

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 41 - Tips

I look at my mentor, suspicious. What is she doing here? Her leather jacket is still dripping... Did she come all the way here despite the rain? The way she took the seat next to mine, too. Usually, Reagan avoids me, so what now?

I take my beer and drink a sip, waiting to see what the old woman has to say. She sighs.

“What’s your idea?”

“About what?”

“Your ex, Elena. You know that’s a problem,” she says, typing her finger on the counter.

“Of course I know...”

But I haven’t figured anything yet. All I’ve done all day is be angry about it and wondering about what to do next... The idea of Diego coming back is just driving me nuts. It brings back way to many dark memories that I can’t handle. Reagan growls.

“That dog... I should have killed him while he was still out.”

“What for, Reagan? And Diego is not weak either... You probably would have been killed instead.”

“Doesn’t matter. As long as I keep that mutt away.”

I frown. What is that supposed to mean... I’m not overestimating him. Aside from myself, five years ago Diego was undoubtedly one of the strongest Alphas of our packs. Now I wonder if he’s gotten any stronger. Well, probably... So many years spent as a rogue would do that, right? I drink some of my beer again.

“Let him come,” suddenly says Reagan.

I almost spit out my beer before turning to her. Is this old hag going nuts?

“You’ve got to be kidding me, Reagan.”

“No.”

She puts her beer down and looks me right in the eye, resolute.

“Look at me, Elena. I did not train you to be a she-wolf that runs away. You were born and raised as an Alpha, and you’re going to act like one.”

How did she know that was my first idea... And why is she all about my Alpha condition all of a sudden? It is true she raised me, trained me to be a strong woman, but I don’t think this is going to help at all!

“But Xavier...”

“I don’t care what your uncle says, kid. Stop using him or Clark as excuses. You know what you are, and you should not submit to them, or your ex, or anyone.”

“I am not using them as excuses! I...”

“Oh yes, you do,” says Reagan, angry. “Look at you. Why are you even here? You don’t meddle with the pack’s affairs. You never fight. You leave the furthest you can from the rest of your pack. You only train those kids half-heartedly.”

I glare at her, angry. How dare she judges me! I’ve only been trying to do what I’m supposed to do ever since I was raised here. What does she know about my childhood, what it was like to be the outcast of the pack while she was gone Moon Goddess knows where!

“You’re the one who never gave me any answers!” I growl back.

“You don’t need that to know who you are! You have an inner wolf! You have your Alpha aura, even if you never use it! Stop acting like a coward, Elena! If your ex comes back, do what you must, but don’t you dare lower your head to anyone.”

I’m speechless. Since when is Reagan pushing me for this? She is the one who’s never around, and when she is, she eludes me! I’m remembering her conversation with Clark, the one Levi recorded. Reagan always denied it, but she knows who my mother is and where I came from. But if I ask her about that, she might run away again from the White Moon again...

I grab my sun necklace between my fingers, trying to calm down with the cold metal under my fingers, and take a deep breath.

“I always wondered why I had this... Why I was different. I tried so hard to be like the other pups of this pack, Reagan. But I couldn't. I was too strong, too fast. The only ones whom I could fit with were the other misfits. Daniel and Diego. They became my whole world... My only friends in this pack.”

“Elena...”

I shake my head. I need to finish speaking, let her know what I've been carrying around all those years.

“When I stopped trying to blend in, I thought I finally had found my place. But that's when everything changed, again. You left, and Clark made me his goddaughter. I was put a step higher than the others, again. And I couldn't know the reason why. I thought Clark had chosen me because I was the strongest, but neither Eric or Orpheus is anywhere near as strong as Diego or myself. I wasn't Leader material either, I was just a wild, rebellious teenager she-wolf. So I knew it had to be something else.”

Reagan ignores me, her eyes wandering on the foam of her pint.

“There is something about me, something that you and Clark know and are desperate to hide. Something that goes with me being so strong...”

That old woman sighs. She turns to me, whispering in a very low voice so that no one but me can hear her, even with werewolf ears.

“All right, I will tell you more.”

I stare, shocked. Is she for real? She never agreed to say anything no matter how long I begged for it before!

“What, really? Are you serious?”

“Yes, yes. But you have to promise me two things, Elena.”

I frown. Why are we bargaining now? It's never easy with that woman! After a while, she looks around us and murmurs again.

“First, I want you to promise me you will not leave Silver City once I tell you this. I don’t even want you to leave the White Moon or Opale Moon territories, you hear me?”

What the heck? I thought she would ask me to keep it all a secret, but...

“Why?”

“Because once I start talking, you will want more and I don’t need you to be in danger recklessly.”

“All right... What is the second condition?”

“Everything has to stay between us. Only Clark and Xavier know what I’m about to tell you. Well, your uncle Xavier knows the big lines. But aside from them, you have to promise me you won’t tell anyone else.”

“I’ll tell Danny,” I answer honestly.

Whether she likes it or not, Reagan knows how close I am to him. There isn’t anything about myself I haven’t told Daniel, and I’m pretty sure he’s the same. So, I know my mentor has to be aware that anything she has to say will go through Danny’s ears as well.

Indeed, she sighs.

“All right, I guess that kid is part of the deal. Are you sure you can trust him? He is not going to talk?”

“With my Life, Reagan. And you know already how important Daniel is too me.”

She can’t ignore he was my only friend after everything that happened. There really isn’t anyone else I would think of sharing my secrets with. Even Nathaniel, only knows very little about myself, despite the fact that we have been seeing each other for two months now.

“Just make sure he doesn’t talk about this, to anyone, Elena. This is very serious.”

“I get it...”

“No, you don’t get it. It’s your life that’s hanging in the balance, kid.”

Reagan's serious tone is giving me chills. What could be so big that it impacts my whole life...?

Behind us, the group of teenagers is paying no attention to us, rehearsing their songs and joking around. They wouldn't think of getting involved with someone as odd as Reagan anyway. And the Barman is busy wiping glasses while eyeing them, too, not paying any attention to us.

"I get it, Reagan. This is serious, I can't tell anyone but Danny and not leaving the territory recklessly. Will you talk now?"

I'm seriously on edge. I want to know, I'm dying to know. Reagan pulls her grey hair back, taking a big breathe before she starts talking.

"First, I lied to you. I never belonged to the White Moon Clan in the first place."

What? She and Clark had always told me that she was just an omega that had left the Pack many years ago and come back when she found me! I did find it weird that she would be allowed back in and come and went as she pleased, but...

"I was born in a much, much older pack than this one. Far in the North, a Clan so big it had over a thousand members."

A thousand! That is at least twice the size of any big pack...

"We had a Luna Queen, a very powerful woman. She was as strong as she was gentle. We all loved her and worshipped her. She was... special."

It is unusual for a Luna to rule a Pack by herself indeed... What about her pair? Didn't she have one?

"Once, I... I had a big fight with her. We couldn't agree on something, and argued a lot."

"About what?" I ask, curious.

Reagan growls.

"You don't need to know that! Anyway, since I was being stubborn, she decided to send me to the South. She asked me to go find a smaller group that belonged to our pack. Her younger sister was leading it, but they had

been gone for a long time, and we didn't have any news. She asked me to return once I would have found her younger sister."

"Did you find the group?"

But Reagan shook her head, looking very sad.

"No... Many years had passed since that sister of hers was gone, and we had no idea how far in the south she had gone. I kept running, but after a few months, I decided to turn back."

"Wait, you were gone not for days, but for months?"

Reagan nodded.

"I've always been very stubborn, okay? I just didn't want to come back until I had found them, and I was still mad about... Whatever reason I left in the first place. But... When I got back..."

"What?"

She suddenly looks very dark, frowning and staring at her beer with a mix of anger and sadness in her eyes. I wait for a while and see her fist clenching.

"Reagan, what happened to your pack?"

"They were killed. All of them."

....What?

It can't be... Such a huge pack? How could that happen! I've heard of big fights between packs, but never of a full Clan being killed! And from what she had said, their Luna wasn't weak either. So how!

"B... But how?" I ask, restless.

"I don't know. Whatever it is, it slaughtered all of them, Elena. This is why I'm telling you this is very, very serious. Something strong enough to annihilate a full pack of werewolves did all that."

"...Then, what about me?"

I remember a bit of her conversation with Clark that Levi recorded, and try to pair it all up with what she said so far. That would mean...

"I..."

Reagan looks at me and seems to hesitate a bit. What is it that she can't tell me? She turns her eyes away, staring in front of her as if she couldn't face me.

"I found you in the middle of the m*****e. Alone."

So what we heard was true...

"What about my parents?"

Reagan suddenly frowns and shakes her head, contraried.

"Dead. Both of them."

...Why is that old hag feeding me more lies again!

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That can't be true. On Levi's recording, Reagan cleared mentioned my mother, and she was alive when she took me! So why is she lying, saying my parents had already died? I stare at her for a while, wondering how to do this. I shouldn't let her know about that conversation with Clark we heard, but...

"Both my parents were dead? Are you sure?" I ask again.

"I just told you so," gr0ans Reagan, impatient. "You were the only living being I could find, so I took you with me and fled the place."

"Wait... Didn't you try to understand what had happened? Who had done this to our Clan?"

But Reagan shakes her head.

"I couldn't, Elena. I had a two-year-old b.rat in my paws, and something bad was there."

"What do you mean, something bad?"

She snuffles, a bad expression on her face like she saw something repulsive.

“I don’t know. My inner wolf couldn’t calm down, like crawling down my spine. I could tell something filthy was there, something dangerous. Whatever had attacked was still there, and lurking for more. I ran away with you, and headed south.”

“...All the way to the White Moon territory,” I said, mending the pieces together.

“That’s right. That was as far as I could go with a two-years-old. Since I was a renegade from another Pack, they had no obligation to accept me in. But you were there. No werewolf can ignore a defenseless pup, let alone a little orphan Alpha like you.”

She’s right... Our wolf instincts are always pushing us to protect the younger ones of our kind, even if they don’t belong to our pack. Any cub is a werewolf’s responsibility, that’s something we cannot ignore. No wonder the White Moon didn’t reject her when she brought me with her.

“You still haven’t told me why I’m... different.”

She sighs.

“Our whole pack was different, Elena. Our Luna made it so. I told you, she was very powerful and blessed by the Moon Goddess. Everyone in our pack was stronger than common werewolves...”

I’m not sure I believe that.

Once again, Reagan is not looking at me while saying that, and I feel like there is still a lot she isn’t telling me. I’m a bit disappointed. I was hoping she would tell me more about my parents...

“I tried to go back several times after that,” sighs Reagan.

“That’s why you left for so long every time?”

She nods.

“It takes a while to go so far in the North, but I could never reach our homeland anyway.”

“What do you mean?” I ask, perplexed.

“I don’t know... Something is blocking me. Every time I should reach the destination, I get lost, as if I couldn’t find my way, like a maze. I should know the place by heart, but something very, very odd happens. I’m not that old that I would forget the way back! Moreover, it’s coming closer. Whatever it is, it’s headed south, our way.”

“...So this is why you don’t want me going North?”

She turns to me, looking very serious. She puts a hand on my knee, whispering.

“Elena, whatever attacked our pack is coming to us. It’s slow, but it is.”

I sigh. Listening to Reagan, even despite her serious tone, I can’t tell how serious she actually is. An invisible threat, coming after us? And after klling our full pack too? Isn’t she just trying to keep me distracted with more lies?

“Reagan, are you lying to me again?”

“Elena, I’m serious!”

“But every bit of this doesn’t make sense! Seriously, all I can hear are excuses for me not to leave the White Moon! Why do you always lie to me? How old do you think I am to believe in an invisible threat who decimated a full, super-strong pack?”

She growls, seriously angry.

“You think I’m joking?”

“I think you’re lying to me, again!” I yell back. “You never, ever tell me the truth!”

“That was the truth, you b.rat!”

“How am I supposed to believe this! None of this makes any sense, and it doesn’t answer my questions either! You never tell me what I really want to know, about my parents, where I come from!”

Reagan stands up, grabbing her backpack and leaving money on the counter.

“Enough with your whims, Elena. If you don’t want to listen...”

“I am listening, but you’re just spitting nonsense, Reagan! I can’t tell if that pack really existed! If it did, and we were both born there, how would you not even know about my parents?”

She’s glaring at me, but I won’t look down. We are both angry and frustrated. Around us, all our yelling has silenced the rest of the people present, who are watching the scene with curiosity. I couldn’t care less.

Reagan pushes her gray hair away from her face and turns around.

“I am not talking about your parents. I don’t want to, and anyway, all of this is about our Pack, Elena, that’s all you need to know!”

Of course. Once again, she gets to decide what I have to know or not! I can’t believe that old hag! She knows I’m dying to know the truth about my birth, and she only keeps me in the dark as always! Without adding a word, Reagan leaves like that, turning her back on me while we’re still angrily growling at each other. I’m left watching my mentor exits the place, leaving me speechless.

“Elena...?”

Bianca approached me with a sorry look, but I can’t handle the pity on her face for now. I shake my head, meaning I don’t want to talk and leave the Bar.

Damn, I forgot about that rain... It’s pouring. Reagan is already nowhere to find, of course. She disappears so easily. She came, said what she had to and left. That old hag... Was all of this story just because she didn’t want me to leave the territory? I don’t even know what to believe in that incredible story she said...

Some parts do match with what I thought, but she also lied about my parents, and that so-called attacker or whatever... I don’t know what to believe.

I’m feeling so lonely right now.

Maybe it’s this rain, or because I’m tired, but I feel like crying again.

Danny...

Babe, what’s wrong?

I reached out to him by reflex, but my thoughts aren't even clear enough to explain it to him. I can't think of words to express this mass of uneasiness I feel piling up inside.

Bad day?

Yeah...

Wanna come home?

No...

I don't want to come home now. If I go home, I'm just going to get even gloomier and I don't want to hinder Danny's time with Bobo with that. He probably needs to catch up on the work he missed for me too. I hear his wolf sigh.

Okay, Babe, what do you want to do then?

What do I want?

A face pops up in my mind immediately. I know exactly what I would really want, right now, but...

Babe, go see him. I know you want to.

I sigh. I love Danny, but sometimes he reads my mind way too easily and it's scary. And I know I shouldn't listen. I still can't come to a proper decision, about Nate or Diego...

Elena, you need this. So go for it. And you owe him an explanation, remember?

Damn, he's too right...

He makes me promise to call him later, and I start walking again, headed south.

I don't know why I can't gather the courage to call Nate first. Playing with my phone in my pocket, I try to think of something to say while walking, but every time, it doesn't sound right, not after what happened last time. Nathaniel was adorable with me when I was unwell, but I had to leave so abruptly, and I

didn't explain anything. How could I? I don't want him to know anything about my past or Diego...

While walking, I suddenly get a chill. I stop, warned by my inner wolf instincts. Something's wrong... No, more like a threat, something at the back. Someone watching me.

I turn around, trying to use my wolf's vision despite the downpour. But no one seems to be here... I wish I could smell something, but it's impossible with this rain. Why would someone follow me? Diego can't possibly be here already. So who...?

I start running. Will they follow me to the border? I can feel someone following me again, but they're staying far enough not to be spotted. It's all about instincts, and I can tell my wolf's annoyed by this little hide-and-seek game. Whoever it is, they won't show themselves...

I keep going, trying to lose my pursuers across the streets, jumping over fences or abruptly changing directions and finally reach the Blood Moon territory's border.

Seems like whoever it is, didn't dare to follow me. I adjust my hoodie on my head and keep walking. I originally decided to head straight for Nate's Hotel where we meet the most, but while trying to lose whoever was following me, I went way off course. Damn it, this isn't a part of the City I know very well. I really hope there won't be any troubles... I usually let him know before coming, but right now I'm behaving like an intruder.

I keep going and try to correct my course, heading west. Some streets in the east are not the most welcoming, but there aren't many people to go there anyway. It's been a while since I had the guts to come here... We call it the slums for a reason. It's the riskiest place for humans and werewolves alike, with deserted, filthy streets and blind alleys. I'm confident in my strength, though I would have avoided that area if I could. Hopefully, even if I meet a few rogues, I should be strong enough to get out of there unscratched...

I suddenly stop. My wolf is on all fours, growling, ready to defend herself.

I can feel that Alpha aura all the way here. sh!t, I didn't expect to meet such a strong wolf here. What crappy luck... A shadow, dressed all in black, came almost out of nowhere and is walking slowly up my way. I can't see his face, he's wearing a dark hoodie too.

Involuntarily, I take a step back. Damn, I am really scared? I can feel his Aura, like an icy wind crawling all around him. It's almost as if I could see the beast before the man. My legs want to run away. I'm shivering, not because of the cold. Whoever it is, he's very, very angry, and restless. Someone looking for a fight. For blood.

His pace is strangely slow for someone whose aura is going so wild. Like a hurricane behind the surface. My breathing fastens as he comes closer. I should run. Whoever it is, I might not be able to fight him. Who the hell would be that strong!

I'm frozen right where I am, and before I can make a decision, he's close. Dangerously close, maybe a few steps away. I look up, and suddenly I think I recognize the lower part of his face.

"Nate...?"

Something feels wrong, though.

When he raises his head to look at me, I gasp. He does look like Nate, a lot.

But his eyes are silver, and his hair pitch black.

Moon Goddess.

It's not Nate. It's his brother.

...The King.

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Why him? Why in the world would he be here, in the slums, alone? This is my first time meeting him, but there is no doubt.

That man is way too scary and looks too much like Nate to be mistaken for anyone else. I try to remember his name. Damian, Damian Black. The elder Brother, Alpha of the Blood Moon and allegedly werewolf King of Silver City... No wonder everyone fears him, I can barely breathe in his presence!

Among my pack, I should be among the strongest, but I feel like a defenseless pup in front of that guy! How come I never felt that in front of Nate? Is it because that guy is currently furious and displaying his Alpha aura carelessly?

Is Nathaniel usually holding back? I have a hundred questions, but no idea what to do, how to react.

His silver eyes are like daggers piercing me, cutting me open, like he's gauging me. I feel vulnerable. My inner wolf is torn between running away and fighting. Her instincts are messed up in front of a stronger Alpha. This is not our territory, we have no advantage here.

He comes closer, his eyes not leaving me a single second. For a second there, I have one thought.

This guy will k!!! me.

But right when he's almost at my position, a shadow jumps in between us. Someone grabs my arms, and I'm pushed back.

"Damian, she's with me."

Nate. Nate just arrived, standing between his brother and I. He's holding me close, but his eyes are rived on Damian. He doesn't seem scared, though. More like wary, and he's making sure to hide me as much as he can from his brother sight.

"...Is that her?" whispers his brother.

His older brother has a gentler voice than I thought... I sense his murderous aura somehow calming down, and it gets a bit easier to breathe. But why is he asking this? What does that mean? They both stay silent for a few seconds, but I guess they are mind-linking. I wish I knew what the brothers were saying.... A few seconds later, Nathaniel turns to me, and immediately puts his hands on my cheeks, looking worried.

"Elena, what the hell are you doing here? Are you alright?"

Behind him, the King is already gone. I didn't hear him move at all, but we are definitely alone in this alley. Nate pushes my wet hair on my shoulder, and his finger's touch makes me shiver. Gosh, it's only been a few hours and I missed him.

"Sorry, I... I wanted to come to see you, but someone was following me, and..."

“What? Who was?” He asks, looking behind my shoulder like he was looking for someone.

I shake my head. I have no idea, but right now, I don't care. Unable to hold myself back, I step forward into his embrace, grabbing his shirt in my trembling fingers. I bury my face in his shoulder, and my tears start flowing, as if something had just broken inside to let them out.

“Elena...”

Nathaniel immediately hugs me back, and I feel his hand on my drenched hair. I just keep crying like a child, unable to hold back. I just needed this. Nate's arms, around me, shielding me from anything that's been making me crazy these days.

We stay a long time like this, under the rain, and he doesn't even ask. He just holds me, for as long as I need.

When my tears finally seem to stop a little, Nate takes my hand and guides me out of the slums. We walk a bit, in silence, still under that downpour. We are both literally soaked when we finally reach the building. I don't recognize it, and assume it's another one of his hotels... We stay against each other until we finally reach the entrance door. When Nate opens the door, with regular keys, I suddenly realize.

“This place...”

“It's my apartment. Come.”

Surprised, I follow him inside. Actually, except for a few details, it feels like we could be in a hotel suite. The place is very clean, everything perfectly in order, and decorated with a modern taste. But there are shoes at the entrance, a few financial magazines on the table, and some personal items here and there.

“Elena, here.”

He guides me to the bathroom, where he fills the bathtub with hot water before undressing himself. I won't refuse a good bath, I'm cold to the bones... And that bathtub is big enough for two, or even three people.

Nate gets n***d in no time and gets in with a deep satisfied sigh. I abandon my clothes on the floor, perfectly aware that he is watching. Once I'm n***d, I

step in, and Nate guides me to sit in front of him, between his legs. I can finally relax, sitting with my back against his chest, his arms around me.

This is what I've needed all along... His warmth. I close my eyes, indulging myself in this bliss. I feel Nate pouring some hot water on my shoulders, helping me warm up. His lips, too, fleeting on my neck. But his hands are the best. Caressing me gently, spreading his warmth on my skin. He kisses my temple gently, and I feel his breath next to my ear.

"Better?" He asks softly.

"Much better..."

He kisses my shoulder again and locks his arms around my waist, while we stay like this in a long silence. I can finally let go of all those dark thoughts that have been clouding my mind these last few days. I don't want to think of anything, just savor this little taste of happiness for a while.

His fingers gently brush my stomach, and I hear him breathing deeply like he's lost in his thoughts. I reach out for his hand, intertwining his fingers with mine. He hugs me a bit tighter.

"What were you doing there? You could have gotten killed..."

"I told you, I just came to see you. I didn't expect to have to make such a detour. What about you? I didn't expect to meet your... The King this way."

"I was just accompanying him... Someone had spotted a stranger she-wolf in the slums. He checks every time..."

"If it's his mate," I guess in a whisper.

Nathaniel nods.

I can barely imagine such devotion... It seems that no matter how scary the King is, nothing really matters to him but this mate he lost. I wonder what his mate would be like, to be a match for him. Someone so strong and scary... Would she be scary as well? What kind of she-wolf is a good pair, a good Luna?

If only I had been Nate's pair... I've had this thought so often these days, it even scares me sometimes.

“Nate... I wanted to talk to you.”

“About what?”

His voice indicates he suspected something... After all, I came all this way, under this sh!tty weather, totally unannounced and bawled out to him without warning. He picked up the emotional mess I am without question, but I should explain.

“My ex is coming back.”

I feel him freeze. His whole body is tensed up, and I give him a few seconds.

“Okay... And?” He asks.

“And... I’m a fvcking*g mess because of that.”

“How so?”

I look for my words, trying to think of a way to explain things to him, without getting into the worst of it. Nathaniel really doesn’t need to know about all my sh!t, and Moon Goddess, I hope he never does.

“Is it the one you mentioned?”

I know he remembers our conversation, the one I explained why I would never fall in love again... I slowly nod. I don’t want to move, but I would be curious to see Nate’s expression right now if he wasn’t holding me tightly.

“Why is he coming back?”

“My Alpha had banned him for 5 years... I didn’t think he would really come back. No one did. But he was sp0tted in the west, so there is no mistake.”

I shiver just while thinking about it. The idea of confronting Diego again, whatever he’s become, his making me crazy.

“Elena... What did he do to you?”

I shake my head. I don’t want to talk about it, and he knows that. I can feel his frustration, but there is no way I’m telling Nate. Moreover, I don’t know what he would do if he did know, and that isn’t good either. I don’t want to implicate him any more than that into our pack’s problems, and mine.

But to my surprise, he doesn't ask again. Instead, he suddenly holds me tighter and kisses my neck's nape. It's not just sweet this time, it's more... sensual. I breathe in, Nate sucks and bites gently my skin, playing with it.

"I won't let him touch you," he suddenly whispers.

"W...What?"

"I'm serious, Elena."

If only he wasn't holding me so tight against him, I could see his expression, have an idea of what he's thinking! But I can only feel his mouth, attacking my skin restlessly, his hands caressing me and holding me close against him.

"I could have him banished forever. Or kill him."

"No!"

I suddenly free myself from his grip, and struggle to turn around and face him. I grab his face, as worried as I'm serious. I look straight into his blue eyes.

"Nathaniel, no. Please. Don't you ever, ever get close to Diego."

"So he's named Diego."

I growl, annoyed. That is so not the point! I can see the anger in his eyes, burning like fire under the ice. Damn, thank Moon Goddess I haven't even told him anything.

"Nate, I'm very serious. I don't want you to get involved with him, okay? Please. Let me handle him."

But Nate growls, not annoyed at me but the situation.

"To handle him? How? Elena, he's not even here and you're already freaking out. Whatever he did to you, it had to be big that he would get banned for five years from his pack!"

Actually, in my opinion, that sentence was too light. But that's not the point.

I caress Nate's cheeks under my thumbs, hoping to keep him focused on me instead of Diego.

“Nate, no. This is my Pack’s issue, not yours. Don’t worry about me, I’m strong enough, okay? Please, promise me you won’t get involved.”

Nathaniel is still obviously angry, and very unwilling to answer. I can almost see his inner turmoil, but I wait, hoping he will listen. He cannot act rashly. He’s the King’s brother, for Moon Goddess’ sake!

“Nate...”

“Promise me you won’t get involved with him either.”

“What?”

“Elena, I’m not stupid. He did something big to you, and traumatized you somehow.”

“I’m not...!” I want to protest, but Nate interrupts me.

“Yes, he did. Don’t lie, not to me. I know enough already, Elena. And I swear to Moon Goddess, if that guy steps one foot on the Velvet Moon Territory, I’ll k!ll him.”

There’s a lot of words stuck in my throat right now, but none can come out when Nate is angry and determined like this. So, instead, I lean in and k!ss him.

He doesn’t answer at first, but he doesn’t push me away either. I knew he wouldn’t. I insist a bit, playing with my lips on his, biting a bit and insisting until he finally responds. Of course. My and Nate’s k!sses are way too familiar now... We fight a bit, his mouth eager for more, mine trying to tame him, and our tongues collide for something deeper. Moon Goddess, I know I’m cheating, but I want him, not a fight about my ex.

I can handle Diego. But not without Nate. I need him to be there, where I know I can run like I did tonight. My refuge, my warm place to be on rainy days like this.

Our k!ss gets more intense, and so does my excitement. I want more, and I can feel his arousal as well. I straddle him, his hands running on my back, while I play with my fingers in his hair. The heat goes up, our bodies go down.

My heart is thumping in my ears, and the rain against the window.

I want more, always more.

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 44 - Tips

She makes me crazy. The way she is both strong and fragile, how she tries to face everything head-on until she bursts like today. I want to keep her close, protect her, make her mine and mine only.

I already know how crazy attached I am to Elena already. I can't say it out loud, but I'm not that stupid not to recognize my own feelings. I want her, all of her, any time of day or night. When she's like this, in my arms, I still want more.

Even now, as we are kissing deep and passionate, I'm already two steps ahead, wanting more. I caress her skin, her hair, her full breasts. Her honey skin, and that sweet smell she exudes even after the rain. Elena's excited voice is the best music to my ears. I press her against me, touching her to arouse her. I know her body by heart now. She knows it and she likes it. I push her to sit on the bathtub's border, and spread her legs, pleasuring her with my mouth.

"Nate, don't...!"

Her words get lost in a moan. She likes it... I love seeing her blush whenever I do this, how she tries to hold her voice but trembles under my tongue. I keep going, making Elena cry out in pleasure, her fingers grabbing my hair.

"N...Nate... I want you. I want you now."

I stop and carry her, taking her out of the bathroom to my bed. We are still wet, but damn I don't care. I push Elena on the bed, and she grabs my neck, pulling me to her as we kiss again. Our lips collide with each other like beasts. It's almost savage, we just want to kiss like crazy, excited as we are. We don't even stop as I slide in her, but I can feel Elena spasm around me. I can't stop. I want her, I want her so badly I keep pounding fast and make her cry out...

A few hours later, night has fallen but we're still on the bed. Elena's deep asleep next to me, exhausted by our wild sex. It's been a while since we went so hard at it...

I lean over and kiss her bare shoulder softly. I missed the scent of her skin. Watching her sleep, too. She looks so peaceful when she's sleeping like this. I

opened the bay window, too, so the moonlight is shining on her skin and gold hair.

Nate.

My brother's cold voice resonates in my head, and I frown.

Did you get him?

No, whoever it was went back as soon as we started chasing. Liam is still inspecting the area. But it's she, not a he. Nate, do you know who that was?

A female? Why would a woman follow Elena all the way here? She only mentioned her ex coming back, and aside from her mentor she mentioned a couple of times, I don't see any other woman from her pack who would have reason to sneak behind her all the way to our territory...

No. But thanks.

How long will she stay?

I can't say, Damian. As long as she wants.

Nate. Isaac told me. I don't trust that woman. You should...

Damian, please. You said you would support me, and... Elena needs me.

I can hear his inner wolf, unhappy. I'm not listening to him now, he can scold me some other time if he wants. I ignore our mind-link, and caress Elena's back gently. She suddenly shifts position, curling up against me. I can't help but chuckle. Only at times like this she dares to act clingy...

Damian?

Hm?

Do you believe in second chances?

...Yes.

I smile bitterly. Our situations couldn't be more different... Between him who lost his mate at a young age but still loves her tenderly, and I who was rejected coldly and won't hope for love anymore. Unless...

I stare at Elena's sleeping expression again and wonder. Could we make it work somehow? It feels like we have so many reasons to stay apart, yet neither of us can. Our packs, our duties, our families, our history... I could make a full list and still not be fvcking*g able to say no to her...

Have I met her before?

I frown.

Elena?

Yeah. She felt familiar.

I frown. How would Damian know about Elena? I don't think there should have been any chances for them to meet. Even when she would come to visit me on our territory, Damian is usually locked up in his building like a prisoner. How strange...

Probably not.

Nevermind...

Are you ok?

He doesn't answer, ignoring me again. He does that way too often these days. Things are getting worse for him... I wish we would hurry up and find his mate already. I feel like we've scanned every inch of Silver City and nothing yet.

Maybe Saturday's dinner at the Jade Moon will finally help. It's a small pack but who knows...

Unable to sleep, I decide to get up and grab a cigarette, careful not to wake Elena up. I go to the balcony and mind-link Isaac, waking him up.

Seriously, Nate? I can't even get some sleep?

I need you to search someone for me.

What? Who is the unlucky winner?

A guy from the White Moon Clan. His name's Diego.

The White Moon Clan? It wouldn't have to do with a certain blonde, by any chance? And why don't you just ask our little Boyan anyway? He spends all his time there nowadays...

I already asked him earlier. He doesn't know, Elena and her friend haven't told him a thing about the guy. He already felt bad about hiding the fact that he already knew about her and me...

Poor kid. Seriously, playing the little spy for your love affairs. Well, I get he's head over heels for his guy, but still. How, well... Diego, you said? Give me a minute.

I finish my cigarette while Isaac's searching, watching Elena from across the window. But she is still asleep, with no idea I'm investigating her ex. After a long while and when I'm almost done with my cigarette, Isaac finally answers.

Damn... Remember I said your woman had been to jail? That guy was the victim.

Yeah, I figured so. What else?

Apparently, it was pretty nasty. She stabbed him after a fight... They both ended up at one of the White Moon's Clinics, he survived but was banned right after that. He's fvcking***n from entering Silver City until... sh!t, that's in two weeks!

I crush my cigarette. Two weeks...

Why was he the one banned if she stabbed him? I don't get it... Damn, I have my eyes on the police reports, but not the medical file, it's all in their Clan's servers... Seriously Nate, your girl was sent to jail and he was banned. No matter what, their pack wanted those two to stay apart.

Anything else?

He's got a few more lines on his police file. Looks like the guy was a little street punk... A few robberies and other fights. Definitely an Alpha. He was among the fighters back in their pack.

Like Elena. Is that how they got close? Two Alpha, two fighters...

Let me guess. You're going to see her again and do something stupid like fight her ex for her, huh?

She's already with me. And she asked me not to meet with her ex, if you want to know.

No wonder. I wouldn't want my exes meeting either. Moon Goddess, that would be a slaughter... Wait, you said she's with you? Aren't you at home though?

I am.

What? sh!t, Nate! You never bring a woman to your place! Not even Narcissa came there, and I'm pretty sure she tried hard!

I roll my eyes. If he could stop mentioning my relationship with Narcissa every time... She's already hara.ssing me enough as it is those days. Ever since I started seeing Elena, Narcissa's been waiting for me to call her back, thinking I would miss her soon. Turns out I don't. She saw me with Elena a couple of times at the Club and probably didn't like it...

Two weeks.... Elena's ex will be back in two little weeks...

For the next few days, Elena sleeps at my place every night. It's a routine I quickly get addicted to. She didn't ask anything, I just keep inviting her over. We don't mention her ex anymore, and I can't tell if she's avoiding the issue or just not discussing it with me.

As a few days pass, I wonder if she isn't just avoiding her Pack. She fought with her mentor, and her Alpha too. Towards me, however, her attitude is incredibly... Honest. We eat and sleep together as lovers would. It's just as if we were avoiding the words. But we k!ss, cuddle, laugh together, play and have se.x. It's... Incredibly good. I don't remember feeling this happy and light in forever.

Only Saturday, I leave her alone to accompany Liam to the Jade Moon territory. It's a boring dinner, except for the food wonderfully cooked, which is quite surprising there. But as that dinner goes on, I start to miss Elena and fight to hide my irritation. I haven't seen her all day, she was busy with her homework and training. Even Liam is in a bad mood, bored with the clingy attitude of that small pack towards us, the King's brothers.

When we get back in the car, I check my phone. Elena's been ignoring my texts all afternoon... What's going on? When I finally split up with Liam and get home, I'm surprised to find her in the living room, waiting for me fully dressed. She's wearing an old oversized hoodie and jeans, looking ready to go. I take off my tie and walk up to her, wary. I know when she's unhappy, but I have no idea why.

"Elena?"

"We need to talk," she suddenly says with a low voice.

"Talk about what?"

"Nate, I... I won't be coming back here."

I frown. What is that supposed to mean? I didn't think she had anything against my flat... And then I understand. It's not really about my place. I feel my heart dropping, and step forward.

"What do you mean exactly."

She crosses her arms, looking everywhere but my direction.

"I can't come back to the Velvet Moon Nate, I... I think we should stop seeing each other."

"Why?"

I just don't get it. Everything was fine just this morning! Elena shakes her head, and takes a deep breath in.

"Nate, I shouldn't be here in the first place and we both know it. And... Things have been going a bit too far these days. It's not what we had agreed on."

"Is that what it is? You're afraid of what we're having nowadays? Are you scared of my brother, or your pack? I can..."

"It's not about any of this, Nate! It's about us, about me. I... You remember, when we first talked? You said you wanted one night. After that, we said it would be a simple relationship, no feelings involved."

"I also said we would play by your rules, Elena. That you got to decide..."

“That’s right. And right now, I decide, we should end this now before it gets too far. For the two of us.”

I shake my head, unable to understand what the heck is going on. But all of a sudden, she takes out a folder and throws it on the table. I immediately recognize it. Shit... That’s the one Isaac brought me last week, with her and her ex’s criminal records.

“Elena, that’s not...”

“I don’t give a damn, Nate. You had me investigated. I’m pretty sure you are using Boyan and Daniel, too. I don’t care about your reasons, this is not what I wanted.”

Fvck... I grab the folder and throw it in the trash bin, even if it’s way too late. When I walk back to her, Elena’s expression is already too serious and determined. I don’t like that at all.

“Elena, I didn’t want this. Damian and Isaac...”

“Nate, that’s exactly the problem! Even if you don’t want to, your whole pack is going to say no to me! And I don’t want to fight with my pack for that reason either! I don’t want a relationship where we have to investigate each other, sneak into each other’s place in private or hide to call each other!”

“That’s how our relationship is, Elena! I decided I don’t care whatever everyone else thinks about me being with you, I...”

“I don’t want a relationship, Nate! I am not ready for that! My ex is coming back and this is going to be a hell of a mess already. I don’t want to have to deal with you and your surveillance too! I don’t want to deal with your brothers, your beta, your exes!”

“...What exes?”

Why would she mention an ex of mine? Except for Katherine, I never mentioned any other woman to her, as far as I recall. But Elena ignores my question.

“Listen, I didn’t want to bring it like this, ok? I just... I need to work on one problem at a time.”

“So I’m a problem now? And behind your ex, too?” I ask, getting seriously angry.

“Don’t start, Nate. I... Maybe we’ll see each other again, when I’m done dealing with Diego.”

“Oh, and I’m supposed to wait like a good boy for you to decide? What am I, a back-up plan? I thought we had something serious going on. You know it.”

She glares at me, annoyed.

“I thought we had honesty between each other, Nate.”

“Honesty? You never talk to me!”

“I have a past, and you knew that! I was honest when I at least told you that, and why I wouldn’t want to get serious! Aren’t you the one who was being dishonest? How long have you had me investigated? How long have you broken our promise?”

Our promise.

Those words hit me like a punch, right where it hurts. We had promised not to fall in love. When did I start falling for her, anyway? I wasn’t ready for that at all. I look for something to answer, quick.

“I didn’t.”

“You don’t love me?” She asks, way too bluntly.

“...No.”

That’s a fvcking*g lie... And I can see it in her eyes. She knows. We are just both way too selfish and angry to admit it first.

“...Fine. I guess we’re good then.”

She said that with a voice hoarse enough to break my heart.

I can’t think of anything to say. She just leaves my place like that.

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 45 - Tips

As agreed, Daniel is already waiting for me at the border. I get in the car and leave out a big sigh. My best friend turns to me, worried.

“Are you sure?”

“I did what I had to, Danny. This is more important for now...”

I take out the letter I received this morning. Just a simple card, with a question. But this is Diego’s handwriting, no doubt. That bastard just sent me a fvcking*g “missed me?”. I crumple it between my fingers. I don’t even have the words for how much I hate him.

“Why didn’t you just tell him?” Asks Danny while starting the car.

But I shake my head. I already took my decision this morning.

This past week with Nate was... Heaven. I lived without worries, with the best lover one could hope to wake up next to, every morning. I could have gotten seriously used to that, and easily too. But the longer I stayed, the more I felt like I was running away.

From my pack, and my problems. I avoided Xavier, Reagan, even Clark, and Isabella. I avoided the days passing and Diego’s returning coming closer. Being with Nate was like a dream I didn’t want to wake up from.

Diego’s message was a fvcking*g brutal reminder. I have no idea how he knew where to send it to, or what was his aim. But it was a shock to me. No matter what, Diego was coming after me.

And I didn’t want to involve Nate in that.

“I still think this isn’t good, babe. To leave like that...”

“Nathaniel would never have stopped at that. He already asked me twice if I wanted him to ban or k!ll Diego, Danny. I know he would break the rules of both his pack and mine and I can’t let him do that for me. He’s the King’s brother, his position is too important to do that.”

“But still... To have a dispute...”

“That was all I could think of for him to let me go. Thank Moon Goddess I found this stupid folder this morning, it helped me come with an excuse...”

To be honest, I didn't find it by accident. I was looking for something that would make our fight a bit more genuine, but I didn't expect Nathaniel to keep a whole file on me and Diego. I still can't believe he knew I want to jail and didn't say anything about it... How long did he know? He kept this, does that mean he doesn't care about living with a criminal? About the ghosts of my past?

The more time I spent with Nate, the more I became obvious to me: we were moving on to a new relationship, something that couldn't be seen as no feelings involved anymore. We k!ssed a lot for no reason, cuddled whenever we felt like it, did pretty much everything together during every night this week. Even the se.x was much sweeter and r0mantic, despite our carnal desire for each other.

If it wasn't for Diego, maybe I would have given us a chance. Listened to our whims, and stayed longer at Nate's place. Maybe a few more days, and we would have become lovers without saying it....

"He said he doesn't love me."

"Well, the guy is either completely blind or very stubborn," replies Danny while turning left.

I chuckle. I know Nate was lying. He said what he thought would hold me back. Because that was the rule we had agreed on from the start.

But Moon Goddess, it's too late, way too late. I fell for that man, hard. For his kindness, his disarming honesty and smiles, his gentle, electric blue eyes. The way he doesn't hesitate to caress or h.ug me, or how he k!sses me softly... Damn, I already miss him.

I think about our argument again. What will he think? I didn't leave him much room to speak on purpose, that was hard enough for me already... But even so, Nate still tried to hold me back, and that broke my heart. Because truth is, I didn't want to leave him or make him think I wanted to. If things have been different, I would have trusted him a lot more than that, enough to confide in him about my past and let him back me up against my ex.

I couldn't.

Everything is too fresh for our relationship, and I'm scared that Diego will shatter it all before I can do anything. I'm too afraid. I could lose Nate because of our own feelings, but if something happened to him because of my ex...

Daniel finally parks the car at our home an hour later. We stopped by the hospital to give flowers to my Dad, but it's pretty late now, and I'm exhausted.

"What about Bobo?" I ask as Daniel opens the door.

"Too busy. I think his brother is giving him more work to keep him away from our territory..."

For some reason, our flat feels pretty lonely now. Damn, I miss Nate already... I change into my nightgown and curl up in my bed. I haven't slept here in a while. Has my room always been this cold and silent?

I close my eyes, hoping everything will be fine. Between Nate and me, and tomorrow, too.

Tomorrow, the cursed day Diego is allowed back on her turf.

I spend all night rumbling about that. How to behave, what to say, how can I ignore that bastard. The next morning, when I get up, very early, I have a simple strategy in mind. It's Sunday, and for once, I'm up before Danny. Hence, he is shocked to find me making coffee when he leaves his room about half an hour later.

"Damn, someone fell out of her bed..." He whistles.

"More like I didn't sleep a wink," I sigh.

"Mh. Bad thoughts?"

I nod with a frown. Daniel sighs before taking a cup for himself.

"What's the battle plan?"

"There isn't one, Danny. I've decided, I don't care about this j.erk. I don't want anything to do with him, I'm done. He can do whatever the hell he wants as long as he stays the hell away from me."

Daniel stays silent for a few seconds and eventually comes to sit next to me on the couch.

“You know it’s not going to be this easy, right Babe?”

“I know, but I’m not going to give in. I’m over whatever happened, Daniel, and that’s what I will stick to until he understands. I don’t want him back in my life. He better stay the hell away, because I’m not going back to jail.”

My best friends sigh, and brushes my hair with his fingers gently.

“All right, you’re the boss. Ignore the jackass until he gets bored. I bet Clark will give orders for the others to try and keep you two apart anyway... Okay, do you want some jam? Bonnie made some mean apricot jam.”

I laugh and nod.

Like any Sunday, Danny and I have breakfast together, chatting about our week with our respective lovers. To be honest, I feel like we haven’t seen each other in forever, and it’s good to spend time just the two of us. I’m happy to hear his relationship with Bobo is going smoothly, despite the hardships that come from being from different Packs. Seems like neither of them has talked to anyone else about this, not even their siblings. I remember Bobo’s sister from the dinner, Tonia, and his older brother who is the King’s Beta. Such an important member of their pack...

“You think Levi knows?” I ask, eating a bite of my bread.

“I bet he’s too smart not to have caught on something. He is always behind your back already, would be funny if he let me be... He argued a lot with Clark about Diego, you know. Those two better not meet either.”

“sh!t. I don’t want to have Levi involved too...”

His overprotective brother would definitely take my side and still hate Diego for what happened back then. Daniel licks the jam off his fingers, frowning a bit.

“He will get involved. You know Levi. Aside from being a Beta to the bone, he definitely has some feelings for you.”

“Oh, shut up Danny, I am not talking about that.”

“As you wish...”

I am not blind about Levi's feelings for me, but I've definitely become good at pretending. I already have enough to deal with in the love area nowadays... I finish my breakfast and head to the bathroom first, changing into a comfortable workout outfit, leggings and an oversized crop top.

"Whoo, that's one hot babe ready to do some punching."

"Come with me Danny, you need to exercise some time."

He growls a bit.

"Are you hinting at something?"

"Yes, you're getting skinnier and losing muscles. Now get up and come train with me. I need someone who can keep up."

Daniel rolls his eyes but takes the rest of the breakfast dishes to the kitchen.

"Oh well, I guess it can't hurt from time to time..."

Indeed, two hours later, we are just done with the first round. Daniel is now growling at me, annoyed. Maybe because I won another match, the sixth in a row. I try to play innocent while grabbing some water.

"You agreed to train with me, Babe," I remind him.

"I agreed to training, not a beating, you damn brute! Look at that! Seriously, Babe, I'm going to have bruises all over! Bruises are not se.xy at all, Whitewood."

I laugh a bit while he's still examining himself. Even if he complains, Daniel is a decent fighter. He may not be a match with me, but having me or Levi as his training partners have definitely shaped a good fighter out of him. I'm kind of proud.

"Come on, Babe, one more round?"

"You can have more rounds with the boxing sack, I'm done with you kicking my a*s for today."

"Your scrawny a.ss..."

"My perfect a*s, if you want to ask my handsome and adorable boyfriend."

There he goes, bragging about Boyan again. At least he's not complaining anymore... I let him keep talking while I drink more water and go grab a towel, wiping off my sweat. A good sparing does make me feel a lot better. I had been lazy about the training these days, but if I'm not seeing Nate anymore, I can probably focus on something else...

I check my phone, but nothing from him. Of course. He probably is still mad, or at least perplexed by our dispute from last night... No matter what, I hope this will be over soon, and I can go back to him. I may be a bit shameless to hope Nate will be that patient with me, but I somewhat believe he will be. I know what we had together was fuking good and real.

"Elena."

I turn to Daniel, wondering what he wants to call me by my name all of sudden, but his eyes are set on the Dojo's entrance. My wolf instantly starts growling. Damn.

Standing nonchalantly at the door, a tall silhouette with arms crossed is staring right at us with a smile. I would recognize it anytime. It's been five years. That asshole has barely changed...

His black hair, dark skin. The way he moves like a predator. He has a new scar on his face, across his left cheek, and a large tribal tattoo I had never seen before on his torso. He's only wearing ragged jeans, walking barefooted on the tatami.

Daniel moves to stand between him and me, but I gently hold my best friend. I don't care if he comes close.

Diego walks up to us with an annoying smirk stuck on his face. Moon Goddess, how in the world did I ever fall for such a jerk like him... When he's a few steps away, he smiles at me, like a good guy.

"Te extrañé, mi amor."

I smile back to him, without a hint of happiness in my eyes.

"I didn't. fvck off, Diego."