

Card review : Luke - Blossom Encounters



Notation (very subjective) out of 20 :

- **Art : 4.5/5**
 - **Reason** : Luke with glasses. That's it 😊
- **Story plot (the idea of the story, how interesting/emotional and good it was) :**
8/8
- **Story writing (flow of sentences, of the story, translation, how it's written, how the characters behaved) : 7/7**
- **Special bonus point (for the card I especially liked) : 1/1**
 - **Reason for the bonus point** : Act 2. The coffee scene. It was just so perfectly written, I got goosebumps and my heart fluttered woowow. The whole card was awesome but this part was especially gorgeous ✨

Total : 20/20

Lore card, Fluff card or Action ? : Relationship / fluff card

Story Keywords :

#mission

#chanceencounter

#longing

#promise

Act per act summary :

Act 1

After she finishes a meeting with a client, Rosa stroll in a Street in North Stellis. After she sent the documents to the firm, Celestine told her to go back home directly, so right now she checks to see if Luke answered her text messages. It wasn't about anything important but Luke hasn't answered for two months now.

Flashback, two months ago. Luke finishes to prepare his luggage for his mission. They sit down on the bed and Luke dries Rosa's hair as he explains that his mission would take at least one month to complete but no more than a month and a half. He also adds it'll be difficult to contact her. When she asks if she can contact him, he tells her she can but he won't be able to answer. Rosa calculates how long he'll be gone and when Luke asks for her thoughts, she tells him she would like to go to the Myriad Form Festival together, a celebration taking place three days after the spring equinox. She explains that it has been a while since they went to a traditional event. Luke writes down the date for it and promises they'll go together. As Rosa tells him she's going to plan everything, he asks her if she changed shampoo as he plays with her hair. She confirms and he compliments her on how it smells on her.

End of the flashback. Rosa realizes she's at the end of the street. She sees a vintage-style café called Rotana, probably in reference to a cultural group of nomads all over the world who are named this way. She tells Luke immediately by reflex and goes inside. The store owner welcomes her and after she takes her order, Rosa inspects the café with her eyes. Seeing how the owner has traditional Rotana's outfits, she asks her if she's one, which she confirms despite not being a nomad. Seeing Rosa's expression, the owner asks her if she is waiting for someone and she vaguely confirms. The shopkeeper then suggests to her some "coffee reading", which is a special Rotanan fortune telling. She agrees so the owner sets everything up after serving her tea. After her ritual, she is hesitant but tells Rosa that she can expect a lot of chance meetings soon. As soon as the owner finishes her sentence, someone enters the café and she recognizes Luke's voice.

Act 2

Luke comes sit in front of her, picking the coffee cup that was used for the fortune telling. He pretends it's his first meeting with Rosa while asking the shopkeeper for "the usual", adding he has a reservation. When the shopkeeper goes in the back, Luke starts flirting with Rosa, still pretending it's their first meeting. She goes along with it, asking if he is a regular, which he confirms. He keeps sweet talking to her as he complains he has to go to his appointment and can't spend more time with her. They playfully keep this tone while talking and Luke tells

her he's here on business. He stays mysterious while glancing from time to time in the shopkeeper's direction. At this moment, a sound from the bar counter makes their conversation stop. The coffee owner tells Luke that the reservation has been cancelled and Rosa detects a hint of coldness in his eyes. They exchange veiled words, making the atmosphere tense. As he's leaving, he turns back to Rosa and says his coming here wasn't a waste of time and they'll have other chance encounters. The next moment, the sheer curtain flutters and then Luke is gone. While Rosa is still dazed, thinking about his parting words, the shopkeeper laughs and points out how she seemed to get along with Luke, adding how her fortune telling never fails. As she goes to the counter to pay, the shopkeeper informs her Luke has already paid. She thanks the owner and when she approaches the exits, she seems to see someone running off. She is puzzled, wondering if she was overthinking.

At night, in her bed, Rosa is thinking about the whole day again. Luke's mission doesn't seem to go well but at least he is safe. Still, she feels a bit disappointed that she couldn't really talk to him. She thinks about the fortune telling and Rotanan saying, hoping there will be another chance encounter while checking if Luke answered her messages. She sees nothing but she feels a bit more relieved with how he hinted he will be over with the mission soon. She receives a notification that the Mid-Spring Market will start earlier to celebrate the Myriad Form Festival. With this date coming near, she realizes how long she has been away from Luke.

Act 3

Two weeks later. The Mid-Spring Market has started but Luke still hasn't returned. Rosa decided that since they can't enjoy it together, she'll buy him souvenirs to make up for it. But as she goes here, it's so crowded that she's pushed along with everyone. When she manages to find a way to step out of the human blob, she decides to go somewhere else first. Right then, someone drags her in a nearby alley and she immediately recognizes Luke. He asks her what she is doing, seemingly a bit on the edge, and after Rosa explains, he starts to apologize so she puts her cold palms on his face. She asks if he's still on the mission and he confirms, adding he thought she came here for him. He explains that he had to meet his target when they saw each other at the café and he's worried that she'll be targeted if seen with him. Rosa tells him she was just passing by and she suddenly recalls the fortune telling. Luke asks her if she remembered anything and after sharing her thoughts, he explains that it was just a secret code exchanged between the owner and him. Rosa said she was happy about it since they met each other right after the reading. She also points out

that this is their second chance encounter, which makes Luke hug her, burying his face in her neck. Luke tells Rosa he missed her and she says it too, while squeezing him. But soon, Luke's tracker beeps and he says he has to go since Aaron probably needs him. They promise each other to catch up the time once this tricky mission will be over. At this moment, they hear rushed footsteps so he instinctively places himself in front of her, but they see it's Aaron coming so they relax. He tells Luke the deal failed and they go a bit further so that Rosa doesn't hear the rest. After a long talk, Aaron gives him a suitcase before leaving. Luke comes back and asks Rosa for help to play along like last time while having a communicator this time. He tells her to turn it on when she's finished to receive further instructions from Aaron. She asks him what role she's playing and he announces that she is his buyer.

Act 4

Luke, after Aaron allowed him to share a bit more details, tells Rosa he needs to obtain an Encryption Key. He already has half and the other half is with a certain "Clifford Patterson". They won't try to get the other half back right now but will be giving theirs to Clifford. Luke explains that the man is extremely vigilant and if he had more time he'd be able to get it himself, but since the key has an expiration date, they have to do something else. They added a program to their device, which will automatically send the key to the NSB when it finds the other half. Luke adds that he tried to sell it to Clifford but since he still hasn't earned his full trust, he's still doubting. Rosa understands that Luke was supposed to meet the man and she starts to worry about if her presence ruined everything but he flicks her forehead, guessing her thoughts. Luke says they'll take advantage of what happened that day while he slides a bankcard in her wallet. They want to use Patterson's suspicions to make him think Luke has another buyer. After having explained everything, he hugs her, saying that they'll be able to finish the mission today if everything goes well.

Rosa then follows Luke to the top floor of the café. They sit face to face and he informs them they know the place isn't bugged. After being sure Patterson will know about their interaction, she pushes to him the card he gave her earlier. While they are trying to pretend to converse about a deal, Rosa is uncomfortable and blanks out, so Luke changes the topic since they only need to make it look like he is selling something to her. Seeing how overwhelmed she is with how many things she wants to tell him, he starts by explaining that the café they are at is a gray area and he often came here during his missions. So this isn't a very safe place. Rosa wonders why he is talking about this and she remembers how she texted him about this place. Luke starts asking her about all the little details she included in her texts and she realizes he read them all. He explains that Aaron has been keeping his

stuff since he has another identity right now but he asked him to bring his device earlier that day when they met prior to him seeing Rosa. He tells her it makes him relieved to know she has been taking care of herself. She feels relieved that all her thoughts reached him at some point. Rosa tells him she feels like she is making a can when she sends him messages like this : those items have a long shelf life and she fills them up little by little with everything she thinks or does before sending them to him and when he opens them, he can feel what she felt. Just like a can, it'll be the same as when it got "sealed". Luke looks defeated saying he actually wanted to take the time to slowly answer to everything she conveyed... But then his phone buzzes and he knows it's Patterson.

Act 5

Luke checks his surroundings, making Rosa a bit tense but he reassures her, saying it's only a phone call. He openly taunts Patterson on the phone and after a while, he pretends to reject Rosa's offer. He leaves while still on the phone and when he's really gone, she picks up the bankcard and activates her communicator. Aaron informs her Luke will join Patterson soon and instructs her to go to a specific bookstore, where someone will make contact with her. She diligently follows the instructions and gives back everything that she borrowed for the mission. She decided to wait for Luke inside the bookstore, unsure if she was still being watched. But even when Aaron comes and tells her she can leave, he still hasn't come back. He apologizes about the fact Luke is still tied up with the mission but informs her he is safe. Rosa tells him he can go and after waving goodbye to him she feels a bit disappointed. As she was about to head home, she receives a call from Luke. She can hear him breathe heavily and then she notices him among the crowd. She tells him to turn around and he finally sees her from afar. While still separated, they talk through the phone and Luke, obviously disappointed, apologizes for not being able to go with her. Rosa tells him it can't be helped and he shouldn't apologize every time for it. He still promises her to make up for it despite her understanding. She then asks if the mission went smoothly and he says it did, even if it felt too smooth. They decoded the Encryption Key but the contents were much more than expected so they have to investigate right now. Luke says he can't give her an approximate time of when he'll be back since it turned out wrong the other times, but he'll try to do so as soon as possible. Rosa says it'll maybe give them the opportunity of another chance meeting. Before Luke can say more, one of his teammates urges him to come, so he has to hang up. He waves at her from afar and then climbs into the car, which leaves soon after.

Act 6

Rosa looks at the window after having finished her work. It has been two weeks since she last saw Luke so it has been three whole months he hasn't been at home. Kiki suggests going to the Mid-Spring Market later since it's the last day. She refuses when she remembers the unfulfilled promise with Luke and after her colleagues leave, she tidies up before packing and going home.

Rosa is drying her hair in the bathroom. She realizes the bottle of shampoo she bought not long ago is already empty and she forgot to buy more. Luke suddenly appears in the mirror asking about it and she's surprised to see him. He seems to have rushed, out of breath, still in work mode with his communicator still inside his ear. Luke announces his mission is over and comes closer to her. He suddenly looks in pain but quickly explains that it's because there was a sharp noise in his earpiece. Rosa sees different expressions flash on his face, recognizing each one of them. She wants to see in more detail all of it and not miss any bit so she comes closer to him. Luke is puzzled but she says she wants to look at him properly. She caresses his face slowly and he lets her do it. Rosa asks who talked in his earpiece earlier, to which he answers Aaro' but adds that it wasn't important. He imitates his colleagues and friend's tone, telling him to return the communicator when he'll be back while slightly pouting. Rosa, amused, asks why he is in such a hurry and Luke says that they won't make it to the market and he doesn't want to wait until next year. She feels overwhelmed at the possibility of being able to fulfill their promise and Luke gets closer wanting to look at her too. She tells him she is happy he rushed back for her and he tells her to not worry about whether he is tired or not. While he is stroking her hair, he says that since their job can make them see each other less, she should let him cherish their time together more. He expresses his innermost feelings to her, the sense of urgency he felt when they were on the phone and watching each other from afar... So Rosa suggests not to wait more and they leave for the market.

Since it's also the day of the Myriad Form Festival, there are countless lights lit up near them. Luke comments that it has been three months since they last strolled together. "Three months, a quarter of a year, the time needed to finish a shampoo bottle and when winter finally ends to welcome spring". Rosa whispers to Luke she doesn't want to be separated for this long anymore. He doesn't seem to have noticed and points out the alleyway where they met. She reminds him they didn't have their third chance meeting and it's maybe time to put it together. Luke interrupts her saying that when he came back to Stellis, it was when they actually had their first chance encounter. She remembers the words of the shop owner : Three chance encounters makes a destiny. Rosa wonders if they made their destiny or if the

universe helped them. Luke says it doesn't matter since now they only had to enjoy the evening together, without the need to be apart.

Personal opinion

General (made along my reading) :

This story was so perfect from start to finish. The longing but in a "I'm used to it" way. Act 2 with their chance meeting and flirting and that bubbling atmosphere. The small encounters without much time that adds onto the longing. Everything was soooooo delicately crafted, this card is an awesome gem.

What I liked (bullet points) :

- The coffee scene where they flirted. This was. So. Cute. And. Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa I don't have words.
- IT WAS LIGHT FLIRTING BUT THE WAY HE TALKED, THE WAY IT WAS NOT A LOT OF WORDS AND JUST A FLEETING MOMENT AAAAA
- Okay a new point : this card encapsulated perfectly the comfortable, cozy and loving relationship of LukeRosa. Masterpiece.

What I disliked (bullet points) :

- Nothing. Or maybe it was short and should have been 4 hours long with how good it was.

Would I recommend getting this story ?

ABSOLUTELY. Not even a question, this card is insanely good and deserves to be pulled.