation wasn't so urgent, but now is certainly not the time to fight with him, so I just put my arms around his neck to hold on. None of this makes sense anyway. I was working just a few minutes ago, but now, turns out I'm in a life-threatening situation.

Damian takes me to a black sports car and starts driving at full speed across the city. I can't say a word during the full trip. I'm too shaken up, and I wouldn't know what to say. Moreover, Damian takes one call after another on the car monitor. Neal, Nate, and some other people's voices I don't recognize give him more information as soon as they get it, and I just listen. It's not much, actually. The building surveillance cameras went down for two hours in the afternoon, and they are still looking in the neighborhood for some decent footage of the closest streets. No one heard the gunshots, either, but they found a total of eight bullets; most of them were used to destroy the door's lock.

At some point, I stop listening to close my eyes. This is all so unreal, like I'm in one of those thriller action movies Tonia loves where they talk about crime scenes and ballistics. I look at the city outside, wondering what happened that it would come to this. At some point, I feel Damian's hand on my knee, and I take it. I can feel his emotions so clearly; my wolf just translates it all for me. Our mate is worried for us and furious. He is on the phone, but we don't need to talk for now. We are next to each other; we don't need any words.

Once we arrive back at the office building, Damian stays close to me, putting his arm around me to take me quickly inside. He only seems to ease up a little when we finally arrive at his flat.

There, he heaves out a deep sigh and hugs me once more now that we are completely alone. I lean into his embrace, the safest place in the world to me.

"I was so worried something might have happened to you..." he whispers.

"I know, I'm okay, Damian. I'm fine."

He nods, and for a while, just keeps me in his arms. I feel his shoulders relaxing a little, and get on my toes to give him a kiss. I know we are both shaken up. Damian takes my hand and we both sit on the large grey sofa, facing each other.

“Are going to tell the police?” I ask.

“Already did, Nate is on it. We are going to need forensics to know who did it.”

“The message on the wall... This is clearly someone who is personally after me.”

“Your brother is still in the psychiatric ward. The only name I can think of is...”

“Marcus,” I whisper.

Damian nods. I really didn't want to believe it, but that's the most plausible answer. I can't believe he is still alive, and after me. And this attack, this was way too close, too. How did he find me? Why now, after all this time? He got to my apartment, with a g*n full of silver bullets. The more I think about it, the more I think that all this doesn't look like Marcus at all. He is a rash man, and not that smart either. Leaving blood all over the room and sacking my apartment, that's like him. That message, too. That sicko has been eyeing me ever since I was a teen. But sneaking into the Blood Moon's territory, finding my location, and deactivating the building's surveillance system?

“What is it?” Asks Damian, noticing my frowning.

“Something is not right. Damian, I think Marcus is the one who did this, too, but a lot of things don't make sense. Like, how did he get access to the surveillance system? Or how was he able to find me, and get a g*n on top of that? He shouldn't have any resources left in Silver City, so how did he pull something like that? And I know him, that psycho is definitely not smart enough for something so elaborate.”

“You think someone helped him... But who would?”

An answer immediately comes to mind, but I really, really don't like what that would imply. But that someone would definitely have the resources to pull this off, and a good reason to use Marcus, too. The only thing is, Damian is not going to like this at all...

“...Nora?”

But before I can reply, someone comes in. Nate, followed by Liam in his wolf form. The second brother looks exhausted.

Hi, Nora.

So, you came back after all?

Well, I heard Damian was going to s.uuck me if I didn't...

I chuckle, and Liam comes to lay on the couch next to me. Nate is glaring at him, but doesn't say a thing. He probably wasn't happy to have to go look for him now.

"So?" Asks Damian.

"The cops took over. And the surveillance camera from Irina's shop across the building shows a man going in and coming out a few minutes later, exactly in the time slot after Bobo dropped by and before Liam came. But he was wearing a cap and a large coat, so I don't think we will be able to identify him."

Nate sighs and goes to get himself a glass from the kitchen, some whiskey, judging by the smell. Damian frowns while his brother does so, but doesn't say a thing.

I bet it's Marcus.

"We think so, too," says Damian. "But Nora thinks someone helped him, and she's probably right. That sicko couldn't get in so easily."

"Who then? The Jade Moon banished him, right?" Asks Nate.

What about the Sapphire Moon? They hate us.

"They wouldn't stoop so low has to help a sh!thead like Marcus..." Growls Damian.

"Guys, I have something to tell you."

All three of them turn their heads to me, and I suddenly feel really awkward. But I have to tell them. Damian promised not to keep secrets anymore; I should do the same. Moreover, this is really important. I turn to Damian, trying not to worry too much.

"Damian, promise me you won't get angry."

Wow, now coming from you, that doesn't sound good.

“Shut up, Liam. Damian, please.”

He looks at me for a few seconds, visibly lost by my request, and takes my hand again. “I won’t, but Nora, what is it?”

“I... I had a bit of a fight with Alexandra King earlier today.”

“You had WHAT?”

Damian’s Alpha aura immediately acts out, and for once, my wolf isn’t feeling too great about it. Both Nate and Liam look at me with completely shocked faces, too, but their oldest brother worries me the most. He jumps off of the sofa and looks at me with an expression I can’t decipher, something between rage and incredulity. Well, I don’t care, but he better not be angry at me now! My wolf remembers the very disagreeable experience and agrees with me.

“You said you wouldn’t get angry! And she started it, she came to the restaurant looking for me.”

“Looking for trouble, you mean. How typical of King,” mutters Nate.

“What did she say?” Ask Damian, in his ice-cold tone.

I tell them all about Alexandra’s words, and how I stood up to her. Liam can’t help himself and interrupts me a couple of times with his enthusiasm, but both Nathaniel and Damian are staring at me until I’m done. Actually, telling them about that stupid fight annoys me again when I have to remember all of Alexandra’s words, and when I’m done, I’m just as mad as I previously was.

“I didn’t want to have to stoop to her level, but she started it, Damian, and I was not going to back off.”

A few seconds of silence follow I’m waiting for their reaction. Finally, Liam breaks the silence first. That’s our girl! I’m proud of you, Nora, though I wish you had bitten her, too.

“Well, I’m not going to say you were wrong, either,” says Nate. “And King was wrong from A to Z, coming to look for Nora in the first place.”

Eventually, all eyes turn to Damian, waiting for his reaction. I get it a second before his brother, through my wolf. Our mate is mad. Really, really mad.

In a split second, I see a sudden movement, and the large table loudly breaks in two under Damian's fist.

"That's expensive, you know..." Sighs Nathaniel, rolling his eyes.

"I can't believe the nerve of that woman! How dare she threaten you! And making fun of our bond on top of that? Who the hell does she think she is!"

"I don't care about her threats, Damian. I don't want that woman anywhere near you, or telling me if I deserve to be with you or not."

"Well, I care! If the Gold Moon Clan wants war, they are going to have it!"

Oh Moon Goddess, this is so not what I planned. I get up and grab his arm, trying to have him calm down. To my surprise, Nate and Liam don't move a finger to help me reason with Damian, just watching the two of us.

"Damian, calm down. This is not worth blowing your partnership with their Clan."

"Nora is right, Damian. The situation is too tense right now to take such decisions."

But King overstepped her boundaries. She came on our territory to threaten Nora and, indirectly, she threatened Damian, too. And what if she really is the one behind the attack at the apartment?

Suddenly, I remember the witch's words. The basket is full of snakes. What if the Black Brother's alliance with the Gold Moon Clan really turns out to be a trap? Does that mean they don't have any reliable allies?

"How are things with the Sapphire Moon Clan?" I ask.

"Surprisingly stable, for now. Well, they still hate us and won't negotiate with us for anything, but we haven't had any fight on the border for a few days now, which is quite... unusual."

"You think they changed their minds?"

"More like they are too busy to look for trouble. I don't know what's going on, but I heard their business is not doing so good, either, though they won't show it. I think something is wrong in their own territory."

Too preoccupied to find time to hate us? That sounds like really big trouble for them...

Liam is right. The Sapphire Moon Clan is supposed to quite prosperous by themselves; so what is going on now? The boys start talking about the situation at the border and arguing about what to do with the Gold Moon Clan, but something else catches my attention.

The witch's butterfly is back! I don't know how it came all the way to Damian's apartment, but it flies all the way to me, carrying something. It drops it at my feet and lands on my shoulder. A business card?

I bend over to grab it, reading: "William Blue, CEO, Sapphire Holdings."

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Nora?

While Damian and Nathaniel are still talking, Liam catches my expression. Can he see the business card? Probably not. I quickly put it in my pocket and walk back to sit next to him on the sofa, using the mind-link to talk to him without his brothers listening. That ability sure is convenient for keeping secrets...

Liam, do you know William Blue?

I told you, he's the Alpha of the Sapphire Moon Clan, remember? The guy that hates us to the core.

You say he hated your father. Did you guys ever try to negotiate with him?

Yeah, Nate and Damian tried to talk to the man a lot of times, but he never wanted anything to do with us. The guy is a really stubborn jerk.

I'm serious, Liam.

I'm serious, too! Try going into a territory where the pack hates you. And I did it quite a few times in a lot of places I should never have, believe me. But the Sapphire Moon territory? That's a no-go, even for me, Nora. I can have a few fights with the Violet Moon wolves, but the Sapphire Moon watchdogs would kill me on the spot.

So, things are really not easy on that end. But why would the witch give me their Alpha's business card then? Did I miss something? There is what I suppose to be their headquarters' address written on the back, but going there would be suicide! I know where their turf is, but if I go, there is no guarantee I will come back safe and sound. What is that witch's plan exactly?

Hey, what are you thinking about?

I'll tell you later.

Liam gives me a suspicious look, but I realize Damian and Nate stopped talking to look at us. My mate comes back to sit on the sofa next to me.

"What are you guys talking about?"

Nora was asking me about the Sapphire Moon Clan, just filling her in.

"We can't exclude the possibility that they are the one behind the attack," says Nate.

"I'm still not going to let what that woman did slide," growls Damian.

"What do you...?"

But before he can finish his sentence, we can all hear Nathaniel's phone ring again. He takes the call.

"Tonia, you got anything new? No? Then... Oh, really? What, seriously? Are you sure? That's..."

I see his eyes aiming my direction a few times, and I wonder what this is about. He looks surprised, but not in a bad way. What is going on? After a while, he hangs up, asking Tonia to email him everything. Damian frowns.

"Nate, what's going on?"

"It's Nora's blood test results, they just came out."

"And?" I ask, curious.

I already know the results, and I thought we all did by now, but Nathaniel's expression is a bit off— he seems too surprised. Is everything okay? His phone beeps, and he looks at it.

Damian growls, impatient. "Nate!"

Nate jumps, and shows his phone's screen to Damian. "Seventy-eight point six! Nora has almost eighty percent of Royal genetics..."

My mind goes blank.

78.6%...? That's a hell of a lot! I thought I would be half Royal at most, because of my dad, but that number is way higher than anything I expected! I can't believe it! Damian and Nathaniel seem completely stunned, too, but Liam is internally screaming.

Oh, Holy Moon Goddess mother! Nora! Eighty percent! Nora, you're a freaking princess!

A princess? What princess? I just can't seem to understand what the hell he is saying right now. Nathaniel shows Damian the email detailing the results, but I'm just sitting on the couch, not knowing what to think next. Nathaniel takes his phone back, and starts reading its text out loud.

"According to Tonia's grandmother, common werewolves have above five percent of Royal genetic markers, though for Alphas, it goes up to ten sometimes. But this amount is a common amount for a Royal! Nora is not a Royal's child, she is a Royal herself!"

"That's not possible! I told you my dad was a normal wolf!"

"If he was your dad, Nora, you don't know about that yet. Maybe..."

"This is nonsense, I look like him, Nate!"

"Doesn't mean he was your father! We don't know what exactly happened between your parents, but I got your blood tests results right here, and there is no way this is wrong. Nora, no Royal is a hundred percent Royal, okay? With time, fights with vampires, and mixing with humans, a lot of the Royal Bloodline was lost. Now, any werewolf with about twenty percent of those genes could claim to be a Royal. But you have four times that amount! That means Liam is right; according to our standards, you have the pedigree of a werewolf princess."

I sigh. Granny Ariadna probably told him all this anyway, so there is no point in arguing anymore. I sigh again, and cross my arms, a bit annoyed. I don't

really care about all that princess stuff, but I'm certainly tired about all this questioning around who are my birth parents or not. I thought this was settled when we interrogated Alec weeks ago.

"Okay, I get it. But I don't want to talk about my father anymore. Can we go back to the main subject, please?"

"You don't seem too surprised, Nora," says Nate.

"Not really, we had suspicions from the start, anyway. And I don't plan to change anything just because I'm some werewolf royalty..."

You could try ordering Nate to wash your dirty socks. Or take over Damian's spot. That would be funny to watch.

All three of us glare at Liam, making him stop with his stupid jokes. How can he be spouting nonsense like this now? We have more pressing matters to talk.

"Anyway. What do we do from now on?" I ask.

Nathaniel scratches his chin and sighs. "Damian's right on one point. King came to my territory unannounced to seek a fight with you. She had no right to do so. The Gold Moon Clan might be powerful, but it would be good for them to remember they are not above us," says Nathaniel.

Damian nods. "Right. I'm sick of her father's pathetic arrogance, too. They are getting bolder by the day, using our name and their money. We might be on good terms for now, but I think a little reminder of who is the real King of Silver City might do them some good."

I like the sound of that, Brother.

Honestly, I like it, too, but I can't help being worried. Is that really all right? Liam catches my eyes while his brothers start talking about business deals and numbers.

Don't worry, Nora. That Gold Moon Clan had this coming anyway. And it's not like Damian is going to fight them; this is barely a slap on the hand.

What if this upsets them? Aren't you afraid they will get back at us, or terminate all deals?

They won't, they would be on the losing hand. I told you, the Gold Moon Clan is hella rich, but that's it. Their wolves are not powerful, and they really don't want to get on Damian's bad side, trust me.

"Hey, what are you guys talking about?"

Nate caught our eyes and expressions, understanding we were mind-linking right away. I sigh and Liam shakes his head.

"Our Princess is scared about the Gold Moon Clan getting mad at us."

Damian frowns, and comes back to sit next to me, taking my hand.

"Don't, Nora. If we go soft now, we are not real werewolves. And that woman should never have threatened you in the first place."

"You mean us."

"Same thing."

"So, what now?" Asks Nate.

Damian smiles, but that's more of a scary smile, the kind of smile when someone else is about to get in trouble. Liam and I exchange a look, and though he can't smile in his wolf form, I know he is way too content right now.

"Let's make them see how angry we can get. Gather the Clan as we planned. All of our Alphas, hunters, warriors, and family heads. I'm going to introduce Nora at the same time and tell them the Gold Moon wolves are no longer welcome onto our territories."

"Got that. Everyone is already assembling anyway, as soon as they got the word."

Wow, introducing your girlfriend one week after introducing your fiancée. That's what you call bold, Brother.

"Liam's right on that one. Not that I'm going to complain, however. I still despise King, and so does the rest of our Clan. That was a bad idea, to begin with, especially with Nora in the picture, Damian."

Well, I'm happy Nathaniel and Liam are saying this out loud, that way I can give Damian a look that clearly expresses what I think. See? You messed up real bad getting engaged to that vixen.

My mate gives me an apologetic look and kisses my hand really quick.

"I'll say it again, I'm sorry. And I'm going to make things right about that engagement, too."

Is that still a thing? I mean, you just drank a cup of champagne and walked into a room together before Nora came. There is no contract whatsoever, is there?

"It's more than that, Liam. By now, all of the Gold Moon Clan will have used this engagement for business issues and consider it as valid. Even if Damian turns out to have a lover, I doubt they will even care. They will most likely just pretend they don't know or pass it off as a baseless rumor. This engagement is too big; the Gold Moon Clan will use it however they can to take things to their advantage to put pressure on the other companies, saying the Black Corporation is backing them up. If we want to stop them, Damian will need to make a proper statement to nullify it."

So, this is even a bigger issue than I thought. To think a simple engagement could have so many consequences... I remember my conversation with Bobo in the car earlier. Don't waver, Nora. Even the witch said the same thing, that I should have faith in myself. Maybe I will find a way to help Damian later.

I keep thinking about that business card. Maybe I have a chance to turn tables now. This can't just be a coincidence. I bite my lip, thinking about what to do next.

"Damian?"

He turns his head to me, and I point the bedroom.

"I'll get changed before we meet your clan. I'm all sweaty from work. Okay?"

He nods, and I head off to the bathroom. Thank Moon Goddess I still have the clothes from this morning, because I don't feel like putting on anything that was in my room, if there is any left... I still can't believe someone did this, coming into my apartment... I shiver just thinking about it. If it really was

Marcus, and he got that close. What would have happened if I had gone home during my break instead of going to that café with Elena and Daniel?

Elena! I didn't even tell her... I'm under the shower but, now that I think about it, I don't need a phone, do I?

Elena?

Nora! What is it, too lazy to use the phone now?

I'm showering. Plus, Nate is right next door. You still don't want the brothers to know we know each other, right?

No, no. Are you all right, Nora? Your wolf seems all shaken up.

Quickly, I tell her about all the events since we last saw each other, what happened in my apartment, our suspicions, and about the blood tests, as well. I grab a towel as I finish talking, and start dressing up.

Nora, that's a lot of information. I'm not so surprised about the blood results, to be honest, I always knew you were more... Well, more Royal than I am. But what happened at your place? That's really no good.

I know, I'm totally freaked out, too, though I don't want to worry Damian.

I understand. But stay close to your mate until they found this psychopath, okay? And you can talk to me if you need help, anytime.

Thank you, cousin.

Cousin? I don't really like it... Let's call each other sisters instead.

Sister?

I like the sound of that... Elena and I keep talking through the mind-link for a while before I finally exit the room. To my surprise, Liam is waiting for me, in his human form, in the bedroom. I frown.

"Liam? Where are Damian and Nate?"

"They are waiting for us downstairs. Neal and Bobo just came back. So, we have a few minutes to talk before they come back."

“Talk about what?”

“About this?”

Oh, Moon Goddess. Why is he holding that business card?

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I walk up and take it back from him. Don't tell me he took it from my clothes while I was showering? I can't believe him!

“Liam, that's not your business! And don't go through my stuff again!”

“What, you're hiding little secrets now? Why do you have that guy's business card, anyway?”

So, he can see what's written on it. Couldn't the witch have hidden it from other people, too, like her letter? Seems like not. How do I explain this? I know Liam is really good at keeping secrets, but gosh, he is good at spying, too! Moreover, there is no way I'm telling him about the witch; he is the one supposed to hunt her down.

“Someone gave it to me,” I mumble.

“Oh, really? I wonder who.”

Gosh, can't he be less curious just for once?! And while he's at it, drop that stupid smirk of his, too! I know there is no way he is going to let this go, so I might as well give him something else to think about instead of telling him about the witch.

“Okay, I was thinking of going over to talk to their Alpha.”

His smile drops immediately and he crosses his arms, looking a lot like Damian when he is unhappy. “Nice. Did you completely forget the part about them k!lling intruders on the sp0t? Because I'm pretty sure I mentioned it something, like, twenty minutes ago.”

“You said they hated you guys. Doesn't mean they will be as hostile towards me.”

“They don’t like strangers at all, Nora. Do you really think you can just walk in there and try your luck? I think you’re being a tiny bit overconfident here, Princess.”

“Liam, it could be the solution! And you said it, I’m a princess, a Royal. Maybe that will help...?”

He rolls his eyes. “Nora, even I am not that crazy! And you? You are a Princess, but you are still a 5’2”, underweight, eighteen-year-old girl who learned how to control her wolf not two months ago! This is not like an Alpha fight, this is you running into a freaking dead-end!”

I cross my arms, annoyed at him. For the record, I’m not as thin as I used to be, and he knows this isn’t a matter of size either. I’m disappointed. I mean, Liam has been one of my most trusted friends since the beginning, and always the first one up for any crazy plan! I mean, isn’t he the reckless one among of his brothers?

“What, you don’t trust me now? Liam!”

“I trust you, Nora, but this is suicide, and I’m not a big fan of that! Wait till my brother kills me, too, if I leave you to go there alone! You think Damian handcuffing you to the bed was unreasonable? Wait until you see how he punishes me!”

Well, now that he mentions it, I wasn’t really thinking of going alone.
“Actually... I was thinking you could come with me.”

“Excuse me now?”

He looks at me with shocked eyes, but I’m still not giving up. I really think this might help. I try to make a pleading face, putting my hands together and stepping closer.

“Please, Liam? You know Silver City like no one, and all the packs would let you on their turf.”

“All except for the Sapphire Moon Clan! And they don’t let me in, I just sneak in, Nora. Most of the time. What you’re asking me is...”

“What about Lissandra Jones? You guys are on good terms and her Clan is an ally of the Sapphire Moon!”

Liam shakes his head. "No, no, Nora. First, we are not friends, she just likes to fight with strong people, and I'm one of those. Secondly, the Purple Moon is a branch Clan of the Violet Moon. And the main reason is that Lissandra doesn't agree with her father, so assuming her pack is allied with the Sapphire Moon Clan is a bit risky. And finally, I'm not even sure, even if Lissandra agrees to help us and is an ally of the Sapphire Moon Wolves, that this plan would work. And that is way too many ifs!"

I know this idea is really risky with the way things are now. but with Damian breaking the engagement, I'm afraid the balance of power between the Clans will shift way too fast, and I have to act before that. "It might be my only to help you guys."

He shakes his head. "Nora, this is a really, really bad idea. Damian would be super against it, and with all the right reasons for it!"

And I do feel bad about acting behind his back, but he would definitely prevent me from going there if I did. I know I'm the one who came up with this "no lies" thing, but I don't see any other way to help my mate. I sigh. "Okay, let's talk again about this later. You think about it, please, Liam."

"You better think about it, too, Nora! Like, like a really bad decision you should not make!"

He sighs and turns around to leave the room. I know this is really unreasonable, but this is the only thing I could think of after receiving this business card. I take a look at the butterfly flying around me while I quickly brush my hair. Is this little thing going to get me killed? The witch wouldn't let such a thing happen, right?

I try to chase away those depressing thoughts and get downstairs to join the guys. Liam ignores me, but I just naturally walk up to my mate. Damian puts his arm around my shoulders, and it's time to go.

We don't need to get far; the elevator takes us way downstairs. The brothers guide me through a couple of corridors, and we finally walk into what looks like a very large reception hall. Except that nothing is put up for a reception, no decoration or furniture whatsoever. Instead, it is just crowded with a lot of people. It actually looks more like some shady business reunion. The curtains are closed, and everyone is dressed in dark colored outfits, mostly black. Most of them are men between their twenties and forties, and there are a few women, as well. Some wear suits, others wear some street clothes like

hoodies or leather jackets. I finally understand. Neal didn't gather the full Clan, but its lieutenants.

The Jade Moon Clan was not that big, only eighty or a hundred people, so Vince was enough as its Alpha to control it, with the Beta's help.

For the Blood Moon Clan, however, that wouldn't work. From what I've heard, this Clan has hundreds, perhaps thousands of members. With so many people, a single Alpha could never oversee it all. Hence, it's only logical that Damian, like any big Clan leader, would have put up an organization to be able to control all the wolves without being himself on the scene.

That's where the lieutenants come in. Those people are Alpha werewolves, but of lower strength than the main Alpha. Just strong enough to control smaller groups. I take a look around, and that seems about right. Headhunters, top fighters, family heads, g**g leaders. Every single person in this room is an Alpha, leading its own smaller pack, but moving under Damian's orders.

I realize as we walk in. All of them react to my mate's presence, willingly lowering their heads in respect, calling him "Boss".

Despite the room being full of Alphas, I can tell none of them are on Damian's level. He has his own aura, on a whole different scale. And here I am, walking next to him, with no idea how to act. Gosh, I can't believe I'm just standing there with a denim skirt and this plain t-shirt! Maybe I should have dressed up a little? I feel awkward facing all the lieutenants with their serious looks in this casual attire.

Damian walks up to a small stage, where all of them can see him. Taking a quick look, I try to estimate how many people are there. Maybe about a hundred or so? How large can the sub-packs be, then? Some of them look really young, maybe my age or so. They don't look childish at all, though, more like punks and street g**g people. Gosh, this really looks like some Mafia g**g gathering...

"Hi, everyone. Apparently, Neal already filled you in, so let's go over this quickly," says Damian. "From today on, no more favors for the Gold Moon Clan. They overstepped their bounds and we are to make them regret it."

To my surprise, most people in the room cheer or applaud, and a couple of them whistle in appreciation. Are they really happy about pissing the Gold Moon Clan off?

“I like that, Boss!” Yells some guy with a large beard.

“Let’s ditch those money-s.uickers!”

“Who do they think they are?!”

A few more people are heard before Damian growls. Immediately, everyone goes silent again, all eyes focused on him. A woman with a black leather jacket raises her hand.

“What about King, Boss? The engagement? Judging from the young missy next to you, I bet you got better options!”

Damian smiles and takes my hand gently before making me face the crowd with a fierce look.

“I found the best one, Vane. All of you, meet Nora, my fated mate.”

A few seconds of silence follow his words when all eyes turn to me, and all of sudden, the cheering starts again, ten times louder this time. People clap their hands, and congratulatory words are flying all over the room.

“Finally! We’re so happy for you, Boss!”

“The lady is a real beauty!”

“Blessed Moon Goddess mother, a fated partner for the Boss!”

I can’t believe all these people are genuinely happy for us. Aren’t they disappointed I’m not of a powerful family, or as pretty as Alexandra King? Do they think I have some great backing they don’t know off yet? I blush, embarrassed by so many people cheering for our relationship. Damian pulls me back next to him, putting his arm around me in a showy manner. Once again, the crowd calms down as soon as he gestures it.

“From now on, Nora is my one and only partner. The engagement with King is no longer a thing, got it? Don’t let the Gold Moon Clan use it, anywhere. No more favors, no more special treatment.”

I see the Alphas wearing black suits all nod. They are giving off a businessman feel. They are probably the ones handling businesses and dealing on a daily basis with the Gold Moon Clan. Damian then turns to the side with the most street g**g young Alphas.

“I don’t want them anywhere on my territory. Let them all know they are not welcome anymore. No more coming unannounced, no more going through our territory. If they don’t like it, show them it’s not up to them.”

A young man with red-colored hair nods. “Got it, Boss! I was tired of seeing them acts like they own the place! We will drive them off and make sure they don’t dare step in our streets again!”

“Spread the word, Sean. And tighten up the security; from now on I want more people watching our borders. Some psycho managed to go past our defenses and go all the way to Nora’s place; make sure that doesn’t happen again.”

“Sure, Boss.”

Damian keeps giving instructions to chase the Gold Moon Clan off their territory. Not just geographically, but they also start talking about land property and corporate actions. None of this I can help with. Meanwhile, I notice a few people looking at me with curious eyes.

Well, I kind of dropped in out of the blue, so that would be logical. They probably wonder where I came from, how I met Damian.

But surprisingly, no one dares to. They listen to Damian’s order religiously, sometimes bickering among themselves on what the most effective strategies would be. From my perspective, no one seems really worried about what would be coming next. All that matters to them is the Boss’s order. A hundred Alphas, all gathered in one place and listening to my mate with no discussion.

I feel like this is the first time I’m really witnessing with my own eyes the extent of Damian’s influence.

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The meeting actually takes longer than I expected. Though Damian’s orders are clear and some of the lieutenants left right away, a lot of them stayed to ask him about some border issues, the rogues, or how they should handle business deals. I’m able to follow what they are talking about, but it’s not my

place to talk. I notice a few of the lieutenants still look at me from time to time. I go to sit aside with Liam and Bobo, leaving Nate and Damian to handle the Clan issues. But to my surprise, five people walk up to us.

I recognize the woman who spoke earlier, and Sean, the teenager with a large hoodie. Three other guys are with them. One is wearing a completely black suit and glasses, like an office worker. The one next to him has a completely different look, with a leather jacket and tattoos all over his arms. I'm pretty sure this one is a biker. The last guy looks pretty normal though, with a casual outfit and a beard, except for the large burn scar on half of his neck.

"Hello, miss Nora. I hope we are not bothering you, we just wanted to pay our respects to the future Luna," says the woman, Vane.

Bothering me? I'm just sitting next to the wall, doing nothing! I get up to salute them. What am I supposed to say? This is a bit awkward, but they act really polite and respectfully, so I do my best.

"Oh, thanks. It's nice to meet you all, I'm Nora Bluemoon."

"That's a really pretty name, young lady. Nice to meet you, I'm Joshua Hale, in charge of the Fifth Avenue and North highways," says the biker guy. He gives me a handshake with his gigantic paw, and a big smile.

Next to him, the teen just nods, his hands not moving from his hoodie's pocket. "Sean Pierce. I'm in charge of Rock Park and all the dark alleys a lady like you shouldn't go."

"Hello, miss Nora. I'm Thadeus Cooper, in charge of the Financial district and M. Black's accounting assistant," says the guy with the office worker look, bowing in a really polite manner.

Those three have literally nothing in common, except for their Alpha rank.

The last man gives me his hand, too, and a gentle smile. "Isaac Graves. We have met before, but I was in my wolf form, at your fight against the Jade Moon Alpha. A beautiful fight, by the way."

"So, you're Nathaniel's Beta, right?" I ask, suddenly remembering where I heard his name before.

He smiles and nods. "That's right, I'm honored you know who I am."

“And I’m Vanessa Brookes, in charge of South Main Street and the south border. You can call me Vane, everyone does.”

I shake hands with the woman. I feel like I’ve heard her name before. Her face reminds me of someone, too, but I can’t remember who. She is tall, with brown hair, probably about thirty, and is one of the only people in the room to not wear only black, but a red leather jacket. She gives me a warm smile. “We are happy you’re here, miss Nora. The Boss has been looking everywhere for you, you know, so we were curious. It’s good to finally see you in person.”

“You guys know about this, too?” I ask, surprised.

The biker guy, Joshua, laughs really loudly. “Everyone here knows! The Boss gave orders a few years ago. Find a teenage girl, blue eyes, black hair, a scar on her left eye. And here you are!”

“Thank god. If the Boss really married that King, I would have killed that w***e,” grumbles Sean.

“Well, you won’t need to get things that far, seems like the Boss will take of things after all,” says Isaac.

“I was surprised, earlier. Are you guys all against that woman? I mean, this alliance with the Gold Moon Clan should be full of advantages...” I ask.

They look at me with surprised eyes. Sean rolls his eyes, but Vane gives him a slap behind the head right away, telling him to watch his attitude.

It’s actually Thadeus who clears his throat before answering. “Putting the financial benefits aside, miss Nora, the Gold Moon Clan is certainly not a popular choice for the Clan. Their wealth is mostly due to a long history in Silver City, not smart business decisions. If I may say so, their wealth went up naturally, but their banking establishment is barely fairly managed. The Alpha is...”

“...A nutjob who just got lucky,” mumbles Sean.

“Well, you may put it that way,” says Thadeus.

“It’s as the guys said, miss Nora. The Gold Moon Clan may be rich, but that’s it. They are not good fighters, and certainly not smart either. They just act like they are. Same goes for Alexandra King, she acts like she owns every place

she goes, but she can only talk as long as she got her purse in hand. If anything, she is the queen of disrespect and nobody here likes that.”

I nod to Vane’s words. So, this is why everyone was so happy about Damian’s announcement concerning the engagement’s cancellation.

Joshua smiles to me once again. “We may have submitted to the Boss, miss Nora, but we are not ready to accept anyone as the Luna. But you look like a fine young lady, and if the Moon Goddess chose you as the Boss’s pair, I’m all for that.”

“That’s right. And we already know you’re a decent fighter, too. A lot of us heard about that fight, even if we didn’t go. I would like a Luna who’s not a wimp.”

This time, it’s Joshua’s turn to slap him behind the head. “Watch your words when talking to the future Luna, punk!”

“Don’t touch me! You want to fight, fatso?” Growls Sean.

The two of them start growling at each other, but Vane grabs them by the collars and pushes the two guys away like kids.

“Okay, enough you two. If you want to fight, take it outside. Sorry, miss Nora, those guys tend to get overexcited quickly. We will leave you now, but if you need anything, don’t hesitate; you can count on us.”

She takes the two guys, still bickering at each other, away, trying to separate them, and Isaac and Thadeus follow closely behind them after telling me goodbye. I feel Liam coming up to me, and he gives me a quick smile while watching them leave.

“They’re good guys. And super loyal to my brother, too.”

“They all look very different.”

“Well, Damian gathered a lot of people from different places. Isaac and Vanessa’s families used to belong to our father’s Clan, but they sided with us as soon as we rebelled. Joshua is a former rogue, but he is a good guy, so my brother allowed him in the Clan. Thadeus is a weird guy. Formerly of the Gold Moon Clan, actually, but he left them after a big fight, from what I heard. He hates them now.”

“What about the young guy? Sean?” I ask.

Liam shrugs, still looking in their direction. Apparently, Joshua went to discuss with other people, and Sean is sitting against the wall next to Vane, his hood hiding his eyes.

“Sad story. He grew up in the streets, as an orphan. No one knows where he came from, but he’s a real little punk. A really good fighter, too. He tried to take my brother down a couple of times,” says Liam.

“What, you mean he really fought with Damian?”

“Yup, real duels. Of course, my brother kicked his a*s each time, but that didn’t keep him from coming back. I think he looks up to Damian a lot. He is the only one Sean listen to, with a couple of other people.”

“Like Vane?”

“Yeah, she’s like the big sister of the group. She was one of our first lieutenants, so…”

It’s interesting, getting to know the dynamics of Damian’s Clan. So many people are counting on him now. I understand more how the whole Blood Moon Clan works. A lot of them are either people who turned against the former Alpha, or outsiders, strays. Werewolves the other Clans wouldn’t have wanted. Especially Alphas.

The natural reaction for any alpha werewolf is to consider other Alphas as their rival and push them off. It’s a common situation in huge packs— they would try to chase off any potential threat.

However, Damian didn’t do that. Instead, he let those Alphas lead smaller groups, and gathered them around him. It wouldn’t have been possible if he wasn’t strong and charismatic enough himself. Would I have been able to do this?

While I’m still thinking, a few more of them come to salute me. I try to remember the names and areas they are in charge off, but before I get any rest, more than twenty lieutenants have come and gone, and I’m a bit lost. I hope I will be able to remember most of them, though. I share my worries with Liam, but he laughs at me.

“Don’t worry, Nora, you will have plenty of time to get closer to them! Plus, even I don’t know everyone here, there are too many faces! Just do it like me, and if you’re unsure, ask my brothers with the mind-link.”

Oh, right, there is this solution, too. I never thought of that before. I may not be part of this pack yet, but I can still talk telepathically to any Alpha I’ve met at will. How convenient.

“Nora?”

Damian is back, and he takes me in his arms right away. “Sorry that took so long. Are you tired?”

“Now that you mention it...”

It’s true. I don’t know what time it is, but it’s definitely late, maybe past midnight, even. I look around and realize almost everyone left, aside from a few groups of people talking here and there. Nate arrives behind Damian, looking exhausted, too.

“I’m going home, guys, I’m dead tired.”

“Home? You’re actually on your own again tonight?” Asks Liam with a smirk.

But to my surprise, Nathaniel glares at him, looking very annoyed at his brother. Judging by his reaction, I would guess Elena is still avoiding him.... Without saying a word, he turns around and leaves the scene.

Damian frowns and talks to Liam. “What’s wrong with him?”

But the youngest brother shrugs. “Don’t ask me, he is the one with relationship issues...”

Damian frowns, but I act like I don’t know about it. After all, this is Nathaniel’s business, not mine. I just hope everything would settle down with Elena, but unfortunately, that’s not my place to interfere.

“Can we go, Damian?” I ask, trying to change the subject.

Thankfully, my mate nods and takes my hand. Bobo, Neal, and Liam follow behind us when we walk back to the elevator. I’m feeling so tired, I’m almost sleeping against Damian’s chest already. The elevator stops and the Mura brothers exit first a few floors below Damian’s place. Does Neal live here, too?

That wouldn't be too surprising. To my surprise, Liam follows us when we go to Damian's apartment, but I'm way too tired to wonder about it.

"All right, I'm going to bed. Good night, guys!" He says, leaving towards what is probably a guest room.

As soon as he exits the room, Damian carries me like a princess, taking me to his room until he lands me on the bed. I yawn irresistibly, and he laughs.

"You're so cute when you are tired. I should make you stay up more often."

"No way, I need to go to work tomorrow..."

Gosh, work. Can I go back to work after what happened? Damian doesn't discuss it, and I wonder if he actually heard me. He exits the room for a minute, and I head to his huge wardrobe. I quickly find a sleeveless shirt, big enough for me to wear to sleep. I put it on, thinking I understand why Elena loves wearing oversized clothes so much. This is so comfy! When Damian comes back, only wearing pajama pants, I'm already in bed, and drowsy. He smiles and joins me. He puts his arm around me, holding me close against his bare chest.

"How do you feel?"

"Just tired..."

"You're getting stronger. I thought you would be more shaken up by all that happened today."

I know. It's been a long day. The witch's letter, King barging to my workplace, the attack at my apartment, the Blood Moon Clan's gathering... I sigh. "I won't get used to it, but... It's not like I can sit in a corner and cry, either. I promised myself to get stronger," I whisper.

I feel his lips pressing against my forehead. "You're doing great, Nora. I'm really proud of you, my Love. Next time, I want to introduce you properly. As my Luna."

I wonder what next time he is thinking about, but before I can ask, I'm already far away, lost in my sleep.