

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 46 - Tips

No matter how much you prepare yourself, I guess you can't do much against your worst nightmare. Strangely, the reality is very different from the mess I had imagined. I didn't think I could stay so composed or even stand to be in the same room as him. I thought maybe I would go insane, scream or jump at him to k!ll him.

But I don't feel any of that right now. Seeing my ex standing up in front of me, smiling at me as if nothing had happened, f*g disgusts me, and my wolf is growly loudly too, but there isn't much more. I realize it now.

I'm furious at him, and Moon Goddess, I still hate him to the core. But some of that hate as been subdued and forgotten by now. I am now the same helpless, idiotic teenager girl I was back then. I'm older. I have moved on. I found a new love.

Diego hasn't.

I turn around to ignore him and signal Daniel I want us to spar again. My best friend understands, and we exchange a few hits.

Honestly, I knew it wouldn't be enough to drive Diego away. Instead, he stays on the side of the ring.

"What? I don't even get a welcome k!ss?"

I ignore him. Daniel throws a punch at me, and I manage to avoid it, sending back an uppercut. He growls a bit and kicks back. Maybe because of Diego's presence, Danny is angry and his punches are fiercer.

"Elena, I'm talking to you."

Well, I don't give a damn. I keep ignore him, even after he calls me one more time. I focus on my fight with Danny instead, and my best friend manages to keep me busy for a while. That is, until Diego jumps on the ring to get in-between us, dangerously close to me. I step back, a reflex. My wolf is furious. She doesn't want him near us, not after what he did to our baby.

"I said, I am talking to you," he growls.

"And I said fvck. Off."

I repeated that slowly, glaring right at him, showing him he doesn't have any *fg right to order me around. He frowns, visibly a bit surprised. Seriously, what in the world did he expect? For me to be happy about his return? Really? After all that s*t I went through, five years ago?*

"Five years without seeing me, and that's what I get? fvck off, really? Estás enojado conmigo, amor?"

"Last time, Diego. You get the fvck off my ring and my dojo," I warn him.

He seems shocked to see me standing my ground. I'm proud of myself. I don't even let him see how angry I really am, and stand my ground without fail. Even I didn't think I could control my emotions so well...

Diego seems to hesitate a bit and takes a few steps back, slowly. I can tell he is re-evaluating me, changing his attitude upon seeing my reactions.

"We are not done talking," he growls.

I watch him go without answering, but I make sure to glare his way and let my wolf growl all her might until he's out of sight. As soon as he's exited the Dojo, I take a deep breath again.

"What a son of a... Are you okay, Babe? Damn, I don't think I've ever felt your Alpha aura being so scary! If you were growling after me, I swear my pants wouldn't be dry right now!"

I chuckle. Only Danny can say jokes at times like these. I sigh and rest my arms on the ropes of the ring, gazing towards the direction Diego went. Around us, the few people around us who listened are sending glances my way, but I ignore them to talk to Daniel.

"He's going to be pissed now."

"You think?"

"I'm sure. He will be mad I ignored him, that the worst for him. I made him understand he won't be able to control me like before, he will not like it..."

"Whatever. If he's unhappy, his problem. Come on, I'm done getting my b.utt kicked by you, Babe. Lunch is on me today."

I wish it was that easy... I know Diego won't let it slide. Nevertheless, I grab my bag and follow Daniel. Just as we exit the Gym, my cousin Iris suddenly walks up to us.

"Elena! I'm so sorry I couldn't let you know earlier, Diego is back," she says, out of breath.

"I know, Iris. He was there just a minute ago. But don't worry, I'm fine."

"Really? I really asked Dad to not let him back into the Pack, you know, but..."

"I'm really fine, Iris. Xavier can decide whatever he wants," I reply.

"Come on, sweetheart, we were about to go get lunch. Are you joining us?" Asks Daniel with a smile.

"Sure! Should I call Chris too?"

It's been a while since I ate with my cousins. For some reason, I never got very close to them. Maybe because their Dad never came to like me. However, Iris is only a few months younger than me, and Chris loves training with me.

They join Daniel and me for Lunch, and we decide to go to George's Café. Because of their Sunday Brunch menu, the place is crowded that day, and we have to wait at the entrance for a table to get emptied.

"Danny! Elena!"

We turn heads. Across the restaurant, Levi is waving at us. He is at a large table with three other guys from the pack, including Orpheus. Danny gives me a little poke.

"Here's our entrance ticket! Come on, Iris, Chris!"

We skip the line to join their table, and Daniel's older brother and his friends welcome us with a big smile.

"I guess we had the same idea!"

"That's the only place who is almost as good as mom's brunch," says Daniel.

"Hi, Elena, princess!"

Orpheus gives me a h.ug, and the two other guys, Jace and Kentin, salute me too before welcoming my cousins. They scoot over a bit on the leather bench and find a couple more chairs so we can sit all together.

“We just ordered, too!” Says Jace. “You can just add whatever you want, Orpheus is buying lunch today.”

“Seriously? What bet did you lose?” Asks Chris with a smirk.

But Orpheus blushes a bit and refuses to answer, so Jace does it in his stead.

“That i***t bet he could beat Eric!”

“You should have bet on hunting instead,” sighs Daniel. “Eric is good at fighting but he’s too clumsy to hunt anything...”

“I thought this time I could do it!” Insists Orpheus.

“No one can beat Eric, aside from Elena, you dummy.”

“I’ll beat him soon!” Exclaims Chris, full of confidence.

I chuckle and ruffle his hair a bit.

“You need a bit more muscle and training before that happens, kid.”

“At this rhythm, Xavier will pick Elena as his heir before that happens!” says Jace with a smirk.

Uh-oh... Hey, Babe.

By reflex, I prevent myself from turning to Daniel and act normal.

What?

Look at Iris.

I follow Daniel’s little chin movement to look at my cousin Iris, sitting next to Levi. She is glaring at Jace, looking pissed. Is it because he’s making fun of her little brother? I didn’t think she would get mad for such a lousy joke... Jace notices too and stops laughing.

“Sorry, sorry, I was just kidding, heh? Come on, I’ll pay for the drinks.”

Iris being an Alpha too, he probably didn't stand being glared at. But she soon calms down and sighs.

"That's fine."

I smile a bit. I forgot Iris is always a bit uptight about the Pack's rules... The guys move on to discussing the last fights who happened within the pack, joking about who is making progress or not. Meanwhile, George spots us and comes to take our orders, adding a free extra for Daniel. Those two are super close after all. When he leaves, Jace turns to me.

"By the way, Elena, I heard Diego's back?"

He immediately gets a lot of glares and goes white. I sigh.

"Yes, he is..."

"I can't believe Xavier let this fvcker back in," growls Orpheus.

"It's a difficult situation. He belongs to our pack, and is a good fighter too..." Says Iris, trying to defend her father's decision.

"Come on, Iris, don't defend that a.ssh0le. Everyone knows what an a.ssh0le he was to Elena," growls her brother.

"But..."

"Elena, if you're looking for a new boyfriend just to piss him off, I'm available!" Says Jace with a little wink.

Daniel rolls his eyes.

"Moon Goddess, Jace, that is so uncalled for, dude. Get off your horses a little, will ya? There's is a whole line to get to dating my Babe, and you're at the bottom. The very bottom, Jace."

"I don't wanna get anywhere near your bottom, Danny..." mumbles Jace.

Levi and Orpheus, who are sitting on each side of that *it, immediately* sk him behind the head with the same movement.

"Aoutchie! What the hell, guys?"

“Thank you,” says Daniel with a satisfied smile.

Iris and I laugh, almost spurring out our coffees. Damn, Jace is an i***t but a funny one. Levi growls at him when he protests again, putting an end to his childishness.

“But seriously, Elena, we got your back,” says Orpheus to me.

I smile at him.

“Thanks.”

They all give me some word or gesture to say they are on my side no matter what. I wish thing had been this way back then. But truth is, no one knew exactly what was going on between Diego and I.

Like Danny and I, Diego was some sort of Paria among the White Moon Pack. His father was always on bad terms with the Alpha, and training his son to become always stronger. Diego had a rough, violent upbringing. His father justified anything with the werewolf condition, in an old fashion way of thinking. As an Alpha, they had to be strong. To be tough. Not show his weaknesses.

But Diego did end up showing his one weakness: me. I was the only girl he got along with, the only one he really liked. We fell in love like any couple of teens who hang out together every day, for years. We had grown up together. There wasn't anything we hid from one another, the same with Danny. I was his best friend, his accomplice for anything.

He was my teenage crush, as well as my rival. We fought a lot.

Because we were Alphas, we fought seriously every time. But as I learned later, being an Alpha doesn't justify violence. Diego didn't learn that. He fought with anyone in the pack, weaker or stronger than him. And there weren't many people who could stand up to him aside from me.

As the years went by, his tendency to violence got worse. He injured several people of the pack under the pretense of “serious training”, including Danny. The Alpha got mad, but me, I would always try to find him excuses. Even if I knew something was wrong with him, I wanted to think he could change, that I could help him change for the better. I believed it so strongly I even ignored

the warning of the people who were close to me and knew what kind of man he was.

I was an i***t in love, blindly, and I didn't know it yet.

"Elena, Babe?"

I get back to reality when Danny puts his hand on my knee.

"Sorry, Danny, you were saying?"

"Your phone. It's vibrating in your bag. You might want to check it..."

I almost jump down to grab the bag at my feet, and take out my phone. It's a text from Nate. I smile but then worry. Is he mad about yesterday? What is this about? Did he believe me? Or not? I'm not sure what I want... I mumble some excuse about going to the bathroom and take my phone with me.

Danny gives me a little wink.

I take a deep breath in the unisex restroom and open up Nate's text.

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 47 - Tips

"Man, you're pathetic."

I glare at Isaac. Did he really have to mention it now? The pitiful look he's addressing at me is not helping at all either. I sigh and throw my smartphone on my desk, pissed. Elena still hasn't replied, and it's been days now. Is she playing dead? Really, that's all I deserve?

Isaac puts down an annoying pile of folders on my desk.

"Seriously, Nate, it's been three days, snap out of it. I can't work if you can't work, and guess whose a*s your Brother is going to s.uuck if this keeps going?"

"Neal's?"

"Mine! Mine, Nate! Don't get me wrong, I'm not against some s*****g once in a while, but the Boss is so not my fancy!"

Everything is good to use for a joke for Isaac, and though most of the times it amuses me, it's not the case today. I can't stop thinking about my fight with Elena, and it's fvcking*g annoying, too. Something felt wrong about it, all the way.

"Seriously, Nate, get over it. That girl has issues, all right? So let her deal with whatever she has to deal with in her pack and go on with your life. I get you liked her a lot, but I really can't stand you acting all moody and grumpy all day long anymore!"

"I am not..."

"Hell yes, you are acting all moody. So I don't know, have a cigarette, a drink, even lay the secretary or whatever but just get over it, man. Those files are not going to review themselves and I can't have all the Company on pause just because you had a fight with your girl!"

Isaac leaves, and I'm left with those stupid folders piling up on my desk...

He's right, I've been completely out of it since last Saturday. I just keep replaying my argument with Elena in my head, again and again, as if I was missing something from the big picture. Every one of her points was valid. About our relationship. All the reasons we had not to be together. That stupid file she had found...

I know we should have brought up these issues sooner, but we had avoided them all along. Until it came around to punch right where it hurts.

A "ping" on my computer. A note of my secretary to remind me of a meeting coming up in five minutes. Right, we are meeting with that little company... I check my suit and head downstairs. Damian is already sitting in the conference room and looks at me when I come in.

"Liam's high school called me."

"Again?"

It's only Tuesday and that i***t is already ditching his classes! I sigh.

"All right, I'll..."

"No. I'll do it."

Damian's sudden tone takes me by surprise. What is that supposed to mean? He usually has me handling Liam and only steps in when needed. But my brother doesn't add anything else and gets absorbed in the contract the secretaries put in front of us. The little agency team introduce themselves and start their presentation, so I can't ask either.

They are not bad, but as expected, they are still amateurs and need a little push. The meeting ends quickly, as we had pretty much decided we would collaborate with them anyway, and Damian has another one right after. My brother leaves after only exchanging a couple of sentences with them, cold as usual.

I stay behind a little bit, talking to their representative, an assertive young woman. She is a cute and bright brunette, with dark skin and olive eyes, but not my type.

"Thank you so much for having us today, M. Black. It's so thrilling to be able to present here, as a small start-up... We will definitely learn from the experience."

"You're welcome, we are genuinely interested in your software. Our financial and legal teams will reach out to you soon to complete the last details."

"Right! They mentioned we will need to reach out to your HR representative, too, as we might move in one of the offices here..."

"Do you need a new office?" I ask.

She nods, a bit embarrassed.

"To be honest, we don't have a proper office to speak, our team is very young and we have only worked in cafés or remotely so far... I have been trying to reach out to Mr. Graves about that but with no luck so far."

I frown. That's odd coming from Isaac.

"Do you have a few minutes? His office is right upstairs, I can accompany you there if you wish."

Her eyes suddenly lighten up.

"Really? That would definitely help us!"

I guide her upstairs, and she enthusiastically talks to me about their debuts, when she gathered friends for University. She is definitely the stubborn and optimistic type, quite likable to be honest. As a human, she is not intimidated by me or my aura and speaks freely too.

When we finally reach Isaac's office, I knock, and his secretary frowns a bit when seeing the young lady in a striped jumpsuit and wedges next to me.

"Excuse me, M. Black, what is this about?"

"Miss Parker needs to see Isaac. Is he busy?"

"I'm sorry, but this young miss has been sending a lot of emails, but I don't think her agency is worth considering..."

I frown. What the hell?

"Miss Parker's agency just got an agreement with us today. Do you have something to say about my brother's choice regarding whom we should work with or not?" I growl, annoyed.

Who the hell is she to decide who can reach out to us or not? Even if they are a small group fresh out of college, she can't just treat them like pests! The secretary shuts up and opens the door for us, avoiding my glare. Nevertheless, the young miss Parker smiles to her.

"Thank you!"

I don't know if this is meant to be condescending or not, but I won't comment. We step into Isaac's office, who has his nose into his computer.

"Nate, the meeting is already over? Did you get..."

He freezes when raising his head. What the hell? He stays like a statue for a long, embarrassing minute, his mouth still open. It's like his brain just shut down once he saw the young woman accompanying me. Really? Now?

Miss Parker walks forward and smiles to him, completely unaware of my friend's totally stupid reaction.

"Good morning! Sorry for disturbing you all of a sudden, but M. Black was nice enough to accompany me here since I failed to get in contact to you sooner!"

“R...Really?” He stutters.

Moon Goddess, get a grip, Isaac, it's not the first time you've seen a pretty girl... Next to me, Miss Parker keeps going.

“Yes, I think my emails never went through... Anyway, do you have a minute? I really needed a few minutes of your time, or we could reschedule if you are busy?”

“Huh... Eh... Yes! Yes, reschedi... I mean rescheduling is great! No, good, only good. Not great! I mean, not that it wouldn't be great, but, huh, good is enough!”

This is getting seriously embarrassing to watch. What happened to my casanova of a best friend? He tries to take his calendar, drops it on the floor, catches it and turns the pages as if he was looking for something next year. Oh, Moon Goddess... I close my eyes, unable to watch this any longer.

“Is next Thursday fine for you?” Asks the young brunette. “I'm free all afternoon.”

“Yes!” Exclaims Isaac, a bit too loud. “Thursday afternoon. Perfect! Let's do that. Next Thursday. The afternoon. Perfect.”

Man, you're seriously embarrassing yourself right now.

But he ignores me, keeping on a stupid, awkward smile all along, his eyes riveted on her.

“Great! Hum, here is my business card, and I will email you later to fix the hour.”

Isaac immediately reaches out his hand to grab his business cards and hand it to her. It was almost fine until he actually handed her the whole damn pile. Thank Moon Goddess, that girl is an angel and chuckles gently, only taking one as if he wasn't making a fool of himself.

“Thank you! Then, I won't disturb you any longer and email you later. Thank you very much for having me today!”

She bids both of us goodbye and walks out by herself. As soon as the door closes behinds her, I hear a big ruckus.

Isaac just fell off his chair. I look over his desk at that imbecile laying on his office's floor.

"Seriously, I wish I could have filmed this, Isaac."

"Man, my heart is going crazy. I swear Nate, my brain's hyperventilating right now."

I sigh. I knew it...

"Fated Mate?"

"Damn, yes. What the hell? Why didn't you tell me it was like this. I feel like I got hit by a truck. Or lightning. Or both."

"Congratulations, I guess. She's human, though, so you're going to be alone on that, man."

He looks like he's about to cry.

"Why do I have to have it the hard way? Gosh, I'm an i***t. And she's so adorably cute. Man, I'm such a jacka.ss. She won't love me, right? I'm doomed. Have you seen her cheeks? Damn, I want to touch her little cheeks... Her chocolate skin too. And you know I love chocolate. Huh, I'm going to die."

He's just exhausting. I let him rumble for a while, even if he probably never gets tired of chattering.

"You need a drink, Isaac."

"What? Yeah... Maybe. Can we go drink?"

"We still got work, so finish whatever you have to do and meet me downstairs. And let your secretary handle the emails with Miss Parker!"

"Miss Parker, right. Man, so cute... Wait, I don't know her first name! How do I..."

"You got her business card, you idiot."

He seems to realize he's had it in his hand all along and looks at it. A bright smile appears on his face.

“Leah? Her name’s Leah!”

“Great, very cute. Now I’m confiscating this until you’re done with your work,” I say, grabbing the business card from his hand.

I sigh and leave his office, giving the card to his secretary on my way out. No way that i***t will get anything done this afternoon, but lets at least pretend...

Later that day, as promised I take Isaac to drink. It’s not fun. He spends three hours reflecting on all his past relationships, thinking of how much of an i***t he’s been with girls now that he met his mate. It’s pathetic to watch, so I wait until he gets drunk and funnier. He does get drunk, but not funny. His next topic is describing everything he recalls about his fated mate, Leah, and I have to listen to it.

Damn, I’m happy for him but I already miss the old Isaac who would convince me to have fun, play, drink, and charm girls...

NATE! LIAM!

I suddenly jump, wide awake in a split second. What the hell! Damian’s voice is bursting in my head, his wolf so loud I feel like he’ll slice my brain open! Not only us, but he’s also calling everyone in our pack!

FIND HER! NOW! FIND HER!

I almost fall off the bed, as if Damian had kicked all of us out. fvck, I don’t know what’s going on! I stumble to get up and run out to the corridor, only wearing my boxers. And that damn hangover...

Liam!

Yeah, yeah, I’m on it!

I run out of the apartment. Damian is still fvcking*g yelling after everyone, his panicked voice is making us crazy. So many people are mind-linking at the same time, it’s a hurricane in there! I try to focus on my younger brother’s voice, like one voice inside of the throng.

I exit the building and shapeshift in a jump. Damn, it’s a downpour outside... I’m soaked in a matter of seconds. I can hear people and wolves running down the streets all around. It can only be our packs, to be out in such sh!tty

weather so late... Damian really woke up the full Clan. I start running too, headed anywhere in the streets. We don't even know where to look!

Boyan's got something!

It's Tonia's voice, Neal and Boyan's sister. It's coming from the East. I was running in a similar direction, and accelerate. Liam's voice resonates in my head, trying to cover our Brother's yells.

Really? He's got something? Damn it, I'm the opposite direction!

I'm almost there. Keep looking in case he's wrong.

What the... Boyan, get him!

I hear Tonya yelling all of sudden, not only in my head but with my ears as well. They are near. Damian's panicked voice comes back.

Where is she? Did you find her? Tell me you found her.

I ignore him and run towards Tonia's voice. I finally find the Mura sister, alone in a deserted alley. She is in her human form, on her knees, leaning over what looks like a body. Oh, sh!t...

Tonia!

"Nate, she's breathing!"

I approach and finally see the girl lying unconscious on the asphalt. Her dark hair is covering a bit of her face, but she looks very young and thin. There's a scar on her eye, too. She is soaked with rain and... bl00d.

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 48 - Tips

"Stop staring at it..."

I blush. Daniel caught me reading Nate's text again. I try to put back my phone, but Ben grabs it before I do.

"Elena's got a boyfriend?" He suddenly asks

"Give that back!" I yell, annoyed.

I try to climb over the couch to get my smartphone back, but Daniel decides to team up with his brother and holds me back, long enough for Ben to throw it at Bonnie.

“This is so cute... Text from Nate: I’m sorry we fought. Can we talk? I miss you,” she reads.

“Bonnie!” I protest.

Come on, even her betrays them to g**g up with her brothers? But she smiles and gives it back to me. Of course, now that everyone’s heard the content! The Lewis twins each take a seat next to me, Bonnie grabbing the popcorn bowl and Ben annoying me to no end with his questions.

“Who is Nate? Your boyfriend? Ex-boyfriend? Crush? Potential boyfriend?”

Daniel is laughing behind his little brother’s back. Can’t he help me out of this, that i***t! When I followed him for a movie night at their family house, I didn’t think I would fall into a trap about who’s going to gossip more about my private life! Their father laughs, sitting in his armchair next to us.

“Ben, enough. It’s Elena’s private life, don’t put your nose into it.”

The twins laugh a bit but eventually, the conversation changes to who will have the final word about which movie we will watch. I sigh and scoot over to get next to Daniel, pinching him as revenge. He squeals.

“That wasn’t necessary!”

“You deserve it, you traitor!”

“All right, all right, sorry... But you’ve been glued to your phone, girl. Just text him if you miss him that much already.”

I sigh.

“You know I can’t, Daniel...”

He rolls his eyes.

“Yeah, whatever.”

Half an hour later, Bonnie got the last word and we are watching some catchy sci-fi movie, something pretty interesting with spies and conmans. It's interesting, but the female lead is seriously annoying, and Ben and Danny keep arguing about the actress. Suddenly, Joseph jumps up, surprising all of us. Ben even dropped his soda on the couch.

"What the heck, Dad?"

But Joseph stays standing up, frowning, as if something was bothering him. I understand right away he's mind linking. His eyes turn to me several times, frowning, and I immediately get a hunch of what this is about.

"Is it Diego?" I ask, worried.

"Yeah. He's fighting Eric and Jace."

"sh!t!"

I grab my jacket and prepare to follow Joe, but Danny suddenly grabs my arm.

"Babe, you really shouldn't go."

I hesitate for a second. Damn, I know I shouldn't. I really shouldn't get involved in anything Diego is involved in. I spent the three last days avoiding him, brushing him off and ignoring him, and it wasn't easy. He almost fought with Levi yesterday, just because I refused to answer when he talked to me at the Pack's reunion.

But...

"Daniel, if he injures them, I won't forgive myself for it."

Danny spurts out a profanity I really don't hear often in his mouth and comes after us. The twins are about to come too, but their father orders them not too. We run outside, all three of us shape-shifting right away in our wolf forms.

Damn that guy! He hasn't been back for a fvcking*g week and he's already messing with others!

Joe guides us all the way to another street, actually pretty close to where we were. When we arrive, there's already a crowd around the fight. We have to growl our way in until I can see the scene.

A dark grey and a brown wolf are fighting, all claws and fangs out. It's a mess, there are fur and blood flying. I immediately recognize Eric's dark grey wolf, covered in blood. He is fighting angrily, growling and standing his ground. The other wolf, however, barely has any injuries, but its maw is covered in blood.

When he is about to attack again, I instantly jump in and growl furiously. He stops his attack, stumbling to the side. My wolf warns him in an outraged growl.

Don't you fvcking*g touch him!

Elena....

He steps forward, but I growl even louder.

fvck off! Get away!

He stays near, though, walking left and right as if there was a perimeter around me he couldn't approach. Joe, in a dark brown ray of fur, suddenly gets in between us too, growling at Diego too. But Joseph is a Beta, and Diego isn't afraid to growl back. I feel Daniel's father trying hard to stand his ground, but I know how strong Diego is. I step in front of him and growl again, keeping Diego from approaching.

Let me finish him. He asked for it!

Don't you fvcking*g touch Eric! You stay away!

But he takes a step forward, and I growl even louder.

Don't...

You can't attack me anyway. Let me finish him!

I keep growling, ignoring the mindlink to use my full wolf's force. Even if Clark forbade me too, I could do it. I could jump and fight Diego, I might even be able to kill him. But that would risk my place in the pack, and much more than that too. I would lose everyone here if I get banished.

Diego takes another step, but suddenly, a big silver wolf jumps over my head and hits him full force, growling.

What the Hell is going on here!

Clark's furious voice resonates in our heads and a lot of werewolves that were watching it all from the sides until now flee the scene quickly like scared rats, unwilling to be exposed to the Alpha's wrath. Only a few of us remain, and that's when I finally notice Jace, his wolf knocked out on the side. I run to him, worried, while Joe stays by Eric's side.

Clark's growls are directed right at Diego, but he isn't stopping his own growls.

Diego, are you fvcking*g trying to piss me off? Attacking pack members!

They started it. You should discipline them better, Clark. Those faggots don't even know how to show proper respect to an Alpha...

I growl even more furiously. He is obviously doing this to piss me off! Calling them faggots when Danny's right there listening, of course, he's doing it on purpose this dirtbag! My wolf wants to attack him, make him pay for what he did! I keep growling, and Clark too.

Shut up! Don't you start fights on my turf, with anyone! I don't care who started it, Diego, everything was fine until you came back and I'm not an i***t! This is a warning! I wouldn't think twice about banishing you for good, I swear! Even if I have to beg the King to throw your a*s off this City, I would do it!

Diego turns his head away, not submitting but not admitting to his wrongs either. Damn, I wish Clark was stronger than that to have him submit for once. I'm so mad at this bastard! Jace is unconscious, and Eric needs to go to the hospital! How could they be stupid enough to even agree to fight him!

Joseph gently pushes Eric with his head, enquiring of his state. With the light rain falling, the bl00d is slowly washed off from his injuries, but he obviously needs st!tches. It's already impressive that he's still standing with all those wounds... The Beta keeps pushing him, urging Eric to move towards our Clan's Clinic direction. They both leave slowly, giving glances our direction. Clark might have given a silent order without me knowing because two other people from our pack quickly run over to carry out Jace too. Poor Jace...

Clark growls to chase the few people left, and it's now only Diego and us.

I don't know what game you're playing, Diego, but it won't last long. Next time you pull some sh!t like this, I'm banning you again, and for good this time!

I can't tell if Diego listens to him or not, his eyes are riveted on me. I'm still growling, and Daniel has come over to my side to growl at him with me.

Everyone keeps growling for a while, but Clark eventually has to run off to the hospital, probably to make sure Eric and Jace are fine. He keeps growling at Diego until he's gone. As soon as our Alpha is out of sight, my ex walks over. I growl in warning.

I told you to stay the fvck away from me.

Now at least I got your attention. Do I have to injure your friends every time? Or should I k!!l one?

You sicko...

But he ignores Daniel, as if it was just the two of us.

So, what's it gonna be, Elena? Shall we do this the easy or the hard way?

What do you want? We are done, Diego. I don't want to see you, hear you or even breathe the same air as you!

Really? Do you have to act so pissed off? Just because we had a fight before we parted?

I'm beyond furious right now. A fight? He calls what happened a mere fight? I want to k!!l him! But Daniel holds me back, biting my paw and pulling my tail. I know I can't fight Diego, but damn, I can't even stand the sight of that bastard!

We didn't have a fight, Diego, you tried to fvcking*g k!!l me!

No, you're the one who stabbed me, Elena! Who was trying to k!!l who, exactly?

Moon Goddess, I still remember it all, way to vividly. Like it was yesterday. Every word, every hit, every wound. The madness in his eyes. My panicked rushed actions. How we fought like crazy. The bl00d, the devastating pain in my stomach. My head, hurting so much. Like a fvcking*g nightmare I could have over and over again. I have never been able to forget. There is no therapy, no healing for that. I growl, barely containing my rage.

You fvcking*g r***d me, Diego. You started it the second I said no and you insisted. You did it, you did that to me and I fvcking*g fought back exactly as I should have!

What the hell is wrong with you? That wasn't a r**e, you were my girlfriend! I'm a wolf, and your mate, I could fvck you anytime I wanted! That wasn't a r**e, that was merely us playing around! We are Alphas, Elena, that was just a game like we always did! So what if you fought a little? How was I supposed to know you didn't want it? Because that's what we've always done, right? Fighting, testing our limits!

I can feel Daniel's wolf, so disgusted at Diego's words that he wants to jump and k!!l him too. But actually, my anger is so high it actually helps me focus and answer him coldly, like the hurricane under the ice.

No. There was a fvcking*g limit and you didn't care about it. You never knew how to stop. You didn't care about hurting me or others. You thought I said no to play only because that's what you wanted to think, Diego. Being your girlfriend never meant it would be fvcking*g fine to have se.x with me when I said I didn't want it!

Is that what you told the pack? That I r***d you, really? Was it fun to play the victim to Clark and the others? You liked it, Elena, you...

I LOST MY CHILD TRYING TO FIGHT YOU OFF! TELL ME HOW COULD I EVER HAVE WANTED THAT!

He growls back at me, acting angry for the first time.

I didn't know you were pregnant! You hadn't told me, how could I have known, huh? You fvcking*g wrecked it yourself! I would have stopped if I knew, or even if you had been more convincing! This child died all because of you!

Before I can even react, I suddenly see Daniel jumping at Diego. I scream internally.

DANNY, NO!

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 49 - Tips

For a second, I'm the most terrified I've been in my entire life. I think that's it, my best friend is going to get k!!led in front of my eyes.

But right before they make contact, two other wolves jump in, pushing Danny to the side, out of Diego's way. I immediately run in to bite my best friend's ear, standing between him and Diego and keeping him from getting killed.

You i***t! You could have gotten yourself killed!

Daniel doesn't listen to me, he's still growling furiously at Diego. However, with Levi right next to me holding him back too, he won't go through. His older brother is growling at him as well, trying to get him to calm down.

Let me through, Levi, this s.ucker needs a lesson!

Enough, Danny! You're only going to get hurt and punished! Back off!

While the two brothers are arguing loudly with growls and mind-linking, I glance back. An old, white and silver wolf is furiously growling at Diego and keeping him away from us.

You take one step forward and I swear you'll lose a limb, you little mutt.

fvck off, Reagan!

But my mentor is not having it, and standing her ground. Diego's definitely not scaring a veteran like her, especially when she's this angry. She's showing her fangs and I know she is more than able to fight Diego. He knows it too, as he goes back and forth, trying to find a way to get to Daniel and I, but he is not getting a step further.

She growls again.

Walk away before I really lose it and kill you, damn dog! Now!

Diego growls in response, but Reagan is even scarier. His tail and ears betray him. He's acting tough but he is scared and wary of my mentor. He slowly steps back, growling but also showing his defeat. I can't believe she really got him to step back and leave us alone... Reagan stands guard for a while, making sure Diego's gone for good.

I can finally catch my breath a bit. This tension is too much for me... Moon Goddess, I've haven't felt so panicked in a long while. Daniel finally seems to calm down, shaking his head.

Danny...

What the fvck just happened?

I explain everything that happened before Levi and Reagan jumped in while keeping an eye on Daniel. My mentor growls, annoyed.

Damn your Alpha. He should never have allowed that sc.um back on your territory. See the results.

Let's just go home, for now. Your family must be worried, Danny. Reagan, can you go check up on Eric and Jace for me?

Sure. I have a few words for your Alpha...

She walks away, taking the direction to the hospital. I'm so freaking tired. Levi, too, mind-links us, not showing his annoyed tone.

That was fvcking*g reckless of you, Danny. You could have..!

Did you even hear what that a.ssh0le told Elena, Levi? I was not going to let that pass!

Daniel, enough. I don't give a damn what Diego thinks or says, ok? I know where I stand on that matter and I don't want to discuss it. Now can we go home, please? I'm cold and my fur is freaking soaked.

That downpour is drenching us, and I really don't want to get sick again. I'm having a headache already. Daniel growls a bit, unhappy, but the tawny wolf eventually agrees to follow us back to the Lewis' house.

By the time we get there, my headache is way worse, though. Bonnie makes me a hot cup of tea and hands me some medicine while Daniel and Levi, back to their human forms, explain to the rest of the family what happened. It's a pitiful scene, the three of us soaking we.t in the Lewis' salon, towels on our heads. I had to borrow clothes from Rachael and one of Levi's old sweaters, too.

"You shouldn't have gone there," sighs their mom. "What if one of you had been injured, like Jace and Eric!"

"You think Diego is going to get punished?" Asked Ben.

I exchange a look with Levi.

“Clark gave him some sort of warning... It’s probably a bit complicated. If he banishes a wolf he just let back in the Pack like that, it will be bad for his position, people will think the Alpha isn’t making good decisions.”

“He obviously isn’t!” Says Daniel. “What kind of i***t would let a j.erk like Diego back into the White Moon Clan! That guy is like the pest! Wherever he goes you can be sure there is going to be some sort of trouble!”

“I wonder what he was doing... For five years outside of the pack,” whispers Bonnie.

“Who cares! He should have never come back and that’s it. If only he could have gotten himself k!lled or something,” grumbles Daniel.

“Enough, enough!” Stops his mom. “I don’t want to hear any more about that disgusting person! You change the subject to whatever you kids want, but enough of this!”

Everyone obeys and a heavy, awkward silence follows. Eventually, Bonnie and Ben agree to pick up the movie night and pick another movie to watch. I exchange a look with Daniel and Levi, and we agree silently. I don’t want to talk about Diego anymore, either. This headache is just getting worse and k!lling me.

After a few minutes, I stand up and excuse myself to the bathroom. Maybe a bit of freshwater on my face will help... Gosh, I haven’t felt this bad in a while. It couldn’t possibly be my period, it came just last week.

Help me...

What the hell...? I feel a voice echoing in my head. Like someone I know. Who is mind-linking me? It’s not even someone from the pack! Aside from me, I don’t know anyone who could be able to...

Help me!

I feel weird. I’m cold, and out of breath. So fvcking*g cold, as if I was outside, in the rain, under that downpour. What the... I look at my face in the mirror, clenching my fists on the tub as if I’m about to fall. I look behind my shoulder as if there could be someone. Someone pursuing me. What the hell is wrong with me?

Who is that voice? It's a woman, no, a girl's voice I've never heard before. Yet, it's resonating like an echo in my head, like someone talking underwater or behind a wall.

Run, run...

Who is running? To where? Is she in danger?

I stagger, trying not to lose focus between what's real and what's in my head. Her voice is so strong, I have to fight to remember where I am.

He will kill me!

I start crying, irrepressibly. I'm scared, I'm so scared. I crouch down, unable to keep balance. My tears run out, without me being able to control it. I don't know what's going on!

"Elena? Elena, are you ok?"

Bonnie just appeared in the bathroom entrance, to find me sitting down and crying. She runs to me, putting her hands on my shoulders.

"Elena, what's wrong? Elena? Danny! Levi! Mom! Elena, tell me what's wrong, please?"

But I have no idea what's wrong with me, or why I'm so cold and scared. A few seconds later, half of the Lewis family is around me, trying to soothe me and get me to calm down. Their mom even puts a blanket around me, and Daniel pats me everywhere to look for an invisible injury.

"Babe, talk to me, what's wrong? Did something happen?"

I just shake my head and struggle to calm down. I should probably try to ignore that voice, break that link between her and me, but for some reason, I can't. I don't want to lose it, to lose that connection.

At some point, I realize Levi is carrying me out of the bathroom. I'm taken to the couch, where they surround me, trying to decide on what to do.

"Should we get a doctor?" Asks Bonnie, worried.

“She is not injured, that looks more like some sort of panic attack. Can you grab the tablets in my bag? Levi, go get another blanket, she’s shivering. Oh, and get the thermometer, too! Mom, can you make us some hot chocolate?”

Everyone runs to do whatever Daniel said, while I’m still struggling. My crying has stopped, and I’m getting less and less scared too. It’s like... Like it’s fading away.

“Babe? Elena, are you with me? Talk to me, Babe.”

“I’m... fine.”

Daniel rolls his eyes.

“What fine! I’ve been trying to get you to talk or mind-link for at least ten minutes! What happened? Do you need anything?”

I try to catch my breath and think.

“Can I get something to drink? My throat feels awful...”

“Mom’s making it. Elena, what was that? Your skin is freaking cold, too... That wasn’t a panic attack, right?”

“No... I think someone mind-linked me?”

Danny and Bonnie exchange a look, surprised. Behind them, I notice Ben’s on the phone, talking about my condition to someone.

“Mind-link you? Someone of the Pack?”

“No, that’s the weird part... I think she was someone out of the pack.”

“Wow, wait. I thought you were the only one who could do that?”

Abigail comes back before I can answer, and puts a huge mug of hot chocolate between my hands, and I drink it right away. Levi comes back at the same time, too, carrying a blanket, and covers me up with it. He sits behind me and rubs my back to help me warm up while all the others sit on the table, the couch or the floor in front of me. Daniel quickly tells them all what I just said.

“Sweetie, are you sure?” Asks Abigail. “Aside from you, no one can mind-link someone who isn’t part of the Pack...”

“Could it be someone you just didn’t recognize?” Says Ben.

“No, it felt totally different. It felt like she was very far, but her voice was... Something I’ve heard before, a very long time ago. Her wolf felt like... like mine, actually.”

They all exchange looks, while I take a sip of that hot chocolate. Moon Goddess, it’s hot but it feels good.

“What if... It’s someone from your family?”

I almost drop my cup and look at Bonnie, totally surprised. What... What did she just say? Her mother frowns, putting her fingers on her lower lip and looking lost in her thoughts for a while.

“Bonnie’s theory could explain it... The only other way you can mind-link someone who isn’t from the same pack as yours is if they are your family member, sweetie.”

“Either that or this person has the same power as Elena,” says Ben.

“If it was the case, I doubt this person would have reached out to her specifically...”

Levi’s right. If I was in an utter panic like the girl I heard, I would have reached out to anyone, not to one specific person, and I felt I was the only one with her at that time if she felt me at all.

“I’m not even sure she realized she was mind-linking me... She was in a total panic like she was in great danger. She kept saying someone was about to kill her. And I could feel she was outside, under that rain, as if I were too...”

“How did it stop, then?” asks Ben.

I shake my head.

“I’m not sure. It was very weak, to begin with, and it just... faded away, like she was falling asleep or losing consciousness.”

They all keep quiet for a few seconds, and I try to find that link again. This is so weird... It was as if this connection had reached out from the surface for a few seconds, and suddenly went away again. So confusing...

I try to warm myself up for a few minutes. Abigail, Ben, and Daniel are discussing what else could have happened. Abigail even wants me to see a doctor, but my temperature is back to normal, and whatever happened, it's gone. Meanwhile, Bonnie is curled up next to me, sipping the hot chocolate too. Levi has his arm around my shoulder, listening to them without taking part.

"Your headache?" He asks in a whisper.

"Gone," I sigh. "Probably something to do with the mind-linking as well..."

I keep thinking about what Bonnie suggested. What if that girl, whoever it was, was really part of my family? Could we really be related? Our connection felt... real. Like something I had forgotten from long ago. I try to seek for remnants of that link, but my wolf is as clueless as I am. This is so strange...

Joseph and Micah come home, and everyone turns to them. Micah is in his wolf form, and completely soaked. Bonnie immediately brings him one of the towels to help her blind brother get his fur dry. Joseph, too, gets a towel for his hair.

"Something happened."

"Elena's fine, dad," says Ben.

"It's not about Elena. Or Diego. Something's up with the Blood Moon Pack, they've gone crazy."

I immediately get worried, thinking about Nate.

"Crazy?"

"Yeah. Clark and Xavier are freaking out. Their whole Clan is running through the streets of Silver City. They are growling at all the borders like they are going to trespass. Rumor has it they already went to the Gold Moon and Jade Moon territories, totally unannounced."

“Moon Goddess... Could those be Clans who refused to meet them? Is it a punitive expedition?” Murmurs Abigail, looking horrified.

“No, they met with the Jade Moon last Saturday.”

A few of the siblings realize I shouldn't know that information and send me a glance, but Abigail is totally focused on the matter.

“Do you think they will attack?” Asks Ben.

“I don't know, son. This is a first, no one knows what to do. The King hasn't said a thing, and their people don't tell us anything either. With so many people running around, it's chaotic outside, Clark sent everyone home for now.”

They keep arguing for a few seconds about what could be going on, but I slowly walk away, followed right away by Danny. I take out my phone.

“Who are you... Moon Goddess, you're calling him?” Whispers Danny.

I just not and press the b.uttons. Moon Goddess, I'm calling him at such a time when I haven't replied to his text for days... It rings for a while. Could it be he's really not available? Or injured? I'm making up all kinds of stupid scenarios for a while, but Nate doesn't answer.

“What the hell!” I growl, frustrated.

“He's not picking up?”

“No... “

I try to call him again, with no result. I give up and just send a text, asking him to call me as soon as he can. Is he ignoring me, maybe? Daniel pushes me back to the salon, where Joseph and Levi are arguing about what to do.

“What if they attack!”

“Levi, Xavier said to stay home. Nothing's happened, for now, so we stay home and we wait. Maybe it's just an issue with their pack.”

“But our borders...!”

“They’re staying on their land, and they are not menacing us. Now calm down, you’re only going to worry everyone twice worse. Ben, Bonnie, Micah, you three go upstairs. It’s late already.”

The three younger siblings obey right away, leaving the room even if it’s not actually that late. Abigail gets up to call Rachael. I sigh and sit back on the couch, curling up on my corner. What the heck is going on...? Unhappy, Levi leaves, followed by his Dad, leaving me and Daniel alone.

“Moon Goddess, that’s way too many emotions for one day,” sighs Daniel, taking some of my hot chocolate.

I couldn’t say better... I keep looking at my phone, hoping to hear from Nate. I’m dozing off when it finally vibrates a few minutes later.

“Elena?”

“Moon Goddess, Nate, what’s going on? Are you okay?”

“What? Yes, I’m fine... It’s a bit chaotic here.”

“They say your pack is at our borders!” I whisper, hoping no one but Daniel can hear my conversation.

“It’s okay, Elena, we are going back now. Something happened, I... I might not be available for a few days. I’ll be in the hospital, so I can’t really call you whenever I want, but...”

“Moon Goddess, the Hospital? Are you injured?”

“No, no, not me, don’t worry. Someone, huh... Close. I have to watch over them for a while. Just... Don’t worry, okay? I promise I’ll call you later.”

I finally calm down a bit, leaving out a sigh of relief.

“Okay... Anytime you want.”

I hear him chuckle.

“It’s nice...”

“What?”

“Having you worry about me. I thought we were fighting.”

I blush, remembering the last time we actually spoke...

“We’re not... fighting. I just said I needed a break... To cool off.”

I’m dying of embarrassment, and Daniel is looking at me like I’m crazy too. He kicks my leg, mimicking “you i***t” with his lips. I know, I’m acting like one. Nathaniel stays silent for a while too, making it even worse if possible.

“...A break. Okay. Well, I guess I need my share of the break for now too. But I’ll definitely contact you later... If it’s fine with you?” He asks

Facing me, Daniel is repeatedly gesturing a big cross sign with his arms and whispering “no, no!”. I ignore him.

“Okay. Later then.”

“Later. Take care.”

I hang up and bury my head in the cushion.

I’m definitely an i***t.

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 50 - Tips

“Who was that?”

I roll my eyes at Tonia. She’s not my freaking mother, is she? Why would she want to know who I was with on the phone? Moreover, we are in a Hospital waiting room, with a more pressing matter at hand! I glance at the two doors separating us from the surgery room. The girl is in there, but we barely have any idea what’s going on.

Facing me, immobile like a statue, Damian is sitting in silence. His eyes have gone so cold, I feel like he’s the one close to death. Or close to kill someone, if I trust the murderous aura around him... He almost snapped when Tonia and I told him what had happened. I can’t blame him, though. After searching for about ten years, who knew we would find his mate assaulted in the slums. Too bad Boyan couldn’t catch the guy. The big wolf next to us is still infuriated about that, and pretty much sulking too.

The nurses walking by are glaring at us. We are all soaked and dripping on the floor. If I wasn't worried about my brother's mate, I would drop by my place and take a shower. But that's out of the question for now. We have no idea about her condition, or if she will even make it. We didn't even tell Damian about how much blood there was...

Neal, Damian's Beta, walks up to us, he was on the phone for a while.

"The Chief of Police is investigating this, but they didn't catch anyone either. Even humans are not really watching that area. I dispatched Sean and Victoria to help them."

"What about the girl?"

He sighs and shakes his head.

"Nothing. I asked if they had anything about a missing person who would match her description, but they don't have a clue."

"So we still have no idea who she is, where she came from and what happened," growls Tonia, annoyed.

We stay silent because Damian is right next to us and hearing everything. Everyone waits a bit longer, no one dares to talk anymore. Neal is constantly on the phone and sending texts to our lieutenants, Tonia is angrily biting her nails and I'm dying for a cigarette.

Finally, the doors open, and a man in a blue coat walks out. The three of us almost jump out of our seats. Only Damian doesn't move a muscle.

"So, she's stabilized for now. She's unconscious for now, but she should be recovering within a few days. We stopped the internal bleeding, but that girl is in severe condition. She's malnourished, there are traces of a***e and her throat is badly damaged as well."

"Do you think she was..."

"No, there is no sign of s****l assault, though she definitely fought with someone, judging from the bruises and blood on her fingers. I would recommend taking samples to the police, obviously."

The surgeon was perfectly aware he was talking to werewolves, and couldn't meddle in our affairs. He glances at Damian, then comes back to us.

"The... Blood on her dress wasn't hers. She doesn't have any cut deep enough to provoke that. I would say there is another victim."

"Not the guy Boyan tried to get," whispers Tonia. "That guy looked fine. Fine enough to outrun Bobo..."

We talk a bit longer about her condition, but globally, the girl should be fine. Tonia is infuriated by her condition. She keeps asking details about the bruises and malnutrition until I stop her before she really gets Damian mad. My brother hasn't said a damn word yet but I can feel it's a fvcking*g storm inside.

I turn to Neal.

"Call the Chief of Police, we are filling a report about what happened. And I want everyone looking for the fvcker who did this to her."

"All right. Boyan, Tonia, you..."

"Boyan and Tonia are staying here."

My brother's cold voice takes us by surprise. I turn to him.

"Damian?"

"You too Nate. I want you three watching her from now on. Aside from the medical staff, Neal, Liam and I nobody else approaches."

No need to say, his order is final. We all nod. Damn, I didn't think we would really put all three of us to be her watchdogs... He gets up and suddenly leaves, followed by Neal.

"Where is he going?" Whispers Tonia.

"Probably somewhere he can vent," I sigh. "You don't want to know."

Even I wouldn't want to get too close to Damian when he's angry like this...

Anything, Liam?

No... That guy is either well hidden or far away. And with that rain...

Ok, go home as soon as you can. Damian will get seriously mad if we have to look after you too.

Yeah, yeah...

I sigh and look at the door. It may be totally out of place right now, but I'm still secretly happy. We finally got a hold of Damian's mate, after searching for her for so long. Moreover, Elena called me. It was so freaking cute. How she was worried about me hearing I was in the hospital, and after that, how she tried to said it was not... definitely over between us. That's what I understood. Not over, just a little break. I like the sound of that. I can work with that.

We both need to sort things out. Me with Damian's mate, Elena with her pack and her ex. Damn, her ex... I don't want to think about it. Every time I do, there an uneasy, annoying feeling in my heart, like an alarm in the back of my head. It's her ex. Nothing will happen, she moved on. Right?

"All right, we will transfer her now. We need someone to take care of the papers?" Asked the nurse, looking at us.

"I'll do it," replies Tonia.

"Give her the VIP Room", I immediately say.

She rolls her eyes at me.

"With the kind of security Damian wants, I pretty much figured so. And having my brother around won't be easy to justify either, so..."

Indeed. Boyan is still laying down in the corridor, in his wolf form. The guy is so huge he's scaring the people passing by. With his sister, Damian put our two best fighters in charge of guarding his mate. No one is coming near her dead or alive, I can guarantee that.

The next day, we are still gathered in the VIP room. I slept there with the Mura siblings, on the couch, as Tonia and I took turns to watch her. Now that the sun's up, I can finally have a good look at her. The nurses changed her in a patient's gown and put her hair to the side. I hate to admit it, but Tonia is right, that girl is severely underweight... She looks so frail too, she doesn't look like someone who is seventeen already. Her skin is very pale, like someone who

doesn't go out much, and she has the hands of someone who works a lot. I try to imagine what kind of life she's had until now. Sitting on the window's frame, Tonia is looking at her again too, frowning.

"If only we had found her before... Whoever did this, the Boss is going to make them pay. I sure hope he does. That girl..."

Before she finishes her sentence, someone knocks at the door. Judging from how Boyan, who is laying under the bed, doesn't move an inch, I guess it's their brother or mine. Liam walks in.

"Hi guys. Did you stay there all night?"

"How do you know?" I ask.

"Well, I crashed at your place last night and you weren't there, so..."

I sigh and roll my eyes. I'll have to ask Damian why did we even bother looking for an apartment close to his High School for him? He never goes there! Liam walks in, looking at the girl, frowning.

"Damn, she doesn't look too good... Did she say anything?"

"No, when we got there she had lot consciousness already. We just grabbed her and ran here. She was so... He would have killed her. Too bad we let him get away," replies Tonia.

"How did you know that was her?"

"I didn't! Bobo's the one who insisted. Turns out he was right.... Hey, move your big furry a*s over there, I can't examine her with you here."

She walks to the bed and Bobo has to move to the side while Tonia checks the girl's arms, and all the tubes she's linked to. She arranges the sheets too as if the nurses hadn't done that a couple of times already.

"Well, she's better. That shouldn't take too long for her to wake up, now."

"She'd better. Our brother is making everyone freak out since that girl's here. Looks like he's about to murder someone or something..."

"It's his fated mate, Liam. He spent years looking for her and finds her in such a state... I can't blame him," I say.

He nods, scratching his neck.

“Where is he?”

“He spent the night with Neal and Sean, looking for... Well, whatever a.ssh0le attacked her. I think they were going to inspect the borders when I went home.”

“I see... Hey, should I get us some breakfast? You guys stayed there all night, right? I'll grab it.”

Liam leaves the room to go buy us something to eat. I had no idea how hungry I was until he mentioned it. I pick up my phone, checking my texts. Nothing from Elena... I don't know what I was expecting. I got a whole bunch of texts from Isaac, though. He asked about my brother and his mate's condition, but most of the other texts are about his own fated mate. Damn, the guy is crazy about that...

Two days later, we are still pretty much confined to the Hospital Room. I did go home a few times, but only to change, take a shower, sleep and that's it. From seven in the morning to nine or ten in the evening, I'm in the VIP room, working from my computer and watching the girl with Tonia and Boyan. Liam comes there a lot too, though I wish he brought his homework instead of his console... I'm eating some Italian take out, while Liam and Tonia are arguing about some football team.

My phone rings.

“Yes, Neal?”

I put him on speaker for everyone to hear.

“I just got a call from the Chief of Police. Still no missing people report, nothing about her whatsoever, even the fingerprints didn't give us anything. The bl00d on the dress is not registered either, but definitely a male werewolf.”

Tonia slams her chopsticks on the table. Liam turns to me, frowning.

“Great. No pack, no name, no clue who that girl is. She doesn't even smell like a werewolf!” He says.

“Stop fussing. He can’t be wrong about that, at least. But I still don’t understand where she came from. She looks old enough to have been marked if she was in a pack...”

No matter how we think about it, things just don’t add up about that girl. Liam shakes his head.

“Oh, come on. Do you think a pack would let one of their girls out in that state? Can’t be. She must be a stray or something. And what about the scar, anyway?”

Tonia walks over, but shrugs.

“Dunno. It’s a few years old, probably a knife of some sort. Too neat to be a claw. But honestly, that’s the least of my worries. No matter where she comes from, this girl was in hell. She’s got bruises all over, and it’s not just from the asshole who assaulted her. Some bruises were older than that, and she has lots of scars, too. I recognize a***e when I see it.”

“Don’t say that in front of him, he might really start k!lling people,” I warn her.

“Well, he wouldn’t know who did it, anyway...” Sighs Liam.

That’s the issue. We really have no idea what happened, and I don’t like that at all. Why the hell was she a.bused? By who? I turn to the phone.

“Keep looking, Neal, Damian will want answers anyway.”

“I know, but man, there’s only so much we can do. Even the human police are collaborating with us. Anyway, I’ll call you tomorrow and let you know.”

I hang up, with a big sigh. What a mess... If only she would wake up and talk so we can have names. But she had been deep asleep, in some sort of coma since we brought her here. According to Tonia and the medical staff, she should come to her senses soon, but...

“Why doesn’t he come to see her? Damian?” Suddenly asks Liam.

“He does come. At night. He never stays long, though,” explains Tonia.

“Why? It’s his fated mate, he’s been waiting for her for... Well, pretty much forever!”

“It’s not that simple, Liam.”

Indeed. Knowing Damian, my brother must be torn between his attraction for her, and his guilt for not being able to save her earlier. I still remember that horrified look in his eyes when he finally got to see her... It was like someone had just stabbed him. That probably wasn’t anywhere near what he had imagined, even if he knew what was going on through their bond. She looks so... weak, like she could die at any moment.

When he comes to see her, he doesn’t even dare to get near her. It’s almost painful to watch for me.

Well, that’s even more reasons to look after her now that she’s with us. I don’t think we could give her a better treatment or a better team to take care of her. Even now Damian added a couple of werewolves to watch the floor, as extra security.

“She should wake up soon, right?” Asks Liam

Tonia and I nod. We hope so. I’m about to take some more pizza when my phone vibrates. It’s Elena. I try hard not to show a smile, but I can already feel Tonia’s eyes on me. I ignore her and read it.

She’s asking when we can meet again.