

Chapter 24

Daisy

I find Yato waiting for me outside the hotel. His eyes are on the sky, but when he hears me approach, he turns around with his signature smirk.

“Today might be the last time I get to carry you on my back.”

“And why is that?”

His smirk turns into something more sentimental. “Because you should be able to shape-shift on your own, and once that happens, you won’t need me.”

“Aww, afraid of not being needed?”

I expect Yato to quip back and say, “Shut up, or at least tease me back. Instead, he gives me a sullen look I didn’t see coming. His eyes are cloudy and hurt when he mutters. Is that such a crime?”

My heart speeds up. What’s with the Alpha brothers suddenly being honest with me? I’m flattered by Yato’s words, but I don’t know what to say so I change the topic.

“Ready to train me in combat?”

He looks a bit shocked at my change in tone, but he forces a smile, sadder than usual, albeit still a smile. “Yeah.”

Yato shape-shifts into his brown, fuzzy wolf, and I climb up on his back without hesitation. He takes me to our usual training grounds and immediately starts teaching me a bunch of different defensive stances.

As werewolves, many of our defensive tactics involve using our heightened senses and agility: Yato takes me through the steps over and over again, his patience never faltering. We practice until the sun dips low in the sky, and my muscles scream at me to stop.

“Man, you’re a total newbie and already almost physically stronger than me.” Yato whines after we are done training, stretching his back. “Keep going like this, and I will force you to pay my chiropractor.”

Exhausted, I let myself collapse onto the grassy ground. The stars twinkle in the sky, and I smile. “You really think I will wind up becoming stronger than you?”

“Yes,” he says without hesitation. I had to sweat while training you.”

I chuckle in an evil tone. “If I’m this strong as a human, imagine my power as a wolf.”

“That’s a scary thought,” Yato says, sprawling out beside me. He’s not even breathing hard.

I huff in annoyance, throwing an arm over my eyes to block out his handsome face. “You’re just trying to boost my confidence, aren’t you?”

“Huh?”

“You’re not even sweating.”

He chuckles at that. “I’m an Alpha-we recover quicker than regular werewolves, but rest assured, you will become an Alpha too someday.”

“And lead what pack?”

“There are a lot of rogues,” Yato points out. “And since you know what it’s like being an outsider, they might follow you if you sought them out.”

“Lead a pack of rogues,” I murmur before snorting. “It’s a nice idea, but I don’t think I’m meant to lead anyone.”

“It’s in your blood or should I say your soul”

I turn to look at him then, meeting his blue eyes. “I didn’t tell you this, but I met my past self in a dream. It was a beautiful woman with pink eyes”

“Oh? Did she tell you anything of interest?”

“She did.” I gulp before continuing, hoping Yato won’t find me crazy for sharing this. “She said she was the werewolf queen in the magical realm before it you know fell

Yato falls silent and I close my eyes, waiting for the verdict. It takes him a few moments to speak, but when he does, he is laughing

“That explains why you’re catching up with my strength-your ancestor is the most powerful werewolf to have ever existed.
Queen Serena

I sit up, my heart pounding in my chest. “You know about her?”

“Every special werewolf is introduced to their past life, and the man I used to be had a crush on Queen Serena,” he smiles wickedly. “Maybe I have a new chance in this life?”

I blush at his implication but try to focus on the question that is burning within my mind: “Who did Queen Serena end up with
“No one.” Yato says. “She died childless and loveless, but she wasn’t weak. That woman tried her hardest to protect her kingdom. I respect her.”

My heart warms at his words and I place my hand over my chest with a small smile. “I respect her too. Mad that we share the same soul, though. She seemed so mild and collected while I’m absolutely crazy.”

“And absolutely wonderful,” he finishes, eyes twinkling with an intensity that makes my heart stutter. His hand drifts up. fingers lightly tracing the line of my jaw, his touch igniting a shiver down my spine.

I look away, the heat in my cheeks intensifying beneath his gaze. You really know how to flatter a girl.”

He chuckles then, low and rich. “Just stating facts”

Looking back at him, I see a sincerity in his gaze that softens my skepticism.

Inside my head, Sera sighs in defeat. Falling for two men never ends well, Daisy...”

I’m not falling for him. He is just. I trail off, unable to find the right words.

Charming? Handsome? Good-hearted?’ Sera fills in for me, and can’t deny any of those things

I give a disgruntled sigh. “Yes, but that doesn’t mean I’m in love with him”

There is silence from Sera for a moment before she speaks again. Then why does your heartbeat quicken when he’s near? Your cheeks flush when he speaks? You’re practically glowing right now, and it’s not because of the moonlight.”

I glance over at Yato, who is now watching the stars with a content smile on his face. I swallow hard as I take in his relaxed posture, the way his black hair falls into his eyes, the small smirk playing on his lips

“Stop it, Sera.”

‘I’m just pointing out what you already know.’ She says quietly in my mind.

Despite my denial, I can’t help but think that it’s nice being around a man who isn’t as harsh as Alpha Xavier. Yato is nice,

but sadly, my heart belongs to the mate who rejected me. Even if he doesn't deserve me....

"You okay?" Yato asks, his voice breaking through my thoughts.

"Yeah." I lie easily, rolling over to look at him. "Just tired, I guess. He studies me for a second before turning back to the sky. "Well we should probably get back."

But I shake my head, the soft grass beneath me comforting.

"Can we just stay here for a while?" The idea of heading back to reality is far from appealing.

Yato smiles. "When you ask me so nicely, I can't say no."

And so, I stay with Yato and talk to him for a few hours about everything between heaven and earth. He likes to cook but hates baking, probably because he isn't that good at it.

He enjoys classical music but also appreciates rock and roll. His favorite color changes depending on his mood, but today it's the same shade of blue as the night sky above us. He tells me stories about how he recruited the members of his band and about the adventures he's had, and I find myself laughing more than I have in a long time.

"Hey?" he asks, nudging my side gently.

"Hm?" I answer without lifting my gaze from the endless expanse of stars glittering above us.

"Why did you agree to train with me?" his voice is low and curious. "I mean, you didn't have to."

I'm silent for a moment as I ponder his question. "I don't know I respond truthfully. "Maybe because you were the first person who didn't see me as a weakling. You saw potential in me You believed in me."

Yato smiles at that, and our conversation continues until I drift off to sleep in the tall grass. The next time I open my eyes, I'm back safely in my bed.

'Maybe Yato isn't as dangerous as Alpha Xavier claimed.' Sera sounds amused and giggles. 'Maybe he is just jealous and afraid his brother will steal you away?'