

CHAPTER 28

Okay this was not the infirmary bed. I sat up feeling nothing. I wasn't in any pain or discomfort. I touched the bite mark on my neck and felt that it was gone, there wasn't even a scarring.

My breath was caught in my throat when I realised...am I dead? I felt my heart pound against my chest as I turned in the bed, placing my feet on the cold ground. Oh my gosh! Am I freaking dead?

While temporarily moving my panic attack to the side, I found myself in an outside area? It was a very very starry night and I was surrounded by glowing flowers and beautiful trees, trees similar to the one I saw in that tower with Zeus.

"Hello."

My head whips around and I saw a woman standing there. A very beautiful woman. She had silver hair, her eyes glowing as bright as the stars, her skin smooth in a glowing pale tone and she was wearing a silky silver dress that was the length of her body. She smiles gently at me and says, "You are Lily, correct?"

I slowly nodded my head, "Y-yes. Hold on, wait a second! What is going on here? Where exactly is here?"

"Don't panic, you are still in the infirmary, I have only encapsulated your mind for a moment."

I gulped and asked, "Who are you? And what do you want from me?"

The woman bends down and picks a flower, she gazes upon it and could see though she looked magnificent, her eyes held a sadness. She picked a petal and watched it slip from her fingers, "You are running out of time, Lily."

"What?"

"Nikolai is growing stronger, he is gathering more and more people and creatures to fight on his side," She raises her head with a serious expression, "You must prepare for battle."

"How did you even know about the-"

"That doesn't matter. Nikolai is not working alone. He's got his own secret weapon, you must find yours in order to defeat him."

I gulped, "I don't know how! I don't know what to do!"

The woman comes to me and gently cups my face in a motherly manner, "You need to find the flower."

I frown, "Flower? You mean Esme's Flower?"

She nods her head, "Find the flower and you will find the extra power you need to defeat Nikolai."

I shake my head, "It's not real. It's just a legend from the gods."

She smiles warmly at me, "Legends are based on truths, Lily. Find the flower, it is your only hope."

"B-But how! How can I find something that is impossible to find! Why don't you help? You seem to hold all of the answers!" I said in a panic.

She shakes her head so ly, "Gods cannot interfere with the a airs of mortals unless the mortals tamper with the a airs of the gods." Wait what?

"Please help me."

"I have...how do think you've been able to see all this time? Coincidence?"

I felt my heart stop and about to explode all at the same time, "Y-You're the M-Mo-"

"Nevermind what I am. I have given you your eyesight so than you can find the flower. Research the legend. Find as much information you can. It is your only hope. Not even I can find it, but you...this is your purpose. Find the flower."

I felt myself become dizzy and everything began to spin slightly, "Wait! What do I do with it once I've found it?"

She smiles so ly and says, "You'll know exactly what to do when the time comes."

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

My eyes snap open and I inhaled a deep breath. My eyes quickly scanned the room to make sure that I really was here. I felt my nerve become lax.

"Lily?"

Donny was sitting next to my bed in a chair. He o ers a small smile, but I doesn't reach his eyes, "How're you feeling?"

"I feel okay. Did it work? Did Zeus's blood-"

"It worked, Lil." Donny interrupted my sentence.

I still felt a little weak, but not too bad. Donny points to the orange juice and cookie sitting beside my bed, "Those are for you. Ozai said it will help with the weak feeling."

I grabbed the drink and took a small sip, "Thank goodness, I'm not a vampire, don't want to be sucking anybody's blood or anything." I tried to joke, but I saw Donny's jaw clenched and his eyes down casted.

"Where are the others?"

Donny leans back in his chair and said, "They've gone to deal with something. They'll be gone for a couple of hours."

I sighed dramatically, "Well that's good. Give you a break from Zeus ordering you around all the time," I snickered.

But again, Donny didn't react, he just sat there. I sit up, "Donny? What's wrong?" I asked.

"What do you mean? I'm fine?"

I rolled my eyes, "Donny, seriously. Tell me. Something is obviously bothering you."

He gulps and I could see him fidgeting with his fingers nervously, "It's not me I'm worried about."

I tilted my head to the side, my head swimming in questioning, "Okay, what is that you're-"

"Something happen." Donny stated, "We had to cut the blood transplant short because something happened and Zeus needed to go deal with it."

"Okay," I said hesitantly, "So what does that have to do with me? What happened?"

Donny sighs in defeat and closes his eyes, "There was a vampire attack. Only one. He came and was targeting the Alphas and Lunas that were leaving."

"What?!" I exclaimed, my mind working hard to try and comprehend it, "Well is everyone okay? Did Zeus get him?"

"Yeah Zeus caught him. He is being kept for interrogation later on...a er the funeral."

My eyes widen, "Funeral? Someone was killed? One of the Alphas? Lunas?"

Donny looks at intently, "Okay, look I'm going to need to stay calm."

I shook my head, "No. no. I need to get down there. I need to go see." I swung the blankets o and and saw I was in a small hospital kind of gown. I swung my legs over and tried to get up, but Donny had held my shoulder tightly, withholding me from rising from the bed.

"Hold on, Lill! You can't get up now, are you crazy!? You're still recovering. Everything else can wait and-"

I shove Donny o and shouted, "No! I am not going to sit here while the Alphas and Lunas who pledged their allegiance to us gets killed! Now move out of my way Donny! Now!" I shove him out of the way and get up, a wave of dizziness play around my head making me stumble. I squint my eyes to make them focus and I began to drag my sluggish body down to where everyone else was.

I was panting when I saw everyone crowded around someone lying on a table. I felt my heart hurt, not wanting to know who it was. I went to walk forward, but some catches my arms so ly.

Zeus stood there holding me back, his eyes glowing green that held a hint of sadness, "Don't Lily. Don't look, you'll regret it."

I shook my head, "No, I have to see. I am a part of this. I am the reason."

Zeus gently cups my face and shook his head, "Please don't. You don't want that to be the last memory you have of them."

I frowned. I knew them? I pushed pass Zeus and he does nothing to stop me. The mourning I crowd separated as I approached, I stilled when I saw them lying on the table. I felt my heart literally stop. Everything inside of me stops as I gazed upon them. I took a step forward shakily. My breath coming out shallow and short.

The stroked her cheek and her beautiful face become lost in a blur as my eyes welled up in tears, "Little Yellow Bird." I whispered shakily. It was Leah, it was her and her parents that were killed. They laid there, holding hands on the table.

Sozin steps forward sorrowful, "The vampire went and attacked Leah and her mother, Chief Jacob came and tried to protect them, He died defending them, and then Luna Emil died defending-"

"That's enough, Sozin." Zeus snarled, "She doesn't need to hear it."

I wasn't even going too fight with Zeus. I cupped my mouth to stop my lip from quivering and stop withhold the sob that threatened to break free. I felt the ball form in my throat, it was painful trying to withhold my sob, to the point where I felt my body quiver in sorrow.

She was just a little girl. A sweet little girl who had her whole life ahead of her. So many experiences awaited her. And now she's dead, "She was too young," I whispered shakily, "Too gentle to have such a brutal death."

Their skin and clothes were stained with blood.

"Everyone out!" Zeus commanded. I could heard the crowd of footsteps leave. I couldn't stop staring at their faces.

I felt responsible for their deaths. It was my fault. This was Nikolai's warning to me if I didn't do the ritual. A heavy acid burn weighed down on my chest and the full sensation of guilt spread throughout my very being. It was my fault that such a pure and innocent family were killed.

I gulped down the ball, but all it did was come back up, "I-I'm going to go up to the room."

Donny, Sozin and Ozai were watching carefully as they themselves looked a little pale. I le the room. I don't even remember how I got up to the room, I just found myself there. My mind was too lost in thought to even be aware of my surroundings.

I had found that Zeus followed. He shut the door gently with a click.

"You want a shower?"

I silently shook my head.

"Okay, well, I'll have one then."

He silently leaves me on my own as he went to do what he had to. My mind is buried deep in all the possibilities on how I could have prevented this. I could have done so many things differently. I wish I never met her, maybe then she would be safe.

This only confirmed that who ever I was close to, whoever I loved were in danger. I need my family safe. They need to stay here with me. I need them.

It became hard to breath while feeling this immense weight of guilt crashing down upon me. Il foolish enough to think that taking deep breaths would help the weight, but it didn't and panic began.

The panic, the feeling of being closed in. If he can get to Leah, who else does he know about? I tried to think of all the people he could use as a target, but my family alone would be so many. And it would all be my fault.

The bathroom door opens up and Zeus comes out dress in loose shorts and a t-shirt. He was drying his hair as he made his way to his dresser, doing his night routine.

"Zeus?" I tried to say normally but my voice was quivering.

He looked at me through the mirror.

I sat there on the bed silently as we stared at each other. A fresh set of tears fell from my eyes endlessly. I stood up cried, "It was my fault. It's all my fault. I did this."

Zeus turned around and said firmly, "This is not your fault. Don't even think that."

I shook my head. I couldn't bare, it was too much, "She was innocent!" I shouted.

Zeus stood there watching me with eyes filled with so much pain. I couldn't even imagine how he's have felt finding his wife and child dead, he would have gone through so much worse.

I walked in long strides toward Zeus, he watched me very closely as I went to him and immediately wrapped my arms around his waist and buried my head in his large chest. I released a shaking sob.

I felt Zeus's arms come around me tightly. He pulled me so close to his body. I cried and I cried hard in his chest. He bend down slightly and picks me. I wrap my legs around his waist and he holds me as if I were a child.

He walks to the bed and sits with me in his lap. I continue to cry. He lies down and I lie tightly next him. His arms still wrapped tightly around as if he was trying to keep me together, keep me from breaking apart.

He didn't say anything, I didn't want him to. I didn't need words, I just need this. I just needed to be held while I cried. That's all anyone really needs at a time like this. No one can really say anything when at a time like happens.

Zeus strokes my hair and he pressed his lips on my forehead. I held tight on to him. I gripped the material of his shirt in a tight fist as I cried.

"I wish it was me," I said shakily while sni ing, "I wish I could have taken their place."

"I don't," Zeus said, "And I don't think they would either."

I shook my head, "No. I wish Nikolai would just leave us alone! Why does he have to go on killing the innocent!"

Zeus rubs my back, "Because he knew that we got the vampire venom out of your system, he wanted to scare us."

"Well he definitely succeeded with me. I'm terrified."

"I'll be here, Lily. I know you're scared and you have every right to be, but don't think of that right now." He gently pushes me further over the bed and arranges us in away where he ends up spooning me from the back. I felt extremely small like this. Feeling his massive figure behind me, it made me feel...protected. It made me feel safe. Zeus's arm covers mine and he hold my hand tightly. I felt his lips near my ear, "Don't be scared right now, I'm right here, Lil. I'm here. Now is a time of grieving, let yourself go, I'll be here to protect you no matter what."

My body sagged as if I was released from this command. I was released from the fear for a small period of time. I closed my eyes and let my tears fall free as Zeus held me tightly against his chest. I was safe, I was okay.