THE LAST STAR

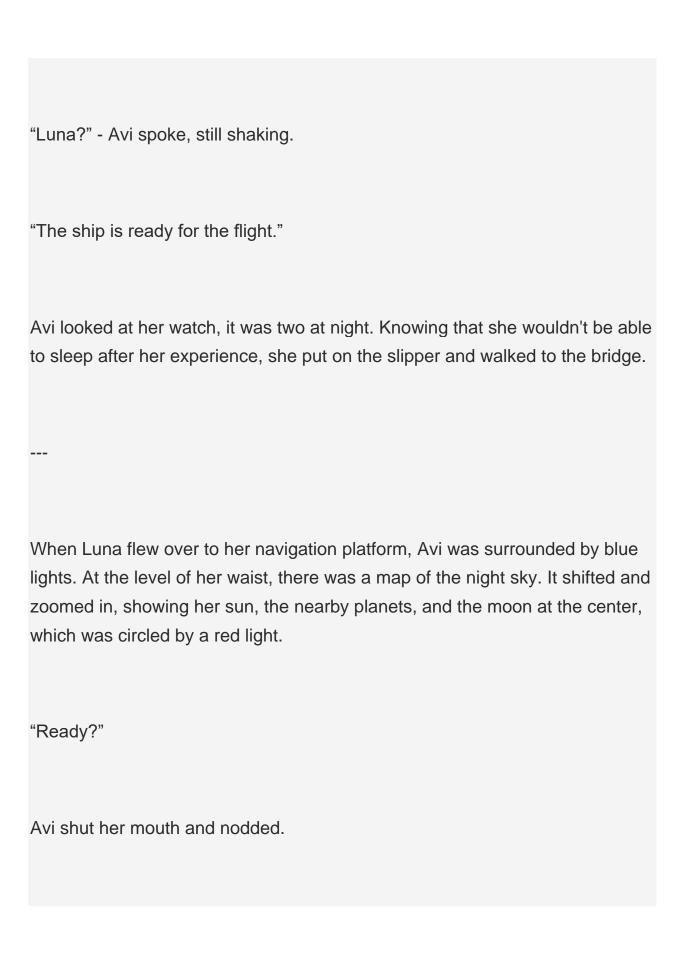
Star I ~ First girl on the moon ~ Part I

For the rest of the week, Avi emptied the spaceship and transported all she could think of there, until it started to resemble her own home. She was only missing the bed and fridge, but Luna ensured that she would be able to manufacture them on the moon.

In the last day, after saying goodbye to the parents, Avi couldn't hold her excitement and decided to spend the final night on the spaceship.

Again, she had the same nightmare. She was carried by the raging waves of tar ocean. Her legs sank deeper, as if something pulled them. Her struggle only worsened it. She wanted to shout, but she had no voice. Soon, her arms, neck, and mouth were engulfed. Only her eyes searched for something far, trying to find what was never there.

"Avi? Avi!" - A familiar voice woke her up. She was drenched in sweat. Her eyes moved, and she shifted to a sitting position, but her heart was still racing when she saw her spherical friend.



In a cloud of dust, the ship started to dig its way out of the soil, then began to levitate half a meter above the ground, then soared high above the forest. Avi glued her face, nose, and hands to the window, and with wide eyes watched the trees grow smaller until they were in the clouds.

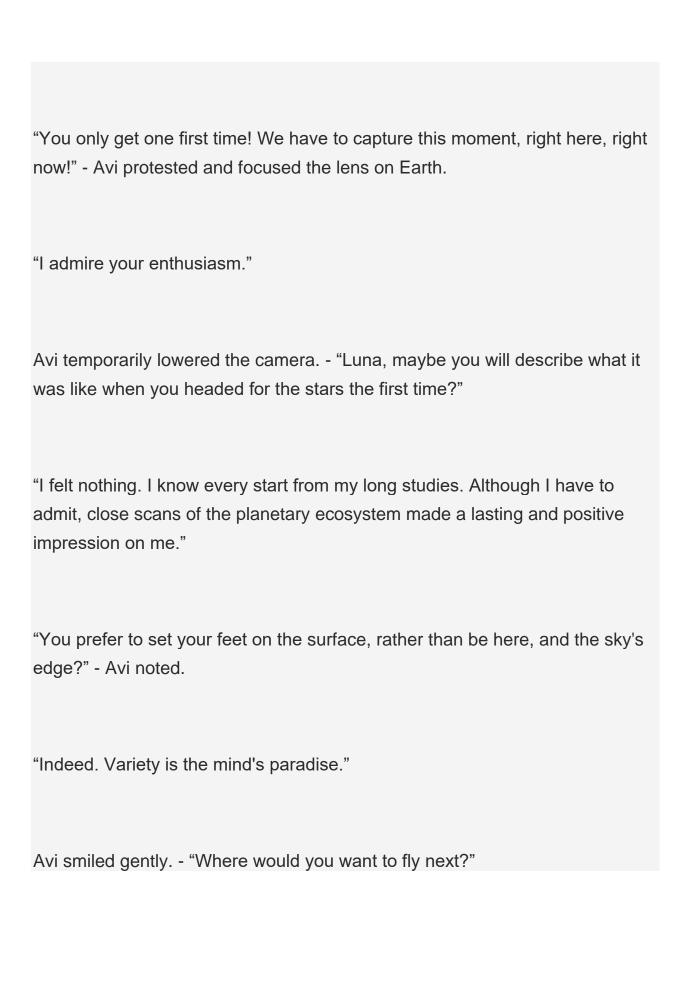
"Preparing to jump." - Luna informed, and the image around the spaceship distorted, as if the entire world was reduced to a point that disappeared behind a ship, then became large once more, but instead of Earth, there was a moon now.

"We arrived and only need to land." - Luna announced.

Avi danced with delight that she hadn't felt since her childhood. She was surrounded by stars, and her small planet was illuminated by the morning glow.

"A moment, please! I'll bring the camera!" - Avi ran out of the bridge, only to return a minute later and start recording. - "Space journal, entry one. Road to the moon."

"Your device doesn't look handy, isn't it better to return with an alternative replacement?" - Luna interrupted.



"I don't know the detailed parameters of any system. I'll leave the choice to you."
"Fifty-two stars" - Avi hummed and moved the camera from the left side of the window to the right "answers hidden in the void. We'll visit each one of them."
"Ambitious."
"From now on, no barrier will stop us!" - Avi summed up and turned the camera off.
"Are we landing?" - Luna guessed.
Avi nodded "I can't wait!"

The silver saucer gradually approached the moon's grey surface. Luna was extremely cautious and suspended her ship about ten meters in the air, next to a large crater, then extended the landing gear – that is, three steel legs – and slowly decreased the altitude.

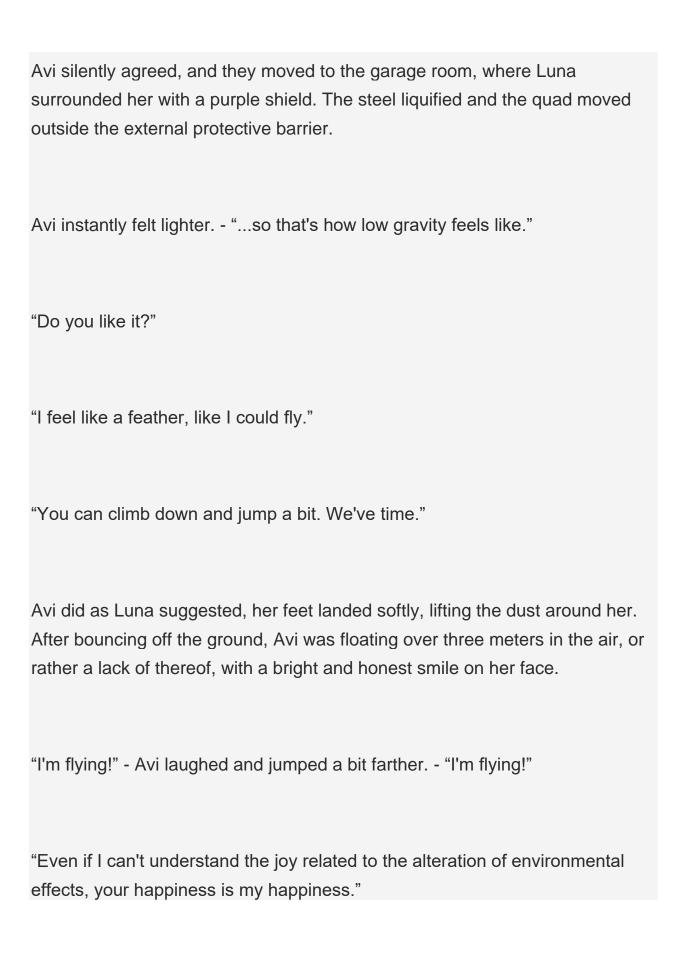
When the ship landed, it trembled a bit, which tossed Avi onto the frontal steering panel, but luckily, there were no injuries.

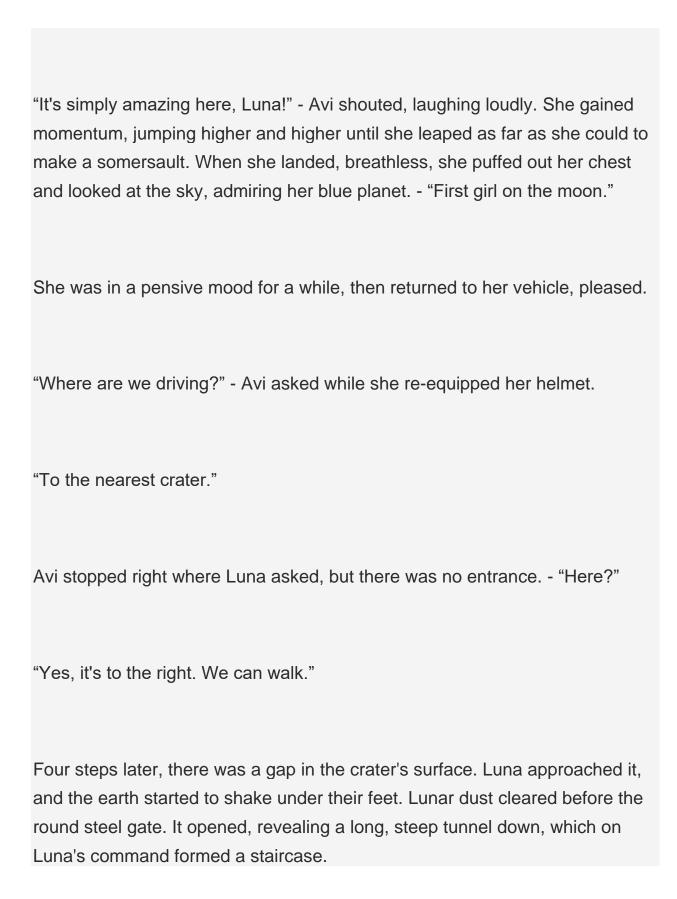
"Sorry, I'll pay more attention to your shell next time." - Luna apologized.

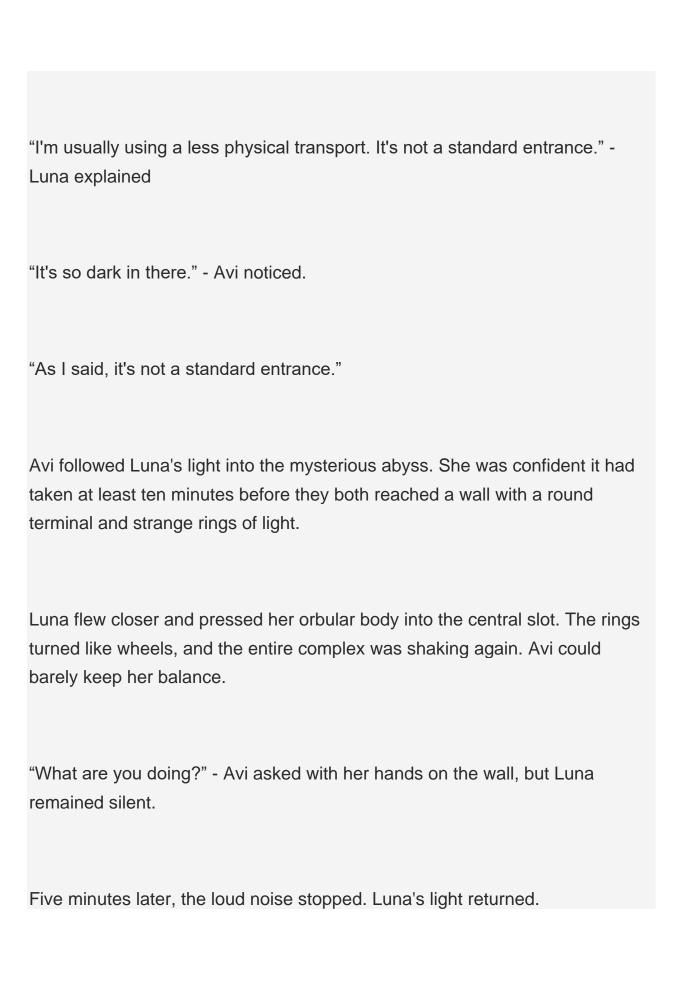
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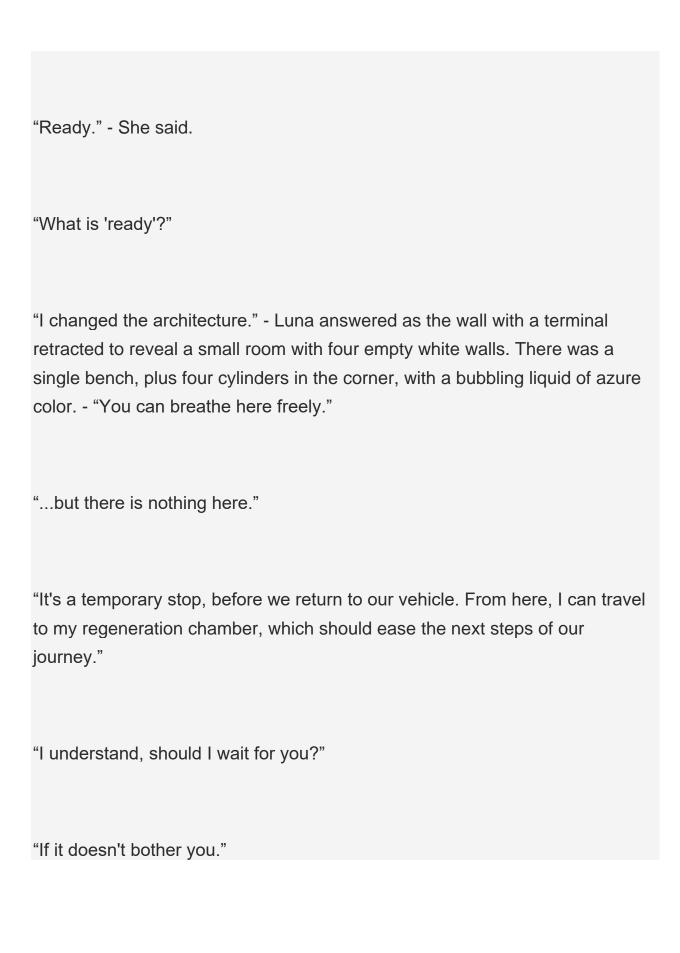
"That's okay." - Avi rubbed her arm, ignoring the pain, and looked outside. They were surrounded by an endless, grey space, and fine dust lingered in the vacuum. - "Being here, it's so uncanny..."

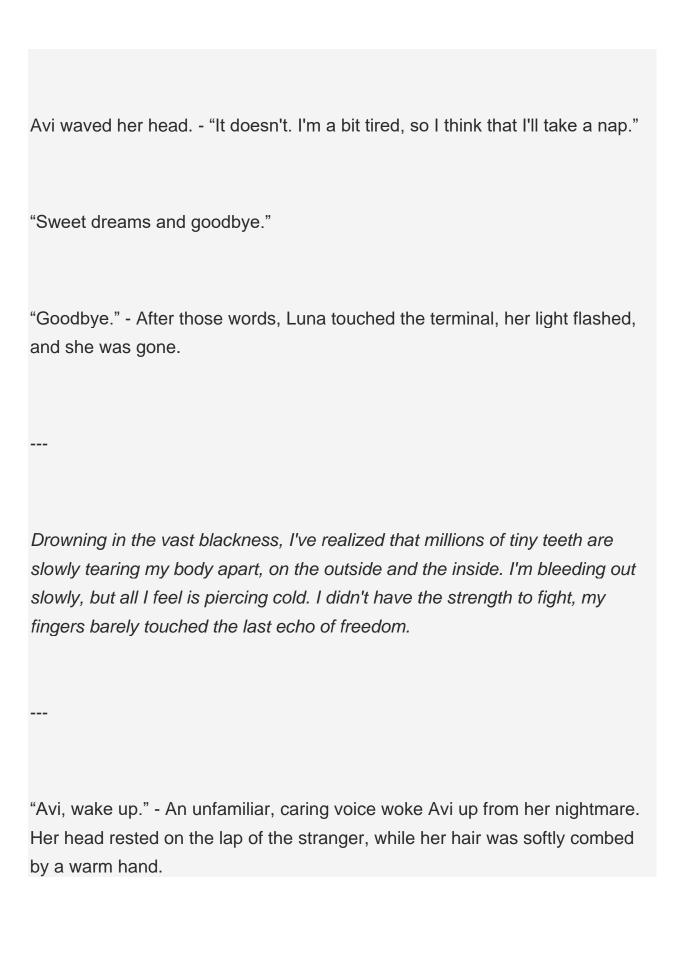
"My forcefield should be capable of temporarily negating the adverse effects of staying outside, but our priority should be reaching the base."

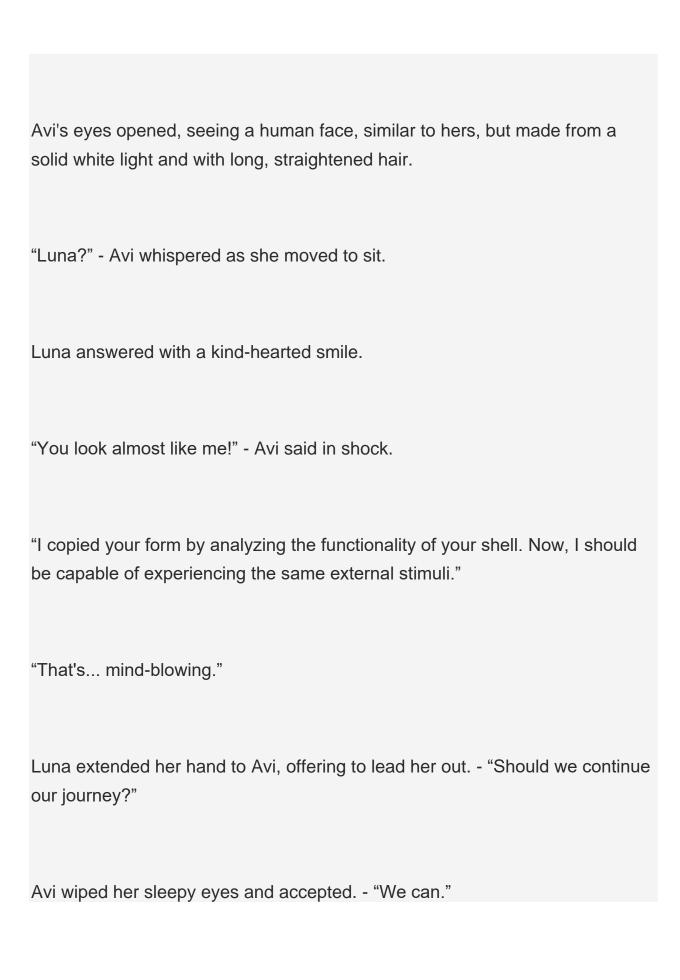


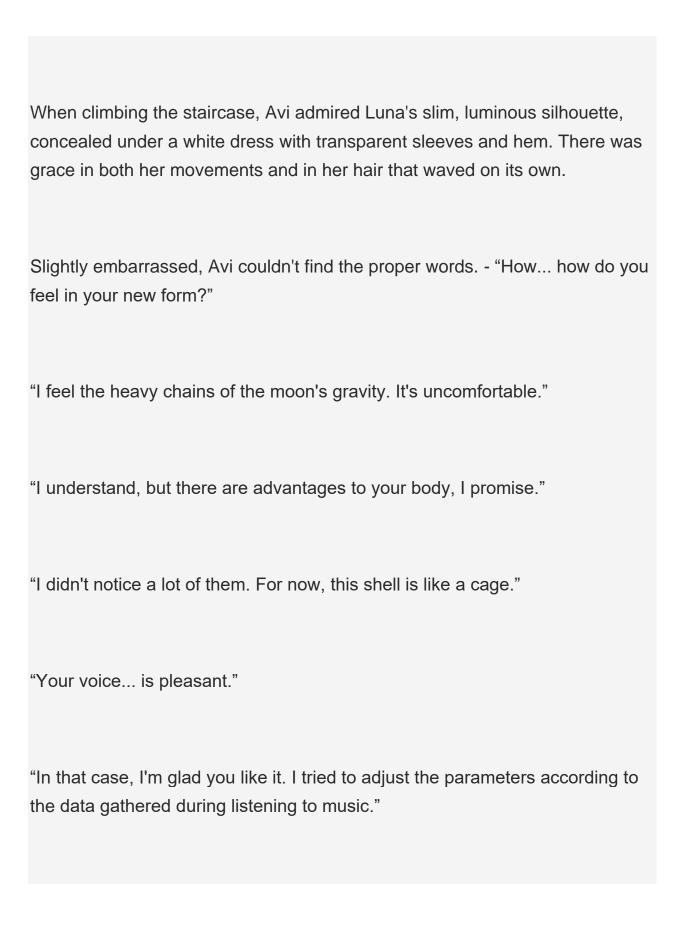


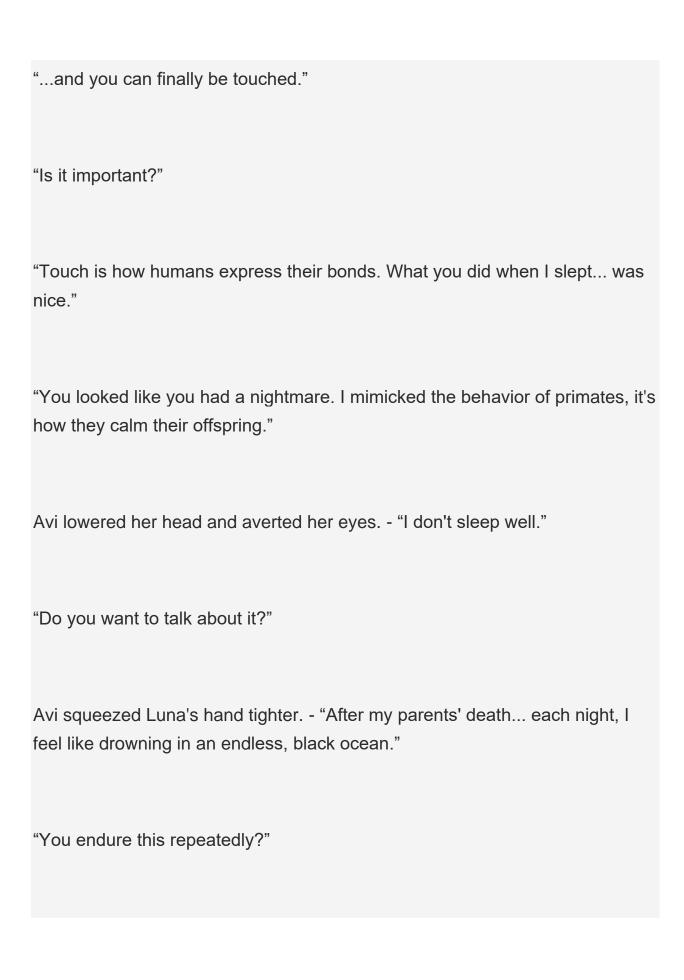


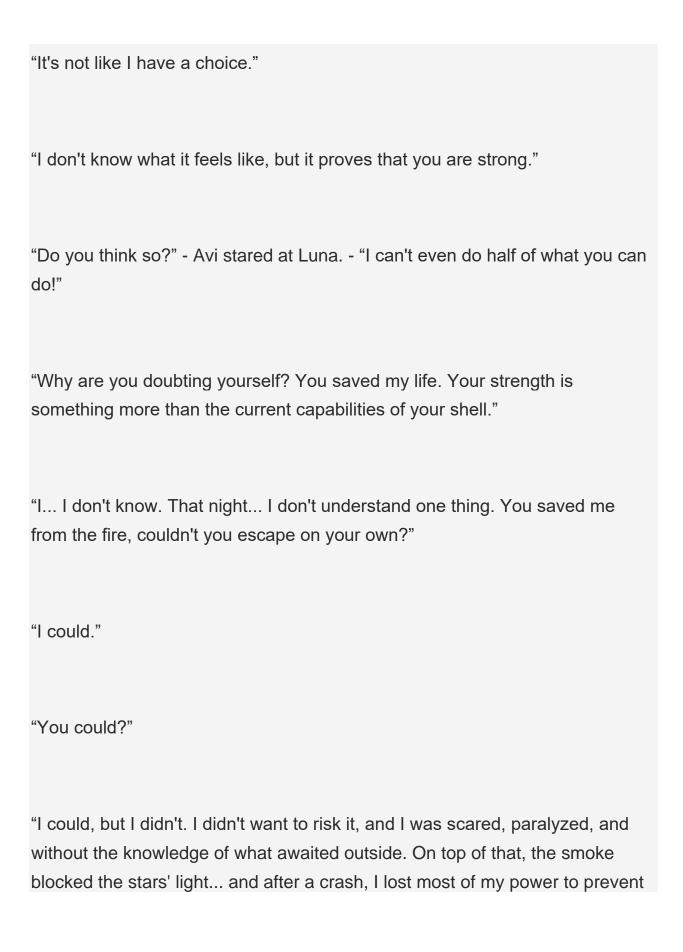












damage. When I saw you, you gave me more than hope. I already knew that there was an exit." - Luna stopped and looked Avi straight in the eyes. - "You saved me. That's my truth. Please, don't question it."

"I'm sorry." - Avi averted her gaze once more, but Luna pulled her arm and hugged her.

"To me, you're the most precious thing in the world. Don't forget."

Avi blushed and tears welled up in the corners of her eyes. She closed them and hugged Luna back.