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## Dying to Touch You

by [otp324B21](#)

### Summary

Delphine is an angel, tasked with ushering souls to heaven. When Cosima loses a patient, upon ushering the soul, Delphine finds Cosima looking her straight in the eye...or does she? With the rules and restrictions of heaven and Earth between them, is Delphine willing to fall for the surgeon...literally?

### Notes

Alright, so here's where I explain that this is a cophine AU for City of Angels. I know everyone has the same thought...blah blah blah it's super sad, but you guys gotta trust me on this one.

## Chapter 1

There was a soft whoosh of the respirator and the steady beeping of the heart monitor, the sounds filling the air and breaking the eerie silence. Unbeknownst to the employees that moved around the room, a tall woman in a crisp black suit and curly blonde hair stood in the outer room, observing the commotion. Delphine, having been in this very room a few times before, stared through the glass at the small brunette, watching as her hand moved the scalpel steadily across the body, her hands moving with familiarity and grace as she sliced from belly button to groin. It was such a gruesome job, but it had a beauty to it. It was life. It was creation. It was the hand of God manifested through the skill of one human being. Delphine moved into the room, unnoticed by nurses. She was looking down into the open cavity of the man. A life of poor eating had gotten him a ruptured intestines and Cosima's careful hands made fast work of removing the tattered section. Delphine leaned closer to the doctor, mesmerized by look of concentration on her face. The brunette didn't know. There was no way she could know. No way she would be able to foretell the blood clot that was...

A loud beeping sound got everyone's attention.

"Doctor!"

Delphine stepped out of the room as the commotion started. She doesn't need to watch this. She's seen it a thousand times over the years. Humans were so fragile, but they fought to keep each other alive when there was no chance. There was great beauty in their complexity. They had free will but rarely used it, instead bowing to the flow of the current. Twenty minutes into attempted resuscitation and Delphine watched as a column of light shown down on the patient. The smallest pinpoint of light started in the center of his chest, where the doctor's hands still moved in the futile attempt to circumvent the inevitable.

"Clear!"

The doctor and nurses pulled away in sync, the defibrillator sending electricity through the man that was already too far gone. Simultaneously, the small light brightened as it rose out of his body. Delphine watched as the pinpoint hovered for just a moment above the body, pulsing and flickering for an agonizingly long moment before it merged into the light, disappearing as the column faded. Delphine looked around the room with a sense of boredom, knowing her presence wasn't required after all. Her job was only to assist those that lingered behind. With a passive glance, she watched as the nurses began to pull away, one by one, leaving the small doctor to continue compressions alone.

Finally the doctor who had been assisting, stepped up, placing a hand tentatively on her shoulder. "Cosima it's over."

The brunette paused, looking around at the broup before sighing in exasperation. A dissatisfied look settled on her face as she stepped away, pulling off her gloves and mask. "Time of death...7:24." She looked up, hands on hips and her eyes locked with Delphine's.

Delphine gasped at that, taking a step back. She knew it was impossible, but those dark hazel eyes seemed to look right at her, seeing into her like she'd never experienced.

Just as soon as it started, the brunette looked away, shaking her head. She pulled off the rest of the disposable garb she wore, tossing it in the receptacle before walking out, not without one final glance back at the patient the nurses were cleaning up. Her head hung low, she continued to walk away to speak with the patients family.

Delphine watched the nurses clear the room with practiced ease. Normally it would take a few minutes to receive her next orders. When none came, she was left to her own devices. Her presence not needed anywhere else, Delphine found herself following the doctor, curious about the pull she felt. She was in a locker room, the brunette sitting on a bench in the darkness, head in hands. She couldn't pinpoint the reason she was following the doctor. Maybe it was the first time she was looked at by a human without her wanting to be seen. Maybe it was the sorrow she'd seen in those eyes. There was a snuffle and she was on the ground, kneeling in front of the brunette. There were tears streaking down her face and she was wringing her scrub cap in her hands, a single dread swinging in her line of sight.

Delphine's brow furrowed. There was a yearning in her own chest to reach out and wipe the tears away. Unfortunately there was no way she could do that without revealing herself, but she leaned forward anyway, her hand covering the one squeezing the material.

The doctor, Cosima, rose her head, quickly wiping away her tears before looking around her in confusion.

Delphine was quick to pull her hand away, looking at it in confusion. There was no way the human could feel her touch.

"Hey." A voice sounded behind her and Delphine turned, finding a petite blonde wearing colorful scrubs entering and taking a seat on the bench. "I just heard. Are you ok?"

Cosima laughed at that, clearing her throat as she stood up and started pulling clothes out of a locker. "Yeah, totally. You keepin' tabs on me or something?"

The blonde smiled, obviously used to the doctor's standoffish behavior. "What makes you think that?"

With a roll of her eyes, Cosima stripped off her scrubs. "Because pediatrics is two floors down from here." Hands slipped up her side and she quickly pulled on her shirt, pulling away from the touch. "Come on, Shay."

"You can't blame yourself, you know." The small blonde commented, tugging on the shirt the doctor now wore. "I just want you to know, I'm here for you."

With a soft sigh, Cosima turned to the woman, leaning down to place a soft kiss against her lips. "I know you are." She smiled a tight-lipped smile, standing up and slipping on a red coat.

Delphine could see the sadness in her eyes as she turned back to the locker to grab her bag. How could the other human not see what was so plainly obvious?

"Hey, are you coming over tonight?" Cosima turned to the blonde, fiddling with the strap of her bag.

Shay stood up, stretching. "Can't. With Turner out this week, I'm covering his shift in the ER tonight." She grabbed the front panels of Cosima's jacket, pulling the brunette closer again. "You know, if you would just move in with me, we wouldn't have deal with the whole 'are you or aren't you coming over' thing."

"Shay..." Cosima gave her an exasperated look but found her frown quickly covered by soft lips, arms slipping under her coat and wrapping around her waist. She knew the blonde wouldn't give up so she pressed the woman into the locker, returning the kiss as she brought her hand up to feel the soft skin of her neck. *I wish you would stop asking me.'*

Delphine tilted her head as the thought came from the brunette. From what she knew about human behavior, kisses were meant to either comfort or arouse, but the thoughts in the doctor's mind were a complete contradiction of that. This small human was becoming more interesting by the minute. Suddenly, a summon came to her, calling her to duty as information was fed to her. With a reluctant sigh, she left the scene, heading two floors down.

## Chapter 2

### Chapter Notes

Thank you for reading. I'm glad that you guys are enjoying it. I appreciate the comments and all of you guys who are reading.

"Have you ever been seen, Marion?" They were sitting on the edge of a building, looking down at the world moving around below them. It was night, and although most humans should be sleeping, there was still so much activity. So many humans unable to find peace in their own dreams, running through life in a hurry with somewhere else to go.

"I'm looking at you now." The woman looked older, but they were the same age. It was just the way she was created. She had a poise and elegance that was common with all of them, her legs crossed at the knees, hands joined on her lap. She had a confused look on her normally sure features.

"Not like that." Delphine sighed softly, her elbows resting on her knees. "Not by the dying or the deranged. Have you ever been seen...like you were a person?" She wrinkled her nose as she thought about it. "That doctor, from the mission yesterday. She looked up and looked right at me. She could see me."

The woman's laughter drifted into the air like the sound of small children. "They can't see you. It's impossible. Not unless you want them to."

Delphine thought about that, looking at the woman who was watching her intently. "What if you want them to?" Could that be it? Did she want Cosima to see her, even when she wasn't dying or sick of mind? Did she want Cosima to know she existed?

Marion thought about that, the corner of her mouth turning up in a small smile. "They don't need to see us, Delphine. They wouldn't understand."

It was true. There was no way she could explain the truth to Cosima. Delphine sighed softly, nodding. She would just have to endure.

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Cosima woke with a gasp, the remnants of a dream slipping away from her easily as she caught her breath. *'God, not again.'* She thought as she slipped her glasses on, looking at the clock that read 3:24 am. Another early morning after a late night. She was so exhausted but she could never sleep. She pushed herself out of bed, preparing herself for the day. She had a surgery at 7. That left her over three hours to burn.

Delphine watched as the woman made her way down the elevator to a small gym, taking a seat on a stationary bike. It was strange to think about humans, sitting on a bike that goes nowhere. She leaned closer to the brunette, watching her as she pedaled away, ear buds in her ear.

*'Please don't let me kill anyone today.'*

Delphine's brows furrowed, wanting to reach out and touch her, to comfort her in any way possible.

*'God I don't want to kill anyone today.'*

A tear slipped from dark hazel eyes and Delphine wanted to reach out and wipe it away. Crying was so confusing to her. It was not something she could do, and she wasn't sure why humans did it. It would be easy enough to find out, but there was something beautiful and sacred about the mystery of it all. She watched as the woman continued for an hour, mercilessly punishing herself for reasons beyond Delphine's understanding.

Dressed in scrubs and looking around the empty operating room, Cosima sighed with her head hanging.

"Sorry Cos." Scott, another surgeon who often assisted her, placed a hand on her shoulder. "Yesterday is still under review, you know how it is. The surgery was non-life threatening so it will be rescheduled." He tried to smile reassuringly, but there wasn't much he could offer to help.

Cosima shook her head, detouring to the locker room to get her long white coat.

Delphine could only watch as she escaped downstairs, her steps slow and lethargic almost as she disappeared into the room full of sleeping infants.

*'I did everything I could and he just died.'* Cosima took a seat in the center of the room, surrounded by new life, wanting to maybe absorb some of the hope and love that seemed to radiate with each new life in the room.

Delphine stepped in front of her, placing her hands on the woman's shoulders, trying to give her some amount of hope.

It was odd, Cosima thought, as a calming sensation came over her. It must be the peacefulness of the babies. Who wouldn't be at peace around such beauty?

Delphine glanced at the others like her, watching over the babies. The room felt crowded all of a sudden. She wished it could be just her and Cosima, alone yet together.

"Hey, what are you doing in here?"

Cosima looked up at the blonde, smiling a small smile that was half-hearted, but unnoticed by the short woman. "I was on my way to x-ray and...I'm just hiding." She laughed, not finding any humor in the situation. Somehow the momentary peace she found was broken by the entrance of the pediatrician.

Shay moved over to where the doctor sat, her hands falling on the woman's shoulders just as Delphine pulled her own away, massaging the tense muscles she found. "What are you trying to hide from?"

"My patient's husband. They made me reschedule her surgery and I don't want to deal with it right now." She shook her head, thinking about the surgery ahead of her, and the one behind her. "Do you ever feel like...like none of this is in our hands? I mean we're doctors. It's our job to fix the human body, fighting to keep them alive, but what are we fighting against?"

Shay frowned. "Why so spiritual all of a sudden? Don't tell me you're going to become one of those doctors that pray in the operating room."

Delphine watched the interaction between the two. The brunette seemed to shift uncomfortably, as

if she wasn't enjoying the attention, but she was too polite to say anything. For the first time, she felt something she'd never felt before. Jealousy? No...envy? That was one of the deadly sins. Surely she wasn't given the capability of feeling such a horrible thing. There was an odd sensation in her chest, a tug almost, as she watched the couple. She wished for the strength to make herself visible, for the strength that would allow her own hands to fall on the brunette's shoulders, massaging her muscles.

*'Why are you being so distant lately?'* Shay moved aside the long dreads, brushing her lips along the edge of an ear. "I'll make you feel better tonight."

Standing up, Cosima turned, placing a quick kiss on the doctor's lips. "I have to work late tonight, since the surgery got moved to tomorrow."

Shay gave her a disappointed look. "Oh. Ok. Maybe tomorrow night then?"

*'Stop being so damn clingy.'* Cosima smiled. "You got a date." She leaned forward and gave her another kiss, pressing closer this time, taking a moment to enjoy the closeness of the blonde, grinning as teeth nipped at her bottom lip. "I'll see you later."

"Totally." Shay grinned. "I love you."

Stopping in the door, Cosima gave her a smile. "Ditto." She winked before leaving, escaping into the hallway, feeling the pressure lessening significantly now that she was away from the woman. *'When did I start feeling so suffocated around her?'*

Walking behind her silently, Delphine smiled.

## Chapter 3

*Alright, sorry it's been so long. I kind of got stuck on this part, trying to get through the first half and not make it completely boring. Thank you for the awesome reviews and comments you guys have left. I am forever grateful.*

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"Hello Mrs. Saddler." Cosima stepped into the room, watching as the husband moved around the room, organizing things. She'd tried to avoid this interaction as long as possible but unfortunately she didn't have a choice. The man obviously loved his wife very much, but he was mocking and condescending towards her, no doubt because of her age.

Trying to stay out of the way, Delphine took a seat on a nearby chair. This had become her new schedule. Between saving lives in situations of needed guidance, and ensuring spirits headed to the other side, she spent her free time watching the brunette. She still couldn't pin down what was luring her here. What was luring her to... her.

"Oh look who decided to show up today." Mr. Saddler exclaimed, setting a cup of water in front of his wife. "What happened yesterday, Doc?"

Flipping through the chart, Cosima cleared her throat, giving the man a grim smile. "Conditions were not optimal for the procedure..."

"Hey my wife ain't just no procedure lady. Her name is Siobhan or Mrs. Saddler, not the procedure." He gave her an indignant snort.

Cosima tried not to bristle at the man. It had been her fault after all, but the last thing she wanted to tell any patient was about the death of another. "I apologize. I'm sorry Mrs. Saddler but your surgery had to be delayed due to circumstances I cannot explain, but it's back on for tomorrow."

"That's doctor speak for taking a day off at the beach."

"Oh hush up, Harold. Can you go get me a soda from the machine, maybe some chips?" Mrs. Saddler dismissed him, pushing herself up and running a hand through her dark red hair.

"No soda or chips." Cosima gave the woman a look of disbelief. "If you continue eating this way you may as well just cancel the procedure, save the insurance company \$45k."

The woman gave the doctor a curious look before smiling. "Some tea then from the cafeteria." She corrected.

Delphine watched the women with curiosity, smiling at the boldness of the blonde, but there was also something about the older woman, something she couldn't put her finger on, but something familiar.

Cosima watched as the man left, breathing a sigh of relief as she held a stethoscope up to the woman's chest, checking her vitals. "Looks like you should be good to go for the procedure Mrs. Saddler."

The woman tsked, shaking her head. "How many times do I have to tell you, Chicken. Forget my husband's demands to call me . My name is Siobhan."

Cosima gave her a small smile. "Well Siobhan. I'll see you tomorrow." She pat the woman on the arm before leaving.

It was much later that night that Cosima yawned, pushing aside the latest medical journal, some breakthrough on transgenic organ transplants. It was a quarter past nine and she was still hesitant to go home for some reason. What was there for her? She'd told Shay not to come over, but she didn't really want to see her did she? Well, she could do one more round of her patients.

She felt exhausted, but she knew when she got home, she wouldn't sleep well. It was the same every night. She would get two or three hours of sleep before waking, sleep somehow evading her every morning.

This late at night the hallways were always eerie, reminding her of the many horror movies that had similar settings. To her surprise, as she neared Mrs. Saddler's room, she noticed a tall form dressed all in black looking in the window. "Excuse me?" The stranger turned and Cosima almost gasped. Hazel eyes as light as the sun were framed by perfect pale skin and flawless blonde curls. "Um... are you a visitor? Visiting hours are over."

Delphine smiled, leaning against the wall, trying to look calm and relaxed, or at least what humans considered calm and relaxed. "Why do you have those?" At the brunette's confused look, she continued. "Visiting hours. Doesn't it help the patients to have visitors?"

Cosima was taken back. The blonde seemed to have an accent that cut through her, sending a chill down her back and warming her from the inside. "Um... are you visiting Mrs. Saddler?"

"Right now?" Delphine smiled just slightly. "I'm visiting you."

Cosima's eyebrows rose. What a strange thing for someone to say. She was a doctor, not a patient. Surely she didn't look like a patient? "I don't need a visitor." Not even she could believe herself. Did she need a visitor?

Delphine tilted her head slightly. "Are you sure? You seem like you could use a visitor."

With a shrug, Cosima leaned against the wall, looking away from the blonde. "I lost a patient yesterday." Why was she telling this woman anything? The last thing she wanted was for more people to know about her failure. He had died and she should have been able to do more, to help him somehow.

"You did everything you could." When dark hazel eyes turned her way, she smiled again. "It wasn't your fault. He wasn't alone. When people die, it's just because their bodies give out."

"Well it's my job to make sure they don't give out." Cosima crossed her arms over her chest, taking a deep breath. She could still hear the heart monitor, it's steady tone still echoing in her mind. He had trusted her. She'd seen that look in his eyes, before the operation, the look of complete trust and expectation of success. She had expected success herself. She expected nothing but perfection from herself. Anything less was unacceptable. "I wanted him to live."

Delphine looked down for a minute before turning her eyes up, looking at the brunette through long pale lashes. "He is living, Cosima. Just not here."

As confusion set in, Cosima blinked, her brows furrowing. "How do you know my name?" She watched as a look of panic came over the woman's face before light hazel eyes moved to her badge then up to her eyes again. Of course. She was on display to everyone just like her failures. "What's your name?"

"Delphine." There was that smile again, teeth biting on the corner of her bottom lip, not

intentionally being seductive, but sensing the blonde's hesitance nonetheless.

*Delphine.* It was a beautiful name for a beautiful creature, heavenly almost, and Cosima couldn't help but smile at the woman. She pushed off the wall, her hands slipping into her coat pockets. "Well, Delphine, better get out of here before security thinks you're a psych patient." She spoke as she began to walk away, trying to appear cool, as if it took everything in her to keep going forward, to not look back. She was halfway down the hall before turning around, expecting to see the blonde watching her walk away. To her surprise, the hall was completely empty.

*Delphine.* Her mind smiled as she made her way to the locker room, remembering the way the woman had said it, her accent, French she guessed. She remembered blonde hair and eyes that seemed to glimpse into her soul, as if they carried all the knowledge of the universe behind the golden star-bursts. She slipped off her coat, hanging it in the locker, only then doing a double-take as she looked at her badge, noticing the name Dr. C. Niehaus.

## Chapter 4

The liquid heat swallowed Cosima whole as she slipped into the bath, the speaker playing a soft melodic song as she picked up the glass of wine from the nearby table, taking a long sip of the tart drink. She thought about the surgery she'd just performed, Mrs. Saddler successfully pulling through. That of course meant more chances to accidentally run into Delphine.

*Delphine. What kind of name is Delphine?*

Delphine smiled as she sat on the floor trying to not stare. She understood humanity's need for privacy... or rather she understood that they wanted it. She would never understand why they felt they needed it. The human body was beautiful in all its perfect flaws...especially Cosima. Short in stature, the brunette was fit and compact, a beautiful confidence in the way she moved and interacted with the rest of the world. Not only was she beautiful in form, but she was beautiful in spirit as well. The way she looked at the world, it was rare.

*God those eyes.*

Delphine looked up, her own thoughts interrupted.

*Those lips... that skin... my God.*

Delphine was sure that if there were blood running through her veins, her cheeks would be burning a bright red.

*Those hands... they were so strong. What would it feel like...*

A groan came from Delphine as she felt a shudder course through her body. She was feeling things she'd never felt before and it was slightly confusing but mostly... arousing. No doubt it was invasive, but she found herself on her knees beside the tub, watching as a hand disappeared beneath the waterline, the other hand gripping the edge of the tub and dark hazel eyes closed slowly. Delphine captured her own lip between her teeth in mirror of Cosima's mouth,

*God Delphine.*

Cosima's nostrils flared as her back arched, her breasts breaking the surface of the water.

Delphine watched in curiosity that surpassed any she'd felt before. She could never imagine what the woman was feeling, physical touch being impossible for her, but for the first time in existence, she regretted what she was. She regretted not being able to reach out and touch the woman's skin, wondering what warmth and softness felt like. She wanted to taste her lips, and discover what "sweetness" was.

Cosima's breathing came in shuttered bursts, a whimper emerging from her throat.

Tilting her head to the side, Delphine watched.

Suddenly there was a knock on the door and Cosima jumped, her eyes opening wide.

"Hey, Cos you in there?"

"Shit." Cosima let slip softly as she tried to catch her breath. "Yeah, I'm in the tub." How had she forgotten that she was supposed to meet Shay? God her blood was still boiling. She had been so close.

The door opened and the short woman smirked, letting her eyes fall leisurely over the skin that was visible through the water. "I hope you don't mind me showing up. I tried to call you. I thought we were going out." She moved to the edge of the tub, sitting down and pushing one of Cosima's loose dreads back. "You forgot didn't you?"

Cosima smiled. "Sorry, I'm pretty horrible." Sitting up, she tugged on the edge of Shay's top. "Take this off and I'll make it up to you."

Delphine looked away as the small blonde took the hint, clothes dropping to the ground. There was a fine line between envy and jealousy, but the line mattered not when she felt both. How could she, a child of the highest being, feel such an emotion that belonged to humans?

"How about you get out of there so we don't drown." Shay commented, offering a hand down to the brunette.

*This will do for now.*

Cosima's internal voice forced Delphine's glance in the direction of the stumbling couple who moved clumsily, lips locked in an exchange of kisses and laughter. For some reason, she found herself at the foot of the bed, watching as the smaller woman kissed her way down Cosima's stomach.

*Stop thinking about Delphine. She's not Delphine...*

A chill slipped down Delphine's back as dark hazel eyes seemed to lock with her own for the barest of moments before the doctor's head shot back, fingers tangling in the blonde hair between her thighs.

Delphine suddenly felt the call, and for the first time in her existence, she resisted for a moment before she was forced out of the room and she found herself in an emergency room. The hospital was familiar, the one that Cosima worked at. Before her there was a scramble of doctors and nurses around a gurney. It was quite a change, going from arousal to duty. She didn't care at all about the spirit before her, whether it made it to its eternal destination or was forced to linger behind and travel the mortal plane of existence. She wanted to return, to watch Cosima writhing in pleasure, her own name repeating through the brunette's mind even as she was with her lover.

Where did this feeling come from, this nonchalance towards her purpose? When did a small brunette take over her every thought, directing her behaviors, her wants, her needs?

"Are you troubled?"

Delphine didn't need to turn, she could feel Marion's presence beside her, watching the activity before them. It wouldn't be long now. "I am. I have never felt this way before."

Marion turned to her, studying the expression on the blonde's face. "It is not our position to feel any way. We do as we are required to do, Delphine."

Together they watched as the monitor flat-lined. The group of workers began to move in a frenzy, but it was too late. The spirit had already detached, and Delphine watched as it moved into the light as was expected.

"Looks like I was unneeded." Delphine sighed, turning away from the scene, looking down at the hand that landed on her arm.

"Needed or not, this is our duty." Marion gave her a confused look. "I don't know what is going

on in your mind, but if we don't do what we are needed for, what will happen?"

Leaving no room for further discussion, Delphine nodded. "Understood." She commented, willing herself away from the scene and away from Marion. There was no real way to escape for they were all connected, but thankfully no one followed. She also found herself reluctant to return to the brunette's bedroom, the few minutes away enough to cast a string of doubt into her. Instead she found herself in a patient's room, the older woman sitting on the bed, watching tv.

Delphine didn't know why she was there, but she took a seat, grateful for the distraction. The TV was playing some random program, what were called soap operas, a poor representation of daily human life. Suddenly the channel changed to a brighter program, cartoons.

"Sorry, hope you weren't watching that."

The voice directed at her caused Delphine to jump and she looked around. There was no one except her and the patient.

"Yeah I know you're here, Love." Changing the channel again, Siobhan chuckled. "You tell them I'm not dying anytime soon so they can just get lost."

Her brow furrowing, Delphine stood, finding eyes locking with her own. "You can see me?"

Recognition filled the woman's eyes as she finally saw the blonde as clear as day. "Well I can now, but I can always sense when you're around, and this is the third time I've felt you here. I'm not dying anytime soon."

Delphine tilted her head, moving to the side of the bed. "You're not dying." She confirmed before asking, "how do you know I'm here?"

"If I'm not dying then..." Siobhan paused, tilting her head before turning off the TV. "Wait... this has to be a joke." She laughed as she sat up, leaning towards the tall blonde. "You're following that doctor, aren't you?" Another laugh and she was leaning back against her pillow, holding her stomach. "Oh, don't make me laugh. I'll pull a staple."

Delphine watched her in confusion. "How do you know?"

"The same way I know you lurk in the background of daily life. The same way I know you like to sit as high as you can and look down on the world, hoping your view will be close to what he sees when he looks down on Earth." Siobhan looked into her eyes. "You are a guardian of souls, making sure they go where they need to. You have no worries, you never get hungry, and you've been happy with that until now" She covered Delphine's hand. "I bet you're real confused right now, Chicken." Her face became serious. "Ever since you met that cute little doctor, you've felt things you've never felt before. You're wanting to stay with her always, sometimes at the expense of your duties." At the blonde's surprised look she tried not to laugh. "You're feeling sinful, horrible thoughts, lust, jealousy, envy...and worst of all love."

"Love isn't horrible." Delphine answered almost automatically. "It is a gift from God."

Siobhan laughed, a full laugh that had her holding her abdomen again. "Spoken like a true child of God...Love is the most horrible and amazing of all."

"Who are you?"

Moving to the edge of the bed, Siobhan shook her head. "I'm just like you, an angel of God, or I used to be, until I gave it up."

Delphine stepped back, pulling her hand away from the older woman. "What?"

## Chapter 5

*Hey all. Thanks for sticking with this story. There should be...maybe three or four more chapters of this. It was always going to be a shorter fic and it's been great writing it. Thank you guys for all the support and reviews.*

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They were sitting on the edge of the building, looking down at the surrounding city. The top of the hospital was the highest they could get given Siobhan's current stage of healing. "I still love to sit out here. It always reminds me of the old days."

"I still don't understand." Delphine watched the older woman who carelessly hung her feet over the edge of the building, as if she knew nothing of fear. "How is it possible?"

Siobhan gave her an amused look. "Thirty years of silence from them and you run into me? That's definitely what they call serendipitous." She sat up a little straighter, wincing a bit from the staples that still held her together as she held her hand out. "It's a pleasure to meet you, Delphine. I'm Siobhan Saddler, glutton, hedonist, former celestial being, and recent addition to the human race."

Delphine's brow furrowed as she shook the woman's hand, careful to use the right amount of pressure to not hurt the woman who was undoubtedly human. "It's not possible." Of course she doubted such a thing existed. She would have been told, wouldn't she?

"Some things are possible whether you believe it or not" Siobhan laughed as she turned, sliding off the edge and back onto the rough floor of the roof, heading towards the stairs they had ascended. "Not all things are impossible, Delphine."

"How?" Delphine was walking beside her as they moved towards the elevator.

Selecting the floor of the cafeteria, Siobhan gave her a knowing smile. "You jump. You make the decision to jump and you do it, off a bridge, a building, out a window." There was silence between them as they exited the elevator, Siobhan making her way to the cafeteria and making a few selections, ordering a rather unhealthy dinner of fries and a hamburger. "After you fall, you wake up completely human, confused and in pain. You're feeling all these things you've never felt before: hunger, pain, cold, hot. You smell completely horrible and it's the best thing you've ever felt."

Delphine blinked at that as they took a seat. "Human?"

Siobhan applied a liberal amount of ketchup to the fries and burger, taking a big bite as she nodded. "Thousand of years in existence and nothing could compare to your first taste of a burger." Siobhan wiped her mouth with a smile. "He gave all these people free will, you think he didn't give it to you too?"

---

It was just past midnight when Cosima woke with a sigh. Two hours. She'd only managed to sleep two hours. She was careful to move the arm that was draped over her waist, slipping out of bed and into a pair of pajama pants and a tank top. She sighed softly, picking up her glasses and moving to the kitchen. It didn't take long to make a cup of tea, hoping that it would soothe her back to sleep. What was going on with her? She'd only spoken with the blonde once and already she felt as though she missed her, as if she was waiting for the sun to rise so she might possibly

see the woman again, might possibly run into her outside of Mrs. Saddler's hospital room.

Her eyes moved over the empty kitchen as she enjoyed the silence, falling on the fridge. There were three photos on the surface, one of her family, an older one that had been taken over 5 years ago. She was too busy for that now, to sit down and just enjoy a meal with her family. How old were Alison's kids now? 7 and 8? No they had to be older. God she was a horrible aunt. Her eyes fell on the other two photos, she and Shay. In one photo, Shay was looking at her with a look of complete absorption, but her own eyes looked less mirthful, a far off look that spoke more of loneliness than excitement.

The other photo was the two of them at Lake Tahoe. Had she always looked so lost? She was supposed to feel complete, wasn't she? It felt like she and Shay had been together forever yet when she thought about them together, she felt... empty.

As if sensing she was awake, a golden retriever trotted out of his opened crate, nudging her in the side.

"Hey boy. Did I wake you?" She ran her fingers through the long fur, scratching him behind one ear mindlessly even as she took a sip of her tea. "How about we go for a walk and maybe we'll feel like getting back to sleep, hmm?"

The dog whined softly, tail wagging as he headed to where his leash was hanging.

"Let me get my jacket."

---

"Why did you do it?" Delphine was mesmerized as she watched the woman drink down the milkshake. "Why would you give up everything to become human?"

Reaching into her purse, Siobhan removed her wallet, a plastic strip of photos tumbling out. "These are my kids: Sarah, Felix. They're rotten as all hell and I still love them." She smiled, showing a picture of a younger girl. "This is Kira, my granddaughter. She just turned 9 a month ago. Smarter than a whip." She pointed to one more picture, herself at a younger age in a long flowing dress, attached to a strikingly handsome young man. "And this is Harold. We've been married for almost thirty years now. Quite a pain in my ass but I love him completely."

Delphine looked up from the photos. "Did you tell him who you were?"

Siobhan shook her head as she put away the photos. "I tried, once or twice but really, why do that to him? It's too much for them, for humans. They don't believe in us anymore."

Trying to process the info, Delphine felt her brows furrow. Could it be possible? Is it something she would even consider, for these emotions that she'd never felt before, that she didn't even know how to handle? "Are there others?"

Nodding, Siobhan cleaned up the small mess she'd made. "Here and there. I see them in the street every now and then and mostly we just walk on by. No one likes to talk about what they gave up." She shook her head. "We give up eternity for a short time of happiness, and as far as I can tell you, it's been completely worth it."

---

Stepping back into the apartment, Cosima unclipped the dog, letting him trot off to get some

water. Stripping off her jacket, she was surprised when an arm slipped around her waist, the slightly smaller form pressing against her back as lips brushed against her shoulder. "I'm sorry, did I wake you?"

"No, but you kept me awake when I found out you were gone. You didn't take your cell phone."

Cosima turned to face the woman, straightening out her bangs with a small smile. "Sorry. We just went out for a quick walk." Pulling from the woman's arms, she returned to the kitchen to clean up the dirty dishes she'd made making tea, very aware of the woman that followed her.

"Hey... we should go up to the lake this weekend." Shay picked at the edge of the preparation table, looking down at the clean surface. "Spend a few days up there with just us?"

Cosima sighed, putting the tea in the cabinet. "I can't go away this weekend, Shay. I've got to work."

"Can't we just go away? Spend some time together...talk a bit..." Shay complained, leaning against the counter. "I just... I feel like we never spend any time together."

Pursing her lips, Cosima leaned over the counter facing the woman, taking her hand. "Ok, let's spend time together."

"Ok, I'll get the trail maps."

"No." Cosima stopped her from pulling away,. "I mean right now. Let's just... spend two minutes together, see if we can."

Shay gave her an odd look. "Ok.. what are we supposed to do?"

Cosima breathed, trying to stay calm, her impatience beginning to surface. "Just... look at me, and I'll look at you, and we can just...exist together... for two minutes."

"Ok." Shay leaned forward, a serious look taking over her face.

Locking her eyes with blue, Cosima found herself counting the seconds, willing the two minutes to go by, proving they could spend just the barest amount of time together. It was barely at 55 seconds when she felt herself crack, a laugh breaking free as she looked away.

"You can't do it." Shay laughed coming around to capture Cosima around the waist.

"You can't do it either." She laughed, lips pressing against her own, allowing herself to be pulled towards the bedroom.

"I can find a better way to waste two minutes." Shay mumbled against their kiss, stripping off the brunette's tank top.

"Make it twenty and you got yourself a deal." Cosima laughed as they fell onto the bed.

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"And then you just... fall." Delphine looked up at her friend, both of them sitting atop a freeway sign, staring down at the cars that moved even this late at night.

"You just fall?" Marion asked in confusion.

"You just make up your mind and you do it. You just...fall." Even as she said it, she realized how

impossible it sounded. Worse even, she realized how much she believed it; how much she needed it to be true.

"And you're human?" Marion gave her a doubtful look.

Delphine nodded. "Can you just imagine? To be able to breathe the air?"

"To taste water?"

With a laugh, Delphine added. "To lie..."

"Through your teeth!" Marion smiled.

"To touch her hair..." Delphine thought of the brunette, the smile that crossed her face. "To breathe in her scent...to... taste her lips." She looked down at her hands, wondering what it would be like to feel the gentle pressure of Cosima's hand in her own.

Marion tipped her head to the side, watching the blonde closely. "So what are you waiting for? Jump."

Looking out onto the city that moved, Delphine sighed softly. "There's just so much beauty in the world."

Marion nodded, looking out onto the city. "There really is."

## Chapter 6

Cosima hummed softly to herself, the sun feeling amazing on her skin as she tossed the ball across the park, watching as the golden form took off after it. Always on the edge of her perception, she could feel the weariness in her, the lack of sleep starting to get to her. "Come on, boy." Cosima pat her leg, surprised when the dog ran right past her. She turned to find a certain blonde walking towards her over the green grass. "Well, look who it is. We're releasing your friend Mrs. Saddler tomorrow." She smiled, unable to contain herself. "It's weird to see you again."

"Weird... I can accept that. Weird is nice." Delphine smiled, reaching down to scratch the dog's ears.

"This is Paul." Cosima gestured to the golden retriever, his tail flying in excitement from the attention.

Delphine laughed, standing back up. "I know. He told me."

Her grin widening, Cosima tilted her head to the side. "Oh he did, did he? Did he tell you anything else?" She tossed the ball again, watching as he scrambled after it.

"Only that you don't sleep enough and that he likes to see you smile."

Taken back just slightly, Cosima tried to laugh it off. "Sometimes I think Paul is the only one to understand me." *Not even Shay does.* "So what do you do, Delphine?"

Delphine paused before responding, having been thrown off by the random thought from Cosima. "Me? I'm a messenger of God."

Tossing the ball again, Cosima reached up to push a dread back, a disbelieving look on her face. "A messenger from God huh? Do you have a message for me?"

"I already gave it to you." Delphine responded, remembering their conversation in the hall.

Cosima only laughed. "Did you text me? Otherwise I might not have gotten it."

Delphine smiled. "Oh, you've been texted."

The blonde was... mesmerizing to say the least. She spoke in certainties and had an odd way about her, but Cosima found the mystery intriguing. "Let's go somewhere." She found herself saying, surprised at her own boldness.

Delight spread across Delphine's features. "Where do you want to go?"

"Anywhere... come on." They walked together in companionable silence, and Cosima found herself feeling more comfortable than she had in years, despite the fact that she was walking with a complete stranger...well almost a stranger. Occasionally their hands would brush and she would feel an electric charge from the brief impact, but when she looked up to see if the blonde had felt the same, there was nothing there except cool observation. What was she thinking?

Delphine could feel the eyes on her, not human, but of her peers, the others like her, watching them walk together, listening to them talk. As they entered an outdoor market, she caught the eyes of a man in black who was watching over an older woman unseen, his head turning in question as Cosima spoke to her, lifting a grapefruit for her to smell. She could only smile, ignoring him, not wanting the brunette to know that she was incapable of such a feat. At an attempt of mirroring her

excitement, Delphine picked up the first thing in her reach, a cleaned pad of cactus, bringing it to her nose. It made the shorter woman laugh and she put it back with a smile, continuing to follow her around.

Paying for a small bag of fruits, Cosima lead her over to a shaded picnic table, laughing as Paul tried to snap at the bag of fruit. She pushed him away and began to distribute the purchased fruit between the two of them before she removed her pocket knife, beginning to make small slices in the fruit.

Delphine didn't touch hers, instead she watched as Cosima bit into a slice of pear, watching the way the woman's eyes would close just briefly after each bite, the pink tip of a tongue cleaning the juice from her lips. "What does that taste like?"

Being caught mid-bite, Cosima laughed, quickly chewing and swallowing. "I don't know..." She wiped a bit of juice from her lip, thinking about it. "It tastes like a pear." Cutting another slice, she tilted her head when she got no reaction. "You don't know what a pear tastes like?"

Not wanting to lie, Delphine smiled, "I don't know what a pear tastes like to you." She bit her bottom lip. "Describe it to me."

Taken back by the honest look the blonde gave her, Cosima thought about it for a minute, feeling those light hazel eyes boring into her. She took another bite and concentrated on it, rolling the flesh of the fruit over her tongue slowly, noticing every bit of it. "It's sweet, and very juicy. It's a little over ripe so it's softer than it normally would, but still grainy... like sugary sand that dissolves on your tongue..." She smiled. "How's that?"

Delphine smiled in response. "It's perfect."

After a quick lunch, they both walked back to the park, Cosima talking excitedly about a patient she had worked on years ago.

Delphine was happy just to listen, nodding when dark hazel eyes glanced her way, smiling at the way the brunette's hands flew through the air as she spoke.

Finally Cosima stopped, her hand scratching Paul's head affectionately. "So..." She bit her bottom lip. "I should go... I guess I'll... Mrs Saddler is having a welcome home party this weekend... are you planning on going?"

"Are you?"

"I'm not sure... I guess, if you go maybe I'll see you there." She turned to leave but paused before turning to face the blonde. "What is it about you? I've only talked to you once but I hope all day to run into you and yet... I don't know you." When the blonde gave her a hesitant look, she moved closer. "Why don't I have your number? You always look so impeccable yet you're wearing the same clothes as the last time I saw you. Are you homeless?"

Delphine smiled at that, shaking her head. "No."

"Are you a drummer?" Cosima whispered.

Delphine laughed. "No."

Cosima bit the corner of her lip, stepping closer, close enough to make Delphine step back. "Why are you so careful to not touch me?"

Frozen, Delphine looked away, trying to think of what she could tell the brunette. "I... I don't want

to hurt you."

Her hand coming up to trace the line of Delphine's jaw, Cosima pulled the woman down, a thrill coursing through her when the blonde allowed the tug. "You won't hurt me." She whispered just before their lips met. On contact, she could feel the shock that went through her, a sensation that was both electrifying and calming at the same time, the kiss being incredibly soft yet the most intimate thing she'd ever felt. In the contact, she forgot about everything, about the fact that they'd just met not long ago, the fact that she had Shay, the mystery and unknown...until Delphine was pulling away, a confused look on her face. "Did you feel that?" She asked, wondering if the woman had felt what she did, the feeling of completion. Looking into those eyes, there was something that told her the woman hadn't felt anything. There was an almost sad look staring at her.

Delphine wanted to reach up, to cup the woman's cheeks in her hands, but she feared her inability to feel physical touch would cause her to harm the small doctor. "I... I wish I could get you to understand..."

Cosima stepped back, shaking her head. "I understand... I understand just fine..." Another step back and there was an infinite amount of space between them. "I'll...I'll see you later, Delphine." With that she turned and left, not looking back, afraid that the blonde would see the tears in her eyes.

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"You made it!" Siobhan gathered the brunette into her arms "Look at you, all in normal clothes and all." She laughed as she tugged on the Bohemian patterned shirt the woman wore and a matching skirt over leggings. "Well, you sure are a looker. Even more so outside of those dreadful scrubs."

"Thanks Mrs. Saddler. You're looking well." Cosima smiled.

"Please, call me Siobhan." The woman led Cosima to a table.

Cosima glanced up, seeing Delphine stepping out of the house, their eyes meeting for the briefest of moments before she looked away, unable to stand the penetrating stare any longer. Why had she even come? She knew there was a big chance the blonde was going to be here... or maybe that WAS the reason she came. She watched as a young girl, who she was guessing to be Siobhan's granddaughter, tugged the blonde towards a picnic table...the same one Siobhan was pulling her towards.

"Come on, sit down." Siobhan pushed her down onto a bench. "Let me get you something to eat. One of everything alright?" The older woman smirked as she walked away.

"Hello again, Cosima." Delphine gave her a small smile, a sadness in her eyes. Her smile grew as tiny arms wrapped around her neck from the girl sitting beside her. "Have you met Kira?"

Cosima shook her head, smiling at the girl. "Hi Kira."

"Kira, smile!" A woman around their age showed up, dark hair and a British accent, snapping a picture with an Instamatic camera, shaking out the white photo and setting it aside before offering a bottle to the blonde. "Delphine, want a beer?"

Cosima watched as the blonde accepted the drink, setting the bottle to the side without actually opening it. Thinking back, she couldn't remember ever seeing the woman eat, even when they had

sat together to lunch that day, the woman had patiently watched her eat, demanding descriptions of how each thing tasted or felt on her tongue. She had thought it eccentric at the moment... figuring the blonde was attempting to bond on some basic level, but maybe the woman had an eating disorder? She was rather thin, but not in a way that seemed too thin. Rather she looked perfectly proportioned.

"Thank you Sarah." Delphine smiled, her attention turning to the girl who was pulling at her cheeks.

"So where are you from, Delphine?" Sarah asked, handing a beer to Cosima. Despite the different accent, the woman held herself in a way that reminded her of Siobhan, and Cosima assumed she was a daughter.

Delphine paused for a moment, as if not remembering where she were from, before answering, "Up..."

"North." Siobhan added as she appeared out of nowhere, setting a plate in front of Cosima. "She's from Canada." Sitting at the table, she began digging into her own plate, ignoring the disapproving look her doctor was giving her. Sure none of it was healthy, but she hadn't given up eternity to eat brussel sprouts and protein drinks.

"Oi, Kira, cut it out before you hurt her." Sarah told her daughter, giving her a no-nonsense look.

Kira smiled before looking at Delphine curiously, leaning closer. "You're just like my grandma." She whispered where only Delphine could hear her.

"Ok, Monkey. Let's go make some cookies." Sarah stood up, dusting off her jeans.

"May I come?" Delphine cast a look towards Cosima before quickly escaping.

Cosima bit her bottom lip, picking up her fork to stab at her plate full of completely unhealthy food, tasting a bit of potato salad and finding it incredibly delicious. Maybe one day of decadence wouldn't be so bad? "So... have you known Delphine long?"

Looking up from her plate, Siobhan gave a non-committal shrug. "Well, I met her not long ago, but I feel like I've known her forever." She smiled.

"How did you two meet?" Cosima's brows furrowed. Something didn't seem right and it didn't seem like she was going to get a straight answer from either Delphine or Siobhan.

"She... she works with me, architect." Siobhan commented.

Cosima gave her a suspicious look. "I thought she was a messenger."

"Well yeah." Siobhan nodded, looking down at her plate and refusing to meet Cosima's gaze. "You know, we draft up the blueprints and she delivers them to clients as well, so it's like she does both."

"Hmm." Cosima looked away, her eyes falling on the instant picture. With a confused look, she ran her fingertip over the bright white spot that would have been where Delphine was, Kira's smiling face clear as day. There were so many things that didn't make sense, and this was just another thing added to the pile.

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Delphine swallowed as she followed the blonde up the stairs, a sense of foreboding filling her judging from the way the woman had invited her home. She tried not to hear into the woman's thoughts, feeling like that would be an invasion of some sort.

Cosima stripped out of her jacket, draping it over a chair in the living room as she made her way to the kitchen. She knew there wasn't a chance for Shay to show up. The woman was working the night shift, a fact that she was thankful for.

Retrieving a few vegetables from the fridge, she tossed a head of lettuce at the blonde, glad when the woman caught it. "Chop that up for me." She began to work on the tomatoes she had grabbed, watching carefully as Delphine grabbed a knife and began cutting. "So...what province in Canada were you born in?"

Slicing the head in half, Delphine looked up in confusion. "I wasn't born in Canada."

Cosima rose an eyebrow, but continued to work on her tomatoes. She was determined to get as much information about the woman as possible. "What about your parents? Your mother? Father? Where do they live?"

Thinking up ways to answer the questions was distracting and Delphine was finding it difficult to concentrate on what she was doing and the blonde and keeping herself from lying while avoiding the truth. "No parents." She commented, cutting another wedge, not realizing until it was too late that the blade was coming down right on her thumb. She quickly moved the knife, watching the finger reattach before she looked up at Cosima, the brunette watching her closely, confusion on her face. She tried to continue cutting, to act as if nothing had happened.

Cosima pushed the tomatoes aside. Surely she hadn't seen what she had just seen, but the guilty look on the blonde's face gave her away. "You have such delicate hands." She moved around, getting close to the woman.

"They are not too delicate." Delphine panicked, moving back a step as the brunette grabbed her hand. Too late did she see the knife in the woman's hand, and she barely had enough time to pull her hand away after the woman put a large slice in it. "What are you doing?" She asked, grabbing for a towel, wrapping her hand. "Why did you do that?"

"Let me see your hand."

"Non." Delphine backed away, holding the towel tight.

"What's your last name?" Cosima asked, her eyes not leaving the wrapped hand.

Delphine felt the confusion rolling off the woman. "You know my last name..."

"No I don't." Cosima pressed forward.

There was no way to avoid the question, and she looked around for any answer. "Plate." She spoke quickly, knowing it was a lie, fearful of what it would mean.

"Plate?" Cosima asked in disbelief. "Delphine Plate." She reached for the towel, pulling it away. "What...I cut you." There was no blood anywhere, not on the towel, not on the woman's hand. Nothing. Just smooth skin when she'd felt the blade go in. "I cut you, Delphine. I felt the knife go in and I cut you. Didn't you feel it?"

"Cosima..." Delphine stepped closer, not trying to be aggressive but afraid the woman was seeing her as such, taking a step backwards. "Not the way you do."

"What does that even mean?" Cosima continued to back up, one step for every step Delphine advanced, keeping an even distance between them as they moved. "What do you mean the way I do? The way a doctor does? The way a pisces does? What?"

Delphine bit her bottom lip, trying to find any other explanation than the obvious. "The way... a human does." She didn't expect the forceful push from the woman, pushing her away. "I have no sense of touch." Another push made her step back.

"Did you feel that?" Cosima was panicking herself as she pushed the woman back again, watching her stumble slightly. "How about that? What the hell are you?"

"You don't have to be afraid." Delphine stepped up to her, reaching for the woman only to have the brunette twist away.

Cosima's eyes were filling with tears, unable to conceive of what this even meant. "You fucking liar... who the hell are you?"

"I came to take , and you looked right at me. You couldn't see me but you looked right into me and looked at me... like a real person..." Delphine was stumbling over her words now, trying to calm down the woman. "I fell for you right then and there, in that operating room, and I couldn't take my eyes off of you."

"To take Mr. Balfor?"

"I've been with you every step of the way. When you lost him. When you were in the locker room, crying over your patient, I was there with you."

"What are you talking about?" Cosima wiped away a tear, feeling like her world was crumbling when she barely even knew this woman. This woman who had somehow wedged herself into her heart when they barely even knew each other... or rather she knew nothing about, since it appeared the blonde knew everything about her. "Why are you doing this?"

Delphine tried to give her a weak smile, despite knowing what a mess she was making of things, but she had to come clean. She had to be honest if there was ever going to be anything between them. She had to believe Cosima could handle it. "Because I want to be with you."

Looking into hazel eyes, Cosima saw the truth, but really how could it be? None of this made sense. She was a doctor... she believed in the power of mankind. She believed that their lives were their own to fix or live with. There were no such thing as miracles or watchers or whatever Delphine was claiming. "I don't believe you." She whispered, stepping away again. "Do you feel that? I ... don't... believe you."

Hazel eyes flinched, as if feeling the pain. "But you want to."

Cosima shook her head. "I can't even conceive of it." As the blonde stepped closer, she rose her hand. "Just get out."

"Cosima..."

"GET OUT!" Closing her eyes as she screamed the words, she turned, hoping the woman wouldn't keep advancing, feeling the tears beginning to flow freely. After a long moment, when nothing else came from the blonde, she turned and looked, seeing the room was completely empty.

## Chapter 7

"Hey, I was thinking about getting some Thai food." Shay's voice seemed to echo in the dark living room, all the lights turned off.

Cosima was sitting on the couch, Paul curled up on the cushion beside her as she watched the rain hitting the window. "I'm not really feeling up for company." She spoke softly, but knowing the speakerphone would pick it up. Since that night, she hadn't felt like seeing anyone...except Delphine, and it was the one person she couldn't see.

"Oh... are you feeling ok?" The concern was evident in Shay's voice. "Are you sure you don't want me to come over? I'm really good at cheering you up."

With a soft sigh, Cosima shook her head before realizing the woman couldn't see her. "No, I just... I need some alone time. I'm just... I'll see you at work tomorrow. Okay?" She knew she was being broody and she didn't want to take it out on the small blonde. It wasn't Shay's fault she wasn't Delphine. I am such a terrible person.

There was a pause before the woman responded. "Ok, Babe. I love you. I'll see you tomorrow?" There was an uncertainty that was rare for Shay. The woman was usually so sure of herself.

"See you tomorrow." Cosima repeated, hanging up. She didn't feel right confessing her love for Shay anymore, especially with the possibility that Delphine was listening.

The tall blonde had said she was always there, always watching over her. She didn't understand how that worked, but she had seen the truth in the woman's eyes, and despite what she'd told Delphine, she believed it.

A flash of lightning broke through the darkness of the room, followed soon after by the rumble of thunder, and it was fitting, Cosima thought, considering her current mood. No matter the way she felt about the lies, or the simple holding back of truths, Cosima looked around the room, feeling the sudden presence she could no longer deny anymore. "Delphine?" The name echoed off the walls and she pushed herself off the couch, looking around into the darkness. "Delphine, I know you're here." She moved to the bedroom, her eyes falling on the bed. "Delphine, please, I want to see you."

Another flash of lightning hit and she tensed, swearing she felt fingertips running over her bare shoulders, down her arms.

Delphine watched as dark hazel eyes closed, refusing to let the woman see her. Somehow she had harbored a sadness, something she wasn't used to. This close to the woman, she knew that if she were human she would be able to breathe in her scent, but instead there was the nothing she was used to.

"Please, Delphine." Cosima sat on the edge of the bed, wishing she could just see her. "If you won't let me see you, will you..." Slipping beneath the covers, she felt an overwhelming exhaustion. "Please... just stay with me until I fall asleep."

Laying beside the woman, Delphine couldn't stop herself from draping her arm over the woman, seeing the body flinch just slightly before moving back against her.

"Just stay...please." Cosima whispered just as she felt sleep claim her.

When she opened her eyes again, the sun was shining on her, illuminating the room. "Delphine?"

She looked around and knew she was alone. Her eyes fell on the clock that read 7:04am and the realization hit that she had slept through the night for the first time in ages. "Yesss..." She laughed before realizing she was late for work. "Shit!" She cried as she rolled out of bed, the smile still fixed to her face as she got ready.

Most of the day, the smile lingered. Even as she got through surgery, her patient making it through without a hitch, the smile never left her face. This is what it felt like to be rested completely, to fall asleep in the arms of someone she...loved? Was that what this feeling was? Love? For a complete stranger? As odd as it was, she couldn't feel the least bit confused by that. She was in love. As she sat in the locker room, remembering how she had spent that one fateful day crying, she remembered the touch on her hands now that she knew what it was. She had felt the touch on her hands right before Shay had walked in.

Shay.

As if sensing the thoughts, there was a slight knock on the locker room, the short blonde stepping in with a soft look on her face. "Hey stranger. I missed you last night."

Cosima gave her a brief smile, knowing what had to be done. She was suddenly thrown off track, however, when the woman sat on the bench facing her, staring into her eyes in a way that was penetrating and almost invading. "What are you doing?"

"Spending time with you." Shay commented matter-of-factly, taking Cosima's hand. "I just wanted you to know that I understand what you meant before, about us being able to spend time together and I realized that, after all this time, there's no one I would rather spend my time with."

A spark of dread filled Cosima's heart as she swallowed.

"Marry me, Cosima." Shay spoke softly, a smile on her face despite sensing the woman's hesitation. When there was no immediate response, she laughed. "What do you want me to do, get down on one knee? We belong together. You and me, we're the same species. You know what makes me tick and I know what makes you tick." As if sensing the rejection, Shay brought the woman's hand to her lips, kissing the soft skin there. "Just...don't say no. Think about it. Take some time to think about it." She smiled weakly "We belong together, Cosima." Leaning forward, she brushed her lips against Cosima's before standing fully. "You know where to find me when you decide."

Watching the woman leave, Cosima took a deep breath, holding it in for a long minute before releasing it.

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"Breathe in." Cosima held the stethoscope up to the older woman's chest. "Breathe out."

Siobhan reached forward, removing the instrument from Cosima's ears. "I'm fine, Chicken." She smiled, lifting the doctor's hand to press against her chest, knowing the brunette could feel her heart beating strongly. "See, fit as a fiddle. The question really is, are YOU alright?"

Tears welling in her eyes, Cosima shook her head. "I just... I don't understand a God that would let us meet and make it impossible for us to be together." She didn't want to cry in front of her patient, but something about the openness of the woman made her feel comfortable to let go.

Tilting her head in question, Siobhan sighed. "She didn't tell you." She knew she shouldn't have said something the moment Cosima gave her an odd look.

Wiping away the tears, Cosima's brow furrowed. "Tell me what?"

"Forget it. I shouldn't have said anything." Siobhan waved her hands in a dismissive manner. "Let's talk about my medication."

"No...tell me." Cosima took the woman's hand in her own, stopping their motions. "Please."

Siobhan took a deep breath, her lips pursed. "I really shouldn't be telling you this but... She can choose to fall." When confused eyes looked at her, she continued. "Delphine feels no pain, or hunger. She's never cold and she will live forever, but she can give it all up. She can give up eternity, for you, if she chooses, and she will, because she loves you that much."

Cosima tried to take that in, feeling as though her heart had stopped, weighing the possibility of being with the blonde, yet knowing what the woman would give up. Give up an eternity of never feeling pain for one single lifetime?

Siobhan gave her a regretful look. "Delphine is confused. She has never felt the feelings she's feeling now and she doesn't know how to handle it. You can help her decide with your own actions so you have to decide how much you love her." She paused when she saw the conflicted look. "It's really up to you, what she does, Chicken."

How true that was, Cosima thought. She couldn't let the woman give up everything she's ever known, not for herself. She didn't deserve that. She couldn't let Delphine do that. "How do you know all this?"

Siobhan gave her a soft smile. "Because I did it."

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"Delphine?" Cosima paced around the locker room, knowing she was alone, but feeling the presence that she knew was there. "Please, Delphine I need to talk to you." She could feel the tension in her own body, knowing she needed to do this, but not really wanting to. She didn't know how she was going to look into those heavenly eyes and willingly break the woman's heart.

"Please, Delphine?" She whispered, leaning her head against one of the lockers, her eyes closing as she began to feel disheartened. Did the blonde know what she intended to do? Is that why she stayed hidden? *God help me do this.*

"Cosima?"

Jumping slightly, Cosima opened her eyes to see she was no longer alone, the blonde standing on the other side of the room, a wary look on her face. Cosima couldn't help but smile. "God, you are so beautiful." The words came from her without much thought and she had to reel herself back in, preparing herself for what had to be. Shaking her head, she felt the smile fall from her own face. "I wanted to tell you that Shay asked me to marry her." She regretted the words as a look of sorrow came over the blonde's features. "She knows me, she knows how demanding my work is... she..."

"You don't love her." Delphine cut her off, taking a step forward.

Cosima shook her head. "She and I are the same, and that's what I want. It's what I need." She felt the tears stinging her eyes and fought them back. "I need someone who can feel me when I touch her."

Delphine took another step forward. "But you can feel me, I saw you." Were these emotions she

was feeling? Loss? Was this pain? "You feel me when I'm around you and that's never happened to me before."

Cosima shook her head again, moving away, maintaining the distance between them. "This is not a negotiation. I just wanted to say goodbye to you." She turned away, unable to fight the tears anymore. "I don't want to see you again. I don't want to feel you again, so please don't follow me." She spoke just before leaving. When she felt the familiar presence she'd gotten used to the past week disappear, it felt as though her heart had broken into a million pieces. She had to escape into the bathroom, glad it was empty as she sobbed loudly, locking herself in a stall.

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*I need someone who can feel me when I touch her.*

Delphine looked over the edge of the building, her eyes taking in the ground beneath her.

Would this really work?

Should she pick a place that was lower to the ground?

There was no longer any doubt. An eternal existence was nothing without Cosima. Now that she knew what love was, there was no way she could go back what she was doing before. The thought of losing Cosima was... beyond acceptable.

Looking down at the cars racing by, she realized there was no other choice for her. She had no more hesitation, and with a small prayer that she might be quick enough to stop Cosima from marrying Shay, she stepped off the edge.

She had experienced falling before from a short distance, but halfway down, she began to feel the rush of air. The cold bite against her skin was unexpected and it was almost as if she could feel the ground coming up. Her mind was only on Cosima, however, as the sun warmed her skin, and the smell of concrete and car exhaust filled her senses just seconds before she felt the impact and things went black.

## Chapter 8

*Ok so I know I said there would be 2 more chapters, but I just combined them together because the break was in a weird place. So enjoy the last part of this story. I appreciate all the awesome comments I've gotten and I thank everyone for reading.*

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Consciousness came to her slowly and Delphine became aware of several things at once. Everything was confusing and there was so much going on. Sounds were a thousand times louder, and there was something in her mouth, sensations she couldn't explain... taste... that's what that sense was, she thought as she rolled the substance around in her mouth. Pushing herself up, she gasped, nearly choking and quickly coughing out the redness that stained the concrete. She had been around humans long enough to know what it was.

*Blood.*

With each movement she made, her body shook, jerking at the sensation that coursed through her, worse where her skin was broken and blood was slowly oozing out.

*Pain.*

It was the most deliciously agonizing experience she'd felt, she decided, as she managed to push herself into a sitting position. Everything hurt and she couldn't stop herself from laughing. It worked. She was human, and everything was proof of that. The pain, the way her lungs hurt if she didn't breathe fast enough, a scratching feeling in the back of her throat as if she needed something. There was a sensation within her, not pain she didn't think, but as if she were empty on the inside. Hunger? Everything was a guess as she tried to assign words to the feelings she'd never had to suffer through. She knew what hunger was, but she had no idea what it felt like.

*Cosima.*

Her mind quickly focused on the woman and she found the will to stand, feeling her legs shaking unsteadily for a moment. She had to find her way back to the hospital. She had to find Cosima before she married Shay. "Cosima." She smiled at the name that sounded different to her human ears, running her hands through her hair and wincing at the sharp pain she felt, her fingertips revealing even more blood. She definitely needed to find the hospital.

Walking was slow at first as she dealt with the gnawing discomfort from her wounds, her impatience driving each step towards the direction she knew the hospital was in. By the time she reached the large building, her chest was burning and her feet ached. Her shirt was soaked through with sweat and blood and as she breathed in through her nose, her senses recoiled at the smell of herself.

"Can I help you?" The nurse at the front desk asked in alarm, her eyes raking over the woman's body.

"I..." Delphine leaned against the counter, breathing deeply. "I need to speak with... Cos... Dr. N..." She attempted, feeling a spinning in her head suddenly. "I... just..." Suddenly the world tilted and darkness came over her.

Waking up for a second time, she found herself laying on a bed, a needle in one arm and a

speckling of bandages.

"Well, look who's awake."

Delphine jumped, looking around and her eyes settling on the older woman. "Siobhan... what are you doing here?"

"Well..." Siobhan poured a glass of water and offered it to the blonde, a knowing look on her face. "First... drink this... you're going to be grateful." She watched as the blonde did as she was told. "They found my card in your pocket and no other ID... I told them you were my cousin on vacation, by the way." She sat down on the nearby stool, facing the blonde. "So... I guess I don't really need to ask, but I suppose a Welcome to the Human race is necessary."

"Cosima." Delphine choked out, coughing a bit from the water. She was surprised at how much better her throat felt after drinking, wincing as her movements jarred the needle in her arm. "I have to find Cosima before she marries Shay."

"I know I know. You were mumbling in your sleep." Siobhan shook her head as she pulled out a small duffel bag, pulling out a set of clothes. "Lucky you I've become somewhat of a pro at getting people to give me information. Cosima has apparently taken some time off and went up to somewhere around Lake Tahoe?" She shook her head, removing a few toiletries. "I've got a friend who owes me a favor running a real estate search to find an address. Now, I had to guess on sizes for everything, but before you go running off, I think we should go over a few basics on hygiene and the human body, because believe me the last thing you want is to saddle the good doctor with a near 6 foot toddler." The older woman smiled. "Let's start with clothes."

By the time they were in Siobhan's truck, Delphine's mind was spinning. Being human was significantly more involved than the centuries of observations. She had seen women don bras since they first appeared in history, but actually putting one on herself had taken much longer than she would have thought. Humanity was...strange... but tolerable. In the three hour car ride, she'd been introduced to a number of sensations, from being hungry, to being full, to having to use the bathroom, to the coolness of air conditioning. She'd tasted chicken nuggets for the first time, Siobhan ordering a variety of dipping sauces for her to try as they continued their car ride.

"Ok, Lucky says that big one over there." Siobhan was driving slowly, the sudden downpour making it hard to see. Pulling up to the driveway, she gave Delphine a small smile. "Well, Chicken. Looks like someone is home. It's now or never."

Delphine looked out the window, a strange feeling settling in her stomach, seeming to twist it in a knot, an almost tugging feeling in her throat. "What if Shay is in there with her?"

"Does it matter if she is?" Siobhan gave her a reassuring smile. "There's no going back, Love. You just gave up eternity for her and you're going to let a small possibility stop you?" She reached behind the seat and pulled the duffel forward, dropping it on Delphine's lap. "Go get your girl. I'll be just down the road at the motel for tonight so if for any reason things go South, which it won't, well we'll work from there, alright? You have my number, now get going."

Swallowing, Delphine nodded. "Thank you, Siobhan, for everything." Stepping out of the truck, she winced as she was hit by the rain, taking a minute to focus on all the sensations. It was cold, and slipped down her face, getting in her hair, soaking through her clothes. Cold was a sensation she was beginning to realize she wasn't a fan of, she realized as she shouldered the bag. She walked down the driveway, the knot in her stomach getting bigger, the feeling Siobhan had called nervousness or anxiety. Why did humans feel like this? It was completely uncomfortable and she found little reasoning behind it. She shook her head, trying to shake away the wet curls that obscured her vision, making her way to the front door.

Cosima was sitting on the couch and sighed as she refilled her wine glass, straightening her glasses as she flipped back a page in her book. There was a large fire warming the room as the rain poured outside, an ambiance that she normally enjoyed, except and she couldn't seem to shake the dread she was feeling. She'd been reading the same chapter for over an hour now, her mind unable to process the pages in front of her. She kept replaying the look in Delphine's eyes...the way the woman had seemed so lost when she'd told her not to follow her. She knew this was for the best. She couldn't let Delphine give up eternity for her. Delphine was beautiful and pure and special, all of those things, and the last thing she needed was humanity slowing her down.

She'd told Shay there was no way that she could marry her, that there was no way they could be together. The small blonde had cried and pleaded, but Cosima didn't regret it. Strangely, she found herself mourning the loss of Delphine more than the woman she'd been dating for over a year. How was that possible? Her heart was unimaginably broken and it wasn't because of the pediatrician.

### *Knock Knock Knock*

Cosima jumped at the sound, looking at her phone to see if anyone had called. Who would show up suddenly? Who even knew where the cabin was? She could only hope it wasn't Shay. Truth was, with her heart in its current state, she'd be likely to take the woman back, anything to numb the pain of loss she felt. That was the last thing she needed. She needed a clean break. With a sigh, she pushed herself off the couch, heading towards the door. Looking through the peephole, she felt her heart stop. Her breathing stopped. Everything stopped in that moment as her mind took in what she was seeing.

Another knock came and she quickly pulled open the only obstacle in her way, surprised completely to see Delphine standing in the rain, her hair less than perfect, her skin pale except for where a series of cuts broke the skin. Her clothes, the once meticulous suit having been replaced with jeans and a hoodie, were soaked through and disheveled. "What did you do?"

Delphine laughed, hearing Cosima's voice through human ears. It was the most beautiful thing she'd ever heard. It occurred to her that maybe she shouldn't laugh, that maybe she should be somber, but she couldn't help it. It was a nervous laughter, one she had no control over. "I..." Her teeth were clattering, and she found it odd that she couldn't stop them. The rain had soaked through all her clothes and were chilling her whole body, a sensation that reminded her a lot of being a messenger, or rather a lack of sensation. "I'm s-s-sorry."

The wavering sound of Delphine's voice restarted Cosima's heart and the next thing she knew, she was wrapping her fingers in soggy clothes, pulling the woman forward, closing the door. She'd never been so relieved to see the slight blue tinge setting in someone's skin before, and she reached up, tracing the woman's lips, seeing the blonde flinch when her thumb touched a break in the skin. "Delphine..." She looked down as a duffle bag fell with a plop on the ground. "You're soaked."

Delphine couldn't resist reaching up, taking the brunette's face in her hands. The woman's cheeks were soft and warm and everything she could hope for. "I... I c-c-couldn't l-l-live my l-l-life without y-you."

"You're freezing...We need to get you out of these clothes before you get sick." Cosima's fingers were working on the woman's belt, easily unbuckling it as her eyes began to fill with tears. She hated that Delphine had given up eternity to be with her, but in the same thought she realized how much she had wished for it. She didn't know how much she wanted someone to give up everything for her, and she couldn't believe she even felt that way.

"Cosima." Delphine smiled softly, her thumb tracing the brunette's lips, trying to control her chattering teeth the best she could. "If you w-want me to go, I c-can understand, but...you can't m-marry Shay. I love you. Please tell me I'm not too l-late."

Cosima laughed but her lips were trembling with emotion, her hands circling around the woman's wrists, not to pull them away, but just to feel the pulse she never thought she'd feel. "I couldn't marry Shay, Delphine. I'm in love with you."

Delphine felt the oddest sensation. It was as if there was a pain in her skull, somewhere behind the bridge of her nose as her eyes began to water, she blinked. There was a slight sting to her eyes before a drop fell from each. Was this crying? Why was she crying? When the brunette pushed forward and lips covered hers, she started to understand. There were so many emotions coursing through her, she had trouble dealing with them. Soft lips caressed her own and she did her best to respond in kind, feeling the knot in her stomach tighten and release at the same time. She felt light-headed again, but this time she didn't pass out. Instead her arms dropped to the woman's waist, pulling her closer, hearing a moan come from her own throat as the shorter form pressed against her own, an arm wrapping around her neck to pull her down and closer.

Cosima groaned as she broke off the kiss, breathing heavily as the forehead pressed against her own. "You can feel this." It wasn't a question, but a statement and she sniffled as she ran her fingers through blonde hair, pulling back to look into light hazel eyes. "I can't believe you're human." She felt the tears slipping from her eyes seconds before fingers brushed the drops away. "Let's get you warmed up." She smiled softly, pulling the woman's shirt up and off her body. "Where did you even get these clothes?"

Laughing softly, Delphine allowed the woman to undress her. "Siobhan. I... I passed out at the hospital and I had Siobhan's card in my pocket." She bit her bottom lip, watching as hands slid over her skin, leaving a hot path across her chilled flesh. "She brought me many things and found you." She took a deep breath, feeling her heartbeat doubling in speed. "She drove me here and purchased chicken nuggets."

Cosima laughed at that, kneeling to remove the woman's boots, setting them closer to the fire. "Your first meal as a human and it's chicken nuggets." She shook her head as she peeled the woman's jeans off, trying to keep a professional attitude, but unable to stop herself from dragging her fingers up the long legs as she stood, the blonde now in just her underwear and bra.

"I..." Delphine swallowed, her throat suddenly dry. "I enjoyed the honey mustard sauce the most."

"That..." Cosima laughed but changed her mind and shook her head, reaching for the blanket off the couch and wrapping it around the woman's body. "Come sit by the fire. It will help warm you up. I'll make you some tea." She spoke as she pushed the woman down to sit on the rug in front of the fireplace, lingering to watch as the woman ran her fingers through the long fibers, leaning down to breath in the scent of it. "Don't touch the fire." She commented before moving to the kitchen, heating up a mug of water as she retrieved a teabag from the supplies she'd brought. She hoped the blonde would enjoy peppermint.

Holy watershed, Delphine was human. They were going to have to figure something out, getting her an ID, a birth certificate, a social security number. What was the woman going to do for a living? Not that she needed to. Cosima made enough to support them both, but would Delphine be happy with that? She herself would get bored quickly, but as she returned to the living room to see Delphine leaning closer to the fire than was wise, she knew the woman would want time to explore the world more. "Hey, you're going to get burned."

Delphine jumped slightly. "Sorry. It's just so... warm?"

"Hot is what it is if you get too close." Cosima took a seat on the floor, offering the woman the mug. "Blow on it first. It's really hot and you'll burn your tongue."

Delphine blew on the tea as she was told, feeling the heat coming off of the liquid. Breathing in the scent, she was surprised to feel an odd sensation in her nose, an almost widening of her nasal passages and a cool sensation in her throat. "What is this?"

Cosima ran her fingers over the woman's outstretched legs, noticing the occasional scratch interrupting the flawless skin. "Peppermint tea." She reached up to brush a fingertip over a cut on the woman's forehead. "Sorry." She whispered when the woman flinched. She still couldn't believe the woman was human. The woman had given up everything everything she knew to be with her. It was exciting but frightening at the same time. "You are so beautiful."

Pausing in her blowing, Delphine smiled into the cup. "You are the beautiful one." She took a sip of the tea and hummed softly before setting it aside. "Humans are so lucky to be able to feel these things." She spoke, a look of amazement in her eyes. "I can feel the tea slipping down my throat and settling in my stomach." She leaned forward, placing a soft kiss against the brunette's lips unexpectedly. "Your lips are the softest things I've ever felt, but what they make me feel... everywhere... I can't even explain."

"You don't need to explain." Cosima spoke as she moved closer, carefully straddling the woman's legs, brushing her lips against Delphine's once more. "Your lips are soft too." She let their lips meet again, smiling as hands slipped around her waist, pulling her closer. Feeling the woman's body had warmed up substantially, she pushed back the blanket, running her fingers up the lengths of her arms. "Your skin is so soft." She whispered against those lips.

Delphine's breath shuddered against the woman's mouth as hands slipped over her skin. "I..." Her own hands slid up Cosima's sides, under the woman's shirt where she found warm skin.

Cosima leaned back just enough to pull her shirt off, letting it fall to the side. When she looked at Delphine, she noticed the blonde was staring at her, or rather at the front of her chest, and she nearly laughed. "All those years as a messenger of God, have you not seen a near naked woman?"

Her hands slipping up the woman's torso, Delphine smiled. "I have, many times, but I cannot explain this. I see you and..." She laughed, shaking her head.

A smirk on her face, Cosima leaned forward, pressing her lips against the woman's ear. "It's called arousal." She nipped the soft skin of the woman's ear. "Do you know what that is?"

Delphine nodded, licking her lips. "A hormonal response to sexual stimuli. Often it is the precursor to intercourse..."

Cosima was quick to shake her head. "You make this sound so clinical." She groaned as hands slipped over her skin. "Do you want to know what physical love feels like?"

"Yes." The word came from Delphine before she could even think about it. She had seen humans having intercourse before and it had been interesting to say the least, but as hands slipped over her skin, leaving fire in their wake, she had little resistance against it.

Being loved by Cosima was... unexplainable. Hands shed the rest of her clothing and she was mesmerized as Cosima slipped out of her own clothes. Their lips met again and she felt more confidence in her response until a tongue flicked against her mouth, teeth raking over her bottom lip and leaving her completely lost in sensation. As she was pushed back onto the soft rug, she had little time to prepare herself for the feeling of the shorter woman covering her body, flesh pressing against her own in an incomprehensible wave of arousal. The woman's hands caressed her body

and it was almost as if the brunette were reaching inside of her.

With a grin, Cosima brushed her lips across the woman's jaw, enjoying every sound that came from the woman's woman's untouched body was so responsive, each nip against her skin bringing a whimper or a moan from the blonde. She circled a nipple with a fingertip, grinning at the gasp she was rewarded with, the long frame arching into the touch. She couldn't help but wonder what would happen if she...

"Cosima..." Delphine gasped as a strong thigh slid between her own legs, the smaller form moving against her body with delicious intent.

Cosima propped herself up with one arm, her other hand cupping the flushed cheek as she watched the emotions wash over Delphine's face. "Are you alright?"

Delphine nodded frantically. "Very alright." Her hands were pulling the woman closer, her hips beginning to move on their own accord against the strong thigh. There were so many sensations going on: tension, pressure, building, needing. This feeling was overwhelming on all levels, assaulting every one of her senses in turn. She felt as though she were going to break, as though she were going to crumble into a million pieces.

"Do you like this?" Cosima asked softly, chuckling softly at the quick nod. "I want you to feel everything, Delphine." Sliding her hand down between their bodies, a smile stretched across her face, feeling the slick evidence of the woman's arousal. She could tell it wouldn't take long, and that was fine. They had their whole lives to work on the blonde's tolerance and stamina. "Can you feel how much I love you?" She whispered, her fingertip circling the swollen clit.

"Yesss." Delphine hissed. There were white flashes in the corner of her vision and she was having trouble finding her breath. Just when she thought she couldn't take anymore, Cosima would push her further, the direct friction urging her towards a cliff she didn't know existed until suddenly something inside her snapped. Her body began to tremble uncontrollably and her back arched. Tears filled her eyes as she lost complete control and the world stopped, her mind focusing on the pure wave of pressure for that agonizingly long moment, and as she felt her body crash to the ground, tears began to slip from her eyes, a sob pulled from her throat. Why was she always crying?

Moving to lay beside the woman, Cosima smiled, capturing the blonde's lips in a kiss, keeping it light and gentle so as not to overwhelm the woman. "You are so beautiful." She whispered, kissing away a tear.

Delphine felt herself laughing, her body completely out of control as she pulled the woman to her, hugging their bodies together, unable to talk.

"I'm going to guess you like that." Cosima laughed when the blonde nodded against her shoulder. "Believe it or not, there's still so much we can do that will feel a hundred times better than what you just felt."

"Not possible." Delphine groaned, shaking her head.

Cosima laughed, brushing a kiss against the woman's temple. "You should take a nap, and when you wake up, I'll show you just what I mean."

"Mmmm." Delphine hummed pulling the woman closer, hugging her tightly even as she felt an overwhelming feeling of calm, her eyes seeming impossible to keep open. She'd never slept before. She was almost excited to find out what it was like, and even more excited to wake up.

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"This is the hot, and this is the cold. You want to get a good mix of the two." Cosima turned the water on, making sure it wasn't too hot, her eyes falling on the blonde and the way her body was lit up by the morning sun. "I'm going to leave you to it. Don't breath in the water. Do I need to explain shampoo and body wash to you?"

Delphine shook her head. "Siobhan went over it in the car ride." Delphine picked up the bottle of shampoo, flipping it over. "And there are instructions." She commented, her eyes scrolling over the back.

"Ok." Cosima brushed her lips against the woman's cheek. "I'm going to go make us some breakfast." With a grin she shook her head and headed to the kitchen.

Standing in the shower, Delphine groaned in disbelief. She had no idea that humans felt so many things. The sensation of the hot water running down her skin was indescribable, as much as everything else had been. She picked up the loofa, running it under the water before putting body wash on it. She didn't expect the roughness of it scratching against her body, gasping and accidentally breathing in a bit of the water, her body suddenly racking with a fierce cough.

Cosima stuck her head in the bathroom. "Are you ok?"

Delphine nodded, thankfully able to breath in a solid breath. "I'm fine. I breathed in the water." She gave Cosima a guilty look.

"Well no sense in saying I told you so." Cosima chuckled, chewing on her bottom lip. "Hey, I'm going to head to the store down the road, get some pears."

The memory of the day they spent in the park surfacing, Delphine grinned. "Ok." She was definitely looking forward to experiencing what Cosima had explained that day. "Cosima?"

Having been pulling her dreads into a bun, Cosima turned to the woman, unable to stop herself from dragging her eyes over the long frame. "Yes?"

"I love you." Delphine smiled through the falling water.

Cosima grinned, knowing that the blonde meant it. "I love you too. I'll be back soon."

Delphine watched as the woman left, an odd sensation in her mind. She felt extremely uncomfortable with the woman gone. Rinsing off the soap and shampoo, she turned the water off, dressing slowly as she was taught. By the time she was dressed, she moved to the kitchen, finding a cup of tea cooling for her. Taking a sip, she moved to the dining room where there were two place settings on the table, a bowl of mixed fruit, slices of bread and cheese. It was a buffet of temptation and she barely stopped herself from taking a bite of everything.

She had to wait for Cosima.

Cosima.

Delphine suddenly had a horrible feeling inside her. She couldn't explain it but something was wrong. She stepped out onto the deck that wrapped around the cabin, hugging her arms to her chest against the chilly air. There was a feeling of dread blossoming inside her, starting in the pit of her stomach. Suddenly she heard it, a distant sound on the wind, but it was there, the sound of a horn and screeching tires. "No."

She was running suddenly. Pain bit into her bare feet and branches marred her cheeks and arms,

but she didn't care about any of it. She ran towards the sound, stumbling slightly but she was pushing herself back up and running again. Suddenly she found the road, the even road burning the undersides of her feet. What she saw got her running again.

There was a truck, the flatbed loaded with logs, blocking most of the street, flares lined up along the street. Delphine ran towards it, noticing the mangled mass of a bike laying on it's side. A form laid in the street, covered by an emergency blanket. "Cosima!" Delphine called out.

"Del...Delphine..."The brunette struggled to speak, her lips coated in blood, more blood dripping down the side of her face. "I'm...I'm sorry."

"No no no." Delphine caressed the woman's face. "Cosima..." She whispered, leaning down to press her lips against the woman's, not caring about the blood. "I can go get someone..."

"The driver is...went for help..." She shook her head. "I fucked up." Cosima coughed and blood bubbled up from her lips. "I so fucked up."

"No don't say that. You'll be fine." Delphine pressed her forehead to Cosima's. "I need you." She tried to wipe away the new blood, only succeeding in smearing it across the woman's cheek.

Her eyes filling with tears, Cosima barely had the strength to caress the blonde's cheek. "L...Love you."

Her eyes locking with dark hazel, Delphine watched as the pupils slowly dilated, the hand on her cheek dropping lifelessly. "No no no." With a loud sob, she gathered the limp form in her arms, rocking back and forth, willing the woman to begin breathing again, praying that this wasn't happening, that this wasn't really the end.

Sitting up in bed, Delphine gasped as she opened her eyes. The room was dark and she had been wrapped around the smaller form. Her heart racing, she looked around the room, feeling a familiar presence but not able to pin it down.

She shook her head, trying to clear the dream from her mind. While she'd never had one before, she had seen humans dreaming, both bad and good, and she had never expected them to be so involved, so realistic that she couldn't tell the difference. With a sigh, she settled back comfortably, wrapping her arm around the waist and listening to the sound of the brunette's light snore until the sound ceased and the woman sighed softly.

"Mmmm. Morning." Cosima groaned, turning in bed to face the blonde. "How are you feeling?"

"Never better." She commented, burying her nose into the woman's neck, kissing the soft skin there. "You?"

"I'm starving." Cosima yawned. "I should get up, make some breakfast. I bet you would totally love a shower." Pressing a kiss to Delphine's lips, she rolled out of bed, pulling on a pair of shorts and a shirt. "Come on, let me introduce you to the miracle of a shower."

There was something very familiar about the way the morning was going. Delphine followed the brunette, a confused look on her face.

"This is the hot, and this is the cold. You want to get a good mix of the two." Cosima turned the water on, making sure it wasn't too hot, her eyes falling on the blonde and the way her body was lit up by the morning sun. "I'm going to leave you to it. Don't breath in the water. Do I need to explain shampoo and body wash to you?"

Delphine shook her head in confusion. "Siobhan went over it in the car ride." Delphine picked up

the bottle of shampoo, flipping it over. "And there are instructions." She commented, her eyes scrolling over the back. The words were the exact same as her dream. Everything was.

"Ok." Cosima brushed her lips against the woman's cheek. "I'm going to go make us some breakfast." With a grin she shook her head and headed to the kitchen.

Delphine watched her go, her mind spinning. What did it mean? If all of this was happening...did that mean... Delphine felt her stomach twist and her breathing begin to increase. The memory of Cosima laying on the ground was causing her heart to beat faster. She didn't want to even think about losing Cosima. "Cosima!" She called out, hoping the woman could hear her.

It took a minute before Cosima came strolling in, a worried look on her face. "You alright?"

Feeling a little foolish, Delphine bit her bottom lip, not really sure what she planned on saying. "I um... I don't remember if I'm supposed to use the shampoo first or the conditioner." She held up both bottles.

A small smile crossing her face, Cosima laughed. "The shampoo first. Then the conditioner."

"Oh...ok." Delphine put the conditioner down with a frown.

"Hey, I'm going to head to the store down the road, get some pears." Cosima spoke as she began to pull her dreads into a bun.

Delphine felt the shampoo slip from her fingertips, her body frozen in shock.

"You alright?" Cosima asked in confusion.

Taking a deep breath, Delphine nodded. "I... I want you to shower with me."

Tilting her head to the side, a smirk spread across Cosima's face. "I dunno. Shared showers can be disastrous sometimes."

Delphine gave her a reassuring smile, her hand coming up to offer to the brunette.

Her resistance lasting just a few seconds, Cosima stripped off her clothes before stepping into the shower. "I guess I should make sure you get nice and clean." She mumbled against soft lips, her arm slipping around the taller woman's neck.

Delphine breathed a soft sigh of relief as her arm slipped around the woman's waist, willing away the disturbing images as the slick body moved against her own. "Cosima?" She asked, pressing her forehead to the brunette's, a smile on her face.

"Yeah?"

"You were worth it." She whispered softly, but knowing the woman would hear her. "You were worth everything."

Cosima gave her a delighted look, running her hand through wet blonde hair, pulling her down for a deep kiss, intending on never letting her go.

Unseen to both women, Marion was satisfied her job was done and smirked before disappearing, knowing her services wouldn't be required here for quite some time.

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*Ok so I promised I would change the end, but I felt like torturing a few people :D Thanks again for reading!*

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