

Memories of the Moon

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*Okay! New Story! =D
*

This is the story BEFORE Eternal Snow happened! Basically, how Luna and Atemu met, their adventures or whatever lol, all the way to the end where Luna dies. Please Enjoy! ^-^

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1. At the Beginning

Soft, gentle footsteps could be heard in the hallow halls of the palace.

An elegant young woman, in her teenage years, walked down the hall. She was holding her hands together and looking down at them with a soft, thoughtful expression.

The young girl had long brown hair, which was held in a ponytail and the bangs were long and parted to each side, hanging down her face. The hairpiece was made of pure gold.

She had a small string tiara which held a blue jewel, which, if looked from afar, looked like she had the jewel stuck to her forehead.

She had beautiful blue eyes and pale skin as soft as flower petals. The girl also wore gold earrings that hung down and looked like a bird's wing.

She wore something of a white tangtop with a right side up golden crescent moon printed on it. Her stomach showed and she wore a long, white flowing skirt that was slit at both of the sides, all the way to her hips. She also wore white shoes. And lastly, she wore two separate sleeves. They weren't connecting to the tangtop. The sleeves hung onto her arm with gold cuffs and a long see through fabric started from inside the cuffs and ended at her wrists.

This was the Princess of the Moon tribe, Luna.

The Moon tribe was a very small tribe and was hardly noticed by anyone. So they lived mostly in peace. Though the Moon tribe was small, they were rich. Almost as rich as their ally, Egypt, to which they didn't live far from.

They kept that fact a secret, never the less.

Luna was a very kind princess. She was also wise beyond her years and quite shy.

She had this weird problem, to which whenever she meets a man for the first time, she become shyer then usually and she blushes. Not because she gets a crush on them or anything. Just...because she's shy with men she doesn't know.

Luna was also stubborn, fragile and cries easily.

Luna was known for her soft and beautiful voice. She didn't talk much...but she was an excellent singer.

Many men had fallen for her voice.

The girl continued to wander and twiddle her fingers together. She was thinking about what her father, the King had said to her earlier that day at around sunset.

He had mentioned to her that she was 16 years old and needed to find a suitor very soon. Although...there was no one Luna loved.

She sighed nervously and stopped walking. She took note that the hallway was empty and looked to her right.

She was technically outside of the palace. All she had to do was walk past the pillars, which

held the palace's roof up, and she would be standing on the grass.

Looking up, she could see the bright full moon. She started to wonder if there was anything to look forward to from then on. But shrugging it off, she continued to walk through the halls and to her chamber, where she was going to go to bed for the night.

"LUNA! Are you awake?"

A young man shouted as he knocked on the girl's door.

Luna opened the door. "Yes Koe...I'm awake...what do you need?" She asked.

"I've just received news that an Egyptian ship had sunk near our shores and we are obligated to help them." The man, whose name was Koe, said.

Luna nodded. "Alright. I'll come help." She said and power walked to the shores.

Koe was Luna's personal guard. He had been her guard for 7 years.

He had messy red-brownish hair and he wore a white tunic. He also, had pale skin and he was sorta muscular. He wore brown arm traps and brown sandals that strapped around his leg, up to his knee. Usually, he carried around a spear. He also had black eyes.

He had been loyal for all the years he had served her...but when she recently turned 16...he was acting a little strange.

He was around 23 years old.

After a while, the Egyptian guards and sailors had been brought back to the shore. Luna was tending to one of them.

She smiled at him. "Don't worry. You'll be okay." She said.

The man gasped for air and huffed out several words.

"N-No! The...the Pharaoh! He's still in there!"

Luna gasped and looked back at the water.

"The Pharaoh?!" She thought to herself and gently laid the man down and dashed to the waters. "He's the King of Egypt, right?! They can't afford to lose him!" She thought to herself urgently.

Koe, who wasn't far, spotted Luna just diving in the waters. "LUNA!" He cried.

Luna swam down into the waters until she saw a figure. She couldn't tell the details, but she was pretty sure that had to be the Pharaoh.

She swam closer and grabbed a hold of him and started to swim to the shore.

Once she got her head out of the water, she gasped for air and drug the man onto the shore.

Koe ran up.

"LUNA! What were you THINKING?! You couldn't have gotten hurt!" He cried. "And if you got hurt, the-" He got cut off by an Egyptian guard cheering, "SHE SAVED THE PHARAOH!"

Koe paused and looked over at the guard. "She saved the Pharaoh?" He repeated.

"Yes. You should be proud your tribe has such a brave princess." The guard said to Koe.

Luna was about to disagree with the "brave" thing, but before she could make a sound, someone else did.

Luna looked to the side to catch the Pharaoh, just waking up.

He sat up and held his head with one hand.

And just for an eternal moment, Luna and the Pharaoh's eyes had met.

The Pharaoh had spiky hair that was maroon and black. There were some other spikes that stuck up with his hair and they were a golden blond. His bangs were the same color.

He had tan skin and wore a cream colored tunic. He wore gold jewelry on his chest, fingers and ears. He wore a gold crown that you could mostly see on his forehead. He also wore a large purple cape and 3 golden rings around his waste, which held a blue strap of fabric that was slightly longer than his tunic. He wore arm cuffs near his shoulders and large golden earrings. The Pharaoh also wore golden wrist cuffs and golden rings on his legs from his ankles to his knees. And he wore cream colored shoes. He also had some gold rings around his neck.

And lastly, what Luna had noticed first, were his eyes. They were Egyptian eyes, no doubt and they were violet.

The two stared at each other for a moment, the Pharaoh looking rather dazed.

Luna blushed. "Uh..." was all she could say, pointing to her problem with being around guys she just met.

But before anything else happened, Koe rushed over and pushed her away.

"Princess! You're completely soaked! Lets get you dry!" He said, moving her towards the palace.

The Pharaoh continued to stare at her as she left, not noticing the guards running up to him.

"I know we're allies with Egypt, but you need to be careful around the Pharaoh." Koe said to Luna as they continued walking to the palace.

"Why?" Luna asked.

"Because. Pharaoh's are very possessive. Whatever they want, they get. Even if its girls like you. And since Egypt is the most powerful nation known, we wouldn't be able to stop the Pharaoh if he wanted you. But he looked rather dazed, so he may not have seen you very well." Koe explained.

Luna was listening politely.

"All I'm saying is, don't be alone with him. Or anything of the sorts." Koe finished.

It was the next day after the rescue. The Egyptians sent out a message to send another boat and they were to return to Egypt by late afternoon.

Luna was walking around the palace, smiling.

It was such a nice day! She had made plans to take a walk around the palace's garden. She had entered the garden and walked around. She sighed and shut her eyes.

Luna knew the area well, so she didn't have to look around to make sure she wouldn't bump into anything.

The Princess turned a corner and took a few steps before stopping and opening her eyes. Only to be face to face with...the Pharaoh.

He wanted to explore the area and found himself in the garden.

Luna stared at him, scared.

"O-Oh no! Koe told me not to be alone with him! And here we are!" Luna thought to herself urgently. She quickly turned around and started to run. "I'd better get out of here!"

But before she could take even 3 steps, the Pharaoh caught her arm. Luna was forced to stop and she looked over her shoulder.

"Uh...Uh..." Was all that was able to come out of Luna's mouth. She started to blush again and tears started to well up in her eyes.

The Pharaoh stared at her, focusing his eyes.

"Why are you running away from me?" He asked. Luna tensed up at his voice. His voice was strong, deep and had a rich tone to it.

But at this time, Luna couldn't answer and the tears were just starting to leave her eyes.

The Pharaoh reached out and wiped one of her tears away.

"I didn't get to properly thank you." He finished.

Luna blinked. "W-what?" She asked.

"Yes...I remember you...you saved me from drowning." The Pharaoh smiled.

Luna looked to the side. "O-oh! You remembered that?"

"I've heard a lot about you...the Princess of the Moon tribe...Luna correct? Well...do not hesitate to come to me...in Egypt. I will not force you to come. But I would be honored to see you again." The Pharaoh said with a soft smile. He kissed her hand lightly before walking away.

Luna watched him leave as her face turned red again.

But not too far away...in the shadows, was Koe. He had seen everything.

The King of the Moon tribe frowned after he listened to what Koe had to say. "Then it is decided!" He said. "The Moon Tribe shall break its alliance with Egypt because of the vulgar things the Pharaoh has done to my daughter!"

Koe smirked. He had told the King nothing but lies about the Pharaoh and Luna's meeting.

But Luna was listening. She ran in.

"Father!" She cried. "It's not true! The Pharaoh did no such things to me!"

"Luna, I have a witness. Koe told me everything. And I trust him. He has been loyal to the family for years. He has also asked your hand in marriage. I have allowed that. Since you've found no suitor for yourself. The wedding ceremony shall take place in three days." The king said.

Luna clenched her fists. "No! I shall NOT wed such a man! He is a liar and a fool! If you are not going to let me have my freedom, then...then...I REFUSE to be this tribe's QUEEN!" She cried before running away.

"Luna!" The king called after her.

Koe turned back to the King. "Do not fear, my King. She'll soon come to her senses."

Koe and the King were not prepared for what Luna had done next. Luna put on a white cloak...and ran away. She was going to run to Egypt.

Presently, she was in the sands of Egypt, but didn't know where to go. All she knew was that the wind was getting heavy.

She continued walking, hoping she would find the city soon. But she stopped when she spotted something.

"Wait...what's that?" She asked herself as she squinted through the sandy winds. She gasped when she realized what it was. "It's a SANDSTORM!" She cried.

The sandstorm was too quick and Luna couldn't escape it. She braced herself and screamed as the storm hit her.

It had been a couple of hours since the sandstorm blew by and two Egyptian guards were riding around on horses, checking the area.

One of the stopped when he saw Luna partly buried in the sand.

"Stop!" The guard cried as he hopped off his horse and walked up to the girl, pulling her out of the sand.

The other guard walked up.

"Who is it?" The guard asked.

The first guard flipped Luna over and recognized her almost immediately.

"This is Princess Luna! From the Moon tribe! She must have gotten caught in that sandstorm! Quickly! We must take her to the Pharaoh! I think she's still alive." The guard picked Luna up and got onto his horse with her.

With that, the two guards galloped off.

Her body felt stiff.

Luna was just opening her eyes. She stared at the ceiling, wondering where she was.

Once she gathered the strength, she sat up and looked around. Looking out a window next to her, she quickly figured she was in the city of Egypt. But how?

Before she asked herself anymore questions, she paused and looked down at herself.

She was wearing new clothes!

She wore a white long dress that had a golden breastplate that covered half the top. She had two golden rings around her neck and 3 around her waist. She had golden arm cuffs near her shoulders and brown sandals. She also wore 3 golden rings on each of her wrists. The dress was slit only on the left side.

But her hairstyle and hairpiece was the same as before. So was her little tiara and earrings.

"Who...who changed my clothes? Where am I exactly?" She thought to herself.

Wanting the questions to be answered, she quickly got up and ran through the door, hitting a guard with the door on accident. She didn't notice though.

Running through the halls, she finally ran into the large throne room, where she skidded to a stop and looked around. She jumped when she heard someone say her name.

She turned around to find...the Pharaoh.

"Luna? Are you all right? Should you be walking around?" The Pharaoh asked.

"U-uhm...I'm fine." She answered. "But...where am I?"

"You're in my palace, in Egypt. Two of my guards found you unconscious in the sand and brought you here. Don't worry. The servant women changed your clothes. But now it's my turn. What were you doing in the sands of Egypt?" The Pharaoh asked.

"W-well...I...I ran away." She simply stated. "Father was going to make me marry someone I didn't love...and the one that my father was going to make me marry accused you of wrong-doing. My father wouldn't listen to a word I said, so...I ran away here..." Luna explained.

"May...I stay here with you...in Egypt?"

The Pharaoh stared at her a moment more before smiling. "Of course, my Princess."

Luna smiled brightly. "I have one more question." She said. "You know my name...but I do not know yours...will you tell me?"

The Pharaoh smiled again.

"Atemu." Was his simple answer.

2. New Friends

Luna wandered outside and around the palace. She figured she would be staying here for a while, so she might as well get to know the area.

But she wasn't thinking about getting to know the area...she was thinking about HIS name...

"Atemu...Atemu...no matter how many times I say it, it's just SO familiar! Father knows his name...but never mentioned it...so then...WHY?" Luna was beating herself over the head with this question.

Continuing to ask this question to herself over and over, she quickly turned a corner not seeing the man in front of her and bumped into him. Snapping her out of her repeating thoughts and questions.

"O-Oh! I-I'm sorry!" She stuttered, blushing once again due to the shyness problem.

The man turned around and looked down at her.

He was about a foot or 2 taller than she was and he wore priest robes that were cream and gold. He wore a turban like hat, which was also cream and his skin was tan.

He had gold rings around his wrists and near his shoulders. He wore cream shoes and wore a golden necklace...it was a ring shape with a pyramid in the middle. The pyramid had an eye in the middle of it and the ring had the same charms hanging from it half way around the ring.

The man smiled. "It is alright, Princess." He said politely and bowed. "My name is Mahado. One of the six priests of the Pharaoh. It is a pleasure to meet you."

Luna smiled at the fact that this man seemed to be rather kind.

"It is a pleasure to meet you too, Mahado." She replied.

Before the two could say anything else, a large clay pot nearby started to rattle a little, before a girl popped out of the pot and tackled Mahado to the ground.

"MAHADO!!" She cried happily.

Mahado faceplanted the ground and Luna stared at the two, wide eyed.

Mahado sat up. "Mana! I have told you many times before! DO NOT DO THAT!"

The girl, whose name was apparently, Mana, giggled.

"Sorry Mahado!" She said smiling as she got off of him.

Mahado sighed and brushed some dirt off of his robes.

"Princess, this is my apprentice, Mana." He introduced the hyper girl.

Mana was about Luna's age and she had brown hair, which seemed to curl a bit at the end.

She wore a strange hat that didn't cover the top of her head. She wore a shoulder less cream colored dress that ended above her knees. She wore colorful ankle cuffs and cream shoes that were connect to the cuffs. She also wore a green pendant necklace and wrist cuffs.

She also had tan skin and green eyes.

Luna looked at Mana and put on a small smile.

Mana jumped in front of Luna before she could say a word.

"Oh! You must be the Princess Atemu was talking about! Luna right? I'm so happy to be able to meet you!" Mana said excitedly. "I hope we can become friends!"

Luna looked a bit surprised but the face quickly turned into a smile.

"It is a pleasure to meet you Mana. I hope we can become friends too." Luna replied.

"Yay!" Mana cried happily.

Mahado cleared his throat at Mana.

"Now that the introductions are finished...Mana, I have been looking for you all over the palace. Have you been studying your magic skills?" Mahado asked the girl.

Mana's face turned to shock.

"Oh no! I forgot about that! Bye Luna! I have to go study!" Mana cried before running off quickly. She ran off so fast, Luna hardly had a chance to say "goodbye" herself.

"I am training Mana to become a magician. She's been doing well. She is sort of a ditz though." Mahado smiled.

"So...you're a magician too, right Mahado?" Luna asked the taller man.

Mahado nodded. "Yes. Anyways, I am sorry to leave suddenly, but I must attend to her studying. Take care Princess." He said before leaving.

"Goodbye Mahado." Luna said, smiling.

She had almost forgotten about the question she had been struggling with earlier.

Shaking it off, she continued to wander. Wondering if she would run into anymore interesting people along the way.

All was silent in the room.

A young man in blue and cream priests robes and a tall blue hat was sitting on a straw mat, writing on a scroll.

He had tan skin and blue eyes. Along with gold cuffs on his wrists and two near both his shoulders. The robe ended around his ankles and he had cream colored shoes. Also, he wore a long blue cape that was as long as his robe, large golden earrings, three golden rings around his neck, and finally had a golden rod that was sharp on one end and round at the top. The round part had an eye in the middle, just like Mahado's and the sphere also had two golden wing shaped additions at the side.

The golden rod sat safely next to him as he wrote on the scroll. Not many people in Egypt could write. Priests, advisors and Pharaoh's were required to learn.

They also were required to learn different languages, so they could talk to foreigners and write to foreigners.

The priest rose his head when he heard footsteps approaching.

A young woman, Luna's age, walked up to the priest. She had pale soft, skin and emerald green eyes. Her hair was blond and long. She wore a blue jewel on her forehead, blue earrings and a blue jeweled choker. She wore a long cream gown with cream shoes. She also wore the golden cuffs on her arms.

"Priest Seth...have you heard of the news?" The girl asked the priest, whose name was Seth. Her voice was calm.

"About the Pharaoh taking in the Princess? Of course. I overheard Priestess Isis talking about it to Siamun Muran, the visor." Seth replied and gave the girl a small grin. "Where did you hear about it, Khephera?"

Seth had expected a nervous look from Khephera because she often snuck around the area, gathering some information. Just for fun. But this time, there was no sign of nervousness.

"Mana told me." Khephera answered calmly. The grin disappeared from Seth's face and he sighed, standing up. "That makes sense." He said. "Do you know all who know she's here?"

Khephera thought for a moment. "Well...The Pharaoh for sure. And Mana too...and I do believe the rest of the priests know plus the visor. And the guards. But I believe that's about it." She answered. "Why did you want to know?"

Seth answered as he walked up to her. "Because I believe that it would be best to keep her existence hidden from anyone outside of the palace. Though, I'm sure the Pharaoh already knows." He stopped in front of her. "If I recall what Isis said, she ran away from her kingdom because she was going to be forced to marry a man she didn't love. And if word got out of the palace and spread, then her location would be revealed. Would you be sure that the visor knows so he can remind the Pharaoh?"

Khephera smiled and nodded lightly. Seth returned the smile and kissed her forehead. "Well then...off with you." He said. Khephera gave him a small bow and left the room, leaving Seth to return to his duties.

Atemu's fingers tapped irritably on the armrests of his throne. He had wished he could just have a time to talk to Luna. She didn't seem to remember that time...

He really wanted to remind her about it! But he was stuck taking care of his Pharaoh duties. He was taking care of trials. Lucky for him though, they were almost done for the day.

Once all the trails were finished, Atemu stood up, to find Luna. But Saimun stopped him.

"My Lord, I apologize for stopping you, but a guard from the Moon Tribe has come to speak with you briefly." He said.

Atemu frowned lightly.

Saimun had already gotten Seth's message through Khephera. And Saimun made sure to tell Atemu. And Atemu made it clear to everyone in the palace that no one is allowed to reveal Luna's location to ANYONE outside of the palace.

"Let them enter." Atemu said, sitting back down.

A minute later, one of the palace guards escorted a man in a cloak into the throne room.

When he stopped in front of Atemu's throne, he bowed and removed his hood...revealing...Koe.

"I am so sorry to come here so suddenly, but it is an emergency. My name is Koe. I have come in search for our Princess, Luna. As her future husband, her father, the King has ordered that I look for her." Koe said.

Atemu's gaze at the man grew slightly cold when he said that he was Luna's "future husband."

He realized this must have been the guy whom she didn't love. Plus this man had told lies to their King about him. Atemu was not fond of him already.

"No...I'm sorry but I do not know where your Princess is. But if you ever find her, do remind her that she has my thanks for saving my life." Atemu replied.

Koe bowed slightly. "Of course. And thank you for your time." He said and turned to leave. "If you see her, I'm staying at an inn in this city for the night. Please do tell me."

Atemu nodded.

Once he was gone, Atemu stood up and left the throne room. Still feeling a little angry with Koe. After a moment, he stopped a servant to ask where Luna was.

The servant bowed.

"She took her cloak and decided to take a walk around the city." He replied.

Atemu's eyes grew and he quickly dashed into his chambers to grab a cloak to go and search for her.

He put one on and alerted the guards to go out into the city to search for her.

If she ran into Koe in the city...Luna would be in trouble.

3. Danger City

Simply fascinating!

Luna smiled as she walked through Egypt's city, wearing her cloak. She never knew Egypt was SO BIG! All the people and shops and animals and all sorts of things!

She tried to ignore the stares and mummies other people gave her. She knew it was probably because she was pale skinned. It must have been unusual to see someone pale skinned walking through the city.

Luna stopped for a moment when she noticed that other people were staring and murmuring about someone not too far off.

She followed their stare and spotted a pale skinned man, standing in front of a stand, buying something.

Wait...messy reddish brown hair...pale skin...muscular-like arms...

She squeaked and covered her mouth in shock. "It's Koe!" She gasped to herself quietly and quickly whipped her head around, trying to see if there was a place she could duck. Nothing.

And it seemed he was just saying goodbye to the man!

Quickly, she turned around and started to walk quickly in the other direction.

Although, right when she turned around, Koe turned around and spotted her. He didn't know it was Luna though.

All he saw was her hand, which he noted, was pale. And that the cloak was the same color as Luna's.

Curious, he started to follow her.

Luna continued on for a while and stopped for a moment, pretending to look at something to her right, so she could glance behind her to see if he was following. To her horror, he was.

She started walking again, only a little faster this time. Hoping she would be able to shake him off.

She knew if she headed back to the palace, he might figure her out if he already hadn't. Plus he would continue to follow her.

Luna felt like she wanted to cry at that moment. She didn't know where to go! And if Koe caught her, it would all be over!

She was just passing a small alleyway until suddenly, she was dragged into it!

Before she could react, the person covered her mouth and started to quickly drag her off.

She struggled, but couldn't get loose!

Koe looked into the alleyway wondered where the person went. He couldn't see them. He shrugged it off and continued back to his inn. There was no use chasing someone around the huge city at the moment, anyways.

Luna continued to struggle as the person stopped. The man was about to say something until Luna stomped onto his foot. The man cried out in pain and let her go. She jumped back and looked at the man. He sounded...familiar?

Once the man stopped holding his foot in pain, he removed his hood.
"Luna! I know I scared you, but do you need to do that?!"

Luna blinked in shock and blushed from embarrassment from what she had just done.
"A-Atemu! I-I'm sorry! You scared me...and I did just what anyone would do...If I had known it was you, I-I...wouldn't have done that!" She stuttered. "I-I'm so sorry!"

Atemu sighed. "No, it's alright. I wish I didn't have to be so sudden, but by the looks of it, it looked like Koe was following you." He said.

"Yes...I know he was. Thank you so much. But I don't know if he knew it was me or not. But...why are you out here anyways?" Luna asked.

"Koe came into the throne room, asking me if I had seen you. I told him I didn't to hide your location. I don't think you should go into the city anymore...at least not without a guard or me. Or one of the priests. But as he was leaving, he notified me that he was going to stay in one of the inns in the city. Later, I wanted to talk to you and asked a servant where you were. They told me you went out into the city and I became alarmed. So I came out to look for you, plus I sent some guards out too." Atemu explained. "But I think we should head back. I'll call the guards back when we return to the palace."

Luna nodded silently as Atemu put his hood back on.

"Alright. Stay with me." He said as he pulled her closer to him and started to walk out of the alleyway, trying to look natural.

Luna blushed lightly because of how close they were. But she knew he was only trying to protect her.

But she couldn't help but wonder...why would he go through all the trouble to do this for her sake?

(Meh...chapter was a little shorter. But...hope you liked it anyhow. ^; ~Moon_Princess)

4. The Dim Moon

It was sunset. Luna was standing on one of the palace balconies, watching the sunset. Noting how beautiful it looked.

She remembered Atemu saying that he wished to speak with her when the sun was completely set. He would be free of his Pharaoh duties at that time. She wondered what he wanted to talk to her about.

Luna wandered around the palace and ended up in the courtyard, the same question swirling in her mind.

Her thoughts suddenly halted when she heard a male and female voice nearby. Curiosity took over and she slipped behind a tree, peeking from behind it.

A Priest and a Priestess, and they were...kissing.

Luna felt a little embarrassed just standing there and watching them like that. She was about to turn and leave, but the couple spotted her.

The three stared at each other for a moment and Luna gave them a weak smile. It just so happened that the Priest and Priestess were Seth and Khephera.

Seth raised an eyebrow at Luna.

"I cannot say that it is the healthiest thing for a Princess to be curious as such." He said.

"This is the Princess the Pharaoh took in?" Khephera asked.

Luna continued to give them a weak smile.

Later, the three were sitting on the soft grass of the courtyard.

"It's very nice to meet you Khephera and Seth." Luna said with a smile. "I...apologize for earlier. I didn't mean to seem like I was spying on you. I was just wandering around and I heard voices so I came to see who it was. And...I came at the wrong time, I suppose."

Khephera laughed. "No, please don't worry about it. It wasn't as bad as it was a couple of years ago. Before Atemu became Pharaoh, Mana and him would spy on us all the time and tease us. It's hard to believe how much Lord Atemu has matured in that time period. Mana...well, I guess she likes being a child sometimes." She said.

"Yes, I've met Mana. She seems free spirited." Luna said with a smile.

"But it makes sense. The Pharaoh HAS to be responsible. Mana is a magician in training, as I'm sure you probably know." Seth explained. Luna simply nodded.

"It sounds like you two have been lovers for quite a while." Luna said.

"We have. In fact, we're engaged." Khephera said with a smile.

"Really?" Luna asked and blinked with surprise. She smiled brightly. "That's amazing!"

"Well, Luna...you're a Princess...are you not engaged? Or is what we've heard is true?" Seth asked.

"That depends. What did you hear?" Luna asked.

"We heard that you ran away from your kingdom because were you going to be forced to wed someone you didn't love." Khephera said. "But that's all we heard."

Luna looked down thoughtfully. "Well...yes, that part is true. But before all that, Pharaoh Atemu's boat had sunk near our shores and we all came to help. And that's how I met him. What I found to be strange was how familiar he acted toward me. I was confused for a while. We were alone and we talked a little in my palace's garden. And after he left to return home, Koe, my personal guard, lied to my father, the King, and said that the Pharaoh did horrible lewd things to me. So that's when my father decided to arrange my marriage with Koe. Plus he was going to break the alliance we had with Egypt." She explained. "And my father wouldn't listen to a word I said so...I ran away here. Pharaoh Atemu seemed to be the only person who could help me. And I'm happy he is helping me."

Khephera crosses her arms over her chest and frowned. "This, "Koe", sounds like a horrible person! Hmph! I'd like to smack him around right now!" She huffed.

Luna laughed lightly. "He is a horrible person. And he's been my personal guard for as long as I can remember...and he was kind. I thought he was trustworthy. But he started acting strange when I recently reached the age where I can be wedded to another man." She said.

Khephera continued to frown. "I'll bet you he's been waiting until you reached that age to get married! Don't worry Luna! We won't let that vile man come near you!" She said, looking irritated. "Men like him make me ill!"

Luna smiled. "It's good to know I have people here on my side." She said.

Seth looked up at the sky.

"It's nighttime already." He noted.

Luna and Khephera looked up at the sky as well. The moon was just beginning to reach the highest point in the sky.

Luna gasped and quickly stood up. "O-Oh no! It's nighttime already! I'm sorry you two, I have to go. Pharaoh Atemu wanted to talk with me when the sun set. I don't want him thinking I ran away or got kidnapped." She said and bowed slightly to the two. "Thank you for talking with me. The more friends I make here, the more at home I feel! I hope to speak with you two soon! Farewell!"

And with that, Luna ran off toward the palace.

Seth and Khephera stayed in their spots after they said their good-byes to Luna.

The two looked back up at the moon.
"The moon looks...dim tonight." Seth said.

"It does. And just looking at it right now...gives me a bad feeling...like something terrible is going to happen sometime in the future. But I hope...that it's only a feeling." Khepera said.

5. A forgotten Childhood encounter

Luna ran through the palace, searching for Atemu.

She quickly turned a sharp corner and slammed right into another girl. The two fell over from the impact.

Luna sat up. "Oh! I'm so sorry!" She apologized.

The other girl sat up. She had gray separate bangs that hung down the sides of her face. The rest of her hair was black.

Her skin was tan and her eyes were gray. She looked slightly younger than Luna. The girl wore lots of jewelry and a cream Egyptian dress with one slit at the side.

On her head was a golden hairpiece and she wore arm cuffs with ankhs on them; on her upper arms and her wrists. She had a neck cuff around her neck with an ankh on it as well.

On her ears were two large golden earrings, the same as Atemu's and all the jewels she wore were purple. (Amethyst, I'm guessing.) Along with a tiara she wore on her forehead like Luna's only the jewel was amethyst.

And lastly, she had a small Egyptian black eye design under her eyes and a golden compass she wore as a necklace with the eye of Horus on it.

"It's alright, Princess." She said, smiling lightly.

"I'm starting to guess that everyone here knows me." Luna laughed.

"Pretty much." The girl laughed. "And you're just the person I was looking for. My brother, Atemu sent me to find you."

The two girls stood up.

"You're Atemu's sister?" Luna asked.

"That's right." The girl said with a nod. "Follow me."

The two girls began to walk through the hallways.

"So...who are you?" Luna asked.

"My name is Ankh. I may be the Pharaoh's younger sister, but I serve him as one of his top guards." The girl, "Ankh" explained.

Luna looked surprised. "Is that so?" She asked. "But you look younger than me."

Ankh laughed lightly. "I wouldn't doubt that. But when you have the fighting experience that I do, age doesn't matter." She said.

"I see." Luna said. "Well, it's very nice to meet you Ankh. I'm guessing I don't have to introduce myself?"

"Not at all, Princess Luna." Ankh said with a smile.

"I thought so." Luna said with a weak smile.

"I see you've already made friends with Mana, Khephera, Seth and Mahado. I believe, then we should get along just fine." Ankh said in a kind tone.

Luna smiled.

"Yes. I hope we can become good friends." She said.

Luna knew she could never have too many friends. Especially not here...and in the situation she was in. Having more friends only gave her more comfort. It was nice.

Ankh led Luna into the throne room and stopped there.

Luna looked around. It was dark and empty...the Priests must have left to rest for the day.

"The Pharaoh is waiting for you on the main balcony. If you follow this path, you'll find it." Ankh said, pointing towards a small patten on the floor which led to a doorway.

Luna nodded. "Alright. Thank you very much Ankh." She said.

Ankh smiled. "Well, I must take my leave. It was nice to finally meet you Princess. I hope we'll meet again soon." She said and turned to leave. "Farewell."

"Yes, it was nice to meet you too Ankh. I hope we can meet again soon as well. Goodbye." Luna said to Ankh as she left.

Once Ankh had left the throne room, Luna turned to the doorway and started to walk towards it. Being alone in the dark empty throne room felt kind of strange for Luna. Almost creepy as well. But Luna reached the doorway and walked through it.

The first thing she noticed was the clear night sky and the desert sand hills along the horizon. When her gaze moved down a little, she saw the city's main gate and some buildings behind it. Which was the city itself.

Luna didn't realize how high they were!

She turned her head to the right to find Atemu staring out into the horizon. He didn't even notice she was there yet.

Slowly, she walked to him. He finally noticed her when she was only a few steps away.

"There you are." Atemu said.

"I'm sorry I'm a little late. I was in the courtyard talking with Seth and Khephera." Luna explained.

Atemu smiled. "I see." He said calmly.

"So...um, what did you want to talk to me about?" Luna asked, standing next to him.

Atemu was silent for a moment, as his gaze had returned to the horizon.

"Well..." He started. "From the sound of it, it sounds like you...don't remember."

Luna tilted her head slightly in confusion. "Remember what?" She asked.

Atemu looked at her.

"I'm sure you were wondering why I acted so familiar with you after you rescued me, correct?" He asked.

Luna nodded slowly. It was exactly what she was confused about.

Atemu turned back to the horizon.

"When you rescued me...that wasn't the first time we had met." He said.

Luna blinked in shock.

"What?" She asked.

"You and I met years ago...when we were small children. I probably remember it because I'm a little older than you." Atemu said, not taking his eyes off the horizon. "I remember it vividly. It was when my father traveled to your kingdom to meet your father to create the alliance."

Luna thought for a moment, trying to remember.

She paused when she heard Atemu chuckle.

"You were so shy. It took you a while to get used to me. I thought it was weird when I was younger, but now I think it was adorable." He said.

Luna shifted her eyes to the side, blushing lightly and looking slightly embarrassed. That SOUNDED like her.

"After you got used to me, we became fast friends." Atemu continued. "And for a week we played together. Almost inseparable. But after we returned to Egypt, I never saw you again until just recently when you saved my life." Atemu looked at her and smiled warmly. "I never thought the shy timid girl I knew would someday save my life. Usually it's the guys like me who have to save the girls like you." He chuckled.

Luna smiled weakly but happily at him.

Everything he said rang a bell somewhere in her memory. She just couldn't remember it as clearly as he did.

"I...remember a little now." Luna said with a small laugh.

"I was waiting to see if you remembered, but I suppose you needed a reminder." Atemu said. The two laughed.

"Ah, yes. I remember back then too." A voice said.

The two looked to the right to see Mana standing on the other side of Luna.

"I remember it clearly. Young Prince Atemu claiming almost everyday that the Princess Luna would be the woman he married someday!" Mana said with a blissful look. "His childhood

sweetheart!"

A red tint appeared on Atemu's cheeks. "M-Mana!" He cried.

Mana laughed and Luna blushed again, looking more embarrassed.

"Sorry about that. Anyways, Saimun told me to come out and tell you two that you should probably get some rest for the night. It's getting late." Mana said to them.

Atemu nodded. "Alright." He said.

Mana smiled at the two. "Goodnight!" She said happily and skipped off.

Atemu looked slightly embarrassed and there was an awkward silence between the two. "I'm sorry you had to hear about that." He said clearing his throat. "Anyways...I guess we should head to bed for the night."

Luna nodded slowly.

Atemu turned to her and smiled at her warmly. "Goodnight." He said and left the balcony.

Luna stayed where she was for a minute or two.

The look he gave her before he left made her heart beat a little harder.

"M-Maybe I'm just tired." She said and turned, leaving the balcony to head to her own chambers for the night.