

Chapter 51

Fiona, Maxim and Leonardo followed my gaze, but I couldn't see their expressions since their heads were turned.

I cleared my throat as Lukas stared directly into my eyes. "And I can't wait to be a part of this family. Because I look forward to spending the rest of my life living with my new best friend..."

I broke my gaze with Lukas to look at my table. Fiona smiled brighter at the mention of her being my best friend, though it couldn't have been more truthful.

"...Her mate, Leonardo, who has become somewhat of a big brother to me in the short time I've been here." A dimpled smile spread on his face as he shot me a sailor's salute. "My wonderful mate," I added. "I'm sorry I can't express just how great he is, and I would probably take the entire night, but you all have homes." I chuckled, and a low rumble of laughs came from the crowd, too, as Maxim yet again winked at me.

I'm sure they all thought I was done, but I shifted my attention to the back of the room again, yet again meeting eyes with Lukas.

"And of course, Lukas," I said, and his face instantly lit in shock as if he wasn't expecting me to mention him, "who was the real true friend I made away from home."

For the first time in days, he smiled, and I relished in the sight of it. It really had been too long since I saw him smile.

I gestured for Fiona to retrieve the mic as the pack cheered and applauded. I thought Maxim would've seemed upset that I publicly declared that I missed Lukas, but he wasn't. Instead, he collected me in wide arms and kissed the life out of me, and Fiona concluded the night.

My gala was over. I wished it would've lasted forever, but it was almost midnight, and kids had to get to bed.

I expressed even more thanks to Fiona and Leonard, who seemed tired but satisfied with how the night turned out. Maxim was swept away by some pack members, so I excused myself in efforts to go find Lukas.

I found him outside staring at what seemed like a flower, but his eyes were distant.

"You came," I said, making my presence known.

I shocked him out of his train of thought as he quickly shifted his gaze to me. His features softened as he saw me. "Yeah. I guess I couldn't let the night end without telling you how beautiful you look."

I smiled. "Thank you. You're being modest. My make-up is ruined."

"You cried, huh?" he asked with a chuckle, and I relished the sound of it, nodding nonetheless.

"How could I not? I mean, this was all so perfect."

"I know you'd love it. I stopped by yesterday. Fiona invited me and everything, but I knew nobody really wanted me there. She was just being polite."

I frowned a bit, hating that he thought he was an outcast. "I wanted you there," I told him truthfully.

He stared at me with such intensity that for a minute, I thought he'd kiss me again. But then, as if composing himself, he looked away.

"So, how are your dreams?"

I was taken a bit off-guard by the sudden change in conversation but answered anyway. "They stopped, actually. I mean, after the Yamen, they kind of stabilised. Then I had one dream about the moon goddess before I got sick..." I didn't intend to talk about the incident, but it slipped.

Lukas hung his head this time as he stepped away from me, but I simply took a step closer again. I didn't want him to feel like he had to be away from me. We've all established that we can't be together, but I never said we couldn't be friends. I really do miss his friendship.

"So, um, after that amazing wolfsbane idea," I added, trying to lighten his mood. "I went home, and I learnt that my uncle's mate was actually an oracle. She revealed a lot of things to me."

His eyes sparkled in interest as he met mine again. "Yeah?"

"Yeah. I couldn't believe it, but I wasn't surprised, you know? She always knew things, even when they weren't obvious. And she knew a lot about the moon and our gift. So it all started making sense that day."

"That's cool," he smiled. It was a genuine smile, and I took a picture in my head for the road.

"It was, but she revealed something to me. I probably can't trust the moon goddess like I thought I could. I mean, she is still good and all, but I think she isn't being honest about the moon shard. Something is off about it. If only I had my parents."

He turned fully to me now. "What do you mean? Did she lie about something?"

I thought about it for a while before shaking my head. If oracles can't lie, then there's a high chance that the moon goddess can't either.

"She hadn't lied to me. But it's just now that I noticed that she speaks in parables. Like, when I reflect on the short time I've spent with her, I think she really is hiding something, and it has to do with the moon shard."

"Who would've known," Lukas mumbled, and I ultimately agreed.

He was relatively calm about me meeting the moon goddess and everything. I never told him, but I think he's seen enough to know that this was possible.

"Yeah. So, Toya gave me something to stop my dreams and probably keep the dragons away for a while. Can I tell you a secret?" I asked, and he nodded like an enthusiastic eight-year-old. "The recipe had her blood in it. I mean, the reason why nothing ever happened at home was that she was sort of a protective shield from the whole moon shard thing."

"So, you needed a piece of her," he concluded, and I nodded.

"I mean, it was nasty, but I had to. It works, though. Oh, and Logan found his mate, and Toya is pregnant."

"No way!" he cheered with a hearty laugh. His smile was contagious.

I nodded eagerly. "That's why he wanted to talk to me so urgently that day. And Toya, well, that was a complete surprise in itself. I'm happy for both of them."

"As you should," he chuckled. "Life for all the Alexis's are falling into place, it seems."

I smiled. "Yeah. If only I could figure out this whole moon shard thing through," I said, and he suddenly looked uncomfortable again. I read right through it. "Lukas? What is it?"

He seemed reluctant as he stared at me. "It's just um... when I went to see that oracle, he told me something about you."

I suddenly got more intrigued. "Well? What was it? Is it something that can help me?"

He shrugged. "Probably. But it's dangerous."

"Lukas, if you have any love for your pack, you will tell me because those dragons won't stay away forever."

He scratched his arm and looked anywhere but me. "Remember when the dragons attacked at the barbecue? And you did that glowing thing, and then you were passed out for like three days?" He shivered at the memory, and I nodded.

"Yeah. I remember."

"Well, according to the old man, the shard somehow gives you more power than you know, but to use it can drain your body and even kill you. It wasn't made for the use of mere mortals like us, so that's why you were out that long."

I replayed all he said in my head, trying to find the part where it helped me.

"Lukas-"

"He also told me that you have another gift. You should never use any of them because, as I said, it can kill you. But that whole glowing this was unexplained. Even he didn't know how you did that. But he told me that you were a dreamer."

I could feel my face pulling in confusion as he said this.

"A dreamer? What's that?"

"Well, basically if you know how to channel your dreams, you can reach out to anyone as long as they are sleeping too, you can dream whatever you like, go wherever you like and... reach into the unconscious world, which is sort of a door to the-"

"Afterlife," I mumbled, finishing his sentence. He nodded, but his eyes were pleading with me not to try. Why tell me then?

"Yes, but Melissa, it's dangerous. You can get lost in sleep forever or wake up not knowing who you are. Why'd you think Toya didn't tell you about that? Because I'm sure she knew."

"I'm sure she knew too," I mumbled. "But if I can find my parents, they can tell me where the shard is and tell me what to do about it."

Lukas's eyes lingered behind me for a while, and I glanced over my shoulder to see Leonardo glaring at him. When he caught my gaze, it was almost like he was a father telling me to get inside. But I ignored him politely.

"Look, just promise you'll only try this if it is vital, okay? It's too dangerous. I just... I just thought I'd let you know before-"

"Before what?" I asked, seeing his eyes getting sad. He shook his head.

"Nothing." He met my eyes again with a soft smile. "It was nice talking like this again, you

I thought about it for a while. It really was nice. I missed having him to talk to like this. It was easy with him. Almost as easy as talking to Maxim.

Silence fell between us for a while, and a sudden breeze swept over my bare arms, causing me to shiver.

"You should get back inside," Lukas said. "Or you can go to Maxim's car and wait for him there. He keeps the left backdoor open just in case there's an emergency, and he suddenly loses his keys," he told me, and we both laughed.

That sounded like Maxim indeed.

"Okay. I guess I'll see you at home?"

He smiled, but it didn't reach his eyes. "You will."

I smiled at him swiftly before turning to leave. I could feel his gaze on my back, and I had the sudden urge to tell him what I'd been dying to for days. So, I swerved around and met his stormy eyes again.

"And Lukas?"

"Yeah?"

"I forgive you," I said, and I could literally see him getting ten years younger with my simple words. He smiled this time genuinely as he waved.

I smiled to myself as I ventured away to find my mate. Of course, things wouldn't get back to normal right away, but at least this was a start.



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