

And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 15: Weekend Prisoner

Ivy-" Hale replied softly with a smile as he sat on my couch, "please understand.. Damian is particular."

When I had said that we would figure out a plan with Damian I hadn't meant that I was going to play prisoner in my cottage all weekend because they were worried about Damian smelling me.

"I don't get it, Hale. What do you mean I smell different? Last time I checked I smelt like lavender, and roses." If the scowl on my face didn't explain how pissed I was then my body language definitely would.

"Sweetheart," he attempted to say, but a glare from my direction made him stop. "Okay, Ivy, please understand wolves are different. When we mate with someone it causes our scent to sort of mingle with theirs. So like for humans they wouldn't notice it, but Damian would smell James all over you."

I deadpanned as I took in what he was saying, "wait- mate?"

"Yes, mate. That's what you and James did the other night." Hale stated as if confused by my reaction.

"So having sex is mating." I asked not understanding what the hell he was getting at. Did that mean the guy who I lost it to had mated with me in a sense? Grossed out by the ideal shivered shaking away the image.

"Hmm..." Hale said softly as if hesitant to answer me, "when you and James had sex he-knotted you and bit you, correct?"

Thinking back on the moment I contemplated what had happened that night. James had asked me to be his to give myself to him, and in the moment I did. But I had just assumed it was sexy kink talk that he was doing because it got him off.

"Oh my god... so he wasn't just talking dirty to me when he asked me to be his!" I exclaimed, covering my mouth with my hand, and causing Hale's eyes to widen in surprise.

"Oh shit-" scratching the back of his head he looked out the window towards James who was walking with Talon back to my home. "Uh-well.."

"James!" I screamed at the top of my lungs causing him to burst through the door.

“What happened, are you okay-did Hale do something?!” His eyes flared out angrily towards Hales’s direction.

“You mated with me,” I replied softly staring at him. It was then that something clicked inside James’ mind, and he looked at me as if he had been caught like a kid with his hand in the cookie jar.

“Look, Ivy, I can explain-” He replied as I began smacking his arms in anger. “Ouch, will you stop..”

Talon was the one who intervened, wrapping his arms around my waist and pulling me close to his body as he leaned down inhaling my neck taking in my scent. “Did he not ask before he did it?” His voice growled, causing my eyes to close as I tried to get hold of myself pulling my body from his grasp.

“No more touching me. You guys are driving me crazy doing that.”

Talon smirked as Hale chuckled, and the three men watched me with a hungry gaze. “We can smell your arousal as well, Ivy,” James replied, causing me to blush.

“Stop trying to change the subject, James. Why didn’t you tell me the truth then?”

A sudden feeling within the air shifted between them, and they quickly gave each other a look of uncertainty before Talon ran out the door. “Look I will explain later okay, I promise.”

“James, you better,” I warned before watching him sprint from the cottage.

I wasn’t sure what was going on, but Hale had told me they were supposed to be running in their wolves tonight. Because of this, they wanted me to stay in the cottage, and keep the door locked. I wasn’t sure why, but Damian

being back on the grounds didn’t make me feel well about my situation,

ttt***

As the sky fell into darkness, I opened the window of the cottage and allowed the cool evening air in. I had a mountain of homework to do, and I doubt that Mr. Zebak would allow me an extension on my essay two weeks into

the school year. I had to find a way to get the guys to stop distracting me all the time.

Thinking about them distracting me didn’t help either, but I had to push through. Pulling my books from my backpack I took a seat at my desk with my laptop before pulling my hair up into a ponytail and sliding my glasses onto my face.

"The History of Commercial Agriculture.." I mumbled as I typed out the topic for my essay.

"That sounds boring." A voice called out causing me to jump as I spotted Hale looking through the open window, a chuckle leaving his lips as he smiled at me. "Did I scare you?"

Rolling my eyes I smirked, "yes. Now, what are you doing here?"

"Well, I have come to keep watch over you while they run. Unlike the others, I actually do homework and pay attention in school. So I just lied and told them I had to finish an essay. I didn't like the idea of leaving you alone tonight."

The consideration Hale had to make sure I was okay considering Damian was back was sweet. Standing to my feet I gestured for him to come in, and quickly walked towards the door unlocking it.

Hale's tall form was in front of me in a matter of seconds, and I realized just how close I was to him. I hadn't

expected him to be more than the man I had first become accustomed to when I moved here, but yet he was far different from the others in his own way.

"Uhm-you can come in," I whispered trying to get a bearing on myself as I quickly turned away from him and headed towards the kettle to make some tea and try to clear my mind of the distraction he was creating again.

"I am going to close the windows and blinds- is that okay?" Hale called over to me, causing me to turn and look at him.

"Why?"

"Well, because if Damian does happen to run by here he will smell you with an open window, and do you really want a peeping tom?" His chuckle caught me off guard and caused me to smirk.

"Oh, you mean like you?" I asked, raising my brow, "remind me why you went to my window first and not the door?"

"Yeah, yeah." He mocked rolling his eyes as he moved around the area.

If Hale was going to be here tonight then that meant I wasn't going to get anything done when it came to homework, and that thought itself was depressing. It was only Friday, but at the same time, I wanted to relax the rest of the weekend.

"Since you are here do you think I can pick your brain, and ask some questions?"

Hale turned to stare at me, hesitating for a moment as if he wasn't sure, but as I glided over towards him, handing him the hot cup of tea he smiled. "Sure, why not."

There was honestly only one question that had been running through my mind since earlier in the day, and that was the subject of mates. I didn't understand it, and one thing made me curious...

"So mating happens with sex, and other stuff or so I am guessing."

"Yes, there is a lot that goes into it," Hale replied with a smile that caused hesitation to fill me as I contemplated how I was going to word my next question.

"Explain to me how I **Chapter 16: Time with Hale**

Hale POV

HOURS EARLIER

"Hale, what are you doing?" Damian asked, walking into my room. Looking up from my desk, I gestured to the papers and laptop in front of me.

"Working on my thesis, what does it look like I'm doing?"

Agroan left my brother as he rolled his eyes, as if me doing homework irritated him. In reality, that wasn't my plan tonight, but in order to do what I wanted, I had to make sure that my staying behind from the run was believable.

"Seriously, Hale? I just got home, and we always run together as a group."

Sighing, I shook my head, "I'm sorry, man. This is important. I have to work on it. Don't worry, though. I will run with you next-time."

I watched as Damian stared at me for a moment as if contemplating what I was saying was true, but I had never given him a reason to doubt me before, so why start now?

"Fine." He replied reluctantly, "Hey, what's up with James? He is acting rather off today."

I glanced at him with confusion. Of course, I knew what was up, but at the same time, I couldn't well tell Damian that it was because of Ivy, even though I was jealous myself. I had wanted her from the moment I laid eyes on her, and yet, James was the one that got to take her first.

"Think he is seeing some new chick from campus. Who knows, man, he always has to have his dick wet from someone." Damian chuckled at my response, nodding his head.

"Yeah, well, as long as he is staying away from Ivy, I don't care."

It was still strange how we all were destined for her. On very rare occurrences in history did multiple Alpha's share a mate, but to have four Alpha blooded wolves share one mate, well it was unheard of.

"Yeah, well, she has been keeping to herself from what I have seen. Stop worrying about her, and enjoy your run."

Damian hesitated before sighing, "Yeah, I suppose so. I will catch you later..."

The conversation I had with Damian earlier in the night caused me to think about what Ivy was asking. She was a human who had just been introduced into the world of the supernatural, and she had no idea what she was getting herself into

The fact that James mated with her without explaining everything had irritated me. Ivy deserved better than that, and it was the exact reason Damian had stopped him the first time he tried it.

James was the youngest of us all, and he didn't stop to think about what he was doing until he had already done it. Sighing, I looked at Ivy and smiled.

"Mating will be different with each one of us."

"Okay, care to explain?" She asked again, and I found myself a little unsure of how the conversation was supposed to go. I was smarter than my brothers, but at the same time, I was the worst at explaining things properly. That job usually fell to Damian since he was the oldest, but he was more complicated when it came to Ivy.

"Each of us likes different things, Ivy. However, because Talon and I are twins, to mate with us means to mate with us both." I said slowly, hoping she understood what I meant,

She was quiet for a moment, and slowly her mouth made an 'O' shape as her eyes widened, "like at the same time!"

A chuckle left my lips as I nodded, "yes. At the same time. Talon and I like our one on one moments, but at the end of the day, we are very close, and sharing you between us at the same time is one of the things we would want."

I could almost see the wheels turning in her head as I spoke, and because of this, I knew that it was going to complicate things if this frightened her. "I see."

1111

"Ivy, don't let that scare you. Sex with us would be on your own terms, and we would never force you to do anything you are not comfortable with

A smile fell across her lips as she lifted the white cup to her lips and sipped on her drink again. I could see the pink tint to her cheeks and the way she clenched her legs together, trying to hide her arousal. The idea was one that didn't repulse her, but it also made her nervous.

'Hale, where the fuck are you?' James asked through mindlink, causing me to hesitate at what I was going to say to

Ahh, little brother. Is the run done already? Yeah, and Damian is looking for you. Please don't tell me you are with Ivy.'

I smiled to myself as I watched Ivy stand from her seat and go to the counter to refill the kettle. She was absolutely beautiful, and the fact that her mind was so extraordinarily bright was something else that turned me on.

'What the fuck are you doing! If he finds you there

'Enough, James. I needed stimulating conversation, and Ivy is a stimulating person.'

1

'Did you two have sex?!!

I could almost feel the anger and jealousy rolling off of him. Because he had already mated her, he was going to be more possessive, but it was really bad right now because Ivy declined him any form of affection right after the bond was complete.

IT"

His fault, of course. He should have listened to what I told him to begin with.

'Wouldn't that have been something? But to answer your question, no.'

'You need to get out of there, Hale. Before things escalate.'

'In time, little brother. In time.'

Closing off the mindlink to James, I settled my sights back onto the beautiful woman in front of me. She was completely oblivious to the evils in our world, and yet she was so open to the idea that werewolves were real. I would have thought she would have run away repulsed like Damian tried to paint, but instead, she accepted it.

"Why weren't you scared when you saw Talon change?" I finally asked, causing her to stop in her tracks and slowly turn to look at me with a grin upon her lips.

“Well, in all honesty, I was shocked. But I worked at a wolf sanctuary in Georgia for two years. So wolves don’t

frighten me-I mean, they do in a sense, but not in the way you would think. That is why I knew what to do when Talon’s wolf first approached me. Had I run, he would have given chase, and there is no telling what would have happened.”

Smart woman, and absolutely right.

“You are right, Ivy. I am impressed with the way you handled the situation.”

She smiled at me again before coming over to where I was sitting and taking a seat close to me. “Can I tell you a secret, Hale?”

I wanted more than anything for her to share her secrets with me. To confide in me and trust me to help her whenever she needed it. “Of course, Ivy.”

“For some reason,” she started before she began to bite the bottom of her lip, the motion making me want to kiss her more than anything as my wolf paced at the back of my mind. “I feel safe around you all, except for Damian- I want to be around him, but it’s different. He makes me feel dangerous, and that scares me.”

I was happy that she felt safe around the three of us, but to hear what she said about Damian, I felt confused. Damian had always been the one who protected us all and made sure we were doing what needed to be done. He was the Alpha of us all in a way.

“I am glad that I can make you feel safe, but I don’t know what to say about Damian. He isn’t a bad person, Ivy. He just has been through a lot in life, and you will have to give him time to adjust to you.”

Nodding her head, she sighed before her eyes met mine once more, “I understand. You should really go before someone finds you here. I don’t want you to get in trouble.”

I hated that she was telling me to leave because I wanted to stay here with her forever, as you wish, Ivy.”

Standing to my feet, I set the cup she had given me down and walked towards the door. Before I could reach the doorknob, her voice pulled me back in, “Hale-”

“Yes?” I replied without turning around. I was already fighting to keep my wolf intact, and if I turned back, he wouldn’t let me leave.

“Please come back to see me more often. I really enjoyed tonight.”

Smiling, I nodded, “of course, dear Ivy. I will be back again.”

And next time, I will have you going to heights of pleasure you didn't know existed.