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《Aurora's pov》

"Let's get out of here now," I urged when I reach beside Cass and Serena.

Cass nods in agreement and so does Serena.

I had just made the entire Crystal River pack rogues. They had no Alpha, no leader and Raphael had no heir.

I was sure Raphael wanted the alpha title to be in his bloodline, which is why he would've forced me to carry his seed. So there's no way he would've passed it down to his Beta and Gamma.

Now their ranks would no longer matter since they are now also rogues.

"I can shift," Cassandra suggested, looking at Serena.

I looked at Cass worriedly. "Are you sure you can handle it?" I asked in concern while I shift my gaze to the wolves who were still there. They looked lost, not knowing what to do or where to go from here.

I also had them still trapped, not wanting them to attack when we least expected it.

Because even though they weren't trying to escape the captivity of the roots and branches, I still did not trust them. They were, after all, the same wolves who tormented me my entire life here. And I suspected the only reason they did not try to fight back was because they knew they stood no chance against me.

"I need to at least try. We can't go on foot Rora. Even though Raphael is dead, the remaining wolves can still come after us when we don't expect

it. We can't trust that they won't. They may want vengeance for their fallen leaders."

Cass had a fair point.

We couldn't let our guard down and trust that they won't attack when we turn our backs. They've been led by a cruel cold man for years, there was a possibility that his cruelty had rubbed off on them.

"As long as your body can withstand the shift then okay. I will still try to figure out another way-

Suddenly there's a gust of wind and a second later the feeling of a presence behind my back. I gasp when fingers knot into the back of my hair to hold me there while a sharp blade brushes the thin skin of my neck.

My breath hitches but I don't feel fear, oddly. I was rather calm for someone who had a blade threatening to pierce through their neck.

"Did you forget about me?"

A female voice taunts in my ear.

Cass takes a step forward, one of her arms keeping Serena behind her protectively. But she stops when Essi pushes the blade closer to my skin and taunts. "One more step little wolf and this goes straight into her pretty little neck." 

Seeing that it wouldn't be a good idea to advance with her attack, Cass only glares at Essi hotly with hatred. "If you hurt her-

She started in a warning tone but Essi cuts her off with another taunt. "You are in no position to threaten me little wolf. No position at all." Her

tongue clicks.

Cass's glare burned even more with anger and hatred.

"That was quite a show you put on little Aurora. Well you're not quite little anymore I suppose." She giggles, pressing the blade more into my skin until I was sure it had managed to cut through my skin a little by the slight sting I felt.

I don't react to the slight pain, knowing people like her fed on it.

If I use the roots against her, there's a slight chance she'll have time stab my neck.

"How can you do that?" She hissed lowly.

I licked my dry bottom lip. "Do what?" I acted like I didn't know what she was referring to.

"Don't act smart with me!" She sneered. "How can you control animals and plants? How is that possible?"

The grip she had on my hair turned brutal until I'm convinced that everyone wanted me bald.

"I don't know," I said bluntly.

It wasn't a lie, I did in fact not know what was happening. I wasn't even sure how I was able to control the movements of the roots or how the birds knew I needed help. It just came....naturally.

"Liar!" She snarls.

I wince when the blade digs more into my neck until the little sting turns

to a throb.

"You're hurting her!" Cass roared, her eyes flashing.

Essi ignores Cass's words and focused her anger on me.

"We'll just have to see -

A loud growl and Essi's body pushing off of me unexpectedly had me stumbling to the side slightly. The grip she had on my hair loosened. I whirled around as I hear her let out one of the loudest screeches my ears were unfortunately blessed with.

A huge wolf had his jaws around her neck and tore off her head from her body before she could even topple to the ground fully.

My heart slams against my chest.

He came. He came for me.

He quickly shifts into his human form, his hand reaching out for Essi's torn head and much like what one would do to a baseball, throws it so far that I was sure Essi's head would go missing in all those bushes.

He growls loudly, having the wolves still trapped in the captivity of the roots I had braided around them to back away a little and whine.

I blinked, my eyes quickly filling up with tears.

He came for me.

"Xavier," I whispered in awe as I stare at his back.

He whirls around and rushed over to me, cupping my face in his big hands. His eyes roamed my face and my body. "Are you okay? Did they

hurt you? Does anything hurt? The baby? Talk to me love. "

I breathed out in awe. "You came for me."

Xavier looks at me confused until my words registered in his head and a small smile lifts his upper lip.

"Of course I did baby. We all did." He turns slightly to look at the trees to the left side and I'm happily surprised to see warrior wolves from the Crimson Moon pack emerge out of the green foliage.

My eyes blur as I cried.

They came for me.

"We took the left course to get here just in case he expected us to attack from the right. That's why we were a little late." He mumbled. "I'm sorry I didn't get here sooner."

"You're here now and that is all that matters. I wouldn't care if you took hours or days. Just knowing you were coming for me is enough." I whispered.

"I would always come for you Aurora. They came to rescue their Luna. I came to rescue my woman." He grinned then scans his eyes around the area.

They froze on Raphael and Lisa's dead body and then he looked over at the wolves who were still trapped with the roots.

Turning to me, he lifted a brow. "Though you don't seem to be a damsel in distress. In fact you looked like you had the situation under control."

I smiled shyly, about to explain to him what had happened but a familiar

voice shouts. "Did I miss all the fun!?"

I turn to the crimson moon warriors and spotted Eli on Chris's wolf.

I gasp in shock. "You're up!"

My eyes watered. He fought to protect me in the infirmary, that I will always remember and owe him greatly.

And even though he was badly injured just a few hours ago, yet still chose to come and rescue me, well perhaps I owe Eli my life.

Eli grinned and puffed out his chest. "It will take a lot to put this powerful, great, awesome wolf down."

"Now he's just pushing it," Xavier whispered with a snort.

"Alpha my ears still work perfectly and I heard everything you just said!" He yells back.

Suddenly Chris's wolf shook Eli off of him and he falls ungracefully on the dirt. He spits it out of his mouth and stands up.

He glares at his brother. "I'll make sure to have you run around the border for hours when I'm fully Beta." He promises, flicking the ear of his brother's wolf.

I smiled.

I had only been gone for a few hours and I had missed them dearly.

It was amazing how much they made me feel like I belong.

Suddenly there's a whisper behind me. I turn to stare at Cassandra in confusion but her eyes are trained intensely on Eli. 3

In fact they were so trained on him that she looked lost. Completely out of it.

And then she whispered again. This time clearer. "Mate."

And it was like her voice had waved over to him, because suddenly Eli froze and takes a huge lungful of air. Then he snaps his eyes to Cassandra and snarls in possessiveness. "Mine!" 

He storms over to her, not even caring that he nearly fell by his own feet. It was easily noticeable that he wasn't fully healed yet.

When he was beside her, he peered into her eyes intensely. "Mate. My mate." He said in amazement and lifted his hand to pinch some of Cass's tresses.

"Beautiful." He murmured.

He was right, even though Cass was still visibly dirty. She was still so beautiful.

I smiled.

And finally, she found love.

"How many?" He asked.

His question seems to have snapped her out of her haze because she looks at him in confusion and her form grows stiff.

Perhaps she thought he was asking about how many men had touched her because she suddenly looked like a ghost while questioning hesitantly.

"How many what?"

"How many babies are you willing to carry because I'm a hundred percent sure I'll pump you full," Eli admits, not even caring that he had an audience. 1

I contemplated if to block my ears so I'd not hear anything else I didn't want to hear.

Cass looked relieved but a furious blush settles on her cheeks rosily. "Five? Perhaps a football team? I always loved children. I'd be happy with any amount." She says shyly while staring into his eyes.

Eli nods looking pleased as he takes a step closer to her. "Good, because I can-

A little clearing of the throat made Eli stop and had his gaze sweeping behind Cass. His eyes widen and I quickly notice an embarrassing blush crawl on his cheeks.

"Uh Serena right?"

Serena nods.

Eli lifted his hand and scratches the back of his head. "Pretend that you hadn't heard anything I just said okay? Pinky promise?"

He pushes his pinky out and held it out for Serena to take. She looks at his hand and then locked her pink in his and shook it while nodding her head. "Pinky promise." 1

"Who's the girl that's Eli's mate?" Xavier asked in confusion.

I smiled as I watch the mates. Cass got a good one and I'm a hundred

percent sure he'd treat her right and do as he promise....."To pump her full

She deserves happiness, they both did. The moon goddess chose correctly. They were perfect for each other. 1

"That's Cassandra. My best friend, the one who helped me escape Raphael's clutches the first time. She's my sister and I owe her my life."

I giggled slightly when Cass smacks Eli's hand away from her butt as he tried to sleekly grab her.

He looks at her sheepishly and his mouth moved to word out an apology.

"Ah. Then I feel sorry for her having to be with Eli twenty-four seven." Xavier snorted.

I furrow my brows and give him a look. "Why?"

Looking at Eli and Cass, he mumbles. "Because he can be a nuisance half the time and do talk a lot."

"Which is exactly why they're perfect. Complete opposites, just like you and I." I smiled at him and he grinned down.

He touched my neck softly, where the blade had cut through slightly. "I should've killed her slowly." He says tightly and I can see the red flecks of his wolf in his eyes.

I place my hand on his arm. "It's okay Xavier. It doesn't hurt and besides, it was kind of hot to see you tear off her head from her body." I admitted.

I felt so odd saying the word hot. But it was true, I did find it hot he tore off her neck so brutally. Why? Because he did it for me, to protect me.

There was nothing hotter than that honestly.

His lips lift into a smirk. "Really?"

Dipping his head he whispered in my ear playfully. "Did you get turned on?"

I smacked his shoulder and pulled away from him. "This is not the time nor the place for this conversation." I mockingly glare at him but couldn't help it and grinned.

I felt happy. Light.

Free.

I am now forever free from Raphael. And now able to put the past and the torturing I had endured by his hand and his people's hand behind me.

Xavier grabbed my hand but he grabbed the injured one. I hiss lowly. It would take at least a week to heal completely.

Xavier's eyes drop to my hand and his jaw ticked as he snarls. "Who did it?"

Anyone can hear the anger in his voice, the promise of death for the one who had done this to me.

He was a bit too late for that.

Because I had already taken care of the culprit.

"I took care of him already." I nudged my head to what remained of Raphael's body. It seemed the crows were a bit hungry as they relentlessly peck at the dead bodies.

"Is there a possible way to raise him from the dead just so I can tear him into pieces?" Xavier growls, glaring at Raphael's body furiously.

I shook my head and hold his arm. "Hey. It's okay. I'm okay I'll heal. I just want to get out of here."

This place brought on memories and not the good kind.

I still had no full control of my newfound power and I'd hate to injure someone because I couldn't control my feelings.

Xavier rips his gaze from Raphael's body to stare at me. "Did you get rid of Adrian too?"

I winced remembering how brutal I had killed her. "Yes."

Xavier lifted a brow and shook his head. "And here I thought I was coming to rescue you. Only to find out that you didn't need rescuing at all."

With a grin, he dips his head until we were at eye level. "It's rather hot, a turn on really that my woman can take care of herself. I only regret not seeing you in action."

I smiled shyly, not accustomed to getting praises.

"I would've kissed you right now but my teeth and tongue are still stained with vampire blood and that shit tastes foul." He chuckles pulling away from me. "When I brush my teeth ten times, as soon as I'm done I'm taking you every possible way I can."

Feeling heat in my cheeks I smacked Xavier's chest and felt it rumble with laughter under my palm.

"Will you explain the roots?" He asked after he got back serious.

Looking around nervously, I murmured. "Can I tell you about it when we get home?"

I didn't want to give the members of the crimson moon pack another reason to not trust me and fear me. Not when I we were finally making progress.

Xavier nods, a smile dancing on his lips as his eyes shone. "Home. I like the sound of that." He pulled me into a hug and kissed my head.

"Hey Xavier?" I asked, my voice nearly muffled as he presses my face to his chest.

"Hmm?"

"What are we going to do with the rest of the Crystal River pack?"

"They're rogue, they live their life how they want to. They can either join another pack or remain rogue. What happens now, is their choice."

"Something is off." Eli suddenly mumbles, his grip on his brother's fur harsher.

We were so close to the pack house, just a few more trees to pass through and we'll be graced with the sight.

Cass's arms around his waist stiffen as she senses her mate's unease.

Xavier growls beneath me, his huge powerful body trembling in anger.

Something was wrong. Definitely wrong.

I stare at Eli because he was the only one who could tell me what was going on.

"Lucio." He sneered.

Well, it definitely didn't sound like he liked whoever this Lucio is.

"Who's Lucio?" I asked.

Keeping his gaze ahead, Eli sneered. "The head of the council. They're here. They're all here."

I stiffened.

The council.

Did they come for war too?

Did they come to kill me because I was a threat?

I stay silent on top of Xavier, holding his soft fur tightly. It's not that I was scared, it was just that I was nervous for a war I was sure was ticking quickly.

I didn't want to shed any more blood.

When the packhouse comes into view, it's not the house alone that blessed our sights. It was the wolves lining the front of the house, as if setting a wall to keep us out.

Power emanated off of them. Even the red cloaks they had on were unsettling. 1

They were the council.

The one in the front, with white hair almost as white as snow steps forward, his golden eyes on Xavier.

"Ah you finally got back alpha Xavier! We've been waiting for you. This little bird said you'd gone to fight a war to save your....."

His golden eyes snap up and they connected with mine. Like that of a serpent, his tongue danced with the word. "Luna."

He pointed passively at Sarah who another of the men pushed forward. Her eyes scan us and they land on her sister on one of the wolf's back and she cried. "Serena!"

But before she could take another step, the man holds her arm and stops her.

"Quiet." The man holding her hisses and she listens.

The golden eyed man doesn't remove his gaze away from me. "Ahh what a beauty indeed."

"A true beauty." He whispered, slowly smiling as he looked at me.

But then that smile vanishes. "It's a shame such beauty is so evil."

The other men agreed.

Xavier trembling forms beneath me and as if knowing what he wanted me to do, I got off his back, yet stayed beside him.

He shifts into his human form, his hand holding mine protectively. "Do not speak of my mate that way Lucio! Not when you know nothing about her." He roared.

Usually, I see men fall by the sound of Xavier's voice but Lucio doesn't even flinch.

Ripping his golden gaze from mine he stares at Xavier. "I know what Samuel has told me. I suppose he's dead now, yes?"

"He sealed his fate when he decided he wanted to kill my mate." Xavier snarls.

Lucio's eyes snap back to mine and his head tilts to the side as he looked at me in intrigue.

His gaze is unnerving as he not once beat his lash over his eyes.

"Samuel was always an honest man. He said your mate, is our enemy." Lucio moves his gaze from mine to look at the other council members. "He said she bleeds wolfsbane!" He yelled.

The council wolves began to murmur loudly. I couldn't make out what they were saying clearly but I was sure it wasn't any praises.

Lucio lifts his hand and they silenced. Looking back at Xavier and I, he smirks. "I see no wrong in a man who wants to get rid of the enemy. One death to save millions of wolves. It seems like common sense." He taunts Xavier.

Xavier doesn't like his words and surprisingly the warriors of the crimson moon pack didn't seem to like them either as they growled.

"Common sense by killing someone's mate? My Luna?" Xavier snarls, his tone getting heavier with fury.

"Common sense would be to not judge someone without knowing them at all. Aurora has not harmed anyone. Has not betrayed her pack and

would fight for her people just like any Luna would. Aurora -

I cut off Xavier, not wanting him to fight my battles for me. No longer wanting him to be burdened by me.

"Aurora has a voice of her own." I squeezed his hand, silently telling him I can do this.

I wasn't so sure I could, really. But I was going to try, I would try anything to not have a war today.

No one shall die because of me.

I took a step forward, giving Xavier another firm squeeze of his hand to reassure him I'll be okay and that I knew what I was doing.

I didn't actually.

Xavier lets me go reluctantly.

I don't move away from him and the warriors entirely. I wasn't stupid.

"Rora?" Cass whispered in panic.

I turn to her and give her a reassuring smile before turning back to face Lucio. I could see that I had gained his attention.

He looked at me closely. They all did.

Taking a breath I started. "It is true I bleed your enemy."

I lift my finger to brush against the slight cut on my neck Essi had managed to give me.

When I felt the blood on my finger, I crouched down and pushed that

finger into the earth. Removing my finger I rise to my feet and wait for the wolfsbane to emerge out of the earth.

When it does, the air is filled with shocked gasps from the council wolves.

I looked at them, sweeping my gaze among wolves that had the stench of authority and power.

"But not once have I ever thought to harm any wolf and never will I. My intentions are pure, always have been. I am not the monster as you see me. I cannot control what I bleed, it is a part of me, something I cannot change."

Lucio stays quiet but I know he was absorbing every word I had spurted out. All of them were.

So I continued, hoping that I can change their minds about me.

"I'm a pixie, I cannot change that too. Your enemy runs through my veins and will always. You want to destroy me, I know that. But I can't promise you I will go down without a fight. What I can promise you is to not use your enemy against wolves. I vouch to not use wolfsbane -

"Even if you vouch to not use wolfsbane, someone else can get a hold of it and use it against wolves. You see, it doesn't have to be you who uses it, it can be anyone. Keeping you alive wouldn't be the best choice -

Xavier growls loudly, cutting through Lucio's words. "You're a bastard Lucio. What about the rule to not kill those who are innocent!? Aurora has done nothing -

Lucio sneered, cutting in. "But she's not innocent. She poisoned you with her blood, did she not? Are you saying that Samuel lied? "

Xavier growls. "I'm still here aren't I!? Are you going to listen to what a weak man said? "

"I don't have to listen to anyone, I can see it for myself." Lucio snorted, his golden eyes falling to the wolfsbane plant in disgust.

"Your mate is a threat and will always be for the werewolf community. There's nothing more you can say that will make me see differently. She will come with us-

"You're not taking my mate Lucio!" Xavier growls, stepping forward to come to stand beside me.

His eyes, they were nearly red. Reckon. He was furious.

"You don't have a say in the matter Xavier." Lucio sneered.

"To hell if I don't!" Xavier roared, coming to stand before me. He looks at the wolves behind him and nods.

They come forward, growling as they took their fighting stance beside their Alpha.

I swallowed. I didn't want war. I didn't want my pack to get hurt.

Chris's wolf comes beside me with Eli and Cass on his back.

"I will fight to protect my mate. We will fight to protect her. You're not touching a single hair on her head." Xavier sneers, walking forward until he shifts into his huge powerful beast.

He growls loudly, sweeping his gaze to his warriors that stood beside him.

My heart warmed. They were going to fight to protect me.

Lucio takes an angry step forward, his eyes glowing a bright golden color.

"You wish to go against the council for someone who's a threat to us all!?"

"

Xavier roars, digging his claws into the dirt.

Lucio snarls. "Then you will leave us no choice but to get rid of all of you!"

Lucio takes another step and so do the others.

I didn't want a war.

When Lucio removes his cloak and seems to be getting ready to shift, I make a decision. A decision to stop a bloodbath that would've happened.

"Stop!" I yelled amongst all the growls loudly.

Lucio and his people wrenched backwards when thick roots emerge out of the soil and created a barrier between us.

Even the crimson wolves backed away in shock.

Lucio's face said it all. They were stunned speechless.

I made the roots weave around them, trapping them inside, but left cracks through the roots so we'd be able to see them.

"What kind of sorcery-

Lucio started in disbelief but I cut him off.

"It's not sorcery. It's one of my gifts. You see Lucio, I'm not your enemy and not a threat. But if it comes to the people I love, my pack. Then I will

become that threat. I will fight to protect my people, my pack and my loved ones."

Lucio looks at me shocked. He had not expected my words. "Your pack? You see them as a pack?" His voice shockingly didn't hold disgust but only surprise.

"I see them as family." I said truthfully. "And I fight to protect my family."

"You will risk your life for them?" His voice is even heavier with shock.

I nodded and with honesty in my voice, I uttered. "Yes."

Lucio's eyes widen slightly at my honesty. He doesn't say anything for a while but only stares at the roots around him in stunned silence.

He started. "How can you...."

He trailed off, seeming to not know what to say.

"I don't know how I can control trees. All I know is that I can feel them, sense them, the roots, the branches, every part of it. I can manipulate them. That I know. And I know I'll use them to fight anyone who tries to harm my people, my family. I swore to protect this pack when I became Luna. And that I will do." 

I straighten my shoulders and spine and looked at him dead in the eye when I spoke.

I can read the emotions in his eyes. He knew he had no chance to go against me now.

And I got confirmation when he looks at his people and then sweeps his

gaze back to me.

"I see no threat here. Only a girl who will put her life on the line for her pack." Lucio suddenly utters. 

The other council members looked at him stunned by his words.

But he pays them no mind and keeps his gaze on me before he says louder. "Aurora, Luna of the Crimson Moon pack is no threat to us. As long as she does not use wolfsbane to harm wolves then she is free to live her life. But -

He dropped his gaze to Xavier who still hadn't removed from his fighting stance. "She will be under heavy surveillance to make sure she doesn't break her word. If there is word that she has harmed any wolf using wolfsbane then she will pay dearly."

Looking back at me, he uttered. "My word is concrete. We shall leave in peace."



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