

The red aura radiating from the clock continued to blink '12:00 A.M'. The city outside is still wide awake. It never seemed to sleep, nor did Lilith . Most nights she would wake up, usually drenched in sweat, unable to recall anything before her slumber. This night was no different. She cleared her face of sweat as she sat still, atop the window frame. Watching as her breath clung to glass and disappeared as quickly as it came. Her face was bare of all makeup, yet she was as beautiful as the young sun greeting the morning. The only thing covering her body being a snug, wool blanket.

She sniffled as tears began to flow down her pale cheeks. Her hand catching them like a net.

"When will this end?" she muttered to herself.

Suddenly a small rattling noise rose from the frame her delicate feet were planted on. Her phone. A small smirk carefully leaked out from the corner of her mouth as she bit down on her pink lips. In a swift motion she was dressed and out the door. The streets were lit in a low, orange light. The sky were full of clouds, protecting the city with a sheet of endless grey. But slivers of darkness found salvation among the hidden cracks and countless alleyways.

Her black mane wrapped in a messy bun, she wore a long black sweater, edges frayed and worn. Dark blue skinny jeans and black converse. Wherever she was going, she would be going comfortably. The destination took her to the edge of the village, a place she frequented quite often. The buildings were beautiful, much more so under the low light of the city. With small, carefully planted trees racing up and down the streets. Some buildings were dressed in red brick, while others with wood. Some even wore wild vines on them. It was a peaceful and quiet place. A break from the rush of typical city life.

She paced up a flight of concrete stairs, connecting to one of the buildings laced in red bricks. She knocked three times and waited for someone to answer the shallow call. A few seconds later the door clicked and turned open. Revealing a young girl. About the same age as Lilith. Red locks pouring from the ponytail she kept it in. She wore a large, grey hoodie, leaving her legs exposed to the brisk night air. Freckles still sleeping on her carefully crafted face, one that housed clear green eyes. She flashed a sweet, warm smile at Lilith.

“Hey there, pretty girl” she said sweetly.

The girl with the raven hair smiled as she slowly approached the beautiful fire in front of her. Softly cuffing the girl's face in her pale hands. Their lips connected. Both let out sighs of happiness and comfort.

“Hey there” Lilith spoke between kisses.

The inside of her apartment was spotless. Every book tucked neatly into its bed on the perfectly crafted shelves lining the maroon walls, every article of clothing neatly folded away or hung up in the closets. Pictures of her parents and siblings decorated the hallway behind the door. The hardwood floors glistened under the moonlight, kissing the low orange glow of the lamps. Before making her way into the small living room, Lilith quickly removed her shoes, her firecracker hated mud trackers. Small noises could be heard leaking from the bright screen mounted on the wall.

A large, dark brown couch surrounded the room in a cozy circle. The cutest wool blanket and small pillows were sprawled across it. She must have fallen asleep down here, again, Lilith thought to herself. In the center of the room sat a small, glass table. Video games and magazines with Japanese anime characters were neatly tucked on the bottom shelf of the table. In

a black vase rested flowers, with beautiful pink petals floating above the stem. Sakura flowers, cherry blossoms sprouted from the seeds the two of them brought back from their visit to Tokyo last spring.

Lilith loved this small, cozy home. She loved how Ella always smelled so sweet, the scent seemed to flow throughout the entire building. It was nothing like her apartment, cold and dripping in loneliness. Lilith spent most of her time here, rarely leaving for a change of clothes or for food. She felt safer and more at home in this space than anywhere else in the world. She had Ella to thank for that feeling.

“Want some tea?” the redhead asked. Her voice was as soft as cotton.

“I would love some” Lilith spoke as she skipped over to the red head.

Wrapping her arms around her other half as she prepared the kettle on the stove. Why didn’t she come here earlier? She buried her face in the grey sweater.

“And what are you pouting about?” the ginger teased. “And where have you been all day? I called twice”

“I, was um.. doing homework?” Lilith spoke through a mouth full of hoodie cloth. She surprisingly couldn’t remember what exactly she had been doing before coming here.

“Oh sure, that’s where you were” she giggled.

Lilith quickly darted towards the chair beside the girl and took a seat.

“I was... busy. Y’know my life is busy” she said carefully. “I’m glad you asked me to come over tonight though. I missed that sexy, red bush you got going on up there” she teased as she looked down, “And there”

“STOP” the redhead shouted playfully. As she smacked Lilith on the shoulder.

“It’s your fault Ella. You make it impossible NOT to love you”

Ella's skin was suddenly brightened. Her cheeks filled with the heat of the sun. When she was nervous, she would cross her legs as she bounced on the tips of her toes. All while doing her best to avoid eye contact. The special thing about it is that no one but Lilith made her resort to such self comforting tactics. She loved that. She slowly turned towards her raven haired angel, edging closer and closer, until she could smell the scent of oranges on her neck. Lilith always smelled like them, it made Ella feel safe when they were like this.

“Getting awfully close, aren't we princess?” Lilith prosed.

“You're seriously gonna turn me away, make the princess cry? It's my castle y'know, you can't be mean to royalty here” Ella teased.

“Well look at you! My empowered and go get 'em attitude must be rubbing off on you. Who said I wasn't a good influence?”

Their lips were inches apart. Their breathing became unsteady under the weight of wanting to taste each other again. The kettle began to cry with steam and heat. Without taking her eyes away from Lilith, Ella carefully turned off the heat of the stove. Lilith's slender hands drove across her soft stomach, underneath the hoodie that was housing her skin. A soft sigh ran from Ella's lips, right into Lilith's ears.

“Should I gooooo, lower” Lilith whispered, a smirk sketched across her lips.

Ella could no longer fight or resist. She carefully guided Lilith's hand underneath the black shorts covering her thighs. Her entire body quivered. It was like a jolt of electricity was sent flying through her entire body. As the pulsing between her thighs picked up pace, her legs began to weaken, shaking as if she were left out in the cold streets of the city.

Ella wrapped her hands around her lover, her hips swaying back and forth. Suddenly both were standing in the middle of the kitchen. Their lips intertwined. Sweet sighs and echoed

over the voices on the television. Taking Lilith's hand, she led them to the couch in the living room. Where the two of them sat, face to face.

"Are you sure?" Lilith asked as she gently rubbed Ella's cheek.

Her vision of Ella's face became blocked as the grey hoodie flew in front of her face and onto the floor. Revealing the naked, freckled chest of the woman she loved.

"I'm sure" Ella nodded, her smile could cut through the thickest darkness.

Lilith quickly undressed, revealing herself to her love for the first time. Both started at each other. In awe of what was being presented right in front of their eyes. The moment that both had only dreamed of was unfolding, like a page straight out of a love story. The warmth of the orange lights and television glow tickled their naked skin. Lilith ran her hands up and down Ella's freckled arms.

She always knew how to moisturize, she thought to herself. She carefully ran her fingers across her small breasts, causing Ella to let out a soft sigh from the cold touch. She leaned in and felt her lips collide with Ella's skin. Carefully guiding her until her back met the surface of the couch as her black hair trickled Ella's freckled nose. Both giggled before their lips collided once more.

Lilith could feel the redhead's body tremble again as she placed her fingers back between her legs. The warmth of each other's bodies was all they needed. They swayed back and forth, through sighs and moans of pleasure and the promise of more to come. Ella bit down on her lip as she felt the tip of Lilith's tongue sneak between her legs.

"Sneaky" she laughed.

This night felt like it could last forever for the two of them. Nothing else mattered. In this exact moment, with Ella, Lilith was free. While underneath that river of red and black, she could feel the weight on her mind lighten.

“I love you, El” she said as she came up for air.

“I love you more..”

“Not possible”

The two girls lay there. Bodies intertwined as the sun rose over the city and rays of light crept through the silk masking the windows of the apartment. Freckles of snow formed in tiny crystals in the sunlight outside. Making the room resemble the inside of a glacier hit by bright light. Lilith was wide awake, watching her love sleep silently and peacefully. Her fingers ran through sun kissed hair.

Suddenly her heart began to race and the time itself seemed to freeze in her mind. She could hear the deep thump of the blood bumping, like war drums in her ears. But the pressure didn't belong to her.

“Do you feel that?” the ever so present voice in her head spoke in voice dripping in lust and hunger. “The hunger... it grows inside of you. Why deny what it is that you desire? A small taste would be enough to fill the hole in your stomach” The sound of this voice made Lilith's bones rattle underneath her skin, sending a chill so cold that it froze the very blood pumping through her veins.

What was this feeling Lilith thought to herself? What was this hunger, this overwhelming need for the warmth of blood on her tongue? Drool began to leak out of the corner

of her mouth. Her breathing became uneven, heavier and faster. The urge to harm the dreaming girl beside her was proving too much to hold back.

“I-I can’t” she whimpered through clenched teeth. It was like something was fighting for control of her body and she was losing.

She inched closer to the sleeping girl. Her mouth clicks away from her. Slowly Lilith’s tongue ran up and down the girl’s neck. The taste of her soft, unblemished skin was euphoric in Lilith’s mouth as she moaned with the utmost pleasure.

“More” the voice sang. “Imagine the blood streaming down your throat, the feeling of bliss... You need it, do it” As the voice barked inside of head, fragments of the murder she seemingly committed began to pulse in front of her eyes. Suddenly this feeling became frighteningly familiar to her.

It was taking all of Lilith’s strength not to give in to this unfamiliar impulse. The urge to kill was strong, but this desire for the taste of blood and flesh was new, or so it seemed. Everything was different now, though. This time it was the one person she loved most in this world, not a stranger she could barely remember. The muscles in her neck and arms tightened, the saliva in her mouth slowly seasoning her hunger. She opened her mouth, no longer able to hold back the impulse.

“What is this, why is this so familiar?” She wondered to herself.

Just as she was about to bite down, the girl began to move and let out a precious yawn. Wiping away the night’s rest she had just recovered from. Gently, she grasped Lilith’s hand. Just like that the manic hunger that was exploding from her chest was fading. Drifting back to sleep.

“Good morning” Ella spoke with a wide grin.

Lilith smiled as she quickly wiped away the drool from her lips. “You were sleeping like a rock”

Ella’s warm eyes began to drift across Lilith’s naked body. Stopping at the glossed over scars on her wrists.

“You’ve never talked about those” she spoke gently as her fingers ran across them.

“That’s because I don’t really remember them... My parents say they found me one night, on the roof of our building in Manhattan.” Lilith’s voice began to drift. “My wrists were cut like this, they think I tried to kill myself... but I can’t remember why. I just remember all of the blood around me and my mom screaming, my dad trying to wake me up..”

Ella sat up as she listened to Lilith speak.

“I didn’t come back to school for almost a month, remember?”

“So that’s why you disappeared? We all just heard that you were sick... If we had known we would ha-” her sentence was cut short by a finger to the lips.

“It’s fine Ella. Really.” She quickly pressed her lips against Ella’s. “It was a long time ago. I’m all good now, see?” Lilith struck a pose that made Ella burst with laughter.

“Yeah I can see that” she giggled as she locked her fingers with Lilith’s. “But if you ever feel like that again, we’re here for you, please remember that”

“Yeah, yeah I know” Lilith’s words drifted off as the thought of a murder she didn’t remember plagued her mind.

“Now get off of me so I can go and shower. We have class this afternoon”

Lilith raised her hands in defeat as she watched Ella glide over to the bathroom. As the seconds passed she shook herself from her daze and sprinted towards the bathroom. The sound of water splashing and laughter filled their home as the sun gave birth to another day in the city.