

29: Crew

"I just need to clear my head." I say to Nash in my head who only rolled his eyes and plop down.

"Why not take a run? It is the best way to clear your head as I'll take over and let you rest." He said with so much sass that I decided to ignore it. I don't have strength for this.

"What do you think about Selene so far?" I ask him instead, walking quietly in the woods so as to not chase away the other creatures having their time.

"I don't know. She looks nice but frightened. Of course she is also extremely beautiful in an innocent way, not bold like Luna. She also looks darn pretty pregnant for our cub. And I feel like Moon Goddess chose her for something special. It is written all over her but I cannot pinpoint it." He said after a thoughtful pause.

Uncertainty clouds my perception of Selene. Her abrupt departure, despite my insistence for her to stay, lingers in my thoughts. I couldn't get over the fear in her eyes when she realized who I was that morning after Luna left the penthouse.

Perhaps she was unaware of my paternity, yet the palpable fear she exhibits suggests an enigma surrounding our connection, or perhaps a

29: Crew

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fundamental discomfort in my presence. It's a perplexing puzzle, and understanding her true sentiments remains elusive.

Rumors circulate about the supposed ruthlessness of the Lycan King, a reputation I've neither dispelled nor refuted. In fact, I've allowed these whispers to paint me as heartless and brutal, embracing the facade of a formidable beast.

The strategic rationale behind this portrayal lies in the belief that ruling with an iron fist is precisely what the headstrong alphas under my jurisdiction require. They are way more ruthless than I am but they don't know that which is fine by me.

Whether Selene's reservations stem from these rumors or from an innate aversion, the carefully crafted perception of a fierce and unyielding leader becomes a tool in maintaining control over the intricate dynamics of our lycanthropic world.

"You are too old not to know s**t about Moon Goddess Nash. Come on, think deeper and tell me why she is special." I say to Nash, taking a sharp left turn to my favorite tree.

We used to play for long hours here with my sister before she found her mate and left the kingdom to another pack. She isn't a Lycan and honestly, she isn't even my biological sister. After my father died, my mother decided to take her in because

29: Crew

+5 Points

her parents both died saving my mother.

I miss her so much. She is the one person that understands my silence after Luna. Sometimes I just want to talk to her for hours like we used to but it isn't possible. My mother had forced me to bite her so she could be immortal like me. Same goes to her mate who is now the Alpha of her pack.

"This time around, Moon Goddess is being eerily secretive about her plans that she wouldn't tell me. With time though." Nash said but I know he is not happy he doesn't know anything the Goddess is planning.

Among the supernatural beings, Lycans hold a unique proximity to the Moon Goddess, enjoying a special connection that surpasses even that of their werewolf counterparts. It's a celestial bond that comes with distinct privileges, reflective of the Goddess's deliberate favoritism towards the lycanthropic lineage.

Whatever grand designs she envisions for the mystical realm, the Moon Goddess ensures that Lycans are privy to her plans well before their execution, underscoring the importance she places on their role in the unfolding cosmic tapestry.

In this exclusive discourse between celestial forces and lycanthropes, Nash stands as the

solitary representative. As the lone Lycan, he becomes the conduit through which the Moon Goddess communicates her intentions and orchestrates the celestial ballet.

Their exchanges, veiled in the ethereal glow of lunar wisdom, transcend mere dialogue—they are the cosmic negotiations that shape the fate of lycanthropes and the mystical order they inhabit. In this sacred communion, Nash holds a position of unparalleled significance, a guardian of secrets bestowed upon him by the Moon Goddess herself.

The sight of my favorite tree made me smile but my eyes dropped on the person sitting on a small blanket right before it. My eyes widened a little and so did hers, she looked just as shocked to see me away from the house. She never left the penthouse.

It was Selene sitting there with a book in her hand.

Selene was adorned in a charming sundress, the delicate hue of mint green casting a serene glow around her. The soft, flowing fabric gently embraces her form, adorned with subtle floral patterns that seem to sway in harmony with her every movement.

The sweetheart neckline adds a touch of sweetness, gracefully framing her collarbone, while the A-line silhouette accentuates the grace in her baby bump. Her body is pretty amazing and

the pregnancy did a great job to her shape.

Dainty straps crisscross delicately over her shoulders, allowing the gentle sunlight to caress her skin. The mint green dress, a testament to simplicity and elegance, creates an enchanting vision against the backdrop of nature. As she navigates through the day, the dress becomes a canvas, mirroring the vibrancy of her spirit and illuminating the world with its refreshing allure.

I continued towards her with a smile on my face when I caught sight of her book. It was one of the many Smuts Luna reads whenever she's got time. As I moved closer to her, she closed the cover of the book so I won't see which made me chuckle. She is blushing.

Her eyes fluttered with different emotions before settling on one, uncertainty. I asked if I could join her and she said yes so I sat down in front of her, my back against the bark of the tree too. Her scent is alluring and so freaking good.

"What are you doing here all alone?" I ask, tilting my head to the side to examine her while she leaves her head hanging.

"Wanted some alone time." She shrugged her dainty shoulders, not able to look up at me.

"Why are you scared? I'm not going to harm you, you know that right?" I ask after a while in a soft

29: Crew

+5 Points

voice hoping to get my message across and she sighed.

"I know. I just can't get over your reputation. That's all." She met my eyes for a split second before it went back to her book which she isn't hiding anymore.

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"Ah, the darn rumors." I said with a small shake of my head but didn't say anything to clear her doubts. She will find out who I am soon enough and decide whether to believe them or not.

"What are you doing here?" She asks in a small voice after the silence started getting charged

between us.

"I just need to clear my head so I came here." I say, tilting my head to look at the place where I signed my name a little above my little sister's just to show her I was taller than her.

Selene glances up from her book with a small nod. "Take all the time you need. I won't disturb you."

I ignored her answer and hauled mine seeing as she is not really reading the book. "What do you think about me so far?"

She closed her book, looking thoughtful for a second. "You're... kind of complicated. I sense something more beneath the surface and you aren't exactly like the rumors had said but then again, I don't know anything."

I raise an eyebrow in a teasing way making her look away with a blush. "Complicated? That's a diplomatic way to put it."

A radiant smile graced her lips, a wide and genuine expression that seemed to illuminate the very air around her. The corners of her mouth curled upwards, revealing a set of pristine, straight teeth that gleamed in the soft light.

It was a transformative sight – a smile I hadn't witnessed before, and in that moment, she radiated a beauty that left me momentarily

29: Crew

+5 Points

captivated. As her lips parted, the sunlight dancing in her eyes, I couldn't help but wonder if there was a hint of a dimple forming on her right cheek.

The subtle indentation, like a delicate punctuation mark, added an extra layer of charm to her already captivating smile. It was as if this newfound warmth in her expression unveiled a side of her that had been hidden, a glimpse into the depth of emotions she kept guarded.

In that fleeting moment of shared smiles, the world seemed to pause, and the enigmatic allure of that dimpled smile lingered in the air, etching itself into the canvas of memory. I feel like we are going to become really great friends.

"Diplomacy is my middle name. Besides, you're not as heartless as you want everyone to believe except when you are with Luna which is sort of understandable." She said with a small shrug.

I lean back against the tree. "And what makes you say that?" A small smile is playing at the edges of my lips too.

She paused, as if mulling her answer then looked straight into my eyes with her soft green ones.

"Your eyes. They reveal more than you let on."

I smirked, enjoying the little talker in her. "You're quite the observer, aren't you?"

29: Crew

+5 Points

"Comes with the territory of being a bookworm."
She laughs softly, the sound trickling down my
bloodstream like warm honey.

I decided to change the topic. "Why the secluded
spot? Wanted some alone time?"

"Yes, and I didn't expect company."

I chuckle at her subtle way of telling me I am
disrupting her alone time. "Well, here I am,
disturbing your peace."

She grinned, tucking a strand of hair behind her
ear, her hand moving to her bump. "It's not every
day the infamous Lycan King joins me under a
tree."

"Are you disappointed?" I teased.

"Maybe a little." She blushed but I liked her bold
answer just like that. Uncoated with sugar.

"I'll try to make it up to you, then. Anything you
want to share?" I chuckle, not moving an inch from
my position cause I ain't leaving.

"Not much to share. Just escaping reality for a
while."

"We all need an escape sometimes." I say in a
gentle voice because that was what I wanted
before I saw her here. To escape.

She met my gaze with her steady greens. "Even

29: Crew

+5 Points

the most feared Lycan King?"

I nod. "Especially him."

"Well, if you're not going to harm me, you're welcome to join my solitude." She opened her book, delving her head back to the pages of smut.

"Solitude with a dash of company? Sounds intriguing." I say then turn my head to the side and decide to sleep a little and it was the most peaceful I have had in a long while.



2

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4

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