

## Chapter 1: Jump! - Embracing my Luna

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-Amelie- I have never been this far from the packhouse ever. It is dark. I could hardly see anything... but I just keep running. There are noises around, and it is scary, but we run and run... Lolo and I have so much time running already. I could barely breathe. I feel my lungs are close to collapsing and my body is about to fail any moment if I keep going. I slacked down more and more; the fatigue is overcoming the urgency to run. "Don't stop!" Lolo yelled. My legs were already giving up. The distance between us grew the same as the fear in my heart. The monster will catch me! Lolo is faster. She is a werewolf... We are sisters, but I am not like her. I am a mere human... just a weak and powerless human. I had this much energy because I ate something today. It was not a lot, but I could share it with Lolo and Rory. I am glad I shared something with them, especially if it is food. Rory and Lolo felt sleepy after eating it, and they realized something was wrong with the food. They were right... If Lolo did not come to my rescue... I sobbed. I fell and peeled my knees. Lolo turned and rushed to me. She helped me to keep going... but I am slowing her down. I am a burden to her. I have always been... but I have tried... I swear I have really tried! In the rush of the adrenaline, I had a good start running, but my human body is giving up... "Please!" Lolo screamed. "You can do it!" We went very far without the patrol following us. They must be drinking instead of doing their jobs. That is probably why so many omegas are disappearing from Dark River territory. Yet, this time, their negligence helped us to get this far. Suddenly, we heard the howls of the wolves. They are coming... They must know now what happened to the monster. I trembled looking at my hands. I do not know what I did there. I felt like something inside of my head broke and took over my body while enraged. He-he tried to touch me down there after pushing me onto his bed... I was so scared and disgusted... He slapped me... I blacked out. When I opened my eyes... when I got back to me, Lorraine was in front of me holding a broken bottle in her hand, shaking. And the monster was on the floor with a large wound on his chest, as if a beast slashed it with their claws. My hands were tainted with blood, I cleaned on my rags of a dress and the bed's cover. Did I do something? It seems like I did something really bad. I just do not know... how... And I didn't want to ask Lolo. They are chasing us... the wolves are getting close. The howls sound closer now. They are fast like any werewolf is. I want to cry. I am a burden, a hindrance to my Lolo. I fought the tears as we went on. "Save yourself!" I yelled, pushing her away. My sister deserves to live. If at least she can survive, I will be happy wherever my soul goes. I pray to our Moon Goddess to allow me to see my sister live in peace and

happiness. Even if I am not a werewolf, my family was...I believe in my Moon Goddess to have some mercy on my soul, to grant me this last wish. "No!" Lolo is stubborn. She made me climb on loher back. My sister wants to save my life. I am what she has left of our family... We do not even remember our parents. We have only had each other since the beginning. I wanted to let myself go... "We are close to the border!" She screamed, trying to keep me awake. I was so tired. "Just leave me..." We are not going to make it, but she can... if she only leaves me behind. "No!" She answered, yelling. She kept running until we got into a thick forest. Lolo is right. I still remember the classes I had when I was a kid. The thick forest before the river... The natural barrier between Dark River territory, and Forest Howlers' territory. We are almost there! She is breathing heavily; Lorraine is tired. We are so close, yet so far from being free. The trackers are barely here. "Leave me!" I yelled. It will be easy for her. Lolo tripped, and we fell. She is injured. My face hurts even more now. The monster slapped me hard and more than once, trying to make me surrender. "They will kill you... No!" She cried. No, they are going to kill us both for trying to escape. However, I will be tortured and r\*\*\*d first. He promised me that. The Young Alpha of the Dark River pack wants me to suffer before I die. He hates me. He is the monster. "They are almost here. You can save yourself." I told her. My dear sister, my caretaker. The strong Lorraine, my protector. She does not have her wolf yet, but her aura says that she is an omega. Omegas are very strong. I do not understand why they are so underestimated in wolf packs; if you are born omega, you are supposed to be service and nothing else in our world. Yet, the housework they do is hard... so hard, I can barely manage it. Yet, they get it done as if it is nothing even without much food or a proper rest. I worked at the packhouse with the omegas. They are invisible to the higher ranks. They do not see them... see us. But we see them... I might not be an omega, but I have worked and suffered with them. I pushed Lolo away from me. I am only the rock that sinks her, yet she grabbed my hand, forcing me to climb on her back again. I hugged her, crying. I need her, I need her so much... I am so selfish. "Don't give up!" She screamed, pushing herself to the maximum. I wish I am special, sister... I wish I could give you whatever is left inside of me to help you... I wish I were a powerful werewolf that could protect you... at least once. I felt warm tears roll down my cold cheeks. This is my fault... I should have just accepted Bruno and let him kill me... but I could not stand his hands on my body... his tongue in my mouth. I would rather die! Lolo tripped again, everything hurt... "There is a cliff... I can hear the water down there." She told me with hope in her voice. She wanted to jump. If she does, she will survive. I will most likely die from the fall... My body is human, breakable, weak. "Lolo..." The howls are closer than ever. I can almost hear their paws throughout the

forest. "We can do it." She said, cleaning her tears with her forearm. "You go. I will distract them..." I told her. "No, Meli... we have to live. We must survive! Together!" I am scared; I do not want to die... I want to live; I want to find love... I want to be a werewolf one day. Maybe when I turn eighteen, my wolf will awake... and I will be a werewolf as I have always dreamed. "If I jump, I am dead." That is my reality. "No, you can do it. We will make it. Trust me." Lolo held my hand, pulling me closer to the cliff. "Lolo... I am scared." "I am with you Meli." Lolo was hopeful. She believes we can make it. I nodded... at least, if I jump from the cliff, she would survive. She must live. Time to grow up Amelie! Time to stop relying on your sister for everything! "Jump!" She screamed, and we jumped to live or die, but free.