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"No." Eros glared at me, "You're not one. Come on doll, just talk to me" he nestled closer to me. 1

I inhaled his scent greedily, feeling my body calm at that woody scent I loved.

"Promise you won't freak out." I bit my lips.

He rolled his eyes, "Have I ever?"

"Fair point" I nodded.

My voice was quiet but clearer than anything, his quiet breathing did nothing to affect it.

I told him about it, all of it, my mind went back to the first time, "back then when I had the first nightmare of killing all my friends and family" my voice shook as I spoke.

He squeezed my hand, encouraging me to go on,

I took a deep breath, "I thought it was like a fluke or Ursa had done something to me, but the sisters are dead. They're gone, so what is going on? Who was that red haired man?"

I finally broke down, "was I really a monster

that massacred innocents? They were powerless against me" I choked back a sob.

Sigh.

"Stop crying love" his thumbs wiped my tears, his eyes glowing with adoration.

"Whatever you saw, was just a nightmare and—"

"No." I cut him off, "this was different, it was real, I felt it. I knew it, it wasn't just a dream."

"Like I was saying doll, and even if it were real, you said it was a younger version of you. Maybe it was a past life, one of them, are you forgetting anything?"

My blood chilled at that, "I'm not forgetting my past life, but....." I paused, thinking of how possible it could be, could it really be?

"But?"

"I can't remember my childhood." I whispered, "There's only an empty gap, all I remember is waking up to Zareal smiling and urging me to go eat, that's where they end." I mumbled, surprised.

"Well, I'm sure we can look into all that

later, for now, let's focus on the matter at hand —Ragnsr and Elysia's birthday."

"Yeah," I nodded, "you're right, it must be the jitters and everything."

"I promise love, after the celebration we can look into it, see if there's anything we can find, I'm sure Richard may have something in that ancient coffin of his." he said the last part distastefully, his lips curled.

I chuckled, "That's his Library"

"No one makes a coffin a library, he's just insane."

"He's a vampire, they literally sleep in coffins." I rolled my eyes.

"Still insane, doesn't mean it should be his library, he nearly sent my omega's to their early graves with that thing" he said grudgingly.

"Still holding a grudge? Don't be so petty,"

"He started it." Eros grumbled.

"Alright, alright, whatever you say, we can check out his coffin of books later." I smiled.

"Great, now, let's enjoy our beauty sleep before your kids decide it's time to get up."

I rolled my eyes, "They're yours too"

"More like my karma," he grumbled.

I couldn't help chuckling at his adorable pout, Elysia and Ragnar only got even more mischievous the older they got, losing sleep over them was now a routine, luckily they slept earlier last night. Now we can finally catch some rest.

(Back to the present day after the Ceremony.)

I caught a flash of silver at the corner of my eye, my entire body tinged, I chased after it.

The trail led me to a high balcony that stood over the pack, from where I could see everything lit up. Eros and I came here most times, to oversee how the pack rebuilding was going.

I walked slowly into the balcony, looking around, I didn't know what I was searching for but hope bloomed in my heart.

"You know it wasn't her right?" Ava spoke up.

"No." I shook my head, "It had to be, I saw her." I mumbled, doubt in my voice, like I was trying hard to convince myself.

"I would have felt Lena, Aels, you know we

would sense it. Especially the bond."

"But I felt the bond three weeks ago, it was weak but I felt it, she's somewhere out there, I know it, I just do."

"Aels," I heard Brianne's Voice,

"Here." I called out.

She walked in, with Celeste and Lily trailing behind her.

"What are you doing here?" They asked.

"Nothing" I sighed, the wind blew my hair to different places.

"You're lying," Brianne said flatly.

"You don't know that." Lily countered.

"She is, look at her." Celeste shrugged.

I turned towards the pack,

"It's beautiful right?" They came up to stand next to me.

"Yes, the repairs make it look like a little lively city. It's massive too." I added.

Turns out the vampires are good with their hands, their speed paired with the strength of the wolves and they worked together to produce a new city in a matter of months.

"You miss him, don't you?"

"He'll forever remain a part of me." I muttered, despite the dull ache and hollow space I felt at where our bond was.

Could a rider really live on without their wolf?

"I'm sure he's happy wherever he is." Cels added.

"yeah and he'll be really proud of you."

"You think?" I wondered, "Back at the pack he wasn't nice to me but at least he wasn't cruel either, and when he became a part of me, he was like a father to me and now he's gone." My voice came out sad.

They sighed, "He loved you Aels, we all knew and we all saw it."

"Thanks. Speaking of, what happened to Crux?"

"Oh, he was buried alongside his pack."

"That means the pack is gone," I said simply, I didn't feel anything, not anger, not hate.

"They had it coming, with that cowardly Alpha" Celeste snickered.

"Hold on, if we're all here who's watching Ragnar and Elysia?" I suddenly asked, "please don't tell me you left those little troublemakers alone." I suddenly felt a fresh wave of headache, those two definitely couldn't be left on their own.

"Oh, the ice queen got them covered." Brianne said casually,

"Okay." I nodded and turned back to watch the city.

"Hold up." It finally sank in, I turned to see them with wide smiles on their faces,

There was only one person Brianne referred to as Ice queen.

"You can't mean...."

They nodded, "We couldn't possibly mean it—"

I sprinted off before any more words could be said.