

The drive to Lily's Home was anything but quite me and Rosie laughed and joked, from how she had a similar first meeting with Lily, through her and Tanner, who surprisingly haven't been together that long, once we pulled up, my eyes instantly started noticing the castle like house, it wasn't huge though, but it wasn't small either, I gasped at the exterior design, it was royal like, as if something from a fairy book, when we pulled up to the house, there was a man whose back was turned to us as he worked on a car that was parked out front, me and Rosie stepped out and approached him, the man who may have heard us approach stopped what he was doing and turned towards us, when my eyes locked on him I could feel my self pale

My eyes widen at the sight, a man who was covered in tattoos and scars, his left eye looked as if it was shot? Scratched? I couldn't tell what could've happened, but his left eye was a bright blue as if he was blind in that eye, it was surrounded by scars, he looked beastly who was this man wondered to myself

"Hey Dmitri, Hi, is Lily home?" Rosie asked hesitantly to him, her voice nearly sputtering at the end

He is Dmitri Petrova? Now I understand the stories about him, his aura screamed powerful, and evil, it was scary, I couldn't help but keep my head down, I was afraid to look at

"Back garden, who is the fresh blood" he asked, his head nodded towards me, causing chills to run up my spine, as he looked at me up and down as if I was prey, he frowned at me glaring at me, his eyes felt as if they were burning holes through my head

"This is Vallie she is working on Lily's new wardrobe" she rushed out, her hands going towards her side in a hugging motion, maybe he also made her uncomfortable

He nodded in reply, and returned to his work, Rosie's hand grabbed mine, quickly ushering me into the house "I would say you get use to his aura and appearance but honestly you really don't" she whispered to me as we entered the house, walking through, I stayed close to Rosie as we made our way through the beautiful house towards the Garden, it was beautiful, lilies were planted all around along with red anemone windflowers, chrysanthemums, a few daisies, and roses planted all around, I also spotted black roses they weren't a lot but they were scattered all around, another flower that caught my eye was a dying Iris flower, my eyes trailed towards the two women who were sitting in the center at a gazebo, that had vines of flowers wrapped around it

Once we reached the gazebo, Lily stood up from her seat smiling bright as us, her arms spread open and first embraced Rosie in a hug "what took you too so long, did you forget where my house is" she teased, causing Rosie to laugh, Lily then pulled me into a hug as well

"We were a bit frozen by the greeting of Dmitri" Rosie answered, in a teasing tone of her own

Lily turned to me before replying "I promise he is not that scary once you get to know him, and he was once easy on the eyes" she spoke to me as Rosie went over to kiss who I presume is Jade on the cheeks, my eyes instantly recognized her, she is the daughter of Phillip Maxwell, who dealt with merchandise and oil, weird combo I know, I have never met Jade before, mainly because it was her twin who would attend the gatherings, Jade was known as Ms Ceo, who was following in her father's footsteps, and Rosie greeted her, she motioned towards me

"Jade this is-" before Rosie could finish the introduction

"Valery Maine, Jade Maxwell" she greeted placing her hand out for me to shake, I could feel my self freeze with shock by her bluntness and how she already knew me, I felt dread creep inside, this was bad, I left New York to get away not to be remembered, but regardless I still shook her hand and gave her my best smile, I was suddenly feeling a bit nervous and my confidence going down

"I would really appreciate it if you didn't tell anyone back home I am here" I say as our hand let go, I could feel them clamming up and I mentally hoped they were not sweaty while we shook hands

"She is going by Vallie Stone, Love" Lily said as a matter of fact giving her friend a playful smirk "drop your business tone this is a friendly get together not some meeting"

"My apologies Vallie, and you don't have to worry about a thing, we completely understand, and would never want to do anything that could jeopardize and ruin your peace" she says to me, her voice sounding firm, as if we were at a meeting "and honestly I love seeing the New York society completely clueless, and powerless, for the first time, if anything we will protect you and this 'secret' if you would call it that"

"I admire your bravery for starting over away from home, I can't imagine the difficulty adjusting to the new culture, it has been a dream of mine to run away from New York" she added as she took a sip from her wine

"Then why haven't you" I ask, curiously

"My father will hunt me down, I have a duty to our family he would say" she replied, her voice changing to more masculine in a mocking way as if mocking her father, this caused Rosie to let out a chuckle, I could see Jade letting loose her business persona slowly being replaced by a childlike attitude

"Don't you have a sister?" She asked shaking her head

"Ah yes my rebellious wild twin, she could care less about duty and family, and because of her not wanting to have anything to do with family business it's my job to fill in for her as she stars in movies" she replies bitterly "thankfully she does agree to be my substitute to attend gatherings, I don't know how you opt up with the New York society for two years, if I were you I would've gone crazy"

"Trust me I didn't realize how crazy and trapped I actually was until I finally left Noah" I say honestly, I felt very comfortable with these women, I know I shouldn't be so trusting but they have been very welcoming to me, so I am willing to take some chances "I'm just glad to be free and starting over"

"I get that, it is hard being around that type of environment which is why I enjoy Lily's company, and even Dmitri, and being here in Paris is my little vacation before I return to reality" Jade comment, my heart strings pulled for her, I could only imagine the responsibilities she has

"Everyone has a moment where they feel trapped, sometimes they need to start over, others just need occasional vacations, and sometimes they need someone to rescue them" Lily joined in, as she took Jade's hand "What is freedom in our world, when we all have responsibilities it takes deep understanding of one's heart to completely understand what it needs, does it need to start over, a vacation, or someone to rescue them"

Lily's playful demeanor seemed to have disappeared as she spoke towards Jade, this conversation has suddenly become deep, and her words touched me, to me Lily had a point "my heart wanted to start over" I say honestly

They smiled at me, Lily took her glass of taking a quick sip "Dmitri rescued me" she said as a matter of fact, shrugging as she did so

"I already feel free ever since I left home" Rosie joined, her voice coming out almost as a whisper

Lily smiled brightly, she raised her glass "cheers ladies" she began "to our freedom, and the different ways we have it"

With a click of our glasses, we became talking again about random things, there was no awkwardness, no weird barriers, I didn't feel shy to hide any of what I was feeling like I did before, we opened up about a lot of things, it was like time didn't matter to us, the gazebo was our safe place

Soon the moonlight clouded above us, signalling us to depart and our moment has ended, Jade had gotten her number, while Lily had already set the date for our next "wine time" as she to called it, we said our goodbyes, until our next gathering which was in a few days before Jade had to return to New York, but she does visit Paris every month, I was quite happy with this day, though I had originally felt nervous I was happy with the time I spent with my new found friends

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Dmitri and Lily I know I keep changing things maybe I should've started with their book first but it's a longggg one it started in high school, and now they are married, now you all may be wondering why I described him as scary looking "why is Lily married to a ugly beast" cause I like the idea of opposites she is beauty and light, he is beastly and darkness, but they both have a darkness this to them, if your wondering why I was so detailed with the flowers, is because they are symbolic and are foreshadowing Lily and Dmitri's love and future hehehehe. AND YES THEY ARE ALL ALREADY FRIENDS, CAUSE PEOPLE CAN CLICK LIKE THAT. I know when I first met my best friend we just clicked which is why I wanted to have something like that with their friendship hope yall enjoy