

Chapter 5 - Dreaming?

The next morning, they all headed back down to the Hall for breakfast. Remus, James, Lily, (who oddly was getting along with James), Sirius, and Michelle were sitting at the Gryffindor table helping themselves to crumpets and sausage. Remus was quiet, his mind still on the dream he had last night. Naturally he would never tell anyone about it.

He dreamed that he and Michelle had gone to the dance together. They were having a good time too. Then, they headed outside into the courtyard. Michelle had wrapped her arms around Remus and snuggled up against him. He rested his chin on top of her head. Then, Remus tilted her head up and began slowly lowering his face closer to hers. His lips just barely touched Michelle's...

He was brought back to reality by Sirius, who was waving a hand energetically in front of Remus' face.

“Huh?” Remus said, snapping out of his dream-like state and looking at Sirius.

“You zoned out there, mate,” Sirius said with a grin. “Whatcha thinking about?”

“Oh,” Remus said taking a sip of his pumpkin juice. “Nothing, really.”

Sirius eyed him suspiciously, but said nothing more.

Michelle gave Remus a smile before turning to Lily.

“You going to the Spring Dance?” she inquired curiously.

Lily took a bite of her crumpet. “Not sure,” she said frowning. “I’ve got no one to go with really. What about you?”

Before Michelle could reply, James interrupted them.

“I’d be glad to take you, Miss Evans,” he said in a nonchalant tone, but Michelle knew deep down he was dying for her to say ‘Yes’.

Lily looked thoughtful.

“Okay, sure,” Lily said, beaming.

Michelle looked at her startled.

Lily hated James. Why was she suddenly going to the dance with him? she wondered.

James was positively beside himself and he and Sirius began whispering excitedly amongst themselves.

Michelle got her answer from Lily directly.

“I saw how he apologized to you for tormenting you,” Lily said. “And I decided to give him a shot, although I don’t approve of him tormenting Severus.”

Michelle nodded in agreement. She hadn’t asked anyone yet, other than Remus. She had really wanted to go with him, but he had said he was too busy with work to take her. She sighed and glanced up at Remus. He was talking with Peter, now, about Quidditch. A safe subject that didn’t require him to blush or get nervous at any point.

When breakfast was over, they headed to History of Magic. En route to class, they saw David Owens standing against the wall, talking to another Slytherin. As Michelle, Remus, James, and Sirius passed him, he stuck his foot out, and Michelle tripped over it, only to be caught by Remus. Remus set her back down on her feet.

“Owens, you’re threading on thin ice mate,” James snarled at him. “I swear we’re gonna get you yet.”

David just laughed and headed off with his friend.

“You alright?” Sirius asked Michelle worriedly.

“I’m Fine,” Michelle said, smoothing out her uniform and robe. “But I swear I’m gonna put my foot so far up his ass that Madam Pomfrey won’t be able to remove it, magically, or surgically.”

Remus chuckled and continued to walk at her side to the classroom.

When they arrived there, they discovered that Professor Cairns wasn’t feeling well, and they had been granted a free period. Remus, Michelle and the rest of their group took the occasion to walk the school grounds, eventually settling under a giant oak tree. Severus came up to Michelle as she and Remus sat there. The sunlight beamed down, reflecting in Michelle’s eyes making appear golden amber in color. Remus watched the scene closely as Severus began to speak.

“Michelle?” Severus asked, suddenly seeming nervous. “I-I was wondering if you’d like to go with me to the dance?”

Remus was fighting the urge to just come out and say, “She’s coming with me”.

Michelle smiled.

“That’s really sweet,” Michelle said softly. “I’d…”

But Remus suddenly came out with his reply, interrupting Michelle’s sentence. “She’s actually going with me,” he said quickly, startled by his sudden boldness.

Michelle looked to him in surprise and said, "I thought you had a lot of work to do?"

Remus shrugged. "I can put it off, right?"

Michelle grinned. "Right," She turned to Severus and said, "Sorry, Severus. That was really sweet of you to ask though."

Severus gave James and Sirius a sneer before turning around and heading back to the castle. Michelle had to admit, she was happy now that Remus finally spoke up.

"Whew," James said. "For a moment there I thought you were going to say 'yes' to snake boy there."

Sirius pretended to vomit. "Imagine if he tried to kiss her?"

"EWWW," James and Sirius howled in unison, then burst out laughing. Michelle frowned.

"What is wrong with someone trying to kiss me?" she asked, annoyed.

"It's not *you* we're 'ewing' about, it's the thought of you kissing Severus," James elaborated. "We would feel bad that you would have to endure that kind of horrible torture."

Remus just shook his head, pulled out a book from his bag, and began reading it, his green eyes skimming over the paragraphs. He was really happy that he'd finally spoken up and was now taking Michelle to the dance.

When the free period was over, James, Sirius, and Peter headed off to the castle. James and Sirius were fooling around pretending they were Michelle and Severus. Peter was rolling hysterically watching them.

Remus cleared his throat nervously and asked, "Michelle, a-are you excited about going with me?" He realized he was becoming quite self conscious now. After all, Michelle was still his best friend, but now that his feelings toward her were growing, he was extremely anxious about it. He scolded himself for speaking out and asking Michelle to the dance. He found himself dreading it, mostly because of nerves.

"Sure," Michelle beamed at him. "Why wouldn't I be? I'm going with my best friend." She linked arms with him and gave his arm a gentle, affectionate squeeze as they walked.

Remus picked up the scent of her shampoo. It smelled like cherries and cream.

Over the next few weeks, the Slytherins had played some pretty awful pranks on Michelle. James and Sirius were so angry that they decided to retaliate by jinxing the Slytherin common room. No matter how many times the students gave their password, the entrance would open and just when they were about to walk in, the entrance would slam shut on them. James and Sirius were in stitches over the looks on the Slytherins' faces each time the

entrance opened and then closed shut. This went on for about two hours before the Slytherin Head of House, Professor Dawes, arrived and lifted the spell from the entrance.

“That’ll teach them to mess with us,” James growled.

Michelle had no idea that the worst prank, was yet to come and it would come from someone close to her.

The night of the dance arrived. It was going to be held in the Great Hall, which was decorated with glitter, stars, and confetti.

The girls were wearing Muggle dresses as Professor Dumbledore had allowed everyone to dress up in Muggle attire. Naturally, the Slytherins declined and wore their dress robes instead. Michelle was wearing a light blue dress with spaghetti shoulder straps. Around the neckline and hem were small, embroidered flowers. Lily had used a spell to curl Michelle’s hair. She applied light pink eye shadow on her and clear lip-gloss with a tint of pink.

“You look lovely,” Lily beamed. She was wearing an ivory colored dress with small glittery stars on it. Her hair was elegantly pulled into a braid.

“And so do you,” Michelle said pleasantly back.

Once they were finished getting dressed, they headed into the common room where the boys were waiting dressed in tuxedos. Michelle had to admit, James, Sirius and Remus looked extremely handsome in Muggle tuxedos.

“We look like penguins,” Sirius complained, looking over himself. “Do me a favor James? If I start waddling and wanting sardines...kill me with your wand, eh?”

Michelle laughed.

“It’s not that bad,” she said. “You three look really handsome.”

Lily linked her arm with James and they left the common room. Sirius was going with a 6th year Ravenclaw girl named Elizabeth Hayes. He was going to meet her at the dance. Peter couldn’t get a date, so he decided not to go. Michelle felt sorry for him.

“Are you sure you don’t want to come anyway?” Michelle asked him softly. “I’ll save you a dance.”

“N-no,” Peter stammered quickly. “I think I’ll just stay here and study.”

Michelle shrugged her shoulders and linked her arm with Remus’. They began walking out of the common room.

“You look really lovely. Your hair is curly,” Remus said, clearing his throat as his nerves got the best of him. He mentally smacked himself, hoping Michelle wouldn’t think he was lame or anything.

Michelle laughed.

“Relax alright? I don’t bite,” she grinned. “And thank you.”

Remus relaxed, but only slightly.

They entered the Great Hall amongst a large gathering of other couples. The space was decorated so beautifully that Lily gasped in awe as she crossed the threshold of room. In place of the house tables, there were about ninety rounded tables set up to accommodate about three couples apiece. Michelle had to admit, it looked wonderful. Lily, James, Michelle, and Remus found a table and all sat down. Remus pulled the chair out for Michelle.

“Thank you,” she said warmly and sat down.

Remus sat down beside her. James took Remus’ initiative and did the same for Lily. Lily threw Michelle a surprised, but pleased look.

Out of nowhere, Remus began to recall what Michelle had said to him when he had told her about his being a werewolf. *“I’m not okay with it, but I accept it because of who YOU are,”* she had said to him. Then he wondered, *How can I tell Michelle how I feel about her if she isn’t okay with me turning into a monster once a month? She’s probably repulsed deep down. She would and could never love me because of that. It’s not that I expected her to be okay with it, but now I’m beginning to wonder if I’d made a big mistake asking her to come here with me. Maybe she really wanted to go with Severus. At least Severus doesn’t change into a monster monthly. Besides, I’ve seen the way he looks at her. I think he likes her too.*

Remus felt an ache of disappointment in his throat.

James and Lily got up to go dance. (Professor Dumbledore had stated that the evening’s events would consist of dancing before supper, then enjoying a nice meal, then engaging in more dancing till midnight.)

Michelle looked at Remus, noting how deeply troubled and upset he appeared.

“Remus? What’s wrong?” she asked with concern, turning to face him. She watched him intently.

“Nothing,” Remus replied, swallowing, forcing down his heartache, causing his Adams apple to move up and down in his throat. “I’m just thinking of tests coming up for the end of the year.”

Michelle saw right through him.

“You’re lying,” she said softly. “Come on, talk to me. It’s me, Moony.”

She grabbed Remus’ hand and pulled him to his feet and out of the Hall until they were outside. The sun was setting, and the sky was looking pink and cloudless. The early evening sunset looked so beautiful to Michelle that she had to smile.

She turned to face Remus at this point, whose heart began hammering in his chest.

This is just like my dream! He thought nervously and he swallowed again.

Michelle folded her arms over her chest and looked to him.

“What’s wrong?” she prodded gently. “You’ve got that look of ‘The World is Coming to an End’ across your face.”

Remus hesitated.

How can I tell her how I really feel? Remus wondered anxiously.

Michelle was still watching him intently. Her hazel eyes looked almost chocolate in the evening light. Above where she and Remus stood, a half moon was trying to peer out from behind the clouds.

“I was just worried that maybe you were having a lousy time with me,” Remus lied, forcing his tone to be light and steady.

Michelle cocked an eyebrow.

“I’m having a wonderful time, Remus,” she said. “Why on earth would you think I was having a lousy time?”

Remus stared at the ground and shuffled his feet. Using the tip of his black shoe, he brushed aside some dirt.

“Because, I was thinking you probably wanted to go with Severus instead of me,” he said quietly, not meeting Michelle’s eyes.

“And why would I want to go with him instead of you?” Michelle asked. “He’s a friend yeah, but not a close friend like you. I’d rather go with you any day.”

Remus couldn’t help but smile.

“Besides,” Michelle said in an even softer tone as she stepped closer to him. “We’re best friends. Who knows you better than me, huh?”

To Remus’ pleasure and surprise, she stood even closer and wrapped her arms around him, drawing him to her and into a tight embrace. She rested her cheek against his shoulder and a gust of wind blew her hair away from her face. Remus’ chin was resting on top of her head. Slowly, his arms encircled her and pulled her tighter against him.

“Yeah,” he said quietly. “Best friends.”

Michelle was dying to tell him how she really felt toward him, but she was scared and nervous. Little did she know, Remus felt the same way about her and was just as scared and nervous as she was about admitting it.

They stayed like that for a while. Michelle felt safe and secure in his arms, like nothing bad could ever happen, so long as they remained like this. Reluctantly, Michelle released Remus and stared up at him. Their faces were inches apart. Michelle could feel Remus' soft breath on her.

They stared at each other for a few minutes before Remus cleared his throat and said, "We'd best get back inside. James and Lily are probably wondering where we went off to."

"Good idea," Michelle agreed, also clearing her throat.

They headed back toward the castle.

Inside the Great Hall, a slow song was playing. James and Lily were already dancing, rotating on the spot. Remus and Michelle sat down at their table.

"Do-do you wanna dance?" Remus asked, turning to her, feeling his cheeks flushing with color.

"Naw, let's sit this one out," Michelle said, shaking her head.

"Okay," said Remus. He had to admit, he felt a rush of gratitude toward her. After the moment they had just shared outside, he knew that he was REALLY starting to like her...possibly even love her.

*******More chapters coming soon!!!!*******