

Chapter 30

Daisy

“No!” I scream, my voice echoing around the room, bouncing off the walls and ringing in my ears. “You can’t die on me, Lola! Open your eyes, please!”

There is no answer, and tears burn behind my eyelids.

‘Sera,’ I sob. ‘Please tell me this is a bad dream.’

She sighs heavily inside my head. ‘I’m so sorry, Daisy, but I think she is gone....’

“No!”

Bereft of rational thought, I press my palms back onto Lola’s chest, pouring all of my energy into it-every last shred of hope, every ounce of rage-but nothing happens. My tears pool on her still chest, a damning reminder of my failure.

In the deafening silence that follows, I hear Sera’s voice echoing in my mind. ‘Daisy...’

But her words are lost on me as sobs wrack through my body. Am I supposed to just accept this? That Lola-sweet, innocent Lola who never hurt a soul, is gone?

“Lola.” I whisper as I pull her into my arms, holding her tightly against me as if willing her soul back into existence-

“Daisy?”

My tears almost cloud my vision, but I can still see Alpha Xavier standing in the doorway.

“What do you want?!”

He flinches at my tone before asking. “Is she dead?”

I want to call him an idiot for asking that I’m too angry and sad to see reason. He might be my Alpha, but Lola didn’t deserve this! How did Alpha Xavier not notice the vampire? It makes no freaking sense!

“Yes,” I spit out, my voice a snarl of pain and anger and loss.

“She’s dead. Are you happy now?!”

Xavier recoils slightly, his face paling under the harsh fluorescent lights. “Daisy, I...”

“Shut up!” The words burst out of me uncontrollably, hot and furious. My tears continue to wet Lola’s cold cheeks as I cradle her to me, my heart pounding madly against my ribcage. Alpha Xavier opens his mouth to reply, but no words come out- he’s as stunned as I am.

‘Everything might not be lost yet,’ Sera murmurs. ‘Why don’t you try healing her one more time?’

“Healing her?”

‘It’s our special power,’ Sera says. ‘But without proper training, the best we can do is maybe revive her so that she can be taken to the pack hospital. Hopefully, it’s enough to save her life.’

A bubble of hope rises in my chest, and my eyes flick up to meet Alpha Xavier's. "Help me get her to the pack hospital fast as hell," I demand, my voice shaking with the effort to keep it steady. "Call them right now."

But he only stares at me, frozen in shock. "She... she's gone, Daisy," he says gently.

"We can't give up yet!"

"She isn't breathing anymore, Daisy, so unless you have a way of bringing back the dead, we can't do much."

I grit my teeth, reaching deep inside myself for the wellspring of power Sera had mentioned. 'Concentrate, Sera instructs inside my head, 'Feel the pulse of energy within you

I close my eyes, focusing on the rhythm of my own heartbeat. Slowly, I manage to tune everything out except for that steady thrum of life within me. My hands begin to vibrate with an energy I've never felt before; it feels like pure light and warmth are flowing from them into Lola's body.

"Call the pack hospital!" I snarl at Alpha Xavier. "We can still save her life!"

This time, he seems to realize I'm right and immediately picks up his phone. That's good. The big idiot finally understands she can be saved...

As I continue to channel my energy into Lola. I vaguely hear Alpha Xavier's frantic conversation with the pack hospital. The room blurs around me, and all my senses honed in on the wounded body in my arms. I pour everything I have into it. everything that is me – every memory, every thought, every hope and dream.

"You hear that, Lola?" I murmur through gritted teeth, "You're not going to die. Not on my watch."

I can feel the power within me waning; it's like trying to hold onto water as it slips through my fingers. But even as darkness prickles at the edge of my vision, I refuse to let go.

'You're exhausted,' Sera sounds concerned. 'If you keep this up, you will fall unconscious soon. Maybe we should take a break. Daisy? Just for a while.'

"No. If falling unconscious is the price I have to pay for bringing my friend back to life, then so be it!"

A surprised gasp from Alpha Xavier makes me jerk my head towards him. His eyes are wide, his phone clattering on the floor beside him.

"Is she...?" he breathes. For a second, his words make no sense. Then...

Lola's chest rises and falls with a shaky breath. A flicker of life sparks in her eyes as they flutter open weakly.

"D...Daisy," she murmurs.

“Yes, Lola,” I answer through choked sobs. “I’m here.”

Alpha Xavier rushes towards us, his usual composed demeanor shattered. He falls to his knees beside us, his gaze locked onto Lola’s face. “Lola...”

She tries to respond, but her breath catches in her throat—a painful reminder of just how close we came to losing her.

“Don’t talk, stupid,” I mutter, my hands still spread across her chest, the last wisps of my energy sinking into Lola’s body. “You need to save your energy.”

Alpha Xavier finally tears his gaze away from Lola and looks at me. For the first time since I’ve known him, he appears lost and vulnerable. “Daisy...” he croaks out my name like a prayer. “Are you okay?”

“What? Of course, I’m okay, I’m just—

Suddenly, the world tilts dangerously, and my vision blurs.

“Daisy!” Alpha Xavier’s voice echoes in my head as I collapse on the cold, hard floor,

In the dimness of my consciousness, I hear Lola’s whimper and Alpha Xavier’s frantic calls to the pack hospital again. The weight of exhaustion is too great, and my eyelids flutter closed. Before I completely lose myself to unconsciousness, I hear Alpha Xavier’s voice whispering fervently in my ear, “You did well, Daisy. Rest now.”