Solar Eclipse

Luna gazed out her apartment window as her teacup steeped the leaves. It was early morning. Earlier than she would have liked but, she had the whole day off and wanted to leave the city. As she waited, she studied the shadows and texture of the moon. There were no other stars in the sky. The moon floated there, alone.

The car stereo talked on, indifferent to Luna's attempt at a peaceful morning. "Have you ever wondered about your ancestors? Send in just one DNA sample and discover-" She switched it off. She didn't want to discover her family. What if she hated them? What if they hated her?

Luna set her phone, wallet, and keys on the rocky beach and waded into the cool water. Slight waves glided away from her as she shifted to her back and pushed herself farther into the lake. Again, she looked to the sky. And again, the moon looked back at her, still alone. She closed her eyes and let herself relax in the water. She found comfort in the feeling of floating, untethered in the water. Luna thought back to the ad in the car and let herself become someone else. A young, red-haired woman with a new fur coat, or a teenager with a locket clasped around her neck.

She was drawn from her vivid daydreams by a person reading on the beach and the rustling pages of a book. "Sorry, I didn't want to bother you!" she called. Luna brushed off her apologies and swam closer to the beach. She sat next to the woman and glanced at her book. It was open to the middle and showed an intricate human heart drawing. "Oh, I'm in nursing school." the woman said. Luna smiled. As a child, she always thought that nurses were the kindest people, devoting themselves to caring for others. They sat together and watched the sunrise. It reflected off the lake and illuminated the plants and flowers on the banks. Luna let the ground support her body and felt the sun warm on her face with someone new.