Chapter 59: Scratching

Adam's P.O.V.

"Adam?" I heard someone call. "Adam." They said again, shaking me. "Huh?" I sat up, looking around.

"It's almost one," Penelope said, pointing at the clock. I yawned and stretched my arms. "Where are the others?" I asked.

"They went to school."

"I have some pack work I need to do, someone's been taking the money in the pack and I need to find who it is, so I'll be gone for a few hours," I said, kissing her head.

She nodded her head, "I'm going to visit the pups. I haven't seen them in a while."

"Okay, just make sure the contact me if something wrong happens. I'm busy but I'll always make time for you." Penelope nodded her head again, but before she left, she gently kissed my lips and walked towards the door.

I smiled and went up to my office.

When I went into my office, my father and mother were already in there, reading through the papers and signing some.

"Ah! Adam, glad that you could make it. About the missing money, the culprit decided to admit that he was the one stealing it, so we sent him to the dungeon for three weeks as punishment."

I nodded my head, "Did you find anything about Clover?" My father shook his head, "Sadly, no."

I just nodded my head again, "Anything about Penelope's health?"

"There have been some abnormal readings, that's probably her 'monster' but we aren't quite sure if it is."

"It's been two weeks. She could turn anytime now, we need to keep her monitored." Thomas said.

"I've already sent someone to watch her while she visits the pups. My Beta and Gamma are currently at school if there is anything suspicious."

"Anything else new?" I asked him, looking through papers of the bills. "The witch said she'll be here when Penelope turns, correct?" I nodded my head, flipping the page of the booklet.

"Did she say anything else?" I shook my head.

"All we can do now is just wait. We have no way of stopping the turn and in order to save Penelope we would need to buy the potion with your life."

"And that's fine with me," I said, closing the booklet. My father turned to me, "I know you want to save your mate, but try to consider what she's feeling right now. We're talking about her life here, but you should try to negotiate with Clover. Who knows, she could change her mind. You shouldn't just throw your life away like that."

"I will do anything to save my mate, even if it means throwing my life away," I said, firmly.

"What if this happens to you? Wouldn't Penelope do the same thing then?" My father questioned me.

"I wouldn't let her do it," I stated simply.

"But you can? It would be unfair to Penelope how everything is one-sided. If your life was on the line, she would throw away her life just like you are right now, and you know that."

"She wouldn't leave me alone." My wolf whined. "Yes, she would, if your life was at stake."

"Now you're just being selfish, son. You don't want Penelope to leave you, but you're leaving her?"

"But this isn't happening to me! It's happening to Penny!" I shouted. My father looked at me calmly, "I'm saying 'what if'. She would be in the same position as you are now."

I clenched both of my fists. "I'll try to negotiate with Clover. If nothing can persuade her, I'm paying for this potion."

I walked out of the room, slamming the door shut.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

If this was happening to me, Penelope wouldn't pay for the potion. Right?

Penelope's P.O.V.

"Luna! Luna!" I heard the children's cries as they ran towards me. I smiled at them and bent down to their level to carry one of them.

"Ah! No fair!" The other kids pouted when they saw me carrying one of them. "Don't worry you'll get your turn," I said, positioning the kid on my hip.

"Luna! We made these while you were away." A boy with dark brown hair said, giving me cards and small goodie bags, probably from their mothers.

"Wow, that's a lot. Do you think we can put it somewhere so I can get it later?" The dark brown hair guy nodded his head and ran towards his mother.

I smiled and waved at her, silently thanking her. The mother waved back and slightly bowed her head, showing her respect.

"What are we going to play today?" I asked the kids when they were dragging me to the yard. "The Alpha said that we shouldn't play when you're injured." The child on my hip said, clinging on to my neck.

Of course, I thought, thinking of Adam. "Then what should we do?" I asked them again, letting this slide.

The kids shrugged, thinking of a game that I could participate in. "How about we play hide and seek," I suggested.

"I will be the hider and you all will try to find me."

The kids' face lit up, "Okay!"

I smiled at them. "You all count to fifty, can you do that?" They all nodded their heads, and I let the child down that was on my hips.

"One...! Two...! Three...!" They all turned around and started counting.

I sped walked into the pack house, somewhere simple and easy enough that the kids can find me.

I walked into the library and felt nostalgic. I first met Klaus in the mysterious door, I wonder where he is now.

I found the place I used to read in and built a mini fort, hiding.

'Luna, the kids have finished and is now looking for you' A pack mother said.
'Oh, I see. Thank you' I replied back.

I extended my wolf senses and heard faint screaming of the kid's voice calling my name.

"Luna! Where are you?!"

"Come out wherever you are!"

"Ahh!" One kid was just randomly screaming, I guess, trying to lure me out.

"Luna! Are you here?!"

"No, here!"

I heard the door open, and thunderous footsteps. "Luna!" I heard them yell out.

"Spread out!" I heard one command the others. I saw one kid past by in a flash, missing me. I grinned to myself in a victory.

"She's not in here, let's look somewhere else!" The door slammed shut and the footsteps faintly went away.

"Hiding from the kids?" I heard a familiar voice say behind me. I turned around and saw Klaus.

"You scared me," I said, standing up. "We're playing hide and seek and I'm the only hider."

Klaus nodded his head in understanding.

"How are you feeling?" He asked me. "Fine, I guess," I replied, not sure what else to say.

After a few minutes of silence, I decided to go check on the kids. "Make sure you visit once in a while. It gets lonely sometimes." Klaus said, walking me to the door of the library.

"Val gets pretty lonely too since no one comes to the library anymore."

I smiled, "If I get the chance too, I'm kind of in a pickle right now."

"I've heard. Now go, the kids are waiting." I nodded my head and exited the library. Klaus waved at me, and I waved back.

The doors shut slowly, but I saw Klaus walk away before it closing completely. The doors made a loud 'boom' sound when it shut all the way.

"The Luna's up here!" I heard the kids shout.

Soon enough I was being tackled to the floor with a bunch of kids on me. "We missed her in the library!" All the kids laughed.

I grinned, missing playing with the kids. "Come on, let's go back outside," I said, getting up.

I lead the kids back out where their mothers were hanging the laundry up. I continued entertaining them until the sun started setting.

"Luna, it is time for dinner." One mother came up to me. "Oh, really?" The mother nodded her head.

"Make sure you've washed your hands before eating!" An adult said at the door of the dining room. All the kids raised up their hands, showing him that they already washed them.

After dinner, I went back up to our room. I saw the goodie bags and the letters that the kids made me on top of the drawer. I smiled, grabbing the letters, opening them than reading them.

'We've missed you, Luna! Hope you get well soon so we can play again!' -Bernice

'When are you coming to play with us again? We're bored in this house!' -Calvin

'Please come back! I need help with homework! And I miss you! Please get better.' -Kat

I felt arms snake around my waist, startled, I tried to turn around but their arms made me stay in place.

Chuckling started to fill the air and I smacked his arm, "Don't scare me like that."

"I'm sorry, I couldn't help it," Adam said, placing me on his lap.

I put the card down and snuggled into Adam's body. "What's going to happen now?" I asked him.

"Nothing will happen, sweetheart because I'll always be there to protect you."

"What if I hurt you?" I whispered. "I won't let that happen." He said softly, kissing my forehead.

I closed my eyes, savoring the warmth that his body emitted.

That night, I couldn't sleep. Even though I was comfortable in my mate's arm something was off and keeping me alert.

I slowly pushed Adam's arm away and got off the bed. I shivered as the cold air hit my bare skin, but nevertheless put on my slippers.

I slowly descended the stairs, being careful trying not to make a sound.

I walked by the kitchen and saw the light on.

"Damn it. Where did they put it?" A feminine voice said. I slowly went into the kitchen, finding Leanne rummaging through the fridge.

"Lee?" I asked. She whipped her head towards my direction, "Crap, you scared me. I thought you were Luca for a second."

"What are you looking for?" I questioned, walking closer to her. "They hid my damn chocolate. They better have put it back in the fridge."

I sat on a stool, waiting for Leanne to find her chocolate. "I give up, can't find it. I'll just eat Cameron's then."

"Want some? Oh, wait never mind." She snickered. I rolled my eyes, watching her as she unwrapped the bar.

"What are you doing up so late?" I asked when she finally settled down. "Luca was being a little bitch about something," Leanne said bluntly.

"Something about I sneak out too much at night. Especially now, he's really paranoid."

"I don't blame him," I said, scratching my arms. "Eh, I'm a grown woman, I can take care of myself."

"Why are you awake?" Leanne asked this time. "Can't go to sleep. Something's keeping me alert." I replied.

"What time is it? 4:46. It's too early to go anywhere. Hmm."

"We could prank someone?" She suggested.

Even during times like this, Leanne knows how to cheer someone up. She isn't the type of person to stay in this kind of atmosphere.

Leanne would usually be serious about this, but, she would worry about it when it happens.

"Depends on who," I said, playing with my thumbs.

"Well, Charlie's been getting on my nerves lately. Maybe it's just her monthly girl thing. Let's do it on her." Leanne said evilly.

"You got supplies?" I smiled, getting into the mood. "Am I really Lee if I don't?"

Leanne popped the rest of the chocolate in her mouth and we made our way to her room.

"I managed to get a small storage room, so we can prepare in there," Leanne said, leading me to wherever that was.

Leanne picked the lock and opened the door. She switched the lights on and I had no words for what she had in this room.

In the corner, there was a twin sized bed that Leanne probably uses more than her bed she shares with Luca.

Right next to it was boxes that I was guessing from her old pack, but what really intrigued me was the supplies she had on display.

Normally, there would be tools hanging for someone's convenience, but her wall was different.

She hung up Nerf guns, water gun, airsoft guns, and their bullets. On the table, there were also a couple of drones.

"Jesus, when did you get all of this?" I asked, picking up the airsoft guns. "I know someone." Was all she said.

"Okay, I thought of something. I've seen videos where people put firecrackers in people's beds or toilets, but we ain't gonna do something puny like that." Leanne said, getting out fireworks.

"We're gonna put on a show." She smiled.

We took almost three hours to prepare, so it was almost eight when we were ready. Charlie would usually be awake at this hour, but today was the day she would sleep in.

"Mason would be in the way though." I said to Leanne. "Oh well, his fault." Was all she said before we went into their room quietly.

Charlie and Mason were still asleep, so we got ready.

When we were done, we quietly went back out. Leanne pulled out her phone and went to some app.

"I put a camera in there so we would know." She said simply. "Now it's a waiting game."

Leanne and I went to the living room, for the time being, we still had hours left before they would wake up.

"Nothing good on." She sighed, turning the T.V. off. "What are we gonna do?" Leanne said, drumming her fingers.

For some reason, I sensed Adam's younger brothers before I smelt them. "Ooh! It's-" "Penny and Lee!" Joseph and Joshua said.

"Morning." Leanne greeted. "What are you-" "Doing up so early?"

"It's a secret." Leanne grinned. "You boys bored?" She suddenly asked.

"Yeah!" They said in sync. "I got an idea. What about a gunfight?" Leanne said. "Not with real guns, obviously, but with Nerf guns and stuff."

"Ooh! We wanna do it!" Joseph and Joshua said excitedly. "What about you Penny?"

"I'm good. I don't like getting hit with those bullets. They hurt." I said.

"Your loss." Leanne shrugged, tossing Joseph and Joshua a Nerf gun from under the sofa. The twins beamed with excitement before loading up.

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Leanne smirked smugly at the twins who sat down on the floor. "How did-" "You win?" the twins said, crossing their arms over their chest.

Leanne didn't respond, looking at the time. "Penny! They should be waking up soon." She grinned evilly at me, setting up the app so it would display on the TV.

The TV turned on, and we could clearly see someone shuffling around in the sheets, "Morning babe." Mason kissed Charlie on the forehead.

"You even put a mic?" I laughed lightly. "Well, duh! How else would we be able to hear their screams?"

Charlie's giggle brought us back to the TV. "Stop, we have to get up," she said playfully, pushing Mason's chest.

As creepy as it sounds, we continued watching them for the next ten minutes before Mason initiated a very deep kiss.

"Stop, we h-ave to g-et up." Charlie managed. Mason ignored her, attacking her neck, sucking and biting her mark.

Charlie let out a moan but was cut short when Leanne shut the TV. "Okay! No more of that. We'll just have to wait. I can get the footage back from the camera I put in there."

"Luna?" I heard one of the twins call. I turned my head towards them, "Yes? What is it?" I asked.

They pointed to my arm, "I think you-" "Should get that-" "Checked out." I gave them questioning looks before looking down on my arm.

"Oh shit. Joseph and Joshua get the pack doctor." I heard Leanne curse, running to the cabinet that was set not too far from the TV.

The twins did as they were told, running off.

The nails of my right hand had sharpened, and I was scratching my left arm making it bleed.

I looked at the blood. It was strange that I didn't feel any pain. Leanne came towards me with a wet cloth.

"Let me clean this before it gets infected." I slowly nodded my head, still not feeling anything as she put pressure on the wound.

Leanne looked up, as she was on her knees attending my wound, "you're not reacting. Does it not hurt?"

I shook my head, "I don't feel anything."

"We got the-" "Pack doctor and-" "Adam!" The twins said, running back into the living room.

"Oh dear." The pack doctor said, speed walking towards me. "I'm trying to stop the blood but it keeps flowing," Leanne explained.

"We should get her to the infirmary." The doctor stated, "The twins said it was just a scratch. But it's more than that."

Adam was right in front of me when the doctor said that, "I'll carry her. Let's go." The doctor nodded, "Make sure the Luna does not scratch herself any further." He said politely.

Adam nodded his head, picking me up bridal style. He followed the doctor to the infirmary and set me down on the bed.

I don't know why, but I was itching to scratch myself. I raised my hand, nails still sharpened and continued scratching.

Though it wasn't long when I felt a warm hand wrap around my wrist, pulling it away from my bloodied arm.

Adam looked at me with saddened eyes, "I'm sorry."

I was confused why he was apologizing, but before I could question, I felt a needle prick my neck.

I felt myself go limp into Adam's hold, my eyes slowly getting heavy. Not long after, I was going into a dark abyss.

I was running through the woods in a panic, "is anyone out here?!" I called out, but my voice just echoed.

I slowed down to a walk, where am I? I continued to walk down the dirt path until it stopped.

"Penelope." I heard someone call out.

I whipped my head around to see where the voice was coming from, but I didn't see anyone.

"Who's there?"

"We're coming back for you." The deep voice said, "be prepared."

"Why? Why me?" I said, sinking down to the floor and sitting against the tree trunk.

"For you are special, we need- it is starting."

"What? What's starting?" I asked the voice, but no reply came.

"Be prepared," the words were barely audible, "we're coming to bring you back."

When I woke up, my body felt heavier than usual. My vision blurred as I tried to focus them, but the lights made it harder to do so.

I closed my eyes before slowly opening them again, my vision clearer than before. I kept blinking until my eyes were fully adjusted to the lighting.

I got up carefully, not wanting the world to spin. I looked down and noticed that both of my arms were covered in bandages.

I swung my feet over the bed that I was placed in, putting on the slippers that were on the floor. I noticed that I was in a hospital gown, touching the back, I signed in relief when it wasn't the revealing one.

I opened the door, only to see a body blocking the door. "Penelope," The voice said, sounding surprised.

Looking up to the tall figure, I saw a familiar face, Cameron. "Um, you can't come out right now."

"Oh, okay..." I said, shutting the door.

I sat back down on the bed. I wonder why I couldn't go out? I looked around the room, seeing a blank sheet of paper and a pencil.

I looked around the room, feeling like I was being watched. I quickly dismissed it as I walked towards the piece of paper.

Grabbing the pencil and started to doodle. Drawing patterns and designs, I wasn't intending to draw a portrait, but it turned out to be a wolf.

I continued with the flow, shaping its head, body, and tail. I rested my head on the palm of my hand, as my elbow was on the desk.

I started shading in some of the patterns I made, adding a bit of color.

When I finished my drawing and made my way to the door again. I pressed my ear against the door, hearing muffled sounds.

I couldn't hear what they were saying, but I managed to identify the voices.

It was Adam, his father, his mother, and Cameron.

The noise started to get louder as I heard my mate yelling at his parents, "I don't care! I'm going in."

Hearing this part of this conversation, I quickly got up and went to the desk.

As the door opened, I sat down on the chair and grabbed the pencil once again. Acting like I was doodling the whole time, I looked up startled to Adam.

"Hi." I offered, smiling at him. Adam smiled back, "hi."

"Is everything okay? I heard yelling." I tried easing him.

He ran his hand through his hair, "it's okay. For now at least. Are you okay? You're not in pain right?" He slowly went to reach for my arm, touching the bandages lightly.

"I'm fine. I don't feel any pain." I assured him. "Thank the Moon Goddess." He said, sinking to his knees. He wrapped his arms around my waist and rested his head on my lap.

"You should have mind linked me when you started bleeding." My mate mumbled.

I ran my hand through his soft silky hair, "sorry. I was in shock and didn't know what to do until Leanne started to clean the wound."

We fell into a comfortable silence, staying in the position for another ten minutes. "The doc said I could take you back after you've woken up. We checked twice for any other injuries, and, thank the Goddess, there wasn't anything else."

He lifted his head and got back on his feet. "Let's go?" Offering his hand, I took it and we left the plain room.

"Actually, let me carry you." Adam suddenly changed his mind before turning around swiftly and picking me up.

I squealed at the sudden actions, but let him carry me. I snuggled closer to his chest, missing the warmth.

"Are you hungry? Thirsty?" He asked I shook my head. "I do want to take a shower though." I didn't know how long I was out but I felt dirty.

"You were out for the whole day if you were wondering." Adam grinned at me.

"Stop going through my mind." I huffed, putting up the wall. He chuckled before entering our bathroom.

Adam started the water, putting the plug into the drainer. He walked back towards me, untying the gown.

I let him undress me before he leads me to the bathtub. He took the shower head and started to rinse my hair.

He pumped soap into his hand before massaging it into my scalp. I hummed in delight, closing my eyes.

He turned on the shower head again before rinsing off the soap, before he left me to wash my body, he offered to wash my back.

I agreed to his offer, his warm hands going in circles on my back. Once Adam was done, he got up to look for a towel.

I used this time to wash the rest of my body, rinsing off when I was done.

Adam came back with a huge fluffy towel that draped to the floor when wrapped around my tiny figure.

He gently presses down, drying my body. Adam gave me a black t-shirt, that, surprise, smelled like him.

He helped me put on the shirt, then drying my hair.

After my bath, he carried me to the bed, placing the duvet over my body. Soon after he joined and I instinctively went towards him.

"Thank you." He suddenly said after hugging me close to his chest. "For what?" I questioned but already knew the answer.

"For letting me take care of you." He said softly, "I really needed that. My mind- and wolf- has been going crazy."

"I know." I teased, tracing circles on to his bare chest, "I felt your anxiety through the bond."

We fell into a comfortable silence until I remembered the dream I had.

"Adam?"

"Yeah?"

"I-I had this dream when I was... Asleep. They said 'be prepared. We're coming to bring you back.'"

His hold for me suddenly tightened, but Adam relaxed after a few seconds.

"You know you have this... Monster inside of you right?" He asked. I nodded my head.

"That's what they want. But I... Know someone who can get rid of it."

"The potion right? In exchange for your life.." I said, curling up into a ball.

"Please don't do it." I pleaded, clinging to his shirt.

"I don't want you to leave me. We'll find another way to control this monster, but please, don't do it."

I started crying, "I don't want to be alone."

Adam's hand started stroking my hair, "I will if I have to," he whispered.

A sob came wracking through my throat, "you don't have to! I-I'll find a way." I managed to say.

Adam dipped his head between my neck and shoulder, "I wish there was another way," he said softly, "and if there is we will take it."

He pushed me back gently, tilting my head so I could look at him.

"Please don't cry," gently, he wiped my tears.

"I will always protect you, my love. Don't ever forget that."

I nodded my head, and Adam pulled us down to the bed.

"We'll deal with it when we have to deal with it."

After a few minutes, Adam's breathing started to even out, and he was asleep. But I couldn't go to sleep.

And that's a chapter!

Hey guys, it looks like I'm back.. I finally finished a chapter. So instead of doing one looong chapter, I'm just going to update it regularly. (but the chapters would be longer like this one, 4k or more words.)

Since I'm going to be writing more, it might take me a while to update. But fear not! It won't take another year or so. I have everything planned out like actually planned out, so it's all good.

The next update should be out the week of May 13, the latest would be by the week of May 20. (there might be an earlier update too!)

Hope to see you in the next chapter!

-Wa .

Continue reading next part ☐