

An Alpha Luna Story:
"BETA-COLLIE , PART II"
By Leonardo Vidal

Chapter 1 : "Intimate Scents "

With thoughtful eyes and a hanging head Luna is sitting by her bed as she looks at the fang necklace that she is holding with her right hand, while the other is rubbing the back of her neck like trying to find answers where there are none. Minutes ago she was wearing the very same ornament, just before Collie could tell her the origin of her sudden transformation into the four legged werewolf that afflicted her the previous day.

Luna: If this belonged to my real mother I don't understand why it'd be cursed.

Collie: Who knows...maybe it only affects humans...ooh. -she says in surprise as she is checking herself over Luna's mirror, lifting her arms out the the tank shirt, making poses to show of her small tight muscles.

Luna: Huh?

Collie: Oh my good, Luna! Look , I have biceps, triceps and everything in between, oh if I do this some abs show up, look! This is so cool! - With a huge smile she tries to show-off as she turns around in front of her friend making her raise a faint smile that can't erase completely her concern about her changed friend who despite looking human is still waving a furry brown & white tail. Collie's build looks mostly the same but Luna can't deny her physique has improved when you look closely.

Luna: I guess you look a tad more athletic. But..I don't think you can show yourself to gym class with that... - Luna points a finger to the bushy appendage flapping behind Collie's movements.

Collie: My new friend? I don't think is that ugly! - She says with a silly face as she gesture a fake cry grabbing her tail around her waist hugging it as if it was a baby.

Luna: What?

Collie: It's kinda cool, you know. I was scared at first... but I don't know. It's grown on me!

Luna: It definitely grew out of you...

Collie: Hey, it feels funny and it's so fluffy and soft.

Luna: Really?- Luna's expression becomes dumbfounded as she is left thinking if she went through another dimension.

Collie: Huh? - Collie notices her friend's discomfort as she tries to think if what she said came out wrong.

Luna: Oh my god! And I was here dying thinking you'd be hating me for cursing you into a werewolf life! Seriously! - She says as she plunges her back into her bed with her arms up grabbing her head in the process.

Collie: But you didn't curse me, It was the fang, right?

Luna: Yes, I know...but, I was born one. The fact you got close to me made this possible, so... in a way I still feel responsible. It's like you got infected just by hanging out with me.

Collie: Huh... I see. But I was thinking... I may not even change again, you know.

Luna: What?

Collie: Look, the fang made me change, not the full-moon, right? So...I may not even be a real werewolf after all. So in time my tail may shrink; I guess, like when you get poisoned and then you have to recover yourself with a proper rest and chicken soup, eh?- she says as she gestures with her arms expecting a fast approval on her hypothesis.

Luna: Chicken Soup, really? - Luna giggles while containing a bigger laughter. Collie also starts giggling realizing her sentence was a tad funny considering the seriousness of the situation.

Luna: You're one of a kind, Collie. Seriously. - she says with a smile on her face as if some weight has left her shoulders sighing in the process.

Collie: Hehehe. - She let a tongue out as she rubs the back of her head while being silly.

Luna: But you know, that part before the soup... you could be right. I really hope you're right, Collie. - says with a more serious look.

Collie: Right? Besides, as you said I became a different looking werewolf compared to you, like a full wolf. I wasn't even able to talk. Although now that I think about it, I remember talking to myself, hmmm...

Luna: How... how much do you remember? Collie.

Collie: Huh...parts of the change, the fur and the smells. Running. Eating....

Luna: Do you remember that?

Collie: Huh? the deer! Oh my god Luna! That was... so cool!

Luna: Really?! I thought you'd be throwing up if you'd happen to remember that.

Collie: Oh, well. For some reason I don't remember much blood...but a sweet sausage and some intense flavors. Weird, right?

Luna : I'm pretty sure that sausage was the blood, Collie.

Collie: Huh... , oh well! - Collie's gesture changes from a confused look to a silly face as she scratches herself around her right ear.

Luna: Well, I'm glad you have a convenient editing software within your head, that'd be really handy.

Collie: Huh, thanks?

Luna: Do you remember anything else?

Collie: Mostly the smells to be honest. While running with you, you smelt ...like cinnamon and ... like the leaves of autumn, I think..

Luna: Really? Do I smell like that now? - She says with a mocking grin.

Collie: Well...-Collie starts sniffing the air around Luna with her arms stretched raising her head little by little. Luna starts dodging her friend's head while trying to not move too much. However one of Collie's hands slips from the corner of the bed as she ends up plunging her head into Luna's chest.

Collie: Ungh! I-

Luna is left speechless as Collie lifts her head, they look to each other within their souls' orbs as if the time has suddenly paused. With their faces gaining red colors at intimate distance their warm breaths mix in front of their noses, heartbeats rising, sweat starting to pour as Collie's mouth seem to get slowly closer to Luna's by an external force.

A repeated knock at the door shakes both girls out of their trance as Collie looks desperately to her sides as if trying to hide her reddish face with air alone. Luna is frozen in place while still blushing; she quickly regains consciousness while remembering where she actually is.

Collie however jumps out and runs through the door while trying to hide some of her face with the back of her hand, going past the person who is on the other side who happens to be Luna's adoptive mother, Laura.

After seeing her friend disappear, Luna looks at her right hand that she hovers close to her face raising it slowly as she sniffs it out. Her mother just watches Luna with a caring look.

Laura: Is everything ok, Luna?

Luna: Yeah, I'm sorry mom. What's up? - She says as she rapidly returns her hand to her side with a condescending smile.

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Collie is frantically gasping for air as she enters the bathroom, her red face looks lit like a lamp as she let the sink's water run fast into her hands splashing and rubbing her face as fast as she can not caring for the extra water splashing over her shoulders and chest.

Collie: Ah-Ah! (Why did I do that?!, WHY?!) - Her contained tears make her eyes shine like crystals as if knowing they'll be lost in her dripping face. Her right hand obscures her open mouth as she tries to calm herself down by dramatically slowing her breathing.

Collie: Stupid , stupid , stupid! - Her right hand is now hitting her head as she shuts her eyes tightly. Her breathing comes back with long pauses as she is left alone staring at her humid hands grabbing the sink tightly.

Collie: What am I gonna do?! - She lifts her head to face her reflection. A messy look of reddish eyes and threads of hair glued to her rainy face.

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Laura : Yes, I told her parents that you and Collie have been studying for a difficult exam but it's been a whole day since. And now I'm worried about what happened to to her.

Luna: I know mom, me too. But, we're figuring this out. The necklace I got was the cause of Collie's change and we really don't know if its effects are gone for good or not.

Laura: Well, with that tail of hers I wouldn't count on it. As I've been a guardian for you, now Collie must be your main concern. Your meeting with the elders can wait.

Luna: I know, I...

Laura: In any case.... you'll feel better to think after you eat some of my lasagna. So now, why don't you call your friend and come to eat?

Luna: I don't think I'm hungry mom.

Laura: That is not an excuse. - Luna sighs as she sees her mother go down the stairs, she then turns to her side into the hallway where Collie disappeared.

Luna walks to the bathroom's door as she is about to knock, but pauses when she hears a faint whimper.

Luna: Collie? - The whimper stops as Luna waits for an answer that doesn't come. Inhaling some air Luna prepares her next words that are much simpler than she initially thought.

Luna: Collie... are you ok? - Again the silence answers as Luna recalls a familiar moment in their lives. Luna ends resting her head against the closed door.

Luna: Collie, this already happened before. Do you remember when you were crying in the School's bathroom? I behaved so stupidly back then ...but that was the time when we became friends. And that... that hasn't changed at all.

Collie: But... (I may want it to change) - With most of that sentence only being thoughts of her to keep.

Collie: I... I may have changed more than I thought, Luna... -she says while trying to rephrase incorrectly what her mind just said before.

Luna: What do you mean? - A clicking sound signals the opening door as the sad reddish green eyes of Collie face Luna's again. She is still wearing the long tank shirt which is now wet in many places, making the center of her clavicle a tad visible through the fabric. The watery messy threads of Collie's loose hair make her look beautiful to the eyes of Luna which looks oddly longer than usual, especially without her trademark ponytail. A reddish blush under her eyes and nose make Luna feel filled with a warm texture matching a soft scent as her eyes blur the periphery.

Collie: So? - The short questioning word of her friend freeze Luna's thoughts as she feels an uneasiness climbing up through her spine. A part of her wants to embrace her, another part wants her to keep things as they are. But above all else she wants to protect her, a word that both parts of her mind can agree on.

Luna: Y-You look the same to me! For a second there I thought you were going to show me claws or something. Anyway, my mom invited us to eat and...I'll be waiting for you down there.

Luna sighs immediately as she turns around. While walking away she looks to her side for moment before going down the stairs, drawing a smile to her friend as if to remind her that everything is ok. Collie is left there deep in her thoughts.

Collie: (I guess I should stop thinking odd things and just try to be myself again). -She sighs as she bends her body down as a sign of a moral defeat.

Collie: I better dry myself up. -she says as she opens the bathroom door and then closing it almost crushing the furry appendage with it.

Collie: Ouch! it's your fault! not mine... Damn it. - she says as if her appendage had a mind of its own.

The three werewolves, still looking indistinctly human share the dinner table as Fang gulps on the lasagna. Collie looks like she had tidied herself up with new clothes, wearing her classic ponytail with a now dried face.

Luna: How can you still be this hungry? You even had breakfast, not to mention last night.

*Fang: Well *hum* this way I may be skipping the hunt tonight.*

Luna: What? You said we were obligated to hunt.

Fang: Well, kinda. It was the first full-moon of the month, so it was well deserved. Tonight you'll feel good just with a rabbit if you want.

Collie: Oh I see, it's like having a big party. You have the barbecue the first day and then you let people have some snacks and then some beverage.

Luna: Usually it's the other way around, Collie. - she says as she chews on some salad.

Collie: Oh yeah, something like that.- she giggles as she grabs a drink, while still keeping her eyes on Luna's. Just thinking if what happened before was a faint dream she had.

Luna: So... about tonight.

Fang: We have two options. If "Tails" doesn't change, she can get back here while we travel to meet the elders. If she is tied to the moon as we are, we take her with us.

Luna: I can't do that. I think Collie is still more important than any of your plans.

Fang: What? / Collie : Eh?

Luna: Even if she doesn't change, her tail here is the main issue. She can't pretend forever that she is wearing a costume and be by herself while dealing with that. We need to help her, I need to.

Collie: Luna...

Fang: Sure, but you know, the elders could have an answer to this issue. The fang necklace was something they've passed from alpha to alpha.

Luna: Huh...well why don't you call the one that sent you and ask him to come? I think that'd help us a lot.

Fang: Huh...I guess. But I feel you're just dragging this thing out just to avoid "the call".

Luna: Believe what you want, I don't care. But I'm not going anywhere without Collie.

Fang: Look, even if I do that it may take a while, the geezer usually doesn't carry a cellphone, you know. He uses the email, though.

Luna: What? And old werewolf wizard uses a computer? - says dumbfounded.

Collie: Oh my god, I want to meet him!

Fang: He's not a wizard... he's a shaman. And yeah, he likes watching weird cats and dancing videos all the time. - he says as he remembers a time when he walked into his room in a bad moment, moans coming from the computer as Alban looked over his shoulder with cold eyes making him shiver.

Fang's expression is stuck in disgust as his mind stays frozen. But as he noticed the two girls staring at him he quickly shakes his thoughts.

Fang: In any case IF.... I manage to reach him, he could get here I guess in about two or three days. That means we'll still have to face the last night of the full-moon by ourselves.

Luna: That sounds reasonable.

Collie: Hey! I... - she starts saying while raising her hand waiting for approval.-

Luna: Just talk, Collie.

Collie: I.. I was thinking that we should probably carry a backpack with changing clothes? I mean, that way we can travel back more safely, you know?

Fang: I usually do that when I'm by myself. But you can carry one for all of us if you want.

Luna: What a gentleman.

Fang: Hey, it's her idea.

Collie: It's ok! Luna, seriously. It's just clothes. Besides; I'm still filled with so much energy since I woke up that I think I could run for hours. - Luna just sighs as she accepts her friend's words for granted.

Fang: Ok, it settled. - he says as he chomps on the last piece of lasagna from his fork. Collie just stares at Luna one more time.

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