

## The Run

Tonight is the full moon, and that means that we all run as a group with our pack. It happens every year. Each pack does it so that their members can find their soulmates. Everyone my age has found their mate, but I haven't. Maybe I will find mine tonight, I think to myself. My thought process gets cut into by my door opening suddenly and my mom, the Luna of the Moonlight pack, comes in the room.

"Hey, hun," mom speaks as she comes farther into my room to sit by me on my bed. "Are you ready for the run?"

"Maybe," I say as I look down, twiddling my thumbs in nervousness. "What if I don't find him, mom? What if I'm not mated to anyone?"

"Hun," she coos in a comforting tone. "Of course you have a mate. I'm pretty sure you will meet him tonight. Your father invited another Pack to come and run with us. The Alpha of that Pack hasn't found his mate yet. Your father thought that it would be a good idea to invite him."

"What is his name?" I question in curiosity as I look up into the perfect copy of my eyes, a bright green mixed with hazel. She moves a strand of my long chocolate brown hair out of my face before giving me a small smile.

"The Alpha's last name is Connors and his Pack's name is Blood Moon," mom answers. I look at her and start to hope that he is my mate. We shall see. "Come on, now. The run is about to start. Everyone is outside and waiting for us." I nod as I get up, and head outside, mom following behind me.

As soon as mom and I leave the house, dad walks up to us and puts his arm around my mother's waist, "Come with me, I want you to meet someone." He leads us over to the front of

the crowd. I see people talking amongst themselves, not really knowing who they are. Some look extremely buff and they are waiting at the gigantic opening to the woods.

“Alpha Connors,” my father greets a 19-year-old man with cropped short black hair and shining gray-blue eyes. He nods at my father.

He looks really cute. He has pale ivory skin and seems to be a bit lanky, but still muscular. He looks to be about 5’8” or 5’9” and he holds himself tall and steady. I look up to the sky as I hear him speaking to my father.

“Alpha and Luna Summers,” he has a husky voice that may seem gentle, but it holds power in it. I feel my wolf, Narah, stirring in my head, trying to tell me something without coming forward. I ignore her as I continue to look up at the sky.

I smile in happiness at the sight of the cloudless sky. The stars shone accompanied by the bright full moon. My mom shoots me a knowing look as I move my eyes off the dark sky. I give a small smile, and try to ignore my slight blush.

“It is time to start the run!” Dad yells, so everyone turns to him. We all give howls of delight for the run as we go behind trees and take our clothes off, and shift into our other forms. It gives off the feeling of breaking and reconstructing our bone structure, but in the end, the outcome is beautiful.

I look the same as I do in human form as I do in wolf form, chocolate brown hair and green hazel eyes. I move away from the tree that I shifted behind and see a large black wolf. Narah stirs inside of my head again and I hear her say one thing.

“Mate,” is all she says as I look up at the wolf in front of me. He looks down at me and his grayish blues are giving me a look of glee. I give him a look of happiness and walk on four paws, brushing up against him before I move away and run away tauntingly, knowing that he

will chase me. I hear his paws hit the ground heavily before I feel a small nip on my left ear as he runs past.

I look at him with a playful glare and nudge his right hind leg. He tumbles to the ground with a small yelp. Narah and I start laughing at him. We go over to him and nip his snout before we turn to where I see the pack members running. Alpha Connors follows me closely.

It didn't take us long, but we finally get back together with the group. We are at the very back of the group, but we didn't mind. It gives us time to mess with each other. We playfully push and nip each other whenever we can, trying to keep up with the group. We soon grow tired of this and Alpha Connors points for us to go around the group. So, I move to the side as he leads the way to the front of the two Packs, but I run ahead of him.

I get towards the front and see my mom and dad leading the run. They look over at me with joyful eyes. We hear heavy paws hit the ground hard and they look over me to where the sound is coming from. I already know that it is Alpha Connors. Dad looks back at me with surprise and mom gives me a ecstatic look. I give a sly grin as we all head back to the backyard of the Pack House.

We go behind the trees that we shifted behind and shift back. We meet back up in the backyard and everyone goes to their mates or families. I go to my parents, where I see my mate talking to them.

"I have a feeling that I'm about to interrupt an important conversation," I say.

"We were just talking about how we should combine our packs, seeing as you are our only heir and your now the Luna of the Blood Moon Pack since you are the mate of Alpha Connors," dad answers. I nod my head in understanding.

“I think that it is a good idea, seeing as mates have to be together at all times as soon as they meet,” I agree. “Alpha Connors?” I look at him and he smiles at me.

“To you three I am Damian, no need to call me Alpha Connors anymore,” he tells us, still looking at me. “I also agree with combining the Packs. But, we are going to need a new name.” We all turn to the pack members and smile.

“You know,” Damian starts. “You never did tell me your name, my mate.”

“My name is Bailey,” I answer. “How do you like the name Dark Moon for our pack?”

“I like Dark Moon. But not as much as your name,” Damian confirms as he wraps my body up in his arms. “Bailey Connors has a nice ring to it,” he whispers in my ear as we look at our pack members. He moves his head away from my shoulder and addresses the pack.

“We are now combined! Our new name, as of now, is Dark Moon!” As soon as everyone hears that, they all cheer loudly. “Those of you that do not wish to be apart of this combined Pack may leave now, or challenge us for the title of Alpha and Luna!” One female, an 18-year-old with dark brown hair and blue eyes, her face covered in makeup, comes forward, glaring at me.

“I challenge for the position of Luna!” I nod in understanding, quickly shifting into my wolf, shredding my clothes in the process. Everyone makes a ring around us, my parents and Damian at the front and on my side.

“This will be a nice and clean match,” he starts. “At the first draw of blood of your opponent, the battle is over. Understand?” We both nod, her shifting into a dark brown wolf. We circle each other at first, but she rushes me, going for my neck. I wait for her to come closer to bite her leg, drawing blood instantly. “Stop the match!” I look to him and let go of her leg. She whimpers as she looks at Damian. “Shelly, you have lost.” She bows her head and shifts back,

fully naked. Someone hands her a shirt and she quickly pulls it over her head. “Leave the Pack, now.” She nods and leaves the Pack’s borders immediately.

I shift back and Damian pulls his shirt off, quickly putting over my head, covering my body from everyone. All of our Pack members cheer, glad that I am still Luna. I look around at everyone and give a smile. The full moon run is the best thing that has ever happened to me, because it gave me my mate and we fused our packs into one, making us happier and stronger.