

And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 36: Masks of Truth

The wind wailed against the darkening sky, making those around aware of the approaching dangers. It was going to be the most unpleasant of days, but they say through the darkness one will always find a light.

Or something like that.

Caleb's car pushed through the approaching rain towards his home. A sense of unease fell over us on the drive, and an internal debate on whether I had made the right choice made me curious as to what I was currently doing.

Caleb wasn't my mate, and yet, I had so willingly gone with him.

Maybe I'm making a mistake.

Pulling into his drive, I hesitated outside the car, "I think I should just go home."

Caleb spun around, his eyes staring at me with apprehension. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing, I just don't think I should cause more problems."

Caleb slowly nodded his head, pushing his hands into his front pockets, "at least let me make you a cup of tea and we can get you an Uber if you would like."

Guilt washed over me at his response. Caleb had done nothing but been kind to me, and here I was acting as if he was a criminal. It wasn't fair to him. He had done nothing wrong.

"That sounds great." I smiled, "let's have tea and then I will call a cab."

A smile crossed his lips as he turned and continued towards the front door.

"I'm sorry about what happened earlier." Caleb's apologetic voice called out as he moved around his kitchen.

"It's okay." I replied softly, "everyone has their issues and yours and Damian's seem to run deep."

Silence met the air between us as he set the kettle on the stove and prepared our cups.

"Yeah..." He replied after a moment, "it's a shame too because we used to be close."

As the tea was sat in front of me, I picked it up without hesitation and sighed into the delicious taste that filled my mouth. On long days, the best cure is always a cup of tea or, at least that is what my mother told me growing up.

I remembered sitting around the dining table with her after a rough day at school, and she would make me a cup of tea while we talked about what happened.

Those were memories I cherished.

*Thank you for being so kind and caring," I replied with a smile.

"I am just doing what any caring person would do, Ivy."

Something about the way that Caleb spoke set my nerves on edge. A smirk lay on his face that seemed more off than usual. Nodding my head slowly, I gave a small smile and fiddled my fingers around my cup.

"I appreciate that." I muttered softly, "I think I am going to call that cab now. I'm sure people are beginning to wonder where I am."

Standing to my feet, I stumbled a bit. My eyes blurring slightly and my head foggy. It wasn't a feeling I had before, and with every step I took, I felt my body become heavier and heavier.

"Are you okay, Ivy?" Caleb's voice replied from behind me. An uneasy feeling settled in my stomach. "Perhaps, you should sit down."

Panic set into my veins as I tried to grasp a handle on myself and found it impossible to do.

"What's wrong with me?" I asked breathlessly.

Unable to stand any longer, my legs finally gave out, and my body collapsed to the floor. A cry of pain left my lips as I tried to understand what was happening to me.

"You don't look good at all." Caleb taunted, his heavy footsteps echoing against the wood floor as he approached me slowly

"Wha-" I stuttered my head throbbing with a dull ache, "what did you do to me?"

There was no doubt about it. The situation I was in wasn't normal, and now I was questioning my judgment towards men. Had I misunderstood everything?

Was Caleb really the devil in disguise?

The fluttering of my heart as it raced echoed in my ears, and slowly Caleb's face came into view as he crouched down near my face with a grin spread across his lips.

"Oh, my sweet dear, Ivy." He replied shaking his head, "I didn't want things to be like this. Honestly, I thought you were warming up to me. Then Damian made the spectacle he did today, and I knew I couldn't waste any more time."

"What?" I cried out in pain and confusion. "Please... I don't understand."

"I know you don't, but don't worry, I will explain everything to you." He replied standing to his feet.

Caleb POV

For too long I had endured the idiocy that was Damian. The man wasn't the Alpha his people needed, and instead of being cast aside and one of his other brothers taking over, they accepted him with open arms.

Yet, they didn't know the man like I did.

Growing up in the pack, there was a moral code you went by. A standard that was meant no matter what. It was what was instilled upon us since we were pups, and Damian failed at it all. It didn't matter if he and his brothers were orphans- they didn't belong here.

My eyes cast down to Ivy, who lay on the floor helpless to the drug I had given her. She wanted to know the truth. So who was I to deny her of that?

"Damian never deserved to be Alpha." I stated, "he was a piece of shit when we were kids, and he still is to this day. Always thinking that he was better than everyone else, and never taking anything serious."

I sneered at the memories that tried to resurface.

"What does this have to do with me?" She whispered softly, the medication I gave her working double-time as I hoped.

"It has everything to do with you, Ivy and in time you will know the details." Her eyes slowly fluttered until her lashes brushed against her cheek. It was the sign that I had been waiting for. Grabbing the duffel bag from my sofa, I carried it towards my car, quickly preparing to leave for my next location.

The brothers would soon come looking for their mate, and it meant that my time in my home was coming to an end. It wasn't for nothing though. I had played my part within this town for long enough, and now that I had what I had been waiting for, I was going to move to the next part of my plan.

Constant buzzing from my pocket caused me to groan in irritation. Pulling my phone from my pocket, I watched my the good little wolf's name cross the screen.

"Ah, I was wondering when you would call."

"Yeah, well I have been busy as always. Did you get her?" She replied with irritation.

A chuckle left my lips at her tone, "of course I did. We will be heading that way in just a minute."

"Well, you better hurry," she snapped, "They are up at the school looking for her. Considering the argument you had with Damian they will be coming to your place next. The last thing you need to do is get caught with her in your possession."

The news was unpleasant, and as much as I didn't appreciate the way she was speaking to me, the girl had a point. I needed to be quick, "alright. We will see you tomorrow."

Hanging up my phone, I slid it back into my pocket before jogging back inside. Ivy's body lay sleeping on the wooden floor of my living room, her hair sprawled around her like a halo.

"Soon, my dear, things will change in my favor, and I will be able to show you what it's like to be mated to a real wolf."

The thought itself made the bulge in my jeans tighten in excitement. I had wanted this girl since the first day I had seen her. Now, that I had her there was no way I would let her go.

Chapter 37: She's Missing

Hale POV

"Damn it!" I cursed under my breath as I slammed the door of my car. "She isn't on campus."

My eyes scanned the empty campus courtyard, looking for where she could have gone. Rain began to fall from the sky and worry filled me.

If Ivy was out here, it wasn't good. The weather in this part of the country was unpredictable, and with the coming rain, the cold would follow.

I couldn't allow her to get sick or worse... hurt.

"Ivy!" I yelled again.

“She isn’t here Hale!” James called over a clap of thunder. “Maybe she headed home.”

“Without her car?!” I retorted.

The moment Damian had gotten home, and told me what happened at the school between Caleb and Ivy, I went in search of her. The only problem was that Ivy having the damn necklace I gave her made her untraceable.

Regret filled me realizing what I had done.

Something that was intended to give her privacy now became a hindrance to her safety

“Where could she be?” James asked as if I would be able to answer that question. There was no telling where she could be.

“I don’t know. Our relationship with her hasn’t exactly been great, as you may know.” I snapped at him with irritation. All of our wolves could feel the connection with Ivy growing fainter every day. The circle hadn’t been fully completed, and now with her missing, it was a bigger issue.

Moving back towards the car, I slammed the door, my hands hitting the steering wheel over and over again. I had to get her back... even if the bond broke with the harvest moon...

That to get her back more than anything, but sometimes I worried if she was better off without us. Ivy deserved better than what she was getting.

“What happens if we can’t find her before the harvest moon?”

James’ question hit me hard, the thought that the bond would sever was unnerving.

Would it mean that we would lose Ivy forever, or was it the possibility she would no longer be able to mate with four but instead just one?

“I don’t know, James. Let’s just find her.”

Silence filled the car as we pulled out from the university and drove around town looking for her figure with every turn we made. No matter how hard we searched, every angle came up empty-handed.

“What about that guy’s house... Caleb. Do you think she went there?”

James, for once, had made a good point. Breaking into a U-turn, I pushed my foot down on the gas and sped towards Caleb’s house. I had made a point when Damian had mentioned her hanging out with the guy to discover where he lived, and now it would come in handy.

Pulling onto the concrete drive, James and I were out of the car in a flash. My fist beating upon the door with a sense of urgency. Praying to the goddess I hoped that Ivy was here because if she wasn't, I didn't know what I was going to do.

"Ivy!" I called out into the air, "Caleb... open up it's important!"

"Hale... I don't think they are here." James' replied standing back and looking up at the dark windows of the house.

"She has to be. We have to find her, James."

"I know, but I'm telling you she isn't here." His reply was former this time, and as my eyes met his, I felt it too. She isn' there, and if she had been, she was long gone now.

"Excuse me?" A voice called from behind us, causing us both to turn around.

The gray hair of an older man stood on the other side of a hedge in the neighbor's yard with concern etched on his

face.

"Yes?" James replied as we walked closer.

"Are you looking for the young man who lives here?"

"Yes, we are. Do you know if he has been home?" The words left my mouth quickly, hoping for anything that would clue me into whether or not Ivy had been here.

"Oh, I would say about an hour ago. He and a pretty young girl came home, and then thirty minutes later, they both left."

"Ivy was here..." I mumbled, looking back at the house and wondering where they could have gone.

"Yes, the poor thing looked like she was sick."

Spinning back around, I stared at him with confusion. "Sick?"

Why would she be sick? That made no sense.

"Yes, she could barely walk and the young man said she fainted and he was taking her to the hospital."

Tension and suspense filled me as my anxiety skyrocketed. There was no way that she had fainted. None of it made sense and Caleb knew we werewolves. He wouldn't have just taken her to a normal hospital.

"Hale..." James' whispered, "we have to tell Damian."

"I know.. let's go. I have a feeling Ivy is in trouble."

Ivy POV

The dull sounds of a motor filled my ears as the fog lifted from my mind. Slowly opening my eyes, the bright light of my surroundings began to fill my vision. I'm moving.

The realization was obvious, but for some reason, my mind couldn't wrap around what was happening. It was as if every fiber of my body protested against what was happening.

"Fuck..." I muttered, sitting up straight and trying to grasp my bearings.

A man's mumbled voice drew my attention, and I could have sworn it was Caleb talking into a phone. His eyes glanced back at me from a mirror over and over again.

"What- I groaned, my hand trying to move unable to, "what's going on?"

Focusing my gaze, I took in the brown rope wrapped repeatedly around my wrists. Realization and horror set into my bones as I looked up to see Caleb in the front seat driving,

"Good morning, Ivy." He replied staring at me from the rearview mirror, "I was wondering when you would wake up."

"Where am I? What is going on!" Pulling against the restraints, my eyes widened.

He kidnapped me.

A man I trusted had taken me against my will and far away from my home.

"Calm down, Ivy. Enjoy the ride, resisting will only cause you to hurt yourself."

"Your crazy!" I yelled in anger, "let me go right now!"

A growl reverberated from the front seat, causing me to slink back where I was sitting, "you will watch how you speak to me, Ivy."

This man in front of me was no longer the man I had once known. Instead, he had become something else, and I felt foolish not to have listened to Damian's warning.

Caleb wasn't a good man. He was dangerous, and I walked into his trap.

Tears threatened to spill down my cheeks, and blinking quickly, I tried to push them back.

“Why are you doing this to me? I thought we were friends.”

Caleb’s deep chuckle made my stomach tighten in fear, “enjoy the ride. I will explain everything when we arrive.”

It was pointless to keep up the emotions I was going through. If I was going to find a way to break free, I was going to have to save my energy.

God knows what this man had planned.

The fluttering of wind from Caleb’s open window brushed against the side of my face. The smell of the lake within my nostrils caused me to take in the details outside.

Thick forests in the distance surrounded the water from the lake below. Concrete pillars with spiral tops crested the edges of the bridge against the sky. I wasn’t sure where Caleb was taking me, but from the looks of it, it was far from the town I was in.

Perhaps, if I paid attention to my surroundings, I could find a way back.

There was always a chance I could escape.

Hope was the only thing I had to hold on to because without it there was no telling where my mind would go. My mother, the guys... they all needed me, and instead of doing what I should have, I decided to ignore them.

I should have stayed home in Georgia and never come to this place.

All had become was a damsel in my own story, with the big bad wolf ready to devour me.

Chapter 38: How do you take your tea?

The car stopped, jolting me forward in my seat. My eyes scanned the darkness of the dense forest around me while I tried to contemplate where I was. This was unfamiliar terrain though. A cloak of uneasy darkness spread across forests, I had never been in,

Yet, this is where Caleb brought me.

He drove for hours and refused to stop under any circumstance. The irritation over his behavior and my situation grew by the second.

Just as I thought I couldn’t take it anymore, the car came to a stop and I was faced with the idea of where our destination was

Moving quickly from the car, he opened my door and grabbed me by my arm, and roughly pulled me to my feet. The cold fresh air hit my face, as I stumbled on the rooted ground. There was no gentle touch from Caleb, instead, his firm grasp pulled me further and further up a trail towards a small wooden cabin overlooking a bluff.

“You’re hurting me.” I whimpered as he tugged on me again. His cold eyes darted towards me before looking back on his set target

“Stop whining. If you listened and moved faster, I wouldn’t have to treat you like a child.”

Unsure of what awaited me in the cabin, I pushed into him causing him to stumble, and ripped my arm from his grasp. Moving quickly, I tried to break free but only managed a few feet before he yanked me back

“Let me go!” I cried out before I was thrown over his shoulder kicking and screaming,

“Scream all you want, Ivy. No one is going to hear you out here.”

He moved from the dirt path up to the porch, carrying me as if I weighed nothing. The door opened and a cool voice I hadn’t expected to flow freely in the air.

“It took you long enough to get here.” Mandy’s voice replied causing my eyes to widen.

“Mandy?” The gasp that left me caused her to chuckle, and I realized that her friendship with me had been nothing.

“Surprise!” She called out as Caleb dropped me down onto an old worn-out sofa with a grin on his lips. “I have been waiting for this moment for a long time.”

“I don’t understand. What’s going on?”

Her eyes seemed to shimmer in the dim light of the fire as if twinkling with a desire to let me know everything that they held secret. “Give it time, and I will tell you everything you want to know.”

“No, you need to tell me now. What the fuck is wrong with you both?!”

The slap across my face was unexpected, but the sting was ever so present. My eyes swirled for a moment as focused back on what was in front of me.

I had always considered Mandy to be a quiet and sweet girl, but to my surprise, she was a devilish demon in disguise. “Now look what you made me do.”

Her cold words matched her glare before she walked away to the kitchen. My eyes shifted towards Caleb. I tried to search for any part of him that felt remorse, but instead, all I saw was lust in his eyes as he stared at me.

“Caleb, I know you hate Damian but this isn’t how you get revenge, I have done nothing to you.”

His lips formed into a thin straight line at the mention of Damian. “This isn’t about him... well not exactly.”

‘Then will one of you please tell me what the hell is going on?’

Silence followed the open statement hanging between us. I wanted answers, and I wasn’t going to give up. But something told me that with the way they were both acting. I wasn’t going to like what they had to say

“We are saving you, Ivy.” Mandy finally replied, stepping back into the living room with a porcelain teapot. “Giving you a chance to change your future.”

“Change my future?” Nothing she was saying made sense. “How can you change my future?”

“This is one thing I hate about the four of them. They didn’t have the common respect to tell you the truth about who you are, and what you will do.”

“To be honest, it doesn’t seem anyone wants to tell me anything anymore. Including you.” I snapped, frustrated with the riddles she was spewing.

Tsk. Tsk. Tsk

The sound caused my anger to bubble as she stepped closer, “tell me, Ivy... how do you like your tea?”

Tea! Was she being fucking serious right now?!

“If I tell you, will you start talking?” I replied through gritted teeth.

Perhaps, I would have to play their game in order to get questions.

Her eyes cast off for a moment before she looked back towards Caleb, who had taken a seat in the chair across from me. He quickly glanced at her, shrugging his shoulders causing Mandy to smile.

“Of course. That sounds fair to me.”

Rolling my eyes I sighed, “two sugars and a splash of milk.”

“Wonderful. I will be right back.”

Trying to maintain my composure, I leaned back into the sofa and stared at Caleb. To think that for weeks I spent time getting to know him and helping out in his class.

Even staying the night at his house!

Only to find out he had been playing me the whole time. That his goal had been this from the beginning, and I fed right into the lies he was creating. I was a fool to trust him.

“Here we go,” Mandy replied with a smile as she brought in a pot of tea and a few cups. “Now, why don’t we start... Caleb, do you want to tell her or should I.”

“Shut up, Mandy.” He snapped quickly with irritation, “stop acting like your in charge of anything.”

Her eyes widened at his temper as did mine, both of us looking at him as if he had lost his mind.

“Excuse me? If it wasn’t for me they would have caught you by now...”

A growl of anger left his throat as his eyes turned black. I had seen Damian get like this a few times, and from what! assumed, it was the beast inside him that was ready to break free.

“It’s okay... ‘I muttered staring at him, “Please Caleb... you can tell me.”

Mandy glared at me, not pleased with me speaking, but she didn’t dare to open her mouth.

“Mandy was right. Caleb finally said after he took a deep breath, and leaned forward on his knees. “I am trying to save you, Ivy. Give you a different life.”

A different life?”

“Yes,” sighing, he pinched the bridge of his nose. “you wouldn’t have to be mated to them and would be able to choose who you want to love.”

Caleb’s words weren’t words that I was expecting. I didn’t think that there was a way to undo what had already been

done. Hale said it was for life, and if it was, then nothing Caleb said was making any sense.

“That isn’t possible.”

“Oh, no... maybe not for normal wolves, but you are human. Your bond to them isn’t complete without Damian.” The glint in his eyes caught me off guard.

“You’re happy about this?” I stated, making my observation known.

A laugh left him as he before a grin slid across his face, “yes. Because when the Harvest Moon peaks in two days... the bond will break with the other three, and you will be free to be claimed by another wolf.”

The bond will break.

The idea of my attachment to the other guys severing was horrific. Yes, we had our problems but I didn’t want to leave them... did I?

“That doesn’t make sense... why would I want another wolf if I let them go?”

“You don’t have to want anything, Ivy.” Mandy smirked, “but it will be pleasant to watch Damian fall when Caleb claims you for himself.”

My chest tightened at her revelation, and everything slowly began to make sense. Caleb wanted revenge on Damian, that was obvious. So, therefore, I became the object he would use to do so.

“But why?”

Standing to his feet Caleb’s eyes met mine, “to make him suffer the loss of a mate, just as I had to endure with him.”

Chapter 39: Caleb’s Declaration

A dull ache filled me as my mind tried to wrap around the idea of what Caleb said. The two of them had completely lost their minds.

How was it that my life had made the turn it did?

All I wanted was peace, and yet I was resorted to participating in a twisted society that deemed holding people hostage as a way to fix their problems.

“Caleb, why?” I asked softly, trying to understand how the sweet man I once met would be so cruel towards me. “This is all ridiculous. You have to let me go.”

“I already told you why. What part of that don’t you understand?” He snapped, his eyes narrowed in my direction.

“I don’t understand, why me...?” I searched for a part of him that could see reason, “I get that you have issues with them, but I never did anything to you.”

I watched as he paced around the room. The rigid stance of his body showed the frustration he was feeling. “It isn’t about that, Ivy. You mean something to him, and to be

honest, I wish it wasn't you. You don't deserve what's coming, but I won't deny the joy I do have in being able to have you as mine. You're special."

Special? This man really had lost his mind. I was nothing special. All I wanted to do was finish school, and make an impact on humanity to help better our planet.

A simple tree hugger, as most would call me.

Sighing in disbelief, my eyes gazed towards the window. Mandy's figure paced back and forth as she talked low on her phone. I wasn't sure who she was speaking to, but when her phone rang earlier, she jumped at the opportunity to step outside and take the call.

"I will never accept you, Caleb," I stated firmly, trying to show him how serious I was.

The one thing Hale had taught me was that mating was about acceptance of both parties. So theoretically, if I didn't accept him, he couldn't claim me, right?

At least, that was the hope.

A deep chuckle echoed from his throat as he stopped and glanced towards me, "it doesn't matter. You don't have to accept me, because when I mark you, it will be too late."

Too late? What does he mean it will be too late?!

"You can't mark me." The statement was meant to be firm, but disbelief laced the words instead.

"Oh, I think you will find that I can do as I want." Caleb laughed before striding toward me, "I know that in time you will love me."

Love was such a strong word to use, and I wasn't sure if I even knew what love was.

"It won't work." I replied, rolling my eyes. "I don't know what delusional world you're living in, but I'm pretty sure love doesn't exist."

"You will change your mind eventually, Ivy." He was confident in his beliefs that I would love him.

And his arrogance over the matter infuriated me.

"No, I won't!" I yelled, showing him I wouldn't back down, "Damian will come for me and there is nothing you can do about it."

As the words left my mouth, Caleb gripped my hair and pulled me towards him, his face inches from mine, “never

say his name in front of me again. He is nothing.”

A swell of fear rippled through me seeing a new side to Caleb. This was a man who wasn't afraid to get what he wanted, and that wasn't the same man I knew.

“Get your hands off me.” I snapped.

No matter how scared I was, I couldn't show him fear. I had to keep myself together and wait for the right moment when I could escape. Who would have thought the sweet and caring professor I once knew would turn out to be a man of insanity?

“Nice try, but I know what's really running through your mind. You say he will come for you, but there is still doubt lurking in the depths of your consciousness. The smirk on his face made my heart sink.

He wasn't wrong. I doubted whether Damian or any of them would come for me. I had done nothing but create problems for them since I had arrived. The conflict of my arrival had torn their happy family apart, and even though they were trying to work through it, I was still a complication.

“Fuck you.” I spit, showing emphasis on my reluctance. There was no way I would let him get inside my head. Even if I had doubt, I wouldn't stay Caleb's prisoner. I had to find a way to break free from his hold and get my life back

Even if that meant running forever. I would do it.

“So fiesty.” He smirked before firmly tossing me over his shoulder. My eyes widened at what he was doing.

“Put me down!” I screamed as he forced me down into the darkness.

The damp, stale stench of the basement invaded my nose, causing a sputter to escape my lips as I coughed. There was no telling the last time this basement probably had ever seen any kind of attention, and now here I was being locked into it.

“You are going to learn that when I want something, I will have it, Ivy.”

A new sense of fear swept through me, my heart racing with every step he took. There was no telling what he was really planning to do, but my mind wandered to what it could entail.

Forced mating. Unwanted desires. Caleb was a man determined to have me, and make Damian live in the same pain he had lived in for such a long time.

He quickly threw my body down upon something soft, and as I scrambled to look around, I saw the old tattered bed beneath me.

“The hell are you doing?” I gasped, as I watched Caleb reach down and pick up a steel chain from the floor walking towards me.

“What does it look like?” He retorted, “I can’t have you escaping.”

“No!” I screamed, my body scrambling backward as I tried to put as much distance between him and me. It was useless, though. Caleb snatched me by the ankle and dragged me towards him before clipping the shackle to my wrist and smiling down at me.

“Only two days left, Ivy. As soon as the moon’s high and the bond breaks, you will be mine.”

Two days. His words ran through my mind as I watched his figure retreat back up the stairs leaving me in the darkness.

I didn’t see it as I had two days left.

No. I saw it as I had two days to escape, Reaching up, I grasped the necklace around my neck and yanked it off. The once object of privacy was now my only means of escape.

The thing was, I couldn’t let Caleb know I had that over on him.

I had to have the element of surprise. Otherwise, my fate would be sealed with his bite.

Chapter 40: Brotherly Arguments

Damian POV

“How can she be gone?!” I yelled, listening to my brothers explain to me that no matter where they looked, they couldn’t find her.

Dread filled me, realizing how badly I had fucked up. I shouldn’t have treated her the way I did, and now that I had, the bond was fading. James explained he could barely feel her now, and it made sense since he was the first to have mated with her.

“You know this would never have happened had you not been such a dick.” Talon snapped, crossing his arms over his chest as he leaned against the door frame.

“Shut the fuck up, Talon. Don’t you think I know that!”

Tensions were high in the mansion, and thankfully, Allison and Zane took a trip for a few days. Otherwise, I would have had to listen to Ivy's father run his mouth as well.

A swirling pit of despair built within my stomach as I played over what could have happened to her. She wasn't the kind of girl to just leave... or well, I mean she was, but not like this.

Fuck, what am I going to do?

"Uh... someone's coming up the driveway, and in a hurry." James replied as he stared out the front window.

Moving from the living room, I headed to the front door just in time to see a blonde girl step out of a blue car and come marching straight for me. "Where is she?"

"Excuse me? Where is who?"

"Ivy. Don't play fucking stupid with me. Where is she?" She asked again with her hands on her hips starting in frustration.

A growl of disapproval left my lips at her tone, 'who the fuck do you think you're talking to?"

"The bitch who is looking out for her pack member." She growled in response, her eyes glowing an amber color as she bared her fangs.

Taken aback in the moment, I found myself speechless at her admission. Pack member? How was Ivy part of her pack?

"The hell are you talking about?"

"Ivy Thorne is part of my pack, and my name is Kate. Now where the fuck are the rest of you? We have a lot to catch up on." She replied, pushing past me and making her way into the house.

Every part of me wanted to put her on her ass for the way she was speaking to me. Yet, I couldn't. I was too curious about what she was talking about to stop her.

Closing the front door, I pushed forward towards the living room where Kate was standing with my brothers talking over the situation. "You are all idiots," she mumbled.

"Why don't you start telling me why the fuck you're here in my house acting the way you are? You are far from your own territory." I snapped, tired of listening to her bitchy attitude.

Turning around, she narrowed her eyes at me, crossing her arms over her chest, “excuse me?”

I didn’t have time to deal with this woman. I needed to find Ivy.

“You heard me. Now, explain.”

Rolling her eyes, she sighed. “When Ivy’s father got with her mother, it wasn’t just because she was pretty. He knew her family’s connection with my pack and my father. He thought by being able to seduce her, he would wiggle his way into our pack to take over.”

“So you’re saying Zane is a liar?” That was something I already knew.

“He is an egotistical pig that is after money and power. Everything you guys thought you knew about him is a lie. He wants to control this pack. My father knew how much mates meant to wolves, and so he didn’t want to stop Ivy coming to you, but he didn’t trust Zane.”

“What does this have to do with finding her now!” I yelled in frustration.

Yes, this information was important to an extent, but it didn’t help me with my current problem.

“As I was saying,” she replied, narrowing her eyes, “he wants the bond to complete so he can get rid of you. Once the bonds complete, if Ivy dies, you all do as well, and he can take over this pack. What he didn’t account for was your past issues with Caleb.”

“Caleb?” James asked, as he glanced at me, raising a brow.

“Yes, Caleb.” I retorted, “he may have issues with me, but he isn’t that stupid.”

Laughter filled the air as Kate shook her head, “that’s where you’re wrong. He has her, Damian. I have no doubt about that.”

A shadow of darkness rose within me, hearing what Kate said. There was no way Caleb would be stupid enough to take Ivy. Regardless of the issues he and I had, I saw the way he looked at her when I confronted him.

He cared for her in some odd way.

“Why would he want her?” Hale replied, staring at me.

Sighing, I pinched the bridge of my nose, trying to let what they were saying process. The only reason he would take her if he had was because he wanted to get back at me

for what his mate did. It wasn't my fault that she fell in love with me. I had always explained that wasn't what I wanted.

I only would accept my mate.

"Because he blames me for what happened with his mate."

"We have to stop him!" Talon roared, his eyes a swirling black mist of anger. "When the moon rises, he can take her for himself."

Talon was right. As much as I didn't want to believe it, he was right about that.

"I know where he lives. We can go there..."

"She isn't there." Hale piped up, "we looked, and the neighbor said that Caleb left with a girl."

"So she willingly went with him?!"

"No, I don't think so." Hale replied, shaking his head. "She wouldn't...."

His eyes drifted off in a distant look. His mouth partially opened, "Hale, what's wrong?"

"She took off the necklace. I can feel her, but it's faint." He whispered, before rising to his feet. "She is in trouble."

I envied my brothers for having that bond with her. I couldn't reach out to her the way they could, and it killed me! missed the opportunity to claim her.

I wouldn't allow that to happen again, though.

"She is in a cabin." Talon spoke softly, his eyes searching the ground as if looking for something. "Does Caleb have a cabin?"

"No. As far as I know, he doesn't, but then who knows what he has done over the years."

"Caleb wouldn't be stupid enough to take her to one of his properties." Kate replied, speaking up. "If he had her, he would take her somewhere you wouldn't look."

I was getting sick and tired of this girl. From the moment she had walked into the house, she did nothing but cause more questions, and threw her weight around like she was in charge.

"Well," I snapped, "by all means, where the fuck do you think he has her then?"

"You know, you're an asshole." Kate shrugged her shoulders, "no wonder she wanted to go home."

"She wouldn't leave us." James exclaimed, "she loves us."

Kate smirked, shaking her head, "anyway, I know someone who has a cabin. A girl named Mandy. I had suspected for a while that she was up to something shady, and overheard her on the phone the other day talking to someone about a cabin. I'm guessing it was Caleb."

I wasn't sure why the name Mandy sounded familiar, but if Caleb had someone working with him, it only meant that things were going to be a lot trickier. "Do you know where this place is?"

"No, but I figured Hale could figure it out." She replied, turning to Hale with a smile.

Letting a sigh escape him, he stood and walked towards the computer on my desk. "On it."

The situation with Ivy had gotten more complicated. First, the issue with Caleb. Then hearing that her father Zane had his own agenda as well. It was a lot to take in.

Ivy had done nothing wrong since she got here, and all I could think about was how horribly I had treated her. My brothers had tried to explain to me that what I was doing was wrong, but I didn't listen.

"Oh, shit... Damian, we have a problem." Hale replied with his eyes widened in shock.

"What's wrong?"

"Mandy is Caleb's dead mate's sister." He replied.

He was right. That was a problem.