

The Sins of the Sister

I sat on the filthy floor of a cold, dark cell. My beautiful dress was torn and tattered from my attempts to escape my captors, but my efforts so far had been futile.

The wolfsbane in my system weakened me. I couldn't shift or howl. My only defense was my amplification, but I doubted that would do much for me now.

I had fallen right into their trap just as Alpha Huxley had wanted.

The rusty hinges on the cell door screeched as they creaked open, and Sunny came sauntering in with a cocky grin on her face. She was clean and freshly dressed, her disheveled appearance from earlier gone.

I glared at her as she closed the door and stared down at me, one hand resting on her hip as she sneered.

I can't believe I thought she had changed. She's never cared about anyone but herself.

"Sunny," I croaked, my throat dry from yelling.

"Shade," she snapped back in a mocking tone.

"You betrayed me," I accused.

"Only because you betrayed me first," she huffed, crossing her arms over her chest.

"What?" I asked in disbelief. "How did I betray you?"

"I can't believe you'd even ask that after everything you've done," she scooped with a dramatic roll of her eyes. "First, you get our mother killed because you can't take a joke, and then you steal my mate. I was supposed to be luna of Harvest Moon! You know that was my dream! My right!"

I shake my head, laughing bitterly as I lean against the stone wall. *Some things never change.*

"Then you abandon Dad and I just when we needed you the most. Now our father is dead and our pack destroyed all because of you!" she spat. "Caelan only wants you for the same reasons that Alpha Huxley does. He doesn't really care about you. He wants your power."

"That's not true," I growled.

"If I had been the one blessed by the Goddess, then he wouldn't have even looked twice at you. He doesn't love you, Shade. How could he? You're a freak and a murderer!"

My hands steeled at her words.

"The Goddess wasted her blessing on you. She obviously chose the wrong twin just like Caelan did. But it doesn't matter. Alpha Huxley is going to help me fix it. Make things how they're supposed to be. Once he's marked you, Caelan will have to choose me," she said with a confident grin.

"Is that what Huxley told you to get you to betray your pack?" I scooped as she looked away. "To betray your own sister? You really think he's going to let you have your happily ever after? He's a monster, Sunny! And once you're no longer useful to him, he's going to kill you. You can't trust him."

Sunny grew quiet for a moment, and for a second, I let myself hope that she was considering what I was saying. But her eyes narrowed as she glanced back at me.

"The only person I ever made the mistake of trusting was you, Shade," she sneered. "You've caused me nothing but pain and heartache. Mating with Alpha Huxley is a small price to pay for your sins."

I stared at her, utterly abbergasted. *She truly believes that. She's actually that delusional that she thinks I owe her.*

I sighed, rubbing a hand across my face. *Why should I be surprised? Our father spoiled her, and he wasn't exactly a great role model. The only mother-like figure she ever had was his conceited, power-hungry, gold-digging mate. Sunny's literally never known anything else.*

I pitied Sunny in that moment. I may have been the one locked in a cell awaiting a horrible fate, but she was completely blind to the prison she was building for herself.

She couldn't accept that her own decisions had landed her right where she was. It was easier to blame me than accept any responsibility.

"Sunny," I sighed. "My whole life has been about you. Everything I ever had to endure was for your benefit. Hiding who I was so I could act as your double. The training facility where I was whipped and beaten for years so that I could learn to protect you. Our father made me suffer for you."

She scooped, shaking her head derisively at me.

"I've fought and killed to keep you safe. To keep Thunder Moon safe, and I have the scars to prove it," I continued. "You want to complain about how your life has been so terrible, but you don't even know the meaning of the word."

She opened her mouth to contradict me, but I cut her off. This was my time.

"And now when I've finally found something good in my life, someone who loves me just for being me, you have the audacity to demand I hand it over to you? Why? Because you think that you deserve it?!" I snapped. "Caelan is my mate, Sunny. My *fated* mate, and for once, I'm keeping what's mine!"

My words hung in the air for several minutes. I had never gone against Sunny, but I'd be damned if she thought I was just going to roll over and let her have her way again. Not while I still breathed.

"Things didn't have to be this way between us, you know?" I sighed. "We could've had a different relationship. We should've had a different relationship. Mom wanted us to be close like sisters should be, but you chose this path. And now you've handed me over to our biggest enemy. The man who killed our father."

I rested my head against the wall of my cell, meeting her icy glare with my own.

"I don't owe you anything, Sunny. I never did," I stated, my tone firm. "I've sacrificed, I've suffered, and I've bled for you. If anything, you owe me, and an apology would be a damn good place to start."

"An apology?!" she shrieked, the pitch of her voice making me cringe with its shrillness. "You think I should apologize to you?! You stole my mother from me, Shade! You're the reason our father is dead, our pack is destroyed, and I'm forced to do things like this! All of this is your fault!"

We stared at each other in silence.

She's never going to listen. She decided a long time ago that she was the one who was wronged, and nothing I can do or say will ever change her mind. There's no redemption for us.

Alpha Huxley and several Dark Moon guards rushed in.

"What's going on here?" Huxley barked.

"This little bitch dared to say that I owe her!" she whined like she always did to our father.

I tensed. She was walking a fine line. Huxley wasn't our father. He didn't care one bit about what happened to her.

"He doesn't care, Sunny," I murmured, my eyes on Huxley. "You've served your purpose. He has no use for you anymore. You're disposable now."

"I'll show you who's worthless!" she snarled as she advanced toward me.

"Sunny, stop!" Huxley demanded as he stepped in her way. "I won't allow you to harm my mate before I've had the chance to mark her."

"But she—"

"But nothing!" he growled. "You will do as I say! I'm your alpha now, Sunny! You promised your loyalty to me! Take her away! Remind her who's in charge here."

He gestured to the guards, and they grabbed hold of her.

"Sunny!" I shouted, jumping to my feet and reaching for her as they dragged her into the hall.

She may have been a terrible person, but she was still my sister. I didn't want any harm to come to her.

Alpha Huxley grabbed me, holding me tight against him as they slammed the door shut. I struggled, but the effects of the wolfsbane still lingered in my system.

"Don't worry, baby," he cooed, running his nose through my hair. "I'll just have them scare her a little. They won't hurt her too badly, I promise. I still have plans for her. She hasn't outlived her usefulness yet."

I jerked away, snarling at him. *If this is his plan for me, what could he possibly have in store for her?*

"Now that we're alone," he breathed. "I think it's time that I made you mine. That pup, Caelan, waited too long. I won't make the same mistake."

He grabbed a fistful of my hair and yanked my head to the side, exposing my collarbone.

The level of wolfsbane in my system made me nearly as weak as a human. I couldn't mind-link. I couldn't shift. I couldn't use my cursed howl to kill him.

"Don't worry, baby. This will only hurt for a moment, and then I'll make you feel good," he promised, rubbing his erection against me. "Really good."

I'm going to be sick. The thought of this vile creature taking me in that way was too much to bear. *What can I do? I'm outmatched until the wolfsbane wears off, and by then it will be too late.*

The only tool at my disposal was my amplification, but that was useless at a time like this. The primary emotion he was feeling was clearly lust and amplifying that would only make things worse for me.

"Hold still," he murmured against my neck, his hot breath on my skin causing me to panic.

He licked the spot where his mark would be, opening his jaws wide as I closed my eyes and braced myself. A single tear slid down my cheek as I thought of my mate.

Caelan. I'm so sorry.

A series of howls ripped through the night, making Huxley freeze.

I stilled, listening. Those were battle cries. Dark Moon was under attack.

"Seems your lover boy has come for you after all," he growled, throwing open the door and dragging me out behind him. "Doesn't matter. The last thing he'll see before his heart stops beating is my mark on your neck."