

Chapter 16

Surprised to hear Carmela yelling and seeing the cold look on the old Luna's face, Leila lets go of Carmela's arms, still confused about the absence of the scar.

"Ouch..." Carmela cries out, gripping her wrist as if to massage it but she twists it out of its socket, causing hot tears to stream down her eyes.

"What have you done to my daughter in law, you silly girl?!" Adaline, Alpha Tatum's mother, yells at Leila, storming forward. 1

Leila freezes at her words, shock evident in her eyes and pain pinching her heart. Adaline has never hidden her displeasure towards her but she never expected her to call Carmela her daughter in law openly.

"My wrist, I think it fell off its socket," Carmela cries, gingerly supporting the damaged wrist with her other hand, her face a mess of tears.

"What? How?" Leila turns to her with a confused expression, trying to hold the arm but Carmela backs away.

"Don't touch it, don't touch me, it hurts, it really hurts."

"Get out of the way," Adaline shoves Leila, so hard that she falls to the ground.

Leila looks on in shock as Adaline tends to Carmela wondering what is going on. She did not hold Carmela's hand with that much force or has she really grown that strong? Without her wolf, she is weaker than the weakest omega in the pack, it's why Tatum trains her away

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from everyone, to keep her weakness a secret.

As she dusts herself up and gets closer to both women, her face stings and a deafening sound strums her ear, the vision in her left eye becoming blind for a moment from the impact of Adaline's powerful slap.

"You insolent child. I have tolerated you for the last two years but if you think such bloody schemes will keep you as Luna, think again. I will do anything within my power to make sure by the next full moon, Carmela is the one in my son's bed," Adaline snorts, rage and hatred clear in her tone.

Leila stares at her blankly, tears running out of her blood clotted eyes, her face and heart stinging with pain.

Why is she holding on? What is she fighting for?

The pack doesn't want her as Luna, Adaline doesn't want her as her daughter in law, even Tatum has continually neglected her for Carmela.

Why fight a losing battle when she can just rollover, accept her painful defeat and at least leave before she is disgraced and ridiculed more than she already has.

She sniffles but the tears still fall, her hands trembling at her side and her lips quivering as she speaks. "I didn't hurt her.....mother, I was only trying to-"

"May the goddess have your tongue for calling me that, don't you know where your useless mother is?" Adaline fires coldly at her.

Carmela looks down and snickers at Adaline's words before she glances at Leila with false pity etched in her teary eyes.

"Mother...." She holds Adaline's hands. "She didn't do it on purpose, it was a mistake."

Adaline cups her face, gazing upon her with a compassionate and affectionate look.

"You defend her even when she hurt you on purpose, you have such a kind soul, the makings of a true Luna."

"What is going on here?" Tatum's cold voice grabs the attention of all three women, his grey eyes holding an iciness to them.

"Leila snapped my wrist but she didn't do it on- she- she- It hurts... goddess, it really hurts," Carmela holds her wrist and cries out and Tatum jumps to his knees, beside her in a flash, carefully holding her twisted wrist.

"What happened to you?" The old Alpha Darren, Tatum's father, asks Leila, seeing the finger marks on her reddened face and the blood clot in her eyes.

Leila doesn't respond to him, she neither has the will nor the strength to, just watching on with an aching heart as Tatum gently tends to Carmela, snapping her wrist back into place, soothing her from the pain.

Did he even see her face like his father did? Does she even exist to him anymore?

"She must be punished for this, the full extent of the law," Adaline barks.

"Tatum, she is your Luna, you cannot punish her, the law doesn't apply to her," Carmela says in a sullen tone, tears still flushing down

her face.

Tatum's spine chilling gaze falls upon Leila and her heart thuds with pain, breaking and breaking again at the coldness in his eyes.

'Please take my side, you know I'd never hurt anyone on purpose,' she muses, her teary blue eyes mirroring the plea in her heart as they look upon his icy grey ones.

Tatum looks at her for some seconds that seem like forever before he stands up and looks away, carrying Carmela in his arms bridal style.

"I'm taking her to the clinic," He says before he turns to Leila and she speaks before he can.

"Tatum, do you believe I hurt her?" Leila asks in a pained and trembling voice.

'Even if the world turns against you, I'll always be by your side,' One of Tatum's vows on their wedding night rings in her head.

'Say you trust me,' Leila pleads in her mind.

He knows. If anyone, he knows I don't have the power to hurt Carmela, nor would I. She doesn't care for anyone's opinion about her, anyone but him.

"No one is above the law, Luna or not," Tatum replies coldly, looking away from her.