

# And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

## Chapter 31: Two Steps Forward, A Thousand Back

“Mom, what are you talking about?”

Never did a thought occur to me that my mother would know about werewolves and hide it from me.

My mother and I never hid anything from each other before.

“Well, I have always known about this sort of thing. In all honesty, I was about your age when I learned the truth.” Her soft words weren’t comforting this time and instead made the sting of betrayal sink deeper.

She had always been my rock in any situation.

To know she kept it from me broke my heart.

“Why didn’t you tell me the truth?” The pain building behind my eyes threatened tears to fall as I tried to comprehend why everyone around me had been lying to me.

“It’s complicated, Ivy.” She sighed softly, “Trust me, my love, I wanted to tell you so many times and I couldn’t. Not to mention your father forbade it, and I was terrified he would make good on his promise and take you from me if I did.”

Of course, he would threaten her.

A sneer of disgust crossed my lips as I took in the information she was giving me. I felt horrible that he had treated her that way, but I learned rather quickly the type of man he was.

“It’s okay, mama. I understand.”

“Ivy, think of this as a blessing. They chose you to be the mother of the wolves. To help encourage and love those unable to love themselves...” My mother’s words weren’t making much sense, and as I listened, I tried to take in what she was explaining.

Is a Luna like a mother to the pack?

There was a lot that had crossed my mind since my conversation with Caleb, and I found myself curious to know more. But for now, I was going to have to be patient with the way things were.

The guys were not too overly pleased with how I had been acting, and I wasn't too overly pleased with them. I had been considering whether I made the right choice by mating with them, and yet even thinking about leaving broke my heart

I felt trapped and wasn't sure how to escape.

A knock on my door caused my breath to catch, and as I glanced at it I froze. "Mama, someone's here. Let me call you back tomorrow, okay?"

"Of course, sweetie. Be safe, I love you."

"I love you too," I whispered as I hung up my phone and moved towards the door.

It didn't take a genius to realize who was on the other side of the door.

Damian.

Taking a deep breath, I stilled my racing heart and slowly opened the door. His cold eyes stared down at me, but something else within them made me question my sanity.

"Damian, what are you doing here?"

"They said you were back, and you looked fine." The sensation of his eyes scanning my body made me shudder in a mixture of fear and delight.

"Then why did you come out here if they told you I was okay?"

"I wanted to come check on you myself." He replied through gritted teeth.

His attitude wasn't what I was used to.

Instead of the cold, arrogant, and angry man I was used to, he had become something else. He was calmer and more maintained as if struggling to hold back from responding as he frequently did.

"Oh, okay. Well-" reluctance filled me realizing what I was going to do, "w-would you like to come in?"

Without answering my question, he strode past me into the cottage and glanced around. This wasn't the first time he had been in my home, but it was the first time he had ever willingly come. I wasn't sure why the change.

"I figured you may have some things you want to discuss."

“Discuss?” Caleb had already told me so much, something the guys should have done.

The blank stare upon his face was unmoving, “about what you are, and your situation.”

“What I am is human, and I have been destined to be mated with the four of you.” I rebutted, moving past him to get a drink of water.

“Who informed you of that? Damian’s derided comment made my eyes roll. “Was it Hale?”

“Hale only explained that we were all mates and how you form a mate bond. He explained nothing else. I am more than capable though of getting my information from elsewhere.” Turning to face him, a smile resting upon my lips, I observed his eyes narrow.

“The only way you would know is if another wolf told you.”

Ah, so he is finally putting two and two together.

“Yes, that’s correct.” I replied weakly as I sat on the sofa.

“Ivy, who have you been talking to?” There was the question I was waiting for.

He is curious.

“Just a friend, Damian. You guys aren’t the only wolves in this area, just the largest pack.”

A groan of displeasure left him as he pinched the bridge of his nose and glared at me.

“For god’s sake, just tell me.”

I had accepted for a long time that this was my fate now. That being mated to them was not the worst thing that could happen to me. No, I had thought things would get better.

“No. I won’t reveal who I speak with Damian.”

With quick movements, I found him hovering inches over me, with my heart racing.

As much as he angered me, I wanted this. I wanted him. We may fight and argue, but part of me wondered if he accepted me. Would that fighting and arguing turn into intense passion?

“Tell me, Ivy.” He growled, the gold swirling specks within his eyes enticing me.

“Make me.”

Who knew those two words might change everything between us? Intense fiery passion spread throughout my body as his lips descended upon mine, and his fingers danced along my skin. The moan that escaped from my lips was more intoxicating than anything I experienced with the others.

Pushing and pulling, we fought against each other for control.

Both of us had waited so long for this moment, and now that it was here, neither of us wanted to stop. The scorching touch of his fingers upon my flesh was agonizingly painful-but not in a way that physically hurt.

No, it was because I craved him so much I didn't want to wait.

"Come with me." He growled, hoisting me up over his shoulder, racing towards my room.

A sense of happiness washed over me as I realized that it was finally about to happen.

Damian had been a pain in my ass since I had arrived, but now I would be linked to him eternally.

Mated for life-or so I was advised.

My body bounced upon the mattress as he dropped me. Slowly crawling up as his lips possessed mine again, he trailed down over my jaw. The rough kisses had me begging for more.

That is until he stopped.

The flicker of confusion in Damian's eyes swam back and forth before settling upon me. With lightning-fast reflexes, he pulled back and put space between us. "Where were you when you left?"

His question was soft and full of confusion. His gorgeous eyes swirled with black and gold as he stared at the navy blue sweater I had worn the night before. I didn't understand why he was acting the way he was. Only a moment ago we were fine.

Our lips were still swollen from the evidence.

"I went to a friend's house. I met up with them in the cafe on campus. Why?"

"A name, Ivy," Damian demanded with a sterner note.

"Excuse me?" The way he was acting astounded me. "I am not telling you. It isn't my place."

“Tell me who the hell it is, Ivy!” Damian exploded in irritation, causing me to slink back slightly in fear.

“Leave.” It was the only reaction he would receive from me.

I refused to sit here and be treated the way he was treating me.

I wouldn’t condone it, and he should realize that by now.

“Not until you tell me where you were.”

Disbelief swarmed over me as I shook my head and stood to my feet. “Leave now, or I will take off again.”

As soon as he realized I was serious, he moved from the cottage, slamming the door behind him.

My personal life was my own, and they would have to respect that.

## **Chapter 32: Distain of an Alpha**

Damian POV

The moment I smelt Caleb on her sweater, it took everything in me to hold back my wolf. My mate had been around the one man that I loathed more than anything in this world. The built-up anger I had for him for years resurfaced in a wave of betrayal.

“She is out of control!” I yelled.

Hale stared at me with utter confusion, what do you mean?”

“Ivy was with Caleb.’ My brother’s face reflected my own shock and anguish.

Footsteps echoed in the hallway, and James’ face quickly appeared. “What the hell is wrong now?”

“Well, supposedly Ivy is hanging out with Caleb,” Talon replied coldly.

Just hearing Talon mention what she had done sent me back into a wave of bitter darkness. Just as I was coming around to being mated to her, she did this to me.

How could I be so stupid?

“You are rushing into this in the wrong way.” James replied with a stern glare.

Never once in my life had I seen James look the way he did in that moment. He was standing there, with an Alpha's persona of being tall and regal, and not willing to back down from what was being said.

\*Explain then.' I gritted back, trying to maintain composure.

"Ivy is in one of his classes. He is one of her professors."

"You knew this?!" I yelled, "why didn't you tell me!"

Glancing around the room, I noticed the look from Hale and Talon. They both shared the same indifference to the situation as James. They all were aware Caleb was her professor.

How couldn't they? They all attended school together.

"It didn't seem to really be an issue at the time." Hale finally spoke up. 'we all keep an eye on her at school."

An exasperated sigh left my throat as I began to pace around the room. Part of me understood what they were saying, but the other part of me knew that Caleb was up to no good.

My brothers just didn't know Caleb as I did,

"Well, now it is a problem." My voice tried to remain calm, but my wolf was on the brink of no return.

"I don't understand what the issue is. We all know that you don't like the guy, but what did he do to upset you?" Hale stated staring at me with confusion.

I mentally replayed the scene with Ivy in my mind over and over again.

The lookup confusion on her face irritated me. All I wanted was for her to explain herself, and she couldn't even tell me who she had been with

I already had that answer though.

I wouldn't mistake Caleb's stench anywhere,

I mentally berated myself for years over what happened to Sophia. It had not been my fault that she didn't understand I would never be with her.

Yet, no matter how many times I had tried to explain that to Caleb he never listened. Instead, now he was going after my own mate... which was retribution?

“She can’t be around him.” There was no way around this. “She doesn’t know him.”

“Damian, are you listening to yourself?!” James exclaimed.

Talon stood to his feet shaking his head, “for once, I have to agree with James. We only began to fix things with her from the mistakes that were made over the past few weeks. We have a lot to make up for.”

“Make up for?” I scoffed. “I did nothing wrong.”

Hale and James both burst into a fit of laughter. “Seriously?” James replied, crossing his arms.

“Yeah, you have to drop that act.” Hale joined in, “you have been the worst of us all.”

What were they talking about? I had done nothing to her but tried to keep my distance.

“You are the ones who didn’t listen to me,” I replied, rolling my eyes.

They couldn’t deny that was true. I explained to them that mating with her was wrong. She should have just taken one of us, and not all. Now she was mated to three of my brothers, and in order for legend to work, it had to be all of

us.

“Stop with the bullshit, Damian.” Hale finally said after a moment of silence. “Just because you didn’t want to keep her didn’t mean we couldn’t. She has wanted to complete this bond, and you’re the one who is scared.”

Did my ears deceive me? My brother thought I was scared. “I am the Alpha!” I yelled.

“Technically, you aren’t yet.”

Allison’s voice piped up from the doorway. The air about her lately spoke nothing but of the hatred she had for Ivy. Since the day she found out Zane’s daughter was our mate, she had done everything in her power to make things difficult for her and for me.

“Watch your mouth.” I snapped, “I have had enough of your comments.”

“My comments?” Allison snapped, her glare laser focused on me. “Ever since that little wench came into our lives, you have become a different person.”

Rippling anger coursed through my veins at her words. She could say what ever she wanted about me, but I wouldn’t allow her to talk about Ivy.

"I said watch your tone, woman!" The snarl that left my lips caused her to shrink back, "I am your Alpha, and she WILL be your Luna. You will not say anything negative about her."

"That's how you are going to treat me after everything I have done for you, all of you?!" She responded in disbelief, her hands clenching together at her side.

"Done for us?!" The laugh that escaped me was a mocking one, "we have showed you gratitude many times. Including letting you, and that mate of yours, to stay in OUR home."

"This is My house!" She yelled back, causing my wolf to come to edge, "you can't take it from me!"

"Allison, I think its best you go." James interjected giving her a sad smile, "this isn't helping things."

"Don't you dare speak to me like that, James Matthew."

Stepping forward, I pushed my brother James gently out of the way, my eyes locking on Allison like a homing beacon. "Start packing your things, because the day she becomes Luna... you're gone."

Time would tell what I would have to do, and right now I was done dealing with a lot of them. Storming past Allison and the others, I headed towards my room. A cold shower seemed more than welcoming after I had just left Ivy the way I did.

Moving up the steps two at a time the weight of our argument sat heavily upon my shoulders. I shouldn't have

acted the way I did towards her. I overreacted as I always did, and the only thing it accomplished was causing more problems.

God! Why can't I get it right with her!

I wanted more than anything to grasp a hold of her luscious body, and set my fingers dance against the silky curves of her skin. I had her in my grasp earlier tonight, and instead of burying myself inside her and claiming her as my mate-I lost control.

I should have known the situation was too good to be true.

The idea that we could all be one happy family...

"Fucking idiot," I replied mocking myself.



Now more than ever I needed her. I needed to finish the bond and soothe my wolf because as of late, he had become out of control with the hunger and urge to ravish every inch of her body.

Stepping beneath the silver head of my shower, I let the cold streams of water run over my body. I was hell-bent on driving away my wolf's lust for her tonight. My pack expected me to be strong for them.

To make things work, but at the same time, it was too complicated.

Running my hand over my face I sighed, "tomorrow is a new day."

Maybe if I actually did what Hale had suggested, and just talked to her, I wouldn't be in the situation I am. Beating my fist against the shower wall, I tried to grasp a handle on myself.

Since the first time I laid eyes on her I wanted her. But as soon as her innocent eyes looked up at me I found myself too afraid to admit what I wanted. I knew without a doubt I would end up hurting her.

And then just like Sophia did to Caleb, she would reject me.

Perhaps, that is what Caleb wants. To convince her to reject us, and rid herself of the attachment she has to us. Who knows if that is even possible.

The only thing left for me to do is to try tomorrow to convince her of how sorry I was.

To beg her to let me fix things and be the mate I should be.

mate with the rest of you."