

An Alpha Luna Story:  
**"BETA-COLLIE, PART II"**  
By Leonardo Vidal

**Chapter 3**  
**"Senses of Deception"**

The silver full-moon light washed the open countryside fields with cyan colors as two figures ran through it crossing a dirt road. One of them was using four of her limbs while her black mane danced through the wind. With distinctive lupine details, her black, gray and white-haired muscled body had the perfect balance between the ones of humans and wolves. She was the nineteen year old lycanthrope named Luna.

A few yards behind, a distinctive human figure was following her with a running stance who shared one thing in common with the powerful Lycan, a bushy tail weaving at the rhythm of her running pace. She also had a ponytail that made similar movements but with no mind of its own as its counterpart. Collie was her name, a seventeen year old girl who just a week ago was just the average book reading girl too focused on her grades and school. But now, she was a girl who was starting to think herself as a werewolf too.

Luna had the lead for at least eight seconds in advance, and before it could keep growing she instinctively reduced her speed as she looked back to the slim looking friend who was still running with determination. Besides, Luna didn't have to run anymore as she reached a wall of tall pines blocking her way with a fence that traveled all the way from left to right. She looked at it measuring the potential danger that they could run into within the darkness beyond.

Meanwhile, Collie was still running with the same posture she used to have in Gym class with a perfect breathing technique that she learned from her teacher, but twice the speed and a third of the fatigue she'd feel after running for 20 minutes. As Collie noticed her friend standing up again on her back paws she started to reduce her speed or so she thought.

*"Is...is everything ok? Ow!-"* said Collie as she started to stumble between her own feet while trying to stop herself with her arms flapping in front of her. Luna took a step forward gently tapping Collie's shoulders which was enough to center the pony-tailed girl within balance.

As Collie looked up regaining composure she noticed for the first time how much bigger Luna looked in front of her taking her previous human form into account. And with her face within height below Luna's bust, she quickly felt assaulted by the strong familiar scent her friend emitted this close to her.

But she quickly snapped back before these thoughts could carry her mind somewhere else, stepping back while shaking off her embarrassment and head.

*"T-thanks. Running at this speed with my tail feels weird. I really need to practice this"* said Collie with a little bit of shyness as she rubbed the back of her head. Luna smiled back: *"I think you're doing just fine, just be careful..."*. As she said this, Luna switched her attention again to the woods.

*"We're not too far from where that howl came from. And if that wolf is not friendly we need to be cautious from now on, ok?"*. -Collie nodded before saying a timid "Yes".

Luna continued: *"Just be quiet and follow me through the tree shadows at all times."* said while looking at Collie with a serious look. *"Oh, like a stealth mission!"* Collie said with an enthusiastic voice as if she had just received the instructions of a video game. And as if Luna was reading her mind, *"This is no game, Collie"* added with a sigh in response.

*"Wait, what about Fang? we should've called him! Maybe, if we howl now. Although I can't properly do it...you-"* Luna quickly put a clawed finger in front of her muzzle gesturing silence. *"If we do that now, whatever chance we have to find this other wolf will be gone."* said in a lower tone.

She continued: *"I hope he heard the same howl we did. And if so, he probably took another route from where he was. In any case, right now this is up to us, unless you want us to go back and forget about all of this"* Collie quickly shook declining to that idea. *"You said he was in pain. And your eyes, you were really taken by that. I know when you care about helping others, Luna."*

*"Really? Am I that easy to read?"* Said with an ashamed smile.-*"Well, we have been friends for a while. You probably know a few things from me too. no?"*

Luna sighed while smiling back *"I guess I do... Anyway, just be careful"* said as she turned around flexing her hind legs that led to a swift jump over the barbed fence.

Collie, however, decided to duck under the obstacle, but a sudden pull stopped her tracks in an instant. *"OW, Ow! No, No, No..."* she looked back to see her tail being trapped and hurt within these wires.

Luna looked back with a confused and tired look as if she should feel embarrassed by her pupil's actions. A quick tug from Collie released the brown and white tail from the trap as she looked back to her furry friend with a silly smile. As Collie followed her friend's steps she lowered her posture to diminish her presence across the new forest.

Tall pines blocked the full-moon night sky creating a cascade of small beams of silver light peeking through the cracks of the leafy ceiling.

As they walked, Luna noticed how all scents felt very different from what had come before. It felt like walking into a bathroom that hadn't been properly cleaned; horse excrement and moisture adorned by fungi scents. It wasn't really pleasant but intriguing nonetheless. After all, as a new werewolf even scents not quite pleasant were still a new experience for the

female Lycan. Because of this Luna's muzzle frowned a few times with odd looks that made Collie silently giggle to her friend's grimace.

Further in she started to see an increasing light between the trees over the top of the hill. But her steps were quickly frozen as her nose twitched again to a scent she couldn't quite understand. A quick glimpse of razor marks within the hearest log caught her attention. It reeked of dried blood, human blood. Marks of a struggle in the dirt behind the log, paw prints, human shoes' markings, and a few fibers of furs. But there was also something much thicker within its color scents. As Luna's clawed finger took a sample of these threads her nose sent shivers down her spine. There was something familiar about it, something she had smelled and felt before...

"Luna?" Collie asked timidly with a soft voice. Luna blinked as her mind returned shaking her head. *"Oh... Wait over there,"* said as she pointed to a nearby tree while distracting her friend from her find. *"Is it just me or something smells awful?"* Collie said while gesturing a funny grimace. While her nose was now more sensitive than most humans it was structurally unchanged and couldn't compete with Luna's lupine frame. And for now, this was the only advantage her friend needed to hide her from the awful discovery.

*"Look, there is one thing I need to ask you..."* said Luna as they were once again close to each other. Collie looked back with attention as Luna took a few seconds before continuing. *"If... if something bad happens, just run away and don't look back. Do you understand?"*. These words paralyzed Collie's thoughts for a few seconds trying to figure out what was the reason for this sudden demand.

And while she wanted to know what was in Luna's mind, something firm and powerful was oozing from Luna's eyes that prevented her from protesting. *"Y-yes..."* she finally said. But after a quick sigh, she continued: *"I... I know I'm not suited for a fight. I know that. But... for the first time, I think... I feel can help you out with anything else. And I promise, I won't be a burden for you anymore."* said with serious eyes.

*"Collie, you've never been a burden for me. I... I'm just being cautious, and..."*. Luna's pointed ears suddenly twitched as her gaze looked around her and toward the clearing. Collie quickly realized that Luna had picked up sounds that she wasn't capable of hearing just yet. And instinctively Luna dropped to all fours as she crawled within the bushes ahead. Collie lowered her posture as much as she could while using her hands on the ground only when was totally needed. And as they finally reached where the bushes ended before the clearing, they stopped. Luna peeked between the tree and bushes as Collie did the same to her side.

The area looked like a huge grassy arena where half of a soccer field could be put in. But a dirt road crossed it from side to side where Luna and Collie's eyes traveled following the path to the opposite side where it was lost between the tree shadows and a broken fence. From which a fuzzy chatter could've been heard by werewolf ears.

Luna and Collie's eyes widened as the three shadowy figures appeared through the path. Two of which resembled humanly proportioned creatures. But that was the keyword,

creatures: covered in fur, with slim long tails, sharp-pointed ears, and short muzzles that resembled felines of some kind. One of them had brown and black colors with a fair muscle build, who was doing all the talking as he complained if they've walked enough. He also carried a wooden stick with a sharp metal attached with several layers of fabric straps to its point. While the other werecat looked much skinnier with a wavy long white mane and grey fur wearing a furred black cloak which was adorned by several bone collars hanging from his neck. And between them, a reddish-brown and white wolf walking behind the skinnier feline.

Luna's eyes were wide with a shocked gaze focused on the werecats below, she remembered now. She couldn't smell them from this distance just yet, but she was sure they'd match the scene she had just explored. And they looked like the image she had in her mind since one rude looking class-mate crossed paths with her. For some reason, that day at school she noticed the reeking smell coming from this guy after he forced her to trip over. And in that flashing moment of anger, she looked at him and saw this cat-like face in her mind as she froze in place. It didn't make any sense. But that'd be the same day; the same night she'd be forced to change into a werewolf for the first time. Luna suddenly thought, somehow this was all connected.

*"Oh my god, what are those creatures? And a Wolf? Wait, do you think he did the howling?"* said Collie softly, while Luna slowly came back from her trance to answer. - *"It's not just a Wolf, Collie.."* said Luna contemplatively. She knew better, his large size and built reminded her of how Collie looked the night before, there was no mistake in her mind as she understood that creature had been a human being, not too long ago.

She also instinctively started working with her nose as they were in range. The amount of information an adult Lycan could get with their nose alone was unparalleled, and while Luna was a newcomer into this new wolf life of hers there was something very natural to her actions that made Collie feel as if she was watching an expert in her field. She kept admiring how swiftly her friend could act very wolf-like while taking in Luna's feral nature.

Luna's eyes sharpened while her nose stopped twitching, something had given her new insight, enough to make her take a decision. As her human side came back to connect with her friend's eyes.

*"Collie...stay here, I'm going down just to talk to them. But If anything happens... remember what I asked you to, and go back from where we came from."* - *"What? No, wait, I should go with you..."* And before Collie could convince her friend with her clumsy words, Luna was already gone sliding down the path into the clearing, leaving Collie with a half extended hand as her worried eyes followed her actions.

Luna, herself, was questioning her own recklessness as she went down the hill. But she remembered what her nose revealed: those felines reeked with the same smell she had found around the bloody log. If she had to guess due to the mixed human blood on the ground; they were killers, human killers.

But what really pushed Luna into this dangerous meeting was that reddish wolf. He, yes it was a "he". A wolf who smelled very much like Collie did after she changed which kept much of the human scents intact, young and pure scents. So, if the wolf was part and friend of this strange group, why would he still smell so different?

If smells could be visible and these creatures were humans this would be like watching two junkies with ragged clothes walking with a well dressed innocent kid, It didn't seem right.

Suddenly the bulky werecat acted defensively as she saw Luna appear in his frame, drawing his wooden spear upfront, he shouted: *"BOSS, A DOG IS HERE!!"* while spitting some saliva in the process. The skinnier werecat on the other hand remained calm and collected while stopping in his tracks as the reddish wolf did the same.

As Luna entered within the same path she raised both of her pawed hands while saying *"I mean no harm! If you don't attack me, I won't!"*

From above, Collie was worried as she watched the meeting take place. By now her wolf side, that was only visible through her furry tail, was starting to creep through the rest of her body growing restless, something wasn't right. Her human mind on the other hand was looking for answers as she thought:

*Were-cats? Fang didn't mention other creatures, did he?...wait. Luna's mom said something...oh my god... could they be...?*

*"ANIMAS? Is that what you are?"* said Luna as she slowly closed the distance while still keeping a safe space between them as if this was suddenly a standoff.

*"And WHO are you? Wolf"* Said the skinnier werecat with a deep but growly voice as he walked in front of his partner taking the position of a natural leader while gesturing him something with a blinking eye. The wolf followed him as he positioned himself by the side.

However, there was something off about this wolf as Luna watched him walk. He looked tired and he only reacted to the cat movements. His wolf eyes didn't track Luna as he sniffed the air around him. Was he blind? she thought. But she quickly returned her gaze upon the cat just to hide her main interest.

*"I'm Luna. I don't want any problems, I just want to talk"* said with a firm voice as she paid attention to the many details their bodies gestured. Both of them looked as if they had recently finished a hunt but with no prize at hand. Bruised and bloody bodies, especially the bulky cat who apparently had it worse.

The skinnier white-haired feline apparently was missing his right eye, with 3 clawed marks crossing diagonally his face were probably a week old, badly patched with bandages that covered half of his face. While his white long mane looked almost too well cared to be real.

Whom after a short blink finally opened his mouth:

*"Oh, she just wants to talk. Did you hear that Murmur? These new wolves know how to behave, just like our partner here." He said as he put his clawed hand over the wolf's short mane. "Oh, my manners! My name is Ycan, a humble shaman at your service." said as he bowed in place.*

Luna's human side could almost distinguish a thread of cynicism coming from each word. But she wasn't quite sure as she felt she needed to press on before coming to early conclusions.

*" You didn't answer..." said Luna with a more serious look. "Oh, well yes. We are ANIMAS. But why is that important to you, Wolf? My guess is that you were bred and grown with the humans, is it not? And you don't even live in these lands. But a farmer. Why would you question me, then?" said with a calm, almost casual look.*

*"Animas killed the parents I once had..."* said Luna with glowing eyes trying to hold onto her emotions.

*"Oh. I'm sorry about that. But you see, we're not enemies now. Just because years ago our previous breed fought against each other.. that doesn't mean we should do the same. We should learn from our mistakes and move forward. Don't you think? Just look at me taking care of this puppy"* said while rubbing the wolf's head who didn't seem to mind.

Luna was still unsure of his words as she noticed how Murmur wouldn't say a thing while exuding scents of fear. She could even hear his heart racing. But again, the red wolf was the issue. She knew he didn't fit in this group. And as she took a closer look she could see the red wolf's gloomy blue eyes locked onto the horizon as if she still didn't exist.

*"Can I talk to him?"* She finally said. Ycan with a mild surprised look and after looking back and forth to his partner he finally answered. *"Oh, Yes, Yes, of course!"* as his body gestured 'it's fine' with inviting hands.

Luna tried to connect her eyes to those of the wolf while kneeling just a few steps in front of him. *"Are you alright, kid?"* said Luna while not receiving any response or gesture.

*"Oh, he is not." Ycan replied as he continued, "The poor lad used to live with his human father around this place. But his dad was shot by a horrible human who wanted nothing but his belongings, what a tragedy. The boy changed during the last night of the full moon. And the pain and sorrow consumed his being breaking his spirit and mind. And that's when we found him."*

These last words washed away many of the suspicious Luna had as they resembled much of what she went through the first time she changed, thinking of her passing mother and the danger of losing her adoptive one. Everything he said made sense. The wolf wasn't blind but in a state of shock which made her heart sank as she inspected the wolf's lost gaze one more time. Beyond the wretched smells they reeked, maybe these werewolves were honest creatures after all.

*"Oh, and sorry about Murmur, he is always like that. When we found Ivan, he took a bite from him and took me a while to convince him to trust him, so he is still a little bit afraid of Wolves like him, and you. After all he also lost his parents to Lycans as yourself. So you should understand"*

And that made sense too. Everything fell into place or so she thought. And the name of the Wolf was Ivan?

*"How do you know his name?"* questioned Luna. *"Oh, I... I just gave it to him. It's the least I could do hehe".* Said Ycan with a soft smile.

Luna looked over the wolf named Ivan one more time before taking a long breath. She knew what she wanted now. *"I...I can take care of him"*. Luna, suddenly said, *"I will--"*

*"Oh, that's a nice gesture, my dear".* Interrupted Ycan *"...but this is something not negotiable...as you see, the bond I have with him can't be undone. He'll only listen to me, as I am the only face to which he can communicate."* - *"But..."* the words failed to Luna as she didn't expect such a direct answer.

*"Don't worry my dear...he'll be ok...besides he--"* Ycan continued but suddenly now were his words the ones being frozen as the moonshine bounced from Luna's fang necklace. This ornament brought memories of hate and anger that changed his countenance completely. Luna noticed this sudden change of emotions but she couldn't pick up on the reason for this behavior, *"Is everything ok?"* she quickly asked.

Ycan snapped back as he tried to composure himself while putting his right clawed hand over his head, *"Oh, sorry...I, I just remembered something. But...you know. Now that I think about it, you may be right. Wolves should be together after all..."* He smiled with a condescending face as he gestured to his wolf to approach Luna.

For the first time, Ivan appeared to notice the werewolf friend as he raised his muzzle sniffing her out. Luna kneeled once more as she finally petted his head with a motherly smile.

Collie had been watching all this time as she finally rested her thoughts seeing Luna meeting this new wolf friend. A warm feeling filled her with emotions as if she has been gifted with a cute pet. *"Awww Luna, this is so amazing..."*

But as Ycan walked very close to Luna's sides, his posture changed, there was something menacing about it. As if he was waiting for the right moment...and once he walked past the wolf's back he muttered something that seemed from another language. But Luna wasn't oblivious as she noticed this change in his aura, as she thought Murmur could be jumping on her from the other side. But as she tried to look over her shoulder a sudden demolishing pain brought the attention to her left arm, which was being crushed by Ivan's maws. *"GAAAAH!"* she cried.

Collie almost yelled her friend's name seeing this happen before her own eyes, but she was suddenly stopped by her own hands knowing this would make things worse. With her heart racing, she wanted to help, clenching her fist in rage and fear. *"NO NO NO!"* Her head repeated.

Swiftly, Ycan drew a dagger he had hidden under the belt that he brought very close to Luna's head as he used his free hand to grab Luna's neck. *"NOW, GIVE ME THAT!"* Luna tried to turn around and face him but she was rapidly stopped by Murmur's spear pushing her chest to the ground. Shouting to her. *"STOP THERE! BITCH!"* Ycan cut Luna's necklace in half as he picked the fang with his left hand with a malefic smile. *"YES, YOU'RE MIINE, AGAIN"*

Collie's blood was boiling up while her forehead sweats furiously, despite Luna's early words she could not leave her. Not this way. And as Collie focused on her sweaty hands clawing the dirt underneath, her heart raced up and then...she felt it.

The same feeling of change she already experienced once; goosebumps of an electric and boiling nature was creeping through her skin in waves. But there was something different as this reaction was being fueled by the anger and the helplessness she felt. She wanted to run, to scream to her friend, but she was absorbing those emotions into herself and converting it into something new.

Her body trembled and twitched as the pain made Collie's eyes cry in agony, making her whole body sweat and twitch in response. But she looked once again to her hands as the pain focused there, now with dilated veins, her nails cracked and opened to reveal brown bloody claws. The confirmation she needed. She knew now this was a good pain, one that she needed to endure, to help her friend.

*"So this is your true face! FUCKING RAT!"* yelled Luna as she felt restrained in this predicament. While Ivan was still mauling her left arm and holding her in place.

*"OW ow, don't hurt my feelings! I haven't lied to you. Well... not entirely. And to be honest I was about to let you be on your way. I wanted to know if you were from a new pack of dogs. So I started to think I'd follow your tracks later....but then, then I saw this thing hanging from your neck, what are the odds! The very same rune I once stole from that stupid wolf"*

*"What?!"* replied Luna confused while breathing in anger.

*"Did you take it from the scarred wolf? That blonde stray, did you not?"* said Ycan with a mocking grin - *"What, you mean FANG?!"* replied Luna in shock.

*"YES, you mean ME? You FUCK FACE!?"* shouted Fang who appeared from behind to where the Feline creatures had previously appeared. He was a Lycan now, dark brown and yellow colors covered his entire frame, a well-shaped but a tad shorter werewolf in comparison to Luna's built.



He didn't waste time as he pushed himself into the air jumping and forcing Murmur to raise his spear into the air. But Fang was aiming to Ivan's muzzle kicking him out of Luna's arm who was pushed enough to release her out of his jaws while whimpering in response.

Murmur didn't have time to react as he turned around swinging wildly too late and far to reach Fang. Luna rolled away using this momentum while kneeling back into a defensive position as she grabbed her own wounded arm with a hurt and angry look.

Ycan on the other hand looked shocked and angry as he took a defensive posture with his dagger in front of him. "YOU!, YOUU!!!" he shouted.

Collie was in shock as she saw Fang from above. Hyperventilating and covered in a hot sweat she didn't notice how her changes had slowed down to a halt. Much of the back of her body was covered in a light brown fur up to her shoulders with tufts sprouting from elbows, her cheeks and by the middle of her chest which was barely visible due to her tank top still on. In fact, other than her shoes and jacket, she didn't rip or discard any of her main clothes as her body, while toned, hadn't changed in terms of build. And with the hole in her shorts, her tail was unobstructed to flap in any direction. So far her change resembled what Fang had once mentioned as the "Anthro" form that werewolves could attain.

While not as big as the Lycan counterpart, Collie was also displaying sharp canine incisors ready to attack if needed, not counting her unsheathed claws over her hands and feet. These latter extremities had a much more canine appearance now, forcing her to stand on the tip of her toes while her ears had changed almost completely to her lupine design, but only keeping some human skin by the inside while being positioned halfway through the top and the side of her head.

And as she looked down to her hands and body she knew she wasn't fully changed as a wolf or as her Lycan friends down there. But she felt fine, she felt ready with a new feeling of energy washing up her body and a sense of balance that made her feel almost weightless. Her green eyes were now glowing with a yellow center and great determination as her heart returned to a normal peace despite her excitement.

Collie didn't waste any time as she looked where her friends were, jumping down the hill with piercing determination.