

1038 SIDE STORY (NERA): LUNA

Nera jumped in the first opportunity that she could get to run away from the place that had been confined her. She used her power to conceal her presence so those magic users couldn't find her, but then once she already stepped out of the castle, she crippled her own ability to use her divine power, in order for Rei not to be able to track her anymore. She harmed herself, she put her life in danger because she destroyed her own power. Of course, Nera could heal it back, but she would think about that later. Her only priority right now was to get away from this continent as soon as possible. Thankfully, she managed to get to the harbor in time and jumped to the ship, in which took her to Karam continent. Nera fell sick during this journey, because she destroyed her own divine power, but she still refused to restore it. She hated her power, because Rei loved it so much. She knew what happened, she knew his obsession toward Na, the first Serafim and how he saw her as her. Actually, Nera had been acting like Na used to act in the last view days in order for Rei to put his guard down. She knew about Na, because Rei wouldn't shut his mouth about her. This was the scary part of that man. He was willing to go through hell and back, only to get that woman back.

"I am fine... I am fine..." Nera was dozing off and on during this time, it was only a week later that she felt a little bit better, as they approached Karam Continent. This was the first time for Nera to be here, but Dan, Ardie and Adie had been talking about this place, the village that they grew up in and where their house was. Therefore, with a little bit of help by asking around, Nera managed to find the house that Adie always described as the most beautiful house in this village. Their house indeed very beautiful and Nera got to see a woman with her daughter. She was two years old. Without doubt, this little one looked like Dan. Nera caressed her stomach, she was glad that she still had her daughter. She didn't know what to say or how to start this, but she really needed to tell the woman about what happened to her sons and her husband, just in case she kept waiting for them... And without Nera even realized it, she was already on their doorstep and the woman approached her with her daughter.

"Excuse me, are you looking for someone?" She asked.

"Yes." Nera nodded. The hairpin felt warm in her pocket. "You are Maleen and this must be Yessa, right?" Maleen widened her eyes in surprised and then smiled softly. "Yes. How do you know us?"

"Can we talk inside?" Nera said. "I have some news to share about your family." Nera walked away from this beautiful house. She still could hear how Maleen cried her heart out loud, while holding the hairpin that Ardie bought for her, but unfortunately, he couldn't put it on her as he had planned. Nera felt this extreme guilty in her heart, she couldn't stay there for long. She didn't actually tell her the truth, she only told her that her family was attacked by the robbers and didn't survive and she just happened to know them. Nera wouldn't have a heart to tell Maleen the truth, but probably it was because she was afraid she would see the accusatory and disgust look from her. She knew her active role, as they met their demise. Nera stepped outside for a while and after she felt like she had calmed down, only then she came inside again. She found Maleen was sleeping on the sofa, where she was still crying, while Yessa sat next to her mother, the little girl looked confused because her mother was crying so hard, but she was being a good girl, she didn't wake her

up. *Ww.nô@eLwôRm.cOm*

"Yessa," Nera called her name and picked her up.

"Mama sleeps..." She pointed her finger at Maleen and then looked at Nera.

"Yes, mama is sleeping. Let me tuck you to bed, okay? I will tell you a story. Do you want?" The little girl looked confused, but she nodded. And after Nera put the blanket over Maleen's body, she asked Yessa to take her to her bedroom and she started to tell her a story about a monster and the little girl. *Ww.w.©OvcLwôrM.(c)©m*

"Do you know, once upon a time, there was a girl named Na. She has a wolf named Lu." Nera started. She chose a lullaby version of this story, because the original one was not children friendly, since its content filled with gruesome part. This was a lullaby in the Andel continent, but then it was adopted and then spread by the bard, you would find different version of it in different area. It was an old story. In the original story about the monster and the little girl. Lu and Na had a tragic ending. In the story, Na and Lu were together all the time. The wolf Lu would protect Na from any monster attack, while Na would feed the wolf in return. They were always together, until one day, a very rich young merchant had his eyes on Na's beauty and wanted her, but he didn't want the wolf to come with them, however when Na insisted for her furry friend to come or else, she wouldn't go with the rich merchant, he finally relented. However, one night, the rich young merchant tried to kill the wolf himself, but as a wolf that used to fight a monster, he could kill this man easily. It didn't take long before the rich merchant died, his body was being ripped apart and once Na learned about it, she was devastated. Not because of the death of the young merchant, but because her wolf was being haunted. She went to the forest and looked for her wolf, so did the rest of the villagers, but while these people tried to find the wolf and kill it, Na wanted to escape with her wolf. She wanted to take her wolf to the safety. She called for her wolf and endlessly and upon hearing her voice, despite the danger that surrounded it, the wolf came.

'Let's go,' Na said. She believed her wolf was not in the wrong. The wolf couldn't speak, but there was no doubt in her heart. Thus, under the light of the moon, both of them tried to escape the villagers. Unfortunately, they were found and soon enough, they were surrounded by people who wanted to kill the wolf, but Na didn't want to let go of her wolf. She tried to tell them that her wolf wouldn't harm the merchant if he didn't try to harm it, yet no one would listen to her. Na prayed to any god to save them and Selene, the moon goddess heard her cry for help and turned the wolf into human, so the wolf could tell the villagers about what actually happened. However, it only enraged the villagers, because they thought the wolf that turned into human was a bad omen and now they wanted to kill them both. In order to protect the girl, Lu fought off all the villagers, killing them all. It was a long fight and when the morning came, Lu was so exhausted, he turned into his wolf form again and died in Na's arms. He loved this girl so much and his love touched the moon goddess as she created shifter, who took the form of wolf and human. They were also blessed with mate bond. It was a sacred bond. A reminder of how much Lu loved his Na. Therefore, their mate would be called as Luna. In each sacred bond that was created between the shifters, it meant, Lu's love for Na was created anew. And for Na, she took her wolf deep into the forest and that was the last time anyone had ever seen them. *Ww.w.noøElwôr(m).coM*

"Sleepy?" Nera asked in the end of her story, she cuddled Yessa. Of course, she didn't tell the original version of it. *w.©vêLwôrM.c(o)m*

"And then what happened to Lu and Na?"

"They lived happily ever after in another world." With that, Yessa fell asleep and the next day, Nera had gone even before Maleen woke up, she only left a note, thanking her for her hospitality, but she needed to leave. She couldn't put their family in danger and risk their safety to stay there. She was afraid Rei would manage to track her down. In that case, she had to leave them alone. Later, she took a ship to Oregon continent, where she met an interesting young boy. He had this warm magic within him, which piqued Nera's interest. She started showing and her baby started to move in her stomach. She let the boy touch her belly and she felt this warm feeling and happiness somehow. This was a feeling without explanation. She felt like they would meet again. One day... Her power started to heal, but she destroyed it again, because she didn't want to have it anymore. However, this action took a toll on her, especially after she gave birth to her baby girl. Her health deteriorated rapidly and when her baby turned one, she couldn't take it anymore and left this world to meet with her Dan, leaving behind her girl... But before that, she suppressed her daughter's power, because she knew, her baby inherited it.