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Scarlett's pov "Mummy?"

Chapter 1: "Mummy, will I ever have a mate?"

Luna Scarlett's Second Chance

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It's nine in the evening and time for dinner when Maya looks up at me from her bowl of porridge. My heart melts at the way she says that word, like it means the world to her. It makes me

feel she sees me as her source of knowledge, so when I look down at my daughter, with her light brown hair and deep blue eyes, a smile lights up my face and I pinch her cheek lightly.

She shrugs.

hypothetically speaking..?"

"I don't want a mate mummy."

her eyes and I'm confused.

"Daddy's your mate isn't he?"

my eyes as I listen to her.

"I still don't want a mate."

parent's issues.

"Daddy loves us in his own way, Maya."

but Maya still turns to touch a bruise on my forehead.

"Why do you say you don't want a mate?"

"Yes, darling?"

"Will I ever have a mate?"

I blink as a slightly amused look spreads across my face.

"Why are you asking about that? You're still so young."

"But let's say hypothetically."

My eyes widen and I chuckle.

"Hypothetically? Who taught you that word, Maya? it's a big word for a six-year-old."

"Mr. Marcus said it when he was asking Miss Sara a question in class today, he said

Another chuckle bubbles up from within me because I know the teachers she's talking about. They handle the grade one class at her school and Marcus is always making jokes to Sara because he wants to go out with her but can't summon the courage to ask her out. I have a lot

of free time sometimes and my daughter is my life. I always make sure to check up on her.

and that's going to be twelve years from now for you at least, you're still six, you should be worried about your fine arts class. That donkey you drew looked like a table."

My hand pauses at the tip of Maya's hair and I look down at her. Her porridge has not been

touched and she's staring up at me, her gaze, serious. She's peering up at me with emotion in

"But why would you ask if you'll get a mate? Everyone gets a mate when they come of age,

Maya turns away and hesitates before speaking.

My blood runs colder than the treat we're consuming but I nod and my daughter looks away.

"I don't want a mate if my mate is going to act the way Daddy does to you. He always makes

Every word my daughter says is like an arrow to my heart and I feel tears prick the back of

you cry and scream and I don't like that. I don't want a mate."

I always hoped this would never happen.

With the way my voice cracks and my throat closes up, even I can tell I'm lying. Maya snuggles in closer to me and goes back to eating her porridge.

"Does it still hurt?"

I shake my head and pull her in for a hug, finally allowing some silent sobs to come out. In

all my years of having her, I've always hoped that she doesn't notice any of my struggles. I've

always wished for her to have a happy childhood, to not see that her dad beats her mum and

to not be affected by it. To live like a happy child, from a happy home, not scarred by her

It hurts me deep into my soul that she's noticed and that it's even affected her mindset on

We were happy once, Hunter loved me before he married me and we had a

grand wedding. He was a handsome young Alpha, the heir to the Nightshade

mates. Mates are sacred. Her mate will love her and care for her.

as the only male, if he doesn't provide an heir......

I have to pull her in closer and let her settle against me before I let my tears slip out. I use

my other hand to cover my mouth at intervals when I feel a sob trying to force its way up. I

clean my tears the moment they come out so they don't drop and my daughter doesn't notice

pack, and the most charming person I had ever been chanced to come across. He had come to my parent's pack to discuss with the Alpha there about a treaty. My father had been on the Alpha's inner council, and the moment Hunter laid his eyes on me as I accompanied my father to the Alpha's home, I knew we were meant to be. The pack I am from is a small one, I was happy to leave with my mate so I could become the Luna of his pack. Hunter was caring and faithful, but that was before I gave birth and the child

wasn't male. He changed like the tides after that. His family already has a

history of having more females than males, he has three sisters himself, and

Hunter's scent wafts into my nose and I stop crying, moving my head up instead to smell better. I mentally prepare to take Maya to her room, and when the faint pulse of his presence across the mate bond reaches me, I stand up with Maya cradled against me immediately. "Honey, Daddy's back home now so I'll need you to stay in your room" I'm already making my way there as I speak, almost running so I can get my daughter to safety even though she protests. "But I haven't finished my ice cream."

"I'll buy you a big tub tomorrow if you go straight to bed. Love you, honey."

I drop her at the entrance, close her door, and turn the key in before bringing it out. I wait to

The way his suit hugs his body makes me wonder if I can look that good in a dress. Hunter is

the Alpha of the Nightshade pack, a pack that has me as its Luna but in which I suffer a

hear her footsteps and the ruffle of the sheets as she gets into bed before I go back to the

He stumbles and I run to catch him, the scent of alcohol and other women already coming off him in waves. I remember my shortcomings all at once and I hold back tears.

"Stay away from me, you bitch!"

Hunter is waiting when I get there.

living room.

worse fate.

me.

"Hunter wait, p..please stop."

My breath stills.

"Hunter, stop."

my panties off my bottom.

I should not have said that.

Comments (8)

"Hunter, I said stop! Our daughter is watching!"

"I only wanted to help you. I'm sorry Hunter.."

"If you really want to help, then you're going to let me fuck you, right here and right now.

His breath reeks of alcohol and as he starts pulling at my clothes, a sob forces its way out of

determined to have his way with me no matter if I want it or not. I'm pulling the parts he's

Maya's in the hallway to her room, tears streaming down her face and shattering my heart

the minute I see them but putting a stop to mine. Hunter rips the strap of my dress and drags

His slurred words hold all the venom I can imagine he has in him and as tears fall down my

face, I wonder why he doesn't let me do that, stay away from him. I've asked for a divorce

but he's refused, keeping me with him instead so he can hit me and beat me up.

Hunter stumbles over and grabs my hair, yanking it before I can crawl away.

Maybe this time your barren womb will bring forth my heir."

I say the words over and over again but he doesn't listen. Tears are streaming down my face and my sobs leave me shaking, but he doesn't listen and he's still grabbing at my clothes,

pulled off back on when my eyes catch on something.

My husband's eyes rise to meet that of his sobbing daughter and the lethal anger I see in them makes my heart stop.