

Chapter 40

Daisy

Alpha Xavier and I both transform into our wolf forms, his dark coat contrasting with my snowy white one as we run side-by-side through the forest. He is larger than me, but every time I glance his way, I can't help but feel as if he isn't a hundred percent focused.

He seems exhausted. Sera points out. I wonder why? Maybe your sister is wearing him out?"

Isabella is annoying, but I don't think she is the culprit this time

Alpha Xavier notices me staring and speaks with me through the mind-link. 'What?!' he demands, causing me to awkwardly turn my head and focus on the road ahead.

"N-nothing, Alpha."

We run until we reach the pack house, a cozy cottage surrounded by trees. It looks peaceful enough, but I can smell the faint metallic scent of blood in the air. Old blood, dried and stale, but alarming nonetheless. My fur bristles, and I see Xavier stiffen beside me.

Can you smell that?" I ask through the mind-link, my voice a low growl.

His response is curt. Yes, but it doesn't belong to Lola. She hasn't left the cottage and she is safe inside of it.

Then whose blood is it?"

It belongs to the pack members that have already died in the fight. We have to help them."

"How?"

"Just follow me!"

Alpha Xavier rushes forward towards the trees behind the cottage, and I quickly catch up with him. Our bodies are a blur of black and white as we tear through the forest, following the scent of blood.

But what we find isn't what I expected.

A clearing is revealed, and there are dead bodies everywhere. The scent of death and violence is overwhelming, causing my wolf to whimper in horror within me.

'Hold it together, Sera,' I command internally.

She whimpers again. 'But so many pack members have died already...'

I don't have time to answer her before the hiss of a vampire cuts through the air. Alpha Xavier growls a warning to me, but it's too late; a vampire lunges out from the cover of the trees, fangs bared and eyes glowing with malicious intent.

But I'm ready.

I spring forward with startling speed, meeting the vampire mid-air. The shock of the collision sends us both sprawling to the ground.

‘Damn, you almost had him!’ Sera says.

“Almost kills no fly, I growl. I have to try harder!”

With a fierce growl, I shake off the daze and rush forward. The vampire doesn’t see it coming. I sink my teeth into its throat and tear it out with ruthless efficiency.

‘One down!’ Sera cheers.

The vampire goes limp under me, its body convulsing a few times before stillness takes over.

‘Well done, Daisy,’ Alpha Xavier’s voice comes through the mind-link. He sounds both impressed and relieved. ‘But we’re not done yet.’”

He’s right. Even as I stand over my kill, I sense more approaching vampires their hideous stench mingles with the smell of blood and sweat already hanging in the air.

‘Never thought I would fight side by side with the man who rejected me, I muse through our mind-link. His responding chuckle radiates warmth, oddly comforting amidst the chaos and death surrounding us.

“There’s a first time for everything,’ he replies, his tone light despite the graveness of the situation. ‘But this is when the battle really starts. Are you ready?’

‘I was born ready.

‘Good.’

Alpha Xavier lifts his neck and howls to summon down a rain of fire from the sky. I’m a speechless witness to his magic, baffled by his display of power.

“That’s the fire Alpha for you,’ Sera cheers. ‘And if you find Alpha Xavier’s magic impressive, just wait until you realize what we can do as the light wolf!’

A thrill of anticipation ripples through me. As the pack’s Omega I’ve always wanted to be special, and here’s my chance.

‘Are you telling me we have fancy magic too?’ I ask as my eyes dart from one enemy to the other.

‘Only if you believe in yourself’

I growl in response, ‘No need to get philosophical, Sera. But even as I keep my tone light, I concentrate on the power that has dwelled in me since I first spoke to Sera. Tonight, it feels brighter and more potent than ever.

‘Daisy,’ Alpha Xavier’s voice cuts through my thoughts, “They’re here.’

A cold dread settles over me as I look up to see a mob of vampires emerging from the forest. Their eyes glow with bloodlust, and their fangs glisten in the pale moonlight. They’re many, too many for just the two of us.

Alpha Xavier stands by my side, his powerful body tense and ready for battle. His eyes meet mine for a moment, steadying me. 'Together,' he says simply.

"Together," I echo and charge into battle.

The fight is brutal. Teeth clash against skin while claws meet flesh in an ugly dance of survival. I know I've sustained injuries, a sharp sting on my flank warns me of a bite, but I push through the pain, using it to fuel my rage.

But for every vampire we kill, two more seem to take its place. It's all alarmingly overwhelming too many enemies and too few of us.

In the midst of the roaring chaos, Sera speaks up. 'Daisy, remember what I said...'

'I've been trying to use my powers!'

"Try harder!" Sera demands. 'Alpha Xavier is struggling!'

Her words shock me, and I turn my head to see Alpha Xavier caught in a deadly duel with ten vampires. Blood drips from his side, and he grunts with effort as he fights to hold them off. Seeing him in danger fills me with a surge of determination.

'Alright, Sera,' I shout through our mind link. 'Let's do this!'

I try to concentrate and reach for the power hidden deep within me.

But nothing happens.

Frustration boils within me. I snarl ferociously, bearing down on a few vampires who dare to get too close, but my mind is focused on drawing out the power Sera talks about.

“Believe, Daisy!” Sera’s voice is a soft echo in my mind compared to the din of battle, but it’s clear and strong.

“Remember who you are! The werewolf queen!”

Her words strike something within me, and with a gasp, I feel it a surge of energy radiating from somewhere deep within me. It fills me entirely, so much so that the pain from my wounds diminishes significantly.

“Yes!” Sera exclaims almost joyously. “That’s it!”

I don’t have time to dwell upon it, though, because Alpha Xavier cries out in pain. He’s brought down by multiple vampires, their fists pounding relentlessly on him.

“No!” I scream as despair lances through me.

Enraged by the sight of Alpha Xavier being beaten, I leap into action. My newfound energy pulsates through my veins until my angelic wings spread, and a blinding bright light spreads from my chest.

The light is so intense, so blindingly pure, that even I have to squint. Sera is cheering raucously in my mind, but I can barely hear her over the unwavering roar of power flowing through me. The vampires caught in the blast screech in agony, their bodies disintegrating into ashes under the force of the light.

Alpha Xavier, however, remains unscathed. It's like my power can tell the difference between friend and foe. He stares up at me, eyes wide with awe as he watches the last of the vampires crumble to dust.

But there's no time for reveling in victory. The moment the light fades, I'm by Xavier's side. He's in his human form and in bad shape, his body marred by deep wounds and his breath coming out in ragged gasps.

I change into a human. "Xavier..." I start, but he interrupts me, sounding weak but still carrying the authority of an Alpha.

"I'm fine." He struggles to sit up, his body shaking from the effort. "I've had worse."

"But you need help." Panic colors my voice as I try to figure out where to start healing him.

But Alpha Xavier pushes me away...or at least tries to. There is no strength left in him, only the will to live.

"Don't waste your energy on me," he growls, his eyes a testament to the pain he's enduring. "Save it for the next wave."

I all but gape at him. "Next wave?"

His grimace is answer enough, and as if on cue, I hear them before I see them – the ominous rustling of leaves, then the heavy footfalls and finally the chilling stench that precedes their emergence.

More vampires.

My heart lurches at the sight of them – a sea of monstrous creatures worse than the ones we'd just defeated. Their eyes red in the night, belying a level of malice I hadn't thought possible.

'I'm sorry, but...I don't think we can defeat them. We are new to using magic and not strong enough to use more of it,' Sera whispers nervously in my mind. 'There are too many of them. Daisy.'

But I'm not ready to surrender—not yet, not when so much is at stake. I stand up but pause when Alpha Xavier grips my hand and gives me a stern look.

"Do you trust me?"

A silent gasp leaves my lips.

This is the man who has rejected me more than once—the man who chose my sister despite me being his fated mate. I have many things to say about him and his stupid decision. Part of me hates him, but another part of me, the hopeless romantic in me, trusts him.

"Yes," I affirm, even as a fresh wave of vampires comes stampeding towards us, their monstrous growls echoing in the night.

Alpha Xavier nods before closing his eyes and drawing in a deep breath as if steeling himself. "Then offer me your blood"

Wait, what?