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I made my way down the stairs trying hard not to wake anyone up but Lilith was already downstairs reading some books. She gave me a small wave when I pointed to the kitchen so I went there to get some water.

Walking out of the kitchen, I went to the living room and sat down close to Lilith. I was afraid I would wake her up since her room is the closest to the kitchen while Crew, Luna, Nick and Daniel are at the far end of the penthouse and won't hear me.

"Why are you wide awake this late?" I say uncapping the head of the bottle as I place it on my large belly. I can't wait to give birth to my baby.

Lilith shrugged and shuffled through her book some more. "I'm revising for school tomorrow. I don't want to go there and stare at them like a dumb illiterate."

"You're not illiterate and I'm sure you are going to do just alright there." I say to her, moving a strand of hair from her face after she's tried hard to breathe it away.

"I just don't want to be taken by surprise, you know?" She said and that was when I saw that she

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is just afraid of failure.

I can empathize with that familiar feeling, having wrestled with it myself. Sometimes, we slay those worries not because they're formidable foes, but rather, they prove utterly useless in the context of our origin.

The fear of failure in mundane tasks may be one thing, but when it extends to the expectations of those around us, it becomes an entirely different narrative. It becomes a burden we carry that no one really cares about but our minds.

However, there's no need for her to carry that weight. High school, with its myriad challenges, shouldn't be a battlefield of judgment. No one's going to cast a critical eye just because she's navigating the complexities of academia again. It simply doesn't matter.

I won't perceive her any differently because judgment isn't my game. I'm confident that Crew and Luna, in their own way, don't partake in that sport either.

Everyone's just trying to make it through the chapters of life, and judgment need not be a character in this collective story. She hasn't talked much about what she had endured in her pack but that is enough for her to let it all go to hell in my view.



"Now go and rest since tomorrow is a big day for you." I say to her while standing up and taking the book from her grasp.

Lilith pouted her lips but stood up anyway. "I would like you to join Daniel and I to school." She said before kissing my cheek and disappearing down the hallway.

I eased back into the plush comfort of the couch, the fabric embracing me like a familiar friend.

As I closed my eyes, attempting to escape into the realm of peaceful slumber, I found myself jolted awake by a nightmare, a relentless specter that refused to grant my mind a moment of respite. The haunting scenes from that nocturnal torment lingered vividly, etched into the canvas of my consciousness.

Even in this current moment, as I shut my eyes once more, the nightmarish reel replayed relentlessly within the theater of my mind. Each frame, an unsettling tableau, captured the raw emotions and visceral experiences that had unfolded in that realm of darkness.

It wasn't a narrative of pleasant dreams; rather, it was a montage of unsettling images that clung to the recesses of my thoughts, refusing to be erased by the light of wakefulness.

The nightmare unfolded like a surreal tapestry of

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+10 Points

distress, weaving together the threads of my deepest anxieties.

In the unsettling dream, shadows morphed into ominous figures, whispering ominous secrets that echoed in the corridors of my mind. Faces distorted into grotesque masks, and a sense of impending doom hung heavy in the air.

Perhaps, it played out scenarios of profound loss, where connections unraveled and familiar landscapes transformed into eerie, uncharted territories. It took place in Moon Light Pack.

There might have been a disorienting dance with time, blurring the lines between past and present, and the boundaries of reality may have bent like a fragile twig under the weight of an otherworldly force.

The nightmare could have been a mosaic of unfulfilled fears, each fragment a reflection of my vulnerabilities. From the haunting specters of failure to the disintegration of cherished bonds, it became a nocturnal symphony of apprehension, leaving an indelible mark on the canvas of my subconscious.

The aftermath lingered, and even with eyes tightly shut, the residue of that haunting dream clung persistently to the edges of my waking thoughts. I refuse to recall the faces of those involved because that would make it too real.

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+10 Points

The sound of slow footsteps coming from the stairs made my attention snap towards it where Crew stood in sweatpants and tight cotton shirt showcasing his muscular body that never ceased to make me salivate.

"Sunny, what happened? You seem really shaken."

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He asked, walking closer with furrowed brows.

Remembering what he told me he did in Moon Light Pack earlier with Daniel and Nick made my chest tighten with further gratitude. I had no idea how I got this lucky to meet both Crew and Luna in my life.

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Figure 1



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They have been a constant and I can't repay them for their kindness. In a world filled with cruel beasts, they are my knights. Goddess sent.

The sound of my nickname made my cheeks warm, then I said softly. "It was a nightmare, Crew. A vivid, haunting one. I can't shake off the images."

My voice quivered as I recounted the details of my unsettling nightmare, the echoes of fear lingering in the air. Crew, sensing my distress, joined me on the couch, his concern evident in the furrow of his brow.

"You don't have to face it alone, you know. Come here." He drew me closer to him and I immediately complied.

Crew opened his arms, inviting me into the refuge of a warm embrace. As I nestled into the hug, the tension in my shoulders began to dissolve. I take in a deep breath with his scent masking every single space in my head. Goddess, I want to live here.

"I'm right here, Sunny. Take your time. Say something more if you need to to get it out." He said, his hands rubbing my back, making me shiver in delight and pleasure. f\*\*k.

I paused for a bit then said. "It felt like I was trapped, surrounded by shadows, and everything around me was unraveling. I couldn't escape. They

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+10 Points

keep dragging me down."

"Nightmares can be relentless, but you're not alone. I'm here with you. Want to talk about it more? Sometimes, sharing the details can help lighten the burden." He said softly, the compassion in his voice easing my nerves completely.

I took a deep breath, feeling the reassurance of Crew's presence, as I began to share the haunting narrative that had left me sleep disrupted and my heart heavy. He listened like it was the most interesting story in the world.

"Why don't I make you this combination of my ice cream? It is great." He said minutes later after I finished recounting the whole scenario keeping the names of people out of it.

"There is ice cream here?" I ask with wide eyes filled with hope. The last time I had ice cream was when Imogen brought it for me from her date.

"Yes of course. You never saw it?" His eyes widened as though he was offended then shook his head.

He stood up and offered me his hand which I accepted and followed him to the kitchen. There are two huge refrigerators and he opened the one I never bothered with thinking it was all beef and sort of meat from the bush but there was lots of ice cream, popsicles and whatnot.



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He made a good combination and handed it to me as I sat on the counter with excitement and curiosity pouring from every nerve.

I don't know how life would have been had I gotten a better mate than Alpha Archer. Would I have been happy? Like Luna and Crew? Would he have loved me like Crew does Luna?

"Oh, this is amazing." I moaned, closing my eyes at the taste that burst in my taste buds.

With my eyes still closed, I felt Crew's hands on my belly. He shifted the robe aside and touched my naked baby bump making goosebumps rise all over my arms. I shivered again, my eyes slowly open to find him on mine.

The air was suddenly charged with a profound sense of emotion as Crew spoke from the depths of his heart keeping my attention hostage to his deep voice and baritone.

"Sunny, I never properly thanked you. For every moment, every choice, and every ounce of strength you poured into keeping our baby safe. It's more than words can express. Thank you for staying with me, for choosing this journey with me, and for being the anchor that held us steady through it all. Your strength, your kindness—it means everything to me. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you, Sunny. Thank you for everything." He leaned down and kissed my belly.



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+10 Points

Tears rushed down my face in rapid succession because I just realized that I'm attracted to my baby daddy and he is happily mated to my friend. I'm attracted to someone I will never have.



Author AR

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Wasn't that cute??? anyway #Vote#  
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