

7/23/2021 Prompt: Moon Glow

"They're here," Grandmother stated, her glassy eyes following my orbit. "Your sister is in danger. Tsukiko, you must save her."

I continued on my path. "But tonight, I'm not allowed beyond the engawa. Once a month, Hoshi tends the garden alone."

Grandmother frowned her disapproval. My brother Haru grabbed his katana before blazing from the hearth. The golden blade glittered menacingly.

"I'll rescue her."

"No, my Sun," Grandmother stated firmly. "Your place is here."

"I'm the brightest," he argued. "It must be me."

"He's right," I hedged. "Without his light, I'm too weak."

"No! Haru cannot go. Only Tsukiko."

Strong shoulders slumping, Haru returned to the hearth. Grandmother turned her vacant stare to me.

"It's time for you to glow, Moonchild."

"But Hoshi's suitors are as numerous as the stars. They will save her."

Grandmother took my hand. "No. Only you can defeat this enemy."

"Only me?" I breathed, her certainty waning my doubt.

"Go...before it is too late."

The garden was dark as I tread the first stone. I pressed on, scanning the black hedges and gnarled trees. All was silence.

"Hoshi?"

"Help, Tsukiko!"

A "hush!" silenced her. Following her voice, I found my sister trapped between two dark figures, her admirers having fled. Each creature held an arm, draining her lumen by lumen. In her light, my pale skin began to glow.

"Such delicious radiance," one said hungrily. "I've never tasted the like."

"We shall have that one next," was the greedy reply. "Then, we go for the brother."

Lurching toward me, it grabbed my arm, but instead of feeding, it squealed in pain. Confidence waxing, I realized my grandmother's meaning.

"You're wrong," I replied, standing tall. "My power is not of light, but reflection. Tonight, your own darkness will consume you!"

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