

Chapter 23

I could see that they were all in deep thought as I ended a segment of my story. I had only told them about my life growing up, how my brother treated me and how the pack treated me.

I told them the story behind my hair and what Toya told me about my parents and the blue light. That was the part that seemed to confuse them the most. But they had no reason to doubt it because they saw it happen with their own eyes only a few nights ago.

Now that the easy part was out of the way, it was time to tell them about the moon shard and my dreams.

"I can't believe you were treated that way," Lukas mumbled. "I'm glad I took you from that place."

Maxim and Lukas agreed on something for the first time in probably days. But that wasn't the focus of the conversation. I only told them about how I grew up because it would be easier to explain the rest.

"The girl tells you that she glows, and that's your only concern? Leonardo asked with a scoff. The entire situation was a lot for him to process; I could see it.

"There's more," I said, gaining their attention. I shared a look with Fiona, silently telling her this is the part where she helps.

"When I just got here, Fiona took a keen interest in me. She especially noticed my hair and the colour of my eyes."

"You see, her eyes and the streak in her hair is the exact colour of the moon star and its shards," she interjected.

"The moon, what now?" Leonardo asked, followed by hums from the next two men.

Fiona rolled her eyes. "Do you guys know anything about your history? The moon star is, or was, the source of power for the moon and moon goddess. It's what makes us uniquely us, and if anything should happen to it, we will all cease to exist."

"I thought that was a myth," Lukas mumbled.

"They make it seem like a myth, so it doesn't create chaos. You see, the moon star was split into five moon shards in the Great War of Ouranios. Five wolves worldwide were trusted with one shard to keep it safe from the dragons. We were told it's a myth because every wolf who feels they had a duty to protect our species would seek after the shards and probably want to be a hero at keeping them safe from the dragons. But the moon goddess knows who to trust. It had been so for generations."

"So you're saying Melissa is a holder of one?" Maxim questioned.

"It would make sense. This is the second dragon attack," Lukas interjected.

"Wait, wait, wait," Leonardo said as he held his hands up. "Considering if this is real, what does that mean for us?"

I shrugged. "This is pretty new to me too. When Fiona told me the story, I didn't believe it until those dragons attacked us at the border. I didn't even know I had this...power. I don't even know where the moon shard is, but the dragons sure think I do. All my life, I have never seen a dragon, nor have I had these nightmares until I came here."

"So our pack is a magnet to the supernatural?"

"Or my pack was protected from it," I answered Leonardo's question. "Think about it, all my life after my

parents disappeared, I had no idea that dragons were real or that I held this power. I had no nightmares, I never glowed, and I was just a normal person. Also, I found a picture of when I was a baby. I was about two weeks old, and my eyes were barely open, but I could've sworn they were brown in the picture."

"So everything changed on the day your parents died," Lukas concluded, and I nodded.

"I know it's crazy, but my eyes changed colour on that exact day. When my brother saw that light shining from me, what if my parents sacrificed themselves to protect me all along? But whatever spell or magic that kept me hidden and unaware of the truth only worked if I was at home."

Fiona nodded in agreement. "It makes sense."

"That has to be the only explanation," I added.

Everyone was quiet for a while as they let the information sink in. I was terrified. I was scared that they'd send me home to keep the pack safe until we learned more about the situation. Maxim killed another one of their own, so they probably won't be so nice when they come back.

"What about the dreams?" Fiona asked after a few minutes of silence. I knew it was killing her not to know.

I sighed. I had already decided that I'd tell them, so I couldn't change my mind now. Besides, it was for the best.

I took a deep breath before talking. "In my dreams, I am at home."

"Armor Pack?" Maxim asked.

I nodded. "Sometimes it starts in bed, and then I walk into the forest; sometimes I'm already in the forest. I feel calm as I walk. It's always a full moon, and I always wear a white dress. No matter how much I try to panic, I remain calm. Then, I walk towards the stream where my parents disappeared, and my calmness vanishes for good. I suddenly can't move, and in front of the stream are two people and a dragon. The dragon approaches me, though he never really gets far, and the people stay in the exact position where they were. This is where I start screaming and usually where I wake up."

I ended with a breath as I observed their expressions. The clarity was a relief, I'm sure, but they didn't talk.

"Perhaps the two people are your parents?" Fiona said, but it sounded more like a question.

I gulped. The thought had occurred to me once or twice, but I never wanted to accept it.

"This morning was the first time the event of my dream changed. In this dream, I was in my room-- this room, and then I'm suddenly back at Armor Pack in the stream, sinking. For the first time, I wasn't behind the dragon and the two people; I was in front of them."

"Did you see who they were?" Fiona asked again. I shook my head.

"Their faces were blocked by a bright light. I couldn't see anything. But as I was sinking, the moon pulled me out of the water, and I floated above it. I know it's weird, but it's true. Then, the dragon tried to reach for me until he finally grabbed me, and that's where it ended."

They all nodded slowly that it almost seemed scary.

"Do you remember anything else?" Fiona asked as she rubbed her forehead. "Anything that can help us interpret your dream? Obviously, there's something strange about these dreams. They happen every night in the same order."

"Except on the night of the barbecue. There were no dreams until this morning, and it changed. Is it a coincidence that she happened to switch dreams a few days after she might've ignited whatever power she

has?" This came from Leo as he analysed it further, and I realised that he had a point.

I howled to the moon, and according to Maxim, I glowed while doing it. Then I passed out, and three days later, my dream changed.

It can't be a coincidence.

Have I somehow levelled up in whatever power the moon shard gave me? Not that I wanted it. I didn't want anything to do with this. But it is my life, and I couldn't just blink and make it go away. I had to deal with it.

"Well, there was something else that I found weird in the dream," I admitted. "The persons' feet were chained, and so was the dragon's."

"Wait, that doesn't make any sense. Why would the dragon be chained too?" Fiona pointed out.

I shrugged. "It's all still bizarre for even me. I can only imagine what you guys are thinking."

I eyed each of them to see where their minds were at. Were they going to send me home? Were they going to lock me away in my room like Rapunzel?

I waited, but no one spoke for a while.

I was getting anxious, and Maxim could feel it. He tried to comfort me by holding my hand, but it barely helped.

"That's all I know," I finally said after a while. "I swear I know nothing more. I have no idea where this shard is, and I have no idea what those dragons want with me. I hate putting your pack in danger like this, so maybe I could let them take me--"

"No!" Maxim and Lukas shouted at the same time. "Are you out of your mind?" Maxim added. He seemed angry.

"They don't want to kill me, and maybe I could get more information about the shard or what they want with it," I defended.

Lukas shook his head. "Even if they don't want to kill you, it's a suicide mission. I won't allow it."

"And if anything that Fiona said was true, they'd be one step ahead of getting the shard and a step closer to potentially wiping us out," Leonardo added.

I sighed. "So what will you have me do? The only reason your pack is in trouble is because of me. Everyone saw the dragons. They'd know I lured them here."

"There will be no movement that puts you in immediate danger," Maxim said. His tone was dismissive. "You will stay here, and when you want or need to go out, someone will be with you."

Lukas, Leonardo and Fiona seemed to agree. I sighed, but I was a bit grateful that they didn't send me home. I should've known better than to think they'd send me away or let me give myself to the dragons, especially Maxim.

Even though Leo or Lukas might have chosen the pack's safety first, Maxim is my mate, and I never should've doubted where his priorities would lie.

"I'm sorry," I mumbled. "I just don't want anyone to get hurt because of me."

Maxim sighed as he pushed his chair back, so he was facing me better. He cupped my cheek with his hand so that I had no choice but to face him.

"This is new for you too, Melissa. You won't have to do this on your own. This isn't like your life back in Armor

pack."

His words brought tears to my eyes as I glanced around the table again.

Each person's smile confirmed what Maxim said. It felt good to have people who would look out for me. It felt good to be part of a family for once.

It felt good to finally be home.



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