

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 76 - Tips

At first, he doesn't notice me, greeting his brother, Nora and the other people present. Boyan and Tonia walk in right after him, both saluting me. That's when his blue eyes fall on me, making my heart go crazy. Oh, Moon Goddess.

He frowns a bit, surprised to see me there. Oh, right, he doesn't know about my relationship with Nora... He turns his head to his brother, looking worried for a second. But Damian Black is focused on Nora, as usual, only nodding to his brother's arrival.

Nate finally walks up to me, looking uncertain.

"Elena, what are you...?"

"Nora called me here."

"Nora?"

"She's my friend!" says Nora, with a big smile.

That's the most simple-minded explanation one could think of, and I see Nate give a glance in Boyan's direction too, trying to make sense out of it; but the huge wolf is just laying at Nora's feet like a furry carpet. Nate seems to give up with a sigh, and while I'm totally unprepared for it, takes me in for a hug.

Damn, it feels good... I missed his smell like crazy. So good, actually, I'm almost crying. I answer his hug, unable to hold myself back. My wolf is breathing again, too, soothed. How does it feel we're closer now? Is it because I'm carrying his baby? Or because we missed each other too much? His whole body against mine is calming me down. Behind Nate, Nora is giving me a faint smile, and the other people in the room are either observing us with a hint of curiosity or total disinterest.

"All right... shall we get started, miss Nora?" Asks Neal.

Nathaniel and I part, though he holds my hand a bit longer. Nora walks up to me, looking a bit worried, biting her lip.

"Elena... I'm not sure how strong my inner voice will be... Can you help me out? A bit?"

I nod.

“Yeah, sure. Don’t worry, Nora, you’re already way better than I am. Just take a deep breath, relax and you’ll do great.”

“Okay.”

Nora takes several deep breaths, exchanging looks with me, channeling her inner wolf. Is it me or are her eyes shining stronger than usual? I sit up on the couch and wait for it. Nate hesitates before slowly walking to stand behind me.

I hear her message, bright and clear, in my head. To me, it’s like a clear voice. But as I observe in the room, only the Black brothers are fine. Neal, Tonia, and Boyan are making faces, probably a bit overwhelmed by her aura.

As discussed, Nora lays out her plan. She explains who she is, and I actually learn for the first time she was born in the Gold Moon Clan. Nora’s in a unique position, though. Born in the Gold Moon Clan, raised by the Jade Moon, mated to the Blood Moon Alpha and yet, her true roots belong to the Sapphire Moon Clan.... And there’s me, her cousin, from the White Moon pack.

The biggest surprise is her heritage as a Royal, though. She only says a few words about this, but I know she doesn’t want to make a big deal out of it. It would only have people freak out... Yet, her dominant voice in our heads leaves no doubt. Hence, they have no choice but to listen to her warning. Her warning about the Dark Witch that will target Silver City, and finally, how the packs need to work altogether.

It’s a crazy idea.

I know Nora’s a believer, but when she gives out the time and place for a meeting in three days, I’m really wondering who will dare to show up. It’s not just about her being a royal, or the attack coming. Most Clans, though they won’t admit it, are crazy scared about the Blood Moon. To Nora and I, the Black brothers are just lovers, but to everyone else, they are cold-blooded killers, crazy-strong alphas werewolves. At least, having a Luna of her background next to Damian Black might draw a few curious people in...

Nora exhales, and opens her eyes. Good job, girl.

“You did great, Nora,” says her Mate with that gentle expression he only has for her.

“I have to admit, I didn’t think you could really reach all of us, but I guess this headache is my retribution for doubting you,” growls Boyan’s older brother.

Nora chuckles with a bit of an apologetic expression. Damn, she is so cute. No wonder everyone loves her. I wonder how we got to be so different when our parents were twins...

Though, she frowns soon enough and looks down, holding her head. I can almost feel it. Everyone who heard her voice is responding, using the mindlink back, submerging her.

“Nora, are you ok?” Asks the King.

“Sorry... It’s my head...”

He rubs her shoulder, while Nora is struggling to clear the voices out. It’s funny, I can feel them as if I have a little window in her head. She finally lets a few in, exchanging with some Alphas unknown to me. I hope people are responding positively... Everyone in the room is holding their breaths, waiting for her.

After a while, she nods and turns to us.

“The Sapphire Moon and Sea Moon Clans are coming. The Jade Moon, too. I don’t know yet about the others, it was a bit confusing...”

It’s already a good start, though. With the Blood Moon Clan in as well, it means already two of the biggest packs are interested. It’s huge...

“We expect this,” says Neal Mura, “but this is how it always works between werewolves anyway, Miss Nora. No matter what happens, you did what you had to. We know how risky this is.”

“Don’t worry, baby girl. It’s going to be ok. Even if only a few packs show up, it’s plenty enough, ok? We just need to open up a dialogue,” adds his sister.

Nora looks a bit uneasy, but I agree with the Betas. Nora’s done great, especially since she was reaching out to mind-link so many people for the first time.

“Anyway, we need to get ready for what is coming. Three days is a very, very short time to get everything ready. Securing the Stadium, informing the human Police and preparing the lieutenants won’t be an easy job.”

Looks like the Blood Moon’s Beta is already in work mode... He starts making calls, giving orders, and everyone in the room moves. The King is talking to Tonia, and Boyan goes to Nora, who’s sitting facing me. I’m not sure what I’m supposed to be doing. I wait a bit and get up, but the King leaves the room with Tonia and Neal, Nora and goes to another room. I’m left alone with Boyan, still in his wolf form, and Nathaniel.

Nate walks up to me in a hurry.

“Elena! ...I’ve missed you. How are you?” He asks, looking worried.

His hand already on my neck, and the other grabbing mine, we’re so close. I need to catch my breath for a second and nod a bit awkwardly.

“I’m... fine.”

Damn, why is it so hard to talk now that he’s here, he’s facing me, so close, so real! What was I expecting? Nate’s right in front of me, but those words are stuck in my throat, while I’m just trying to breathe normally. It’s been so long already. I don’t even know where to start! I can’t just drop the bomb like that! Where is our relationship at, anyway?

“Talk to me!”

He’s getting impatient, but I just keep avoiding his eyes and trying to come up with something.

“Elena, I can’t go on like this!”

“I told you, I’m fine Nate! ...Stop asking, please.”

Can’t you give me a second to think, to find what I’ll say to you?

“I don’t believe you! You’ve been avoiding me for days, I can’t take it! Do you think I haven’t noticed? You’re pale, you lost weight... Elena, are you sick?”

“What?”

Oh gosh, why does he have to be so observant about this kind of thing? I barely lost a couple of pounds! Guess what? Your daughter only likes freaking pizza and lemon tea...

“No, I’m not, I swear, Nate. I’m fine, ok? I really am.”

“Then why...!”

“I’ll tell you later, ok?” I just say, shaking my head.

“Later? What later! Elena... When?”

When your brother and half of your pack’s leaders are not freaking next door, for a start! I’m not ready, for Moon Goddess’ sake...

“A... After the Pack’s meeting, once it’s over, we can talk”, I stutter. “I promise. But not now. It’s not the right time, with everything that is going on. Nate, please.”

He keeps staring, and Moon Goddess, he does look worried. Well, guess what, I’m freaking out too, and scared like I’ve never been scared before. I just... I’d rather fight a thousand vampires than tell Nate the truth right now. It’s so fvcking*g scary. I’m doubting his response, how he’ll react, what he’ll say, what he’ll do. I don’t know it’s like a fvcking*g void scaring the hell out of me.

“Ok, but... You have to stop avoiding me, please. ...I miss you.”

I take a deep breath. Damn, there’s so much in those three words...

“I missed you too...” I confess in a whisper.

I see Bobo leave the room in silence, giving us some space, but right when my eyes are back on Nate, he grabs me in for a passionate k!ss.

Oh Moon Goddess, this feels so good... I don’t even resist and respond right away, grabbing his shirt, his hair, any part of him I can claim. I want him. I’ve missed him, oh, so bad... We keep going, k!ssing each other, our l!ps and tongues going crazy, my skin burning under his touch, my bl00d rushing. I want more, it’s like a d**g. It tastes sweet and addicting.

His hands glide on my skin, under my shirt, on my neck... I shiver a bit. I had almost forgotten how his hands feel. I feel my desire arose, like ash burning

underneath the long-extinguished fire. A small, shy flame, as the kiss keeps going... It's Nate, my man. Mine. The only one I want to allow on me, the only one that can touch me. My wolf softly growls.

"Nate... Nate, wait..."

He keeps going. He doesn't want to stop. Frankly? Me neither. I just want more of his hips, more of his skin and smell on me. It's driving me crazy. My wolf growls again. We are in his brother's apartment, damn it...

"Nate, stop."

This time, I put my hands on his chest, pushing him away, taking a deep breath in.

"Elena?"

"Give me a second. I... I have something I really need to tell you."

He raises an eyebrow, a bit surprised.

"Well, that's a first... Everything okay?"

"No... I mean, yes, but... Moon Goddess..."

I take a step back, a deep breath, trying to think. How do you say it? How do you announce that kind of thing? What's the right word? Damn it... Breathe, Elena, low blood pressure. Nate is staring at me, confused, a bit worried. He puts his hands on his hips, waiting. Fuck it...

"Nathaniel, I'm... pregnant."

There's a long silence.

His expression is undecipherable, and he chuckles nervously.

"You're what?"

"Pregnant. I am pregnant, Nate."

It takes him a few more minutes to take it in, and his eyes wander mindlessly in the room. I have no fucking idea what to expect. Honestly, I'm terrified.

He doesn't seem happy, nor mad. He swallows his saliva, and turns to me, looking a bit off.

"Okay... I... How long?"

"I'm in my thirteen weeks now."

"I see..."

He's frowning, looking anywhere but my direction. Looking like he's confused. It's not what I was expecting. I don't know what to say, what to do, I stay there waiting like an i***t.

"For Moon Goddess' sake, Nate, says something. Please."

"...Who's the father?"

I stare at him, shocked. Is he fvcking*g kidding me?

"Are you kidding me? Of course, it's you, you big i***t!"

"Seriously, Elena."

What the hell, now? He doesn't believe me?

"Nate, you're the father! What now, you think I fvck with anyone? I'm thirteen weeks pregnant, we were together back in September!"

I'm almost crying, I'm so fvcking*g mad. I did think he would be surprised, not that he wouldn't believe me! He shakes his head.

"Elena, it can't be mine. Think again. I'm not accusing you, I just..."

"You think I don't know who I had se.x with? There's been no one but you since last June, Nathaniel! You can ask Daniel, I haven't been close to another man!"

"Is it Levi's?"

"fvck you!" I yell, exasperated beyond words "I didn't sleep with Levi, are you mad? What the hell is wrong with you!"

"Elena, I'm telling you, if you are really pregnant, this child cannot be mine!"

“I am pregnant! I am pregnant, you d!ck, so pregnant I don’t know what to do with myself!”

I grab the picture in my jacket and throws it at him, pissed.

“Look at that! This is your daughter and mine! There is no way she anyone else’s but yours!”

But he doesn’t even look at the picture, or me crying. He takes a deep breath in like he’s trying to control himself, and I can feel his unsettled wolf too. What the hell...?

It’s like a nightmare. He’s there, but he’s just distancing himself from me, building a wall between us. I don’t get it. I feel anger replacing the disappointment, and my wolf growls.

“What’s wrong with you? I’ve been avoiding you, now you don’t want to believe I’m pregnant? Is that it? Too much for you? Or you don’t trust me? Is it because of your status, you can’t have this happen?”

“Elena, stop it! I know this child isn’t mine, so just tell me whose it is! I don’t even care at this point!”

“fvck you! I’m telling you, this child is yours! What the hell is wrong with you!”

“It can’t be mine, Elena!”

He lets out a big sigh, before finally looking at me.

“...I’m sterile, Elena.”

I stare at him, speechless for once. What the...

“I can’t have children,” he continues. “I swear if there was one in a billion chance this child could be mine, trust me, I would gladly believe you. I would be thrilled if you were pregnant with my baby, Elena, I swear on the Moon Goddess. I wish it could be true. But here’s the thing, it cannot possibly be mine. I’m sterile.”

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 77 - Tips

She’s crying.

She keeps crying, though I can tell she's trying hard to hold it in. Is Elena really pregnant...? Damn, I... I don't even know what to answer.

"What the fvck are you saying?" She asks, completely lost. "Sterile...?"

I nod.

"It's from many years ago, I... I lost that ability to have children because of my father. One day, he hit me. He always hit us, though most days Damian protected Liam and I. It couldn't always be the case, though. And, that one time, he... hit me so hard in my stomach, I started bleeding... I bled a lot. Damian took me to the hospital, but they couldn't... I learned I wouldn't be able to have children no matter how much surgery I went under. There's nothing medicine can do for me, Elena, I'm sterile. I've been sterile since I was fifteen..."

She's listening to me, I can't tell if she believes me or not. It's the truth, though. It's the first time someone else knows about this... I take a deep breath.

"That's the real reason she didn't want me... My fated mate. She had a choice between her rich fiance and a damaged teenager who could never have children... I can't blame her though."

She did what anyone would have done to protect their own future. Especially for a she-wolf, who looks forward to having her own children. And now, Elena says she's pregnant, too... It's like a dagger piercing my heart. Who other than me did she have se.x with? I don't want to think she's lying but... There's no other explanation. I know I can't be the father no matter what.

"fvck you, Nate."

I look up at her, surprised by her sudden anger.

"You dare mention your ex now? Do you think I care? I don't give a damn what you think you can or can't do, I know what I'm saying. Those doctors were wrong, Nate. I am pregnant, I am pregnant and no one else but you can be the father!"

"I cannot be, Elena! Even if you are, I can't have children! At all! I have all of the files, my complete medical chart, back at my place, attesting why your child cannot be mine! If you want, I can show it to you, I..."

“I don’t give a sh!t about your medical records, you i***t! I’ve been trying to think for weeks on how to tell you, and now, this? Nate, this child is my miracle! I didn’t think I could have children either! I had a miscarriage, and...”

“But your chances after a miscarriage aren’t down to zero, Elena. Mines are. I’m... I’ll try to be happy for you that you got pregnant again, but... Don’t say I’m the dad. I cannot be.”

My voice sounds harsh and cold. But it’s nothing compared to the ice bleeding in my heart right now. Just thinking that she’s carrying another man’s child... I want to vomit. I take a step back, but I stop when I see Elena’s expression.

Damn it. This woman drives me nuts. She’s crying so much, and all I can think is how I’m torn, between running to her or running away from her. What a fvcking*g mess we are...

“Elena I....”

“Nate, shut up.”

It’s her turn to be as cold as ice. She puts her arms around her and steps back, as if she was shielding herself from me. Shielding... her child. She takes a deep breath in, trying to calm herself down.

“I don’t... You know what? Nevermind. I don’t need you.”

“Elena, I...”

“You don’t want to hear the truth, fine. I’ll do it on my own.”

“I’m not leaving you, Elena! You’re the one who’s not listening, this child...”

“Nathaniel, I never slept with anyone else but you for almost a year. This baby was conceived thirteen weeks ago, and as far as I’m concerned, I’m pretty sure I’m not able to conceive on my own.”

I take a deep breath. Elena seems so sure I’m the father of her child... But it just cannot be. So, who did she sleep with and why won’t she admit it? Was it really her best friend’s brother? I keep imagining things I don’t want to. It’s driving me crazy. I want to get out of there. Or erase the five last minutes of this conversation and start all over again.

I know I lied. Well, I didn't lie. I just... I never brought myself to tell her I couldn't have children. I stayed quiet when she talked about protecting ourselves, condoms, taking the pill... I wasn't going to bring up me being sterile with what should have been a one-night stand. I could have done so later, but... As we kept seeing each other, I fell more and more in love and... afraid. Afraid that story would repeat itself if Elena knew I couldn't give her children....

"Elena, I really wanted to..."

"To what? Believe me? Believe whatever you want, Nate. I'm tired of lies. I came here to tell you this, now I've done my share. You do whatever you want with it."

"What do you mean?"

"You heard me. I've told you, now whatever you want to believe is up to you. I'll have this child, with you as his dad or not. I don't give a damn about your story of being sterile or not. It's your problem now."

She grabs her jacket, and before I can say another word, she's gone. I stay there, speechless.

What the fvck just happened? I... I can't believe it. Elena is pregnant. Pregnant. She said thirteen weeks! I fall back on the couch, completely lost. This is a nightmare... For the first time in years, I feel like crying, my heart about to crumble.

I stay alone for a long, long time, trying to think about what went wrong. Why? Just why did she do that? Going to another man, then trying to have me think it's mine? Maybe it would have been easier if she admitted to her lie. Or even if she had made a mistake. If she had a one-time thing with another. Maybe I could have even forgiven her... Yet, why can't I keep thinking Elena didn't? Some part of my mind is stuck. Stuck with this certainty that Elena didn't lie. That she wouldn't... Do that to me. To us.

I stay a long moment alone, unable to think of what to do next. I don't want to lose Elena. I feel like my heart left with her, and I'm so fvcking*g numb right now. If this wasn't Damian's place, I'd drink. But they are all next door, and I don't want them to see me drinking in the middle of the day...

"Nate?"

Damian walks in, frowning. He closes the door behind him, thank Moon Goddess Nora isn't there... or anyone else. I don't feel like seeing anyone but my brother right now.

"What happened?"

I shake my head.

"Sorry, I don't feel like talking right now, Damian."

"...Elena left?"

I nod. I don't even want to explain, but I know my brother Damian won't ask further. I hear him sigh next to me.

"What do you want to do?"

"I don't know... Damian, I want her back. I haven't loved anyone like this since..."

"Since Kate."

I nod silently. To be honest, I know one was my fated mate, and our feelings were almost... Programmed. However, with Elena, there was nothing simple, nothing written. It just happened, like a waterfall of feelings that overtook me. The more I saw her, the more I wanted, the deeper I fell for her.

I take a deep breath, trying hard to hold it all in.

"I don't know what to do..." I confess.

"Well... Give yourself some time, Nate. For her too. If you're like me... A couple of days apart might help."

A couple of days? It already feels like I've been away from Elena for so long... I just wish this was all a nightmare, and I would be back to those long days of summer, when we only had to worry about hiding our relationship, making love and having fun together.

Damian puts a hand on my shoulder.

"Nate, we'll be busy for a few days. I'll need your help for Nora's plan..."

Nora's plan. Suddenly, I realize it all. The gathering, the Clans, the Dark Witch. And the Opale Moon Clan's betrayal. What will become of Elena? She warned us about her pack's moves, she will be thrown in the middle of all this... What if she needs my help? I can't...

I get up.

"Damian. Let me watch the North Clans."

"What?"

I know how selfish that is. But I know I won't be able to do any good if I stay here. I'll be good for nothing, just keeping those questions in my mind and wondering, again and again, about Elena. I don't want our people to see me like this. Not even Nora, Liam or Neal. Damian's seen me like this before, he's picked me back up. He knows how low I can go...

"Fine. But stay where I can reach you. I have enough of one runaway brother..."

"Why are you leaving him with the Sapphire Moon Clan?" I ask.

"I have a feeling Liam might be working on his own... He's a bit surprising sometimes. And... It's time I acknowledge you two can be adults."

That's surprising, coming from Damian.

Before, he was the overprotective brother, the one to shield us no matter what... Is it because Nora's been more independent, he's giving us more faith too?

I drop by my place to take a shower, but I leave as soon as I can, taking my wolf form to run to the border. It's been a while since I shape-shifted. It's nice... I keep running until I reach the wolves of the White Moon Clan, the ones guarding the border. They growl at me, warning me to stay off their grounds.

I growl back. Don't you disrespect me.

I wander around, close to Elena's place. Not too close, though. I want to know what's going on with their Alpha, and about Elena. But I can't cross that border... Not yet.

More of their wolves gather to watch me, wary of my presence. But I sit there, waiting. They don't interest me in the slightest. I only move to watch who comes in and out. No one from the Gold Moon Clan, though...

The next day, at dawn, another wolf comes. An Alpha. I growl instinctively, but I don't recognize her... Who's this? She looks older, and the other wolves act differently around her. She keeps growling at me and actually steps out of her border, walking my direction with that warning stance.

Since when do they have an Alpha woman? Who is that? She's older than the Alphas we know...

Go away, Black.

I growl. She can mind-link me? Another Royal? Again?

How can you...?

Omega thing. Now go. I'm annoyed with your mutt face! Leave and forget Elena, Black. I have enough of one stalker to watch!

What? How much does that woman know? Who is she...

One stalker? Who.... Diego? That dog is stalking Elena again?

Hmpf. Looks like you're not totally useless after all...

Why is he after her? Is he the baby's....

How about you shut up before rotting your mouth with such idiocy. You think I'd let that scum near her!

I instinctively growl. So he's still around... And after her.

Let me get him.

What?

Her growling tones down. I step closer.

I'll get rid of him. I'll help you protect Elena...

Why would I trust you, when you abandoned her?

How much does that woman know exactly?

Who are you?

Shut up, kid! I'm the one asking questions! You think I'll trust you after all you've done to her! You better stay away from Elena, and from that pack at all. I'll deal with Diego myself!

She growls even louder at me, warning me to stay back. Stubborn old woman... Who is she anyway? What's her link to Elena?

She runs off, leaving me again with those others from the White Moon watching me. Damn it...

Nate.

Damian?

Everything fine?

Not exactly...

My brother and I mind-link for a while, but there isn't much to say. Our Brother Liam is still Moon Goddess knows where, absent and ignoring our attempts to mind-link him, and our Clan is preparing for the big meeting in two days.

I have faith in Nora, but I don't trust the other packs... Especially with Elena's revelations about her own pack. Will the White Moon betray the Sapphire Moon? Or will only the Opale Moon betray the White Moon? I'm restless and annoyed to not be able to do anything meanwhile.

...Damian. I need to ask you something. A favor.

What? You've never asked for anything before.

I need to cross the border.

...Which?

You know which.

He stays silent for a while.

Nate, you can't do that. Not now.

I know the timing is bad, but...

Nathaniel.

I can't help but growl, frustrated. My brother took his King's voice. I know I'm being too reckless, but... I can't endure it. Knowing Elena is behind that border, with that asshole...

Nathaniel, it's an order. Do not cross that border.

I growl at him, but I can't fucking disobey my older brother.

Fine...

I stay a long while there, waiting. I'm hoping that scum will show up, so I can tear him apart.

My brother and I have a strange relationship with death. We've lived with it, we've seen it. We've done that. I can kill a wolf or a man without blinking. I knew what death was before I could know about love. I knew about death that protects someone. When Damian killed our father, I was there. I witnessed it, and the void that came after. It wasn't relief, just a nightmare that came to an end. The man who had abused us for years was dead and gone.

What was Elena feeling when she tried to kill her ex? She went to jail for that... She was a victim, yet she took a double sentence, while this asshole is still alive and around. That is enough.

Suddenly, the next day, I notice someone else is coming, in his human form. I recognize him from afar. Her friend Daniel.

He comes up, and he must have said something to the others because all the wolves that were there leave. What does he want...? He's not alone, another male wolf is right behind him. Is that his brother? I instinctively growl, and Daniel hesitates. A bit afraid. I forgot his a normal wolf...

"Reagan said you've been here for a while... Are you waiting for Elena? Because she's not coming. She doesn't know you're there, and honestly, I don't want her to. You broke her heart, Black, and that was one too many times. I wanted to root for you, but you messed up."

I growl, but he doesn't flinch.

"I'm not afraid of you. She's my best friend, you know. There are many things I can do for her, even standing up to an Alpha for her."

I have to give that to him, he's brave... So what is he doing here now if he doesn't want me near her?

"I... want to check."

What is he talking about? He crosses his arm, adjusting his glasses.

"Elena mentioned your... issue. I want to check. I am a biology student, so I can understand this kind of thing. You want to prove you didn't lie? Show it to me. Your medical file."

Is he kidding me? Why do I have to justify myself to him? Elena has to be the one who lied, not me!

"Listen, Black, I know my best friend. She wouldn't lie. She is an adopted child, too, and it's bothered her for... her whole life, actually. There is no way she would lie about her baby's biological father. So... either you lied, or you were healed and unaware."

Damn, he's really... Annoying. I hate that he somehow has more faith in Elena than I do. Why is he so sure? But he's indeed her best friend, and flatmate... He would know if she lied. So why... And why is his brother here anyway? Does he think the kid may be his, too?

I take a deep sigh and decide to shape-shift back into my human form. Daniel immediately blushes and looks away.

"Moon Goddess, you could... warn people before doing... that." He stutters.

I don't have time for this...

"Fine. I'll give my medical file to you, if you can keep it a secret."

"Of course I can! Who do you..."

"In exchange, I want Diego."

He freezes, looking at me completely speechless.

“You... excuse me? You want what?”

“Give me Diego. I cannot cross your border, and as long as he’s on your side, I cannot do anything to him. But if he just steps one paw here...”

Daniel seems to hesitate for a second, looking for what to say, totally surprised by my demand. But before he can formulate an answer, his brother suddenly shape-shifts too.

“We will give him to you,” says Levi.

“Oh, great, now you’re both n.aked...” sighs Daniel.

“I just want to be sure what you’ll do once you...”

I smirk.

“Oh, I’ll k!ll him.”

“...Deal.”

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 78 - Tips

“Where have you been?”

Daniel just got back from Moon Goddess knows where, and shrugs.

“I went to... talk with Levi. He was patrolling at the border.”

I frown. Since when is Levi patrolling at the border? Oh, well, I don’t really care. I finish putting on my jeans and some sweater in front of a confused Daniel.

“You’re going somewhere?”

“To my uncle. If he’s about to do something stupid, it’s my duty to stop him.”

“Uh... Don’t you think you...”

“What? Stay at home, keep crying? Like an i***t?”

That’s right. I’m a mess, my eyes are all red and puffy and I’m dead tired because I haven’t slept a wink. I cried so much, my head hurts and I feel sick.

What happened with Nathaniel was beyond anything I had imagined. It might have been easier if he had just rejected me, but no, he doesn't even think this is his baby.

What the hell. I know who I fvck with, and I couldn't care less about this sterility issue. Not only am I mad at him for hiding it, but I'm also fvcking*g disappointed he doubted me too.

However, I'm done crying. I'm done with everyone keeping me aside, telling me to stay put and not say things. I need to set things straight. I am not the kind to not do anything, hell no. I grab my coat, and Danny follows me, still worried.

"Babe, shouldn't you talk to Clark first?"

"I will, and convince him to show up to Nora's gathering too. As of now, I am still part of this Clan, and I'll do what I can."

"To help the White Moon...?"

"To protect my daughter, Danny. If Nora's plan to rally all the Clans is a success, my baby will have better chances. Silver City has never seen all of its packs united as one before, or a witch like Sylviana standing alongside them. I don't know about this Dark Witch, but I want to believe that Nora has the right solution. I don't really care if I'm banned from the White Moon or not, honestly. It's getting bigger than me or a couple of packs, Danny."

He slowly nods, and grabs his jacket.

"I hate when you're right about stuff like that... But you're still right. Let's go talk some sense into those stupid men."

We just take our jackets and walk out. Wandering in the streets of our turf has a different feel to me now. Something's changed. Not only inside my heart, but in the way our people look at me. I can feel it as I walk by.

Do they know already? Or do they still wonder if I'm really pregnant, who the father could be? They probably have suspicions... I don't really care, though. Strangely, a big weight was lifted of my shoulders since I told the truth to Clark, and to Nate. Even if things didn't turn out well, I'm relieved about not having to lie anymore.

We arrive at the main House when Clark, Isabella and other important leaders of our pack are actually discussing Nora's invite.

"You saw her... Like me, Clark," says Isa. "And if she really is a Royal, she may be right..."

"Why should we accept to cooperate with the Blood Moon?" Says Brant, a young fighter. "I don't care much about the new Luna, why do we have to listen to their whim?"

When I walk in, Clark who was supposed to answer shuts up. A couple of them growl softly, warning me I'm not welcome here. They don't worry me much, though. I ignore them to turn to my Alpha.

"Please go."

"...What?"

"What if Nora is right?" I add. "She's a Royal, and some menace is coming. You were there, Clark, at the vampire's attack, you..."

"Elena, get out! You don't have a right to speak here, you lost that right when..."

"Silence."

I'm growling for real, and Brant is taken aback by my sudden use of my Alpha aura. That's right. If you want to get me out, you'll have to think twice. Let's see who should shut up.

I turn to my godfather again. The only person I'll submit to in this room. Not because I'm the lesser wolf, but out of respect for him. Clark is obviously unhappy to see me here, but he won't be as mean as to kick me out. He crosses his arms, conflicted.

"Elena, what is your point?"

"I'm close to Nora, Clark. I know she thinks what she says, and I believe her too. In any case, the White Moon should go. I'm sure the Sapphire Moon will be there too."

"The Sapphire Moon?" says Isabella. "Why would they go? They hate the Blood Moon the most!"

“They will because of Nora Bluemoon,” I explain. “She’s a Royal, and that’s one thing the Sapphire Moon respects most. They may hate the Black Brothers, but it’s not the Blood Moon or Sapphire Moon this is about.”

They all exchange glances. If they had doubts about coming, the Sapphire Moon Clan going should be a strong reason for us to go. Clark will always observe what the Sapphire Moon will do, just because of our old alliance with them. If Nora is so sure they will answer her call, then...

“This is so strange. That girl came out of nowhere and now she’s a Royal? And Black’s mate?” says an elder, doubtful. “Until now, we thought the Royals were extinct! What if this is all the Blood Moon’s schemes?”

“What about our people who died, then?” I reply back, angry. “You think the Blood Moon was behind the vampire attack, too? Even if there’s a chance they are wrong, if we can have any clue as to why they died, we owe our deceased to go!”

Isabella looks at me with endless sorrow in her eyes. She was Eric’s mom. She’s probably the one who most wants answers and deserves them. She slowly nods and turns to Clark.

“Clark, I think Elena’s right. To be honest, I don’t care much about our feud with the Blood Moon Clan. They showed up when we needed help. The Sapphire Moon didn’t.”

She’s referring to the Vampire attack when the King and Nate came to our territory with their people to help us out. Isabella’s right. No wolf from the Sapphire Moon was spotted that night, but if it wasn’t for the Blood Moon Clan showing up, we might have experienced much worse...

One of the elders gives me a glance before turning to Clark too.

One of the elders gives me a glance before turning to Clark too.

“The King has changed recently... Maybe for the better. He’s breaking all ties to the Gold Moon and looking back, we never had any bad encounters with them. We even welcomed them here recently for the first time.”

Clark turns his eyes to me. I know he’s thinking about Nathaniel and my relationship with him. He sighs.

“Leave me alone with my Elena for a minute.”

Brant and a couple of others growl.

“Alpha, she is not...”

“As far as I’m concerned, she’s still my goddaughter, and I’m still your Alpha! Now get out!”

They eventually obeyed, though they glared and growled at me on the way out. I ignored them petty pack fights are the least of my concerns at the moment. Only Clark, Isa, Daniel and I are left in the room. I turn to my godfather, feeling a bit bad about this.

“Sorry, you have to fight them about me...”

“It’s not just about you, Elena,” sighs Isabella. “Those kids are getting c0cky anyway.”

“Reagan told me you two... talked?” Says Clark.

I nod, but honestly, I don’t want to go back on this. My godfather already knows everything he needs to, and there is no reason to involve him any more than he already is in this mess.

“Yeah, but that’s another topic. Clark, I’m concerned about the Opale Moon. Don’t let Xavier attend the meeting.”

Clark and Isabella exchange a glance, surprised.

“What about Xavier?”

“We witnessed him with the Gold Moon Alpha, two days ago, at the border.”

“We couldn’t hear everything,” adds Daniel. “But it really didn’t sound like they were disagreeing.”

My godfather stays doubtful, crossing his arms.

“Are you sure it was Xavier and Taaron King? We have no business with the Gold Moon, and nobody reported such a meeting.”

“Positive,” we answer together.

“Fvck...”

My godfather stays silent a moment, frowning and thinking. What now? He cannot confront Xavier on our accusations alone, I guess, but it would be dangerous to have him come to the meeting as well. My godfather sighs and turns to me.

“Elena, you stop him. I know you cannot fight in your condition, but as an Alpha, you have enough authority to stop your uncle without that. I know Iris and Chris will support you, too. Let him know I don’t want him to come tomorrow, and you are there to say that.”

“Won’t he say I don’t have authority anymore?” I ask, flustered.

“So far, nothing has been decided,” explains Isabella. “To everyone, you’re still part of the pack, pending Clark’s decision. They don’t know about your child’s father either.”

“Does that mean you’ll go, Clark?” I ask my godfather.

He hesitates for a second, exchanging a glance with Isabella, but his Beta is already agreeing with me. He nods.

“Yeah. As you said, we owe them one, and I want to know if this Witch theory is real. We haven’t seen one in ages, but our Pack is one of the oldest of Silver City, we know there used to be witches in the area.”

I bet he would be in for a surprise if he met Sylviana...

“Moreover, if the Sapphire Moon Clan goes too as you say, I do not want to miss that. I just don’t have the Black brothers in high esteem... Especially now.”

Especially now that one got me pregnant, he means. Gosh, baby, you’re really complicating a lot of things around here... At least I convinced Clark not to go, and I get to deal with Xavier myself.

“Elena?” He calls me when I’m about to leave.

“What is it?”

“You still... Haven’t changed your mind, have you?”

I think for a second. Have I? I know Clark could turn a blind eye if I changed my mind and agreed to keep my baby's biological father a secret, but...

"No. Sorry."

"Don't be sorry."

I nod and leave behind Daniel.

I'm not going to lie. Whether Nathaniel believes me or not won't change anything, he is this baby's father. If I go back now, it will be like I lied this entire time, or I'm really confused about who I had this child with, and I'm not.

We rush to my uncle's house, following other people's indication as to where he is currently. I take deep breaths. This definitely won't be easy. I have to confront my uncle without getting into a fight with him, and persuade him, or keep him from going to the gathering. Isn't Clark overestimating me?

I decide to mind-link my cousins to explain the situation on the way. Both Iris and Chris are shocked to hear what their father did. Iris is a bit more doubtful than her brother, but I expected so, she's always respected her father more. We agree to meet up at his house, as Iris is driving from the clinic to join us, and Chris is almost there.

When both arrive, it's the evening already. Chris walks up to me, but despite his smile, my heart breaks upon the sight of his missing arm. I can't believe those damn vampires did that... He was such a strong fighter. Now everything from his shoulder down has disappeared, they cut it off after it became obvious the vampire's venom had filled his whole arm.

Yet, Chris is about the same as before. He runs up to me and gives me a h.ug.

"I missed ya, Elena! I'm so glad you're okay..."

"Thanks, Chris, I'm... I'm sorry I couldn't see you earlier..."

"Hey, no big deal. Seriously, they gave me so many drugs I couldn't remember my own name for two weeks, let alone know who visited me! It takes forever to get vampire venom out of our system, did you know that? Moreover, you had a good reason, didn't you?"

He asks while pointing at my tummy, making me blush.

“Chris, you...”

“People talk, you know. I can’t believe you’re having a baby! Is it a boy? A girl? I’m sure my sister knows but Iris stayed quiet as a stone!”

“Because I cannot trust you to shut your mouth about it!”

His sister just arrived, and rolls her eyes before walking up to us, a bit awkward.

“Sorry I’m late, work at the Clinic is a nightmare these days... Elena, are you sure about father? I can’t believe he would do that...”

“Iris, I’m sorry. You’ll see when we talk to him.”

She sighs and nods, stepping into her house first.

“Dad?”

“Iris? What are you... Chris too? And...”

Her father, who stepped out to greet them, suddenly sees me and Daniel. His face immediately goes red.

“What are you doing here! How dare you...”

“Enough, Dad!” Says Chris. “Elena is our cousin, she has every right to be here. Moreover, we have things to discuss. Seriously.”

But his father won’t stop glaring at me, pointing out his index, furious.

“If you dare to ask for any support for you little bastard...”

“Shut the fvck up!” I yell, annoyed. “You leave my child out of this, Xavier, and be sure you’re the last person I would ask for anything! I came here because I want to know what you’re planning to do with the Gold Moon!”

His anger melts like snow in the sun when he hears those last words. He goes white as a sheet, stepping back.

“W... Wha... How did you...”

“We caught you at the border,” says Daniel. “Discussing with them.”

Xavier shakes his head.

“I wasn’t discussing, I was chasing them out! Out of our territory! You don’t know anything!”

“You’re telling me you were chasing Taaron King out? You?” I ask, not believing one word of his. “Come on, Xavier, we know who we saw, and you certainly don’t have what it takes to chase another Alpha!”

“I don’t owe anything to you, Elena! You can’t give me orders and you can’t tell me what to do or not! You’re about to get banished from the pack, and now you think you can give orders? Huh?”

“I am not banished yet, and you have some explaining to do before I do. Clark sent me here. If you are not willing to answer to me, you’ll have to answer to him, Xavier, so spill it now.”

“Dad, what were you doing? With the Gold Moon, no less!” Insists Chris, annoyed.

Seeing his son questions him too seems to take my uncle by surprise. His eyes go on Chris, then Iris, then going back to me again.

“Answer me,” I insist, using my Alpha aura.

My wolf starts to growl, threatening. I may not be able to fight, but I can still make him obey. Even if there are only a few drops of Royal Blood in my veins, it should be enough to have someone like Xavier comply.

“Elena, enough,” says Iris, vexed. “You can’t order my father like that, it’s disrespect to your Alpha...”

“Maybe it’s time for a change of Alpha,” I say, annoyed.

“Elena!”

My cousin looks at me, furious. But Chris is still glaring in his father’s way, disappointed.

“Dad, please, answer Elena’s questions. You can’t risk all of the Opale Moon Clan because of your selfishness! What did Taaron King say to you?”

Xavier hesitates for a while, looking at me and his children. He avoids our eyes, looking down.

“He only wanted to discuss things! I never agreed to a... to a real alliance. I just... Was intrigued. He said he could put more money into Iris’ Clinic, and make sure this would stay within the Opale Moon Clan. He was saying the White Moon is underestimating me, but if I joined him, he could...”

“If you joined him! Father, how dare you even think of allying yourself with those sharks!” Yells Iris, furious. “I can’t believe you even thought of taking any actions for my Clinic without even telling me!”

She’s the one most disappointed at her father, and for right reasons. I can’t believe Xavier would be so greedy as to do such a thing or even consider it...

“Xavier, I want you to step down of your position as Alpha.”

Everyone suddenly turns to me, shocked.

But I’m using all of my Alpha aura, and I’ve had enough.

“Elena, what are you...?” mutters Iris, shocked.

“I say, step down. You are not worthy to be anyone’s Alpha, actually. The Opale Moon deserves better, and you know it.”

“You can’t force me!” says Xavier, growling.

“I can.”

I take deep breaths as Nora did, and use my inner strength to oppose him. We are a few steps away from each other, but he’s already struggling to face my aura.

He always knew I was stronger. He only pretended not to. I guess now is the time, probably the last time, I use my Alpha aura to do things right for this pack. Chris looks at me, uncertainty.

“Elena, you mean to...”

“I’m not competing for the Opale Moon Alpha. I am only doing what’s right for this pack. If no one can lead it properly, maybe the Opale Moon has lost its reason for existing. I am not worthy to be an Alpha for this pack, my priorities

are elsewhere now. But I would rather give the ownership back to Clark than see my uncle put anyone in danger because of his greed.”

Both siblings exchange glances at that moment, but I can tell they are mind-linking as well, thinking deeply about this situation.

“Chris, Iris! You can’t allow her to do that!”

“Actually father, we can,” says Chris. “And Elena is right. You’ve put us in danger one too many times. The Gold Moon Clan? Really?”

“I…” says Iris, still looking unsure.

“How dare you! Both of you!” Yells their father, outraged.

“Enough, Xavier,” I say, stepping forward. “You give up. Now.”

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 79 - Tips

“You can’t…!”

“STEP. DOWN.”

I used my Alpha voice, at its strongest, for the first and last time. I am tired of this arguing. Xavier tries to think of something to say, but words will be stuck in his throat.

“Xavier, you know you were wrong. This is all wrong, for the Opale Moon Clan to suffer because of you. If you step down properly, Chris can take over and make things right. Don’t let things go overboard because of your greed.”

“You have no right to…”

“I have every fvcking*g right when it comes down to protecting this pack!” I yell back. “I am a fighter of this pack, a guarantor of its safety!”

A long silence follows my words. Iris and Xavier are staring at me, Chris and I staring at his father. I don’t even hold it personally against my uncle, I only want him to do what’s right. After a long staring contest, I use my wolf again, making my eyes glow a little and growling again. Xavier looks down, helpless.

“...Fine. I’m officially stepping down as the Opale Moon Clan’s Alpha from today on.”

It’s a long sigh of relief. I’m not happy about it, however. I just feel sorry things turned out this way. I turn to Chris.

“You can fill in, for now, kid?”

He nods.

“You can count on me.”

“Elena, you...” starts his sister, but I interrupt her.

“Iris, Chris will need your help too. You’re smart, and you control most of the Opale Moon Clan’s facilities already.”

Iris stays silent, obviously bitter. She faintly nods, but that’s enough for me. I’ve done my share, but this Alpha position isn’t mine to take. I’ll leave it to my cousins. I have enough on my plate as it is...

I turn around to leave this place, Daniel following me, but I feel my best friend is irritated about something.

“What is it?”

“Don’t you think that was... too easy?”

“Easy? How so?”

“Xavier is the proudest man we know, and he got down without even fighting... Don’t you think that’s odd? He’s got the guts to discuss business with the Gold Moon in Clark’s back, but he doesn’t fight when you face him to give up his Alpha position? I just think there’s something odd about his actions...”

I keep thinking about it. I know this is true in some way, but no matter what, Xavier did give up his position. He cannot go back on his word, and if he’s not the Opale Moon Alpha anymore, whatever deal he made with the Gold Moon is void as well, isn’t it?

“You think too much, Danny,” I sigh. “I mean, Xavier’s never been very brave...”

“Yeah... Maybe you’re right.”

Suddenly, his phone vibrates. He takes it out, and answers, sending me odd glances. Who is he on the phone with?

“Yes... Okay. Yeah, we’ll meet you there.”

He hangs up, leaving me confused.

“Babe, we’re going to the University Lab.”

“Why?”

“You’ll see when we get there.”

After retrieving his car, we drive there, a long silence accompanying us all the way. I’m used to seeing Danny nervous, but now he seems very uneasy. What is he pulling up this time? And at the University Lab?

He pulls out, and I recognize the car next to ours immediately.

“Daniel! What the hell?”

He turns off the engine, and puts his blonde hair back before turning to me.

“Babe, calm down. I called him, there are a couple of things I want to discuss with you and him.”

“How dare you call Nathaniel! And without telling me!”

“Elena, please. I’m trying to make things better for you and baby girl, okay? Just hear me out, and we can check what’s going on with your pregnancy and his sterility thing. I promise I’ll explain.”

Damn, I feel like slapping him right now! How fvcking*g dare he do something like that behind my back! How did he even get to Nate in the first place! Did Boyan help him? I’m so mad he did without even talking to me first!

“Babe, please...”

“Shut up, Danny! You traitor! You should have talked to me!”

“Elena, I know you by heart, you would have said no! I had no choice. So now you s.u.ck it up and trust me! Come on!”

He walks out of the car, and honestly, I want to stay there and sulk. I can’t believe him. After a while, though, I can’t stand myself being so childish, especially with Nathaniel there. I get out of the car, not hiding how pissed I am.

Nathaniel is standing next to his car now, in his usual jeans and shirt outfit. Damn, I hate how handsome he is at a time like this. I probably look like sh!t. Angry, too. I don’t want to talk to him nor Danny. I just cross my arms and look down, or anywhere but his direction.

“Hi...” says Daniel, a bit awkward.

“Hello, Daniel. Elena.”

“Let’s go, Danny,” I just say.

My best friend hesitates before walking ahead, taking us to one of the University Labs he works in. I make sure to stay away from Nate despite his glances I feel on me. Stay cool and calm, Elena. Deep breaths, not fl.ustered.

Daniel takes out a large envelope, handing it back to Nathaniel.

“I checked your medical file. It is as you said, Azoos.permia.”

I look at them confused.

“You checked? His...”

“Yes, Babe. When he mentioned his sterility, I wanted to check for myself. So we... talked, and he gave me a copy of his file. Nathaniel has Azoos.permia, basically, when he... comes, it’s blank, he cannot... Well, have children. It’s due to a traumatism, and the surgery required to heal it, as it is on the file, is impossible with today’s medical means.”

I just can’t believe that. Daniel went as far as to check Nathaniel’s medical file? To be sure? I stare at the envelope, and Nathaniel holding it with a long face, totally confused. I turn to Daniel again.

“So he’s really infertile...?”

“Well, he was, back when he was diagnosed. To be honest, I’ll say science is on his side.”

“See? I didn’t lie to you, Elena,” says Nathaniel.

I send him a glare. I am not crazy, or a liar. This baby is his, no matter how many medical files he brings. I turn to Daniel. At least I know my best friend trusts me.

Daniel takes a deep breath, crossing his arms.

“I want to check again,” says Daniel.

“...Excuse me?”

“Those tests were done ten years ago. Things were as they were back then, but maybe things evolved. Science as yet to explain everything, and moreover, we are werewolves. Who knows is something changed since then, healing you in the process? So, I want to test, make new tests. If they come back the same, then we can confirm you are not...”

“You think I wouldn’t know if I could have children?” Yells Nathaniel, suddenly furious. “Sorry to differ, but I’ve had many, many women before Elena! I would have known if things have changed, and I would have checked!”

He takes a deep breath, trying to calm down, before turning to me.

“Elena, it’s not against you. I swear I’d give anything to be this child’s father, biologically. But your best friend just confirmed it, I cannot. Even if Daniel asks me to go through all the tests to check whether I’m cured or not, it won’t be ready until...”

“Let’s do a paternity test.”

He looks at me, speechless. I try to look at him, keeping my cool as I can. Honestly, I want to slap him and have him go away.

“I don’t care about you being infertile or not. Danny will do a paternity test and clear things up. It’s quick and sure, alright?”

“We will do a real test, not this cheap stuff from a drugstore,” adds Daniel. “I just need a sample of your blood, and we have everything at our clinic to test Elena’s baby.”

Nathaniel frowns.

“Isn’t that illegal?”

I roll my eyes. Is he really testing my patience now?

“My cousin owns the Clinic, she can have any doctor do it for me. Do you want to check the doctor’s credentials too, perhaps?”

He seems a bit embarrassed for a moment. Yeah, it may not be their buildings but we do have our own facilities. Eventually, he sighs and turns to us, hesitating between Daniel and I.

“Fine, huh... Let’s do that then. If it can put an end to this...”

I hate the way he says it. Like a nightmare that should end soon. Something he doesn’t want anything to do with. I just wish he could understand I’m carrying his daughter, not anyone else’s.

“Danny, just take whatever you need and let’s go.”

“Wait, Elena, we’ve got to talk.”

I glare at him. Now he wants to talk? About what? I don’t want to talk to him, I’m just mad and I haven’t had time to sort out my feelings yet. Damn it... I exchange a glance with Daniel.

Five minutes?

I’ll be right next door if you need me, babe.

Thanks, Danny.

Daniel walks out, but I know he’s staying close. I turn to Nathaniel, wondering what he wants with me now. I cross my arms like I’m protecting myself and my child.

“Elena, I’m sorry I...”

“I don’t want your apology, Nate. Just tell me what you wanted to say and let’s move on with it.”

“...Fine. I don’t want you to come to the gathering.”

Wow, I didn't expect that one. I turn to him, confused. Why would he suddenly say that?

"What? Why? What are you planning?"

"Nothing, Elena," he says. "The Blood Moon only wants a gathering. But I'm afraid not everyone will be as nice and understanding as Nora and Damian. ...I don't want you there if something happens, Elena."

I'm... speechless. He's worried about me? Is that why? This isn't what I expected at all. Seeing me hesitate, he resumes talking, thinking I'm doubtful.

"Elena, no matter what, I still love you. I'm worried about you. If something happens to you, I won't be able to help, you'll be with your pack and me with mine. I don't want that. And I need to be fully there to support my brother, too."

I'm choking a bit. I did not expect those words or his concern for me. Why? Why does he always confuse me with his words? He steps closer, and my feet are stuck to the ground. He doesn't touch me, though. Nathaniel stops a foot away, so close yet not touching me. It's even worse than I thought.

"Elena, please. Promise me you'll stay away. With your pack. If you don't do it for me, do it for your baby."

"...Okay."

He lets out a sigh of relief, nodding.

"Good. I..."

"Bye."

I leave the room, unable to bear it anymore. I don't want to be there with him. I cross Danny's path on my way out, just letting him know I'll wait in the car.

It only takes a few minutes before Daniel comes back, a sample from Nathaniel with him. My baby is his, I'll prove it this time. I insist for us to go directly to the Clinic, and do this stupid test, though it will take a couple of days for the results to come.

"You think this gathering will go well?" I ask Daniel as we leave the Clinic.

“I hope so... Nora can be convincing, and most packs will at least show respect since she’s a Royal, and the King’s mate...”

I guess things will be over tomorrow night...

I can’t believe I promised him not to go. I should be there, by Clark’s side, with my pack. So many things changed because of this pregnancy... However, I’m not changing my mind. I will protect my baby no matter what.

Once we get home, I try to call Clark, to tell him I won’t be at the gathering. My godfather doesn’t answer my call, so I just leave a message to let him know. He is probably busy, with the gathering coming up tomorrow.

I fell asleep without knowing again. I’m confused when I wake up, not to my alarm but from my phone’s ringtone. Who calls me at... six in the morning? Half-asleep, I answer the call.

“Elena?”

“Clark? What is it?”

It’s never good to receive a call from my Alpha at such an hour. I sit up. Is it about Xavier? Or the fact I saw Nate again?

“Do you know anything? About Diego?”

“Diego? Clark, what the fvck should I know about Diego?”

I feel anxious all of a sudden. Why is he bringing up that a.ssh0le now? He stopped stalking me two days ago, but I haven’t seen him since and I didn’t want to!

“...I just needed to check.”

“Clark, what happened?”

“Diego’s dead, Elena. We found him an hour ago... His body was outside our border, in the neutral part of the forest.”

“His body...? What.. How did he...?”

“He was killed, Elena. Someone shot him, one bullet, right in the head. No traces of any fight, no one heard the gunshot either. It was an execution.”

Holy Moon Goddess.

Diego's dead? And... killed? Who the hell did this? It wasn't even a fight, someone just killed him like a dog!

"Elena, stay at home for now. I'll alert the Police, but... You might be a suspect, considering your past with him. I don't want you going out for now. I got your message, too, I think it's indeed best you don't come. I need someone here to watch the Opale Moon Clan, make sure no one tries to fight Chris or gets involved with the Gold Moon. I need you here."

He needs me here... More like he needs me to stay where he can watch me.

Who the hell killed Diego? I can't believe it! It doesn't even feel real, for one werewolf, as strong as him, to simply be shot down like that. Who would? And right before the gathering too! I doubt Clark will go public about it, but...

Suddenly, a thought crosses my mind. He wouldn't have done this, right? I hang up, and notice Daniel, in his pajamas, at my door.

"...Is he dead?" He asks.

"Daniel, what the fvck do you know about this?"

His Sunshine Baby Chapter 80 - Tips

"You agreed to what? Moon Goddess, Daniel, did you go crazy! Do you have an idea what you did?"

I can't believe this is my best friend facing me right now. Daniel Lewis, who couldn't even look an Alpha in the years three years ago, just sold someone to the Black brothers? I am fvcking*g dreaming right now!

Next to me, Reagan is arms crossed, looking at me very calmly. She even has a bit of a smirk on, satisfied by Diego's death.

"The shrimp did something right for once."

"Nothing about this is right, Reagan! Daniel just..."

"Got rid of a r****t and a murderer who was threatening you."

“And you helped him. Of course,” I growl at her.

She shrugs.

“It was just about lurking him out. I washed my hands off with whatever happened next. If Black did things cleanly, I’m satisfied.”

“Satisfied? Reagan! This is...”

“What needed to be done, Elena!” yells Daniel. “I am not kidding about my best friend’s safety, Elena. That guy was lurking you, and he could have assaulted you anytime. He’s a r****t, and he doesn’t even feel sorry for causing the death of an unborn child!”

“This was not for you to decide, Daniel!”

He finally shuts up, and I just shake my head, exhausted. It’s all happening so fast.

“Daniel, even if Diego was an issue, it was mine to deal with. You can’t do justice by yourself or let Nathaniel do it. He just k!lled someone of our pack because of you, and right before a gathering too! Do you realize how wrong that could go?”

“Elena, you don’t get it,” he replies. “This isn’t about justice. I wasn’t avenging you. We live in a world of wolves, alphas, and bl00d. You’re having a miracle child, and this guy threatened you! I am not letting you take any chance of losing that baby. It would k!ll you, I know it.”

He sighs and shakes his head, resolute.

“Nathaniel did the first thing he should do as the baby’s father and protected you. I don’t care about the cost, and I don’t care for an a.ssh0le like Diego. He should have been the one to go to prison, but everyone turned a blind eye and let him back in. Well, I am not making the same mistake of waiting for something bad to happen to you. I saw an opportunity, I took it. I don’t care if you blame me for that, Elena. I am no Alpha like you. I don’t fight with my fists, but I do what I got to do.”

Next to him, Reagan nods.

I can't believe his nerve, or that he actually doesn't regret it one bit. We've killed before, fighting for our lives and pack, but this... This was simply murder. And I can't cope up with that thought associated with my best friend.

"Daniel, I understand, but... I still think this was all wrong. I'm sorry."

"It's okay, babe. What's done is done. I'll live with it."

Just with that, we both agree to close that topic for now. I can only deal with so much. Moon Goddess, those days have been so crazy... I pray Nora's side can really come up with the solution to fight all of this madness.

As promised to Nathaniel, I am not going to the gathering, but it's hard. My heart's telling me something big will happen there, and I'm dying to go.

I decide to get out and go see my father and calm myself down. I haven't been to the hospital as often as I used to, and I feel like I haven't seen my dad in ages.

I manage to convince Reagan and Daniel to let me go alone, as I need some alone time to cool my head off. With most of our pack gone to attend Nora's gathering, the streets are quieter than usual. I haven't been on my own for a while, either. I take my time to go there and enjoy the December cold breeze.

Right, it's almost Christmas... The Hispanic neighborhood has been decorated prettily for a while now, but I feel like I only see it now.

The White Moon Hospital is nicely decorated too.

A nurse put a little Christmas tree next to my father's bed. I take the stool next to him, observing my dad again. He ages so slowly, yet I start to see his little wrinkles, and his beard is growing a bit more sporadically. I miss the color of his eyes. My dad had deep brown eyes. I decide to add to the atmosphere, making him listen to some Christmas songs for a while. I don't feel like talking anyway. I'm just glad I can be next to him.

Suddenly, I realize I'm not alone. Sylviana is there, at the entrance of his room. She softly smiles.

"Good Morning, Elena."

"Sylviana? How did you... Daniel called you?"

“No, he did.”

She’s pointing at... my dad? What the... She walks up to my father’s bed and sits on the other side, looking at him.

“He’s a very brave man.”

“He’s the best father in the world.”

“Of course,” she replies gently.

I don’t really understand.

“Sylviana, what are you...? Why are you here.”

“It’s time to let him go, Elena.”

I stare at her, in a bit of a shock.

“What are you talking about?” I ask, in a hoarse voice.

“His fight is over, Elena. You’re a strong woman, now. You’re not alone anymore. It’s time to let your father go.”

I keep staring at her, trying to understand her words. No, I understand what she’s saying. I just don’t want to hear. I don’t want to listen. Sylviana is talking softly, so calmly I can’t even get mad or cry. Is she doing this?

She turns to my dad, looking at him like he’s an old friend of hers.

“Samuel needs to rest, now, Elena.”

“He won’t... wake up?”

“I think you have known the truth for a while, now.”

I look at my father, choking up a bit. He only seems asleep...

“Sylviana, I don’t want to say goodbye...”

“I know.”

“Can’t you not?”

“It’s not me, Elena. It’s your father. He’s the one to decide. I’m not going to do anything. I only came for you.”

I feel a few tears on my cheeks. It’s so hard. I don’t want to let go, to say goodbye. I take his hand, and try to think of words to say. What haven’t I told him? In two years, I’ve said so many I love you, goodbye, I’m proud to be your daughter... I never had any filter for him. Just my heart, poured out day after day to let him know how much I loved the man who raised me.

After a while, I decided to take my phone and select a song. Mom’s favorite song. I let it play in the headphones, and Sylviana smiles.

“It’s a pretty song.”

The singer’s voice is soothing, talking about love and his Funny Valentine. About his lover’s flaws and strength. About how she doesn’t need to change a thing... I sing with him, softly. My voice is the worst it’s ever been, I’m hoarse and fighting not to cry. When the last notes hit, a long beep follows.

I hold my father’s hand a bit tighter.

“Elena, it’s alright. You can let go now.”

One of the nurse barges in, saying something I can’t hear. I can only hear Sylviana’s voice, trying to help me. I’m crying helplessly, unable to step away, unable to let go. She comes around and puts her hand on my shoulder, slowly whispering something to me. I don’t understand what she’s saying, but I feel something warm covering me, and my hands go numb. I can hear my own wailing, erratic and frantic. Sylviana pats my back.

They ask us to leave the room. I hear people giving orders, a doctor walks in as we walk out. Sylviana takes my hand and guides me outside. I can’t say no. It doesn’t even feel like getting away. My father isn’t in that room anymore.

He’s gone.

“Elena? Take this.”

She puts a cup of hot tea in my hands. I don’t know how much time passed, how long I cried. I take a deep breath and drink a bit. It burns my throat, but I feel a bit better.

"I can't believe he's gone so fast..."

"He went peacefully. He was just glad you were there with him."

"Do you know... What happens after death?" I ask, feeling a bit stupid.

She chuckles.

"Witches don't have the same beliefs as humans or werewolves... We live different lives. I could give you an answer, yet like anyone else I wouldn't be able to prove it. Witches are part of a circle... We live, we die and we are reborn."

"You believe in reincarnation?"

"Yes. Our souls go on to other witches to guide them... We carry the souls of our mothers and ancestors with us."

I keep listening to her, but my heart just feels numb right now. Sylviana stays with me until Daniel arrives, followed by Reagan. I see my uncle and Chris running into the hospital, but I don't go in with them.

Sylviana took me outside, to sit in the little Hospital Garden. Despite the cold, I feel better here than within the Hospital white walls. Daniel is on his way, but I have no idea what I'll say. I just feel numb right now. My father just died, and my heart is cold as ice, I can't think of anything else. I want to cry again, and I do every time I need it. My eyes are puffy red, my head hurts and I'm a mess.

I lost my parents... Twice. I really am an orphan now. As long as my father was alive, hanging on, I was okay, but... damn, I've never felt so alone.

I put a hand on my tummy, thinking about the baby girl growing in there. Will I be a good mother? It seems so hard... I want this child so badly, yet my confidence is plummeting. Will I be able to do it on my own, if Nate rejects her... rejects me?

I take a deep breath. It will be fine. As long as I love my baby, it'll be okay. I'll do my best for her, be the mother I've always wanted to be.

I suddenly feel a hand on mine. It's not Sylviana or Danny, it's Reagan. She looks at me with a sorrowful expression, not saying a thing. I gather all of my courage and nod.

“Dad’s gone, Reagan.”

“I know, kid. How are you holding up?”

“I...”

No words can explain what I’m going through. I just end up shaking my head and holding my tears back. She puts an arm around me, probably the nicest gesture she’s ever had with me. I rest my head on my mentor’s shoulder, closing my eyes and taking deep breaths not to fall apart again.

“You’ll be fine, kid. Sam knew how strong you were. You’re a woman now.”

I listen to her words, and it’s like a weight’s being lifted up. Why are Reagan’s words so effective on me?

“...There’s something else I never told you.”

I sat back up and look at her, confused. Reagan looks around, making sure we are alone. Sylviana wandered off somewhere, so we are.

“When I took you from your mother’s arms, she asked me to protect you,” she whispers. “I had to hide who you were, any bond you had to the Royals. I also... changed your name for that.”

“My name?”

“I’ll say it only once, because it’s a blessed name, and you should hide it for now. It would betray your link to the Royals easily, so only reveal it to people you trust, alright?”

I nod, despite my confusion. She gets close to me and whispers it in my ear, so low I barely hear it. However, when I do, something lites up inside of me.

“...That’s my real name?”

“I didn’t do much, but I thought it would be better to hide it for now. It makes your ident!ty too obvious.”

I agree. This is such a simple thing, yet...

“Elena!”

I see Daniel running to me, out of breath. He takes me in for a hug, holding me tight and close for a few seconds.

“Babe, I am so, so sorry about your Dad... Are you okay? You weren’t alone, right?”

“I’m okay, Danny. Thanks for coming.”

“Actually...”

He seems uneasy for a while, hesitating. I frown.

“Danny, what is it?”

“I’m sorry babe, but I saw a bunch of the Opale Moon Clan heading south on my way here, I... I didn’t know if I should tell you or not...”

Holy sh!t. I jump back on my feet. Who would dare to...! I saw Xavier and Chris running to the Hospital, who could be doing this in their back! And after Clark told the whole Opale Moon Clan should stay put! I immediately start growling. This is not the day to fvcking*g piss me off.

“Elena, wait!”

I ignore both Reagan and Danny and start running south. They’re going to have it this time. I mind-link everyone I trust from the Opale Moon, including Daniel’s siblings, our friends, and the youngsters I trained. None of them know anything about the group headed south, but agree to meet up with me.

I hear my best friend, already shape-shifted into his tawny wolf form, and my mentor running behind me. Sylviana’s apparently gone Moon Goddess knows where, but she shouldn’t be involved in this.

When I finally reach the group, they are about to reach the border. I growl immediately. Even in my human form, my Alpha aura and angry wolf voice are enough to stop most of them. Some seem confused to see me here, and so furious.

“Elena? What is it...?”

“Where the fvck do you think you’re going?” I growl back.

The sorrow from earlier adds to my anger, and the fuel in my voice impress some of them enough to have them step back. I must look scary, with my red eyes, disheveled hair and anger painted all over my face.

“I asked where you’re going!”

They hesitate, looking at each other like no one wants to take the blame until someone finally steps forward to face me.

“Mind you, we have a gathering to attend, cousin.”

“You?” I ask, confused.

Why the hell would my cousin Iris lead this group? On her father’s orders, perhaps? But Xavier just lost his brother, so why would he give orders now... Iris chuckles at my confusion.

“What is it, Elena? Surprised to see me taking the lead, perhaps? I bet you never thought one second your pretty, well-behaved cousin had the guts to overstep her own father’s authority to make a deal with the Gold Moon...”

Iris?

Iris would be behind all of this? Since when! I’m so shocked, I don’t even know how to react. But my cousin steps forward, not impressed by my Alpha aura.

“Elena, you’re no match for me. Step aside and mind your own business, cousin.”

I growl back. Hell no. I don’t understand what’s going on, but I am not letting her ruin Nora’s hard work to unite the packs. Iris maybe my adoptive cousin, the one I grew up with, but Nora is my blood. She is the one I feel close to, and the one doing the right thing right now. She’s trying to unite the packs and be a good Luna. And so will I.

I am Selena Blue Moon, and I am a fighter of those White and Opale Moon Packs.

And I’ll fight for them.