

# Moon Of Shadow

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*Amelia is a every day normal girl until one day when she is tossed into a world full of Vampires, dark creatures and has to undo a age old curse on a Vampire Prince*

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# 1 - Prologue

Moon Of Shadow

By

Heather Yarberro

The Sad Shepherd

There was a man, whom Sorrow named his friend,  
And he, of his high comrade Sorrow dreaming,  
Went walking with slow steps along the gleaming  
And humming sands, where windy surges wend:

And he called loudly to the stars to bend  
From their pale thrones and comfort him, but they  
Among themselves laugh on and sing always:

And then the man whom Sorrow named his friend  
Cried out, Dim sea, hear my most piteous story!  
The sea swept on and cried her old cry still,  
Rolling along in dreams from hill to hill.  
He fled the persecution of her glory.

And, in a far-off, gentle valley stopping,  
Cried all his story to the dewdrops glistening,

But naught they heard, for they are always listening,  
The dewdrops, for the sound of their own dropping.

And then the man whom Sorrow named his friend  
Sought once again the shore, and found a shell,  
And thought, I will my heavy story tell  
Till my own words, re-echoing, shall send  
Their sadness through a hollow, pearly heart;  
And my own tale again for me shall sing,  
And my own whispering words be comforting,  
And lo! My ancient burden may depart.

Then he sang softly nigh the pearly rim;  
But the sad dweller by the sea-ways lone  
Changed all he sang to inarticulate moan  
Among her whirling whirls, forgetting him.

-W. B. Yeats

## 2 - Almost a normal life

### Chapter One

A moon of shadow.

Blood on the ground.... everywhere!

The strong feeling of fear.

A black Rose.

Sharp teeth coming at her throat, wanting to tear her from limb to limb and a deep voice whispering, "Hello, little princess."

She was sharply awakened from her nightmare by a hand on her shoulder and a light voice in her ear, "Amelia! Are you okay?"

She knew who it was without even looking; it was Sean, her overprotective half brother.

She whispered, "I'm okay. Why are we whispering anyway?"

Sean looked nervous and a little anxious as he looked around her bedroom, "Father, he's still asleep and I thought we'd sneak out before he woke up."

Amelia sighed.

Her and her brother had to live in constant fear of their father, well, he was Sean's father but he was Amelia's step-dad and he will always stay that way to her, a complete stranger.

It had all started when mother died.

Amelia's father had died suddenly and very mysteriously with no reason for his death at all and Amelia was four at the time and she vaguely remembered a quick funeral and her mother moved them all the way from Dallas, Texas to New York City in a few days time.

If Amelia didn't know any better, now that she looks back on it all, her mother had seemed frightened by the prospect of staying in that house for some reason.

Well, time went by and her mother got a job at a bank and I was in Junior High when she met David.

I was thirteen and well, I didn't really mind my mom dating David, I mean, she had dated other men before David but after a few months.... I knew that they were getting serious.

David was trying too hard to be really nice to mom, and me I could tell.

Don't ask me how I knew, I sort of have a sixth sense about people and I knew that I did not like David at all.

And he was never, EVER going to get me to call him Father or Daddy.

After a few months time, mom and David got married and they moved in his house, which was just a few blocks away from our house.

I was angry with mom for betraying dad by marrying David and I was scared at the prospect of living in the same house with him.

As mom, David and the movers all worked on moving our stuff into the house, I sat on the sidewalk, my face in my hands and cried.

I cried and I felt like I was never going to stop.

I stopped though when I heard a soft voice in my ear, the same one that I heard this morning and I felt an arm around my shoulders.

The words that he spoke were just what I needed to hear, "You can cry on my shoulder, if you want. I won't mind."

I didn't care who this person was, I leaned my head on his shoulder and just cried.

And he didn't say one word, just held me in his arms and he rocked me back and forth, gently.

After I had my cry, I wiped my eyes and looked up at the person who had comforted me and I about jumped back.

He was the most gorgeous person I had ever seen, he had ebony black hair and deep blue eyes and he was hot!

I shakily asked, "Who are you?"

He smiled, a crooked little smile, "My name is Sean. I'm David's son."

I was shocked; he's that terrible man's son???

Whoa!

I smiled as I brushed my shoulder length reddish blonde hair behind my ears and lowered my chocolate brown eyes to the street as I whispered, shyly, "My name is Amelia."

After that moment on, she was never separated from Sean.

They became very close over the past four years and everything was going great.

Then mother died.



She died as quickly and mysteriously as dad had and no one would tell us the cause of death.

Then, after the funeral, David's true colors starting coming out.

Sean knew that it was going to happen and he was with me everywhere I went in the house.

One day, I finally confronted him and asked him why he was following me.

He told me.

David was an alcoholic, which would explain his not coming out of his room for days and when he did, he would only go to the refrigerator to get a bottle of beer but that wasn't the only thing, he had beat Sean and his mother before.

I was shocked, I mean I was expecting something terrible but this was awful, especially the thought of him beating Sean and his mother leaving him to this monster.

Well, let's just say that I let Sean follow me everywhere around the house.

David hasn't done anything.... yet.

A few times, when I was by myself in the house or Sean was gone somewhere, David would come out of his room and he would follow me in the house but he wouldn't get too close.

His chocolate brown eyes looked frantic, like he was being controlled by something else and his brown hair was messed up and wild.

I felt like I was being stalked by a wild animal.

Well, this was the usual routine now, him waking me up to sneak out of the house every morning to go to school cause David has been moving around the house again and it's making Sean extra nervous.

Amelia tossed the blankets off and ran over to her closet, grabbing her white khaki pants and a red long sleeved shirt.

She made sure that Sean had his back turned and she quickly got dressed, asking him as she grabbed her beige shoes and slipped her shirt on at the same time, "Sean, are you going to go to the party this evening that Shannon has going on?"

Sean was still looking around, nervously, like David could materialize at any moment from the shadows as he hissed, "Can you leave the questions till after we get out of the house and away from David? Please?"

I was a little aggravated as I pouted, "Okay."

After I slipped on my shoes, Sean grabbed my hand and pulled me out the door.

He led me down the stairs and I noticed something, his hand was icy cold.

After I thought about it.... Sean's skin was always cold.

We finally reached the door and Sean pulled me out of the house.

I sighed in relief as I felt the warm rays of the sun on my face.

But then I felt something cold and strong grip my other arm.

I turned around and I screamed as two brown, glistening eyes amidst a brown mess of hair stared at me.

David growled, "Hello, little princess."

Amelia froze in fear, "H-how.... how did you know...."

He didn't have any time to answer, as there was a blur on my right side and a loud crack as Sean's hand punched into David's face.

I gasped as I pulled from David's icy grip, "Sean..."

Sean looked like a different person, his gentle blue eyes were hardened as he growled, "I said, you aren't to touch her or talk to her, at all. You understand?"

David seemed to not be fazed by half of his face being smashed in by Sean's fist and he looked very submissive but there was still a glint of ice in his eyes as he snarled, "I understand."

Sean nodded abruptly as he pulled a very shocked Amelia after him onto the street and walked in the direction of the school.

Amelia asked, still shocked, "Why did you hit him like that?"

Sean looked back at her and she could still see anger flaring in his icy blue eyes as he hoarsely whispered, "He deserved it."

After a few blocks, Amelia remembered that she was still holding Sean's hand and she quickly let go, blushing bright red as she asked again, "Um, are you going to go to the party this evening?"

Sean slowed his fast pace a little bit, letting her catch up to him as he answered, "I think so. Megan is wanting to go, so I'll probably go just so I don't have to hear her stupid whining for weeks on end."

Amelia looked away from Sean as she growled, "Oh, so that's why."

Amelia hated Sean's girlfriend with a vengeance.

Megan was always so whiny, complaining and she was very picky but what really, REALLY ticked her off about her was Megan was always holding onto Sean and kissing him constantly.

She didn't know why but every time she would kiss him it would literally burn her up with anger.

She guessed that all sisters felt that way but she asked Shannon, her best friend for all her life, if she ever felt that way when her brother, Trace, Sean's best friend, ever kissed anybody or showed attention to another girl.

She said that she didn't care one little bit what her brother's girlfriends did to him and she said, "I certainly do NOT want to hear the details!"

Both of our brothers are older than us, so they were both out of school but Sean walked me to school

every day and then he walked to his job, a place where he worked on cars although he has never shown it to me, I guess he thought that I wouldn't be interested.

I guess Sean noticed that something was bothering me cause he asked me right before we walked into the school yard, "Are you sure you're okay? He didn't hurt you, did he?"

I smiled, reassuringly as I hugged him quickly, "Nope, I'm just fine! I feel great!"

Sean laughed at my goofy grin that I plastered on my face as he pulled away from our embrace, "Well, I'd better go. See you this evening at the party."

Amelia shouted at Sean as he walked quickly down the street toward his job, "I'm going to be at Shannon's till the party, okay?"

Sean turned around and walked backwards as he waved, a playful smile on his face, "Okay, I kind of expected that! Bye!"

Amelia waved, "Bye Sean!"

She watched him walk away for a few more minutes and then she ran towards the school, hoping that she wasn't late.



### 3 - A rude awakening

#### Chapter Two

It was another totally boring day at school for Amelia.

She thanked all the angels up in heaven for Shannon cause if she wasn't there then she would've been bored to death!

She was walking home with Shannon, laughing at a little joke that Shannon had made up that morning and just talking teen talk.

“You wouldn't guess what happened between Brandon and Sarah!”, Shannon said, playfully.

Amelia smiled, “I can not guess, what did the most popular couple in school do?”

Shannon about laughed at the look on my face when I said that, I was getting really tired of this popular couple and it was practically driving me bananas!

She looked apologetically at me, "I'm sorry. I wasn't thinking."

Amelia faked annoyance, "Hey, you keep on forgetting! That's my specialty."

Shannon giggled, "You're so funny, you know that?"

Amelia looked down at the street, "Yeah, I get that a lot."

They walked in silence for a little while, Amelia was thinking back on that day at school and she noticed something, everybody was acting like they were avoiding her.

She glanced over at Shannon, "Um, Shan.... Am I a freak?"

Shannon looked shocked, "No! You're not a freak! Why would you think such a thing?"

Amelia sighed, shouldering her backpack; "It just felt like everybody was avoiding me for some reason.... I guess it was just me, huh?"

She had been treated like that all her life, like she had a big sign on her that said, `Hey, stay away! Cursed and it will rub off!' and she was getting really tired of it and it was really making her think that maybe she is a freak or something or that her life had some sort of big meaning to it that no one else had.

What was really weird was her ability to hear what someone was going to say before they said it, feeling somebody else's feelings and knowing someone's true motives before they did anything.

Sometimes...she would even hear people talking....



Sometimes, she wished that she could just disappear...

"You know, you can't escape it, little princess."

She gasped as she opened her eyes and saw a black-cloaked person in front of her.

She looked around for Shannon, frantically, "Shannon! Shannon! Where are you?"

She heard a low hissing noise and she realized that it was coming from the person, "Your birth can not be prevented now, so...I'll have to deal with you in another way."

Amelia felt fear as cold as ice flow over her, "What? What are you talking about?"

She gasped as the dark cloaked man vanished and quickly reappeared right in front of her, it's cloak gone and white hair falling in her face, obscuring her vision of the person's face as it grabbed her chin and sneered, "You'll find out soon enough, my little princess."

She screamed as she felt pain pierce her body.

She snapped open her eyes and she was face to face with David, except it wasn't David.

She could tell that any shred of humanity that he had, had been stripped away and his eyes had turned an inky black, his skin icy cold as he grabbed her neck.

She flinched away, trying to break free as he pulled back her hair and he stared at her neck almost as if in hunger as he traced a circle on the side of her neck, "The Moon of Shadow."

Amelia gasped, "My.... birthmark?"

David nodded, "Yes...I want to drink..."

Amelia gulped in fear, "Can I get you something to drink?"

David snarled and Amelia screamed as he bared his fangs, diving for her throat.

She was in a state of shock as the next thing she knew there was a splat, wet noise and David's face twitched, blood running out of his eyes and nose.

His head fell off.

Amelia screamed as David's headless body fell to the floor in a bloody heap and his head stared up at her with accusing black eyes.

Then she felt something hit her face, hard!

She went hurling through the air, hitting the cabinets in the kitchen and she vaguely remembered hearing and feeling her ribs crack as she slammed into the wall.

Through all of this, she felt nothing and she couldn't hear anything.

She dazedly looked around the room and she gasped as her eyes looked upon the most gorgeous sight she had ever seen in all her life.

And what the most astounding thing was, this man hits her, acts like he doesn't give a care if she lives or not, his sword ready to thrust through her and all she could think about was how gorgeous he was!

He was standing in front of her, looking down at her with a drawn and disdain look on his face almost like he was royalty, his eyes were raven black but she could see it waver to deep green and back, his hair was waist length, raven black with white stripes through it and his face was beautiful.

He had a white tight shirt on with a black rose on the chest, thorns around the sleeves and neck and he had on black pants, black boots finishing the outfit perfectly.

She shook her head as she thought to herself, "How can you think about the way this guy looks and the way he's dressed when he's about to drive his sword through you!? Amelia, you are crazy!"

She could've swooned at the voice that came from the man's lips, if it wasn't for the words that he spoke, "You have seen too much to live. I am sorry but.... I must kill you."

Amelia tried vainly to get up but her broken or bruised ribs sent pain throughout her body as she moaned and looked away, waiting for the feel of steel slicing her head off.

She heard a crash and she jumped at the loud noise, looking up to see Sean with Megan by his side, as always and he was looking down at the man, his eyes burning with hate as he growled, "How could you? You can't kill her without my consent! And anyway, this is my mission, not yours!"

Amelia was wide-eyed at the conversation that unwrapped before her as the man jumped up from the ground, his wavering eyes turning totally black as he snarled, "I knew that there was a girl behind this! That's why you couldn't kill the monster cause of that girl!"

Amelia was dazed as Sean glanced at her and back at the man, "I was about to complete the mission and return home."

The man's eyes were glistening as he shot back, "When was you going to kill him, huh? The next century?"

Their conversation was interrupted as Shannon screamed from the doorway to the kitchen, "Oh, my! There's so much blood! Amelia! Amelia, are you okay?"

Amelia dumbly nodded her head as Shannon kneeled in front of her, holding her hand, "It's going to be okay. We'll get you to a doctor."

Amelia couldn't see anything but blackness for a few minutes and then the next thing that she remembered was Sean was carrying her in his arms, "We've got to get her to our doctors. Vampire doctors are skilled in their work; she'll be fine with them. I'll make sure of it."

The last thing she remembered thinking was, 'Vampire...' then everything went black.

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The first thing Amelia saw when she woke up was Sean, his blue eyes looked scared and worried, "Can you hear me, Amelia? Are you feeling okay?"

Amelia weakly smiled, "Yeah.... I'm okay. I think."

Sean smiled, relieved, "I'm so happy to hear that."

She was about to say something when Megan came barging into the room and she was saying in her whiny, screeching voice, "Selena said that you're going to keep the human here! That's impossible! You wouldn't do that, would you, Prince Atherin?"

Amelia looked at Megan like she had said that Sean was Elvis or something as she continued to rattle on to Sean who was looking at Amelia, his eyes boring into hers as she stared wide-eyed at Megan.

He stopped Megan's rattling by hissing in a stern voice that he hardly ever uses to Amelia, unless she wasn't listening to him and he wanted her to be quiet, "I told you to keep quiet about our business in front of Amelia, Chelsea! Now leave us!"

Megan couldn't seem to take a hint as she batted her eyelashes at him and put that puppy dog face on that she always used to get her way with him, "But I want to stay! I want to see you tell her who you really are. You are not her brother and you never will be!"

Amelia could feel tears come to her eyes as Megan or is it Chelsea's words sunk in.

If he wasn't Sean then...that meant that.... everything that he said, everything that he was, everything that he told her and everything he had been to her was a lie.

She didn't have anyone.

She didn't even register the sound of a hard slap and Atherin snapping, "Hold your tongue, you yapping lunatic! Now leave!" as she flinched from the sound of a door slamming and her eyes overflowed with tears as she whispered, "You're not Sean?"

Atherin sat down behind her, putting his arms around her as he pulled her against him and rocked her back and forth like he always did when she was scared or sad and he whispered, "I was Sean but...I'm Atherin now."

She sobbed, "I'm all alone now."

Atherin stopped rocking her and he bent down, looking into her eyes as he smiled sadly at her, "But... I haven't changed. I still love you just as much as I did just a hour ago. Even if you disown me now after you know the truth, I'll always consider you as my sister."

Amelia was confused as she asked the question that had been bothering her ever since she heard his new name, "But... how are you Sean and Atherin? You can't be both."

Atherin let Amelia go and he leaned back from her, his eyes searching hers as he tried to explain, "I was Sean but I was changed. I am a Vampire now and my name is Atherin."

Amelia shook her head, not wanting to believe, "How could you be a Vampire? There is no such thing and anyway, how could such a creature of darkness be so nice and considerate as you are?"

Atherin looked hurt by her words, as he sadly smiled, "You still don't believe, do you? After the fight, the fangs...how can you not believe?"

Amelia shook her head, starting to cry again, "I can't! You can't be a Vampire, you just can't!"

She felt Atherin's arms around her once more, he had a hand on her throat and not even a feeling of fear or doubt entered her mind at the position they were in after he had said that he was a Vampire, all that mattered to her was Sean.

She felt his other arm move from her shoulders to her back as he lightly brushed back her hair and he outlined her birthmark with his finger as he slowly said, "I guess I'll have to show you how I feed then."

At the word `feed', Amelia felt the first trace of fear as she felt his grip tighten on her neck and back, pulling her towards him, "Sean...."

Atherin smiled gently, trying to reassure her as he explained to her, "This is the only way I can show you that I am a Vampire and it will not hurt very much if you won't struggle."

Amelia gasped as his eyes turned black, "I won't hurt you, Amelia."

Amelia tried to relax, trusting that Sean wouldn't hurt her as she closed her eyes and waited for fangs to pierce her skin.

She felt like a comforting blanket had been thrown over her as she heard Atherin's voice in her mind, "Shhh, it's okay. Just relax, Amelia."

She relaxed but she couldn't stop the flinch as he sank his fangs into her neck, right where her birthmark was and she felt a little pain but when she made herself relax she felt less pain and it almost felt good in a weird sort of way.

It felt like she was falling through the air, almost flying as she felt tingling in her shoulders.

Then she felt something that she didn't think even Atherin was prepared for as she connected with his mind!

She could hear every thought that he was thinking; every feeling and she could see every dream.

Even memories.

Before she could look at his memories, she felt herself coming back and she gasped as the pain from him sliding his fangs out of her neck went through her body.

She felt dizzy and disoriented as Atherin pulled her into his arms again.

She asked, "Why did you stop me...from looking at your memories, Atherin?"

Atherin seemed to stiffen against her as he growled, "I don't think you'd like to know my memories, Amelia."

Amelia smiled slightly as she looked up at Atherin who was looking down at her, a look of love and concern on his face, "You're my brother. Why wouldn't I be interested in your life?"

She yawned as she placed her head on his chest, falling into sleep as he whispered in her ear, a very old custom of his, "Thanks, little sis."





## 4 - Marry? Him???

### Chapter Three

Amelia groaned as she slowly opened her eyes and looked around.

She was still in the dark, black room that she had been in with Sean and Megan.

Amelia silently reprimanded herself, 'They're not Sean and Megan. They're Atherin and Chelsea.'

She paused as she reached up to her shoulder and felt of her birthmark and the teeth marks where Atherin's fangs had slipped into her neck, "They're Vampires too."

She didn't have any more time to contemplate her situation as she heard a creaking noise at the far side of the room.

Amelia sat up and smiled at the little face that peered around the corner of the door at her, "Hello."

The door swung open wider and a little girl with blonde curly hair, deep green eyes and a big smile on her face walked in with a tray in her arms, "I brought you some food!"

Amelia yawned as she stretched and sat on the edge of the bed, taking the tray from the little girl who handed it to her, "Thank you."

The little girl shyly smiled, "Your welcome, miss Amelia."

Amelia was in the middle of chewing on a piece of bread and she looked long at the girl, "How do you know my name?"

The little girl giggled, "My brother, Atherin told me."

Amelia about choked as she asked the girl, "Atherin's your brother?"

The girl laughed, probably from the look of shock on Amelia's face as she answered, "Yep, he's my older brother but he's not the oldest. Sorrow's my oldest brother and he's the King."

Amelia about fainted on that one as she asked, in a whisper, "Are you and Atherin, a princess and prince?"

The girl nodded, "Yep."

Amelia about dropped the tray as she looked up at the ceiling and closed her eyes, "This is all a dream! When I wake up it will all go away!"

The little girl cocked her head in curiosity as she asked, "Are you okay?"

Amelia sighed as she thought to herself, 'Well, I guess I should just face the facts. I've been swept away into a dark world of Vampires and creatures even darker.'

She looked back down at the little girl, 'And it's very real.'

Amelia sighed, "I'm as fine as anyone in my situation would be."

Amelia laid the tray down on the bed and stood up, about falling down in the process but she smiled at the little girl, "Well, I guess I should get to know everybody since I have a funny feeling that I'll be staying here for a little while. So, what's your name?"

The little girl giggled and hopped up and down, in obvious excitement, "Rose! My name is Rose! I'm so glad to meet you!"

Amelia couldn't help but laugh at Rose's burst of energy and joy, "Well, I'm glad to meet you too."

Rose squealed, "Can we play tag? I love playing tag! Can we, can we???"

Amelia nodded as she shrugged, "Sure! Why not? I've got nothing better to do."

Rose ran forward and lightly touched her on the elbow, "Tag! You're it! Haha!"

Rose was a lot faster than Amelia and she could tell that the little girl was holding back for her but it was still fun, it was a great way to get out all that frustrated energy.

Amelia was leaning on the door, panting, "I...think...I've had enough...Rose."

Rose stuck out her lip, her green eyes pouting with her as she stuck her hands behind her pink and red dress, "Aww, do we have to?"

Amelia felt like she was going to faint from exhaustion as she gasped, "I'll.... play again.... later.... okay...Eeeek!"

All of a sudden, she was falling backwards and she closed her eyes, turning herself around, flinging her arms out, preparing herself for impact with the floor.

She was quit surprised when she flung her arms around something cold and she slowly opened one eye.

She was shocked to see something black, she heard a light chuckle and she looked up.

She was wide-eyed as she was met with dark, emerald green eyes, "Miss me?"

She was shocked as she realized that she had her arms around him and she quickly jumped back, she snapped, "I would be happy if I never seen YOU again!"

He still had that cold, aloof look on his face as he laughed, "Amusing."

She could feel steam coming out of her ears as she yelled, "What's amusing?"

He just grinned as he curled a strand of his black and white hair around his finger, "Yes, very amusing."

Amelia couldn't decide which way to murder him, take that sword that he was going to skewer her with before and slice his throat or just strangle him with his own blasted hair!

She had just decided on strangling him since he was acting like he loved his hair to death but she was shocked from all thoughts as his face changed to a scared almost worried look for a second but it quickly changed back to the hard, cold mask as he looked over Amelia's shoulder, "What are you doing here?"

Amelia couldn't tell if she was frustrated or relieved that the man's attention was distracted from her as he walked around her.

She turned around to see the man glaring down at Rose, "You know you aren't supposed to be here."

Rose looked like she was a frightened rabbit and the wolf had found her hiding place, "I know. It's forbidden but I wanted to come see the girl that Atherin is always talking about. If Atherin likes her then she's surely not all that bad, right Sorrow?"

Amelia gasped and talked before she could stop herself, "You're Atherin's.... brother?"

She clapped her hands over her mouth as Sorrow spun around, his eyes turning black and the tip of his fangs were showing as he growled, "Yes, I am. And what does that mean to you? Nothing!"

Amelia still had her hands clamped over her mouth as he turned back to Rose and whispered something, obviously in control of that cold façade again as he turned around and walked toward Amelia, his eyes back to green as he grabbed her sleeve and pulled her through the door, "Come on. Atherin sent me to fetch you."

Amelia got over her shock very quickly as she jerked out of Sorrow's grasp and she glared at the Vampire, "I can walk by myself, thank you!"

Sorrow growled, "Fine!"

He walked through the door and headed down the hallway outside.

Amelia smiled in satisfaction as she turned around and grinned at Rose, "We'll talk some more later, okay?"

Rose brightened up, a big smile on her face, "That would be great!"

Amelia waved at her as she walked after Sorrow.

Sorrow was waiting for her down at the end of the long, dark hallway and his eyes were hard as ice as he growled, "What took you so long? I was waiting for you for ten minutes!"

Amelia was gasping for air as she snapped, "I can't help it! You walk too fast! Let me refresh your memory, you're a Vampire and I'm a human! Vampires are faster than HUMANS!"

She squeaked as he bent down, picked her up and smiled at her obvious dislike of the situation that she was in, "Well, then we'll run."

Amelia was about to protest when he started running.

She was in shock as the next minute, they were outside this big, jeweled doorway and she was facedown on the ground.

She jumped up as she yelled, "You...YOU...YOU!!!!!!!"

Sorrow reached forward and opened the door, "After you."

She couldn't believe it!

It was like this jerk wanted to see how far he could go before she got totally ticked off at him, well...he was getting very close!

She growled as she stepped forward and put her hand on the other door, "I can open my own doors, Mister Etiquette!"

She pushed at the door and she was surprised, as it didn't budge!

Amelia threw her whole weight at the door but it still didn't budge!

She was in the process of pushing it with her knees but she stopped as she heard that irritating light chuckle, "I suggest you use this door."

She glared at him as he nodded at the door that he had held open for her, "I'd rather die!"

Sorrow smirked, "That can be arranged."

"You know, you're a big pain in the butt!"



"I guess I am, aren't I?"

"Jerk!"

"Um, we're going to be late for the meeting."

She stopped pushing on the door and stomped through the open door, her eyes sending daggers Sorrow's way, "I dislike you."

Sorrow's eyes sparkled, "My feelings exactly."

When Amelia looked around the room full of Vampires, she about ran right out the door again as they all turned black eyes on her, the tips of their fangs showing and they were all dressed in black or gray.

She weakly smiled at them, "Um, hello, hehe."

She noticed that the majority of the Vampires were staring at her neck and she could feel tingles of fear run up and down her spine, "Um, why are they all staring at me like that?"

Sorrow was standing behind her and by the tone of his voice, he was having fun with making her feel like she was the most stupidest person to ever walk the earth, "You idiot, you're wearing a red shirt, that's why."

She looked down at her ruby red shirt and she gasped, "I am so dead..."

She was still shocked so she just stood there, her eyes wide as she saw the black eyes getting closer and she could just feel their fangs in her flesh sucking her dry of all her life's blood.

She vaguely heard Sorrow grumbling, "They've put her under their mind control! And I thought things couldn't get any worse!"

She quickly was brought back into focus as she felt something wipe the darkness from her mind and her vision as Sorrow slapped her, his voice a low grumble as he squeezed her shoulders with his other hand, "You, snap out of it!"

Amelia groaned, "What happened?"

Amelia was speechless as Sorrow slipped off his black shirt and handed it to her, "Put this on. At least most of the color will be covered up."

She quickly grabbed the shirt from him and slipped it over her head, "Um, thank you."

Sorrow looked back at his dazed subjects and back at her, "Don't thank me. If it was under normal circumstances, I would've let them drink you dry."

Amelia was confused, "Under normal circumstances?"

Sorrow smirked, tangling his fingers in his hair again as he growled, "Wouldn't you like to know."

Amelia was dumbfounded; Sorrow was the most gorgeous person she had ever laid eyes on.

His eyes were the deepest green she had ever seen, his long raven black hair mixed with snow white and his ivory white skin...

Her thoughts were interrupted as Sorrow snarled, "You're late! Where have you been?"

She panicked as she felt an arm around her shoulders but she relaxed as Atherin smiled down at her, "I was delayed."

Atherin looked at Sorrow's shirt on Amelia and he smirked at Sorrow, "Okay, what's with this?"

Amelia blushed as Sorrow growled, "It's not what you think! You kind of forgot to tell her that red is not a good color to wear around Vampires and well", he glared at her as he said the last part of the sentence, "anybody who has a brain could figure it out though."

She snapped, "You insolent...."

Atherin smiled, "You two are getting along quit well."

Sorrow and Amelia both said at the same time, "We are not!"

Atherin pulled Amelia along as he walked down to the outskirts of the Vampire throng, "Welcome brothers and sisters."

Amelia jumped as all of the Vampires in one voice said, "Welcome, King Sorrow and Prince Atherin."

Atherin nudged Amelia toward the crowd and he said, "This my friends, is the Maid of the Moon. The birthmark is where it should be. Look if you must."

Amelia stood, wide-eyed as the Vampires pressed around her, their eyes scanning her neck and they nodded their heads in approval about something.

It was making Amelia nervous.

After they had all looked her over, she heard Atherin speak, "The Maid of the Moon is the one who shall save us from the ones who have fallen to darkness. She shall bring peace and prosperity to our kingdom but most of all...."

Amelia didn't know if she liked this 'most of all' thing, what was the Maid of the Moon anyway, what do they want with her, what are they going to do with her if she isn't this Maid thingy and why were they all looking at her like she was some sort of queen or something?

She listened to Atherin as he continued, "She shall join with a Vampire king as the prophecy proclaims and they shall bear a half Vampire-half human son! He shall be the strongest King ever!"

This was getting way scary!

Her, be a Queen, marry a Vampire.... NO WAY!!!!!!!!!!!!

And bearing the son is definitely NOT going to happen!!

She turned around from the gasping crowd and she about died as Atherin grabbed Sorrow's bare shoulder and loudly said, "This is the chosen king! I know he is!"

Atherin looked at Amelia and all she could think about as Sorrow brushed Atherin's hand off his shoulder with an obvious look of distaste in his eyes that she was going to kill herself before she married HIM!!!

Of all the people.... no, Vampires in the world, It had to be HIM!!!

She thought she was going to sink into the floor as all of it sank in, why Atherin had stayed with her all her life, why they had brought her down here and why she had that moon sign on her neck!

She was the Moon Maiden!

She vaguely heard Atherin yell over the crowd's gasps of surprise and reverence, "We shall have a ball in celebration of our Maiden's coming! Let's rejoice!"

All of the Vampires cheered as all of the men pressed up to Sorrow and all of the women headed towards Amelia.

Amelia gritted her teeth as they all stopped just a few yards from her, they acted like they were wary of her and how she would react as they all looked nervously at each other and back to her.

Amelia smiled but down inside she was screaming, "Get away from me!!!"

There was one girl who stepped out, her eyes were dark black, apparently that was her true color because it didn't flicker like Sorrow's had when he had first met her, her hair was gray and her skin was a pale creamy color, "Welcome, Maiden. I hope your stay is very comfortable. My name is Selena."

Amelia choked out, "Um, hello. My name is Amelia. It's very nice to meet you."

The rest of the women all walked up as she said her name.

At the fifteenth greeting, she looked over at Sorrow, who was looking on coldly as the men all bantered about him, not really talking to him and she smiled, sadly as she thought to herself, 'He probably hates this idea as much as I do.'

It all felt like a nightmare that she would never wake up from.

## 5 - Cat Fight and Info about the Vampire's Shapeshifti

### Chapter Four

After the crowd had disappeared, well, there was still a small crowd around Atherin and Sorrow but most of the big vast room full of Vampires was vacated, Amelia walked slowly up to Atherin.

She about jumped three feet in the air as she felt a hand on her shoulder and a light voice in her ear, "You're a flighty creature, aren't you?"

Amelia turned around and was face to face with a sky blue eyed, red haired Vampire.

His smile was gentle but menacing in a weird sort of way.

Amelia gulped, "Um, well, it's my first time at a meeting surrounded by.....Vampires."

She had almost said 'Slimy and insolent creatures' but she had stopped herself and chose the milder word for how she saw them.

They were blood sucking creatures to her and they always will be.

She gasped as the Vampire grabbed her hand and wryly smiled, "Well, I hope you'll feel more comfortable around us since you have me as your bodyguard, miss."

He bent down and kissed her hand, making her tremble from the cold soft touch of his lips.

She snapped awake from the reverie she was in and she quickly took her hand back from the Vampire, her usual anger covering up her embarrassment, "How dare you kiss me!"

The Vampire smirked, "What I did is a custom here. You'd better get used to it, miss Amelia."

Amelia was about to leave but the Vampire continued, "Oh, I'm so impolite. My name is Deklin. Deklin McQueen. Not like most Vampires, I don't change my name when I'm changed. I am proud of my Irish name and I always will be."

At the mention of when Vampires are changed, Amelia smiled, "Um, can you tell me about the Vampires and what they are? Since you seem to know a lot about them."

Deklin grinned, "It might be because I am one, little miss."

Amelia frowned, "Cut the sarcasm, please."

Deklin shrugged, "As you wish. Now what do you want to know about us?"

Amelia looked around until she spotted two chairs in the corner near the door where Atherin and Sorrow were talking to two women and a man.



She smiled at Deklin, "I'll be right back."

She walked up to the chairs, started to pull them towards Deklin and she would've made it without someone seeing her if it wasn't for the giggling woman whom Amelia used to call Megan, who looked over at her and said, really loudly, "What are you doing?"

That got everybody's attention and all of their eyes were on her as she was bent down in a very undignified manner, trying to pull the chairs over to Deklin.

She blushed furiously as Chelsea started to cackle like a Hyena, laughing on Atherin's shoulder, the grey haired woman named Selena looked on with an air of superiority as she clinged to Sorrow's chest, who didn't seem to mind at all but Atherin was definitely not liking Chelsea's attentions.

The white haired Vampire smirked then left, a look of amusement and curiosity in his eyes.

Amelia stopped trying to pull the chairs and stomped up to Chelsea, fury taking over her embarrassment again!

She made a mental note that after she had told Chelsea off that she was going to have to work on that rage mentality of hers but right now, she didn't give a care if she hurt Chelsea's feelings or not.

Amelia growled, "What do you think I'm doing?"

Chelsea was still in the process of giggling her head off and she squealed, "I don't know. Seeing how far you can throw the chair? Hahaha!"

Amelia couldn't stand it any longer!

“Okay, that's it! I didn't think that you could get any more annoying than you already were but I guess you proved me wrong. You're a stupid, cackling Hyena!”

Amelia gasped as she realized that the words were coming out of her mouth!

The hall was silent as the four Vampires looked on, in silence.

Chelsea looked like she wanted to wring Amelia's neck, Atherin looked shocked and Selena looked as calm as ever but there was a dangerous flickering in her black eyes that Amelia spelled as trouble.

What really surprised Amelia was Sorrow's face.

His eyes, always cold and hard were almost smiling at her.

She glanced at where Selena was and gasped as she noticed that she was gone.

She felt a light tapping on her shoulder.

She slightly turned around and she instinctively closed her eyes as Selena's fist slammed into her face, knocking her back into someone who kept her from falling on the floor.

Amelia coughed as blood filled her nostrils and mouth, choking her as she struggled to get up and open her eyes.

She coughed, "You....disgusting..."

She felt a arm around her and she tried to pull away, desperately wanting to get at Selena.

Amelia stopped struggling when she heard that light, irritating chuckle in her ear, "Well, well, well...you are a little panther, aren't you?"

Now she was undecided.

Who to punch, Miss Strike-her-in-the-Back-While-She-Isn't-Looking or Mr. I'm-Beautiful-And-You-Know-It?

She was about to decide on the latter when Selena's voice broke through her contemplation and her words definetly decided the outcome of her decision, "How dare you insult my sister, you filthy wench! And I saw you stareing at the King in a filthy manner! You're a disgrace and I will never accept you as my Queen or the Maiden of the Moon! Just the sight of you makes my skin crawl."

Amelia's eyes snapped open, her vision was blurry but she could make out shapes and she smirked as a plan formed in her mind.

She grinned, "Well, that was all very complimentary and all but....you forgot one thing."

Selena growled from somewhere in front of her, "Say it while you still have a tongue."

"Well, I'm a lot prettier then you and I don't hit like a wuss!"

She heard a growl and she heard a snap from somewhere beside her and Amelia guessed it was Atherin, "Stop it, Selena! She's blind for Heaven's sake!"

Amelia's head snapped to where she heard approaching footsteps and she slipped out of Sorrow's arms, "Come on, you Vampire wench!"

She saw a blur in the corner of her eye, launched herself sideways and she elbowed Selena in the side, bringing her other arm around to slam it into her face with all the strength that she had!

She heard a growl of frustration and a thud.

Amelia jumped back, expecting Selena to jump up and attack her.

Selena whispered from somewhere on the ground, "You're a formidable opponent but we shall fight another time, when you can see and are prepared."

She felt someone grab ahold of her from behind and she struggled slightly but relaxed when she heard Atherin's voice, "I'm taking you to your room, okay?"

Amelia nodded, "Okay."

She was carried all the way to her room and she tried to clear her eyes by blinking a few times but it was not working.

She whispered, "Um, Atherin...is it just you and me in the room?"

Atherin answered, "For a little while, yes. But I called for someone who can heal your eyes, your nose

and mouth. She shall be here shortly. And Deklin is outside the door but I don't think he will come in without permission.”

Amelia reached out her arms, trying to feel where Atherin was and she heard his footsteps come from across the room to where she was, grabbing ahold of her hands, “What is it, Sis?”

Amelia was really unnerved about not being able to see, it was about to drive her insane!

She hated not knowing what was going on around her, where she was and the reaction on people's faces when they talked but she pushed on anyway, “I want...to know everything. Why I am here, what's going to happen to me now, what's the Moon Maiden and what are Vampires?”

There was a long silence and she squeezed Atherin's hands in encouragement as she smiled, “You can tell me. It's not going to freak me out or anything, I mean I am sooo past the stage of freaked out right now, hehe.”

Atherin sighed, “I guess I'll have to explain it to you sooner or later. I guess now would be the best time then any.”

She felt him sit down on the bed beside her, his arm around her and his other hand still in hers, “I'll start with the basics. What we are. Alright?”

Amelia was scared, scared to hear the truth and what the future held for her but at the same time, she was curious and excited, she had always wanted to be a part of something big and important and she had been given her chance.

She took in a deep breath and slowly let it out, “Okay, I'm listening.”

Atherin began to tell his ancestor's story.

“Vampires are not like people see us as. Some people see us as cold blooded killers, who hunt after people to drink their blood and leave them for dead. Well, I guess they are partially true for that was the way we once were, pillaging and killing just for the fun of it and making some humans our slaves so we could have a constant supply of blood by our sides.

But there arose a Vampire noble who's name was Arkane who lived with the humans peaceably, taking their blood when they wanted him to but they always had a price for him, like keeping their flocks safe by killing Werewolves and other such small tasks that were hard for humans but small, insignificant tasks for us. He was considered the protector of the people and most of the Vampires followed his ways, the ways of peace and harmony but there were some who disagreed.

Another Vampire noble named Raven who got his name from the rumor that his soul and heart was as black as the Raven's feathers. He had no care of mortal's lives or cares and he killed them at his own whim. He had a lot of followers also.

Meanwhile, Arkane had found a Mortal woman named Charlotte who's family had been attacked and slaughtered by Werewolves. He took pity on her and took care of her. Well, as time went by, he fell in love with her and that is something that no Vampire has ever done before. Find true love, I mean.

Raven heard of this and he went to see if it was true. When he found out that the rumors were definitely true, he found the King of the Werewolves, Shianna and he struck a bargain with him, he infects Arkane with their curse and he shall kill the woman. The Werewolf King agreed, he hated Arkane for killing his kindred, he wanted revenge and if there was any way to hurt a Vampire's pride and that's to scar them with the curse of the Werewolf.

One night, when Arkane left his precious Charlotte to go help a family who was plagued with Werewolves, Raven slaughtered her in her sleep and he left the mark of the Raven on the wall above her head.

When Arkane found the family, he noticed that the Wolf King himself was there but it was too late to back out because the King had seen him. Arkane fought with all his might but Shianna bit him right before Arkane sliced his throat with his silver dagger.

He went running back to Charlotte but he was too late. He changed into a Werewolf in his grief and cried his heart out to the moon, his hurt heart never healing.

It is like this till this day. Arkane's descendants have been hunting down Raven's descendants still cursed to this day to change to the cursed Werewolf every full moon and cry their great ancestor's pain to the world.”

Amelia was shocked, “That's....that's a terrible story. The poor Vampire. It's almost like I can feel his pain when he saw Charlotte dead and he cried out to the moon. Is that natural?”

Atherin had a weird tone to his voice when he said these next few words and Amelia wished that she could see his face, “It's not unnatural....because she was your Ancestor. She was the first of the Moon Maidens.”

Amelia gasped, “What?!”

Atherin continued, “It's true. That's why he was drawn to her and every Vampire King is drawn to them. The Moon Maiden has been destined since the dawn of time to bear a child of a Vampire King and her son can either bring Peace or Destruction. It depends on who gets her first.”

Amelia was not liking the way Atherin's voice was kind of wavery when he said that, “For some reason, I don't think I want to know who this other person is who can get me first.”

Atherin squeezed her hands, “The Fallen One's King. Raven's descendant can also wed the Moon Maiden but it must be of her own free will. That's why there hasn't been any children from the Moon Maiden, most of them refuse to be wed to either Vampire King and most of them have been destroyed by Raven's kin.”

Amelia asked him the one question that had been bothering her all the time he had been telling the story, “Um, so.....does that mean that, Sorrow is Arkane's descendant?”

Atherin answered, "Yes, he is. But don't tell him that you know that he's a Werewolf."

Amelia was confused, "Why?"

He seemed to be confused at why she would ask why Sorrow would be ashamed, "Vampires and Werewolves are bitter enemies and it's considered a dishonor for a Vampire to be plagued by the curse."

Amelia asked, "So, does that mean, since you and Rose are his brother and sister, do you both change to Werewolves too?"

Atherin snorted, apparently in disgust at the thought, "Thank heavens, no! Me and Rose are half brother and sister to Sorrow. His mother was our mother but thankfully she wasn't the one with the curse on her."

Amelia let her head hang down in exhaustion, "I see. So, I'm the Moon Maiden and you're all expecting me to accept Sorrow as my husband, bear a son of peace and be your Queen. You don't expect a lot from people do you?"

Amelia could hear a smile in Atherin's voice as he laughed, "Not very much at all."

He sighed, "Oh, Amelia. I'm so sorry that I thrust this all upon you but I had to. I...."

He stopped talking as Amelia heard the door open and little footsteps approached the bed, a small voice asked, "You called for me, brother?"



Atherin answered, "Hello little Bunny, how are you?"

Rose answered, "Fine! It doesn't look like Amelia's okay though."

Atherin whispered, "I need you to heal her for me. Her eyes have been blinded, her nose has been broken and I think her jaw may be out of place. You think you can handle it or do you need some help?"

Amelia was starting to panic at the thought of her life in a little kid's hands as she answered, "It'll be a piece of cake. Can you lay back for me Amelia?"

Amelia nodded as she leaned back on the bed, feeling Atherin's hands guiding her all the way down as she asked Atherin, trying to keep her cool, "How did you call her to heal me?"

Atherin answered from beside her, "It's called Telepathy. Vampires have that ability and some certain abilities are stronger than others like Rose's ability is healing, mine is persuasion and Sorrow's is light magic and the Warrior's way."

Atherin continued as Amelia felt her body slowly becoming numb and she could feel tingling sensations all over her face and hand, the one she had punched Selena with, "We also can shapeshift. We all have certain two animals that represent our heart and spirit, sometimes they are like our parent's animals. Mine are the Rattlesnake and the Hawk. My mother's animal had been the Snake and the Hawk represents my spirit.

Rose's animals are a Rabbit which represents her spirit and the Cat represents our father's animal. Sorrow's animals are a black Stag that represents his spirit and a white Wolf that is his father's animal and had been Arkane's animal also and his curse."

She could barely keep her eyes open as she yawned, "That's....so cool."

Atherin whispered, "Go to sleep, Amelia. Rest and heal yourself."

Amelia fought a little bit longer but she stopped as she felt herself slip into a warm blanket of sleep and rest.

But her dreams were plagued by a White Wolf, its eyes glowed Amber and she could hear its voice screaming in her ear, "My love! My Charlotte is dead! Why is life so cruel?! WHY?! WHY?!"

She tried to comfort it but it left, howling into the night its endless cry of pain and heartbreak.

She cried along with the wolf as it screamed its tearful song.

## 6 - The Ball and Meeting Arkane

### Chapter Five

Amelia's eyes ached as she slowly opened them and she quickly sat up in her bed, in the same small, dark room that she had been in that morning.

She felt of her nose, seeing if it was still broken and sighed as it didn't bend under her fingers and she closed and opened her mouth to see if it was still out of place.

Everything was alright. Rose had healed her.

She smiled, "Thanks, Rose."

At that moment, Rose came barging through the door, laughing, "Sorrow, leave me alone, haha!"

Amelia choked as Sorrow followed Rose through the door, a genuine smile on his face and his eyes were shining with laughter, "I won't! Not until you clean up.....your room...."

He was looking at Amelia, a shocked look on his face that she felt probably mirrored her own at the moment as she grinned at him, "Hello."

Sorrow mumbled, "Hello."

Rose leaped at Amelia, still laughing, "Hello Amelia! Are you feeling better?"

Amelia grabbed Rose and hugged her tightly as she wrapped her arms around her, "Yep, I'm all better. But it's all because of you! Thank you!"

Rose giggled, "You're welcome."

Amelia looked up at Sorrow, who was watching his sister with a wary look on his face when Rose whispered in her ear, "Who did it? Was it Selena? She's always picking fights with the girls who get too close to my brothers, especially Sorrow."

Amelia nodded, "Yep, it was Selena."

Rose jumped off of her lap and jabbed a few punches at an invisible foe, "I hope you got a few punches in! Did ya, did ya?"

Amelia laughed, "Yeah, I elbowed her in the side and punched her in the face."

Rose made a face, "Oh, that's why she had that big black bruise on her face when she came to visit us last night, isn't it, Sorrow?"

Amelia glanced at Sorrow, who had a big smile on his face, "Yeah, a big bruise."

Amelia blushed as Sorrow winked at her, "That was a good hit, by the way."

She was shocked as she continued to blush furiously, "Um.....it was nothing, really."

Sorrow acted like he was going to say something else but was cut off by the door opening behind him and Atherin walked in, a line of women following him through the door and they were carrying lots of boxes and dresses.

Amelia watched Sorrow as his face changed back to the icy, dark and aloof, 'Sorrow Mask' that Amelia had come to call it as he glared at Atherin, who walked over to her side and kissed her lightly on the cheek, "How are you doing today, Amelia?"

Amelia smiled, "I'm feeling great!, she frowned though as she thought of what Atherin had said, Um, excuse me but....did you say, 'How are you doing, TODAY?' Isn't it the same day as when I came here? How long did I sleep?"

Atherin explained, "You've been under Rose's healing trance all night and for a day now. It's evening right now and in a few hours the ball will begin."

He waved his hand at the women behind him, "That's why I've brought these women, so you can pick what you want to wear to the ball tonight."

Amelia smiled, nervously, "Um, okay. Thanks."

Atherin nodded at her and turned back to Sorrow, "Now, you must leave and get ready yourself. You'll be able to see Amelia tonight."

She flinched as Sorrow growled, "I didn't come here to see her anyways. I came to make sure she didn't hurt Rose, that's all."

Atherin seemed amused, "Oh....really?"

Sorrow glared one last long glare at Atherin and he grabbed Rose's shoulder, pulling her out the door with him.

Atherin sighed as he turned back to Amelia and he explained, "I'll leave you to your new servants, so you can get ready for the ball. It will start in two hours and try to make it on time, please."

Amelia nodded, "Okay. Thank you, Atherin."

Atherin grinned, "You're very welcome. Now, I'd better go so I can get my council meetings done with before the ball starts. I'll see you then."

Amelia waved at him as he walked out the door, "Bye!"

She turned back to the women, who looked really anxious and submissive and she whispered, "I guess you'll be my servants from now on and well, I'm kinda new at this, so I hope you'll forgive me if I do something wrong."

Amelia slowly stood up as she asked, "Who's the head servant?"

A woman, who looked like she was in her early twenties, stepped forward and nodded, keeping her head bowed, "I am, miss. My name is Sheila."

Amelia nodded, "Nice to meet you. I'm Amelia. You don't have to call me, miss, just Amelia. Um.....I guess I should start looking at the dresses."

The women all picked up a dress and held them in front of her so she could inspect them, they also had matching jewelry that went with some of them also.

Amelia was kinda leaning towards the yellow and black dress with butterfly wings attached to the back.

She was about to choose but she stopped as all other dresses left her mind when Sheila held up the last dress in the line.

She whispered in awe, "It's....beautiful."

The dress was pure white, it was sleeveless, the neck was off the shoulders and it looked like it would be form fitting enough at the top without being too tight and it flowed loosely almost to the floor.

It had silver flecks in it with golden designs on the train of the dress of Crescent and Full Moons and Stars

The matching necklace and earrings was a long silver chain with a red stone in the middle of a Full Moon and the earrings were silver with twin stars one golden and one silver.

It had a matching Tiara that was silver with diamonds along the rim and a Crescent Moon with a star in the middle and the shoes were silver with silver flecks on it just like the dress.

She smiled, "I would like that one, please."

An hour later, she had the dress on and she quickly put on some makeup, clear, shiny lipgloss, some mascara and silver eye shadow.

She ran out of the bathroom, slipped on her shoes and she smiled at Sheila, "Do I look okay?"

Sheila smiled, approvingly, "You look very good, miss Amelia. Now, let us fix your hair."

Amelia quickly sat down in front of the mirror that the women set up, two women stood behind her and quickly began pulling her hair up into a sort of bun.

Amelia looked confused as she asked, "Um, what are you doing?"

The women put some hairpins in her hair and let the curly ends of her reddish blonde hair stay out at the top of the bun as Sheila answered, "We're doing an old custom. This is the way we have fixed the other moon maiden's hair. But your hair is the prettiest, by far."

Amelia nervously smiled, "Um, thanks. I'd better go. Thanks for helping me."

A woman ran up with a mirror and held it in front of Amelia, she gasped, "Is that me?!"

She looked like she had always pictured Cinderella looking like when she had gone to the ball to meet her Prince Charming.

Amelia smirked, "Well, it's more like Prince Pain-in-the-butt!"



All of the women looked quizzical as she laughed, walking toward the door, "I'd better go. It's almost time and I don't want to be late. I'll see you all later!"

All of the women bowed as she quickly walked out the door, startling Deklin as he whirled around from his post beside the door and he quickly relaxed, smiling, "Man, aren't you the beautiful lass of the ball tonight. I've seen some women walk down the hall but you're the most beautiful star amongst them all."

Amelia blushed, "Um, thanks. Can you show me where the ball is being held at? I don't know my way around yet."

Deklin beamed, "Sure! I'd love to."

Deklin held out his arm and she took it, smiling up at him as he led her down the hall, that she noticed had doors all down the hallway and there were guards beside them and she blinked as they walked out into a dome like building, "Um, what part of the place is this?"

Deklin looked amused, "It's not called a `place"! This is the underground dominion of the Vampires of the Moon, you should just be glad that you're not in the underground castle of the Vampires of the Dark. And this is the Dome of Arkane. In the center of the dome, Arkane's staff which never left his side until his death, resides. I'll show you."

Amelia tried not to trip on her dress as she stepped up onto the portal that rose out of the floor and she gasped as she looked on Arkane's staff.

It was white, some unknown language was written on it, carved in Amber and on the other side one line was carved in Ruby red, at the top it curved to where it looked like a Crescent moon, a star hung in the middle and a red stone that looked just like the one in her necklace was inbetween the star and the moon, like it was holding them together.

She squinted her eyes as she saw a wolf's head on the top tip of the Crescent moon and she whispered,

“What's the writings on the staff? Some sort of ancient language?”

She jumped as a deep, dark voice spoke beside her instead of Deklin's light hearty tone, “It is the Vampire language. It is very old and no one hardly ever uses it anymore, except for the Ancient ones which are very few if not any left.”

Amelia whirled around, looked into Sorrow's deep green eyes and she looked around for Deklin, “Where's Deklin? Where did he go?”

Sorrow started to twirl his index finger in his hair as he looked Amelia up and down, “I sent him away. You don't need him, I can show you where the ballroom is.”, he held his arm out, “Come.”

She didn't really know if he was commanding her or what but she didn't think about it as she lost herself in admiring him again.

She did that a lot! She was definitely going to have to work on her covering up her embarrassment with anger and openly admiring men complex!

His clothes were beautiful, a black suit which was tight around his chest and it became loose at the waist, long in the back, gold buttons on it, his pants were black with gold lining on them and to her embarrassment, they were tight, his whip was hanging on his hip and he had a white shirt under the black suit with ruffles on the end of the sleeves and a high collar.

He had a gold ring on his right hand with a emerald green jewel in the middle of it, in the shape of a rose, his necklace was a long gold chain with a green rose at the end and he had a gold earring in his left ear and it had a little green jewel in it.

His hair was pulled behind his left ear but the rest fell freely to his waist but his eyes were what entranced her the most.

He looked like something that had stepped out of the movie Emma or Sense and Sensibility.

Amelia had to admit.....he was gorgeous!

Sorrow smirked, his arm still held out, "Um, anytime now. Please."

Amelia shook herself and blushed as she grabbed his arm, trying not to look at him as he led her out of the dome into a hallway filled with candles and statues of Wolves, "This is the Hallway of Destiny but I prefer calling it the Hall of Tragedy."

Amelia looked confused as she looked up at Sorrow, "Why? Why do you consider it tragedy?"

Sorrow looked away from Amelia as he murmured, "The women look so sad and...the wolves....never mind."

Amelia walked silently with him down the hallway and they walked through a doorway at the end of the hall.

Sorrow spoke, "Now this, is the Congregation of The Stars."

Amelia let go of Sorrow's arm as she gazed up in wonder at the roof of the ballroom which was painted purple and black, like the sky at night but a promise of the sun about to rise and there were pinpricks of stars dusted across the blackness, a big yellowish-orange full moon amidst them all.

The room was huge, full of candles in sconces, the walls were golden with hints of white here and there, giant statues of Wolves, animals of every kind and Vampires filled the corners and lined the walls.

A big chandelier hung from the middle of the ceiling, glistening silver with gold and silver dew drops dangling from the stems, looking like they are about to drop onto the floor in wonderful, showering brilliance.

It was beautiful!

She smiled, "It's....It's beautiful! I've never seen anything so breathtaking before! Who painted the ceiling?"

She was surprised as someone put their arms around her waist and whispered in her ear, "Why Sorrow did, of course."

She stiffened as she tried to pull away from the unwanted embrace but whoever it was, was not letting go, she whispered, "Please let me go."

Whoever it was, sneered and pulled her tighter into the embrace, "Do you honestly think I'd let such a beautiful star out of my reach? Oh no, you're terribly mistaken."

She whimpered as she struggled even harder against the person who began to kiss her on the neck, "Why don't you and me get together in the room back....."

Whoever it was, was cut off and she felt the arms let go of her.

She did the first thing that hit her mind, she ran.

She tried to keep the tears from her eyes as she tripped over her dress a few times, running, just

running, as long as she got away from that person and that feeling of hopelessness and violation.

Amelia ran into a dead end of a hallway and she slipped down on the floor, placing her head in her hands as she silently cried.

She didn't know how long she had stayed there, in the dark, all alone and crying but she jerked back when she felt something cold on her forehead, "Are you okay?"

She looked up, wiping the tears out of her eyes as she shakily nodded her head and she tried to smile at Sorrow but didn't quite make it, "I'm alright."

Sorrow looked doubtful, "Are you sure?"

Amelia bit her lip as she started to cry again, "No....i'm not sure."

All the time she was crying, she was thinking, `You stupid!!! Stop crying!!! Don't cry in front of Sorrow!!!'

She heard him sigh as he slowly sat down in front of her, crossing his legs under him as he put one of his hands near Amelia and he mumbled, looking down at the floor that separated them, "I'm sorry that Darshia upset you. He's very forward and I'll make sure he'll never do it again! But...why are you upset exactly? Do you want to tell me?"

Amelia didn't know what to think, the man that she felt like had hated her guts and the very earth she walked on was actually attempting to comfort her!

She blushed as she whispered, "Um, well, I was scared and well...."

Amelia glanced up through her tear filled vision and Sorrow had a look of annoyance, curiosity and concern on his face, "Go on."

Amelia gulped, "I've never.....kissed anyone before. I've never had a boyfriend before and I've never had a man....touch me like that. It was....scary and violating."

Amelia was blushing like she'd never blushed before as she felt something cold touch her cheek and she looked down to see Sorrow's hand brushing her cheek, "Stop crying."

She was startled as he quickly stood up and reached a hand out to her, "Well, we'd better get back. The ball is already starting and they'll be wondering where I am."

She slowly reached up and took his hand, "Okay."

She quickly took his offered arm instead when she stood up and she smiled down at the ground, "Um, thanks for coming to find me."

Sorrow grunted, "It's nothing."

Sorrow led her out of the hallway and into the room full of Vampires who were all dressed in black and grey.

She instinctively tightened her grip on Sorrow's arm and he glanced down at her, "Are you going to make it?"

Amelia nodded, "Uhuh, I'll be okay."

She stayed like that all through the ball, attached to Sorrow's arm and she was wishing that Atherin would get there so she could switch, I mean, it was Sorrow that she had a hold of and she was sure that it was really ticking him off.

She met a lot of people though and she was having fun watching people dance.

She could feel a shiver go up and down her back as the Vampire that Sorrow had referred to as Darshia walked up to them, his long white hair back in a ponytail, his blue eyes glistening and his fake smile plastered across his face as he snickered, "Sorry for my little introduction but you was so tempting that I couldn't resist it."

Amelia nodded, "I accept your apology."

Darshia glared at Sorrow, "Don't you think that Selena wouldn't especially like the attentions that you've been giving this.....human? You know how possessive she is. It's a good thing that she's at home nursing her wounds."

Amelia glanced up at Sorrow, who was grinning maliciously, "Well, I don't really know what Selena likes and does not like, so I wouldn't know and anyway I don't care. And this `human' has a name. Her name is Amelia."

Amelia was overcome with an urge to hug Sorrow but she restrained herself, she didn't really think he would appreciate her flinging her arms around him in front of his subjects and she didn't really think she would like it as well.....or would she?

Amelia was surprised as Sorrow asked, "Can I have this dance?"

Amelia smiled, "Sure."

She stopped though as she looked up to see Sorrow glaring at her and his teeth were clenched, his arm tightening up as he snarled, "Come with me."

She was confused and a little frightened as Sorrow grabbed ahold of her hand, tightly squeezing it as he pulled her off to one side of the room that was away from everyone else and he pinned her up against the wall by the shoulders, "Hold still. I won't hurt you."

She stiffened as he released one of her shoulders, grabbing her neck and slightly turning it until he was gazing at the place on her neck with her birthmark, she asked, "What are you doing?"

Sorrow snarled, "Who bit you? Answer me!"

Amelia looked confused, "Um....Atherin did."

Sorrow clenched his whip by his side as he growled, "That insolent, little...he's no brother of mine!"

He quickly turned and strode off into the throng of Vampires.

She shook her head, clearing it as she hurried after him, "Sorrow! What's wrong?"

She walked all the way across the ballroom, tripping a few times over her dress and she was panting when she caught up with Sorrow who had unfurled his whip, yelling at Atherin, who was totally shocked, "You! How could you mark her as your own when she had no idea what you were doing? That's lower than I thought you'd ever go!"

Amelia was still very confused, "Mark?"



Atherin looked very calm as he smiled, "Oh, is this what you're upset about? Well, you can always take her and mark her as your own, if you want."

Sorrow looked dumbfounded, "Who says I'd want to mark her? I just think that it's considered taking advantage of someone when they don't know what they're really getting into! I'm going to beat you for that!"

Atherin was still smiling as he continued, "Oh, well, can we wait till after the ball? There's kinda a lot of people around. I don't think you want to start a fight in the middle of a ball."

Sorrow growled as he wrapped his whip back up in one swift jerk and quickly walked away, "Don't think I'll forget this, brother."

Amelia was still very confused and was going to follow him but Atherin grabbed her by the arm and shook his head, "I don't really think you want to follow him. When he's mad he likes to be by himself."

The rest of the ball was very boring and she quietly slipped out of the ballroom, telling Atherin that she was going to go to her room and go to sleep early before she left.

She was really confused and upset at the way Sorrow had become so furious like that. She didn't know what to think or what was real and what was going on anymore.

She whispered, "I wish somebody could understand me."

She was walking past Arkane's Staff in Arkane's Dome when she heard a whisper, "Charlotte."

She quickly turned around, looking for the source of the voice, "What? Who's there?"

She heard the whisper again, "Charlotte...I wish you wasn't dead...I wish somebody could understand me.."

She yelped as she looked toward the hallway that leads to her bedroom and a wolf was running down the hallway, towards her room.

She whispered, "Arkane."

Amelia ran down the hallway, ran into her room, jumped into her bed and didn't bother with changing her clothes.

She knew what she had to do now.

Every night she had been plagued by nightmares with a white wolf screaming and howling in the night.

She knew his name.

She willed herself to sleep and she quickly felt the cold, sharp wind in her face, her bare feet in ankle deep snow and the cry of the wolf in her ears.

She opened her eyes, looking at the hillside where the wolf always ran through and she braced herself as she saw him running up, "Come on. I'm going to get you to talk with me this time, Arkane."

The white wolf sped by, it's amber eyes shedding tears as it's howl ripped the heavens and she heard the human voice, shrieking, "Charlotte! Why? Why is life so cruel?!"

She quickly followed the wolf tracks, panting as she made her way up the hill and she growled, "I am so not giving up this time!"

After a few more hills, an overwhelming smell of smoke filled her nostrils and she heard a fight ensuing, growls and caws coming from the distance, "I'll kill you this time! You're not getting away, Raven! You killed my beloved! How could you?"

She ran up the last hill and she gasped as she looked on a sight that was going to haunt her for the rest of her life.

A makeshift house that had been made of sticks and a hillside was on fire, smoke billowing into the blood red heavens, there was blood on the ground, blood everywhere, the moon was completely in shadow and there were Ravens everywhere on the ground, in one little spot where most of the blood was.

There was one unnaturally big Raven that stood back from the rest, looking on with red eyes and cawing in enjoyment, "You fool! She has been dead over centuries now and you still think she has just recently died! You pitiful creature, I mock and despise you! I will make you relive this dreadful scene forever! Hahaha!"

Amelia ran toward the big Raven, intent on hurting it but she stopped at the bloodcurdling scream that filled the air, "Charlotte!!!! NO!!!!"

She looked at where the wolf had been trying to drive the Ravens away and she wished that she hadn't cause she saw what they had been so excited about.

She immediately became squeamish as she looked on a broken, torn body, the skin was peeled away and all that was left was bones.

The wolf was howling up at the moon, in pain and sorrow.

She glared at the Raven who was cackling in pleasure, "You're so fun to play with, you stupid puppy, haha! You'll never get out of here, hahaha.....ack, you crazy girl, what are you doing? I'm the Great Raven!"

Amelia was swinging a big stick at the Raven, screaming, "You know what I'm doing, I'm trying to kill you! You buzzard, leave Arkane alone or the next time I'll come back it'll be with a gun!"

The Raven flew off, it's feathers ruffled as it cawed, "I'll be back, Arkane! That little girl can never free you! Never!"

Amelia threw the stick away and looked over at Arkane, who had changed from wolf form to his human form, all he had on was a loin cloth and he was screaming to the moon, "Raven! I'll kill you even if I have to do it in the underworld!"

Amelia looked uncertain as she slowly walked up to Arkane, who was rocking back and forth cradling Charlotte's torn and stripped body to his bare chest, tears streaming down his face.

She lightly touched his shoulder, "Arkane. She's dead."

Arkane snapped at her hand and she quickly jumped back, he had jumped up, the muscles all over his body bunched up as he growled, "Don't you dare say that to me! She's alive, she's...alive.."

He sobbed as he fell down to his knees in the snow, wrapping his arms around his chest and he whimpered, "I can't believe she's gone. She was my warmth, the person that meant everything to me and was more then life itself to me. I lived for her! Why did she have to die such a horrible death?! Why?!"

Amelia forgot every precaution as she walked forward and flung her arms around Arkane, holding him close, "I know how you feel, Arkane. You don't think I do but I really do!"

Arkane stiffened at the contact but he relaxed, letting her hold him as he asked through his tears, "How could you understand my pain? No one ever has."

Amelia sadly smiled, "I lost the person that meant everything to me too. She was my mother. She was the most important person in the world to me."

Arkane pushed away from her and he held her out at arm's length, "How do you know that I'd even care? If you know my name then you know what I am and vampires don't care about people's worries."

Amelia smiled, "I know you care. Don't ask me how, I just know."

Arkane's amber eyes glowed, "You're a very perceptive woman. How do you know my name, how did you get here and who are you exactly?"



## 7 - Helping a Vampire

### Chapter Six

Arkane was wishing that he hadn't had asked that question as Amelia poured out her soul and heart to the strange but somehow familiar vampire.

He yawned as she rattled on and on about how Sorrow was a terrible person, "Since the first day I laid eyes on him, he has done nothing but irritate me!"

Arkane chuckled lightly, "Sounds like you like this...Sorrow."

Amelia gasped, "I've never heard such a....foolish...thing."

Arkane smirked, "That's the same look that I had on my face when I argued with myself those cold and lonely nights, trying to convince myself that I loathed Charlotte."

Amelia fidgeted as she quickly changed the subject, "Um, so are you dead or have you been trapped in this place for....", she counted on some of her fingers then she stopped, a confused look on her face, "I...Sorrow didn't tell me when you died just that you died, I don't think he did anyways."

Arkane was watching Amelia with an amused and almost concerned look on his face at her bewilderment.

He drew the black robe that she had rushed back to her time to get for him closer to himself because she refused to talk or even look at him unless he put some sort of clothes on.

He whispered, "Don't fret, young one. It happened to me also. I forgot everything except for what Raven wanted me to remember and that was just to torture me endlessly.", He sighed as he continued, "And yes, I am dead. I've been dead for a long time but Raven still tortures my spirit, keeping me trapped here for as long as he desires."

Arkane jumped back as Amelia jumped up from where she was sitting on a stump of a tree in the middle of a clearing that he had come to call home, "I've got it!!"

He raised an eyebrow, curious as to how she was going to thwart Raven's plans of keeping him trapped here forever, "And what exactly have you got?"

She smiled, "You can come back with me!"

Now both of Arkane's eyebrows rose of their own accord, "Oh, and how do you suppose we do that, young one?"

Amelia looked crestfallen, "Uh....uh....I don't know.....but I'll think of something!"

Arkane sighed as he watched Amelia ponder his situation as she walked in circles, a finger curled around her chin and he perked up when she stopped, "I've got it! Um...what's that thing with you Vampires and connecting with your prey? Um, well, you can do that with me and maybe it will like pull you along with me through the portal that I had used to come here. Do you think it's possible or is it a stupid idea?"

Arkane felt a little spark of hope as he thought about what she had said and he smiled at her, "Well, it's



worth a try.”

Amelia started to feel nervous, “Um, good but....how do we go about doing that then?”

He looked startled, “You mean, you haven't been taken by a Vampire and you have been living with them for a day now?! The Vampires must've grown weak since I have left.”

Amelia could feel her hands tremble but she willed them to stop as she nodded her head, “If you mean, been bitten by a Vampire. I have been bitten then.”

Arkane looked her straight in the eyes as he asked slowly, “Then why do you shiver with fear, young one? Did a Vampire hurt you?”

Amelia shook her head quickly, “No, no! It's not that, it's just...kinda weird for me, that's all. If you was the one getting the blood drained out of you I think you would feel a little speck of nervousness too, wouldn't you?”

Arkane smiled sadly, “Why yes, I guess I would. It's been so long since I've been changed....I have forgotten how it had felt.”

Amelia licked her lips nervously, “Well then.....should we get started?”

Arkane's amber eyes glowed as he beckoned her to come closer to him, his voice was soothing, “Come to me, young one and it'll all be over soon enough.”

Amelia bit her lip as she walked over to Arkane and she was surprised as he held out his arms, a gentle smile on his lips, “I promise, I won't bite...too hard.”

Amelia let herself fall into Arkane's arms and she flinched as he pulled her close to him, his bare chest cold as her warm skin met his but his voice calmed her down, making her feel drowsy from lack of sleep, "Young one, you must be tired. Rest, rest as I replenish myself. It would all be for the best if you did."

She relaxed, her eyes falling shut as she felt Arkane's hands brushing her reddish blonde hair away from her neck and face.

She struggled to stay awake but she was fighting a losing battle as she slowly fell into a blanket of sleep.

But right before she was completely in the thrall of sleep, she felt cold, hard fangs slowly sliding into her neck and she hoped that the ancient Vampire wouldn't suck her dry.

