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《Aurora's pov 》

I stared at the closed door.

"Don't worry Aurora, my brother knows how to take care of himself. He'll be fine." Lily reassured me as she steps over to me, smiling slightly.

I tried to smile back but I was sure it looked like I had grimaced.

"Hey Luna, do you happen to have a cure or some way to move the effects of the pixie dust?" Eli yawns, now slouched and ready to fall on his face by the way he was nearly staggering on his two feet.

He was left behind seeing that he could barely stay up without swaying a little. Xavier thought it would be better to have him stay with us and Rodrick.

I shook my head, wincing slightly. "I'm sorry Eli but no, I'm afraid not."

Eli turned to Rodrick who still had his gaze on the book intently.

"What about you doc? Does it say anything in the book there to rid one of the effects of pixie dust?" Eli sighed, almost desperately.

I felt really bad about being the cause of his drowsiness.

But did he really have to stand so close to me in the first place? Honestly, he should blame himself for getting himself in this situation.

I cannot believe I was trying to blame him.

I shook my head to rid myself of these thoughts.

"No unfortunately there is nothing in here. But the dust will wear off on its own. Look at Alpha. It has completely worn off judging by his simmering anger. I think the reason why yours haven't yet is that you are just...." Rodrick drawled out, hinting a smile in his voice when he turns slightly to face Eli.

"Slow." He joked.

Eli's eyes narrowed on the doctor, glaring I mean. These were slits of annoyance not one of calculation.

"Are you dissing your Beta Rodrick?" Eli tries to sound tough and stern but a yawn made the threat sound a bit weak. Okay, a lot weak. It was almost amusing.

No, it was amusing.

Rodrick smiled, straightening his back as he gives Eli a lopsided smile. "Me? No, I would never!" He mocked. "But as I recall, from even as a young boy, you were always the slowest of them all." He continued to jest at Eli.

Perhaps this was his way of trying to anger Eli enough to have him break the effects of the pixie dust. Or maybe he just wanted to annoy the wolf.

Either way. Eli's anger was actually stirring in his eyes.

"You know that's not true Rodrick. You know I'm the fastest in the pack!" He snarls and this time it wasn't slurring like it was seconds ago.

Rodrick cocks a brow, taunting him further. "That's not how I recall it Eli. I remember you crying when the other children left you in their dust. Why? Because you were so damn slow."

Eli surprisingly stands to his full height without staggering, nor did his eyelids look heavy and ready to shut.

I leaned closer to Lily who had reached beside me seconds ago. "
Should we stop them?" I whispered while darting my eyes between
the wolves unsurely.

Lily has a smile on her face. "Why? It's quite entertaining. It's been so long since I've seen Eli this irritated."

She must've sensed my nervousness because she turns to me, lifting her gaze so I would see the reassurance in her eyes. "Don't worry Aurora. Rodrick is just working him up to break the trance of the pixie dust. He must've figured out a way to break it."

She then nudges her head toward Eli. "See, it's already working. He isn't calm and sleepy anymore."

I turn to stare at Eli and she was right. The male wolf was anything but calm and sleepy. He was raging. With his fists clenched to his side and his glowing eyes, Eli looked like he was on the verge of lashing out.

It was strange to see him this way.

"You know damn well that was before I had my wolf, Rodrick, you dick. Oh right, wasn't it dick they used to call you before? Dr. Dick? Why? Because your head when it was shaven was shaped like a humongous di-

"Now that's enough Eli. Doc has helped you out of the trance of the pixie dust, there is no need to say things you'd regret." Lily cuts in, finally seeing that this might cause more than a release of angry words.

"Now who says I'd regret it?" The stubborn wolf grumbles while still glaring at a now annoyed doctor.

Lily rolls her eyes. "Because I know you Eli. You're a big......idiot."

I looked down at Lily open mouth. She was supposed to calm down the situation, not make it worst.

Eli turned his irritated glare towards Lily, but seconds later smiled.

I almost got whiplash at the quick change of his emotions.

I shook my head but smiled slightly. They were quite.....entertaining.

"Now that you've gotten out of your slump. Perhaps you'd be of more use by guarding the door?" Rodrick mumbles in irritation.

Eli turns to him, seeming confused.

"There's a chance that whoever has poisoned Josie is still around.

Who's to say this person doesn't know about Aurora? About her being the one to create the wolfsbane? For all we know this might have been a trap to get the alpha out of the way so she'd be more accessible. This isn't just a threat Eli, this is a warning that this person wants more. They perhaps want Aurora." Rodrick spoke while looking at the door like he would a test subject.

"It would be better if you guard from the outside so you'd see them coming and notify us so perhaps Aurora would have a chance to flee before they get inside. " Rodrick pointed at the window behind Xavier's chair.

Eli nods. "You're probably right."

"Stay here until I give word it is safe and Alpha is on his way. Can't have anything happening to the future Alpha." His eyes dip to my still flat stomach and instinctively my hand press there.

It feels weird to know that I am pregnant when I only had been fully claimed last night.

He turns to leave but swerves around to look back at me. "Oh and you of course." With another smile he opens the door and walks out.

Only for seconds later to open the door again and peek his head in. "
Oh and about yesterday, I am truly sorry if I scared you. You were in heat and it had been stronger than that of normal wolves. I wouldn't be able to resist it if I hadn't left." He says sheepishly with an apologetic tone.

I shook my head with a slight smile. He had nothing to apologize for. "
It's fine Eli. I understand. But maybe next time tell me what's going

on before leaving?" I suggested.

I had really thought he left me for dead last night. I really thought I was truly dying. The pain was very unbearable.

He smiled sheepishly and with a nervous laugh murmured out. " Noted."

He closes the door behind him but mere seconds later peeks his head in. "Oh and congrats on the baby. We-

" Oh my Goddess Eli. You'll have enough time to bombard Aurora, just guard the door." Lily says with an exaggerated breath.

"You're as mean as your brother." Eli huffed and closed the door.

Lily turns to me and smiles. "The pixie dust must've made him crazier. "

"Heard that!" Eli yells behind the door.

"You're supposed to!" Lily yells back, rolling her eyes.

"I swear between the three you can't choose who will make you go bat shit crazy first." Lily snorted.

"Heard that too!" Eli yells again.

This time Lily ignores him.

My mouth curved into a smile. "My money's on Xavier."

Lily turns to me to send me a confused look.

"The one who'll make you go bat shit crazy first. It will be him." I giggled a little trying to distract myself from what I know was happening outside.

Everyone must be scared as yet another of their kind has fallen because of wolfsbane.

How on earth will they find it in them to forgive me now?

Lily's smile widened. "I knew why I always liked you Aurora. It's because you think just like me."

I grinned but then Lily's face sobered up which led me to drop my smile in confusion. " I still feel awful about the way I treated you Aurora. You didn't deserve it-

I shook my head, interrupting her before she finished. "You have nothing to apologize for. It's already in the past and I've forgiven you. I hope you've forgiven me for what I had done?" I whispered.

"Of course I do! It's not your fault at all Aurora. I just regret the way I handled the situation. I made you feel worse about yourself when your mate was down. I shouldn't have." Lily says softly with regret swirling in her voice.

I'm about to answer her but we hear a commotion coming from outside.

It's loud and it's unsettling.

It set fear tickling up my spine and weigh my gut down uncomfortably. I looked at Lily wide eyed and we both rush to the window to overlook the wolves down below.

They were no longer calm how I had left them in the dining room earlier. They were like headless chickens, roaring about and speaking so quickly and together that it made a jumbling mess I couldn't understand.

"They found another dead wolf perished, poisoned by wolfsbane at the end of the border. It was a male." Rodrick murmurs with a heavy sigh.

I look over at him, feeling my eyes prickle. This was all my fault.

"It's not your fault Aurora," Lily says as if reading my mind.

"But it is Lily. I'm the reason why they have gotten their hands on the wolfsbane. I should've weeded out the plant when I saw it but I selfishly chose to save myself. Now they're targeting the pack because of me." I whispered hoarsely.

She shook her head, removing her gaze from out the window. "They would've targeted us either way Aurora. My brother had made it his mission to kill the alphas who were a part of those who joined Raphael in his evil plot to kill us. So it isn't surprising that they targeted us. You have nothing to do with their malice."

"The other doctors need me." Rodrick suddenly murmurs.

Lily nods. "Then you should go."

Rodrick nods and starts to leave but I stop him. I was the cause of

this no matter how sugar coated Lily or Xavier tried to put it. I was the reason they got their hands on the wolfsbane.

"Take me with you. Run the test now with my blood. Do anything to find a cure that can counter the poison. I don't want any more of the wolves to die because of my stupidity." I rushed out, taking a step forward.

Rodrick looks at me in surprise.

"Wait, Aurora. Xavier doesn't want you to leave this room." Lily pointed out.

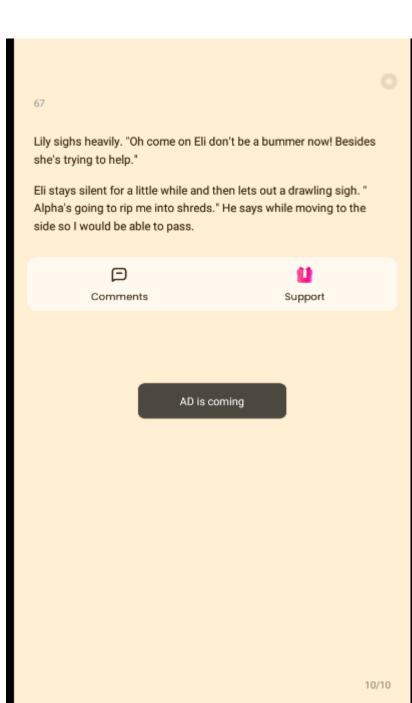
I turn to her. "I can't just stay here and do absolutely nothing, Lily. I refuse to be useless and watch Xavier's people die because of me. My people. I am now their Luna and I should do everything in my power to help them."

Her lips twitch at the corners. "Spoken like a true Luna. Can't believe you're going to disobey Xavier's command to stay put. Gotta give it to you girl." She laughs, walking toward Rodrick then stops, and turns around to raise a brow. "Well, aren't you coming our little rebellious Luna?"

I smiled, nodded, and walked over to the two.

When we open the door Eli's arms are crossed. He blocks the way and stares down at me pointedly. "I can't let you pass Luna. Alpha wouldn't like it."

I chewed my lip, dropping my gaze to the floor.



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《Aurora's pov》

"It's her fault."

Was the first mumbling of harsh whispers I heard when we stepped out of the pack house.

I swiftly drop my gaze to the ground, finding the blades of grass more fascinating to watch than the sneers on their faces.

I try to block out their bitter words as Lily grips my hand tightly while we follow Eli and Rodrick to the infirmary.

"We have a monster for a luna. A devil."

I flinch slightly, bending my head in shame and curling my fingers through Lily's as she tugs me along.

"Ignore them Aurora. They will come to their senses soon enough." Lily whispered.

I sighed lowly and barely managed a nod. I wasn't sure if I should believe her words. Who would forgive someone who's the cause of three wolf's deaths?

When we got to the infirmary, Rodrick leads us to an empty room since the other doctors were busy tending to an ashen unmoving

"Alpha and Christopher went back to retrieve the other wolf who had

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fallen to wolfsbane." A female doctor said to Rodrick, yet her eyes strayed over to me when she said the word wolfsbane.

"She's dead there's nothing more we can do." Rodrick nudged his chin towards Josie who had been on a stretcher.

"We didn't want to give up yet." The other doctor whispered and it was the last thing I heard before the door closes.

Now it was only Eli, Lily, and I. Rodrick stayed behind to help the other doctors, despite knowing the fate of Josie already.

Eli starts pacing and I begin to get worried that he'd leave footprints on the floor.

"Damn it Eli, you're making me anxious with your pacing. Calm down or I'll glue your feet to the floor." Lily snapped, walking over to the empty bed and leaning against it.

Eli ignores her and rakes an unsteady hand through his hair. "Alpha will really tear me a new one." He winces, hand going to cup himself between his legs. "My poor mate."

"It would be the last of your mate's worries honestly, having you as a mate would already be a huge problem." Lily snorted, crossing her ankles over the other.

Eli stops pacing and turns to Lily with an annoyed twitch of his jaw.

But Lily only smirked. "Well that stopped your pacing didn't it?"

Eli rolled his eyes and then turned to me.

I stumbled slightly when he suddenly rushes towards me and grasp both my hands in his.

"Are you sure you want to go through with this Luna? It's not too late to back out of this and head back to the pack house." He rushes out, his gaze pleading.

I looked at him, slightly startled, slightly unsure of how to ease his worry over Xavier.

"Yes. I want to help Eli." I said leaving no room to argue. "In any way I can. I want to help. I'm not going to change my mind."

Eli puffs his cheeks and lets out an exaggerated puff of air. Dropping my hand he huffs while backing away. "Great, I'm going to be castrated." He nods as if surrendering to his fate.

"You're dramatic, very. As long as Aurora doesn't get hurt Xavier won't harm you. Well unless you open your big mouth and don't put brakes on it." Lily snorted looking around the room.

## Eli winces.

"What are you looking for?" Eli asked with suspicion as Lily pushes away from the bed and starts for the line of tiny bottles lining on the shelf.

She doesn't turn to him when she replies, only skims her fingers over the bottles that had different colored liquids. "Something to calm you down, possibly to make you fall asleep so you'd not suffocate us any longer with your nerves."

Eli shakes his head quickly, looking at Lily with a tinge of fear. "I am supposed to be the guard. You can't do that." He protested, backing away until his back touches the door.

A sarcastic snort comes out of Lily's mouth. "Exactly, you're supposed to be a guard, not a whining toddler. Scratch that, a whining baby."

I could practically feel that she rolled her eyes.

She turns her head towards me when Eli was to tongue tied to answer.

Her eyes twinkled. "Or make our job easier and do that pixie dust thing Aurora. " Then her eyes widen. "Wait hold up, I need a mask."

"Luna you can't-

I shook my head. "Don't worry Eli, it's not like I can do it if I want to. I don't even know how I had done it in the first place. " I sighed heavily.

Eli looks relieved and was just about to perhaps voice out his thanks when the door he had been leaning against barges open and nearly sends him flying.

Rodrick enters.

"Dammit Rodrick, you need to stop doing that." Eli snaps, fixing himself before he had toppled.

Rodrick ignores him and closes the door behind him, his gaze falling on Lily and his eyes widen in alarm. "Girl you shouldn't play by these



things. Get away from them." He demanded.

Lily listened, but her brows pinched in confusion. " What are those things, Rodrick? "

Rodrick shrug as he walks to the table in the corner of the room. " Serpent venom, witches hazel, vampires blood, and other things you should not be playing with."

"Why do you have those things?" There's a distinct sound of disgust in Lily's voice as she walks over to me.

"Why else would a doctor have those things, Lily? To counter poison and to create cures. I perhaps have to use the serpent venom with Aurora's blood to cure you. I'm not too sure." He mumbles, skimming his fingers over the many syringes, from small to big.

I almost shivered.

Lily looks at me pleadingly. "You're the luna now, you should stop him before he put serpents venom in my body. I fear I'll turn into a snake if he does."

"Don't worry Lily, I'll make sure to put you in a cage and feed you mice if you do." Eli snorted while crossing his arms over his chest.

Lily's eyes turned a shade of irritation as she sweeps them over to Eli. "No one asked you idiot." With a humph, she snottily turned her head away from him.

"Where is that dumb thing?" Rodrick cursed as he walks over to another table that had test tubes. He shifts through the many,



clinking them against each other as he searches for something perhaps of importance.

"Josie is no more?" I asked in a barely there whisper.

He stops skimming around the tubes to answer me with a shake of his head. "The wolfsbane had been too strong, you can smell it coming from her pores. She must've died in seconds."

I chewed my lips. Josie hadn't been too friendly to me when I got here but it still pained that she had died.

I move my eyes away from him and set them on the tiny bottles Lily had been skimming over. "Do you think you'll have a cure before the sun goes down today?" I swallowed the lump in my throat.

I didn't want any more of the wolves to die because I had stupidly chosen my life over theirs.

Rodrick takes a while to respond, but when he does it has a heavy weight of uncertainty. "I will have to actually have a test subject to make the cure faster. Someone needs to have the wolfsbane in their system. Which means you'll have to create the flower. But even that may take days to make, antidotes need a few days to settle before being used."

I nod and take a step forward while pushing out my arm. "Then let's speed up the process shall we?"

Rodrick looks over at Eli who shrugged. "I'm going to be torn into shreds anyway, so I'll be the subject. If I die, don't look under my bed.

<sup>&</sup>quot; He warns.

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Rodrick nods then turn to Lily. "We need some dirt." He walks over to a shelf with some beakers and grasps a large one before walking over to Lily. "Fill it up with earth and come back over quickly."

He hands her the beaker and she takes it. "Why do I get the digging dirt part?" She nearly whines.

Eli rolled his eyes. "Because I have to stay and protect Aurora in case someone comes in. And don't forget I get the part which is more dangerous."

Lily points a finger at him and narrows her eyes. "You're right. Good luck with that." She snorted walking over to him, parts him on the shoulder before strutting over to the door.

"One glass filled with dirt coming right up." She says before leaving the room.

When she returns we're all waiting for her.

She lifts her brows. "Jeez did someone die again? All of you are just here looking at the door as if at any second a ghost would barge in." She said while walking over to us with the beaker filled with dirt.

"No, we're just waiting for you because apparently, you were taking your precious time." Eli pointed out.

Lily scowls as she places the beaker on the table. "Digging dirt wasn't easy Eli. "

"Right," Eli says, crossing his arms over his chest.

Rodrick shifts the beaker closer to him and stopped it between him and I. He looks at me expectedly and I quickly push my arm forward and give him my index finger.

My heart starts beating furiously in my chest. This would be the first time someone other than me would witness up close what my blood can really do.

He picks up a little knife from the table and holds my hand. "This will only hurt a little. Try to relax." He says gripping my hand tighter as he draws the sharp blade to my finger.

I bit into my lip harshly as the tip slowly pierce my finger and slowly drew out blood. I wince by the slight throb.

Rodrick places the knife on the table and quickly pulls my bleeding finger over the beaker. The air is stiff and nerve-wracking as we all stay silent waiting for the drop of my blood to fall to the dirt.

My heart leaps when finally the crimson drop falls to the earth inside the beaker, slipping in the cracks of the earth.

We watch in stilling silence as we wait for what will happen. Rodrick quickly grabs a tissue and covers my bloody finger and tells me to hold it tightly over the small cut.

I do what he says, shaking slightly when the plant emerges out of the earth seconds later.

"Wow." Lily gasped in disbelief.

"Damn her blood actually-" Eli stops to gulp as the plants bloom out

dark purple flowers.

He leans forward and examines the plant with wonder. "It actually does look like poison already." He chuckles uneasily and looks up. "
Can I change my mind about being the test subject?"

"Wimp." Lily snorted.

Rodrick rolls his eyes. "You can." He says while picking up scissors, his eyes not leaving the sight of the flower. "Beautiful." He whispered, staring at the purple flowers fondly.

"If only this wasn't our enemy I would've surely made Aurora do more so I can have them in my room." Lily giggles slightly, leaning over to inspect the flower.

"The flowers are so purple and pretty, you'd not think it was poison."

She hums, reaching over to touch it.

"Don't touch it Lily until I've tested it." Rodrick voiced out as he picks up his gloves and starts to slide them over his entire hand.

I stared at the flower longer. "It's different than how I remember," I whispered. And it was. The purple was much darker.

Rodrick lifts his gaze to me. "How so?"

"It's much darker in color. It used to be a lighter purple." I admitted.

He hums and nods. "Perhaps it is because of the pregnancy. Pregnancy changes a lot in a woman's body, I'd not be surprised if it changes the variety of wolfsbane your blood creates." 68

He touches the tip of the flower with his gloved fingers and pinched it before bringing his other hand that had the scissors toward the flower.

He snips off one flower and places it inside a test tube. "We'll work with one for now to see how strong it is."

"If it's different than the one whoever is targeting us has, will that be a problem?" Lily asked in full confusion.

"That's what I had been think-

Eli stops, his form stiffening. "Somethings off." He whispers, his eyes going foggy. "Samuel is here. Rodrick stay with Aurora, I'll mind link Xavier to let him know."

Suddenly there's a chilling scream followed by two more. Rodrick rushes over to me and Lily, quickly grasping our hands and tugging us furiously towards a door to the left. He opens it and reveals a small little space where there are more test tubes and medical supplies.

"Get in there and lock the door until Xavier gets here." He ushered us inside, closing the door behind us.