

3 Moonless Circus

Starlight poured into the room, dotting the space with tiny specks of white. Your body is telling you it's morning even if the sky is still as dark as Halloween without the moon. You jumped back into your bed, burying your head into the softness of the blanket, you didn't feel like getting up today.

As fatigue starts to wash over you again your DDD starts ringing in your ears. Groaning with frustration, you stretched out your hand to hit the "decline" button. Just as you were about to hit the button you saw who was calling you.

You sighed and clicked the accept button instead, "Yes, hello? What is it?"

"You sound so annoyed. Are you still asleep?"

"Why wouldn't I be annoyed when you disturbed my sleep!" You rebuked.

You heard him chuckle at your response, you can almost imagine the stupid grin on his face.

"Do you want to go to the Moonless Circus? It will help you take your mind off things."

"Uh, it's al-

"Simeon proposed it. Everyone in the Hall of Purgatory is going."

".....Alright, I'll go."

Solomon chuckled at your change of answer, "I'll inform the others."

You dragged yourself out of bed as he hung up. Strands of hair dangled in front of your face. The person in the mirror looked akin to that of a ghost. You smoothed out your hair and washed your face, the last thing you want people to see is the dark circles under your eyes.

In the end, you returned to the House of Lamentation for obvious reasons, even though it pained you to see the faces of the brothers. They chose to give you privacy and you tried to avoid them as much as possible, you went to the length of waking up way early to eat breakfast...

But since today you hadn't exactly planned to wake up or even exit your room...

"Good morning, (Y/N)" Lucifer said nonchalantly when he saw you arrive at the dining table.

Yep, the brothers were there. Everyone stiffened and the whole room turned tense at the realization you had arrived.

"Morning," You replied to him with a slight nod.

Just like that, the whole room was drowned in an uncomfortable silence...

"....."

"I'll be going."

"Ya, same."

"There's something I need to do."

"You guys keep eating, I'm full."

"I lost my appetite."

One by one the brothers excused themselves and left before you could even sit down...Except for one.

"Lucifer you're not going?" You questioned him while forcing a smile. He himself actually hasn't treated you that badly if you count out how indifferent he is and how you barely even saw a glance of him since the first day.

"Why should I? I haven't even finished my breakfast yet."

"You don't seem like the type of person to actually care about finishing your breakfast when you are sitting right in front of the person you have tried to avoid for the past few months,"

Before you even realized what you just said he had already answered you:

Lucifer vividly paused and finally looked up, "How so?"

"Uh...I don't know, just my guess." You shrugged, trying not to show how you didn't actually mean to say what you said aloud.

Now that you looked carefully, the firstborn was quite the beauty. Delicate jawlines paired with porcelain skin, black hair descending to snow white at its tip, onyx eyes mixed with a tint of ruby red. The pride of the celestial realm who rebelled against his own father and became a demon. To be honest, most of the demon brothers were quite good-looking, was that because they were immortal?

You lifted up your fork and studied a piece of "Some-demon-food-that-doesn't-look-like-food" into your mouth. The taste of it made your taste buds tingle but you still gulped it down, at least it was 110% better than somebody else's food. The food here really wasn't that bad, too bad you couldn't stay to savor it...

"...Will you forgive Mammon?"

"Huh? Oh!" Startled at his sudden question, you took a second to process what he just said, "I mean...Do you think I should?"

To be honest, you don't think you would ever forgive him, but that doesn't mean that there wasn't a way for him to make up for what he did.

After you finished your breakfast, you walked out of the room and closed the door behind as you did so, leaving the avatar of pride alone.

"I wonder if I would ever be able to take a break," You mumbled to yourself as you left the room.

Even eating can become such a stressful thing, it really was a first for you.

Bringgggggg- Linggggggggggggg- Linggggggggg- Bringgggggggg- Linggggg-

The sound of your D.D.D broke your monologue, "Yes hello?"

"We're in front of the house of lamentation, are you ready yet?"

What??? Oh. OH! RIGHT!

"Ah...I'm ready, I'll be coming right away!" You had nearly forgotten the reason why you even ended up seeing the brothers this morning.

You quickly rushed out of the house to the angels...And that "not 100% human" sorcerer. It isn't good manners to keep them waiting now, is it?

You heard Luke shout your name happily when he saw you, his voice was chirpy and childish.

"Hey Luke!" You responded while trying to catch your breath.

Simeon turned towards you and waved, "You arrived, should we get going now?"

"Yep!"

A smile graced his face as he offered his hand to you, he didn't say much as you accepted his hand. The angel must have heard about your situation from the sorcerer. He was truly an angel above all angels.

During your walk through the town, there was something that was constantly bothering you. For some reason, it doesn't seem like just a circus to you. The name sent an unknown shiver down your spine.

"Say...What is the Moonless Circus?"

"Hmm? You mean you don't know?" Solomon seemed surprised, "I thought you knew when you accepted my invitation."

".....I know it's a circus but what's so special about it? I keep hearing it everywhere."

"It's not a circus."

You pretended not to hear Solomon's denial and turned to Simeon for answers. Upon seeing your refusal to acknowledge the silver-haired man's words he chuckled sofly.

"You see, the Moonless circus isn't really a circus but is a circus at the same time. Other demons call them a circus but it was never officially declared to be a circus. It also only appears every decade on moonless nights, hence earning the title of Moonless Circus."

"You mean Moonless Circus isn't its official name....and also why did your explanation sound like a tongue twister."

He shook his head, "It's more correct to call it a giant performance. It is said to be one of the most spectacular circuses in all of Devildom. It gained quite the popularity after the Demon king praised it a couple of centuries ago."

You gasped, "Wow, the circus must have a long history then."

"Yep! Oh ya, (Y/N)! I wanted to give you something" Luke exclaimed excitedly as he stayed quiet for some time.

You watched Luke take something out and place it in your hand, "I wanted to tell you that you are special! Those demon brothers just can't see it!"

You blinked a couple of times in shock before accepting the gift. Unfolding your fist, you could see a silvery silk string that was decorated with little crystal diamonds, glittering and shining under the faint light of the stars. Dangling from the silk was three little crystal charms, each of them separated by three pearls. You gazed at it in wonder, it looked so beautiful.

"That's so nice of you! I know I'm special."

He shook his head, "I really mean it. Solomon told us what happened. You are your own person, You can't replace anyone but neither can anyone replace you. Remember what you told me before? You showed us how you don't need a shadow of "her" to be you, so show those terrible demons as well!"

"....." You were stunned, never did you expect you to hear those words out of the little angel's mouth, "A-are you really Luke, blink twice if you are possessed!"

A blush of embarrassment colored Luke's face, "I'm not possessed!"

Your shock quickly melted into a gentle laugh, "Haha. I know. Thanks."

"The tiny charms that hang from it...A snowflake...A butterfly...And a gladiolus?"

"Uniqueness. Transformation. Strength. That's what we see in you," Simeon explained, "Each of us made a charm to hang from this bracelet. Hopefully, they will be of use to you one day."

"You guys did...?" Did they really do these things to cheer you up? They didn't even ask what exactly was going on. Why are they so nice to you? Did they never see "her" in you....? You always constantly had asked these questions to yourself before...

Maybe it was because they weren't that close to the previous exchange student before she was declared dead. They weren't really attached to them as they only communicated with "her" a few times only. Or maybe it was just because they were angels, and angels loved everyone equally.

Solomon opened his mouth as if to say something before he was interrupted by Luke, "Loook! It's the Moonless Circus!"

You looked towards where he was pointing and quickly slipped the bracelet on your wrist. The sight you saw wasn't really what you expected, there was no circus tent nor people going about, instead, it looked quite peaceful, no tent, no crowd, no lines.

"Uh...This is it?" You questioned. Were you guys late? Did they read the map wrong?

"Due to its popularity, it isn't really that easy to attend." Solomon explained patiently to you, "Wait here, I need to talk to the ghosts."

It wasn't before long he returned with a grin and some tickets. The moment your skin made contact with the paper a sudden light enveloped you. You didn't know if you were seeing things but it seemed like the ticket dissolved into your body...

The moment you saw the real world again you felt a shiver run down your back. You gazed around, breathless at what you saw.

"Beautiful..." You muttered, the place was dazzling, everywhere sparkled with light and joy.

The ceiling looked like the glittering night sky, even if there was no moon it was still marvelous. Butterflies fluttered inside you, you were starting to feel nervous.

There were so many demons everywhere, you felt like a lamb who was thrown into a pack of hungry wolves. You felt scared...

"Welcome! Welcome! Esteemed guests from afar!"

Your head snapped towards the demon on the stage, their long feathery tail swang from left to right.

Another shiver ran down your spine, the butterflies in you seemed to flutter their wings even faster now. Your brain and heart were telling you everything will be alright...And your instincts were telling you to run away.

While you were pondering where the uneasiness you felt was from, Solomon had come to a stop, his face was plastered with an unreadable expression.

"What's wrong Solomon?" You heard Simeon ask him.

"I think I saw Mammon just now."

"What!?"