Lolo told me that the building is property of New Moonlight now, and it was recently renewed to t us comfortably. My mouth dropped open when Lolo put a key on my hand. I have my own room on the third oor. Before opening the door with my name on it, I looked at my sister. I do not need to mindlink her. Lolo always knows what I think just by looking at me; the tears were gathering in my eyes. I am not sad... I am happy. Lolo and I will not sleep on a dirty mat on the oor anymore. We are no longer low servants of the packhouse in Dark River. Veronica looked at me with concern and must have mind-linked my sister because she did not ask me anything. She left us alone instead. My bedroom was so pretty, with pale walls, my bed had soft pink sheets and a matching quilt. I had a closet with more clothes. Now, I own dresses, shorts, tank tops, shirts, skirts, and so on! I even have make-up. Unbelievable... I needed a moment to pull myself together before going downstairs. I cannot believe my good luck. We had lunch in the parlor with the members of New Moonlight there. They closed business for the day to welcome me properly. My new pack is doing so many nice things for me, and I barely know them. That is why they introduced themselves to me. Veronica and Tank share the leadership of the pack in this territory under the authority of our Luna. Lucinda is an omega who comes from Silver Rain. For some reason, Lolo does not like her, and I noticed that Veronica and Tank keep a close eye on everything she does. I could not form a judgment of her. She was nice to me... but that was it. Then there were Moosic and Kevin. They came from the Polaris pack. I found so interesting the matching tattoos they were wearing in their arms. They are not Moonlight descendants like the rest of us. New Moonlight is known for taking even rogues and runaways, those who felt untted in their own packs found a place there. I am sure there is a bunch of Alphas unhappy about Kevin and Moosic are gammas and fated mates. They could not live in their original pack because no one understood how so Moon Goddess made two guys, mates. The Polaris pack is known for living the way of the wolf, apart from others in the cold of the frozen mountains. To be honest, I am not sure to understand Kevin and Moosic as mates either. I have never seen anything like that in Dark River. However, thinking about it... Every werewolf is created by Moon Goddess. She makes us with love in her heart, and because she wants us to be happy, we are paired with our soulmates by her. Therefore... that is it. All werewolves are beloved creatures of Moon Goddess and if paired by her, it is her plan. No questions asked. It might be a child-like logic, but it is what I think. Nothing more to argue. Simple. I have lived so much hate and violence just for being human, I do not want others to suffer the same. I want everyone to be happy and feel how I feel now. Free to breathe. But I want something else... I am praying to Moon Goddess to give me my wolf at eighteen and bless me with a soulmate, too. There were two more Moonies, but they left the house because they found their soulmates and decided to move to their packs with them. Veronica and Tank are recruiting to II out those positions, or Luna Clara will send them to us. The Moonies, Moonlight descendants or not, prefer to live in New Moonlight territory, close to Silver Rain and Royal territory. They consider living in Saint Isabella town as a punishment. I wonder why... It is so beautiful here. Oh! Now that I think more about it, I can take one of those jobs! Even my economic situation will be solved. I do not have to pay for the clinic bill, but I want to help. I want my new pack to need me. It is so great to be part of a pack; when things work the way they should, your pack takes care of you. That is one of many things I love about werewolves. "Hurry, let's go!" Lolo yelled at me. I grabbed my new sunglasses with my new wide brim summer hat and packed a beach towel in my pretty, new, ocean blue bag. I could not believe my eyes when Lolo gave me so many things in my room. My room! "Ready!" I squealed. Her room was next to mine, while the room of Tank was facing hers and my room faced Veronica's. We all shared a big bathroom on this oor. Moon House was remodeled to t more members with this new oor to t us more comfortably. Luna Clara even worried about it. I wanted to rush downstairs. I would love to run with Lolo's wolf by the shore, but I am not ready for it. I felt a pang on my right side, damn ribs!

I better take things slow for my own good.

out a net and a volleyball ball from the administrative oce.

Everyone was excited about this day trip to the beach.

I was going to the beach for the very rst time in my life.

already.

Veronica eyed me after her question.

to merge with the scenery.

want to be beaten up again in my life.

that they will not even notice me there.

"One, never walk alone outside Moon House."

"Two, do not talk to strangers," I am not a kid, but alright.

The beach was in front of us when Veronica parked the car.

ran to the shelter of a palm tree. Its shadow was cool.

only wet my feet, later... When there are fewer people.

aspect.

his sick games.

that way.

they were there, made me feel better.

I know the monster is far away, but I still fear him.

with them. They were from the Blue-Ribbon pack.

just being together under this beautiful sun.

Why are they so tall?

about my body.

human.

"Wanna play?" Kevin asked me, pointing at the volleyball ball in his hand.

If I were a puppy, I would have waged my tail. That is how happy I was.

Lolo packed snacks for us in the kitchen, Kevin carried drinks on a big cooler. Moosic took

They walked there happily; however, Veronica drove me with Lolo by my side.

"Feeling welcomed already, Amelie?" Veronica asked me while driving.

"Yes, thank you," I answered her. She had a shining smile on her face.

It felt so natural to be with Veronica. I am usually afraid of people, but Veronica and Tank had visited me before in the clinic and even gave me books. I consider both as friends

"Good." She replied while driving. "However, you should remember our rules. Which are...?"

New Moonlight does not have warriors, but our allies sent guards for our protection. They rotate in shifts. So, we must be careful with new faces. I have seen them around us trying

"Three, run or hide in case of trouble." I am human, not stupid. I cannot ght, and I do not

Veronica and Lolo laughed. I replied with all the rules. There is more about sharing spaces with others in Moon House, but I am ne with them. I will make it so easy to live with me

It looks like the sea will never end. The scent of the salty ocean was something out of this world. And the water was crystal clear, reecting the blue of the sky on it like a mirror.

The white sand under my bare feet felt great and warm. However, it can be extremely hot! I

"Change into a bikini, Amelie," Lucinda told me when she saw me tending my towel on the sad. "There are changing rooms over there." She pointed at some cabins near us. "You can

I moved my head negatively. I have too many scars to be showing off my body on a bikini. I am wearing a long light dress with loose sleeves. It is fresh and covers me perfectly. I will

take a shower to take off the salt and get dress again when you are done."

Lucinda lost interest in me. She and the others took off their clothes on the spot.

Werewolves do not have an issue with nudity, but humans do. I am very human in that

Lolo probably understood my feelings because she took my hand and squeezed it.

She got her wolf, Ava. Her wolf healed her and almost all scars faded away. Ava healed her. Only a small cut stayed under her chin. It was made with a blade of silver... Bruno and

The awful memory poisoned my mind for a moment. Lolo protected me and she got hurt

"We are safe here, Amelie." She told me and hugged my shoulders with one arm. I nodded at her and swallowed the fear. There are guards around trying to be discreet but knowing

Moosic was setting the net with Tank for the guys to play. Other werewolves joined to play

I looked around. There were so many people here... Fairies and Witches, Lycans, humans... so many different species. They were playing sports, taking the sun, eating ice cream... Or

"I am sorry, I do not play," I am afraid of the ball and the crowd. And I am embarrassed

"And you, Lorraine? We still need a player." Moosic said, approaching us. His nails were

"Lolo!" I complained. "Go with them!" I told her and pulled out a book from my bag. It was a

"I prefer to read," And have some rest, I should add. But I did not want to ruin the fun for them. My right side was hurting, I guess it was too much emotion for a day in the life of a

"Come, Lorraine! Please!" The guys insisted. "You never wanna play with us, you go to your

I giggled. They were funny begging like pups. I cannot believe they are gammas. No one in

I want to see Lolo smile and laugh. Sometimes that aura of sadness on her is

"The guards are watching. No one will harm Amelie... or any of us." Kevin told us and

"Besides, we are close if something happens. I will jump immediately to protect her, do not

I pushed her towards Kevin and Moosic. Lolo agreed after making me wear a thick layer of

I sat down under the palm tree with a bar of chocolate in one hand and my book in the

My sister was doing her best to play with the others, and apparently, she was having fun. I

Blue-Ribbon werewolves became more competitive and aggressive in the game after New Moonlight won the rst set. And New Moonies enjoyed their rst victory a little too much.

I stayed focused on my book. The female lead was about to meet the handsome Alpha

Another group of players hit the ball so hard and far from them, that it ended up closer to me. They were speaking to me. One of them yelled again and made a pleading move with

I picked it up and smiled at them, waving one hand when the tallest guy of them also

I was going to throw the ball to him when his group yelled again, and he looked in another direction. I did not realize that I was on the road for bikes, and someone was coming on

After that, everything happened in slow motion. I only closed my eyes, waiting for the blow.

However, someone grabbed my arm and pulled me out of the way pushing me into a hard

It was a warm embrace, and the scent around me was alluring. I have never felt like this.

"Are you alright?" That voice was something else. My heart skipped a beat before running

wild. He was still holding me patting my back. And I stubbornly kept my eyes shut.

"Are you hurt somewhere?" He insisted and pulled away to inspect if I was injured. I sensed it was a werewolf, they make sounds with their noses when looking for blood or

"You are shaking." He said with concern before hugging me again. I could swear he was

I decided to stay in the darkness while he was hugging me. I am confused and comforted

He is a stranger who smells like coffee and caramel. And he is a werewolf, too... Why am I

"Open your eyes. You are safe, little girl." He said, and for some odd reason... I believed

I am blushing now, I am sure. Even my stomach hurts now from embarrassment. I was very reluctant to open my eyes and face this mess on my rst day outside. I could hear

I broke the rules on the very rst day. All the rules! Not long after Veronica and Lolo

I sensed the man was in front of me. My heart was acting so weird under the inuence of

The werewolf was still holding me, when I opened my eyes, I found his broad chest

And I found a pair of very familiar and still mesmerizing eyes. His eyes drawn me,

instantly. Yet, they were so much more than their unique color, aqua blue.

covered in a white cotton t-shirt... looking up, I met his eyes.

at the same time. What if I open my eyes and he disappears?

not afraid of him? Why do I not push him away?

Lolo from the distance yelling.

reminded me.

his voice and his scent.

my way at full speed. I panicked and froze instead of getting out of the way.

other. Occasionally I would raise my head to see Lolo playing, after a bite.

worry." Moosic said to Lorraine. He is the tallest of the gammas.

sunscreen. It was embarrassing, everyone was looking at me.

am not into sports... I got bored, so I focused on my book.

Werewolves! That is the bad part they have.

"Pass the ball!" Someone yelled.

his hands towards me.

smiled at me.

after so much time longing for him! It was so exciting!

I guess I should be nice and help them. It is just a ball...

I left the protection of my tree and walked towards the ball.

I shook, fearing the pain that would come next.

other scents... as dogs do.

sning my hair.

him.

broad chest. Strong arms were wrapped around me protectively.

love story of werewolves. My favorite book, and the rst gift Betty gave me.

painted black. I did not notice before. Does it have a meaning?

"No. I want to stay with my sister," Lolo answered.

sister, or you work, or you study, or you..."

Dark Moon behaves like that. Especially, not gammas.

overwhelming even to me, and I am just human.

"Alright!" Lolo cut them off.

"Go! Have some fun." I told her.

looked around.

Chapter 6: Aqua Blue

Veronica picked us up in a fancy shining car with tinted windows. I felt like royalty.

Everyone looks so relaxed on the streets, but I could not enjoy more of the view. The distance from the Clinic to Moon House was short. We could have just walked!

When I stepped out of the car, I saw the most beautiful place ever. My new home. Moon

It was a three-story building with a façade of bricks painted in white, big glass windows with frames of wood painted red. The sign had red and white letters that said, "Moon

The business was on the rst oor. Pack members live on the second and third oors.

Training is on the beach very early in the morning, every day. I will join them in a week or so

Tank welcomed me and gave me a quick tour of the parlor, the kitchen, and the oce she

House". The drawing of a big smiling full moon was on display there, too.

shared with Veronica, the changing area, and the emergency exit.

Oh, Moon House! I wanted to shout out the name.

House.

after I gain some weight.