

Whispered Goodbye Chapter 11

Bonus Chapter: Leo Sterling

After losing Grandma, I only had Luna Reacher left.

Luna and I left our hometown behind and came to The North.

Seeing the well-dressed, carefree passersby, I vowed that Luna and I would stay.

I watched the ever-changing starry sky, working tirelessly from dawn to dusk.

I was going to marry Luna, but I couldn't do so empty-handed.

Luna started working right after her bachelor's degree, while I, studying medicine, had to continue my education.

We were both under immense pressure. The school's stipend wasn't much, and Luna's salary made up for the shortfall.

I saw her exhaustion, and I felt guilty.

Not to mention that despite her fatigue from work, she still remembered whenever I casually mentioned wanting to eat something.

She bustled about in the kitchen and living room, and though I wanted to talk to her, I always found myself tongue-tied. Over time, she began to notice something and started asking how my experiments at school were going, and what my advisor was like.

I wanted to tell her more, but seeing her struggle to understand the complex terminology, I felt disheartened.

I went to see a therapist because I thought something was wrong with me. How could I find Luna annoying? But I couldn't help it.

Every time I lost my temper with Luna, I felt so guilty that I couldn't bear to go home, choosing instead to spend the night in my dorm.

Luna's cautious demeanor overlapped with her younger self.

I couldn't accept that I, Leo Sterling, was the one causing her to walk on eggshells.

Jade Kingsley was a spoiled city girl, and at first, I really didn't like her.

But no matter how shallow she was, at least she could gradually understand the professional jargon.

She was proud and fearless, as if everything came easily to her, never showing the timidity I saw in Luna. She was friendly towards me, and I found it flattering.

So much so that Luna's departure came as a bolt from the blue.

Luna was Luna, the Moon unchanging through the ages; she was supposed to always be by my side.

Until Luna said she didn't want to be abandoned again.

That's when I knew how terribly wrong I had been before.

From then on, my world was plunged into darkness.

So when Luna asked if I would cut ties with Jade Kingsley, the thought crossed my mind.

When Professor Kingsley, who had a history of misconduct, committed academic fraud for Jade's sake, I reported him without hesitation.

'It was as if I had overturned all my previous principles, with a sense of mutual destruction.

As Luna said, I claimed it was for us, but everything I had done before seemed to be just for me.

It wasn't until Luna left me that I realized everything I had now seemed to have lost its meaning.

I knew I might end up leaving in disgrace.

But this raw, painful removal of rotten flesh at least gave more meaning to my existence than before.

Consider it atonement.

The worst–case scenario Thad imagined didn't come to pass. I heard that someone influential had protected me.

Hope flickered in my despair; it seemed there was still justice in this world.

I made inquiries to find out about my benefactor to thank them, but they pointed out that I should be thanking someone else.

Luna's friend, Counselor Justice, didn't hesitate to tell me who had arranged help for me.

I stood there stunned, then hurriedly dug out the red cloth package Grandma had left behind. It was the Ring Grandma had worn for decades.

I remembered Luna often secretly weighing it when she looked at me.

I clutched the Ring to my chest and wept uncontrollably.

This was truly the point of no return.

The Moon had abandoned its star.

My world was left with nothing but scattered stardust.

Because I had lost

The End