

Chapter 33

I laid frozen in my spot, unable to move as the scent of both men lingered in the room.

I didn't know what to do. Should I make them know I'm awake? Should I scream? Should I run?

I wish I had known.

"What the hell are you doing in here?" Maxim spat. He just got right onto it.

Lukas took a while before he replied. "I was just checking up on her." His voice was calm and collected, not giving away any emotions.

"No! No, you do not have a right to check up on her. You did this, Luke. You caused this!"

"I know, okay!" Lukas shouted. Maxim's voice was raised, but Lukas took it up a few decibels.

"You'll wake her," my mate hissed. "Just keep your voice down and leave."

Lukas scoffed. "She isn't sleeping! She never sleeps when you leave her here in the afternoon. If you paid attention-"

Lukas's voice was cut off by something that sounded like a shove, and I quickly spun around, seeing that my gig was up.

How did Lukas even notice that I wasn't sleeping? And he knew all this time?

Maxim was evidently angry, and he took in my awake state in complete shock.

"Leave," he seethed under his breath, and Lukas didn't hesitate to obey. First, he met my eyes across the room apologetically.

"Tell him? Will you?" Lukas simply asked before exiting my room.

Maxim stood confused, but he didn't look too angry anymore. It was nice to know that he wasn't mad at me. I groaned and shuffled back under my sheet. All that jerking up caused my head to pound like crazy again.

Sighing, Maxim came over to the bed and sat beside me. He rested the back of his hand against my forehead with a frown.

"You weren't sleeping?" he asked softly, and I slowly shook my head.

"Maxim, you stay with me all the time-"

"And you need space. I get it." His voice seemed as if he was hurt as he dropped my gaze, but I quickly protested.

"No. That's not what I meant. I'm concerned about you. I don't mind if you stay with me all the time. You should know that. But the only time you shower, have a proper meal and do your Alpha job is when you believe I'm sleeping. I'm sorry I lied. I just hate taking away your life because I'm sick."

"Hey..." He shuffled beside me under the sheets and snuggled me to his chest. I instantly felt better. "You are my life, Melissa. I know that now and I will not rest until you are better, okay?" He left a lingering kiss on my forehead as I relished the wonderful feeling of having him close.

"I'm sorry about Lukas. I knew he came here when you left, but he never talked to me until today. I didn't even know that he knew that I was awake."

"It's okay, sweetheart. My brother is..." He trailed and sighed as he decided to drop whatever he wanted to

say. "What was he talking about anyway?"

I tensed as I moved away from his embrace. Lukas left me to tell Maxim about his crazy wolfsbane idea. I was reluctant. Maxim took the whole me not actually sleeping thing well, and I didn't want to spoil his mood.

I dropped his gaze and fiddled with my hands. Maxim noticed my uneasiness and grew defensive.

"Did he say something to upset you? Because I swear to God-"

"No," I cut him off before he got the wrong idea. "He was apologising again and talking about going to an oracle to find a way to get rid of the mark." My fever grew as I talked.

Maxim seemed shocked. "An oracle. Wow."

I nodded. "Yeah. So apparently, the oracle thinks that my death would be the suitable punishment for Lukas, so he didn't tell him how to actually get rid of the mark."

I think it would've been better if I had omitted that last part. I think the last thing my mate wanted to hear was that one of the most gifted wolves wanted me dead.

"That is not going to happen," he growled. I snaked my arms around his waist and rested my head on his chest in an attempt to comfort him.

"I know." I wasn't sure how true that was because we had nothing apart from Lukas's crazy plan.

In all honesty, I don't think I will make it. But I had hoped that my mate would do all he could to help before we gave up.

"But here's the weird part. The oracle told Lukas that I could be healed just temporarily, take away my pain and, I guess, stabilise my wolf. But, it's through wolfsbane."

"What?" I flinched at the sound of his voice. "Wolfsbane? Are they crazy!"

I completely agreed. "I know. Wolfsbane is no medicine. It's a poison, and it'll kill me or make me sicker. That oracle is only trying to put me out of my misery in pity and 'punish' Lukas quicker."

Maxim stayed quiet for a while, and I could tell he was in deep thought. If I dare say, it seemed like he was considering it.

"Wait, you aren't actually thinking of giving me wolfsbane, right?" My voice was sharper than I intended, but I was completely outraged.

Wolfsbane is bad! Period.

"No, Melissa. It's crazy. But...oracles can't lie. If he said this will heal you, then maybe it will."

"Maxim..."

"Look, I'm not more against this than anyone. I would burn an entire forest before I let wolfsbane near you. But think about it. You wolf is the one who is sick, and wolfsbane usually affects the wolf side of us. I still don't get how it is a healing substance, but...." He sighed in defeat. "I'm desperate here, Melissa. If I can even get you through the full moon, then I'd take anything."

I took a while to consider what he said. He was right about a few things, but I felt like I was betraying my wolf. The mark affects her, which affects me because she is basically the wolf side of me. It's the wolf in me who got sick, and because of that, I can't shift, I can't get better, and I can't leave this bed. So, taking wolfsbane would basically immobilise her and basically put her to sleep. So, I guess that's how the symptoms would stop on my end. I hated it, but if Maxim was willing to do it, then maybe I shouldn't be so reluctant.

His intuition is all I trust right now, and if he didn't think this would work, I wouldn't even consider it.

And he was right. We are desperate for any solution right now. I just needed to get through the full moon.

I sighed with my mind made up. I was still reluctant, but I had no other choice as far as I could see.

"Okay," I mumbled. "Let's do it."

"Are you sure?" He held my cheeks in his large palms and stared into my eyes. I nodded slowly, deciding to get it out of the way before changing my mind again.

"Just to get me past the full moon."

"Okay." He nodded slowly with a sigh as if accepting it too. I knew he was crazy about the idea either. I mean, wolfsbane has been nothing but a menace to our kind for ages. Seeing it as medicine just seemed so absurd. But it was all we had, so we simply had to work with it.

I pecked his lips quickly and retook my position on his chest. Slowly, I started to drift away, and I finally fell into the afternoon nap that I so desperately needed.



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