407 ASTRONOMY

She heard a creek behind her and turned around, only to find a rat run past. 1

She jumped in fright and the fire torch she held dropped to the floor.

She took in a deep breath and picked up the torch and resumed her way up.

As she walked further she saw light begin to radiate into the hallway.

She kept on walking and saw that there was a spiraling steps that led above.

She looked up at the steps and looked for where to drop the torch before placing it on a torch holder.

She then began to ascend the steps and soon she was in a breathtaking room.

"Wow." Jasmine gasped.

The room had no walls and everywhere seemed to have glasses.

The moonlight streaked into the beautiful glasses making the entire room filled with light.

There were so many unusually large objects in the room.

What room was this?

She had never seen anything like this before.

The room wasn't filled with cobwebs and seemed to be very clean.

Which meant that someone had been here very recently.

She walked to one of the large objects and touched it.

It moved and she panicked.

Or was this a ploy or a way for Xaden to test her?

Maybe she shouldn't be here.

Whatever room this was.

It was beautiful but she knew better than to snoop around places she didn't belong.

She was already taking a step to leave when she heard a very deep and familiar voice.

"What are you doing here?"

It was Xaden and he was seated in a corner of the darkness.

She jumped in fear and crashed down one of the objects.

It came crashing with such a loud noise.

Jasmine landed on her back.

"Ouch." She mumbled to herself.

"Jasmine!" He said and in a second he was already at her side.

He swore as he gently helped her up.

"Are you alright?" He asked as he looked all over her, visibly worried. "Is the baby okay?! Did you hurt yourself somewhere?"

She blushed at the manner which he was fussing over her.

"Why are you smiling?" He asked confused.

"Nothing." She said quickly. "I'm alright."

And then he helped her up.

"You need to be more careful with yourself." He reprimanded. Then he seemed to remember she was in the room. "What are you doing here? How did you even get here?"

"Through my room." She said looking down at her feet.

"There is an entrance to this place through my

mother's bedroom?" He asked surprised. Then he shrugged. "I'm not surprised. The astronomy room belongs to her. Makes sense that she would have made an entrance through her bedroom ."

"Is that what this place is called?" Jasmine asked. "An astronomy room?"

"Yes." He said.

"I see."

But she didn't see. She didn't know am astronomy room was.

She wanted to ask him more questions but then she remembered that she had intruded.

"I'll be going." She said.

"Would you like me to show you?" He asked surprising her. "You are already here so you might as well just see it."

She lit up and nodded eagerly.

Then he walked to the object that had fallen and picked it up.

"Do you know what this is?" He asked her.

She shook her head. "No.

"This is a telescope." He said and made some

adjustments to it.

Jasmine watched to her amusement as he made it longer and longer.

By the time he was done, it was different from how she had initially seen it.

"Come." He said ushering her to the 'telescope'

She obeyed and very carefully walked to him.

He was peeking through it and then he stepped aside.

"Put your eye in there and take a look." He said.

She did as she was told and then she very gently held the tip of the telescope.

She put her eye in and gasped in amusement when she saw the moon at such a close range.

She looked away.

"The moon! It's so close!" She gasped. "How did you do that?"

He laughed. "It's what the instrument is for.

It makes things from afar appear closer."

"My mother was an astronomer." He said. "She used to study the stars and celestial bodies. So my father made this room specially for her. This was her favorite place in the entire pack."

Jasmine looked through it once again.

She had always laid on the grass outside at night back in her home pack to look at the moon and stars.

"It's beautiful." She said aloud.

"Come let me show you other things."

He ushered and soon he was pointing out everything in the room to her along with what they were meant for.

"Come." He said beckoning her to another inatrumed that stood at the center of the room. "If you thought the telescope was good, this is even better."

The instrument was much bigger and wider than the telescope.

"With this you can see the shapes that the stars make. Ursular minor and major." He informed her.

She has no idea what he meant but she followed him regardless.

He was so excited like a happy child.

It was a different side of him she had never seen.

"You know what the constellation are don't

you?" He asked her.

"No." She admitted embarrassed.

"We'll have you seen the stars seem to make lines in the sky at night?" He asked her.

"Yes." She admitted. "That's what they are called? Constellations?"

"Yes." He said. "Come let me show you."

And then he put her to stand in front of him.

"This is a different type of the telescope. It's quite rare and my mother was one of the few people who had it. With this one." He said as he pulled the instruments towards them. "We can see the constellations perfectly and together."

They looked through it at the same time and she gasped.

He gently moved the telescope around as he pointed out the different constellations.

She felt him hard behind her and she felt her insides go wet.

Just the mere touch of him behind her made her heart race.

She was ashamed because she was certain that he didn't feel any type of way.

"There is one constellation." He said. "My mother said it appears once every full moon."

"It's a full moon tonight." Jasmine acknowledged.

"Yes, let's see if we can look for it." He said and then they began to look through all the constellations.

Eventually they found it.

"There she is." He said with a smile

But Jasmine only saw a cluster of stars.

"I can't see a formation." Jasmine said. "It isn't like the others."

"Exactly." He said. "It's called the unknown wolf. No one has ever been able to pin point the other stars to know what shape it's supposed to make. And it's been that way for centuries. It was the one thing my mother was obsessed with. She tried to solve it when she was alive."

Then he withdrew from holding her, bringing her back to reality.

There was a large desk and chair at the far corner of the room.

He went to it and pulled open one of the drawers.

He emerged with a book.

"This was my mother's journal on all the celestial bodies she had studied." He said as he opened the book.

There were writing on it and drawings filled all over.

Jasmine couldn't understand what they meant but she found herself intrigued.

"Every star that exists my mother made record of them." He said. "The unknown wolf was her favorite. She tried her best to investigate and complete it."

Jasmine looked at the paper and saw some writings that seemed different from his mother's.

She didn't know how to read and write but she knew that the handwriting he had been showing her was entirely different.

"Did your mother write this too?" Jasmine asked curiously.

"No." He said as he tapped over the paper. "It wasn't."

His face went grim and she was back to be his cold self once again.