

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 36 - Tips

I don't want to stop. I love the taste of our kisses, how we take it slow but deep. The way Nate always caresses my skin, my hair. He makes me feel different. Like something is blooming inside, something so fragile I had kept it hidden until now. It's a warm and cozy feeling, yet it makes me feel like I'm on edge. On the edge of a precipice.

I interrupt our kisses, and our eyes meet, dangerously close. I can still feel his lingering taste on my lips. This is scary. A part of my heart that I had kept in ice is warming up, and I can't control it. So scary.

I want to step back, regain my senses, but Nate suddenly grabs my waist, pulling me against him, and kiss me again, more forcefully this time. He doesn't want to stop. His tongue is insistent against mine, and his lips won't let me get away. One of his hands is on my ass, fondling me over the thin layer of my legging, keeping me close. He grabs my hair like this when he's entranced...

Inevitably, I answer his kiss, completely surrendering to him. Before I know it, he is sitting on the couch, I'm on top of him, my hands on his shoulders. Moon Goddess, this is so perfect... The strange lighting of the rain and the slow jazz music make it more romantic than usual. It's endless, sweet, and delightful. Nate's hands on me, caressing me, getting rid of all my barriers one by one. How do I resist this? I just want to get lost in that moment, forget anything else and kiss him forever. It's not about sex, it's about us. About that man who has been driving me crazy, making me lower my defenses day after day. I feel good when I'm with Nate. I feel safe, confident, happy.

"Elena?"

He stares at me, a bit confused. I'm shaking.

Damn, I can't control it. I get off his lap, trying to calm down. Nathaniel looks worried, he grabs the blanket to cover me with it and waits, rubbing my arms gently.

"Are you ok?"

Stop being so kind and gentle. You make me crazy.

I nod, catching my breath.

“Sorry... Just give me a minute.”

“Okay.”

He gets up to fill my cup of lemon tea again, and I sigh. I’m slowly calming down. What a mess... When he comes back, I’m breathing a bit better. I take the cup to drink a bit, and Nate waits patiently for me, sitting close.

“...Sorry about that.”

“It’s fine, but... Elena, what was that?”

“Nothing.”

“Nothing? That looked like some small panic attack for me. Did I do this?”

“What? No! It was not a panic attack, Nate.”

“Then, what was it?”

I sigh and shake my head. Why does he have to be so curious now?

“I was just a bit overwhelmed for a second. I don’t... I’m not used to that kind of things anymore.”

He frowns.

“K!ssing? I’m pretty sure we do that quite often.”

“No, i***t. Being so... Cared for. I mean, I have Danny, but he’s family to me. And you... You fvcking*g scare me, Nate. I don’t get why you’re so nice, so caring. Even as se.x friends, you disarm me in a way that’s past what I can handle.”

“What does that mean? I can’t be nice to you?”

“This isn’t about being nice, Nate! You’re not just nice, you... You show me you care for me, and...”

“Why is my caring for you so frightening to you?” He suddenly interrupts me. “Yes, I like you a lot, and yes, maybe I overstepped a bit by coming here. But you don’t have to backup or freak out because of that, Elena. I’m just doing

what I want. I'm not going to lie, and I'm selfish as fvck. If I want to come here and be with you, I'll do it."

I shake my head again. Without me even noticing, he took my hand, and he's rubbing me gently with his thumb.

"Nate, I can't. I can't be selfish like you, and I can't act as I please. I am so fvcking*g scared of making my past mistakes again... I don't want to be hurt. I don't want to go what I went through again."

"Elena, look at me."

He gently raises my chin to have me look at him, at his face dangerously up close.

"First, I am not going to hurt you ever. I'll play by your rules and respect your wishes. If you tell me to come, I'll come. If you ask me to back up, I will. I won't be a mistake, or whatever a.ssh0le you're thinking about. This is different. I won't be your boyfriend, or marry you, or give you children. I am not that type of man, so you can relax. Take it easy."

I slowly take in his words. He is right. From the start, I knew what this was going to be. A relationship without any promises nor commitment, only that one rule not to fall in love with the other. I don't know if I should be relieved or just sad. I just find it... Hard and straining. I have to keep in check my feelings for Nate.

I nod, helpless. What can I say? I'm an emotional mess, maybe because of my period. But he smiles gently.

"Really not your day, today, hm?"

I sigh and rest my head on his shoulder, closing my eyes. He's probably right. I just needed something to whine about, and some comfort. Nate rubs my back and hugs me, and for a few minutes, we stay like this, with him gently caressing my hair.

"...Do you like cold pizza?"

I chuckle. That i***t. When I raise my head up again, I'm feeling a lot better. Pouring a bit of my heart out to Nate did me some good. He gives me a quick k!ss on my forehead, and I feel everything is fine.

Alright, time to eat that pizza...

We share it, with comments like we are culinary experts. Well, Nate plays the part better than I do, I'm just stuffing myself. But Moon Goddess, that pizza asked for it, it's delicious! I gulp it down, slice after slice, barely leaving any for him.

"The Baby dinosaur is back!" He laughs at me.

"Shut up, I haven't eaten in almost two days."

"What?"

"Well, Danny is away, and I hate cooking, so..."

He rolls his eyes.

"I'm pretty sure I saw a microwave oven and a freezer in that kitchen, Elena. Even you should be able to use those..."

"Well, I usually do, but my cramps were kllling me..."

He sighs.

"I can't believe you."

"Stop making fun of my poor culinary skllls."

"Non-existent, you mean."

I growl at him, a bit annoyed. He is having way to much fun mocking me! I grab another slice of my delicious pizza. Damn, even that cheese is so much better than the one I usually buy! I can't stop eating, but I don't care. My cramps are reduced to a minimum, and my stomach is being very demanding.

"Alright, tell me how you got so good at this. Even chores, you cleaned the whole place in only one hour!"

Which is both annoying and embarrassing, if I am honest. Nathaniel shrugs and grabs his coffee, leaning on the couch. I put my feet on his lap, ready to listen.

“I used to do the chores for my brothers when we were younger. Our dad was a good for nothing at home, leaving us on our own. Damian worked himself to the bone, and Liam was too young, so... I started doing most of the chores naturally when our mother fell ill. It was my way of helping Damian, and I liked it. It kept me from thinking of most annoying things or worrying. I just had to focus on cleaning, washing, etc. It was simple. And I liked cooking from the start anyway. My mom used to teach me when I was a kid. She loved it, with her French roots.”

“You have french roots?”

Now that I think about it, I did notice he had no problem pronouncing some of those fancy words from the menus. He nods.

“From mom, yeah. She was born and raised in the south of France before she came here to study. She taught us.”

“So you do speak french?”

“Evidemment.”

I smile, amused. Damn, now he even speaks french, that is so damn se.xy. I look around, wondering what I can ask.

“Alright, teach me some french! I mean, I know the basics, bonjour, merci, bon appet!t...”

“That’s a good start, mademoiselle Whitewood.”

“How do you say... I’m hungry?”

“J’ai faim.”

“I want to eat some pizza?”

“Je veux manger de la pizza.”

I chuckle, amused. I’m pretty sure I won’t remember any of this, but hearing Nate speak french is so damn cute! I look around, and my eyes end up on my slice.

“How do you say chicken?”

“Poulet.”

“Mushrooms?”

“Champignons.”

“Cham...Champignons? That one is funny! Cheese is fromage, right?”

I remember that from one of his restaurant’s menu. He nods, amused to see me so excited.

“How do you say, Moon?” I ask.

“La Lune.”

“I like that...”

“Sun is Soleil, and Stars are called Etoiles...” He continues.

I like that one too. Alright, maybe I’ll make an effort to remember some of those. Nathaniel drinks a new cup of coffee.

“What about you?”

“I just know a bit of Spanish... And Danny likes K-pop and cheesy Korean series, so I know a couple of words too.”

“Kpop?” He says, frowning.

“Probably not your style, M. Black!”

I grab my phone and connect the Bluetooth, looking for one song. Nate frowns when some really girly and bubbly song suddenly comes out. His reaction is so funny; I laugh a bit. I decide to spare his poor ears and put a more soothing one.

“I like this one on rainy days,” I explain.

“...I like it too. Better than the previous one, that’s for sure. What’s it called?”

“You, Clouds, Rain by Heize.”

He nods, and we listen to the piano and the singer's voice for a while. Nathaniel seems to really like it. I see him check something on his phone.

"Oh... I didn't expect the lyrics to be so sad."

"Really? I think Danny told me it was about love."

"More like a break-up," says Nate. "For the first time in a while, I thought about you today. I deliberately look for a song we listened to together. My heart says it's okay to be sad or depressed today. It doesn't matter anyway, when this night is over. I'll forget you again and live like that for a while, and you'll only live on in my heart..."

I listen to him reading the translated lyrics, and I have to agree. Quite sad, and a bit melancholic too. He gets absorbed in the reading for a while until I decide to interrupt him.

"You've had one? A sad break-up like this?" I ask.

I don't know where I get the courage to ask that question, I just blurted it out. Because I wanted to know. He never really gave me a reason for his "no-love" rule...

"More like a heartbreak... My first love, I was only seventeen. She was a few years older."

"Oh? One of your teacher or something? Teenage crush?"

"No... My fated mate."

I almost drop my cup.

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I feel my heart tightens, and my breathing stops for a couple of seconds.

His fated mate. So, Nate had... a fated mate. A real one. That sentence alone is kind of hard to swallow. Something inside me resonates a bit.

Finding our fated mate is like a one in a thousand, no maybe even a one in a million chance. Most werewolves can only dream about it, and a lot of us spend our whole lives looking for it, hoping to find that one person we should

spend our lifetime with... We are told, when still pups, that our fated mate is someone the Moon Goddess chooses for us, that one individual who is our complete match. A singular connection that can't be misunderstood. The few fated mates couples I actually know are perfect for each other. Couples that can fight like any other sometimes, but feel like the two pieces of the same mold. I dreamt of it too, like everyone.

But I never thought that Nate would have found his... And lost her.

I feel a bit uneasy, now, asking about this. Isn't it awkward? But Nate keeps talking without warning.

"It's an old story, Elena. She was older, and already engaged to someone else... She recognized our bond, of course, but she wasn't really interested. Her husband-to-be was loaded, and I was just... A nobody, with a crazy Alpha father, a complicated life and two siblings to watch over."

"You mean she... Rejected you?"

"Yes," he nods.

I can't believe it... Who would be stupid enough to reject their fated mate! And someone like Nathaniel, to boot!

"Seriously!" I yell, annoyed. "She rejected her own fated mate, who would be selfish enough to value money or whatever over that!"

"Elena, calm down. She had valid reasons, to be honest, and I don't blame her."

I'm so angry with him! How can he be so calm about this! I hate that woman to the core already. Am I blinded by something else? Probably, but you won't hear me say it, no way. I can't believe someone would willingly reject their own fated mate, it's like our most sacred bond after the one we have with the Moon Goddess!

"Is she still there?" I ask a bit abruptly.

Nate seems surprised by my question.

“She... No, not that I know of. My brother banished her from our territories... I have no idea where she is nowadays. Last time I saw her, it was years ago, after we took over the Blood Moon Clan.”

I clench my fist. Moon Goddess, if I meet that woman, I have no idea what I'll do to her. How could she reject Nate!

“Hey, Elena.”

I turn to him, unable to hide my anger. He sighs.

“Stop with that grumpy face. I told you, it's history.”

“Is it because of her? Your no love rule?”

He hesitates for a second before he answers.

“Mostly, yes. But not only...”

I growl, still annoyed. And I'm even more annoyed that he seems forgiving of that woman.

“Elena, don't sulk.”

“I'm not sulking.”

“Yes, you are.”

I sigh. He's right, I really need to work on controlling my emotions a bit more... I'm so petty sometimes, I have to admit. I roll my eyes.

“Okay, I'm not angry. Let's change subjects?”

“With pleasure.”

Indeed, in an attempt to help me change my mood, Nathaniel goes on to teach me some more French. It's amusing, but I really can't tell how much I will be able to remember by tomorrow.

We keep discussing, and I keep eating pizza, until late at night. I'm not so tired, so I eventually end up lazily laying down on the couch, watching tv blankly. Nathaniel is on his computer again, probably catching up some work. My feet are on his lap, and he sometimes caresses my leg without thinking.

We stay silent for a while, only the downpour on the background. We lit up a few candles earlier, so now the room smells like citrus.

I'm finally starting to feel a bit better.

"Elena?"

"Hm?"

"What if I financed it?"

I frown. What is he talking about? He puts down his computer to face me, one of his hands on my leg.

"Your Music Café. What if I financed it?"

"Nate, I don't get what you're talking about."

We talked about my idea a few times before, and I know Nathaniel's always acted interested in it. He asked many questions and raised issues I hadn't thought about before while making plans on my own. But I don't get why he's suddenly bringing this up again?

"Look, the idea is good. All you would need are funds and some professional advice. I can give you both. Isn't it what you want?"

I sit up. What's with him now?

"Nate, you know this is my own dream."

"I know, I'm just saying..."

"My own dream means I want to be able to do it on my own. Without using someone else's money, or connections."

He stays silent for a second. Nate looks a bit shocked by my words, but I have to be resolute about this. I know his life is different. He isn't limited by money problems or pack issues. But that doesn't mean he can't understand that I am. I sit up and take a deep breath. After everything he's said before, I do have to give in a bit to him too.

"Nate, I appreciate what you're trying to do, but that's a no."

“Elena, I don’t get it. I’m giving you a chance to realize your dream and...”

“It’s not a chance, Nate. For me, it’s as if I cheated. Even if you really believe in it, it’s not right for me to do this. From the start, this Music Café has been a goal of mine, something I want to work hard for and earn by myself. If I accept your money, I’ll be taking a shortcut and betraying the person I want to be.”

He is still frowning, and I know he understands what I’m trying to say.

“Nathaniel, even if I had all that money right now, it might not be the right time. It’s... Complicated with my pack, I have to resume my classes next week, and there’s the matter with my Dad too.”

He suddenly raises his head, surprised. Of course.

“You never told me about your family. Aside from your adoption...”

“I know. It’s just that there isn’t much to say... My mom died in a car accident, almost two years ago now. And my Dad has been in a coma after that same accident.”

“...I’m sorry.”

I shake my head. I don’t feel like I can handle any pity right now.

“...Were you there? In the car?”

“No... I had just moved in with Danny, they were coming to see me. They were super late, and my mom was never late, so I figured something was wrong. They weren’t answering our calls or our inner wolves. I called half of our Opale Moon pack to help look for them...”

I sigh. I still remember the sight of their wrecked vehicle, in that ravine. The horror when I realized what had happened...

We were supposed to celebrate so many things that night. my moving in with Danny, his scholarship, Mom’s new job... And my freedom, at long last.

Instead of letting the sorrow come in, I shake my head and drink a bit of tea. I force myself to smile, even with that bitter taste behind it.

“It’s okay, Nate. But... Please, understand I can’t tell you yes for now. I have so many reasons not to. Moreover, I’m not even sure I could accept so much money from a... friend.”

I almost said se.x friend, but that would have been a bit weird in that situation, right? Damn, our relationship is getting stranger day by day. Worst thing is I don’t hate it...

“Alright, I understand. Maybe I compared your situation to mine a bit too much...”

“What do you mean?”

“When I was younger, I wanted to have my own restaurant, too... From when our father still was there. Every day was such a struggle...”

I listen to Nate, a bit surprised. He never said much about their childhood... All I know is from my memories of those years before they overtook their father’s place and changed a lot of things around. It was as if an age of fear had passed. The Black Moon became the Blood Moon, and as if their name was cursed, they inherited the King’s spot and the fear he had spread among the packs.

“Damian worked himself to the bone so we could eat. I had to take care of the house and we both made sure Liam kept going to school. We lived in the fear of our father, even more so than the other packs. If anyone else was scared of seeing him, imagine what it was for us to live with that monster.”

“So you... All three of you hated him?”

“To the core. There isn’t one of us he hasn’t beaten. He sent me twice to the hospital, and almost killed Damian so many times... We barely kept Liam safe. Yet he was still injured a few times too. Trust me Elena, that man, no one regrets him. We are nothing, nothing like our father.”

I silently nod. This is the first time I’m seeing Nate with such a dark expression on his face. For a while, he stays lost in his thoughts, in memories probably too dark to imagine. I spent my childhood looking for who am I, while Nate spent his trying to escape who he was...

“I always dreamt of that day we would be rich, free of any worry. Truth is, as you grow up, you realize how far you’ve come but also how it never ends.”

Like, you can have money, a bed, a job, stability, there is always something... Something missing.”

He says that while looking at me as if he was reading my soul. It’s a bit hard to breathe. Is it because I feel the same? This little piece of emptiness inside, that missing piece I’m so desperately looking for...

We stare at each other for a few seconds, before I can’t hold it anymore. I climb on his lap, straddling him, my hands around his neck, and I k!ss him. Nate is a bit surprised at first, but as usual, he answers my k!ss. Deeply, passionately. Like a piece of music we both know too well, so synchronized and entrancing. The taste of his !!ps is my personal d**g, and more addicting every time I get a taste.

Elena!

The familiar headache takes me by surprise. My wolf growls, annoyed by the interruption. I’m annoyed too, and can’t help but answer a bit angrily.

What, Levi?

You’re not going to like it. Go to the Alpha’s house. Right now.

What? Why?

He’s fighting with Reagan, it’s nasty.

Holy crap. I get off of Nate’s lap, trying to focus.

What the hell! Why?

Your ex. He’s been sp0tted, in the west! Diego is coming back, Elena.

...Oh sh!t.

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“You have to go. Now.”

I watch Elena, all agitated, storming to her bedroom to grab a pair of sneakers. Why did she get so panicked all of a sudden? I figured she was mind-linking just seconds ago, but what the hell is going on?

“Elena, what is it? Are you ok?”

“No, Nate, I’m not ok and I really, really have to go,” she says while grabbing her stuff.

“What’s going on?”

“I’m sorry, Nate, I can’t tell you. It’s complicated, it’s a... a pack issue and... sh!t, where the hell are my keys!”

“On the kitchen counter. But seriously, Elena, explain to me!” I insist, completely lost.

But she stays silent, and uses her breath to run in the house, grabbing her keys, a backpack, putting her shoes and a raincoat on, grabbing her phone. When she looks ready to run a damn marathon, she finally turns to me, out of breath. She walks up to me.

“Nate, I’m very happy you came to comfort me, and I spent a great day with you. I really did. Oh, and I loved the pizza, too. But now, I really have to go and you too, please.”

“You’ll explain later?” I asked while grabbing my laptop and backpack.

“What? Yes, I mean, no. Well, maybe. I don’t know for now. Anyway, Nate, please!”

“Ok, Ok. Just go, Elena, I’ll lock it after myself.”

“All right. Thanks.”

To my surprise, she gives me a quick kiss and literally runs out of the room. From the window, I see her running in the street, despite the rainstorm. She is going to get sick again, for Moon Goddess’ sake! I stay there, feeling stupid. Great. And everything was fine just a second ago... What happened?

Is there really something wrong with her pack? Maybe I should warn Damian... No, it’s not our business, and I shouldn’t even be here, to begin with. If something big were going on, our wolves would notice anyway. But, I can’t help but wonder. Why didn’t she want to tell me? Elena is always so secretive. Sometimes, it makes me crazy. Because I want to know when I know I shouldn’t.

I stay alone in that apartment, feeling like an i***t. I decide to put away the leftovers of the pizza and clean the dishes. An old habit. I may be a bit of a clean freak after all. Once I'm done, the place seems awfully quiet. The TV turned off, and the rain still pouring outside. Is she at her Alpha's home yet? I take a look around, a bit lost. It's a bit late already...

I start gathering my things, just leaving her the leftover ingredients in her fridge. Maybe I'll come here again sometime. Who knows. When I'm about to leave, my eyes fall on Elena's room door. She left it open...

I hesitate a bit. That one and Daniel's room are the only ones I didn't get in. She probably wouldn't want me to... Especially when she's not there. Damn, I said I wouldn't be curious, and I really shouldn't do that. It's her private life...

I push the door gently, and it opens without resistance. Doesn't she have any lock on her bedroom door? Seriously... I know her best friend's gay, but still. For some reason, I walk in as silently as possible. Her whole room is decorated in vibrant, warm colors. Oranges and pink shades, mostly. I didn't expect it to be on the feminine side. As expected, it's a bit of a mess, though. There are a few clothes scattered on the floor, her bed is undone. Her desk is messy too, with her study books unevenly ordered and papers all over the place. Though you can tell she works hard, there are notes and sticky notes everywhere.

I approach one of her walls, covered in photographs. I can see landscapes or colored streets for the most part. They look like amateur photography... Is that hers? I don't think I've heard her mention she liked photography. The others are friends and family pictures. An older couple, those people must be her parents. A lot are with Daniel, but it doesn't seem like she has many other friends. The most recent photography is from a Christmas, but she's with a big family. Probably Daniel's...

Then I see it. In a heart-shaped frame, a weird picture in black and white... An ultrasound picture? Is that little bean shape... A baby? I stay there, in awe. This couldn't be Elena herself, it's dated from five years ago. She was already sixteen or seventeen. But then...

I ride my bike back to my place, a bit shaken. More than I thought.

Did Elena really have a child? Was it her ex's? What happened to it then? Could it be she didn't keep it? Or... Is it related to those bad memories she

doesn't want to admit? But... She always mentioned the worst part of her life was two years ago, not five. Did she stay with her ex until that time, then?

Once I get home, my phone vibrates immediately. I take a peek at the number before answering. Of course. It's as if he knew I was back...

"Hi, Isaac."

"Midnight. You disappear all day and only now do you get home? Seriously, Nate?"

"Relax, I didn't miss anything, did I? Even I deserve a day off once in a while."

"A day off? Are you kidding me! Narcissa's been cursing at you and hara.ssing me all day! At least gives us a hint a few days ahead, not on the sp0t, you selfish prick!"

I sigh. I expected as much from Isaac. When was he not going to scold me for disappearing? I grab a cigarette and head to my balcony. Taking a long-awaited smoke, I listen to Isaac's rant for a couple of minutes. I know he's probably exaggerating a bit. It's not like the managers are entirely useless without me.

"You better call them first thing tomorrow morning!"

"I will, I will," I sigh.

"Where were you anyway? Looking for Liam?"

"Liam? Don't tell me that i***t is missing again?"

That little punk really can't stay in one place! Does he really have to go wild every time? And he should resume school soon too!

"Not anymore, Sean sp0tted him later this afternoon. We didn't even tell the Boss since he was only gone for a few hours. But where were you then? I asked around, no one saw you all day!"

"I was..."

Should I tell him the truth? I don't know if I can trust that chatterbox... Especially after he informed Damian about my relationship with Elena. Moreover, I'm in such a complicated situation with her now...

Complicated? Why did I think that? Since when has it become complicated...

"Nate?"

"I was just around, patrolling."

I'm such an i***t. I could have found any better excuse! Anything but a stupid patrol, at least. Isaac scoffs at the other end of the line. Of course, he didn't buy it.

"You? Patrolling? Who are you kidding, Nate? We have enough newbies taking care of the patrolling, you haven't taken a step of our grounds in years!"

"You forget my outing to the White Moon?"

"Oh, right. If it's for chasing skirts, you will go out... Sure, sure..."

I roll my eyes. Isaac isn't actually wrong, but still...

"Enough, Isaac."

"Then, where? Somewhere you can't tell me? You wouldn't have gone to another territory, hm?"

"No... Of course not."

A quiet silence follows. Did he believe me?

"You bastard! Shameless dog! Dog poop! You dare lie to my face!"

He screamed so loud, and suddenly, I almost dropped the phone. That crazy!

"What the hell? And dog poop? How old are you!"

"You dare lie to me! You were seen riding to the White Moon territory! You think a lot of us earn that kind of motorbike! I can't believe you would lie to your best friend! You heartless prick!"

I sigh... So he knew and tricked me. Damn Isaac. Sometimes I forget how much of a trickster that big mouth can be. He is going to be mad now, and it's going to last a while. He's even worse when he's angry. I'm in trouble...

"Isaac..."

“Don’t even try it! Seriously, Nate? All those risks for a pair of pretty eyes? Are you crazy? You must have gone crazy, right? Do you know how worried I was! All that for a woman! The White Moon territory is not just some cheapskate! What if they got mad, huh? Has someone seen you? I hope nobody did! Do you know the consequences if they did? A Black brother intruding another pack’s territory! And the Boss, did you think five seconds about what the Boss would say? Huh? I don’t want to cover your a*s! Do you ever think about my position?”

I put the phone down, letting him rant. It can last a while when Isaac’s contraried. He goes off complaining about being my Beta. What a joke... He can do well even when I’m not there, yet he goes off to complain so much.

After a while, he finally gets tired enough so I can place a sentence in.

“Alright, Isaac... I get it. You didn’t rat me out to Damian, did you?”

“Are you nuts? I don’t want to die! Whose head do you think is going off first if you go missing too, huh? I told them to stay quiet unless you didn’t come back. Anyway, the White Moon seemed too busy to take care of you.”

“What do you mean?”

“How would I know? They gathered a while ago with the Opale Moon, must be something big. Some of their scouts were sent out to the west too.”

Is this related to Elena’s strange behavior? Did something happen there she needed to take care of? I may have to investigate this myself later too.

“ Why do you care, anyway? Seriously, Nate, you should stop seeing that woman.”

I frown. I thought Isaac had given up on that topic a while ago... He didn’t question anything the last times, despite knowing I was seeing her multiples times. How could he not know? Everyone is aware of Isaac being my second, it’s hard for me to hide anything from him. An Opale Moon she-wolf coming in and out of our territory definitely reached his ears at some point, and he didn’t do a thing.

“Where is this coming from, Isaac?”

I don't like this serious tone coming from him. He seems to hesitate for a while. What is he all fidgety for?

"Listen, Nate... I know you were against it, but I did some research on your girl."

I cough. He's got to be fvcking*g kidding me!

"I'm pretty sure I told you not to, Isaac!" I growl, angry for real that time.

"I know, I know... But the Boss asked me to."

fvck, Damian! I didn't suspect my brother would go against my back and look into Elena's affairs! What now?

"Damian didn't care about who I was seeing. Neither did you, as I recall."

"You know how overprotective he is with you and Liam... He just asked me to do the basic background check, all right? But something bad popped up, Nate. You better stop seeing that girl now."

I sigh.

"Drop it, Isaac. I already know she's a potential heir to the White Moon Clan's Alpha. She..."

"You think Damian would give a sh!t about that? Your girl has a fvcking*g criminal record, Nathaniel."

I drop my cigarette, stunned. What the hell...?

"Yeah. I'm not kidding, man. Elena Whitewood. She spent two years in jail for trying to k!!! someone, Nate! That girl might be some psycho!"

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 39 - Tips

When I finally reach the Whitewood mansion, I'm soaked. I couldn't care less! All I keep thinking are Levi's words. Anyway, he said he would meet me there and indeed, he's the one to open the door. To think I have to wait for someone to invite me in my uncle's house...

I can already hear people shooting and yelling. Damn, old Reagan is really furious. I follow Levi to the main room, only to see her at Xavier's throat, with three poor wolves trying to take them apart.

"You little son of a dog! Do you think you can mess with me? Brat! I was already a fighter you were still crying on your mother's lap! You shameless dog! You don't even deserve to be called an Alpha!"

"Reagan!" I call her, trying to take her away from my uncle, but she won't release her grip. Iris and Chris run to me immediately.

"Elena! Where were you! They already started fighting a while ago..." Says Iris, a bit alarmed.

"They said Diego was spotted! In the west! Did you know about this?" Asks Chris.

"How would I know!" I reply to the two of them, annoyed.

Why should I be aware of all this! I didn't ask for it! I walk past my cousins to try and get in between Reagan and my uncle again. This time, with Levi's help, we can finally pull them apart, and I have to use all my strength to contain my mentor, who is yelling her lungs out.

"You watch it, Xavier! Someone's going to have your head someday and that might be me, you son of a dog!"

"Watch it, Reagan! You might be tolerated on our grounds but that won't be the case for long if you..."

"If I what, huh? What will you do, you little mutt! You think you're bigger than Clark? Than Sam?"

Damn, she said it. My Dad's name, to my uncle's face. Xavier's face turns from an angry red to dark purple, which is definitely not any better... He starts vociferating a long list of insults, under everyone's horrified eyes. But Reagan is just laughing at him.

"Go ahead, insult me all you want! Little mutt!"

"ENOUGH!"

This time, everyone shut up. My order resonated loudly in the room, and everyone's eyes are on me, with shocked expressions. Only Chris whistles a little in admiration, but I don't have time for my cousin's childishness right now. I glare at Reagan.

Shut it now, old hag.

She doesn't reply back, just snorting. I turn to my uncle, who is pissed I gave him an order, and that he actually obeyed. But unfortunately for him, I am the stronger Alpha in the Room, and we both know that.

"Is it true? He's back?"

"That is not for you to..."

"ANSWER ME!"

He steps back, with a sullen look. I'm serious, and I'll keep insisting for as long as it takes, whether he likes it or not. Xavier growls in warning, but I growl too. My wolf is just as pissed as I am, and we want an answer. After a while, my uncle's wolf finally backs up a little, surrendering.

"Yes... He was spotted. In the west."

"Why the hell is he back?" I ask, still growling.

"Isn't it obvious? It's almost time. He's making it obvious he will come back as soon as his banishment order is lifted."

I clench my fist, hard.

"You said he wouldn't come back."

"I know what I said. But the ban was five years, Elena. Those five years are coming to an end, and if Diego comes back, I won't stop him."

"That guy is a fvcking*g murderer!" I yell

Xavier glares at me.

"Who is a murderer, Elena? You think we forgot just because you missed?"

I stay there, in shock. Is that really what my uncle thinks? I turn to my cousins, but Chris is looking down, embarrassed, and Iris isn't saying anything. I can't believe it... But someone puts a hand on my shoulder.

"Elena was pardoned long ago and you all know that. She did her sentence and earned forgiveness. You know it wasn't easy for anyone, Xavier."

I give a little thank you to Levi. Daniel's big brother smiles at me.

You know I got your back, princess.

"Levi, this is none of your business," growls Xavier.

But Levi isn't afraid to growl back. Their wolves are showing their fangs for a while, and I wonder how Levi is not afraid to stand up to my uncle. He's only a Beta, while my uncle is an Alpha. It's only his protective instincts kicking in.

"Enough, both of you!"

I turn around. Clark just entered the room, visibly angry too. Following right behind him, Isabella growls at Levi.

"Don't growl after an Alpha! Who allowed you to do that, Levi!"

But he only stops growling, not glaring at Xavier, staying beside me. Now, Clark is the one furious at my uncle.

"And you! Can't you control your own pack! Why do I have to come all the way here for! In this sh!tty weather and at this late hour, too! What the hell, Xavier!"

"Say that to that old wench! She's the one who came to defy me in the first place!" Growls my uncle, glaring at my mentor.

Actually, Reagan doesn't even bother answering him, choosing to turn to my Godfather instead. I've never seen anyone able to glare so long at Clark without flinching. But as expected, Reagan is an Omega, she is not as sensitive to his Alpha aura as regular wolves.

"Seriously, Clark? A five-year ban? That is all you could do?"

For the first time, the Alpha seems a bit embarrassed. He sighs, contraried.

"It's not like I had much choice, Reagan. No matter what, Elena was..."

“She was right to do whatever the hell she had to! Are you fvcking*g kidding me, Clark? What is wrong with you Alphas these days! If this kind of mess had happened in my time, that guy would have been fvcking*g kllled right there and then!”

“Reagan, enough! You think that was an easy decision for me?” Pleads Clark, annoyed.

But my mentor only looks angrier.

“Hell yeah, I think it was! You took the easiest path for you and did whatever the hell those idiots asked you to! A five-year ban, Clark! This is nothing! What happened to you to allow such things!”

“I protected Elena!”

“Don’t fvcking*g tell me you protected her!” Yells Reagan. “You weren’t there, no one was! She was fvcking*g sixteen, Clark! And where were you! Where was Sam!”

“Reagan, enough. Please,” I ask.

I’m not asking for Clark, but for myself. I don’t want to hear this. Not again. Reagan’s anger is only making things worse. I sigh, push my we.t hair away, and turn to Clark to ask him very seriously.

“Can’t you do something about it?”

My godfather looks at me with a very sorry expression. I can see the guilt on his face, and I feel my heart sink. He shakes his head slowly.

“I’m sorry, Elena...”

fvck.

I turn around and leave the house despite Levi and Chris calling my name. I don’t want any of them to hold me back. As soon as I step out, Reagan and Xavier yell again, but I just don’t care anymore. I keep running, faster and faster until I shapeshift in a jump.

Running in my wolf form doesn’t make anything any painless. I’m just faster. I keep running, across the familiar streets, looking for somewhere to go. I don’t even know where to go. Not west, definitely not west.

I took the north's direction without thinking. I just want to be alone and cry my sorrow away. My steps naturally take me to our northern border, in the wild forest, where no one goes at this hour under such a downpour. I hear people calling me, trying to mind-link me, but I shut the voices down. I don't wanna hear or listen to anyone now.

I find a large tree to crawl under, and curl up around some roots.

I finally let myself cry. It's not a few tears, I'm fvcking*g bawling out like a kid. I can't remember the last time I cried so much. My tears melt with the rain, but I can only hear my wolf's sorrow. I'm mad at the whole world right now.

It's not fair. This is all so fvcking*g unfair. Why do I have to go through all this sh!t? After everything I already went through! Haven't I paid enough of my mistakes? I can't handle one more time. I just can't. I don't want to let that nightmare happen again.

I freeze when I feel a wolf close. fvck, it better not be...

Hey, Babe.

The tawny wolf has to dig a little to take the small sp0t next to me. Thankfully, Danny is a little smaller than me. He crawls all the way to me, ruining his fur with the mud. My best friend green eyes finally meet mine, and I feel even more tears coming.

It's okay, babe. Just go for it.

I let my tears flow, and Danny rubs his head against me, trying to comfort me. Damn, thank Moon Goddess it's him... Danny is probably the only person I'm willing to see right now.

I spend a long time crying, letting my feelings out without restraint. It's like I've been holding it in way too long.

Danny...

I know. Levi called me...

What are you doing here? What about your seminar?

Are you kidding me? Who gives a sh!t about that stupid seminar! My Babe needs me, I ran here!

Gosh, Danny. I love you.

I know. But I'm taken, you know. And a bit too gay.

...Idiot.

Yeah, yeah, love you too.

We stay like this for a while, two wolves curled up against one another. I don't want to talk and I don't care about the rain drenching us. I just keep crying silently. Danny's head resting on mine.

Elena...

I growl a bit. I don't want to talk. But of course, Danny ignores me.

We need to think of a plan, Babe.

I growl again. What plan? Aside from k!lling Diego, I can't think of anything satisfying...

What if you stayed with him? With Black, on his territory?

Are you nuts, Danny? On the Velvet Moon's? You can't be serious...

I am dead serious, Babe. I know it's not our turfs, but anything is better than having you anywhere near Diego.

Nate has no idea, Danny.

Tell me he wouldn't agree.

I think for a second. A few days back, I probably would have said there is no way he would. But after today... I mean, yesterday now, since it's probably way past midnight. Would Nate actually agree to it? I can't believe I'm even considering the idea!

Elena, think about it, babe. Even that crazy-a.ss Diego wouldn't dare to chase you all the way to the Velvet Moon's territory. If you go anywhere else, he wouldn't think about it twice, but this is the King's turf.

The King doesn't even know that I exist, Daniel!

That he doesn't need to know. Seriously, Elena. If Black hides you, you can stay away from Diego and his sh!t.

Then what, Danny? I stay trapped forever there? It's not my turf, and why should I be the one to hide!

Babe, I know it's not easy. I know Diego should have paid much more for what he did, but...

I was the one who lost and paid the most, Danny! That son of a b***h just got away with a fvcking*g ban after what he did! After kllling my baby!

Daniel stays silent for a while but sighs eventually.

I know, Babe. I know all that. But right now, I want to protect you. And the only one who can do that is Nathaniel Black.

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 40 - Tips

Sipping my coffee, I still think this is the sh!tتيest idea ever. Daniel spent half of last night trying to convince me before we both fell asleep, exhausted. And he's at it again this morning. The only difference is that while I was away and busy with the training, he brought reinforcements.

Caught in between us and standing in the kitchen, Bobo is looking at me, a bit surprised and confused after we explained a lot of things he probably didn't want to know in the first place.

“So... The man you were seeing...”

“Was Nathaniel Black,” I sigh, repeating myself.

That's right. Boyan didn't know anything about my relationship until now. For starters, Daniel and I had agreed it would be best to keep his boyfriend out of it, especially since their own relationship was already complicated enough. Moreover, we thought it would probably be better for him not to know his boyfriend's flatmate was having se.x regularly with his Alpha's little brother. Who also happened to be his Boss, somehow.

But now, the poor guy is totally at lost, trying to bring the pieces together.

“And you want to stay on the Velvet Moon’s territory because your... Ex-boyfriend is returning here?”

“No, that’s Daniel idea, but yes.”

“Daniel, who has very great life-saving ideas,” adds my best friend, humble as usual.

I ignore him. Boyan is frowning, his eyes on his huge cup of coffee. I thought he would side on Daniel’s side right away, but I might have been wrong on this one. After a while, he raises his head to look at me.

“What’s the deal with your ex-boyfriend? For you to elude him?” He asks.

I don’t know how to answer that... I leave the barstool to go on the couch, a bit annoyed. That’s why I didn’t want to involve Bobo... From behind the kitchen counter, Daniel explains first.

“He is a bastard, good-for-nothing asshole. About everything’s wrong with him, Baby bear, that’s all you have to know.”

Baby Bear? Damn, Danny as used almost every existing cheesy pet name by now. At least he’s moved on from Pumpkin or Sugar...

Boyan glances at me, a bit confused.

“I don’t wanna talk about him, Bobo. The guy’s a mythic jerk, that’s all you have to know, okay? I don’t want to see him again, ever.”

“Okay, but can’t you just ignore him?” Asks Bobo.

I shake my head at the same time as Danny.

“No, Baby Bear. That dirtbag will definitely come after Elena. It’s already a miracle that he respected his five-year ban, trust me.”

You don’t want to tell Boyan about the baby?

Hell no, Danny.

Got it...

I don't want to talk about it to anyone, at all. Even among our pack, very few people know about what exactly happened back then. Aside from Daniel's family, Reagan, Clark and my uncle, we didn't let anyone know. I am not even sure Isabella or my cousins know about it either. It's such a sensitive topic, everyone was relieved when it was settled.

Moreover, I didn't want people to pity me. I just wanted to get better and move on. Hate Diego all I wanted and regain my freedom.

"I still think it might not be a good idea..." Sighs Bobo.

"Why?"

"I think Damian knows about you."

Daniel and I froze. Damian? Does he mean the King, for real? How would he know? Nate told me he didn't talk about it to his siblings! Only to his Beta, and only because the guy was the nosy type! So how the hell would his older brother know I even exist? I exchange a glance with Daniel.

"Is that bad?" Asks Danny.

"Not Really... But my older brother is the King's Beta. He's the one who told me Nate was seeing someone and he had to look into it. I never thought it would turn out to be you..." He says with an apologetic face.

"He didn't say anything," I sigh.

Nate was long gone when we got home last night. It feels a bit odd to think about everything that happened in one day yesterday... There's still the cold pizza in the fridge, and some leftovers ingredients.

Daniel clicks his tongue. I guess going to the Velvet Moon's territory is out of the question now... I don't feel too good about it, either. Getting on the King's radar is never a good thing. In my case, I'm even starting to be a bit worried. I peek at my phone. Should I call him later? I did throw him out a bit meanly last night...

"Don't you have anyone else who could help out? I thought you were close with the Alpha?" Asks Bobo.

I shake my head.

“Clark is my godfather, but the Opale Moon is part of the White Moon. He can’t hide me, and he can’t really interfere either. If he wanted to, he should have done it earlier. That’s why Reagan was so mad.”

“Maybe you should leave. With Reagan.”

I glare at Nate.

“Seriously, Danny? I should run away from my territory because that asshole is coming back? No fvcking*g way.”

“There isn’t a big difference with...”

“He should be the one to leave in the first place!” I growl, annoyed.

“I know that, babe. But I’m not taking any chances of having you near him. We’re running out of ideas here. We can’t keep him out, and we can’t think of a place for you to go to! Once his ban is lifted, there will be no place that you could go where Diego can go too!”

Damn it. I know Danny’s right, and it’s painful to hear.

“It’s that bad?” Asks Bobo.

“Yes, it is that bad, Boyan. If my ex comes back, I’m going to be in big trouble, trust me. He won’t leave me alone. So, I have two weeks to find a solution, or else I’m going to do something I’ll regret.”

With that, I get up and head to take a shower. I’m so mad I don’t even know what to do. I tried to exhaust myself with training this morning, but I only managed to scare the younger ones, while I didn’t calm down even one bit.

I pick a new outfit from my wardrobe, something boyish and practical, and head to the kitchen again. Danny just finished preparing breakfast, and I grab a burrito for myself. He clicks his tongue at my lack of manners when I just walk past the counter with my mouth full to grab my shoes.

“Where are you going?” He asks.

“To grab some fresh air.”

“Where, Elena?”

“I’ll text you. Can I take the car?”

“Not when you’re mad like that, babe. Text me later.”

I roll my eyes and exit the flat promptly. I know Danny’s just worried about me, I don’t hold it against him. We’ve been friends for so long, he knows I’m mad at pretty much anything and anyone right now.

Walking down some familiar streets, I’m in no mood for chit-chat. I decide to ignore the main road and walk through more deserted alleys. The weather is still clouded, with light rain. I put my sweater’s hood over my head, and grab my phone and earplugs. A few seconds later, some adequate music is echoing in my head.

The singer’s voice calms me down for a while, and I decide to head for the hospital. I didn’t visit my dad yesterday... I miss him. My visit to the hospital is only a couple of hours, but my gloom is back again when I leave my dad. I stay at the entrance, a bit lost.

Where to go now?

I don’t want to go home yet. For a while, I stare at my phone. Should I call Nate? The fact his brother knows about us is seriously worrying me. I probably should leave him alone for a while, right? Seeing an Opale Moon girl probably isn’t any good for him, right? Nate always acts as if he controls everything, but I feel like it might not be the case once the King is involved...

When I’m about to press that call button, I stop. I know I said I’d call, but... To say what? Hey, my ex is back, the situation is crappy, how have you been doing? What mess... I can’t clear up my own mind yet, I can’t involve Nate in all that. I sigh and put my phone back in my pocket. I stay a while here, back against the clinic’s wall, watching the downpour amplifying on our little turf of Silver City.

Maybe it’s time I make a decision about my relationship with Nate... I’ve tried not to think about it lately, but no matter how many times I ignore it, I still...

“Elena?”

I turn my head. Bianca is there, just exiting the hospital with an umbrella over her head. She walks up to me with her little smile.

“So it’s you! What are you doing there? Got caught by the rain?” She asks, innocent.

“Hi, Bianca. Yeah, you could say that... I’m just waiting for it to pass.”

She frowns in a cute pout.

“I will last for a while, you know... How about you come with me? To Henry’s bar? My friend’s band is about to rehearse!”

Damn, that girl is so cute and sweet. I give in to her and nod. A cold beer and hanging with the kids might be right for me to chase all the gloom... Bianca, all happy, shares her umbrella with me until we get there, about ten minutes later. The bar is not very lively, as usual, but a few teenagers are setting up their instruments, all enthusiasts about their rehearsal.

At the bar, there’s only that old Henry, grumpy as usual.

Bianca salutes her friends, forgetting me for a few minutes. I just ask for a drink meanwhile, wondering if my mentor is around.

“That’s right, Elena! Don’t you want to play for us?” Says Bianca, turning to me.

“What? She can play something?” Asks one of the guys, another of my cheeky trainees.

Bianca glares at him.

“Of course she can! She has the best ears in the pack! Come on, Elena!”

The guy, a bit surprised Bianca rebuffed him, looks down. Seems like he was just trying to act cool, but her answer wasn’t what he expected... So cute, those teenage crushes. I smile to her and walk over to borrow one of their guitars.

“What should I play?” I ask.

“Anything! Whatever comes to your mind,” says Bianca. “I just want to listen to your music, it’s been a while!”

Her smile is contagious, but I’m still feeling a bit down for now. What should I play... Something that fits my emotions? It might be a bit sad, though. I try a

few accords on the guitar and decide to start the acoustic version of Let you Love me by Rita Ora. It's so similar to my current thoughts...

"I should've stayed with you last night instead of going out to find trouble... I think I run away sometimes, whenever I get too vulnerable... That's not your fault... See, I wanna stay the whole night; I wanna lay with you till the sun's up; I wanna let you inside... Oh, heaven knows I've tried... I wish that I could let you love, wish I could let you love me..."

I keep singing, that song I know by heart, my eyes closed. It reflects my thoughts about Nate so well... In another life, with different pasts, maybe we would have been great for each other. If we both weren't so afraid to love, perhaps we could have healed each other.

I immerse myself in my song, pouring my heart and feelings into it, in the strings between my fingers. I sing loud until the end, not bothering about anything else but my song. It's been a while since I last sang my heart out like this, it feels great...

"Say what's the matter, what's the matter with me? What's the matter with me? Oh, I wish that I could I let you love, wish that I could let you love me now..."

I push out the last words and stop, satisfied. When I open my eyes again, Bianca and her friends, their eyes shining, suddenly start clapping, all excited.

"Moon Goddess, Elena, that was so good!"

"You have such a good voice!"

"Can you sing again?"

I shake my head.

"Thank you, but it's your turn now. I have my beer waiting for me."

Because of their insistence and disappointed expressions, I have to promise I will sing again later before I can escape the wall of excited teenagers to reach the bar back. Once I finally get there, I notice someone took the spot next to me.

"Hi, kiddo. It's been a while since I heard that voice singing," says Reagan.

