

Chapter 82

Daisy

The blinding light emitting from my wolf's body is almost too much to handle. My eyes hurt. It feels like my whole body is pulsating from the power inside of me. It wants to leave the confines of my body, and I have no idea how much longer I can hold it within me.

'Stop fighting it,' Sera growls inside my head. 'Let it all out, Daisy.'

'Let it all out?'

'Yes. You have to let it all out,' Sera says. 'It won't be easy, but I believe in you, and so does Xavier. And I'm sure the entire pack watching us from the ground believes in you, too. Everyone is looking at you.'

I swallow thickly. 'Do you really think I can stop the eternal night?'

‘Yes, but it means that you and I will no longer be able to communicate. This spell will use up all of your angelic powers, Daisy. Your wolf will stay with you, but your wings will disappear and so will your light powers.’

‘But isn’t that bad? Lucian is still out there!’

‘He isn’t your enemy to defeat. The rest of the elemental wolves will seal him away, and then, once your child has grown, they will defeat him. Now, let go and release all of your magic to chase away the darkness.’

A whimper leaves my lips. My wings are fluttering in the winds and even though wolves can’t cry, I swear my eyes feel moist at the thought of parting ways with my inner wolf. Sera has become such a huge part of my life.

‘Is this goodbye forever?’ I ask.

‘It is.’ Sera says softly. ‘But I’ve had a great time, Daisy. I regret nothing. My heart clenches, but I have to be strong. Someone needs to bring back the daylight, and I’m the only one who can do it. I’m the only light wolf in existence. This is my burden to carry.’

As my eyes well up with unshed tears, Sera’s voice grows faint. It is almost as if she is already fading away. The thought of losing her fills me with a deep sadness, but I understand that I

need to do this. For the pack, for Xavier, and for the child I carry inside me. 'Here goes nothing!'

A howl rips from my lips as I let the light inside of me pour out. The blinding light bursts forth from my body in huge, brilliant waves. It feels as though I am shedding a million layers of myself, each one tearing away with a shattering force that leaves me breathless. 'It hurts!' I cry out in pain. 'Make it stop!'

'But you're doing it, Daisy!' Sera sounds amazed. 'The night is disappearing! Keep going, even if it hurts!'

With her praise, I continue to banish the darkness. The light flows from me in endless rivers, cascading across the sky and chasing away the darkness. It's painful, but at the same time, it is incredible to see the sun again. The world below me gasps collectively as day breaks after what seems like an eternity of night.

It's over. I hang suspended in the air in my wolf form, every muscle shaking from the exertion. My wings, once dazzlingly white and full of ethereal beauty, crumble away, dissolving into shimmering motes of light that wisp away on the wind. The loss sends an aching pang through my heart, but there's no time to mourn. My fur blows away in the wind and I become a human once more, exhausted as I fall towards the ground. My strength dwindles away until there's nothing left.

'Sera?'

‘You did well,’ her voice is sad and happy at the same time as if she is smiling through her tears. ‘Goodbye, Daisy.’

I stare up at the beautiful sky with tears filling my vision as I fall like a comet through the clouds. ‘Farewell, Sera.’

I get ready for the impact with the ground, but something dark moves with the speed of lightning-Xavier. He catches me in his strong arms as easily as if I were a feather. “Are you okay?” he asks, but I can’t bring myself to answer him. His beautiful face is a blur as my vision swims, but I feel the strength and warmth of his body against mine, a solid anchor in the sea of loss that has washed over me. I swallow thickly.

“Sera she is gone...”

“Shh, save your energy.” His rough voice is choked with emotion. “You brought back the light and deserve to rest.”

I try to respond, but my voice is no more than a whisper, my body too drained to do anything more than breathe. I can hear the cheers and howls of celebration from our pack below, their voices carrying such joy that it lifts my spirits even as my physical strength fades.

“I feel dizzy,” I mumble.

“That’s okay. I have you.” Xavier’s voice is low and soothing as he clings to me tighter, his arms cradling me close against his chest. “Try to relax.”

With his permission, exhaustion creeps through my veins like crawling tendrils of ice, yet despite it all, I manage to keep my eyes open to look at Xavier. His face is hardened with concentration as he lands on the ground. I notice his wings have holes in them, and I widen my eyes in shock and concern when I realize that even his face looks marred and burnt.

“Xavier you’re hurt...”

“Don’t worry about me,” he says. “Your light was so strong I had to seek shelter not to get hit by it, but I wasn’t able to create a shield strong enough to protect me.”

“I’m sorry...” More tears swell up in my eyes. I lost Sera, and I hurt Xavier-this is the worst. “I didn’t think my powers would hurt you...”

“It’s not your fault. You had no control over the light when you released it, and that’s normal.” He gently wipes the tears from my cheeks with his fingers, trying to provide a comforting smile. “I’ll heal in no time. Just rest now.”

Despite his encouraging words, I can’t help but feel a wave of guilt wash over me as he carries me through the commotion of rejoicing wolves and into the car. We sit in the back while Caleb

wordlessly takes the wheel. Yato smiles at me from the passenger seat. It looks like he is about to say something, but Xavier growls at him and presses the button that raises a screen between us and the front seats.

I chuckle despite my tiredness. "What did you do that for?"

"He was going to say something soothing, and...I guess a wave of jealousy hit me," he mutters and hugs me closer to his body. "You're mine. Not his..."

His familiar scent of pine and earth fills my senses, making my body relax in his arms. But the peace doesn't last once I start processing what just happened out there. "Sera," I whisper for the second time, feeling my eyes well up once more.

"I know." Xavier strokes my hair, his eyes solemn. "I know you miss her. But she's in a better place now, Daisy. She is running on the evergreen fields now," The way he says it makes it sound so final. Sera is really gone. "I'm here for you," he whispers. "And I won't ever leave."

His promise hangs in the air between us like a silent vow. His constant presence might not replace Sera, but it's comforting nonetheless. "Do you promise?" I whisper back.

His hand strokes my pregnant belly gently, a small smile curving his lips. "I promise," he says, that it's impossible not to believe him. his tone so full of conviction.

The drive back home seems both long and short at the same time, the paradox of emotions creating a strange sense of disorientation. I lay my head on Xavier's chest, listening to the steady beating of his heart, finding comfort in its rhythm. His strong arms around me are warm and protective, shielding me from the turmoil of the world outside. Soon, we reach home. Xavier carries me inside, his steps heavy but unwavering, and lays me carefully on our bed. The scent of him is everywhere on the sheets, in the air- a constant reminder that I am safe here with him. He moves to get up, but I grasp his arm weakly.

"Stay," I murmur. He looks at me with such tenderness that I am brought to tears.

"Of course," he says softly. Gently, he sits down on the edge of the bed to brush away the damp tendrils of hair stuck to my forehead. His touch is soothing as he strokes my face, tracing the line of my jaw and finally resting his hand over mine.

"I need to rest," I tell him after a while, feeling sleep nipping at the edges of my consciousness

"Then rest, love," he whispers back. "I will stay with you until you fall asleep."

"No," I hold d his gaze.

"Promise me you'll be here when I wake up."

He breathes a laugh. "I need to shower, but I will join you once I've washed away all of this dried blood."

"You can shower later," I mutter. "Right now, I need cuddles, and you will give them to me."

He winces at my tone before quickly moving his hands to the hem of his pants. "Of course, love. Cuddles coming right up!" Xavier swiftly removes his pants and undergarments, then slides under the sheets. His warm, firm body against mine instantly brings comfort. He gathers me close, my back resting against his bare chest, his arms holding me securely. I sigh in contentment and snuggle further against him. Sera might be gone, but at least I still have Xavier.