42

Helllloooooo <3

Fear of water - SYML

On with the chapter...

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Emilia POV

I wish I could tell you it was all a dream, but I'd be lying to you and myself. As much as I want it to be a dream, it wasn't. I dreamt it was all a dream, but then I'd wake up and realise it was all true.

Living in a nightmare is so cruel and wicked, just wake me already, I'm tired of crying.

As a matter of fact, I did save my tears for Felix's pillow. I wonder to myself, why was this happening to me? Me in particular? We were all so great and we got in well, but then he stabbed me and pulled the life out of me.

Thankfully, Felix's family said I could stay here for as long as I needed, and Rain gave me some of her clothes. I didn't have any clothes with me other than my school uniform which I hadn't worn in days. Instead, I remained locked up in Felix's room and in his bed until it was time for dinner.

School, I didn't go, it would hurt me too much to see them. So I simply stayed in Felix's bed, crying and drowning in my own tears.

I'm not sure if what he said was some kind of a sick joke but I'm not laughing. He hurt my mother who is no longer here to back herself up. I refer to her as my mother because he lost the title of being family.

And what he said about drugs and killing people - even mentioning Felix's sister - was the last draw.

"Hey," Felix walks in with his backpack tightened on his back. He shuts the bedroom door and throws his bag into the corner of the room. The impact made an emphatic and boisterous rumble on the floor.

"Hi," I mutter.

"Everyone is asking where you are... teachers say they might visit home," he sighs and takes a seat next to me on his bed.

"School is the last thing on my mind," I clench my jaw turning away. I've missed so much of school lately, with the holidays included too. My academic progress isn't great.

I knew I'd have to go back soon, maybe tomorrow and Friday. Home shouldn't affect my school work.

"I know. Rain asked if she could come and see you, I had promised you'd be there tomorrow," he removes his clip-on tie and hangs his blazer up, stuffing the tie in the left pocket.

"Mmk," I mumble under my breath, not caring what he was saying. I swing my legs over the edge of the bed and look at my patchy legs. They were pinkish and blotches of blue shone through.

"So you're coming to school tomorrow?" He asks me with a hopeful tone.

"If I'm up to it, sure."

I wasn't up to anything. Even doing the simplest of things sounded like the most difficult task in the entire world.

"Well my mum has started dinner and she wants us to go to the shops," he suggested to me. He wanted me to go outside, like in public.

I couldn't do that, people will laugh at me, Alessandro probably told everyone about my past and told them how horrible I was. Everyone knows already. They must do... right?

I felt like I would die if I exit the house, hawks eye's watching me as I stalk the neighbourhood and streets.

"Do I have to?"

"Yes. She said you need the air. And we can talk a little if you like?" He recommends trying to lift the mood, but I couldn't even afford a smile.

"Less talking," I stand up and pull one of Felix's coats from the hooks. It was puffy and drowned me like Kelsey tried to. At least I can make jokes about it. I'm the biggest joke of existence. The anticipation and joy of dying seems so... pleasant to me right now. I just want to crawl away and never come out again.

"Aren't you changing?" He looks uneasy at my choice of attire: a large coat, cycle shorts and a Hufflepuff shirt which the majority of this belonged to Rain and the coat to Felix.

"No," I open his door and stuff hands into the deep pockets fiddling around with some receipts and change he had. The pockets jingled when I ran down the steps and out of the door.

"You could've waited for me," he wraps the scarf around his neck which was previously trailing across the stunned and gravely terrain. It angered me how some grass pocked through the stones, I wanted to pick it.

Sunset was bliss to my eyes - they had been blessed. The tranquillity and lavishness just burned through the atmosphere, like a goddess. Everyone was watching her as she walks down the runway.

And the raven outline of crows that glide and slice through the air with their feathers that played like instruments, was just apocalyptic.

Sun was a gorgeous model I aspire to be. Magnificently tragical that she'll die one day.

"Could you hold my hand?" I whimper as the frigid air attacks my skin in a battle of warmth.

He shakes his head and smiles then interlaces his fingers with mine, connecting them like two wires to create electricity.

"We need onions, bell peppers and cucumbers. Then we can go home," he tells me in a gleeful attitude.

I hated cucumbers, they were always chewy and rotten in my opinion. And it tastes like salty water.

"Emilia?" Two figures stop in front of me and I turn away in shame. Gert and Tiana stand there looking expensive and affluent.

"Umm."

"We're going by the house if you want to come. And sorry we haven't been here lately, we have been staying at my parents," Tiana speaks sweetly and I balance on the sides of my shoes, I wasn't sure in what to do now. They didn't know what Al did.

"Actually she's fine with me. We're having dinner at my house, but she'll see you soon... I guess," Felix fills in for me, if I spoke to them I'd probably cry.

"Oh okay. Thanks, pip," Gert scrunches up his hair leaving it messier than it was before. I loved how soft his hair was and how luxurious it was.

"Well you're missing out, Lucifer I think his name was, said he was coming over with Mia. Dunno who they are but Axel gave me a call," Gert tries to persuade me with my beautiful boy.

I missed Luci. A lot actually. I hadn't even seen Neon too, he probably hates me more than Alessandro does.

"I'm fine, I'll pass. I'll see you?" It dripped off of my mouth more like a question, I didn't know when I'd see them again.

"See you later on!" Gert waves and Tiana smiles at me as they walk straight past us with their heels clicking on the pavement.

I've been sighing a lot lately, and I just did I again. I never needed them before and I do not need them now. I went thirteen years of my life without them and I'll never need them again.

Who needs family when all they do is lie to you and let you down time and time after again.

I don't need my 'family' to survive. I lived through Shawn's hell and I can live without them.

Seven weeks later. . .

They couldn't even share a glance with me like I was invisible to them now. Just like before when they had no idea that I even existed.

I still remained sleeping at Felix's and the longer I stayed there the more I felt guilty. I should be doing something to help his parents out around the house but every time I offer, they insist that it's okay.

That's the thing, I don't feel 'okay' anymore. I can't even lie to people when they ask me how I am. I tell them the truth. I feel like every day that I respire, I am dying. Technically, every day that I do live I am slowly dying anyway.

But I can't die when it feels like I'm already dead inside.

The school was actually easy to handle, especially when Jen they tried everything in their power to stay far away from me. I did lock eyes with Luca occasionally, but he turned away like he'd been caught doing a crime.

I finish on the toilet and flush then wash my hands and make an exit, but I run back in the toilets when I see Aspen walk in. Her red hair that collapsed in waves over her shoulders were easy to identify it was her.

My hand smothers my mouth to contain my sharp breathing. She couldn't possibly know it was me.

The filling sound of the sink and the splashing of water fills the room, right before the door creaks open again and slams shut.

Relying on the deathly silence, I open up the stall and poke my head around so I know no one is here then make my exit.

I shouldn't have to live like this. I should be able to walk around the school freely without a care I the world but instead, I'm worrying that one of my brothers or their friends will see me. I guarantee Kelsey is enjoying this right now.

In the distance, I see a familiar body of Luca. His same backpack that had his name in blue embroidered into the fabric of the backpack.

He was with someone, they were kissing and holding hands. I move in closer so I'm a few meters away and that's when I see it.

Luca's lips were locked with a guy's lips from the year above us - they were in the year below Blade. They give each other a peck then separate their bodies. But their arms and hands still remained tangled together, they were giving each other a big hug. This was so adorable, the fan girl in me was screaming inside.

Luca's back was facing me, so the other guy could easily see me stood behind them, so he pointed it out with an unfazed expression. No emotion other than a grin and gleam of love and affection. He points over Luca's shoulder right at me.

I look behind me just to make sure there wasn't anybody behind me. You never know.

They pull away from one another and part their different ways, I was stood there like a deer in a road as Luca stops and stares at me in shock.

He looks like he's gonna cry, but I smile at me genuinely and walk past him, but I stop and place a hand on his shoulder.

"I-I-"

"It's fine. I won't say anything," I tell him quietly and pat his back before going to the dinner hall.

My voice didn't have to scratch another word, it's all I had to say to show my total support. He didn't need a speech from me, he just needed to know I was here for him whenever he needed me. Like a diary, he would tell me anything he likes and I wouldn't mutter a word to anyone. Locked and I threw away the key.

I was proud of him, there was always something in me that knew I guess, I was incredibly proud of him. This is huge news, and I'm going to respect Luca plus he'll come out in his own time.

With a satisfied smile, for the first time in forever, I walk into the canteen and take a seat with Felix and Rain who looked pleased to see me.

"You look happy, is there a reason why?" Rain states unsure.

There was a major reason why I was so happy. Luca and I (my entire family actually) weren't in great terms but I was still happy for Luca. He found a lover and I couldn't be any more excited for him.

"No reason," I lie.

"Yeah? I haven't seen you happy in a while... you okay?" Rain asks again and I nod.

She leans over the table away from Felix but it didn't stop him from hearing, "did you get your period?" She whispers loudly making Felix and blush.

"Uhhhh... no."

Getting my period would be amazing, I'd be happy and sad at the same time. It would mean hell for like a week. But then again I'd be a woman.

"Can't I just be happy?" I smirk and take a long glance, following Luca who just re-entered the canteen looking anxious and on edge.

He stares deeply at me, his eyes pound into mine as his lips tremble and chin moves rapidly. A tear doesn't escape but I can tell if he was alone he'd be crying.

He shouldn't be crying, he should be enjoying himself. I'd love to meet the mystery lover of his, I hope he's a nice guy and isn't a rude meanie with the personality of a cardboard box.

"Lunch ends in five, aren't you eating?" Felix asks me, moving into my eyesight blocking my vision of a distraught Luca.

"I'm cool. Not too hungry, I'll last," I steal a fry from Rain's dish and shove it down my throat.

"Sure, just steal my food," Rain throws her hands in the air. I steal a few more in response just to see her complain. Ny throat contracts a giggle and surrender when she threatens me with her palm.

I stand up, after only sitting for a few minutes as the bell rang, then I rush off to my class as fast as I can. English was at the other side of the building and the teacher already despises enough and I don't need him hating my entire existence now do I?

I'm not sure if he knows about me skipping the detention a while ago when I talked back to him, but he seemed to have forgotten all about it.

"Watch it," my shoulder runs into the grey, metal lockers as I feel another shoulder barge past me. Josh groans and curses at me.

"Well excuse you," I shout after him, he stops to stare at me.

"Still look as ugly as you did before," he laughs to himself and flicks my forehead before returning back to his trails.

Was that really necessary? Apart from the time I stood on his foot for hurting Blade, he has no other reason to hate me.

When you're in an argument the worst thing you can do is pick on their looks, no matter how much you hate them at that moment, picking on the way they look isn't the best technique because you'll only receive the same hate to you.

Don't pick on someone's looks if you don't want them to do it back. Simple as.

It was true. They all hated me. Despised me. Seven weeks without contact and this is the first thing they say to me.

"A tip! Get a haircut!" He shouts from the stairs laughing with all of the other boys. In particular Jayden and Blade. They really thought that about me?

Cool. Just keep walking. Just keep swimming. Just keep respiring for eighty more years and we're cool.

I open the classroom door to English where everyone stares at me and gawks as I make my way to my designated seat.

"Just in time, Miss Russo before the bell went-

He didn't get time to finish, the bell sliced through the thick classroom air.

"So, today's lesson we'll be analysing the character, Lennie, in 'Of Mice and Men.' Last lesson we took a vote on who your favourite character was and many of you said 'Crooks' and 'Candy' were your favourite characters. We will retake that vote again at the end of the lesson to see if you have changed your mind. Okay?"

The class mumbles and out of tune and incoherent murmurs of 'yes sir' as the teacher walks us through the presentation on the board.

Lennie seems like that guy that would hold your drink for you but he'd drink it for himself. He's quite dopey and gormless. Doesn't really know what he's doing half of the time.

In other words: he's dumb.

No offence to him because he seems sweet and everything and innocent (most of the time) but I'd want to hit him all of the time. I'm not sure how George copes with him sometimes.

He seems to have taken a large interest in Curly's wife too, I could call him a home wrecker too.

Something quick flashes by my eyes in a flutter, I lose my sight for a second before I trace my eyes to the flying beauty in the air.

He was back.

Moth.

I see him say a few meters away from me on the window, but there was something different about him. He seemed more hazel from the last I saw of him which was a few months ago.

Was this Moth? It didn't look like him that much.

My cheeks pull themselves into a glowing smile as I try my hardest to divert my attention back onto the board. If I could, I'd hug Moth right now but I don't want anyone thinking I'm a weird freak.

He's always been there for me when I need him, I just wish he was in my life sooner.

Who needs men when you have Moth to comfort you? Moth is all I need in life, we'll grow old and live in a cottage just like we'd planned.

"Tracking the board please," the teacher clicks his thumb and middle finger in front of my track of sight.

"Oops... sorry," I mumble and twist my neck to track the board but I occasionally exchange glances with Moth.

I think I almost fell asleep the lesson was that boring. Basically we read an extract from the book and had to write a paragraph about our opinions on Lennie. He annoys me. He's adorable but annoying.

In my eyes a paragraph is seven lines so that'll have to do, I had been writing all day in maths and science so I couldn't really be arsed to do anymore. That's enough of school for me for the day.

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The bell rang a few minutes ago and now I was waiting for him at the front gates in the pre-spring air. The sun was flowing as per usual, but she wasn't as warm as she is in summer. It's still painful to stand int he weather for too long, especially in a skirt and tights with a thin school shirt.

"Can we talk please?" My whole body is twisted and faced towards Luca's shaking body. His hands were trembling and below him lip was red and had bite marks from biting his lip.

"Please... quick before Blade and Diego come," he pulls me away from the gate and behind the bush. Just a few meters away from where I was previously stood.

"Luca don't... you don't have to say anything. I'm happy for you, truly I am," I smile at him but he slaps himself across the cheek and I stare in awe at his outrageous moment.

"Uhhh are you okay?" I blink with no other emotions present on my face. My mouth was open as I watch him continue to slap himself whilst he calls himself 'stupid' but I found it weird how he was slapping himself for no reason.

"I'm sorry. You weren't meant to see us..." he struggles to get the words out.

"Kissing? It's really no big deal, Luca. I'm not fazed by it, I'm proud of you!" I shake his shoulders cheering him on.

"Thank you. But please don't tell anybody and that includes your detective pal... okay?" He tells with a pointed finger.

I scowl at him, 'detective pal' was for sure aimed at the day I was kicked out of the house. Asshole. But this was about him, I'll keep his secret. It's not my secret to tell.

"Chill. I won't say anything. I'm happy for you though..." I rock back and forth on my feet. He rolls his eyes at me.

"Yeah well, this is the last time I speak to you... goodbye," he gives me a pathetic wave goodbye.

"Are serious?!" I follow him back into the gates of school. I assume he was going to look for Blade and Diego.

"Yes."

"You know that's a dick move right?! Well sorry!" I exaggerate my ineffective apology.

"Sorry, 'Mister I'm too good for you because I support and benefit from a capitalist society!' Does that work for you, asshole?!" I continue to shout behind him, people stared at me but I didn't care.

My attempt at using Alessandro's words against him worked, he stopped walking until he was close to him brothers.

"You know Luca? I thought you were better than that. Hey everyone!" I shout as loud as I can making students and teacher stop and stare at me.

"You want to know something funny?! That this asshole I call my brother and those other two dicks over there kicked me out of their house! Funny isn't it?! I'm homeless! And I'm living with my friend! Hysterical right?!" I laugh to myself, it wasn't funny though. It was the sad truth.

People stare between me and my brothers not sure what to do. I wanted everyone to know the people they are.

Surprise, surprise. Cassidy, Aspen, Jayden, Josh and Kelsey stand to watch the scene unfold, they look more guilty than a murderer on trial. They murdered my love for them.

Maybe if Luca wasn't so ignorant and aloof then I wouldn't have to scream at them.

"Literally, my big 'heroic' brother kicked my out of the house. Family. What a pile of shit that word means! Because I have none le ! While people actually work for their money, my 'amazing' family are-" I scoff to myself and throws my hands in the air. But Luca quickly places a cold hand over my mouth trapping my words

For good measures, I give Luca an extra slap around the cheek making it redder than it was before.

"Never speak to me again. All of you," I include Cassidy and Aspen by pointing to them. Cassidy shakes his head in shame and Aspen looks at Blade who shifts uncomfortably.

Cassidy was like an extra loving brother and he couldn't even excuse himself a smile for me.

"Emilia c'mon," Felix pulls me away from them all and out of the school, I try to wriggle out of his hold. His fists were currently clenched around the collar of my shirt.

"Felix, let the fück go of me!" I growl like a vicious alpha waiting to attack. Teen wolf is quaking, when am I hired? Maybe I could be Stiles' girlfriend.

He continues to pull on my collar until we are far away from the school as I try to elbow him in the face. The clever bitch is too fast for me.

"Listen, Em, I know you're hurting but you need to stop this. You're hurting self even more if you keep doing this... move on. They clearly have," he releases my collar like a dog on a leash and pulls me into a heart warming cuddle.

As much as I wanted to punch him I couldn't. I really needed this hug even if I was to deny it. He really knew how to make someone feel better.

"You're right. They don't give a damn about me so I'll forget about them," I pull away when I see a car in the distance. An all too familiar car that I'd love to drag my keys down. Hmm, now that's an idea.

They stop, breaks screaming, and out comes Blade who looked furious with me.

"I'm not sure if you're crazy or just a stupid witch," he brings his face close to mine.

He as still living? Dang that's just disappointing.

Even stood in front of him now, I could see how much I've actually grown. I must be four inches taller or something from my previous 4'11 height. Maybe my body can fully get back on track if you know what I mean.

I need to stop stressing first, that might be why my period stopped and won't come back until I'm stress free.

"Both. Now I have a question for you: were you a waste of sperm or a waste of eggs? I can't decide which one..." I tap my chin in thought.

"Listen... as much as you hate all of us we're still family-

"Not in my eyes."

"-we have the same DNA in our blood. So as family, we keep secrets, now I ask that you don't say a word to anyone. Capeesh?" He says, straightening out his posture to his full height.

"Whatever. I don't care anymore. Just let me live my life without you," I mutter following Felix down the drive way. He jingles his keys and he twists the lock letting us inside. My eyes take one last glance at the strangers in the driveway.

I don't know myself anymore.

Who even am I?

I'm just an organism breathing. Sadly.

Somehow, I forgot how to love myself because I was too busy caring for my family rather than looking after myself.

I fücking hate my life. They ruined my teens for me.

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I escape the shower and stare at my body in the mirror, for what seems like the first time in forever I actually love myself and my scars. They're beautiful.

They may be fading but I'll always remember them. I should give them names.

But there was something that stuck with em today, how Josh commented in my hair. I'm just thinking about it, I won't do it.

I pull the white cabinet open and take out the scissors and chop the air for a few seconds.

"A tip! get a hair cut!"

Well I have a tip for you: get a life.

Once again, I stare at myself contemplating what I'm thinking. It was pretty long and I did need a hair cut. It reached my bottom with masses of curls that I didn't even bother to take care of. I never had time to do a routine for my hair so I always brushed my curls out. Not to mention it can get pricy if you go through products quickly.

I used to take such good care of my hair like it was a luxury but I dropped it as soon as I fell down the spiral of unknown. I'm climbing back up though - slowly.

"Maybe just an inch..." I pick up a lock of hair and try to measure out an inch with my frail fingers. I heard biting your finger is like biting a carrot, I wonder if that's true.

Instead I try a different method with the two hair ties that I had suffocating my wrists; I part my damp hair down the middle and secured it with the ties.

Squeezing my eyes shut tightly, not even bother to look, I snip it just below the hair tie which was just below shoulder length. Still long enough to style. I feel hairs stick to my wet feet in the ground in a massive chunk; the hairs blanketed my feet in a puddle of deep brown - almost black locks.

The mirror pulls my body to the mirror to inspect the damage. The only damage I made was... I couldn't find a fault in my cut. It was straight and even throughout the parted section.

A smile wrenches itself to my face like the glory of my action was some drastic event. It was for me, it's been years and years since I've had a hair cut.

I squeal to myself feeling excited as the rush of adrenaline floods through my body, I got such a rush and acceleration heart beat out of this.

I drop the scissors being clumsy and shaky, I bend down and clutch them in my hands. Hair gets tangled between the spaces of my fingers and I shake my hands violently trying to get it off. It was a all damp, long and curly. Just that section I cut off alone there must've been fifteen inches of hair.

This time, I move in close to the mirror until my nose is almost touching my reflection, then I cut tract my hand in the scissors to pull the apart and sponge it.

I must've been lucky or something because when I removed the hair ties, it was one equal line straight across my back. Loose, wet curls reach just under my shoulders, it was longer than shoulder length but it was the perfect length for me.

I shake my head viciously over my head then throw it all back and inspect my new hair in the mirror. This felt like getting new shoes, the excitement of getting them and wearing them out.

Feeling chuffed and merry with myself, I get changed into Rain's 'Weasley forever' shirt and Felix's bottoms. I wish I could wear my own clothes, but I was too much of a wuss to ask for them, especially when they're the clothes that they bought me. It would feel too strange, like I'm stealing from them.

Come to think of it, it's kinda hypocritical that Alessandro assumed I would steal from him because of my past when I'm reality he's the thief that's stealing from taxes and high end businesses. Not to mention the drugs too... I wish that day never happened.

The way I felt with my new hair gave me a sudden surge of confidence (which popped out of no where) but it felt good to have this pride swell in my chest. Confidence is key, and I'm loving this confidence.

But the question is: what do I do with the hair in the wet floor, the floor was an ocean of water from my body and hair which no doubt, would be glued to the floor.

Hand joining together, I use my hands as a shovel to scoop up the drench hair that itched my hands. There was a bin, just beside the drawers when I shake my hands to dispose of the rotten locks. My hair really was dead before this, I'm happy I did this. I don't regret it one bit.

It sure took a while for me to put it all in the bin, especially when it was a pain to pick off the individual hairs from the ground, somehow it got onto the mirror which eventually became steamed up with condensation.

A habit we all use to have was making shapes on the bathroom wall with out hairs, I used to try and spell out words and make heart with my hairs. Golden entertainment it was... or so I thought.

This is coming from the girl that used to eat candle wax and have a crazy obsession with dipping my finger in the wax. When you'd take the wax off, it left the in print of your finger. After I'd eat the shells I made. Dang... I miss the times when I use to be to do that, time really flies by when you're fighting with your psychotic family.

"You were in there for a while, dead- oh. What happened to your hair?!" Felix's mother exclaims, dropping the towels and ironed sheets. I never understood why people ironed their sheets when they were only going to be creased and wrinkled again.

"I cut it off," I deadpan, wasn't too sure what to say. I didn't want to come across as being too cocky. Inside I was screaming with joy.

"I see... why the sudden change?" She and I bend down together to fold the towels and steers again.

"A boy."

It was all I had to say, but it could've been taken out of context, she reliably thought I was talking about my crush when I was talking about my regretful encounter with Josh earlier. The only man for me is Lucifer, I miss him so much.

"Oohh," she teases with a whistle.

"Not like that," I roll my eyes with a smile, my cheeks were burning with pink and red - deep red.

"Then what like?"

"A boy at school made fun of me," I pause, I'm not sure why I told her, it put a raining cloud on my mood, "he said I needed to cut my hair and said I was ugly." The insides of my cheeks were sore from biting them too much out of my nerves.

"Hunny... you're far from ugly. And besides, 'ugly' is beautiful. Everyone is beautiful except that guy," she places a reassuring hand on my shoulder which still inhabited a few sharp hairs.

"He was right though... I did need my hair cutting. It's a change... and I like it," my smile glows up again as I finish helping his mum fold the towels.

"It looks good, a little too good for a thirteen year old," she quints at me with a grin.

"I'll take that as a compliment, Mrs Smith."

"Puhhlease, don't be silly, call me Karen," she cackles walking away.

She's the only Karen I like.

"Oh and Emilia," she pokes her head around the corner once more as I turn to face her, "can you help me make Tay's food? She's starting to grow teeth and want to make her some homemade soup?"

"Sure," I say calmly and proceed to walk downstairs as Karen finishes the washing.

Felix was slouched on the sofa with his dad and Rain - surprisingly enough - and she was watching the boys play FIFA with a bored expression.

"Oh finally- woah!" Rain stands up to hug me, but she jolts back with wide eyes to stare at my hair.

It wasn't a big deal anymore. Just experimenting with my hair. This way it'll be more manageable now and easier to brush on mornings. Maybe I can start taking care of my hair again, figure out a curly hair routine for it.

My mum used to always do my hair, we had similar types of hair, it wasn't coiled or kinky, it was just your average wavy curly hair.

I wouldn't even know where to start with taking up a method to treating my hair again, it sounds like so much effort.

"Nice cut," Felix compliments not seeming fazed, he was grinning but that's all he said.

"Thanks."

"It looks great!" Rain comforts me with a sweet cuddle. I giggle and pull away from her strangling grasp.

"I know it does," I respond cockily. Don't boost my ego, I won't stop gloating.

"Girls!" Karen calls us through the kitchen, I take one last glance at Felix but he didn't notice, he was too distracted by his game.

"Yes, Karen?" I prop myself against the counter top and look over at the middle aged woman who was peeling potatoes.

"Please help me," she drops the peeler and holds up a bag of carrots.

I shrug and take the bag from her hands and rip it open then walk over to the sink and rinse them thoroughly to clear them of the dirt.

Rain helps me peel the carrots then chops them into regular slices, it was a pain when I'd have to bend down and pick up the occasional slice that dropped on the floor.

"I can take over from here, go sit down, girls," she takes the knife from our hands and places them gently on the counter. She dismisses us with a gentle and playful shove.

"Budge over," I squeeze myself between Felix and the arm of the sofa, he moves over closer towards his dad. Rain made herself comfortable on the single recliner.

Something about sitting in between two men made me uncomfortable, I'm not suggesting that Felix and his dad were creepy but it's just habit. I always feel uncomfortable around middle aged men, they give me the shivers and not in a good way either.

"Wanna play?" Felix's dad passes the controller over to me. I shake my head and push it back into his hands.

"No thanks... ask Rain," I point to Rain who was resting her head in her palm, she looked bored and tired.

"Huh?" She jolts awake sitting up straight with her back pressed against the cushioned recliner. That looked hella comfortable, I could fall asleep in it, or just drown in the comfort.

Imagine drowning, I'd know the feeling, but imagine that drowning was comforting and safe. Just escaping reality and into a world of vampires and werewolves. I'd do anything to meet Klaus and Damon.

"Wanna play?" He asks again, she nods but holds the controller in her hands and twisting it in many directions until she gets it in the correct position. Her fingers were stiff around the controls just like mine were. It's difficult especially when you've never played the game before.

Felix and Rain continued playing until Karen called us in for dinner, we all crowded around the table, I was sat next to Tay who and kicking her legs up and down in the high chair laughing at nothing. Is it a baby thing?

We were served a large bowl of stew each which released an aroma of different flavours and tingles on my now, inflamed tastebuds. The carrots fell apart in my mouth they were that soft; and the chicken tasted like... chicken. But good chicken, juicy chicken which contained a wonder of seasonings.

Wow. Woah. Wowzer.

This is better than anything I've ever tasted, sorry Valentina, my tastebuds had officially been blessed with astounding food.

"You look like you're enjoying that," Felix's dad chuckles with his wife staring at me.

People who stare at you when you eat make me feel nauseous and embarrassed. I feel like they'll judge me for the way that I eat. Siting under everybody's eyes as they plunge into you, didn't make me feel great. Exposed almost.

"Uhh yeah, nice food, Karen," I give her a weak smile and wipe my mouth with the back of my hand. For the rest of dinner it felt like their gazes scorched into my soul after each spoon I lifted to my mouth.

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"We'll see you tomorrow at school," Felix engulfs Rain in a suffocating hug. I follow in suit and shake her body violently like it was the last time I'd ever see her again.

"Bye, bye!" She waves us goodbye and gathers herself in the back of her parent's blue car, they wait until she strapped in before setting off a slow start down the streets.

A part of me still wondered why they let her out, maybe she asked them or begged them, with the way Felix described her parents, they seem tough and difficult to work around. Also a part of me was relieved that we had quality time together, even if it was two hours. But I'll take it. It's way better than nothing at all.

"Emilia!" Felix's dad shouts from inside the house, with a surge of panic, Felix and I both charge back inside the house.

A telephone was pulled away from his ear and a hand covered the speaker on the hand piece.

"Yeah?"

"Someone wants to speak to you... here," he pushes the hand piece in my hand and he takes Felix away into the kitchen to help do the dishes. I feel like I should be helping considering I live here for free. Me living here wasn't supposed to be for seven weeks - almost eight - maybe just a night or two but they never reached out to me.

Sneaking a look, I ensure I was fully alone before I pressing the black handset to my ear and the other end to my mouth.

"Hello?" I squeak out in a mouse like tone.

"Emilia? It's me," a deep voice I could recognise from a mile away.

"Sure because I know who 'me' is," I roll my eyes in nonchalance. I did know who it was, but I was thrilled to hear it.

"Umm it's Axel."

"Yeah I know, dipshit, what do you want?" I spit out nastily with a current of hatred dripping off my tongue.

"I just... I jus' missed you, bambi," I hear a strangled sigh over the crackling phone.

"I couldn't imagine what that's like. Seven weeks is a long time, Axel, no call or text? Oh shoot! You have my phone," I tut, sucking in a breath against my teeth.

"I know, I know. Hear me out-

"Oh I've listened to all of everyone's bullshit for the past few months. Now you listen to me," wait for complete silence before I begin again.

"Don't you dare try and play the victim card here, it's not working on me anymore. What Alessandro said-

"What Alessandro said was disgusting, I know, but I'm not Alessandro and you shouldn't compare that devil's actions to me... I'll apologise for not coming to see you sooner," his voice darkens, he was guilty.

"I'm glad we agree. Is that all?" I feel my voice break. It was a glass and it wasn't fixing itself anytime soon.

"I want you to come home. We want you to come home. Schools called plenty of times and they're asking for a home visit," I head some clutter in the background.

"Rearranging your weapons I hear?" I scoff. My eyes couldn't see through phones, I just wanted to remind them of what I know, to remind them that I'll go to the police if I have to. I'll do anything.

They wouldn't dare to touch me, we're 'blood' right? 'DNA' right? As Blade claims. For family, we've never been so so separated.

"No... don't say that, I'm just clearing out my room. Can you come home please tomorrow?"

"No."

"Pleassseeee!"

"No."

"I'll beg-

"No."

"Can you-

"Haha no."

"Have it your way, but if you don't come to the home meeting after school tomorrow then they'll contact the social workers and they'll take you back," he persuades me. Going back just screamed horror.

"You're not serious. But Mia is my social worker-

"They don't care about Mia. They'll put you in foster care, hate us all you want but I still love you and I don't want to see you in a foster home. I really don't," his voice was light and serious. Mournful and melancholic.

"You can't just expect me to do that... stop it," I command me. It felt like he was manipulating me into coming home when it's the last place where I'd like to be. I'd rather go to hell first before going back.

"I know. But it's important. "

"Where do I meet you?" I give in, staying here in London means too much to me, and if they snatch me away like an eagle then it's all over for me. London and my friends is the last thing I have. I can't lose them too.

"After school. I'll be waiting for you outside in my car, 2:55 pm on the dot," his voice quickened in pace with a sigh of relief.

"Deal."

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Hey!

Not so keen on This chapter but it's okay ig.

How was your day?

What's your phobia? I've already asked this before but I wanted to know what your intimate fear of life is ya know?

So umm how about Luca aye? What's your thought on him being gay? Some of you already told me that you expected it so yeah...

Goodnight (it's midnight whilst I'm finishing the chapter so see you next time <3)

Xoxo, Demi

Sorry for any typos or errors :/ I love you all so much and thanks for the support on reaching 550k reads

[7330 words in this chapter]