

Chapter 17

Lily

My head spun to find Thara standing in the doorway gaping at me. I quickly grabbed my shirt from the floor.

"Wait!" Thara gasped. Walking up to me, she grabbed my shoulders and spun me around. Her fingers traced along my back where my scars used to be. All that was left was smooth, new skin.

"How... how is this possible?" Thara whispered.

"You recognize me?" I asked her.

She snorted. "Of course I recognize you! What a silly question. But...how Lily?"

I pulled my shirt back on and faced her. "Uhm... I'm not sure? I mean, I shifted-"

"Shifting wouldn't have healed those scars." She interrupted me.

"Well, maybe not for regular wolves." I replied quietly.

Her eyes narrowed. "What do you mean 'regular wolves'?"

Shuffling my feet, I avoided her piercing gaze.

"Lily?" Hazel's voice drifted into the bathroom. A second later, she appeared in the doorway. "Oh. Hello Doctor Varlos."

"Hello Hazel."

"Uhm Lily, could I talk to you for a- Oh my goddess!" She gasped as she finally really saw me. "What the hell happened to you?!"

"I uh, shifted." I said lamely.

Hazel just openly stared at me. I was starting to feel like an attraction at the zoo.

"Okay, okay. Let's just all sit down and talk. I want to know what's up with this-" Thara waved her hand up and down my body-"as well. Come on."

She led us to the bed and we all climbed on, sitting in a circle. The girls looked at me expectantly and I sighed. Then I launched into my story about the night's events, leaving out my visit with Celeste. I don't know why, but that felt private. When I finished, Thara and Hazel looked at each other, then at me, and then back at each other. It seemed neither of them knew exactly what to say.

"Uhm, guys? Can one of you say something? Please?" I asked.

"I'm sorry I'm just...."

"This is just..."

"Wow." They said in unison. I laughed.

"Look, being a Mother Wolf doesn't change who I am. Okay, it may have changed how I look, but I'm still me." I said.

"That's not its Lily. It's just not so easy to actually see it. I mean, we've heard about the Mother Wolf all our lives, as bedtime stories. They don't even exist! Yet, here you are, living proof, and it's honestly amazing!" Thara gushed.

"What did Dimitri say?!" Hazel asked and I flinched.

Thara narrowed her eyes again, this time with a steely look. "What did my idiot brother do?" She asked.

"He didn't do anything per se..." I sighed again. "He.... okay maybe I overreacted to his reaction-"

"I doubt that. Tell us." Thara clipped.

"Well, after I shifted back and he saw me like this... he looked, well.... I don't know, he had that look."

"What look?" Hazel asked.

"You know, the look. The look that says "Baby I'll lie down in the dirt so you can walk all over me" kind of look." I said.

"That dumbass." Thara shook her head.

"I don't understand, isn't that good? Don't you want him to look at you like that?" Hazel asked confused.

Thara answered before I could.

"Normally, yes. But my brother has been ignoring Lily since she got here. And then she goes from being well, Lily, to this Lily, and all of a sudden, he's interested? That's not cool, not cool at all. I'm so going to kick his ass." She growled.

I laughed again, that was something I wanted to see.

"No need Thara, I already told him it wasn't happening."

She clapped her hands. "Good for you girl! Make him work for it! Serves him right."

I smiled, nodding. Inside, I was groaning. Ever since I shifted the bond between Dimitri and I had grown considerably. I'd woken up from an overly intense dream about him, and let's just say it left me in a very edgy mood. All I wanted was to see him, inhale his scent, feel his skin on mine. I was ashamed to admit I was more or less hiding in my room to avoid seeing him. I wasn't entirely sure I could control my hormones or my urges around him.

As if he could hear my thoughts, a knock sounded on my door and Hazel and Thara stopped talking.

"Come in." I called.

Dimitri opened the door, pausing when he saw all of us on the bed. I raised an eyebrow at him.

"Uh, hi." He said.

"Hello Dimitri." Thara said. She gave him a look and he glanced at me. Clearly, he knew I'd ratted him out.

"Can I talk to you a sec?" He asked me. He glanced at his sister and Hazel. "Alone?"

"I guess so." I replied quietly. Thara plopped back onto my pillows and Hazel studied her nails. I glared at them until Thara looked up and nodded her head toward the hall. Rolling my eyes, I got off the bed and followed my mate out the door, closing it behind me.

"This way." Dimitri reached for his door, opening it. I hesitated. "Come on, I don't bite." A hint of a smirk played on his face when he said that, and I gave him a look. I wasn't in the mood to flirt with him. Instead, I straightened my shoulders and walked past him into his room.

His scent hit me and I inhaled deeply. Dimitri's bedroom wasn't what I expected, but then again, nothing about Blood Moon was so far. His walls were a deep grey, almost black. Actually, most of the furnishing was too. This was a very dark room, but it wasn't uncomfortable. It suited Dimitri very well. The colors and his scent mixed very nicely creating a very safe feeling. Looking to my right, the safe feeling turned into something completely different when my gaze landed on his ginormous California king bed. The sound of the door clicking into place snapped me out of my, honestly, embarrassingly dirty thoughts. Yet I couldn't seem to take my eyes from the bed.

"Lily?"

It took me a second to realize Dimitri had been talking to me for a while. Shaking my head, I finally averted my gaze and turned to him.

"You wanted to talk?" I asked him.

"Uh, yeah." He ran his hands through his hair, and my heart fluttered. It was a really adorable action.

"Okay. About?"

He walked past me and sat on his bed. My cheeks flushed from my earlier fantasies.

"I talked to James." He said. My eyes flew to his in shock.

"What?"

"I talked to James." He repeated.

I cocked my head to the side. "And?" I asked.

"He denied everything." He deadpanned.

"But...he-"

Dimitri held up his hand and I shut up.

"He denied everything, but I know when someone is bullshitting me. I told him so, and demoted him. James is no longer my head warrior."

My jaw dropped. "Really?"

"Really."

"But I thought you needed to talk to Hazel?"

"I did. She told me everything. So did Celia. And Shelly. And Brittany. And-"

"Wait wait wait." I held up my hands in front of me. "There was more than just Hazel?"

"Yeah. A lot more." He blew out a breath, his eyebrows furrowing.

I crossed the room, sitting next to him.

"How? How did you get so many women to-?"

"I didn't. After I talked to James, Celia came to me. She said she overheard us, and decided to finally talk to me. After that, the rest came forward. If I didn't have enough evidence to demote him from Hazel alone, I sure do now."

"That's incredible!" I exclaimed.

Dimitri looked at me like I'd gone crazy.

"I mean, it's not incredible what he's done, obviously. But it is awesome that something is done about it. He won't be able to do it again, will he?"

"No. I'll make sure of it." Dimitri promised.

"Thank you. For listening to me, for doing something. It means a lot Dimitri."

Without thinking about it, I reached out and placed my hand on his. Sparks shot through my hand and up my arm. Dimitri's eyes darkened and a low growl erupted from his chest. A foreign feeling pooled in my stomach and travelled down between my thighs. My breath started to come faster, and I bit my lip to keep it under control. His eyes dropped to my lips and my heart stuttered. All my thoughts from earlier came flooding back, forcefully. The things I wanted to do to him on this bed- the things I wanted him to do to me. Unconsciously I found myself leaning in, so close that our lips were only an inch apart.

"Dimitri accepted you to make himself stronger. A Luna makes their Alpha strongest when they are by their side."

Celestes words floated through my mind, jolting me out of my daze. I felt as if someone had thrown ice cold water on me. I ripped my hand out of Dimitri's and pushed him away. His eyes went wide with shock and confusion, but I was already on my feet, heading to the door.

"Again, thank you for taking care of the James situation. I'll uh, see you around Dimitri." I babbled quickly.

"Lily-"

"Bye."

Slamming his door shut behind me, skipped across to my room. Thara and Hazel looked up as I entered. Judging by the identical looks on their faces, they suspected what had just happened. I shook my head when Thara opened her mouth.

"I don't want to talk about it." I said.

She pursed her lips, but nodded.

"So... movie night?" Hazel asked.

"Yes!" I sighed and gratefully sank onto the bed beside her.