

# And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

## Chapter 41: The Cabin

Ivy POV

The dripping sounds of water off pipes woke me from my sleep. My mind was a haze from the lack of food and clean air. I had reached out to the guys, trying with all my might to show them or tell them where I was, but my thoughts went unheard.

Was this what I had to look forward to? A life with nothing but false love and attention.

Pulling my weight forward, I sat up and tried to make sense of my surroundings. The cool metal of the shackle at my wrist clanging against the hard wet floor, drawing my attention to the hook on the floor.

If only there was something to undo these bolts.

'Hale.' I called out again in my mind as I pulled at my restraints. 'Please talk to me.'

No matter how many times I tried, my cries went unanswered. "I have to get out of here."

"I'll do what I want!" Caleb's booming voice came from up above.

I wasn't sure what he and Mandy had been up to, but I could only imagine that it wasn't anything good. The sharp pull of a door at the top of the stairs caught my attention. The slow, heavy footsteps on the stairs caused my heart to race.

"Good Morning, my future wife." Caleb taunted as he came into view. "Did you sleep well?"

"Are you seriously asking me that? What kind of man would have his future wife and mate sleeping in a cold, damp basement on a dirty mattress?" The sarcastic retort left my lips with a trail of venom.

There was no way this man was going to be sweet when he had been nothing but toxic since the moment he kidnapped me in his house. Too many times had I fallen for his act, and now that I knew who he was, it would never happen again.

"Be it as it may, the harvest moon is tonight, my dear."

How was that possible?! He said two days.. How is it already tonight?

"That's not possible. It was just two days.." I whispered, trying to understand.

"Ah, yes." Caleb smiled, walking closer to me, "when you fell asleep, I injected you with a sedative so you couldn't escape."

My eyes widened in shock at what he said. How did I not know that he had done that?

"That's not possible.."

"Isn't it?" The smirk that crossed his lips as he walked towards a wooden tool bench set my nerves on edge. This man was more sadistic than I had expected.

"Why would you do that?!" | exclaimed.

Shaking his head, he turned towards the table and started fiddling with the tools on it.

"Tonight things will change for you, Ivy." He replied slowly. "You will start to see things in a new perspective, and I will give you a life you always dreamed of."

Every ounce of my body screamed to fight and get away, but whatever he had injected into me left me groggy and my body heavy. "Caleb..."

It was no wonder I wasn't able to reach out to Hale or the others. Whatever he had put into my body was blocking

the link thing Hale had told me about before.

"You look a bit stunned, my dear."

Caleb's voice brought me out of the trance I was in, causing my mind to swirl with likely outcomes of what was going to happen. The trouble that was coming was going to make things a lot more complicated.

"Please..." I wasn't sure what it was I was asking for, but the look in his eyes told me he understood what I wanted, even without words.

"I'm sorry that this is how things are going right now. I never expected things to be this way."

"Then why are you doing this?" Caleb made no sense. He would say apologies, then turn around and act like a man with sadistic intention.

A howl in the distance stopped our conversation, and Caleb's eyes darkened. A low growl emitting from his lips as he flew to the stairs and took them two at a time.

If he was angry about the howl we heard that could only mean one thing... Damian was coming.

Kate POV

I wasn't sure what to expect with these guys, but I had to do what was necessary to get Ivy back. I had been a fool to think I could let her go on not knowing the truth. She was my charge, and I had one task. Protect her and watch

her.

Both of which I failed at the moment I let Caleb get the better of me.

It gave him the chance to lure her in and make a drastic move of taking her captive.

"We can't just go in there, guns blazing." I snapped, listening to the plans that they had been running through for the last thirty minutes.

With my help, they were able to narrow down Mandy's cabin. It had belonged to her parents years ago, and when they passed on, it was left to her. I wasn't in the least bit surprised to see how isolated it was, but even though it was a mile off, the view from where we were was perfect.

"Then what do you think we should do?" Damian retorted with disdain.

It didn't take a genius to realize he couldn't stand me, and that was fine because I didn't care for him either. "First of all, we need to make sure that it isn't trapped. I doubt he would rely on just isolation to be enough."

The look in Damian's eyes told me he hadn't considered what I was saying.

Some Alpha.

"Look guys, we don't have time to bicker between each other. We need to figure this shit out, and quickly." Hale replied, shaking his head.

"Perhaps Talon should scout it out. He seems to be the stealthiest of you four." I sneered, rolling my eyes.

"She does have a point." James pointed out looking at me, "Talon is better suited."

Talon didn't wait for someone to tell him to go. He shifted in front of us, his large dark wolf growling as he took off through the brush towards the cabin. I had no doubt that he would tell us what to expect.

"I don't want anyone to rush in there. The last thing I want is for Ivy to get hurt."

Damian making comments like this pissed me off more than anything. It was his fault that she was in this mess to begin with. He pushed her away and landed her in this rified situation. "You caring about what happens to her is shocking."

"Will you shut the fuck up and stop being a bitch?" Damain snapped, causing me to laugh.

"I can't wait for this to be over so I don't have to deal with you anymore."

Damian snorted in disapproval to what I said, "that is a mutual statement."

"Hey, he said it's clear as long as you take the western direction," Hale finally piped up, walking back towards us,

There was a hesitation in his eyes that made me uncomfortable. "What's wrong?"

Hale shook his head and spoke softly to James before turning towards Damian and I. A grave feeling coursed through me that made me uncomfortable.

"There are some things about the place that make Talon uncomfortable. He said that the property is trapped. So he will meet us in a moment, and have us follow him in. It seems there are only the two of them there, but he hasn't seen Ivy

Taking a moment to let everything sink in, I let a breath escape me.

We were walking into something we weren't prepared for. But I was determined to get my friend back.

"I don't have time for this shit. I want my mate, and I'm going to get her." Damian growled, shifting into his large black wolf.

Its paws dug at the earth as white clouds of heat escape his muzzle. A determination brewing in his eyes to get his mate. With his determination set, a shifting frenzy as the cracking of bones resonated in the air and the rest of us followed

Breaking through the cool wind and into the forest our destination-Ivy.

## **Chapter 42: Battle for Ivy**

Ivy POV

Darkness. The sound of escalating battle beginning on the earth above caused turmoil to bubble within my soul. I wasn't sure what the situation was, but I had a feeling that before the night ended, I would become a martyr in battle.

"Damn it!" Mandy's voice followed down the stairwell, followed by her footsteps descending the stairs. Cold, dark, swirling eyes greeted me with a malicious smile.

I was in trouble.

"It's time to go." She snarled as she pulled the key from her pocket, snatching at the shackle on my wrist. The movements causing it to dig against my skin in discomfort.

"What are you doing?" I replied, struggling against her as she snatched my arm, trying to drag me across the floor towards the stairs. "Get the fuck off me!"

A blow to the side of my face caused me to reel back to the ground. Mandy stood over me, impatient and unforgiving. "Don't make me kill you, because honestly, I love that idea better."

"Why are you doing this? I thought we were friends."

Laughter escaped her lips as she contemplated what I had said. I should have known from the beginning that this girl wasn't friendly at all. She had always shown such kindness and concern towards me, but it was only after she had seen me with Hale and James in the courtyard.

"I was what I needed to be." She retorted before grabbing my hair and dragging me up the stairs with a force I didn't think a woman of her size had.

Werewolf strength. It was undeniable, and every movement sent sharp pains through my back and side with every step she took.

As the door opened towards the main floor, the roar of wolves grew louder. Even though my connection to Hale, James, and Talon was growing weaker, it was slightly stronger now that they were closer. The drugs that Caleb had given me slowly wore off from my system.

"Let me go!" I yelled as I struggled against Mandy again.

I had to get away from her. The further along she dragged me, the closer to the ravenous wolves I was, and that was a place I didn't want to be. I had seen the guys' wolves up close before, but even then, I was scared.

"It's time they realize who has the upper hand!" Mandy yelled, throwing open the front door and dragging me onto the wooden porch.

She pulled me roughly to my feet. Her claws extended on her hand as she brought my back to her chest and held me by my throat. "Enough!" She roared, causing the wolves to halt in their step.

“What are you doing?” Caleb yelled, quickly shifting back.

The snapping jaws of the black wolf pawing at the earth across from the porch, watching the scene unfold. “I’m done with the childish games of men. The harvest moon is high, and with time still left, I will handle this as it should be.”

“Please...” I cried out in fear as tears ran down my cheeks, “let me go.”

“Ivy!” James and Hale called in unison.

My eyes widened upon seeing James and the others. A rush of relief rolled through me, knowing that they had come. I had wondered if everything I had with them had all been for nothing, but deep down I knew they wouldn’t

abandon me.

“James-” I cried out, only to have her grip tighten on me. Tears rolled down my cheeks as I watched the wolves stare at the scene in front of them.

“Please don’t hurt her...” James begged as his own eyes widened in fear, “she did nothing to you.”

“No, she didn’t. But Damian did.” Mandy retorted with disgust lacing her tone.

I wasn’t sure what Damian had done to Mandy, but part of me hoped it was a misunderstanding. Damian may have been a lot of things, but I didn’t want to believe he was as bad as they made him out to be.

The breaking of bones echoed in the air as I watched the black wolf shift slowly back into Damian. My heart raced. at the sight, having never witnessed it before. His dark swirling eyes caught my attention though as they met mine, and an unreadable expression crossed his face.

“Your quarrel is with me, Mandy. Ivy isn’t mated to me, so there is no way her death will hurt me. Don’t do something stupid.”

Laughter left Mandy’s lips as she shook her head. “you really are daft, aren’t you? Do you think it’s her life that actually matters to me?”

Damian’s brows furrowed in confusion as he listened to her speak. The more I moved, the deeper her claws dug into my skin, causing a wet sensation to drip down my neck. “What did Damian do to you?”

I had to know what hurt Mandy so much. I was desperate to know what he had done that would cost me my life.

“Oh, he didn’t tell you.” Mandy whispered in my ear, “the wolf who killed herself because of him... she was my sister.”

Shock rushed through me. Everything made sense.

Mandy lost her sister that day, and for so long, she planned revenge with Caleb to make Damian suffer. However, what she was doing now conflicted with everything that Caleb had wanted.

“Wait.. Caleb wanted to steal me from Damian so he could take Damian’s mate.. But you..”

The idea ran through my head as I tried to understand her reasoning.

She was doing this for blood.. A life for a life.

“No, you can’t!” I screamed, trying to get away.

Laughter escaped her though as she held me tight to her, “so you finally understand. At least one of you does.” She replied with a smirk.

“What are you talking about?!” Caleb yelled, stepping closer only for Mandy to step back, holding tight to my body.

“Move again and I’ll kill her.” She snarled, glaring at the men in front of her.

“She is going to kill me to kill Hale, Talon, and,” the tightening of her grip cut my words off, digging into my throat.

It was true. She was going to kill me to kill them, and even though I didn’t want to die, I couldn’t allow my death to affect them. They meant more to me than my own life, and I would do anything for them.

Dark spots formed in my vision, and as I was once told growing up, my life flashed before my eyes.

If this was the end, then so be it, but Moon Goddess, if you are out there... spare them and only take me.

Kate POV

“She is going to kill her to kill your brothers!” I yelled as soon as I shifted.

It made perfect sense. A life for a life.

A vendetta to solve all the problems there once had been. Even with Caleb wanting to take Ivy. Mandy was getting one over on him as well. Ivy had become the center of their attention, and with Ivy gone, they would all lose

something.

But Damian would lose the most.

His brothers and his mate-no wolf could go through that much pain.

It would destroy him.

Before another word could leave my lips, Mandy's attention focused on Damian was lost as Caleb charged her and ripped her from Ivy's body. The sweet petite figure dropped to the floor as the battle between Mandy and Caleb began.

Mandy's lifeless body fell to the floor before us.

As if someone clicked the pause button, the rogues Caleb had with him charged us once more, and I shifted back into my wolf. My teeth snapping and grasping at any wolf I could get hold of.

I wasn't the most powerful of wolves, but I couldn't rely on the brothers to protect me.

I wasn't part of their pack.

The only thing I could do was hope that my efforts weren't wasted, and I was able to protect a girl who had become more than just my friend. She had become like a sister to me.

And I would be her protector.

### **Chapter 43: Damian vs. Caleb**

Damian POV

I fucked up

It was the only thing I knew for sure, and with every last ounce of breath I had, I would find a way to make it right with Ivy. The moment that Hale found Mandy's cabin, I was the first in the car to go save Ivy.



I didn't want anyone else to do this besides me, because even though we were all supposed to be her mates, I knew without a doubt that things were worse with her and I. If, for some reason, our bond was broken... I would still try to make it right with her.

I couldn't lose her.

She was perfect in the mess of confusion and clouded thoughts, and even still, I had no way of knowing what I was losing until I had lost it.

Looking up to the sky, I watched as the full moon turned orange, and the Harvest peaked in all its glory. I had only an hour to save her. After that, my time would be up and the bond would be broken.

I couldn't let that happen.

I had to protect the bond. My selfishness was causing us all pain.

As the roar of wolves thundered against the ground, we found ourselves outnumbered, and even though I was an Alpha, there was still only so much I could do.

My brothers at my back, we pressed forward, taking down rogue after rogue.

Caleb's human form watched from the porch with a smile on his face before shifting and heading straight for James. James was no match for Caleb and snapping a gray wolf's neck, I leaped over two more running towards my youngest brother.

Thad to protect him. To save him from a fate that none of us would get over.

Snarling my breath came out in white pants of smoke against the cold air. Throwing my body at Caleb, I knocked his wolf out of the way. Growling as I stood protectively in front of James.

No one would mess with my brother but me.

"It's time they realize who has the upper hand!" Mandy yelled, causing us all to stop in our tracks.

Ivy.

Her struggling form was at Mandy's mercy as her claws dug into Ivy's throat. My wolf urged me to press forward and save our mate, but at the same time, I knew I couldn't be brash. Doing so would only cause Ivy to get killed.

Caleb shifted quickly in front of me. His wolf sheds its skin, leaving a man in its wake. I could kill him right now, but with the situation, it could only make things worse.

“What are you doing!” He yelled as he took two steps toward Mandy. Her body flinched as she watched with a snarl his concern over the girl in his arms.

“Please, let me go.” Ivy said, struggling as tears streamed down her face.

The cracking of bones resonated near me as my brothers all shifted in return. “Ivy!”

No one moved. Not even the rogues, as everyone seemed to contemplate what was going to happen next. If Ivy died, then what would be left? Caleb would have no leverage or purpose in the battle anymore other than to face me himself.

Which was something I know he has wanted to do for a very long time.

“Please don’t hurt her...” James pleaded his own eyes misted with tears. “She did nothing to you.”

He was young and naive, allowing his emotions to show as they were, but then again, I didn’t have the connection with Ivy that they did. Shifting into my human form, I stood waiting for her next move.

Her eyes seemingly calculated what it was I was going to do. “No, she didn’t. But Damian did.”

Taken aback by what the girl was saying, I found myself baffled.

I stood waiting for her next move. I knew exactly what she was talking about. She blamed me for her sister being dead, just like Caleb did.

“Your quarrel is with me, Mandy. Ivy isn’t mated to me, so there is no way her death will hurt me. Don’t do something stupid.” I replied, watching her.

Laughing, she shook her head, watching me, “you really are daft, aren’t you? Do you think it’s her life that actually matters to me?”

A growl escaped my lips as I stepped forward. Her grip tightening just a little more.

“What did you do, Damian?” Ivy asked with pleading eyes, trying to understand.

It was the same look she gave me so many times when I disappointed her.

“Oh, he didn’t tell you.” Mandy whispered just loud enough for me to hear, “the wolf who killed herself because of him... she was my sister.”

It didn’t make any sense. The look Mandy gave Caleb was one of hatred, not respect. A rush of confusion ran through me as I tried to understand what Mandy had to gain from acting the way she was.

“Wait... Caleb wanted to steal me from Damian so he could take Damian’s mat.. But you...” Ivy’s faced flashed with recognition as if she was processing all the information.

“No, you can’t!” Ivy screamed, struggling against Mandy. A wicked laugh leaving Mandy’s lips, causing us all to step forward closer, only to have the rogues on edge ready to attack

“So you finally understand.” Mandy replied, looking directly at me, “at least one of you does.”

“What are you talking about?!” Caleb yelled, stepping closer only for Mandy to step back holding tighter to Ivy.

“Move again and I’ll kill her.” She snapped baring teeth.

What was I missing?!

‘She is going to kill her.; Talon replied through our link. ‘He is going to kill her to kill us.’

‘No... she can’t.’ James added, listening in.

Caleb is going to do something. When he does, we need to rush him and the rogues.’

There was silence among us after my statement, but glancing at Hale, I saw the calculated look he was giving over the situation.

“She is going to kill me to kill Hale, Talon, and-” Ivy’s words were quickly cut off as Mandy dug deeper down on her grip. Her body slightly goes lax within her hands.

A mass of movement blurred in the distance as Kate yelled, “She is going to kill her to kill your brothers!”

It all made sense now, though.

With Mandy’s attention on me, I watched as Caleb took the opportunity and rushed toward Mandy, ripping her from Ivy’s body. The clash of wolves raged once more as I shifted and took them down two at a time.

My brothers battled as well-our goal was to retrieve Ivy, whose body laid unmoving.

Taking down another wolf, I turned to find Caleb standing over the bloodied body of Mandy. His cold, dark swirling eyes looked towards Ivy before turning on me. He was angry, and the pain fueled that hatred.

Charging at me, he shifted mid-air. His wolf clashed with mine as we ended in a rolling fury of fury and blood. Our teeth snapping at each other in a mixture of anger and frenzy.

I was going to kill him, there was no denying that.

As my teeth bit down upon him he struggled beneath me. Prey to the bloodthirsty wolf I was, I enjoyed his struggle.

\*Crack

His neck snapped in my jaw, and with its sound the rogues that hadn't died stopped in their tracks. Their eyes darted towards me as I let Caleb's wolf slip from my jaws, hitting the ground.

There was no reason for them to fight anymore.

The rogue wolves retreating towards the woods in fear as I step closer towards them. They knew what would become of them if they stayed around. There was no denying my wrath, but in that moment, there was only one person I had my eye on.

#### **Chapter 44: Broken Bond with New Rules**

Ivy POV

Rough hands gripped a hold of my waist, causing my eyes to flutter. Looking up, I watched as Damian's rugged good looks came into view. The steely, fierce force of his gaze upon me as he lifted my body and carried me forward.

"What are you doing?" I whispered in a raspy tone.

"You're injured. We have to get you to the hospital."

The monotone way he spoke to me did nothing but leave me puzzled. Glancing up at the sky, I watched as the red faded from the moon.

The harvest moon was ending.

"Stop, we have to complete the bond." I moaned softly, trying to move from his grasp.  
"Put me down."

"No-" he stated softly, "it's over. There is no time."

I was astounded by what he was saying. If we didn't complete the bond, there would be no turning back. The matebond would be lost forever. "Do you not want me?"

Tears filled my eyes, realizing that I was losing them.

“It isn’t that... his eyes gazed down at me as he stopped in his tracks, ‘it isn’t right for us to keep you from what you want in life. Since you have been here, we have done nothing but cause you problems.”

“Put me down.” I gasped as I blinked back tears.

“No.” He replied before a car door was opened, and I slid into the back seat.

Darkness over taking my thoughts. I tried to keep my eyes open. Drops of crimson stained my shirt as I looked down at my chest

There was no changing his mind, and just as I had gotten used to it all...

He decided he didn’t want me.

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As the pull of light drew me back towards reality, I slowly opened my eyes to see the white tile ceiling above me. The sterile smell of cleaning supplies stung my nose as I looked around my room.

The last thing I remembered was being carried, and then-Damian.

Trying to sit up, I took in Kate’s sleeping form sitting in the gray armchair. Her eyes closed, and a white blanket pulled up to her chest.

“Kate,” I whispered roughly, jolting her from her sleep.

“Oh, my God!” she exclaimed, scrambling to her feet as she rushed to my beside.  
“You’re finally awake.”

“Finally?” What did she mean finally? I had only been asleep for a few hours.

Her eyes looked at me questioning before she slowly nodded her head, ‘Ivy... you have been in a coma for two weeks.”

Two weeks?!

That wasn’t possible... the harvest moon... They guys...

Chapiner 44 Broken Bond with New Rulen

Where were they?

"No, I mumbled, shaking my head in disbelief 'That's not right

Kate sighed, looking at me with pity. "I'm sorry sweetie..."

"Where's James Hale? Talon?\*" The fact that I had woken up and they weren't here with me caused a pit of despair to open within my stomach. The betrayal of their absence leaves a sinking hole in my heart

\*Let's not talk about that right now." she muttered softly, we need to get you better."

"No!" I screamed the beeping of the heart monitors becoming erratic. "Where's Damian!"

"Ivy, please. Calm down!" Kate yelled, trying to make me see the reason. However, no matter what she said, it fell on deaf ears.

Pulling at the cords that were attached to me. I forced myself from the bed, wanting to progress further. I had to find Damian, I had to know what was going on.

"Damian!" I screamed again, wanting to hear from him about what was going on. "Get me, Damian!"

My screams of protest echoed throughout the room until the door opened, and Damian's dark and sultry gaze peered at me from beneath dark lashes.

My heart skipped a beat seeing him, and even though we had so many issues in the past, he was still able to make me feel some sort of way.

"You wanted to see me?" He replied with a thin-lipped expression. His eyes were unreadable, causing an uneasy expression to pass over me.

"What's going on?" I whispered, searching for anything to tell me this wasn't happening. Those things were still okay between us.

"I don't understand what you mean. You were injured and have been in the hospital, healing."

"You know what I mean. Why weren't you guys here with me? Where's Hale, James, or Talon... What's going on, Damian?"

Letting out a deep breath, he nodded. "They aren't coming. Ivy."

"What?" I gasped in disbelief, 'but they are my mates... Why wouldn't they come?"

"Because they aren't your mates anymore. The moon passed, and the bond wasn't completed, so it vanished." Damian replied with a solum stare.

It was true then. The harvest moon had passed, and I was no longer bonded to the guys.

The men who had captured my attention, and made me feel alive and desired for the first time in my existence. Where are they?"

\*Ivy, this is better this way. You have the chance of a normal life. One away from wolves, just like your mother."

My mother? 'You know nothing about her.'" I snapped the anxiety over the situation rising within me.

\*Sweetie Kate replied softly, your mother is more than you know. None of that matters, though. Damian is right. Now that you are awake and getting better, it's time we go home to Georgia."

"No! I screamed, not wanting to accept what she was saying I wanted to see Hale. I had to see him. Out of the four of them he was the most logical and could tell me the truth.

Did they really think they were doing this for me?

Or was it because they actually didn't want me?

\*You will be leaving 'Dannian replied with a formal tone, that is final."

"Fuck you, Damian. I understand you never gave a shit about me, but you don't get to speak for your brothers"

I was done dealing with him. Since the moment I got there, he had done nothing but give me shirt. More than once! had tried to do something to make him happy, and then to top it all off, I was captured by Caleb and Mandy because of him.

Then, to repay me, he wants to take away people I cared about calling it'a normal life

Rolling his eyes, he stepped forward with a pained expression, 'don't ever think I don't care for you. You have no IDEA how much I care for you."

\*Then why-why are you doing this? I was desperate at the moment to get himn to change his mind I didn't want him to give up on this. To give up on me.

'It's too late.' He whispered softly as he stepped closer and brushed a strand of hair behind my ear. They have gone their separate ways.

Closing my eyes, I let out the breath I had been holding and allowed the tears to roll down my cheeks. They had left me. There was nothing holding them back now.

“James wouldn’t leave me.’

As much as I wanted to believe the admission, I knew I couldn’t I couldn’t accept what he was saying because deep down, after everything we had gone through, I didn’t want to believe they would leave me

‘I’m sorry, Ivy. But you don’t deserve a life of chaos. You deserve to be happy with ONE man who can give you everything you need. Not shared between multiple men, never knowing what was going to happen’

Damian’s words stirred a determination in me.

I wanted those things, though. I wanted to be with them all, and even though I was confused before, my mind had been changed.

“Do one thing for me. If you still feel the same way afterward, then I will go.’ I replied softly as my eyes cast up to meet his.

“What’s that?’ He replied with an edge of concern.

“Kiss me.’ The demand was clear, and taking a step back, I knew he was hesitant about fulfilling it ‘If you still feel

the same afterward, I will go.’

A quietness flowed over us as he stared at me. Slowly his feet moved, and before I knew it, his lips were upon mine.

Damian had only kissed me once before, and I can’t understand why I had never taken the initiative to do it more often.

The feel of his lips against mine caused me to moan softly as my heart raced. I could still feel the swarm within my stomach I had once felt with the others, and the emotional rollercoaster tipped me over the edge.

“That isn’t possible.’ He whispered as he pulled away..

“You feel something, don’t you?

The realization that what they thought was real wasn’t causing my head to spin. I wanted him at that moment, no matter how I had to get him.

The Moon Goddess hadn’t given upon us.

She had only chosen to change the stakes of the game.



## Chapter 45: Sealed Fate

Ivy POV

I knew the moment that he kissed me he felt something, and by the look on his face when he pulled away, I knew without a doubt he was confused by what was going on.

Why wouldn't he be?

From what I had learned from Caleb, if the bond had not been completed, then it was stripped from us all, and I was no longer bound to them.

I would have a chance at a new life... or better yet, I could decide my fate.

"Damian," I whispered, "you have to see that what we were told wasn't the truth. What the prophecy said was up for interpretation."

Shaking his head, he cast his glance towards Kate who looked just as shocked as he was.

"Don't look at me. This is all far beyond my concept of anything. I can call my father, though. Perhaps he may know something."

Kate quickly moved from her chair and made her way from my hospital room. Damian's eyes still staring at the spot where she had once sat, not a word coming from his mouth.

"Please say something..." I asked, hoping for the silence to end.

"What am I supposed to say?" He replied as he looked towards me. "This wasn't supposed to happen. We aren't supposed to be mated anymore."

The tone he used left a sinking feeling in my heart as I tried to understand why he was angry. I thought more than anything he would be pleased with the notion that the bond wasn't gone. That even though my initial marks from the others had disappeared...

We were given another chance.

"Do you not want me?" The question came out before I could stop it. His mouth opened and closed as he thought about what he was going to say. Never had we had a proper conversation about what he wanted with me until this point.

To be honest, I was terrified of what he was going to respond with.

Would he reject me?

“We need to go see someone.” He replied, flatly turning on his feet. “I will get you some clothes and we will leave immediately.”

Stunned by his response to the situation, I sat dumbfounded as I watched him leave the room in search of clothing, and perhaps a doctor.

An hour later, Damian and I sat in his car flying down the interstate heading north towards the northern part of Damian’s territory. I wasn’t sure what was up there that would cause us to need to venture that far, but whatever it was had Damian determined.

“Will you please tell me what’s going on?” I asked softly, my eyes sliding towards the view at the window, tired of his cold persona.

With a deep breath, he sighed, “the woman who told me the prophecy years ago... She lives up here. We are going to go see her and see what happened.”

Once again, his wording choice caught me by surprise.

He had to see what happened. As if being mated to me is so horrible.

“Fine,” I replied flatly, watching the rush of trees pass by my window until we turned onto a dirt road that led towards a rugged old cabin.

When the car finally came to a stop, Damian quickly exited the cabin and came around to my side of the car. Surprised by his gesture, I took his offered hand when he opened the door and got out.

“Thank you.”

He hesitated for a moment before nodding his head and turning towards the cabin. His hand slid through mine as he pulled me with him. The fact that Damian was holding my hand was a surprise on its own. Never had he shown that kind of affection before.

“Priscilla!” Damian called out loudly as he knocked on the door. “We need to have a word.”

The door opened slowly, revealing the wrinkled face of a graying elderly woman. Her brows furrowed until her eyes set upon me, and then a smile crested her face.

“Oh, my.” she said with a grin, “I see that you have been touched by the goddess.”

Touched by the goddess? What the hell does that mean?

“Enough, we need to know what’s going on,” Damian replied with annoyance.

“Very well. Come in, come in.” She retorted as she stepped aside and made her way towards the cabin’s small living room. “I suppose you are here to ask how the bond is still there, but not as you expected.”

“But how-” I gasped, not understanding how she knew.

As her eyes turned towards me, I saw the twinkle in their corner, looking at me with amusement.

“There is no answer to how I know things, child. Just that I do.”

“Then explain.” Damian snapped, growing impatient. “You told me that the bond would break if we didn’t all complete it before the Harvest Moon left the sky. Well, it did. So how is it that I am still bonded to her?”

Laughter left the woman’s throat. “You complain like being bonded to this pretty young woman is a bad thing.”

“Right..” I snorted. “You would think he was more grateful to have a mate at all.”

My remark was meant to be mumbled, but the laughter that left the old woman caused me to look at Damian, who stared at me wide-eyed and in disbelief.

“Seriously?” He snapped with a huff.

“I’m just saying.” I shrugged, rolling my eyes again.

The woman leaned forward with a smile, setting her elbows on her knees as she stared between the two of us. “I like this one. She has a spark in her. No wonder the goddess chose her.”

“Choose me? Choose me for what?” I asked, not understanding what she meant.

“Well, you asked her for a gift, didn’t you?” The woman replied, causing me to think back on what she could be referring to. After a moment, the realization dawned on me and my eyes snapped back to the woman whose smile widened in delight.

“I didn’t think she would answer me-”

Damian sat quietly pinching the bridge of his nose with utter annoyance laced in his features as we spoke. “How about someone starts explaining what the hell is going on?”

Taking a moment, I sighed, “when I thought I was dying... I prayed to the goddess to take just my life but disconnect me from your brothers so they may live. I knew that losing me you would be able to overcome with their help, but

losing us all would destroy you.”

Silence filled the air in the living room as Damian sat staring at me with confusion

“You willingly would have died to save them... To save me?” He mumbled as if he couldn’t believe what he was hearing.

“Of course, I would. You may all get on my nerves, but I do care about each of you in a different way.” I replied, not knowing how else to explain how I feel about them. They were all so complex, and in a perfect world, things would be easier

But unfortunately, our world wasn’t easy

Damian’s eyes lingered on me for a moment more before turning towards Priscilla.

“So what does this mean, then? Are we all still bound?”

“No, not exactly.” She replied, picking up a teacup in front of her taking a sip.

“Everything is now in Ivy’s court. She can decide to allow the mate bonds to form, or she can decide to have nothing to do with any of you.”

The pressure weighed down on me heavily with what she was saying.

No longer could they initiate anything. They wouldn’t feel the pull like they did before that drove them to mark and mate with me before. Instead, they would only feel the connection by physical touch if I gave them the chance.

I was the Alpha in charge of this situation, and that notion blew my mind.

“Whoa-” I muttered, leaning back in the chair, letting the information sink in. “Talk about being put on the spot.”

“Yes, but you are strong, independent, and fierce. Don’t let anyone tell you what to do. You take the initiative of your own life. You don’t even have to accept all four of them. In the end, you can pick just one if that’s what you want or none at all.”

After finishing up our small conversation with Priscilla, we learned more than I had been prepared for. My mind was a rushing rollercoaster of information that would take an eternity to process Stepping into the car, I sat there in silence with Damian, whose hands gripped the steering wheel.

“I will book your flight to go home tomorrow.” He said out of nowhere, catching me off guard.

“What?” I replied with my eyes darting towards him, “what makes you think I want to go home?”

Shaking his head, he looked at me perplexed before putting the car in reverse and heading back to his house.

Hours passed and eventually, the pack house came into view as Damian parked his car. Never once did he bother to address what I said or even acknowledge the other questions I had. Instead, he was stuck in his own mind playing the silent treatment, acting as if everything that had happened since I got here was nothing.

“Damian!” I yelled, grasping his attention. “Don’t fucking walk away from me.”

“What do you want?” He snapped, turning to face me, you’re leaving tomorrow. The sooner the better.”

His bitter reply didn’t phase me. I realized a while ago when he acts like this it’s deflecting his true feelings because he is scared. Determination set into me as I stormed towards him, gripping his arm and turning him to face me.

“I’m not leaving!” I yelled at him, “stop running away from me you fucking coward.”

His eyes widened as he growled, his wolf not appreciating how I was speaking to him. “Watch your tone with me,

girl.”

A smirk crossed my lips as a plan rolled through my mind. “Make me pup.”

Without another thought, I found myself pressed against the car and Damian’s lips upon my own. A sexual frenzy flowed through us as the electric volts of pleasure touched parts of me that longed to be played with.

“I want you,” I whispered, earning a growl of satisfaction from him.

Pulling at our clothing, we left a trail from the door up the stairs towards his room. My back hit the bed with a soft thud as his tongue devoured my core, causing me to scream in pleasure at the way he made me come undone,

There was no holding back anymore. The animalistic side of him was done playing games, and when Damian lined the head of his thick erection with my center, the thrust that filled me made me scream in pleasure.

Repeatedly, he plowed into me. His rough aggression turned me on like no one else had ever done. The sensation that every inch of my body was on fire and alive took me to a level even the others hadn’t done.

“What do you want, Ivy?” He whispered in my ear, holding me tight against him, “do you love me?”

“Yes -” I replied with a moan, “I want you. Mark me.”

He didn't waste another moment before his teeth came down upon my neck, marking me as his for all eternity. His seed spilled into me as another rippling orgasm passed through my body, making stars dance before my eyes,

The swell of his knot held us together as he retracted his teeth and looked down at me with a smile. “There is no going back...”

“I know there isn't, Damian.” I replied with a smile, “but I want the others too. You are all close, and each one of you completes a part of the Alpha position of this pack. You are all stronger together, and we need to get that back.”

Daman sighed for a moment as he slid from me and rolled over onto his back, pulling me close to him. My head rested on his chest as his fingers danced through my hair.

“Then we better get packing, because they are scattered around the globe and we will have to go there to convince them to come back.”

I wasn't sure about what he was saying, but one thing I knew for sure...

I couldn't do it without him. It was going to take all of us to make the future work.