

Chapter 12: Barbie and the Beast

Part III: A Lovely Luna

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Chloe's POV

The cold rain droplets felt refreshing on my warm skin. I phased, transforming into a sandy coloured wolf. I ran on all fours. I quickly left the school grounds, searching for Jamie's scent. I felt guilty about the whole situation. Sure, Jamie was emotionally unstable but the girl had a lot on her plate. I wished I actually knew enough about Jamie to know where she would hide.

The storm was getting worse. This was Jamie's doing. At least, our new Luna was powerful.

Barely half an hour had gone by before I heard Alpha Jessie's voice in my heard.

Zoe found Jamie! Jessie said.

Zoe! Exclaimed Dalton. Zoe's back at school.

Zoe left and went to Jamie's house to look for her, said Jessie matter-of-factly.

Disobeying the alpha's direct orders was so unlike Zoe. I darted as fast as I could back to the classroom where our clothes were. Even at my fastest, the beta and gamma still arrived before me. Dalton was already in his uniform, searching his pockets frantically. He turned his back on me so I could phase back with some privacy.

Zack, my mate and the Pack Gamma, kept his eyes on me. He was dressed already too. Zack loved watching me phase and he loved watching me phase back even more. I stood on my hind-legs. My sandy fur disappeared to reveal smooth, pale skin. Long, blonde hair cascaded down my back. My eyes remained blue in both forms. I blushed feeling the heat of Zack's gaze. I searched the pile for my uniform. It wasn't there! I was about to panic when I saw Zack smirking at me.

"Give me my clothes," I said impatiently.

"What will you give me for them?" Asked Zack, grinning devilishly.

"Guys, I'm right here," complained Dalton, still facing away from me.

I stalked up to my mate. He towered over me. I stood on tiptoe and pressed my lips to his. He pulled me ush against him. I broke the kiss. He smiled, showing me my underwear, shirt and pleated skirt. He insisted on dressing me.

"My heels," I demanded.

Zack made me sit so he could put them on for me. I pretended to be annoyed but I secretly loved when he did this. Zack liked to dress and undress me himself. I would never admit this to any of the others but in private he called me his barbie doll.

"Is Cinderella ready for the ball?" Asked Dalton, now turning around.

"Almost," I said mockingly. "I hope I nd my Prince Charming when I get there. There's only frogs at this school."

I glared at both of them. They snickered. Baxter arrived. His wolf was also a sandy colour. Generally, wolf fur corresponded to your usual hair colour. So my black-haired mate had a jet black wolf. Dalton had ash brown hair and an ash brown wolf to match. Blondes like Baxter and I had sandy coloured wolves. If someone had red hair, their wolf would be reddish brown kind of like a fox.

"You guys can go ahead," encouraged Baxter. "I'll wait for Beatrice and the others."

Dalton could not nd his car keys.

Zoe says she took your car, Dalton Jessie said to us, Dalton bring my clothes ok. Go with Zack.

In Zack's car, I was quiet. Zack drove a Lamborghini. He, Dalton and Jessie were all loaded. My family had more than enough but we were not crazy rich like Zack's was. People thought I was extremely rich because of my designer shoes, clothes and purses. Those were all gifts from Zack. He took me shopping all the time but that was not why I loved him so much. I would rather dress in rags and be with Zack than rock designer duds all day and be with someone else. I remembered how nervous I was when he phased, hoping I was his mate.

I was terried.The full moon was high in the sky. I had been crushing on Zack for as long as I could remember. As his eighteenth birthday drew closer and closer, I desperately hoped I was his mate. He irted with me a lot and even invited me out a few times but I could tell he was holding back in case I wasn't the one. Tonight was the night of his rst phase. Soon, I would know for sure if I was his or not. He had told me that if I was his mate he would come to my room before midnight. It was now quarter to midnight, and he still was not here. He had turned eighteen at exactly 10:55pm. I refused to cry. I was strong. My heart was breaking. At ve to midnight, I gave up hope. I burst into tears. I did not even hear someone sneaking up behind me. His arms snaked around me from behind. I gasped. He turned me around to face him. He must have just phased back because he was not wearing any clothes. I blushed.

"Chloe, the conquerer," he said in an amused tone, "Crying and blushing."

I sniffed. He looked so handsome. He dried my tears with his bare hands. He smelled amazing.

"Chloe Harper, will you accept me, Zachery Stronghold, Gamma of the Ambrosia Wolf Pack, as your mate?" He said.

I cried tears of joy instead. Ugh. Since when was I a leaky faucet. It was one minute to midnight.

"You cut it really close," I said, pouting.

He raised his eyebrows. "I'm really sorry, my little she-wolf, will you forgive me? My parents were lecturing me."

I was stunned. I had never heard Zack apologise for anything before, but that was before he had found out I was his mate. The Strongholds took Pack life really seriously so I was not surprised they kept him back.

"Yes, of course I forgive you and technically you're not late," I said, sniing.

"Anything else?" Zack asked, his gaze was steamy and intense.

"And, yes, I accept you as my mate," I whispered.

Zack kissed me. He did not hold back this time. He literally lifted me off the ground. He pinned me to the wall. My legs wrapped around him. My head was spinning. I broke away for air. He chuckled and put his lip against my ear.

"You are so, so, so beautiful, my little barbie doll," he said, his voice deep and raspy in my ear. "I'm going to have so much fun playing with you."

I shivered. I did not get any sleep that night. Zack would not allow it. I was exhausted. Dawn approached. I had my head on his bare chest. I was still panting from all the exertion. Zack chuckled. The spot on my neck where he had marked me stung a little. My back was a little sore but I really could not complain. I had never been so happy in my entire life.

"You can sleep now, my little doll," Zack murmured. I was not used to being told what to do but Zack made submission feel like heaven. My hand reached up so my index nger could trace the spot on his neck where I had marked him. He pretended to bite my nger. I snatched it away.

"Later today, we have to go shopping," Zack said, stroking my hair.

"Shopping?" I asked. My favourite past time. Well, my second favourite now after what Zack had done to me last night. I had never been with anyone before him.

"We need to get you an engagement ring," he said matter-of-factly.

After my nap, Zack took me ring shopping at the mall. My new ring was so beautiful. It was a round-cut yellow diamond on a yellow gold band. Zack had refused to let me see the price of any of the rings but I knew this one was seven gures. I was a little terried of losing it. Zack needed to use the bathroom so I wandered into a store. This mall was really fancy and lled with designer boutiques. The sales girl encouraged me to try on the dress she saw me eyeing. She added a pair of heels to the look. The price tags on these things were way above my budget. Even though the items were so gorgeous, I went back to the changing room to take them off and then tell the girl I did not want them. Before I could take the dress off, someone burst right into the changing room. I squealed.

"Stop!"

"It's me," chuckled Zack.

"You scared me," I said angrily.

"I have a new rule," he stated.

"What rule?" I asked, looking at him like he was crazy.

"I get to undress you and dress you because you're my little doll," he said. "And you can have whatever you want."

Zack helped me out of the designer dress and heels. He put my regular clothes back on me. He bought the dress and shoes for me. He started to picking out dresses he wanted to see me in, dressing me and undressing me each time. He would not so much as kiss me. He was teasing me. He bucked literally everything I tried on. He took me to a lingerie store and started picking out ouths that made me blush. In the changing room, I waited patiently for him to undress me.

"You learn so quickly, my little barbie doll," he said, pleased.

Zack's hand squeezing my thigh stopped my stroll down memory lane. Zack always drove with one hand on the steering wheel and the other hand on my leg.

"We're here, Chlo," he said. It was still drizzling. Dalton seemed excited to see the witch's house. It looked haunted. I waited for Zack to open my door. He helped me out of the car.

The door to the house swung open before we could even knock. I wished I had a vial of holy water on me or something. Zack had his ngers intertwined with mine. He and Dalton led me up the stairs. We found Jessie, Jamie and Zoe in a bedroom with chalk and salt all over the oor. Dalton and Zoe embraced like they had not seen each other in years instead of minutes.

"Jamie," I said, trying to ignore Jessie changing out of a pink robe and into his uniform, in full view of everyone. Dalton and Zack were the same way. They gave me my privacy, well except Zack, but they never required any. I was surprised they had not joined a nudist colony yet.

Jamie looked up, her eyes red and puffy. "I'm sorry if I made it worse," I said.

Jamie smiled. "You helped a lot though. You gave some great advice."

I smiled, surprised. Jamie hugged me. I hugged her back hesitantly. I was not used to touching anyone but Zack. No one in my family hugged or anything. Jessie was in his uniform now and to annoy me, he hugged both me and Jamie, squeezing us closer together. Zack and Dalton joined the hug.

"Ugh!" I cried. "So dumb!"

Jamie giggled.

Baxter, Beatrice, Quinn, Erick, Maverick, Summer and Winter arrived shortly after. Crone Clementine came home and did not seem the least bit surprised to see her house lled with werewolves and a human. She insisted we have chocolate cake and vanilla ice cream for lunch and she did not seem to mind that we had skipped our afternoon snack.

To my surprise, Zack had taken a huge liking to Crone Clementine, asking her a ton of questions about witchcraft. Zack was usually so wary of witches and now in front of the eldest and most powerful of them, he was relaxed, stung his face with the cake she had baked. Crone Clementine scooped more ice cream into Zack's bowl.

"Do you have any werewolf friends?" I asked the Crone, wanting to be in the conversation if Zack was suddenly interested in witchcraft.

"The Luna back in my day was my school friend," Clementine said.

Everyone gasped including Jamie.

"My grandmother, you mean?" Asked Jessie.

"Yes," said Clementine. "Titania Gold was my best friend."

The old witch chuckled at our abbergasted expressions.

"So what happened?" I asked. They certainly did not seem to keep in touch.

Clementine smiled. "We grew apart after we left school. She focused on the Pack and I focused on the Coven. But when Jamie brought home Titania's grandson, I gured he'd be a keeper."

Jessie grinned. Well at least he had Granny Witch on his side cause Mommy Witch and Daddy Wizard surely did not approve from what I had heard. I tried not to eat too much cake and ice cream. I burnt off calories really easily as a werewolf but I tried to avoid eating too much sugar.

"You're young. The occasional indulgence won't hurt," said Clementine to me, winking.

Could she read my mind? I tried to think only good things after that.

"I was thinking, Granny," said Jessie, immediately adopting Clementine as his grandmother. "Can you teach Jamie to actively control the weather? Right now, she controls it involuntarily."

"Is that so?" Said Clementine.

"Don't pretend you don't know," mumbled Jamie. Clementine chuckled and told us a story about Jamie making it snow inside the house when she was younger.

"Of course, we'll work on it," said Clementine. "We need to start your training for the Mother Qualification Exam eventually anyway."

"What?" Asked Dalton.

"You don't just get to be Mother automatically like the alpha's son becoming alpha?" Asked Quinn, surprising everyone by adding to the conversation.

"No, you sit an exam," Jamie said. "A practical one to qualify."

"No one has ever failed in our family so we've never had to relinquish the position," Clementine added. "The Witch Council decides the winner if there is a challenger who wants to sit alongside you. The Witch Council sends examiners even if there is only one candidate as usual."

"When is this exam?" Jessie asked.

"A Maiden as the word implies must end her term when she marries. She must become Mother before she becomes a literal wife and mother," Clementine said.

"What?!" Roared Jessie. Everyone jumped. His alpha voice was scary. His eyes were black.

"Why didn't anyone tell me this. So Jamie has to pass this before I can marry her?" He spat.

Clementine did not look the least bit startled. Everyone else including Jamie was quaking.

"Yes," said Clementine. "She has a year to prepare. What's the issue?"

"Nothing, sorry," said Jessie, composing himself and walking out of the dining room. I followed him into the drawing room.

"A year?" I asked. He was going to wait a whole year to marry Jamie.

"Her parents wanted a longer engagement," he muttered.

"What do you want?" I asked.

"Jamie," he said.

I smiled, remembering me of Zack. The toughest werewolves would succumb to anything for their mate.

Jamie and Zack entered the room.

"My Alpha," Jamie said softly. I had never heard her call him that before. Smart girl.

He smiled, clearly enjoying the level of respect. "Yes, my Luna, come here."

She obediently hopped into his lap. Zack sat in an armchair and pulled me into his lap.

"This house is wild, Barbie," he whispered in my ear, looking at the shelf of dolls near us.

"Yeah," I said, wrapping my arms around his neck. His arms were around my waist. Zack nuzzled me. I sighed.

Jessie locked eyes with Jamie. "Jamie, I wanted to try to convince your parents to move up the wedding, but how can I do that when you need time to prepare for this test before we marry?"

I decided to butt in and ask Jamie an easier question, "What do you have to do in the test?"

"There are thirteen skills they test," Jamie said. Jamie went to another shelf opposite the doll shelf. This one actually contained books. She picked up a red book entitled Mother Magic Manual and opened it. She showed it to us. It read:

To qualify as the Mother of her Coven, the Maiden must demonstrate the following:

Divination Levitation Incantation Purication Astral Projection Weather Manipulation
Invocation Animation Restoration Obliteration Protection Transmutation Teleportation

"How many can you do so far?" Jessie asked.

Jamie scanned the list, "I've been able to do the rst seven so far plus number thirteen, transportation, I did today. So, eight out of the thirteen, but you just be able to demonstrate all. No exceptions."

"You can learn the other ve, easy peasy," said Jessie. "I know you can do it, my Luna."

Jamie smiled at Jessie and kissed him.

Jessie sighed. "I think I should apologise to your Grandmother for my outburst."

Crone Clementine just told me to tell you apology accepted, Jessie, Dalton mind-linked us from the dining room.

Jessie, Zack and I laughed.

"What's so funny?" Asked Jessie, confused. I giggled even more.