The Lunar Eclipse

She awoke to the sun shining through her window. A beautiful Autumn day, the leaves were just turning golden. Her smile suddenly faded, and it was all she could do to keep the tear out of her eyes.

“God Selene it’s been a year, get over it already.” She told herself as she got out of bed. She couldn’t though. She still wanted her back. November 9th was the worst day of her life. The day she found out that the best seven months she ever had was a lie. But even though Persephone broke her heart, she still longed for the feeling of Percy’s soft, gentle hand in hers.

“Selene!” her dad, Hyperion, called for her to get ready for school.

“Coming”, she yelled back as she finished braiding her hair, pulling out two pieces to frame either side of her face.

“Your mom already left for work. There’s oatmeal on the stove for you.” Hyperion told Selene as she came down the stairs.

“I’m late! Have a good day! Don’t miss the bus!”

The bus. A heinous vehicle. And every kid inside knew about her. They knew exactly what she was. A witch. Not the kind you see in movies, with a magic wand and a broom. She was wiccan. But that didn’t make a difference to them. Or Persephone.

“I wonder if Astraeus could pick me up?” she said to the empty room. Astraeus was Selene’s best friend, and the only one that didn’t abandon her after Persephone told everyone her secret. Instead, he asked her to teach him all about witchcraft and magic. Astraeus had his junior operator’s license. He wasn’t supposed to drive other teens around, but no one listens to that rule.

She took out her phone, going to her contacts and calling Astraeus. It rang twice before he picked up.

“Hey Sea,” that was her childhood nickname no one else called her that. “What's up?”

“I need a ride to school.”

“Can't you just walk?”

“It's a 17-minute walk.” She had timed herself before to make sure she wouldn't ever be late. “And I haven't even eaten.”

“Okay, I'll come get you, but you owe me one.”

“Thank you!!” Selene said as she hung up.

She let out a sigh of relief. Astraeus was always there for her, even just with the little things. She walked up her creaky old stairs, turning left down the hallway to her room. She had a few minutes to meditate before Astraeus got there, she grabbed her Jasmine oil and amethyst, sat down, closed her eyes and started to focus on her breathing, when she heard Astraeus pull into the driveway.

When they got to the entrance to school they split up. Astraeus going to science, and Selene going to English. Selene hated English, but her teacher, Ms. Allen, made it worth it.

The day went by just as it always did, going through the motions. In the hallway she was taunted and stared at. In class there were whispers when she walked in, but none of it fazed her anymore. Just going through the motions.

By the end of the day, she was exhausted. With one class left she went to geometry. As she walked into Ms. Athena’s class, she felt… different. Like someone or something new was there. But it wasn't bad, just different, refreshing.

As she was taking in the classroom, that's when she saw, her. The sun shining through the window, lighting up her perfect golden hair, all the way down past her shoulders. *She’s beautiful*. Selene thought as she stood frozen in the doorway. As she got closer, she could see her green eyes radiating. They seemed as if they were a key to a long-lost secret. Like they could tell you what you really wanted in life. And she was sitting right next to where Selene sat.

Her heart pounding with every step, she made her way to her seat.

“H-Hi I'm S-Selene” She stuttered, blushing.

“The moon goddess.” The girl replied matter-of-factly.

“Huh?” Selene questioned.

“Your name, Selene, it's the name of the Greek moon goddess. I'm Alectrona. Aly for short.”

*No one ever knows where my name comes from. She is amazing.* Selene thought astounded.

“Well, it's nice to meet you Alectrona, the sun goddess.”

Alectrona laughed, a sweet, soft laugh. The kind of character in a TV show would have. Selene and Aly spent the whole class joking and laughing. And Selene didn't think about Percy a single time.

On Selene’s walk (or more accurately, skip) home, she had nothing on her mind. It was a wonderful feeling period to not be worried or stressed about anything.

All of that came to a sudden halt when she saw Percy’s house*. I must have taken a wrong turn. I can't be here, not today.* She ran as fast as her long legs could carry her- which wasn't very fast. She didn't care where she went, as long as it wasn't there.

When she finally stopped running, she found herself outside Astraeus’s house. Ding!! Her mom was calling. She was extremely overprotective of Selene.

“Hey mom.”

“Where are you!”

“I’m at Astraeus’s, I was just leaving. Sorry, I forgot to tell you.”

“It's okay. I have a meeting tonight, so I won't be home.”

“Okay. Bye.” Selene sighed, hanging up.

Her mom, Theia, loved her, but she was always working.

As the days turns to weeks, Aly and Selene spent more and more time together. They would spend all math class talking and then walk home together. Aly only lived two blocks over from Selene.

One day as Aly started to go inside her house after their walk home, she stopped short her hand on the doorknob.

“Do you wanna come in and hang out?” She asked Selene.

“Like right now?” Selene questioned hopefully.

“Yeah. My dad isn't going to be home for a few hours anyway.”

“Okay! Let me tell my mom real quick!” Selene said trying to keep the excitement out of her voice.

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They went upstairs to Aly's room. Her door had an elaborate painting of a sun in blue, pink, and purple swirling all around. Her room was beautiful, her walls light blue with a dark blue accent wall. Her bookcase reached to the ceiling and was covered in fake ivy leaves. There was a small love seat under her loft bed with a TV across from it. All of her room was insanely neat and tidy.

“Do you wanna watch a show or something?” Aly asked before sitting down on her loveseat.

“Sure.” Selene responded sitting next to her.

“What do you wanna watch?”

“Whatever.” Selene said blushing realizing how close together they were sitting. She wanted to be closer still though. She leaned in towards Alectrona slowly. Trying to keep eye contact with her, but desperately wanting to look at her lips. Craving to feel them up against hers. Selene brought her hand up to Aly’s cheek but stopped short. *What if she doesn't like me. What if we can't be friends. What if she doesn't accept me being a witch. I can’t put myself though that again.* Selene pulled away.

“I- I should go” she muttered darting up. “I have a lot of homework.”

“Oh, okay.” Alectrona replied, a hint of disappointment in her voice. “See you tomorrow?” “Yeah, tomorrow.” Selene said as she left.

Selene was halfway home when her phone went off. Her stomach dropped.

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

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Selene immediately called Astraeus.

“Meet me at my house, now.” Selene demanded as soon as he picked up.

“What's going on?” He responded.

“I'll explain later.” She said hanging up.

The house was empty when Selene got home. When she heard Astraeus’s car pull into her driveway she ran out and wrapped him in an embrace. She fought the tears in her eyes but lost. She collapsed in his arms, so he carried her inside and made her tea. By the time she had finished her tea, she had told Astraeus everything. He was beyond angry.

“So, this bitch decided that after a year of ruining your life that she could just come back and expect you to listen to whatever shit she has to say.” He yelled fuming.

“Astrae-“ Selene tried to interrupt.

“I should go and knock some fucking sense into her right now.”

“Astreau-“

“That little, no good-“

“ASTREAUS” Selene shouted bringing him back to reality. “I want to hear what she has to say. The least that would come of it is that I finally get some closure.”

“Okay, I understand. But please be careful. You know what she's done. Don't fall for this, it's a trap.”

“You really are an amazing friend; I don't know what I would do without you.” Selene said hugging him one last time before he left.

That night Selene spent every extra minute she had meditating. It was the only thing that kept her mind from exploding with fear. She didn't get any sleep and convinced her dad to let her skip school the next day. She had agreed to meet Percy at the park after school let out.

When Selene got to the park Percy was already there.

“How was your day?” Percy said trying to make conversation.

“Cut the crap.” Selene spat “What do you want.”

“I deserve that.” Percy said looking down at her shoes. “I wanted to apologize. What I did was wrong. I want to try us again though, I miss you.”

“You know Persephone,” Selene started Percy’s face lighting up with confusion at the sound of her full name. “I would have given anything for this moment. I've played it over in my head thousands of times. It always ends the same way, your hand and mine. Like it used to be. Like I've longed for since you broke my heart.” Selene didn't even try to stop the tears from coming.

“But you hurt me. And couldn't accept me for who I am. You may be able to now, but it's too late.” Selene's voice was gradually growing in volume. “You betrayed me. You told everyone!” She shouted. “Everyone!! So, you may miss me, but that's your fault. You can’t get a second chance with every mistake you make. You did this to yourself Persephone.” The tears in Selene’s eyes dried up, because she wasn't sad anymore, she wasn't angry. She walked away, leaving Percy with her thoughts and tears.

Selene felt a wave of relief, like a weight was lifted off her shoulders. She felt like she could do anything. While heading home she passed Alectrona’s house. She felt a pull towards it. Towards her. Selene found herself at Aly’s front door. There were no cars in the driveway, but she knew Aly was there. She could feel it.

when Alectrona opened the door Selene lost all her thoughts. She stared at Aly speechless, taking in her beauty. She has changed from her school uniform to a flowy yellow dress, and she was stunning.

“Hey, what are you doing here?” Aly questioned.

“I wanted to talk to you.”

“Okay, come in. Do you want something to eat?”

“No thanks.” Selene said fidgeting with her short hair.

A picture containing text, businesscard, screenshot

Description automatically generatedAly grabbed Selene’s hand, guiding her upstairs to her room. Sitting down, signaling Selene to do the same. They sat in silence for what felt like hours. Selene saw Aly's hand slowly creeping towards her. When they met Selene shivered. Her breath deepened with every inch Aly moved closer to her. Suddenly there was no distance between them. Selene gasped as their lips tentatively touched. Their kiss grew stronger as they gained confidence, pulling each other as close as possible. Nothing else mattered to them and the world fell away. Until Selene’s phone went off with a message from Astraeus.

“I'm sorry,” Aly said picking her nailbeds, “I shouldn't have done that.”

“No, don't apologize. I've wanted to do that since the moment I first saw you.”

Now it was Alectrona’s turn to blush.

“Well, we could do it again then.” Aly asked hopeful.

“I would love to.” Selene responded, “But. There's something you need to know first.”

“Whatever it is, I doubt it will change how I feel for you. “Aly said grabbing Selene’s hand.

While the sentiment was sweet, Selene didn’t know if she believed her. *Just say it and get it over with already.*

“I’m a witch.” Selene blurted out, expecting Aly to pull away. But she didn’t. She looked at Selene as if waiting for her to continue, so she did. “I’m Wiccan specifically. I work mainly with crystals, but I’ve been practicing divination too recently.” She paused waiting for Aly to respond.

“That’s cool. I kinda already knew. People at school are real jackasses. Someone told me the second day after school. I figured it wasn’t my business to know unless you told me though.” Aly said, a better response than Selene ever could have imagined.

“And you don’t care?”

Aly smiled sending a wave of butterflies through Selene. She pulled Selene closer to her and leaned her forehead up against Selene’s saying,

“Why would I? It’s your life. I just want to be in it.”

10 Years Later

“Sea darling,” Aly whispered softly in her wife's ear. “We need to get up.”

“Mhm. Sure. Whatever you say hon.” Selene responded blankly, not listening to what Aly had said.

“Seriously, I can't be late to Pelios”s class again. And you've got the morning shift this week.”

“Why do you even need that class anyway. It's so early.”

“It's kind of important for me to understand the brain and emotions if I want to go into psychology.”

Selene groaned in response as she slowly stood up.

She hated the idea of going to work on their anniversary, but money was tight. They were able to buy their dream house. Just two doors down from where they had their first kiss, but it wasn't cheap. Homeownership was expensive and with only one income it was even harder. Luckily, Selene’s job at the crystal shop payed well.

They were happy. They were reaching for their dreams. Together they could weather any storm. Because like the sun and the moon, they were meant to be.