

Chapter 62

Daisy

Sera's words crash into me like a tidal wave, knocking the breath out of my lungs. I feel a sharp ache in my chest as if a piece of my heart has been ripped away. The man I loved, who rejected me and became my enemy before becoming my lover, no longer remembers me. This is like losing Xavier all over again, except this time is different. This time, I have memories of us kissing, of us making love in his bed, of him telling me he loves me-it's so painful that I don't know what to do with myself.

"No," I whisper from my place in the grass. "He can't forget me." A cold dread fills me when Xavier looks at me with his cold red eyes. There's a new indifference in them now like he's looking at a stranger and not someone he shared his bed with.

"Ah, you're finally back!" Taria sounds ecstatic at seeing her son again before her cruel smile is aimed at me. "Which means we can finally summon the eternal night!"

Xavier keeps staring at me before muttering, "As you wish..." He raises his hand towards the sky, and a dark, misty wind stirs

in response. The usually bright moon is eclipsed, and shadows fall, swallowing light and hope.

“Xavier.” I plead, my voice a frail whisper. “Please don’t do this. This isn’t right!”

“Oh, quiet crying already!” Taria snaps, striding towards me with an evil sparkle in her eyes. “Your pleas are wasted on him. He’s not the man you loved anymore.”

Each word is a knife into my heart that’s worse than the physical pain inflicted upon me when Taria lifts me off the ground once more. She doesn’t even bother to hide the satisfaction on her face as I try to claw at her hand. “Now, little wolf, I’m going to end your sad little life.”

“Stop,” a deep voice utters, and it’s as if time itself has stopped. The person speaking is Xavier.

Taria squints at him. “What?”

Xavier stands tall, his gaze flitting from me to her, confusion etched into his features. “I... can’t remember,” he says and rubs his eyelids with his fingers. “There is this voice... it’s telling me you promised not to harm her...”

“Nonsense,” Taria snorts. “This little wretch is going to die tonight by my hands.” With little effort, she flings me away like I’m nothing, my body flying through the air before I’m caught by

something that moves faster than a bullet-Xavier. I'm caught by his muscular arms and held like a bride. It confuses the shit out of me. Why did he save me?! I blink up in surprise, my heart fluttering inside my chest. "D-do you remember me?" There is no response. Instead, he gently sets me on the ground, his cold expression breaking for a moment as he looks at me, confusion flickering in his eyes. He doesn't speak, but he doesn't need to. The tension in his shoulders tells me enough. Whatever is happening inside his head is tearing him apart.

Taria laughs. "Don't tell me you're siding with her? The two of you can't exist at the same time-you're destined to destroy each other. That's the prophecy."

Xavier turns to face her, his jaw set in determination. Something inside him seems to have shifted. "I'm still on your side, but this one," he glances down at me. "She isn't dying tonight. You made a promise not to kill her, and you know how I feel about lying. Mother."

Taria sneers at him, her fingers twitching as if itching for another fight. "And since when do children dictate the rules to their mothers?"

"Since they've learned to discern between right and wrong," Xavier replies, his voice steady. He turns back to me, his eyes filled with curiosity. It looks like he is about to say something, but that's when the vampire queen attacks. My eyes widen. "Look out-" I trail off when Xavier easily stops her attack by

gripping her throat with deadly precision-he isn't even looking at her!

"Your mind-reading abilities were always impressive. Clever boy to use them," Taria rasps, her voice choked as she struggles against Xavier's grip. "But you underestimate your mother."

Xavier finally faces her. "No," he says with a chilly smile. "You underestimate me. I'm much stronger than you, Mother. It's foolish to challenge me, especially since we both want the same thing. I'm on your side, but we aren't killing this werewolf."

Taria's eyes narrow, and despite the choked voice, I can hear the venom seeping through as she hisses, "Your side? The prophecy clearly stated that you can't exist together. And yet you speak of sides?"

"Maybe the prophecy is wrong?" He shrugs his shoulders with an amused smile directed at me. "Either way, I'm curious. What happens if I let the light wolf grow stronger?"

"Your death-that's what will happen!" Taria snarls, but her threat is cut short as Xavier tightens his grip, a clear warning. The vampire queen falls silent, her eyes flashing with a mix of anger, fear, and an odd, grudging respect for her son's newfound strength. "Then let's test the prophecy," Xavier says as he gradually releases his mother. "Let's see if the light wolf finally defeats me or if this world will be consumed by darkness,

just like the other one we destroyed. Either way, it will be a spectacle.”

My lips part in shock. It almost sounds as if Xavier wants me to defeat him, but the thought of fighting to the death with my own mate? It fills me with dread. “But that isn’t what I want,” I stammer.

Xavier turns to me, his scarlet eyes gleaming in amusement. “O Is it not?” He asks, a taunting smile pulling at his lips. “What do you want then, my little light wolf?” His voice drops to a soothing murmur.

My heart pounds, clawing at my chest as I struggle to find the words. I am the light wolf, destined to fight him, but...we were made fated mates for a reason, right?

‘The mate bond is broken from his side,’ Sera points out in a small tone. ‘And he doesn’t have his old memories-be careful with what you tell him’

“I want you!” I blurt out. A deafening silence falls, but Sera isn’t quiet. She groans inside of my head. ‘Seriously? Do you have a fucking death wish or something? He is going to murder us!’

I ignore her and focus on Xavier. “You’re my dream man. Hotter than the sound and so very gorgeous.”

‘Oh my god, it’s official! You’ve killed us!’ Sera cries.

But she is wrong. Xavier doesn't try to kill us. If anything, he seems intrigued as he continues to stare down at me. There is also shock on his face and something else I can't put my tongue on. Admiration for my stupid bravery, perhaps?

'He thinks you're fucking batshit crazy!' Sera growls.

"Me?" Xavier utters after what feels like an eternity. "I'm your dream guy?"

"Yes." I'm a little breathless, not to mention afraid, but I have to stand my ground. "You're everything I want in a man."

"Are you quite well?" he asks as if he believes the opposite. "I'm your enemy."

"I know, but..." I wet my lips. "It's complicated."

"Complicated?" he snorts. "To me, you sound delusional."

"No, no, no! I'm not crazy. I promise... I'm just... You might not remember this, but you are my fated mate."

His eyes narrow, and for a hot moment, he remains quiet before losing his calm and snarling at me. "Lies! If we were mates, then there would be a mate bond!"

"There was!" I insist, raising my chin in defiance. "But you rejected me. Don't you remember?" His scarlet eyes flash with

something akin to rage. "I would never..." he starts, his voice a dangerous growl, though he doesn't finish his sentence.

'Was he about to say he would never reject you?' Sera asks. 'I...I don't know.'

I keep staring up at Xavier, who walks away from me. Then, he casually opens a dark portal with a tight flick of his wrist. "We are leaving." he announces, the words meant for his mother.

"What about the others? Taria asks. "I will summon their bodies to the castle and blow life into their lifeless corpses later. Are you coming or not?"

"But Xavier! You can't leave her alive!" Taria protests, stepping forward with a pleading look in her eyes. But Xavier refuses to meet her gaze, and when he speaks, it's directed at me. "Until we meet again, light-wolf." With one last piercing look in my direction over his shoulder, he enters the portal, disappearing into the abyss. Taria looks at me, anger evident in her eyes, but she follows suit without another word.

The portal snaps shut behind them, leaving me alone in the dense forest. What the hell am I supposed to do now when Xavier is no longer by my side? How can I lead the park with just Yato by my side?!