

Lu-Pine-ing

[A Small Fire Crackles, Warming Your Humble Abode]

[A Door Swings Open]

Darling? It's supper time! Carrot stew, your favorite!

I don't suppose you're ready to open your eyes and drink it yourself, are you?

It's okay Bunny, don't rush. You'll be awake soon, I know it.

Here, let me sit you up a little. Come here... that's it. Perfect.

You're uh... you're feeling a little lighter, honey. Probably all the soup, right?

(Nervous Chuckle)

Or maybe I'm just getting stronger! Yeah, yeah, hopefully... that.

Never mind, let's get you fed, Bunny. Work with me. Take those nice, slow, steady breaths.

Yep, just like that. Just keep breathing, never changing, never... stirring...

No, don't think about that! Just... just be grateful my darling Bunny can still swallow. That's a blessing.

Here, one spoonful of soup, between breaths, just like we've practiced. Inhale, exhale, drink.

Just like that darling, perfect. Keep nice and steady. Deep breaths. Don't think about it, just breathe and drink.

The sheep miss you more and more every day, ya know. Annabelle nearly knocked me over looking for you.

It'll be time to shear 'em soon. I think they know. And they definitely remember how bad I am with anything sharp.

Easy, easy, deep breaths, that chunk was kinda big, I know. You've got it.

Good job. You know I hate to hear you choke up like that, but we've got to get some solids in you. Otherwise, you're... you're...

You won't be awake in time to shear the sheep! So... drink up!

The clouds smell drizzly tonight. I made triple sure the leak over the fire was fixed but, well, you know that I'm about as good with leaks as I am with the shears.

I walked the farm. Rubbed up on the fence, just like always. That should at least keep the varmints away from the sheep if it storms.

And uh... oh, Priscilla was traveling through! She had some fancy little trinkets for sale, but you'll be proud to hear I was very responsible. I bought seeds and spice and nothing else.

Okay well, maybe something else, but trust me, you'll love it.

And that was just about everything today. Well, I suppose I tended our little farm and cooked too, but that's nothing special.

Soup's done. Good job, Bunny. Let's change your wrap and then I'll let ya rest.

Are you keeping warm enough, darling? Or too warm?

I could unfold your top blanket. Get you a little less heat. But then again, you don't have any clothes on under here... and it's gonna get colder with the rain...

I'm sure it's fine, right, Honey Bunny? You always ran cold out of the two of us anyway.

Alright, enough questioning, let's get at it.

(Wince)

Gods above, those look bad. So... deep...

At least the bleeding stopped though.

I've got more sage this time around. I know you started reacting to Wolfsbane and...

Gods, you're reacting to Wolfsbane...

I um... I told Priscilla you were in a bad spot, and she gave me a little salve, free of charge. I'm gonna put that on too.

She warned that it might sting a little so... so brace yourself, Bunny.

Ah, shhh, shhh, it's okay. You're okay. It's gonna help, darling, I promise.

Try to distract from it, alright? The sting'll fade, but when you're awake again, it'll be worth it! Just think about that. Try to focus on... on the look of the sheep when they see you again! And how happy I'll be to hear your voice! Hells, even about the fenceposts I can't fix, anything besides the pain.

Almost there, Bunny. I got your neck and chest, I just need to get your belly. Then we'll put the sage on, alright?

The wounds down here are looking better! The thinness is looking worse, but we can fix that, right? All you gotta do is wake up, and we'll get some real food in ya.

Just a little more, beloved, and that'll be it. We're almost out of salve.

There. Take some deep breaths, Bunny, I'll get the sage on. You'll feel better.

I um... I had to pass the body to get this sage. Birds still haven't got to it, still smells too much like a werewolf, I guess.

I... I only mention it 'cause uh... well... I don't even know. I guess so you know that thing didn't get off easy.

You already knew that, I don't know why I even bring it up. You were there, after all. I'm just...

I'm sorry, I couldn't protect you, Bunny. From it... and from me. I'm so, so sorry. And if you can just open your eyes, I promise, I'll spend the rest of our lives trying to make it up to ya.

Please? I... I don't know how much longer you can really afford to stay asleep. And... and dying isn't an option, okay? Okay?!

(Deep Breath)

That's... that's all the sage. I'll wrap you back up.

I uh... I don't know if you noticed but, I've been sleeping near the fire. Giving you the bed. Last thing we need is me disturbing your wounds! But uh...

But... I um...

Gods, I don't even want to say it...

If you don't have much time left, I don't want you to pass on alone. And I... I don't think I could forgive myself if the last time I touched you was just to change your bandages...

Do you think I could sleep in the bed tonight? With you? I promise I won't be too hot or too cold or anything. I'll just be your big, cuddly puppy. Just like before.

(Sigh)

No, no you're right. I shouldn't. I'll leave you to it, Bunny, goodnigh-

Bunny?

Gods above, tell me I didn't hallucinate that. Bunny? Darling, are you waking up?!

Yeah, yes, darling, that's it! Deep breaths, open your eyes! I'm right here, Bunny, come back to me!

Come back, Bunny! You're almost there! Let me see those beautiful eyes! Don't leave me just yet.

Yes, yes! Bunny! You're alive! I thought... I thought-!

You're alive! Thank the Gods, you're alive.

(Quick Kiss)

Never do that again! Never, ever leave me again!

Gods... Bunny. You're really alive. Are you feeling alright? Can I get you something?

Of course! Just stay still, I get in around you.

There, I've got you.

I love you too, Bunny. So, so much. And I'm... I'm so sorry for what happened.

No, no Bunny, it's my fault. If you hadn't been out playing with me... or if I had been stronger, more in control, then you wouldn't have-!

What?

No, Bunny, it's my fault. I-!

You... you woke up to tell me, it's not? Bunny, I-

You're too good for me, darling. Too kind to me. It is my fault.

No, Bunny, it is. It's my fault you're hurt. You just... just don't seem to remember.

Bunny, what do you think happened that night? On the full moon?

Yeah, we were out, letting me stretch my legs, and then what happened?

Right. The other wolf. Wild little thing. Young too. That was probably only its first or second shift.

But what do you think happened next, darling?

Well yeah, I protected you, but... if you know that, then you gotta know how you got all cut up.

It was me, Bunny! I thrashed that other wolf, they never even got close to you. And then I lost control. Lost myself. And I saw you as a toy.

You know? What do you mean, you know? I'm the one who mauled you, Bunny!

Wasn't me, yes it was! Even if I wasn't in control, it was still me! My claws, my teeth, my...

Well if you already know, then what's this? Why ask me to cuddle up to ya?

You should hate me, Bunny! Or be scared of me! Or want to kill me, rightly so! Why are you letting me snuggle up here, huh?

Cause... you love me...

Bunny... you're too...

(Quick Exhale)

No. I can't cry now. You're the one that's hurt. You're the one who deserves to feel, not me. I don't... deserve...

I'm so sorry, Bunny.

It's not okay! I could have killed you! I may have paralyzed you! And even if nothing so much as scarred, I still hurt you! That's not forgivable!

Damn it, Bunny, you're too... too everything. I don't deserve you. Not after what I did. Please, just... just be angry! Be bitter! Make me suffer, make me... make me regret this.

Yeah, I already do, but-!

Bunny...

How could I ever make this up to you?

By forgiving... myself? Darling, I couldn't just let this go! I can't-

I'll try. I really will. If that's what you want, I'll try. Anything for you, Bunny.

Can we stay like this, for a while? I'm sure you're itching to stand but... but I don't know if I could be apart from you yet.

(Chuckle)

Glad you feel the same, Bunny.

You uh... you said you woke up to stop me feeling so sorry for myself. So I... I take it you could hear me this whole time?

Did it help? My voice? I mean, besides making you so mad you had to wake up to set me straight?

Are you just saying that, Bunny?

Thank you, then. I'm... glad it helped.

Does that mean you heard about the wolfsbane too?

Yeah, it started inflaming your wounds. Suppose you might've felt that. And... you know what that means...

Best I can tell, yeah. The infection probably had an easier time making it through ya with you half-dead. Honestly, I'm just... glad it didn't kill you by spreading too quick.

That's the first thing you think of, Bunny? Really?

Yes, darling, I suppose that makes us a pack now. But even if you're already naked, I think you've got a little more healing to do before we think about pups.

You're just plain silly sometimes, Bunny.

Yeah, I do.

(Small Chuckle)

My Bunny, a werewolf. Who would've guessed?

Oh shush, you. Come 'ere.

(Quick Kiss)

It'll be different, you know. All the time. Not just during full moons.

Well, after the first transformation, you'll be bigger. Stronger. You'll smell storms coming. You'll hear your wolf whispering thoughts in your ear. And you'll finally get why I look at the sheep like that.

(Soft Laugh)

Yes Bunny, you probably will have more stamina. Not that you needed it.

(Happy Sigh)

Gods, you know, none of this stuff has started yet. This? This is just you after six days of hearing my voice.

Just shut up and cuddle me before you get us both going.

(Small Chuckle)

I love you too, Bunny. And I'm gonna prove it here soon. We're gonna heal you up, and get you through all this, and be better than ever. I promise.

It's a deal.