

## A Price to Pay~

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Sorry for the hiatus you guys!! I've been so busy with college and I feel like I'm falling behind on everything so so. But anyways, here comes the chapter. I hope you all enjoy it.

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Last night was easily one of the most exciting moments of my life. Everything about it was perfect, from the way he looked on top of me, to the way he looked as I stared down at him. I couldn't get it out of my head, I didn't want to get it out of my head. I wanted to replay last night over and over until my thoughts were consumed by it.

But I knew that eventually I would have to focus on something other than dick—I would have to focus on something that Luna's actually focus on. But until then, I was perfectly content with thinking about how my mate felt inside of me.

In fact I was going to think about it some more, when a shadow appeared next to me. I didn't know who to expect, seeing as my mate was at another pack meeting, but when I saw Zach with his crooked smile, part of me was kind of happy.

Him and I had been moving past are differences, and little by little he was earning back my trust. I think he genuinely felt bad for betraying me, but honestly if he hadn't betrayed me than Kaillen and I might not be where we are today.

So I guess I had Zach to thank for that.

I stared at him, waiting for him to speak. And after staring at me for a few seconds, he did.

"I feel like I haven't seen you in ages." He stated, earning a light laugh from me.

"It was literally a few days ago..." I replied, watching the children at play. They chased each other around, playing all sorts of games, and in that little crowd I even saw Cassie. She ran around with a child-like innocence that seemed to stick in my head.

Part of me wondered why I never got to feel that innocence. But as soon as that thought crossed my head, I pushed it out. I wasn't going to allow any of that self-pity, bullshit.

I looked back to Zach, as he let out a sigh.

"Do you think I'll ever find my mate?" He asked, and if I'm being honest this question caught me totally off guard.

"Yes?" I answered, slightly puzzled, "Why?"

He shrugged, glancing down at his feet.

"I don't know," He paused, "I've just been looking for years now. I mean what if...What if she's dead? Or what if she just doesn't want me to find her?"

I could hear the restlessness in his voice—the uncertainty. The thought of his mate not being out there seemed to put him into a state of sadness.

I knew that feeling.

"She's out there." I spoke with certainty.

"How can you know that though? I mean I see all of my friends with their mates, and they're happy. Why don't I have that yet?"

"Maybe you're just looking too hard," I paused, "When the time is right, your mate will come. I mean hell, I doubt Kaillen was expecting his mate to just fall from the sky. Maybe yours will too."

I was joking around with the last part, but the other parts I was dead serious with. I had seen the Moon goddess play this trick many times. She'd let you drive yourself crazy searching for your mate, and then just as you'd given up, your mate would appear.

It's like nobody else could have their mate until she was ready.

It was annoying if you asked me. But once again, she had a reason for everything. And that caused something to pop back up in my head.

"So, this might sound weird," I spoke, "But the other night I had a visit from the Moon Goddess."

"Wait what?" Zach asked, looking up from the ground at me.

"Well I mean, technically she made me visit her, but that's not the point. The point is, when she returned me, she basically tried to drown me in the lake."

Zach looked confused as fuck, but I continued to explain.

"She threw me in the lake, upside down. And I know it means something. She wouldn't just do that unless there was a reason. So what I'm trying to figure out, is exactly what that reason is."

I stared at Zach, who had a mixture of confusion and interest written on his face. While he seemed to look at me like I was a mad-woman, he also looked deep in thought.

But just like me, I knew that he wouldn't know what the water meant.

"I'm not fluent in Moon Goddess, but the best answer I can give you is that it definitely relates to you personally."

"Well gee, thanks." I deadpanned, very well aware that it related to me.

"Hey, you asked. I mean clearly she's trying to tell you something that only you would be able to figure out."

"Ugh!" I let out a shout of frustration, causing a few of the kids to stare at me. I had forgotten that they were there, so the fact that the pack kids were seeing their Luna having a temper tantrum was kind of humiliating.

I glanced back to Zach quickly, trying to ignore them. I didn't need to feel judged by a bunch of kids when I was in the middle of a crisis.

"I mean what the hell should I do? Swim to the bottom of the lake?"

And then just like that, an idea popped into my head.

"That's exactly what I'm gonna do."

Zach's eyes widened as my idiotic plan sunk into his head.

"I don't know what drugs you're on, but there's no way in hell that Kaillen's going to let you swim to the bottom of a frozen lake."

"Kaillen's not gonna know," I replied. I gave Zach a cold stare, one that was a warning if he betrayed me again, I would beat the hell out of him.

I stood up, and Zach stood up with me.

"You're not serious about this are you?"

"Actually, I'm dead serious."

Before I could get another word out, my world exploded in a flash of white, along with the sound of explosion after explosion. And when the earth beneath me seemed to explode into a thousand pieces, my vision went dark.

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"Estrella."

"Estrella!"

I could hear my voice being called, but it sounded like I was underwater. The voice calling my name was hazy, and though I tried to focus on it, nothing I did could fix the ringing in my ears, nor the headache that felt as if my head was going to explode.

I was in pain.

And as I slowly began to open my eyes, my ears still ringing loudly, I stared at the scene in front of me. Though my vision was blurry, and nothing I did made it easier to focus, I could tell that something horrible had happened.

Through the ringing in my ears, I could hear screams and cry's from all around me. And in front of me, laid bodies...Or at least that's what it looked to be. My head was still spinning, and I was still insanely disoriented.

But then the smell of blood hit me. The smell of open wounds and flesh, penetrated my nose in a way that made me gag.

I needed to get up, to make it to my feet. I needed to regain control. But as I moved my legs, I felt a horrific pain that made focusing just a tad bit easier. I looked to my legs quickly, praying that I hadn't lost a leg, only to notice that a gigantic tree branch had gone through my thigh.

I let out a screech, now noticing that the ringing was going down by the second. I could now hear things more clearly, but I wished I hadn't.

The sound, and smell, of death was in the air. Both adults and children were scattered throughout the forest. Most of them were severely injured. Some were already dead.

I didn't understand what had happened until I looked around at the countless limbs of pack members scattered around. It was something straight out of a nightmare, in fact it was so gruesome that I almost didn't think it was real.

But it was.

I felt an arm grab mine, and I looked to see a terrified Zach. He had blood smeared across his face, and gashes all over him, and yet he still was over with me making sure I was okay.

He and I both looked down at the branch in my thigh, and without a second thought, I grabbed it and ripped it out of my leg. Though it hurt excruciatingly bad, I was the Luna. I needed to help them.

"Help me up!" I demanded, not even waiting for my leg to finish healing. I would be fine, but my pack members weren't all fine.

Zach grabbed my arms, and hoisted me up to my feet. I ignored the pain in my leg, as I glanced around, sickened by the sight in front of me. Though I was seeing everything with my own eyes, I couldn't believe it. It didn't seem real.

But when my eyes landed on the little brown haired girl, my heart stopped. My whole mood changed from horrified, to shocked. It couldn't be her...It couldn't be Cassie.

I ran over to the body, flipping it over to face me. And when my eyes met her blue ones, everything in me seemed to slow down. I could hear and see her gasping for air, trying to fight to survive. And I could also see the deep gash in her chest. She was bleeding to death.

But I could fix it, surely if I'd fixed Kaillen before, I could fix Cassie.

I placed my hand over her chest, holding her small hand with my other hand. She grasped at it hard, and I could see the fear in her eyes.

"I...Don't wanna...Die." She hiccuped, releasing a few tears. And though I knew she was dying, I wasn't willing to let her go just yet.

I ignored her cries, as I focused on healing her. I focused everything that I could on closing her wound, and on saving her. There was no way a life this young was going to end, especially when this life was the first one to show me kindness.

I wouldn't let her die.

But I could feel my energy being sucked out of me, like a vacuum, healing her was taking an extreme toll on me. I was struggling to just stay sitting upright.

I let out a painful cry as I could feel my life, and hers, being sucked out from us. And when I looked down on her wound, and I saw it still open, I began to worry. I barely had anything left in me to save her, and yet she was still bleeding out in front of me.

I needed more energy.

"Zach!" I yelled, turning around to look for him. He caught my eye, and rushed over to me.

"Is that?"

"Yes, it's Cassie. But forget that, I need your energy."

He looked at me, puzzled and frightened.

"W-what? How? Estrella, I don't know how."

I let go of Cassie's hand to grab his hand, and I looked him in the eyes.

"I'm sorry, Zach. But this is gonna hurt."

And like that, I could feel his energy—his life—flowing into me. With his energy, I began to see her wounds closing. Though I could hear Zach's cries of agony in the background, I ignored it. He would live, that was certain. Right now, I needed to heal Cassie. I needed that energy so that my mate's sister would live, so that the little girl would get to grow up.

And because of the gift I had, she would get to see another day.

But saving lives always takes a toll. Going against the Moon goddess, it always has a price. I had yet to know what that price was, but as far as I was concerned, saving the ones I loved was more important than the price it costed.

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Ooo that was a little intense, wasn't it? Please comment and let me know if you liked it!!

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