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"What is she doing here? Doesn't she have any shame?"

"A truly despicable woman, I'm sure she's just here to make trouble."

"I heard the Alpha even had to chase her out of the house for the phoenix Luna."

"Serves her right, she was never meant to be Luna anyway."

The negative whispers and cold stares hit Leila the moment they drop from her car but she ignores all of it despite the bitterness in her heart.

After tonight, everything will be over. She may not be the phoenix Luna but like a phoenix, she will rise from the ashes and reinvent herself.

She will learn to live again, to make her happiness something only she can determine. It won't be because of the way a man treats her, never again.

She will never give anyone that much power over her again.

The red carpet is teeming with pack members looking their very best like tonight is the blood moon festival, smiles on all their faces.

The lights are glittering, the design ethereal, the colour scheme and mix for the decorations are all so beautiful and well done.

Tatum must have spared no expense on making tonight a memorable night for Carmela.

The backdrop, the walls and the walkway are all littered with Carmela's pictures, everywhere you turn, there's a pretty picture of Carmela smiling

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but Leila doesn't miss the few ones in between where she is with Tatum.

Perhaps those were added because of their engagement tonight.

Leila steps into the hall and the first person she sees is Carmela, surrounded by a bunch of people. Leila feels a clench in her heart, seeing the love and admiration Carmela is being showered with.

No one, not even one of the pack members showed her such love and admiration in the last two years. Despite how much she tried to make things work, they resented her firmly.

Amanda notices the sullen look in Leila's eyes and she follows her stare.

"Hey....don't do that to yourself, people don't know the value of what they have until they lose it. To me and those with common sense, you will always be the best Luna in the history of this pack."

Leila smiles bitterly at Carmela in the distance before she looks at Amanda.

"I don't care about any of that, I accepted my fate ages ago, it just feels really real this time you know? Like it's all finally coming to an end but not how I expected."

"You look beautiful tonight Luna," Tatum's voice spikes Leila's heartbeat, she freezes and goosebumps rent her skin.

She doesn't understand why but it's like she is even more attracted to him tonight than she has ever been, a strong urge to run into his arms and melt in his embrace, cry and pour her heart out to him is churning in her gut.

What is this?

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It's something different, she has never felt this strongly for him before, even his scent is ten times intoxicating to her.

"Thank you Alpha," she says in a placid tone, dragging Amanda arms and walking away from him as quickly as possible.

There's a tiny part of her that wishes he would follow her but it's quickly met with disappointment when she turns and sees Tatum already beside Carmela with Carmela cupping his face and smiling at him.

Well, she better get used to it and stop hurting herself over a man who doesn't care about her.

Carmela was made for him, created by the goddess and marked for the sole purpose of being his mate, how could she stand in the way of that?

"Soda for you, vodka for me," Amanda hands Leila a drink.

"Hey! Not fair, you should be drinking soda too, showing your support for your godchild," Leila replies.

"You know what? You're right, I shouldn't drink this," Amanda replies, chugging her glass anyway and Leila slaps the side of her arm, chuckling.

She turns her head and sees Kelvin walking towards her and Amanda and she waves at him but then she catches a glimpse of Tatum's cold eyes, fixed on Kelvin.

She is still his Luna, Tatum will not like her hanging with Kelvin here tonight, he has made that clear a dozen times.

"Amanda, please block Kelvin from coming here, Tatum looks like he's going to create a scene," Leila says to Amanda.

