

Darkness spread across the sky, bathing the world below in its beauty. The stallholders steadily began to pack up for the day. Mona made her way up the stairs, sparing a brief moment to wave at her friend Fischl as she passed.

“Everything ok there?” Mona asked.

Fischl swept her blonde hair back with her hand, the black ribbons that held her small pigtails bouncing slightly as she grinned, “Yes...I’m finally being assigned to solo patrols near the Whispering Woods and Starfell Lake.”

“At least that’s something. Means plenty of Mora for you,” Mona said, with a hint of praise.

Fischl hummed thoughtfully; “I’ve seen you’ve been having some troubles since arriving, maybe you can offer your talents. You’d be a welcome asset.”

“Maybe,” Mona replied, blushing as her stomach growled.

Fischl chuckled to herself, “Your stomach beckons your attention so for now we part ways.”

Mona sniggered, “*Fischl always had a unique way of phrasing certain things,*” she thought.

Mona gave a small smile watching her friend striding away, once Fischl was out of sight she gave a small sigh, Fischl’s words stirred in her mind. The thought of becoming a Knight or an Adventurer had crossed her mind but she didn’t think she’d be cut out for such work, especially when astrology was her main focus.

She wrestled with her thoughts as she walked up the remaining few steps, coming to stop outside Good Hunter. Smiling sweetly at the owner she took out her coin purse. A small moth flew out of the purse as she shook the contents out into her gloved hand.

“Can I get a portion of Fishermen’s Toast with this?” Mona asked.

Sara, the shopkeeper looked at the three coins, totalling thirty Mora, “Sorry Mona, it’s the same as every other day you asked.”

“No worries....thanks anyway,” Mona said, with a downcast expression.

Sara watched Mona starting to walk away, her heart sinking a little. She hated turning away anyone especially when hungry but business was business and if she started handing out freebies to one it could open the door for others.

Mona clasped her fingers around the three gold coins, popping them back into the purse as she walked down the stairs, “Really? Is this all I made today? How come astrology isn’t popular? Don’t people want to know their future?”

She left the town of Mondstadt. Making her way northwest, her eyes glanced up, spotting the stars slowly starting to shine in the sky as the moon began to creep up, its light glistening in the waters near the Whispering Woods.

“At least Teyvat has plentiful resources in the wild,” Mona stated, entering the woods.

Mona inhaled deeply, entering a small clearing that rose up slightly. Her eyes twinkled at the sight of a few apples laying on the grass surrounded by the roots of the tree that had grown them. She knelt down next to the tall tree, picking them up, cradling them in her arms as she made her way to the edge of the bank.

She placed the apples next to her leg as she sat down. “Sure is beautiful,” she said, admiring the water. She grabbed an apple, cleaning it with her cape before taking a large bite out of it, crunching hastily the portion between her teeth. Time slowly passed as she ate the apples, the moon gradually rising into the sky.

As the moonlight swept over her body, Mona laid back, resting a hand on her stomach as she stared up at the stars. The faint twinkles of the stars were relaxing, thoughts of her old essays drifted into her mind. She began to remember being younger and staring up at the night sky marvelling at the beauty of the night sky.

“Every time I see the stars, I wonder what their journey has been like and I wonder where my journey is going. Every day there are fewer people believing in the magic of the stars,” she quietly said, “Even the concept of wishing upon the stars....I wish there was a way for me to be rich and not so hungry.”

She gently stretched her hand out towards the stars, holding it as if a star were floating above her palm. Her eyes widened at the sight of something forming above her hand. A small dark blue diamond gently rested within her palm as she sat up.

“Curious,” she muttered, rolling the diamond around with her finger.

The diamond gently glowed, reflecting in her eyes.

“A gift from stars?” Mona asked, “At least I have something more to research tonight.”

She tightened her hold around the diamond. As she stood up, beams of dark blue light erupted out between her fingers. Warmth shot up her arm. Whilst the sound of the diamond breaking filled Mona’s ears, a bright glow flashed around her, coating her body. Mona shrieked, shielding her eyes with her arm.

“What the...!” Mona shouted, while blinking several times looking around, trying to adjust her vision. She glanced down towards her hand, not feeling the diamond within her grasp. Mona

uncurled her fingers to see dark blue dust coating her glove, scattering towards the water as the wind caught it: "Dammit that could have helped me pay rent...."

She gave a heavy sigh, her face falling into a downcast expression whilst she stroked her chin. Mona raised her head towards the stars, her pale green eyes locking onto the full moon. Its large majesty shone brighter, becoming hypnotic, Mona's eyes staying fixed on it.

The young girl groaned, a strange feeling washing over her body as a warmth grew under her skin. Only when Mona grunted out in pain did the moon release its hold, allowing the girl to hug herself tightly whilst crying. She clutched her hand over her mouth, pain spreading throughout her gums as her teeth sharpened into points. Tears streaked from her eyes, her canines lengthening.

"My...teeth..." she muttered, poking each one with her tongue, the sharpness threatening to puncture the investigating tongue, "What? There must be an answer for this! There's always an answer...teeth can't just change like this...."

She hugged herself, moaning at the growing discomfort inside her body, her head shot towards the moon. Her mind raced, trying to figure out what was happening to her as her legs trembled. "All this started with.... the diamond..... and the moon..... Are they the cause of this?"

Her eyes looked down towards her hands, pain starting to grow inside her fingers. Keeping one hand and arm wrapped around her body, Mona straightened slightly, bringing up her right hand before her eyes. Small cries of pain left her mouth at the feeling of pops and cracks coming from her fingers and hands. Tiny tears formed in her dark gloves whilst Mona watched her hand lengthen and fingers growing, the tears becoming wider. Her nails lengthened gradually becoming darker and slightly curved, bursting through the tips of her glove.

Violent pops sounded out from within her arms as her bones and muscles began to swell, steadily growing thicker. Her skin pinched tightly, tightening from the sudden growth to her muscles, mirrored by her tightening sleeves. Rips formed in the fabric as her stretched skin became prickled from fingers to shoulders, by the feeling of dark brown hair sprouting like blades of grass, culminating together into thickening patches of fur.

She brought her other arm up, watching through the tears at how it became a perfect image of her right hand. Her fingers flexed and twitched about as the pain died down within them. "By Celestia....my arms...hands...What's happening to me?!" Mona cried out, her voice cracking with fear as she eyed her fur-coated limbs.

Sweat melded into her tears trickling down her face as her eyes nearly bulged out of her skull at the vicious popping and sharp cracks building in her legs. Veins pressed into the skin of her legs whilst ladders formed in her tights. The ladders turned to tears as her legs slowly grew bigger. Mona let out a guttural scream, the veins pulsing and throbbing as she bent her knees whilst gripping her thighs with her hands. Pieces of her tights dropped to the ground, torn easily by her

swelling legs; however, the golden and red compass ornament strapped around her right thigh wasn't so easily broken.

The metal band tightened, digging into her pained flesh and skin. Mona squeezed her eyes shut, groaning as cracks began to form across the ornament. After what felt like ages to Mona the metal broke into shards dropping to the ground.

"It's....finally.... off.... Why is this getting worse?! What am I becoming?!" Mona cried, her mind clouded with questions. "Take a deep breath....calm yourself...focus. You can still get back to Mondstadt. Maybe Lisa can fix this?"

Pain flared in her feet as her transformation continued, hitting a new obstacle in the form of her golden metal high heels. The last vestiges of her tights tore slowly around her growing feet, veins popping and pulsing. Mona cried out in pain, staring down at the cracks steadily forming in her shoes. Her feet continued to grow bigger, her toes piling up in her shoes.

"It.....*ARGH*..... hurts!" Mona screamed.

Cracks carried on forming in the metal as her shoes struggled to stay intact, resisting the growing feet. Her big toes were the first to be set free from the shoes, as the nails lengthened into dark claws. Matching fur to the rest of her changed limbs sprouted out on her feet. She wobbled about as she raised her right leg, trying to use her fingers to pry off her shoe.

*"I can't get rid of it."* she thought, squeezing her eyes shut, *"My shoes are going to burst!"*

Chunks of metal dropped onto the ground as her shoes finally gave up. Cracks emitted from her feet as finally, free of its confines it lengthened like her nails growing into black claws.

Mona staggered forwards, struggling to keep her balance as she tried to walk on the wolf-like paws that her feet had become. She leaned against a tree, panting. "Have to... keep going...need... help."

She yelped at the growing pain in her rear and lower spine, her hands clasping around her furring butt cheeks whilst her body leaned forwards. The fabric of her leotard steadily stretched around a growing appendage, loud cracks and snaps sounding out as the appendage grew longer and thicker. The faint prickle of fur growing became drowned out by the pain in her spine. With a loud tear, a furred tail erupted out of her leotard, thrashing violently about whilst Mona cried out in surprise, saliva falling from her tongue and mouth as her tongue lengthened.

The outline of her vertebrae and shoulders became visible through her clothes and skin as violent snaps and crunches filled the air. Hairs erupted out of her back and chest as her back thickened, her leotard tearing around it. The fur collar of her cape tightened as her neck slowly grew, her cries becoming deeper as her vocal cords started to compress. A loud pained snarl escaped her mouth, blocking out the sound of her collar tearing in two, her Hydro vision, the gift

from the Gods that granted elemental abilities to the user, sliding down her back and onto the ground. Mona's ribs popped, expanding inside her chest along with her organs, the remains of her leotard tearing away from her barreling chest.

"Oh no!" Mona screamed, looking down at her fur-covered abs becoming more toned whilst her boobs became slightly smaller, coated in fur.

Her witch's style hat fell away from her head as she clasped her hands around it. Crying out like a wounded animal, her ears growing longer and wider whilst her nose and mouth pushed outwards all the while her skull burned with pain. Extra teeth grew within her forming muzzle, her nose darkening, twitching as it changed shape, becoming round and more canine.

Mona grunted at the final crack from her face down towards the wet bridge of her nose. She inhaled deeply, "Is it...over?"

She stumbled towards the edge, dropping to her knees. Her glowing green eyes stared at the reflection of hairs growing out of her wolf face. She padded her face and body, whimpering fearfully at what she had become.

"Why did this happen to me? How?" she asked, standing back up

She looked up at the moon, growling slightly when it struck her, "*Had this really been a gift from the stars? A gift for someone faithful and loyal to them? Or is it a curse?*" She looked back at her reflection, save for the pigtails she was completely different, a beast.

"No one would recognize me if I ate some critters out here or.... Maybe even if I raided a store for food," she stated, shaking her head "No! I can't act like a beast! I'm a human and a good person! Under this fur, there is a good law-abiding citizen!"

Her thoughts were interrupted as her stomach growled violently at her, causing Mona to groan and hold her stomach.

"Didn't those apples do anything to relieve my hunger?" Mona moaned, suddenly her ears twitched at the sound of bushes rustling nearby. She turned to spot a lone boar trotting into view. In a brief moment of hunger, Mona leapt at the creature, pinning it down as it tried to struggle for its life.

Its pained squeals and cries went unanswered as Mona sunk her teeth into its raw flesh with her mouth.

*"I shouldn't be doing this but... the hunger is so... overwhelming... I am so... hungry....maybe just for night...."* she thought, giving a small chuckle, "Yeah just one night."