

## In the Dark

Luca was puzzled, Something very strange was happening in the pack he was sure of it. Luna Renae and her husband Alpha Gordon had been acting very secretive lately, constantly in the study with another man who visited all the time lately. Luca didn't like the look of him. He had puckered skin that looked like it had been burnt in a re on one side of his face, brown eyes that were cold and contemptuous and his head was always covered in a cowboy hat, his body covered in jeans and long anneelette shirts, Luca wondering if it was because his body was also scarred with burnt esh.

Every time the man visited, Luca was intentionally given chores away from the house, further piquing his interest even as he dared not to come back until the man was gone. Luna Renae would be angry if he disobeyed her orders, a lot worse than Alpha Gordon sometimes when it came to discipline. The thing that puzzled him most though was that the man was human, at least as far as he could tell at any rate. He still had his sensitivity to smell and the man didn't smell like a werewolf but humans weren't permitted in packs unless they were mates, so why was this man allowed to? There was denitely something shy going on that was for sure and it made Luca very uneasy.

So engrossed in his thoughts he didn't notice he was walking directly into Marcus's path until he bumped into him and looked up, gulping nervously at how angry Marcus was.

"Forgive me" Luca began to stutter as Marcus's current girlfriend Joanne came up beside him and gave Luca a cold smile that had him trembling instantly. Joanne had been Marcus's girlfriend for the longest amount of time Luca had ever seen but he suspected it wasn't because Marcus loved her so much as that her personality was just as cold and vindictive as his.

"How dare you even so much as look at the future Alpha" Joanne sneered as Marcus made a point of patting her on the back.

"I'm sorry" Luca squeaked but he knew that it wouldn't really do him any good, Marcus kicking his kneecap and sending him crashing to the hard dirt oor. "Filth" Marcus spat, eyes turning black as Joanne laughed in the background, very much enjoying the show and the authority Marcus was displaying towards the pitiful omega that she and everyone else in the pack despised. Omega's were rare in this pack for some unfathomable reason, so those that were ones were bullied to the point of leaving or died from malnourishment and the never ending servitude. Right now Luca was the only omega, others before him managing to escape the mundane life. Unfortunately the pack liked having a personal slave or servant and so the security around the grounds was more than a little cautious when it came to him, never letting him so much as get near the forest.

Luca cringed, feeling the spittle of Marcus's next spit hit him directly on the forehead, wiping it away with his hand and then feeling Marcus's powerful hands grip him by the hair and drag him to make him stand upright, not letting go as he stared at Luca who dared not struggle or ght back. It seemed like an eternity before Joanne's voice nally cut in "well what are you waiting for Marcus" she snapped impatiently "deal with him already so we can get going. You promised me we were going out" she whined and Luca saw something ash across Marcus's face. Was that hesitation on his face. Surely not thought Luca puzzled. He must have been seeing things because he felt Marcus grip his hair so painfully that Luca was certain it was being ripped out from the roots as he began to drag Luca backwards, Joanne following with a smirk on her face, her red hair owing in the wind as Luca avoided her gaze.

Luca wasn't entirely sure where he was going, the packhouse coming into view as Marcus dragged him through the front door, no one in the pack house lifting a hand to help Luca let alone raise an eyebrow at his treatment. Not that Luca had expected otherwise, knowing full well how much everyone hated him in the pack. His feet tripped and stumbled as Marcus fairly yanked him upstairs, tears coming to Luca's eyes as the pain in his head began to throb painfully.

Marcus stopped at the landing and Luca felt a brief moment of hope that he would be let go. That Marcus would deem this enough punishment and allow him to go back to his chores. Joanne was at the foot of the stairs, evidently not about to waste her energy climbing upstairs only to have to go back down again, knowing what Marcus was about to do because he'd mind-linking her on the way, maliciously approving of his idea and smiling with glee as she watched it all happening.

Luca felt Marcus begin to move again and he ailed, accidently hitting Marcus in the face, stilling with nausea rising in his gut as Marcus stilled, leaning down and whispering into Lucas's ear "you're going to regret that you piece of shi\*" he threatened as Luca slumped, allowing Marcus to drag him, his eyes widening in surprise as he was ung to the oor in Marcus's room, Marcus calmly shutting and locking the door behind him.

He braced himself as Marcus instantly started on him, raining blows down on Luca as he tried to cover his face and eyes, panting heavily and crying out with every strike until nally it was over, lying there unable to move and watching as Marcus began to rie through his desk drawer, smiling triumphantly as he found what he was looking for and waving it in the air with a gleam in his icy cold eyes as Luca felt himself become chilled.

Marcus ung his closet doors open, a double door one that was surprisingly roomy and pushed the clothes to one side as Luca inched in fear. "Get in" he told Luca gruy "Now" he hissed as Luca hesitated and began to plead. "Marcus please, I'm sorry, please don't do this to me" he cried as Marcus gripped his arm and shoved him hard inside the closet as Luca tried to scramble back up and throw himself at the closing doors, the light slowly fading until Marcus closed the doors with a rm click, leaving Luca completely in the dark and terried, the walls feeling like they were closing in. He was extremely claustrophobic due to his past and Marcus knew this.

He began to beat on the doors and scream, tears dripping down his face as he begged Marcus who was winding the chain around the doors and placing a lock on it to prevent Luca getting out. "Please" he screamed wildly "let me out, god let me out" he sobbed, sitting on the oor unsteadily and putting his knees to his chest, sobbing and rocking back and forth, believing Marcus to have left already. Instead Marcus was sucking in a deep breath as he listened to Luca's pleas, no enjoyment on his face whatsoever, instead his heart was breaking. He'd never enjoyed hurting Luca, in fact only did it because it was expected by his mother and father. Because if he didn't then he would be the one punished for being such a weakling and for showing mercy to someone far inferior to himself. The beating had been for Joanne's benet knowing she would be suspicious if Luca didn't make a sound or cry out before he shoved him in the closet. He'd left the door open so she could hear as his room was soundproof once the door was closed.

It had been so incredibly hard to do it too. When he'd thrust Luca's head under the water the other day it had been because his mother was watching and Marcus had learnt long ago he'd better make sure she saw it or he'd be questioned and punished by her or by his father's hand. He closed his eyes and leant against the cupboard, if he didn't do this that man his mother and father kept having over was going to take Luca for who knew what. Marcus didn't want that happening. He was sure it was for something very unpleasant and Marcus intended to nd out what the human man's purpose was and what his parents were up to.

Luca was busy rocking and crying, the darkness and claustrophobic feeling of the walls closing in on him, giving him a panic attack. For a second though, he halted when he heard the sound of something leaning against the door and frowned. The merest whisper of a voice drifted towards him. "Sorry Luca but this was necessary" and footsteps hurrying out the door while his jaw dropped open, distracted for a moment by what he had just heard. Had Marcus just whispered an apology to him? Or was he hearing things because he was so terried right now that he'd become delusional?