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The Next Morning 1

I stormed into the familiar halls I was once used to, I could still hear the sound of laughter, and merriment, at my expense and the jeers at me, all in my head.

Now I was back, walking graciously through the front door like the queen I was.

"Aella" a familiar voice croaked, sounding unsure, snapping out of it I rushed forward, hugging her tightly, "Abuela" I mummered.

"Oh goddess. Child, it is really you"

"Abuela" I rushed and embraced her, "I've missed you" I whined.

"Child" her voice came out hoarse, like someone with a parched throat

"Are you okay Abuela?" I furrowed my brows

"It's nothing" she coughed, quickly hiding her hands behind her but I'd already spotted the tiny bits of red on the handkerchief she held.

"What's wrong with you?" My voice turned



stern

"It's nothing to bother yourself with"

"Show me" I insisted

"It's nothing," she said with a determined expression.

"But.."

"Nope, we're not discussing about me right now. What are you doing here"

I sighed, following her to the kitchen where she gave me a stool to sit on, "a lot of weird things have been happening Abuela"

"Weird how?"

I pulled off the shawl that covered my hair, she didn't look surprised at the color of my hair, not even the slightest bit.

"I see. So you know then?"

"If you're talking about my future, yes I know. What I don't understand is why you didn't tell me? Why you let me roam with danger lurking around, clueless of even my own identity"

"It's not as simple as it sounds Zorya" she paused, "it's not exactly as it looks on the surface"



"Then you should have explained to me. I trusted you, you were the mother I never had"

"I'm sorry, nothing I can do or say will alleviate the pain and confusion you must be going through right now"

"I don't want to hear that, I want answers"

She looked away, "I'm sorry," she muttered.

I stood, closing the distance between us, I took her hands in mine, "Abuela, if you had even considered me a daughter for even one day, please, don't deny me what I seek to know"

"Child, I have already defied fate so many times, I can't help anymore than I already have, else we'd be threading on extremely dangerous waters," she coughed again, this time even more harshly than before.

"Abuela," I patted her back, hoping to help her calm down. She pointed towards a glass. I quickly took it, filling it with water and returning it to her.

Her hands were shaking, she took the glass from me, downed it in one gulp, before the cough finally died down.

This time, she spat a mouthful of dark blood, "well there's no hiding that" she



muttered.

"Abuela, What's going on? Talk to me"

"It's nothing child" she looked at me with the same fondness she always had, raising her hand to touch my face but stopped halfway, bringing her hand down, a sad expression on her face.

I took her hand and rubbed my face on it instead, memories of when she'd always comfort and pat me like this resurfaced, when life back then was just simple.

I placed my head directly on her lap,
"Abuela"

"Mmm"

"I've missed you"

"I know child, I've missed you too"

"You knew about my destiny?"

"Yes" she hummed.

"Why didn't you tell me?" I asked quietly

"You had to figure it out, child. Telling you would ruin fate's plan for you."

"You keep saying fate's plan, I don't want that," I choked on sobs, "Can't I just be normal,



can't I just be Aella? Loved by her mate and Alpha?" I finally broke down, releasing all the emotions I had held back.

Abuela sat quietly, stroking my head with her fingers. I felt better after a few minutes of bawling my eyes out.

"Better now?" She simply said.

"Yes" I nodded.

"Good. you're strong Aella, this quest was given to you not because there isn't any other person to do the quest but because you Aella, are the bravest and strongest there ever will be" she raised my chin "Do you believe me child"

I smiled, "I was given the quest even before I was born" I mumbled.

"Yes, you were. But it is you because you are you Aella, special, unique, beautiful, no one can compare, you and your sister may be equal but you were meant to spearhead this operation, you want to know why?"

"Why?"

"Because, your sister may be a future champion, but you my darling child is going to be the Greatest Wolf Of all Time, best you start



acting like one now"

"Oh, Abuela" I hugged her, "Thank you,"

"No. Thank you, child"

"You spoke of my sister? I came to find her, do you know where she might be? I have so many questions"

"Yes. I do know where she is, but unfortunately, my lips are sealed shut."

I groaned "why? Not even a tip off?"

"Sorry child, that is a quest for you and your companions"

"Come on Abuela, help me out here, I'm really at my wit's end" I whined.

"All I can say child, objects in the mirror are closer than they appear"

"How is that supposed to help?"

"Well, silver finds silver, if anyone can find your sister. It is you" she shrugged.

"Fine, can you tell me about my mother at least?"

"Your mother?" She sounded a bit surprised, after all I rarely ever asked about her ever since I came here.



"My real mother"

"The idea of real motherhood is all but a concept and may even be considered a sham in certain circumstances."

"My birth mother" the words sounded foreign in my mouth.

"Ahhh..... Lacinda"

"Lacinda" the words rolled out of my mouth.

"Yes, a pretty and active thing, that one" she said fondly

"You knew her personally? That's how you got the necklace isn't it?"

"Smart as always." Yes, I knew Lacinda personally, matter of fact, I knew her back when she and Andrea were best of friends"

"What?"

