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Observing Selene's uneasy steps through the store, I made the impromptu decision to accompany her on a baby shopping spree. This establishment, undoubtedly the pinnacle of offerings in the Lycan kingdom, was under the ownership of none other than Crew.

Here, she would discover the epitome of baby essentials, each carefully selected to meet the highest standards. It is the only thing fit for a Lycan King's baby and I'm sure of that. We cannot have anything otherwise.

Selene's discomfort was palpable, evident in the hesitant way she navigated the aisles. An edginess lingered since her awakening from a brief car nap, and her admission of a restless night raised concern.

To grant her respite, we had allowed her to slumber during the entire journey, even prompting Crew to take a lengthier route in the hope of extending her rest. Despite these efforts, a sense of relaxation eluded her. She has this look in her eyes when she looks at Crew and I.

In seeking answers through the mind-link, Crew's shrugged shoulders mirrored my perplexity. His worry, though veiled, hinted at a shared concern

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for Selene's unusual demeanor. Whatever weighed on her mind remained a mystery, as she hadn't displayed such jumpiness since our arrival in the Lycan kingdom.

It had been a month since Selene's integration into our realm, and on the surface, she seemed to have adapted seamlessly. Her newfound friendships with Edie and Amanda, though expectedly challenging given the girls' discerning tastes, had flourished unexpectedly.

Selene effortlessly slipped into their camaraderie, establishing connections that appeared as if they had been woven into the fabric of Lycan society for years. She settles fine.

Yet, beneath this veneer of apparent acclimatization, an uneasiness lingered. The enigma of Selene's disquiet stirred a curiosity that couldn't be ignored, raising questions about the source of her recent restlessness and the secrets she harbored within the confines of her nocturnal thoughts.

"You should talk to her." Crew said, his eyes on Selene as she distractedly walked around without taking anything or even seeing it.

Moving towards her, I tentatively picked a onesie. "So, Selene, what do you think of these cute onesies? Neutral colors, you know, for a surprise since you don't want to know the gender."

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She nodded hesitantly, still distracted..*"Yeah, that could work. I mean, we don't know the gender yet."

"Exactly!" I hold up a onesie with extra enthusiasm. "How about this one? It has little moons and stars. Cute, right? Just like the moonlight and werewolf."

Selene smiled faintly, not freeing. "Yeah, cute."

Crew wheeling the cart chirped in the conversation with a teasing edge to his tone.

"What about a tiny leather jacket? You know, for some Lycan edge."

I giggled at that because seeing him like this made me think about him with a baby, he is going to be so cute. "Crew, this baby is not joining a motorcycle gang."

Selene finally chuckled softly and nodded. "I think I'll pass on the leather jacket."

"Fair enough." I picked up a soft blanket. It is going to be added to the cart whether she wants it or not. "Look at this, Selene. It's so plush. Perfect for snuggling."

She runs her fingers over it, a soft smile tugging the edges of her lips. "Yeah, that looks really soft."

Crew produced a crumpled piece of paper from his pocket, and Selene and I were left wide-eyed, our mouths hanging open in disbelief. Where on

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earth did he uncover that list? Scratch that – how on earth did he create it? What enchanting details were inscribed on that paper, specially crafted for his little one?

Seated with an air of nonchalance, he unveiled a list he had painstakingly crafted for his impending bundle of joy. If this isn't the most heart-melting gesture from Crew, I don't know what is. My eyes sparkled with a hint of moisture as a tiny twinge of jealousy pricked at my chest, quickly overtaken by the overwhelming happiness that bubbled within me.

In that moment, as the years momentarily blurred my vision, I couldn't help but marvel at the sheer adorableness of Crew's thoughtful creation – a tangible manifestation of his anticipation and love for his soon-to-arrive little one. It was a scene so sweet that even the tiniest prick of envy couldn't overshadow the joy that radiated from witnessing such a touching display of parental preparation.

"We have diapers, wipes, onesie, a few blankets, and baby shampoo –got it. Anything else?" He said to us, his brow raised like he didn't just do the cutest thing ever.

With a small smile, I say. "How about a mobile for the crib? Something with little moons and stars again."

Selene also looks taken aback by the list so she

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bit her smile to stop her wobbly smile. "That sounds nice."

Crew checked the list and added something with a pen from his pocket. "Mobile, added to the list."

"We should also get a baby carrier. Crew, have you

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seen the ones with the cute animal designs?" I asked, tilting my head at him.

He smirked immediately, "Yeah, because nothing says "ferocious Lycan baby" like a bunny carrier. We are getting that."

"Bunny carriers might be adorable." Selene giggled softly, hiding her lips with both of her palms and I

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Figure 1

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stared at her long pretty slender fingers.

"Perfect! Bunny it is." I clap my hands and add it to the cart. Shopping is getting more exciting as it goes.

"I hope the baby appreciates all this effort." Crew heaves jokingly at her and tucked the list back in his front pocket.

Selene smiled but didn't look up at him, her attention too focused on the racks. "I'm sure they will."

Luna winked. "And if they don't, we'll just have to spoil them more. They are going to be so rotten, gosh."

"Well, our Lycan baby is going to have the best-dressed crib in the entire kingdom. If possible, the world. I'll have something made with diamonds around it." Crew said while pushing the cart and looking serious.

Selene looked a bit relaxed when she chuckled thinking it was a joke. "Thank you both for helping me with this."

"It's our pleasure, Selene. Parenthood prep is a team effort. And we've got your back, you know that." I place a hand on her shoulder.

When we were standing alone and Crew went off to pay the bills of all we had shopped with his

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card, I said to Selene. "Sel, you've been a bit jumpy since we arrived. Everything okay?"

She suddenly looks tired and I feel like I shouldn't have brought the topic. "Yeah, just a bit tired, I guess."

I got concerned that she isn't alright and she is not telling us about it. "Tired? You didn't sleep well last night, did you?"

Selene avoids eye contact, looking anywhere but at me. "No, not really."

Noticing Selene's hesitation, I lick my lips not knowing whether I should push or not. "Hey, you can tell me if something's bothering you. We're friends, right? I won't judge you if you feel like leaving."

She sighed and shook her head, a blush coating her cheeks making me smile. "It's just... I had a weird dream last night."

I got curious and teasing at the same time. "A dream? What happened? What sort of dream is that?"

She blushed some more, bouncing on the balls of her feet. "It's silly. A really silly dream. I dreamt about... about sleeping with my mate."

I giggled quietly not wanting the Crew to ask me through the mind-link what we were talking about.

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"Well, that doesn't sound like a nightmare. Why the blush?"

She fidgets with the edge of her sundress. "It felt so real, Luna. I woke up all flustered and couldn't shake off the feeling."

I grin at her, nudging her with my elbow with a smile. "Well, it sounds like a steamy dream. Did you enjoy it? How was he? Did he take you well or was it just the start?"

Selene looked around hoping no one had heard us but we were all alone in the store, Crew made sure of that. "Luna!" She reprimanded.

I laugh, clutching my stomach. "Okay, okay. Dreams can mess with your head sometimes. Maybe it's your subconscious getting excited about the baby but it is totally alright. I'm not judging. You're allowed to have time with yourself."

"Yeah, maybe. It just caught me off guard." She sighed, closing her eyes before I could see the guilt shining in them.

"Well, next time, tell that dream mate of yours to behave. We've got baby shopping to do." I clap my hands, almost forgetting that we are done here and we need to go to another store.

She smiled but the discomfort was written all over her. "I'll keep that in mind."

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I nudge Selene again. "Now, let's find the perfect baby things and forget about dreamland dramas, shall we?"

"Agreed. Let's focus on the cute onesies and not my overactive imagination." She said and beelines away from me as fast as her feet could take her while I smile behind her.



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