

CHAPTER 18

I walked down to the village. It was a beautiful place lit with glowing lights. I remember going to a village with Ryan once. Apparently he said it was old village. I wonder if it was anything like this?

But I felt it, there was darkness. People were whispering amongst themselves, discussing and debating on what this everlasting night means.

I'm sure everyone is frightened. I made sure I pulled my hood over my head. No one should be able to see my face.

The familiar scent of the bakery was in the air. I didn't realise how hungry I was. I followed the smell and found the cute little store filled with goodies.

I shivered. It was cold anyways. I went inside and was welcomed by a warm room smelling of delicious pastries.

I got myself some cookies and a hot chocolate. I was the only one in the cafe. I sat by myself and enjoyed my treat.

"I'm sorry, may I sit with you?" I look up and see an old woman smiling, "I've been working all day here and I just wanted some company on my break."

I slowly nodded my head. Cautious of this woman, or anyone for that matter, "So you work here?"

"I own the place, honey,"

My brows raised in surprise, "Oh wow. Well everything you've made is very delicious."

She smiles sincerely, "Thank you, Honey. It gives an old woman joy to know that her baking is loved."

I smiled in agreement and looked out the window and up at the beautiful moon. I always find myself looking at the moon.

"Beautiful, isn't it?" Says the woman.

I nodded my head, "Yes, yes it is."

"Everyone panicked when they first discovered what was happening."

I turn from the moon and looked to the woman, "And you're not?" I questioned curiously.

She stirs her cup of tea, "No."

I lean in slightly and took a sip of my hot drink, "What do you think it means? The end of the world? The end of Arcanus?"

She so ly giggled, "No, nothing of the sort. I see it as a sign."

I tilted my head to the side, "A sign for what?"

"There are some people in Arcanus that are very important," She explains, "My theory is that someone important had disrupted the balance in the heavens."

Okay...so this is a crazy lady, "The balance? What do you mean?"

The old woman leans in, "Arcanus needs a balance in order to survive or else chaos will leave this world in ruins. The same principle applies to the heavens. However, if there is an imbalance in the heavens...then there is imbalance everywhere," She looks up at the moon and says, "I think this is a sign that heavens have been disturbed, or a god is displeased."

"Which god?" I asked curiously.

"The moon goddess. Us wolves, as well as many others, are creatures of the night. It would be the Moon Goddess causing this."

Okay then. I believed in the Moon Goddess because it is a part of our religion and history as wolves, but I'm not sure what this lady was talking about. And also I was tired of talking about it. I am sure the Hellhounds are still figuring out why this is happening.

"If you do not mind me asking...how old are you?" Trying to change the subject.

She smiles mischievously, "I am very old. But I am a lycan so I guess it is expected."

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

My eyes widen, "I thought Lycans were almost extinct. There is only one left isn't there?"

It was her turn to tilt her head in curiosity, "And how would you know that?"

Nervous to give any kind of information about myself, I was hesitant to say. But then again, no one would know what pack Zeus's mate was from. Only that her name was Lily? So it should be safe...shouldn't it?

"My uncle Noah, he's the last Lycan."

The woman's eyes widen, "Noah Maverick is your Uncle?"

I brows creased, "Y-Yes...wait, how do you know my uncle?"

She smiles sadly, "He is my grandson,"

I felt like my jaw dropped to the table and my eye bugged out of their sockets, "He's your grandson? How is that even possible?"

She laughs at my reaction, "His father was my son. But he died in war many many years ago, along with my mate."

"I'm so sorry for your loss..ummm...Why could you not go see him?"

She sighs. I could see the longing in her eyes, "I wanted him to have an easier life, a better life than what I had here. So I made sure his mother raised him and his little brother, Isaac, in the human world. How is he? Is he living a good life?"

My heart hurt because at first he didn't. He was kidnapped and tortured and experimented on. But I didn't have the heart to tell her as she waiting for an answer, I just smiled so ly and nodded my head, "Yes, he has a mate and two sons."

Her eyes glistened with tears as her smile widened, "That makes me very happy," She laughs, "My goodness, I am a great grandmother, how exciting."

I stood from the table and looked down at the woman, "Thank you, you have been great company, but I gotta get going."

She gives me a cheeky glint in her eye, "Of course, but you best be careful Lily,"

My eyes widen in shock.

She laughs and stands from the table, "Don't fret, little one. I knew who you were as soon as you came into my shop. I won't say a word."

Relief was all I felt when she said that, "Th-Thank you. What is your name?"

"Linda Maverick."

I smiled down at her. I turned and was about to leave, but then Linda placed her hand on my arm. I look at her and see her eyes have turned serious, "You are a very important person, Lily. There are dark and evil people who would do terrible things to you to get Zeus's powers. You go straight back up that mountain. The fate of us all depends on it."

I gulped as she let's go of my arm. I shakily walk out of the shop. Linda immediately looks around the place through the window before shutting the curtains and turning off the lights. That did not give me comfort. I felt unsettled.

Maybe I shouldn't have run away. I'd forgotten I couldn't just go back to my pack. I needed a portal.

"Damn it," I grumbled to myself. I grunted as I turned around to head back to the castle, however, I noticed the glowing lights were off. People were on the streets. No houses had their lights on.

The streets were completely deserted. I cautiously walked down the street, hoping to walk out of this place just as easily as I came in.

I pulled the hood more over my head. I was very anxious. I started walking faster and faster as I felt this creepy feeling.

"Aren't you a pretty thing," I gasped slightly in fright as I saw a man leaning against a stone wall. I ignored him and kept walking.

"You look familiar, do I know you?" Asks another man that walked out of the darkness of the alley. I took deep breaths. You're so stupid, Lily! You're probably the most hunted person out there, why would you leave!

I contemplated shivering as I heard more men start calling a name.

"Come on, Lily. Zeus would be happy to get rid of ya," I heard one of them say.

That gave me chills. They know my name. They know exactly who I am. That was when I stopped walking and I took off into a sprint. I pushed my legs as hard I could. I whimpered from how scared I was.

I heard growls and snarls from behind me. They were chasing me. Damn it! All I wanted to do was get away from Zeus!

I turned a sharp corner and kept sprinting. But I felt all hope leave when I saw it was a dead end. I looked over my shoulder. They weren't here yet, but I could hear their running become louder and louder.

"You need some help?" A voice I recognised. I looked the dead end wall and saw Zeus sitting at the top taking a smoke.

I felt everything in me sag in relief, "Yes! Please!"

He dragged in a breath and looked down at me seriously, "You shouldn't have run away, Flower."

A part of me was scared, but also I was confident that Zeus wouldn't let anything happen to his precious key, the one that can break the curse.

So I backed up anxiously against the wall, watching the heard of men near me. They were close. I winced in fright and close my eyes. I didn't want to look at them.

A whooshing sound breezed past my ears as I heard a big stomp to the ground and the crowd of men stopped. I opened one eye and saw Zeus standing in front of me.

"You dare come a name my mate. My Mate!" He said in a dark and growling voice

The men were petrified as they behold a Hellhound. They turned and sprinted away, Zeus went to run a name them.

"Wait!" I shouted.

He stopped in his tracks and whips his head around to look at me. His eyes wild with blood-lust.

I gulped and shook my head, "Just leave them, they're not worth it."

Zeus turns back to the running figures. He stands up straight and reluctantly turns around and walks towards me. He grabs me by the arm and yanks me to my feet.

He holds onto my shoulder tightly and says in a sharp tone through his teeth, "Why did you run away!? What were you thinking? Do you care about that you were in danger? That you could've died? Do you care realise that your life?"

Tears welled up in my eyes as I shoved him off me. He stood there watching me, but I just silently walked away, knowing he would follow. I didn't need this right now. I was scared out of my mind. A little bit of comfort is not too much to ask a name I was chased by a crowd of men

I snorted as now we were in silence. We made it out of the village without any trouble and now we were on our way to the castle.

We didn't speak as we were walking, no word at all. I didn't want to talk to him. I had no desire to.

"Lily," Zeus called out to me from behind, but I did not answer.

"Lily!" He shouts, but again. I didn't want to talk to him. I snorted as I kept walking.

Why was he even calling out for me? A part of myself loved the sound of my name on his lips, but the other half was hurt. I was still not good enough for him.

A hand comes and grasps my shoulder, but I shrug it off.

Zeus comes in front of me, "Lily, Stop!" He growls.

"What!" I shouted in frustration.

"A thank you would suffice! I just saved your damn life!"

I took a step forward and growled, "A sorry would have sufficed! Then none of this would have happened! I mean, you're immortal! You have the rest of your life to be a bastard why can't you not just take a couple of days off for my sanity!"

"Well I am sorry!" He growls through his teeth.

"Wow...I really feel the emotion behind that apology," I said sarcastically

He rolls his eyes, "Well it's not easy for me! You're supposed to fix my curse! It's not supposed to be a part of who you are!"

I gasped, "Well then maybe I just won't fix your stupid curse then!"

He growls, "Don't be a bitch,"

I growled back, "Don't be an asshole!"

"Deluded!" He insults.

"Pig-headed!" I shout with a passion.

"Spoiled!"

"Self-centred!"

"Brat!"

"Insufferable!"

As we shout at each other we step closer and closer.

He scoffs, "At least I'm not a psycho!"

My brows raised as well as my temper, "Psycho? Psycho! I will show you a psycho you disgusting dog!"

I looked over my shoulder at the sharp icicle hanging from a branch. I break it off with a strength I didn't know I had. I look back at Zeus sharply.

"Stop being a child." He grumbles. He turns around to keep going up the mountain, but I throw the ice and it smashes on his back. He tenses before yelling, "Fuck!" He whips his head around with wild and glowing eyes.

He runs a name me. I scream and turn to run away. A whole bunch of snow falls on top of me, slowly soaking my clothes.

I turn around slowly to see him smirking as if he had won, "I'm the child?" I yell, "Says the guy who can't even seriously apologise! If maturity became a person it would be you, which is so incredibly insane considering you've lived for hundreds of years and still have not wised up!"

He laughs without humour, "You know what...you're right. I am pretty unwise. The most unwise thing I've ever done was save you from that frozen lake fifteen years ago."

Freaking bastard. I laughed without any humour, "You're right. Maybe you shouldn't have." I just stood there, letting the words sink in. I walked past Zeus and tried to continue my way up the mountain.

I heard him release a big sigh. He grumbles quietly to himself, "Fuck," I hear him walk behind me, "Lily," He calls out to me.

"Just leave me alone, Zeus...you've hurt me enough. Please, just leave me in peace." I said in a defeated and quivering voice. I didn't think Zeus expected me to sound like that. He was expecting me to scream in his face, try to hit him. He walked beside me in silence. I glanced his way...I was shocked, in his cold glowing green eyes, I saw some guilt...and this time, he didn't try hide it.

We finally got to the castle. We had not exchanged any words along the way, but it did not matter to me.

We arrived at the door and Zeus opens it. I felt myself tense when I felt his hand on my lower back, gently guiding me inside.

I awkwardly gulp and take my coat off to hang it. I peak my head into the little cosy lounge with a giant fire place. Sozin and Donny were on there phone while Ozai was reading. I stepped inside and all of them raised their head.

Their eyes widen. Donny was the first one to stand up and sprint to me, but then Sozin grabs his foot, making him fall to the ground with a yell. Sozin comes running and lands me on the ground, "We were so worried about you, my little munchkin poo!"

I laughed, "I'm fine! Sozin I can't breathe!" He puts me onto the ground, but I am only enveloped in another set of arms straight a name.

Donny tightens his hold on me, "I thought I was never going to see you again!"

I rolled my eyes playfully, "That's a little bit dramatic, Donny."

"Alright...that's enough hugs," Zeus says from behind me.

Donny reluctantly lets me go. I see Ozai was standing from his chair. He does his polite grins and respectfully bows his head, "I am pleased that you are okay, Lily."

I smile, "Thank you, Ozai."

I gulped and looked over my shoulder at Zeus. He was looking out the window up at the moon intently. His pale green eyes glowing. His eyes flicker to me immediately I look away.

I coughed awkwardly in my hand, "I am going to bed now," I started to make my climb up the stairs, but then I stopped. I turned around and saw Zeus at the bottom staring up at me. I gulped and said, "Thank you for saving me...Even though you are a bastard."

He shrugs, "Yeah well...I guess someone's gotta save the damsel."

I rolled my eyes, but I couldn't hide the small smirk as I turned around and headed to bed.