

Untouchable (The Moonlight Avatar Series Collection)

Chapter 25 The Future

As long as I am breathing, in my eyes, I am just beginning.”– Criss Jami, Killosophy

Kiya Five Years Later

Life was good. Five years ago, I never thought I'd be in the position I am now, loving life. It was a dream I believed I could never reach.

But I did.

After my adoption, I changed my name. With the desire to keep my past in the past, I felt it was necessary to abandon the name Halima Lane, for that identity held too much pain for me. Adopting the surname of my parents, my name was now Kiya Guerrero, meaning 'Righteous Warrior'.

I have **a** wonderful family that treats me well **and** sees the best in me. I have an amazing group of friends and my pack had been nothing short of supportive. Every single person I hold close to my heart pushed me to do my best. I credit them for helping to cultivate me into **the** strong woman I am today.

I am a rising Junior pursuing my major in Child and Adolescent Development at San José State University. College was one hell of a trip but being surrounded by many people was a world I've come to appreciate.

As for my position in the pack, I was now a Delta, a rank reserved for the top five highly skilled warriors of the pack, each in charge of specific training specialties. I was the adopted daughter in the Alpha family, but I wanted to work for the things I want. The desire to be a strong werewolf stuck with me **since** my bonding to the pack. I refuse to be weak and **spoiled**. I wanted to earn my keep and I wanted to help defend the pack from the plethora of threats we've received **over** the years, including what I used to be, rogues.

Under Gamma All's leadership **and the** oh-so flamboyant Delta Galen's training regimen, I crawled up the ranks within two years. I fought **hard** and trained harder in the training specialties which included, but were not limited to hand-to-hand combat, weapon warfare, and wolf battle. Garnet Moon cultivates warrior wolves for **a** good reason, and I wear my title with pride and honor. I specialize in hand-to-hand combat.

Alpha Anthony and **Luna** Alesia rule over Garnet Moon, successfully honoring the legacies of the Alphas and Lunas before them. Now a married couple, they have a two-year-old daughter, Ximena.

My niece was cute as a button, minus the constant drooling she does. I was still waiting for the day she could finally pronounce "Auntie", or Tia in Spanish. But for now, I **was** all right with the drooling and baby babble. At least I knew she is happy to **see me** when she scampers my way. Anthony was strict and domineering with his members, yet a select few **see** the softer **side** of him. Alesia was still a kick-ass Luna with power coursing through her veins, but she was **an** absolute mushy mess with her husband and daughter.

My parents have been taking advantage of their **retirement**. **Since** the pack establishments generate enough money, they planned an overseas **vacation** twice a year **together**. They have been to every continent at least once, except Antarctica. Once, they took me with them on a trip to Paris, France. I've obviously never been, but I immediately fell in love with the French culture.

I have so many photos saved from that trip and gained ten pounds from croissants alone. I couldn't help it; they **were** full of buttery **goodness**!

As for Lyria, my big sister, she found her mate. He **was** Alpha Dimitri from the Thunder Moon pack in Southern California and she was living there as their Luna. I miss her terribly, but I knew she is doing well. I might expect another niece or **a nephew** soon!

Dwayne and Jacqueline were still at **each** other's **throats**, as expected with twins. Both had **found** their mates. around the same time, a phenomenon no one expected. Dwayne's mate was Olivia, a she-wolf from one of our allied packs, Twilight Dusk. As the daughter of a warrior, she was more than ecstatic to mate with **Dwayne**, considering they mated the first night he was there. It wasn't long until she moved to our pack.

Jaqueline's mate **was** Abigail, who she met in one of her college classes. **She was** a human, an international student from Nigeria, and loves Jackie with every fiber of her being. They graduated together last year, and Abi moved into the territory shortly after. It took her parents a while to realize that their daughter was gay and mated to **a** werewolf, but they **gave their** blessings. Abigail was one of the few humans in our warrior army, trained under both Delta Galen and Delta Darien.

I also got closer with Sapphire, the she-wolf I met five years ago during the passage ceremony. Born into the pack, she is a year older than me at twenty-three. She was smart. We go to university together, although she is a senior, she was already in college by the time I completed my accelerated high school courses online.

As a Chemistry major, I often see her making compounds and other unique things when motivated by her curiosity, she was responsible for developing the Anti-Spray, which helps disguise our scents whenever warriors and Deltas were deployed for missions. I wouldn't say she was nerdy, but her intelligence isn't to be underestimated.

As for me? Besides being a Delta, I've recovered mostly from my past. Why mostly? Well, there were some days it liked to creep up on me and ruin my **day**. I still see Mayra, although **my sessions** were now once every other **week**. I decided to not go on medication for my PTSD and depression, but it might change in the distant future.

My connection with Artemis was as strong as it has ever been, and we're both living the good life without mates. However, I was in a brief relationship with Gamma Ali until we decided it would be best if we stayed as friends. He found his **mate**, Zainab. I was thrilled for him and they look cute together.

While my **connection** to my wolf was strong, so was the connection to my goddess. Three years ago, however, I **discovered** that I had added perks alongside being Selene's avatar on Earth. Training to be a Delta was tough, but on one particular **day**, it was the hardest session I've ever **endured**. Under the scorching rays of **the** sun- drenched in sweat, I've had moments where I wanted to give up, that I **wasn't meant** to be a strong wolf. Self-doubt gnawed at me **and** wouldn't stop until I surrendered to its frothy jaws.

A male warrior was giving me a tough time, flinging taunts and insults **whenever** I landed hard on the grass. Normally, the banter was all in playful fun, but the intent behind his words was malicious. His ego was inflated, and he made sure to remind me with every kick and punch he threw. Coming from a background where I was constantly told I **was** worthless made the impact of his insults reach my heart. For a moment, I almost reverted **back** as the pitiful, beaten-up slave.

But something happened.

An unknown power awakened inside of me, flooding my veins with vivacious energy threatening to burst from underneath my skin. I thought it **was** my **confidence** shining **through**, but the sensation took on a supernatural feel. Power burst from me, shining brilliantly whilst I **was** behind its moon-colored shield. The sun and moon were rivals, but the moonlight-like **power** outshone the berating sunlight.

And it blinded the foolish werewolf. Accidentally. It was then, later that evening when I went to sleep did **Selene** reached for **me** and told me what that incident meant. It turns out that I have supernatural powers and abilities related to the moon, including the manipulation of moon energy. Not only am I the rarest wolf in existence, but I also have superpowers. According to Selene, many creatures on earth **serve** as avatars for a specific god or goddess, and one benefit of that was sharing their powers over what they command.

The new revelation terrified me at first because it's a foreign phenomenon I didn't think **was** possible, but it was all smoothened out when I met Phoebe.

Phoebe is a witch who lives in Garnet Moon and is the avatar of Hekate, **the** Goddess of Magic. Mysterious, but quizzical **and** intelligent, the woman swooped in and taught me all I needed to know about avatar information **and** the management of my powers. She became my personal trainer. With her help, I was trained in controlling my newfound abilities and trained in the art of moon magic.

Dangling around my neck is an upright crescent moon necklace carved out of the selenite crystal, a gift from her. It had helped me keep my abilities under control as a physical barrier, so they don't go haywire with my fluctuating emotions. I haven't fully mastered my abilities, so they were more on the unstable side. With Phoebe's guidance and wisdom, she had helped curb that worry.

But, having a lot of power at my disposal is frightening. I hope that one day, I'll have total control over them without hurting anyone.

Today **was** a sunny day on New Brighton State Beach, College kids and teens alike run toward the cold ocean with surfboards or with their friends, basking in on this glorious day. The powdery sand twinkles underneath the sun and the water glitters with magnificence. I walk along the beach dunes with Sapphire at my side, both of us in bikinis with wraps around our waists with our towels underneath our arms. Sapphire **in** blue and I in striped white,

our pack marks fully exposed. It's funny that the humans believe it's just a normal tattoo, but the other wolves at our university knew better.

Ignoring the sharp whistles and woos from both human men and werewolves around us, we found a decent spot to lay our towels down to relax. Children shrieked in excitement all around us, building sandcastles or catapulting themselves in the cool sea.

"It's a gorgeous day, isn't it?" I ask Sapphire in awe, laying on my stomach. The **cool** breeze licked at my skin, gently cooling my furnace-like body down. I heard a soft shuffle beside me, I turned my head to see Sapphire resting on her elbows.

"Yeah, it is. It's nice." The blond replied without enthusiasm, eyes cast on the glittering sand. Her blue eyes had that far-away look that meant she **was** in deep thought about something. Smiling, I poked her shoulder.

"We're out of school for the summer. It's a joyous occasion! No final exams, no irritating professors, not deadlines..." I retorted. Sapphire will graduate next semester while **I have** a couple more years left to go.

"Yeah I know, but that's not what I meant." She whispered, tossing **me** a knowing look.

Propping myself on my elbows, I gently **smile** and pat her shoulder. "Are you still thinking about Emil?" Emil was a human man Sapphire **had** a crush on. They met during one of her analytical chemistry classes, and she fell instantly head-over-heels. Given that she was **an** unmated female, I understand her disappointment when she revealed to me that Emil was traveling the world after graduation. He graduated this semester.

A deep part of me wishes they could **be** mates, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

“He is the envy of all recent graduates, I bet,” I joked, adding a chuckle. “Not everyone has the opportunity to travel the **world** after graduation.”

“The entire summer is such a long time. I won’t be able to see or talk to him for four months.” She whined.

“You’ll survive. Besides, you have a mate out there, somewhere. Once you find him, Emil would be nothing but old news.”

She rolled her eyes, her hand searching for her phone in her purse. “You’re not **good** at this **love** sympathy thing, are you?”

“Not at all, but I try my best.”

Sapphire quirked an eyebrow as she glanced at her phone screen. “Did you pack your things before we came here?”

“I did.” I turned myself on my rear end and sat up. Sapphire and I rented an apartment together near campus, paid for by Anthony. We were due to go back home for the summer. “Why? Are Darien and Galen here to pick us up?”

“Darien texted me to say they are about an hour away,” Sapphire muttered, squinting at her phone. They’re also bringing food.”

“Sweet!” I hop on the soles of my feet, gently kicking up sand.

“I’ll race you to the waves!” In a flash, Sapphire bolted towards the water. “Hey! No fair!” I screamed, running after her. We both dove deep into the water and made fools of ourselves for a good half hour.

After the beach, we took a taxi back to our apartment. Our clothes and other items were packed neatly in our multiple suitcases, ready to be transported back to **pack** territory. Living in an apartment with your **best** friend is great, but I miss home. I couldn’t wait to **see** baby Ximena **again and** spend the entire summer with her.