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"Mum, is lili-Zareal here?" I asked. 1

"I did sense a similar energy to yours earlier today, but it didn't have the necklace nor the bangle I left behind, so I'm not sure" she shook her head.

"Necklace?" I wondered, could it be.... "You mean this?" I brought out the necklace Abuela had given me for my birthday

"Yes, I gave one a necklace and one a bangle, that way I could always sense when either of you enters this space"

"That's how you were able to sense me?"

"Well yes and no?"

"You're not making much sense" I looked at her dryly

She smiled, "with only the necklace, no one can enter this place, but if it were my daughter's, then it's different, I'll be able to sense and draw you here" she explained.

"You said you felt a similar energy before? That must be her, I need to find her" I sighed.

"Child"



"Yes"

"I sense the discontent coming from you when you mention your sister" she looked at me questioningly

"It's nothing" I shook my head, "she's in danger, I've already wasted so much time, I gotta find her" I muttered.

"Don't worry, you have time. Time runs differently in here, five hours in here should approximate to a minute in the outside world"

"That much difference?" I wondered

"Yes. Now talk to me"

I sat and began explaining everything to her, especially how Lilith had bullied me so much and now, somehow I'm expected to just forgive and embrace her, I felt so hurt and confused.

Something wet touched my arm, looking at mother I froze, tears filled her eyes,

"Oh, sorry" she said, blinking the tears away.

"What's wrong?" I asked softly

She sniffed, "Jacinda would be so heartbroken to find her daughters are



enemies,"

"I'm sorry mum," I bowed softly,

"Zorya" she took my hands in hers, "please,"
she stood and tried kneeling

"Mum, No" I stopped her, "don't kneel" I
muttered.

"Zorya, I know that you have suffered a lot
in the hands of your twin" she paused, then
continued

"I can't even begin to fathom everything
you've said, but find a place in your heart to
forgive her. Please" she whispered

"Mum" I felt tears brimming in my eyes,

"Please, it breaks my heart to see you both
stand against each other" she muttered

Something in me broke seeing her hurtful
expression, this was exactly what Andrea was
aiming for, she wanted to hurt mum, right then
I made a decision

"Mum," I called "I don't know how easy
forgiving Lilith is going to be if I'm to be honest,
but I promise you I'll try" I locked our hands
together placing a kiss on hers.

A smile curved on her lips, she nodded





"that much is understandable"

"But I promise to protect her, forever, I'm going to finish what you and Dad started"

"Dad?" She looked confused

"Yes, Beta Andrew"

"Beta Andrew, you mean Andrew Crane?"
She asked

"Yes" I confirmed

"He's not your father" she shook her head sadly.

"What?" My mind went blank, "how," I inhaled sharply.

"Andrew was my friend and second chance mate, I was already pregnant when we met"

"So he died for nothing?"

"He's dead?" She asked sadly, voice lowered,

"Died protecting two children that weren't even his" I muttered, already feeling a pang of guilt in my heart, so after everything, Beta Andrew was not my actual father.

"It's not that simple," she muttered.

"Simplify it then" I said, the words coming





out a little harsher than intended.

"Let me tell you a story child"

(Flashback)

Lacinda

My heels dug into the mud, the pebbles and shrubs in her forest scrapping them as I ran past.

I ignored and kept pushing on, I could feel them behind me now, they were catching up to me, I couldn't let them, I had to survive.

I pushed forward, my teeth chattering from the cold, luckily the rain helped mask my scent so the wolves had a hard time locating me, but I couldn't say the same for the witches chasing me on foot.

I kept running blindly like my life depended on it, well it did, I spat out a mouthful of blood, but I didn't stop, I pressed forward, knowing that it would only mean my death if I got caught.

I spotted a mass of trees up ahead which would make for a very good hiding place and quickly dashed towards it.



I could hear the sound of paws and footsteps behind me now, somehow my hearing had improved over the last few days, I didn't know what was going on, ever since I escaped, I noticed my seemingly enhanced physical abilities.

But now wasn't the time to ponder on it, I had to get to safety first

"AHH" I let out a shrill scream as a hand suddenly dragged me and clamped my mouth shut.

"Shhh" a masculine voice whispered, pressing his body against mine as he hid us within a mass of leaves.

My eyes widened, I tried to fight him, but then the corner of my eyes caught sight of my pursuers, and I froze. They had stopped now, just in front of us.

"Where.is.she." I heard a voice I had learnt to dread over the past month, my mate—Lucas.

"We lost her Alpha" one of his men bowed, his fingers trembling slightly. Without even missing a beat, Lucas snapped his head.

His body slumped to the ground, he was dead, I gasped but the male behind pressed



against my lips even harsher, stopping any sound from escaping.

The other wolves all stood stiff, barely daring to even breathe.

"Find her, All of you!!!" Lucas roared, they quickly scampered away,

I closed my eyes, I couldn't bear to see the monster my mate had become in such a short while. I could feel the tiny shreds of hope I had leaving, he was really gone.

My Lucas, the Alpha that could not bear to so much as lay a finger on his pack members, now slaughtering them like cows, he changed in just a month.

Suddenly he began sniffing, did he realize that I was here?

He approached cautiously to where we stood, relying completely on his senses, my breathing hitched the closer he drew to us.

I can't go back again, I was basically a lamb waiting to be slaughtered, No. I trembled slightly