

Excerpt From:
Blue Moon Rising



Being this close to her was dangerous. Touching her had been a mistake. The simple act of trying to help her had him hard and hungry for a taste of her. Was he any better than they were? A heavy ache between his thighs acknowledged his need for the woman beside him. Leaning back, he placed a slender space between them as he fought for control over the growing urge for a sampling of her beauty.

Something stirred upon the wind and snapped his attention to full alert. A scent not hers or his filled his olfactory senses warning him that they were not alone. Looking down at her, he knew she wasn't aware of the other hidden in the darkness. He needed to get her to safety and soon.

"What else could it have been other than a dog?" He decided to keep her talking, calm her down, and get her out of here.

On the sly, he glanced across her shoulder and caught the subtle movement of a shadowy figure amongst the trees. Lucky for her, he heard the howl, saw her following it entranced in its magical pull, and knew she was in danger. They wanted her and his gut told him it was not in a good way. The other's scent on the wind was careless mistake. It gave him away to one more skilled in the ways.

"Nothing," her voice trembled as she shook her head. "I must have been hearing things."

The wind blew through the trees as if on cue and she shivered. Nick stood and removed his jacket. "Here take this."

He flipped it around her shoulders as he studied the trees. One he could handle. But if several gathered, he wasn't sure if he had the strength to disband them. Not tonight. Not in his weakened condition. It was better to get her home than to take a stand against the unforeseen at the moment. "Let me walk you home."

"I can manage," she stated, determination in her tone as she stood. The fountain blurred. Cupping her face in her hands, she attempted to steady the dizzy light-headedness. The warmth of his hand wrapped around her elbow helped steady the swaying motion. Tilting her chin up, she added weakly. "I must have stood up too fast."

"You must have." He replied in a soothing voice as he smiled, trying to remain as calm as possible though he realized that the danger in the trees lingered.

Confusion filled her green eyes. Confusion normally did after a calling. Thick sandy blond hair tangled about her face almost made her look helpless. Though he doubted she could be considered helpless. He stopped his hand before it reached her hair. The desire to run his fingers through it made his whole body ache. Her essence filled his senses. The heavenly scent of her arousal covered with a thin veil of perspiration from her run roused a hunger he'd long forgotten existed. Visions of her naked body inundated his brain and sent his synapses firing an erotic play into action on the big screen in his mind. His heavy cock twitched at the thought of tasting the salt of her skin and filling her body with his captivated his thoughts, but only for a moment.

She was in danger. That thought flashed bright behind the inside of his eyes. He needed to get her home. But not just because of the creature lurking in the shadows, he was a threat to her as well and he knew it.

"You lead," he whispered huskily, feigning a friendly smile in an attempt to hide his hunger for a taste of her tender lips.

Heat filled Rae's cheeks. This was foolish. She was a big girl and could take care of herself. She needed no one to walk her home. And yet, she couldn't bring herself to relinquish his arm. As if drawing from it for support, her legs only moved when he did. In silence, they walked through the quiet streets. Though she listened for it, the howl didn't happen again.

Each step away from the park was an effort. Her thighs quivered from the excursion of the run. Unintentionally, she leaned into him as she led him through the streets and to her front doorstep. No matter how hard she tried she couldn't remove the fog that seemed to have enveloped her brain. Clear thought was difficult.

Where had the sound come from? In her gut, she knew she heard it even though the man on her arm never admitted that he heard it at all. And the hazy thought that bothered her most, why had she followed it in the first place? It was just a dog, wasn't it?

Suddenly aware his hand released her elbow; she looked up into the eyes of the gentleman who walked her home. The porch light illuminated his features. Charcoal eyes tranquil, yet hypnotic simmered surrounded by a ruggedly handsome face. A breeze ruffled the jet-black curls from his collar. When her gaze lowered to his lips and his tongue innocently wet them, Rae shuddered. She grasped the door knob as if clinging to it kept her from falling to the floor at his feet. A raw animalistic power seemed to surge in the air between them and held her captive in his essence.

Instinctively, she touched her neck. The pulse throbbed wildly at the curve of her collarbone. Though she swallowed hard, her mouth had the consistency of cotton as she forced her lips to work. "Thank you for walking me home."

Her hands shook as she handed him his jacket. Cool air caressed her bare arms and she regretted taking it off. Crossing her arms over her chest, she attempted to hide the pert nipples that stood at full attention. It had to be the evening air, she decided.

"You're welcome." The simple feat of her wetting her lips made his mouth water and he craved for a taste of her tender lips. Following the action of her arms, his gaze dropped to her chest and glimpsed another area of desired tongue laving. Though the sighting of her nipples hard and round had been brief, he hungered to suckle them into the warmth of his mouth and tease them to perfection.

Curb your senses, his inner voice silently chided. *Now is not the time for a woman*. When she turned her back to him to unlock the door, he seized the opportunity.

"I never got..." She turned to face him, her voice trailed off. He was gone. "Your name."

Rae stood on the top step searching the street, but she knew he was gone just as mysteriously as he had appeared.

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